

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 414 February 2010

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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. 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

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday 25 February 2010 at 7:30pm

VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building,
Bowral Road, Mittagong

GUEST SPEAKER: Max Rogers and Linda Emery

Max and Linda will be giving a presentation of historical photographs.
The general meeting will commence after the guest speaker.

SUPPER: To be served after the meeting.

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday 25 March 2010 at 7:30pm

VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building,
Bowral Road, Mittagong

GUEST SPEAKER: James King

Inside this month ...

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And more ...



DIARY DATES

2010

FEBRUARY

- 11 Management Committee Meeting
25 Monthly General Meeting -
presentation by *Max Rogers and
Linda Emery of **Historical
Photographs***

MARCH

- 11 Management Committee Meeting
25 Monthly General Meeting

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Contributed by Carol Nolan

The Scrutineer Saturday 25 July 1896
page 2 col 2

PHEASANT GROUND.

This part of the "Globe" seems to have been forgotten lately, any way as far as the leading paper of the district is concerned, the people out here are very much like other farmers and have just about as much to say among themselves as farmers generally have, only they are situated as it were in a corner. Since the old coaching days have gone the only outlet for business is Robertson, seven miles distant. Since the coach used to run to Kiama a few years ago they have had to deal almost solely with the stores at Robertson for their supplies, and I notice now that some of them find it cheaper to go direct to Sydney for mostly all they require. What is wanted here is a small co-operative store in connection with the dairy company, then the storekeepers profits would all be saved among themselves. They could supply their milk to the company and get any goods they required in payment, and their accounts would be always small and settled every month and the risk of no bad debts would give every man the benefit. The option I have is until this is done the Pheasant Ground will remain in a corner. Other ways the farmers here are pretty right. They have a three days-a-week mail service and a good public school which has an attendance of over 25 children, and a real good teacher, who has not been here a

great while, but has since she came brought the children on well and is also well liked by the children. They have also a small factory for making butter, although at present there is not much butter being made, when summer comes things fairly buzz around the two small separators, and it is no easy work for one man to attend to Tom, Dick, and Harry and do all the work into the bargain, but however the one man managed 92,500 gallons of milk at it last year and made a pound of butter from every 23lbs of milk, which shows the Pheasant Ground grass is all there for making butter. The butter made here has a good reputation in Sydney and always brings a half-penny per lb. above top factory price. The other day the company bought the old Robertson post office. If some enterprising old Yankee could undertake to shift it holus bolus, he would make a good thing out of it and there is no doubt if it was in America the job would have attention. The milk supply is increasing slightly now and an early spring is expected. There is a little sign of same already, one pretty cunning gentleman has already started to drop some spuds.

The Scrutineer Saturday 22 August
1896 page 2 col 3

PHEASANT GROUND.

The weather has been like spring out here this last week and most of the farmers are busy now ploughing for the spring crops of hay and potatoes &c, while others who are not so far ahead are clearing up new ground for the same purpose, so that it is expected this coming season that there will be a greater area under crop than for some years past. A bad season like the last one was in this district is a good lesson to farmers not to depend too much on the grass, so no doubt that last seasons lesson has not yet been forgotten, at least by a few who have their senses about them. If they happen to have too much feed it can be put away in a stack for the winter either in hay or ensilage, but all farmers don't know the value there is in the latter. If a few more would go in for only a small stack of ensilage they would find a difference in their cheques in the winter and when the stuff will grow in the proper season, is the time to put it in, not wait until the season is past and then have to

depend on a few acres of stunted oats grown out of season in the winter.

The people out here are not going balmy over free trade and protection, but they have already had a taste of "incorporation" and the roads have not improved a little bit, the roads that lead off the main road are not noticed at all, so the poor beggars pay their rates and have to mend the roads for themselves, except the main road which has to be kept in order by special grants every few years. The others are not thought of or no notice taken of a letter about them to the councillors.

Grass is looking green and the milk is increasing a little and the farmers are beginning to look pleasant.

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

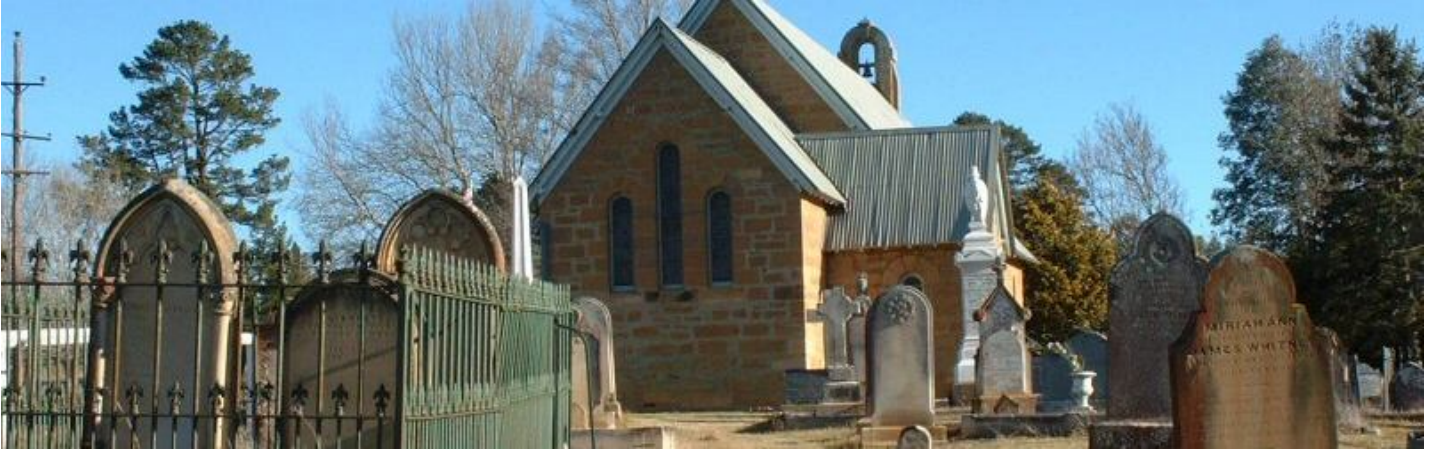
OPENING HOURS

10 am - 4 pm.

Weekends, Public Holidays and
NSW 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.



FROM THE EDITORS DESK

I received a letter last year from member Jean Keen, of Northbridge, who writes:

I am a descendant of Rev. William Stone, Rector of All Saints Anglican Church, Sutton Forest for fifteen years from 1843 or, more correctly, of his wife Susan, nee Johnson. She was a sister of my great great grandfather, Edward Johnson, of Quarry Mount House, near Killeigh, Queens County, Ireland.

You [the society] have a file in your records on the Stone family, also a large one on the Nicholson family, who were connected by the marriages of three of the Stone children to Nicholson children.

The main reason I am writing to you now is that I am sending two items which I think might be of interest, as I know you often print information from the past in your Newsletter.

REV. WILLIAM STONE AND MRS SUSAN STONE nee JOHNSON

Rev. William Stone was born in 1784 at Kilkenny, Ireland. His father was Rev. George Stone (1739-1809), Church of England Minister, and his mother was Alice Stone, nee Carpenter. His parents were married in 1776 in Ireland. Rev. William Stone died on 20th August 1870, at Springfield, Bong Bong NSW (near Moss Vale), the residence of his daughter Margaret Nicholson. He was buried on 22nd August 1870 in All Saints' Anglican Churchyard, Sutton Forest NSW. In Alice Carpenter's family were Rev. Henry Carpenter, born 1802, and his son Bishop William Boyd Carpenter, Bishop of Ripon.

Rev. William Stone married in 1813 Susan Pitt Johnson (his first cousin). She was born in 1791 in Ireland, died on 3rd January 1854 at Sutton Forest NSW Australia, and was buried on 4th January 1854 in All Saints' Anglican Churchyard, Sutton Forest. Susan's father was Pitt Johnson, and her mother was Ann Johnson, nee Carpenter. Susan was a 1st(?) cousin to Rev. Richard Johnson, who came to NSW on the First Fleet as the Colony's first Chaplain.

Rev. William Stone and his wife Susan had nine children, seven of whom came to Australia with their parents on the vessel *Marquis of Hastings*, arriving in Sydney on 4th February 1841.

In 1842 Rev. Stone was appointed to succeed Rev. J K Walpole as Rector of St John The Baptist Anglican Church, Ashfield NSW. Very little is known of his ministry, apart

from a quaint record in the Diocesan Registry dated 1st July 1842. This reads: "A room having been set apart in the residence of the Rev. William Stone, exclusively as a place of worship, the Lord Bishop directed that the same should be considered as temporarily licensed for the purpose." About this time the walls of the partly completed Church were examined by the well-known architect, Mr. E T Blacket, that recently arrived from England. He had been instructed by the Bishop to make the inspection and reported that the work had to be pulled down and rebuilt properly. Mr. Stone remained in Ashfield for a year and then was appointed to Sutton Forest.

On 10th January 1830 a weatherboard church was opened at Sutton Forest. This was described in the late 1830s as "The only place of public worship of any denomination which exists in the vast district extending to the southward of the Cowpasture River." This included Berrima, and in 1841 Rev. George Vidal held services in Berrima Court House. He drew "attention to the disgrace of an assize town being without a Church". Efforts were made immediately to finance the erection of a place of worship at Berrima. Edmund Blacket the architect was consulted, plans were prepared, and by 1844 tenders for the erection of a Church were called. On 7th April 1847 the foundation stone of the Church of Holy Trinity, Berrima was set. The clergyman in the district at this time was the Rev. William Stone, Rector of Sutton Forest.

The Rev. William Stone, B.A., Trinity College, Dublin, succeeded the Rev. George Vidal in 1843 and stayed in Sutton Forest as Rector for a record term of fifteen years.

Two of Rev. William and Susan Stone's sons did not come to Australia; they were Rev. George Stone and Rev. William J J Stone.

The eldest daughter, Susan Stone, married in 1843 in Sydney, Alfred Welby, son of Sir Adlard Welby of Lincolnshire, England, and she died at the Parsonage, Burrawang NSW in 1902, the residence of her daughter Bertha and son-in-law the Rev. David Turberville Smith, Rector at Burrawang 1879-1913. Alfred Welby died at the Parsonage, Burrawang on 6th May 1903. Rev. Smith died in 1936 at Newport NSW.

Another daughter of Rev. William and Susan Stone, Margaret, married in 1854, Charles L. Nicholson, son of Captain John Nicholson, first Harbour Master of Sydney, and his wife Eliza. Captain Nicholson's home was *Newbury*, Sutton Forest NSW.

Richard Stone, a son of Rev. William and Susan Stone, married in 1857, Susanna Nicholson, a daughter of Captain John and Eliza Nicholson.

There were three known clerical generations of the Stone family:

Rev. George Stone, 1738-1809, of Ireland (maybe Durrow) - father of Rev. William Stone.

Rev. William Stone, 1784-1870, of Kilkenny, Ireland and Sutton Forest NSW.

Rev. George Stone, 1814-1863, of Kilkenny, Ireland and died Wrexham, North Wales (son of Rev. William Stone).

Rev. William J J Stone, 1820-?, of Kilkenny, Ireland (son of Rev. William Stone).

STONE, Rev. William of Sutton Forest
Account of Service at Throsby Park
"The Sydney Morning Herald" 21st March 1845

BERRIMA. -March 18th. – Late on last Saturday evening, the Bishop of Australia arrived from Marulan at Throsby Park, the residence of Charles Throsby, Esq., where every arrangement was made for the proper reception of his Lordship. Very early on Sunday morning, the Rev. Mr. Stone dispatched messengers to the principal inhabitants of the district, to apprise them of the Bishop's arrival, and to intimate his Lordship's intention to preach a sermon and hold a confirmation at Sutton Forest Church, at eleven o'clock A.M. Soon after the receipt of this intelligence, small groups of individuals - some equestrians, some pedestrians - could be seen flocking from all directions, and hastening towards the sanctuary, for the purpose of offering their oblations to their Saviour and their God; and about half-past ten o'clock, the little church at Sutton Forest was not only crowded densely by a large, respectable, and attentive congregation; but the very doors, windows, belfry, and avenues leading to the church, were thronged by applicants for confirmation, and other persons waiting in calm and devout composure the commencement of the service, and the inculcation of the truths of our holy religion. The prayers were read by the Rev. W Stone, assisted in the communion service by the Bishop, who, after pronouncing the benediction, administered the rite of confirmation to twenty-eight persons, the greater number of whom were adults. At the conclusion of the ceremony, his Lordship addressed the recipients of this ordinance at considerable length, and with much earnestness; explaining the nature of confirmation, supporting its origin and necessity by scriptural authority, and imploring the young persons before him not to be satisfied with external forms, but to press forward towards the high prize of our calling in Christ Jesus. Having concluded the address, which was delivered extempore, and a few verses of the 119th Psalm being sung by the clerk of the church and the Sunday school children, his Lordship preached from St. Luke, chap. ix. v. 23 :- "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me;" a sermon remarkable for simplicity of expression, pathos of sentiment, and earnestness of delivery. The discourse was listened to throughout with the greatest attention and decorum, and seemed to make a deep impression upon every one who had the happiness to hear it; and it is to be hoped that this impression will not be an evanescent but a lasting and permanent one. Prior to the dismissal of the congregation, the Rev. Mr. Stone intimated that it was the intention of the Bishop to lay the foundation stone of a church at Bong Bong, on Monday morning.

In accordance with this intimation, and agreeably to previous arrangements, his Lordship attended at the time and place specified, and laid the foundation stone of Christ's Church, with the usual ceremonies, and in presence of a large number of people who assembled from all parts of the district to witness the proceedings of the day. It will be remembered that this is the church alluded to in a former communication, which is to be erected solely at the expense of Mr. Throsby, of Throsby Park, to whom too much praise cannot be awarded for the generous feelings which dictated so splendid a gift, and for the very warm interest which that gentleman has invariably evinced for the spiritual welfare of the inhabitants of the district generally. We believe that this church will be the harbinger of much good, temporally as well as spiritually, to Bong Bong; and we have no doubt but that Bong Bong, will become, at no distant period, an inland town of considerable importance.

Moss Vale Post, January 8, 1946

Historic Records of Australia, Series I, Volume XXIII, page 173

EARLY HISTORY OF DISTRICT CHURCHES

The First Appointee Was A Catechist

THE CHURCH AT SUTTON FOREST

The celebration of the 100th anniversary of the opening of Christ Church, Bong Bong, has invited interesting searches through old records to ascertain particulars of the establishment of other churches throughout the district. The Post has been favoured in this regard by ready assistance of identities of the Church of England, which makes possible the reproduction of the appended survey of the early founding of churches at Sutton Forest and Berrima. Bong Bong was covered in a recent issue.

On July 1, 1826, a catechist named John Layton, was appointed to the districts of Sutton Forest, Bong Bong and Mittagong. His wife conducted the first school at Sutton Forest, for which she received 10 Pounds per annum. Her school numbered 11 pupils. In 1828 an arrangement concerning a piece of land for a burial ground was made between the Archdeacon and John Nicholson, and the land was cleared and fenced. James Atkinson, in a letter to the Surveyor-General on October 16, 1828, said:

"Mr. Hassall, the Chaplain, has also visited the district and is quite satisfied that no other spot could be selected in the district so suitable as the one where the burial ground has been enclosed."

Sutton Forest was in Mr. Hassall's parish, and he was expected to visit it every three months.

A chapel was erected in 1829. An entry on the fly-leaf of the Register of St. Paul's, Cobbitty, states that All Saints' Church, Sutton Forest, was opened by Archdeacon Broughton on January 10, 1830. James Backhouse refers to it as a lowly structure. The building was of weatherboard and remained until about 1860.

Early in 1833 a house was rented of John Nicholson as a residence for the Rev. John Vincent, who was appointed to take charge of the district. In the first instance, it was intended to settle Mr. Vincent at Goulburn, but as no parsonage was available it was decided to place him at Sutton Forest.

ATTACKED BY BUSHRANGERS

The date of Mr. Vincent's appointment was 1831. He was not altogether happy, and complained about his house, which, he said, was not large enough for his family. He was informed that the house was the most commodious and best situated with reference to his duties which could be discovered. The Sydney Gazette of April 11, 1836, reported that the home of the Rev. John Vincent had been assailed by bushrangers.

In 1836 steps were taken for the erection of a new church. At a meeting held on October 18, 1836, it was resolved that the Bishop be thanked for a donation of 50 Pounds towards the erection of a new building, and that Mr. Charles Wright be thanked also for the donation of an acre and a half of land opposite the existing chapel. The list of subscriptions amounted to 347/1/0 Pounds.

On Wednesday, January 18, 1837, the inhabitants of Sutton Forest and district assembled at All Saints' Chapel to meet Bishop Broughton, who addressed the gathering and then baptized the son of Captain Sturt, the infant son of Charles Throsby, "and the child of a humble settler".

The procession then moved to the spot marked out as the site of a new church, when the Bishop laid the foundation stone of the new building. In 1838 the sum of 111/16/1 Pounds was voted by the Legislative Council towards the erection of the building, an equal sum being raised locally. The following gentlemen were appointed trustees on May 9, 1839: Rev. John Vincent, Charles Throsby, Henry Badgery and William Bowman.

A report in the Sydney Morning Herald of September 18, 1846, mentions the old church and parsonage:

The church at Sutton Forest is a primitive looking building, of weatherboard, and alongside it is the school, which consists of two neat little whitened cottages. The parsonage is a neat little cottage with a garden in front.

Rev. John Vincent was removed to Castlereagh in March, 1841 and was succeeded by Rev. G. Vidal. A correspondent, in a letter to the Sydney Herald on January 7, 1841, said that the parsonage intended to be built at Berrima was to be erected at Sutton Forest instead. The same persons who had the management of the church at Sutton Forest three years earlier had only succeeded in getting the foundation stone laid. The church was never completed and the old chapel continued to be used. The present church was built in 1861, and consecrated by the Bishop of Sydney in August of that year.

SUTTON FOREST PARSONAGE

The estimates for 1841 contained an item of 350 Pounds towards the erection of a parsonage at Sutton Forest, and the building was completed some time in 1843. A building for a school was constructed in 1831.

A subscription list for the erection of a church at Berrima was opened in May, 1841. In July 1844, a meeting to consider the proposal to build the church was held. Services were held in the Courthouse pending the erection of a church. The subscription list was again advertised in April, 1846; plans for the building were prepared in December of that year, and tenders advertised on December 29, 1846.

A meeting of the committee was held in February, 1847, for the purpose of examining tenders. No decision was arrived at. The Sydney Morning Herald on April 28, 1847, stated that residents were looking forward to the arrival of the contractor to proceed with the erection of the church at a cost of 900 Pounds.

The following appeared in the Herald of July 23, 1847:

"We are happy to say this building is progressing rapidly, the men being now employed at the base course. Mr. Munro, the contractor, had buried this day in one of the stones a parchment paper with the following inscription: The foundation stone of the Church of Holy Trinity, in the town of Berrima, in the county of Camden and colony of New South Wales, was laid on the 7 day of April, A.D. 1846, by the Right Rev. Wm. Grant Broughton, in the 10th year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, and the 1st of the Government of His Excellency Sir Charles Fitzroy, Knight, Resident clergyman, the Rev. William Stone; trustee of the church, Samuel North, Esq., Police Magistrate, John Norton Oxley, Esq., J.P., James Jerome Higgins, Esq., William Cordeaux, Esq., architect, Mr. Edmund Blacket; builder, Mr. William Munro; secretary of the church, Mr. Robert Foster."

BERRIMA

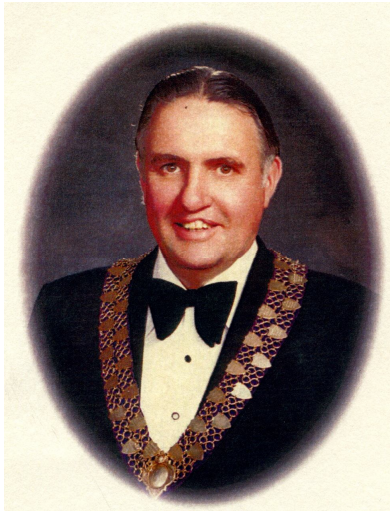
It was reported on February 2, 1849, that the people of Berrima were anxious to see the church opened. It was believed that the trustees were only waiting for the contractors to complete the work in the interior before opening it to the public.

Bishop Broughton, assisted by Rev. William, Stone, consecrated the church on June 9, 1849. A congregation of about one hundred and fifty persons was present, including Mrs. Throsby and family, J. Riley, H.M. Oxley, W.J. Cordeaux, and "the principal gentry of the district". The Sydney Morning Herald of April 5, 1850, stated that a meeting of the parishioners had elected H.M. Oxley, J.J. Higgins and R.C. Foster as churchwardens.

In June, 1838, the Rev. McEnroe applied for land on the south side of the Wingecarribee on which to erect a church, a school and a clergyman's residence. In 1840 an application was made instead for the site on which the stockade had been erected. This land, which lay on the south-eastern side of the river, was surveyed and granted for the purpose of erecting a Roman Catholic Church.

In October, 1840, a meeting was held at the temporary place of worship and a subscription list opened, but nearly eight years elapsed before the building was commenced. The Sydney Morning Herald started in its issue of February 14, 1849, that Archbishop Polding arrived on the 7th of that month, attended prayers at the temporary place of worship, after which the foundation-stone of the church (the builder of which was William Munro, who erected the Church of England) was laid. The building was completed early in 1851.

JOSEPH (JOE) HENRY FORD A Tribute



Joe Ford, a life member of the society, died on 11 January 2010 at the age of eighty-three.

The service of thanksgiving held at St Simon and St Jude Anglican Church in Bowral on 15 January was attended by a large crowd. The society was well represented.

Joe was a strong supporter of the society, especially in its struggling early years. He served for many years on the management committee and as publicity officer. Joe held the position of Honourary Treasurer between 1981 and 1985, and between 1987 and 1990.

He was President of the Society from 1991 to 1994.

Joe lived in the Southern Highlands all his life, having been born on a dairy farm overlooking a spot where the Wingecarribee Dam is today. He went to school at Glenquarry and worked on the family farm.

He then worked as the accountant to Springett's Pty Ltd in Bowral for 18 years, and afterwards went for an extended overseas trip. When he returned, he commenced a more than 20 year stint with the Berrima Co-operative in Bowral and eventually became General Manager of the group.

Over the years, Joe devoted much effort to community service organisations, including the Moss Vale Lions Club, the Apex Club, and served on the Harbison Homes Committee.

In 1978 Joe became New South Wales Grand Master of the Manchester Unity Friendly Society.

An Order of Australia medal was awarded to Joe in 1982 for services to the community.

Joe wrote numerous articles on local history, many of which were published in our society newsletters, including a series on the history of the local dairy industry. The society's local photograph collection contains many valuable images provided by Joe over the years.

On behalf of all members, the society sent flowers and condolences to Joe's wife Nancy as a tribute to the invaluable contribution Joe made over the years to the society.

PHOTO PRESENTATION AT FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING



Want to see more?

Then come along to the society's general meeting on Thursday 25 February, commencing at 7:30pm. Linda Emery and Max Rogers will give a presentation of historical photographs, including some more fantastic shots of local floral processions.

An invitation to take a tour . . .



Life on the Prison Ships exhibition at Hyde Park Barracks - a guided tour

In 1776, with its American colonies fighting for

independence and its jails overflowing, the British government began converting old ships into floating prisons or 'hulks' to house convicts sentenced to transportation. *Convict Hulks* is the first comprehensive exhibition recalling the harsh but fascinating history of these hulks.

Society members are invited to join with members of the Southern Highlands Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters to take a guided tour of this exhibition at the Hyde Park Barracks museum in Sydney.

Guide John Boyd will meet the group in the area outside the entry gates to the Barracks at 10.45 for an 11am tour on Saturday 13 March, 2010.

Cost is \$5 and you pay on the day. Acceptances by March 9 to Wendy Selman. Phone her on 4862 4849 or email to selmans@bigpond.com

The 8.30am train from the Highlands to Sydney will easily convey anyone interested to attend in time for the tour. Afterwards you could explore the rest of the museum or other parts of Sydney.

Joseph Wild opened the way south, taming bush and convicts

This is a revised version of the Highlands History article by Philip Morton printed in the *Southern Highland News* 14 December 2009

When he died on 25 May 1847, Joseph Wild was the first to be buried in the churchyard at the newly built Christ Church in Bong Bong. His headstone still stands today.

It is reputed but not verified that he was killed by a wild bull at the Wingecarribee Swamp.

On his headstone it says he was 88, but ancestral records indicate he was born in Lancashire in March 1765, which would give him a lifespan of 82 years.

This long-lived early pioneer of our district and beyond was illiterate but played a large part in the colony's expansion into the interior as one who came to terms with the bush and without whose assistance the task of the more famous explorers would have been much greater.

Wild was sentenced in 1793 at Chester, England, to transportation for life for crimes unknown. After spending several years in a prison hulk, he arrived in New South Wales aboard the *Ganges* in 1797.

He became servant to Mr Brown, the Botanist, and travelled widely with him and in 1803 was a member of Ensign Barrallier's party of discovery that trekked south and crossed the Wollondilly River before being forced by low rations to return to Sydney.

In 1810 he received a ticket-of-leave, and in 1813 was granted a conditional pardon. For a time he superintended a farm on the Hawkesbury but soon afterwards began working for Dr. Charles Throsby who then had land at Liverpool and later made Bong Bong his home.

In 1815 Dr. Throsby sent out a small party including Wild to trek from the west into the Illawarra. They cut a track down the mountain near Bulli to the Five Islands district. In December 1815 Governor Macquarie made Wild a constable for the district of the Five Islands.

He later accompanied Throsby on journeys to the country west of Sutton Forest in 1817, to Jervis Bay in 1818, and to Bathurst in 1819. These expeditions of discovery led Governor Macquarie to direct Throsby to supervise the building of a cart road to this south country.

An earlier track followed a line blazed in 1818 by Surveyor James Meehan, Throsby and Hamilton Hume which went generally east of the present Hume Highway, passing over the Mittagong Range near the Gib, through Bong Bong and Sutton Forest and by a circuitous route to Bungonia. Throsby's line followed this track until beyond Sutton Forest where it deviated west, following the Bathurst expedition route as far as the Goulburn Plains.

The road was begun in October 1819 and Wild replaced Robert Sills as superintendent of the road-gang, as the Aboriginals remembered Sills for pursuing them in 1816.

With Throsby in command, the party then consisted of overseer Wild with one guard, one clerk, one bullock-driver and eleven convict labourers. Work was on a five-day a week basis and took 231 days. Alterations, additions and bridgework continued to February 1821.

Each man was supplied with one blanket, one jacket, two pairs of trousers, two shirts and *five* pairs of shoes. As the men were to work all day, Macquarie ordered "an extra ration of wheat for them".

Altogether, from Stonequarry Creek (Picton) to the Cookbundoon Range, 75 miles of track was built at a width of 33 feet and at a cost of just over £280.

Wild was not overpaid at the rate of £20 per annum plus a ration of 12 pounds of wheat and seven pounds of beef per week. Dr. Throsby was granted an additional 500 acres at Bong Bong for his work.

Macquarie praised Wild's part in the construction of the road when he visited the final stages across the Cookbundoon Range in October 1820 and named the pass through the mountains Wild's Pass. It is much to Wild's credit that the undertaking progressed so rapidly as the convicts would have been a rough bunch to manage.

In August 1820 Throsby sent Wild in search of water further south into what became known as the Argyle district. He discovered Lake George and in December accompanied Throsby on a futile search for the Murrumbidgee River, but they did explore much of the present Canberra district.

In 1821 Wild was appointed constable by Macquarie for the new County of Argyle and in 1823 he accompanied Captain Currie and Major John Ovens on an expedition further south, which resulted in the discovery of the Monaro Plains.

After Throsby's death Wild became head stockman for Charles Throsby junior. Wildes Meadow was named after him.



MOTLEY CREW: A convict road gang of 1829 outside Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney, painted by Augustus Earle, from an original in the National Library of Australia.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	11	FEB	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25	FEB	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	11	MAR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25	MAR	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	8	APR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	22	APR	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society

If undelivered return to:
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
PO Box 131
MITTAGONG NSW 2575
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
Newsletter
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