

Founded 1960

# BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER  
No 419 July 2010

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ABN 29 362 616 937

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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

**JULY MEETING:** Thursday 22 July 2010 at 2:00pm

**VENUE:** Christ Church, Bong Bong

**Our guest speaker will precede the general meeting.**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Linda Emery

**TOPIC:** INSPECTION of interior restoration and TOUR of historic cemetery with Linda Emery  
Afternoon tea in the church grounds

**AUGUST MEETING:** Thursday 26 August 2010 at 2:00pm

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

**Our guest speaker will precede the general meeting.**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Beverley McClymont

**TOPIC:** Elizabeth Macquarie

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And more ...



## Diary Dates 2010

### JULY

- 3 - 19 School holidays
- 8 Management Committee Meeting
- 22 Monthly General Meeting -  
*Inspection with Linda Emery of  
Bong Bong Church and Church-  
yard*
- 31 Society sausage sizzle at  
Bunnings, Mittagong

### AUGUST

- 12 Management Committee Meeting
- 26 Monthly General Meeting - Talk  
by *Beverley McClymont on Mrs  
Elizabeth Macquarie*

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Father's Day
- 9 Management Committee Meeting
- 23 Monthly General Meeting - Talk  
by *Leonie Knapman on The  
History and heritage of the  
Burraborang Valley*
- 24 School holidays commence

## 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

## 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.

## Newsletter

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

## Society Management Committee Member Profile



**Bob Williams**

Bob was born at Woonona on the NSW south coast. His family moved to Fairfield and he later attended Liverpool Junior Technical College. He served his apprenticeship as a shipwright at Garden Island Naval Dockyard, Sydney. This was followed by 2½ years in the Merchant Navy as ship's 'chippy' or carpenter aboard iron ore carriers on the Australian coastal route. He left the high seas and worked as a carpenter and shopfitter.

He and Gloria married and they had two daughters. Bob joined their primary school P&C Association and during that time he served as President. He was on the P&C committee that organised historic

car tours of the Parramatta, Windsor and Richmond districts. The family frequently visited the Highlands, where Gloria was born and still has family. In 1992 Bob took early retirement and he and Gloria, by now grandparents, moved to Colo Vale.

Bob and Gloria were introduced to the historical society by new friends George and Nancy Williams and joined in October 1993. In June 1995 the society's archivist John Simons led a walk to the site of the WW1 German internment camp at Berrima. This included a visit to the society's museum, where Bob felt he could contribute his time and skills. He became a volunteer and then joined the Museum Committee in November 1995. He became Hon Curator in 1997. Over the ensuing years he has been committed to building on the strong foundations set down by the earlier volunteers. This has encompassed the renovation of the museum's interior and the raising of its overall standard of presentation. He joined the society's Management Committee in November 2000.

Bob was awarded a Centenary Medal for service as the Society's curator. In 2007 Bob and Gloria were jointly awarded a Certificate of Achievement from the Royal Australian Historical Society for their efforts to improve the museum and build its reputation as a community cultural asset.

## Joe Ford Collection - Book Sale

### Book sale at the Archives a great success

Joe Ford, who passed away earlier this year, was an avid reader and researcher, and built up a considerable collection of books. On behalf of Joe's widow, the society held a sale of books from Joe's collection at the Archives on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Members of the society were able to preview and buy the books before the sale opened to the public.

A dedicated team of volunteers conducted the sale, guiding buyers and making sure things ran smoothly. Jan Reid and Carolyn Hutton braved the cold at the front door to look after the handling of the money.

Thanks to all the members who helped out before and during the sale including Linda Emery, Carolyn Dougherty, Bruce Moore, Denise and Ian Mackey.

Judith Green handled the selling of raffle tickets to the public. A special note of appreciation is due to Leonie Knapman for organising the raffle and the prize. Leonie also provided the photographs shown in this article.

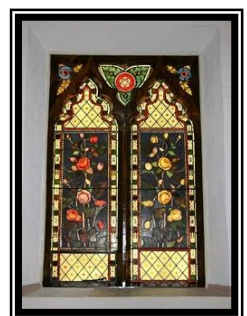


**Festive publicity** attracted a steady stream of customers. The foyer area and an inside room provided space for the bargain hunters to look through the books displayed.



**The inner sanctum:** rare and valuable books were on display in the Archives research room. Member Denise Mackey is seen here with an arm-full of bargains.

**Judith Green** sold tickets in our raffle which will be drawn on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July.



## Christ Church, Bong Bong is the venue for the July General Meeting

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 2:00pm

The Anglican Christ Church at Bong Bong has recently undergone a restoration of the interior. Listed on the NSW State Heritage Register, it is one of the oldest churches in the region, dating from 1845.

As well as the general meeting, this outing will include an inspection of the church and a tour of the historic cemetery with Linda Emery as guide. Afternoon tea will be served in the grounds, weather permitting.

Bundanoon History Group members expressed an interest and have been invited to attend.

Members requiring transport should contact the Archives prior to the day to allow us to organize pick-ups.



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary June Luncheon

The function room at the Highlands Golf Club in Mittagong was a most comfortable venue for the fifty or so society members and guests who attended the June Luncheon this year which was in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the society's existence in the Southern Highlands/Wingecarribee Shire.

President Ken Reid welcomed everyone to the occasion and introduced the guest of honour, Professor Ian Jack, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, who presented a formal address at the end of the luncheon.

In attendance was the Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire Council, Clr. Duncan Gair, Patron of the society, who gave the opening address.

Roxanne Seaward, the Local Studies Librarian at the Council Library in Bowral also joined us, as did Eric Savage, the Secretary of the Southern Highlands Branch of the National Trust and President of the Management Committee of Harper's Mansion.

Ken made special mention of long-time member David Kemmis who has provided the society with an updated version of his book "Where trains have Travelled" as an anniversary gift. David now resides at Cowra and was unable to attend.

Apologies were received from Colin Gelling of the Berrima Courthouse Museum and Jason Gordon, the General Manager of the Shire Council. Unfortunately members Peter & Marion Cruickshank and Ron & Betty Mumford were late apologies due to illness.

The very well presented three-course luncheon was thoroughly enjoyed by those present. This was followed by the cutting of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake by the Mayor and the President of the RAHS together with our President (see photo below).

The beautifully decorated fruitcake was made by Linda Emery and proved to be just the way to end our luncheon with tea and coffee –thank you Linda!



During the afternoon we drew the lucky door prizes and then the raffle which raised \$152 towards the microfilm reader/printer. When member Nancy won a bottle of scotch, Jim Galloway was heard to say "it was for medicinal purposes only" and then she went on to win a bottle of red –Cheers to you Nancy!

A big thank you to Leonie Knapman for her contribution towards organising the raffle and lucky door prizes – we all appreciate her efforts. Leonie also took the photographs accompanying this article.



**Around the table:** (from left) Maureen Clarkson, Jill Lees, George Schofield, Jim Galloway, Allan & Leila Payne

### PROFESSOR IAN JACK'S LUNCHEON ADDRESS

#### Jubilees and trumpets go together.

"I bring your society the warmest congratulations from the Royal Australian Historical Society for the achievements of fifty years. I applaud the writing of your own history, for your history is itself a vital part of the cultural history of the Southern Highlands, and you are quite right to blow a trumpet discreetly.

Fifty years is a decent age for an Australian local history society. When World War II broke out in 1939 there were only four local historical societies in New South Wales and, although two more were formed during the war, it was only in the two decades after the war ended that historical societies sprouted in many Sydney suburbs and many country areas.

You are, I think, the twenty-fifth post-war society, anticipating the exponential growth of the 1960s and beyond. And that growth has been phenomenal. The Royal has now over 350 affiliated societies; you sit proudly within the first 10%.

You have been lucky from the outset in the number and calibre of local enthusiasts for history and heritage. Janet Cosh, who did so much to preserve your earliest collections, sometimes in her own house, was also one of the greatest benefactors of the Royal, where she is still a name to conjure with. Owen Edwards, who convened your first Steering Committee and presided at your inaugural meeting, worked with me forty years later on the Bong Bong Common Management Committee and I regret not having asked Owen more questions about the pioneering days of the society he helped to form. But I am sure that others among you have recorded memories from the first batch of members.

Your early committees established excellent priorities for activities and accumulations, which made possible your admirable museum in Berrima and your quite outstanding research centre in Mittagong. Uniquely in the state, in recognition of the phenomenal rise in genealogy, the Berrima Historical Society incorporated Family History into its title and into its objectives in 1992 before a rival society could be established. I was impressed then by your strategic skill and am still impressed today.

I have been a member of your society ever since I participated in the Wingecarribee Heritage Study in the early 1990s and have benefited from associating with people like the late, lamented John Simons, or Leonie Knapman or Linda Emery.

I am confident that your next fifty years will build on the achievements of the past and present. Congratulations on your research centre, on your museum, on your public spirit and, not least, on the writing of your own history."

## MAYOR DUNCAN GAIR'S ADDRESS

### Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

"In the Wingecarribee Shire we value our heritage and history. In fact the Bowral, Mittagong and Wingecarribee Councils, prior to amalgamation, all saw the importance of documenting our heritage and supported the Berrima District Historical Society from infancy.

Indeed I have learnt that it was one of our library staff, Ms Suzanne Badgery who, in 1959, along with others suggested a meeting to form an historical society. The purpose being to set up a museum and at the time it was thought that the Moss Vale Library could store any historical data and records collected about

the district - though this ended up just being the society's library.

In March 1960 a public meeting was called by Wingecarribee Shire Council in the Moss Vale CWA Rooms to consider the formation of a local history museum for the Berrima District.

I'm very pleased to note that right from the outset it was recommended that the history of our indigenous residents be documented as well as that beginning with European settlement.

I think Council may have agreed to act as corporate trustee of the Society's assets in June 1960 and soon after sent information to all residents about the initiative.

In the draft I've seen of the booklet which documents the Society's 50 years, there is an amusing story about how eager the community was to donate historical items. Apparently one day the librarian was out and a large plough was delivered onto the lawn in front of the School of Arts where the library was housed. It was reported to be 120 years old and originally pulled by eight oxen. How she managed to get it moved I do not know!

When the Mittagong Shire Council building became vacant after the amalgamation of Mittagong and Bowral Councils, the Society was granted use of part of it for an office and to provide a home for the archives and records. In 1983 the Society moved in and have been there ever since.

In 1996 the incumbent mayor of Wingecarribee Shire became the Patron of the Society. Jim Tuddenham was the first to happily accept this position.

Happily Council granted a 20 year lease in 1998 for the Society so it looks like that will be your home for a fair while yet! To this day we still support and acknowledge the vital work that you do.

On behalf of Council, I would like to congratulate every-one involved in the 50 years that the Society has been running. On behalf of the community I thank you for the time and effort that each of you has put into researching and documenting our local history.

**May there be at least another 50 years . . ."**



**Celebrating our Anniversary:** at the table in the centre is Linda Emery seated between Ian Jack and the Mayor, with Maxine Seaward and Eric Savage seated with Bob & Gloria Williams and Jan Reid.

## From humble beginnings: The Bowral & District Hospital

**On September 4, 1889 the Berrima District Cottage Hospital opened. It was the only hospital at the time between Sydney and Goulburn.**

In 1885 a Committee had been set up to establish a cottage hospital in the district. Representatives from the four main towns of Berrima, Bowral, Mittagong and Moss Vale began selecting a suitable site.

The Inspector of Charities viewed sites in the area in May 1886 and recommended Carter's land, bounded on the north by Bowral Street. This land was part of a Crown Grant to the Oxley family dated 1855. Being in the centre of the entire district, it was thought admirably suited for the hospital.

Funds were raised to purchase the property and in March 1888 five and a half acres were bought for 362 pounds and ten shillings.

The *Bowral Free Press* reported in 1888 that at the Hospital Committee meeting the architect's sketch plan was unanimously approved.

It was stated that the building, though unpretentious, would have a pleasing appearance. The accommodation was for 6 patients, 4 males and 2 females, but the wards could be extended to almost any extent. The male and female wards were well separated, their verandahs having an outlook in different directions.

More than 600 people attended the ceremony on February 9, 1889 when the sixteenth Governor of the Colony, Lord Carrington laid the hospital's Foundation Stone. A piece of "Gib" trachyte stone had been procured for the purpose from the Gib Quarry.

Building operations commenced and the hospital duly opened later that year on September 4.

In its early years the cottage hospital managed under conditions very different from today. Water was drawn from a well. The only lighting was by kerosene lamps. There were no telephones. When a doctor was needed a message had to be sent by hand. There was no sewerage, the night cart called twice a week and emptied the pans.

In the tenth year the number of patients treated was 115, including 14 accident patients and 35 surgical operations.

An operating theatre was built in 1898 adjacent to the female ward and a covered walkway was constructed in 1901 between the main building and the recently built fever ward. In 1902, situated to the right of the main building, two nurses' bedrooms and a boardroom were constructed in sandstock brick.

## New Hospital building opens

On land obtained alongside the original site, a modern hospital was opened in 1935 by Mr. Mark Morton MLA in the presence of almost 1,000 people. This was the most memorable event in the 46 years of the hospital's history and the realisation of many hopes. In 1961 the Milton Park wing was added.

Right from the early days complaints were received from patients and visitors trying to locate the hospital and first travelling to Berrima. Mail was often delayed by first being delivered to Berrima.

Eventually, in 1968, after the whole district became involved in serious discussions and submissions, the hospital was renamed "The Bowral & District Hospital".

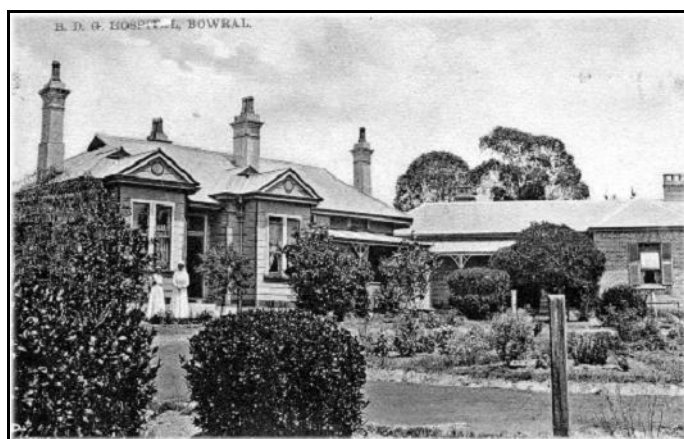
The renovated original cottage buildings are still in use for administrative and some ancillary services, located behind the recently built private hospital.

At the main hospital building, a refurbished paediatric unit (children's ward) was opened in August 2009, largely through the efforts of the Berrima District Credit Union.

Around the time the cottage hospital was built, the hawthorn hedge that still today runs along the Sheffield Street boundary was planted. Early photos show the hedge, which then also bounded Ascot Road and Bowral Street. Over the years a 'funk hole' was created in it by the nurses to make it easier to sneak into the nurses' home out of hours.

The two magnificent *magnolia grandiflora* in front of the cottage hospital were planted soon after it opened. The more recent magnolia in front of the newer Mona Road building is also much admired, especially during its flowering period.

When the private hospital was built a number of rhododendrons and two holly trees as well as a *Nyssa* were felled. The price of progress.



**The Berrima District Cottage Hospital and Nurses' Quarters in 1906 showing the young gardens thriving.**

This article compiled by Philip Morton in 2009 using information from "*Blessed Are They*" a historical book by Win Smith about the hospital (available for sale from the society and the hospital) and from a speech by retired Matron, Nancy Reynolds.



# Wingello

## From the Newspapers

*Contributed by Carol Nolan*

The Scrutineer Wednesday 23 May 1894 page 2 col 3

### WINGELLO.

The weather during the past few weeks has been extremely cold, heavy frosts and fogs prevailing, which has checked the growth of grass and herbage, and reminding us that the winter has fairly set in. On Thursday last a change set in and rain continued to fall at intervals until Saturday morning, when the clouds dispersed.

Business people still complain bitterly of the depression and scarcity of money. Notwithstanding, there are three sawmills in full swing and a large quantity of timber despatched monthly by rail, which gives employment to a large number of men.

Tenders are called for clearing and forming two miles of road work between Cables Siding and Kareela. This improvement is much needed as there are several selectors living on the western side of the line between Cables Siding and Kareela who find it almost impossible to bring their produce to market for the want of road accommodation.

Mr. Langshaw's eucalyptus factory, which has been idle during the past two months, will commence operations this week, when a large quantity of eucalyptus oil will be manufactured for the colonial and foreign markets. This enterprising gentleman intends to start manufacturing perfumes in conjunction with his eucalyptus works. He has got all the necessary plants to start the perfumery growing in his garden.

The Scrutineer Saturday 17 November 1894 page 2 col 3

### WINGELLO.

Last week a young lad named Bertie Bradshaw, a State School boy residing with Mr. Albert Garbutt, lost his way in the Wingello Gullies. It appears that the lad was looking for some cattle in the direction of Cables Siding, and having been told by someone that the cattle had been seen at Foster's camp he started off with the intention of going there, but not knowing where the camp was situated he struck across the bush and got into one of those dangerous gullies, and being a stranger it was easy for him to get confined. As the boy was told not to go far, and by his non-appearance during the morning Mr. Garbutt became very anxious about him and started in search of him towards Cables Siding where he learned the boy had had dinner. Mr. Garbutt continued the search till nightfall when he had the good luck to find some trace of the missing boy about three miles away in the gullies, whereupon he returned to Wingello to summon help, knowing that the lad was lost in the bush. Search was continued throughout the night with torches and lanterns and in the morning one of the search party retraced their step to the railway station and wired for the police. The lad was eventually found by Mr. Josh Garbutt at about half-past twelve o'clock on Wednesday, about 16 miles away near a great gully, known as the Gulf. He was quite speechless when found, and asserts that a dingo had been following him for a length of time. Well this assertion proves to be the truth, as a dogs track quite

visible could be seen imprinted over the lads tracks. The lad had the presence of mind to make a camping place when night came on, but having no matches to light a fire, it can be fully realised how the poor little wonderer suffered with the cold and hunger not mentioning the fright. He has however completely recovered.

Eel fishing has been freely indulged in during the last couple of weeks, and some splendid samples have been captured. A few of our residents intend organising a fishing party to spend a few days fishing and shooting on the Shoalhaven river and we have no doubt, but that they will meet with success.

The Scrutineer Saturday 9 February 1895 page 2 col 3

### WINGELLO.

Wingello is waking up! It has got a Progress Committee. What a wonderful institution a Progress Committee must be. What sharp eyes they usually have. At least the Wingello P.C. must have, because they have discovered that the public school is in a terrible state; and that it has been built in, or very close to a swamp; also that the schoolhouse is always damp—in fact a regular puddle-hole.—why I could have told them that any time during the last two years. The wretched hovel, yelegt, a public school, is a disgrace to a civilised community. At the first, it was only fit for a hencoop—but latterly scarcely decent enough to house pigs in. The young lady (a delicately nurtured, refined girl) who has been the teacher at Wingello school during the last two or three years, used to have to wade through that identical swamp, to reach the tumble down shed that she taught her scholars in, and then, after changing her shoes was compelled to stand on a piece of wood laid on slopping wet floor, to prevent her foot coverings from being immediately soaked. Entrenched on her dryboard like a pelican on an island, the courageous girl taught her classes all day, and then waded through the swamp on her weary walk of two miles through the dreary bush to her lodgings at Cables Siding. No wonder the poor girl was often troubled with ulcerated sore throat.

The Scrutineer Saturday 26 September 1896 page 2 col 3

### WINGELLO

A meeting was held and well attended on Saturday evening, when the Wingello Cricket Club was reformed. A number of members were enrolled and business carried out satisfactorily. Mr. Geo. Jeffrey was appointed secretary; T. Carter treasurer; Messrs J. Byrne, Geo. Jeffrey, Jas Jeffrey, T. Porter, and Alf Jeffrey selection committee. The captain to be selected with the m by the committee.

An accident happened to Mr. C. T. Ferguson, son of Mr. Thomas Ferguson, a few days ago. Mr. Ferguson who was journeying to Bowral on his bicycle left Wingello about 8 a.m., passed Moss Vale about 10 o'clock, and between Moss Vale and Bowral some of the front gear of the bike broke, setting him down pretty heavily in the road where he laid for sometime in a semi-conscious condition. Strange to say no one was passing at the time Mr. Ferguson however recovered and continued his journey on foot. He may be considered very lucky getting off with no bones broken. He arrived home looking very much like what a man would be after doing ten minutes with Peter Jackson or some other notable pugilist.

## DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	8	JUL	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	22	JUL	Monthly General Meeting	<b>2:00 pm</b> at Christ Church, Bong Bong
SATURDAY	31	JUL	Society sausage sizzle	Bunnings, Mittagong
THURSDAY	12	AUG	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26	AUG	Monthly General Meeting	<b>2:00 pm</b> at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	9	SEP	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23	SEP	Monthly General Meeting	<b>7:30 pm</b> at the Historical Society
FRIDAY	24	SEP	School holidays commence	

If undelivered return to:

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc  
PO Box 131

MITTAGONG NSW 2575

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc  
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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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Springetts Arcade*