



Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 408 July 2009

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 Telephone / Fax 0248 722 169
Website: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au
Email: bdhsarchives@acenet.com.au

ABN 29 362 616 937

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------|--|
| PATRON: | Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire Council: Councillor Duncan Gair | | |
| President: | Mr Ken REID | 4871 3391 | reidken@bigpond.com |
| Snr Vice President: | Miss Judith GREEN | 4861 1926 | |
| Jnr Vice President: | Mrs Leonie KNAPMAN | 4871 1804 | |
| Hon Secretary: | Mr John CRANNEY | 4877 1446 | |
| Hon Treasurer: | Mrs Jan REID | 4871 3391 | reidken@bigpond.com |
| Archivist: | Mrs Linda EMERY | 4883 4271 | |
| Curator – Museum: | Mr Bob WILLIAMS | 4889 4405 | |
| Editor | Ms Lavinia FORD | 4869 4038 | lavinias@aapt.net.au |
| Research Officer | Mr Max ROGERS | 4861 3526 | robert.rogers2@bigpond.com |



| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 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. 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 \$5.00 – 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

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| JULY MEETING: | Thursday, 23 July 2009 at 2:00pm |
| VENUE: | Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong |
| GUEST SPEAKER: | Ken Methold – writer and director |
| TOPIC: | Collecting and Preserving Oral History - and Beyond |
| AFTERNOON TEA: | To be served after the meeting - Members – please bring a plate or a donation |

Ken brings his experience as a writer, director and producer to the subject of oral history. He currently runs a Radio Drama Group for U3A Southern Highlands where participants are in the process of producing three plays and a radio feature. They are also collectively writing a radio serial, drawing on personal stories and oral history. Some members of the group will attend the meeting and perhaps take us back in time to the days of the radio play.

Inside this month ...

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And more ...

AUGUST MEETING: Thursday, 27 August 2009 at 2:00pm



EVENTS CALENDER 2009

JULY

- 11 School holidays commence
- 16 Management Committee Meeting
- 23 Monthly General Meeting - Talk on Collecting and preserving oral history - and beyond by *Ken Methold*
- 27 School holidays conclude

AUGUST

- 13 Management Committee Meeting
- 27 Monthly General Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Management Committee Meeting
- 24 Monthly General Meeting

NEW MEMBERS

Cristine **Andrews**, Bowral
Debbie **Angus**, Bowral
Margaret **Chadwick**, Burradoo
Susan **Hand**, Bowral
Fred and Margaret **Krahenbuhl**, Berrima
John **Layton**, Bowral
Graham **Olde**, Wingello
Greg **Searle**, Willow Vale
Muriel **Stuart**, Bowral
Kay **Weaver**, Moss Vale

Here's to a long and happy association.

DID YOU KNOW

Source: Rootsweb list *Aus-Vic-High-Country*.

Did you know the first Australian Ski Tow began operating on the Cresta Run at Mt Buffalo in August 1937? It was constructed from an endless length of rope that extended 108 meters over the snow surface and an old V Cadillac engine drove old cable drum around. The following year the rope was extended to 180 meters. The skiers gripped the rope with both hands, both ski poles looped over the outside wrist and they travelled at 6 to 8 miles an hour.

NOTICE In Urgent Need

Due to ongoing work commitments, John Cranney has relinquished his position as Society Secretary. We are therefore urgently in need of a member to offer to take on this position until the next AGM. Please contact the President, Ken Reid (4871 3391) if you are interested in helping the Society in this way.

SHEATHER REUNION

The Sheather family are planning a reunion for the descendants of Stephen & Hannah SHEATHER in Taree, NSW on the 7th and 8th November 2009. Other families include: Albury, Fairall, Staples, Shoesmith, Betts, Minett, Allan and McKenzie.

Contact: www.sheatherfamily.com

RYDALMERE ORPHAN SCHOOL

Any member with an interest in the Female Orphan School at Rydalmere can read a very interesting article in the *Hornsby Hunter* October 2000 page 5. See our collection of newsletters from other societies.

FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL AT RYDALMERE

The building of the Female Orphan School was started just 25 years after the First Fleet, with the laying of the foundation stone by Governor Macquarie on 24 September 1813. It is the oldest brick building in the country to have survived and is the first purpose built charitable institution in Australia. The Reverend Samuel Marsden between 1813 and 1818 supervised construction. It was built primarily for female children of convicts who were taken from their

mothers at between three and four years old. Usually the fathers were sailors or possibly soldiers. The boys at this stage were taken to farms in the Bonnyrigg - Fairfield area.

In 1850 the Female Orphan School became the Protestant Orphan School, and boys arrived. It continued until 1888 when the site was vacated and taken over as a 'Hospital for the Insane', which continued until the mid 1980s and now the buildings are unoccupied and deteriorating but part of the site of the University of Western Sydney, Parramatta Campus.

RESEARCH FEES

The research fee for non-members:

\$15.00 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

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

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

Market Place, Berrima.
Near the bridge.

OPENING HOURS

10 am - 4 pm.
Weekends, Public Holidays and NSW 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

FROM OUR NEWSLETTERS

*Berrima District Historical and Family History Society
Newsletter No 209 April 1991*

MEMORIES OF BOWRAL

By Malley.

There's a little place called Bowral
I was born there long ago,
Where I spent a happy childhood
With people that I know.
It's on the Southern Highlands
In a valley mostly green,
And I must say, in springtime,
It's the fairest spot I've seen.

We lived next to Norman's Stables,
Well-known in by-gone days,
When everybody rode a horse
And had good Australian way's.
Syd Carey had his Saddler's Shop
Where Boardman's Corner stands.
A tree grew through his verandah
As remembered by old hands.
Mr. Paynter had the Picture Show
Way back when we were boys.
Miss Corry sold us lollies,
Miss Potter sold us toys.

Constable Eddy was the policeman
And often in his beat,
Threatened me with drastic action
For furious riding in the street.
Ted Boardman always seemed to be Mayor;
Jasper Pickard had the big store - now R.S.
Smith & Co.,
There's been changes in the District
Since those days of long ago.
The Post Office hasn't altered
And the Banks are just the same.
The streets were then blue metal
('Twas before the hard roads came).

My uncle built the Royal Hotel,
Another built the Grand.
"Craigieburn" was then a cottage
And the Gib was vacant ground.
Jim Goodfellow had the saleyards
Across the street was Theo Small.
And Newbolds had the Brickyards,
but I cannot name them all.

The Suttons were the plumbers,
And in sunshine and in rain
Always on the bread cart
Would be my friend Reg Pain.
Don Bradman in his office,
It seems so long ago!
And I was over opposite,
Employed by Slack & Co.
Then the Arnalls bought out Normans

(Everybody knows them well)
And better friends I'll never have
No matter where I go!

I remember well old Bong Bong Street,
It's had its share of fame.
As boys we often stood in awe
When "Lady Hordern's" coachman came
Behind two lovely horses,
With his billy hat and white gloves,
Sartorially resplendent
A picture every horseman loves.
The harness was brass mounted,
In the sun it shone like gold,
And the coach beyond description
Sights we'll never more see.

There's one thing always worried me,
The question always baulked,
For years and years I wondered
If Jack Smith ever walked?
If he has, it's news to me!
But whether it's "Yes" or "No"
He's the finest all-round horseman,
That it's been my lot to know.
In the days of bullock-riding,
when local lads won fame,
My brother Reg and Tom McColgan
were champions in the game.

There was Harry Smith and Gordon,
And Fred Arnall at his best,
And Bill picked the bullocks
To put them to the test.
My uncles were great horsemen
In the days when they were young.
Three are buried in the district
And left there's only one, that's me.
Mr. Neich of my old home town,
You most surely must know him
And in my fondest memories
There's always Uncle Jim.

In good old days with "Craigieburn"
And "Arrancamp" in full swing
We've taken fifty saddled horses
For guests there in the spring.
I must say they were happy days when everybody rode.

Now the roads are tarred
And too slippery for horses
And the tourists seek new places,
Is this progress in its course?
But the hills, they can't be altered
And the spirit of the past
For they are always with me and will be to the last.
I'm far away in New Guinea
And I'm all alone tonight.
I guess I must be homesick
That's the reason that I write.

(Donated by Dulcie & Jack Douglas)

WINTER LUNCHEON at *Summerlees*, Sutton Forest

The open fire was ablaze, making the ballroom of *Summerlees* very welcoming as members arrived for the Society's winter luncheon on 25 June. Fifty-eight people attended and took their places for the three-course meal, after chatting with friends and sharing a drink.

Hot, home-made pumpkin soup was followed by a hearty beef or country chicken pie served with green salad, and as dessert we enjoyed fruit tart served with cream.

Guest speaker Elizabeth Burness raised many a chuckle with her presentation "There's History in the Bottom Drawers, or Secret Women's Business".

Generations of women have contributed to our knowledge of history by using the humble bottom drawer for a variety of practical purposes. Elizabeth explored these layers of history in an entertaining way by producing, firstly the baby, and then item after item from a seemingly bottomless supply of various things ranging from men's pyjamas to ladies' fans, bloomers, smart hats, handbags and many other items of antique clothing and ephemera from her collection. Everyone seemed to relate to something that Elizabeth produced.

We relaxed after her presentation with tea or coffee and had the chance to look around the grounds and inspect the guest cottage. The property includes the main residence and ballroom built in the 1880s, the guest cottage, beautiful gardens and various farm sheds.

Linda Emery presented flowers to Elizabeth, as a thank you for her wonderfully entertaining presentation and also to our host, Patty Mouhtouris, for making the ballroom available for our luncheon.

President Ken Reid offered special thanks to Linda for her efforts in providing such an enjoyable luncheon and also thanked the various volunteers who had contributed to make our day so enjoyable.

Thanks also to Carol Nolan who manned the door and ran the successful raffle which raised \$167.00 - thanks Carol and also those who donated the prizes.



Main residence and front drive of Summerlees



The guests comfortably filled the ballroom



Food, wine and conversation!



Above: Elizabeth struts her stuff

Left: Guests tucking in. All photos by Marc McManus

LOCAL TOURISM 'AFTER HOURS' EVENT HELD IN MUSEUM

A welcoming warmth greeted the attendees on a cool evening in June

Berrima District Museum was the venue for the Tourism Southern Highlands' 'After Hours' event in June. This is a monthly event for partners of Tourism Southern Highlands. It enables them to be kept informed of upcoming promotions and is an ideal networking opportunity.

Around forty people enjoyed the warmth of the museum's premises on a cold, blustery evening. Visitors were made welcome with refreshments. Sylvia Carless served the tasty finger food she had prepared while Ian Alexander tended the bar. Ken Reid and Philip Morton mingled with the guests who enjoyed the wine generously supplied by Berrima's Blue Metal Winery.

Steve told the gathering of the museum's success in the 2008 Southern Highlands' Business Awards for Excellence, judged before the 'Prisoners in Arcady' exhibition was installed. Honorary Curator Bob Williams responded by adding that in some ways the museum is one of Berrima's best kept secrets. He said that most people present acknowledged that this was their first visit.

The visitors were most impressed with the Museum's displays, many promising to return, bringing family and friends for a longer visit.

Compiled by Gloria Williams and photos courtesy of Phillip Morton.

Well done to the museum - a congratulatory message received recently from Garry Barnsley:



Sylvia Carless serves the food to the guests

Steve Rosa, Executive Manager of Tourism Southern Highlands, welcomed those present and launched a new initiative, 'Secrets of the Southern Highlands'. This is a \$110,000 advertising campaign, running through winter, to promote lesser-known features of the area.



Steve Rosa launches the new tourism initiative



Dear Bob and Gloria,

Congratulations on a terrific new exhibition in your museum. The vintage film is a brilliant acquisition.

I still dream of seeing a reproduction of one of the huts (*Emden* hut) in your 'front yard'.

Thank you, too, for the hospitality at the tourism After Hours event: you turn on a great spread.

All good wishes

Garry Barnsley OAM LLB FRSA

FROM OUR NEWSLETTERS

The following article has been included in our current newsletter for the interest of many of our new members, and comes from an earlier edition of our newsletters, *No. 169 August 1987*, being part of a talk given by Mrs Judith Ralph, the Society's Archivist, at a meeting of the Society on 25 June 1987. And

IN THE STEPS OF SAMUEL MARSDEN IN NEW ZEALAND

In November last year I was able to take part in a trip to North New Zealand organised by the Royal Australian Historical Society to follow the path of the Reverend Samuel Marsden in the Bay of Islands area.

The tour was led by Prof. S. Yarwood, one time Professor of Australian History at Armidale University who has written three books on Samuel Marsden. There were 20 zealous historians on the tour including Dr Hazel King who has written about McArthur and Prof. Alan Shaw one of whose interests is early colonial history. I must say they gave quite a bit of spice to the discussion after Prof. Yarwood's talk on Samuel Marsden one evening.

Now just a little about Marsden. He was born in 1765 in Bagley, West Yorkshire of humble, but literate parents. His early life was spent in Farley, in the heart of the cottage industry of the woollen trade, which perhaps influenced him in his later farming activities in NSW. He was influenced by John Wesley's teachings, later joined the Church of England and was invited to train for a clergyman. He studied first at Hull, then at Cambridge, but did not finish his degree as Wilberforce arranged for him to go to NSW as assistant chaplain to the Colony.

He married Elizabeth Friston of Hull then finally sailed for NSW in 1793. Their daughter Ann was born 2nd March 1794 eight days before the ship arrived in Sydney. He was Assistant Chaplain to the Rev. Richard Johnson with whom he was always on good terms.

Marsden took great interest in the London Missionary Society and its Pacific Missions, and on a trip to England in 1807 arranged with the London Missionary Society to organize a missionary enterprise to New Zealand.

Marsden had not been successful in bringing the convicts and emancipists to Christianity and had been equally unsuccessful with the aboriginal people. He had been given a grant of land by Lieutenant-Governor Grose and though at the time he had doubts as to whether it was wise to accept it, his latent farming instincts came to the fore. He also became a magistrate. In 1796 he wrote to a friend "I

am become a gardener, a farmer, a magistrate and a minister" - I like the order of professions!

Many Maoris had been stranded in Sydney left by unscrupulous seamen and Marsden found them intelligent people who were keen to learn the ways of western civilization. Many of them stayed at his home and learnt some western skills and Marsden learnt some of the Maori language.

On the first trip to New Zealand in 1814, five years after the Boyd massacre, Marsden was accompanied by Thomas Kendall, William Hall, John King, their wives, five children, two sawyers, a blacksmith and five Maori chieftains.

He landed first at Matouri Bay, the stronghold of the Whangaroan tribes responsible for the massacre and spent that night unprotected amongst these fierce warriors. He established his mission on the north arm of the Bay of Islands, Kangihana, purchasing 200 acres from his Maori friends and preached his first sermon on Christmas morning. What the assembled Maoris made of it all no one knows. Marsden then spent two months exploring the north of the Island.

In the next few years Marsden made several trips to New Zealand setting up missions in various places, Kerikeri, Parhia, Waitangi and finally on his sixth visit an agricultural station at Waimati. Charles Darwin described it as an English village farm house surrounded by crops of wheat, barley, pigs, poultry, fields of potatoes, with a well stocked garden, and a flour mill.

Marsden's last trip (his seventh) was in 1837 when he was in his 73rd year and nearly blind. He landed at Hokianga where the ship almost foundered crossing the bar, with seven foot waves breaking over his ship according to his journal. He was carried the last odd kilometre to the Bay of Islands where he visited all the mission stations.

He was not a likeable man but, at least in his New Zealand Mission interests he showed tremendous bravery, exploring new country amongst people noted for their ferocity and cannibalism, and even though a bad sailor, seven times did he face those often tempestuous seas.

His home life was rather sad, his wife Elizabeth suffered a severe stroke whilst giving birth to their last child. Two of their sons died tragically, one being thrown out of their vehicle and dying in his mother's arms, the other falling into a tub of boiling water. Their only surviving son was over protected by a generous mother and badly spoiled by doting sisters and frittered away his father's holdings within a few years of his death.

Prof. Yarwood calls Marsden the great survivor, the last of those mighty men of the Colony from Phillip to Macquarie and MacArthur.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Carol Nolan

Bowral Free Press, Saturday 25 July 1896 page 2

DEATH. - Chong Fong, a Chinaman, died at the Cottage Hospital early on Thursday morning.

The Scrutineer, Saturday 25 July 1896 page 2

A Chinaman named Chong Fong, 60 years of age died at the B. D. Hospital at 4 o'clock on Thursday morning and was buried during the afternoon of that day the funeral being attended by a number of his countrymen. Some few weeks ago Chong Fong was discovered to be in a very low condition. He was at that time living in an old tenement in Bong Bong-street and at the request of "Jimmy" Ah Moy was visited by Dr. Hogg and the secretary of the hospital. An order was then obtained for his admission to the hospital. But little hopes of his recovery were entertained as his constitution had completely broken up.

Bowral Free Press, Wednesday 29 July 1896 page 2

CHINESE FUNERAL AT BOWRAL. JONG FONG, Chinese, aged 65, who died in the Cottage Hospital at Bowral on Thursday last, was buried on Friday morning in the Primitive Methodist portion of the general cemetery, the Rev. J. Penman kindly conducting the burial service; the deceased, we are informed, being a believer. Mr. W. Allerdice had charge of the funeral arrangements, at the insistence of Hap Sing, one of the Chinese gardeners. A number of deceased's countrymen followed the hearse to the cemetery, including his son and several of his cousins; and after the service they fired off a few fireworks. The event attracted quite a number of Europeans to the cemetery.

The Scrutineer, Wednesday 27 July 1898 page 2

OBITUARY.

On Tuesday evening last week Mr. Thomas Troy, sen., passed peacefully away at the advanced age of 79 years, from an attack of bronchitis, following influenza. The deceased gentleman had always enjoyed robust health until recently, and it must be a great relief to his family to think that his last moments were free from suffering and his end came peacefully and calmly. He was one of the oldest identities of this district, having settled here some 60 years ago. In his early days he followed carrying pursuits successfully. At one time, in the year '54, when the diggings were in full swing, he took a load of flour to the Ovens diggings in Victoria, which realised the enormous price of £10 per bag, and, moreover, the wheat from which the flour was made was

grown by him on the Mittagong Range. He eventually acquired a large estate and launched out in the dairying industry, which he successfully carried on for many years, until advancing years caused him to relinquish dairying and settle down in peace and comfort for the remainder of his life. He was all through his long life in the district noted for his quiet and peaceful demeanour, and was an excellent neighbour. The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon and a large assemblage of mourners and friends followed his remains to the grave in the quiet little cemetery at Lower Mittagong, where his wife lies, whom he outlived by 1½ years. The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. W. Richards, and were carried out in his usual satisfactory manner. The Rev. Dr. Rutledge, who attended on the deceased gentleman during his last moments, officiated at the grave, and after the usual ceremony was concluded, spoke a few well-chosen words, and impressed upon all present the necessity to be prepared to go when the call was sent, as deceased was, and said that he had the pleasure of receiving from him during his last moments an assurance that he was prepared and happy to go to the better land. - *R. D. Leader.*

The following humorous article comes from the Rootsweb list *Aus-Vic-High-Country* after a member spotted it in the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*.

TRAINING A DONKEY

We learn from the Ovens and Murray Advertiser a few particulars of the method of conveying a donkey by rail. Mr. Crawford, of Melbourne wished to forward to Mr. Crawford of Beechworth a donkey. The Railway Officials could find no mention of such goods in the tariff of charges, and classifying Jack as a horse, wished to charge £4.5s for his carriage. Mr. Crawford, however, put the ass in a large box, labelled it "this side up, perishable goods - not wanted on the voyage", and forwarded him for £1.5s. Now we maintain that, as the railway regulations are silent as to the carriage of donkeys, Jack should have gone freight free - there is no mention of fares for Members of Parliament and they go free, why not other donkeys every Man-Jack of them? We trust the Government will refund Mr. Crawford his £1.5s."

A youth becomes a man when the marks he wants to leave have nothing to do with tyres.

Television - a medium. So called because it is neither rare nor well done.

Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you.

Give me the luxuries of life and I will willingly do without the necessities.

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

Source unknown.

DIARY DATES

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-----|---------------------------------|---|
| THURSDAY | 16 | JUL | Management Committee Meeting | 9:30 pm at the Historical Society |
| WEDNESDAY | 22 | JUL | Tour – National Maritime Museum | <i>See June newsletter #407 for details</i> |
| THURSDAY | 23 | JUL | Monthly General Meeting | 2:00 pm at the Historical Society |
| | 11-27 | JUL | School holidays | |
| | | | | |
| THURSDAY | 13 | AUG | Management Committee Meeting | 9:30 pm at the Historical Society |
| THURSDAY | 27 | AUG | Monthly General Meeting | 2:00 pm at the Historical Society |
| | | | | |
| THURSDAY | 10 | SEP | Management Committee Meeting | 9:30 pm at the Historical Society |
| THURSDAY | 24 | SEP | Monthly General Meeting | 7:30 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.

Brewsters Coffee House
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