

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 449 April 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

NO APRIL MEETING: Anzac Day - Thursday 25 April 2013

MAY MEETING: Thursday 23 May 2013 at 2pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr Robyn Arrowsmith
All the Way to the USA, Australian War Brides in World War II. Society member Dr Robyn Arrowsmith will speak on her recently published book on women who married US Servicemen and went to live in the United States.

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

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And more ...



Diary dates

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

JUNE

- 13 Management Committee Meeting
- 27 General Monthly Meeting
- LUNCHEON**
- 28 School holidays commence

From the President's Desk

Bruce Moore

Without a doubt March has been one of our busiest months on record, not just for customers and new members, but including some high speed action by the Museum sub-committee. Their enthusiasm and expertise has been contagious. The team, led by Harlan Hall his wife Lyn and John Schweer are responsible for organising the launch of "The Southern Highlands 1200" project, which is designed to raise money for the museum extension housing a semi-permanent exhibition bearing the above name.

Sharing the credit will be Linda Emery who is at present compiling a book called "Our Boys in Khaki", commemorating those 1200 WW1 conscripts who were born in or had links to the Southern Highlands. Linda has devoted years gathering names, facts and stories in order to present a volume such as this. We can't wait to see the finished publication.

The "S.H.1200" official launch will take place on April 4th in the historic Empire Theatre. Our Society feels that we have an obligation to display our heritage locally but with national intent, as on April 25th 2015 Australia will honor the Centenary of the Anzacs. Our exhibition hall will also open its doors.

We wish Harlan and the team good luck and may we show the Highlands and Australia just what can be achieved by sheer determination and expertise.

Members are invited to share in this project by making a tax-deductible donation to The Southern Highlands Foundation (for the BDHS), PO Box 853, Bowral NSW 2576. Donors names will also appear on the project's website which is for your interest www.sh1200.org

Upcoming events

The following events are provided by the Secretary for the interest of members.

Virtual Headstone Tour conducted by Young & District Family History Group will be on Saturday 13 April.

Impressions of fifteen selected headstones from Young General Cemetery will be on display in the grounds of the Young Community Arts Centre and associated family histories will be told as part of the virtual tour. Free entry, booklet and afternoon tea.

Further details: 0263823107 or youngfamilyhistory@bigpond.com

Throsby Park Open Day

Sunday 14 April 11.00am-4.00pm
Free event | Bookings not required



A rare chance to see the historic site before Historic Houses Trust places the restored property on the market.

The open day will include talks by curators, architects and gardeners highlighting the property's history and some of the measures HHT put in place to conserve the site. Visitors will be able to view the interior of the house and various outdoor areas of the property.

Refreshments will be available for purchase on the day. Parking will be available on site through the Church Road entrance.

First National Park 1879: action for world heritage listing of 'The Royal Reserves': Royal National Park,

Garawarra State Conservation Area and Heathcote National Park.

Some of our members have been personally invited to the launch of Dr Geoff Mosley's book "The First National Park: A Natural for World Heritage" to be held at the Multi Purpose Centre, Flora Street Sutherland on Tuesday 16 April at 6:30pm. Supper will be provided.

Anyone else interested may call Bob Walshe on 9528 0444.

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

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

Market Place, Berrima
Near the bridge

OPENING HOURS

10 am - 4 pm.

Weekends, Public Holidays and NSW Public School Holidays.

Closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Groups also welcome at other times by arrangement. Please telephone Bob or Gloria on 4889 4405.

HAZELTON Moss Vale

A recent enquiry for assistance in tracking down the history of an old timber cottage, Hazelton, on the southern edge of Moss Vale has revealed its interesting and rich history. Owner Valerie Atkinson bought the property, with her late husband Mike and a friend Michael Binns, in 1976. They had often puzzled over the unusual layout of the house and a few years ago Mike began researching its story, but sadly died before he could complete it.

What he and Valerie did know was that it had once been the home of Clara de Mestre, widow of the famed racing identity, Etienne de Mestre, lessee and trainer of Archer, the horse which won the first two Melbourne Cups. The de Mestres lived in Sutton Forest and Moss Vale for some years before Etienne died in 1916 at Garryowen, Moss Vale. Clara acquired title to Hazelton in 1926, but probably lived there from around 1918 with her daughter Beryl (known as Biddy). But the house is clearly much older than that.



The land on which Hazelton was built was originally Throsby land, part of which had been purchased by John Adams Esq. In January 1882 Adams subdivided his well-known property on Bull's Hill into lots of between three and five acres. Only nine months later, an advertisement appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* for Hazelton - a superior private boarding establishment where Miss Young could accommodate a limited number of boarders. This indicates the house had been speedily built and dates its construction.

Miss Young had departed the scene by November 1887, when Hazelton was advertised for rental, described as:

Delightfully situated, 14 rooms, stables, plenty of water, garden (fruit and vegetables) about 4 ½ acres.

It must have been seen as a good business proposition. By December, it had already re-opened under the new management of Mrs Spencer.

Families and others will find it a superior establishment, with piano, bath and every convenience. A good table kept and home comforts guaranteed.

The Mayor of Sydney, John Harris, rented Hazelton for three months over the summer of 1889. Visitors were increasingly flocking to the area to escape the heat of Sydney and to be part of the social whirl when the Governor of NSW visited his country residence, Hillview.

Our quiet district presents quite an animated appearance with the elegant and numerous carriages which bowl along the roads. Lady Carrington's new pony carriage and beautiful brown ponies are much admired and her little daughters attract great attention by their graceful riding and pretty little nags.

In early 1889 Hazelton was reborn as a boarding and day school for young ladies, conducted by Miss E.L. Allison but by the end of 1893, she had moved her school to another property in Moss Vale. Hazelton became a guest house once more, run by Miss Paterson until 1900. The advertisement for the sale of her furniture and effects in December 1900 gives a wonderful insight into the running of a late-Victorian boarding house. The contents of every one of the 14 rooms were listed in detail, with items as diverse as an American Organ, preserving and jam jars and a number of "the best fowls possible to breed from".



Hazelton is at 7009 Illawarra Highway Moss Vale. Valerie Atkinson kindly allowed me to photograph the house for our records at the archives, prior to it going to auction in April.

Linda Emery, Archivist

Anzac Day in April: Lest We Forget

The Society will not be holding its usual monthly General Meeting in April as the fourth Thursday this year happens to be Anzac Day.

However, in commemoration, representatives of our Society will, as usual, attend the Anzac Day morning memorial services at Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale where a flower sheath will be laid on behalf of our members.

At Berrima, our Museum Curator Bob Williams will, as in previous years, attend the Dawn Service. After the ceremony he will invite all attending to come to the museum where tea, coffee and light refreshments will be served. This has become a tradition that is much appreciated by local residents and generously supported. The museum volunteers who brave the early hours of the day to help out at this function are greatly valued and appreciated.

While reflecting on the Anzac tradition, it is timely to look forward to 2015 when the Anzac Centenary is to be commemorated in every city and town throughout Australia and New Zealand.

For those of us in the Wingecarribee Shire, it will be a time to remember and honour in particular the 1200 men and women from the Southern Highlands who served and gave their lives during World War I.

These 1200 are to be honoured in a major exhibition that will be launched in 2015 at the Society's Berrima Museum and that project is now underway. Also, our Archivist and historian Linda Emery has undertaken extensive research into the lives of these 1200 service personnel that will be published in her forthcoming book "Our Boys in Khaki". The article below provides the brief background of one of these boys.

The ultimate sacrifice: Bert Stokes

Compiled by Philip Morton

The Stokes family of Bowral has contributed greatly to the advancement of the district. One son made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I.

The local family dynasty commenced when John and Elizabeth Stokes migrated from England in the early 1880s and settled in Bowral. Eight of their children also emigrated and two sons, William and Joshua, established families in Bowral.

Joshua became prominent in business, council and community affairs. He married Mary O'Brien and they had six children; two were boys: Walter, born in 1888 and John George Albert (Bert) in 1896.

The boys went to Bowral Public School and, as it was a family tradition to be proficient in music, they joined the Bowral Association Brass Band.



Bowral Association Band in 1908: in front row at left is Bert Stokes (cornet) next to his brother Walter (drum).

Walter Stokes went into his father's produce and carrier business and eventually took over when his father retired. Bert became a carrier, most likely working for his father. He was a member of the Methodist Church, a cornet player in the Association Band, and a member of the Kia Ora Tennis Club.

He served in the local militia (citizen forces) and from the outbreak of the war had been anxious to get to the front. He enlisted at Liverpool on 21 January 1915 and sailed during April with the 2nd battalion of the 5th Reinforcements. He landed at Gallipoli on 9th July 1915 and was killed a month later.



Joshua & Mary Stokes in 1914 with sons at back Walter (on right) and Bert; daughters are Gladys, Grace and Eileen; grandchild is Nancy Lee.

Before his departure he was treated to a rousing farewell as reported in *The Scrutineer* on 16 April:

"There was a good muster of members of the Bowral Association Brass Band at the bandroom on Thursday last, when a send-off was tendered to Bert Stokes on the eve of his departure for the front. The time was enjoyably spent in social intercourse, and several selections were nicely rendered by the band."

During the evening Mr H E Jones, President, in a few well-chosen words referred in the highest terms to Bert's character and popularity, also to the great loss the band was sustaining by his departure. He hoped he would have a pleasant trip across and, if he

participated in any engagements, Mr Jones hoped he would trust in the Almighty to see him through safely.

Bert was presented with a pair of field glasses with leather case and shoulder straps attached and with the hope they would do him many a good turn, and that when the war was over he would return safely home. After much applause, Bert thanked Mr Jones for his kind remarks and the members for their handsome present.



J G A 'Bert' Stokes prior to his departure for the front

A month later Bert was killed in action at the front. The official notification of his death to his parents was from Colonel Luscombe who "Officially reported that Private J G A Stokes, second battalion, killed in action between 7th and 14th August" and conveyed the deep regret and sympathy of the King and Queen and the Commonwealth Government.



The produce store on cnr Station and Wingecarribee Streets, Bowral, c 1900, owned by Joshua Stokes and where his sons would have learnt the trade.

The feeling of the town related in newspaper

A Bowral newspaper devoted a lengthy column to the sad story of Bert's death on 3 Sept 1915:

"The heavy toll which the Dardanelles fighting is levying upon the splendid young manhood of our district has unfortunately been further added to. The sad news was received in Bowral on Tuesday evening that Corporal John 'Bert' Stokes, younger son of Mr and Mrs Joshua Stokes, had been killed in action at the Dardanelles, and as the word passed from one to another, and from house to house, it was received by everyone with a sense of almost personal bereavement, for Bert was born in Bowral, had grown from childhood to manhood there, and was loved and honoured as a son and brother by old and young.

He was the idol of the town and the town mourns his untimely end. In the local citizen forces he held the rank of Sergeant, but he agreed to the loss of a stripe in order to get away at the earliest possible moment.

After reaching Egypt he was offered a position of safety as instructor, and later on had the chance of returning to Australia in charge of wounded soldiers; but the fighting spirit was strong within him, and positions of security and comparative inactivity did not appeal to him. He longed to be in the firing line, and early in July his wish was gratified.

That he died nobly in the service of his country is the only consolation which can be offered his sorrowing parents, brother and sisters. The deceased was a warm friend of Corporal F Crisp, whose death was recorded in our last issue."

Shortly after learning of their son's death, his parents received a letter from him, written in the trenches at Gallipoli and dated 24 July. In the course of the letter he wrote: "Expect you have been more anxious than usual since you heard I was leaving for the front, but don't worry, for I am having a real good time - much better than you would expect. I have been here a fortnight now, and am quite satisfied.

On Saturday night who should look me up but Fred Crisp, who is camped nearby and I went over to his camp on Tuesday. He showed me round their position and then we cooked dinner: three fried eggs, toast and onions, and milk in my tea. How's that for the trenches? He gave me three eggs to bring back and I have still got them, but I think they will go for tea tonight.

No doubt you are wondering what it's like in the trenches. Well, you very soon get used to the shot and shell. While I am sitting here the bullets and shells are whizzing overhead, but as long as you don't get in front of one you are quite safe. As you see, I am dodging them pretty well. The life here is agreeing with me, and I am just as fat as ever. I may send you a cable in a few weeks to say all is OK. Remember me to all old friends."

But sadly he didn't dodge the one that ended his life and brought much sadness to his family and friends.

SPC Cricket Club photo a winner!

Every month a 'Snaps in Time' photo page appears in *Snapshot*, the glossy local magazine produced by the Southern Highland News.

The historic photographs are provided by our Society and cover a range of local general-interest themes.

In the recent March edition the theme for the photos was "Cricket and Hockey in the Highlands" and the main photo featured was that of an unknown Berrima cricket team. Readers were asked whether they could identify the year or any of the team members.

Several of our members and local readers contacted the paper or rang the archives with information.

Two members, Don Moore and Barry Murchie, both provided the names as follows (*left to right*):



SPC Cricket Club team (first grade) *Back:* Alex Stevens, Stan Adams, John Allport, Ken Mott
Middle: Graham Beattie, Jack Hayes, 'Tarn' Wrightson (Captain), Trevor Mott, Darryl Wrightson
Front: Jim Moore, Fred Bell, John Coupe, Eric Winner. (G Beattie was to take over as Captain)

Noel Beattie of The Oaks (Graham Beattie's son) let us know that the photo is of the winning first grade team from Southern Portland Cement Cricket Club (SPC) in perhaps the 1957/58 or 1959/60 season.

The Cement Works at New Berrima, then operated by Southern Portland Cement, was a major employer in the district and had a reputation since its beginnings in the 1920s of being a community-minded company and that looked after its valued workers. This tradition of care was upheld by Blue Circle Southern when it took over and continues under current owners Boral.

In January 1959 the SPC Company commenced a monthly newsletter that over the years evolved into a well produced magazine that continued many years.

In its early days it was typewriter produced and had a hand-drawn cover. It featured a section of sporting news and under the heading 'SPC Cricket Club' it was explained that social games arranged throughout the year were played on Sundays and were popular both among players and supporters and no difficulty was experienced in filling a large bus when the team travelled away. The team mostly travelled to the coast and members took their wives and children along and always seemed to have a most enjoyable day.

Competition cricket was played on Saturdays by first and second grade teams (maybe a third as well?). In January 1959 the first grade team was in a favourable position against Wingello at the conclusion of play and this match concluded on the following Saturday resulting in an outright win for SPC.

At the conclusion of the 1959 season, however, the SPC first grade team was eliminated in the district finals by an outright win scored by the Moss Vale team.

It was felt that the SPC team had performed well but displayed some scratchy fielding at times. With closer teamwork it was felt it had the potential to achieve success in the next season.

The social match between Berrima Colliery and SPC Works played in March proved to be the keenest and most exciting game of the 1959 season.

Both teams were keen and confident of success. The Colliery batted first and the prize for the first "duck" was collected by their opening batsman, George Hollis. The prize was donated by the Hostel manager, Bill Smith, and was in the form of a freshly dug potato weighing 3 pounds. Undoubtedly George had baked potato with his duck!

According to a report in the SPC newsletter, the game was intense during the 3 hours of play - an aggregate of 300 runs was accumulated. Final figures were Colliery 136 and Works 164. Cricket at its best!

Governance of the Berrima District

Part One of a 2-part article compiled by Philip Morton

The first European settlement in the district was at Bong Bong where a government town was established in the 1820s and the district's first public house opened. However by 1831 it became evident that Bong Bong was not well situated and another site was sought.

An improved line of road was surveyed by Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell through to Goulburn for the Great Southern Road that opened progressively in the mid-1830s. This crossed the Wingecarribee River about six miles to the west of Bong Bong and there Berrima was laid out, to be the main administrative centre for the district. The name is an Aboriginal word meaning 'black swan; to the south'.

A court house and gaol were built - the dignified Berrima Court House opened in 1838 and the imposing Berrima Gaol in 1839. The gaol housed prisoners appearing before the Berrima Circuit Court that serviced the Southern District until the Court was moved to Goulburn in 1847.

Inns sprang up to cater for travellers using the Southern Road and Berrima became the hub of the developing district that spanned from Mittagong to Berrima and also included the earlier settlements clustered around the villages of Sutton Forest and Bong Bong.

Numerous settlers had taken up small land grants in the district from the 1820s and many more sizeable estates were established by prominent settlers. These included Charles Throsby, John Oxley, James Atkinson, William Hutchinson, John Nicholson, James Badgery, Thomas Loseby and John and William Morrice.

THE first move towards local government in the district was the proclamation of the Berrima District Council on 25 August 1843. This was established under an Imperial Act of 1842 for the Government of NSW and Van Diemen's Land. Its main purpose was to constitute a new and partly elected Colonial Legislative Council of 36 members but it also authorised the formation of District Councils.

The establishment of 28 District Councils throughout the Colony represented the creation of the first general system of local government bodies in Australia.

The number of members of each District Council was determined in proportion to the district's population and ranged from seven up to a maximum of 21 members. Councillors were to hold office for a term of three years and were eligible for re-election. A candidate for office was required to be a natural born or naturalized adult holding a freehold estate in lands and tenements in the Colony of a yearly value of £100 or worth £2,000.

District Councils were empowered to make orders and by-laws for any of their legal functions, including public works such as roads, streets, bridges and public buildings; the defraying of expenses connected with the administration of justice and the police; and the establishment and support of schools. The sources of revenue available to District Councils included tolls and rates levied on private property owners and they had the power to appoint the necessary servants such as treasurer and surveyor.

Charles Throsby was appointed the first Warden of the Berrima District Council in 1843 and it included six councillors: John Nicholson senior, Robert Pitt Jenkins, Henry Badgery, James Jerome Higgins, James Cowen and William Sherwin.

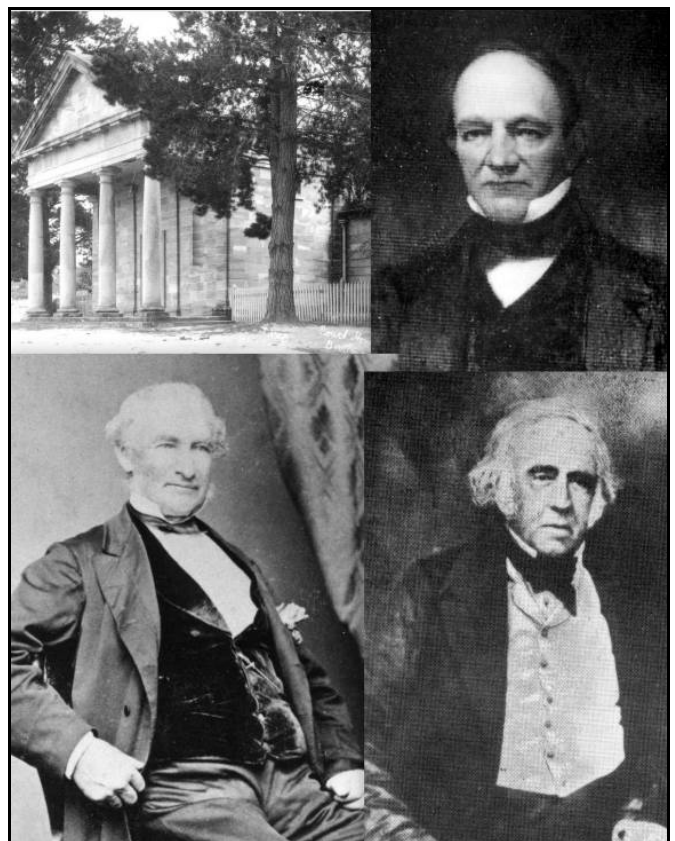
The Berrima District boundaries were prescribed in its Charter as follows: "embracing the southern portion of the County of Camden; bounded on the north by a line bearing west from the source of the Cordeaux River to Lupton's Inn; from this Inn by a line southwest to Jellore; from Jellore by a line northwest to the Wollondilly River; on the west by the Wollondilly, Paddy's River and the Uringalla; and by a line to the source of Barber's Creek, and by that creek to its confluence with the Shoalhaven River; on the south by the Shoalhaven and Kangaroo Rivers; on the east by the middle source of the Kangaroo, and a line northwest to the Illawarra Range, and by that range to the source of the Cordeaux River".

The district embraced an area of 704 square miles and, according to the 1841 census, had a population of 1,415 persons in 179 permanent houses, with the largest centre, Berrima, having a population of 249.

The late Joe Ford OAM, a prominent local identity, compiled a history in 1986 of early local district government that was published by our Historical Society and is still available.

His account was in part based on a large Minute Book found abandoned in an old shed at Upper Kangaroo River in 1966 that contained the only available records of the workings of the Berrima District Council.

To be continued next month.



FIRST DISTRICT COUNCIL: Met in Court House from 1843. Charles Throsby (top) was first Warden with (from left) Henry Badgery and John Nicholson.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	11	APR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25	APR	NO Monthly General Meeting	
THURSDAY	9	MAY	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23	MAY	Monthly General Meeting	2:00pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	13	JUN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	27	JUN	Monthly General Meeting	12:00 noon

If undelivered return to:
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
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THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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