

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 448 March 2013

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ARCHIVES: Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.

OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.
Library collection contains reference books, journals and newsletters of other societies.

MUSEUM : Market Place, BERRIMA. Tel: 02 4877 1130 Email: berrimamuseum@bigpond.com OPEN: Saturdays, Sundays, NSW Public and School Holidays (except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day) 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

MEMBERSHIP: Any person wanting to join the Society may do so at any stage during the year by completing a form and paying the appropriate fee. Joining Fee \$10.00 - Single \$20.00 - Family \$33.00.

AFFILIATIONS: Royal Australian Historical Society, NSW Association of Family History Societies, Museums Australia Inc & Regional Chapter.

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

MARCH MEETING: **Thursday 28 March 2013 at 2pm**
VENUE: Henrietta Rose Room, Old Bowral Town Hall (Bowral Library)
 Bendooley Street, Bowral

GUEST SPEAKER: Roxanne Seaward
 Local Studies Librarian, Roxanne Seaward, will provide us with a talk about the local studies collection, followed by a tour of the Local Studies Room, located upstairs in the old Bowral Town Hall.

AFTERNOON TEA: To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

Inside this month ...

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And more ...

APRIL MEETING: **Thursday 25 April 2013**
No Meeting due to Anzac Day



Diary dates

MARCH

- 14 Management Committee Meeting
- 28 General Monthly Meeting

APRIL

- 12 **Tour** - self-drive of Sutton Forest
- 12 School holidays commence
- 11 Management Committee Meeting
- 25 **ANZAC DAY - No** General Monthly Meeting
- 29 School holidays conclude

MAY

- 9 Management Committee Meeting
- 12 Mother's Day
- 23 General Monthly Meeting

From the President's desk

Bruce Moore

In January, I attended the Mayoral opening of Bowral Library's 'new' archive which now contains old rate books, records of infectious diseases etc. The Archive is situated above the old Town Hall, next door to the Library and is efficiently run by Roxanne Seaward. We are lucky enough to secure Roxanne as our next guest speaker and guide for our March meeting which will be held on Thursday the 28th at 2pm (see ad in this newsletter.)

We got off to a flying start in February, beginning with both the Museum sub-committee and Management Committee meetings offering new ideas and suggestions which will keep us busy all year. There will be at least 3 major books published by members this year. So watch this space!

Our meeting on Feb. 28th was again a hit as Max Rogers (researcher) and Linda Emery (archivist) gave us a fascinating power point production of their infamous "Max & Linda Show". Snippets of information were gleaned from the audience who recognized some familiar faces and places. Their segment of Where Are They Now drew some intriguing results.

New volunteers and new members have also appeared out of the ether and we hope they are made to feel most welcome. There is always a job

for you. At our last working 'bee' in January we gave the archives a spring clean and it's never looked tidier. My task was to wash the windows and although that sounds boring (a word we're never allowed to use in our family) there was always something interesting to look at.

This reminds me, in Canada there is a favourite joke:

Why do they give Newfoundland window cleaners only a half-hour lunch break?

Because it takes too long to retrain them.

Management committee news

Secretary's summary of meetings December 2012 & January 2013:

Speakers have been organised for meetings during 2013 and details are listed on our website. As the April General Meeting falls on Anzac Day, no meeting will be held that month.

Our website has been upgraded recently with a fresh appearance and new features – take a look!

REPORTS

Archives: A new digital scanner has been purchased with grant funds received from Wingecarribee Shire Council. The Committee was advised that the NSW Government is providing funds to the State Library for the digitising of regional newspapers including *The Scrutineer* and *Bowral Free Press* up to 1948.

Museum:

- A Museums & Galleries grant of \$915.00 was received towards the cost of installing new efficient lighting for museum displays.
- Wingecarribee Shire Council's Mark Pepping has indicated in favour of the proposed heritage walk along the river at Berrima. A Working Group will be set up by our Museum Sub-committee to involve other local groups and proceed with the matter.
- WS Council advised that the old Moss Vale water pump will not be moved to Berrima.
- After the Dawn Service on Anzac Day at Berrima, the museum will be open to serve tea, coffee and light refreshments as usual.

Our Tours Officer Ros Dale has organised a self-drive tour to three historic properties near Berrima for Friday 12 April, commencing at 09.30am. The properties are St Patrick's Church at Sutton Forest, Black Horse Farm and Eling Forest Winery. Linda Emery will provide historical commentary and a sumptuous morning tea will be provided. Cost is \$10. As the tour will finish at Eling Forest, anyone wishing to enjoy lunch there is welcome to do so. Please phone the Archives to book for the tour.

New members

Welcome to:

Mr Rodney **Cavalier**, Bowral
Mrs Fay **Cooke**, Moss Vale
Mrs Mary **Condon**, Bundanoon
Mr Lawrence **Franklin**, Bowral
Mr Andrew **Kennard**, Castle Hill
Kim **Hamilton**, Tahmoor
Mr Alan **Holland**, Sutherland
Ms Sandy **Mackenzie**, Bundanoon
Mr Robert **McLaren**, Moss Vale
Ms Bev **Morgan**, Aspley, Qld
Ms Judith **Paterson**, Sippy Downs, Qld
Mrs Wendy **Simmonds**, Burradool
Mrs Cheryl **Stokes**, Ulladulla

Newsletter

Newsletter Deadline is **25th** of every month. It may be necessary to hold submissions after this date till the following month.

Research fees

Research fees for non-members:

\$15.00 per hour or part thereof for telephone and postal enquiries.

\$5.00 per hour or part thereof for enquirers who attend the archives and carry out their own research.

Archives opening hours

Opening hours are as follows:

Monday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

March meeting at Bowral Library

The March General Meeting will be conducted in the Bowral Library's Henrietta Rose Room, Old Bowral Town Hall on Thursday, 28 March at 2:00pm.



Local Studies Librarian Roxanne Seaward will provide us with a talk about the collection, followed by a tour of the Local Studies Room, located upstairs in the old Bowral Town Hall.

This is an opportunity for members to become familiar with the extensive local historical holdings available at the library. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Members who require transport and any visitors who would like to attend need to contact us at the Archives prior to the day.

The Local Studies Room was previously housed within the main Bowral Library however as part of its refurbishment in 2008, it was decided to relocate the collection into the historic Town Hall building (shown below). The new facility is for history researchers or those wanting to find out particulars of the Highlands or matters such as council records.

The Local Studies Room is open two afternoons a week, Tuesday and Thursday from 2pm to 4pm.

Oral History in the Digital Age

Shoalhaven Regional Workshop Capturing Memories - Oral History in the Digital Age

The Oral History Association NSW is offering a one-day workshop on Oral History theory and practice at Bomaderry (Nowra) on Saturday 13 April. It is suitable for beginners and those who have oral history interview experience.

Attendance by a range of participants is anticipated, from people doing their own research to those associated with regional museums and historical societies, and members of our Society are cordially invited to attend.

Places are limited, so early registration is advisable. A list of topics, further details and an application form may be obtained from the website www.oaansw.org.au or by contacting francis.good1@bigpond.com or our Secretary.

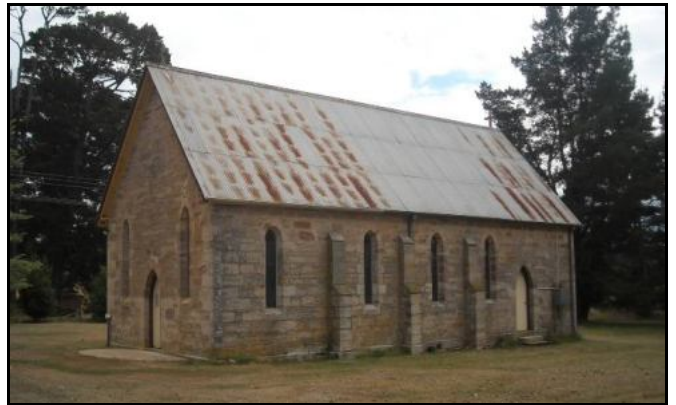
Self-drive tour to historic properties

The Society is conducting a self-drive tour to three historic properties near Berrima, scheduled for Friday 12 April.

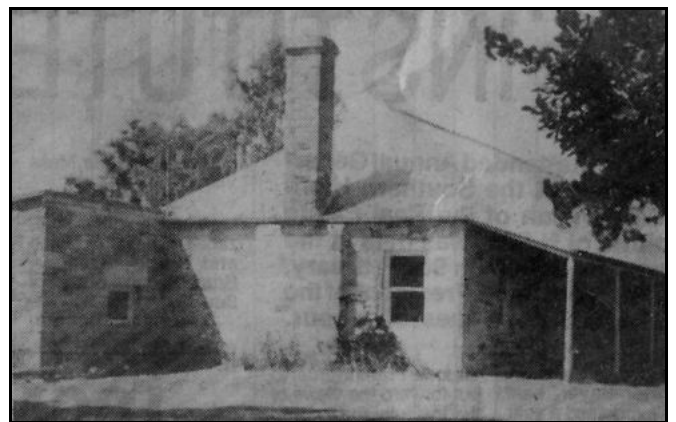
The tour will commence at 09:30am at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Sutton Forest and then move on to Black Horse Farm where a sumptuous morning tea will be provided. After that will be an inspection of Eling Forest homestead at the winery. Linda Emery will provide a commentary on the historical significance of each of the properties.

Tour cost is \$10. Please phone the Archives to book and to make car-share arrangements.

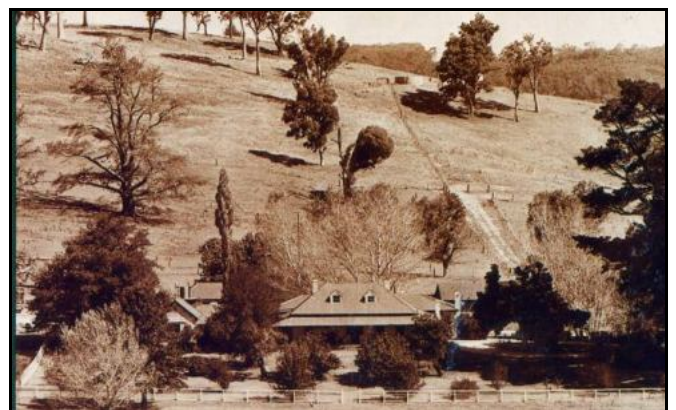
As the tour will finish at Eling Forest Winery, you are most welcome to stay and enjoy lunch there.



St Patrick's Church at Sutton Forest



The Black Horse Inn lodgings (above) and stables were built in 1832 and restored by Cecile Dalton in the 1980s.



Eling Forest property was established in 1835 by John Morrice and the homestead built in 1840.

Fitzroy Falls, a history to behold

Compiled by Philip Morton from sources including
Pictorial History Southern Highlands by Linda Emery

Prior to European settlement, the Fitzroy Falls locality was a known site and meeting place on the pathways travelled by various Aboriginal groups including the Dharawal, Wodi Wodi and Gundungarra people.

Now one of the main attractions within Morton National Park, the spectacular waterfalls at Fitzroy Falls occur where the Yarrunga Creek descends an 80-metre escarpment into the gorge below, creating three distinct falls, and then flows on towards the Kangaroo River.

Folklore has it that only once have the Falls been known to dry up. What is definitely known is that the flow of water over the falls was much more massive and irregular prior to the construction, upstream, of the Fitzroy Falls Reservoir.

This reservoir, completed in 1974, is located on Yarrunga Creek and forms part of the Shoalhaven Scheme that provides backup water to the Sydney supply. Water from Tallowa Dam in Kangaroo Valley is pumped up to Wingecaribee Reservoir in stages and then fed down waterways to Warragamba and Nepean dams.

The earliest white visitors to the locality were the members of an exploration party led by surgeon, settler and explorer Dr Charles Throsby. They camped on the banks of 'Yarranghaa' Creek in March 1818 .

In an attempt to find an inland route to Jervis Bay on the coast, an expedition led by Surveyor James Meehan had set out from Sydney earlier that month but were unable to find a way through the rugged Shoalhaven Gorges. The party divided and Throsby took charge of a smaller group that headed back to the north-east along the Bundanoon Valley and, with the help of Aboriginal guides, came to Meryla Pass that led them down into the Yarrunga Valley.

Throsby noted in his journal on 30 March that he set out to look at the creek towards its source, his Aboriginal guides almost certainly having told him of the existence of waterfalls upstream. It seems however on this first occasion he did not sight the outstanding natural feature.

Before long Throsby had traversed the entire area and in 1819 the Yarrunga Creek district, including the falls, was granted to him, and for many years the falls remained part of the Throsby estate. Visitors were immediately taken to view the breathtaking beauty of this rugged wilderness and the spectacular nature of the waterfalls soon became well known.

The artist Conrad Martens, who arrived in the colony in 1835, was commissioned the following year by Charles Throsby Jnr to do a painting of the new homestead at Throsby Park, Bong Bong. This Charles was the nephew of Dr Charles from whom he had inherited the property.

Martens was born in London in 1801, his father being of German descent. Conrad was taken on as artist for a time on the *Beagle's* second voyage with Charles Darwin as botanist, and then made for Sydney where he became fascinated with the views of the harbour and the Australian landscape. He remained for the rest of his life, and gained recognition as the most prominent of colonial artists.

During his stay at Throsby Park, Martens was taken to the waterfalls and he made a preliminary sketch titled 'Fall of the Quarrooilli'. This work is now held in the State Library of NSW collection.



He returned to Sydney and completed a watercolour painting 'The Falls of Quarrooille' that he sold to Throsby for 12 guineas in October 1836. Along with his painting of the homestead, this grand artwork hung for many years at Throsby Park and both are now in a private collection.

The Quarrooille painting ranks amongst the artist's many works that transcend history, continuing to inspire as art. Yet, as history, the 1836 sketch and painting are the earliest known images of the falls. The place name 'Quarrooille' used in his titles was presumably a corruption of the Aboriginal name for the area.

Two small figures shown standing and sitting near the top of the waterfall in both sketch and painting are said to be



Charles Throsby Jnr and Joseph Wilde. Wilde had accompanied Dr Charles during his explorations and had stayed on at the Throsby estate. Wildes Meadow is named after him.

It was not until 1850 that the falls were given their present name. When the Governor of NSW, Sir Charles FitzRoy, made a tour of the Berrima District, he too visited the

well-known natural feature. "His Excellency the Governor went to see the waterfall on the Throsby estate and, as no Governor had previously visited this delightful scene, the falls were named Fitzroy Falls." (*Sydney Morning Herald* 1850).

From that time on the falls bore his name officially, although the local name – Throsby's Waterfalls – persisted for many years.

Tourism boomed and Public Reserve created

By the early 1870s there was a track to the falls from Moss Vale. The delights of the journey were reported in the Sydney press by author and naturalist Louisa Atkinson, whose parents had been among the very earliest settlers in the district. She wrote of the exquisite native flowers and ferns that abounded in the surrounding bush and of the magnificent cedar trees, already by then becoming scarce.

Cedar-getters had for many years been hauling logs up the precipitous cliffs from the valleys below.

The tourism boom at Fitzroy Falls commenced in earnest once Moss Vale station opened on the southern railway and the track to the Falls was upgraded.



The NSW Government set aside 4,000 acres around the falls as a public reserve in 1882. A Trust was provided with funds to maintain the reserve and about the same time a village was laid out in the locality, but no lots sold.

Shelters, tables and formed pathways were constructed and a parking bay for vehicles cleared between the road and the lookouts. This was near a timber bridge where the road crossed above the deep pools formed in the Yarrunga Creek a short distance upstream from the precipice.

The Trustees appointed a caretaker, Samuel Wright of Burrawang, to attend to the needs of day-trippers. He kept paths and viewing platforms in good order and saw to it that visitors did not remove ferns and other flora.



On the Prince of Wales' Birthday holiday in November 1883, about 200 people made the journey to the falls in vehicles of all descriptions - buggies, four-in-hands and carriages. The 'pavilions' were decorated and waiters served a feast prepared by the Sydney Catering Company.

Enthusiasm for the 'romantic and picturesque Fitzroy Waterfalls' was unbounded so when the Government, in 1887, without any consultation with local people, proposed to reduce by 240 acres the area covered by the Reserve status and to sell about 190 acres of back land as town and suburban allotments, the public outcry was immense.

Meetings of protest were held in Bowral and Moss Vale. A deputation was sent to the Minister for Lands with the

principal objection being that the swamps which fed the creek would be drained, thus reducing the flow over the falls and spoiling the scenic feature. Although the Minister defended the proposed sale on the grounds that no land significant to the view or to the falls would be revoked and that a township with hotels and houses would be an asset to the area, the proposed sale was abandoned.

Visitors continued to be attracted to the falls and sometimes met with mishap. A group from Hillview, the vice-regal country residence at Sutton Forest, made the descent to the bottom of the falls on a hot January day in 1903. After clambering back up the ladders to the top, several of the men decided on a cooling swim in the upstream pools, among them James Park, head coachman to the Governor, Sir Harry Rawson. They had been bathing for some time when James was noticed in distress and before assistance could reach him he had disappeared and could not be found.

It took a search party several days to recover his body. James Park was buried at All Saints, Sutton Forest, his funeral attended by the Governor.



The Fitzroy Falls locality did eventually gain permanent settlement and in 1931 a public hall was opened. By 1954 the village had 34 occupied dwellings and 110 residents.

Following the possibility in 1887 of the entire falls reverting to private ownership, pressure began for the establishment of the surrounding area as a national park and this gradually gained momentum over the following fifty years.

Morton Primitive Reserve vested in 1940

The concept of establishing a reserve for 'public recreation and preservation of flora and fauna' emanated from Mark Morton MLA, in whose electorate the majority of land was situated. He was supported by influential locals including solicitor Haille Paine and *Bowral Mail* proprietor Hector Lamond.

A reserve of 45,000 acres was gazetted in 1938 – an amalgamation of existing Shoalhaven and Kangaroo Valley trusts, the Fitzroy Reserve and adjoining Crown lands, and other associated areas – to become The Morton Primitive Reserve that was vested in Trustees in 1940.

Renamed Morton National Park in 1961, its control passed to the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service in 1967 and from 1970 it gained major land extensions to the south.

Fitzroy Falls, the jewel in the crown, continues to attract a steady stream of visitors, including many overseas visitors.

Photos: BDH&FHS collection

A recent Archives acquisition

The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital at Camperdown in Sydney recently passed on the Society an important and significant piece of local history.

It is an illuminated address that had been presented to Matron Thompson on her departure in 1900 from the Berrima District Cottage Hospital.

Winifred Mandrea Thompson, appointed Matron at the hospital in December 1898, was the daughter of Mr TJ Thompson who founded a Sydney stockbroking company and she was granddaughter of David Jones, founder of the emporium which bears his name.



In 1894 she commenced four years training at Prince Alfred Hospital and then undertook private nursing for a few months before taking up the position in Bowral.

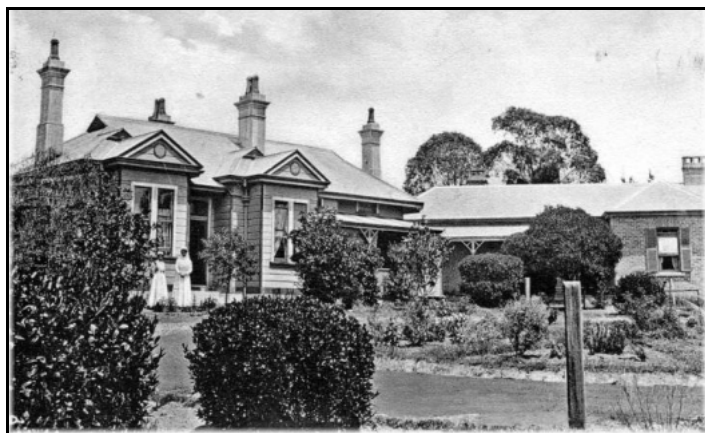
She was only 24 years of age when appointed as Matron and still holds the distinction of being Bowral's youngest ever Matron. Her relatives remember her as 'a bossy little woman with a tremendous sense of

humour and a first class nurse'.

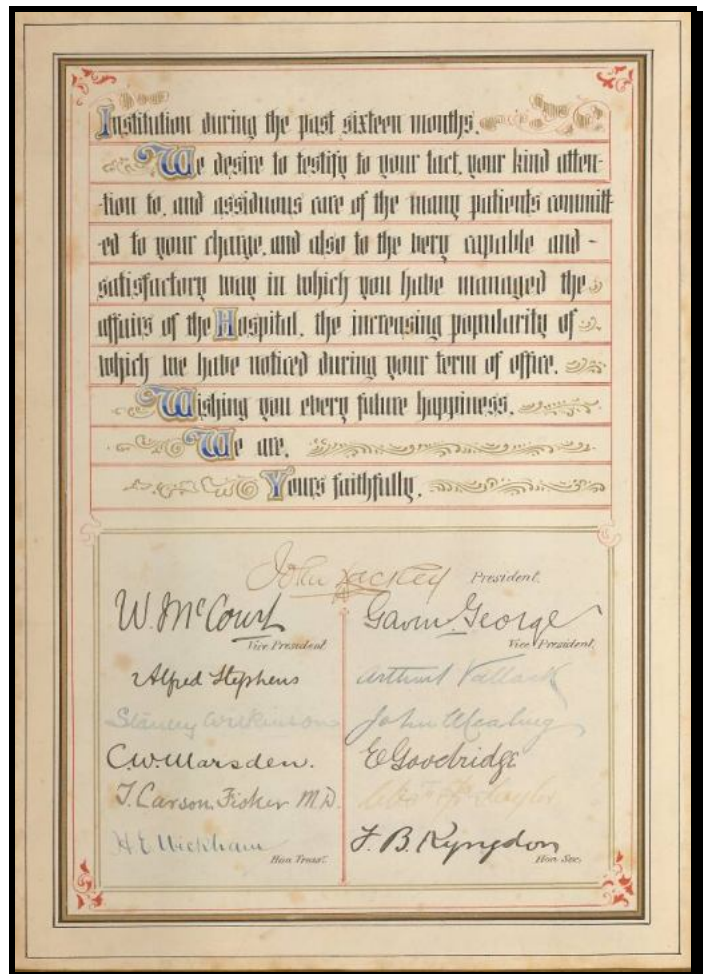
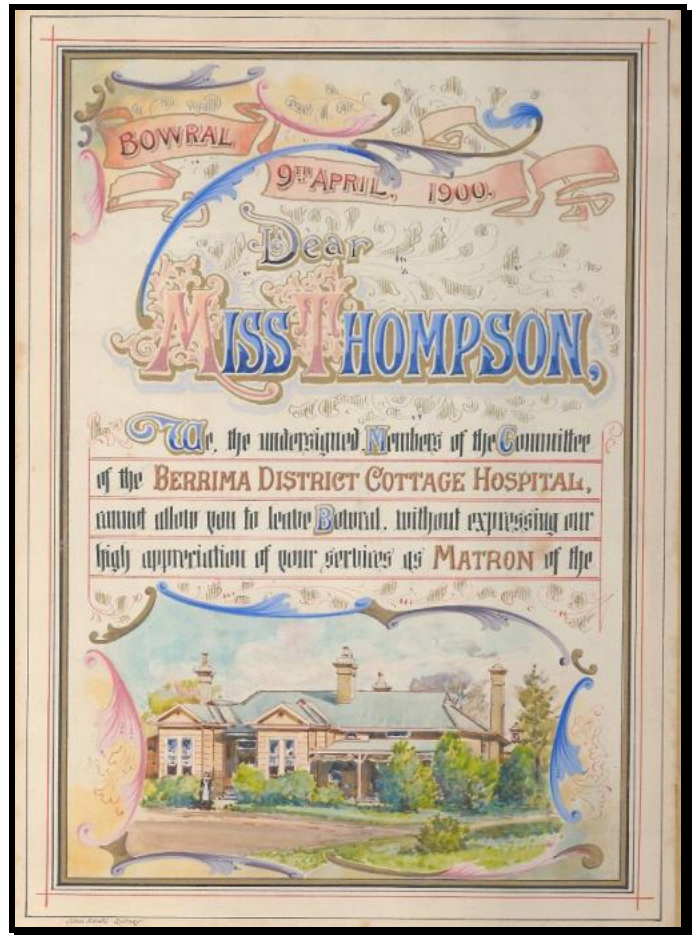
The hand-coloured illuminated address presented to her on 4 April 1900 is signed by the President and members of the hospital board. Still in good condition, it is enclosed in a leather folder 32cm x 24cm with gold-embossed lettering on the front.

The address had been in the RPA collection and was provided to the Society as it was considered to be more relevant and useful in our collection.

A colour copy of the pages of the illuminated address has been provided to Bowral District Hospital.



Berrima District Cottage Hospital, Bowral



Artist's interpretation of history

A local artist, James King, approached the Society some time ago for permission to use old photographs in our collection as source material for a series of oil paintings he would submit for his Master of Creative Arts degree at the University of Wollongong.

When he visited the *Prisoners in Arcady* exhibition at our museum in Berrima, James was impressed by the photographs and the story explaining how, amongst some 2,000 German merchant mariners captured in Australian and Commonwealth waters at the outbreak of World War I, a privileged group were placed in an internment camp based at the old Berrima gaol.

James explains in his artistic statement that the small intimate paintings of around 27x18cm, on hardcover books, are sourced from photographs of the German mariners interned at Berrima during World War I and from photographs taken at convalescent homes in Bowral caring for wounded Australian servicemen.

This juxtaposing of historical moments, representing a curious episode in local history, was his inspiration.



The paintings were described by UOW examiners as being "executed on hardcover books with linen or cotton covers; interestingly, two materials used as painting surfaces. The use of books is fitting; the suggestion of hidden narratives in the paintings is reinforced." James was awarded the MCA degree.



James states that "the paintings serve as a mode for unlocking the narrative of the past in the light of present day issues. By exploring and portraying the positive outcomes of Berrima, the internment camp may serve as a model for a more civilised form of incarceration for those seeking asylum in Australia now and in the future."



The UOW examiners noted this humanitarian theme, stating that: "Treated with civility, these men created for themselves a thriving, relatively free existence building huts and gardens for their leisure along the banks of the Wingecarribee River. The degree of freedom the internees had at Berrima contrasts dramatically in the artist's mind with what our notions of internment and detention are now."

The examiners further pointed out that, while this is a thought-provoking idea, it is not apparent in the works themselves. "The paintings depict men in bush settings at the Berrima camp engaged in recreational pastimes reminiscent of snapshots preserving fond memories of a family holiday. This group of works is juxtaposed with two paintings derived from group photographs of nurses stationed at the convalescent homes for returned soldiers in Bowral. In these paintings the nurses appear disciplined, ordered as if for a school photo, in contrast to the jolly demeanour of the detainees."



*Artworks and UOW material supplied by James King
Article compiled by Philip Morton*

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	14	MAR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28	MAR	Monthly General Meeting	2:00pm at the Old Bowral Town Hall
THURSDAY	11	APR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25	APR	Monthly General Meeting	No meeting due to Anzac Day
THURSDAY	9	MAY	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23	MAY	Monthly General Meeting	2:00pm at the Historical Society

If undelivered return to:
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
PO Box 131
MITTAGONG NSW 2575
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THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

is proudly supported by the following organizations that encourage the work of our Society in collecting, preserving and maintaining the history of the Southern Highlands.

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