

HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION
OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2013

ISSUE No. 29

Men and women of the bush in early Australian cinema

By Andrew Pike, OAM

A summary of the Theo Barker Memorial Lecture delivered in Bathurst on August 16, 2013, presented by the Bathurst District Historical Society in conjunction with Charles Sturt University.

WHEN I FIRST started researching the history of Australian film history in the late 60s, the landscape was very bleak.

There were no film studies at any university, and no publications to act as a guide.

I eventually located some oases in the desert – the pioneering research of Ross Cooper, Merv Wasson, Anthony Buckley, Joan Long and a handful of others, and some dedicated librarians (Larry Lake, Rod Wallace and Ray Edmondson) working within the film section of the National Library of Australia, doing their best to find resources to save films at risk of being lost.

Ross Cooper and I decided to pool our resources to try to provide a framework for our own research and hopefully to help others.

Our book was eventually the result (*Australian Film, 1900-1977*, published by Oxford University Press).

In working systematically towards our listing, I began by working backwards from the late 60s, scouring capital city newspapers and trade publications to find evidence of Australian films that had been produced and released in the past.

It was a long but exciting journey back in time, and I became used to finding only a small handful of films each year – maybe 6 or 7 in a good year, or none in some grim years.



Lorna Denver (played by Vera James) shows her skill at branding - a scene from the 1921 film, 'A Girl of the Bush'

Back through the decades to the 30s and the 20s and the First World War years the story was always much the same – just a thin scattering of Australian films in Australian cinemas.

But then we reached 1912 and 1911, and suddenly we found evidence of Australian films everywhere, scores of films, many each month.

Our excitement was perhaps like that of an archaeologist who digs down through geological layers and then suddenly reaches a layer where there is evidence of a lost civilisation.

Here in 1911 and 1912 was a rich treasure trove of Australian cinema that had been forgotten, and was unlike anything in later years, at least up to the late 60s where our searching had begun.

The landscape of film in 1911 and 1912 was indeed strange – not only Australian films galore, but no sign of Hollywood.

Instead theatres showcased films from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, England – and only a few short films from America.

Silent cinema knew no language barrier, and Australian films were a vital part of this cosmopolitan mix.

- *P1 Men and women of the bush in early Australian cinema by *Andrew Pike*
- *P2 Opinion - Planning backflip - new laws in doubt - but vigilance imperative by *John Leary*
- *P5 State government sale of Bridge Street buildings
- *P6 A grave story by *Peter Chinn*
- *P6 Mary Reynolds to "retire"
- *P7 The Paragon, Katoomba by *Ian Jack*
- *P10 Valley Heights locomotive depot centenary.
- *P11 Good speakers, entertainment and lunch in a heritage dining room
- *P12 RAHS annual conference- Great divide: getting there from here theme
- *P12 Pre conference drinks
- *P13 Exposing our pictorial past
- *P13 Fish fossils in Canowindra
- *P13 Leading professionals join National Trust Board
- *P14 Time for cleaning your museum by *Peter Stanbury*
- *P15 Touring the past: Touring and history in Australia
- *P16 BMACHO committee members demystify social media
- *P16 Timeline for Mt Tomah and Blue Mountains Garden
- *P17 The Red Admiral to continue until year's end
- *P17 Stories of Devotion will bring exhibition to end
- *P17 Wendy Hawkes to talk about the Cooks
- *P18 Old Toongabbie Farm: an elusive vision by *Jan Barkley-Jack*
- *P18 Scrutinizing paper-based collections
- *P20 Restoration of Springwood's monuments
- *P21 Thomas Hobby makes his mark as Cox takes a 'sickie', August 1814 by *Peter Rickwood*
- *P21 Japanese culture at Norman Lindsay Gallery
- *P22 Blue Mountains Explorers Trail map idea
- *P23 Railway journeys to the upper Blue Mountains
- *P24 Fizzy soda water much loved by the gentry since 1783



An opinion from the editor..... **Planning backflip: new laws in doubt --- but vigilance imperative**

One of the first actions by the O'Farrell government when it came to power some 2-and- a-half-years ago was to repeal the notorious Part 3A section of the Planning Act which the ousted Labor government had allowed to be abused.

The Liberal government promised to return planning decisions back to the local community.

The government has touted its planning reforms as the biggest changes to the planning regime in 30 years, to streamline approval processes and ensure development matches the need for new homes and jobs.

Instead landmark planning reforms have met with severe criticism at all levels of the community.

The central plank of the Coalition's election promise — that local communities have more of a say in the planning process did not rate a real mention in the draft Bill nor the government's white paper.

Instead it was proposed that 80 percent of development applications be waved through under a proposal by which applications would be assessed strictly against planning codes — "codes assessment" — rather than have to be considered case-by-case by local government councils.

Grave concerns had been expressed that heritage and environmental issues would be sidelined to prevent the community from opposing unwanted development.

The changes would have erased ecological principles which limited the community's ability to protect natural assets.

Local government around the state was in revolt and full credit to councils in this region for their stand. Blue Mountains City Council

led by its then deputy, now mayor Mark Greenhill did much to put the case that this region has special planning needs and that a "one-fits-all" code was not acceptable.

A white paper outlining the changes attracted almost 5000 submissions, hardly the "small vocal minority" suggested by a rapacious development industry.

One group alone, the Better Planning Network Inc. (BPN) has some 420 affiliated community groups including BMACHO.

The relentless work of Corrine Fisher from BPN has brought together a wide spectrum of stakeholders to oppose this proposed legislation which even ICAC is reported as having warned the Bill contains a high risk of corruption.

BPN's campaign is not a ragtag protest it is a professional exercise which could well be taken as a model for future actions against threats to individual and group dissent to bad legislation.

Planning and Infrastructure director-general Sam Haddad has admitted that the planned overhaul had "gone further than the government intended" and department staff may have unintentionally spread "inaccurate or misleading information"

It now appears that the NSW Planning Minister, Brad Hazzard has done a backflip, lacking the support of cabinet colleagues for major components of the Bill.

But stakeholders and the community need to be vigilant and keep up the pressure on local MPs to ensure this toxic planning proposal never becomes law. The proposed reforms empower developers not communities.

John Leary, OAM - President, Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc.

Continued from page 1

It was during the First World War that the high levels of production in Europe were disrupted and Hollywood stepped into the breach internationally, gaining a foothold that it never lost.

The boom in Australian films faded away after two glorious years for reasons which are complex and had nothing to do with Hollywood, but to some extent the Australian films made in these boom years carried a seed which contributed to their own demise, as we shall see.

‘Australian films made in those [early] years were entirely for Australian audiences’

Overseas sales were not part of the business model, and were rare. It was emphatically a local film industry, making films for local audiences – audiences that the filmmakers could know and understand.

The subjects were many and varied - convict era dramas, filmed versions of American and British plays, films inspired by paintings, poems, songs - and of the 100 or more films made at that time, about 40 were dramas set in the bush – usually stories which romanticised the past.

That past could encompass gold mining dramas, stories of clashes with Aboriginal Australians, and pioneering stories, but about a third of the bush films were about bushrangers.

Captains Midnight, Starlight, Moonlite and Thunderbolt were



The shearing shed at Freemantle Station, outside Bathurst, used as a location for the 1921 film, ‘A Girl of the Bush.’ Vera James as ‘the Girl’ is in the centre.

heroic figures in these bushranging sagas alongside Ben Hall and members of his gang, and of course Ned Kelly.

These bushranging films constituted a distinctive local genre well before Westerns became established in Hollywood: we had our own stock characters, our own stock situations that owed nothing to American cowboys and Westerns. As one filmmaker from those days, Raymond Longford, later recalled: “All they needed was (sic) horses hired from stables in Redfern, some uniforms, guns, a stagecoach, and enough men to play troopers and rangers.

“They would take their gear down to the bush at Brookvale, outside Manly, camp out for a week and - without any script - make a film. Their action was usually a stagecoach hold-up, a lot of galloping, and a shooting-match.” (*Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, November 9, 1946)

By 1912, the popularity of bushrangers started to cause concern to the New South Wales Police who had carriage of film censorship at that time.

They felt that this wave of films glorified criminal behaviour, made a mockery of law enforcement, and was unhealthy for young audiences.

The result was a police ban on bushranging films which effectively removed the most popular male figure from Australian cinema.

With the sudden loss of the strongest male characters in the local bush genre, the men who were left seemed to be an empty shell.

Many of them seemed to become bland and polite, and were no match for the later heroes of the American West such as WS Hart and Tom Mix who took over the popular imagination during the war years.

With the bushranger ban, the “real men” of the bush disappeared, but the women did not.

The women who featured in many of these early bush dramas appear to have followed a particular stereotype which survived in bush dramas until the last great manifestation of the bush heroine in the Daphne Campbell role in *The Overlanders* in 1946.

The women of the bush were a distinct local phenomenon: they differed profoundly from many later Hollywood heroines of the Western genre.

The Australian bush heroines could confidently and reliably do the work of a man – could manage a station, go mustering, work in the shearing sheds, brand cattle, and ride with great proficiency.

At the same time, they could be attractive, demure and glamorous after the day’s work was done.

Continued page 4

'In the absence of strong male heroes, these women were often the protagonist'

Continued from page 3

They were far from being tomboys and in no sense competed with men; on the contrary, they enjoyed male company, even flirting with the bland young men who courted them.

In the absence of strong male heroes, these women were often the protagonist.

The duality in her personality, balancing the "masculine" and "feminine" aspects of her character, could be expressed in her very name. In *The Squatter's Daughter* (1933) she is Jo to the men, and Joan to those who know her domestically.

The heroine of *Silks and Saddles* in 1921 is known around the station as Bobbie, but is Roberta in the homestead.

In some films the bush heroine shared responsibilities with a man who might be a brother but who would sometimes be weak, lazy, snivelling, dishonest, immoral, selfish and irresponsible – in short, a bounder.

Sometimes he was literally disabled as in *The Squatter's Daughter*.

Interestingly, the hero who romances the heroine in *A Girl of*



Lorna Denver (played by Vera James) at work on the station, watched by her dissolute suitor Oswald (played by Herbert Linden) - a scene from the 1921 film, 'A Girl of the Bush'.

the Bush (1921) is a well-mannered surveyor, not a "true" man of the bush though doubtless he will become one when he marries her.

The contrast with some of the strong women of the American West is remarkable: in Hollywood, women who did a man's job were often depicted as tomboys, sometimes emotionally disturbed, and had to be tamed.

Gun-toting, whip-cracking, tough-as-nails characters such as Anny Oakley were essentially competitive and challenging to men ("*Anything you can do, I can do better*"), but the Australian counterpart had no need to be competitive: she was a balanced, well-rounded character who could be an equal of the men in her life.

Very few of the early films from 1911-12 survive but we can learn a lot from newspapers articles, advertising and other published material.

Where fragments of the films do survive, we can see vivid examples of these women who are far from being conventional "romantic interest" or relegated to home-making and child-rearing roles like many women in the American West.

They were a distinctive local creation, strong and forceful characters at the forefront of our national cinema when it burgeoned before the First World War.

Since the 1950s, her demise from our national culture is almost complete.

Women in the bush in later films had little in common with her.
Continued page 5



Lorna Denver (played by Vera James) . This image and others included in this article have been accessed courtesy National Film and Sound Archive.

Forgotten gems

Continued from page 4

The bush became a claustrophobic, stultifying environment from which a woman needs to escape (*Dust in the Sun* and *My Brilliant Career*) or with which a woman struggles long and hard (*We of the Never Never*). Nicole Kidman's role in *Australia* might have had potential but missed the mark entirely.

Perhaps the conventions of American film and television have now become so pervasive that we no longer know what we once had, or even feel the need for it.

But exploration of our own national cinema and its unique characteristics can reveal exciting elements that are worthy of much more study and discussion.

When the National Film and Sound Archive can marshal the resources to re-release forgotten gems like *A Squatter's Daughter* and *A Girl of the Bush*, we will finally have the tools to understand the characters who once stood strong and proud at the centre of our popular culture.

About the author

Andrew Pike is a film distributor, film historian, documentary filmmaker and former exhibitor. With Ross Cooper, he wrote *Australian Film 1900-1977*, published by Oxford University Press.

His films as director include the award-winning *Angels of War* (1982) about Papua New Guinea during World War 2, *The Chifleys of Busby Street* (2008) about Australia's post-war Prime Minister, Ben Chifley, and *Emily in Japan* (2010), an arts documentary commissioned by ABC TV.

He has personally produced several documentaries for other directors.

Andrew managed the Electric Shadows cinema in Canberra for 27 years, from 1979 to 2006, and through his company, Ronin Films, has distributed many Australian films including *Strictly Ballroom* and *Shine*, and 500 documentaries.

In 2007 Andrew was awarded an OAM and an honorary doctorate from the University of Canberra for



Andrew Pike, OAM

his services to the film industry and community.

In 2003 he was appointed by the French government to the rank of *Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Arts et Lettres* for Ronin's promotion of French cinema in Australia.

He served on the Board of the National Film and Sound Archive from 2008 to 2012 and is a member of the ACT Government's arts policy advisory council.

State government sale of Bridge Street buildings

The three major NSW Government owned Bridge Street, Sydney sandstone buildings – the Lands Department, Department of Education and the Chief Secretary's Buildings are proposed for sale/lease by the government prompting expressions of deep concern by the public to the National Trust.

The three buildings were listed on the National Trust Register in the 1970s and on the State Heritage Register in 1999.

As a group and individually they have the highest heritage significance.

For example, the Lands Department Building "is one of the most influential and major public buildings ever established during the mid nineteenth century in Australia's colonial history."

While the National Trust supports the concept of "adaptive re-use" to keep buildings intact and to fund

their ongoing maintenance, any development proposal for these three buildings must be sympathetic.

These are landmark buildings seen "in the round" with important ornamentation on their rooftops.

Like the Queen Victoria Building any development would have to respect



Lands Department tower - 1892

the scale of these buildings and their extraordinary exteriors, interiors and rooftops.

The Trust has expressed deep concern about proposals in the new draft state planning legislation that would transfer planning approval powers for State Heritage Register listed buildings from the Heritage Council of NSW to the Director-General of the Department of Planning & Infrastructure.

The treatment of these buildings is likely to be the first major test of the new planning/heritage regime.

There must be careful consideration given to development proposals to ensure that they properly protect these historic gems

The Trust will carefully monitor any proposed developments.
Reprinted from *National Trust Heritage Alert*.

Little Jacky Tougher - a grave story

IT WOULD BE hard to imagine any possible connection between the death of a baby in Lithgow in 1898 and the Australian Customs & Border Protection Service marine base at Neutral Bay but some very strange things do happen as this story will reveal.

James and Mary Tougher had emigrated from Scotland around 1879, to make a new life in Lithgow where James probably found work with Hoskins steel works.

James' brother John and his wife Margaret had joined them in the town and the brothers were stalwarts of the municipal brass band.

James and Margaret were the parents of four sons and five daughters – a typically large family for the time.

In April 1897 their last child, Jack, was born but he was to have only a very short life, dying on March 17, 1898.

The cause of death is not known but at that time and in that area typhoid claimed the lives of quite a number of young children.

Jack was buried in the Presbyterian section of South Bowenfels Cemetery which lies a little to the east of Lithgow on the Great Western Highway.

A small marble headstone was subsequently erected on his grave which bore the inscription:

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF JACK
BELOVED SON OF
J. & M. TOUGHER
DIED MARCH 17 1898
AGED 11 MONTHS
A BUD IN HEAVEN.

The next part of the story is pure hypothesis. Let us fast-forward to the 1970s when two Customs officers, after a weekend shooting trip in the west, stop at Lithgow for refreshments at a pub.

It is a moonlight night as they set off for Sydney along the highway but nature calls and they decide to avail themselves of the quiet of South Bowenfels Cemetery which is

unfenced and freely accessible.

The officers notice the small headstone (which measures some forty centimetres square) and in a spirit of devilment easily remove it from the plinth and take it with them.

On their return to work on the Monday they place it in the garden beside the car park at the Neutral Bay marine base.

In December 2000 a Customs officer from Canberra was waiting for a taxi in the car park and noticed the little headstone.

He noted the details and contacted the Customs history officer in Sydney, Peter Chinn to see what might be found out about this curious item.

Considering the possibility that the headstone might have been on the site before the Customs marine base was established in the early 1960s Peter Chinn contacted the North Shore Historical Society to see if they had any knowledge of the headstone.

The Society's investigations determined that Jack Tougher's



headstone belonged in far away South Bowenfels Cemetery.

North Shore Historical Society's journal editor Cameron Sparks made contact with John Bayliss, Local Studies Librarian at Lithgow Regional Library to arrange for its return.

This was finally done in 2003, and Lithgow City council, which is responsible for this very fine old cemetery, restored the headstone to its rightful place.

Peter Chinn who contributed this article is president of Springwood Historical Society, a member of Springwood Historians and a regular contributor to HERITAGE

Mary Reynolds to "retire"

MARY REYNOLDS, the driving force behind the establishment of Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society in 1996, is to "retire" from the day-to-day activities of the society.

Mary plans, when time permits, to concentrate on her history of Mt Wilson and sorting and cataloguing of archival material.

President of Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society, Des Barrett has said, "Mary's contribution to our

society and to the study of local history generally, has been truly remarkable.

"A full recognition of her commitment to and work for the society will be acknowledged at this year's annual meeting, to be held on Saturday November, 9."

Mary was honoured in January 2011 with the award of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to the community through a range of historical, environmental and charitable organisations.

The Paragon, Katoomba

by Ian Jack, an edited version of a talk given to the Australian Society for the History of Engineering and Technology and the Royal Australian Historical Society on July 25, 2013



KATOOMBA INITIALLY developed in a fashion quite distinct from the other Blue Mountains townships along the 1860s railway line.

From 1874 onwards trains halted at The Crushers, in the vicinity of the later station, not for passengers but for stone quarried near the later court-house.¹

The first settlement in the area was two kilometres to the south-west of the railway, near Katoomba Falls, where John Britty North opened a coal-mine complex in the Jamison Valley in 1878.

There was a village near the top of Katoomba Falls and another village grew up deep down in the valley itself close to the base of the Falls, just below where the Scenic Railway ends today.

North built a private tramway from the top of the incline near Katoomba Falls to join the main western railway line at what is now known as Shell Corner, a kilometre west of the present station.²

All this diverted attention away from what we all think of as the core area of the urban development, the area on either side of Katoomba Street, that essential north-south connecting link between the railway and Echo Point.

This area around Katoomba Street was within the large land-holding of James Henry Neale, a master butcher and Sydney politician, who had been a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1864 until 1874.

In 1877 Neale built a country retreat called Froma on what is now the new Cultural Centre site on the east side of Parke Street. But in 1881 Neale sold his interest in central Katoomba, including the house, to Frederick Clissold.

Clissold, a wool-merchant resident in the Sydney suburb of Ashfield, immediately sub-divided the land, creating and naming the modern street system.

Parke, Katoomba and Lurline Streets were created, running north-

south, while Waratah Street ran east-west and defined the southern edge of the initial commercial centre of the new town. The Great Western Highway and the railway defined the northern limit.³

So Katoomba changed rapidly. It started as only two industrial halts on the railway, with stone for railway works at one and at the other a private tramway leading down to a coal-mine and two mining villages.

Then it became a characteristic Mountains town relating to a proper railway station serving real people, as the 78 allotments created in 1881 were, over two decades, purchased and developed.

During this period from the 1880s up to the First World War, the whole area below the Carrington, quite close to the railway station, along Katoomba, Parke and Lurline Streets, became a busy commercial precinct, dominated by shops, services and a cluster of guesthouses, tempered by a remarkable number of churches (Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic and Congregationalist) along with their halls and manses.

The influx of seasonal tourists and the increasing number of permanent residents who serviced the tourists created a need for local services, so the area between the station and Waratah Street gradually filled up with shops, restaurants, cafés, two theatres and public utilities, such as the post office and the public school.⁴

But there was still a lot of free space in 1906, captured in a marvellous photograph showing south Katoomba from the most spectacular of the early consolidations, the Great Western Hotel of 1882, better known as the Carrington, on its spacious hill-top site.



Olympus, 12 Cliff Drive, Katoomba, the house built by Zacharias and Mary Simos in 1940. The upstairs section was altered in the 1980s. Photograph, Ian Jack, 2001.

A real entrepreneur at 19

Froma was still there in 1906, just below the Carrington although it was demolished six years later. Between Froma and Katoomba Street, the site of the later Paragon was a large, empty space, which remained undeveloped until 1909, when William Newlind built four shops on the vacant Katoomba Street block.⁵

Newlind had built the four shops as a speculation and three of them were soon bought as an investment by the Anglican rector of St Hilda's, just across the street.

These were all retail shops until 1916 when one was converted into refreshment rooms, called the Paragon.⁶

This was just at the beginning of a new phenomenon in Australian country towns, the Greek café.

From the early 1910s onwards a number of émigrés from Greece, often with experience of the United States, created a new café experience in cities and towns throughout Australia.

The Greek café was 'essentially an evolutionary amalgam' of the Greek coffee-house and the American oyster saloon and soda parlour with the familiar fare of the existing

British-Australian steak-houses, and the names of the cafés, Californian, Golden Gate, Niagara on the one hand and Acropolis, Parthenon, Paragon on the other, reflected the shared inheritance.⁷

In Katoomba a drapery store built at 92 Bathurst Road near the station about 1905 was converted in 1917 to a Greek café called the Acropolis and soon rechristened the Niagara to emphasise its trendy American drinks.⁸

This is the Australian environment which a fifteen-year-old Greek boy called Zacharias Simos found when he migrated from Greece in 1912.

Where did he find work? In Greek cafés, of course, in Sydney, in Windsor and in Tenterfield.⁹

By 1916 he was in Katoomba, where in a brief partnership with Demetruos Sophios he became a fruiterer and a confectioner, opening his own premises in Katoomba called the Paragon Café and Oyster Palace.

He was advertising his Paragon wares as 'confectionery, fruit, American fountain drinks, and ice cream specialities'. This was in September 1916.

He was a real entrepreneur at the age of 19, offering to deliver fresh lobsters and oysters anywhere in the Mountains and making a speciality of 'late suppers'.¹⁰

Simos was an early exponent of American-style soda drinks with fancy flavours: he fell foul of the law in 1918 for combining raspberry syrup (brought from America) with too much sodium benzoate

But he survived the fine of £2 (about \$150 today) and expanded the Paragon in 1925 to create the present deep restaurant area which we all love today.¹¹

This doubled the length of the café and a new soda fountain was installed at the rear bar, with a lavish use of Australian marble.

At this time wall panels were added, not the present ones, but 'artistic plaques', framed in gold, which have not been captured in any known photograph.¹²

The bench seating was pleasant though not out of the ordinary. But the decorations and the style of the Paragon were of an elegance which distinguished it from most of its rivals.

Simos and the Poulos family which ran the Niagara round the corner were good friends although rivals and the Paragon and the Niagara were keenly aware of each other.¹³

The area just behind the Paragon bar is now a sort of hall-way, but in 1925 it was an elegant private supper-room: this is why it has fine period detailing, such as its Art Deco ceiling light.

Behind this supper-room was a new change-room with all modern conveniences for 'the girls' who worked in the café. Further back again was the kitchen, just as it is today.¹⁴

Upstairs in 1925 was the industrial side of the enterprise, not open to the public.

There was a bakehouse, a large refrigeration plant for the ice-cream made on the premises and a new 'sweet factory', with a gas boiler and a forced-air draught for cooling the chocolate.¹⁵

The technology of the chocolaterie is well documented, although the equipment was dismantled a decade ago.

Photographs of the upstairs rooms survive from various periods and have been gathered together and displayed by Robyn Parker.



Location map of the Carrington hotel and the Paragon Café.

Continued page 9

“... industrial dimension to the Paragon is of exceptional importance.”

Continued from page 8

The chocolate-making equipment is still stored upstairs and on April 10, 2013 members of the ASHET committee inspected and photographed the various items with a view to compiling a full report later in the year.

This industrial dimension to the Paragon is of exceptional importance.

Chocolate-making at the Paragon had been of a high order ever since Zacharias Simos had been joined by his two brothers: George was a master confectioner and they were trading as Simos Brothers by 1926.¹⁶

During a visit to Europe in 1929, Zacharias married an American-born daughter of café proprietors whom he met in his own home town of Kythera in Greece when they were both on holiday.

Maria or Mary became something of a legend in Katoomba and as a widow after 1976 managed the Paragon until 1987.¹⁷

Mrs Simos sums up the complex influences evident in the way in which America and Europe (Austria as well as Greece) contributed to the Australian Greek café.

In 1946 and 1947 new bas-relief friezes were commissioned for the front rooms.

These were by an émigré Danish artist, Otto Steen, who had arrived in Australia at the end of 1927.

He also did significant work at Everglades for Henri van de Velde



The chocolate room upstairs at the Paragon, showing the equipment now in store still in situ in 2000.

and assisted Rayner Hoff with the sculptures in Sydney's Anzac Memorial.¹⁸

Steen's fine friezes matched very well with the fairly extravagant new rooms right at the back of the Paragon when it was remodelled again in 1934 and 1936, designed by the theatre architect Henry White (who had also created the Capitol and State theatres in Sydney in 1927-1929).¹⁹

These two private rooms for functions are remarkable, not only for their décor but also for their very sexy lighting.

Robyn Parker, the present enlightened lessee of the Paragon, has rescued important memorabilia and documentation from various cubby-holes around the building and has put up a valuable museum display in the ballroom. We are all much in Robyn's debt.

It is illuminating to compare the Paragon with the Simos family's own house in Katoomba.

Originally, Zach Simos lived above the shop, in that part of the upstairs rabbit-warren overlooking Katoomba Street which was not used for making chocolates or for baking cakes.

In the late 1930s Zach and Mary bought vacant land on what is now Cliff Drive down at Echo Point and in 1940 they commissioned GN Kenworthy, the architect of the State

Ballroom in Sydney, who had also worked on the State Theatre, to design a classy Functionalist house, which they called, of course, Olympus. Despite some additions to the upper frontage in the 1980s, the house and its important outbuildings, (garage, pergola, summer-house, fuel store), have retained a great deal of integrity.²⁰ This is the necessary corollary to the Paragon, blending perfectly with the developed façade of the famous café.

The Paragon is the apotheosis of the Greek café in Australia and it reflects the increasing prosperity and stylishness of the Simos family as the premises were extended and aggrandised between the two world wars.

It has managed to preserve to an astonishing degree the features which made it so famous, and the continuing quality of the chocolates, still made upstairs, and the décor of the long room which everyone sees are stunning.

But it is the unseen Paragon which makes it ultra-special: the two underused grand private function rooms at the back which so few people ever see, let alone eat and drink and dance in; and most of all, not least for ASHET, the crowning glory is the survival of the upstairs industrial rooms for chocolate-making and for baking, and the survival of much of the earlier equipment seen *in situ* in the old photographs.

Continued page 10

“...[this] Art Deco Cafe extremely rare and precious

Such an industrial dimension within the context of a spectacular Art Deco café is extremely rare and precious. Robyn Parker is to be congratulated for her exemplary stewardship.

End notes

¹ B Fox, *Upper Blue Mountains Geographical Encyclopaedia*, 2nd ed., author, Bathurst, 2001, pp.46-47.

² PJ Pells and PJ Hammon, *The Burning Mists of Time: a technological and social history of mining at Katoomba*, Philsquare Publishing, Katoomba, 2009, pp.58-60, 163; H King photograph, c.1890, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, PXA 61, p.70.

³ RI Jack, History, 'Site of Froma', State Heritage Inventory 1170440, Blue Mountains City Council, Katoomba, K 117.

⁴ RI Jack, History, 'Katoomba Heritage Conservation Area', State Heritage Inventory 1170518, Blue Mountains City Council, Katoomba, K 159.

⁵ *Australasian Traveller*, 7 January 1907, p.13.

⁶ RI Jack, History, 'Paragon Café Group', State Heritage Inventory 1170394, Blue Mountains City Council, Katoomba, K 034.

⁷ Cf. L Janiszewski and E Alexakis, "American Beauties" at The Niagara: the marriage of American food catering ideas to British-Australian tastes and the birth of the classic Australian "Greek café". *Locality*, Spring 2002, pp.14-18.

⁸ RI Jack, History, 'Café Niagara', State Heritage Inventory 1170431, Blue Mountains City Council, Katoomba, K 106.

⁹ R Parker, 'The Paragon Chronology', p.1.

¹⁰ *Blue Mountain Echo*, 15 September 1916 p.5, 10 August 1917, p.4.

¹¹ *Blue Mountain Echo*, 22 March 1918, p.1.

¹² *Blue Mountain Echo*, 4 June 1926, p.2.

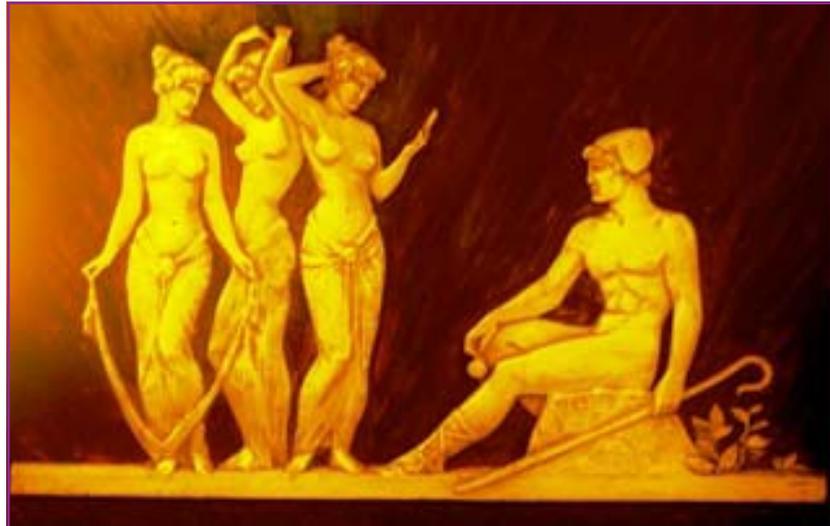
¹³ Cf. *Blue Mountain Echo*, 1 February 1924, p.4.

¹³ *Blue Mountain Echo*, 4 June 1926, p.2.

¹⁴ *Blue Mountain Echo*, 4 June 1926, p.2.

¹⁵ *Blue Mountain Echo*, 4 June 1926, p.2.

¹⁶ Parker, 'Paragon Chronology', p.1.



Paragon frieze by Otto Steen, showing the judgment of Paris.

¹⁷ Parker, 'Paragon Chronology', pp.1-2; *Blue Mountain Echo*, 1 February 1924, p.4.

¹⁸ G Sturgeon, *The Development of Australian Sculpture, 1788-1975*, Thames and Hudson, London, 1978, p.136; D Hunt, 'Obituary: Otto Steen, 1902-1981', *Sculptors Society Bulletin*, October 1981, p.3; Information from Robyn Parker, 2012; the friezes were dated by the sculptor.

¹⁹ Parker, 'Paragon Chronology', p.2; J Thomas, 'White, Henry Eli (1876-1952)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, 12, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1990, p.468.

²⁰ RI Jack, 'History, 'Olympus'', State Heritage Inventory 1170110, Blue Mountains City Council, Katoomba, K 068; <http://www.daa.org.au/bio/gn-kenworthy/>.

Valley Heights locomotive depot centenary

Andrew Tester from the Valley Heights Locomotive Heritage Museum, last month held a gathering of local historical and family history societies from Nepean and Blue Mountains at the Museum

This was to hand out their brochure *2014 – Celebrating the Past, Envisioning the Future*, which is a celebration of 100 years of service to the Blue Mountains community.

Andrew went through the proposed event calendar for 2013/2014 (which is subject to change), starting with community events from January 2014. The first event will be the local community pre centenary celebration on Australia Day, Sunday, January 26, 2014.

On Friday January 31, 2014, the museum official opening and official opening of centenary

celebrations will be held – this event will be invitation only.

This will be followed by a community event on the weekend of February 1-2, 2014. Organisers are hoping to hold a community day in March, where the local historical, family history, heritage organisations can hold information stalls.

On the same day, the members of the public will also have an opportunity to experience steam train rides with shuttle trip being planned to operate between Springwood and Penrith. This will be confirmed in due course. There will be other events during the year up until the World War 1 centenary event in October 2014.

After the presentation, Andrew took all those present on a tour of the grounds and Museum, where there is a lot of work being carried out in preparation for next year.

Good speakers, entertainment and lunch in heritage dining room planned for conference

THE 2014 Blue Mountains History Conference being organised by the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc, will be held again at The Carrington Hotel, following the success of the 2012 event in this venue.

The conference will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014 and already a number of speakers have been secured.

Associate professor Ian Jack, MA, PhD, FRHistS, FRAHS will give a talk on historical educational buildings.

Ian served as president of the Royal Australian Historical Society for 11 years and is regarded as an eminent historian with numerous books and other publications to his credit. He has been described by one of his peers and a "consummate scholar".

He is constantly being sought as a speaker around the state and throughout the nation.

Another speaker will be Hector Abrahams, a heritage architect and former RAHS councillor, who will give a talk on historical buildings built for religious activities including churches and schools.

Hec has a deep interest in the architecture of old places - the repair conservation and sensitive changes to buildings and the addition of new buildings within an existing precinct.

He has worked on larger projects including the new wings at St Paul's and St Andrew's Colleges at the University of Sydney, and the Sydney GPO.

He is very familiar with the architecture of many of the religious buildings in this region

Robyn Parker, proprietor of the Paragon Café, Katoomba will participate in a question and answer (Q & A) half hour session on the history of the Paragon, assisted by Ian Jack.

Dr Nick Lomb, a former astronomer at Sydney Observatory, will provide an address about astronomy observed from the Blue Mountains. He has observed the Transit of Venus, the scientific event which led Captain Cook to Australia.

Nick has been involved in the observations of the Transit of Venus from Woodford Academy in June 2004 and again in June 2012

The program for the Blue Mountains History Conference including an entertainment interlude will be

finalised in the next few weeks when registrations will open.

The conference will finish by 3.45 – 4.00 pm and an optional extra will be offered on the registration form for those wishing to go to the Paragon Café for afternoon tea.

Robyn Parker has agreed to provide afternoon tea of tea/coffee, scones and cream, plus a tour of the Paragon Café for \$10.

The fee for the conference, morning tea and buffet lunch at The Carrington will be \$50.

The Carrington Hotel



The Carrington has a long and rich history spanning almost a century and a quarter since her establishment by Sydney hotelier Harry Rowell.

Opened in 1882 as The Great Western, this 'grand old lady' soon became a popular mountain retreat for international visitors, the elite of Sydney and those eager to see the natural wonders of the Blue Mountains.

Renamed 'The Carrington' in 1886, in honour of the then Governor of New South Wales, Lord Carrington, the hotel was extended by its new owner, Mr FC Goyder who is credited with the creation of the grand dining room. With its extended and upgraded facilities, The Carrington gained even more acceptance as a world class establishment.

By the early 1900's The Carrington's reputation as the

premier tourist resort in the southern hemisphere was undisputed and the newspapers of the day often cited her as the only rival to Raffles within The Empire.

Sold in 1911 to Sir James Joynton Smith, who introduced the famous stained glass facade, The Carrington entered a new phase and quickly became known as the honeymoon destination of choice, and this remained so for the next half a century.

The Carrington closed her doors in late 1985 and remained empty and derelict until 1991 when it was purchased with the aim of restoring and relaunching this 'grand old lady' of the Mountains.

The Carrington reopened her doors in December 1998 after eight years of restoration, and works are continuing on the restoration of the gardens, garages, stables, and powerhouse.

RAHS annual conference - *Great Divide: Getting there from here* theme

THE THEME this year of the RAHS conference to be held in Katoomba in November is *The Great Divide: Getting there from here*.

It will examine new family history resources; commemorating the past; places and landscapes; museum collections and society management.

There will be opportunities to network with people who are committed to promoting local and community history and who enjoy sharing their successes and challenges with others.

The conference will be held in the Katoomba RSL Club on Saturday and Sunday November 2 and 3

The RAHS is delighted to announce that the distinguished historical geographer Associate Professor John McQuilton has accepted an invitation to deliver the 2013 Lesley Muir address.

His publications include *The Kelly Outbreak: The Geographical Dimensions of Social Banditry* (1979), *Australians: A Historical Atlas* (1988) and *Rural Australia and the Great War: from Tarrawingee to Tangambalanga* (2001).



Katoomba Street, 1920 - RAHS Photographic Collection

Outline of Conference Program

Day 1 – Saturday 2 November –
Welcome to Country • Welcome to Region • Presentation of 2013 Cultural Grants • RAHS President's Address – Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker • 2013 Lesley Muir address – Associate Professor John McQuilton • Morning tea and book sales • Session on new family history resources • Lunch and book sales • Session on commemorating the past with particular focus on World War I • Afternoon tea and book sales • Choice of conference tours • Conference dinner

Day 2 – Sunday 3 November –
Business Session • Presentation of 2013 Heritage Grants • Morning tea and book sales • Session on places and landscapes • Lunch and book sales • Session on museums & interpreting objects

For further information about the conference contact the RAHS on [02] 9247 8001 or email history@rahs.org.au.

There will be regular updates on the conference and other RAHS news in the fortnightly eNewsletter. Source: *RAHS eNewsletter September 2013 Issue 1*.

Pre-conference drinks at Hobby's Reach hosted by Blue Mountains Historical Society



Tarella 1910 - Ada McLaughlin with her two daughters and friends. Image - Blue Mountains Historical Society

BMHS will be hosting pre-conference drinks from 5.30 pm at their research premises Hobby's Reach on Friday November 1.

The Society will also be providing place mats using images from their extensive photograph collection to decorate tables for the Saturday night conference dinner.

There is limited parking at the pre-conference venue. However there is on-street parking near-by. There is also a community bus available to transport people from Katoomba RSL to Hobby's reach. Please contact outreach@rahs.org.au for details of this service.

EXPOSING OUR PICTORIAL PAST

HOW important are your old family photos?

Ted Szafraniec will explore how we learn from the past through our old photos during his talk, "Exposing Our Pictorial Past" at the Blue Mountains Historical Society Rooms, 99 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls on Saturday, October 5th, 2013.

Morning tea will be available from 10.00 AM. The meeting will commence at 10.30 AM.

Ted's talk will be of great interest to all those keen on photography, local history and the history of the Blue Mountains.

The Blue Mountains Historical Society's photographic collection provides a wonderful insight into the history and culture of our region.

During the morning, the BMHS Library and Research Centre will be open and the Society's publications will be available for sale.

Fish fossils in Canowindra

THE NATURALIST and wildlife broadcaster Sir David Attenborough has described a collection of Australian fossils neglected by the state's natural museum as 'world class'

On a break from his two-week speaking tour around the country recently, Sir David was taken to a site in NSW's central west where hundreds of ancient fish perished at the bottom of small lake 360 million years ago.

Arguably one of the country's most impressive fossils deposits, the site reflects a time when fish ruled the world and animals were on the verge of walking on land.

Today, evidence of this event can be seen on several large rock slabs on display at Canowindra's Age of Fishes Museum.

"When you look at one of these slabs you can see it is extraordinary," said Sir David.

"What you have here is dozens, if the rock was big enough, hundreds of these things piled one on top of another."

Sir David said the high quality exhibits at the small Age of Fishes Museum, run by the Cabone Shire Council, were a credit to the local community.



Sir David Attenborough and Dr Alex Ritchie looking at the fossils in Canowindra.

"But the find is world class and it deserves even more than it has got here," he said.

"It would be nice to think that the state or the nation should support such a thing."

Dr Alex Ritchie, an Australian palaeontologist, a world authority on early fishes and a former senior researcher at the Australian Museum who led the first, and only, excavation of the roadside site just outside Canowindra 20 years ago had invited Sir David to visit the rare fossil deposit.

Several leading international palaeontologists believe the site may contain some of the earliest evidence of tetrapods, the first animals to walk on land.

Story: Nicky Phillips, photograph: Janie Barrett - The Sydney Morning Herald.

Leading professionals join National Trust Board

THE PRESIDENT of the National Trust of Australia (NSW), Ian Carroll OAM, is pleased to announce the appointment of two outstanding new directors to the Board - renowned architect Clive Lucas and chartered accountant Alan Kerr.

Clive Lucas OBE is one of Australia's most respected architects, and a founding partner of Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners.

Clive has won numerous awards, including the National RAIA Lachlan Macquarie Award for restoration nine times. Clive has been appointed to fill a casual vacancy and will be required to stand for the 2013 election.

Alan Kerr is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (FCA), a profession he has worked in for 42 years, and has been the principal of Alan Kerr & Co for 21 years.

He holds many credentials, including as a chartered tax advisor with the Taxation Institute (CTA), and is a registered company auditor and registered SMSF auditor. Alan has been appointed for a fixed term expiring in November 2014.

"The National Trust of NSW is very fortunate to be gaining leadership and expertise of this calibre, and I welcome both Clive and Alan to the Board," Mr Carroll said.

Everglades and beyond



October 5 - 27

An exhibition of watercolours by Esther McFarlane at Everglades, Leura

Gardens and gardening are great loves of Esther, so naturally, they are favourite subjects of hers to paint. For further detail Scott

4784 1938

Time for spring cleaning your museum?

by Peter Stanbury, OAM, PhD

SPRING IS HERE! It is time to review your museum...what can you do to protect your heritage items...what can you do to attract more visitors...more volunteers...more funds?

Recently I escaped winter in the Blue Mountains to the monsoon season in Phnom Penh to face a similar agenda at the National Museum of Cambodia under the aegis of *Australian Business Volunteers*, a non-government, not-for-profit international development agency that sends volunteers to 16 countries throughout the Asia Pacific region.

You can find out more if you fancy an overseas volunteer experience at <http://www.abv.org.au/>

The National Museum of Cambodia is a wonderful museum. It is housed in one of the most beautiful buildings anywhere in the world.

It has a large, important, well preserved collection. Overseas museums want to borrow exhibits and are prepared to provide material benefits in exchange.

It is centrally located in a city visited by people from all over the world.

When one has worked in a place for a long time the surroundings and habits become so familiar that they seem quite natural, satisfactory, and even unchangeable.

But the challenges are not insurmountable if one works in small steps. So thought the newly appointed director in the National Museum of Cambodia.

The director was determined to better the museum and to provide the staff with opportunities to advance their careers. As in any museum, keeping up with public expectations means constant improvements, both short and long term.

He wanted the eyes of a non-staff museum worker to look at the museum and its operations and discuss improvements with the staff.

It is important to recognise that successful change is composed of many small steps. The path to the eventual destination may at first sight seem long, difficult, even frightening but the most important part of the process is the decision to go and the first few steps. (Think of a double B truck doing a U-turn in a narrow street.)

Some of the steps will be large, but many will be simple, easy and even enjoyable.

It is wise first to choose simple first steps, relatively enjoyable ones that produce results quickly, or you may never start.

Think of the best you can imagine for your museum! How proud you

will be to have achieved what you set out to do.

In spite of some difficulties on the way you will be able to look back and see that improvements have become a part of your life – an experience to pass onto your children and grandchildren

I had discussions with senior staff and together we came up with nearly 100 steps to better serve the public and re-invigorate the morale of the staff.

We realised that visitors usually have limited time to learn something of the local culture, so exhibits must be presented so their significance can be understood quickly.

Information should be easily assimilated. Visitors must be able to find their way around an unfamiliar building and not be distracted by public health and safety concerns.

The idea was to come up with ideas and plans to make the museum more accessible, to increase funding sources and to safeguard the building and its contents.

Some of the steps proposed were simple such as ensuring fire extinguishers were in working order, improving housekeeping so that insects and other animal pests do not damage the collection, and the provision of free information about the objects (improved labels and brochures).



The National Museum of Cambodia has a splendid roofline.

Spring cleaning your museum

Continued from page 14

Medium term objectives included improving storage conditions by monitoring and controlling humidity and temperature, and introducing added value-added visitation with 'behind the scenes' tours.

Introducing a privileged membership category to raise consciousness among local businesses, council staff and councillors and possible philanthropists were also suggested.

Longer term proposals considered specialist "curator" positions, additions to the building to house the library, thousands of historic photographs and a conservation space.

This would allow expansion of the exhibition space and improved facilities for school groups.

These efforts were to be guided by a policy document with a declared mission and vision understood by all staff.

This document is important to inspire confidence in the museum's achievements and goals by the relevant government departments and when seeking funding.



Do you have a few spare umbrellas? Is the path to the museum from the gates safe when wet?



Pictured above and clockwise are Peter Stanbury and Suzanna Edwards working at the National Museum of Cambodia as volunteers. 1. Protect yourself when carrying out dirty jobs; 2. Change your displays often to rest objects from the light and repeat visitors; 3. Those objects that are packed away should be unwrapped and checked for mould, insects or other damage.

Touring the past: tourism and history in Australia

AN EXHIBITION, 'Touring the past: tourism and history in Australia' currently be staged at the Macleay Museum at Sydney University until February 14, 2014, charts the way Australians began to discover they had a past worth visiting.



The exhibition, curated by Rebecca Conway, will showcase images from Sydney University Museums Historic Photograph Collection.

How did the Australian past become an object of the tourist gaze?

For well over a century Australians have learnt to be nostalgic about their past. Convicts, bushrangers and rebellious diggers became standard tourist fare surprisingly early.

At the same time, Australia's past was also acquiring a patina of nostalgia, as artists discovered the beauties of colonial architecture

and country towns recognised the benefits of promoting their history to tourists.

From Port Arthur to the Dog on the Tuckerbox, this exhibition explores the variety of pasts that tourists visited, the exhibits that drew them in and the souvenirs they took away.

At left : CALEY'S REPULSE — The discovery of the remains of the long-lost relic was made by a party of members of the Australian Historical Society in 1912 near Linden.

Source: RAHS eNewsletter September 2013 Issue 1 and Sydney of University website.

BMACHO MEMBERS DEMYSTIFY SOCIAL MEDIA PHENOMENON

IT WAS ONLY 20 years ago the *New York Times* revealed: "One of the new technologies American vice president Al Gore is pushing is the information superhighway, which will link everyone at home or office to everything else—movies and television shows, shopping services, electronic mail and huge collections of data."

There's a statistical theory that if you give a million monkeys typewriters and set them to work, they'd eventually come up with the complete works of Shakespeare. Thanks to the Internet we now know this isn't true.

The Internet may be the superhighway to knowledge but when Sean Parker entrepreneur and computer hacker co-founded Facebook (today worth \$US2



At Everglades Historic House and Gardens, Leura this beautiful ironstone wall curves along the edge of the lookout looking through eucalypts to Mt Solitary.

billion), launching Facebook into the social media arena, he introduced a different network to which millions

around the world including BMACHO now subscribe.

Timeline for Mt Tomah and Blue Mountains Botanic Garden

7000BC Earliest dated rock art on Bells Line of Road.

Darug Traditional Tribal Group inhabits northern Blue Mountains including Mount Tomah

- 1600** Estimated date for oldest eucalypt in the Garden
- 1804** Naturalist George Caley visits Fern Tree Hill, now Mount Tomah
- 1823** Archibald Bell discovers a route across Blue Mountains, afterwards known as Bells Line of Road
- 1823** Botanist Allan Cunningham visits the area
- 1830** Susannah Bowen receives the first land grant in the area
- 1934** Effie and Alfred Brunet acquire property for a cut-flower farm to supply Sydney florists
- 1972** The Brunets present their land to the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
- 1987** Mount Tomah Botanic Garden opens to the public (1 November)
- 2000** The Garden reaches a milestone 1 million visitors
- 2002** Darug Connections storyboard trail launches
- 2009** Mount Tomah Botanic Garden acquires The Jungle. Lady (Nancy) Fairfax Walk opens to the public
- 2010** The World Heritage Education Centre opens
- 2011** The Garden gets a name change to Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah

The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden

Bells Line of Road, Mt Tomah (02) 4567 3000

Australia's highest botanic garden

BMACHO is grateful to former president Pamela Smith, current committee members Scott Pollock of Everglades Historic House and Gardens and Wendy Hawkes of Lithgow City Council and Eskbank House for bringing this organisation in to the 21st century media realm with its own Facebook page.

BMACHO's Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/heritagebluemountains>

Please 'Like' BMACHO's Facebook page.

Most organisations seem to be using social media to create interest and to network with people and organisations from far and wide, with great success.

BMACHO's website is - <http://www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au/>

BMACHO members are asked to continue to send events to Dick Morony for placement in the 'Calendar of Events' at richardmorony@optusnet.com.au which are emailed monthly by Dick.

Members are also asked to send events with photographs to, webmaster Scott Pollock at evergladesgardens@bigpond.com for placement on the website under 'events' and for the Facebook page.

THE RED ADMIRAL TO CONTINUE UNTIL YEAR'S END

WITH MORE THAN A YEAR passed since the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO officially opened "The Red Admiral" – an exhibition of Patrick White's years at Mount Wilson' it has been decided to keep the exhibition open until the end of this year.

Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society celebrated the centenary of Patrick White's May 28, 1912 birth date with the opening of an exhibition that examines the writer's early years at Mt Wilson.

It highlights the impact of both the Australian natural environment and the influence of working class and wealthy society individuals and families that were to strongly shape White for the remainder of his life.

"He [White] was one of our greatest writers and this exhibition enriches our understanding of him," Professor Bashir, said in opening the exhibition last year.

"The hidden yearnings of White's characters are what I have most enjoyed and now I am inspired to revisit them," Professor Bashir said.

Most people were genuinely surprised at the deep affection White had for his childhood home and the profound influence it had on his work.

Sales of the video, *Patrick White at Mt Wilson* have been encouraging.

An on-line version of the exhibition is available for those who may want to see it, but who cannot get to the Turkish Bath Museum at Mt Wilson.

Details of opening hours can be obtained by emailing historicalsociety@mtwilson.com.au

Stories of Devotion will bring exhibition to an end

AN EXHIBITION celebrating the lives and achievements of Sir Joseph and Dame Mary Cook is on display at Eskbank House and Museum, Lithgow until October 7.

He was a minister in the first federal government, became prime minister in 1913, was high commissioner in London and knighted in 1918.

As well as being beside him every step of his career, Dame Mary was heavily involved in the Red Cross and was made a Dame in the Order of the British Empire in 1925 for this work.

Curators Miriam Scott and Wendy Hawkes have given a series of presentations based on the images, objects and stories from the exhibition "Devotion Sir Joseph and

Dame Mary Cook" during August and September

A talk on the trials and tribulations of creating the history exhibition "Devotion" will be conducted as library forum at the Lithgow Learning Centre on Thursday, October 3 at 5.30pm for 6pm. For further information contact Wendy Hawkes 6354 9999



Wendy Hawkes to talk about the Cooks

THE LIVES of Sir Joseph Cook and Dame Mary Cook will be the topic for the guest speaker, Wendy Hawkes at a BMACHO general meeting to be held on Saturday, October 19.

Wendy Hawkes, (pictured at right) is the cultural development officer with Lithgow City Council and curator at Eskbank House, Lithgow, where an exhibition about the Cooks is in its final stages, closing on October 7.

The Cooks moved to Lithgow in 1886 and Sir Joseph worked in the Vale of Clwydd Colliery as he studied and worked his way up through the unions and into politics. He became prime minister 27 years later.

A light lunch will be provided, (catered by the Cultural Centre and at BMACHO expense), at the Cultural Centre at approximately 12.30 pm

After lunch, from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm (or earlier) a workshop will be conducted, where a suggested format for an "Explorers Cultural Trail" brochure will be presented.



Wendy Hawkes

Those attending the workshop will be asked for input into this project.

Please RSVP by email j.koperberg@bigpond.com or phone Jan Koperberg on 02 4751 5834

When: Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Where: Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Parke Street, Katoomba

Cost to participants: FREE

Old Toongabbie Government Farm: an elusive vision for 5 governors

HAVE THE fearsome convict stories and the loathsome reputation of the old Toongabbie Government Farm in early colonial times sometimes caught your interest?

Historian Jan Barkley-Jack's latest work, *Toongabbie's Government Farm: an Elusive Vision for Five Governors 1791-1824*, will give those who have wondered about this harsh place an opportunity to understand what really happened there.

The book is beautifully published by Toongabbie & District Historical Society. Michael Flynn, well-known historian and author, has written the Foreword, and in Flynn's words, "those interested in colonial history will be fascinated by these new perspectives on the penal colony as it struggled to secure a reliable food supply".

Perhaps one of your forebears was amongst that human struggle.

The story of the years beyond 1793 provides insight into the emotional

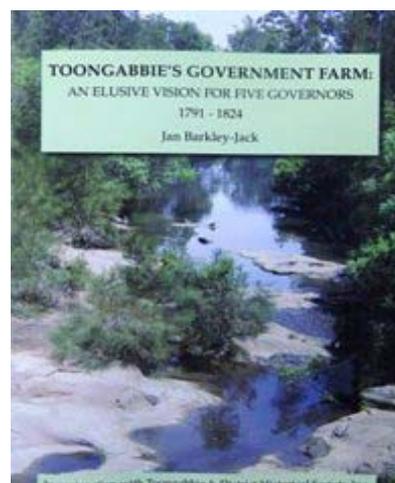
fortitude of some sent there, while showing how most administrators, including Governor King, had their visions tested.

By quirky fate the Toongabbie Government Farm cattle became linked to William Bligh's overthrow and added fuel to long-term opposition to the farm by John Macarthur.

Lachlan Macquarie added a twist to the implementation of the British Government's plans to close the NSW public farms, by applying for Toongabbie to become his own colonial estate.

The book is A4 format with cardboard spine and covers, containing 120 pages with 36 colour plates and 9 black and white plates, and includes maps.

In addition there are tables showing the stock and agricultural details year by year, as well as early settlers by date of promise of grant 1792-1795.



Three appendices include lists of grants given by Governors Hunter and King in the district of Toongabbie, a distinct entity to the Government Farm but highly influential in causing its demise.

The price of the book is \$30 (does not include postage), and it is available from Toongabbie & District Historical Society, ph. 96361905

Scrutinizing paper-based collections

AFTER a successful mid-year tour of museums and keeping places in the Lithgow region, conservator Tamara Lavrencic visited the Blue Mountains in August to advise on management and treatments for paper-based objects causing concern to carers of four local collections.

As museum programs & collections manager with Museums & Galleries of NSW, this was another familiarisation exercise allowing Tamara and her colleague – program & collections coordinator, Phoebe Arthur – an occasion to meet volunteers and sight collections while offering practical assistance with artefacts ranging from insect-ravaged photographic portraits to early copperplate correspondence fading away.

Having spent a fulsome hour at the Glenbrook Historical Society's new base then, at a pace, less than sixty minutes at the vast Mt Victoria Historical Society Museum, the

visitors examined items in the Varuna Writers' Centre before moving onto a generous Blue Mountains Historical Society luncheon and a further hours consultancy with their collection: the whirlwind visit culminated in a power-point presentation by Tamara offering additional insights to preventative conservation materials and resources; best museum practices; and grant opportunities to assist with the caring of paper-based (and other) collection items.

In July, the roving duo from M&GNSW had spent two days viewing collections in the Lithgow local government area with an introductory tour of diverse sites – the respected Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park, the slowly transforming Charlie Pinch museum in Portland, charming Rydal village and Hartley Historic site – which preceded a day of a similar consultancies involving brief overviews of collections and expert advice on a variety of challenges

facing Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum, Lithgow Library Local Studies unit, Esbank House; and the Lithgow & District Family History Society.

As with the folks in the mountains, an end-of-day summary session presented museum volunteers with more valuable guidance, and a chance to meet Phoebe, an affable and practical M&GNSW administrator of VIM and other project and program grant opportunities ...that could benefit conservation, management and interpretation of collections in the two regions? (see www.mgnsw.org.au)

"The best thing about Tamara's friendly, informative visit was the assurance she gave sorting through our collection and advising where a professional conservator should be involved," said manager-curator at Esbank House, Wendy Hawkes.

Continued page 19

Scrutinizing paper-based collections

Continued from page 18

"Then with other objects, she showed us how, with often only minimal treatment and careful storage, our books, photographs and documents could be happily preserved for ages".

Doug Knowles from Glenbrook was very appreciative of the help and attention their "totally disorganized documents" were given along with valuable insights to light levels required for storing them.

Jean Winston from Mt Victoria was surprised gloves were not recommended for handling paper-based objects and that insecticides used for marauding insects may do as much harm as the critters themselves.

She learnt a great deal about archival storage materials.

Overall, those visited seemed well pleased with the day-tour consultancy format, many reeling away over-loaded with ideas and information, but invigorated to tackle issues at their museums and keeping places.

Discussing Varuna archival material, from LHS, CEO Jansis O'Hanlon, Phoebe Arthur, archivist Barbara Palmer and Tamara Lavrencic. Photograph by Lynn Collins



For the visitors, who were delighted to meet so many dedicated museum personnel, it was a useful way to gain an understanding of local concerns and scope and state of a variety of collections.

M&GNSW would be pleased to assist with follow-up workshops, perhaps employing experts in other disciplines working with collections:

Lynn Collins Collins, the museums adviser with both Blue Mountains and Lithgow City Councils, is interested in discussing other similar compact events with museum volunteers ...perhaps involving disaster planning around bushfires and other local hazards; or pest management; handling and cleaning large-format photographs; maybe caring for furniture and paintings, which were amongst a number of suggestions immediately arising from these successful couple of visits to the regions.

To Register interest or to offer other proposals, contact Lynn at lynncollins@inet.net.au



Tamara Lavrencic with Phoebe Arthur at her side, discusses storage and conservation options for recently received school records with Glenbrook Historical Society president Doug Knowles, Mary Knowles and Pam Pascoe. Photograph by Lynn Collins

**Glenbrook
Discovery —
Heritage Walk**

**Saturday
October 19**

**Doug Knowles
4751 3275**

Restoration of Springwood's historic monuments

by Peter Chinn

AS INITIATIVES in commemorating the bicentenaries of the Western Crossing in 1813 and the construction of the Western Road in 1814-15 Springwood Historical Society and Springwood Historians made representations to Blue Mountains City Council for action to be taken to restore and appropriately mark two significant historical relics in Springwood.

The Macquarie monument is an obelisk located on Macquarie Road about half a kilometre from the town and marks the approximate location of the place where Governor Macquarie and party camped on April 26, 1815 on their way westwards to the site of Bathurst.

It was here that Macquarie, impressed by the abundance of tall trees and the proximity of springs in the gullies named the site "Spring Wood".

The first permanent European habitation (albeit three soldiers) was established in this vicinity in November 1815.

This small military depot was set up to control access to the Western Road on the orders of the governor in order to prevent unauthorised settlement over the Blue Mountains, and to capture runaway convicts.

In 1939 the Royal Australian Historical Society erected the Macquarie Monument on a small piece of ground – some two metres square – excised from the adjacent property.

A marble plaque with inset lead lettering reads:

**Governor Macquarie and his party
Camped here on their way to Bathurst
On April 27 1815
And named the place "Springwood"
William Cox erected here A military Depot
Early in 1815**

Over the years the monument has suffered deterioration – lettering lost, mortar eroded and general weathering.



The oldest known European grave on the Blue Mountains lies beneath a tree in Springwood cemetery.

It is surrounded on three sides by dilapidated wooden palings.

Apart from essential restoration it was felt that this most important relic of Springwood's history warranted more appropriate surrounds as well as interpretive signage as to how it came to be erected – an integral part of its history.

Private Francis Smith's Grave

The oldest known European grave on the Blue Mountains lies beneath a tree in Springwood cemetery – that of Private Francis Smith who died at Springwood on May 5, 1836.

Smith was a soldier of the 4th Regiment of Foot (King's Own Regiment) which performed garrison duties in New South Wales from 1832 to 1837 and he was detached with two other soldiers to man the Springwood military depot on the Western Road.

Private Smith died at the depot from causes unrecorded and as there

was no cemetery on the Blue Mountains he was buried in the bush near the depot (which consisted of a primitive hut).

At this time the depot had been relocated from its original site, where the Macquarie monument now stands, to a location now the site of Springwood Mews in Ferguson Road.

A headstone bearing the following inscription was placed on the grave:

**Sacred to the memory of
Francis Smith
Who died May 5th 1836
Aged 43 years
Having served
For 25 years
As a soldier in
H.M. The King's Own Regt**

In 1878, in response to a Parliamentary enquiry, it was reported that a solitary soldier's grave was located near the site of the old military post in Springwood and that the headstone, "is broken and supported by a sapling".

Thomas Hobby makes his mark as Cox takes a 'sickie', August 1815

by Peter Rickwood PhD

THE CURIOUS NAME, Hobby's Reach, the property of Blue Mountains Historical Society came from the stretch of Cox's Road (now Blaxland Road) between c. Edward Parade and the north-west corner of the society's property.

It was completed under the supervision of Thomas Hobby between August 19 and 26, 1814 when William Cox was away recuperating from a bad cold.

In his journal entry of August 26, Cox wrote: "Arrived at the working party at 2pm. Found Mr Hobby well. The road finished during my absence. Done well." But a month

later on October 3, 1814, he added: "At the 29th mile is a very handsome long reach, quite straight, which I call, from the layer of it out, 'Hobby's Reach'." (Cox 1901, p.69).

Thus on Friday, October 3, 2014 it will be the bicentenary of the assignment of the name and surely an event that we should celebrate; fortuitously it comes at start of a long weekend holiday.

But while being of historical significance that stretch of road only has a length of 640 metres (700 yards) and it is by no means the longest straight and continuous bit of road in the Blue Mountains.

So where is the longest stretch of sealed road?

Before dealing with that it is important to observe the requirement 'continuous' as many roads were drawn on plans to go across valleys where those sections were quite impractical to construct, so some road names have been applied to two or more unjoined sections.

But Megalong Street in Leura is not one of those as it is continuous, and essentially straight from York Street, (in the Katoomba Industrial Estate) to Gladstone Road, a distance of 2.26 km (1.4 miles).

But is there a longer one ?

The longest essentially straight section of the Great Western Highway is in Blackheath, between the south-west corner of Whitley Park and Ridgewell Road; it is 1.61 kilometres in length so exactly 1 mile.

Reference

Cox, W. (1901) *Memoirs of William Cox, JP Lieutenant and Paymaster of N.S.W. Corps or 102nd. Regiment. Late of Clarendon, Windsor.* Sydney and Brisbane: William Brooks & co., Printers. Library of Australian History, Facsimile Series Number 21, 1979. 149pp. [BMHS REF 203.18] <http://acrossthebluemountains.com.au/res-cox.html> <Accessed 14 June 2013> also see <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks04/0400191.txt> <Accessed 14 June 2013>

Private Smith exhumed

Continued from page 20

In 1886 Springwood Cemetery was established and the Church of England portion was in use by 1887.

It was probably not long after this that the remains of Private Smith were exhumed and reinterred in this section of the cemetery (Grave No. 91) and marked by the broken headstone and intact footstone.

Examination of the grave some years ago revealed that only the bottom half of the headstone was in place and that the footstone was in two pieces on the site.

It was believed that the top part of the headstone had been removed to the council depot but enquiries were unable to establish that this was a fact.

The broken portion of the footstone remains by the base.

While the grave remains almost forgotten in the cemetery a monument to this earliest of our European inhabitants was erected in the small park in the front of Springwood Civic Centre in May 1990 and unveiled by Brigadier DJ McLachlan, Commander of the Second Military District, assisted by

15 months old Nathan Dubber of Tweed Heads, Francis Smith's youngest direct descendant.

As a result of the representations by Springwood Historical Society and the Springwood Historians the Blue Mountains City Council was successful in obtaining government funding to undertake remedial and interpretive work on both monuments.

Council has advised that the Royal Australian Historical Society have engaged a contractor to undertake some maintenance and restoration work on the Macquarie monument which will involve replacing missing lead lettering, cleaning the plaque and repointing of the stone work.

In relation to Private Smith's grave Blue Mountains City Council has done a commendable job in putting in place at the foot of the grave a fine sandstone plinth with a brass plaque containing a history of Private Smith and its historical significance.

The Royal Australian Historical Society has also undertaken work on the Macquarie monuments at Glenbrook and Blackheath as part of a broader project

Japanese culture at Norman Lindsay Gallery

JAPANESE culture will be featured as two workshops at Norman Lindsay Gallery, Faulconbridge on Saturday, October 6.

Commencing at 11am to 12.30pm Patricia Waters, will demonstrate the art of ikebana. The cost of \$20 includes gallery viewing and refreshments.

Between 1pm and 2.30pm Haylee Hill and Shirley Jenkins will demonstrate origami and teach people of all ages how to make beautiful paper birds and cranes. Cost: \$12.

Bookings for both workshops are essential on 02 4751 1067.

Blue Mountains Explorers Trail Map idea

AN IDEA for a project sparked by the BMACHO museum workshop at Mt Victoria Museum has prompted the setting up of a project group to develop a Blue Mountains Explorers Trail map.

Richard Woolley a member of Blue Mountains Historical Society was so inspired by the activity that he came away from the workshop determined to see the development and publishing of such a map.

"The mountains has a prolific variety of scenic wonders which already attract a huge volume of local and international tourists bringing tourist dollars and recognition," Richard has said.

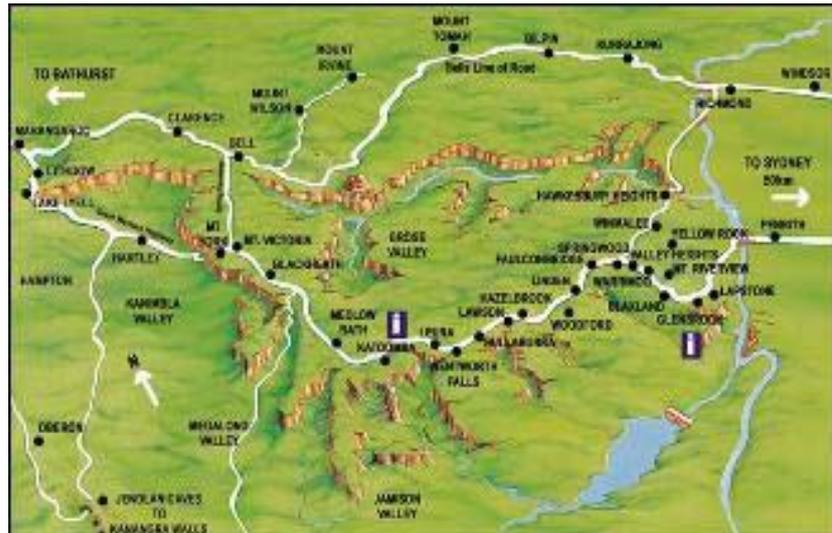
"It also contains a wealth of state and nationally significant history and historic places which are supported by local councils and a diverse group of volunteer organisations working to promote their particular interests.

"The geographical structure of the community means that many of these groups are stretched out along the Great Western Highway and are focussed mostly and naturally on their local village communities.

"Tourism, backed and funded by commercial interests and government, has done a great job in promoting the region with events, publications and websites combining the resources of many groups for greater impact.



Lennox Bridge. Photograph by John Leary, OAM November 2011.



"Heritage and cultural groups have been less successful, being fragmented by their local and limited volunteer resources but are eager to pool their resources to create a co-operative marketing idea which is greater than any individual organisation could mount.

"So let's change this situation, take a leaf out of the tourism push and combine our resources and influence to present a united front to those who can help fund such enterprises and to our huge visitor target audience .

Richard says the idea is to construct and promote to all visitors and potential visitor groups to the Blue Mountains, a visitors' trail map which connects heritage and cultural groups, interesting and accessible historical sites (eg: Lennox Bridge or Mt York) with selected cafes, restaurants and accommodations between Emu Plains and the Lithgow Valley and back down Bells Line of Road to the plains

Designed to be very flexible the trail should provide for day visits to sites or organisations, overnight or longer 'short breaks' as well as contact resources for all other museums, family history groups and commercial operators that may be identified on the Cultural Explorers Trail map.

Primary promotion

* A high quality, full colour Trail Map (say A3 folded to A4) distributed through all participating museums and keeping places and through

Glenbrook, Katoomba and Lithgow visitor centres.

* Promotion on the websites of all BMACHO participating groups.

* Extensive website listings on sector sites (RAHS, MGNSW, CAN) media sponsored sites, Tourism NSW, council sites.

* Maybe develop a dedicated website for the Trail Map.

It will be vital that sites which are shown on the Trail map must be readily accessible (open) as far as possible and that those that are not can be listed in the Explorer Heritage contact listing.

The instant nature of modern communication (internet, Facebook and Twitter) demands that information is accurate and timely so and for this reason the map must not promote inaccessible places.

Funding needed for production will depend on the details of the developed concept and should aim to be self sufficient from grant sources, commercial contributions from enterprises mentioned on the map, local councils, and members of the BMACHO group.

The project group comprising Richard Woolley and BMACHO management committee members Scott Pollock, and Wendy Hawkes and museums adviser, Lynn Collins are currently working through a number of options.

Railway journeys to the upper Blue Mountains: before and after October 20, 2013

by Peter C. Rickwood

READERS MAY well wonder why historians should be concerned about the progressive reduction in time to travel by railway from Sydney to the Blue Mountains.

The answer lies in the feasibility of commuting to the Sydney or Parramatta CBD on a daily basis, and how that was really not tolerable prior to 1957 and so affected the employment possibilities for residents and the social structure of the villages.

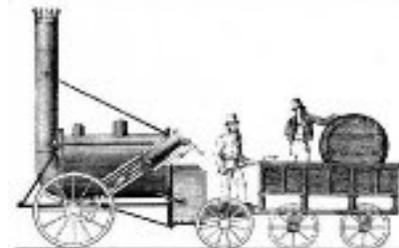
The inevitable protests came following the leaking of a draft of a new railway timetable that is to be introduced on October 20, 2013 and now that the final version has been released it is timely to see if the complaints are justified.

The residents of the upper Blue Mountains have been the most deprived of service so I have taken Blackheath as an appropriate station for this investigation - an extension of one that was printed five years ago in *Hobbys Outreach*, (Dec.-January 2008-2009, pp.6-8).

Number of trains.

After October 2013 there will be 23 trains per weekday, one more than there has been since 1993, a gain but a small one indeed. The new one is to depart Sydney at 11.18am so it fills a two hour gap in the former timetable.

In future there will be about one train per hour but from 1946 until 1962 there were only nine per day, and from 1893 until 1910 only three, so we must consider ourselves well served by comparison to those who travelled in the first 100 years of railway service.



A contemporary drawing of Stephen's Rocket (1829) the world's first modern steam locomotive.

Average travel time - Central to Blackheath

Prior to this new schedule, the average travel time remained almost constant from 1978 but in future the average time for that journey has been reduced by two minutes to 2 hours and 11 minutes.

The most significant speed increase occurred in 1957 after electrification of the line when the average travel time reduced to below 3 hours.

Pity the residents of earlier years who from 1893 until 1957 suffered average travel times of about 3 hours and 22 minutes and for some reason those travelling between 1918 and 1930 faced even lengthier journeys averaging 3 hours and 43 minutes!

Fastest

And if you are pressed for time just how quick will it be possible to get to Blackheath?

Under the new schedule the quickest journey will be 2 hours and 5 minutes or two minutes longer than earlier this year!

However there has been little change for 50 years and mostly those quick journeys were at around 5.15pm.

Convenience

Getting to work in Sydney by 7am will necessitate catching a train at Blackheath at 4.21am, and for an 8.00am start being on the station at 5.44am and for a 9am start the relevant train leaves at 6.44am.

Those departure times are a little later than under the current timetable so there will be a few more minutes in bed for those commuters!

For the upper Blue Mountains residents working in Sydney there will be three trains departing Central between 4 and 5pm, two in the next hour and two between 6 and 7pm.

In each of those periods one train departs in the first half of an hour so those leaving work on the hour should find the new service satisfactory.

Whether there will be adequate seating for all of the commuters is another matter altogether.

Getting to work in Parramatta by 7am necessitates catching a train at Blackheath at 4.51am, and for 8.00am and 9.00am starts the appropriate trains depart at 6.14am and 7.12am respectively.

Again a few more minutes of sleep than commuters currently get.

Making the return journey home from Parramatta should not be too awkward for there will be two trains between 4 and 5pm that go through to Blackheath, two in the next hour and two between 6 and 7pm.

Conclusion

After October 20, 2013 not a lot will be changing as far as the upper Blue Mountains railway travellers are concerned.

Commuting to work at either Sydney or Parramatta will remain arduous but marginally less so than it has been earlier this year.

So there is little to fear as a result of the new timetable - but commuter satisfaction is likely to be dependent on

- the adequacy of seating - which is only a problem when travelling westwards.
- the cleanliness of the carriages.
- punctuality.



Locomotive No 1 brings to life the age of steam travel, which began in 1855 when this very locomotive hauled New South Wales' first train. Image courtesy PowerHouse Museum

Fizzy soda waters much loved by the gentry since 1783

ONE WOULD BE forgiven for thinking Coca Cola were first in the field of fizzy drinks

Forget Coca Cola. Schweppes is the real pioneer of the fizzy drink.

In 1783 a young Swiss watchmaker and keen amateur scientist, Jacob Schweppes (1740 - 1821), became the first person to perfect an economical process for making carbonated mineral water, much loved by the gentry and widely administered by doctors to cure a variety of ailments including indigestion and gout.

It was described as a "safe and cooling drink for persons exhausted by much speaking, heated by dancing or crowded assemblies".

He perfected a way of capturing and bottling bubbles (the process of carbonation).

The addition of carbon dioxide was considered at the time, to have medicinal properties.

He founded Schweppes in Geneva the same year, 1783, and within seven years had expanded into England with a factory in Drury Lane, London.

Erasmus Darwin, the grandfather of Charles Darwin began talking up the beverage, which started to become popular. In 1831, King William IV of England adopted the beverage which could then use the famous "by appointment of".

In 1798, Jacob retired and sold most of his interest in the company to three men.

In exchange, he revealed to the partners, 'the whole art, mystery and process of making and composing artificial mineral waters'.

The company introduced fizzy lemonade in 1831, the success of

which led to a flood of other flavoured fizzy drinks. The most famous was Schweppes Tonic Water, introduced in the 1870s.

The company continued to expand geographically with factories opening around the world with the brand being a popular drink throughout the world until this day.

In 1877, the Schweppes brand arrived in Australia with the first factory built in Sydney.

So its a sure bet that if you have had a gin and tonic, a whisky and soda, a mineral water or a ginger

ale the refreshing carbonated waters have been enjoyed thanks to young watchmaker, Jacob Schweppes.



BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

REGISTERED OFFICE 1/19 Stypandra Place, Springwood, 2777 (02) 4751 5834E-mail: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or j.koperberg@bigpond.com
Website: www.bluemountainsheritage.com
ABN53 994 839 952

THE ORGANISATION Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 following a unanimous response to a proposal from Professor Barrie Reynolds at the 2004 Blue Mountains Local History Conference which sought from Blue Mountains City Council the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the city. BMACHO in its constitution uses the definition: "Cultural heritage is all aspects of life of the peoples of the Blue Mountains which was later changed to cover Lithgow and the villages along the Bell's Line of Roads. It therefore involves the recording, preserving and interpreting of information in whatever form: documents, objects, recorded memories as well as buildings and sites."

The objectives of the organisation are:

- i. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage.
- ii. To encourage and assist cultural heritage activities of member organisations.
- iii. 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 Inc.

HERITAGE BMACHO's official newsletter is edited by John Leary, OAM.

Blue Mountains History Journal is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood.

MEMBERSHIP The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah, Blue Mountains City Library, Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre, Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc., Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc., Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre, Everglades Historic House & Gardens, Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery, Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc., Hartley Valley District Progress Association, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc, Lithgow and District Family History Society Inc., Lithgow Mining Museum Inc., Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies, Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum Inc, Mt Victoria and District Historical Society Inc., Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc. (including Turkish Bath Museum), Mudgee Historical Society Inc., National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Blue Mountains Branch, National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Lithgow Branch, Scenic World – Blue Mountains Limited, Springwood & District Historical Society Inc., Springwood Historians Inc., Transport Signal and Communication Museum Inc., The Darnell Collection Pty Ltd, Valley Heights Locomotive Depot and Museum, Woodford Academy Management Committee, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd. The following are individual members: Ray Christison, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, John Leary OAM, John Low OAM, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Professor Barrie Reynolds, Dr Peter Rickwood and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

COMMITTEE The committee for 2013-14 is: John Leary, OAM (president), Ian Jack (vice president), Jan Koperberg (secretary), Kevin Frappell, Wendy Hawkes, Doug Knowles, Patsy Moppett, Dick Morony (public officer), Scott Pollock and Jean Winston.

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 members. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.