

Heritage

*Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural
Heritage Organisations Inc*

July-August 2018

ISSUE 57

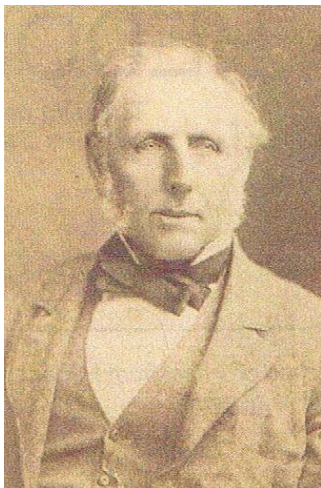
ISSN 2203-4366

Edward Gell, an Architect of the Colony

Edward Gell was the fourth child of Edward Gell (1790-1819) and Elizabeth Pickering (1788-1875), of Hedon, Yorkshire. Edward Snr and Elizabeth were married at Hedon in 1809.

Young Edward was born there in 1818 and baptized at Hedon on 7 November 1818. Edward Snr was a mariner. By 1841 Elizabeth was a widow.

Young Edward received his education in England, studying and then practicing architecture. A Gell sketchbook dated 1846 showed he was a keen follower of architecture, and had a great skill for drawing. In particular, he sketched church buildings, and was obviously heavily influenced by the Gothic Revival work of A W Pugin. His notes also showed that he was doing some sort of project management, in the ordering of building materials, as a foreman or clerk of works.



Edward Gell



St Michael's & St John's Cathedral, Bathurst

Young Edward emigrated to Australia in 1857 as a single man. He was contracted to build St Michael's and St John's Catholic Church in Bathurst, which was eventually elevated to cathedral status. Many of the mouldings were carved by Gell himself, so he may originally have had some stone mason training.

In 1861 he married Elizabeth Haseldon at St Michael's and St John's. They had some seven children four of whom survived infancy.

When the first Mayor of Bathurst, Richard Young Cousins was elected in 1863, Gell was a local architect, and was hired as town surveyor. He supervised building and construction work within the new municipality and remained in this position until 1866, when he was replaced by F W Holland.

Gell lived in Bathurst for some 25 years and despite some controversy, was Mayor of Bathurst in 1867, a member of Council during the period 1864 through to 1873, and was heavily involved in the establishment of public buildings such as the hospital, schools and the town hall.

During the 1860s and 1870s he designed many schools, shops, colleges, cottages and parsonages, and from 1871, many stately homes.



St Stanislaus College, Bathurst



Abercrombie House, Bathurst



Bathampton, near Bathurst



Catholic Church, Carcoar



Logan Brae, Bathurst



Catholic Church, Dubbo



St John's Anglican Church, Georges Plains



St Mary's Catholic Church, Kirkconnell



Catholic Church, Rockley



Catholic Church, Mudgee

From 1858 to 1880 Gell designed some 154 buildings in the central west of NSW, his main client being the Catholic Church. In Rockley, south of Bathurst, he also designed the Anglican church. At Moorilda he designed the Presbyterian church of St Andrews. Other significant buildings at Bathurst included Abercrombie House, St Stanislaus College, Busby's Logan Brae, pavilions and landscaping at the Bathurst Showground, Bathurst hospital, the Bathurst School of Arts and Bathurst railway station. He became engaged in mining ventures, mainly gold and copper, and was a co-founder of the Lithgow Valley Colliery (LVC) in 1871, with T Wilton and P Higgins. Gell and his family moved permanently to Lithgow in 1881, where he designed buildings associated with the mine, and employee housing. His own dwelling on Lithgow Street still stands and is retained as a private home. It was named St Helen's, and built as a suitably impressive house for the general manager of LVC. Edward Gell designed the Lithgow Street residence in about 1875, and it was completed by 1877, when the Bathurst Times described the house as "that little gem of Gothic architecture".



St Helen's, Lithgow Street



Lithgow Valley Colliery

After Gell's death the history of occupancy is not known. After being sold by LVC, the house became a restaurant in the mid-1980s, was unoccupied for a time, and it is now a private residence.

In the 1890s his son Edward was sent to England for his education, and he became a Catholic priest in 1894. He returned to Australia and settled into the parish around St Charles Borromeo Church at Ryde, Sydney. He remained there for some 42 years and his family is remembered in a stained-glass window in the church. The original church was replaced, and the new church design influenced by Father Gell's architectural influence from his own father, in attention to a Pugin style.

Ill health saw him relocate to Sydney in 1898, where he died a year later.

Patsy Moppett

Book Review: *Building Bathurst 1815-1915* by Graham Lupp

While undertaking his architectural studies in the late 1960s, Graham Lupp completed an ungraduated *architectural* honour's thesis on Edward Gell, major architect in Bathurst in the late 1800s.

During his research he discovered Gell was a remarkable man who had designed many of Bathurst's finest buildings, along with many others across the Central West. Gell would become a lifelong obsession for Lupp and a central character in his current publication. His debut book set, *Building Bathurst 1815-1915*, is a definitive architectural history of the built heritage of Australia's oldest European inland settlement, and a biographic history about the architects and builders in the central western region.



Graham Lupp and his debut publication

Building Bathurst 1815-1915 is a limited edition with only 1500 copies printed, numbered and signed by Lupp. The two-volume book has a combined 844 pages featuring 1172 images, and while it took Mr Lupp five years to write, it features photos and information he has collated for decades.

Patsy Moppett

It is available for purchase though Bathurst Regional Council's Civic Centre or by contacting Graham Lupp direct.

Email: enquiries@grahamlupp.com.au

References:

www.pickeringsofryorkshire.com/related_histories Hedon History, Issue 30 Autumn 2005

www.propertyobserver.com.au 2011

www.westernadvocate.com.au March 2018

Wikipedia – Architecture in Bathurst, NSW

www.ozarts.net.au Rebuilding our past Julian Leatherdale 2016

www.smh.com.au June 2008

collection.hht.net.au

The History of Bathurst 1815-1915, CW Sloman 1994

A History of Bathurst, Volume 2, From Settlement to City, Theo Barker 1998

Bathurst Sketchbook, Stephen Pile & Judith Webb 1975

Inventory Sheet - House, Lithgow Street: Office of Environment and Heritage

Aldine centennial History of NSW 1888

Index

Edward Gell – Architect of the Colony	1
Heritage Division News	5
Warrimoo Railway Station (former Karabar level crossing)	6
Pulpit Hill, Katoomba	9
Windsor Barrel Drain (1814) Discovery	10
Vellum & parchment	11
Scottish Heritage of Lithgow	14
Retford Park, Bowral	15
Faces Behind the Facades	16
Archive storage	16
Rex Stubbs Symposium 2018	17
Annual Historical Festival and Open Day, Emu Plains	17
National Trust Event – Werewolves and pit ponies?	18
James Ruse - convict, farmer settler: tour and book launch	19
Transport Heritage Grants Program	19
BMACHO Conference 2018 - Report	20
Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update	23



Food for thought Editor's note

Heritage Division News

Macquarie Homestead

Following on from a previous article in the BMACHO Newsletter, it is noted that a particular property has now been recognised for listing on the State Heritage Register.

- **Macquarie Homestead Group, 3397 O'Connell Road, O'Connell** – BMACHO Newsletter No. 55, March-April 2018 reported on the open day at Macquarie Homestead.

In accordance with section 33(1)(e) of the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)*, the Heritage Council of NSW has resolved to recommend listing the item on the State Heritage Register (SHR) to the Minister for Heritage. The recommendation was resolved at the NSW Heritage Council meeting of 7 June 2018.



Macquarie residence and convict barracks 2017

The recommendation was made after consideration of a report prepared by the Heritage Division, Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) which included submissions received from affected parties and members of the public.

Once the Minister has considered the Heritage Council's recommendation and made a decision whether or not to list the item on the SHR, further notification will be provided of that decision.

It is pleasing to see the property obtain the recognition that it deserves, opening up doors for funding and other assistance opportunities to aid in its conservation.

Hedgerows

In an earlier BMACHO Newsletter No.45 (July-August 2016), an article was printed on hedgerows. Now you have the chance to have a go at this ancient craft yourselves. Stuart Read of the NSW Heritage Division has passed on the following information:

A rare mainland workshop, the opportunity to learn how to "lay" a traditional hedge – i.e. cut/tilt/prop and 'weave' it to make it stock-proof.

Once layed hedges defined paddocks and fields, after shepherds and labourers rushed off to goldfields, and labour to herd the flocks or protect the crops was scarce. It was used before fencing wire arrived (1850s) and fencing became cheaper.

The workshop will be held at gorgeous *Oldbury*, a State Heritage listed farmhouse a parkland in Sutton Forest, Southern Highlands, on 21 July from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. The cost is \$75.00.



James and his craft

Learn from a master, James Boxhall, who has been laying hedges for 14 years, and enjoy seeing beautifully-laid old and young hedges. Theory & practical workshops are led by James, from 'Sticks and Stones', who learnt the craft from expert Karl Liebscher, a professional hedge layer from Shropshire, England. James has competed in the National Hedge Laying Championships (UK), becoming the first person from outside of Europe to do so.

According to James a multitude of types of plants can be used for laying hedges including hazel, hawthorn, ash, elm, crab apple, plums and the list goes on. They provide aesthetically appealing, stock proof plantings and can add attraction to any garden.

More information is available about *Oldbury* itself on the Heritage Division database. Numbers are limited so be quick!

Workshop bookings and information are available at:

www.shbg.com.au/event/hedge-laying-workshop (Southern Highlands Botanic Garden)

Phone: 02 4861 4899

Editor: So, heritage conservation and the retention of old trades is still alive and well in the heritage world!

The sharing of information such as this by the Heritage Division is much appreciated and BMACHO will continue to pass on news on conservation and preservation projects as it comes to hand.

Warrimoo Railway Station (former the Karabar level crossing)

In March 2018 Warrimoo railway station celebrated its 10th birthday! NSW Train Link celebrated the day by holding a morning tea hosted by the local rail staff. A display of historical photographs and plans of Warrimoo's railway history was exhibited at the time.

Located on the Main Western Line, which had gone through in 1867, the Warrimoo station was opened on 9 March 1918 as part of Arthur Rickard's "Warrimoo Estate", the auction of which was held on 23rd March. The Estate was bounded by the Main Western Road, The Boulevard and The Avenue.

WARRIMOO ESTATE

THE NEW STATION and Township on the GLORIOUS BLUE MOUNTAINS

MIDWAY BETWEEN BLAXLAND and VALLEY HEIGHTS 45 MILES FROM SYDNEY ONLY
95 MINUTES ENJOYABLE RUN FROM THE CITY, AND 1000 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL

139 BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL SITES

Will be offered at AUCTION ON THE GROUND SATURDAY, 23rd MARCH, 1918
At 3.15 p.m.

By **ARTHUR RICKARD & CO. LTD.**
AUCTIONEERS & REALTY SPECIALISTS, 84b PITT STREET, SYDNEY

EASY TERMS:
ONLY £1 Deposit,
and 10s. monthly
for every £25 purchase

Table of Railway Fares:

From	To	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class
Sydney	Warrimoo	12s. 6d.	8s. 6d.	6s. 6d.
Warrimoo	Sydney	12s. 6d.	8s. 6d.	6s. 6d.
Sydney	Warrimoo	12s. 6d.	8s. 6d.	6s. 6d.
Warrimoo	Sydney	12s. 6d.	8s. 6d.	6s. 6d.

The station had two passenger platforms, four station buildings, two signal boxes, two goods sidings, a level crossing, three overbridges and a crossing loop!

As with most of his estates, Rickard realized the importance of the rail connection to provide access for new residents to Sydney and to the west. One of the platforms, the waiting shed, a footbridge and a goods siding were built at his own expense, later being reimbursed by the government when it was proven that there was to be enough patronage to warrant government purchase.

The location was originally known as Karabar. Karabar was the site of No.3 level crossing, and a sandstone gate keeper's house where the railway crossed the Main Western Road, to the west of the present overbridge. The level crossing was meant to serve a new Richardson & Wrench subdivision named "Karabar Estate".

In 1881 a platform called "Karabar" was opened on the Sydney side of the level crossing but was closed in 1897 due to the lack of patronage.

Rickard proposed the change of name to "Warrimoo" by running a competition to select a new name for his proposed estate. John Low records that the winning entry suggested the name "warrimoo", an Aboriginal word (not local) meaning "eagle".



The first waiting shed about 1930



In later years

The first platform had a small brick unattended waiting shed which was later divided in half for a ticket office. The original 1918 waiting shed was destroyed in the 1951 bushfires, and the current brick station building was erected in its place in 1957. Internally the building's original floor layout has been modified and consists of a combined ticket office and station master's room, male and female toilets, waiting room and a store, on a linear floor plan.

A pedestrian bridge was built in 1917 to provide access to the station and in 1990 alterations were made. The pedestrian bridge's twin beam construction is typical of NSWGR practice. Since 1990, some of the components of the bridge, except the steel structure, have been replaced. The goods siding was closed in 1956.



Warrimoo Railway Station today

Warrimoo was also the site of the 1930 fatal derailment of a Sydney-bound passenger train where the driver and fireman on the leading engine were killed. The train had consisted of two steam locomotives along with eight carriages filled with passengers and a brake van. It left Mount Victoria headed for Sydney Central on the morning of 27th January. It had been lightly raining.

All rail lines leading to Sydney are known as "up" lines, and all those leading away are "down" lines, regardless of whether the train is going uphill or down. In this instance, and due to a previous incident, the particular train was on the "down" line, with the points supposedly adjusted to suit the situation, and travelling quite slowly.

The first engine passed safely over the catch-points about 450 metres on the Sydney side of Warrimoo, but the second engine fouled the points and left the rails. The heavy locomotive surged forward and then lurched to the right and "nose-dived" over a 5m embankment.



The derailment and retrieval

The crew of this engine leapt clear, and were uninjured, but the second engine's dive down the embankment threw the leading locomotive off the rails and caused it to turn over on its side with portion of it projecting over the brink of the embankment. The driver Harold Hanna and the fireman Edward Smith, both of Springwood, were pinned down by the twisted ironwork, and were killed instantly. A young porter was thrown clear, with severe injuries. The carriages were unaffected and passengers uninjured, apart from shock and bruising. The porter, Joe McGarrity, later lost his arm due to his injuries. At the inquest the Coroner found that a fettler and a flagman were guilty of culpable negligence for not locking the points in place and not signalling that the points were open, to the oncoming train. Their supervisor was severely reprimanded for the casual manner in

which he supervised the work of the other two men, who appear to have avoided custodial sentence.

So, despite its humble beginnings as an 1800s rail siding, the opening of Warrimoo station in 1918 and the establishment of the Rickard estate, were the commencement of Warrimoo village as we know it today.

Patsy Moppett

References:

Blue Mountains Gazette, 27 February 2018

Wikipedia – Warrimoo Railway Station

Warrimoo History – blog about the history of Warrimoo and its people - the Warrimoo Train Smash—1930

Origin of Blue Mountains Town Names, John Low

Inventory Sheet – Warrimoo Railway Station Group, NSW Dept of Environment & Heritage

Pulpit Hill, Katoomba

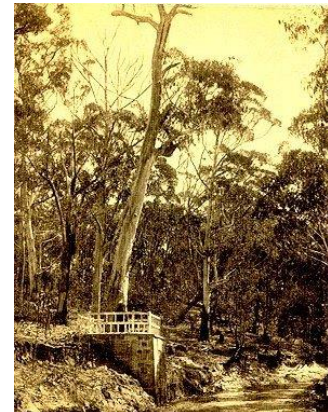
The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Pulpit Hill, Katoomba, (Godden McKay Logan Pty Ltd 2012), which includes the explorer's tree, natural flora and fauna, convict graves, colonial roads, and signs of early indigenous and colonial settlement, incorporated a recommendation: *"to ensure opportunities for community engagement, appreciation and enjoyment of the significant heritage values are provided at Pulpit Hill"*.



Edgar Church grave



Six Foot Track



Explorers Tree 1886

In February 2018, Blue Mountains City Council Heritage Adviser, Christo Aitken, reiterated actions from the CMP, with a view to seeking funding under the OEH Heritage Near Me – Activation Grants 2018-19. His comments were as follows:

- Undertake a review the original CMP and its recommendations.
- Organise a public open day at Pulpit Hill to present the findings of the review and to provide an opportunity to draw together new material and comment from the community to include in the Review.
- Stabilize the Explorer's Tree to ensure safety and conservation of its significant values.
- Develop an Interpretation Plan that brings together the multi-layered Colonial and Indigenous history of the place.
- Implement the plan together with an interpretative trail on Pulpit Hill that showcases the key historic elements with appropriate public access, signage, fencing and landscaping.
- Develop a Masterplan for Pulpit Hill to guide the way forward, particularly addressing sensitive issues, such as the Explorer's Tree and its remnant fabric.

It is understood that Council is primarily looking towards facilitating the stabilisation of the Explorers' Tree through improved fencing, with a focus on an inclusive and comprehensive interpretation plan being developed for the Pulpit Hill Precinct, to ensure the conservation of the significant multi-layered colonial and indigenous history of the place.

This would conserve the heritage values of the area, showcase the key historic elements with appropriate public access, signage, fencing and landscaping and make the site more appealing to visitors.

Progress on this action for funding will be provided by BMACHO as it comes to hand.

Patsy Moppett

References

Submission by Christo Aitkin, 15 February 2018

Draft Heritage Data Form: Pulpit Hill and environs 2016, Blue Mountains City Council

Letter to Office of Environment and Heritage, BMACHO 17 April 2018

Windsor Barrel Drain (1814) Discovery

The Royal Australian Historical Society recently reported on the progress of the ongoing archaeological works at Thompson Square, Windsor, in relation to the State government proposal to demolish the existing bridge over the Hawkesbury River and to build a new bridge structure in its place.

Associate Professor Carol Liston AO submitted a statement to the NSW Legislative Council on behalf of the RAHS, with an overview of the site's significance:

Thompson Square is of outstanding historical and heritage importance because it is the only original surviving foundation site for eighteenth century European settlement in Australia.

This space, adjacent to the Hawkesbury River landing place, provided structure to an emerging village and farming settlement. Neither the settlement at Sydney Cove nor at Parramatta developed around a central focus space, despite the importance of their waterfront locations.

In January 1795 Acting Governor William Patterson authorized use of the area as the government precinct. Around its edges, a wharf and storehouse were built, followed by a granary and soldiers' barracks. As the settlement developed other official buildings surrounded the precinct providing accommodation for officials (including the governor), a watch house, and later a school and church. When Governor Macquarie formally proclaimed the town in 1810 the existing square was incorporated into the formal town plan as the first designed urban space. The investment of expensive drainage works confirmed its importance as a function hub of the settlement.

In late 2017 a significant discovery was made by Roads and Maritime Services adjacent to the existing bridge and landing place at Thompson Square. The man-sized brick barrel drains appear to be the oldest government infrastructure in Australia, the earliest example of brickwork used in drainage works, dating back to 1814 and the early colony of New South Wales.



Windsor brick barrel drain

Calls have been made by Members of Parliament, the community and by experts in the field to retain the drains in situ, rather than attempt to salvage them and restore them, subject to intensive assessment and evaluation. The discovery lends further weight to the proposed Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, and calls to have any new bridge located in a more suitable site further along the river.

Also known as "smugglers' tunnels", the tunnels were convict built, using sun dried bricks, due to the lack of brick kilns at the site at the time. It has been suggested that the drains

would have tourist potential, but more significantly it is imperative to preserve this heritage feature which is unique and rare, not destroy or hide it.

Roads and Maritime Services had previously engaged professional archaeologists to excavate the north eastern section of Thompson Square to record and document any heritage artefacts found within the area. During the excavation, archaeological crews discovered the brick barrel drain in a hand-dug test pit near the river. Most of the brick drain was found intact, although one end was found to be eroded and partially washed away. Roads and Maritime Services has advised that it has now developed a way to protect and preserve the brick drain in place, and not remove it. They advise that further archaeological studies are under way to record any additional archaeological finds and preserve the historical significance of the site.



Example of brick barrel drain features

However, they still maintain that their new bridge will provide a safe and reliable crossing across the Hawkesbury River at Windsor, without impacting upon the heritage of the Thompson Square precinct.

Patsy Moppett

References:

RAHS ENewsletter April 2018

Hawkesbury Gazette 18 January 2018

Hawkesbury Gazette 22 February 2018

Roads and Maritime Services 21 February 2018

The Technical Side Vellum & parchment

The term parchment is a general term for an animal skin which has been prepared for writing or printing and has been made for centuries. It is usually calf, goat, or sheep skin.

Parchment (*pergamenum* in Latin) derives its name from the city of Pergamon, (via the French *parchemin*).

Vellum is a finer quality material, prepared from animal skin or membrane also used as a material for writing on. The term is derived from the Latin word *vitulinum* meaning "made from calf", leading to the Old French *velin* for "calfskin".

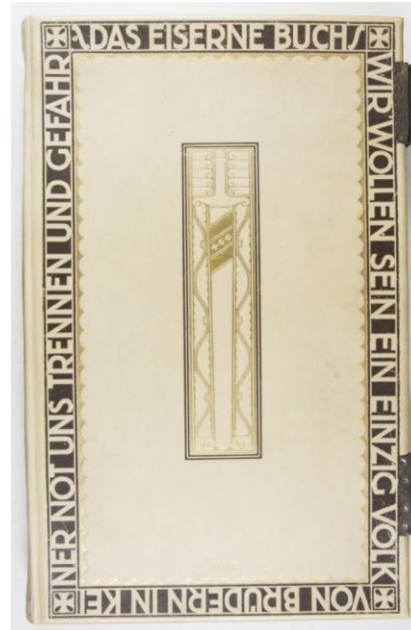
Writing on prepared animal skins had a long history. Some Egyptian Fourth Dynasty texts were written on vellum and parchment. Though the Assyrians and the Babylonians utilised clay tablets, they also wrote on parchment and vellum from the 5th and 6th century BC onward.

Scribes carved the first writing on wet clay tablets, but soon after that, about 3000 BC, the Egyptians invented papyrus, and by about 500 BC most people in West Asia and the Mediterranean used papyrus for writing.

Subsequently, vellum and parchment were invented under the patronage of Eumenes of Pergamum, as a substitute for papyrus, which was temporarily not being exported from Alexandria.



Early Latin manuscript



German book binding WW1

In the Middle Ages, calfskin and split sheepskin were the most common materials for making parchment and vellum in England and France, while goatskin was more common in Italy. The heyday of parchment use was during the medieval period, but there has been a growing revival of its use among contemporary artists since the late 20th century. Although it never stopped being used (primarily for governmental documents and diplomas) it had ceased to be a primary choice by the end of 15th century Renaissance. This was partly due to its expense and partly due to its unusual working properties.



Dutch portrait on vellum



Land deed on vellum

During the seventh through the ninth centuries, many earlier parchment manuscripts were scrubbed and scoured to be ready for rewriting, and often the earlier writing can still be read. These recycled parchments are called palimpsests.

The process

Parchment is prepared from pelt, i.e., wet, un-haired, and limed skin, simply by drying at ordinary temperatures under tension, most commonly on a wooden frame known as a stretching frame.



The stretching frame

After being flayed, the skin is soaked in water for about one day. This removes blood and grime from the skin and prepares it for a dehairing liquor. The dehairing liquor was originally made of rotted, or fermented, vegetable matter, like beer or other liquors, but by the Middle Ages an unhairing bath included lime.

Today, the lime solution is occasionally sharpened by the use of sodium sulfide. The liquor bath would have been in wooden or stone vats and the hides stirred with a long wooden pole to avoid contact with the alkaline solution. Sometimes the skins would stay in the unhairing bath for eight or more days depending upon how concentrated and how warm the solution was kept - unhairing could take up to twice as long in winter. The vat was stirred two or three times a day to ensure the solution's deep and uniform penetration. Replacing the lime water bath also sped the process up. However, if the skins were soaked in the liquor too long, they would be weakened and not able to stand the stretching required for parchment.

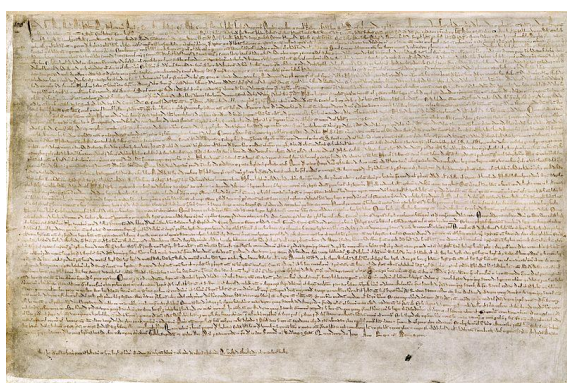
After soaking in water to make the skins workable, the skins were placed on a stretching frame. A simple frame with nails would work well in stretching the pelts. The skins could be attached by wrapping small, smooth rocks in the skins with rope or leather strips.

Both sides would be left open to the air, so they could be scraped with a sharp, semi-lunar knife to remove the last of the hair and get the skin to the right thickness. The skins, which were made almost entirely of collagen, would form a natural glue while drying and once taken off the frame they would keep their form. The stretching allowed the fibres to become aligned running parallel to the grain.

It is recorded that the process was/is a very smelly one!!

Uses

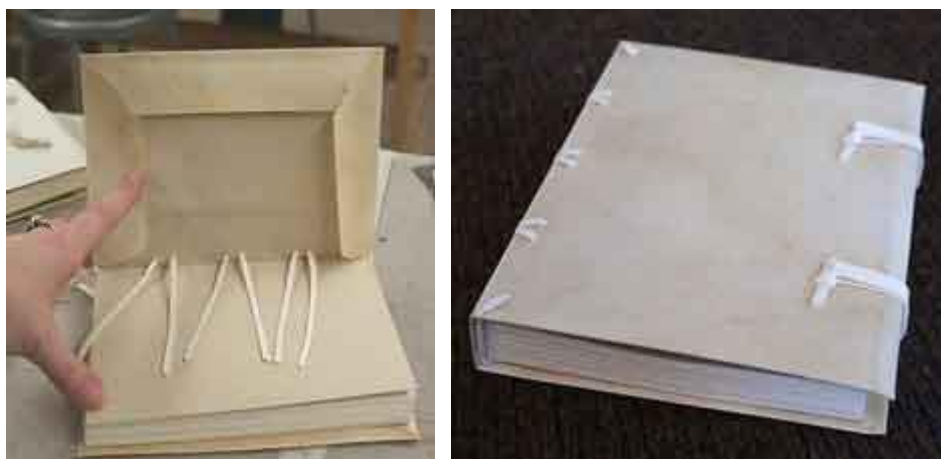
Vellum and parchment have been used since the earliest times, and still find uses today amongst artists, scribes and bookbinders. Though now costly to produce, it remains one of the most durable of library materials. Vellum – a material that would otherwise go to waste – was used to print the Magna Carta, the Domesday Book and thousands of other historical documents.



The Magna Carta



Map on vellum



Modern book binding

Vellum was and is commonly used in bookbinding. It could be used to cover a wooden or cardboard core or alone without any backing. Many vellum bindings are simple and undecorated. Vellum was often used to cover less-valuable or common books. Recent moves by the House of Lords in the UK are noted, where they seek to abandon vellum on the grounds that it is too expensive, and revert to archival paper that is said to last up to 500 years. In comparison, vellum keeps forever.

References:

Richard Norman, Eden Workshops

Wikipedia – vellum

The New Antiquarian – Antiquarian Book Seller Association of America

The Telegraph, 2017 (UK)

www.abaa.org/blog/post/the-history-of-vellum-and-parchment

www.newworldencyclopedia.org

Community events & updates

Scottish Heritage of Lithgow

The 2018 National Trust Heritage Festival theme, “*Our Culture Our Story*”, acknowledged the contribution of those who have enriched our heritage.

Lithgow Regional Branch of the National Trust Australia (NSW) presented the Scottish Heritage of Lithgow: “*The Scots of the Lithgow District in the 19th Century*”, at a lecture by Professor Ian Jack, Senior Fellow and archivist at St Andrew’s College within the University of Sydney, on 13th May 2018 at the Bowenfels Presbyterian Church Hall, Lithgow.



Master of Ceremonies Danny Whitty



Professor Ian Jack

The presentation, led by Master of Ceremonies Danny Whitty, was a fascinating account by Professor Ian Jack, of the three main leaders in the settlement and development of Lithgow, Andrew Brown, Thomas Brown and Colin Stewart. These three very different characters

provided diverging but complementary contributions during the 19th Century, as Lithgow changed from a pastoral community to a major industrial town.

The event was accompanied by John Cambridge on the bagpipes and Pat Connell with some moving and popular Scottish songs.

Photographs and displays illustrated their story, including details about the Scottish founding fathers, their homes and families; pastoral heritage; early enterprises and industries; woollen mills artefacts; pottery and stonemasonry.



Coerwul House



Eskbank House

A wonderful and fitting Scottish afternoon tea was provided with music. Visitors were also able to view the Bowenfels Church and the replica of Christina Brown's quilt.

Patsy Moppett

Retford Park, Bowral

James Fairfax AC has always believed that Retford Park should be preserved for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations, particularly those of the local district. On 19th April 2016 and in fulfilment of his ambition, Mr. Fairfax gifted his historic Retford Park home to the National Trust of Australia (NSW). It was in August 2017 that the National Trust officially took control of the property.

On the weekend of the 4th and 5th August 2018, the house and gardens of Retford Park will be once again opened to the public. Retford Park is a place of great heritage significance. Its European history extends back to grants of land promised to Edward Riley senior by Governor Macquarie in 1821.



Dining room



House & garden



Sitting room

The house was built in 1887 by Samuel Hordern (1849-1909) merchant and stockbreeder, and his wife Jane, nee Booth. The house at Retford Park (designed by Albert Bond) is set on a low rise, a grand rendered brick Italianate style residence. It was in 1964 that James Fairfax bought the property and started to turn it from an agricultural property to a gentleman's residence. The house has become a treasure trove of pieces Fairfax collected over the years. Having been in his caring hands for over 50 years, both the house the garden is a delight to wonder through. A surprise at every corner.

National Trust of Australia (NSW)

IMPORTANT - HOUSE TOURS: Due to the popularity of the house tours, bookings are essential. There will be four tours per day. 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm. There will be a maximum number of 20 people per tour.

House and garden: BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Adult - \$25 Concession - \$18 Child - \$10 National Trust members - \$15

Garden Only: No bookings needed Adult - \$15 Concession - \$12 Child - \$5 National Trust Members: Free

Contacts: Phone: (02) 4861 1933
Email: retfordpark@nationaltrust.com.au

Faces Behind the Facades

The Lithgow and District Family History Society's ongoing project relating to the history of individuals who operated businesses in days gone by in Main Street, Lithgow, is proving fascinating. Many interesting and informative stories have been revealed which help inform us of the people who shaped Main Street and the history of the region, by their participation in community organisations and government.



Bracey's Store, Main Street

Large scale window vinyls are on display in relevant business windows in Main Street, which would include narratives capturing the stories of individuals, historic portraits and images of the original building facades.

A brochure has been produced which includes a local map of the location of the panels, with some ten premises listed so far. Businesses include S H Gannon's Eskbank Store, F R Eather's Butchery, James Padley's store, Porter's Pharmacy, James Walker's Pure Food Store and Durie Bros Rubber Works.

Patsy Moppett

Further information may be obtained from the Society:

Post: PO Box 516, Lithgow 2790

Ph: 02 6353 1089

Email: secretarty@gmail.com.au

www.ldfhs.org.au

Archive storage

Following discussions with regard to archive storage over the last few months, BMACHO are looking to compile a list of historical societies/family history societies/museums/galleries/archives who might have inadequate storage facilities, in order to seek a way to have collections/archives stored in climate controlled, acid free conditions. It was felt by the BMACHO Committee that it would be appropriate, and the heritage community would be more likely to gain assistance for such a facility, for some sort of application for funding on a regional basis. BMACHO members are in four local government areas, Penrith (Arms of Australia Inn at Emu Plains), Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Hawkesbury. BMACHO are therefore asking our members in this region, not just the Blue Mountains, to provide information if they have archiving concerns.

Recently the Woodford Academy Management Committee found it necessary to move their archives to another National Trust property in the Southern Highlands, which means their

archives are no longer easily accessible. BMACHO realise that many other organisations find the need to store their archives or part of their collections externally. If you would be interested in providing feedback in this regard, please advise the approximate cubic meterage you would require (or other measurement), and any other relevant comments, by 31 July 2018. This gives time for discussion at a Committee meeting.

Jan Koperberg, correspondence secretary

Rex Stubbs Symposium 2018

Hawkesbury Regional Museum has been chosen as the venue for this year's Rex Stubbs Symposium to be held on Saturday 25 August 2018. Much advice and many suggestions have been received on how to make the day better than previous years!

This year, it is proposed to have two guest speakers:

- Kate Gahan, historian and curator of Food Bowl Farming, and
- Deborah Vaughan, head of regional partnerships at MAAS.

As part of the morning, organisers would also like to invite each attendee group to give a brief talk on what they're working on/points of interest.



Dr Rex Stubbs



Hawkesbury Regional Museum

After lunch it is hoped that history stalls/groups could set up in the museum grounds (similar to the ten-year anniversary day – with some entertainment). So, they could all encourage museum visitors and members of the public to engage and learn.

If you would like the organisers to put stall space aside for you, please let them know ASAP, so they can include you in the program.

They will be sending out invitations and program information as soon as they can.

Kathleen von Witt

Kathleen von Witt, Gallery and Museum Director, Hawkesbury City Council

Phone: 02 4560 4440

Email: To: kathleen.vonwitt@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Annual Historical Festival and Open Day, Emu Plains

The Nepean District Historical Society will be holding its Annual Historical Festival and Open Day at the Arms of Australia Inn Museum on Sunday 15 July 2018 at the Museum at Emu Plains, from 9am to 3pm.

Displays and activities will include:

- NSW Corps of Marines Re-enactments
- Merry-go-round and jumping castle
- Old fashioned school room
- Light horse regiment
- Animals and pony rides
- Displays, music, food, stalls



The Museum is located on the corner of the Great Western Highway and Gardenia Avenue, Emu Plains. Admission is free.

Trish Montgomery

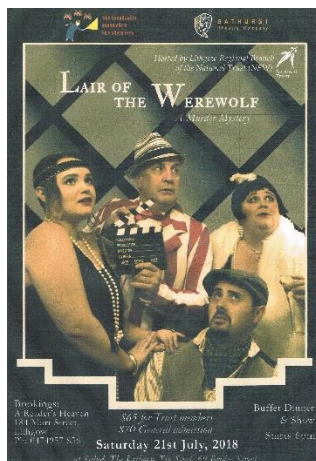
For more information contact the museum:

Ph: 02 4735 4394

Email: info@armsofaustraliainn.org.au

National Trust Event – Werewolves and pit ponies?

At 6pm on Saturday 21st July 2018 Lithgow Branch of the National Trust presents another fun interactive whodunit buffet dinner and show in a heritage 1880s venue. Mountain Murder Mysteries & Bathurst Theatre Company combine to thrill with "*The Lair of the Werewolf*", directed by Hampton resident and actress Melissa Docker (Star of TV mini-series, "*Fields of Fire*"). The event will be held at 6pm at the Tin Shed in Bridge Street, Lithgow. The hosts will tickle your taste buds, with a unique blend of wood fired pizza and tapas. Suggested dress - 1920s, prizes for best dressed.



The Tin Shed (Salud) in Bridge Street was a produce warehouse going back to the 1880s, when a rail line brought goods up from the station and pit ponies were stabled behind it, the stables being only recently demolished. The restaurant is following a pleasing Lithgow trend of reinventing heritage buildings into performance spaces, some incorporating cafes and art galleries.

Lithgow National Trust raises funds for local heritage projects & signage and contributes to the restoration and maintenance of heritage properties in NSW. Our last Whodunit at the Brewery was enjoyed by all!

"The Lair of the Werewolf" would make a night out for a birthday, special occasion, or a fun way to support the Trust's activities in your area!

Celia Ravisi

Cost: \$70 general admission, \$65 National Trust members

Bookings can be made at:

A Reader's Heaven Bookshop, 184 Mort Street, Lithgow

Phone: 0474 957 856

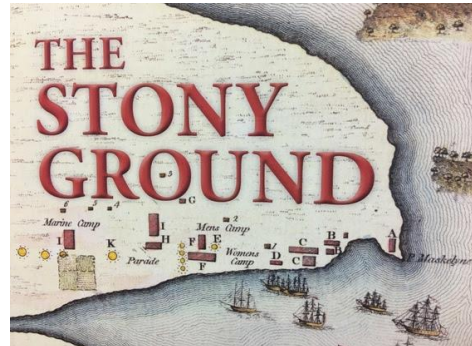
Celia Ravisi – NT Secretary: 02 6359-3109

James Ruse - convict, farmer settler: Tour and book launch

James Ruse was a Cornish farmer who was reprieved from the hangman's noose and transported on the First Fleet in 1788. He was reputedly the first prisoner ashore, carrying an officer on his back. He went on to become the first ex-convict to be granted land and the first settler to become self-sufficient.



The Hawkesbury



These remarkable achievements are to be celebrated on Sunday 8 July 2018 at Windsor and Pitt Town with a tour of sites associated with Ruse, and sites farmed by him around Pitt Town and the peninsula area of Windsor, taking in some of the most beautiful and historic parts of the district. The tour will also include information and sites relevant to Ruse's time in the Hawkesbury, such as floods and other significant happenings.

The tour will be conducted by Hawkesbury Valley Heritage Tours and will take place from 10am to 12.30pm. The cost will be \$20 per person.

The tour will be followed at 1.30pm by the launch of the book "*The Stony Ground*". UK based writer Michael Crowley describes the life of Australia's most symbolic convict using Ruse's own voice. His narrative carries us from his impoverished life in Cornwall to plot number one at the Hawkesbury, and beyond.

The launch is free, but bookings are essential, and light refreshments will be served.

Contact the Hawkesbury Museum, 8 Baker Street, Windsor

Phone: Prue Charlton 02 4560 4655

museum@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

prue.charlton@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Transport Heritage Grants Program – now open

This program is a NSW Government funded program, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS), with the support of Transport Heritage NSW (THNSW).

The Program is run on an annual basis and supports organisations and individuals to preserve, explore and promote the history of land-based mass transport in NSW.



The program can fund projects in the following categories:

- Restoration, reconstruction or preservation of a heritage transport item.

- Education, publication or interpretation of an event, item/s or person/s that will promote heritage transport.
- Study, consultation, report or review that will assist in managing a heritage transport place or item.

Applicants can apply for grants of up to \$15,000, and one grant of \$50,000.
The closing date is 7 August 2018.

*The 2018 Guidelines, Application Form and further information are now available from:
Royal Australian Historical Society <https://www.rahs.org.au/grants/transport-heritage-grants-program/>
If you need further information, contact the RAHS Grants Officer grants@rahs.org.au*

BMACHO Conference 2018 - Report

The 2018 BMACHO Conference, “Heritage Landscapes” was held on Saturday 12th May 2018, at Mount Victoria Manor, 11 Montgomery Street, Mount Victoria.

Master of Ceremonies was Bruce Ferrier, and speakers included keynote speaker Stuart Read, Office of Environment & Heritage; Colleen Morris: Heritage consultant; Associate Professor Ian Jack, Senior Fellow and Archivist, St Andrew’s College, University of Sydney; Kate O’Neill: Woodford Academy Management Committee; Mary Reynolds: Mount Wilson & Mount Irvine Historical Society; and Bruce Cameron, historian & author.

Aunty Sharyn Halls, Gundungurra elder and member of the Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association, made her apologies as she was unable to attend and give her presentation on “The Gully and Gundungurra Country”.



John Low, Robyne Ridge & Keith Painter



Attendees in deep discussion

BMACHO correspondence Secretary Jan Koperberg reports that there have been many positive comments via email and by word, about the speakers, the venue, the catering and the conference in general, including the following:

- Robyne Ridge, Vice President and Publicity Officer of Blue Mountains Historical Society:
Just a quick thank you to you and to all who organised the Conference. What a lovely venue! The talks were all very interesting especially the key note speaker..... felt he had some very interesting ideas re our tourism potential. Food was great - best conference food I’ve had!! Designed for the gold day it was. Finally, thanks for the trade table. We actually sold six books (which I didn’t expect) but I learnt a lot from observing the others too.
Robyne later found after reconciliation, that she had sold seven books – she was very pleased!
- Guy McIlrath, Manager, Everglades Historic House & Gardens:
Thank you for a very interesting & well-run conference on Saturday – I am happy I was able to attend.

- Suzanne Smith, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society and BMACHO Committee:
Thank you for an enjoyable Friday evening, along with all the work which contributed to the success of the event. Thank you to the other members of the organising committee group, Summar and Ian. Also, an acknowledgement to Phil (recording) and Scenic World. Thought the conference was top class and speakers most interesting. Kate O'Neill's talk with the historical timeline of the Woodford Reserve ownership and transition use, I found interesting. Mary Reynolds and Ian Jack were certainly very entertaining, their respective personalities and humour shining through their interesting topics. But must say all speakers shared topics of great interest. From the feedback received over the day everyone was equally engaged in the topics. Top class hats off to Denise, Garry and staff, for excellent facilitation of the conference event, food, warmth and overall attention to any needs of the BMACHO group. The Mt Vic Manor was a most suitable venue.
- Julie O'Keeffe, Secretary, Friends of the Paragon and Blue Mountains Historical Society Member:
Thank you to everyone involved in organising such a splendid conference – all speakers were excellent and very interesting. The venue is brilliant and the food for the day was simply super delicious!!! Looking forward to the 2020 conference!!
- Dick Morony, Secretary of Springwood Historical Society and BMACHO Management Committee Member:
I thought it was a nice venue and the catering was the best of any conference/seminar/course I have attended. Although I am not a dedicated garden aficionado I enjoyed the talks; they didn't seem too long to me
- Sara Riley, Blue Mountains City Council:
Thanks for Saturday, it was a really lovely day. It was good to meet Stuart, who I interviewed in my masters, and to meet Colleen who I had heard so much about a great venue too. And a really interesting cross-section of talks. Congratulations on a really successful conference.
- Celia Ravesi, Lithgow Regional Branch of the National Trust:
Thank you very much for a well-organized and very interesting conference for BMACHO on Saturday 12th May at the Manor House Mt Victoria. The variety of speakers was excellent, and we were privileged to have all of them, particularly the ageless Mary Reynolds to show the late Libby Raines' photographs of Mt Wilson gardens. And the opportunity to hear Dr Ian Jack. twice in one weekend. Thank you allowing us to have an information stand for our Lithgow National Trust Branch. That was a good networking opportunity to meet some National Trust Representatives from the Mountains I had not met before. The lunch provided by the Manor House was delicious! Congratulations again, and we do appreciate receiving your Newsletter online on a regular basis.



Master of Ceremonies, Bruce Ferrier



Keynote speaker, Stuart Read

- Kate O'Neill, Woodford Academy:

Thank you to BMACHO for organising the Blue Mountains History Conference and for giving me the opportunity to speak about the Woodford Reserve. I greatly enjoyed the talks and appreciated the opportunity to meet with the other speakers and many key people in the heritage community. It was a very apt location with so much history of its own, and a nice connection to the Academy. I look forward to other events of this kind.

- Roy Bennett, Mount Victoria & District Historical Society:

Well done for the Conference reports.....good reading and good to read others feedback. I enjoyed it more than expected, as in addition to the presentations, there were often comments, subjects, etc that give ideas .eg marketing comes to mind. I guess that's how we get extra benefits from conferences.

Raffle winners on the day were:

- Jessica Lawn with Blue F 06
- Suzanne Mitchell with Blue F 39
- Mary Reynolds with Blue F 29

Comments: Although, as in most events such as this, we acknowledge there were the usual IT and conference management problems, which we have listed for considerations at future subcommittee meetings, to be addressed at future events.

We certainly appreciated the efforts made by the Manor operators, who made every effort to make the venue suitable to our needs.



Mary Reynolds



Associate Professor Ian Jack



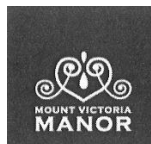
Colleen Morris

Photographs courtesy of Carolynne Cooper

In conclusion, the presentations by the speakers were well received. The venue and catering provided by the Mount Victoria Manor and the warmth on a cold day, was very much appreciated.

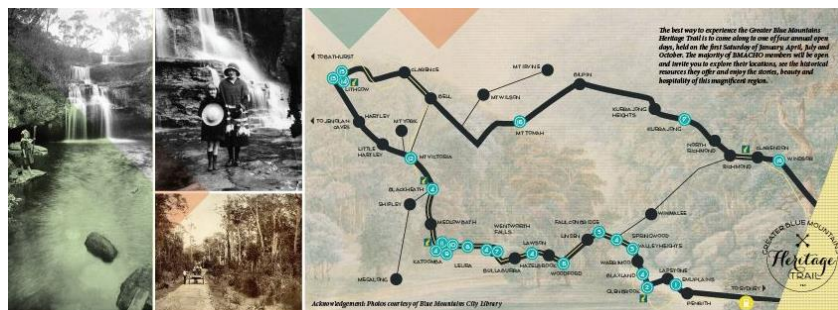
All the speakers, the MC and the IT person have been emailed and thanked, as have Denise and Gary at the Mount Victoria Manor. Bruce Cameron has offered BMACHO copies of his book 'The Blue Labyrinth' to use for future event prizes.
A special thank you to Philip Hammon for recording the conference.

Jan Koperberg & Patsy Moppett



The Conference was Proudly sponsored by Scenic World Shared

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update



BMACHO continues to promote the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and members' upcoming events. BMACHO have reprinted the Heritage Trail brochure which has now been distributed to visitors' centres across the region.

Heritage with Altitude!!

The Trail is an ideal activity for the kids and grandkids, be it in the school holidays or any weekend! Collect the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail brochure at participating venues and Visitor Information Centres.

If you are a member and you would like further information, or if you would like to become a member, please email the BMACHO Secretary at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au
For general information about BMACHO and the Trail, see heritagedrive.com.au or www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail

To find out more about BMACHO visit www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au



Blue Mountains winter

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

Registered office: 1/19 Stypanandra Place, Springwood 2777. (02) 4751 5834

Email: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or j.koperberg@bigpond.com

Website: www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au

ABN: 53 994 839 952

The organisation: Blue Mountains Association of Cultural & Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 after local historical and heritage societies and individuals recognised the need for the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the local government area (LGA) of Blue Mountains City Council. The constituency now embraces but is not limited to, the LGAs of Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury and Penrith. BMACHO membership includes historical and heritage groups, museums, commercial enterprises with an historical or heritage component in its core business, local government (local studies units, library collections) and a limited number of individual members by invitation such as but not necessarily academics. The objectives of the organisation are:

1. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage
 2. To encourage and assist cultural heritage
 3. To initiate and support cultural heritage activities not already covered by member organisations.
- One of the aims of BMACHO is to bring the various bodies into closer contact to encourage them to work more closely together and to provide a combined voice on matters of importance within the heritage sector.

Affiliations: BMACHO is a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Publications: BMACHO's official newsletter *Heritage* is edited by Patsy Moppett. The annual refereed *Blue Mountains History Journal* is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood and occasional papers are published from time to time.

Membership: The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah; Blue Mountains City Library; Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre; Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust; Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc; Blue Mountains Historical Society; Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms; City of Lithgow Mining Museum Inc; Colo Shire Family History Group; Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; Friends of the Paragon Inc; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; Hartley District Progress Association; Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc; Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc; Leuralla NSW Toy & Railway Museum; Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc; Lithgow – Eskbank House Museum and Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies; Mt Victoria & District Historical Society Inc; Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc (including Turkish Bath Museum); National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Blue Mountains Branch; National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Lithgow Branch; Nepean District Historical Society Inc; Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum; Scenic World Blue Mountains Limited; Springwood Historical Society Inc; Springwood Historians Inc; Transport Signal Communication Museum Inc; Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum, Woodford Academy Management Committee, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd.

The following are individual members: Wendy Blaxland, Fiona Burn, Ray Christison, Dr Wayne Hanley, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter, Philip Hammon and Dr Peter Rickwood.

Committee: The management committee for 2017-2018 (from March 2017) is: Patsy Moppett (President and *Heritage* Newsletter Editor), Ian Jack (Vice President), Fiona Burn (Secretary), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Dick Morony (Public Officer/Membership Secretary/ Calendar Editor), Suzanne Smith (Events and Venue Co-ordinator), Jan Koperberg (Correspondence Secretary), Summar Hipworth, Rae Clapshaw and Roy Bennett. Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee: Fiona Burn, Jan Koperberg, Rae Clapshaw and Suzanne Smith, with guest member Gay Hendrikson.

Blue Mountains History Conference 2018 sub-committee: Summar Hipworth, Ian Jack, Jan Koperberg and Patsy Moppett.

Disclaimer: views and opinions expressed in *Heritage* originate from many sources and contributors. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of material. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of BMACHO, its committee or its members. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.