



BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29 362 616 937

NEWSLETTER

No 512 December 2018



From the President's Desk

Another year has flown by at an ever increasing speed. We will shortly be entering the 19th year of this century. It only seems a short while ago when we were discussing millennium bugs, 9/11 and the global financial crisis.

The Society recently held its annual general meeting and our thanks to Gloria Williams who acted as returning officer. All the nominated and appointed positions were declared elected and the office bearers and Management Committee members for the next year are listed on the back of this newsletter.

At the conclusion of our meeting we were entertained by two DVDs, one showing a comedy skit performed by the committee members in the 1990s and the other on the history of Bundanoon.

It should be noted that the Museum is currently without a manager as John Schweers decided not to nominate so he could deal with a health issue. We hear he has had his operation, is in rehabilitation and is progressing slowly but improving each day.

This year again has proven to be very busy with a lot of activity at both the Archives and the Museum carried out by our band of dedicated volunteers. One of our successes is the research team where in previous years was carried out by one person is now shared by Carolyn, Frank and Janet.

The Museum is preparing for a busy holiday period and will be open throughout. The renovation, construction and installation of the Digital Gallery will be completed in December, the opening planned for February 2019.

Throughout the year the Family History Group met on the first Wednesday of each month from 1pm. This group has continued to evolve and is now more focused on solving individual problems using the resources of the Society. The occasional instructive talk will be provided on specific topics with Linda Emery having already given the first talk to the group, being on the resources available at the Archives.

I would like to wish all members of the Society a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2019.

Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

DECEMBER 2018: No meeting

JANUARY 2019: No meeting

FEBRUARY 2019: Thursday 28 February at 2:00pm

SPEAKER: to be announced

AFTERNOON TEA is served following the 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



Bruce Moore A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS

Yes, it's that tinsel time again. The carols in the malls are already threatening a migraine plus a case of mild tinnitus.

Aussies have been training for a Northern Hemisphere Xmas since birth. That is something most of us have never seen or experienced.

We've been brought up with cotton wool balls around windows, snow spray on pine trees and wherever else is appropriate to spray it. We've bought our blow-up Santas and reindeers which constantly remind us of Xmas somewhere else.

Must pull down the big box in the garage and start dusting off the 3000 ornaments to hang on the tree. There are angels blowing trumpets, glittering stars, Santas with a distinct Chinese-like face, wise men on camels ... etc etc.

Then check and update the Christmas card list, although my bride tells me that's so 20th Century and we can now email/Facebook/face time our friends and family instead.

I secretly enjoyed pulling from the letterbox a personalised stamped addressed envelope containing a card, even though it only seems to record a 'To' and a 'From' inside.

And so on it goes, the usual pre-Christmas anxiety.

Oops! Why am I so grumpy in this season of joy? No reason whatsoever. Underneath the fuss and glitz, I really enjoy the camaraderie and joviality associated with street parties and family get togethers which herald in the summer holidays.

This year it's our "turn" to hold the family Xmas Day gathering. Big risk. We know most of the younger members have developed pretty fussy eating habits.

There's the vegans (nothing that has eyes), Episcopalian vegetarians, ovo/pesco/no-go, gluten-free, low-carb freaks. Which eliminates everything we would like to eat!

Perhaps we should declare it bring-your-own-plate time!

My bride has a habit of squirreling away Christmas 'specials' gathered from her shopping sprees over the year. These gifts are usually stored hidden in a safe and secret place well away from prying eyes. Some may never be seen again!

As each December approaches, our house becomes an archeological dig, making the Time Team look like a Sunday picnic.

Last year we unearthed some well-hidden chocolate coins that were so out of date they had turned white with age. A Tonka tip truck toy had an extreme terminal case of rust. The Xmas shirt we bought little Jimmy is now 3 sizes too small.

Luckily we found a bottle of red wine safely hidden over the years. I can't wait to open that to test if it has matured by now.

I'm so proud of my bride. She's saved us heaps over the years buying all these 'specials'!

Now where did I hide that necklace I bought her for Christmas?

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

HOLIDAY SEASON CLOSURE TIMES

Our Research Centre/Archives at Mittagong will close at 1:00pm on Saturday 15 December, reopening on Monday 7 January 2019.

The museum at Berrima will be open every day of the summer holidays except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Archives opening hours

Monday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tuesday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

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: Museum 4877 1130
After hours 4862 1626

Museum is managed and operated by members of our Society, volunteering their time and expertise.



Artwork courtesy chrismoorestudio

Remembrance Day 2018 at Berrima

Berrima Public School conducted a Remembrance Day Service event on Sunday 11 November at our museum in Berrima to commemorate the centenary of the armistice that ended World War One.



Berrima Public School students assembled at Museum



The museum's Lyn Hall at lectern in the Williams Gallery

The service also marked a significant milestone for the museum and our Society, being the closing of the Southern Highlands 1200 exhibition which has been on display at the museum for the past 3½ years.

A retrospective: The exhibition project was launched in April 2013 at Bowral's New Empire Cinema to raise donations and obtain grants for the building at the museum of a new extension to serve as a state-of-the-art gallery. The intention of the project was that the new gallery would, from April 2015, house a special exhibition focusing on the 1200 Southern Highlands' men and women who served in World War 1. This project was a local contribution to the Anzac Centenary commemorations which took place throughout Australia during 2015.

Project Manager Harlan Hall, along with a large team of dedicated museum volunteers, rapidly progressed the building of the exhibition gallery as an extension attached alongside the existing museum building. The project was completed with the help of many generous community donors and the obtaining of numerous grants.

The support of over sixty businesses, which provided in-kind donations of services and goods, was crucial. As were the grants: in particular a grant under the Arts NSW Regional Capital 2013/14 program, an Anzac Centenary Grant, a Veolia Mulwaree Grant, a Wingecarribee Shire Council Community Assistance Grant and a share through Council of Southern Phone's local community support funding.

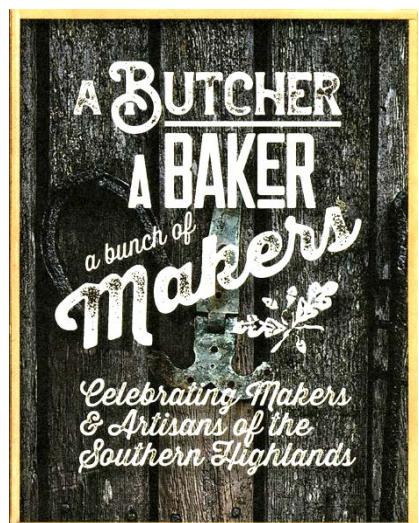
The new exhibition space was formally opened as the Williams Gallery in January 2015, named for the long and significant contribution to the Society and museum of members Bob and Gloria Williams.

Archivist and researcher Linda Emery and museum volunteer Michele Woods, with the assistance of other members and in conjunction with exhibition designer Lucy Banyan, compiled personal histories and obtained objects to portray a cross-section of those who served overseas and on the home-front. The names of all 1200 men and women appeared on one side of the gallery space, an imposing tribute to the commitment of the district's population to the war. The exhibition explored the efforts of those on the home front, especially the women who worked so hard to send comforts overseas to 'the boys' and to raise funds for organisations supporting the troops, especially the Red Cross.

The exhibition received much acclaim and attracted many visitors, including those from afar who were descendants of the men and women featured.

NEW DIGITAL GALLERY UPDATE: The Williams Gallery has been fitted out with 10 HD video screens to become a unique digital gallery able to mount exhibitions rapidly and economically. The aim is to appeal to and attract both locals and visitors to enjoy the many entertaining stories the museum has to tell.

Museum visitors can now experience the digital gallery which is screening an initial exhibition looking at some of the talented people who live and work in the Southern Highlands and who are shaping its history. This will run through the entire summer holidays.



The first major digital exhibition *A Baker, a Butcher and a Bunch of Makers* will open on 20 February 2019.

Remembrance Day at Mittagong

At the invitation of the Mittagong RSL Sub-branch, Society archivist Linda Emery was invited to present the address at the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice on 11th November. The Society also put together a display of photographs at the RSL Club luncheon for Sub-branch members after the service. The following is an abridged version of the address with a few photographs from the display:

The 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. A date steeped in meaning for a hundred years. A day of remembrance for so many nations. As the world turns, at this hour, solemn commemorations are repeated in thousands upon thousands of places across the globe. In each of them, servicemen and women who have given their lives are remembered and honoured, as they should be. This is the big picture on Remembrance Day, but there is also the smaller picture, about imagining what the signing of the Armistice on this day a century ago meant at a very local level, to the people who lived here, to the families who were grieving. How did they react to the long hoped-for news?

After four long years of war, the most horrific conflagration in human history, the cessation of hostilities was naturally greeted with great joy.

The Mayor of Mittagong, Alderman Louis Springett pre-empted the anticipated enemy surrender by addressing a large crowd, on Friday 8 November from the balcony of the Exchange Hotel. A spontaneous celebration erupted in the main street and continued until word came through on the evening of Monday 11 November that the Armistice document had been signed and the guns on the Western Front had fallen silent at last. Trains at the station blew their whistles at full blast, Mittagong Town Band paraded the streets playing patriotic marches, while the crowd, accompanied by the enthusiastic banging of kerosene tins, sang and danced the night away.

On the following day, the pupils from Mittagong Public School, most of them in fancy dress, formed a 'tin-can band' and marched from the school to the main street. They gave an open-air concert, singing patriotic songs, including the Marseillaise, The Star Spangled Banner and Advance Australia Fair.

In the evening, after the official speeches, the Mayor gave many townspeople the chance to speak and express their feelings publicly.

Not yet done with the festivities, a town picnic was held on Wednesday 13th, a public holiday, with

games, sports, dancing and music continuing until the evening. The outpouring of emotion and happiness was mirrored in all the towns and villages in the district.

But amidst the joy, there was also much sadness and one cannot help wondering how Amy MacCallum and her mother-in-law Emma felt. Amy and her four young children lived with Emma in Queen Street. Two weeks earlier, the women had received the devastating news of the death of their husband and son, Hector. He had almost made it to the end of the war – he was in the Lewis Gun Section of the 55th battalion when he was killed on 30 September 1918. His name is etched in granite on Mittagong War Memorial, one of 32 Mittagong men who gave their lives in the Great War, including Hector's brother Lindsay who was killed at Pozieres in 1917. The MacCallums no doubt had mixed feelings on this day a century ago.

So too did Melbourne born and educated Edward Honey who served in the British army. He was discharged medically unfit and was working as a journalist in Fleet Street, London at the end of the war. This thoughtful Australian was the first person to propose a period of respectful silence on the first anniversary of the peace in 1919, a time-honoured tradition that continues to this day. *Linda Emery*



Amy MacCallum with Beryl; Hector MacCallum (pictured) carried the photo with him throughout the war.



Members of the 42nd Battalion, just out of the line, washing the trench mud off their gum boots.

Publications available for purchase

1. The Gib: Mount Gibraltar, Southern Highlands

The Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare Group published this book in 2007 under the auspices of Wingecarribee Shire Council, with a reprint in 2009. When copies sold out, rather than again reprint, it was decided in 2016 to provide it as an electronic book available in full on Council's web site.

For those who would rather have a printed version, we still hold several copies for sale. As it is a worthy addition to any local historian's book shelf or coffee table and is no longer available at bookstores, we advise members that this now scarce book may be purchased from us, the cost being \$50.

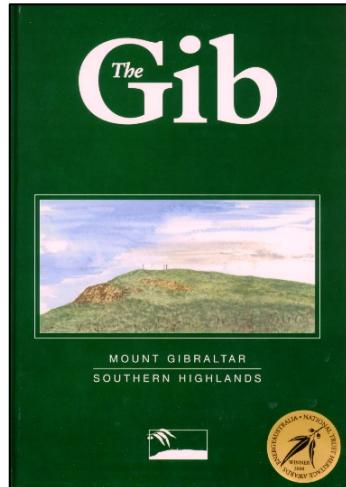
It is a beautiful and important document that describes the unique environment of Mount Gibraltar, its history and the dedicated volunteers working to maintain its environment and amenity.

To access the online version, go to the Council's home page at wsc.nsw.gov.au and 'search' Mount Gibraltar. Republished using a Creative Commons licence, the book may be downloaded, shared and used for non-commercial purposes. It provides an attractive and well researched social, industrial and environmental history of the site. An updated Appendix has been added that maintains the book's importance as a reference source.

2. Sydney's Hard Rock Story: the cultural heritage of trachyte

We have one copy left for sale of this handsomely illustrated book on trachyte that contains 245 illustrations including 25 colour photos, several from our Society's collection. Well worth the cost of \$30.

Trachyte's extensive uses, geology and the dramas of The Gib and its quarrymen are covered in the book. It also examines trachyte's utilitarian beginnings like kerbing and looks at how, once designers realised its qualities, it was used for many of Sydney's finest commercial street-scapes, as well as for monuments, foundation stones, commemorative plaques and street paving.



The tough, distinctively coloured igneous stone was first quarried at Mount Gibraltar near Bowral in the 1880s and soon began appearing in the kerbs and gutters along Sydney's growing city's streets.

It was then adopted by builders and architects and it can still be seen overhead in the keystones of great buildings as well as underfoot, in a myriad of small and large scale projects throughout NSW and beyond. Its importance in the city is why the authors have called their tale Sydney's Hard Rock Story.



A special feature of the book is an illustrated trachyte walk in central Sydney, with map, showcasing many fine examples of the stone. This may also be found on the book's website.

The authors - Robert Irving, Ron Powell and Noel Irving - have extensive experience in architecture, landscape and heritage.

Anyone with an interest in the story of trachyte is well advised to purchase this book; alternatively there is a copy in our Society's library.

Once Upon a Hume: volumes I & II

The "Once Upon a Hume" series, by Stephen Gard of Thirlmere, is a traveller's companion. It peoples the Great Southern Road with vivid characters and occurrences, profiles prominences, explains place-names and makes an absorbing panorama of the passing show. Our members who attended Stephen's talk at the June meeting this year were captivated by his tales from the first volume, extending from Picton to Mittagong. A copy is held in our Library.

The second volume is now available, taking the road from Mittagong to Goulburn. Find out who was the elusive 'Sally' of Sally's Corner, the heroic 'Black Bob' of the creek and bridge, and meet the Marulan Tiger.

The book may be ordered from the author's website: bluedawebooks@stephengard.com.au

The Cullen's at Burrawang/Moss Vale

Part 1 of a history series compiled by Philip Morton

The densely forested Yarrawa Brush on the local district's eastern side was opened up by free settlers, many from the Illawarra, in the 1860s.

The *Robertson Land Act* of 1861 provided for free selection before survey of blocks of unreserved Crown Land at one pound per acre. After clearing their land, the hardy pioneers grew crops and vegetables, and kept poultry, pigs and dairy cows.

The first selections south of the Wingecarribee Swamp were registered in 1862 and, accessed by Old Cedar Road, the private village of Burrawang took shape. Initially it served as the eastern area's hub, having a post office, store and inn by 1867.

One of the area's earliest selectors was John Cullen. He would prosper at Burrawang and at Moss Vale where, in the 1870s, he and his younger brother James became hotel licensees and owners. Both would serve on Moss Vale Municipal Council after its formation in 1888.

A history of the local Cullen families follows here, compiled from the BDHS's biography files, from family history records and Trove newspaper reports sourced by volunteer researcher Marg Muntz, and from Shylie Brown's book "Life Behind the Bar".

John Cullen emigrated from County Fermanagh, northern Ireland, arriving in NSW on the ship *Kate* on 4 December 1855, aged 21 years. He came from humble origins, his father being a farm labourer, so most likely was seeking better prospects.

His younger sister Jane had already emigrated, arriving in July that year, aged 19, on the *Exodus* with her husband William Vance, an agricultural labourer. They settled at Kiama, where their five children were registered.

John joined them at Kiama, found work and soon married an Irish immigrant, Anna-Maria Curry, who gave birth to their first child in 1857. Eventually they would raise 11 children, five girls and six boys, the last nine being born in the Wingecarribee district.

As John and Jane considered there were great opportunities for settlers prepared to work, they encouraged the rest of the family back in Ireland to also emigrate. Their parents, Rebecca and Robert Cullen, and three younger children – Ann 19 years, James 17, and Sarah 12 – arrived at Sydney in March 1861 on the ship *Queen Bee*, with John as sponsor.

By the early 1860s both the John Cullen and William Vance families had taken up at Burrawang, along with the Cullen family from Ireland. A descendant later recalled that John's property's was located on Pearson's Lane, midway between Wildes Meadow and Robertson.

John's rustic Irish upbringing no doubt provided him with the know-how and endurance required to clear and fence his land, erect a residence and stables, and care for the livestock he bred.

William Vance established a dairy farm at Burrawang which, according to a daughter's obituary in the *Southern Mail* in 1947, had been regarded as the best in the district.

John Cullen was instrumental in forming a Loyal Orange Lodge at Burrawang. In June 1872 the *Protestant Standard* reported that the Burrawang LOL, being number 80, was opened on Saturday, 18 May, with several Sydney brethren present. The meeting was held at Bro Cullen's residence. The opening ceremony commenced at 8pm, after which the brethren repaired to Bro McClintock's, where supper was provided. Burrawang Lodge meetings continued to be held at John Cullen's, on the first Wednesday before each full moon, for many years.

John's mother Rebecca died in 1873 and his father Robert in 1876, both at Burrawang. The family's youngest son James married Matilda Millar of Goulburn in 1872. They would have eight children.

In 1873 James became proprietor and first licensee of the Commercial Hotel at Burrawang. The single-storey, timber building in Barrett St (now Hoddle St) had nine rooms and outbuildings, stable, coach house and a well of pure water, on 69 acres.



The Commercial Hotel at Burrawang, c1875

James re-named it the Burrawang Hotel in 1876.

By this time, the Southern Railway having opened through the district in 1867, the new township of Moss Vale was growing around its railway station.

In 1875 John Cullen purchased the leasehold for that town's Terminus Hotel along with an adjoining Railway Store, Meeting Hall and land at the rear.

The hotel had been built in the early 1860s by Martin Larkin who moved to the district in anticipation of the railway's opening. On the site of the present-day Moss Vale Hotel he built a brick inn, its first official date being 1 July 1866, and in 1868 he named it the Terminus Hotel.

Having purchased the Terminus in 1875 from Larkin, in 1880 John Cullen renamed it the Royal Hotel.



John Cullen's Royal Hotel, Store and Hall at Moss Vale

John Cullen was both proprietor and licensee until 1888, when he was elected to the first Moss Vale Municipal Council, and Edward Goodridge took over as licensee.

In 1893 Goodridge, by then also an alderman, paid John Cullen an estimated 6,700 pounds for the hotel, store, hall and land, and subsequently enlarged the hotel.

Prior to this, in 1883 John Cullen had acquired another hotel at Moss Vale. This was the Tattersall Hotel, erected in 1879 at the corner of Lackey and Argyle Sts. After being its lessee for a year, Cullen passed the licence to his son-in-law, Edward Aland, the husband of his daughter Elizabeth. The Alands changed the name to the Central in 1891. More about this hotel and John's later years will be provided in Part 2 of this series in the next issue.

In its 20th year's publication in April 1894, the local *Scrutineer* provided a retrospective: "The first of this journal was issued on 9 April 1874, when Moss Vale was only a little settlement. It was compiled and printed in a small building near the then Terminus Hotel – a squat weatherboard building kept by Mr Larkin. The property was afterwards sold to John Cullen and on the site now stands Goodridge's Royal Hotel, which for its general appearance, comfort and convenience cannot be surpassed by any country hotel in NSW."

"Some of our readers can recollect a dim outline of the old Terminus Hotel with its landlord Cullen bustling about, and predicted as he did that Moss Vale would grow steadily but surely."

James Cullen also opens hotel at Moss Vale

Meanwhile, John Cullen's brother James had, in April 1879, sold the Burrawang Hotel and relinquished its licence, having secured a lengthy lease at Moss Vale on a town block owned by the Throsby family.

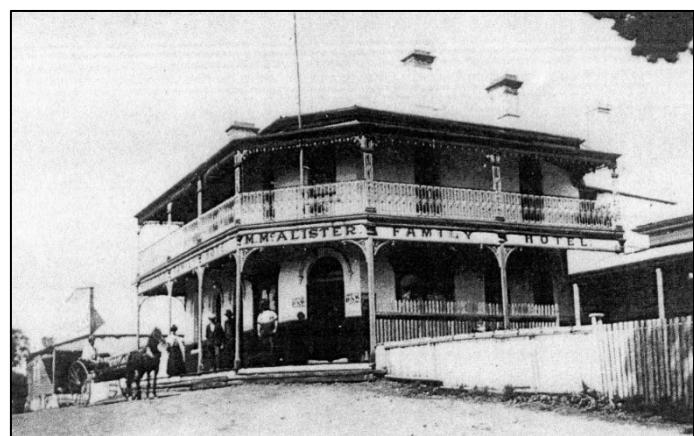
At the corner of Argyle and Valetta Sts, James erected a two-storey, brick building of 21 rooms with first floor verandahs. It had a 16-stall horse stable and coach house with room for nine coaches.

The premises opened in late 1879, James being proprietor and licensee. He advertised it in Sydney papers as the "Family Hotel, opposite the Goods-shed, Moss Vale. Ample accommodation for families and visitors. Best brands of wines and spirits. Horses and buggies on hire at all times. Charges strictly moderate."

A notice in the *Town & Country Journal* of August 1879 reveals James had other interests as well: "To Studmasters – for private sale, the thoroughbred stallion Talisman, a bright bay, five years old, and over 16 hands high, showing great bone and muscle. The horse can be inspected and further particulars obtained from the owner, James Cullen."

His hotel was more commonly known as *Cullen's Family Hotel* and became the booking office in 1881 for a new coach line that ran between Moss Vale and Nowra. James was ready to retire in 1890 and advertised the hotel for sale, separately from a wooden wing at the rear in which a cordial factory operated. When the hotel did not sell he was declared bankrupt in 1890 and moved to Sydney.

James Cullen died there in September 1911, aged 63, and is buried at Waverley Cemetery.



The Family Hotel, Moss Vale, c1900, with new licensees following James Cullen's departure in the 1890s

Various licensees ran the Family Hotel until, due to structural problems, its licence was revoked in 1911. After renovations it served as the *Buena Vista Guest House*, and was demolished in 1940.

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 a general collection.
- 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: Harlan Hall (Project Manager), Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster) and 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, Museums Australia Inc and NSW Association of Family History Societies.

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