

**Minutes  
Blue Mountains Crossing Bicentenary Committee  
Wednesday 3 October 2012**

**ITEM: 1      PRESENT AND APOLOGIES**

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**Present:** Mayor Maree Statham, Cllr Col Hunter, Neville Castle, Duncan Wass (Hartley District Project Association), Helen Riley (Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation), Bob Morris (Hartley Vale and Mt Blaxland Reserve Trust), Helen Clements (National Trust and Bowenfels Presbyterian Church)

**Apologies:** Patsy Moppett (Cox's Road Project Committee), Joan Kent (Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage)

**Officers:** Robert Park (Events Co-ordinator), Wendy Hawkes (Cultural Development Officer)

**Declaration of Interests:** Nil

**ITEM: 2      CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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The minutes of 1 August 2012 were endorsed by three (3) members of the Committee being Mayor Neville Castle, Cllr Col Hunter and Duncan Wass and subsequently adopted by Council on 3 September 2012.

**MOVED:** Duncan Wass

**SECONDED:** Neville Castle

**ITEM: 3      FUNDING FROM COUNCIL**

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**SUMMARY**

Groups planning activities commemorating the bicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains in the Lithgow LGA were invited to present their project proposals along with budget estimates to the Committee so decisions could be made on allocation of funds.

**COMMENTARY**

Funding of \$20,000, comprising \$10,000 cash and \$10,000 in kind support, towards events commemorating the bicentenary of the crossings of the Blue Mountains has been included in Council's budget for 2012-13.

The Hartley District Progress Association (HDPA) is the only group planning activities for the bicentenary that require funding. Duncan Wass, Chairman of the 2013 Bicentennial Subcommittee of the HDPA, presented a letter to the Council outlining the activities they have planned and a budget prepared by the members of their committee for these activities (See Attachments). The letter states that the activities will now be centred around the Hartley Historic School rather than the Hartley Historic Village as had been previously planned. The Committee discussed all the projects and decided to allocate funding to the following activities.

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- Monument Project
  - Plaque \$ 1750
  - Mounting \$750
- Fair
  - Marquee Hire \$2 000
  - Port-a-loos \$1 500
- Exhibition
  - Printing Images \$4 000
- **Total \$10 000**

In kind support was allocated to the following activities.

- Monument
  - Transportation \$1 250
  - Arrangement \$1 000
  - Garden Surrounds \$500
  - Plants \$250
  - Time Capsule \$500
- Fair (As needed) \$6 000
- **Total \$10 000**

Neville Castle suggested that Wendy Hawkes talk to Iain Stewart and Terry Nolan about how Council can assist with in kind contributions to the Monument and the Fair

Bob Morris reported that the Tors Project is seeking funding from NSW Parks and Wildlife and a decision will be made in a couple of weeks.

Neville Castle suggested that the HDPa contact Charles Sturt University at Bathurst to see if one of their students would take on the project to video the construction of the monument.

Bob Morris suggested this video be kept in the Lithgow Library and the time capsule.

Wendy Hawkes suggested that it also be lodged with the National Film and Television Archive and on an online catalogue system

Bob Morris suggested that the time capsule could be opened in 25 years rather than 100 years so those who put items in could be there when it was opened.

Neville Castle suggested the items could then be repacked and the time capsule replaced to be again retrieved on the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains.

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Duncan Wass suggested that items be carefully chosen to ensure they endure.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** The allocation of funds to projects be approved.

**MOVED:** Neville Castle

**SECONDED:** Helen Clements

**ITEM: 4      REPORT ON THE 17 AUGUST 2012 WESTERN CROSSING  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

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**SUMMARY**

At the Western Crossing Committee Meeting on 17 August 2012 several items applicable to the Blue Mountains Crossing Committee were discussed.

**COMMENTARY**

The following items were discussed at the 17 August 2012 meeting of the Western Crossing Committee Meeting.

**Businesses Supporting the Bicentenary**

Phil Hammon, Scenic World and Businesses Supporting the Bicentenary, advised that there are two major projects:

- The creation of a holey dollar coin to distribute to 12,000 primary and high school children in the Blue Mountains area. Phil showed a promo coin in brass with the dump, which is a copy of the original coin and dump. This was in a display box, on a backing, which would show the logo of the sponsor/s. The commemorative coin would be made in pewter. Phil said the metal used depended on whether the coin was to look new or old. Sharon Lamb asked if school children from Blacktown to Bathurst could receive the coin and Phil said he would look into the possibility.
- The second project is the aircraft flyover on Saturday 25 May 2013. The planned flight path is from Bathurst, over the Grose Valley, down to Emu Plains and then back up the route of the Great Western Highway and on to Bathurst.
- Duncan Was said that the Images Exhibition will be open at this date and could it be a venue for people to observe the fly over?
- Neville Castle suggested Hassans Walls as a possible location for people to see the flyover from.

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- Wendy Hawkes said she would contact Phil Hammond to find out more about how activities can become a location for the fly over.

### **Blue Wave**

Trevor Lloyd from the Blue Mountains Blue Wave said their planned re-enactment walk from St Marys to Hartley Valley was organised to be held over 21 days. They have looked into insurance matters and finalised arrangements with the SES vehicles to accompany the walkers. The team will be made up of descendants and their families and will be held over 11 May to 31 May 2013. They hope to be in Katoomba on 25 May 2013 for the aircraft flyover. There are 7 people in the walk, but not the same 7 people over the 21 days. Stephen Wentworth will start the walk to represent William Charles Wentworth. Alec Walker, Wentworth descendant, asked for more information.

- Duncan Wass reported that the people from the Blue Wave were coming to the next meeting of the HDPAC on 14 October 2012 to discuss coordinating their ride with the 1 June Celebrations at Hartley Historic School.

Kerrin O'Grady from the BMCC Bicentenary Crossings Committee said the 21 days over the Mountains was documented in the Journal of Gregory Blaxland. The walking party would cross the river at Penrith, walk across the Blue Mountains to Lithgow. This is a contribution to the May 2013 events.

### ***Crossing!* Play**

Wendy Blaxland advised that a website had been set up to publicize the play: <http://www.Blaxlandanddaughter.com>. Wendy said that the names of the convicts who travelled with the three explorers are still unknown, as are the names of the Indigenous people. Wendy said that John Low had organised a 200th birthday celebration for Louisa Meredith, on behalf of the Blue Mountains Historical Society, with speaker Ken Goodlet. Wendy intends including Louisa Meredith in her play, along with Elizabeth Hawkins, who travelled across the Mountains with her mother and children, by horse and cart. Financial support has been applied for, including a grant from the RAHS, Councils, Chambers of Commerce and Crowd sourcing. The creative designer will be Deidre Burgess. This will be an imaginative re-enactment, based on historical fact.

- Wendy Hawkes reported that she has been in discussions with Wendy Blaxland and it is likely that *Crossing!* will be performed in 2014 rather than 2013 to coincide with Cox's Road Bicentenary events.

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### **Hartley District Progress Association**

Hartley District Progress Association reports that they will be conducting an Images Exhibition titled *A Moment in Time*, in the Historic Site for the two weeks either side of the 1 June weekend. The yet to be named Fair Day on 1 June has been diarised by the Governor, and festivities will run from 10 am to 4 pm. There will also be Guided Walks on Cox's Road in May and June. These walks will be of varying length and difficulty, limited to manageable numbers and only on those sections of the road where we can obtain landholder permission. Hartley District Progress Association also has a history conference scheduled for 8 June 2013.

### **Proposed Western Crossings Foundation**

David Blaxland prepared a paper on the proposed Foundation, also circulated. David said that with such a large group of people from such a wide range of sectors, it would be a pity to disband after 2015. It would be a good idea to meet in some form. The proposal suggests one way of moving forward. David said he had spoken to Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga and they may be able to help with filming. David asked if anyone was interested in meeting before the next Western Crossings Committee meeting. Sharon Lamb, Stephen Wentworth, Roy Bennett and Jan Koperberg will meet with David.

Phil Hammon thought it would be a good to involve the schools. Perhaps send an email out to the schools asking if a representative from each school could attend the meeting being organised by David. Perhaps in due course a scholarship in the name of Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth could be established. Phil went on to say that the coins will be delivered to the schools in February and perhaps David could come along and introduce himself to the Principals.

Susan Templeman, Labor Spokesperson for Macquarie, who is also president of the Winmalee High School P & C, thought that ceremonies like this lift the day for the school children.

Randall Walker, Chairman of BMLOT, suggested that David Blaxland's Forum could communicate to all via the new website for the Blue Mountains Crossings.

### **Thanks to Councillor Members**

The Chair thanked those Councillors who had participated in the committee and might not be re-elected at the forthcoming council elections. She particularly thanked Mayor Daniel Myles for hosting the meeting today and acknowledged other Councillors in attendance including Chris Van Der Kley and

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Howard McCallum of Blue Mountains City and Kevin Crameri of Penrith City. Cr Myles paid tribute to Cr Neville Castle, Mayor of Lithgow, who was standing down after 25 years' service

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Western Crossings Committee will be held at Lithgow City Council Chambers, 180 Mort St, Lithgow, on Friday 26 October 2012. A meeting to discuss David Blaxland's proposal for a permanent organisation to represent the Western Crossings will be held on the same day from 2 to 3.30pm in the Council Committee Meeting Room.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** The report on the Western Crossing Committee Meeting on 17 August 2012 be noted.

**MOVED:** Duncan Wass      **SECONDED:** Neville Castle

**ITEM: 5      CROSSINGS WEBSITE**

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**SUMMARY**

The Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Oberon Tourism Organisation have established a website to be used by organisations planning events and projects to advertise these

**COMMENTARY**

The website is now available for use and organisations are encouraged to upload events as details are formalised.

[http://www.hyperhub.com.au/forto/Crossings\\_BiCentenary/](http://www.hyperhub.com.au/forto/Crossings_BiCentenary/)

**RECOMMENDED**

**THAT** The report on the Crossings Website be noted.

**MOVED:** Neville Castle                      **SECONDED:** Duncan Wass

**ITEM : 6      SIGNAGE FOR COX'S ROAD**

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**SUMMARY**

Interpretive signage is being planned along the Cox's Road to commemorate the bicentenary of the completion of Cox's Road 2015.

**COMMENTARY**

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Members of the Committee have reviewed the details of the signage and considered the locations of signage proposed by the Cox's Road Project Committee. The following feedback will be sent to the Cox's Road Project Committee from the Committee. Three changes are proposed to the location of the signs:

- Move the Carrol Drive sign to the Great Western Highway opposite Mid Hartley Road near the bus stop.
- At Pitts Corner place only a Directional Sign
- At the junction of Cuthill Rd and the Rydal/Hampton Rd an interpretive sign should be placed.

The possibility of a further interpretive sign at the Information Bay in Good Forest was raised and the Committee is enquiring from the Cox's Road Project Committee what the additional cost would be for this.

A letter was sent to Federal member for Calare, John Cobb, and State Member for Bathurst, Paul Toole, from the (then) Mayor Neville Castle, requesting funding for the Cox's Road Signage Project. The Committee is awaiting a reply.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** The report on the Signage for Cox's Road be noted.

**MOVED:** Helen Clements

**SECONDED:** Helen Riley

### **ITEM 7: VISIT TO WIRADJURI COUNCIL OF ELDERS**

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#### **SUMMARY**

Representatives from the Blue Mountains Crossings Commemorations Committee attended a meeting of the Wiradjuri Council of Elders at Wagga Wagga on 25 August 2012

#### **COMMENTARY**

Wendy Hawkes (Cultural Development Officer Lithgow City Council) and two representatives of the Hartley District Progress Association, Ramsey and Susie Moodie, visited a meeting of the Wiradjuri Council of Elders at Wagga Wagga on Saturday 25 August 2012. They discussed with the Council of Elders their plans for the commemorations of the Western Crossings in the Lithgow area. The Council of Elders voiced the following opinions:

- Any mention of Aboriginal people in the commemorations should be specific to the Wiradjuri People.
- The local Wiradjuri people (represented by Mingaan) should be approached for their suggestions on how they would like to commemorate the occasion.
- Representatives from Mingaan will represent the Wiradjuri people in any commemoration plans.

Duncan Wass reported that the visit cleared up a lot of assumptions and gave clear direction to the HDPA 1813 Westerns Crossings

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A meeting with the Wiradjuri Council of Elders will be held on Friday 5 October 2012 at the Old Hartley School to discuss commemoration activities and Nation Building with the HDPa 1813 Westerns Crossings Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** The report on the visit to the Wiradjuri Council of Elders be noted.

**MOVED:** Duncan Wass            **SECONDED:** Helen Riley

**ITEM: 8      PROPOSED PROJECTS**

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**SUMMARY**

Local organisations have begun planning events for the celebrations.

**COMMENTARY**

An Events Calendar for events in the Lithgow Area has been developed (see attached).

Wendy Hawkes will update the Events Calendar with information provided by the HDPa in their letter to Council.

Duncan Wass suggested that anyone interested in helping with events and projects should contact the HDPa as numbers to do jobs were slim.

Helen Clement reported that the National Trust is focussing on telling the story of pastoral settlement in Lithgow next year with tours of Andrew Brown's Properties. They will not be doing any activities specifically to do with the bicentenary of the Blue Mountains Crossings.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** The above information on planned events be noted.

**MOVED:** Neville Castle            **SECONDED:** Duncan Wass

**ITEM: 9      GENERAL BUSINESS**

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Nil

**ITEM: 10     NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

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**Wednesday 5 December 2012  
4pm  
Lithgow City Council Committee Meeting Room**

# Hartley District Progress Association Incorporated

## 1813 Western Crossings Committee

hartleyprogress@gmail.com  
www.hartleyvalley.org.au



Wendy Hawkes  
Lithgow City Council  
2/10/2012

Dear Wendy,

The HDPAC 2013 Subcommittee would like to inform the Council that we have decided to centre activities on the Hartley Historic School during the commemorations.

As the school and hall lie precisely on the route of the Coxs Road, it would seem to be a most appropriate place to hold the events. The remedial work undertaken by the Lands Department Trust and by HDPAC will provide a most attractive area for the festivities.

The major use of the space will be an Exhibition of images and artifacts titled "A Moment in Time". We would like to erect this in the hall, with subsidiary use of the school itself as overflow, and have it open to the public on weekends and by appointment during late May and early June.

The Governor has been invited to open the exhibition on June 1, and to dedicate a plaque to mark the occasion. We have a proposal to place some (three? five?) granite boulders of varying size to the right of the small gate, within a small pebble and native grass garden. One of the boulders will carry the plaque. There is also a proposal centering on a time capsule to be buried (under one of the boulders?) to be opened at the three hundred year anniversary. The day will be marked by a range of festivities featuring local performers, rides, games, stalls, reenactments, etc.

There will also be organised walks along the route of Coxs Road from Mt York to McKanes Falls Road, broken up into three sections and graded for difficulty. This might be over four different weekends, roughly the same timing as the exhibition. Each section will be pre-booked so we will know how many travelers to accommodate, and it is anticipated that we will bus walkers between the school and the various starting/finishing points.

There is also a project to erect Date Signs at as many of the historic buildings and places for which we can gain permission, and a History Conference of much significance on June 8th. The venue for this is still undecided, but it may perhaps





**Hartley District Progress Association Incorporated**  
**1813 Western Crossings Committee**  
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be in a marquee erected on site at the school, or could be in the Liddleton  
woolshed.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the proposal, please do not hesitate to  
contact me.

Duncan Wass

Vice President

Hartley District Progress Association

Chairman

2013 Bi-centennial Subcommittee

[hartleyprogress@gmail.com](mailto:hartleyprogress@gmail.com)

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