



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 517 June 2019



From the President's Desk

You cannot fail to notice that the Highlands is again in the midst of the annual Pie Time Festival. Competition winners were announced on 1 June and the culmination of the Festival will be Pie Fest at the Bong Bong Racecourse on 29 and 30 June. The festival runs for the entire month of June.

Our own Berrima District Museum will feature a special pie themed exhibition throughout June. This exhibition created by hard working Lyn Hall features vintage pie making equipment, cookbooks and recipes (see pg. 5). These items were kindly lent to the Museum by BDHS members Jenny and John Zantis of Mittagong and feature some of their treasured items which are in excellent condition and include Fowler Ware and Crown Ovenware. It is well worth a visit to the Museum during the month of June to see the Pie Time exhibition, look at the other exhibitions including the "A Butcher, a Baker a Bunch of Makers" in the recently opened Digital gallery and enjoy the warm ambience of the Museum.

On 23 May the Society's office bearers met with Wingecarribee Shire Council staff to discuss the short and long term needs of our Society which was a requirement in a resolution passed by Councillors during negotiations for the renewal of our lease for the Archive premises. The report to be prepared must be submitted to Council by November 2019.

Matters discussed ranged from what could be done in the short term to improve amenity and accessibility to existing premises to the possibility of a purpose built facility constructed on another site. It is recognised that no such facility currently exists for the latter and any proposal would be long term, possibly 5 to 10 years as it would require government funding.

Our informal Family History Group meetings continue on the first Wednesday of each month, the numbers ranging from 10 to 15 at each session. A variety of subjects are discussed, information sessions are presented and brick walls are starting to crumble.

Goodpie for now,
Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

JUNE 2019: Thursday 27 June 12:00 for 12:30pm
EVENT: June Luncheon, Bowral Golf Club

JULY 2019: Thursday 25 July at 2:00PM
SPEAKER: Garry Barnsley

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

Food for Thought

Cookbooks seem to have the world's worst indexes; I'm sure the congenital

village idiot had assembled them at the last minute.

Our favourite green chicken curry has about 189 ingredients. Often, I have to look up the formula in a battered old cookbook. I've also forgotten the page, so quickly heading for the index do you think it's under Chicken?

Never. Green? No. Curry? You're joking. There it is! It's under S for Spicy Thai, of course.

Quantities are also misleading and downright immeasurable. E.g. we often are asked to use a pinch, slurp, glug, dollop, dash, splash...what do these vague measurements mean?

My slurp is bigger than my splash. I'm sure there would be at least 10 pinches to the dollop. Do 3 dashes make a pinch? Who knows?

That's the cook's prerogative, I guess.

Then there's the question of what to do with leftovers? My Mum always fed us leftovers. We drove all day to visit my parents, car packed to the gunwales with kids, dogs, camping gear and the odd hitch hiker to a welcome of: 'You're just in time for dinner. I've got some lovely leftovers for you in the fridge!'

Thanks for that, Mum. The main meal has never been found.

Our family has a great appreciation for food. It's in our genes (or on our jeans). Coming from a long line of restaurateurs, bakers, gourmet cooks and compounding chemists, we love to spend time preparing, eating and savouring meals. When the family gathers, we can spend a whole night over dinner, sitting around the table.

It's been known that at least one child has had to be resuscitated after falling asleep in his dessert.

Here's an old recipe for preparing and cooking quinces. Add a choko and an axe head to a pot of boiling water. When axe head is soft, vegetables are ready to eat.

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

OPEN WEDNESDAY to SUNDAY
and **EVERY DAY** during NSW School
Holidays and on Public Holidays

HOURS

June, July and August: 10am to 3pm;

September to May: 10am to 4pm

Groups welcome at other times by
arrangement. Ph: Lyn 02 4862 1626
or John 0434 623 402.

Museum: Phone 4877 1130 or
email bdmuseum@bigpond.com

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

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:

\$30.00 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.

Yerrinbool celebrates rail 100th

The Picton-Mittagong Deviation via Bargo for the Southern Railway opened on 19 July 1919, with stations built at Bargo, Yanderra, Yerrinbool and Aylmerton. This was 100 years ago.

Centenary celebrations will be held at Yerrinbool Station and Community Hall on Saturday 13 July, starting at 10:00am. Our Society will be holding a book stall in the Hall on the day.

The Great Southern Railway had first opened from Picton to Mittagong via Thirlmere and Hill Top in February 1867. Rather than following the Great Southern Road through Bargo, which would have required bridges and tunnels beyond the colony's means at the time, the single-track line was built along the rugged, undulating Bargo ridge. The line's steep grades became problematic with the steady increase in rail traffic over the years.

Duplication of the entire Southern line began in 1910. The deviation via Bargo was part of this effort, having become possible due to improved engineering systems enabling the construction of a new tunnel out of Picton, a viaduct over Bargo River, and long, winding tunnels at Yerrinbool and Aylmerton for the climb to the Mittagong ridge.

The opening of the Bargo deviation in 1919 completed duplication of the entire line from Picton to Goulburn.



Tunnel construction near Yerrinbool for the Bargo deviation, c1915

June Luncheon at Bowral Golf Club

Our June Luncheon this year will be held once again at the Bowral Golf Club, Kangaloon Road.

The date is Thursday 27 June, starting at 12:00 for 12:30pm. The cost is \$45 per person. A two-course meal with tea/coffee will be served and there will be the usual ticket prizes and raffle.

We invite members and their friends to attend what will be a most enjoyable event. Please book and pre-pay as soon as possible at the Archives, as numbers are limited.

Nick Rheinberger of ABC Illawarra will be the guest speaker at the lunch. He presents the Morning Show heard weekdays on 97.3FM from 8:30am and also available online. The program keeps listeners up to date with events and happenings in the Illawarra and Southern Tablelands/Highlands region.

Nick's biography on the ABC website states that he has worked as a blues singer, children's entertainer, songwriter and cook, but the one consistent thing in his CV is his work in radio.

Nick started in radio as a comedy writer in Canberra, eventually working as a writer and announcer for stations in Sydney, Melbourne, Geelong and Perth.

He started working with the ABC on Overnights, before moving to NSW Statewide Drive, and has since hosted the Morning Show on ABC Illawarra.



Nick has also spent quite a lot of time writing comedy for TV, including working with the first season of BackBerner and the final season of Good News Week.

Nick lives with his wife and family in Mittagong, and says he enjoys cooking, mucking about with his kids, and playing his collection of big and small stringed instruments.

At our lunch he will talk about his radio experience, about growing up in a NSW regional area and about his special connections with the Southern Highlands.

Our luncheon is a great opportunity for members and friends to mingle in the Club's convivial surroundings.

Anzac Commemoration in France

The Lindsay family of Mittagong, Malcolm, Vicki, Caitlin and Lachlan, undertook a battlefields tour in France during their recent trip to Europe and before they left, came into the Society to research the local soldiers who died during World War I.

We provided a list of names, so they were able to visit some of the graves of 'our boys' to pay their respects. The Lindsays attended the Dawn Service on Anzac Day at Villers-Bretonneux, where they laid flowers at the Australian Memorial on behalf of our society. We thank them for their thoughtfulness in offering to do so.

They also took a large number of photographs, both from the Australian Memorial and the Adelaide Cemetery at Villers-Bretonneux which they have given to us in digital form for our archives.



The Local Street Names Project

In the May newsletter, Linda Emery provided a listing of current projects being undertaken by the archives team. One of these is the local street names project. A group of our members are researching the origins of street names in the major towns and villages of the Wingecarribee Shire, to be published as a series of booklets. The first will be on Mittagong's street names, and is almost ready for publication.

The current April/May 2019 issue of Highlife includes an article by Linda Emery on street names. Here are some extracts to whet your appetite for the forthcoming booklets.

How did your street get its name? Most of us probably give little thought to why the street we live in is named as it is. In the Southern Highlands, numerous subdivisions dating back to the early days of residential development have interesting themes.

One of the first was the sale of land by the Oxley brothers, John Norton and Henry Molesworth, sons of explorer and Surveyor General of NSW, John Oxley. In their subdivision plan for the Village of Burradoo (later to be known as Bowral) they used local Aboriginal names for many of the streets, including Merrigang, an aboriginal name for the native dog that lived on the Mittagong Range, and Banyette, a local aboriginal woman.

In Mittagong, the area to the north of the Old Hume Highway that encloses Lake Alexandra was the nucleus of the town and originally known as New Sheffield. During the 1860s, it grew up as the township for the Fitzroy Iron Works located to the south, the site of present-day Highlands Marketplace.

If you know your Kings and Queens of England you will recognize the origins of the street names in this subdivision. Queen Street and Victoria Street, with the cross street, Albert Street, are obvious.



But each of Victoria and Albert's nine children (seen above) also has a street named for them – Edward who was to succeed Victoria as monarch, Alice, Alfred, Helena, Louise, Arthur, Leopold and Beatrice. The eldest child, Victoria, had to share, her mother having the prior claim to the name.

This is a fairly straightforward naming pattern, and relatively common for the times. A bit more obscure, but much more imaginative, are the names of 19 other Mittagong streets, all part of an 1884 subdivision sold by the Mittagong Land Company. All 19 commemorate, or celebrate, the names of scientists, geologist, physicists, inventors and chemists. A former archivist of the historical society, Dr John Simons, himself a scientist, researched this subdivision some years ago.

In Moss Vale, the first town subdivisions were of Throsby land in 1863, in the area bounded roughly by Argyle Street, Railway Street and Yarrawa Road. A later land sale included lots in Elizabeth, Broughton and Throsby Streets, referencing Elizabeth Throsby nee Broughton, wife of Charles Throsby.

Developers of new subdivisions in Wingecarribee Shire are encouraged to come up with street names that relate to the local area. A good example is Moss Vale's Tomley Street, named in 2005 for Private John William Tomley, killed at Gallipoli on 6 August 1915 during the Battle of Lone Pine. The Tomley family ran a tearoom in Argyle St, now Bernie's Diner. John's sister Ethel was one of the founders of the Moss Vale Blue Gum Girls who provided entertainment and comforts for soldiers during WWI and again in WWII.

With the passing of time, the reasons for street naming patterns in a town, village or suburb can be lost. How many people associate Balaclava on the northern side of Mittagong with the famous Charge of the Light Brigade that took place in 1854? A closer look at the street names in the area reveals the clear references to the Crimean War and the disastrous charge by the British cavalry.

Museum is on the 2019 Pie Time trail

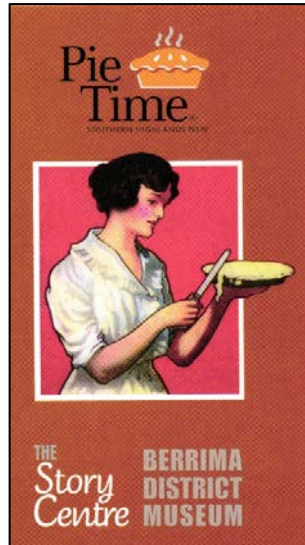
The museum is included in the Destination Southern Highlands promotion for Pie Time throughout June.

For the museum to be listed in the Events section on the DSH website, 'Bonus Offers' are required to be available for visitors.

Visitors to the museum may choose from two free offers: either a set of five specially designed and printed recipe cards, OR 2 gift adult entry tickets to use at a later date or give to a friend or family member.

The museum has a special *petite* display featuring vintage cooking equipment and front covers of vintage recipe books, all kindly lent by John & Jenny Zantis, who are members of our Society.

Keeping watch over the special display is a vintage mannequin dressed in late 1970s dress and apron. The Pie Time display temporarily replaces the Rosalind Badgery exhibition in the Klein Room.



The museum's contribution is part of an extensive local celebration of the great Aussie pie. Steve Rosa, Group Manager Tourism for Destination Southern Highlands, says that the month of June has now become known as Pie Time in the Southern Highlands – where there are 30 days and 100s of ways to enjoy and experience pies. Over the past two years, Destination Southern Highlands has developed and positioned the Southern Highlands as Australia's Home of Pies due to its high concentration of pie makers in the region which covers 17 picturesque towns and villages.

Pie Time 2019 will offer a month-long calendar of pie-themed events, activities, tours and festivals. There is *Dine with a Pie* signature pie experiences at over 50 restaurants, cafes, cellar doors, pubs and hotels, the new *Pies & Pinot* and *Sweetie Pie & Bubbles* trails around the Highlands, pie teas, pie-cycle tours, and new activities such as star gazing at Cuttaway Hill Wines and the Southern Pielander Express – a special Cockatoo Run 3801 Pie theme train trip from Sydney to Robertson and Moss Vale.

One of the Pie Recipes displayed at the Museum

MEAT PIE serves 6

Ingredients

Short or puff pastry enough to cover top of pie.

Lightly beaten egg to glaze pastry

1.5 kg of Chuck steak, trimmed and cut into small cubes

2 rashers of bacon trimmed and chopped

1 tablespoon of butter

1 large white onion, peeled and sliced

3 cups of beef stock or half stock, half water

1 stick of celery sliced finely

½ half teaspoon of dried thyme

½ level teaspoon of black pepper

½ teaspoon of salt

2 level tablespoons of plain flour

Method

Cook the bacon in butter in large saucepan, add onion and cook well over a gentle heat until the onion is soft, clear and will add a good flavour. Add a few teaspoons of water if necessary to prevent onion from burning. Add all the ingredients except the flour to the pot, mix, cover with lid and simmer very gently for 1½ hours. Preheat oven to 220C° (425°F) Add a little cold water to flour and blend. Then add this to the meat continuing to stir over gentle heat until the mixture thickens. Check to see if it needs more salt and pepper then pour into a deep pie dish. Place a pie funnel or upturned egg cup in the centre.

Roll out pastry to desired thickness.

Cut several pastry strips to fit around pie dish rim. Wet edge and place strips around edge. Brush with lightly beaten egg.

Use rolling pin to lift pastry over filled pie dish. Trim around the edge of dish and press edges together with a fork. Make some small cuts or holes around top to allow steam out, and brush with beaten egg. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes and serve with mashed potato and peas for a traditional Aussie meal.

Sarah Loseby's 100 years honoured

Compiled by Philip Morton

On 4 September 1947, the venerable Miss Sarah Loseby attained her 100th birthday. Born near Bong Bong, she knew much about its early history.

The first European settlement in the Southern Highlands was at Bong Bong, where a ford allowed an easy crossing of the Wingecarribee River for users of the South Road and where 30 acres were reserved for a government village in November 1821. The entire site, between Moss Vale and Burradoo, is now preserved as public land within Bong Bong Common.

The settlement became the first local administrative centre but was abandoned in the early 1830s after a new line of road was built, diverting travellers to a new administrative centre downstream at Berrima.

On 18 January 1947, a trachyte obelisk was unveiled by Governor Northcott at Bong Bong to mark the historic site. In attendance were a group of historians from Sydney and many local people, including Miss Loseby, then aged 99 years, who from memory had created a sketch map of the original Bong Bong settlement, which was engraved onto the obelisk.



Later that year, the *Moss Vale Post* reported in early September that Bowral's civic authorities celebrated Miss Loseby's 100th birthday with a church service and various events. It also provided an outline of her life, from which the following is mostly taken.

The Loseby family is indelibly linked with the district's early settlement. Sarah Gregg Loseby was born at Harby Farm, Eridge Park Road, on 4 September 1847 and in 1947 was the sole survivor of her generation.

Charles and Mary Loseby, her parents, came to NSW in the barque *Tropic* in November 1845, her father (born in 1802) forsaking the life of a shoemaker in Leicestershire (England) for more thrilling adventures in a young colony, where two brothers had already made good. Charles and Mary brought seven children with them and settled at Harby Farm, where he initially built a slab and bark home. It was there that Sarah and another sister were born, making a family of four sons and five daughters.

Charles built a barn and stone cottage and made Harby Farm productive. They had a plentiful supply of green vegetables and luscious fruit, and to this, and the bracing air of the Highlands, Sarah attributed her long freedom from illness. It is recorded that some of the potatoes grown near the Bong Bong River, which washed the western boundary of the selection, weighed up to two pounds (0.9 kilograms) each.

Wheat was grown, it being one of the principal harvests locally until rust ruined the crops. Charles manufactured tanned leather from hides produced on the farm and made boots and shoes for the entire family. In 1860 he won the contract to deliver mail six days a week between Berrima and Bong Bong.

Charles' brother Richard, who had arrived in the colony at age 17, carried the mail between Sydney and the local area from 1825, and was licensee of the Argyle Inn at Bong Bong. Another brother, Thomas, was a soldier who twice enlisted in the colony, and from 1839 was licensee of the Kentish Arms, on the southern road between Berrima and the Crossroads, and then of the Bargo Tavern until 1848.

Sarah's mother Mary, born in 1806 at Somerby in Lincolnshire, died in August 1866 at Harby Farm, and her father Charles in August 1898. Sarah vacated the property in 1912 and went to live at her newly built house 'Somerby' in Boolway St, Bowral.

To celebrate Sarah Loseby's 100th birthday, Bowral Council arranged a series of ceremonies that occupied most of the afternoon of 4 September 1947. The *Southern Mail* later provided a description of the events, first noting that "amongst the many hundreds of messages received by Miss Loseby on her 100th birthday, were one from the King and Queen, one from the Governor-General of Australia, and one from the Governor of NSW".

A thanksgiving service in St Jude's Church of England was conducted by the Rector, Rev Pearce, with Geoff Beavan presiding at the organ. Miss Wilma Ritchie, of Bowral, and Mrs R Smith, of Sydney, a grand-niece of Miss Loseby, sang solos.

In his address to the congregation, Rev Pearce said: "We are all glad to be here on this memorable day and congratulate Miss Loseby on her remarkable achievement. Bowral is known all over the world for a famous century-maker, and will be mentioned all over Australia, and beyond, for this century-getter. We are indeed thankful, and also because she is so well and active. The lovely, sunny day symbolises our joy and happiness. I congratulate the Town Clerk for his careful and thorough arrangements. Miss Loseby has lived a long, useful and good life."

The hymn 'Onward, Christian Soldiers' was sung at the special request of Miss Loseby. Congratulatory telegrams and messages from the King and Queen, Mr Jeff Bate MLA, and Bowral Municipal Council were read by the Mayor (Ald W F Foley). Mr H C Loseby, Shire Clerk of Nyngan and a grand-nephew of Miss Loseby, said members of the family had travelled for many miles to be present that day, and on their behalf he thanked the citizens of Bowral for making the occasion such a memorable one.

In a message read by Rev Stanley Howard towards the end of the service, Miss Loseby said: I am 100 years old to-day. The 100 years of health and strength have been God's gift to me. I thank Him every day as I read my Bible and lift my heart to pray. He gives me my daily food and the flowers in my garden and kind friends to visit and happy thoughts of the past and bright hopes of the future. The day is never quite long enough for all I wish to do. On this, my birthday, I thank you for your goodness to me, and I hope you all enjoy every minute of your lives, as I have enjoyed mine so far."



Miss Loseby on the day with Rev Stanley Howard at right

Following the service, Miss Loseby planted a tree, it being one of several to replace pine trees that had recently been cut down in the church precinct.

Attendees then moved across to the Bowral Primary School grounds, where Miss Loseby unveiled a memorial plaque that was set in a pillar marking the site of the first regular school and church in Bowral. The pillar's base is of Bundanoon sandstone and the stone in which the plaque is set is a sandstone block from the old school building.



The deputy town clerk (Mr A V J Parry), who was one of the honorary municipal historians, then read a paper giving the history of the school. After removing the flag which covered the tablet, Miss Loseby was presented with bouquets by the Mayoress and by Brownie Dorothy Savell. The headmaster of Bowral Primary School, Mr Medicott, then read the tablet's inscription, it being: 'Bowral's first regular school and church stood on this site from 1863 to 1899. This stone was once part of the building, erected by early settlers, on land given by J N Oxley, Esquire, elder son of the famous explorer, Lieut John Oxley RN; First minister, Rev J S Hassall; Sunday-school teacher, Mrs Emily Oxley; and day-school teacher, Mr John Elkin. Unveiled on her 100th birthday, 4 September 1947, by Miss Sarah Gregg Loseby, of Bowral, daughter of an honoured Bong Bong pioneer. Erected by Bowral Municipal Council.'

A crowd of about 200 people moved to Bradman Oval for the opening of the Sarah Gregg Loseby children's playground. The Mayor welcomed Cr C J Ross (President of Wingecarribee Shire) and other visitors from surrounding districts, and then read congratulatory telegrams from the Governor-General, State Governor, Mr A D Fraser MHR, and the family of Sir Samuel Hordern.

Alderman Campbell addressed his remarks to the boys and girls present at the function. After telling them about the occasion's significance, he said that the Council had been worried as to what it would give Miss Loseby on her 100th birthday. Miss Loseby had said she had one wish on that day, and that was to be with children. The Council had decided to give the playground to her as a birthday gift from everyone in Bowral. As they played there, he hoped they would often think of the lovely lady who, when she became 100 years old, had the one thought that she wanted to see boys and girls happy.

The Mayoress then said it was a great honour to unveil the plaque and it gave her great pleasure to dedicate and name the playground. Would a birthday cake decorated with 100 candles be provided?

To be continued in next issue

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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