

NEWSLETTER No 444 October 2012 PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 Telephone / Fax 0248 722 169 Website: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au Email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com

ABN 29 362 616 937

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Mr Max ROGERS

OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays. Library collection contains reference books, journals and new sletters of other societies.

robert.rogers2@bigpond.com

M U S E U M: M arket Place, BERRIMA. Tel: 02 4877 1130 Email: berrimamuseum@bigpond.com OPEN: Saturdays, Sundays,

4861 3526

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

OCTOBER MEETING: Thursday 25 October 2012 at 2:00pm

VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building,

Bowral Road, Mittagong

GUEST SPEAKER: High Mackay

Research Officer

Well-known social commentator, psychologist and author

High Mackay will speak on 'The Desire to Belong'.

AFTERNOON TEA: To be served following the speaker - Members - please

bring a plate or a donation.

NO VEMBER MEETING: Thursday 22 November 2012 at 2:00pm

VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building,

Bowral Road, Mittagong

TOPIC: AGM and General Meeting

Inside this month ...

Diary Dates 2

Gateway to the healthy south district 4

Publication of the month

And more ...



6

Diary Dates

OCTOBER

- 8 School holidays conclude
- 11 Management Committee Meeting
- 25 Monthly General Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 8 Management Committee Meeting
- 22 Annual General Meeting and Monthly General Meeting

DECEMBER

- 7 Christmas Dinner
- 13 Management Committee Meeting
- 21 School holidays commence
- 27 NO Monthly General Meeting

From the President's desk

Ken Reid

Linda Emery has made considerable progress with uploading our image library to the world-wide-web through our website. It is still a work in progress and some issues still need to be worked through. The photos are available for purchase as digital images or photographic prints and may be paid for through PayPal or by cheque. A team of archives volunteers is hard at work scanning and cataloguing the images.

Many thanks to Liz Walker, President of the Bundanoon History Group, who will provide the Society with a copy of the Bundanoon History Group archive database.

The Museum Sub-Committee has confirmed that it will participate in the 2013 Australia Day Parade in Berrima. Society members are invited to dress in period costume and be part of the parade. More details to be available later in year.

Max advises that everything is going well with Research. During September there was a total of over 120 inquiries. What an asset Max is to the Society the Archives is almost a second home for Max (without a bed!) as he spends much of his time there handling these enquiries.

Carolyn Hutton has advised that publication sales totalled \$367 in August.

Thank you to new member Mrs Kerrie Pengly for donating a large number of photos to the Archives.

Sadly I would advise of the passing of David Charles Kemmis, a long-term member of the Society, who died on 28 August 2012 at Cowra. He settled there after retiring as a school teacher and developed his great love and knowledge of early Australian trains and railways. Over the past decade he published several editions of his book "Where Trains have Travelled" that examines abandoned railroads along and near the route of the main southern railway through the Southern Highlands and the South-Western Slopes of NSW. David very kindly supplied a copy of each edition for the Society's library and more recently has provided us copies of his latest edition (expanded with additional text and colour photos) to sell and retain the proceeds.

Guest Speaker for our October meeting will be well known social commentator, psychologist and author Hugh Mackay who will speak on *The Desire to Belong.* A reminder that the meeting will be commence at 2.00pm.

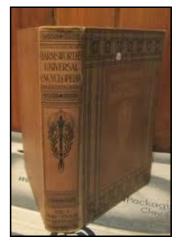
Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 22 November and nomination forms are included with this newsletter. Please show your support for the Society by attending this important meeting.

Should you have interest in joining other members in the administration of the Society, either on the Management Committee, Museum Sub-Committee or any of the other positions required for the smooth running of the Society, please don't be shy - put your name forward. There would be plenty of help available to you if required. If you would like to discuss any of the positions with me, please don't hesitate to contact me (4622 5028).

Christmas is fast approaching so be sure to note that the Alexandria Room at Mittagong RSL has been booked for the Christmas Party to be held on 7 December 2012 at 7pm. Further details next newsletter.

And once more, to finish on the *lighter side* - Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One fish turns to the other and says "Dam"! Also, did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.

Buy a Collector's Item



FOR SALE: Harmsworth's Universal Encyclopaedia edited by John Hammerton and published in London in 1921/2.

The Society has a 12-volume set of the 1922 Encyclopedia edition bound in brown board containing 23,500 illustrations with black and white and colour plates and including fold-out maps.

There is a similar set currently for sale on-line at Biblio.com for approx. \$A500 that is described as having its spines and corners bumped, with some minor rubbing and scuffing to a couple of volumes. Or you can make us an offer for our complete set that is in perfect condition. If interested, please contact the Archives.

RAHS Conference

"Saturated With Filth and Corruption": NSW History?"

The RAHS 2012 State History Conference will be held at Rowers on Cooks River (St George Rowing Club), 1 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, Sydney, on the weekend of 20-21 October.

The conference looks at the good, the bad and the ugly of NSW local history; there is more information at the RAHS website. Our Society delegates this year will be Leonie Knapman and Max Rogers.

October Guest Speaker

The guest speaker at our afternoon October General Meeting commencing at 2:00pm will be:

Hugh Mackay



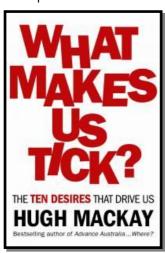
Hugh has titled his talk "The Desire to Belong" which is one of the ten desires he deals with in his latest book What Makes Us Tick?

Hugh's biography found on the internet states that he is the founder of the Australian quarterly research series titled

The Ipsos Mackay Report. He is a graduate of Sydney Grammar School, the University of Sydney and Macquarie University, and is a psychologist, social researcher and writer. He is one of the founders of the St James Ethics Centre and is a regular columnist in *The Age* and a regularly appearing commentator on radio and television.

His publications include:

- What Makes Us Tick? (2010)
- Advance Australia...Where? (2007)
- Right and Wrong: How to Decide for Yourself (2004).
- Media Mania: Why Our Fear of Modern Media is Misplaced (2002)
- Turning Point (1999)
- Generations: Baby Boomers, their Parents & their Children (1997)
- The Good Listener (originally Why Don't People Listen?, 1994)
- Reinventing Australia (1993) drew on 60 individual



"What Hugh describes Makes Us Tick" as a bigpicture approach to the study of human behaviour and an attempt to explain why we do the things we do. Why do we talk as if we're rational, but act as if we're not? Why do some people always want to take control? What is the true role of religion? Why do we seek change, yet resist it? Why do we want more of the things that have failed

to satisfy us? Why are we so passionate about sport? Why do we fall out of love?

As a leading social researcher, Hugh has spent a lifetime listening to people talk about their dreams, fears, hopes, disappointments and passions.

At our meeting Hugh will talk about the 'herds' and 'tribes' that have traditionally sustained our sense of identity and emotional security. Now that households have shrunk below the optimum 'herd' size, and families are more dislocated and fragmented than ever, the question is: how do we satisfy our desire to belong?

Changing patterns of marriage and divorce and the dramatic fall in the birth rate will also be touched upon in his talk. Hugh says he is not a historian yet his subject matter delves below the surface of past and present to grapple with fundamental issues that shape our current existence and our future.

Perhaps those of us with a historical perspective will gain new insights from his scrutiny of where our past has brought us to today.

Compiled by Publicity Officer, Philip Morton

The photos below were recently donated to the Society's Photographic Collection by Glenn Miller who attended Berrima Public School in the 1970s and who now lives at Coffs Harbour. His mother and several aunts and uncles from both sides of his family also attended the school and these class photos were retained by the family. Some of the pupil's names are known but if anyone recognises familiar faces, please let us know.



1950 Lower Division with teacher Mrs Schott.



1951 Upper Division

Gateway to the healthy south district

One of the first to appreciate the Wingecarribee district's charm was Governor Lachlan Macquarie who visited the area in 1820. He wrote of the grounds adjoining Dr Throsby's hut at Bong Bong as being extremely pretty, with gentle hills and dales forming an extensive rich valley. The situation of the new settlers four miles south (at Sutton Forest) he described as being beautiful and rich, resembling a fine, extensive pleasure ground in England.

Over the following decade many settlers took up land along the route of the first South Road, stretching from Lower Mittagong on the slopes of the Mittagong Ranges through to Bong Bong and Sutton Forest.

This line of settlement changed in the 1830s and the Mittagong location we know today took shape. In 1966 Claude N Lee wrote a town history titled 'Gateway to the South' and following is a summary.

The new line of road that commenced in 1830 from Catherine Hill through the present Mittagong township to Berrima and Goulburn was completed in 1836 and traffic diverted from the old South Road to the new Southern Road (later the Hume Highway) made Mittagong the 'Gateway to the South'.

This new route crossed numerous feeder creeks, all excellent camping places for horse and bullock teams. The locality was first called Nattai and travellers would say, on the dry stretch from Bargo River "Wait till we get to the Nattai!"

Travellers on this new road had to be catered for. A stone house 'Forest Lodge' north of Alpine opened as an inn and just north of Mittagong was 'Pretty Sally's Place'. New inns sprang up including the Prince Albert Inn, Chalker's Inn, Fitzroy Inn (later Oaklands), Walker's in Nattai Village and another Prince Albert Inn was situated south of the town.

The next stage in Mittagong's development took off in 1849 when the Fitzroy ironworks was established and thus, in addition to having the business from the new main road, it became an industrial centre.

When the southern railway was built through in 1867 a business centre developed around Mittagong station with hotels and shops. New hotels included the Coach and Horses near Pioneer Street, Fred Draper's Hotel (later the Commercial) and John Hilder's Family Hotel.

Mittagong, because of the collapse of its industries, was more badly hit than other towns by the 1890s financial crash but by 1908 it revived as the 'Gateway to the South' due to the commencement of motor traffic on the Great Southern Road that gradually replaced the horse-drawn drays, stage coaches and buggies with faster, more comfortable motorised

forms of transport. This also helped revive Berrima that was bypassed by the railway and out-grown by Goulburn as a regional centre.

Yet even before the advent of motor vehicles, the tourist trend had already started as visitors began making their way to the district by rail in the 1870s and 1880s, and cart tracks were made to the various waterfalls for which the district is famed — Fitzroy, Carrington and Belmore — and livery stables catered for these visitors.

Vice-regal patronage of the district also helped it develop as a tourist centre. The first such visit after the opening of the railway was in April 1867 when Sir John and Lady Young travelled to Mittagong in a special train to spend a week there for the sake of their health.



Main Street Mittagong 1912, looking north-east, showing two hotels (on left) and not yet much motor traffic!

Besides Mittagong attracting visitors, as told above by Claude Lee, other towns developed as tourist resorts. In 1868 the Governor, the Earl of Belmore, leased Throsby Park House at Moss Vale as a summer residence. As a result many well-to-do Sydney residents followed, some building country homes and others patronising local boarding houses.

Boarding houses, such as one that commenced at Sutton Forest in 1871, provided saddle horses and buggy so guests could visit the waterfalls and other sights in the district.

Visitors also discovered the unique scenic charms of Bundanoon and its nearby Gullies and by the 1890s a number of boarding houses had opened. Over following years, many school holidays, honeymoons and relaxed weekends were spent at Bundanoon guest houses, some of which could accommodate up to 130 quests.

Sanatorium of the South

The Earl of Belmore, as mentioned above, leased the mansion and grounds of Throsby Park as a country residence until his term as Governor ceased in 1872. The *Sydney Morning Herald*, in reporting this matter said: "This will, no doubt, be the means of many of the gentry from Sydney coming to Moss Vale on a visit and from the salubrity of the climate here to erect

country residences as has been done by a few. Some have, by the advice of medical men in Sydney been here to recruit their health and returned much benefited." It was also suggested that the erection of dwelling houses for letting to visitors would be a good investment.

Another *SMH* article in 1869 titled "A Few Days at Mittagong" told about one man who followed his doctor's advice to get away for a week from the city and the stresses of work and family. Several paragraphs from the article follow here:

"For his holiday excursion Mr Edward Somerset proceeded by the Southern railway to Mittagong, a mountainous region in the county of Camden, between the waters of the Nepean and the Wingecarribee, about eighty miles from Sydney.

He was put down at Rush's Platform, three miles on the Sydney side of Nattai. From the platform to Mr Rush's residence on the Great Southern Road the distance is rather more than a quarter of a mile, along a pathway planted with young acacia trees and near a streamlet crossed by a rustic bridge. On a gentle eminence is the house of Mr Bartholomew Rush, surrounded by out-buildings and gardens.

At the back of the establishment, largely patronised by Sydney invalids of the more wealthy classes, are cultivated fields and open land; the forest extending along the brow of the hill and sheltering this agreeable sanatorium, called 'The Willows' because of the large trees which are thickly grouped around the main building. A more healthful, quiet and attractive locality can scarcely be imagined."



The Willows, previously the Prince Albert Inn, became Rush's boarding house from the 1860s.

Our visitor was taken by local friends to see the sights, including a trip to the peak of Mount Gibraltar. The article states that its native name is *Bowrell* but that designation was recently applied to a secluded little village on the southern side of the mountain [readers please note that this was 1869, only a few years after the township of Bowral was first subdivided in 1863].



The article on Mr Somerset's healthy holiday finishes thus: "The remainder of his visit in this beautiful district was spent in drives and rambles in search of the picturesque, and pleasant evening parties not easy to be forgotten. One of the last of his excursions was a visit to the Waterfall, about two miles from Mr Rush's residence. This wild, sequestered spot, abounding with exquisite scenery, forms a very favourite resort to all those who, in quest of renewed health and strength, find it greatly to their advantage occasionally to spend a few days at Mittagong."

Secluded village of 'Bowrell' became popular

Bowral, although first sub-divided in 1863, initially remained a secluded little village even after the railway came through in 1868, but by the 1880s it began to attract considerable numbers of visitors and those seeking to build or lease country homes.

One of the first of these houses, *Eridge Park*, was erected for Mr (later Sir) R L Tooth who established the large Maltings processing plant at Mittagong. As well, houses were sought for the summer – in October 1889 Lady Robinson, wife of the acting Governor of Victoria, rented *Bodlondeb* in Bowral for seven months.

The rapid growth of Bowral and Burradoo was due in part to the fact that most land in Mittagong township was then still held under the Iron Works lease and therefore unavailable for purchase. The wealthy men of Sydney attracted to the English-type climate sought available property, and so many large homes and mansions were built in Bowral and Burradoo as land was available due to the sub-division of existing large private estates.

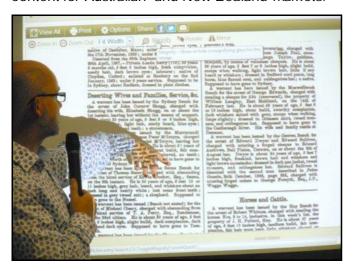
Unlike most other district towns on the main roads, which grew slowly from small villages, the growth of the town of Bowral could almost be said to have happened in reverse. The area was already liberally sprinkled with landholders, large homeowners and wealthy businessmen, who greatly influenced the style and shape of Bowral's later development.

Compiled by P Morton

Ancestry talk attracted large crowd

Our September guest speaker was Brad Argent from Ancestry.com who attracted around 80 attendees. Brad provided some hints on how to use the search tools provided on the site and demonstrated various ways to use advanced tools to fine-tune and narrow a search. He talked the audience through some of the interesting ancestry collections available and one soon to be available of NSW Police Gazettes.

Brad is Content Director for the Ancestry website responsible for identifying, acquiring and publishing content for Australian and New Zealand markets.



Above photo by D Kennard; photos below by P Morton



Vice-President Bruce Moore thanks Brad for his talk



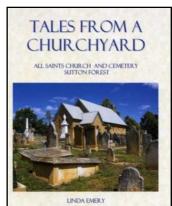
The capacity audience breaking for afternoon tea

Our publication of the Month

The society has for sale a wide selection of books that cover historical aspects of the Wingecarribee

Shire, formerly known as the Berrima district.

Tales from a Churchyard researched and written by Linda Emery, presents the history of All Saints Church and Cemetery at Sutton Forest. It takes us for a stroll through the old church and graveyard – an enjoyable way to discover local history.



In 1828 an arrangement concerning a piece of land for a burial ground at Sutton Forest was made. A weatherboard Church of England chapel was erected and opened in 1830. It was named 'All Saints' and was the only church in the entire district until Charles Throsby built Christ Church at Bong Bong in 1845. A more substantial All Saints church was long desired but it was not until August 1861 that a new stone building, designed by colonial architect Edmund Blacket, was opened.

The Graveyard: the first recorded burial at All Saints was in 1829 and then an average of 16 burials per year occurred for 20 years. There are 170 headstones in the Old Section with at least as many unmarked graves or graves for which headstones have not survived. The book tells the stories of many significant early settlers whose headstones are found there, including members of the Atkinson, Badgery, Nicholson, Carter and Morrice families.

Available for purchase through our website, at the Mittagong Archives and the Museum in Berrima for \$18.

"Celebrating 150 Years" Calendar

Bowral and Moss Vale are celebrating 150 years of existence next year. As a project of the Committees for the Bowral and Moss Vale Sesquicentenary, a commemorative calendar has been produced and is now available for \$10 from the Mittagong Archives and our museum at Berrima.

The calendar features a series of early photographs sourced from the Society's collection. These depict various early aspects and scenes of the two towns and each photo may be ordered as a photographic print if desired by contacting the Society.

Each month's calendar page also conveniently lists the various town activities/ events that are scheduled to take place in that month. Get your calendar today!

Acquisitions and donations to library

Recent acquisitions and donations to the Society's library are listed below. Thanks once again to those who have kindly donated books to our collection.

Happy reading, Carolyn Dougherty

To add to our extensive Family History Section we have received the story of George Adams: A Suffolk **Lad** by Larry Adams. Library No. REF. 01/204.

Life below Stairs: In the Victorian & Edwardian Country House by Sian Evans. A UK National Trust publication. Library No. REF. 04/82.

Published in 2011 and to quote from the frontispiece "this highly illustrated guide provides a fascinating insight into the largely unrecorded lives of working people, from the cook, butler and housekeeper to the footmen, lady's maids, governesses and nannies" without whom the houses of the wealthy and powerful would never have been able to exist.

"This fascinating and highly entertaining account describes how relationships were forged and how they changed as the gap between upstairs and downstairs was bridged, vividly depicting the nature of 'life below stairs'."

Farewell my Children: Irish Assisted Emigration to Australia 1848-1870 by Richard E. Reid. Library No. REF. 07/80. Published in 2011 Richard Reid's book tells the story of emigrants leaving their homes to sail to faraway Sydney between 1848 and 1870, the reasons for undertaking such a voyage, and their experiences encountered upon arrival. Of interest to members with Irish ancestry.

Glen Innes District Cemeteries and Glen Innes Cemetery Records. 2 Vols. Produced by the Glen Innes Severn Council. Library Nos. REF. 10/67 and REF. 10/68 respectively.

Guest Houses in Bundanoon: A history of people and place. 3rd Edition Revised and Enlarged. Published by Bundanoon History Group Inc. Recalls a time when guest houses were a popular and often the only choice of accommodation available for tourists to this popular area. Library No.REF. 13/219.

The Model Store: Grace Bros. 100 years serving Sydney by Nicholas Brash. Library No. 20/170. Celebrating the history of the store that was an institution in Sydney. Take a trip down memory lane with this beautifully illustrated book.

Riches Beneath the Flat: A history of the Lake George Mine at Captains Flat by Ross Mainwaring. Library No. 26/28

Magnificent Lake George: The Biography by Graeme Barrow. Library No. 26/29. Fortunately we bought two copies of this publication, one of which has been marked "to be used in library only" as the 'for loan' copy has been disappearing from the shelf as soon as it has been returned.

Lake George has always fascinated those who pass by regularly, observing the huge volume of water, only to return a year or two later to be confronted by paddocks, fences and grazing sheep. Originally named Weereewaa by the Aborigines, Governor Macquarie officially named it Lake George in 1820. Graeme Barrow details European settlement in the vicinity and also the dangerous nature of the lake, once proposed as the site of the Nation's capital.

The popularity of this book and interest generated would indicate a book well worth reading. And lastly,

100 Years Moss Vale Golf Club - 70 Years The **Dormie House** edited by Jenny Walker, published by Moss Vale Golf Club. Library No. REF. 13/221.



This photo in the book has the caption "George and Barbara MacKay are thought to have been the first managers of the Club in the 1920s". The item below may be of interest:

MOSS VALE GOLF CLUB.

HOUSE BY-LAWS.

In the following By-Laws, the term "Member" shall be deemed to include Associate Member.

CARD MONEY.

Any Member or Visitor participating in any game of Cards in the Club Rooms shall pay sixpence into the box provided for that purpose; this amount is payable once only each day.

PRIVATE CARD PARTIES.

PRIVATE CARD PARTIES.

No Member shall arrange any private card parties at the Club House until permission has been obtained from the Secretary, or his deputy. Such permission shall involve the Member in responsibility for loss of or damage to Club property and for the payment of all charges and dues in connection with the party.

If service by Caretaker is required, not less than 24 hours' notice shall be given, and all requirements stated.

No person who is ineligible to attend the Club under the Club Rules shall be invited to be present at such private parties.

at such private parties.

The Caretaker shall not be required to be in attendance after 10 0p0.m. unless private arrangements are made to alter this.

FIXED CHARGES.

- 1. All refreshments ordered, at usual rates. 2. To Secretary, for rent of room, in addition to Card Money, 2s. 6d.
- 3. To Caretaker, up to 10 p.m., for cleaning, etc., 7s. 6d.

MEMBERS' BAR.

The Bar shall only be attended to by the Caretaker or a member of the Club Committee. All liquor required must be ordered and paid for before 6 p.m.

		DIARY DATES	
THURSDAY THURSDAY		Management Committee Meeting Monthly General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY THURSDAY	8 NOV 22 NOV	Management Committee Meeting Monthly General Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
FRIDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY THURSDAY		Christmas Dinner Archives close for Christmas break Management Committee Meeting School holidays commence NO Monthly General Meeting	7:00 pm at the RSL, Mittagong 4:00 pm

If undelivered return to:
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PO Box 131
MITTAGONG NSW 2575
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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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