



Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

NEWSLETTER

No 505 May 2018



From the President's Desk

Last week I joined the local Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters on a tour of Fort Denison, formerly Pinchgut, in Sydney Harbour. Construction of the Fort was over 20 years from 1840 to 1862. The determination of one man in particular, Royal Engineer Captain George Barney drove the project to completion. Much delay was attributed to indecision on whether Sydney should be defended by an inner or outer harbour defensive shield. When Governor General Sir William Denison was appointed in 1855 he decided on an inner harbour defence and engaged Barney to construct what is now Fort Denison.

The main feature of the fort is the Martello Tower, a massive stone structure which is four metres thick at the base and two metre at the top. There were over two hundred built around the world. This is the only one in Australia and was the last one to be built. The fort was completed in 1862 but never fired a shot in anger but was itself hit by a rogue fire from the USS Chicago during WW11 when Japanese submarines

entered Sydney harbour. They fired at the submarines, missed their target and instead hit the fort. Due to solid construction only minor damage was inflicted.

Throughout the district the Society was represented at this year's Anzac ceremonies. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Society by David Baxter at Moss Vale, Ian and Denise Mackey at Bowral, Leonie Knapman at Mittagong, John Schweers at the dawn service and Lyn Hall at the morning service at Berrima. Harlan Hall laid a wreath at the morning service at Berrima on behalf of the Member for Goulburn Pru Goward. Bowral had a large crowd with all local schools represented and of course parents and grandparents out in force.

Former Society member George Schofield of Avoca passed away on the 16 April 2018. George was 89 years old. He was a member of the pioneering Schofield family of Kangaloon and Avoca and was a farmer all his life. George was an active member of the local community joining the Society in 2006 and spent several years volunteering at the Museum.

DID YOU KNOW! The batteries were given out free of charge.

Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

MAY 2018:

Thursday 24 May at 2:00pm

SPEAKER:

Janet Black on Tallong's history

JUNE 2018:

Thursday 28 June at 2:00pm

SPEAKER:

Stephen Gard, Thirlmere, author of 'Once Upon a Hume'

AFTERNOON TEA is served following each month's speaker.
Members please bring a plate or a donation.

NOTE: on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm
the **Family History Interest Group** meets at the Mittagong Archives



Senior Vice-President's Column

Our "Com-wealth Games"

Just up the NSW coast over the border in *Kweens Land*, there's a town called Girt-by-Sea. They hosted the "Com-wealth Games".



I'm pleased to announce there was a big celebration of athletes who sang our Nash Nil Anthum and it's done us proud. They also sang something about letting our sons ring Joyce and living near Girt-by-Sea.

We read that cyclists were gutted, some lifted in the end and others slashed seconds off their previous best. Those who lost possibly slashed their own tyres.

Most athletes gave it their all and got the job done. All I know was that some set a cracking pace then tore a hammy, suffered a groin injury or were pulled up with an Achilles.

That's better than being pulled up by the Gold Coast cops!

On the first night of swimming, what with the water, lights, microphones and electronic equipment one swimmer reported that the place was *live*. Another swimmer's parents said that the place was *electric*!

That must have given the audience quite a shock!

When I switched on the TV to watch some long distance running event, I saw a lot of Africans racing for their lives on the Gold Coast. Maybe they were escaping from those naughty British slave traders!

I became very confused because if I remember correctly, the Gold Coast was a dot on the map in West Africa!

So now we call that piece of *Kweens Land* (which is where Sufferers Parasites is situated,) the Gold Coast.

I believe there is plenty of gold up there, including Gold meter maids, the Golden Casket, golden girls and boys, gold medals and gold bling.

Don't you just love living in Awe Stray Ya?

Bruce Moore

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

Please note that the museum is now open at least 5 days a week
MUSEUM OPEN: 10am to 4pm
WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY
and every day during NSW school holidays and on public holidays.
Groups welcome at other times by arrangement. Ph John 4872 1660.

Archives opening hours

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

Research Fees

Research fees for non-members:

\$25.00 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.

Membership Details

Please note that all membership enquiries and changes of address details should be addressed to:

The Membership Secretary
c/- the Society's postal address
or email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com

Event information

The Bungonia and District Historical Society is hosting the following event on Sunday, May 20, 9:45am-12:30pm at Bungonia Village Hall.

Bungonia Archaeology – Our Stories in Stone, which is a National Archaeology Week event.

Cost is \$15 per person. For bookings, contact Anne Wiggan 02 4844 4228 or annekbungonia@gmail.com

Hear the context for the Village Hall, a remarkable building set in the earliest proposed town south of Sydney. Walk through the past and feel the stones breathe their stories, pore over the artefacts, discover the lives and history of this building from 1830s and its survival till now.

Special General Meeting Report

At a Special General Meeting held on 26 April a motion was put to amend the BDH&FHS Constitution to enable the Society to apply for Designated Gift Recipient (DGR) status which will enable the Society to issue a tax deductible receipt for donations.

The motion was explained to the meeting and passed unanimously.

Once the alterations have been incorporated into a revised BDH&FHS Constitution it will be forwarded to Fair Trading for approval.

Launch of Ros Dale's new book



A book launch was held at Berrima Museum on Sunday morning 29 April for a new publication written by our member Ros Dale, titled "Bunty Bailey's Adventures in Berrima". The book explores the life of Bunty, a girl aged 9 years, in 1849. Her daily life and adventures highlight the difference between our Colonial beginnings and the present day.

Shylie Brown, author of the Society's publication 'Life Behind the Bar', kindly launched the book.

Around 50 adults and 15 children attended the event held out the front of the museum. Ros did a reading from one of the podcast's that are linked to the book.

To evoke the period, lacemaking and spinning were demonstrated, a selection of old fashioned clothing from Harpers Mansion was displayed, and period artefacts were on display.

Our Guest Speaker at May Meeting

Janet Black: A history of Tallong

Janet is a member of our Society and a volunteer researcher at the archives. She is a trained librarian who moved to Tallong with her husband's in 2009.



She was the chief researcher for 'Tallong a Heritage' published in late 2009, and produced an updated version of the book 'Forgotten Soldiers: Men and Women from the Southern Highlands who served in the Boer War 1899 – 1902' launched by the BDHS in May 2014.

Janet and Dugald Black are members of the Tallong Community Focus Group, which held a weekend of History Trail events in March to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the first known party of European explorers to pass through their area.

Deputy Surveyor James Meehan, Charles Throsby, Hamilton Hume and a party of 10 men including two Aboriginal guides set out from the Cowpastures Hut on 3 March 1818, hoping to discover a possible route for wheeled vehicles between Sydney and Jervis Bay.

It rained and rained, they had trouble crossing creeks and the horses got bogged. When they passed through the (now) Tallong area, Throsby was not impressed. He described them travelling 'through a very rotten stony poor country over a small stream of water [Barbers Creek] to a beautiful piece of fine forest called Mooraulin [Marulan]'.

In an information booklet prepared for History Trail participants, Janet notes that the first mention of a word approximating 'Tallong' comes in the papers of Throsby where he mentions being informed by his Aboriginal guides of the existence of "Taalong" and "Boondoondo" Creeks.

When Europeans started settling in the area, it was usual to describe an address in relation to the property where the person was employed – hence references to Glenrock, Caoura or Bosworth. The area was, however, generally referred to as Barber's Creek, the name given to a creek forming a boundary of George Barber's property, *Glenrock*. In 1905 a submission from residents was approved to change the name of the railway station to Tallong, being the local Aboriginal term for 'stream of water'.

Hear more about Tallong's history at the meeting.

Getting involved in 'Pie Time' in June

June has been declared 'Pie Time' month by the local district's tourism promotion body. Destination Southern Highlands is featuring the region as being home to award winning pie makers and, with over 28 pie outlets, becoming known as a pie destination.

Throughout the month there will be events, activities and competitions centred around that great Aussie icon 'the pie', including a Festival, Pie Competition and Pie Trail.



Our Berrima District Museum will participate in the Pie Trail throughout June by having a small display of recipe books and cooking equipment. Traditional pie recipes from the books will be copied and given away to those attending the museum. The most startling so far is for a sheep's head pie!

If anyone has a special old pie cooking item that they would like to lend for the month please contact Lyn Hall or John Schweers as soon as possible.

The region's best locally made pies and bakers will be crowned after the holding of an inaugural NSW/ACT Best Pie Competition - Southern Highlands, and a Pie Festival will be held over the weekend of 23-24 June at Bong Bong Picnic Racecourse, Kangaloon Rd.



Embroidered Sampler: its journey

Part 2 of 2 – compiled by Denise Mackey

After passing John Macarthur's Elizabeth Farm estate and driving through the last toll gate on Parramatta Road, the Freeman family reached the township of Parramatta along with all their belongings including Fanny's cherished embroidered sampler. It was late February in 1844.

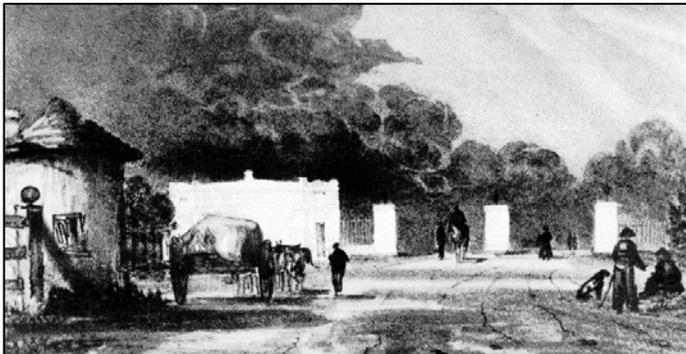


Photo from 'Pictorial Memories Old Parramatta' by M Charles

Edmund Freeman, Fanny's husband had secured employment with Gilbert Elliott (1796-1871), an appointed salaried police magistrate at Parramatta. A former artillery officer and relative of the Earl of Auckland, Gilbert Elliott had arrived in Sydney with his wife, Isabella and 3 children in 1839. He remained in Parramatta until 1849-51 when he left the district to pursue his pastoral interests in Queensland.

Meanwhile Edmund and Fanny Freeman established their home with her treasured embroidery likely to be adorning a wall.

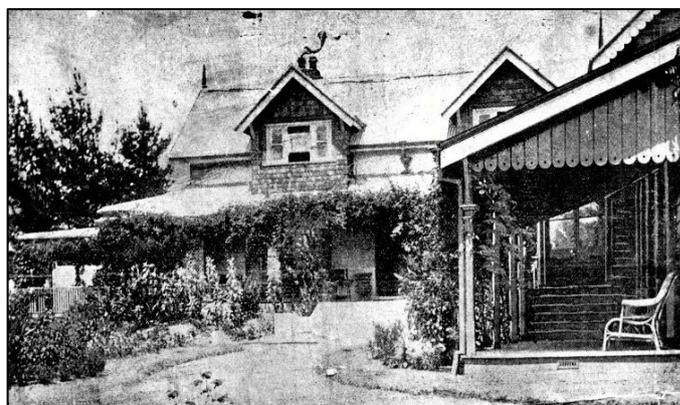
The 5-storey Australian Steam Mills and Cloth Factory producing the fine Parramatta Tweed, the recently opened Lennox Bridge, S. Burge Saddler, the long established Woolpack Hotel, the solidly built police station and courthouse, tanning works, blacksmiths and stables, St John's Church, the substantial 4-storey immigration depot (formerly the Commissariat Store) at Queen's Wharf, the Female Factory, river-front warehouses, the hotels and inns, convicts in service and, on the outskirts of the bustling town, the citrus orchards – this was the Parramatta known to Fanny and Edmund.

By February 1846, however, the Freeman family had once again packed up their belongings and relocated to the Goulburn area where Fanny gave birth to their son, Edward. Her husband Edmund was working as a labourer. It appears their stay in Goulburn was short lived as sometime between April 1846 and February 1849, Fanny packed her treasured embroidered sampler with their other possessions and the family

re-established themselves in the Sutton Forest area. It was here on the 26 February 1849 their daughter, Ellen was born. Unfortunately tragedy struck the family in May 1851 when 5 year old Edward died but 3 months later Fanny gave birth to her son Edmund.

At the time the Sutton Forest area was well established and flourishing. Named by Governor Macquarie in 1820, it had been explored in 1798 by a party led by John Wilson. Even though there were numerous small landholders Governor Macquarie made valuable and sizable grants in the early 1820s to "men with capital and influence" such as John Nicholson, James and John Atkinson (Oldbury) and the Badgery brothers. Pastoral farming, dairying, wool growing and agriculture thrived in the fine countryside while the private township of Sutton Forest boasted a number of hotels and inns such as The Harp, The Talbot and The Red Cow, a Church of England school, a small saw mill, general store, a cluster of shops and cottages and the wooden chapel of All Saints Church. Did Fanny and Edmund know John Nicholson and his estate, Newbury?

It was in August 1854 that tragedy again struck the Freeman family when wife and mother Fanny died aged just 35 years. Left were her children, 3 year old Edmund, 5 year old Ellen and possibly Emma now aged 11. Throughout this story Emma remains quite allusive. The children were soon under the care of their stepmother, Sarah Winwood when she married their father, Edmund later in the year. Edmund was a farmer at Red Hill possibly in the Sutton Forest area in 1866 when Fanny's son Edmund died at the young age of 15. Fanny's daughter, Ellen now aged 17 seems to be the sole survivor of her children and it is Ellen who becomes custodian of her mother's treasured embroidered sampler.



"Hillview", the State Governor's country residence appears to be one of Ellen's places of employment before she married William Charker (1828-1910) in December 1869. The embroidery along with Ellen's other possessions move to her new home, the Prince of Wales Hotel in Bowral.

Originally from Cobbity, Charker was one of the first to purchase land subdivided for a town by John Oxley. He moved to Bowral in 1863 and on his newly acquired property built the town's first brick hotel, a handsome 2-storey building with 10 rooms, adjacent to his butchery on the corner of Bundaroo and Bong Bong Sts. In addition to providing accommodation, hotels were the main venues for social events, auction sales, political meetings and the dispensation of justice. Encouraged by the sudden increase of population connected with the construction of the railway line William Charker held a publican's license in 1865 but allowed it to lapse after 1871. In 1891 he reapplied, this time as publican of the enlarged, renovated and renamed Imperial Hotel.

The arrival of the railway, the influx of many new residents and tourists, new well constructed churches, the establishment of public and private schools, the soundly built post office, police station and courthouse, the emergence of musical, literary and art societies, the YMCA and YWCA, lodges, sporting clubs, new and varied shops, industries and the appearance of large country estates and stately imposing homes was the developing and progressive Bowral known to Ellen.

It was against this lively background Ellen, wife and business partner, gave birth to eight children between 1870 and 1895 with them all surviving into adulthood except a son who died aged two. A well respected citizen, William Charker took an active interest in the advancement of the community including the incorporation of Bowral, becoming one of the first alderman. He was also an appointed member on the Bowral Public School Board. Charker's commercial endeavours extended to quarrying on Mount Gibraltar. In fact the first company to quarry microsyenite, more commonly known as Bowral trachyte, was Charker's NSW Trachyte Stone Quarrying Company in 1885. In 1888 Loveridge & Herbert Hudson took over the quarry.

It was shortly after a serious operation at Berrima District Hospital in Bowral that William Charker died in December 1910. Following her husband's passing Ellen remained as licensee of the Imperial Hotel until 1916 when she retired and took a pleasure trip for a few months. Upon her return Ellen carefully packed her mother's beloved embroidered sampler with all her other belongings, farewelled her Bowral friends and moved to her abode in Rockdale, Sydney. Evidence suggests her unmarried daughter, Alice (1886-1962) accompanied her to Edithville, Walkin Street, Rockdale.

The Charker prominence has however remained in the township of Bowral with William and Ellen Streets off Oxley Drive bearing their names.

Unfortunately Ellen's well-earned retirement was cut short when she died in August 1917, aged 68. It was her daughter, Alice who became custodian of her grandmother Fanny's embroidered sampler. Again the embroidery, along with Alice's belongings, is packed up and moved to Beaumont Street, Hamilton in the industrial city of Newcastle. It remained with Alice at the same address until 1962 when at the age of 76 she passed away. While sorting through the effects and papers of her Aunt Alice, her niece discovered Fanny's embroidered sampler worked some 130 years ago.

The final leg of the long journey was in 1985 when the sampler was brought to Berrima and donated to the Berrima District Historical Society Museum. After such an extended and varied trip the embroidery had deteriorated, was unframed, folded and in a poor condition with stains, holes and some fading.

In 1987, however, Fanny's 1829 embroidered sampler was carefully restored and now, once more prominently graces another wall, this time in the Society's Museum.

Journey's end – but our gallant historical survivor lives on.



Imperial Hotel Bowral, dated between 1911 and 1916

A new publication available for sale

The following book has been added to our stock of local historical publications for sale at the archives, museum and via the BDHS website.

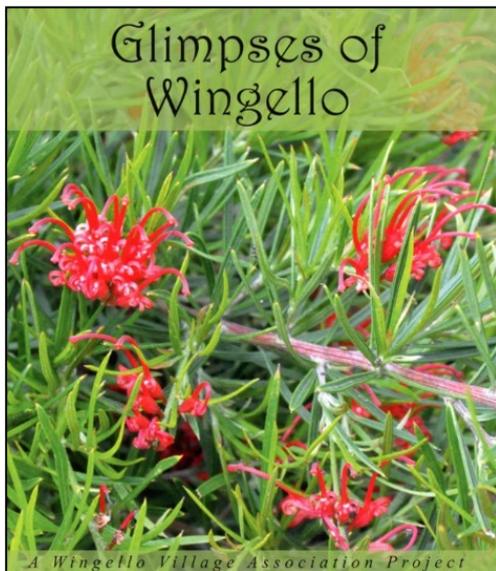
Glimpses of Wingello

A Wingello Village Association Inc Project

Authors: Carol Olde, Colin Reed et al

Soft cover, 184 pp A4 trimmed (210mm x 210mm), colour illustrated, **Cost \$35**

The book provides stories of the lively and cohesive self-sufficient community at Wingello from the late 1800s. It includes chapters on exploration, early settlement, geology, plants and birds, local pastoral properties, railways, schools, local organisations, and aspects of industry and agriculture.



The authors recount how after delving into local records dating back to 1902, including access to the minutes of the Wingello Mechanic's Institute, their research became almost an obsession, fueled further by 'that amazing research tool from the National Library of Australia' the Trove website.

In the Introduction, they state that a little wooden hall that has survived for 100 years in a bushfire prone area was the inspiration for the book. The devastation of the 1965 bushfires changed the village, with many fine homes lost and villagers faced with having to decide whether re-build or leave.

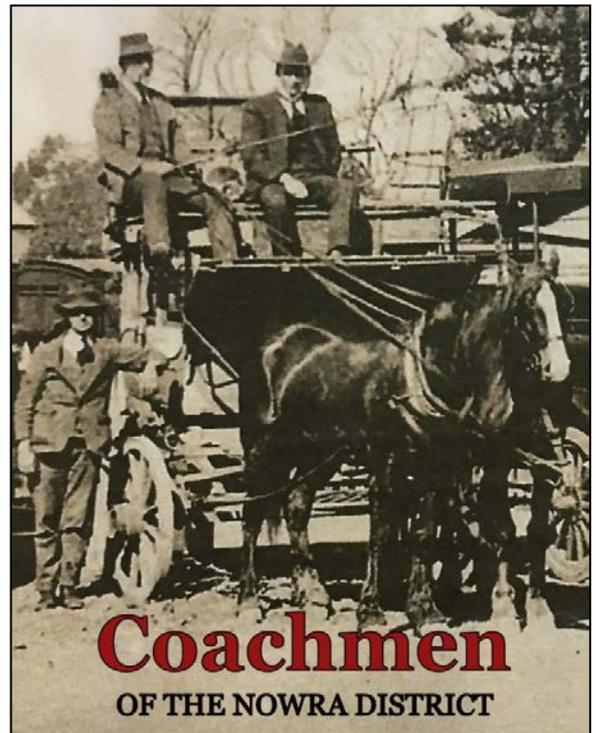
Today the community comprises descendants of the pioneer families, newcomers (those who have arrived in the last 50 years) and weekenders who enjoy the quiet country atmosphere. Though it may never again be the self-sufficient community of the early days, it's the place the residents call home.

Nowra launch of Alan Clark book

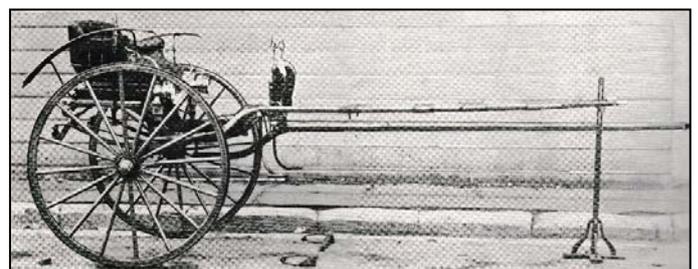
The Shoalhaven Historical Society invites members of the Berrima District Historical Society to the launch of the latest publication by prolific local history author, Alan Clark.

Coachmen of the Nowra District will be launched by Mr John Bennett, OAM, Ringmaster of the Royal Easter Show, on Saturday 19 May 2018, at 2:00pm, at Nowra Museum. Also on the day the Shoalhaven Society will be unveiling the latest additions to its Samuel Elyard collection and two recently restored Elyard works. Light refreshments will be provided.

Those wishing to attend please RSVP by 14 May: email museum@shoalhavenhistory.org.au or by phone to 0413 339 911.



John Clark was in contact with our Research Centre while researching his new book. He was pleased to be provided with our information on the history of James McCleery and sons, coachbuilders, who came up to Moss Vale from Nowra around 1880. The photo below was provided to us by John. It is of a pole sulky built by McCleery Bros, found in *The Australasian Coachbuilder and Wheelwright* of 15 July 1911.



School of Arts at Bowral from 1873

A history article compiled by Philip Morton

In 1873 the district's first School of Arts institute was opened by the Mutual Improvement Society at Bowral. Subsequently several more were established, including ones at Mittagong, Moss Vale and Exeter.

Originating in Scotland, mechanics and literary institutes were established in early Australian towns to provide adult education and recreational activities. Often known as a School of Arts, they provided for practical rather than fine art pursuits. A group of members and trustees held land (obtained by grant or donation) and maintained a building, usually erected by local subscription, for public purposes.

In Bowral, from 1873 a weatherboard room behind the Grand Hotel served as School of Arts library and was used for public meetings and entertainments. In 1882 it was decided to build more adequate premises on land in Bendooley Street. Funds were raised through bazaars and by donation, and in 1885 a new School of Arts was opened by Mr P L C Shepherd, a distinguished former Sydney resident. It included an expanded town lending library with Mr J W Osborne, the Town Clerk, as its first Librarian.



An 1885 sketch of Bowral School of Arts

From its inauguration, the School of Arts Committee held monthly meetings which the *Bowral Free Press* reported on. To illustrate business arising, extracts from its report of 17 September 1887 follow here.

The president (Mr J G Morris) occupied the chair, and also present were Rev J W Debenham, Rev Kenny and Messrs Gavin George, E Wickham, J J Campbell, H M Oxley, Dr Newmarch and Copeland Bennett. After the previous meeting's minutes were read and letters tabled, Dr Newmarch moved that the annual library subscription be reduced for families. After discussion, the rate for each member after the first was set at 10 shillings. Letters included from Mrs Sullivan who requested the use of the hall once a week for skating.

This was granted, at a charge of 10 shillings a week. Mr W J Osborne requested that the skating club's hour terminate at 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoons, to allow time to prepare the hall for philharmonic practices. It was decided that on Saturdays the skaters could use the hall for three hours, but not after 6 o'clock. A letter from the Good Templars gave a week's notice to discontinue their School of Arts' tenancy, where they had weekly meetings. There was also a request to hold a ball the following week in the hall and committee room, which was granted, as was Mrs Howard Reed's request to hold a flower show. Further matters were discussed, some new books ordered for the library, and the meeting rose.

The School of Arts building was the location, in February 1888, for Bowral Horticultural Society's first annual show. Some 850 exhibits – including flowers, plants, fruit, vegetables, art specimens, canaries and poultry – were displayed in the hall, committee room and in a large marquee located at the rear of the building. According to a report in the *Bowral Free Press*, cut flower collections included roses, dahlias, gladioli and chrysanthemums. Vegetables included potatoes being, in the judges' opinion, perhaps the best ever shown in the district. Well represented were plums, peaches, apples and nectarines along with jams, preserves and pickles. Oil paintings, watercolours, sketches and etchings displayed the town's artistic talent. The show was a great success and the first of many held at Bowral School of Arts.

In 1913 a second storey was added to the building to house an expanded library, with meeting hall and concert room on the ground-floor. From the 1930s the institution was beset with financial difficulties. After talks with Bowral Council, in January 1947 the School of Arts library became a Municipal Library.

The erection of the Soldiers Memorial Hall at the rear of the School of Arts building in 1961 was a major development and included a renovation of the existing Library Rooms. These became the adult section with a children's library opened in Stafford Cottage next door. As both premises eventually became cramped, in 1983 the libraries were moved to Bowral Town Hall, no longer a council chamber due to local council amalgamations in 1981. The town's library remained there until 1999 when the new Wingecarribee Central Library opened nearby.

Despite the School of Arts Committee's demise at Bowral in the 1940s, its legacy of library services lives on through the Wingecarribee Central Library, and its former home, now Bowral Memorial Hall, remains a civic and cultural centre in the Bendooley St precinct.

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 ☎ Telephone (02) 4872 2169

email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com ☎ web: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

- 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: bdmuseum@bigpond.com
OPEN: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesdays to Sundays, and during school and public holidays.
Museum Committee: John Schweers (Manager), Harlan Hall (Project Manager), Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Alan Hornsby, Harold Wall (Human Resources).
- 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 \$25.00 – Family \$35.00.
- AFFILIATIONS:** Royal Australian Historical Society, NSW Association of Family History Societies, Museums Australia Inc & Regional Chapter.

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