

Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

# 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 514 March 2019



### From the President's Desk

Development of the Berrima District Museum reached a milestone in February with the opening of the Digital Gallery and accompanying Exhibition "A Butcher, A Baker, A Bunch of

Makers". A full report together with photos of the opening can be found inside this newsletter.

Kangaloon Public School is celebrating its 150th anniversary on 6 April this year. For more information contact the school or go to its website. Our member Bernadette Mahony has provided a history (on page 3).

Our meeting room was full at the last general meeting. Narelle Bown gave an interesting and thought-provoking talk on her recent publication, "The Aborigines of the Southern Highlands, NSW (1820-1850)". A copy of Narelle's book can be purchased from the Archives or Museum.

Have you ever undertaken a long road journey and wondered what it must have been like 60 years ago? Recently Denise and I travelled from Bowral to Melbourne down the "Hume". The road is now completely dual carriageway bypassing all the towns along the way. Today the journey takes eight hours

plus stops without breaking the speed limit! What was it like 60 years ago? The following account is of a family holiday (names withheld to protect the innocent) from Newcastle to Melbourne.

The journey began in Newcastle, the vehicle was a Morris 8 towing a small one wheel trailer and was packed to the rafters with 2 adults and 3 kids. The first day's travel ended at Paddy's River near Marulan after negotiating the Mooney Mooney bends, Hawkesbury River, Sydney roads, Razorback Mountain, semi-trailers and small towns along the way. At Paddy's River (a gentle stream) the tent was pitched and dinner cooked over the campfire (sorry RFS) before it became dark.

The next day was a much easier section ending in Holbrook where the whole tent thing was repeated. The third day was full steam ahead for Melbourne reaching the destination at night fall. After a great time with relatives and with spirits high, the car was once again packed with adults, kids and more luggage (can't forget the souvenirs) ready to tackle the three day return journey to Newcastle. But what a wonderful unforgettable pioneering adventure.

Ian Mackey

### GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

**MARCH 2019:**

**Thursday 28 March at 2:00pm**

**SPEAKER:**

Linda Emery: 'Captured in the Light No 12'

**AFTERNOON TEA** is served following the speaker.

Members please bring a plate or a donation.

**APRIL 2019:**

**Thursday 28 March at 2:00pm**

**SPEAKER:**

No meeting due to it being ANZAC Day

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**

### SWINGS & ROUNDABOUTS

Navigating roundabouts in Australia can drive you round the bend.

Our roundabouts are notoriously dangerous intersections. Although they have been 'on the road' for over 100 years, we still have very little idea of how they should work or what rules apply to drivers.

In one year, the NRMA has handled over 5000 claims for accidents on roundabouts. Not surprisingly about 1 in 4 motorists do not obey or understand roundabout rules.

The simple idea is to slow traffic down at an intersection. Give way to traffic already on the roundabout and merge when safe, indicating when exiting.

Some folk interpret this obstruction as their right to increase speed to somewhere near the sound barrier, barge ahead, closely tailgating the car in front like a caterpillar chain gang. Anyone on the left can just wait. Tough. Isn't it, first in, first serve?

The polite rule is to enter a roundabout when there is a break in the traffic, hoping that if you were there first, so it's your turn next.

However, the sensible rule is that you give way to the right, leaving you sitting in your car slowly decaying while the speed hogs zoom past.

In Canada, when yielding at a 4-way intersection, this courtesy rule applies and the first driver there goes first etc. Very civil, I think.

Canadians can sadly get wiped out on Australian roundabouts.

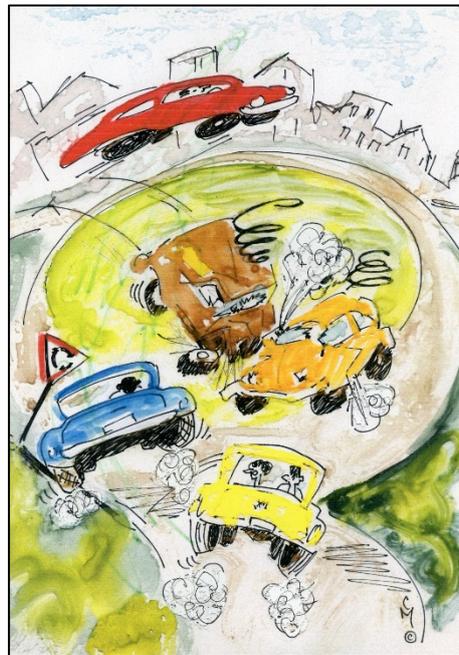
The small fried egg roundabout can cause more problems.

We should call these *Over Abouts* or *Why Bother Abouts*. If you have a big enough vehicle, like a road train, then you can bluff your way through, straight over the top ... the faster the better.

Many drivers over 50 suffer from the dreaded Stiff Neck Syndrome (SNS). This is an affliction common in the Highlands and generally witnessed

backing out in car parks, pulling out from the kerb and negotiating roundabouts. The advantage of having SNS gives one the right not to turn one's head, and drive straight ahead, flat out, without looking! So good luck with that one.

The other day I heard of a truck carrying a load of wigs overturned whilst negotiating a roundabout. The driver was shaken but quickly left the scene. Police are still busy combing the area.



Artwork by Chris Moore

## 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.

## Archives opening hours

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

## 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](mailto:bdhsarchives@gmail.com)

## 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

Managed and operated by members of our Society, who volunteer their time and expertise.

## Conference at Galong in May

### Whole Histories: Keeping the Stories Alive

Yass and District Historical Society invites our members to its annual conference at St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong, from Friday 10 May to Sunday 12 May.

This is a unique and interesting annual gathering for local and family historians, archives and museum workers and for anyone with an interest in Australian history.

The conference this year features two keynote addresses:

Jeff Brown, Surveyor-General – Unlocking history with maps and survey plans

Kevin Bradley, Assistant Director General at the National Library of Australia – Local history resources at the National Library of Australia

Other speakers and topics include:

Dr Mathew Trinca – Writing about the Brindabellas: Banjo Paterson to Elyne Mitchell

Dr Keith Amos – Early schooling in bush communities near Yass

Dr Perry McIntyre – Why publish history? A good question

Dr Dave Headon – Footballing raiders of Canberra and Queanbeyan: The back story

It is a value-packed weekend with all talks, accommodation, meals and entertainment modestly priced.

Further details and booking form are available on Yass & District Historical Society website.

## March Guest Speaker: Linda Emery

### Captured in the Light series, No 12

Be informed and entertained by another in this very popular series on Thursday 28 March, showcasing photographs in the BDHS collection. This year Linda will feature a selection of newly acquired photos and some interesting photos on modes of transport over time to commemorate the opening, 30 years ago, of the Berrima By-pass for the Hume Freeway.



Bowral, 1950s



22 March 1989

## Kangaloon Public School 150<sup>th</sup> in April

Kangaloon Public School is this year celebrating its 150 years of public education. A "Back to Kangaloon" family open day is being held on Saturday 6 April at the school. It will be an opportunity for past students, residents and their families and friends to come back to the school to celebrate and acknowledge the contribution Kangaloon Public School has made to the lives of so many people over the past 150 years.

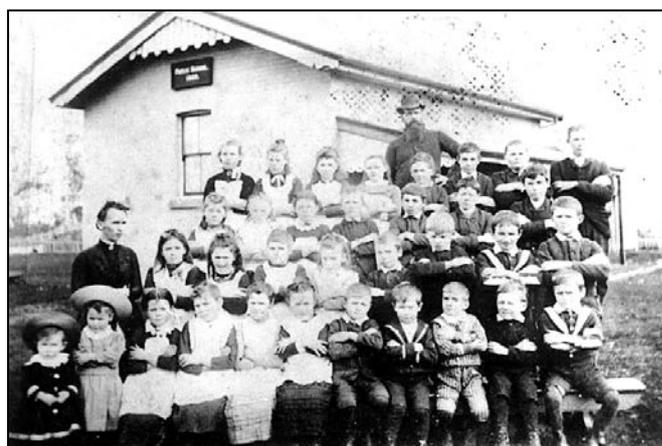
There will be an anniversary ceremony, historical displays, vintage cars and machinery, family games and other attractions. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be available.

Our member Bernadette Mahony, a Kangaloon area resident, compiled the book *Kangaloon Footprints*, published in 2013, being a collection of recorded events, photographs and anecdotes of Kangaloon's past and the people who lived there. Bernadette has provided the following school history and photo.

The application to establish a school at West Kangaloon, now Kangaloon, was signed on 13 November 1867 by a Local Committee comprising Eli Schofield (farmer), Samuel Carson (farmer), William Russell (postmaster), James Dorrrough (farmer), William Porter (farmer), John Dorrrough (farmer) and Frederick Brenning (farmer).

James Dorrrough donated 2 acres of his land for the school site while the schoolhouse was erected by his brother, John Dorrrough. It was painted by William Russell and William Weir cleared the grounds.

When the school was opened in August 1869 it was the third public school established in the Wingecarribee district and continuous education has taken place there for 150 years. For most of its history Kangaloon School has been a one teacher school educating the local children who were mainly the children of dairy farmers. Today there are two classes and 32 children, both local and from nearby towns, enjoying the education offered by this small school in a beautiful rural environment.



Kangaloon Public School (pictured above c1890) has played an important role in not only educating the children of the district but has been in many ways the heart of Kangaloon since its establishment in 1869.

**Empire, Sydney, 21 August 1869: WINGECARRIBEE.**

August 13. Our new public school at Kangaloon, was opened on last Monday. It is a very neat building and the contractors were John and James Dorrrough. The school room is about 30x14 feet and well ventilated. It is high and yet very commodious. At the centre of the east side stands a brick fireplace, and at each end are two large windows. There is also attached a teacher's residence, the whole costing £300. It is situated near the Post Office, at the main Kangaloon Road. A teacher has been sent to take charge of the school, and seems to succeed very well. This is the third public school in our district, and we are going to have another at the village of Robertson. (Correspondent, Kiama Pilot)

## Opening of Museum's digital gallery

On 16 February the official opening of the Berrima District Museum's Digital Gallery and the exhibition, "A Butcher, A Baker, A Bunch of Makers" was held.



Harlan Hall created the original concept around eight years ago. The first major project was construction of the Williams Gallery, a building extension on the western side of the Museum.

The first exhibition was the Southern Highlands 1200, remembering the local men and women who served in WW1. This exhibition closed in November 2018 and immediately the transformation began to create the Digital Gallery. The work was completed within three months but involved many long hours by all concerned.

There were approximately 180 people in attendance at the opening ceremony including official guests, sponsors, donors, political representatives, Council representatives, Society members and volunteers.



Some of our guests sheltered under a marquee while the majority stood around enjoying the summer's afternoon. Ample food and wine was provided for all.

Kristie Phelan, who designed and produced the exhibition in conjunction with Harlan Hall and the Museum volunteers, was the MC for the afternoon. She welcomed all guests and thanked the Makers, the Museum and Harlan for their assistance and hard work.



Lyn Hall responded on behalf of Harlan, thanking all the sponsors and donors for their support.



Ian Mackey, BDH&FHS President, spoke about the future of the Museum, this being the completion of stage one of the project. The second stage which is the renovation and reorganisation of the Klein and Prisoners in Arcady rooms will be carried out over the next six months. It should be noted that the Digital Gallery was financed by Government grant funding supported by cash and in-specie contributions and that the exhibition was funded entirely by sponsors and donors with no Society funds utilised.

The next speaker was Joanna Reynolds, who is Managing Director of the Folio Society. She had arrived from London that morning and spoke on the importance of storytelling.



Jennifer Bott AO, a local resident, spoke about the exciting new time for creativity and arts in the region. Jennifer is currently Chair of NIDA and is an advisor to the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House in innovation and development. She consults in management, governance, external relations and philanthropy. She is also a Trustee of The Australian Museum, Bundanon Trust, Canberra Writers Festival, and the NIDA Foundation Trust.

In her talk, Jennifer made mention of recent research showing that trust is sinking in our public and private institutions and how, in a media environment where 'fake news' swirls around us, interestingly people do have faith in museums and their truth and authenticity.



Jennifer Bott then officially opened our new Digital Gallery and its inaugural Exhibition.

A silent auction was held where attendees bid on donated prizes and was enthusiastically supported with approximately \$3300 raised.



**Wiebke Benze von Fritz (on right) and Matt Kowalski**

Pictured above, Wiebke is the wife of Peter Fritz, one of the museum digital gallery's major donors. His father Leslie migrated from Transylvania in 1962 and saw the potential for making wine in the district, which he did at Eling Forest. Matt is from Southern Highlands Farm Management and is featured in the exhibition.

The local painter James King did a series of images from some photos of the WW1 internees, several being done on covers of old books. Christie Phelan presents Harlan Hall with one from the series.



**Front row: Jennifer Bott, Harlan Hall & Mayor Duncan Gair**

The day was declared a huge success. Since the opening the number of paying customers has significantly increased, which bodes well for the future, as it is proposed to fund future exhibitions substantially from Society resources.

All the photographs of the opening shown above were taken by Brian Rapsey of Willow Vale NSW 2575. His website is [www.rhapsodypictures.com.au](http://www.rhapsodypictures.com.au)

## Memories of Moss Vale Public School

A list of new books in our library was provided in last month's newsletter. It included a book published by Moss Vale Public School titled *Helping children to learn well for 150 years: 1868-2018* by David Baxter.

Another book about Moss Vale Public School's 150 years, a companion book to the above-mentioned one, has been donated to our library by David Baxter.

David was born in Moss Vale, is an ex-student of the school, and now describes himself as an 'old-time resident' of the town. He is a member of our Society and is well respected as a local historian.



The second book by David is titled *Moss Vale Public School Sesquicentenary 1868-2018: 150 Years of History, Memories and Photos*.

David published this book himself to make available all the school photos and written memories he had obtained for which there was not sufficient space in the first book. The second book meets a demand from the students, ex-students, parents and teachers who are members of his "I went to Moss Vale Public School" Facebook site and who provided their memories and many of the school photos.

The book also presents historic data from the author's private collection or gleaned from local newspaper articles, and contains numerous photographs from his collection as well as those donated by parents, students and ex-students.

David writes that the school has always been a special place for him. He can trace his maternal ancestors back seven generations attending the school. His own schooling at Moss Vale Public began in 1955. He saw the new infant class rooms opened in 1959 right through to the opening of the new High School in 1963. His class was the first to 'test' the High School one day prior to the rest of the students.

Our Society joins with David in heartily congratulating Moss Vale Public School on its 150 years.

## Extract from early local newspaper

### ADVICE TO WOMEN IN 1890s

The *Bowral Free Press*, circulated in the local district from 1883 until the early 1900s, regularly included items of interest to women as a back page feature. An article titled 'How to Cook Husbands', provided in the 27 September 1893 issue, is reproduced here:

"A good many husbands are utterly spoiled by mismanagement. Some women go about as if their husbands were bladders, and blow them up. Others keep them constantly in hot water; others let them freeze by their carelessness and indifference. Some keep them in a stew by irritating ways and words. Others roast them. Some keep them in pickle all their lives. It cannot be supposed that any husband will be tender and good, managed in this way, but they are really delicious when properly treated.

In selecting your husband you should not be guided by any silvery appearance, as in buying mackerel, by the golden tint, as if you wanted salmon. Be sure to select him yourself, as tastes differ. Do not go to market for him, as the best are always brought to your door.

It is far better to have none unless you will patiently learn how to cook him. A preserving kettle of the finest porcelain is the best but if you have nothing but an earthen kettle it will do, with care. See that linen in which you wrap him is nicely washed and mended, with the required number of buttons and strings nicely sewed on.

Tie him in the kettle by a strong silken cord called comfort, as the one called duty is apt to be weak. They are apt to fly out of the kettle and be burnt and crusty on the edges, since, like crabs and oysters, you have to cook them while alive. Make a clear steady fire out of love, neatness and cheerfulness. Set him as near this as seems to agree with him. If he sputters and fizzes, do not be anxious; some husbands do this till they are quite done.

Add a little sugar in the form of what confectioners call kisses, but no vinegar or pepper on any account. A little spice improves them, but it must be used with judgment. Do not stick any sharp instrument into him to see if he is becoming tender. Stir him greatly; watch the while, lest he lie too flat and close to the kettle, and so become useless. You cannot fail to know when he is done. If thus treated, you will find him very digestible, agreeing nicely with you and the children, and he will keep as long as you want, unless you become careless and set him in too cold a place."

A search through digitised early newspapers on the National Library's Trove website reveals that the article appeared in about 30 Australian papers between 1892 and 1900.

It first appeared in June 1892 in the *Maitland Mercury* which, unlike the local paper, provided some attribution of the source, stating that "in the Baltimore Cooking School, the recipe for cooking a husband so as to make him tender and good, was contributed by a lady presumably of experience. We commend it to our lady readers".

In February 1900 the *Bendigo Independent* made mention of a recently published, amusing pamphlet "How to Cook Husbands" written by Elizabeth Strong Worthington of New York and on sale for a shilling.

It remained in circulation until at least 1907, the date specified on the pamphlet's

cover (reproduced here) which is from a digital copy held on the US-based Open Library website.

The *Bowral Free Press* followed the 'Cooking Husbands' piece in 1893 with its regular Women's Column, in which a variety of advice was offered, including that:

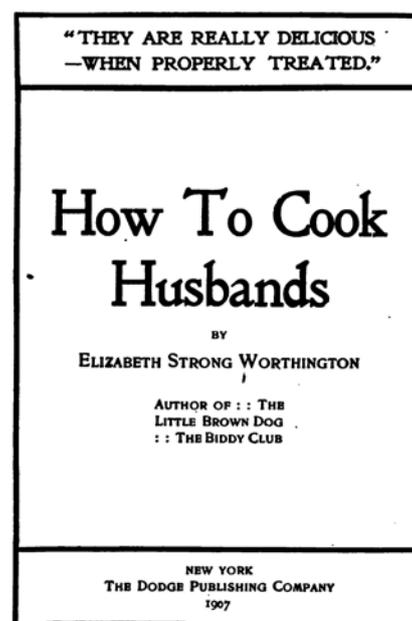
"To keep the complexion and spirits good, to preserve grace, strength, and agility of motion, there is no gymnasium so valuable, no exercise more beneficent than sweeping, dusting, making beds, washing dishes, and the polishing of brass and silver. One year of such muscular effort within doors, together with regular exercise in the open air, will do more for a woman's complexion than all the lotions and pomades that ever were invented."

"Beauty and genius are the gifts of Providence, but a good heart is within the power of all to cultivate."

"Put French chalk or magnesia on silk or ribbon that has become greasy, and hold it near the fire."

While this quaint advice from yesteryear may not be relevant today, perhaps it is still thought provoking.

- compiled by Philip Morton



## First local 'Soap-box Derby'

The first soap-box derby to be held locally took place in Bowral on 27 January 1947. The *Southern Mail* reported that the innovation attracted a crowd of 800 people, being the culmination of months of preparation. It was conducted by Bowral Apex Club in aid of the fund to provide clubrooms for Bowral Boy Scouts, and held in conjunction with a carnival day, being preceded by a procession through the town.

In December 1946 it was advised in the newspaper that: "the course for the soap-box derby was selected by an engineer who has had previous experience in such matters. For its suitability and safety aspects he selected Rose Street and approval has been obtained from Bowral Council to the closing of this street. The 400-yard course starts with a steep gradient for about 80 yards, then a long, less steep slope, followed by 30 yards of almost level road."

"A number of business houses have expressed their intention to enter representatives in the derby, and some local youths are already busy making billycars to the required specifications, which are: not exceeding 120 lbs weight, length 78 inches, width 42 inches, height 30 inches, wheels 16 inches. Mr Jack Rutledge, a member of the Apex Club, has obtained good prizes, including two bicycles, now on display in his window, for the three main events."

The putting together of the vehicles for the derby meant long hours for several men who made them in their spare time, no doubt to the joy of the boys who took them for test runs.

Every effort was made to protect the drivers and public from accident. A list of rules were published, including that drivers had to wear boots or heavy shoes as sandshoes or bare feet were not allowed. Rules also encouraged fair competition: no ballast to be carried in the carts or on the driver's person and no mechanical aid to increase speed. Officials reserved the right to disqualify any driver or cart whom or which they considered dangerous.

According to the *Southern Mail's* report on 31 January 1947 the derby was well conducted and the safety measures, which included the marking of lanes on the road and the sandbagging of telephone posts and the bridge, had entailed a great deal of work. "Club members were jubilant, however, when all eleven races passed off without accident."

The event was described as follows: "In one of the heats a competitor, who fortunately was leading at the time, developed a wobble in the steering of his

vehicle just after leaving the steep portion of the hill and veered into the lanes on either side of him. He was able to regain control, however, before another competitor on the outside lane overtook him.

The races were preceded by a procession led by Bowral Scouts and Cubs with about sixteen billycars and model cars following. At the Rose Street bridge the Mayor (Ald W F Foley) judged the vehicles and made his awards.

At intervals between races, stalls did a thriving business and many of them had disposed of their wares in a couple of hours. Mr Ted Springett gave a skillful exhibition as a magician in one sideshow and had as his assistant Miss Margaret Annull. Members of Apex maintained supplies to the soft drinks and ice cream stalls. Boy Scouts acted as gatekeepers at the entrances to Rose St. Ropes down the side of the street kept back spectators, but on occasions a few of the crowd disregarded them and may have caused an accident, not only to themselves but to the drivers."

In noting results, the paper stated that "the fastest time was 25 and 4/5 seconds, quite remarkable for billycars, some of which were more like model cars". The final was won by Springett's Silver Streak, a streamlined model piloted by John Haylock. Second was Graham Robinson, driving a billycart of his own construction.

A soap box derby was held annually until 1952, then briefly revived in the 1970s at Bowral and Moss Vale.



A later Soap Box Derby in Rose St, Bowral, held in 1950



Daryl Smith in Red Fury, 1950

- compiled by Philip Morton

## 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), Harold Wall (Human Resources) and John Schweers.
- 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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