

GLENELLA & BLACKHEATH

Wayne Hanley

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Stories of a Stately House, its People and its Town



## Wayne Hanley



### The Author

Born, raised and educated in the south of New Zealand, Wayne studied at the University of Otago, Dunedin, graduating with a Master of Arts with Honours in Historical Geography, before moving north to Christchurch to qualify as a secondary teacher with a Diploma of Education.

At the end of 1972 he accepted a teaching position in Australia at the University of New England, Armidale NSW and, with his wife Julia, began what was to be a three year stay in a new land but in fact became the focus of his life and family across the years since then.

He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by UNE in 1978 and left the academic world a few years later to pursue a quite different career in management and building services design in the construction industry in Sydney.

Retiring to Blackheath in the Blue Mountains at the end of 2010 to renovate an old house and formal garden he found time to involve himself with a number of community organisations, becoming the President of the Blue Mountains Historical Society for three years and is currently the archivist for the Rhododendron Society and Gardens at Blackheath. During the last few years he has indulged his passion for bringing people and places together through researching and writing local history.





**Margaret & Rowan Bouttell**

Margaret and Rowan, originally from South Africa, purchased Glenella in 2014. They both left their professional careers which had taken them from Johannesburg to Silicon Valley California and then onto Sydney. After 10 enjoyable years in suburban Sydney, they looked for a “tree-change” and an opportunity to start a new venture together.

Cycling the Camino de Santiago pilgrim route in Northern Spain in 2013 inspired them to look for a property where they could offer the hospitality and warmth they encountered along the Camino. A place where like-minded people could gather and share walking and cycling adventures.

Glenella in Blackheath proved to be the perfect property and “renovators dream”. Respecting the property’s heritage, Margaret and Rowan have carefully renovated and evolved Glenella from a formal B&B to a unique holiday house which offers large groups the opportunity to gather and socialise.

Margaret and Rowan see themselves as current caretakers of Glenella, contributing to its legacy as the Grand Dame of Blackheath.



The original owners, George and Elizabeth Phillips

This story of a guesthouse ‘Glenella’, defines it as a physical entity and describes both the building and its people, telling how they have changed as time has passed. It is impossible to tell Glenella’s story by considering only the building itself. To deny the influence of its people, as the catalyst for the changes which created and altered its character, would be to ignore the true substance of its life and impact on the social history of Blackheath.

