

Founded 1960

# BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER  
No 420 August 2010

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 Telephone / Fax 0248 722 169

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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

**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 OAM

**TOPIC:** 1810 - the wonderful year of Lachlan and Elizabeth  
Macquarie - a Powerpoint presentation by Beverley  
McClymont OAM

**SUPPER:** To be served after the meeting - Members - please bring a  
plate or a donation.

**SEPTEMBER MEETING: Thursday 23 September 2010 at 7:30pm**

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

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:** One of our members to speak on a topic of interest

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And more ...



## Diary Dates 2010

### AUGUST

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

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Father's Day
- 9 Management Committee Meeting
- 23 Monthly General Meeting
- 24 School holidays commence

### OCTOBER

- Tulip Time
- 1 **MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**
- 11 School holidays conclude
- 14 Management Committee Meeting
- 28 Monthly General Meeting

## White 100% Cotton Sheets Needed

Our conservation group is looking for white 100% cotton sheets. If you have any that are no longer need please contact our society.

## Management Committee News

**Berrima Day:** We are looking at conducting a drive-yourself tour of Berrima, visiting *The Gunyah, Harpers Mansion, Greensted* and Holy Trinity Anglican Church and/or St Francis Xavier Catholic Church. The forecasted date is Wednesday 29 September 2010 with a BYO picnic lunch. Watch our newsletter for details.

**Fifty Years:** Our society is currently celebrating fifty years. We have produced a book for this momentous occasion, and are in the process of organising a book launch. Watch our newsletter for details.

**New Book:** David Kemmis has donated his latest book *Where Trains have Travelled* to our collection. Thank you David.

**Newsletter:** We are currently receiving the *Signals - Australian Maritime Museum* newsletter. This is a very interesting newsletter and is available in our library for anyone who wishes to read it.

**Photographs:** We have received a collection of Southern Highlands News photographs that we are working through as time permits. Also, we now require a copyright form to be signed by anyone who wants photographs from our collection.

**Returns of the Colony 1822-1957:** We have acquired on microfiche the *Returns of the Colony 1822-1957*, known as the *Blue Books*. This will be a very valuable asset to our collection.

## New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members.

Barry **Barford**, Bowral  
Deborah **Bosler**, Bowral  
Margaret **Chadwick**, Burradoo  
Ray **Chant**, Croydon  
Melinda **Cupitt**, Colo Vale  
John & Maryellen **Duffy**, Moss Vale  
Elizabeth **Findlay**, Bargo  
Elaine **Fisher**, Chipping Norton  
Joy **Foley**, Tamworth  
Graeme **Gilbert**, Warilla  
Peter and Louise **Humphries**, Bowral  
Michael **Hurley**, Mittagong

Here's to a long and happy  
association

## Newsletter

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

## 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 Newspapers

The Scrutineer Friday 27 December  
1889 page 3 column 2  
MOSS VALE MUNICIPALITY.  
NOTICE.

HOUSE-HOLDERS wishing to have their earth closets emptied by the Council's contractor are requested to call at this office and to fill up the proper form, or else to communicate with this office when a form will be forwarded by post. Charge, fourpence per pan.

WM. VAL. MILLER,  
Council Chambers, Inspector of  
Nuisances. Moss Vale, Dec. 14th  
1889.

## August Meeting Guest Speaker

### 1810 - The wonderful year of Lachlan & Elizabeth Macquarie

a Powerpoint presentation by  
Beverley McClymont, OAM

Bev has been a volunteer guide at Old Government House at Parramatta for many years where the display is based on the Macquarie period.

She is a Fellow of the Parramatta and District Historical Society and is a past President of the Brush Farm Historical Society and of the Horbury Hunt Club which specialises in architectural history.

Her presentation will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lieutenant Colonel Lachlan Macquarie becoming the fifth governor of New South Wales.



Imagine the feelings of Elizabeth and Lachlan when they first stepped ashore in this strange country, not knowing whether a joyful welcome or a revolution would greet them.

How they prepared for this day and what occurred in the

coming year is the theme of this talk. Macquarie wrote accounts in his journal of the year's events and *The Sydney Gazette* and other diarists also reported on these.

Artists' drawings and paintings survive and some of these will be shown. The daily lives of the vice-regal pair at home in Sydney and Parramatta, their tours and excursions and the social life of this struggling town, which contained both free and convicted persons, will be mentioned. The Governor's enormous task of administering the colony will also be noted.

The Macquaries have long been a favourite topic of Australian history for Bev and she is looking forward to speaking to the Society on this subject.

### Some historical background

Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1810 until December 1821, has been called:

- Macquarie the Explorer
- Macquarie the Road Builder
- Macquarie the Father of Australia

But what of his wife?

There is a saying that behind every successful man is a staunch and loving woman. Steadfastly supporting Lachlan Macquarie was his wife, born Elizabeth Campbell.

As he turned a miserable Penal Settlement torn by internal strife into a self-respecting Colony, she comforted and encouraged him. She



took a humanitarian interest in a number of welfare projects, helped and befriended individuals and made positive contributions to the beautification of both Sydney and Parramatta. After his death she was indefatigable in her efforts to clear his name following the Bigge Report and its aftermath.

Taken from "Elizabeth Macquarie, Her Life and Times" by Lysbeth Cohen

"Macquarie, himself a man of very ordinary ability, is an intensely interesting figure in Australian history, because for twelve years the development of the country was almost entirely dependent upon his guidance. He deliberately adopted the principle that NSW was for the convict and not for the free colonist, and the story of his government is largely the story of the momentary success and final defeat of this policy, a defeat followed by some years of bitter class enmity."

Quoted from "A Colonial Autocracy" written by Marion Phillips in 1909

Today historians have more sympathy, respect and appreciation for Governor Macquarie and less time for his opponents.

**Come along on Thursday 26 August  
at 2:00pm to learn more about the  
fascinating life and history  
of the Macquarie era.**

## Society Management Committee member profile



**Lavinia Ford**

Lavinia is a local lass - born, bred and educated - her ancestors having settled in the Southern Highlands prior to the 1850s.

Almost sixteen, Lavinia acquired a job at *The White Horse Inn*, at Berrima, for 3½ years, working weekends and during school holidays. Following the Higher School Certificate she began a Diploma in Accounting, at Dapto TAFE, but soon found it was not her forte.

Subsequently she went to work for the owner of *The White Horse Inn* in Sydney; a job she really liked as it meant travelling back and forth to the 'big smoke' each week, and driving the streets of Sydney at night among other things.

The next few years saw other job opportunities, highs, lows, motherhood, and a short stint living in Junee.

By 1996 more changes were on the horizon following the death of her father. Another short stint living in eastern Victoria preceded a move to Wagga Wagga. It was now that Lavinia rekindled her interest in history, introduced to her by her sister some years earlier.

In wondering what these so called 'Historical Societies' were, Lavinia soon found herself transcribing headstones and assisting the newsletter editor.

The dawning of the new millennium saw Lavinia move back to Bowral, take on this society's newsletter and join the management committee, and begin to retype and update the former cemetery transcription book, of which she has been busy photographing and transcribing headstones of cemeteries throughout this district ever since.

In December 2010 Lavinia will have rolled out eleven years of newsletters. A job thoroughly enjoyed.



## Berrima District Museum News

Bob Williams, Museum Curator

### A WELL TRAVELLED SUITCASE

A recent donation to Berrima District Museum is a well travelled suitcase that belonged to a local identity.

Naomi Oxley, nee Murdoch, was born in 1901 and was one of eight children. She left school aged thirteen and worked in various positions while studying at night to realise her dream of becoming a nurse.

The suitcase is filled with interesting items used by a midwife in the 1930s, when it was common for babies to be born at home.

During World War II Naomi relieved as Night Superintendent at the Mater Hospital, Sydney, and worked for the Red Cross, the Country Women's Association (CWA) and the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) at weekends in her home town of Yass.

Maternity work was her specialty and she said that it always brought great joy.

In 1965 she moved to Bowral where she also worked for the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

Naomi Oxley J.P. led an interesting and fulfilling public life and was a loving and devoted mother and grandmother. She died in 1985.

Her daughter Janet Dibdin donated the obstetrics kit in its well travelled suitcase to the society's museum, where it is currently on display.

Berrima District Museum is in Market Place, Berrima, near the bridge at the southern end of the village. Tel: 4877 1130.

### BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

Market Place, Berrima  
Near the bridge

**OPEN: 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



## Tour of Historic Christ Church and Graveyard at Bong Bong



Our July general meeting was held at Christ Church, Bong Bong, and proved to be very popular.

Between 60 and 70 people crowded into the church to hear Linda Emery's very interesting talk about the history of the church and the recent interior restoration.

After that, most of the crowd then accompanied Linda on a walk around the graveyard and heard fascinating yarns about the people buried there.

It was a bit on the cool side down the eastern slope of the graveyard, but everyone soon warmed up again when a generously-catered afternoon tea was served outside on the sunny side of the church.

The Bundanoon History Group was well represented by about ten of its members, who were very impressed by the church and graveyard.

Several people commented on how they often drove past the church but had no idea how extensive or interesting the historic graveyard was.

It was well worth the effort to hold the tour and so thanks to those who helped make it a success, especially Linda Emery and the catering team.

Thanks also to Jan Reid for the photos shown here.

Philip Morton, Publicity Officer



**Even the back pews are taken!**



**President Ken thanks Linda for her interesting talk.**



**President Ken Reid welcomes the enthusiastic congregation and introduces guest speaker Linda Emery.**



**After the talk, everyone was invited to take a closer look at the restored features of the interior of the church.**

## The Misses Stokes

*Linda Emery, Archivist*

A collection of photographs and documents was recently donated to the archives by the Executor of the Estate of Betty Stokes, a lifelong resident of Bowral who died in December last year. As well as smiling faces in pictures of Betty and her sisters, Joyce and Peggy, are birth certificates, school records and insurance policies that give us a snapshot of their lives and those of their parents Rose and Wesley Stokes.

The girls lived in Victoria Street, Bowral near their grandparents, William and Hannah Stokes. The family upholstery and bedding manufacturing business, W. Stokes & Son, was well-established in Bowral but as well as supplying loose covers, sun shades and mattresses, the firm were also undertakers who "conducted funerals in any part of the district - terms moderate".



Betty Stokes was a bright student at Bowral High School in the early 1930s and was Dux of First Year in History and Business Work, Dux of Second Year in Geometry, Science and Business Principles and Dux of Third Year in Geography, French, Science and Business Principles. Her commercial acumen was put to good use. She and her sister Peggy ran their own soft furnishing business and among the charming collection is a newspaper cutting detailing the work the sisters did for Gollan's Hotel, Lismore.

Queen Elizabeth stayed at the hotel in February 1954 during the Royal Visit and it was Betty and Peggy who made the pelmets, bedspreads and cushions for the hotel rooms. The Queen's bedroom, with its damask bedspread of violet and champagne stripes and silver medallions, was just one of 27 rooms the girls furnished.

Also in the collection is a letter from the Wentworth Hotel in Sydney thanking Betty and Peggy for their excellent workmanship and service in supplying drapes and other furnishings for the redecoration of the hotel lounge in 1955. Carefully kept by Betty Stokes over many years, this collection is a small gem and thanks to the thoughtfulness of Helen Ling in bringing the material to the archives, we can now preserve it into the future.

## Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings

The society ran a successful sausage sizzle at Bunnings store, Mittagong on Saturday 31 July.

A big thanks to all who helped organize the food and to those who assisted on the day.

A total of \$474.30 was raised for our special purpose account, to go towards a new printer reader for the archives.

Included in the total are the further raffle tickets sold at Bunnings. Tickets in the raffle were also sold at the recent Book Sale held at the archives.

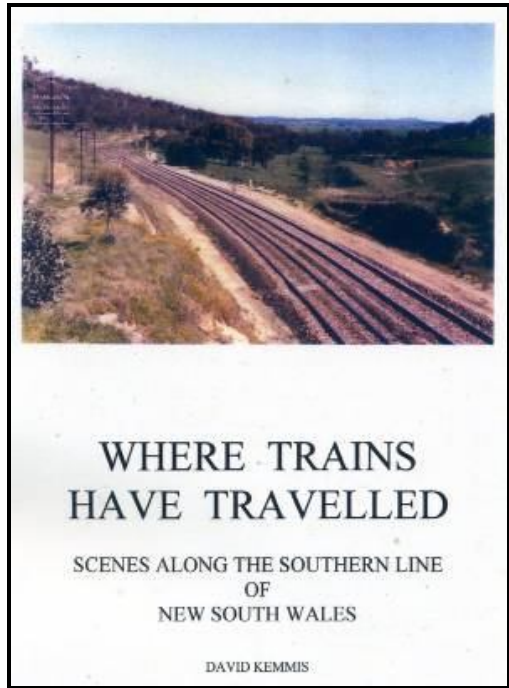
Patricia Kilo of Bowral was the happy raffle winner. Her lucky ticket, drawn by the manager at Bunnings, was for a new laser desktop printer.



**Judith Green sold tickets in our raffle drawn on Saturday July 31st.**



## Another new book in our library



*Where Trains Have Travelled*, written by David Kemmis, portrays a fascination with abandoned railroads, chiefly the ruins of their cuttings and embankments, along and near the route of the Main Southern Railway through the Southern Highlands and South-Western Slopes of New South Wales.

A copy of the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of this fascinating book was donated by David to the society in recognition of our recent 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This edition is in our library.

David Kemmis, who now resides at Cowra, is member Number 28 of the society.

The book is not a comprehensive railway guide, but the author hopes that it will help its readers enjoy the pleasure of exploring for themselves some relics of the original main route and of several other former railways on the highlands and slopes of southern New South Wales.

David pays tribute to William A Bayley, Fellow of the Royal Australian Historical Society (died 1981) who was a notable historian of this country and produced many books on railway history. He inspired and encouraged David to write.

David begins his work with the recognition that:

"There seems to be a stark and near tragic loneliness - even ghostliness - about old, disused railway earthworks which, at various times in the past, thousands of men within this State alone had toiled to build.

However, during the passage of the years, some parts of early corridors became less practicable as lines grew busier, often being too steep for the longer,

heavier and faster trains required to convey increasing passenger and goods traffic.

Reconstructions and deviations were needed to ease gradients to improve their consistency and, in some later cases, to widen curves.

Occasionally, duplication of single lines necessitated relocations of portions of them so men, horses and machines set to work again, digging and blasting new cuttings through soil and rock . . . to form new embankments, tunnels, culverts, bridges and viaducts."

*Where Trains Have Travelled* is illustrated throughout with a multitude of photographs, some from earlier times, along with many more recent colourful images taken by the author, that serve to illustrate the brief histories he provides of the many ruins and of the outstanding features of the lines still in existence.



**The first Bowral station in the 1880s. Note the Down signal at Stop and the Up at Clear on the one post.**



**David's recent photo of Bowral station - looking north. The main building (photo centre, on the Down track) was erected about 1890.**

Compiled by Philip Morton

## DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	12	AUG	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26	AUG	Monthly General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	9	SEP	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23	SEP	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
	25	SEP	School holidays commence	
	11	OCT	School holidays conclude	
THURSDAY	14	OCT	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28	OCT	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

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Newsletter

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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  
Blue Circle Southern Cement  
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Springetts Arcade*