

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 427 April 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 Email: berrimamuseum@bigpond.com 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

APRIL MEETING: Thursday 28 April 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: Lyn Hall
Lyn is a volunteer at our Berrima museum and will present a fresh take on the *Prisoners in Arcady* exhibition with stories and photos not seen before.

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

MAY MEETING: Thursday 26 May 2011 at 2:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building,
Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: Leonie Morgan from Kenmore Hospital Historical Society,
Goulburn

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And more ...



Diary Dates

APRIL

- 7 School holidays commence
- 14 Management Committee Meeting
- 27 School holidays conclude
- 28 Monthly General Meeting - Lyn Hall's talk on *Prisoners in Arcady*

MAY

- 12 Management Committee Meeting
- 26 Monthly General Meeting

JUNE

- 9 Management Committee Meeting
- 23 Monthly General Meeting

Special General Meeting

Prior to the 26 May General Meeting commencing at 2.00pm a Special General Meeting will be held, covering:

1. Management Committee recommendation to accept alterations to By-laws (Constitution).
2. Management Committee recommendation to award Life Membership to nominated members.

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Wendy **Andrews**, Bowral
Ena **Bell**, Bowral
Adrienne **Bradney-Smith**, Mittagong
Narelle **Bowern**, Moss Vale
Isobel **Griffin**, Bowral

Here's to a long and happy association.

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.

Management Committee News

June Luncheon: Thursday 23rd June 2011 at the historic Prince Albert Inn, Mittagong. Cost per person is \$35 for a 2-course lunch plus tea/coffee; alcohol will be available from the bar. Our Guest Speaker is Brad Argent from ancestry.com. An added bonus is dining in such historic surrounds. Bookings and prepayment required by Tuesday 14th June.

Significance Assessment of the Collections held at the Archives prepared by Linda Emery: After much time and commitment Linda has produced an excellent report which supports her acquittal to the National Library for the grant they awarded the Society.

Hillview Open Days: The leasee has advised verbally that Hillview will be open to the public for 12 days during Tulip Time only and he has accepted the Society's offer to display our panels which formed part of the Hillview Exhibit at our museum a few years ago.

Museum Extension Development Sub-Committee has now been formed with a charter to oversee and make recommendations to the Management Committee for the completion of this project.

A reminder that our next meeting on April 28th is set down for 7.30pm; our May meeting is the first of the "afternoon" meetings, which will commence at 2.00pm.

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.

Free RAHS Workshop

A free 5-hour RAHS Workshop has been arranged by Linda Emery to be held at the Archives on Saturday 28 May 2011 by Dr Lesley Muir and Associate Professor Carol Liston on researching maps and land titles on the web. **Numbers are limited - bookings essential at Archives.**

This workshop has been designed for Community & Family Historians wanting to know more about using the internet for researching land.

The New South Wales Land and Property Management Authority has revolutionized the way that information about land ownership is made available to the public.

- Torrens titles are now all up on the internet
- Current cadastral (boundaries and ownership) information for every property in NSW is mapped and available on the web
- Parish, Town and Valuer-General maps, as well as 1880s NSW Property Plans have been digitized.

Other collections, too, are being digitized. In this workshop, participants will learn how to use all these resources in their research, and how to capture the maps and plans to illustrate their own projects.

There is also an optional segment describing the NSW Land Laws of the 19th century - land grants, squatters and selectors, as well as a presentation introducing land title searching to beginners.

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

A fresh take on John Simons' German mariners in Berrima history

"Prisoners in Arcady"

a visual presentation by Lyn Hall

(Society member and Berrima District Museum volunteer)

The award-winning "Prisoners in Arcady" exhibition on display at the Society's museum in Berrima has been a popular favourite with visitors and members.

There are many great photos in existence that are not included in the museum's exhibition or in John Simons' book, so Lyn has compiled a 'Prisoners in Arcady' visual presentation in order that more of them can be appreciated.

Lyn also has some interesting anecdotes to relate about a few of the personalities involved and will perhaps surprise us with some different angles to the story we are used to from John's book.

For the interest of members, Lyn will link up the individuals associated with the objects from the exhibition that are on loan to the Museum of Sydney for its exhibition 'The Enemy at Home' opening in May this year.

Come along to Lyn's talk to hear and see more about this fascinating tale of a rural paradise.

**At the Research Centre, Mittagong (upstairs)
on Thursday 28 April at 7:30pm**

About Lyn Hall

Lyn was raised in Lane Cove, Sydney, and worked as a commercial artist in advertising companies in Sydney and London. At the age of 40 she had a sea-change, working for a few years at Sydney's Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences on temporary exhibitions and later in the publicity department for the launch of Stage 1 of the Powerhouse Museum.

When she left there, it was to start her own business designing a range of cards with Australian motifs. This she did for 10 years.

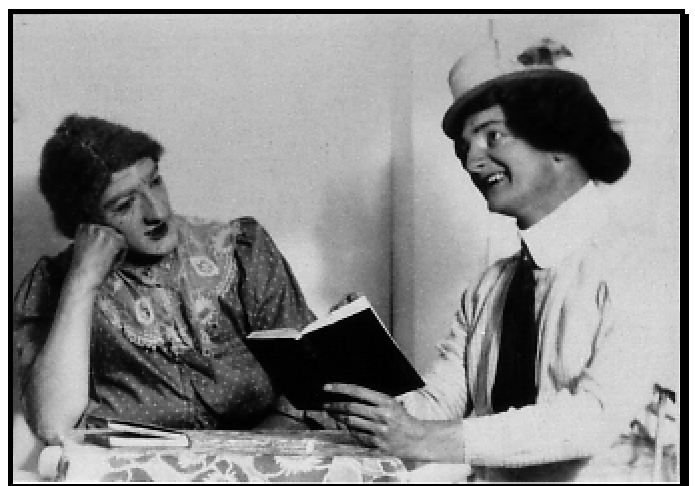
Lyn moved to the Southern Highlands in 1999 with her partner Harlan and, once settled, became a volunteer at the Berrima District Museum, where her skill in preparing exhibitions soon became evident.

Her Uncle Sid was Edwin Klein's younger brother so she felt a strong connection to the museum. It was Edwin Klein who for a time owned *Hillview* and did much to support the Society. A display room at the museum is named in his honour.

Throughout 2008, Lyn worked with Dr. John Simons to create a new exhibition, based on his recently published book 'Prisoners in Arcady', that would be

worthy of this unique period of Berrima's history, and John Simons' important account about it.

Lyn's contribution was to lift sections of the text from 'Prisoners in Arcady', then condense and marry it with the most appropriate photographs. Distilling a book of 250 pages in length into 20 exhibition panels was a major challenge that Lyn handled with great expertise, producing visually interesting artwork to accompany the museum's display of period artefacts associated with the German mariners.



The German mariners at Berrima regularly staged theatre productions, creating costumes and sets with great skill.



On behalf of the museum, Lyn and Harlan Hall accept an IMAGinE award in 2009 for the German exhibition. Peter Berner was the MC for the event.

WW1 German mariners were 'Prisoners in Arcady'

As announced in a previous newsletter, the Berrima Internment Group was listed on the NSW State Heritage Register in January 2011, because of its heritage significance to the people of NSW.

It includes the land area along the river at Berrima where the internees roamed and a collection of associated artefacts, photographs and memoirs held by the Society and the museum.

This significant development in the efforts to preserve and showcase the story is celebrated this month with Lyn Hall giving a photo/visual presentation at the Society's General Meeting.

A brief summary of the German mariner story is presented here, based on Dr Simons' book.
Text by Bruce Mumford; edited by Philip Morton

* * *

*Arcady is the poetic name for Arcadia,
a mountainous district in Greece known
since ancient times for its quiet rural simplicity*

- Macquarie Dictionary

Germans and Australians lived side by side in peace and co-operation during 1915-1919 when over 300 German mariners were interned at Berrima.

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

The disused gaol was hastily prepared for the prisoners. Conditions were cramped and primitive as it had originally been built to house only 130 prisoners and their guards.

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. A small number had families who rented empty houses in Berrima village to be near their husbands and fathers.

The prisoners became virtually self-governing through an efficient Camp Committee which liaised with the Commandant. Relations between the Camp Commandant and his detachment of guards and the German internees were almost always friendly. The guard regarded their periods of duty stationed at Berrima as a "lolly-stick" in comparison to Holsworthy, the main camp, where five thousand internees were held.

The internees brought a great deal of excitement as well as culture to the sleepy village. They formed a choir, a band, a dramatic troupe and an orchestra, and constructed a bandstand and theatre in the gaol where regular fortnightly performances were held.

They bushwalked, abseiled, built tennis courts and a bowling alley, they had football teams, gymnastic and swimming clubs. Classes in a diverse range of subjects were held. English was especially popular.

The prisoners built a number of impressive huts along the river as well as an array of water craft, a dam which deepened the river, and an aquatic playground which included a water slide, diving boards and wharves. Their boating carnivals were much admired for the variety of disguises that changed the vessels' appearance and for the great spectacle they made.

Amazingly they were even allowed to hold festivities for the Kaiser's birthday or to celebrate the anniversaries of German naval victories. The Australian guards politely stood up with the prisoners when the German national anthem was played at the concert's end.

Most internees came to quite enjoy their stay at Berrima. Those who returned for a visit many years later looked back on their Berrima days as being spent in a rural paradise, well treated by the guards and with many happy memories.

As well as church services run by a Lutheran pastor, they set up a small bush school for their children. Although only "De-tox 2%" beer was allowed, stills hidden in the bush were built and at least twenty cases of whisky were delivered secretly to the prisoners by an obliging carter. The camp commandant would have been quite surprised had he ventured into the solitary confinement cell under the gaol, which was stocked full of the empty bottles.

The real significance of the internment prison at Berrima is what it showed us about the better side of humanity: "Initial alarm and aversion had been succeeded by tolerance, acceptance and a fair degree of mutual understanding" (Dr John Simons).

The locals at Berrima had seen the internees and their families in their streets and shops. They attended their sporting and aquatic displays. They came to realize that these Germans were humans just like them. It helped that most spoke English and their purchasing of goods in local shops considerably helped the economy of the ailing town.

Apart from cultural and economic, the internees brought a number of other benefits to the region. They were often the first with news from overseas, due to their (illegal) subscriptions to foreign newspapers and their use of home-made radio crystal sets. They installed the first electricity in the district, powered by their own generator.

The internees were finally repatriated back to Germany in August 1919. On their way to Moss Vale the departing prisoners, marching behind their band, stopped to give three hearty cheers to the Surveyor General Inn for its "truly accomplished service".

A permanent exhibition on these German internees, based on Dr John Simons' book *Prisoners in Arcady*, is at Berrima District Museum and it includes photographs, prisoners' artefacts, an early film of the camp and one dugout canoe made by internees.



WAR DRAGS ON: Mariners ponder the news from home.



WATER VIEWS: On the bank of the Wingecarribee River is the Emden POW's hut 'Castle by the Sea'.



HUCKELREIDER QUARTET: fancy dress, fine music.

From the President

Leonie Knapman



March turned out to be a busy month for many of our museum and archives members who attended functions, became involved in working bees at the archives and manned displays around the district.

On March 4 members attended the official opening of the Bowral Library Local Studies Room upstairs in the Old Town Hall, Bowral. With our research facility reaching its capacity, we were rather envious of the large spacious rooms that they now have. The records they hold complement our archives.

Thanks must go to those who manned our display at the Moss Vale Show. We were asked to photographically display the Moss Vale District Show AH&I Society Inc. over its 125 years history. We were lucky to have a great selection of photos and associated articles on the long history of the Show. The school children on Friday kept our members busy handing out free stickers, whilst mum and dad checked out the display. Carolyn Hutton was very happy to have spent some time at the stand as her husband supported the Show Committee buying raffle tickets and won the main raffle of the Show valued around \$700.

As NSW country representative of the Affiliated Societies Committee of the Royal Australian Historical Society, I attend meetings at History House in Macquarie Street, Sydney every couple of months. The purpose of the Affiliated Societies Committee is to provide support to the RAHS by creating an environment in which the community of historians within affiliated societies can thrive. The Affiliated Societies Committee helps to organize the RAHS conference held each year in a different part of NSW. Last year was at Richmond and this year will be at the East Maitland Bowling Club, on 29-30 October.

This town was chosen last year with the theme of the conference papers to be around the problems of floods during the early 1950s when Maitland was moved to higher ground and how they coped. With the recent flooding of wide areas of Australia it seems that this subject is appropriate.

The working theme of the Conference will cover subjects such as: Droughts and Flooding Rains; Australian Disasters: Researching, Recording and Recovery.

Activities for the day before and the day after the conference are currently being arranged. Any BDH&FHS members wishing to attend will find further details on the RAHS web page.

Each year I attend the conferences along with our research officer Max Rogers and my husband Greg. Conferences are a great venue to sell our publications and to talk to other Societies and share information.

Moss Vale Show 125th year display

The Moss Vale & District Show Society this year staged its 125th show at Moss Vale Showgrounds over the three days of 18, 19 and 20th March.

To mark this milestone, our Society put together a display featuring the history of the show from its early days. The display was given pride of place amongst the various local exhibits in the Show Pavilion and it included a collection of old photographs from the Society's collection. Some more recent colour photos were provided by Judith Green, our Jnr. Vice President who is also on the Moss Vale Show Committee and was its first female President. Judith also made available some rare early Show certificates and other materials.

As well, our display featured some interesting newspaper clippings that Leonie Knapman managed to find and a history time-line that Philip Morton put together mostly from information taken from the Show Society's Centenary publication of 1984.

Horse-riding events, action in the centre arena and all the fun of the merry-go-round were displayed in photographs from earlier times.

Our March newsletter which had a comprehensive article on the Show's history was a popular give-away with the passing crowd.

Society members Carolyn Hutton, Jim Galloway and Philip Morton spent several hours at the display in the pavilion over the three days talking to people about the Society and the history of the area.

Thanks must go to the Show Society members and the pavilion stewards who were most helpful in getting the display well situated and in keeping an eye on things when the crowds surged through.



A section of the display showing the silver teapot won by T. A. M. (Merve) Buley, Most Successful Exhibitor, Vegetable Section, 1975 Show



Jnr. Vice President Judith Green in her capacity as Show Society Committee member assisted with the display



Our display was well positioned with the junior art display on one side and local produce exhibits on the other



The pavilion stewards kept an eye on the display

Opening of new Bowral Central Library local studies room

New place to research history

This report by Morgan Downs is taken from the Southern Highland News of 11 March 2011.

The Local Studies Room at the Bowral Library has been relocated to bigger premises. It is now above the Henrietta Rose room, providing the public with improved access to a range of historical documents.

The items on exhibit include a range of historical council documents, a moth collection and newspaper articles from years gone by.

"This collection has been designed for everyone and to benefit everyone," Wingecarribee councillor Juliet Arkwright said at the opening last Friday.

The Local Studies Room was previously housed within the Bowral Library, however when its refurbishment was completed in 2008, plans were made to relocate the collection, library service coordinator Sandra Croker said.

"We are very happy with the outcome," she said.

"The room is for students or anyone wanting to find out the history of the Highlands such as council information." She said it was continuously growing, with many of the items donated.

The room is open two afternoons a week, Tuesday and Thursday from 2pm to 4pm. After hours entry is at the discretion of library staff.



Local Studies Collection

On the Wingecarribee Library Services website, the collection is listed to include books, magazines, newspapers, newsletters, photographs, Council publications and reports, and a collection of fiction and non-fiction works written by local authors, past and present.

Local Newspapers

The Local Studies Collection holds local newspapers in print and on microfilm.

- Newspapers on microfilm can be viewed on a microfilm reader in the Local Studies Room.

- For a complete list of local newspaper titles and holdings search the [catalogue](#) (Note: Holdings for each title can be found under heading "Main Run").

Wingecarribee Statistics

See a snapshot of Wingecarribee Population and Housing Statistics from the 2006 Census.

Some Local Studies Web Resources

- Wingecarribee, our home: a geographical interpretation of the Southern Highlands of NSW
- Wingecarribee Shire Council Student Resource Centre
- A Short History of Wingecarribee Shire Council from 1981-2006
- History of Wingecarribee Shire Council prior to 1981
- Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
- Bradman Museum
- Tulip Time
- Picture Australia
- PICMAN

Some Family History Resources

- For Births Deaths and Marriages on CDROM search the catalogue. Births Deaths and Marriages CD Roms can only be used in Bowral Library.
- Ancestry Library Edition



At the opening. Councillor Arkwright (right) with members Lyn Hall and Carolyn Dougherty speaking with Library staff members Roxanne Seaward and Sandra Croker.



President Leonie Knapman (right) and Sandra Croker (left).

Photos: P. Morton

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	14	APR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28	APR	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	12	MAY	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26	MAY	Monthly General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	9	JUN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23	JUN	Monthly General Meeting	12:00 pm at The Prince Albert Inn

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

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preserving and maintaining the history of the Southern Highlands.

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