

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 415 March 2010

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 KNA PMAN	4871 1804	
Hon Secretary:	Mr Philip Morton	4883 7862	
Hon Treasurer:	Mrs Jan Reid	4871 3391	
Archivist:	Mrs Linda EMERY	4883 4271	
Curator - Museum:	Mr Bob WILLIAMS	4889 4405	
Editor	Ms Lav inia FORD	4869 4038	lav inias@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

JANUARY MEETING: Thursday 25 March 2010 at 7:30pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: Leonie Knapman
SUPPER: To be served after the meeting - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday 22 April 2010 at 7:30pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: TBA

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And more ...



Diary Dates 2010

MARCH

11 Management Committee Meeting
25 Monthly General Meeting - Talk
by *Leonie Knapman History of the
Remembrance Driveway*

APRIL

2 - 19 School Holidays commence
8 Management Committee Meeting
22 Monthly General Meeting

MAY

Mothers Day
13 Management Committee Meeting
27 Monthly General Meeting

Fellowship First Fleeters Southern Highlands Chapter

CHAPTER GATHERINGS

Members and Guests welcome at all
our gatherings/meetings and events.

The Chapter meets bi-monthly on
Wednesdays from **10:30 am to 12:30
pm**, at the **Mittagong Community
Centre**, corner Albert Lane and Queen
Street, Mittagong.

Meeting donation \$5 - includes
morning tea.

Chapter gatherings focus on informal
fellowship over morning tea, followed
by guest speakers or talks by Chapter
members throughout the year.

14 April - Dr Paul-Alan Johnson -
speaking on First Fleeter Augustus Alt,
First Surveyor General of the Colony
of NSW.

9 June - Dr John Bunt - speaking on
Antarctica when I was a young fellow.

11 August - Soup and Damper Day.
AGM followed by Chapter Chats and a
light lunch.

13 October - Leonie Knapman -
speaking on Bound for Botany Bay:
Convict Departures.

8 December - Christmas Luncheon

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the
following new members.

Mrs Kathleen **Browne**, Moss Vale
Mr David **Byrne**, North Rocks
Mr David **Cloonan**, Berrima
Mr Michael **Ellsmore**, Eastwood
Mr Trevor **Hamilton**, Berrima
Mrs Aledis **Kedwell**, Gordon
Mr Adrian **Lehmann**, Northbridge
Mr Alan **Matthews**, Bundanoon
Mr Gary **Mumberson**, Wilberforce
Mr Alan **Smith**, Bowral
Mrs Marilyn **Smith**, Sydney
Mr Michael **Vogt**, North Rocks
David and Vanessa **Waters**, Appin

Here's to a long and happy association

From The Newspapers *Contributed by Carol Nolan*

The Scrutineer, Thursday 8 December
1881 page 2 column 3

WINGECARRIBEE STOCK, FARM, AND LAND.

David Moffitt Reports. -Fat cattle. This
class of stock is still scarce; nay sales
during past month have been limited to
a new small lots of cows (light) at 3
pounds per head. Store cattle: in little
request and readily obtainable from
25s to 50s per head according to sex
and condition. Milch cattle: In good
demand; medium to good are worth
from £3 10s to £6; and buyers operate
freely at those figures; my chief sales
have been 60 head on account of Mr.
Isaac Stewart, Burrawang, Mr.
McGuire's dairy herd at the same
place, and a portion of Mr. Dorrough's
of West Kangaloon, at quotations.
Dairy Farmers: several important sales
have been effected recently; any
favorably situated and improved
properties are eagerly sought after and
easily disposed of at satisfactory
prices. I sold Mr. Isaac Stewart's farm
at Wildes Meadow, containing 64
acres, and £13 2s 6d per acre, which
may be deemed a more than ordinarily
good price, though the property is
highly improved and its natural
advantages beyond the average. I also
sold to the same owner a farm in

Kangaroo Valley, 141 acres at £2 per
acre; this may also be considered a
good figure, having in view the
character of the country and the
amount of improvement effected
thereon. Draught Horses: If of good
quality are very saleable; for inferior
sorts there is no market. I have sold
privately on account of Messrs. Payne
Bros., Burrawang, a team of horses
and their Van, known as the
Dairymaid, to Messrs Musgrave and
Tate, Robertson, for £210.

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

Bundanoon tour an enjoyable day

On Wednesday 17 February the society conducted a coach tour to historic Bundanoon and environs.

On a rare perfect weather day, coach driver Ken Reid delivered the tour group to the Bundanoon History Group's Railway Shed where the display of historical photos and artefacts was inspected. Patricia Guy, President and Liz Walker, Archivist made everyone welcome and answered questions.

A brief sojourn to the genuine 60's style Primula Cafe allowed the visitors to relax over morning tea.

A guided tour of some of the many interesting features of Bundanoon village then took place, with Liz Walker providing a commentary. Jackman's Cottage, the oldest residence in Bundanoon and still in use as a dwelling, situated in a picturesque country lane, was a definite highlight.

Lunch was served at the comfortable CWA premises in town and consisted of a ploughman's lunch along with tea/coffee and cakes, all provided fresh and home-cooked by the members of the local CWA. Some members had difficulty rousing themselves after being so well catered for.

However it was back on the bus and this time Pat Guy provided the commentary for a tour to some of the lookouts in the section of Morton National Park that is situated just one kilometre downhill from Bundanoon. Panoramic vistas of the gorges that contain Bundanoon Creek and the Shoalhaven River were viewed.

The bus then headed south on the Penrose Road and Philip Morton guided the group to the Sunnataram Forest Monastery, a Theravada Buddhist monastery in the Thai forest tradition.

Facing the breathtaking view of Kangaroo Valley with Jervis Bay and Nowra on the horizon, the monastery is a perfect place for meditation. The huge pagoda with its arches of statues of the Buddha representing every national style was most inspiring. The numerous lyre birds strutting calmly about added to the charm.

Kim, the spokesperson, gave a brief history of Buddhism and the establishing of Sunnataram. Much of the sandstone used in the buildings came from Bundanoon sandstone quarry.

So an exhausted but satisfied group made their way back home in the late afternoon.

The accompanying photos are courtesy of ace photographer Jan Reid, who also does treasurer duties for the society.



Jackman's Cottage, Bundanoon.



Members take in the view at Echo Point lookout.



Another view of members at Echo Point lookout.



The main pagoda and lake at Sunnataram monastery.

From forge and anvil, smithies supplied the stuff of life

This Highlands History article by Philip Morton was printed in the *Southern Highland News* on 18 January 2010.

A mostly forgotten early industry is that of blacksmithing. Colonial blacksmiths used iron working skills developed in Europe to supply the thousands of metal objects that made up the equipment of daily life.

Iron had first been produced from its ore about 1400 BC in the Middle East and iron swords, spearheads, knives and axes quickly proved superior to bronze weapons and tools.

Builders came to depend on the blacksmith for nails, hammers, chisels, wedges, hinges, door latches and hooks. Farmers bought axes, sickles, shoes for horses and oxen, and chain and weapons. Travellers obtained wagon wheels and parts, and harness hardware. Housewives sought cooking utensils, pots and kettles from the local smith.

Cathedrals and major public buildings with their superbly detailed wrought ironwork required the blacksmith also to be an artist.

When any iron-worked item broke, it was the blacksmith who repaired it. All the while he made and maintained his own shop tools - anvils, hammers, tongs, and all the special tools invented for specific jobs.

The first road through the local Berrima district was constructed around 1819 and soon coaches and wagons began passing through. Inns established along the way also served as staging posts where horses were changed. Premises were set up nearby where farriers supplied shoes for horses and bullocks, and blacksmiths repaired carriages and wagons.

As the local area prospered and farms, towns and industries became established, these blacksmith shops expanded and multiplied.

Major early enterprises, such as the butter factories of the late 1800s in the Robertson area, usually had a blacksmith shop on the premises for the repair of wagons and equipment and where horseshoes were fitted.

Local iron ore was used by smithies

The first iron worked by the blacksmiths in Australia was raw iron imported as ballast in sailing ships. As this proved expensive, when local iron ore was found it was not long before attempts were made to establish iron ore smelting works.

At Mittagong, a seam of iron ore and the other necessary raw materials, coal and limestone, were found, and a smelting works commenced in 1848. The Fitz Roy iron works produced Australia's first raw 'pig' iron that was cast into useful products.

Ongoing setbacks led to the eventual closure of the furnace smelter in 1877. However, as is well known to locals, Mittagong came to be regarded as the birthplace of the Australian iron and steel industry.

While in operation, the iron works provided employment and opportunity for local blacksmiths and some fine examples of their craftsmanship may still be seen today in the decorative iron lacework that features on some of Mittagong's early buildings.

William Brazenall and his sons, for example, from the 1880s established blacksmith and iron foundry businesses at Nattai and later in Mittagong. Their Iron Foundry and Engineering Works advertised in the 1890s: 'Castings made to order in iron, brass, copper, etc. Pilasters, brackets and friezes, latest designs at Sydney prices. Saw milling, agricultural, and other machinery repaired on shortest notice'.

Into the 20th century, iron and steel mass production and new techniques meant that local blacksmith services were no longer required.

Yet horses still require shoes to be fitted. Here in the Southern Highlands at least ten farriers continue this service. As well, traditional blacksmithing techniques are used locally by metal sculpture artists to create highly valued works of art.



MOVING ON: In 1914, Roberts & Lippiatt, of Mittagong, were coachbuilders, wheelwrights, general smiths and undertakers!



NEW SHOES: Bowral blacksmiths, on corner Bong Bong and Banyette Sts, with staff and satisfied customer, c1895.

Come for a trip down memory lane



"History of the Remembrance Driveway"

Guest speaker Leonie Knapman

Will give an illustrated presentation

At the Society General Meeting on 25 March

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Do you remember marvelling at the wondrous growth of trees along stretches of the old highway that were marked 'Remembrance Driveway'?

After World War Two the Australian Government decided to create a living memorial to remember those who served their country. The Garden Club of Australia became involved and a Remembrance Way was created between Sydney and Canberra along the highways that linked the two cities. In 1954 Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh planted a plane tree at either end of the Way.

Along the Southern Highlands stretch, trees were planted with the seasons in mind so that some had leaves turning to autumn hues and others remained green. The autumn hues were for the fallen and the green for those who returned. As Anzac Day occurred in autumn, this was most timely.



Hear more about the Remembrance Driveway.  
Be at the General Meeting, starting 7:30pm.

## Society Management Committee new member profile



**Carolyn Dougherty**

Carolyn looks after the society's library and helps out around the archives. She became a member of the Management Committee in November 2009.

Carolyn worked for over 25 years in academic libraries before moving to the Southern Highlands from Cronulla some 13 years ago.

Having studied Australian History at the University of New England and with a keen interest in the subject she was compelled to join the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society where, with the encouragement of Max Rogers and Linda Emery, she has been a volunteer ever since.

Following her arrival in the Highlands, Carolyn worked for some time with the elderly and was inspired and fascinated by the tales of the long time local residents she encountered. Carolyn also worked at 'The Mill', Moss Vale, where she was involved in the publication of doll and bear magazines and production of associated 'shows' for a number of years. She worked also at the Doll and Bear Shop and Museum of Early Childhood in Mittagong.

She is a keen gardener and has a great interest in her surrounding area of Willow Vale/Braemar where she resides with her husband David. A son and daughter, their spouses plus three small grandchildren provide her with great joy (most of the time!).



## Order of Australia to Jenny Simons



**At the Berrima District Museum in November 2009  
Jenny Simons addresses those gathered for the  
John Simon's memorial tree dedication.**  
(Photo by Marc McInnes)

Jennifer Simons, a long-term member of the Society, recently received the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to conservation and the environment in the Southern Highlands.

In an Australia Day 2010 feature the *Southern Highland News* included an article on Jenny and listed her many activities and achievements.

Jenny Simons has been a member of the Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare Group since 1993 and is the sub-editor of *Our Gardens* quarterly magazine, *Garden Clubs of Australia* and co-editor of *The Gib: Mount Gibraltar, Southern Highlands 2007*.

Jenny has also been a member of the Australian Plants Society's Southern Highlands branch since 1997, serving as president from 2005 to 2007.

She is a life member of the Highlands Garden Society and is now the zone coordinator of Garden Clubs of Australia. She established the Robertson (2000), Mittagong (2001) and Moss Vale (2001) Garden Clubs.

'I love living here and I think it is just so important for us to preserve our heritage, not just for us but for future generations' she is quoted as saying.

Jenny is also a member of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness, Australian Garden History Society, the National trust, National Parks Association and Seed Savers.

## In memory of George Thirkell

George Thirkell passed away earlier this year and the society feels that it is appropriate to pay its respects to him by recounting something of his life.

Last year George donated his model of the Fitz Roy iron works to the society's museum and it now takes pride of place in the Early Industries exhibition.

George was born at Leeds, Yorkshire on 29 June, 1929 and attended Leeds Grammar School. He took up a career in mining and in 1955 became an Associate of the Institution of Mining Engineers. That year he married Barbara and had a son Paul and daughter Kim.

In 1963 the family emigrated to Australia to make a new start and settled first in Mildura where George became factory manager for Humes Concrete Pipes and then started a concrete building block business.

Five years later the family moved to Appin, and then to Sydney. George found work in both the mining and concrete industries and he also developed considerable skill in woodworking, setting up a home workshop to make furniture and restore antiques.

In 1998 the family moved to the Southern Highlands and George developed an interest in the Iron Mines. He was amazed that so little was left of what he considered an important part of Mittagong's history.

He was given some help, but when he decided to make his model, he had to survey the site and make drawings, which was time consuming as there was very little evidence apart from some old photos of the works. He literally counted the bricks in some of the photos to enable him to make his scale model.

George worked on his model for several years, through a period of poor health. He was meticulous in everything he did and believed that if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well.

George was a quiet man but happy to speak to anyone who would listen. He had a wicked sense of humour and enjoyed a joke. He loved his home and garden and his family.



**At the Museum's Model launch in 2009 are George and Barbara (right) with daughter Kim Morse-Evans, and her sons Harrison (left) and Rhys. (Photo by Marc McInnes)**

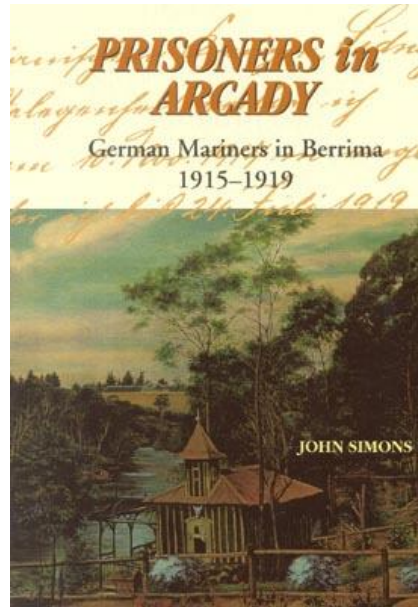
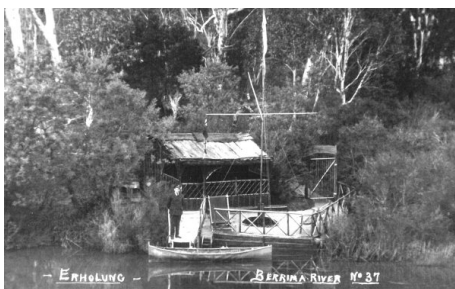
## Book Review

Our society library stocks an interesting collection of books on varied subject matter. These publications are available for research or as general interest reading. Subjects include convicts, local history, immigration, military, local schools, shipping.



Dr John Simons

Former Archivist and Honorary Life Member of our society, Dr John Simons, devoted many years of research into the story of the German mariners interned at Berrima during World War One. This culminated in the publication of his book *Prisoners in Arcady* and formed the basis of our museum exhibition that opened in February 2009.



**Prisoners In  
Arcady**  
German Mariners  
In Berrima  
1915 - 1919  
By Dr John  
Simons

258 pages  
Indexed  
Published 1999

World War One brought about some 300 prisoners of war into the tranquil village of Berrima, and the disused sandstone gaol was transferred into a German internment camp.

While there were many internment camps located throughout Australia at this time, this book looks at one in particular, brought to life with an excellent photographic collection.

*Prisoners in Arcady* is a fascinating read into 4½ years of history into the Prisoners of War (POW) at Berrima.

Afforded few comforts, these resourceful seafarers waited out the war far removed from front line action.

While confined nightly in cramped cells, they were free to roam by day, "easy-going military guard permitted every liberty that prisoners-of-war could reasonably expect".

They bridge the Wingecarribee River, building along its banks chalets and gardens in the style of their homeland.

They supplied fresh produce to a community that learns to accept them, respect them, and even love them with their choir, orchestra and theatre.

This publication is available for purchase from our website, at our Museum and at our Archives in both hard cover \$45.00 each and soft cover \$35.00 each.



## DIARY DATES

|          |            |                              |                                          |
|----------|------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| THURSDAY | 11 MAR     | Management Committee Meeting |                                          |
| THURSDAY | 25 MAR     | Monthly General Meeting      | <b>7:30 pm</b> at the Historical Society |
|          | 2 - 19 APR | School holidays              |                                          |
| THURSDAY | 8 APR      | Management Committee Meeting |                                          |
| THURSDAY | 22 APR     | Monthly General Meeting      | <b>7:30 pm</b> at the Historical Society |
| THURSDAY | 13 MAY     | Management Committee Meeting |                                          |
| THURSDAY | 27 MAY     | Monthly General Meeting      | <b>2:00 pm</b> 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  
Print Post Approved  
PP239679/00002

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AUSTRALIA**

## 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  
Blue Circle Southern Cement  
Fletchers Fotographics  
Hypercet Printing  
Mittagong Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Springetts Arcade*