

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 424 January 2011

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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

JANUARY MEETING: No Meeting

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday 24 February 2011 at 7:30pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building,
Bowral Road, Mittagong

Our guest speaker will precede the general meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER: Linda Emery and Max Rogers
Another fascinating instalment of the Linda and Max Slideshow - a selection of historical photographs recently acquired by the archives with commentary.

SUPPER: To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

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And more ...



Diary Dates

JANUARY

- 10 **Archives reopen after Christmas**
- 13 Management Committee Meeting
- 26 **Society Museum open Weekends and Holidays**
- 27 **No Monthly General Meeting**
School holidays conclude

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

- 10 Management Committee Meeting
- 24 Monthly General Meeting

Management Committee News

The Society's Annual General Meeting for 2010 was held on 25 November. The Returning Officer, Ron Mumford, presented nominations for executive and Management Committee positions and appointment of Office Bearers. These were accepted by the members present.

Incoming President Leonie Knapman paid tribute to Ken Reid's hard work and dedicated service during his 3-year term as President.

New Management Committee and Office Bearers

President: Leonie Knapman
Senior Vice President: Ken Reid
Junior Vice President: Judith Green
Hon Secretary: Philip Morton
Hon Treasurer: Jan Reid
Public Officer: Peg Harvey
Auditor: Ross Cowley

Other Committee Members: Carolyn Dougherty, Bruce Moore, Carolyn Hutton, Max Rogers, Sally Ross and Bob Williams.

Museum Committee: Bob Williams, Lyn Hall, Ian Alexander, Sylvia Carless, Judith Green and George Schofield

Appointments

Archivist: Linda Emery
Research Officer: Max Rogers
Museum Curator: Bob Williams
Newsletter Editor: Lavinia Ford
Publications Officer: Denyse Barker
Property Officer: Peter Cruikshank
Librarian: Carolyn Dougherty
Publicity Officer: Philip Morton
Conservation Co-ordinator: Sally Ross
Membership Secretary: Peg Harvey

General business: At the first meeting of the new Management Committee on 9 December, Philip Morton offered his resignation as Hon Secretary and Carolyn Hutton advised she was willing to assume the position. This was moved and accepted. As two casual vacancies then existed on the Committee, following discussion it was moved that Philip Morton and Ron Mumford fill these vacancies. This was carried by all present.

Exhibition Display Equipment: The society has purchased new display stands for use at information and book stalls. Thanks to Greg Knapman for making the metal feet necessary to use the equipment outdoors as provision is made to peg the feet into the ground.

Volunteers' Morning Tea: This event went very well and volunteers appeared to take the opportunity to meet those working in different areas to themselves.

Library: Carolyn Dougherty advises that four more shelves have been incorporated into the library, however more space will soon be required. Copies of all the publications we sell are now held in the library.

Christmas Dinner, 10 December 2010: Dinner at the Scottish Arms in East Bowral was a feast of good food, entertainment and a wealth of door prizes, raffle, and gifts.

Leonie Knapman arranged for a Christmas OH&S item on each table to be read by a member during the evening.

Linda Emery conducted a trivia quiz which raised many a laugh and some brain searching.

Bruce Moore played a selection of catchy tunes on the keyboard and

Philip Morton presented a slide show of 2010 Society outings and events.

A satisfying and enjoyable night was had by all.

Working Bee at Archives: This is set for Saturday 15 January, commencing at 10.00am. Please come along with strong lifting muscles or feather-dusters!

First Fleeters: They will not be mounting their Australia Day display in the museum grounds this year; however Leonie Knapman will utilize our new stands to mount a display on behalf of the Society.

Field Day at Museum, Sunday 17 April 2011: The Society will hold a Field Day in the grounds of the museum at Berrima during National Trust Heritage Week.

It is planned to set up displays/demonstrations of how the early settlers went about meeting their daily needs.

Suggested so far include selling billy tea and damper with golden syrup or treacle; holding a milking demonstration and then showing how milk is churned into butter. Another idea is to have a pet farm. Anyone with further ideas and who is willing to help, please contact the Committee.

Guest Speakers for General Meetings in 2011

February "The Linda & Max Slide Show"

March Kath Frew from the Tumbarumba Historical Society

April or July Sue Voytas, Springwood Historical Society

May Leonie Morgan from Kenmore Hospital Historical Society, Goulburn

June Brad Argent from Ancestry.com will be Luncheon speaker

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following:

Mr Martin **Franklin**, Mittagong

Mrs Evelyn **Mahony**, Burradoo

Ms Paula **O'Rourke**, Burradoo

Ms Krystyna **Podsiały**, Wingello

Mr Brian **Webb**, Willow Vale

Display history of Tulip Time and Corbett Gardens

As Tulip Time in Bowral began its 50th birthday celebrations in 2010, thoughts turned to the start of Tulip Time and its involvement in Corbett Gardens.

Our Society was asked to mount a photographic display at Bradman Museum from 21st September to 4th October, depicting the history of Corbett Gardens, the Flower Festival of the 1950s, followed by the now famous Tulip Festival which started in 1961.



Above and below are parts of the display put together by Leonie Knapman that covered a large area of floor space just inside the front doors of the Bradman Museum.



Thanks must go to Allan and Denyse Barker, Ken Reid and Greg Knapman for transporting and mounting our stands and to Denyse Barker, Judith Green, Philip Morton and Ken Reid for manning the display when they could.

Along with the photographic display we also produced a small 8-page booklet to complement the story told through the exhibition and it is available at the Archives in Mittagong and our Museum at Berrima.

Thanks to the layout skills of Vice President Ken Reid the booklet was professionally compiled.

Production of the booklet was kindly sponsored by the Springett Family of Bowral and also supported by Hypercett Printing of Mittagong.

2010 Royal Australian Historical Society Conference in October

Almost 200 people attended the 2010 RAHS Local History Conference held at Richmond in October

On Friday 22nd October there were two workshops. The first one was all day at the State Records at Kingswood. The morning session demonstrated SIX PIXEL and other online tools, and the afternoon looked at Land Records, Conditional Purchases and Occupation Licenses.

Max Rogers and Leonie Knapman attended the second workshop at Richmond which covered researching online. The workshop demonstrated the possibilities of internet resources for historians.

On Saturday morning there was a Welcome to Country, followed by the Opening of the Conference and Cultural Grant Presentations.

The Keynote address was given by Ian Jack who was followed by an interesting list of papers.

James Broadbent. Governor Macquarie: A sense of order

Patricia Hale. Brainstorming the Macquarie legacy to enhance the heritage of NSW.

Carol Liston. Impact of Macquarie's administrative decisions.

Rose Holly. Trove: A wealth of information

Ian Jack: Innovative research on Early Hawkesbury.

Keith Vincent Smith - Macquarie and the Aborigines.

Megan Martin. Women's Work: 19th Century Domestic Advice. Manuals for servant or mistress.

Sunday began with the Business session and Presentation of the Heritage Grant Certificates and RAHS Certificates of Achievement.

Freda Backes: Australian Lebanese Historical Society: Leadership in reaching out to the non Anglo-Celtic populations: difficulties and challenges.

Keith Vincent Smith. Macquarie and the Aborigines.

Catherine Snelgrove: National Parks & Wildlife Service: Leadership in cultural heritage.

Tracy Bradford. Dealing with the past in the present: Innovative projects at the State Library.

Shelley Burgin. Practicing what we teach by leading from the past to the future: yesterday as Hawkesbury Agricultural College, today and tomorrow the University of Western Sydney.

Marion McLeod & Lyne Ford: The Encore Heritage Sewing Group talking about a community volunteer team.

Mittagong Marketplace fund-raiser

A great success !!!

During 2010 the BDH&FHS was involved in many different activities. The society has on a number of occasions this year been allowed to mount a display at the Mittagong Marketplace. The latest was three days in November. Members manned the stand and handed out information on our locations and details about the Society's activities.

Members were kept busy answering a variety of questions about family research, houses in the area, or just interest in the Highlands from people who have only recently arrived in the area.

We offered for sale over 30 publications, including those written by our own members. With Christmas coming up, books were purchased as gifts.

A major feature of the display was a collection of photographs from our extensive collection held at the Archives. Some visitors offered further information about the photos on display. These photographs along with hundreds more can be purchased from the Archives.



Ian and Denise Mackey who were part of the team of members manning the stand over the three days, along with: Carolyn Dougherty, Ron Mumford, Carolyn Hutton, Martin Franklin, Philip Morton, Max Rogers, Shylie Brown, Greg and Leonie Knapman.

Also sold was a beautiful collection of hand-made pottery donated by Sharon Ridsdale. A raffle boosted funds as all the prizes were donations to the Society. Winners were:

Faye Smith	Framed Picture
Les Bunter	Knife Set
Jodi Isedale	Cast Iron Cookware
Dorothy Clegg	Placemats
Mr Stevenson	Utensils

Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch) Inc made a generous donation to the BDH&FHS

Recently Leonie Knapman was asked to speak at the October meeting of the local branch of the Australia-Britain Society (NSW Branch).

The Mittagong Farm Homes and Renwick was the topic that Leonie presented, illustrated with a collection of period photographs that showed the development of the Homes over the decades of their existence.

This presentation was a preview of what will one day be a comprehensive historical book on Renwick and the Farm Homes researched by Leonie.

BDH&FHS President Ken and Treasurer Jan Reid also attended.

The ABS made a \$500 donation to the Society to assist with its important work of preserving the history of the Southern Highlands. This generous donation follows on from a previous donation of a similar amount which went to support our museum.

The Australia Britain Society (NSW Branch) has a membership base of almost 400 members, most of whom are residents of greater Sydney and a large sub-group based in the Southern Highlands.

Most ABS members are British-born residents or Australians who have lived in Britain or have strong family and interest connections.

The NSW Branch was the formation centre of the Society in 1971 with the aim to promote and foster cultural links between Australia and Britain, through observance of significant events such as Australia Day and to generate surplus funds to provide grants to groups that support cultural links through music, sport, language, the arts and law.



From left: Greg Knapman, Lyn Stephens, Ken Reid, Cynthia Parker, Leonie Knapman and Jan Reid.

Volunteer's Morning Tea at Archives

As a thank-you to all the volunteers who assisted during the year at the museum and at the research archives, the Management Committee organised a Morning Tea Get Together and invited the volunteers to attend at the upstairs function room of the Research Centre on Wednesday, 1 December.

A fabulous spread was provided by a small team of archives volunteers. Special thanks go to Carolyn Dougherty and Carolyn Hutton for preparing the food and to Leonie Knapman, who made the sandwiches.

Thanks also to those who assisted with serving the food and doing the washing up - Denise Mackey for one was seen up to her elbows in soap suds.



From left Harlan Hall, Carolyn Dougherty, Max Rogers, Jan Reid and Gloria Williams



From left Bruce Moore, Ian and Denise Mackey, Sylvia and Brian Carless, Don Moore, Gil Wheaton, Bob (standing) and Gloria Williams (opposite), Harlan Hall, Max Rogers



From left Max Rogers, Leonie Knapman, Ian Alexander, Lesley Niyogi, Marie Chalker, Margaret and Joe Kennedy

Archives Report for 2010

Linda Emery

2010 has probably been the busiest year we have ever had at the archives in terms of the number of people using our research facilities both in person and by mail, email and telephone. On the days we open to the public, space is often at a premium, as the volunteers not only deal with enquiries but undertake the many projects that are in progress. There are very few days without some activity taking place in the archives.

The Community Heritage Grant from the National Library of Australia received at the end of last year enabled us to purchase archival quality image binders for our photographic collection. Several of our volunteers have been busy scanning photographs before putting them into the wonderful new binders. It is a very big task but has progressed well, with a large part of the collection now safely re-housed.

We also received a grant of \$1000 from the Mulwaree Veolia Trust to assist with the purchase of a new photograph cataloguing program, Perfect Pictures, to replace our old and outdated Heritage V program. With the new program, photographs will be displayed with their catalogue entry, making identification very much easier. Once we have converted our present database of pictures, we will be able to move to the next stage of putting our collection on the internet and so making it accessible world-wide. Training in the new program will commence early in 2011.

Another major task for the archives staff this year was our assistance in arranging the sale of books from the estate of life member Joe Ford on behalf of his widow Nancy. Again, this was a huge task, which took us several months. However, through Nancy's generosity, we have added some wonderful resources to our own library, as well as receiving a commission for selling the books and ensuring that Nancy received a fair price for the books we sold for her.

A training day for archives volunteers will be held on Friday 21st January. We want to ensure that as many people as possible are familiar with the research collections and how to go about helping people who come in to the archives.

Another LINDA & MAX Slideshow

Don't forget to note in your Diary for February

The next General Meeting will be held on Thursday 24 February at 7:30 pm in the upstairs Conference Room at the Archives Centre in Mittagong.

The Guest Speaker slot on the night will be filled with another fascinating instalment of the Linda & Max Slideshow - a selection of historical photographs recently acquired by the archives with commentary.

Wingecarribee Library Service opens Local History Centre in Bowral

Historical Overview of local Library Services

During the 1880s, School of Arts Institutes opened in Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale as private lending libraries and public meeting places. The libraries were operated by private committees for more than 50 years until taken over by local councils and brought under the Municipal Library Act – Bowral and Moss Vale in the mid-1940s, Mittagong in 1977.

Children's libraries also operated in each of the towns from the early days, established by church or school groups, and these also eventually became integrated into the council-run library system.

In 1973 it was proposed that a Berrima District Regional Library Service and Mobile Library Service be formed, as a cooperative effort between Bowral Municipal, Mittagong and Wingecarribee Shire Councils, and this subsequently came into being.

In 1981 the branch libraries in Moss Vale, Mittagong and Bowral were integrated into the Wingecarribee Library Service, following the amalgamation of the three local councils to create the new Wingecarribee Shire Council.

In 1999 the Wingecarribee Library Service opened the Bowral Central Library. The Central Library was to house an administration section and major reference works as well as the town library, while the Moss Vale and Mittagong branch libraries continued to provide for the needs of people in the surrounding areas.

Local history collection

A local history collection, established at the Central Library in Bowral, brought together a collection of historical reference material, books on early history, books by local authors, and a microfilm collection of local newspapers dating back to the early days.

In June 2009 Bowral Central Library was upgraded with new RFID self checkout and returns system and a new Young Adult Collection room. The local history collection was moved into the Old Bowral Town Hall building nearby and renovations to the upstairs premises were commenced to house the collection.

This local history collection and research centre in its newly upgraded premises located upstairs in the Old Town Hall at Bowral is now open to the public for limited hours two days each week.

The Berrima District Historical & Family History Society congratulates the Wingecarribee Library Service on making available this valuable local history collection and research centre.



Bowral School of Arts in Bendooley St, c.1900 operated a library which expanded with the growth of the town



Moss Vale School of Arts in Argyle St. served as library until 1971



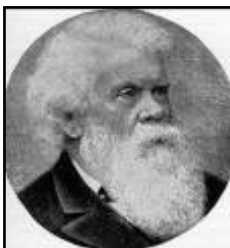
Mittagong School of Arts housed a library from 1899



The original Mittagong Public School building became town library in 1977

Sir Henry Parkes oak tree at Berrima

In Berrima an official ceremony was held on Monday 31 January, 1955 to unveil a plaque commemorating the fact that a large English Oak tree in the Memorial Park was planted by Sir Henry Parkes, known as the founder of Australian Federation.



The *Four Mails* reported that the State Member of Parliament, Mr Blake Pelly, performed the ceremony in brilliant sunshine before a gathering of residents together with visitors from other parts of the district.

Tenterfield was also a town with history and it was there that Sir Henry Parkes made his famous speech which eventually brought in Federation. A telegram was received from Tenterfield reading as follows: "From one historic centre to another. Best wishes for successful ceremony. Would gladly accept acorn. Secretary, Tenterfield School of Arts."

Mr Pelly said the oak tree was planted by Sir Henry on 21 March, 1890. Then the park in which the tree stood would have been an undeveloped area, but the beautification started by Sir Henry had been carried on by the citizens of Berrima.

He went on to say that he was pleased to find that the date of the planting was recorded in the *Bowral Free Press*, which was the predecessor of the *Four Mails*. It had reported that Sir Henry, then Premier of New South Wales, was driven to Berrima by the Mayor of Bowral and entertained by Berrima residents at the Courthouse, where Mr McCourt, MLA, proposed his health at breakfast.

Mr Pelly also noted at the ceremony that considerable interest was being taken in it by the Mitchell Library and the Royal Australian Historical Society. He then removed the flag covering the plaque, which is set near the butt of the tree in a block of trachyte.



above the plaque says: "This English Oak was planted here on 21 March, 1890 by Sir Henry Parkes, Premier of NSW and Father of Australian Federation"

left the oak tree as it stands in Dec. 2010

Photos: P. Morton



Heritage Heroes recognised

Bob & Gloria Williams receive award

The recently announced 2010 NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards acknowledged the achievement of hundreds of heritage volunteers, both individuals and community groups, from all over NSW. The honorary curator of our museum, Bob Williams and his wife Gloria were recipients of this heritage award in recognition of an outstanding contribution to heritage conservation in NSW.



Seventeen awards were presented, recognising the outstanding work of a wide range of people and groups in heritage conservation, often stretching back many years.

The contribution made by Bob and Gloria was described as follows: "An inspired and creative team, Bob and Gloria are dedicated volunteers of the Berrima District Museum - an integral part of the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society. Since joining in 1993, Bob and Gloria have built the museum upon the strong foundations set by previous volunteers. Their long-term commitment has included museum renovations, collection management, fund-raising, and improvements to exhibition quality. The Museum received several awards in 2009 for its 'Prisoners in Arcady' exhibition which tells the story of German internees in Berrima during the First World War."

The other projects that received awards represent a diverse range of heritage volunteer work, including -

- Managing heritage tourism sites;
- Maintaining our colonial and indigenous heritage;
- Undertaking research;
- Serving as volunteer guides; and
- Working behind the scenes of historical societies and heritage organisations.

NSW Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, attended these ninth annual NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards, to make the presentations. He said:

"These awards recognise the outstanding contribution of volunteers in conserving the State's heritage. The wealth of heritage we can see around us can be attributed, in large part, to the efforts of committed organisations and individuals, such as those receiving awards today.

The NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards program has seen more than 180 groups and individuals formally acknowledged for their work over the past nine years."

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	13 JAN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	27 JAN	No Monthly General Meeting School holidays conclude	
THURSDAY	10 FEB	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	24 FEB	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	10 MAR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	24 MAR	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society

If undelivered return to:
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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.

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