

1. 84-FOOT LOOKOUT¹

Location: About 130m WNW of the second Hassans Walls Lookout[#] shelter shed, which is near the council communications tower. Hartley topographic (topo) map 8930-4N, Grid Reference (GR) 352 882.

Reason for name: From the length of the fence. Looking close up at this lookout for the first time in September 2016 the question was asked, "Does it have a name?" I didn't know of any name and the only distinguishing factor is the length of the fence which, by measuring one panel and multiplying, seems to be about 84 feet long (25.6m). Hence the name given by the Author and Brian Fox. (On another visit I took a long tape and measured 77ft plus small sections at either end that eluded the tape, so the 84ft seems right.)

Description: "A start will be made next week on the fencing of about 84ft. of a new look-out" (*Mercury*, 17 May 1935). An earlier reference had said "It was decided to erect a safety fence extending for 100 feet along a new look-out on the eastern [western] side of the shelter shed. The view from here is described as one of the best obtainable" (*Mercury*, 17 Apr 1935). See *Figure 1*. There is no lookout on the eastern side of the shelter sheds.

References: *Lithgow Mercury*, 17 Apr 1935, p2, column (col) 1; 17 May 1935, p4, col 5.

2. ANZAC RIDGE

Location: A ridge (spur) extending south from King Georges Head[#]. Hartley topo map, GR 354 878 to 353 875, approximately 1050m elevation.

Reason for name: "He [Padley] intended starting a new track in Hassan's Glen[#] from Cook's Cave[#] to King George's Head rock, and the ridge. ... It was resolved ... the ridge will be known as Anzac Ridge in the future" (*Mercury*, 10 Sep 1915). "The other day the P.A. [Lithgow Progress Association] started making a new track from Cook Cave, Hassan's Glen, to King George's Head Rock, and thence to a small ridge overlooking the Bathurst-road, which was recently named Anzac Ridge" (*Mercury*, 1 Oct 1915).

"The new track from Hassan's Glen to King George's Head Rock and Anzac Ridge, was formally opened on Saturday afternoon by Mr. George Langlands, president of the Progress Association. ... Anzac Ridge was named as a memorial to our boys at the front. ... During the tour of the track Piper Macarthur gave selections on his bagpipes" (*Mercury*, 3 Nov 1915).

At a meeting of the Lithgow Progress Association (LPA) on 3 April 1917, James Padley proposed for "a marble slab to be affixed to a rock in a prominent part, with the following inscription thereon." See *Figure 3*. The mason wanted the wording reduced. Padley wouldn't do this so it was left "in abeyance" (LPA Minutes, p97). Some time later the idea was raised again: "The president suggested that the association reserve funds for the purpose of erecting a tablet on Anzac Ridge (Hassan's Walls reserve) as a memorial of the great war. The matter was discussed and the president was asked to secure an estimate of the cost" (*Mercury*, 7 Feb 1919). I have not found any references or evidence to show that the tablet/plaque was installed.

Description: To the south of King Georges Head there are a few smaller rock formations and then an earthy ridge about 250 metres long, ending at another rocky outcrop. See *Figure 2*.

Jim Smith's 1990 list: "Anzac landing at Gallipoli 1915."

Author's comments: Anzac Ridge is the ridge or spur that extends south from King Georges Head. Not as indicated on Jim Smith's 1990 map or in some mid-1930s newspaper references which have it as the main rocky clifftop area which contains Padleys Pedestal[#] Trig Station. (See *Mercury*, 24 Apr 1936, p2, col 3; 11 May 1936, p1 col 3; 2 Aug 1937, p2, col 1.) All the early descriptions (1915-18) have Anzac Ridge accessed by the track from Hassans Glen to King Georges Head and then it is the ridge beyond (south of) the Head.



Figure 1: 84-Foot Lookout¹ with Great Western Highway Forty Bends roadworks below.

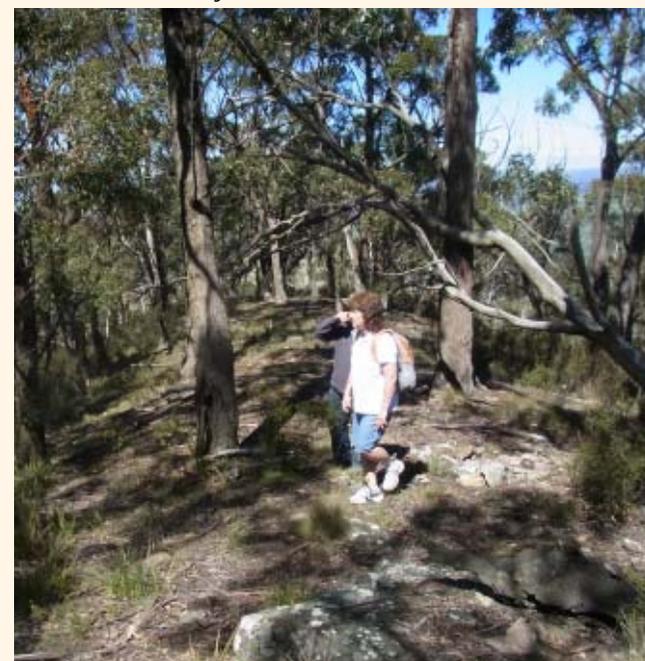


Figure 2: Anzac Ridge looking south with Patsy Moppett and Ian Campbell (partly obscured by Patsy).

This portion of Hassan's Walls
having received the name of
Anzac Ridge
This tablet was erected on
..... 1917
to commemorate
The Heroic Deeds of the Australian & New Zealand
Army Corps, on the occasion of
the landing at Anzac Beach, Dardanelles,
on April 25th, 1915
"Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die" (Tennyson)
Erected by the Lithgow Progress Association

Figure 3: James Padley's proposed wording of Anzac Ridge commemorative tablet, 3 April 1917. Lithgow Progress Association, Minute Book 1916-29, p97. Courtesy Lithgow & District Family History Society (LDFHS).

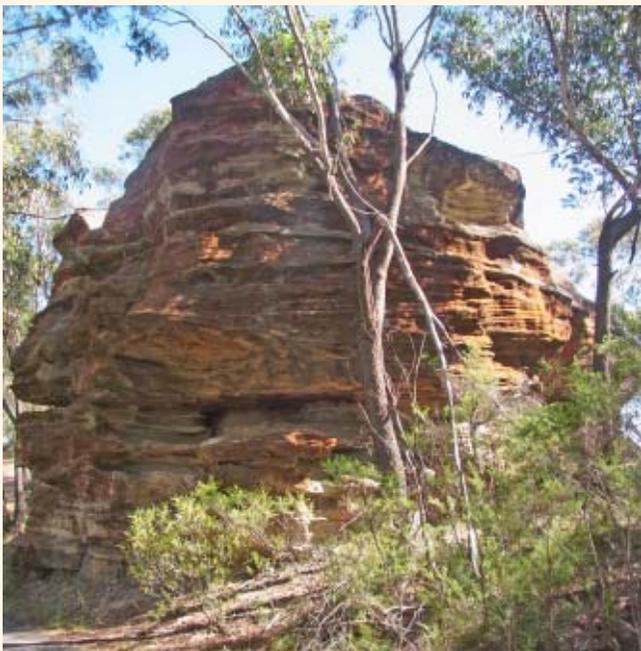


Figure 4: I think this rock could be Apex Lookout.

Approval to use the name "Anzac": "The Minister for Defence states that the use of the word 'Anzac' except for military purposes is illegal" (*Mercury*, 25 Aug 1916, p6 col 4; also *Democrat*, 17 Jun 1916, p1, col 1). "Padley ... had written to the Minister in regard to the use of the word Anzac — as a ridge had been so named — but had not yet received a reply" (*Mercury*, 8 Sep 1916, p6, col 5). "Permission was given by the Attorney General to use the name Anzac to a beautiful short Mountain Ridge opened to the public, overlooking the Bathurst road" (LPA Minutes, p126, Annual Report 1917).

Piper Macarthur was Alex Macarthur whose father Norman "took much interest in the local Caledonian Society, and was founder of the pipe band which was popular in the district a few years ago" (*Mercury*, 13 Jun 1917, p2, col 2; also 12 Nov 1915, p6, col 3).

References: *Mercury*, 10 Sep 1915, p6, col 1; 1 Oct 1915, p6, col 3; 8 Oct 1915, p6, col 1,2; 3 Nov 1915, p1, col 3; *The Democrat*, 9 Oct 1915, p13, col 2-4; 7 Feb 1919, p6, col 5; Lithgow Progress Association (LPA) Minutes 1916-29, p97.

3. APEX LOOKOUT

Location: The reference in the *Mercury* on 6 July 1953 (see "Description" below) suggests that Apex Lookout is higher up the ridge than Bracey Lookout#. Possibly GR 364 909 (Lithgow topographic map, 8931-3S) which is a big rock (1081m) on the eastern side of the road, about 100m up the hill from Bracey Lookout. *Figure 4*.

Reason for name: The Apex Club of Lithgow developed the area in 1952-53.

Description: "During the week-end, under the supervision of Mr. Glen Edgar, a working bee formed a track, from the Apex Lookout, the furthest point which could be previously reached by vehicles, to Bracey's Lookout so that material could be taken to the proposed site of the lookout shelter shed" (*Mercury*, 6 Jul 1953).

I think the Apex Lookout may have been the spot where road construction had stopped. About 70m before the rock mentioned in "Location", the bulldozed line appears to go straight ahead while the road veers left. The bulldozed line finishes to the east of the rock.

Author's comments: The following paragraphs explain the first steps in the 1950s opening up of this area. The description of the views is correct as from the top of the rock they would have been clearly seen with less trees.

"A new road which will enhance Lithgow's tourist attractions is being built by the Hassans Walls and Zig-Zag Trusts. It is a mile in length linking the Hassans Walls Gap-road circuit with the mountain south of Lithgow and on which stands Radio Station 2LG's wireless mast. Already, the ground has been bulldozed through and plans have been made to surface it. A rock escarpment unfortunately prevents the road from being built through to the wireless mast, but at its present termination a fine panorama of the Factory, Extension Estate and the Bowenfels area is presented on one side of the ridge. On the other side, the tourist can view the eastern part of the city.

"Apexians To Assist A bush track has existed for many years on the side of the range—which could have been developed more easily—but the president of the Trust and of the Historical Society (Mr. E. Bracey) had observed that many old convict roads had been constructed on the tops of ridges to prevent their erosion. Because of this, it was wisely decided to construct the new road on this anti-erosion principle. Later this month on Sunday, October 26, Lithgow Apexians will assist members of the Trust to construct a bridle track and clear the look-outs on the last stages of the journey—about 600 yards" (*Mercury*, 13 Oct 1952, p2, col 1,2).

Glen Edgar was appointed as a member of the Hassans Walls and Zig-Zag Trust in 1953 — "Mr. Glen Edgar, who has already taken a practical interest in the trust, was selected unanimously as a new member to

replace Mr. Gauchet" (*Mercury*, 29 Jul 1953, p6, col 2). (See also *NSW Government Gazette*, 23 Oct 1953, p3524). (See *Mercury*, 10 Nov 1949, p4, col 4; and 14 May 1952, p6, col 1 for information on Mr. Gauchet.)
References: *Mercury*, 6 Jul 1953, p2, col 1,2.

4. APEX POINT

Location: Below Bracey Lookout# overlooking Lithgow town. See *Figure 5*. Lithgow topo map, GR 364 912, 250m NNE of Bracey Lookout. (But Ian Rufus suggests it may have been where the ABC radio tower is now located.)

Reason for name: Lithgow Apex Club members worked voluntarily to develop nearby Bracey Lookout in 1952-53. "During the year it had ... assisted Hassans Walls Trust in constructing Bracey Look-out and Apex Point" (*Mercury*, 24 Aug 1954).

Description: "A preliminary survey, conducted by a team of five members of Lithgow Apex, on Saturday pegged out portion of a proposed easy access route from the junction of Bridge and Esk streets, around Apex Point, to Bracey Lookout and Hassans Walls Lookout#" (*Mercury*, 7 Jul 1954). "The Apex team, which included a fully-qualified surveyor, is at present pegging out an easy access route around the point below Bracey Lookout" (*Mercury*, 7 Jul 1954). These references suggest Apex Point is below Bracey Lookout.

Author's comments: A rough track can be seen going down the slope from Bracey Lookout to Apex Point. A "pass" through the rocks leads to a track that connects with Eskbank Track.

References: *Mercury*, 28 Oct 1952, p2, col 2,3; 7 Jul 1954, p3, col 3; 24 Aug 1954, p2, col 7,8; 8 Oct 1954, p4, col 5,6.

5. BRACEY* TRIG STATION

Location: Located 300m northwest of Bracey Lookout#. Lithgow topo map, GR 361 911, 1021m elevation. It is located on the side of the hill not far below the broadcast transmitter tower.

Reason for name: The name comes from nearby Bracey Lookout which was named after Major H. E. S. Bracey. Name assigned by Geographical Names Board (GNB), 29 July 1977.

The person behind the name: Horace Edward Seymour Bracey (1852-1928), Hassans Walls Trustee 1892-98. See *Figure 10* for a copy of the original document appointing Bracey to the Trust. In 1905 he was appointed "Captain and Honorary Major", "Reserve of officers, 3rd Australian Infantry Regiment". He commanded the E Company at Lithgow (*Mercury*, 18 Aug 1905, p6, col 5).

Description: "A trig station about 1 km SSE of Lithgow Railway Station and about 1km ENE of Pottery Estate" (GNB). TS 10312. The trig station consists of a steel pillar 1.28m high, placed by the Lands Department on 13 December 1976. *Figure 6*.

References: Lands Department SCIMS (Survey Control Information Management System) Survey Mark Report; Geographical Names Register (http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/place_naming/placename_search).

6. BRACEYS LOOKOUT (1915)

Alternate names: *Braceys Rock* (*Democrat*, 13 Nov 1915, p13, col 1).

Location: Braceys Lookout (1915) is on top of a large rock just down from the head of Hassans Glen# and on the eastern side. Hartley topo map, GR 355 883, 1119m elevation.

Reason for name: "This fine attraction has been named Bracey's Lookout, in recognition of the services to the town of Major Bracey, who has been identified prominently with local public matters for several years" (*Mercury*, 14 May 1915).



Figure 5: I believe this is Apex Point. There is a good view of the Greyhound track, Eskbank House, and State Mine Gully from the rock in the centre of photo.



Figure 6: Bracey Trig Station steel pillar.



Figure 7: View from top of Bracey's Lookout (1915).
Finnigans Point[#] at left, Natural Throne[#] at right on lookout.

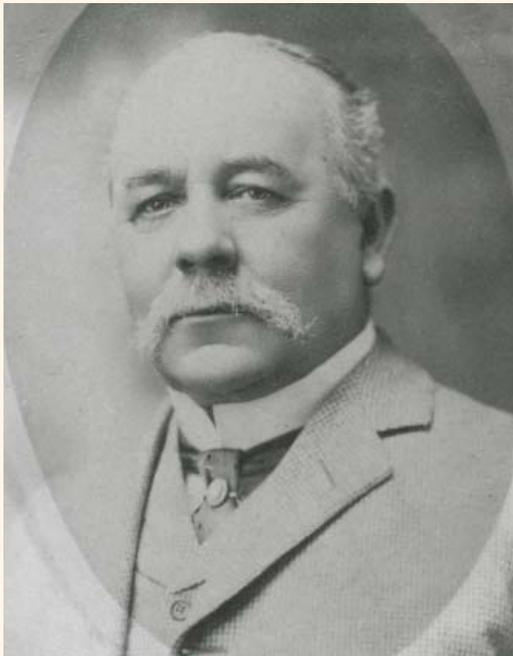


Figure 8: Major Horace Edward Seymour Bracey.
Courtesy Lithgow Library Local Studies.

The person behind the name: In 1886 Horace Bracey (*Figure 8*) established a retail business in Main Street, Lithgow, which developed into a major department store and traded until 2007. Major Bracey served as Mayor of Lithgow 1895-96, 1903, 1906, 1910. He died in 1928 at the age of 76 (*Mercury*, 24 Aug 1928, p4, col 3,4.)

Description: "A branch track has been made to the back of this rock, which is easily accessible and having an even flat surface on the top can accommodate hundreds of persons comfortably" (*Mercury*, 14 May 1915). *Figure 7*.

Author's comments: Sandford Cave[#] is underneath the southwestern side of the Bracey's Lookout rock and Pillans Lookout[#] is on a ledge to the east. The Natural Throne[#] is located on the top southeast corner. No steps have been carved in the rock. I think the "branch track" mentioned above had stone steps from Sandford Cave.

References: *Mercury*, 14 May 1915, p4, col 3; 26 Aug 1935, p6, col 3-5 (with four photos including one of Bracey's Lookout); 8 Nov 1935, p4, col 2; *Democrat*, 13 Nov 1915, p13, col 1.

7. BRACEY LOOKOUT (1952)

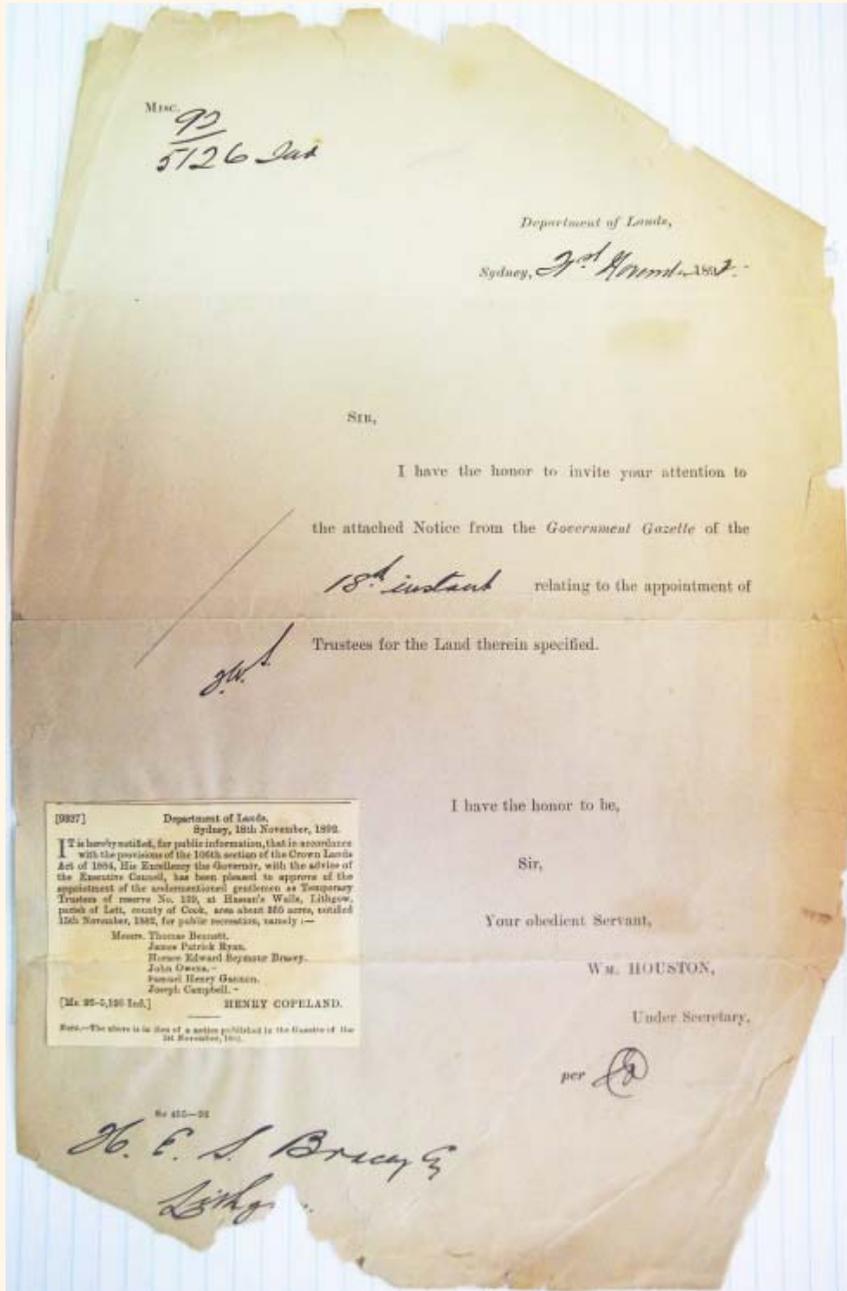
Location: Lithgow topo map, GR 363 910, 1075m elevation. Access by foot up the Eskbank Track[#] from Lithgow town or by road via Hassans Walls Road[#] and Norman Henry Drive[#].

Reason for name: In 1952 the Apex Club developed "Bracey's Lookout, as a tribute to the late Mr. H. E. S. Bracey, whose works as a pioneer of Lithgow should carry a mark of perpetual remembrance" (*Mercury*, 28 Oct 1952). "Provision of a weather-shed at Bracey's Lookout — on the rocky mountain spur overlooking the Lithgow hospital — is to be made by the Hassans Walls and Zig-zag Trust. ... Mr. Eric Bracey informed the meeting that, taking into consideration the fact he considered his father, the late Major Bracey, had been complimented and recognised in naming the lookout, he would agree to pay any difference which might occur between the estimated and actual costs of constructing the weather shed" (*Mercury*, 29 Jul 1953).

The person behind the name: "The Bracey family maintained a longstanding connection with the Hassans Walls Reserve Trust[#]. Family patron Eric Bracey guided much of the work of the Trust during the 1930s and 1940s and was followed by his son John in 1950. In 1953 John Bracey led the design and construction of a lookout that provided panoramic views of the Lithgow Valley. The lookout was constructed by volunteers, including John and other members of the Trust. The place was named Bracey Lookout in recognition of the role of the family in managing and developing the Hassans Walls Reserve, and also their greater contribution to the town of Lithgow" (Sign at Bracey Lookout, Lithgow City Council, Nov 2012). The sign omits Horace Bracey after whom the lookout is actually named! Three generations of Bracey's served as Trustees: Horace Edward Seymour, Trustee 1892-98 (see *Figure 9* for appointment letter); Eric Oswald, Trustee 1940-61; John Eric, Trustee 1953-69.

Description: Overlooks Lithgow town. Bracey Lookout was redeveloped by Lithgow City Council to a design by Ian Rufus of Hillcrest (see *Figure 11*) and rededicated in September 2012 with several members of the Bracey family in attendance.

"Plans are in hand for the establishment of a reinforced 'vandal-proof' shelter shed at Bracey's Lookout" (*Mercury*, 6 Jul 1953). "To the Editor, Sir, — When Mr. Watts, the Lithgow City Council health inspector, designed the shelter shed at Bracey Lookout every one thought he had created something which would outlive the pyramids. However, the pyramids had the advantage of not being constructed in Lithgow where, apparently, the moronic influence is strong. Latest destructive effort was to carry large stones, some weighing up to a hundred-weight each, pile them around a central concrete pillar in the form of a huge oven and set a fire going therein. ...



Left — Figure 9: The 1892 letter notifying Horace Bracey of his appointment as a Trustee of Hassans Walls Reserve.

Courtesy Lithgow & District Family History Society.

Right — Figure 10: The 1950s “vandal-proof” Bracey Lookout shelter shed photographed in December 2005. It was demolished in 2008.

Below — Figure 11: Bracey Lookout after redevelopment in 2012.

Bottom Inset — Figure 12: The nameplate from the 1950s shelter shed has been mounted on a rock near the lookout.





Figure 13: Thomas Brown.

Courtesy Lithgow & District Family History Society.



Figure 14: Two cyclists on The Gap Road, Lithgow, New South Wales, ca. 1903. Photo by Austin Cockerton.

Courtesy National Library of Australia.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-138115246>

— Yours etc., 'CIVIC MINDED'" (*Mercury*, 25 Jun 1954). This solid concrete shelter shed from the 1950s (*Figure 10*) is gone now but the name plate from it has been preserved on a nearby boulder (*Figure 12*).

Jim Smith's 1990 list: "Three generations of the Bracey family served as trustees. Horace Bracey in the 1890s, was also Mayor of Lithgow, Eric Oswald Bracey after whom the lookout is named, from 1940 and John Bracey from 1953." Author's note: The lookout is named after Horace, not Eric.

References: *Lithgow Mercury*, 28 Oct 1952, p2, col 2,3; 6 Jul 1953, p2, col 1,2; 29 Jul 1953, p6, col 2,3; 25 Jun 1954, p5, col 6.

8. BROWNS GAP*

Alternate names: *The Gap*, *Gnallwarra* (Aboriginal); *Brown's Pass* (Rebecca Martens, painting, April 1881, State Library NSW, call #DL PX 40).

Location: 3km south of Chifley Road via Hartley Vale Road through Vale of Clwydd and 8.5km northwest of the Great Western Highway at Little Hartley via Browns Gap Road. Hartley topo map, GR 372 896, approx. 1000m elevation. See *Figure 14* for how the road looked in the early 1900s.

Reason for name: "... Mr. Thomas Brown, of the then 'Eskbank House.' Mr. Brown was police magistrate and land commissioner for the district of Hartley at that period, and used to ride down a bridle track in the vicinity of the present road over the Gap on his way to and from the courthouse at Hartley; hence the pass is known as Brown's Gap" (*Mercury*, 9 Jun 1916).

Description: "A way through the mountains S of Lithgow giving access by a road between Lithgow and Hartley" (GNB). Name assigned by GNB, 27 Feb 1970. An item in the *Mercury* in 1931 said the Aboriginal name for Browns Gap was "Gnallwarra" (9 Nov 1931, p4, col 5). Also see *The Sun*, 16 Apr 1913, p5, col 3,4.

The person behind the name: Thomas Brown (*Figure 13*) was one of the first settlers in the Lithgow Valley. He built Eskbank House. Thomas was not related to Andrew Brown of Coerwull.

"Thomas Brown and his wife Mary Maxwell took up approximately 400 acres in the Lithgow Valley around 1835. The property was named Eskbank after the river Esk in Scotland. Brown was appointed as the Magistrate at the Courthouse at Hartley. He was also appointed to represent the district on the Legislative Assembly in 1872. After the death of Mary in 1878, Brown remained at Eskbank until 1884 [when] he returned to Sydney, dying in 1889" (http://www.lithgow-tourism.com/history/partb_2.htm).

References: Some early references on *Trove* from 1863 and 1865 — *NSW Government Gazette*, 24 Feb 1863, p478; and *Empire*, 20 Apr 1865, p7, col 2; *Mercury*, 17 Jun 1898, p4, col 2; 12 Jan 1900, p6, col 2; 9 Jun 1916, p6, col 2; Geographical Names Register (http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/place_naming/placename_search).

9. BROWNS GAP TRACK

Location: This was a walking track from near Hassans Walls Lookout[#] to Browns Gap[#]. "Early in the year we also made a six-foot track from the Centenary Pavilion[#], a distance of about one and a half mile, connecting with Brown's Gap and Wilton's Ridge[#], another return track from Lithgow" (*Democrat*, 9 Oct 1915). Four sections of the track formation have been found — near Parkers Grotto[#], near Second Lookout[#] and near Browns Gap[#].

Reason for name: "This track named the Brown's Gap track ..." (*Democrat*, 9 Oct 1915).

Description: See Location section, plus: "This opened up a beautiful walk at a high elevation, with fine panoramic scenery all the way" (*Democrat*, 9 Oct 1915).