

## Western Crossings Committee

### Draft Minutes of the Meeting held at the Council Chambers, Blue Mountains City Council, Katoomba at 2.00 pm on Friday 12 August 2011

**Present:** David Carment (Royal Australian Historical Society, chair), Judy Barham (Blue Mountains Historical Society), Ian Bathgate (Hartley District Progress Association), David Blaxland (descendant of Gregory Blaxland & Brush Farm Historical Society), Neville Castle (Mayor, Lithgow), Peter Chinn (Springwood Historical Society), Tom Colless (Bicentennial Crossings Committee), Carol Cooper (Darug/Gundungurra elder), Graeme Cooper (Darug/Gundungurra descendant & Bicentennial Crossings Committee), Peter Dearden (Roads & Traffic Authority), Wendy Dollin (Blue Mountains City Council), John Exner (Blue Mountains Classic Car Club), Bill Evans (Roads & Traffic Authority), Bruce Ferrier (Bicentennial Crossings Committee), Jan Koperberg (Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Association, minutes), Robert Lester (Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council), Sharon Lamb (descendant), Judy McLeod (Nepean Family History Society), Daniel Myles (Mayor, Blue Mountains), John O'Sullivan (Blue Wave & Blue Mountains City Council), Marcia Osterberg-Olsen (Lithgow Regional Branch, National Trust & Mount Victoria Historical Society), Juliette Palmer-Frederick (author), Roza Sage (Member of the Legislative Assembly for Blue Mountains), Colin Semmler (Mountain Opera Chorus), Rosemary Sempell (Land & Property Information), Lorraine Stacker (Penrith City Council), David Turner (Blue Mountains Branch, National Trust), Chris Van der Kley (Blue Mountains City Council), Randall Walker (Blue Mountains, Lithgow & Oberon Tourism), Stephen Wentworth (descendant of William Charles Wentworth), Janne Yardy (Blue Mountains City Council),

1. **Welcome:** David Carment extended a welcome to all and especially to Bill Evans, Roads and Traffic Authority, who has organised a presentation. He acknowledged the traditional owners of Blue Mountains, the Darug and Gundungurra people, and thanked Daniel Myles and the Blue Mountains City Council for their hospitality. He also acknowledged the support and assistance provided to the Western Crossings Committee by Naomi Parry, former Cultural Development Officer, Lithgow, and Prue Adams, former Cultural Development Officer, Blue Mountains, who have both recently left their positions.
2. **Apologies:** Jim Aitken, Jean Arthur, Pauline Barker, Bart Bassett, Richard Blaxland, Bob Clarke, Jeremy Dawkins, Lyn Forde, Ian Jack, Joan Kent, Susan Kennedy, John Leary, Kerrin O'Grady, Robbie Park.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** were previously distributed. There were no further amendments to them.
4. **Business arising from previous meeting:** there was no business arising from the previous meeting that would not be covered by the agenda.
5. **Reports on meetings with the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Blue Mountains and the Premier of New South Wales:**

- David Carment and Jan Koperberg had a most useful meeting with the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Blue Mountains, Roza Sage, on 27 June. David met Roza Sage and the Premier, Barry O'Farrell, on 11 August. The Premier is supportive of commemorating the first Blue Mountains crossings. He also expressed in principle support for a state coordinating committee similar to that formed for the Macquarie 2010 commemoration. David put the case to him for a special competitive grants program for the commemoration. The Premier said that this might be a cooperative arrangement between the state government and relevant local governments. An adviser to the Premier attended the meeting and will be following up on issues raised during it.
- Roza Sage said she would be investigating the organisation of the Macquarie 2010 commemoration, to see if something similar can be organised for the Western Crossings Commemoration 2013 – 2015. It would also be necessary to look to the private sector for support and sponsorship.
- Jan Koperberg mentioned that Louise Markus, Member of the House of Representatives for Macquarie, had attended a Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations (BMACHO) meeting at Mt Tomah in April 2011. This meeting discussed the development of sites along the Cox's Road close to the highway, to be accessed as stopping off points where travellers might see remnants of the road with adjacent interpretive signs adjacent and a walking trail. Louise was enthusiastic about the project and encouraging support for it. Roza Sage said she would take this up with Louise.
- Daniel Myles mentioned that Louise Markus and an adviser had attended the Blue Mountains City Council's Bicentennial Crossings meeting that week.
- Rosemary Sempell indicated that a logo could be used as an endorsement for groups organising events, and the conference and groups could sponsor activities for the use of the logo. A logo was used as an endorsement for the Macquarie 2010 events.
- Tom Colless supported close cooperation between the Western Crossings with the Bicentennial Crossings Committees. David Carment agreed but explained that the Western Crossings Committee's membership covered an area that went beyond the Blue Mountains, including Penrith, Hawkesbury, Lithgow and Bathurst.
- Marcia Osterberg-Olsen said that the commemoration was of national importance as it dealt with the way in which Australia progressed past being a penal settlement. It might be a good idea to highlight the cemeteries from Parramatta to Bathurst.
- David Blaxland said that his part of the family has two letters written by Gregory Blaxland that have never been published, copies of which could be included in an exhibition. He suggested that descendants of all three explorers be approached to see whether they have any unpublished documents or other artefacts they would be willing to lend for inclusion in an exhibition.
- Marcia Osterberg-Olsen said Jean Arthur from Mount Victoria has names of the descendants of the three explorers.
- Bruce Ferrier indicated that a glossy collectable book containing all the documents and the commemorations provided by different families and groups for 2013 – 2015 would be a good idea. This would keep the relevant information available to the general public, in a publication; otherwise,

documents as mentioned by David Blaxland would just go back into family records and be forgotten.

- David Carment mentioned the Indigenous people, who lived in the Blue Mountains region for many thousands of years and still live there today. They had to be part of the commemoration.
- Tom Colless mentioned that he was trying to secure agreement for the minting of a Holey Dollar and Dump, to be issued to schoolchildren.
- Rosemary Sempell suggested a name for the Cox's Road project – 'To Bathurst or Bust'.
- David Carment reported that he had passed on Bruce Ferrier's suggestion to the Premier that the latter should be invited to walk part of the Cox's Road to see what is being suggested for interpretive signage and preservation.

6. **Commemorative activities and priorities:**

- John Exner reported that the Blue Mountains Classic Car Club proposed a rally from Mamre House, St Marys to maybe Mt Blaxland.
- Peter Chinn anticipated the repair and enhancement of the Macquarie monument on Macquarie Road, Springwood, and the grave of Private Smith.
- Colin Semmler spoke on behalf of Kerrin O'Grady regarding the proposed musical *Collits' Inn* that they are planning to perform at Collits' Inn in Hartley Vale.
- Bill Evans said there are many ways of producing low budget projects concerning heritage.
- Judy Barham suggested that the production of *Collits' Inn* could be performed in towns along the highway from Parramatta to Bathurst. It would be a good way of bringing people in the towns together for the commemoration.
- Juliette Palmer-Frederick made a number of suggestions for promotion:
  - i. Cadel Evans could cycle along the round and around Bathurst
  - ii. Vintage cars (similar to Blue Mountains Classic Cars) could travel from Parramatta to Bathurst
  - iii. Lachlan Valley Rail, now centred in Oberon, could get a heritage train on the tracks. This would require some forward planning.
  - iv. Artefacts could be collected and made available, especially items of interest to do with the history of the road.
- Neville Castle said that for the 2013 – 2015 commemoration, Lithgow Council had formed a 356 committee, to support the Hartley Progress Association with its clerical work. The Association is writing to private landowners, who have sections of Cox's Road on their properties, to see if 2013 sections of Cox's Road on private property can be made available to the public on Saturdays. Robbie Park from Lithgow Council is also looking at a walk from Mount York to Mount Blaxland.
- David Blaxland said he is a member of the Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society and would be willing to arrange contact between relevant Committee members and key CCHS members if horse drawn vehicles were thought to be useful in the commemorations.
- Randall Walker acknowledged the generosity of Tom Colless and Phil Hammon, who had both donated \$25,000 each to the Blue Mountains City Council Bicentenary Crossings Committee funding. The Council is seeking major corporate sponsors for 2013 – 2015 commemoration and a

commensurate amount of money. Tourism has a good track record for raising funds and clearly, it does require a good deal.

- Daniel Myles said that it was proposed to have an event at Mount York, one with an Aboriginal focus, probably at Katoomba, and an IT event, with iPhone apps. All this will depend on Randall Walker's fund raising. There is a strong tourism focus.
- Chris van der Kley suggested minting a coin and a postage stamp. David Carment is to approach The Mint and Australia Post.
- Lorraine Stacker advised that Penrith City Council would hold an inaugural meeting to discuss the Western Crossings commemoration on 23 August. It is looking at a number of events over the three-year period. It will also have other commemorations within the 2013-2015 period. In 2013, Penrith has the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the transfer of Emu Plains from Blue Mountains City Council to Penrith City Council and in 2015 is the bicentenary of building the road back to Parramatta and the first building in Penrith.
- John Exner asked if the Blue Mountains City Council could set up a page on its website for the events proposed in 2013 – 2015.
- Wendy Dollin advised that a calendar of events is being organised.
- Neville Castle advised that Robbie Park, Lithgow Council, is the Events Coordinator.
- Pauline Barker from the Cox's Road Project Committee sent information and photographs showing the type of interpretive signage that is already in place on sections of Cox's Road and a copy of the State Register nomination. These were made available for viewing.
- David Carment advised that Jennifer Burrell from Blacktown City Council had contacted him to say that the Council's Combined Historical Societies Sub-Committee had requested a copy of the minutes from the Western Crossings Committee with a view to maintaining a 'watching brief' on developments and participating in and/or supporting events in the future. Minutes were provided to her.
- Roza Sage mentioned that 2014 is also the beginning of the ANZAC centenary of the ANZAC and the centenary of the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot (now Valley Heights Locomotive Heritage Museum).
- Wendy Dollin asked if any pre-plans for 2012 – 2015 could be sent to Randall Walker.
- Jan Koperberg reported that the editor of the BMACHO *Heritage* newsletter, John Leary, would also like to include a round up of what various societies and individual groups are thinking about planning for the 2013-15 commemoration. He requires information sent to him at [johnnanette@optusnet.com.au](mailto:johnnanette@optusnet.com.au). He only needs the briefest details, about 75 – 100 words.

7. **Presentation by Bill Evans from the Road and Traffic Authority:**

Bill Evans' excellent and fascinating presentation demonstrated his passion for the history and heritage of the surveying and road building that took place in the Blue Mountains region. He showed and discussed rarely seen maps and photographs and had maps and historical survey books available for viewing. David Carment thanked Bill for the presentation.

8. **'Pulpit Hill (1813 – 2013): A Nomination for Heritage Recognition':**  
Steven Ridd provided this nomination (on a CD) to the Western Crossings Committee for its information.
  
9. **Date, time and location of the next meeting:**  
It was decided to hold the next meeting in mid to late November. Lorraine Stacker suggested Melrose Hall at Emu Plains. She will look into its availability and report to David Carment.
  
10. **Close of Meeting:**  
David Carment thanked all present for coming and for their contributions.