

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 418 June 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	4622 5028	kandjreid@viceroygilead.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	4622 5028	
Archivist:	Mrs Linda EMERY	4883 4271	
Curator - Museum:	Mr Bob WILLIAMS	4889 4405	
Editor	Ms Lav inia 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

JUNE LUNCHEON MEETING:

Thursday 24 June 2010 at 12:00pm

'Celebration of the 50th Anniversary'

of the founding of the Berrima District Historical Society
at The Highlands Golf Club, Hume Highway, Mittagong

Inside this month ...

Diary Dates	2
Bowers Gabre	6
William Edward Stopford	7

And more ...

JULY MEETING: Thursday 22 July 2010

Guest speaker at 2:00pm precedes our meeting.

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

GUEST SPEAKER: Beverley McClymont

TOPIC: Mrs Elizabeth Macquarie



Diary Dates 2010

JUNE

- 10 Management Committee Meeting
- 16 Harpers Mansion talk by Ann Beaumont at Berrima Church Hall
- 19 Book sale at our society
- 19 "Oldbury" art auction until 4 July
- 24 Monthly General Meeting - **Luncheon - Society's 50th Anniversary**

JULY

- 3 - 19 School holidays
- 8 Management Committee Meeting
- 22 Monthly General Meeting - Talk by *Beverley McClymont* on *Mrs Elizabeth Macquarie*
- 31 Society sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Mittagong

AUGUST

- 12 Management Committee Meeting
- 26 Monthly General Meeting - Talk by *Linda Emery*

Email addresses

Could members please ensure their email address is kept current with us, as on occasion there is a need to contact members; Thank you for your assistance.

From the Newspapers

The Sydney Morning Herald
Thursday 23 May 1912 page 8

Resourceful Boat Builder.

If Mr. Shimmon, of the Goulburn district, had been marooned on the Island of Juan Fernandez, he would not have remained there as long as Robinson Crusoe. He would have built himself a boat, and probably done profitable trading before he got back to civilisation. Mr. Shimmon has demonstrated his ability to build boats by his unaided efforts.

Our Goulburn correspondent telegraphs that the residents of Tallong, on the southern line, met the other evening to do honour to Mr. Shimmon, who is leaving the locality, and they presented him with a purse of sovereigns. Mr. Shimmon is over 70 years of age, and by his own labours, and using mainly only axe, saw, and hammer, he has constructed a boat weighing three tons. The timber used was chiefly from the Tallong district. When fitted with machinery the boat will be rated as a 14-tonner, and will be used by the builder for trading between Sydney and Gosford. The boat was brought in from the bush on a waggon, and was trucked to Sydney. Tallong is 24 miles from Goulburn, and a most unlikely spot for the builder of a boat to select.

The Scrutineer, Saturday 26
October 1895 page 2 col 4

Rev. E. J. Rodd

The Rev. E. J. Rodd, the well-known and deservedly popular resident, Wesleyan minister of Goulburn, and chairman of the district, passed through Moss Vale on Thursday last, after a drive of some five hundred miles through the South Coast district; occupying sixteen days in visiting the various circuits of the district, and observing preaching appointments that had been arranged in anticipation of his visit.

Bowral Free Press Saturday 19
November 1904

Comic Cutting

As the steamer was just starting from Calais an English passenger shouted out to a French friend, "Au reservoir!" To this the Frenchman, with equal ignorance of any language but his own, responded, "Tanks!"

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

Newsletter

Newsletter Deadline is **1st** of every month. It may be necessary to hold submissions after this date till the following month.

Joe Ford Collection - Book Sale

Book sale at the Archives on Saturday 19 June

Joe Ford, who passed away earlier this year, was a member of the society for many years.

An avid reader and researcher, Joe built up a considerable collection of books that cover a wide range of interests. As well as an extensive local and general Australian history focus, there are works on the Australian and local dairy industry, hospital and medical developments, the cooperative movement, biographies, European travel, philosophy, and more.

On behalf of Joe's widow, the society will be holding a sale of books from Joe's collection at the Archives on Saturday 19th June starting at 9.30am.

Members of the society are welcome to come at 8.30am to preview and buy the books before we open to the public.

Also, any members who can assist beforehand or on the day please let the Archives know.

Oldbury Art Auction starts 19 June



Margaret Mapperson, a local artist and member of the society, has recently created *Oldbury*, an artwork done in traditional illuminated manuscript style. Surrounded by images of the Oldbury estate, the central feature is a depiction of the homestead.

Margaret's own business, MJM Artistry, will display the painting for silent auction at Bowral Artworks Gallery commencing on Saturday 19th June and running for two weeks until 4th July.

Proceeds from the auction will be for the benefit of our society so members are encouraged to support this generous undertaking.

Brief historical perspective

James Atkinson was one of the earliest and most respected European settlers. In 1821 he received land grants in Sutton Forest and took up residence the next year. He named his property *Oldbury*, for the small village in Kent, England. The English-style stone house he built in 1828 still stands as one of the district's most interesting early colonial houses.

Visit Bowral Artworks Gallery

Margaret's painting will be on public display at Bowral Artworks Gallery, 422 Bong Bong Street, and auction bids will be accepted there until 4th July.

A silent auction means that the personal details of bidders will be kept private but their bid amounts will be displayed.

Members are encouraged to visit the gallery to view the work and to make a bid. Your help in spreading the word about this auction would be appreciated.

The artist

An award-winning professional fine artist, illustrator and designer, Margaret has provided artworks for auction to various specialist groups such as the Breast Cancer Institute of NSW and the Animal Welfare League.



Harper's Mansion history to be told

Ann Beaumont, a member of the society, has been doing research on Harper's Mansion and the people who have lived there.

Ann will be presenting her findings at the next Harper's Mansion regular meeting to be held on June 16 at 2pm in the Berrima Church Hall.



The house was built in 1834 by James and Mary Harper and bought by the Catholic Church for use as a presbytery and then as a tenanted property until in 1978, it was acquired by the National Trust.

~~~~~  
**Please note that all the events featured on this page take place THIS MONTH !!!**

## An update from the librarian . . .

Carolyn Dougherty

Given that 2010 is the 200th anniversary of Lachlan Macquarie taking up his commission as Governor of New South Wales, I thought it appropriate to list some of the holdings of our library that refer to this great man.



While most of the listed holdings are not recent publications, they provide the reader with a valuable insight into the man and his times.

**Lachlan Macquarie: His Life, Adventures and Times** by M.H. Ellis, third edition published 1958. Library shelf number 24/15.

**Lachlan Macquarie Governor of New South Wales: Journals of his Tours in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land 1810-1822.** This is a facsimile reprint of the first edition published by the Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales in 1956. Library shelf number 24/39.

**A Colonial Autocracy: New South Wales Under Governor Macquarie 1810-1821** by Marion Phillips. First published in 1909, this work is a thesis for a degree from the University of London, with the second impression published in 1971 and can be found at library shelf number 20/99.

**Macquarie's World** by Marjorie Barnard was first published in 1947, second edition 1949. Library shelf number 20/33.

Also of interest may be **Joseph Lycett: Governor Macquarie's Convict Artist** by John Turner published in 1997 - library shelf number 20/133 and **Elizabeth Macquarie: Her Life and Times** by Lysbeth Cohen published 1979. Library shelf number 24/07.

**Macquarie Country: A History of the Hawkesbury** by D.G. Bowd can be found at library shelf number 30/59.

The above books are all available for borrowing. Members are asked to register date borrowed and their details in the borrowing book at the desk in the library.

Two books located in the Reference Collection and thus unable to be removed from the archives, are the **Throsby, Macquarie Letters** found at Ref. 03/124 and **Historical Records of New South Wales, Volume 7, Bligh and Macquarie 1809-1811** found at Ref. 05/15.

## Society Management Committee

Robert (Max) Rogers

Born in Orange, NSW, Max began an apprenticeship at age 15 with the local newspaper of the time, The Central Western Daily. After training for six years in general printing and hand composing, Max then made his way to Sydney.



He worked for several years at the Daily Telegraph newspaper in the composing room located at the Castlereagh Street building in the time when Sir Frank Packer was in charge.

With dreams of saving to embark on a whirlwind working holiday overseas, Max took a job at the Sydney Morning Herald and ended up staying there for 34 years.

For the last 12 years or so at the Herald, Max worked as 'cold type, paste-up compositor'. It was called 'cold-type' because the printing came out on printed sheets from a master computer that were then cut and pasted up on special cardboard sheets, instead of as previously being put as 'hot type' in steel formes.

Max remembers how back in the old 'hot type' days the cadet journalists had to come on to the composing room floor to gain experience in 'subbing' and they approached this with some trepidation. It was a noisy environment with banks of very deafening linotypes dropping out their 'lines of type' that the compositors then tapped down level into steel formes in order to set each page. At edition times it was not only very, very noisy but madly chaotic as well.

In 1992 Max accepted a redundancy package from the Sydney Morning Herald at the time when Conrad Black was at the helm of the paper.

Max moved to Bowral because he used to play golf with the Broadway Golf Club and from time to time the club would visit the Bowral Golf Club and he took a liking to the Southern Highlands and its people.

It wasn't long before his deep passion for history led him to seek out the local district's historical society and in 1994 he joined the society.

His newspaper experience and life-long interest in history saw him quickly become the librarian and research officer.

Ever since then Max has devoted himself to maintaining and expanding the society's historical archive and library. He is constantly delving into these archives and those wider a field to supply information to the many people who contact the society with requests for a family link or for historical data or for some obscure, vague connection. Max has a long trail of grateful and satisfied enquirers.

As the society's Research Officer, Max adds his valuable perspective to the Management Committee.



## Society hosted U3A Program over 5 days in April and May

"Histories of various early towns and industries"

*Leonie Knapman*

Held each Wednesday, the course involved two different PowerPoint sessions over four of the days with the last day being a tour of the Blue Circle Southern Cement plant at New Berrima.

Over 30 members of the U3A enrolled in the course, which was held upstairs in the meeting room of the Society. Most of the participants had never been into our rooms before and by the end of the course were impressed with the quality of what we have housed in our archives and some joined as new members.

**Subjects covered during the course were:**

- \* Mittagong Farm Homes (Renwick) 1881-1994
- \* The history of Wombeyan Caves Road
- \* The shale-mining ghost town of Joadja Creek
- \* The ghost town of Glen Davis
- \* Problems with early Industrial Transport
- \* History of BCS Cement at New Berrima
- \* History of the Remembrance Driveway
- \* Tour of the Archives of the BDH&FHS
- \* The last day was spent touring the plant of Blue Circle Southern Cement at New Berrima.

### Short early history of BCSC

In May 1929, when Mrs Taylor, wife of the Managing director of the new Southern Portland Cement Ltd, fired the first kiln at New Berrima it was reported that it would bring a blaze of prosperity to the Berrima District. The report was correct.

Today this fledgling company, now known as Blue Circle Southern Cement Ltd, still brings wealth and recognition to the Southern Highlands. The position of the plant was ideal. To the south Canberra could not be touched by other competitors, whilst the plant was in a position to meet competition in other parts of the state. It was built when Canberra's first Parliament House was under construction. Since then the plant has helped build Canberra and its satellite suburbs.

The New Berrima cement plant has been part of many massive construction undertakings, including Warragamba Dam, the Snowy Mountains Scheme, the Sydney Opera House and the second Parliament House in Canberra.



THE TOUR OF THE PLANT began in the control room where Bob Strode gave a run-down on the working of the site. It was also here that protective gear was handed out as a requirement for all visitors to the site.



The group was divided into three and shown around the plant by BCSC staff. Because of a plant problem the group were unable to go to the top of the Pre-heater Tower. Above photo was taken when the last U3A group visited and shows part of the spectacular view across the Highlands.



The photo above shows blended limestone being stocked piled in two 25,000 tonne stockpiles. As one stockpile is stacked the other is reclaimed. The stacker traverses the 70 metre long stockpile at 25 metres per minute and has a capacity of 850 tonnes per hour and forms around 1000 layers of material. All is computer controlled.

Photos: Leonie Knapman

## Bowsers galore during Berrima's Highway Heyday

*Philip Morton*

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Berrima could boast having a motion picture theatre which then became a roller-skating rink before being converted into an Ampol petrol station and motor repair garage.

The coming of the motor car revived the village from a long stagnation - it is reported that in 1914 the population had dwindled to 80 people.

Until the 1930s the village had changed little in one hundred years. As well as the increased motor traffic passing through, the opening of the Southern Portland Cement Company's works at New Berrima in 1929 contributed to the revival of the village.

The Ampol garage was situated next to what is now the White Horse Inn (then it was a block of flats), facing the park at the southern edge of town near the bridge. Thus it was alongside the Hume Highway, the major route connecting Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne that followed the line of the earlier Great South Road and passed through the town.

Travellers no longer needed to make over-night inn stops, but they needed petrol and oil for their cars and trucks, and ice-creams, soft drinks and cigarettes for their long haul to the next pit-stop.

Fred Simons, a local man, saw an opportunity in the 1920s and opened a roadside kiosk where the highway bordered the park near the Ampol garage. He called his kiosk the Star Service Station.

A poster outside the kiosk said 'Historic Berrima Gaol - CELL 77' which is written like a number-plate. Do any readers know the significance of Cell 77?

Customers could choose from five manually operated pumps offering petrol in two grades of Shell (standard or super-charged), Texaco or COR. Castrol, Mobil and Texaco motor oils were also available.

In the photo (opposite top) Fred serves Merve Moore with standard Shell petrol. Merve's tough utility vehicle is loaded with logs most likely on their way to help fire up the kiln at the cement works.

Cigarettes and tobacco, groceries and Peters ice-cream were also on sale at the kiosk.

In the mid-1930s Fred moved his pumps (later electrically operated) across the way to a corner shop next door to the Ampol garage. This site is where the Alpaca Centre is now located.

By 1940 Fred had moved again, this time building new premises between the Post Office and the Surveyor-General Inn. He opened a general store and

petrol station with plenty of room out front for traffic to pull in off the busy highway. This building is still in use today and the forecourt has been made into a car-park.

Berrima thrived until the Hume Highway by-pass was opened in 1989 and traffic no longer came through town. However that was the catalyst for the remaking of the village into a living heritage site; people now go out of their way to visit.



**STAR SERVICE:** 'Star' roadside kiosk operated by Fred Simons in the 1930s on the highway through Berrima.



**PLENTY OF PUMPS:** The Ampol garage and kiosk petrol pumps at Berrima in the busy 1950s on the site where the Alpaca Centre is now situated.



**ANOTHER VIEW:** Berrima's Ampol garage and kiosk pumps taken in the late 1960s.

Photos courtesy of Jim Galloway

## Conservation Report

*Sally Ross*

Lyn Hall and Sally Ross will be attending *Working Spaces 4* organised by Lachlan Chapter of Museums and Galleries at Galong in October.

Recently Kim Morris, a professional conservator, carried out a preservation assessment of the collection - this was done for Linda's acquittal of the Community Heritage grant. He is happy with the conditions in the archives and safe—he tested humidity and temperature several times throughout the day and it was accurate. He is happy with the arrangement of the filing cabinets against the wall—they do not touch the wall, the windows are double glazed, and the curtains which should be kept closed, are backed.

He thinks it is a good idea for Sally to continue going to workshops—we are on the right track with conservation work—he thinks we are better than a lot of places he goes to.

## Archives Report

*Linda Emery*

As usual, it has been a busy month at the archives. Early in May, Kim Morris from Art and Archival in Canberra undertook a Preservation Needs Assessment, a part of the Community Heritage Grant funding we received from the National Library at the end of 2009. We have not yet received the report, but it was a most useful and informative experience to have him visit the archives. Kim is highly experienced in his field and we are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to talk to him about the management of the archives and our holdings. He was impressed by our understanding of preservation techniques and the progress we have made in implementing strategies with the limited finance we have. He was also very happy with the conditions in the archives relative to temperature and humidity - we are so lucky to have such a good building to house our important collection.

Many members will be aware that long-time member of the Society, Joe Ford, passed away a few months ago. His wife Nancy has commissioned us to sell Joe's extensive library of books, mostly history and biography, but covering many other subjects as well. Some of the rare and collectable books will be listed on our online bookshop on the Society's web page, but we are also going to have a book sale at the Archives on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June from 9.30am. This will

be advertised elsewhere in the newsletter and in the local press. Members of the society are welcome to come at 8.30am to preview and buy the books before we open to the public.

## From the Newspapers

*Max Rogers*

The Southern Mail Friday 4 May 1928

### AN INTERESTING CAREER

Mr. William Edward Stopford, who for the last eight years has resided in Bowral and interested himself unobtrusively in the various religions, educational, social and sporting functions of the town, died at "Rhonda," on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> April.

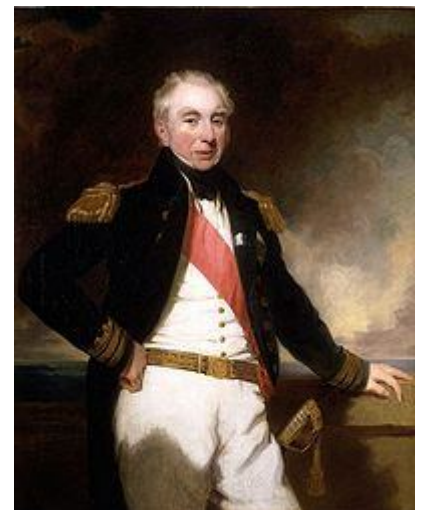
He came of a family distinguished in the Services and especially in the Royal Navy. The third son of the late Admiral Robert Fanshawe Stopford and grandson of Admiral the Hon. Sir Robert Stopford, Admiral of the Red and Rear-Admiral of England, son of the second Earl of Courtown, he was a brother of the late Vice-Admiral Robert Wilbraham Stopford and Vice-Admiral Frederick George Stopford. He came to Australia in the early 70's, where he has resided ever since, except for a break of two or three years in New Caledonia. He was educated at Wellington College, Wokingham, England and at the University of Oxford, at Wadham College.

In addition to the striking naval record of his family, it is worthy of remark that three of his English schoolfellows—Messrs. H. E. Southey, A. Kilgour and H. J. Tanner, were citizens of Bowral whilst he lived there.

The funeral ceremony at the C. of E. Cemetery was conducted by the Rev. T. H. Distin Morgan, B.A., and was attended by the sole relative of the deceased gentleman in Australia, and a small number of personal friends.

**Admiral  
Sir Robert Stopford,**  
c. 1840, by Frederick  
Richard Say, from  
the National  
Maritime Museum,  
Greenwich, London

Grandfather of  
William Edward  
Stopford



## DIARY DATES

|           |        |     |                                           |                                          |
|-----------|--------|-----|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| THURSDAY  | 10     | JUN | Management Committee Meeting              |                                          |
| WEDNESDAY | 16     | JUN | Harpers Mansion talk                      | 2:00 pm at Berrima Church Hall           |
| SATURDAY  | 19     | JUN | Book sale                                 | 9:30 am at the Historical Society        |
| THURSDAY  | 24     | JUN | Monthly General Meeting - <b>Luncheon</b> | <b>12:00 pm</b> at Highlands Golf Club   |
|           | 3 - 19 | JUL | School holidays                           |                                          |
| THURSDAY  | 8      | JUL | Management Committee Meeting              |                                          |
| THURSDAY  | 22     | JUL | Monthly General Meeting                   | <b>2:00 pm</b> at the Historical Society |
| THURSDAY  | 12     | AUG | Management Committee Meeting              |                                          |
| THURSDAY  | 26     | AUG | Monthly General Meeting                   | <b>2:00 pm</b>                           |

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

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
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*