



HISTORIAN Patsy Moppett addresses the heritage group and locals at Mt Lambie.

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MITCHELL'S ROAD TO BATHURST —

'Amazing story' began in the 1830s

STORY AND PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

ON the beautiful sunny Sunday just past, a group of 42 people comprising heritage professionals and local community members explored a section of the Surveyor-General Mitchell's 1830s Line of Road to Bathurst near Lithgow.

The event was marked by information sharing and learning concerning the history and heritage of the road.

All agreed that the road route, dating to 1830, has an amazing story and that this story is an outstanding part of Lithgow's history.

The management and protection of the road and its associated convict stockades, inns and landscape setting was a focus of much discussion.

The group, travelling in a convoy of 13 vehicles, followed the route of the road from Bonaventure Road to the edges of

Lake Lyell to the east of Rydal.

The tour was led by historians Sue Rosen and Ollie Leckbandt, who have both made significant contributions to documenting the history and heritage of the road.

They visited former inn sites and convict camp and stockade sites along the road as well as inspecting the road itself and marvelling at the enormous pick and shovel work undertaken by convict labourers.

Many local people who have researched the road's history and landscape also generously shared their knowledge and feelings for the route.

These included Cr Col Hunter whose family have lived in the area since 1860; historian and Blayney Heritage Advisor Patsy Moppett; John Payne of the Bathurst group Cox's Road Dreaming; and Jo and Michael Maxwell who spontaneously

opened the former Queen Victoria Inn for the party who walked down the Honeysuckle Range.

The event was organised by Australia ICOMOS, a group concerned with the conservation of significant heritage places, landscapes and routes.

The group was formally welcomed to Lithgow by Mayor Maree Stratham on Saturday.

Australia ICOMOS advocates for the conservation and promotion of Australia's outstanding heritage.

The weekend included a number of activities: Council Heritage Advisor Ray Christison conducted a tour of the town on Saturday and another of the broader region on Sunday morning.

A workshop was held at the State Mine and there was a young professionals networking event at the Workmens Club on Friday night.

The weekend was intended to extend on professional knowledge and to learn about the community from local experts and to learn about the outstanding industrial heritage of Lithgow and its surrounds as well as the significant historic routes that traverse the area.

All people involved in the tour, whether from different parts of Australia or the local region, agreed that the road is a significant part of the region's and of Australia's heritage.

There were particular concerns expressed regarding the condition of the council maintained road leading west from Lake Lyell to the Rydal-Hampton Road which has suffered major degradation in recent years.

It includes 'the bloody cutting' a portion of the road which caused great hardship and anguish over a very lengthy construction period in the 1830s.

Heritage's peak recognition in awards

THE National Trust Heritage Awards recognise and honour heritage projects throughout the state.

And they're now open for application.

These projects are not just about the conservation and care of our state's historic sites; they embrace the importance of research and landscape, culture and architecture.

The awards are the pinnacle event for the heritage community as they showcase not only what's happening within the heritage sector but also the innovation and integrity they bring to the table.

The Chair of the National Trust Heritage Awards Judging panel Jacqui Goddard epitomises what it takes to defy adversity and create something memorable.

"We all have a tendency when things don't go well or we are faced with a challenge to think we are on our own but if these awards tell us anything it is that we are not alone in caring about conservation and heritage in NSW."

National Trust NSW CEO Brian Scarsbrick notes that the Heritage Awards are as much about our future as they are about our past.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to all our award entrants.

"Their passion and dedication to heritage places, people and landscapes is evident in

every entry we receive and they lead the way in sustainable management of heritage principles.

"These awards are all about setting a benchmark for best practice within the industry and rewarding excellence; the Trust is very proud to have reached its 22nd year of hosting these awards."

The awards are the signature event of the Heritage Festival, which is held each year in celebration of Australia's built, natural and cultural legacy.

Registration for the awards are now open and entries will be accepted up until April 3.

This is a prestigious event with Master of Ceremonies Quentin Dempster and Keynote Speaker the Minister of Environment and Heritage Mark Speakman.

Awards are presented at a gala event on May 6 at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont.

The categories are: Adaptive Re-Use, Advocacy Campaigns, Conservation - Built Heritage, Conservation - Interiors and Objects, Conservation - Landscape, Education and Interpretation, Heritage Events and Exhibitions, Heritage Tours and Multimedia, Heritage Publications and Research and Investigation / Analysis

For more information or to enter visit: www.heritageawards.com.au.

Family links with Tarana are really legendary

MEMBERS of the Webb family from far and wide will make tracks to Tarana in May to celebrate the woman who first put down roots in the valley.

Ann Webb, along with her husband William, came to Tarana from Cornwall in England on February 26 1840, and made their home in the valley.

Today many of Ann's descendants still live and farm in the valley and these, as well as relatives from across the country, will come together for a big celebration.

Ann's great grandson Kevin Webb said the day would commemorate the 145th anniversary of when Ann signed the deed for the Mutton Falls Church and cemetery, which was a very special place for the family, and where Ann and many other relatives were laid to rest.

Mr Webb said Ann's husband William was killed in a wagon accident in 1852, and because there was no cemetery, he was buried in Bathurst.

"It is said he is buried somewhere down near the railway lines in Bathurst, which has now been built over with houses," Mr Webb said.

Mr Webb said with this tragedy, Ann decided to give land, as well as materials, for a church and cemetery

to be built.

"She didn't want other families to go through that," he said.

Mr Webb said it had been passed down through many branches of the Webb family that Ann wanted all Christian denominations to be able to use the church.

The anniversary celebrations will begin on May 29 with a service in the church, led by lay preacher Ian Collins from the Blue Mountains, who is Ann's great great grandson.

There will then be a picnic lunch and time to catch up.

"It would also be a great time to update the family tree," Mr Webb said.

"We want to get the word out so people will let others know about it." Mr Webb said Ann was a remarkable woman.

"She was tough but she was generous," he said.

"Her house was like an open house.

"No matter who you were, she would take care of you.

"It's a chance to celebrate her generosity."

Mr Webb said even though the day was to celebrate family ties, it was much more than that.

"It's not just for the Webb family, it's for everyone," he said.

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