

Founded 1960

# BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

**NEWSLETTER**  
**No 425 February 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

**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.

**MARCH MEETING: Thursday 24 March 2011 at 7:30pm**

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

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And more ...



## Diary Dates

### FEBRUARY

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

### MARCH

- 10 Management Committee Meeting  
18 Moss Vale Show - Society history display (18 - 20 March)  
24 Monthly General Meeting - talk by **Catherine and Ron Frew** on Will Carter - writer, poet and Sutton Forest teacher.

## From the President

*Leonie Knapman*



Welcome to another year of historical undertakings in the Southern Highlands. Last year we celebrated the Society's 50<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary in June and later launched the Anniversary book. So what do we have planned for this year?

As the new President, I can promise there will be much to look forward to. We already have some interesting guest speakers lined up for our monthly general meetings, including Kath Frew from the Tumbarumba Historical Society in March. In May we will have a speaker from Kenmore Hospital Historical Society and Brad Argent from ancestry.com will speak at the June Luncheon.

We plan to hold several fund raising events, consisting of book stalls and historical displays, during the year at different locations in the main towns. A major opportunity will be at the Moss Vale Show Society's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 18 to 20 March 2011 where we have obtained space for a photographic display in the Pavilion. Members are requested to help out as volunteers at these events.

Speaking of volunteer efforts, I am pleased to acknowledge the many volunteers who generously gave of

their time to staff our Museum during the Christmas/January holiday opening. Their responsibilities included daily interior cleaning, watering of plants, meeting and greeting the visitors and responding to the many questions posed by the general public.

Special thanks to Carolyn Hutton for looking after the museum duty roster for the Christmas/January period, allowing Bob & Gloria a well-earned break from the weekly grind. Separately, credit must go to Geoff Jones for his excellent work in improving and maintaining the gardens and lawns. A fine showpiece to entice visitors to come inside our Museum!

I offer my thanks to the past President Ken Reid for his outstanding efforts through his term of office and for his on-going support. Thanks also to all the members of the new Management Committee for getting down to business and making sure that the society remains a well-run organisation.

## From the Secretary

*Carolyn Hutton*

A **Working Bee** was held on 15 January at the Archives. The upstairs storeroom was cleared out and the meeting room thoroughly cleaned. Display material has been sorted and the map drawers concerned have been numbered.

Leonie Knapman with help from Greg extended the book display area in the foyer and improved the acrylic shelving. Also the down lights were altered which has resulted in a much improved area to display the publications for sale.

The research room/main office was also given a complete clean-up. A skip delivered outside was filled to capacity with no longer needed equipment and other assorted rubbish.

Thanks to Linda Emery for organising this successful clean-up of our premises and to the team of volunteers who made it a very successful day.

A motion by Ron Mumford was presented at January's Management Committee Meeting:



*Some needed a quick nap between efforts.*

"All applications and submissions by or on behalf of the Society must be sighted and approved by the Management Committee prior to being forwarded. Where the closing date of such submission or application occurs before a meeting of the Committee can be convened the President and one Vice President may give conditional approval. Such approval to be subject to endorsement by the next meeting of the Committee."

Motion moved by Ron Mumford, seconded by Ken Reid - carried unanimously.

**Correction:** please note that in January's newsletter where the results of the AGM Elections were printed, the position of Newsletter Editor should have been shown as a Casual Vacancy as no nominations were received and no-one was appointed to the position.

At the most recent Management Committee Meeting in January, this 'casual vacancy' was filled by the appointment of Lavinia Ford to the position of Newsletter Editor. Thanks to Lavinia for accepting the position.

## 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

## Newsletter

Newsletter Deadline is **25th** of every month. It may be necessary to hold submissions after this date till the following month.

## German mariner site at Berrima receives NSW heritage listing

The NSW Minister for Planning, the Hon. Tony Kelly MLC, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council, has listed the Berrima Internment Group on the State Heritage Register. The listing was published on 14 January 2011 in Government Gazette No.2.

The item was listed due to its heritage significance to the people of NSW. The details of the item include the land area along the river at Berrima where the internees roamed and all associated artefacts, photographs and memoirs held by the Society and the museum.

This is a significant development in the efforts to preserve and showcase this story, first begun by Society members and then stimulated by the finding of a canoe, and further progressed with John Simons' book *Prisoners in Arcady*.

In August 1978 the Berrima County Council Noxious Weed Inspector stumbled across part of a wooden boat half buried in a sand bank of the Wingecarribee River near Berrima. Members of the Society, assisted by the Bowral-Mittagong Rotary Club, salvaged the 17-foot long canoe-type boat made from a hollowed out log, and hauled it by trailer to the Society's Museum.

While researching his book *Prisoners in Arcady* during the 1990s, Dr John Simons established that the canoe was the salvaged remains of the *Stortebeker*, made by the German internees at Berrima during WW1 and which featured prominently in their river regattas.

This canoe became part of the "Prisoners in Arcady" exhibition at the museum which was opened in February 2009 by Hans-Günter Gnodtke, the Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The exhibition, which documents the story of the German internees at Berrima during WW 1, was made possible through generous grants awarded by Wingecarribee Shire Council and Museums and Galleries NSW.

Based on Dr John Simons' book, it showcases many of the wonderful photographs taken by Bowral photographer David Speer, it features artefacts made by the prisoners, and an early government documentary film of the camp.

The internees were mainly captains and officers from German merchant ships, a few military officers from German Pacific colonies and senior crew of the German Imperial Navy's light armoured cruiser SMS *Emden*.

The disused Berrima gaol was hastily prepared for the prisoners in 1915. Conditions were cramped and primitive so by day prisoners were allowed to roam up to two miles from the gaol and were only locked up at night after roll-call.

They built a number of impressive huts along the river, an array of water craft, a dam which deepened the river, and an aquatic playground which included a water slide, diving boards and wharves.



## Australia Day 2011 at Berrima

The museum was open as usual for the celebrations in Berrima marking Australia Day. Families enjoyed the museum displays and the Mystery Object Quiz proved a particular favourite. A First Fleeter's display was erected under the shady trees in the museum grounds and an area with tables and chairs was a welcoming spot for visitors and volunteers to relax.



Visitors Mr & Mrs Charlie Johns inspect the First Fleeter's display in the museum grounds



A local family from Mittagong relax after completing the museum's Mystery Object Quiz



George Schofield and Bob Williams on the museum verandah

Photos courtesy of Philip Morton



## Journal by first British explorers to the Wingecarribee district in 1798

*This article by Philip Morton appeared as two history articles in the Southern Highland News during January*

**Hamilton Hume has generally been credited as the first white man to find his way to the Bowral/Moss Vale locality in 1814. However a journal of exploration written in 1798 and pigeon-holed for over 100 years proves otherwise.**

John Wilson led two exploration parties in 1798 that passed through the Wingecarribee district and a journal was kept by John Price, a lad of 19 years.

What prompted these early explorers to venture south just ten years after the colony's founding?

Conditions were harsh and difficult in the first decade of the penal colony established in 1788 at Sydney. A number of Irish convicts had been led to believe "that there was a colony of white people at no very great distance in the back country - 150 or 200 miles - where there was abundance of every sort of provision without the necessity of so much labour".

In searching for this land of plenty, the 'bolters' starved, died, were killed by Aborigines, or returned to the fringes of settlement.

Governor Hunter decided in 1798 on a ploy to put an end to it. He ordered the convicts to select four of the hardest amongst them to be sent on a journey of discovery to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the rumours.

To accompany them he chose John Wilson, an ex-convict who had gone bush and learnt survival skills from the Aborigines, and a man named Roe.

Also chosen was John Price, a 19-year-old servant of the Governor, who could write and so was instructed to record "the observations which their journey might suggest". He was described as an intelligent lad.

This journey was the first exploration of any length in Australian inland history and Price's journal is notable for the first recorded sighting of the lyre-bird, the koala, and a description of the wombat.

With no equipment and no food except a few biscuits, they left on 24 January 1798. As soon as the party reached the foot of the mountains, beyond where Picton is now situated, the Irish prisoners decided to return, and were brought back by the soldiers. Wilson, however, with the two others, continued the journey of exploration.

In order to convey their route, present-day locality names are used. They travelled south to the Bargo area, over the Mittagong Range and then west to Bullio, reaching the junction of the Wollondilly and Wingecarribee rivers.

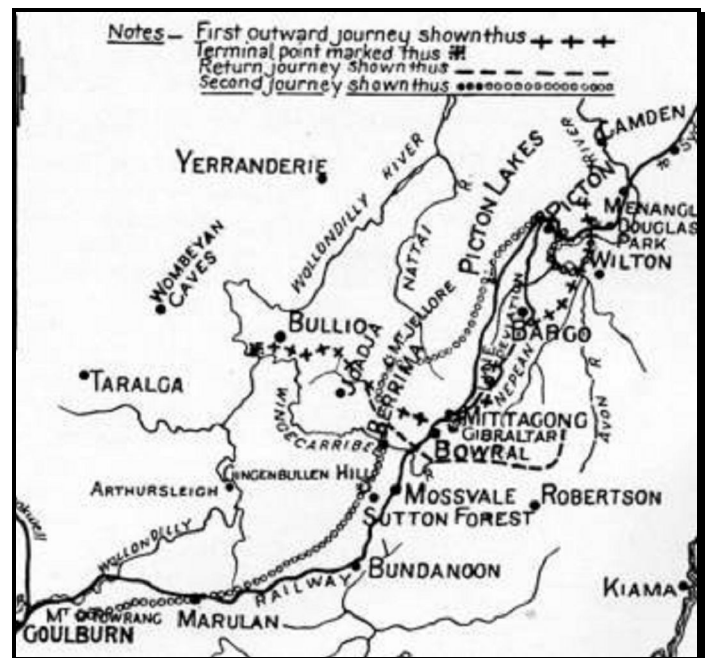
In returning, they came to the Wingecarribee above Berrima, keeping on the northern side, and discovered the beautiful country around Bong Bong, between Bowral and Moss Vale.

They arrived back at Prospect on 8 February, after covering about 240 miles.

Wilson and the lad also undertook a second journey a month later, accompanied by a man named Collins. They travelled to the junction of the Bargo and Nepean Rivers, passed by Picton Lakes and on to Mount Jellore, west of Mittagong, which they ascended.

They then headed south, crossed the Wingecarribee near Berrima, and on to Mount Gingenbullen, west of Moss Vale. They continued past Marulan to Mount Towrang, about six miles in a direct line easterly from Goulburn, and discovered the upper portion of the Wollondilly River.

Here a shortage of provisions caused them to return, and in doing so they travelled past Exeter and to the eastward of Moss Vale, thence through to the Cow Pastures and Prospect. This journey took a month and covered about 350 miles.



**THE 1798 JOURNEYS:** Map published in 1919 by historian R H Cambage, drawn from Price's journal.

It is not known whether the lad wrote up his journal notes each evening, or at greater intervals. After returning, however, a clean statement of both journeys was written for Governor Hunter, who later presented it to Sir Joseph Banks.

Price's journal, written in a clear hand on double sheets of foolscap roughly fastened together with a piece of red thread, is in the Mitchell Library.

As the Governor at the time did not require land for expansion, and perhaps doubting the veracity of the account, the journal was quietly pigeon-holed.

By another sixteen years, however, the incumbent Governor Macquarie desperately needed more land as the growing colony was ravaged by drought.

In 1814 the 17-year old Hamilton Hume, a native-born Australian, ventured south 'bush ranging' from Liverpool with his younger brother and several Aboriginal friends. Unbeknown to them, they followed a similar route as the earlier Wilson/Price journeys and reached the fertile Bong Bong district, opening it for eventual settlement.

### Price's journal rediscovered in 1919

In 1919 RAHS historian Mr R H Cambage, who had come across Price's journal, published *Exploration Beyond the Upper Nepean in 1798*, a detailed investigation of the route described in the journal. He located with a high degree of certainty most of the landmarks referred to.

On the first journey Wilson, Price and Roe reached the junction of the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly Rivers and then travelled eastwards along the Wingecarribee before heading back home.

The following journal extracts are the first written descriptions of the Southern Highlands.

"February 2nd.—Course, E.N.E. The country still runs very fine; full of large meadows and some thousands of acres of land without any timber upon it, except here and there one tree, and some very large lakes of water some three miles long, but saw no birds of any kind about them."

Cambage says this entry refers to the country between Bowral and Moss Vale, and up towards the Wingecarribee Swamp.

The journal continues: "We here came to a resolution of returning, for we could not get anything to eat but a few roots and grubs. Indeed, I thought that we must all have perished of hunger . . . we travelled six days successively over hills and valleys full of rocks, and no appearance of any animals or birds of any size; but on the sixth day we made the forest land about 10 miles from Prospect, and to our great joy we reached the desired place a little before sundown. Distance, 16 miles."

On the second expedition a month later, which covered 350 miles in 4 weeks, Wilson, Price and Collins made it as far as Mount Towrang near Goulburn, but first travelled beyond the Nepean and headed for Mount Jellore.

"Sunday, 18th.—We got at the top of this high mountain, which I believe to be the largest hill in the country. We named it Mount Wilson. The land to the N.E. looks to be a level country, but to the E. we saw a scrubby rocky country full of deep gullies; to the S.E. much the same. Crossed some swampy meadows and

two fine grass meadows; came to for the night. Distance, 8 miles."



This panorama looking north from Mount Jellore is beautifully shown in a sketch (shown above) from the Field Book of Surveyor-General Thomas L. Mitchell.

"Monday, 19th.—As soon as it was daylight we counted our biscuits and found we had thirty apiece. We fell in with a large creek. Here altered our course to S. to head the creeks. Walked about 9 miles, when we fell in with a fine run of water; saw a great many ducks. Wilson saw a large green, yellow and black snake; he directly ran and caught it by the head, which made us an excellent dinner.

We saw an exceeding high hill about 5 miles from us; we concluded to go and see how the country seemed to look towards the S.W. We walked about a mile when we came into a most beautiful country, being nothing but fine large meadows with ponds of water in them; fine green hills, but very thin of timber. We got to the top of this hill, where we had a most delightful prospect of the country, and in my opinion one of the finest in the known world.

We likewise saw a most beautiful country, more particular to the S.E. To the E. it is mountainous, but fine green hills to the northward. Being satisfied from our view from off the hills, we gave it the name of Mount Pleasant. Distance, 18 miles."

This course led them through the locality of Berrima, and to Mount Gingenbullen, at 2624 feet, which they ascended. The lad's admiration for the beautiful country seen from this hill, so simply yet enthusiastically described, was fully justified.

He observed to the north-east the district where, 20 years later, Throsby Park would be established and to the south-east where Sutton Forest village would come into existence. In between was the locality where Moss Vale came to be.

Outside the Sutton Forest Inn, beside the Old South Road (now the Illawarra Highway), stands a plaque erected in 1948 to mark the passing through of these explorers in March, 1798.



## Museum's busy holiday period

The Weekender section of the *Southern Highland News* on Friday January 7, 2011 presented an article entitled "Intriguing objects for all ages" that informed local readers of the varied interesting displays on exhibition during the school holidays at the society's Berrima District Museum.

The museum opened every day throughout the holiday period except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Museum volunteer Lyn Hall is quoted as saying current exhibitions included a Mystery Object Quiz, the story of dairying and a "unique story" about the German mariners of the First World War.

"The **Mystery Object Quiz** is especially presented for these school holidays and suits youngsters accompanied by an older person, called The Wise One, when participating in the quiz," she said.

The 'Early Industries in the Berrima District' display now includes an exhibition on dairying and features lots of photographs and historic objects.

Ms Hall said dairying was an important and expanding industry for the area in the 1870s through to the 1960s. "On display is the invention that revolutionised dairy production, the hand driven cream separator."

"Alongside this display, the Metters rotary kitchen cabinet (called a 'Hurdy-Gurdy' by the Badgerys), with its 29 drawers, is a clever practical object."

Meanwhile, new donations are also displayed in a special showcase and these are a diverse mix of interesting objects that are updated regularly.

For those residents with guests staying these holidays, Ms Hall recommends a visit to the museum for the "unique story about the German Mariners interned at Berrima during the First World War which is a real eye opener. *Prisoners in Arcady* is full of great human interest, with marvellous objects and photographs and won the 2009 NSW Museums & Galleries of 'IMAGinE' Award."

The local paper's promotion helped draw the crowds to the museum. Our volunteers doing duty through the holidays will testify how busy they were.

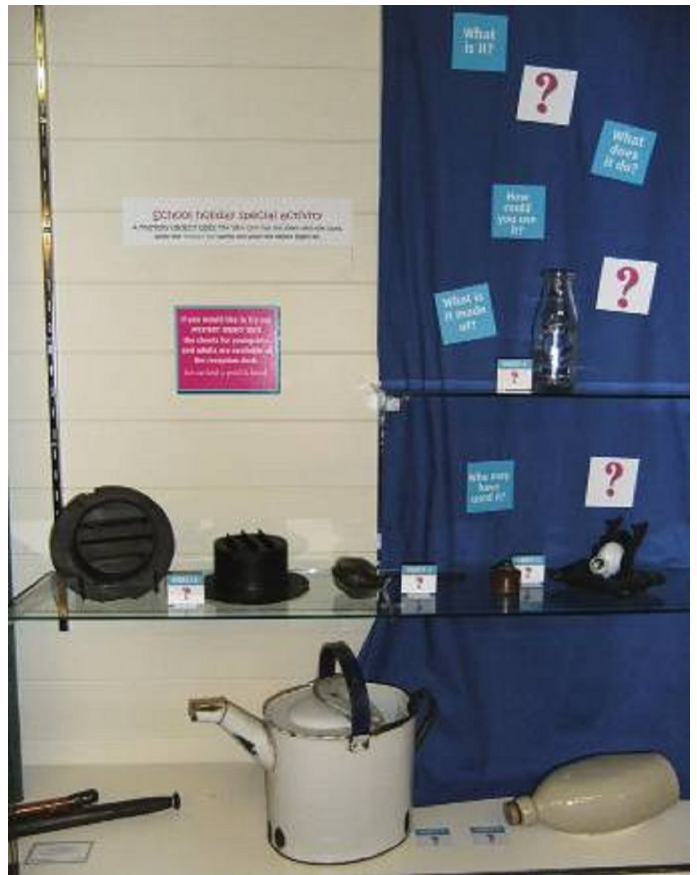
The Mystery Object Quiz intrigued both young and old. Imagine not knowing what a 'soap saver' was!

The Early Industries exhibition received plenty of favourable comments from visitors, especially for the extensive new dairying industry display.

Lyn Hall is to be congratulated for her fine efforts in creating the Quiz and for the other displays she did.



**29 drawers** that fit the metal rotary cabinet or 'hurdy-gurdy'.



**FUN FOR ALL AGES** : Mystery Object Quiz display items



**ICE BLOCK ANYONE?** : Volunteers Krystyna Podsiadly (left) and Lyn Hall inspect the early fridge on display.



# Sir Donald Bradman

27 August 1908 - 25 February 2001



**February 25, 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the death in Adelaide of Sir Donald Bradman.**

Sir Donald George BRADMAN, AC, was knighted in 1949 for his contribution to Australian and International Cricket.

Born at 89 Adams Street, Cootamundra on August 27, 1908, he was the youngest son of George Bradman and Emily Whatman. The family lived for two and a half years at Yeo Yeo near Cootamundra before moving to Bowral in 1911, the seat of the Whatman and Bradman family roots.

At Bowral, Don developed his keen interest in Tennis, and later through encouragement from his Whatman uncles and Cupitt relatives, who were keen cricket players, his interest and abilities in cricket developed and flourished. It was at the family home in Shepherd Street, Bowral that Don honed his eye for the ball, by hitting a cricket stump with a golf ball against the tank stand in the back yard. Later in 1924 the Bradman family moved to 20 Glebe Street, Bowral, opposite the Bowral Cricket Oval, Glebe Park (now Bradman Oval).

In 1920 at the age of 12 years when Bowral Cricket Club senior team found that it had a player short in a game against Moss Vale, Don was asked if he would like to play. The team also included George and Victor Bradman, George and Dick Whatman, and Sidney Cupitt. At the end of the game Sidney Cupitt presented Don with one of his old bats. By the age of 16 years Don had played his first full season with the Bowral Cricket Club.

Don left Bowral High School at the age of 14 and was employed at Percy Westbrooks Real Estate Office in Bong Bong Street, Bowral. He continued to play cricket, joining St. George in 1926. In 1927 he played for NSW against South Australia. His test debut against England in Brisbane occurred in 1928-1929, followed by his technically best innings at Lord's in 1930. During 1932-1933 Don endured the "Bodyline Series" and in 1936 he was appointed Australian Test Captain. In fifteen class innings in 1939, Don scored eight centuries, and three double centuries.

The outbreak of World War II saw Don join the Australian Army with rank as Lieutenant in 1940, but he was discharged due to illness in 1941.

In 1946 he returned to Test Cricket, Australia winning the Ashes 3-0, and in 1948 he scored his one hundredth first-class century against Indian XI at the Sydney Cricket Ground, and chose this same year to retire.

The Australian Board of Control appointed Don Chairman in 1960, and at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1974, the Bradman grandstand was opened. Two years later the Bowral Cricket Oval where Don played his first childhood game of Cricket was renamed Bradman Oval. Governor-general Sir Zelman Cowan awarded Sir Donald Bradman



the nations second highest civil award, the Companion of the Order of Australia in 1979. Eight years later the Bradman Foundation was formed, and in 1988 the Australian Confederation of Sport named Don as the greatest male athlete of the past 200 years. October 14, 1989 saw the opening of the Bradman Museum at Bowral to commemorate Sir Donald Bradman's career.

Whilst at School in Bowral, Jessie Menzies, daughter of Mittagong farmer James Menzies and Lily Kell came to live with the Bradman family, so she could attend Bowral High School. This association between Jessie and Don eventuated in their marriage on 30th April 1932 at St. Paul's Church, Burwood. Jessie died on 14 September 1987. Both Don and Jessie are survived by two children Shirley Bradman and John Bradman and grandchildren Greta, Thomas and Nicholas.

Not only is it the game of cricket and the impressive unbeatable statistical achievements, that make Sir Donald Bradman a Great Australian, it is the way in which he became an ambassador for the sport and set International standards at a personal level. He set goals to which every individual cricket player should aspire - good sportsmanship, honesty, humility, grace, and above all integrity. He will be remembered for his ability not only on the field but for his integrity in the game. John Bradman said that his father Sir Donald Bradman was "so astonishingly unimpressed by himself." His manner was as important as his accomplishments.

Cricket has become one of the most popular Australian national summer sports, undoubtedly thanks to cricketers like Bradman.

The Bradman Foundation, owner and operator of the Bradman Museum have recently completed building Stage 1 of the International Cricket Hall of Fame which has been dedicated to promoting the game of cricket, not just to the keen followers but also to all who wonder why is it so important to millions of people around the world. Supported by Donald Bradman, and the Australian Cricket Captain Ricky Ponting who has been appointed as the Global Ambassador of the International Cricket Hall of Fame.



The International Cricket Hall of Fame, which officially opened to the public on November 29, 2010, features some cutting edge technology, interactive touch-screens and much more, that will engage, entertain and inform, providing a deep appreciation of cricket, the game Sir Donald Bradman described as 'the greatest character builder of all our sports'.

For further information visit: [www.bradman.com.au](http://www.bradman.com.au) and [www.internationalcrickethall.com](http://www.internationalcrickethall.com)

Bradman Cottage, Cootamundra, NSW. Photos courtesy Lavinia Ford Graphic: courtesy of "The Australian".

## DIARY DATES

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
THURSDAY	14	APR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28	APR	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society

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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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