

# THE MILLSTONE

KURRAJONG ~ COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Covering the Hawkesbury West of the River - North Richmond, Kurrajong, Berambing, Bilpin, Grose Vale, Colo, Wilberforce, Ebenezer, Glossodia, Tennyson, Freemans Reach and Bowen Mountain.

## Ode of Remembrance

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We shall remember them.

Laurence Binyon



*For the Fallen* - a seven stanza poem first published in Britain in *The Times* September 1914. In one of the first battles of WW1, the British Expeditionary and Allied Forces had suffered great loss at the *Battle of Mons* on the Western Front, in August 2014. Binyon wrote the poem to honour the fallen and over time the 3rd & 4th stanzas of the poem became known as *Ode of Remembrance*.

The postcard titled *The Battle of Polygon Wood* is from an original painting by War Artist, Arthur Pearse. The description on the reverse side: "One of the most inspiring and historic events during the Battle of Polygon Wood, Belgium, was the planting of the Australian flag on Anzac Redoubt at 7.15am, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, by Lieutenant AVL Hull, 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion". He was killed in action three weeks later. The postcard was produced for sale, with all profits directed to the Australian Comforts Funds. AWM H00563

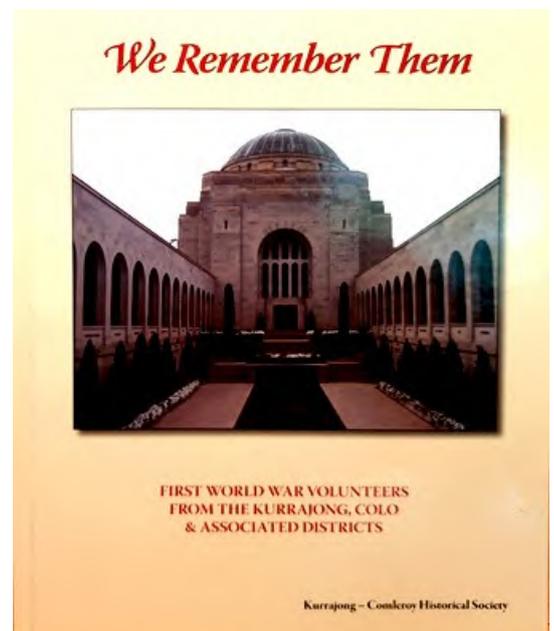
Note: Subsequent ANZAC Australian/New Zealand partnerships continued during WW2, the Malayan Emergency, Korea, Indonesian Confrontation and Vietnam. Although the term ANZAC originally referred to the ANZAC Corps of WW1, it has since become inclusive of all conflicts where both countries have contributed service men and women.

The K-CHS *We Remember Them* publication was launched on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015, at the RSL Hall Richmond, following the 11am service at Richmond War Memorial. The publication was produced by members of K-CHS in memory of all who served in WW1 from The Kurrajong, Colo and surrounding districts. The book was presented on the day to descendants, who came from near and far. Publication of the book was made possible by an ANZAC 2015 Centenary Grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Copies are available by ordering via the K-CHS website:

### THIS ISSUE

- Page 2      **President's Report**
- Page 3      **Charlotte Waring Atkinson (Barton)**
- Page 4 & 5 **The History of Uplands Kurrajong Hts.**
- Page 6      **Foundation of Kurrajong Heights**
- Page 7      **From the Archives**
- Page 8      **Dates for Your Diary**

**PANSY RAIL-LINE TOUR - 20th March 2021**  
**BOOKINGS Essential See page 8**  
**ANZAC DAY Sunday 25th APRIL 2021**



## President's Report

Well here we are at the second Millstone for 2021 already!

Since the last Millstone, we have held a successful Australia Day Breakfast, which was well attended and despite dire heat forecasts, the weather was actually quite pleasant. As this year marks our 20th anniversary, the Australia Day Breakfast was catered with chicken and champagne. Thanks to all the committee members who took care of the catering.

Jenny and I were honoured to receive the Australia Day Award, which was accompanied by a very appropriate framed Kurrajong Railway Station drawing and a restaurant voucher.

Steve Rawling presented a splendid summary of K-CHS milestone events, acknowledging the many members who had contributed to creating the dynamic Society K-CHS has become.

With Covid seemingly under control (fingers crossed) we are pushing ahead with our plans for the Pansy Line Tour on March 20th and two days later our 22nd March General Meeting at Blaxlands Ridge Hall. We have Covid Safe plans in place, including checking for Elevated Body Temperature. Also mark in May 24th for the May GM which will be at Panthers North Richmond.

The Pansy Tour is booking well, so don't delay if you intend to book. (See Dates for Your Diary page 8)

I hope to see you at a meeting in the near future.

David Griffiths

Email: [president@kurrajonghistory.org.au](mailto:president@kurrajonghistory.org.au)

Mob: 0498646899

### WELCOME to NEW MEMBER

The Society would like to welcome new member

**Janice Ladbury**

## KURRAJONG – COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PO BOX 174 KURMOND NSW 2757

ABN 68930834921

Print ISSN 2201-0920 - Online ISSN 2202-6320

### Committee

**President** .....David Griffiths

**Vice President** .....Airdrie Martin

**Secretary** .....Marguerite Wyborn

**Treasurer** .....Pat O'Toole

Lesley Bobrige

Jenny Griffiths

Frank Holland

Steve Rawling

Suzanne Smith

**Millstone Editor**.....Suzanne Smith

**Webmaster** .....David Griffiths

**Digital Archivist** .....Jenny Griffiths

**Family History** .....Valerie Birch

**Librarian/Accessions** Valerie Birch

**Public Officer** .....David Griffiths

**Grants Officer** .....Steve Rawling

**Hon Auditor**.....Marilyn McCarthy

**DISCLAIMER:** Views & opinions expressed in The Millstone originate from many sources and contributors. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views or opinions of K-CHS, its committee and members. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of articles. If errors are found feedback is welcome.

[secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au](mailto:secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au)

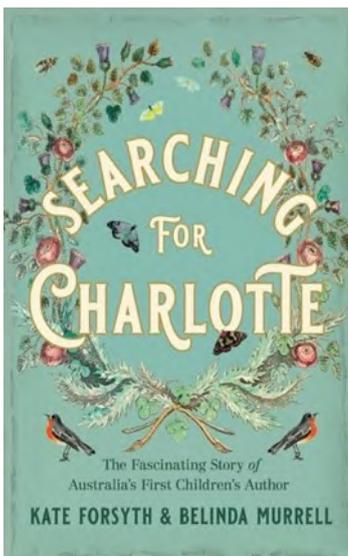
Husband and wife team President David Griffiths and Image Archivist Jennifer Griffiths were the recipients of the K-CHS Australia Day Award 2021.



## Charlotte Waring Atkinson(Barton)

Much has been written about Louisa Atkinson and her time in Kurrajong Heights. In an earlier Millstone I described her as “the most interesting person to have lived in Kurrajong Heights”. At the time I had only very sketchy information about her mother. I really just knew that she was reputed to be the author of the first childrens book published in Australia and that she had “an interesting life”. But of course it was Charlotte who brought Louisa to Kurrajong Heights, and shared ownership of their property here in the 1860s.

Now much more has been revealed about just how interesting her life was with publication of a fascinating book *Searching for Charlotte*, written by two of her great-great-great-granddaughters, Kate Forsyth and Belinda Murrell, descendants of Louisa’s sister, Charlotte Elizabeth. They too had only some information about their ancestor, mostly focused on her background at Oldbury, in the Southern Highlands. They set out to find more, and what they reveal in the book is that Charlotte rivals Louisa as “the most interesting person to have lived in Kurrajong Heights”.



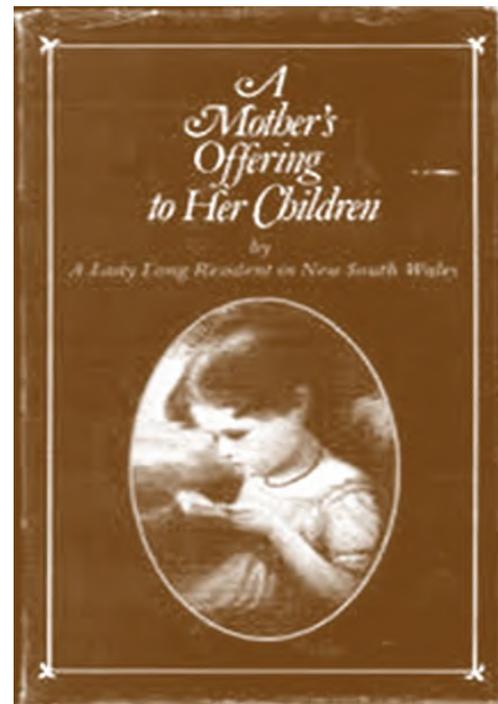
The book is part biographical detail, part an adventure of discovery, in England and in Australia, with much very enthusiastic, even breathless, writing. They track her middle class up-bringing, her education, her early career as a governess in England, her remarkable decision to take a job in Australia, employed by the Macarthur family, at Riverstone of all places. That didn’t work out, as she had met her husband, James

Atkinson, on the trip, and ended up with him at Oldbury. After his tragic death, she made an unfortunate marriage, suffered various hardships, (her husband was later charged with a murder) and lived in Sydney, where she won a landmark court case to get legal custody of her children. Meanwhile she generated a variety of sketchbooks, paintings and writings. Many of the sketches anticipate Louisa’s.

So when she brought Louisa to Kurrajong Heights (for the benefit of her health), how did she spend the time? Unfortunately, Kate and Melinda leave a gap here – I have been trying to elicit more information, but I have had no success. We can only assume that she assisted her daughter in her botanical, artistic and educational activities, as it is not likely that she would have been idle. Also she had been entirely responsible for Louisa’s education, perhaps her greatest

achievement. But she was not well, and it was her ill-health which took both of them back to Oldbury. Charlotte died in 1867, five years before Louisa’s tragic death.

Steve Rawling



180 years ago, Australia’s first children’s book was published by an anonymous writer known only as ‘a lady long resident in New South Wales’. The identity of the author was one of Australia’s most puzzling literary mysteries until 1981, when she was finally given a name: Charlotte Waring Atkinson.



**Oldbury** Berrima NSW. Watercolour and pencil sketch by Louisa Atkinson (1834-1872). In a *Sketchbook Comprising Mainly Natural History Drawings*, held by the State Library of New South Wales.

## A History of *Uplands* Bells Line of Road Kurrajong Heights

This comfortable home was built for Henry Edward Peck (Ted) and his wife Julia (nee Leidich), in circa 1895. Ted was the eldest son of Henry and Mary Peck of *Mountain View* guest house on Burrellow Road, the first guest house in Kurrajong Heights, which they owned and ran for 40 years. Julia was the daughter of John William Leidich, Douglas Road Kurrajong Heights.

The Hawkesbury Herald dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 1902 read: "*Uplands* is right on the main road – the old cattle road to and from Bathurst. It is a pretty building built mainly from stone quarried from its 30 acres". The property had been part of the original 1831 grant of 60 acres to John Sherwood.

Stone from the 'Uplands gully', was also quarried to build St David's Church Kurrajong Heights and the *Belmore Lodge* guest house further up the Heights.

When Henry Edward (Ted), built the Kurrajong Heights Hotel in 1927/1928, Julia and Ted moved from *Uplands* to live on the second floor of the hotel. *Uplands* remaining a Guest House.

At this time all the guest houses at Kurrajong Heights were supplied with piped water from the Heights Hotel. The water was pumped from the weir in Burrellow Creek, to an in-ground tank above the hotel.



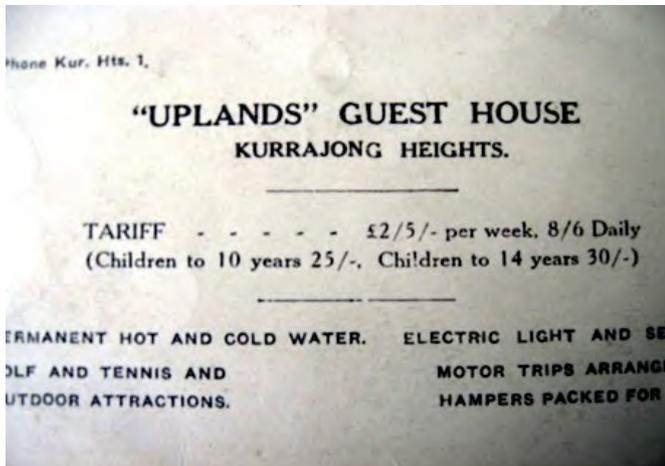
Julia & Henry (Ted) Peck - K-CHS Archive Image: 041903



*Uplands* Guest House circa early 1900s - Image: 065014

The Pecks also had a dairy and piggery approximately a kilometre west of Cut Rock, supplying milk, cream, butter, eggs, meat etc., to the hotel and their guest houses at Kurrajong Heights, including *Allambie*. The farm assisted in disposing of the kitchen waste from the guest houses.

The adjacent image is of a business card indicating the tariff for *Uplands* guest house, circa early 1900s. Note the phone number Kurrajong Hts. 1 in the upper left hand corner.



*Uplands* Guest House Tariff - K-CHS Archive Image 065013

In 1950 under Theo Hughes *Uplands* became a weekend retreat for "The Womens League of Health", a world wide exercise phenomenon founded by Mary Bagot-Stack in England in 1930. The Australian branch formed in 1935, offered exercise classes for those "who would bestir themselves physically and mentally".



Above Image : *The Women's League of Health* wooden notice board remains in place on the verandah at *Uplands*. Adjacent Image: A *Women's League of Health* exercise class.

## UPLANDS

### Kurrajong Heights

2020

The beautifully maintained house and garden at *Uplands* are now a private home on 1 acre - 29 acres of the original property having become part of the *Fernbrook* estate in Queen Street, K'jong Hts. Image: Airdrie Martin 2020



#### Below are a few entries taken from *The Visitors Book* at the *Uplands* Guest House

**23<sup>rd</sup> November 1905** I came to *Uplands* for a weeks rest and change of air and in that time gained 8lbs. in weight. I then went to Katoomba for the following week and lost 2lbs... of course I am back in Kurrajong. G Allen *Allendale* Sydney, Randwick.

**17<sup>th</sup> January 1906** I fully appreciate Mrs Pecks kindness and attention on this my second visit. I hope the day isn't far distant when I shall again enjoy the rest and pleasure of *Uplands*. A.R. Grant, Bulli.

**20<sup>th</sup> January 1906** My wife and I have enjoyed a very pleasant fortnights holiday at *Uplands*. The climate is A.1. The food of the best and most plentiful and the accommodation all that could be desired. Mrs Peck being attentive in her endeavours to make all her visitors "at home" and happy. Henry Gallain, A. Gallain, Parramatta.

**20<sup>th</sup> April 1906** On three separate occasions, in periods varying from three weeks to one, I have visited *Uplands* in quest of health and quiet rest. The *Uplands* air, *Uplands* home comforts and attention, and *Uplands* cooking, form a trinity of realities that make it the ideal retreat for those desiring the things named. Mr & Mrs Peck are kindness itself in this excellent home. L.W. Trico, Waverley.

**28<sup>th</sup> April 1906** Have spent a most enjoyable time at *Uplands* and cannot speak too highly of the kindness and attention of Mrs Peck, also her beautiful cooking. I can recommend this as an ideal place for a rest. L, A, & H Eastow, Petersham.

**September 1906** Being Sunday ...the scriptural phrase naturally arises, 'How beautiful upon the mountains'. Near and far the scenery is beautiful and though distance may lend enchantment to the latter, around this spot is some grand bush and mountain scenes. Have been listening this morning to a phonograph with some of the best music composed in the world, here in the Australian bush. Though not altogether in the bush! Percy Alexander Cameron, *Braemar* Carlingford NSW

**15<sup>th</sup> December 1906** A few words of appreciation for the great kindness showed us by the host and hostess of *Uplands*. Away from the bustle of the busy city and the noise and dust of trains etc., this is an ideal spot for a rest. You can find everything you require to make you comfortable and happy. Mrs Peck is an excellent cook. Wishing her and hers 'A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Nellie Lichtacheindl, Pfahlerts Hotel, Sydney.

**21<sup>st</sup> February 1907** Always pleasant to return to *Uplands*. Mrs Pecks kindness is unfailing. G. Wilson.

**22<sup>nd</sup> July 1907** I have much enjoyed my first visit to Kurrajong Heights – thanks to the kindness and attention of Mrs Peck – hope to visit again some day. Helen Woodruff, Chatswood.

**Airdrie Martin**

**The Village Kitchen Kurrajong**  
Dine in Gallery - Fully Licensed

Tuesday to Sunday 8am - 4pm

Dinner Friday & Saturday from 6pm

88 Old Bells Line of Road

For BOOKINGS phone 02 4573 0988  
[www.thevillagekitchenkurrajong.com.au](http://www.thevillagekitchenkurrajong.com.au)

**KURRAJONG CELLARS**  
FINE WINE & SPIRITS

76 Bells Line of Road Kurrajong Village

Christine Mead J.P Ph: 02 4573 1231

Mobile: 0418 407 501

Fax: 02 4573 1827 [kurrajongcellars@bigpond.com](mailto:kurrajongcellars@bigpond.com)

**Wines with a difference, beer, spirits & ice**

**THE FOUNDATION OF KURRAJONG HEIGHTS Part 2 (cont. from the November-December 2020 Millstone Issue)**

From the perspective of a heritage architect (Grahame Edds), the *“General Store and Post Office building is a well constructed and simply detailed Georgian style building built high above the ground surface. Visual inspection revealed that this structure was built with some form of prefabrication inherent. This is evident particularly in the floor-to-wall framing as viewed from under the building. It is also interesting to note that the internal wall cladding of the attic rooms appear to be reused packing case timbers. Wall cladding externally consists of sawn vertical timbers with beaded timber joint cover battens machined to a high standard.....Little is known of its origin, however verbal evidence from inhabitants of Kurrajong Heights revealed that this building may have been one of the exhibits in the Great Exhibition of 1851 held at the Crystal Palace, England, and afterwards shipped out to its present site. Research so far cannot substantiate this claim.”*



**Kurrajong Heights Post Office c1950's**

*“The building has an attached but separate out-building of similar construction and form which was probably used as the cooking and washing area. Other out-buildings associated with the sale of petrol are unsympathetic. The building has been added to (during this study period) along the road frontage to the north western side and is a well constructed sympathetic addition. The original curved top window fabric has been removed from the three dormer windows. Other detail has been faithfully retained.*

*The General Store and Post Office is a fine example of an early Victorian timber framed and clad structure which together with the buildings adjacent forms the focus of the southern vista. The building is considered to be of high individual significance and essential to the character of the village.”*

The local belief that the building was shipped out to New South Wales as a prefabricated structure cannot be substantiated. A fire partly destroyed this building over ten years ago. One of the firemen who fought the fire commented that the timber he had to cut through to get into the building was ironbark, an Australian hardwood. This does not support the prefabrication theory. Also, the suggestion that the building may have been an exhibit in the 1851 Great Exhibition in England is totally without basis. From the *Official Catalogue of the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, 1851*, it can be seen that there were no full scale buildings on exhibition. The interior of the Great Exhibition building was divided into small display areas. While there were some models of some industrial buildings and structures such as bridges, there were no models of simple houses. The outside of the Exhibition building contained some displays, such as statues, stone and building materials, but no full scale buildings. The suggestion makes an interesting story, but with no basis in historical research. Some elements of the building might have been constructed off-site and shipped to the site, as might happen in building construction today. The current fireplace appears to be constructed of local sandstone, without the more typical iron surrounds of the era.



**Kurrajong Heights PO and Service Station c1970s**

**Lochiel House art gallery with Post Office next door – c1980**

This view of the Post Office looking from “Lochiel House” shows no building in the space between “Lochiel House” and the original “Douglass Cottage” structure. The previous photograph showed a building that was probably associated with the service station business. This space between the two buildings was then filled by the additions to the Post Office.

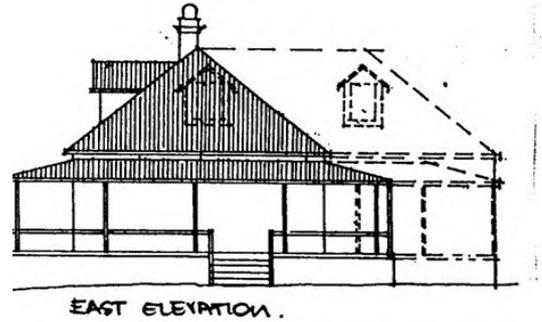
The following sketch (page 7) shows the eastern elevation with the additions that were made to the building in the 1980's.

**Foundations of Kurrajong Heights** (Cont. from page 6)

The sketch below shows the eastern elevation with the additions that were made to the building in the 1980's.



Kurrajong Heights PO & Store 1980s following additions made to Post Office building.



GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE.  
RECENT ADDITIONS SHOWN DOTTED.

A comparison of the photograph above with earlier photographs not only shows the additions but also, the simplification in the dormer window framing, with the window arches removed.

The former Kurrajong Heights Post Office and "Lochiel House" form the centre of the historic village of Kurrajong Heights. Their conservation remains a very important issue, from the point of view of both the impact of any highway upgrading and of the conservation of the cornerstone buildings of the village.

**The Foundation of Kurrajong Heights by Chris Hallam (Part 2) continued from (Part 1) November/December 2020 Issue**

The publication is available for purchase via the K-CHS website: <https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

 **From THE ARCHIVES**

**Colin Want's bullock team** hard at work in Richmond. In this image they are assisting in the construction of the new railway line from Richmond to Kurrajong in 1924. The station was to the right and is not in the photo. A curved line had to be built so the train was able to cross East Market Street and then curve across the corner of Richmond Park into March Street. See image below - Pansy about to leave Richmond Station.

Colin George Want 1881-1953 was a bullocky, cattleman and grazier. Born in Queensland to William Want and Annie (nee Pitt 1844-1918). He farmed at The Slopes on land originally owned by a distant relative by marriage, William John. Colin also inherited "Trafalgar" from Robert Essington Pitt, his bachelor uncle and retained the Comleroy Road property until his death at 72. K-CHS Image Archive: 096827 & 025900



**RayWhite**  
Kurrajong

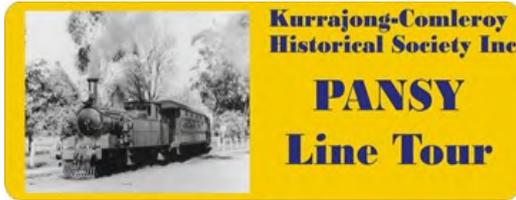
Katherina Kostrzak - Adams specialises within the Hawkesbury in both acreage and residential sales. Katherina and her team work tirelessly to achieve the best result for their vendors and purchasers alike. Please contact us or call in for any of your Real Estate needs.



**Pansy Corner**  
1/1147 Grose Vale Road,  
KURRAJONG NSW 2758  
Ph:02 4573 1000 Mob:0410 648503

## Dates for Your DIARY

**Saturday  
20th March  
2021**



### K-CHS RICHMOND to KURRAJONG PANSY LINE TOUR

Visit K-CHS website for Booking Details & Updates 2021

<https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

**Bookings Essential** via the K-CHS website above

Join Society members when we explore the remnants of the Richmond to Kurrajong Railway 1926-1952. With the railway gone for so long, it is becoming difficult to find many remains but our experienced local guides will show you what there is, much of which is on private property and not normally accessible.

Our coaches will depart from the park opposite Richmond Station at 10:00am. The tour includes a steak sandwich lunch in Kurrajong. If coming by train, you need to be on the train that arrives at Richmond at **09:30** (ex Central 08:06).

The tour will return to Richmond Station around 15:30pm.

Enquiries: David Griffiths Mob: 0498646899

Email: [president@kurrajonghistory.org.au](mailto:president@kurrajonghistory.org.au)

Order a "Pansy" Book at time of booking for a special price

### K-CHS MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Monday 22nd March 2021

Time: 7pm

Venue: Blaxland Ridge Community Hall  
227 Blaxland Ridge Road

Guest Speaker: Michelle Nichols  
HCC Archivist

Hawkesbury Family History Research

Presentation: *Researching Hawkesbury History - Discovering Hawkesbury's unique historical resources*

All welcome - Supper provided

### BLUE MOUNTAINS HISTORY CONFERENCE 2021

'INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE' A National Trust Australian Heritage Festival event, organized by Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations (BMACHO)

Saturday 8 May 2021, registration 8.45am

Conference starts at 9.15 am

Lithgow Workmen's Club, 3 – 7 Tank Street, Lithgow

**Cost:** \$70 for the conference and tea/coffee on arrival, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea

**Bookings:** <https://www.trybooking.com/BOZKU>

For Speakers and Program details visit:

[www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au](http://www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au)



Industrial Archaeology Site - State Heritage listed Blast Furnace Lithgow 1907-1928



### New Hillbilly Cider Shed

2230 Bells Line of Road (Cnr Johnsons Rd)

BILPIN

**Open for Cider & Wood Fired Pizzas**

Monday 10 - 4pm, Thursday 10 - 4pm

Friday to Sunday 10 - 6pm

Check the website for extra opening times during the school holidays

<https://hillbillycider.com.au>



Weddings & Christenings  
Special Events & Conferences  
Accommodation

Phone: 02 4567 7711

[info@loxleyonbellbirdhill.com.au](mailto:info@loxleyonbellbirdhill.com.au)

[www.loxleyonbellbirdhill.com.au](http://www.loxleyonbellbirdhill.com.au)

993 Bells Line of Rd Kurrajong Hills