

Submission
No 91

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Organisation: Harden-Murrumburrah Historical Society

Date received: 12 August 2016

The Harden-Murrumburrah Historical Society has heard of plans to close the Powerhouse Museum & to move the exhibits to a new museum at Parramatta. Our society is opposing these plans. As you know the Museum holds the Bleriot aircraft of Maurice Guillaux, which is very important in our history also. We played a big part in the original airmail flight from Melbourne to Sydney in 1914 & had over a third of our district population involved in the 2014 re-enactment. Maurice Guillaux was the first aircraft to visit Harden, where he had a 2 night stay in 1914 due to bad weather conditions. A circle of stones in the grounds of the Murrumburrah High School marks the spot where his aircraft landed. This is the only contemporary monument to his visit to Australia. We believe that the Bleriot should stay in the present historic building where it has been on display since the museum opened. The Bleriot was assembled near the museum & made its first flights in Australia from Victoria Park close to the museum. It was acquired by the Museum of Arts & Sciences in about 1940 & has been on display in the Powerhouse Museum since it was built.