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Lithgow's Lidsdale House gardens to be restored

By Ian Milliss

One of Paul Sorensen's most resolved but least seen gardens, surrounding Lidsdale House on the Castlereagh Highway at Lidsdale west of Lithgow, is about to undergo a much needed restoration.

The garden was designed by Sorensen shortly after the end of WWII but has been in decline for several decades until its recent purchase by Centennial Coal who are using it as their central western area offices.

In recognition of its significance to the local community they have begun a long term restoration program covering both the house and the garden.

Planted in the 1940s, the garden has suffered from neglect, over maturity and inappropriate ornamentation after passing through a number of private hands since the 1960s.

On completion of building repairs a long term plan to resuscitate and restore the garden will be implemented. It seems right that a garden that grew out of the passion of a coal mine owner should now be restored by a coal mining company.



Lower garden path at Lidsdale House



Lidsdale House east terrace

For Paul Sorensen, as for so many others, the Second World War was a tragedy in which he lost the elder two of his three sons, both in the RAF.

This was an undoubted low point in his life and a particularly poignant tragedy for a man whose hatred of war had led him to migrate to Australia from his native Denmark in 1915 to avoid the First World War.

Sorensen responded in the early post war period by reducing his expansion plans while working on a number of smaller Blue Mountains gardens but a further blow fell with the death in 1947 of his friend and patron Henri Van De Velde of Everglades.

It was round this time that he was commissioned to design a two acre garden at Lidsdale House by coal mine proprietor Frank Neubeck. Neubeck had also suffered the loss of his eldest son in the RAAF in 1945, a fact which may have drawn

two very different personalities closer together. It was to be Sorensen's largest commission until 1950 when post war recovery really set in.

Neubeck was the grandson of Alois Neubeck, a Bavarian immigrant who had arrived in 1855 with his wife Clara. Settling in Wallerawang he was employed as a blacksmith by James Walker, the landowner who had hosted Charles Darwin during his 1836 visit.

The Neubeck family prospered, purchasing property in the nearby Lidsdale and Blackmans Flat area. Francis (Frank) was born in 1889 and in 1910 took a small mining lease with his brother William where he also operated a sawmill.

These enterprises grew until in 1940 he opened the first black coal open cut in Australia, the Commonwealth Colliery No. 2 at Lidsdale.

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From the president's pen..... **Cox's Road the golden way west**

The first European crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813 represents an important milestone in the history of Australia and the 200th anniversary of this event has significance at local, regional, state and federal levels.

There appears to be general acceptance that any celebration of that anniversary needs to embrace the series of inter related events immediately after Lawson, Blaxland and Wentworth crossed the Mountains in May and June 1813.

George William Evans began his survey of a roadway across the Blue Mountains in November 1813 and went as far as the future Bathurst. William Cox then supervised the construction of the road from July 1814 to January 1815. Governor Macquarie travelled along the new road in April and May 1815 and selected the site of Bathurst.

More than a year ago the RAHS offered to provide co-ordination within its limited administrative capacity.

The RAHS appointed its senior vice president, the eminently qualified Professor David Carment AM to oversee this co-ordination and subsequently the council of that body gave authority for the loosely connected group of stakeholders to act as a committee of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

These actions of the RAHS in providing a first class lead to a commemoration to mark events surrounding three of the Colony's explorers' crossing of the Blue Mountains from 1813 - 1815 are indeed commendable and need to be acknowledged by stakeholders.

David Carment has now written to the Premier and Leader of the Opposition of NSW or the appropriate ministers/ shadow ministers seeking a meeting to discuss plans for the commemoration.

It is also pleasing to note that John Aquilina, representing the Macquarie Committee, is preparing a report for the Premier, with a view to re-inventing that committee to cover the period 2013 – 2015.

Already a number of local government units and historical societies are organising celebratory activities and these will be an important part of the

anniversary event as they will involve the wider community.

However, there also needs to be a commemoration with a lasting benefit.

Time is fast running out to produce a worthwhile commemoration and it is a harsh reality that without state and perhaps federal funding it will be difficult to achieve a worthwhile outcome. Some might see the present 'close down' of the NSW State Parliament as an impediment. However, it should be seen as a golden opportunity to seek commitments from all sides of parliament, Labor, Liberal and Greens; in the run-up to the March elections.

One of the ideas proposed has been to develop a heritage trail from Emu Plains to Bathurst based on the line of Cox's Road. It was envisaged that at various spots along the route the public might be able to view interpretive signage outlining the events to be commemorated.

As the Cox's Road built in 1814 - 15 passed through the present day LGAs of Penrith, Blue Mountains, Oberon, Lithgow and Bathurst it is logical to consider this a heritage trail project which could well attract federal funding.

It has already attracted the interest of the RTA and Land & Property Management Authority. The National Trust and others in the heritage sector have also done considerable research into the Cox's Road alignment and remnants of this heritage roadway during the past decade.

This is a ready made and very worthwhile project and every endeavour should be made to refine and define this proposal so that it may have a solid and achievable objective.

Let's not squander a great opportunity to have a lasting commemoration.

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

Sorenson's influence lightens Lidsdale House gardens

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The mine was soon resumed as a war time measure but Neubeck had by this time accumulated considerable wealth.

In 1941 he began extending his stone house built in 1920 at the time of his marriage. He continued with a two storey wing on the eastern side above a slope descending to the Cox's River.

Designed by Lithgow architect Arthur Isley it is an eclectic pastiche containing elements from Hollywood Spanish Baroque to Cape Dutch and California Mission yet overall it conveys a rather funereal gloom. Only Sorensen's surrounding garden lightens its ponderousness.

Sorensen constructed a wide platform of lawn along the eastern side of the house.

A row of pin oaks defines the eastern edge above a stone retaining wall that rivals the terrace walls of Everglades in scale and quality although constructed of regular quarried stone.

At the wall's base is a stone path edged with a hedge of golden privet backed by rhododendrons above a sloping lawn. The southern end of this path is terminated with one of Sorensen's finest staircases.

The stone circle at the path level is surmounted by concave steps on the western side leading back up to the terrace and convex steps on the eastern side leading to the sloping lawn and the tennis courts at its base.

Although this detail undoubtedly shows the influence of Lutyens and Jekyll it is carried out with uncontrived elegance.

The path to the tennis courts extends north to a pergola which overlooks a large free form swimming pool where the garden stone was quarried.

At the northern end of the terrace wall path is one of Sorensen's most amazing design features, a cascade



A stone staircase pictured above and a bridge (below) connect various levels of the Lidsdale House gardens



and columned bridge topped with a rooftop planting of prostrate conifers. Curving stairs at the side of the cascade return to the terrace while the path continues over the

bridge up the slope to the western side of the house where plantings of conifers and an orchard complete the garden.

About the author

The author of this article, Ian Milliss of Wallerawang, is a partner in Carlson Milliss Art & Heritage Management

His first job was in the pictures section of the Mitchell Library. Although he became an artist and designer rather than a librarian it was the beginning of a lifetime of active involvement in heritage issues that has included the Green Ban and inner city resident action movement, publishing labour and industrial history and the revival of traditional trade union art forms such as banner making.



Loco Museum wins heritage awards

For the third consecutive year the work of volunteers at the Valley Heights Locomotive Heritage Museum has been recognised by the Office of Rail Heritage (ORH).

The 2010 awards recognising the efforts of three men who have contributed significantly to the conservation of Australia's rail heritage were presented in a ceremony at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.

Ted Dickson's award in the category of rail heritage conservation, preservation, restoration or reconstruction recalls Ted's efforts in the early days in ensuring that the essential service (electricity and water supplies etc) were restored.

Ted also played a key role in the perway program at the Valley Heights depot particularly with the recent reconstruction of points in the coal storage siding and negotiations with Railcorp which saw the reconstruction of the coal storage siding to the signal box completed.

Andrew Tester received the award for community relationship building for his efforts in raising the community's awareness of the museum through his role with publicity which also identifies ways in which to promote the museum.

Craig Connolly received the first award by a member of the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society. Craig received recognition for his service in leading the society over an extended period of time.



Andrew Tester left is presented with his award by the Minister for Transport, John Robertson, MLC and Railcorp CEO Rob Mason. Photograph courtesy Office of Rail Heritage

Will Holmes 'a Court as AGM guest speaker

Will Holmes 'a Court has accepted an invitation to be the guest speaker at the annual general meeting of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc. to be held on Saturday March 19, 2011 commencing at 2.30pm.

The meeting and afternoon tea will be held at Everglades Historic House and Gardens, 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura.

Mr Holmes 'a Court is the chief executive officer of the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales).

The subject for Mr Holmes 'a Court address is yet to be finalised however some of the provocative titles being considered are *"Will we be able to afford the cost of protecting Australia's heritage in the years ahead?"* or *"The cost of saving our heritage - is it worth preserving for future generations?"* or *"Who cares about saving our heritage?"*.

He has over 30 years of business and management experience in software technology, finance and services.

For the past 10 years he has been involved in providing solutions that assist executives to drive additional value from their operations by simplifying process to reduce cost, improve revenue and enhance the performance of their people.

He worked in professional services with Ernst & Young serving in various consulting roles prior to executive roles including director of business systems and planning, finance director, then chief financial officer.

He has had senior finance positions in the insurance and superannuation industries and also with IBM various line roles in banking systems software engineering and in staff roles in pricing and planning.



Mr Holmes 'a Court has a Bachelor of Engineering from Sydney University, a Bachelor of Economics in Accounting and Post Graduate programmes in Computer Science and Professional Accounting at Macquarie University. He is a fellow of the Australian CPAs (FCPA).

He has served on the board of the National Trust since 2000.

As CEO of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Will is charged with creating a sustainable organisation that assists its members, volunteers, staff and other stakeholders to preserve and conserve Australia's rich natural, built and cultural heritage.

"What fires my passion for the Trust above all is it is a family, formed in 1945 and driven throughout the nation by people and communities who care for their heritage," Mr Holmes 'a Court said.



Those attending the meeting may inspect the Everglades Gardens

Eskbank House at Lithgow recognised in museums awards

The author of this article Dr Naomi Parry is the curator of Lithgow's Eskbank House. Dr Parry writes: 'Radio National's regional museums awards recognise the important contribution regional museums make to local identity and memory.'

'I became aware of the awards when ABC Radio Orange interviewed me about Eskbank House, which in turn encouraged me to write an entry. 'Happily, we were rewarded with a highly commended award.'

'The entry process was to upload answers to questions about significant artefacts in the collection, and the ways each museum promotes itself and community history. 'This article is an abridged version of Eskbank's article, highlighting a significant artefact in the museum's collection.'

The best provenanced item in the collections of Eskbank House is the Leake-Sutton Quilt, an American crazy quilt made in Pennsylvania in 1893.

This beautiful item was brought to Lithgow by David Leake, whose sister had given it to him as a gift for his daughter Emma Sutton, to celebrate the birth of her baby girl Jean.

The quilt measures 210cm by 203cm, in nine panels of between 60cm and 65 cm. It is composed of hundreds of irregularly shaped pieces of taffeta, velvet, brocade, printed cottons and ribbons, embroidered together with silk thread in herringbone and feather patterns.

Each panel has an embroidered motif as its centrepiece, resembling Central Asian suzanis, mandalas, or baskets and it is stitched with flowers, fish, abstract designs, animals, an anchor and fans.

Bordered with a triangular pattern of mauve and yellow triangles, it has the date 1893 stitched onto the right hand side, and is edged with brown sateen.

The back is broad strips of fabric, striped in black and tan and the quilt is tacked over a checked fabric. It is fragile and faded, and many of the silk and taffeta panels have shattered, but it is still arresting and is one of only 80 crazy quilts in Australia (according to a recent Significance Assessment conducted by Kylie Winkworth).

Jean, who married Tom Hutchinson in 1942, kept the quilt for most of her life, stored in a cupboard in a small house in Hassans Walls Road in Lithgow.

Her daughter, Mrs Lorraine Spice, remembers as a child that Jean would lay it on the floor and ask the children to sit on it and tell her what they could see in its fantastic embroidery and shapes.

It is extremely special for Eskbank House because it tells so many stories about Lithgow; the migration history of families like David Leake's; family bonds

across oceans and women's history in a man's town. Jean herself was remarkable.

She carefully hoarded family memorabilia but was no homebody; having been the town's first postmistress during World War II, founded the Muzzle Loading Gun Club and been an active sportswoman and a bird watcher.



The Leake-Sutton quilt made in Pennsylvania, 1893

Lithgow's history captured in quilt at Eskbank House

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Since her death in 2004, Museum staff have been working with Lorraine Spice to capture her family memories and assist in the task of preserving Lorraine's own extensive collection of letters, photographs, genealogical information and memorabilia from both sides of her family, reaching back to the 1840s, as well as Lorraine's own remarkable quilts.

Everything that has happened in Lithgow is represented in the fabric of the Eskbank House, and its collections, in some way - the challenge is getting the story out there!

Participating in awards like this is an important promotional tool for museums.

The Radio National regional museums award website (www.abc.net.au/rn/museums/) contains entries from over 100 museums, in every Australian state and territory.

I particularly commend the entries for the winners! These are Lismore's [Richmond River Historical Society](#), also awarded best volunteer-run museum, and which is notable for the way it incorporates Bundjalung Aboriginal history with pastoralist and maritime history; Bathurst Island's [Patakajiyali Museum](#), best Indigenous Cultural Centre/Keeping Place, and [Narryna Heritage Museum](#), in Battery Point, Tasmania, which was voted best small museum.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Naomi Parry completed her PhD in Australian History, "'Such a Longing': Black and white children in welfare in NSW and Tasmania 1880 - 1940" at UNSW in 2007.

She has lectured in Australian history and heritage and has worked on Aboriginal history in the Blue Mountains.

She is the cultural development officer at Lithgow City Council, and operates Eskbank House and Museum.



Bicentenary forum

A broad group of people in the Lithgow area has been discussing how best to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains.

Dr Naomi Parry has undertaken to organise a history forum, in Lithgow, at which participants might consider the crossing (and all the other crossings between 1813 and 1816) and develop a thematic framework that will guide celebrations.

It is hoped the forum will include a variety of voices and will include oral history and storytelling, about the crossing and its aftermath, as well as its effects on all the communities, Aboriginal and colonial, in the Blue Mountains and central west.

"If there is sufficient interest and enough ideas emerge we would like to continue the forum into 2012 and 2013."

The date for the first forum will be Saturday May 14, 2011, which is the weekend of Ironfest and will guarantee a large audience.

"I will be developing a program for the forum early in the New Year so would be very grateful if interested people can let me know whether they can attend and if individuals would like to present a paper or run a workshop. "It is hoped to attract students to the forum," Dr Parry said

For further information contact Naomi Parry by e-mail at Naomi.Parry@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Shakespeare Festival returns to Everglades



Following the sold-out success of its inaugural season in 2010, The Leura Shakespeare Festival returns in January 2011 with three productions in repertory.

A brand new promontory performance of Shakespeare's delightful comedy, 'As You Like It', will join Damien Ryan's acclaimed 'Romeo & Juliet' and a re-imagined 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' for a magical month of weekends in the mountains.

The festival will begin in the National Trust's exquisite Everglades Gardens and then journey to the famous Norman Lindsay Gallery, Faulconbridge.

Everglades House and Gardens

As You Like It: January 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 (1.30pm start)
Romeo and Juliet: January 14, 22 (7pm start)

A Midsummer Night's Dream: January 8, 9, 16, 21, 23 (7pm start)
Norman Lindsay Gallery A Midsummer Night's Dream: January 29, (1.30pm start)
January 28, 29 (7pm start)

COST: \$30 adult, \$25 concession (seniors, students, under 16s and National Trust Members). U/6 free. Discounts for combined purchases.

INFO:

www.sportforjove.com.au

TICKETS: www.foxtix.com.au or 1300 356 268. Book early to avoid disappointment.

BLUE MOUNTAINS LITERARY INDEX AND MAP PROJECT

by Kate Santleben, volunteer at Blue Mountains City Council's Springwood Library's Local Studies Section and member of Springwood Historians

The Blue Mountains has long been associated with writers who have either lived in the area or been regular visitors.

Their writing talents include fiction, poetry, screenplays, and non-fiction as well as content for newspapers and magazines, including locally produced publications. An example of the latter is the first issue of *Narrator Magazine* (Spring 2010).¹

The appeal of the Blue Mountains lies in its proximity to, but distance from, Sydney, accessible public transport, more economic housing, healthier lifestyle and a developed infrastructure enabling ease of day-to-day living.

The natural landscape and distinctive seasons of the Blue Mountains enhance the appeal of the area. In short, 'many writers and artists have lived and worked under the spell of the Blue Mountains'.²

Bookshops are located in most of the villages and attract locals and visitors alike. This encouragement of writers adds to a sense of the Blue Mountains as being an environment that actively promotes the activities of writing and publishing.

The Blue Mountains has Australia's only national writers' centre, *Varuna*, located in Katoomba.

It was the home of the writer Eleanor Dark and her husband, Dr Eric Dark. Since being given to the NSW government in 1989, *Varuna* has sought to '... identify and develop the best new Australian writing ...'.³

The Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW) provides members with an opportunity to '... enjoy the friendship, support and encouragement of other writers'.⁴ FAW's Blue Mountains Regional was formed in 1973⁵ and meets at Springwood. Other writing-based groups meet in the Blue Mountains from time to time.

The Blue Mountains City Council local studies librarians, John Low (now retired) and John Merriman have collected, where possible, literary works of local importance. These are housed at the Springwood Library.

The work 'can reflect and document significant aspects of regional history and character and can sometimes provide an original, even unusual, perspective from which to view that history and character'.⁶

The following indicators are the criteria used for evaluating writers and literary works of local importance and their inclusion or

otherwise in the library's local studies collection:

- the 'residential' indicator – is the writer a long-term or permanent part-time resident or a visitor to the region?
- the 'literary' indicator – what level of critical acclaim/commercial success has the writer/literary work achieved? and
- the 'content' indicator – does the writer or literary work draw upon the local region for location, character, issues, etc.?⁷



In Ethel Turner's *Seven Little Australians*¹, Judy is sent to boarding school in Mt Victoria

About the author of this article



Kate Santleben (pictured with Local Studies literature files) has lived in Blaxland with her husband since 2005. Interested since her teens in writing, she seeks opportunities to learn more about writing as well as entering competitions. As her part-time employment as a membership development officer for a charity is located in Sydney's CBD, train travel provides the opportunity to catch up on reading.

An enthusiasm for history, particularly social history, led to volunteering in the Local Studies area of the Blue Mountains City Council in 2005. In 2007 Kate was invited to be a member of Springwood Historians. She is currently on leave from external studies in the Graduate Diploma in Local, Family and Applied History through University of New England. Resuming studies is a goal for 2011

Writer-in-residence started project in 1990

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In 1990, the Blue Mountains City Library's writer-in-residence, Dr Michael Sharkey, began a project to '... establish a literary index to the Blue Mountains'. References to writers who have lived in or visited the Blue Mountains, or have written about the Blue Mountains were collected and included in an index held by the library's local studies section.

It was also hoped that with enough information a Blue Mountains Literary Map could be produced to enable locals and visitors 'to pay personal homage to the region's rich literary heritage'.⁸ Dr Sharkey's three-month residence quickly passed.

However, the literary index continued to grow from then as time and information came to hand.

In 2005, Kate Santleben attained a long-held goal and moved to the Blue Mountains after being a frequent visitor of local family members.

During one of these visits, she consulted with John Low, one of the then local studies librarians on a work-in-progress that was set in the upper Blue Mountains, and discovered the rich treasure trove of

social history in the local studies section.

After applying to be a volunteer in the Springwood Library and subsequent discussions with John Low as to her interests in writing and social history, Kate was directed to the Blue Mountains Literary Index and Map project.

As a library technician, it was a joy to be back in a library environment and having been long familiar with the work of some of the Blue Mountains writers, e.g., Eleanor Dark, Kylie Tennant, Florence James, Dymphna Cusack and Nancy Phelan, it was a delight to work on the project. In addition, having just returned from a trip to the UK and having followed a literary map whilst there, Kate agreed with the concept being replicated in the Blue Mountains.

However, the project that Kate had initially thought 'wouldn't take long' is, five years later, still a work-in-progress.

What has been achieved so far? Whilst the aforementioned indicators are used in evaluating works to be included in the local studies collection, the literary index also seeks to record all writers who live or have spent time in the Blue Mountains and/or whose work has a Blue Mountains content.

Each writer so far identified has, in alphabetical order, an index card with their name and notes as to what newspaper cuttings, website addresses, catalogue information etc., is available. A physical file in alphabetical order for each writer stores that information.

Additionally, a spreadsheet has been prepared and currently has 495 names. The spreadsheet summarises the names, dates of birth/death, Blue Mountains village associated with the writer (if known), the genre of their work, and any notes.

Of the recorded Blue Mountains writers, the earliest include Sir Henry Parkes (1815-1896), Henry Lawson (1867-1922) and Norman

Lindsay (1879-1969). The most recent addition is Kristel Thornell.

The Blue Mountains villages from Lapstone to Mt Victoria/Mt Wilson have also been cross-referenced with the names of the writers associated with them.

The most 'writerly' village? Katoomba closely followed by Springwood and Winmalee.

The sources of information used to compile the spreadsheet include the local studies' literary index, on-line dictionaries of biography, Blue Mountains City Library catalogue as well as national and state library catalogues, local and state newspapers, local newsletters and journals, as well as writers' websites.

The following lists interesting examples of items held in the local studies collection:

- Graham Alcorn's *Windy Day, Blue Mountains*⁹;
- Jennifer Rowe's *Grim Pickings*¹⁰, a murder mystery, is set in a Blue Mountains' apple orchard
- In Ethel Turner's *Seven Little Australians*¹¹, Judy is sent to boarding school in Mt Victoria;
- Frank Walford, *Mists at Leura*¹² and *Twisted Clay an explosive novel of strange passions*¹³; and
- Deb Westbury's poem *Notices in the Window*¹⁴ features Brian's Bookshop at Katoomba.

What's still to be done in the Blue Mountains Literary Index and Map Project?

Literary Index: complete spreadsheet inputting and cross-checking the spreadsheet data and continue sorting the individual physical files. As long as the Blue Mountains continues to encourage and attract writers, the literary index will continue to develop.

Literary Map: summarise the most well-known Blue Mountains writers and plot the villages associated with them. Investigate the logistics of preparing the map itself and how it is to be distributed.



Part three in the famous timeless land trilogy... the discovery of a route over the Blue Mountains

William Cox's great grandson is engineer named on plaque

When the Blue Mountains Shire Council moved into its new quarters in 1915 it had already been functioning for several years in other buildings in Lawson.

In brief, the Local Government Act of 1906 had created a temporary council known as the Kanimbla Shire to cover the area from Emu Plains to Mount Victoria (excluding Katoomba which had been doing its own thing as a municipality since 1898).

The first council under this Act was elected in 1906 and proceeded to operate from a temporary home in the Mechanics Institute building in Lawson.

In 1907 the name Kanimbla Shire was officially changed by NSW government proclamation to Blue Mountains Shire which it was to remain until the establishment of the current Blue Mountains City Council on October 1, 1947.

By 1908 there was a definite need for more permanent accommodation for the shire council and a move was made across the

railway line first to the house called *Avon* on the corner of Park Street and San Jose Avenue and then in May 1915 into the new purpose-built accommodation.

The plaques at the entry to the building reflect a great deal of Blue Mountains history.

The memorial to William Cox is a reminder that the shire engineer in 1915 was Harley Cox a great grandson of William.

The memorial to Percy Wilson (no relative of the equally prominent Blue Mountains Hotel Wilsons) is a reminder of a most redoubtable man, shire president for almost 20 years and responsible for much of the infrastructure that made modern Lawson.

The plaque recording the opening by Mrs JT Wall is a reminder of the tragedy of World War 1 as Douglass Square was named as a memorial to young John Douglass Wall killed in France in 1916.

The library like the council before it had several homes before finally coming to rest in its present building on June 6, 1983.

It had started as a small collection of books owned by Lawson Literary and Debating Society set up in 1896 with eight members.

With the building of the Mechanics Institute in 1903, its growth was rapid becoming in 1905 a circulating library with over 1000 books.

It stayed under the control of institutes committee until taken over by council in 1975.

It was to remain housed at the institute until 1976 then moved to premises at 303 Great Western Highway before finally moved into the original 1915 building now known as the Lawson branch library

This article has been researched and written by Nance Cooper, President, Mid Mountains Historical Society Inc.

Call for writers to be added to literary index

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Kate Santleben would like to take this opportunity to thank the Blue Mountains City Council Library for the opportunity to work on the literary index and map project and for the encouragement and assistance of the staff.

Any suggestions for names to be included in the literary index would be appreciated. Any questions or comments arising from this article should be directed to Mr John Merriman, local studies librarian, Springwood Library, telephone: 4723 5044.

(End notes)

¹ MoshPit Publishing, *Narrator* magazine, Spring 2010, Hazelbrook

² Publish! Blue Mountains, *Creative connections Blue Mountains writers & artists*, 2009, Katoomba, back cover
³ <http://www.varuna.com.au/> (accessed 05-Sep-10)

⁴ <http://www.fawns.org.au/default.html> (accessed 05-Sep-10)

⁵ The Blue Mountains Regional, Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc., *Pens on the move*, 2003, p. 3

⁶ John Low, *The Blue Mountains: a writers' paradise*, undated document
⁷ *op cit*.

⁸ Unknown, *Blue Mountains literary index and map*, undated document

⁹ Graham Alcorn, *Windy Day, Blue Mountains in The Bird Baths of Umbigumbi*, Three Sisters Productions Pty Ltd, 1987, Winmalee, p. 20

¹⁰ Jennifer Rowe, *Grim Pickings*, Allen & Unwin, 1987, Sydney

¹¹ Ethel Turner, *Seven Little Australians*, Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd, 1962, London

¹² Frank Walford, *Mists at Leura in Starlight & Haze*, The Mountaineer Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd, 1919, Katoomba, unpaginated

¹³ Frank Walford, *Twisted Clay an explosive novel of strange passions*, Horwitz Publications Inc. Pty Ltd, 1962, London

¹⁴ Deb Westbury, *Notices in the Window in Surface Tension*, Five Islands Press Assoc., 1998, Wollongong, p. 57

Jan Barkley-Jack's book takes a new look at Hawkesbury

Well known and highly respected historian Jan Barkley-Jack will be the Blue Mountain's Historical Society's guest speaker on Saturday, February 5.

Her subject Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed: Australia's Third Mainland Settlement 1793-1802 is the title of one of her recently published books.

Jan's book provides an exciting new look at the history of the Hawkesbury region.

For booking and further details contact John Low on 4782 3751

Heritage funding for Turkish Bath

The Turkish Bath, built in the 1880s, at Mt Wilson has recently undergone major restoration.

It is a rare example of a purpose built private Turkish bath, still virtually intact and possibly unique in Australia. It is situated within the *Wynstay Estate* at Mt Wilson.

The building is a particularly fine example of late Victorian boom style architecture with polychrome brickwork and Italianate details.

In 1995 the owners offered the Turkish Bath building and precinct to the community to establish a museum of local history. This generous gift prompted formation in 1996 of the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society which holds the 50 year lease at a peppercorn rental of \$2 per year, and takes responsibility for restoration, maintenance and operation of the building, grounds and the museum.

For the past 15 years the original corrugated roof sheeting has been treated with preservative and carefully watched as encroaching rust and pinhole perforations developed, until in 2008 the decision was reached that the roof needed to be replaced.

An application to the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning, for 50% funding support



The project starts



Original ridge capping folded back and iron cresting secured



The completed renovations on the Turkish Bathhouse at Mt Wilson

met with success and the roof was replaced in July / August 2010.

At the same time, timber louvres and joinery on the ornate tower were also refurbished.

This project may sound like a straightforward piece of conservation work but it was anything but straightforward!

Original lead hips, ridges and flashing were carefully lifted and folded back so that the old roofing could be removed, while the decorative iron cresting was left in place and protected from damage.

The original galvanised screws and lead washers were removed and re-used where possible. The new 0.6mm Z600 galvanised corrugated steel sheeting was barrel rolled at Fielders in South Australia to match the profile of the original roofing. All timber joinery on the tower was taken back and treated then painted to match the original colour scheme.



Timber joinery on the tower was refurbished

This expert work was carried out by staff of the Sydney Restoration Company, in consultation with heritage Architect Alan Croker from Design 5 Architects. These professionals have been involved with conservation work at *Wynstay* since 1994, and the owners have come to depend on their skills and interest in the ongoing management of this highly significant heritage estate.

"But the project would not have been possible without dollar for dollar funding from the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning. The staff there has been with us throughout, and we are grateful for their ongoing interest and support," said Ms Florence Smart a former president of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc.

The Turkish Bath Museum houses changing exhibits of earlier times in Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. It is open from 12.30pm to 3.30pm on the third Sunday each month throughout the year, and every Sunday during the Spring and Autumn months. Group tours are very welcome, by arrangement. Phone 4756 2006 for information.

This article and photographs were contributed by Ms Florence Smart, a former president and now secretary, Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc.

Dreaming of Chanel

After the stunning success of *Dreaming of Dior*, Charlotte Smith offers another irresistible glimpse inside the wardrobe every woman would love to own.

Inheriting a priceless vintage collection sounds like every woman's dream come true.

But when Charlotte Smith discovered that her American godmother, Doris Darnell, had made her custodian of more than three thousand pieces dating from 1790 to 1995, including originals by Chanel and Dior, she was more than a little daunted.

From the moment Charlotte uncovered her first treasure, an exquisite 1920s evening dress, she was enchanted.

But when she found her godmother's book of stories, the true value of her inheritance hit home.

This wasn't a mere collection of beautiful things, it was a precious collection of women's lives. Tiny glimpses of their joys and disappointments, their entrances and exits, triumphant and tragic.

In *Dreaming of Dior*, Charlotte shared some of her treasures and the stories of the women who wore them for the first time. Now, in ***Dreaming of Chanel***, with special appearances by Chanel, Vivienne

Westwood, Zandra Rhodes, Pucci, Akira and many more, Charlotte offers another unforgettable look inside the magic wardrobe every woman would love to have.

About the author: Charlotte Smith is the custodian of a priceless vintage clothing collection, The Darnell Collection, she inherited from her Quaker godmother, Doris Darnell. Born in Hong Kong and raised in the US, Charlotte has a degree in art history and has lived and worked in the US, England and France.

About the illustrator: After studying fashion design Grant Cowan moved to London to further his career and has worked as a fashion Illustrator, lecturer and commercial Illustrator for magazines including *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle*, *Glamour*, *Teen Vogue* and *Red Magazine*.



Pictured above is Charlotte Smith of Blackheath, a principal of The Darnell Collection Pty Ltd and inaugural member of BMACHO.

Photograph courtesy of Solitary Photography.



The book cover of *Dreaming of Chanel* launched at the Carrington Hotel, Katoomba last month

Horse trainer/historian corrects Beersheba claim

HERITAGE is grateful to NSW central coast horse trainer and historian, Bob Pankhurst for drawing attention to an error in the article *The Light Horse Interchange* (**HERITAGE** November-December 2010) in which it was claimed "The men who made the last wartime cavalry charge [Beersheba] were mounted infantry – Australian light horsemen"

Bob Pankhurst writes, "...this is wrong on two counts; firstly the Australian Light Horse were mounted infantry and not armed with cavalry weapons and secondly; the Canadian Cavalry unit Lord Strathcona's Horse charged the German lines of trenches at Moreuil Wood in about August 1918. This was a full cavalry charge using swords and lances carried out by about 1200 men and the unit charged twice into the German and Saxon trench lines. They were commanded by a British General who was known as Mad Jack Seeley, and at least one Victoria Cross was won during this charge by a fellow named Flowerdale. This charge was a desperate attempt to break

through the German lines so as to cut off their access to the sea and it was successful."

Bob also writes... "The 6th Light Horse were regular campers at Wallgrove Army Camp, the site of the now closed Australia's Wonderland, and I think were the last Light Horse unit camped there when the Light Horse was mechanised in NSW sometime in late 1941 or early 1942 though Light Horse units operated in West Australia until 1944.

"If you look up newspaper records from the 1941 era you will see that there was a stampede of army horses at the Wallgrove camp about Easter time where hundreds of horses stampeded after being frightened by swirling newspaper blown up in the wind. The camp luckily was only occupied by the horse handlers as the rest of the boys were on Easter leave even so one trooper was killed when the toilet block was demolished by the stampeding herd.

Horses were found several days later as far away as Penrith."

BMACHO NEEDS A NEW PRESIDENT

After 5 years as president of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc, John Leary, OAM has decided because of ill health not to seek re-election at the annual general meeting in March. 2011.

Mr Leary said it has been a privilege to serve as the organisation's inaugural president and work with a very fine group of dedicated amateur enthusiasts, professionals and academics within the heritage sector of this region.

"Much has been achieved in the way of education through various workshops and speakers, while there is no doubt that BMACHO has had some influence on local government during the past 5 years.

"Among these achievements has been input which brought about a far more balanced document produced as Blue Mountains City Council's cultural heritage strategy; the listing of more than 800 sites on the State Heritage Inventory by council; the development of the newsletter *HERITAGE* and the publishing of the first volume of the online *Blue Mountains History Journal* but to mention a few.

"Probably one of the most important achievements has been to have various heritage and historical societies in the region come to understand they are not isolated and that the expertise and resources of other heritage groups may be shared for each others mutual benefit.

"The exchange of ideas and knowledge as well as inter-group promotion of activities and the BMACHO calendar has been the resulting benefit.

"It is difficult to accurately assess how many are involved in the heritage sector throughout the region.

"However, it has been suggested that there are as many as 2500 individuals who have some direct link to heritage interests in this district. BMACHO can and has filled a void in providing a 'voice' for these individuals.



BMACHO president John Leary, OAM receiving a heritage award from the Premier, Kristina Keneally recognising his voluntary work in the heritage sector going back to 1975 when he was appointed by the then Premier Tom Lewis to the Berrima Court House Trust through to his work with National Trust and BMACHO over the past decade.

"The existing committee and others over the past years, worked very harmoniously, each member having valuable input based on years of experience in the heritage sector. It is difficult to mention each and every one of the committee members who have contributed to the organisation management, but three must be mentioned.

"Firstly, Professor Barrie Reynolds who conceived the idea of BMACHO and worked tirelessly as its secretary until his recent ill health; Associate Professor Ian Jack who as vice president for the past 5 years has been a tower of strength having a vast knowledge of history and in particular this region and Dr Peter Stanbury who has in his quiet unassuming way been of immense value to the organisation.

"It is now time to find a new leader for this very worthwhile organisation and although nominations for election have not yet opened, it is important that thought be given to the filling of the soon to be vacated office.

"The structure of BMACHO is very sound and many of the existing management committee have expressed an interest in seeking reelection which if these people and some 'new blood' are elected to the

committee it will mean a good succession has been achieved."

Anyone interested in seeking election to the office of president is welcome to discuss the role with John Leary on 47588584 or by e-mail: johnnanete@optusnet.com.au

\$10,000 GIFT

BMACHO member, Scenic World Katoomba recently celebrated the Scenic Railway turning 65 and instead of having a "normal" birthday bash, the Hammon family decided they would prefer to have a fund raising dinner with all funds raised from the evening going to Blue Mountains Cancer Help.

Guests were entertained on the night with some cool jazz and fine food in the Skyway Restaurant.

Raffles and an auction were held with locals bidding on items such as helicopter flights, a Skyway rooftop experience and other goodies.

The result of the evening saw a cheque for \$10,800 presented by Phil and Peta Hammon to Robyn Yates of Blue Mountains Cancer Help.

Two Governors to dinner



Her Excellency the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO being escorted to the official table by the President, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc., Frank Holland

Some 200 years after the fifth Governor of the Colony, Lachlan Macquarie and his vice regal party including Mrs Elizabeth Macquarie crossed the Hawkesbury on December 1, 1810 and then made their way to the summit of the 'Kurry Jung' the 37th Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir sat down to a formal dinner with 120 guests.

The dinner organised by members of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc. was held at Loxley on Blue Bird Hill, close to where Macquarie would have passed.

Soon after the governor arrived, guests were entertained by an audio visual presentation, the script having been written by Ron and Margaret Rozzoli.

The audio visual presentation, *Birth of a Nation* told the story of Colonel Macquarie's appointment as the fifth governor and much of Governor and Mrs Macquarie's life in the Colony starting with the sea voyage from England and then focused on the journey the vice regal couple made to the 'Kurry Jong' and then on to the naming of the five Macquarie towns.

The story continued with a brief overview of the period between 1810 and the Macquarie's departure in 1822 concluding with his death in 1824.

The script was based on the Journal of Governor Lachlan Macquarie

The production was enhanced by the appearance of actors from the Richmond Players at key moments in the story.

Later in the evening the governor provided the formal address speaking without notes for more than 40 minutes about the Macquaries. Her in-depth knowledge of the work of Governor Macquarie and his wife Elizabeth with a number of anecdotes which could only have come from her own research amazed many of the historians who listened to Professor Bashir.

After mingling with the guests, Governor Bashir and Sir Nicholas Shehadie departed with some guests staying on much later while others retired to accommodation at Loxley or found their way home.

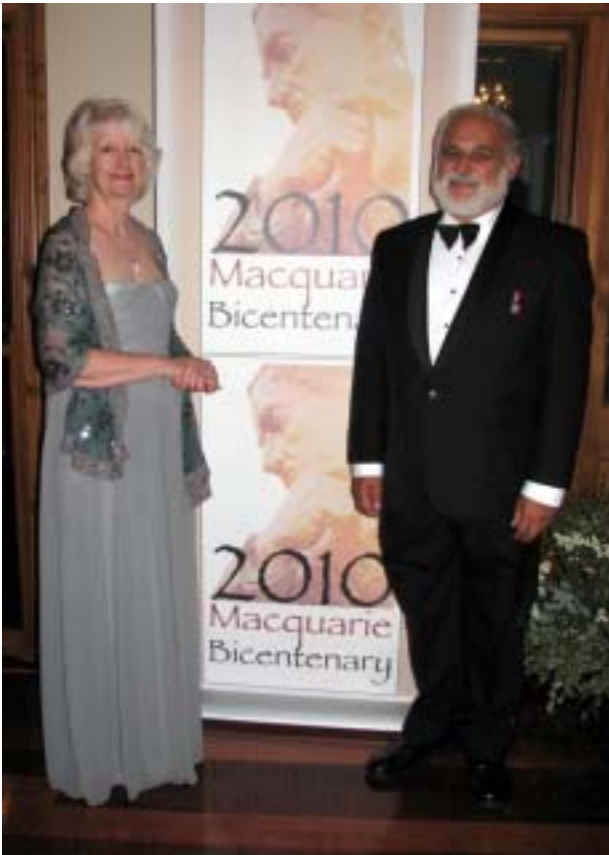
(Editor's note: Sincere appreciation is extended to Frank and Val Holland for the many courtesies extended to me as president of BMACHO and my wife Nanette during the formal dinner and for arranging the excellent accommodation at Loxley. BMACHO's management committee was also represented at the dinner by vice president, Dr Ian Jack and Ms Jan Barkley-Jack and secretary, Ms Jan Koperberg. The proprietor of Loxley Paul Maher and his staff are also to be commended for providing excellent service and facilities. John Leary)



The fifth Governor of the Colony Lachlan Macquarie, played for the evening, by Sean Duff.

Pictures on this and the following page are courtesy of Carolynne Cooper of Transportation Signals and Communications Museum Inc.
Continued page 14

Lachlan Macquarie's bicentenary dinner recalls his work as the 'builder of a nation'



Val and Frank Holland whose leadership and dedicated work did much to make the Macquarie bicentenary anniversary dinner such a success



Most guests were dressed in formal evening wear, however John Cooper of Transportation, Signal and Communications Museum Inc. chose to dress as Governor Macquarie's faithful servant during his 28 years as governor, Richard Fitzgerald



The Governor chats with some of the Richmond Players who included Sean Duff (Lachlan Macquarie) Anne Duff (Elizabeth Macquarie), Greg Todd (James Meehan). Nathan Zamprogno provided the narration and Tracy Stedman provided Elizabeth's voice and back stage management

'In a few years I have no doubt Sydney will be as fine and Opulent a Town as any one in His Majesty's other foreign Dominions.'

Lachlan Macquarie
1815.



Jan Koperberg elected to lead Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Jan Koperberg has been elected as president of the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. taking over from Joan Edwards.

Jan retired from full time work at the end of 2005 and joined the Blue Mountains Family History Society in the middle of 2006. At the AGM in November 2006, Jan was nominated and accepted the role of secretary, which she held till the end of 2009, when she became vice president.

Jan was nominated as NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies' delegate for Blue Mountains in 2009 and was a committee member until September 2010, when she was nominated and accepted the role of secretary, after Kay Radford "called it a day" (Kay's words).



In March 2010, Jan was nominated and accepted the role of secretary to the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations, which she took over from Barrie Reynolds, with 'much trepidation'. Jan had no need to feel nervous however, as the organisation was very welcoming and the management committee members were, and are, very patient and willing to share their knowledge.

The positions on these committees compliment one another and Jan finds the activities of the organisations stimulating and worthwhile and still finds time to spend with family and friends.

The last three years Jan attended NSW & ACT Assoc of FHS's State Conferences, 2008 in Dubbo, 2009 in Wyong and 2010 in Bomaderry and for the first time attended the RAHS State Conference in Richmond, which was an enjoyable and informative weekend.

At all but the RAHS conference, (Jan had a rest), Joan Edwards and Jan held successful trade tables for Blue Mountains Family History Society.

They have also held trade tables and attended the Penrith History Conference for a number of years.

Jan's early years were spent living in Bondi, where she went to school, but most holidays were spent in the Blue Mountains, where the family would travel by steam train and stay in boarding houses or hotels in Lapstone, Leura, Katoomba and Medlow Bath.

Winter holidays in the Mountains were popular and reading by the open fires, bushwalking, horse riding and visiting other Blue Mountain towns were some of the activities that were enjoyed.

Jan has lived in the Mountains since 1967, first on Hawkesbury Road, North Springwood, (as it was), and now in Bunnal Avenue, Winmalee and definitely calls the Blue Mountains home.

Jan believes there is a very real need to preserve our family histories, our history natural and built and our heritage. There is a very real need to do this for our children and grandchildren, the future generations.

BERYL MCLAUGHLIN LECTURE

Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc. will conduct its annual Beryl McLaughlin lecture on Saturday, March 5, 2011 at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts.

The speaker, John Ellison has had a long association with the arts and this will be the focus of his presentation although the exact title of his lecture is still to be confirmed.

John has lived and worked as an artist in the Blue Mountains for many years.

He inspired the Winter Magic Festival and was for a period Blue Mountains City Council's community arts officer.

He has an intimate knowledge of and strong opinions about the arts and his lecture promises to be a challenging and thought provoking one.

For further information contact John Low 4782 3751.

Blue Mountains WW2 Project

Can you help?

Blue Mountains Family History Society's project on local social history during the war years is well underway.

Author, Joan Edwards, is seeking more names, photographs and/or stories of individuals and groups including aircraft spotters, businesses, SAF workers residing in the mountains, schools, evacuees, voluntary organisations and workers, Volunteer Defence Force, and anything else.

One challenge is to compile a list of known locals who joined the services and, therefore, were 'not at home'.

Assistance would be appreciated. Tiny snippets of personal or family experiences are important.

Please contact Blue Mountains WW2 Project at P.O. Box 312 Wentworth Falls 2782 or the dedicated email address jed2782@gmail.com ASAP before you forget, deadline Easter 2011.

Blue Mountains World Heritage Area showcased

An awe inspiring panoramic view of the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Area is the focus of the World Heritage Exhibition Centre opened last year, at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden by actor and environmentalist Jack Thompson.

The centre celebrates the 10th anniversary of the area's inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

It will give schoolchildren curriculum based lessons about national parks and conservation, as well as showcase the region's natural beauty.

The spellbinding views combined with the intellectual and artistic experiences at the centre deliver a strong message which had solid roots in the local community.

"The first seed of conservation was planted by the Aboriginals who took great care of this natural wonderland," Mr Thompson said.

The Mount Tomah Botanic Garden takes its name from the mountain on which it is located.

The original owners of the land were the Darug Aboriginal people. 'Tomah' is reputedly an Aboriginal word meaning tree fern.

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden director Rob Smith said the new building would provide a space where people could play in a virtual world of canyons without getting their feet wet and, in a full surround sound theatre, experience a journey through the gigantic cliffs of the one million hectares of the World Heritage Area.

Another recent addition at the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden is the Laughing Children's Garden which will become a wonderland in which



children and families will take delight.

"The Gwuulya Garri Dilya Garden (Laughing Children's Garden) has soft green lawns for family picnics and shady trees to relax under while kids climb on and explore the sculpture," Mr Smith said.

"Adventures abound for children at the garden. It's a lyrical organic green space that showcases the soft shapes and textures of the Pod Pod.

"The sculpture is embossed with the images of birds, reptiles, insects and plants all to be discovered while climbing and crawling over the pieces which are shaped like acacia pods," Mr Smith said.

A generous donation by Tom Breen, managing director of Breen Holdings Pty Ltd and his family have made possible the three centrepieces called Pod Pod as a feature of the garden.

For more information www.mounttomahbotanicgarden.com.au or enquiries to tomah@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au



Sunset Jazz at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

A food, wine and music night on Saturday, February 12

Celebrate local jazz and wines with panoramic views under the setting sun at Restaurant Tomah.

Enjoy a sumptuous 7-course meal and Tara Maher's silky voice from 6pm to 10pm
Bookings essential to 4567 3019 \$125 pp, places limited.



Pictured at top is a panoramic view of the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Area while below are images of the World Heritage Exhibition Centre. Photographs by Jamie Plaza - Botanic Gardens Trust

New leader for Mt Victoria and District Historical Society

Robert Cameron has been elected to the position of acting president of the Mount Victoria and District Historical Society Inc. following the death of Peter Evans.

"At the last annual general meeting at Mt Victoria former president Peter Evans was with us, I was elected to the position of vice president," Robert Cameron has said.

"Since Peter's passing, (I shall always remember Peter for his poignant sense of humour. I am sure he has the angels laughing in the aisles.....) a recent meeting of the society elected me as acting president.

"Until the next AGM and in the interim, I will endeavour to further the good work Peter has instigated.

"There are a few of Peter's visions in train, some of which some may already be aware, which we hope to complete next year.

"One is to complete the refurbishment of the former 'Plumbers Room' converting it to a research and meeting room.

"It will house our collection of maps, files on the occupants and the habitation of the district as well as our computer and hard copy research files.

"It is our intention to expand this historical information by the addition of oral history recordings from the districts' inhabitants.

"Another objective is to utilise the space we have in order to establish a more coherent visitor experience, as well as to provide additional space for proposed new exhibitions and to house those items we currently have in storage. Allied with this is a clean-up the curtilage courtyard, currently used for live displays of traditional wood-turning during 'Great Train Weekend' events, which will facilitate and enhance its future usage.

"Since becoming a member of the society some 8 years ago I have realised the uniqueness of the artifacts we have on display and their importance in the second most historical event for New South Wales, the crossing of the Blue Mountains.



Robert Cameron

"I look forward to our continued association with BMACHO and our mutual co-operation and support," said Robert Cameron.

Vale - Heather Mollenhauer

Well known Blue Mountains historian and community worker, Heather McDougal Mollenhauer (nee Ingamells) passed away on December 12, 2010 at the age of 71.



She worked as a volunteer with the Blue Mountains Historical Society, Mid-Mountains Historical Society and Blue Mountains Conservation Society and her much loved Jacktrackers Bushwalking Group.

Born in Hawthorn Victoria, where she grew up, attending the Methodist Ladies College in her senior school years, later training as a triple certified nurse.

After completing her training she began service at the Bombaderry, (NSW) Children's Home. In 1956 she was posted to Mt Margaret Mission Hospital in Western Australia as matron.

While at Mt Margaret she married Sam Mollenhauer on March 30, 1957. Heather and Sam were to have five children Kathryn, Andrew, Elizabeth, James and Brenda.

In 1969 Heather and Sam were posted to Mission Publications at La Perouse, NSW with Heather ministering to Aboriginal ladies of the area.

In 1973 they were transferred to the new Mission Publications Office and Printshop in Cascade Street, Lawson. She retired from her active missionary service in 1989.

As an early member of Lawson Baptist Church, Heather filled various roles including keeping archives right up until her passing.

President of the RAHS, Prof Ian Jack has spoken in glowing terms of Mrs Mollenhauer's knowledge of history in the Mid Mountains region and in particular her very informative walking tours in Lawson.

Terracotta warriors from China in Sydney

Discovered by villagers in 1974, the underground army of the First Emperor of China, Qin Shihuang, is one of the most significant and spectacular archaeological discoveries of modern times, while Qin Shihuang remains one of the most remarkable and intriguing figures in China's long and extraordinary history.

A magnificent exhibition organised by the Art Gallery NSW in partnership with the Shaanxi Provincial Administration for Cultural Relics Bureau and the Shaanxi Heritage Promotion Centre, People's Republic of China will continue to be on display at the Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney until March 13, 2011.

Featuring over 120 rare objects from the First Emperor's burial site and other tombs this exhibition takes one on a journey from the beginnings and rise of the Qin empire to the life and rule of the First Emperor, his quest for immortality, and his death, burial and legacy.

Born in 259BCE, Qin Shihuang became king of the small but ambitious state of Qin at the age of just 13 years and over the next 25 years defeated his neighbouring rival states to unite the realm and form China much as we know it today.

While the dynasty that he established lasted only 15 years, in that brief time he created a new political and cultural order that would endure for over 2000 years.

With brutal determination, Qin implemented a series of reforms and building works that laid the foundations for four centuries of relative peace, stability and expansion under the following Han dynasty and remained evident in the governance of China until the early 20th century.

The name of his dynasty, Qin (pronounced 'chin'), is widely regarded as the origin of the English word China.



The statues include many of the different military units in the Emperor's army at the time

Now over 35 years after the first accidental discovery, the story of the First Emperor's brief but revolutionary reign and his quest for immortality continues to unfold through the ongoing excavation of his entombed army and burial site.

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

REGISTERED OFFICE 14 Bunnal Ave, Winmalee 2777
E-mail: jank@efel.com.au or bmacho.heritage@gmail.com
Website: www.bluemountains.heritage.com

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.

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 City Library, Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc., Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc., Blue Mountains Tourism Limited, Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, Cudgong Museums Group Inc., Everglades Historic House & Gardens, Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery, Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc., Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc, Lillianfels Blue Mountains Resort, Lithgow and District Family History Society Inc., Lithgow Mining Museum Inc., Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies, Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum Inc, Mid-Mountains Historical Society Inc, Mid Western Regional Council Library, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, Mt Victoria and District Historical Society Inc., Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine History Society Inc. (including Turkish Bath Museum), Mudgee Historical Society Inc., Mudgee Regional Library, National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Blue Mountains Branch (including Woodford Academy), 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, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd. The following are individual members: Ray Christison, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, John Leary OAM, John Low, Ian Milliss, Professor Barrie Reynolds, and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

COMMITTEE The committee for 2010-11 is: John Leary (president), Ian Jack (vice president), Jan Koperberg (secretary), Kathie McMahon-Nolf (treasurer), Jean Arthur, Joan Kent, Doug Knowles, Dick Morony (public officer), Barrie Reynolds and Peter Stanbury.

HONORARY AUDITOR: Sue McMahon, B Comm CPA.

AFFILIATIONS BMACHO is a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society Inc.