



Ken Beames' Linden Observatory
- K. Abel

LINDEN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter May 2013

Next Meeting

Thursday 16 May 2013 7.30 pm

Guest speaker: John Budin:
Working at Linden Station in the Early 60s
(for more details see item below)

Location: RFS Shed, Burke Road, Linden

■ Guest speaker – John Budin



We are very fortunate to have John Budin as the speaker at our meeting on 16 May. John was appointed as Junior Station Assistant at Linden Station in September 1963 and worked there for one year.

John was born in Katoomba and, along with his eight siblings, lived in a number of different locations in the Blue Mountains while he was growing up. John left school when he was 14 with only a limited ability to read and write.

John is going to tell us how he came to be appointed to his position at Linden Station, about his responsibilities, his relationship with the local people and the role of looking after the station post office.

Despite the challenges John faced due to his limited education, he went on to an interesting and successful 26 year career with State Rail, advancing to a number of high management positions. John is now semi-retired, working on a very much part-time basis as a commercial property consultant. John is extremely grateful for the help he received from a number of mentors who, in his words, played a crucial role in changing his life. So, John will also talk to us about the importance of mentors and mentoring.

John's wife, Karen, will also be in attendance. John and Karen, now married for 47 years, met on a level crossing at Katoomba when she was 14!! Karen loves to write poems and has the ability to write one about any subject at short notice. For this occasion, she has written a poem about John's railway career which began at Linden Station and will recite it at the meeting.

■ Lucky door prizes at meetings



Starting this month, we will have a lucky door prize at each meeting. If you have never attended an LCA meeting previously, you will get two chances to win. Don't forget, you've got to be in it to win it!!

■ Dates for your diary

May 16	Members meeting
May 19	Bush care work afternoon
June 16	Bush care work afternoon
June 22	Secondhand Saturday
July 18	Members meeting + AGM
July 21	Bush care work afternoon
August 18	Bush care work afternoon
August??	Vine & Verse
August??	Historical walk
September 15	Bush care work afternoon
September 19	Members meeting
September 28	RFS Open Day
October 20	Bush care work afternoon
November 17	Bush care work afternoon
November 21	Members meeting
December 8	Family Christmas Party
December 15	Bush care work afternoon
January 27	Australia Day Sausage Sizzle

■ Request for donation of items to raffle



Each year, we seek to raise funds to cover the cost of the Family Christmas Party and other general expenses by running one or more raffles throughout the year. If you are in a position to donate a raffle prize, please email Barbara Gow president@lindencitizens.asn.au or phone 0410 079151. We are also requesting donations of prizes from local shopkeepers.

■ RFS Community Engagement update



In late March, the National Parks & Wildlife Service, helped by the Linden Rural Fire Service Brigade and three other local brigades, conducted an 880 hectare hazard reduction commencing at the water tank along 7 kilometers of Linden Ridge. If major fires occur in the Grose Valley, north of the townships, this hazard reduction will assist in their protection.

Thank you to all brigade members who assisted, at short notice, in this vital hazard reduction. It could now be your turn to help your local brigade. Come and learn new skills and find new friends. You could be saving lives, homes and the environment.

Come and talk to us during our training sessions, which are held every Wednesday night at 7.30 pm. Alternatively, for details on how you can help your brigade, email the Brigade Secretary, Jenny Anlezark, at lindenrfs@gmail.com or call Captain Colin on 041 000 2875.

Don't forget that preparation for bush fires is a year-round process. Clearing around your house and doing repairs over winter is a wise move.



Colin Anlezark, Captain
Suzanne Kinsley, Community Engagement Officer

■ Linden Observatory update



Recently, NSW Heritage grant funding has been used to carry out some urgently needed repairs. However, the final works under current funding are being completed as this newsletter goes to press. An important priority was repairing the dome which was starting to leak. This work included repairs to the top shutter which had some structural rust. We had also hoped to paint the dome, but this is now on hold due to insufficient funds - both the repair and the painting of the shutter require safe-lifting equipment which is very expensive.

The Western Sydney Amateur Astronomy Group (WSAAG) has put a lot of work into bringing the 30" sliding roof telescope to a fully functional state. They are currently arranging to alter the mounting to enable computer-guided tracking, making the telescope much more functional and easier to use than it has been to date.

Attempts to improve income for the Observatory Trust by renting the A-frame house have been set back due to the discovery of termites in the

floor. Once treated, the damaged sections will be replaced and the Trust will proceed with rental.

With constraints on finances and the time Trustees are able to make available, there is a real need to increase community involvement at the Observatory, and restarting the Linden Observatory & Museum Association (LOMA) would be a useful step. We will need to discuss with the Linden community how that might proceed and avoid some of the past problems.

Ian Bridges, Linden Observatory Trustee

■ Linden's very first Secondhand Saturday – 22 June



Have you got a lot of stuff lying around in the garage or shed and keep thinking you should have a garage sale? We have the answer for you! Join in our *Secondhand Saturday* on Saturday 22 June.

- *What do you have to do to be involved?* Sign up and pay a \$5 registration fee (to cover advertising costs). You then hold your own garage sale on your property (we will advertise house numbers).
- *What's in it for you?* You get to have a clean-up and keep all of your own profits!

If multiple households hold a garage sale on the same day, we will attract even more people to come and buy. Everyone wins!

To register, contact Barbara Gow president@lindencitizens.asn.au or phone 0410 079151 by **14 June**. We will not proceed unless we have five households participating.

■ Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) NSW Community Litter Grant



Members of the LCA Executive recently participated in a KAB NSW 2013 Local Litter Check. Barbara Gow and I spent a couple of hours counting litter at a 'hot' spot and a 'clean' spot on the Great Western Highway at Linden. The idea behind the data collection is to help us as a community to identify ways of tackling litter in the future. As a result of our efforts, we received \$300 from KABNSW and are now eligible to apply for a Stage Two grant worth up to \$5,000. One suggestion is that we spend the \$300 already received on a hedge of native plants for Kings Cave Park, thus improving the fencing and helping make the park an even nicer place to visit.

Robbie Beale

■ Installation of masts for Digital Train Radio System



We have recently become aware of this project which involves installing masts and other equipment at 250+ locations and 60+ tunnels throughout the Greater Sydney rail network.

- **Woodford:** Details of proposed works available at <http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects-digital-train-radio-system-works-on-display#Woodford2>.

Transport NSW will receive feedback up to 5:00pm Wednesday 15 May 2013.

- **Linden:** Details of proposed works available at <http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects-digital-train-radio-system-upcoming-works#linden>.

This item will be on the agenda of our 16 May meeting.

■ Bushcare Group



The Linden Bushcare Group was formed in late 2012. However, we need more members, so please consider joining the group. It meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 1.30 to 4.30 (see p.1 for dates). A Council Bushcare Officer attends each meeting to provide assistance, including training for newcomers. If you would like to meet your neighbours, do something worthwhile and get into the great outdoors, bushcare is for you!!

Greg North

■ Function to welcome new residents



A few weeks ago, we held an afternoon tea to welcome new residents. We were delighted to be able to welcome seven families at this function. Everyone enjoyed the late afternoon sunshine at the RFS shed and there was a happy buzz amongst those in attendance. Each new family received a gift of a native plant for their garden. We hope that our new residents will enjoy living in our quiet, safe and friendly community. Thanks to all who made the afternoon such a success.

■ Why 17 Mile Hollow?



At last we have our new town signs, but some of you may be wondering about the significance of the by-line *17 Mile Hollow*. This was the original European name for the area, being located 17 miles from Emu Ford, the crossing place on the Nepean River in the early days of the Colony of NSW. Similarly, Bulls Camp was called 18 Mile Hollow, Woodford 20 Mile Hollow and Lawson 24 Mile Hollow.

(Source: "The History of Faulconbridge, Linden and Woodford" by Allan E Searle published by Springwood Historical Society, 1980.)

■ Proposed NSW planning reforms



On 16 April, the NSW Government released its white paper *A New Planning System for NSW* for public feedback by 30 June. The Better Planning Network (BPN), with which the LCA is affiliated, has grave concerns that the planning reforms will not provide adequate protection for our environment. BPN's Corinne Fisher said that:

When the new planning reforms take effect, most development applications will not adequately consider impacts on threatened species, ecological communities & their habitats. With the Government planning to have 80% of development approved within 25 days, most approvals will not consider the impacts of development on people, let alone on our environment - animals, plants & their habitats.

If you have concerns about the implications of the proposed reforms, we encourage you to view the white paper at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/a-new-planning-system-for-nsw. And to find out more about BPN's response to the proposed reforms, refer to betterplanningnetwork.good.do/nsw/email-the-premier-2/.

■ Slowing down traffic in Linden



As reported in the March newsletter, since late 2011 a committee headed by Jon Rickard has been investigating possible ways of slowing down the traffic in Linden. Following unsuccessful dealings with the RMS and Council throughout 2012, Jon and members of his committee met with local member, Roza Sage in late 2012. Roza Sage then wrote to Duncan Gay, the Minister for Roads and Ports, but we are still getting the "party line" response. As some sort of concession, Council recently installed three signs as depicted along Glossop Road. This issue will be discussed at our May meeting, so please come along if you wish to have your say.

■ LCA committee – contact details

President:	Barbara Gow	(ph: 0410 079151) president@lindencitizens.asn.au
Vice-President:	Jeremy Leather	(ph: 4753 1211)
Secretary:	Greg North	(ph: 4753 1197) greg@gregorynorth.com.au
Treasurer:	Philip Moss	(ph. 4753 1214)
Executive Officers:	Robbie Beale	
	Patricia Hall	
	Marilyn Pride	
	Margaret Smith	
	Ian Winchcombe	

A HISTORY OF THE BLUE LABYRINTH

Blue Labyrinth NSW



Bruce Cameron self-published a book in 1992 entitled *A History of the Blue Labyrinth*. At our March meeting this year, Bruce provided us with a fascinating overview of the book, which is now, unfortunately, out-of-print.

Note: The Blue Labyrinth is the south-eastern section of Blue Mountains, as shown in the adjacent map.

Bruce grew up in Glenbrook and, because his best mate's dad was a ranger in the National Park, Bruce got to know the park very well. Historian John Low encouraged Bruce to write this history of the Blue Labyrinth and to include his collection of photos.

Bruce explained how there is a real connection between the landscape and the settlers. 70 million years ago there was a lot of volcanic activity in the area creating a number of volcanic diatremes [diatreme: a volcanic pipe, filled with breccia, formed by a subterranean gaseous explosion] – St Helena, Euroka, Sun Valley, Toby's Glen, Murphy's Glen and several others that are unnamed.

Both the local Aboriginals and white settlers were attracted to these volcanic areas which produced open grasslands, caves around the rims, water and the raw materials for making stone tools. Eugene Stockton has found evidence of Aboriginal occupation from at least 40,000 years ago. Stone implements can still be found throughout the area. There are 600-700 recorded Aboriginal sites from Wentworth Falls to Glenbrook and Warragamba. Red Hands Cave is just one. White travellers would have camped with Aboriginals in shelters, particularly around Springwood.

Aboriginal occupation continued well after white settlement in the general area of the Blue Labyrinth. Aboriginal tools and implements made from glass are evidence of this.

Stone piles similar to the original Caley's Repulse are found throughout the Blue Labyrinth.

In 1826 Sir Francis Forbes, the first Chief Justice of NSW, acquired Euroka Valley. Euroka is an Aboriginal word for sun and warmth and is one of the first Aboriginal names to be used in the Blue Mountains. Wheat, vegetables, fruit, cattle and sheep were farmed in the area. Also, horses were bred for the Boer War for the likes of Breaker Mordant. Euroka was mined for coal and diamonds and other precious stones. The area has been in constant use and attractive to a wide range of people. Euroka had a succession of owners, the last being Alfred Edward Bennett, after whom Bennett's Ridge was named. Bennett blasted and cut a track from the Nepean River to Euroka.

The Circles, a spot along the Oaks Fire Trail has an Aboriginal rock engraving of big concentric circles. The wheel on the Oaks Fire Trail is a place where several ridges join (like the spokes of a wheel). A wheel is bolted to a tree to mark the spot and as a guide post/marker for what can be a confusing place for navigation. There are large rock platforms with post holes cut that were used to make a fence behind the Weemala property in Linden.

In concluding his talk, Bruce stated that, although the Blue Labyrinth looks like virgin bush, there has been a lot of activity throughout the area over a very long period of time. The attractions of the volcanic diatremes in the Blue Labyrinth have supported aboriginal people over many thousands of years and also Europeans as both farmers and bushwalkers. It is a fascinating place with amazing stories. We live in a very special, under-rated area. There's never enough time to know the country that is on our doorstep.

President Barbara thanked Bruce for his presentation and welcomed the idea of him returning to a future meeting with slides of the area and its amazing points of interest. Those who attended enjoyed Bruce's talk very much and we thank him for giving his time so generously.