

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 443 September 2012

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ARCHIVES: Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.
OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.
Library collection contains reference books, journals and newsletters of other societies.

MUSEUM : Market Place, BERRIMA. Tel: 02 4877 1130 Email: berrimamuseum@bigpond.com OPEN: Saturdays, Sundays, NSW Public and School Holidays (except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day) 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

MEMBERSHIP: Any person wanting to join the Society may do so at any stage during the year by completing a form and paying the appropriate fee. Joining Fee \$10.00 - Single \$20.00 - Family \$33.00.

AFFILIATIONS: Royal Australian Historical Society, NSW Association of Family History Societies, Museums Australia Inc & Regional Chapter.

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Thursday 27 September 2012 at 2:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: Brad Argent
 Brad Argent from Ancestry.com.au will go through some of the more interesting collections on the ancestry website.
SUPPER: To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

OCTOBER MEETING: Thursday 25 October 2012 at 2:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: Hugh Mackay

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And more ...



Diary Dates

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Management Committee Meeting
- 21 School holidays commence
- 27 Monthly General Meeting - Talk by **Brad Argent** on Ancestry.com

OCTOBER

- Tulip Time
- 1 **MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**
- 8 School holidays conclude
- 11 Management Committee Meeting
- 25 Monthly General Meeting

NOVEMBER

- Office bearer nominations due
- Notices of motion due
- 8 Management Committee Meeting
- 22 **Monthly & AGM Meeting**

From the President's desk

Ken Reid

To begin with this month I want to offer a very special thank you to George Schofield, who has resigned from the Museum Sub-committee due to health reasons. George has been a great supporter of the Society and for many years has been a member of the Museum Sub-committee. Your contribution has been greatly appreciated George.

Work on our Image Library has progressed following the donation received from the IMB Foundation, and as will be seen in a separate article, is now partly available online through the Society's web site. Congratulations to our Archivist Linda Emery and her band of helpers in achieving this goal.

Discussions are being held with WSC regarding the relocation of the old Moss Vale water pump to land adjoining the Museum. We will keep you informed on the outcome of these discussions.

The Archives have again been busy handling 155 enquiries during August making the total for the year to date 809.

Publication sales totaled \$329. When possible, Carolyn Hutton is making herself available to handle sales from

our great range of publications after our general meetings. Thanks Carolyn.

Welcome to new members Ms Jodie Maybury, Mrs Susan Morrow, Mrs Judith McGhee, Mr Charles McGee and Mr David Palmer - I trust you will enjoy the many aspects the Society has to offer.

A reminder that our September meeting is at 2.00 pm. Guest speaker will be Brad Argent from Ancestry.com and I am sure that his talk will be most interesting for family history researchers.

For your diary: Our Christmas dinner is to be held at the Mittagong RSL on Friday 7 December at 6.30 for 7.00 pm.

On the lighter side, when fish are in schools they sometimes take debate and did you hear that a thief who stole a calendar got 12 months.

Hillview Open Days

Hillview is the former country residence of NSW Governors. It sits grandly on top of a hill on the Illawarra Highway with the entrance nearly opposite All Saints Anglican Church, Sutton Forest.

Damien Miller will have the property open to the public again this year in Tulip Time, from 18 September to 1 October. He is looking for people to act as voluntary guides on a day or half-day basis (10-4 or 10-1 or 1-4). There will be introductory tours of the property with Damien for volunteers to acquaint themselves with everything they need to know.

Tours this year will be self-guided with visitors receiving printed information, so the volunteers will be acting more as guardians and less as guides. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the preservation of a really significant piece of NSW heritage and to gain privileged access to the property and to Damien, its passionate curator.

Contact Society members Philip or Liz Walker on 4883 7439 or phizwalker@optusnet.com.au

Otherwise make a note to visit the historic residence during Tulip Time this year.

Society Membership

Membership renewals are due by October 1 and a renewal form is enclosed in this month's newsletter.

Annual Reports

A reminder to Officers - it's almost that time again - annual reports for inclusion in the November newsletter will be due at the end of next month. Thank you.

Archives opening hours

Opening hours are as follows:

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

Newsletter

Newsletter Deadline is **25th** of every month. It may be necessary to hold submissions after this date till the following month.

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

Market Place, Berrima
Near the bridge

OPENING HOURS

10 am - 4 pm.

Weekends, Public Holidays and NSW Public School Holidays.
Closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
Groups also welcome at other times by arrangement. Please telephone Bob or Gloria on 4889 4405.

September guest speaker

Brad Argent of Ancestry.com.au

Brad will be our speaker at the General Meeting at 2:00pm on Thursday 27 September.

He will go through some of the more interesting collections on the Ancestry.com.au site and promises to provide some tips and tricks for finding what you want.

Brad is Content Director for the Ancestry.com.au website and is responsible for identifying, acquiring and publishing content for the Australian and New Zealand markets. He says that the best part of his job is finding the stories in the content and the worst part is having to let them go. His own family history is peppered with a healthy mix of convicts and free settlers mostly from the UK. Brad has a background in information technology, online advertising and consultancy. Brad has been with the ancestry site since February 2007.



Background information

Ancestry.com.au is part of a global network of Ancestry websites, which include Ancestry.co.uk in the UK, Ancestry.com in the U.S., Ancestry.ca in Canada, Ancestry.de in Germany, Ancestry.it in Italy, Ancestry.se in Sweden, and Ancestry.fr in France.

Ancestry.com is the world's largest online resource for family history, with approximately 2 million paying subscribers around the world as of July 2012. Since starting as a publishing company in 1983, it has been a leader in the family history market for over 20 years and has helped pioneer the market for online family history research.

It believes that most people have a fundamental desire to understand who they are and from where they came, and that anyone interested in discovering, preserving and sharing their family history is a potential user of Ancestry.com. It strives to make its service valuable to individuals ranging from the most committed family historians to those taking their first steps towards satisfying their curiosity about their family stories.

Ancestry.com.au, Australia and New Zealand's leading family history website, offers members access to one billion searchable Australian, New Zealand and UK family history records.

Museum's the place during holidays

For the September school holidays there are varied and interesting displays on exhibition at the Society's Berrima District Museum.

Current exhibitions include a **Mystery Object Quiz** that suits youngsters accompanied by an older person. A small group of objects is on display without information labels. Two printed sheets are provided. One for the 'Wise One' which suggests some clues to offer the 'Young One' who is trying to work out what the object could be.

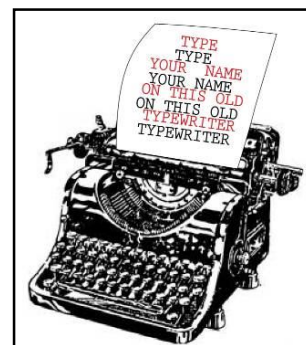
The Mystery Object Quiz intrigues both young and old. Can you identify the items shown in the display?



FUN FOR ALL AGES: Mystery Object Quiz display items

Also on display is a vintage typewriter that is nearly 100 years old. Children may use it to type their name on a sheet of paper inserted in the machine.

Bring all the family as there's plenty to interest both young and grown-ups. Society members admitted free of charge.



Society's Image Library now online

Linda Emery, Archivist

In keeping with our aim to make this collection more widely accessible, we recently applied for a grant of \$3,300 from the IMB Community Foundation to purchase an image library module for our photo cataloguing program, Perfect Pictures.

Last week, our new Online Image Library went 'live' – a real red-letter day for the volunteers at the archives who have been working so hard to scan photographs and transfer information to our photograph catalogue.

The Society's photographic collection numbers in excess of 8,000 images. Many of these images are unique, dating from the 1870s onwards. Our World War I Berrima German Internment Camp collection has been assessed as nationally significant by the National Library of Australia and is the largest of its type held by any repository in Australia.

The German Internment Camp photographic collection includes more than 400 images, taken both by the internees themselves and local professional photographers.

the internees returned to Germany after the war and most of their descendants, and indeed the wider historical community, would have no idea of the existence of this amazing photographic record in our small archive in regional New South Wales.

Access to the Image Library is through our website www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

At this stage, we are still in a trial mode, with very few photographs online. However, over the next few weeks you will see the collection gradually growing as we complete catalogue entries and upload new batches of images.

The screenshot shows the website's search page. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, New Search, Revise Search, Collection, Copyright, Warning, Prices, Order, Help, and Contact Us. Below the menu is a header with the society's logo (a swan) and the text 'BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC' and 'IMAGE LIBRARY'. A search bar is present with the text 'Search the Image Library from Berrima District Historical and Family History Society'. Below the search bar is a section titled 'Historical Images from the Berrima District'. The main search area contains a search box with the text 'Search by keyword and/or select from the drop down boxes below.' and a 'Search Help' link. There are several dropdown menus for 'Category', 'Decades', and 'Localities'. To the right, there are sections for 'Wildcards' (explaining '*' for one character and '%' for many characters), 'Sort' (with radio buttons for 'Ascending' and 'Descending'), and 'Sort Field' (with a dropdown menu for 'Date added'). There are also 'Search options' with radio buttons for 'all the words', 'the exact phrase', 'any of the words', 'whole word', 'partial word', 'starting with', and 'ending with'. At the bottom right, there is a 'Select a Field' dropdown menu with 'Search entire record' selected. There are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons.

There is a link on our Home Page to the Image Library - just click on it to go to the search page, which is very easy to navigate and use. The images on the internet are very small files, so suitable only as reference copies. Anyone wishing to purchase high quality images can do so directly from the website through our Online Shop and pay for them using Paypal.

We have been working towards making our photographic collection more accessible for some time and it is very exciting for us in the archives to be reaching our goal. Our images will now be available to the world – so do go and have a look. You never know what you might find!



Above: Dianne Manley manager of the IMB Bowral (right) presents the 'big cheque' to BDH&FHS archivist Linda Emery and volunteer Patricia Doris

The Society was delighted to receive the grant from the IMB Community Foundation for the software which will allow us to upload our entire collection to the internet, making it available not just to the local community but worldwide.

This is particularly important for the German Internment Camp collection given that the majority of



Patricia Doris at work on the photographic collection

Gladys Stokes and Claude Lee

A local marriage of love and music

Claude Newton Lee was born in 1884 at Mittagong and in 1913 he married Gladys Stokes, daughter of Joshua Stokes, a prominent Bowral businessman and alderman.

Their union was to prove incredibly fruitful. Both had musical talent and a love of music and theatre and made their home a centre for artistic endeavour.

Claude was an incredibly energetic and capable man who took a leading part in social, public and community activities in the district. With great vision and a love of life, he was described as a man who dared to be different.



He lived his whole life at Leslie Cottage, a stone house in Queen Street, Mittagong, where he had been born and it was in that gracious home that he and his wife Gladys enjoyed every minute of their 60 years of marriage.

Claude's father Fred Lee was a stonemason who emigrated from England in the mid-1800s to join his brother Joseph and carry on their trade as stonemasons. They are believed to have worked on the railway bridge at Picton in the 1860s. They also are said to have constructed a small gaol at the bottom of Catherine Hill, Yerrinbool that served as a stop-over point for prisoners being taken to Berrima Gaol. More significantly, they were the stonemasons who built the elegant St Stephen's Church of England in Mittagong.

In about 1870 Joseph also built the stone cottage in Queen Street and lived there until his death in 1886, two years after his son Claude was born.



Gladys was the daughter of Joshua Stokes who in turn was one of 13 children born to John and Elizabeth Stokes who emigrated in various stages from England and settled in Bowral.

Joshua was aged 19 when he arrived in Bowral in 1882 and in 1886 commenced his own business as a



carrier and produce merchant that over the years met with much success. He was always active in movements aimed at advancing the town and was devoted to music, furthering the interests of local instrumental and vocal groups, including the Bowral Band and the Choral Society.

His talent and love of music flowed on to his children, and his daughter Gladys became an assistant organist at St Jude's and, for some years, was accompanist for the Bowral Choral Society.

Her husband Claude was an exceptional musician who could play practically every instrument in a brass band and from a young age he was a member of both the Mittagong and Bowral town bands.

Besides this, Claude was Shire Clerk for Nattai Shire Council from its inception in 1906 and from 1939 when it amalgamated with Mittagong Municipal Council. Serving for almost forty years, he brought to the profession a local flair and independence unknown since.

His marriage to Gladys in 1913 would have resulted from their shared musical interest which continued throughout their married life. When the Bowral Choral Society staged 'Merrie England' in 1934, participants included Mrs Alf Stephens, Mrs W E Stokes and rehearsals were held at Claude and Gladys' home.

When Joshua Stokes bought the Bowral Empire Theatre in 1934 he hired son-in-law Claude in 1935 to be its enterprising manager. After the death of Joshua, Claude continued to manage the theatre on behalf of the estate until 1958, when new owners took over.

Molly Fraser, a former Empire employee, reminisced that while Claude was the manager, the theatre was a vibrant and vital meeting place.

One of Claude's many other life-long interests was bushwalking and he traversed all parts of the Nattai, lower Wollondilly and Warragamba areas. His love of Old Burraborang and its people stirred him to publish 'A Place to Remember' in 1971, a memorial book to the wild and remote ruggedness that disappeared under water when the Warragamba Dam was built.

Claude also had a long association with sport in the district, mainly rugby league, and served in official capacities for the Mittagong club and as press correspondent – the local paper carried many nitty-gritty articles written by Claude.

As well he was a historian and writer of hundreds of poems. According to Haille Paine, one of his local contemporaries, as a historian Claude had a wide and intimate knowledge of the various inns, buildings and other landmarks of the district including the Mittagong ironworks.

Claude died peacefully in his sleep in 1973 at Bowral Hospital, just 3 months after the death of his beloved wife. His only son, Bob, said that Claude simply lost his reason to live.

Here is one of Claude's many poems:

BE PREPARED

Sad Autumns here, the air grows chill
The sun sinks early o'er the hill
The joints and voices of the old
Creak out complaints about the cold.

When we've the need of cheering most
No comfort greets us in the post.
To heap more sorrows on our ills
Now we get a pile of bills.

As good old Sol his warmth abates
The Council duns us for the rates
As hoar frost takes the place of dew
Accounts for electricity are due.

Still they'll not leave us alone
But send a whopper for the phone
As summer joys aside are laid
We're overwhelmed with bills unpaid.

Just when we think we've paid them all
No more creditors recall
Greet the Postie with assurance
There'll be one for the insurance!

Then you might well pause and think
If any's left to buy a drink
It is quite enough to send
A fellow off the deepest end.

As for me, I'm certain sure,
Preventions better far than cure
So before the troubles come
I get a stock of OP rum.

Thus it is without avail
I'm pestered in the morning mail
Life is happier no doubt
With the motto of the scout

"Be prepared"

- this article compiled by Philip Morton

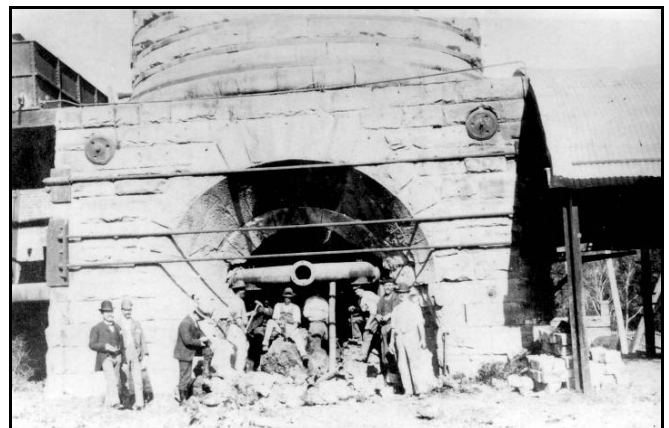
An extra piece on Claude Lee by John McColgan.

Claude wrote some notes on the old Fitzroy Iron Works' blast furnace that was still standing in 1927 being rather disgusted that it was not preserved for posterity. In his own words:

"The ancient structure best remembered by me was the famous blast furnace where iron was first smelted in Australia. It was the last to be demolished because the vandal residents could not pull it down, it was too solid and withstood the onslaughts of those who roamed the old works for bricks, stone, ashes, slag and scraps of iron. The firebricks with which the tower-like structure was lined were very popular and soon became scarce. One massive corner was nibbled away at until it was supported by only a few inches width of brickwork. Its weakness became its protection until the spoilers complained of the danger of allowing it to remain."

Eventually the remains of the blast furnace were sold for demolition for 20 pounds and ended up being used to build several cottages.

Claude made no comment on the inaction of the authorities in permitting this destruction – as he said it would not be complimentary. It should be noted that even though Claude was Shire Clerk of Nattai Shire he could not influence the decision as the iron works site was within the town area under the control of the Mittagong Municipal Council.



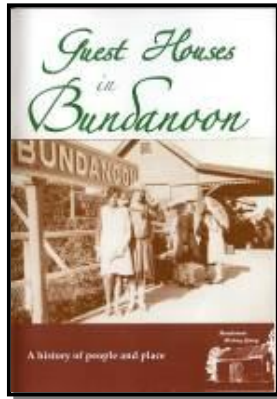
(top) the blast furnace being cleaned out in 1880s;
(above) a picnic in 1913 at the abandoned works.

Publication of the month: a review

"Guest Houses in Bundanoon - a history of people and place"

New edition now available

Bundanoon was an easy steam-train ride from Sydney and became a favourite destination from the 1880s when guest houses first opened. The mountain air was cool, clear and stimulating and the views magnificent. Innumerable school holidays, honeymoons and relaxed weekends were spent at the guest houses, some of which could accommodate up to 130 guests.



Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale, also located on the southern railway, became holiday destinations but did not offer much in the way of attractions. The spectacular natural scenery readily accessible from what grew as the village of Bundanoon was unique to the area and excited much interest.

In 1989 the Bundanoon History Group published a history of the guest houses and a second edition in 1998 proved very popular, especially with people who could recall happy holidays spent at Bundanoon in the guest houses described, and also with family historians looking for information about the places their ancestors stayed or worked.

Since that edition was published, however, new information and images of the guest houses have been provided by former guests and from the families of guest house owners. Also the greater availability of historical sources on the internet has enabled better understanding of the period.

In order to incorporate these added dimensions, a dedicated group of Bundanoon History Group volunteers spent considerable time updating guest house information to produce a revised and enlarged third edition. This new edition, called 'Guest Houses in Bundanoon - a history of people and place' is now available for purchase.

Readers familiar with the earlier editions will notice that some entries have been deleted and others expanded considerably.

The Bundanoon History Group is grateful to Wingecarribee Shire Council for a grant under its 2011/12 Community Assistance Scheme that enabled the production of this edition.

This new edition is available at a cost of \$12 from the Society's Archives in Mittagong and the museum in Berrima or may be ordered through our website bdhsarchives@gmail.com.

It is also available from the Post Office, Newsagent, Good Yarn shop and other Bundanoon outlets or by mail from Bundanoon History Group, PO Box 180 Bundanoon 2578.

In conjunction with the revised edition, a display has been mounted at the Old Goods Shed in Bundanoon consisting of images of the guest houses and the people that ran them. On display also are items and objects from the guest house heyday including china, glassware and linen.

The Old Goods Shed is located near the railway station and is open from 10 till 3pm on the first and third Sunday of each month. Well worth a visit to view the historical display on 'Guest Houses in Bundanoon - a history of people and place' and to purchase a copy of the book.

Some images from the book are presented here.



Mountain Home guest house on Railway Avenue corner in late 1800s



Ida and Vera Gambell with their aunt Bertha at Springvale guest house

Compiled by P Morton; photos courtesy Bundanoon HG

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	13	SEP	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	27	SEP	Monthly General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	11	OCT	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25	OCT	Monthly General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	8	NOV	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	22	NOV	AGM follows the General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society

If undelivered return to:
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THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

is proudly supported by the following organizations that encourage the work of our Society in collecting, preserving and maintaining the history of the Southern Highlands.

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