

A difficult life at the orchard at the Lagoon

"The soldiers had enclosed a small piece of ground for a garden (with) little arbours and seats formed in the shrubbery, which gave the place an appearance of comfort and simplicity."

Major Antill on a journey with Governor & Mrs. Macquarie, 1815

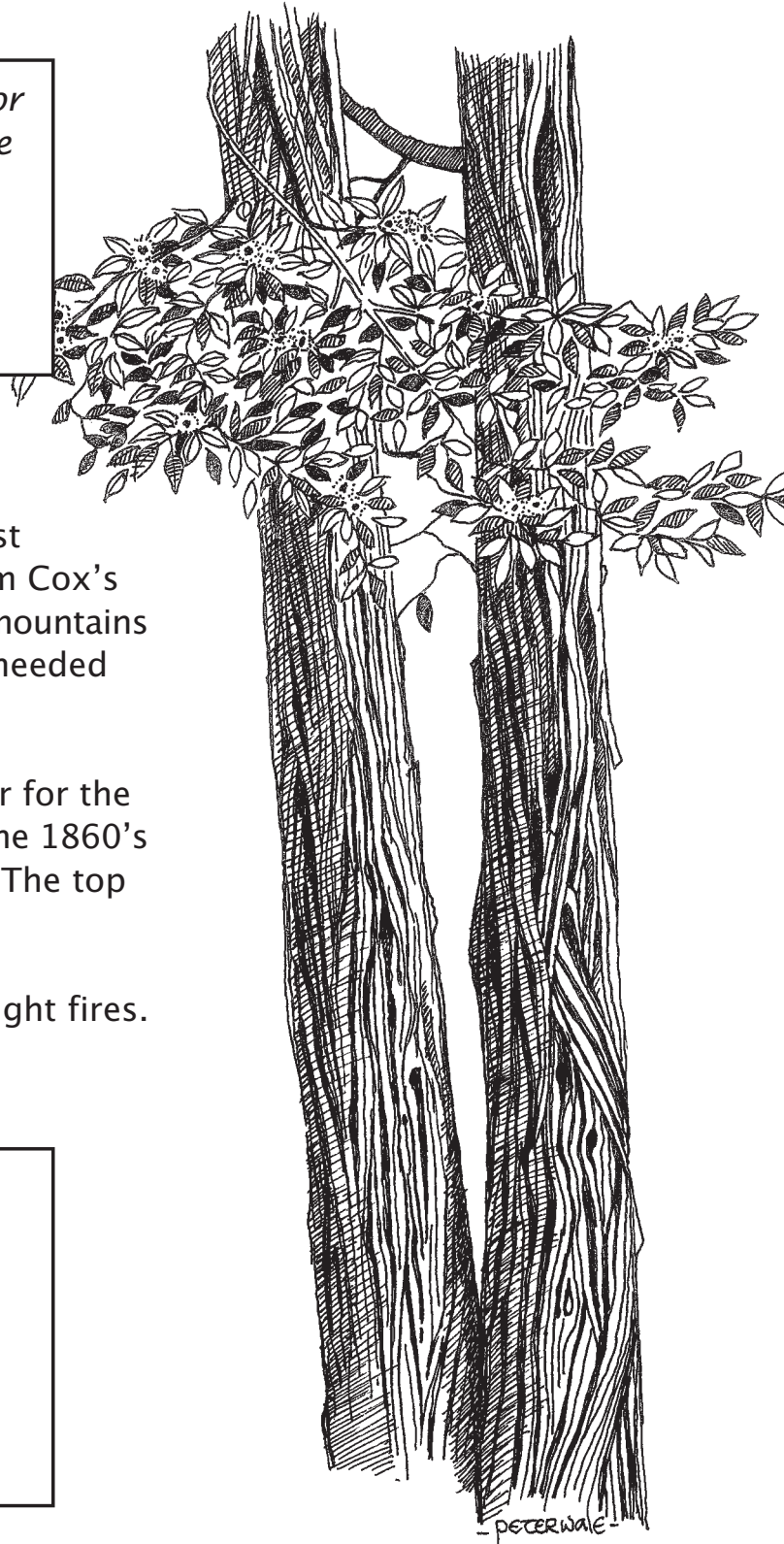
If you stand over at the beach and look over towards Lagoon Drive & Skarratt St, at low water levels, amongst the rushes lie the remains of the garden built at William Cox's depot, in 1814. William Cox built the first road over the mountains and his storehouse became the first depot. Travellers needed a permit to pass.

In the 1860's the lagoon was dammed to provide water for the construction of the Little Zigzag railway in 1867. From the 1860's to 1913 the lagoon's water was used for steam trains. The top of the dam wall is situated in Glenbrook Rd.

Since the 1940s the lagoon's water has been used to fight fires.

Imagine 100 years ago...

Visiting the lagoon on horse and buggy
Being one of the few Europeans to have come here
Going to the nearby horse races
And nearby properties pumping water
from the lagoon for drinking



The Ellis family home circa 1940

Photograph courtesy of Bruce Palmer and the Ellis family

In the 1940's the Ellis family had an orchard and an extensive garden right here. You are standing at the remains of their home. Life was tough, and the soil poor for agriculture.

This land was once cleared. The Ellis family had a view of the lagoon from their home. You can see how the bush has naturally regenerated in the last 50 years. Exotic weeds have been removed through bush regeneration techniques by the Glenbrook Lagoon Society Bushcare group, Council and the Urban Runoff Control Program.

Turpentine trees were logged for wharves construction because of their resistance to sea borers.

For further information please contact Council on 4780 5000 or visit us at: www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au

GLENBROOK LAGOON WALKING TRACK - BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL

Blue Mountains City Council lies within the
Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area



Funded by the NSW Government Urban Runoff Control Program