



## Convict Trail Project

## April 2024 Newsletter

### A VIRTUAL WALK UP THE GNR: North from Bucketty to Ramsays Leap

[Contributed by Elizabeth Roberts] Today in our virtual trip along the Great North Road, we are back on the bitumen and will travel from Bucketty to Ramsays Leap a short distance of about 3kms. The road leaves the reasonably level area that is the Bucketty Precinct and winds along one side of a steep mountain edge that falls away very sharply to the west. Here there were two major washouts in 2022 fortunately not enlarged in the recent rains. Given the steepness on the drop into the valley below it is likely there was once walling here but not now visible. The Valley is so deep a drop of 50 meters (ie 167 feet) straight down no one from the current executive has the agility to venture down to see if there are many/any cut stone lying below. A few shaped stones are visible in the washout but not enough for a full wall. Travelling north after the second washout with both currently controlled by traffic lights, the road crosses a saddle with Bucketty Private Road No 3 climbing up to the east and the valley is now dropping away to the east. If you look carefully on the western side of the road you will see the original guttering about 45cm to 50cms above the current road level on the side of the cutting. The road was lowered in this section when reconstructed.



Original  
road level



You pass Bucketty Private Road No 2 then you cross another small saddle and up to Mt Simpson with the locked entry into the National Park on the western side and Bucketty Private Road No 1 on the eastern side. Here again on the rise up to Mt Simpson there has obviously been walling but no longer visible.

After crossing Mt Simpson the road winds down to the Wollombi Valley on the western side of the mountain range, but first it travels round Ramsays Leap, although difficult to see when driving it is a spectacular piece of construction. It was Heneage Finch's ambition to build something equal to that built under the supervision of Percy Simpson and with Ramsays Leap and the walling that once lined the road most of the way from Bucketty to the base of the valley he certainly achieved his ambition even if he was not in charge for its completion. Road Party 29 was stationed at Mt McQuoid (above Bucketty) for most of the time the convicts were working in this area with several other gangs and parties stationed at Mt Simpson. Paul Budde when he lived at Bucketty had a very good spring on his property and it was probably from here Road Party 29 got their water supply. Next Month we will spend time looking at Ramsays Leap. The various works here have told us a lot about how the road was constructed including the use of stone dust between each layer of stone to prevent pressure cracks. This was an important discovery that will be discussed further next month.

## **CTP NEWS:**

### **Various Roadworks: Road work in Cessnock City Council LGA**

Cessnock Council's website has three announcements affecting the road from Bucketty to Wollombi which is state heritage listed repair of the washouts and the installation of safety fencing in the same area and slope stabilization. The slope stabilization repairs to unstable sloped areas, starting on 26 March 2024 and appeared to be completed by the 12 when the accompanying photo were taken.



An area of rock stabilisation.

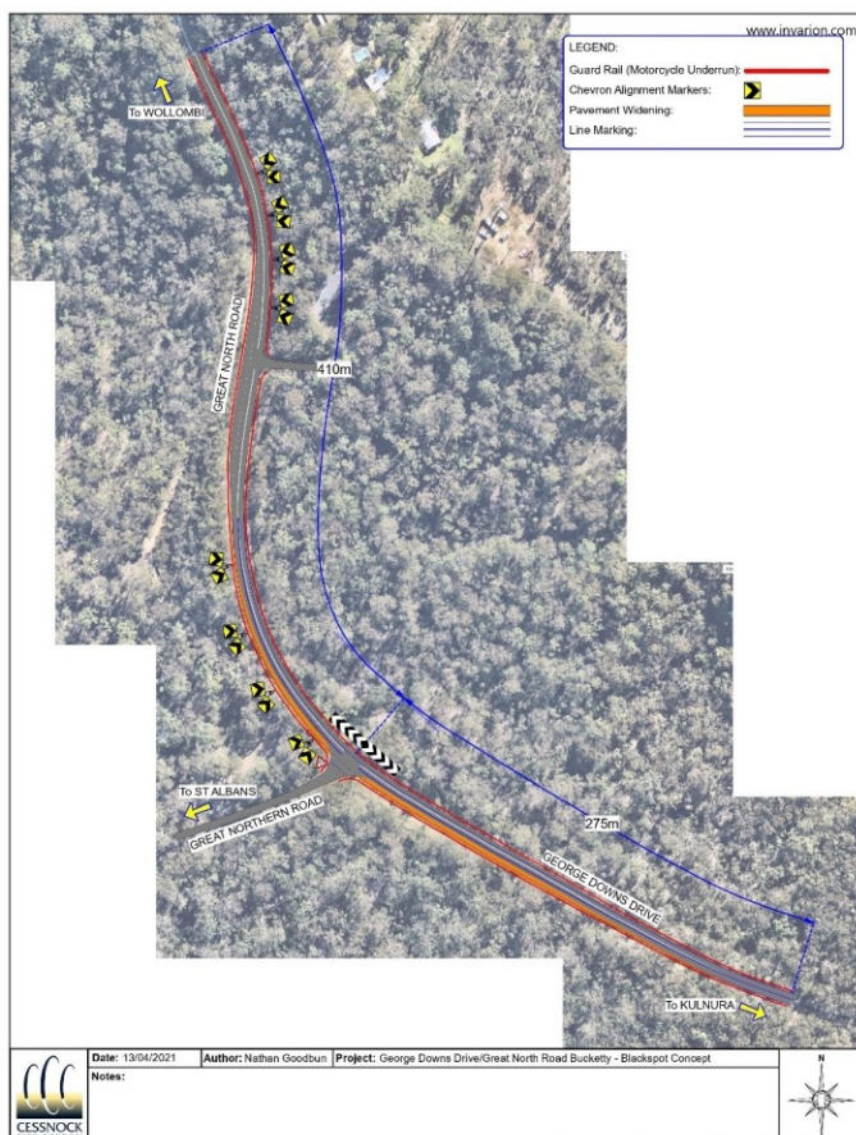
### **Great North Road, Wollombi: Washout announcement**

This notice affects heavy vehicles with a Combined Mass Load Limit OVER 25 tonne. On 27 June 2022 a landslide occurred on Great North Road, Laguna 150m north of the Council boundary, so a 25 tonne combined mass load limit will apply on Great North Road 150m north of Great Northern Road and George Downes Drive intersection. [image on the next page] Engineers require this to protect the embankment landslips so that reconstruction can proceed. Load limits will be effective from 27 February 2023 until further notice. Vehicle travel is limited to one lane with traffic lights utilised. Initial investigations and temporary works at this location have commenced.





## Safety railing installation: - George Downes Drive, Bucketty



- Project type: Road Safety Improvements
  - Value: \$1,720,000
  - Schedule: Due to significant heritage environmental constraints/permits required, construction now planned for completion by 30 June 2024, weather permitting.
- Background:** Council has received funding from Transport for NSW under Safer Roads Program to complete road widening and safety improvement works of approx. 685m section of George Downes Drive, Bucketty at the intersection with Great Northern Road. The upgrade will ensure a safer journey for drivers and motorcyclists exploring the region. Approximately 700m length of w-beam guardrail with motorcycle underrun will be installed as part of the works including all associated signs and line markings. This project forms part of Council's Operational Plan. You can find it within the Operational Plan with the Project ID CRR-2020-002.

## Thomas James Bridge

Works are continuing at Thomas James Bridge and Settlers Road Landslips, despite being impacted by the wet weather with no access to site early this week.

The following works are being carried out this week:

- Clean up after the rainfall
- Preparing for shotcrete
- Shotcrete at the bridge area
- Loading out material from the slips for stockpile storage

The below works are planned for next week:

- Loading out to the stockpile site
- Preparing the formwork for footing on the St Albans side of the bridge

These works will continue to take place between the hours of 6:30am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and from 6:30am to 2pm on Saturdays. Please expect continuous truck movements during these hours.

## Grants

The following grants may be of interest to some of our readers

### Community Heritage Grants -2024 Round

The Community Heritage Grants 2024 Round is now open. Please read the [Guidelines \(PDF, 479kb\)](#) for further information. **Further details about eligible projects are available in the [CHG Guideline\(PDF, 479kb\)](#)**

All applications should be made via the SmartyGrants online platform. To apply or to view a sample application form as either a new applicant, repeat recipient or for a training project, follow the instructions below. Applicants must read the [CHG Guidelines](#) (PDF, 479kb) prior to commencing their application. The following supporting documents are also available for reference:

- [Project summary documents from previous funding rounds](#) (PDF, 327kb)
- [Conditions of Grant deed](#) (PDF, 211kb)
- [Significance assessment questionnaire for new applicants](#) (PDF, 189kb)
- [Community Heritage Grants webinar and tutorial pages](#) are on the Trove Partner Learning Hub. (Select the 'Login as a Guest' option at the bottom left corner.)

### What are the Community Heritage Grants?

The Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program supports community organisations to look after Australian cultural heritage collections. Since 1994, this program has provided more than \$8.9 million dollars in funding to over 1,650 projects across Australia.

### Who can apply for a Community Heritage Grant?

CHG is open to non-profit, incorporated organisations. The program has a strong focus on supporting local groups with limited funding who would benefit from access to professional cultural heritage expertise. Applications from Indigenous and multicultural organisations are encouraged.

Organisations progress through a three-stage journey, over multiple rounds, to learn about their collection, how to care for it, and plan for its future. Projects also aim to build the knowledge and skills of paid and volunteer staff to increase their capacity to share valuable heritage collections with all Australians.

CHG Program Team, National Library of Australia [chg@nla.gov.au](mailto:chg@nla.gov.au)

## Electric vehicle destination charging grants

There's now more time to apply. The EV destination charging grant application date has been extended. Applications now close on Friday 2 August 2024, AEST 5 pm.

### 1. Start by understanding what's on offer.

The NSW Government will fund the following for up to 4 EV charging ports per site:

- 75% towards the cost of an eligible 7 kW and/or 22 kW electric vehicle charger(s)
- 75% towards the cost of installation (capped at \$3,000 per charging port)
- 75% towards the first year of an eligible annual EV charger software subscription.

### 2. Check your eligibility: To be eligible, your site must be:

- located in an eligible regional NSW local government area (LGA)
- an approved destination type as listed in the guidelines



- be listed on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW)
- have no more than 4 existing EV charging ports installed.

### 3. Get familiar with the guidelines.

Additional eligibility requirements for each site apply. You can find the full details around the grant and eligibility in the [funding guidelines](#). Please read the guidelines in full to understand all requirements and how they relate to your site.

## NEWS from other organisations

### Hawkesbury Family History Society Crier March 2024

12 June 2024 Adjunct Assoc Prof Carol Liston – Researching convict women through English records. The Hawkesbury Family History Group meetings have returned to 'face to face' and if numbers are maintained, meetings will still be offered via Zoom. Bookings are only necessary if attending online via Eventbrite <http://hawkesburylib.eventbrite.com.au/> Note meetings are not recorded. Meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month, except January. All welcome.

### Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Because of Easter their AGM and guest speaker Greg Powell on his latest book on Bushrangers was set for Saturday 6 April and due to possible flooding was further postponed to Saturday 20 April 2024: The Dharug and Lower Hawkesbury Historical Society invites all to join them as they hear about the exploits of Martin Cash, the Wild Scotchman, Moondyne Joe, the Kenniff brothers and many other bushrangers, as well as the troopers who pursued them, from the colonial past of three states – Tasmania, Western Australia and Queensland. We will meet at the Chapel 6445 Wisemans Ferry Road Gunderman at 12.30 p.m. for a short AGM and then the speaker at 1 p.m. After Greg's talk we will participate in a sumptuous afternoon tea. Greg will have some of his books available should you wish to purchase.

Cost: \$15 members/ \$20 non-members. Cash or credit card available. CC surcharge will apply.

Bookings essential: Email the [Secretary@dlhhs.org.au](mailto:Secretary@dlhhs.org.au) or phone/text 0405321478 by 18 April. All are welcome.

### Hornsby Shire Historical Society

May 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm Kenley Hall Kenley Park, Kenley Road. Normanhurst short walk from Normanhurst station by right of way along the railway line. Guest speaker Adjunct Assoc Prof Carol Liston on Macquarie's extra Hawkesbury town. Donation for afternoon tea.

### Museums of History:-

*Storage on a Shoestring* is the second in a series of videos produced as part of Museums of History NSW's partnership with Museums & Galleries of NSW and the "Storyplace" project funded by the NSW Government through Create NSW. There are three videos in this series, which have been developed for staff and volunteers working in small to medium-sized museums in regional and remote NSW or anyone with precious collections or items they want to protect and store. To view the *Storage on shoestring* video resources from the learning team at MHNSW, please see:

[Storage on a shoestring: getting started](#)

[Storage on a shoestring: why collection storage matters](#)

[Storage on a shoestring: housing collection items](#)

<https://mgns.org.au/articles/storage-on-a-shoestring-collections-care-videos/>

### Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Caroline Simpson Library

*Caroline Simpson Library, The Mint, Tuesday-Friday, 10am-4pm, free entry*

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the **Caroline Simpson Library**.

The Library began as the Lyndhurst Conservation Resource Centre in 1984. It was renamed in 2004 in recognition of the extraordinary cultural gift donated by the children of Caroline Simpson OAM (1930-2003) to the Historic Houses Trust of NSW (now Museums of History NSW).

The gift included furniture, artworks, books and decorative arts from their mother's collection, along with an endowment for the library. A keen collector, Simpson had a passion for colonial history and heritage and an eye for rare and significant material.

A current display draws from Simpson's collection of objects related to the incredible voyage of Rose de Freycinet aboard the French scientific vessel *Uranie* in 1817–20. It offers just a glimpse of the breadth and importance of the objects acquired by one of Australia's great collectors.

To book [https://mhns.wa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/celebrating-the-20th-anniversary-of-the-caroline-simpson-library/?utm\\_source=wordfly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CollectionseNews-March2024&utm\\_content=version\\_A&sourceNumber=](https://mhns.wa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/celebrating-the-20th-anniversary-of-the-caroline-simpson-library/?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CollectionseNews-March2024&utm_content=version_A&sourceNumber=)

Caroline Simpson's children are direct descendants from Percy Simpson the assistant Surveyor in charge of building the Sydney end of the Great North road including Devines Hill the World Heritage listed section.

### State Archives: Inquests & coronial records guide updated

With the recent expansion of our **Inquests index, 1851, 1916–1963**, our related guide on the topic has been updated to include this added information, in a user-friendly format.

Our **[Inquests & coronial records guide](#)** covers records in the State Archives Collection from before 1825 to 1963, as well as listing related material such as those of the Sydney Coroner. We also explain what can be found in these records, and how to go about searching for them.

### Colonial Secretary's Minutes, 1826–1927

*Friday 19 April, 10.30am–11.30am, free, registrations required*

In 1826 Governor Darling instituted a system of conveying official instructions to the Colonial Secretary through minutes and memoranda. These records range from brief administrative instructions to comprehensive documents that dealt with the more important matters of government. They often include detailed plans and proposals, but also capture the lives of individual people. This webinar will take a deep dive into the minutes, explaining how to find them.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6588001430727346266>

### And in closing ....

From Elizabeth Roberts: On the way to check if Mogo Creek had stayed in creek bed at its first crossing of the road or if had washed out down the road again on arriving at Mt Manning late in the day there were a number of vehicles parked and a group of people sitting on the ground busily writing. They were a group of Office of Sport (previously Sport and Recreation) employees from the various centres around the state who had just completed several days training to enable them to lead Bush Walks. They had camped at Hungary Flat and Mogo Camp site. The training was conducted by a trainer from 5 Star Training and Consultation a nationally registered training group who specialize in the

training of outdoor recreation leaders. It is great to see this end of the road being used for training exercises.

