



Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 428 May 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

MAY MEETING: Thursday 26 May 2011 at 2:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong

Our guest speaker will precede the general meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER: Jenni Aubrey and Leoni Morgan
 Jenni and Leoni are guides and volunteers with the Kenmore Hospital Historical Society, Goulburn, will speak about the history of the hospital and its future.
SUPPER: To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

JUNE MEETING: Thursday 23 June 2011 at 12:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: Brad Argent

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And more ...



Diary Dates

MAY

- 12 Management Committee Meeting
- 26 Monthly General Meeting - Talk by Jenni Aubrey and Leoni Morgan on the *Kenmore Hospital Museum*
- 28 Maps and Titles Workshop

JUNE

- 9 Management Committee Meeting
- 23 Monthly General Meeting - Luncheon at Prince Albert Inn

JULY

- 1 - 18 School holidays
- 14 Management Committee Meeting
- 28 Monthly General Meeting

Special General Meeting

Prior to the 26 May 2011 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.

June Luncheon menu selection

Members who book for the June Luncheon on 23 June at The Prince Albert Inn are asked to also advise their choice of dishes for each guest from the selection provided below.

This will enable food to be made to order and avoids the need for alternate drops. A list of members' selections will be available on the day in case anyone forgets their choices. Members who have already booked will need to advise their selection choice. Please let us know well before the occasion preferably if possible by email or phone to the Archives.

Main Course

1. *Mittagong tunnel mushroom risotto with truffle oil*
or
2. *Guinness Pie*

Dessert

1. *Almond torte with orange creme and chocolate ice cream*
or
2. *Panacotta with poached peaches and strawberries*

Bowls of salad and jugs of orange juice will be on tables; bar service available.

Please advise any special dietary needs with your booking and payment.

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Mrs Gillian **Evans**, Moss Vale
Mr Doug **Graham**, Sutton Forest
Ms Ann **Knight**, Mooball
Mr Daryl **Levy**, Bowral
Mrs Amanda **Mackevicius**, Moss Vale
Mr Bob & Mrs Janell **Mills**, St Ives
Mr Matt & Mrs Morag **Nolan**, Exeter

Here's to a long and happy association.

Email addresses

Could members please ensure their email address is kept current with us, as on occasion there is a need to contact members; Thank you for your assistance.

Future of Kenmore Museum

For some time the future of Kenmore Museum, opened in 2001, has been uncertain. That uncertainty seems to have all but disappeared with the announcement that the museum will open to the public for the last time on Sunday 1 May 2011.

To complement the museum's exhibits, Secretary Leonie Morgan has led walking tours of what was once a thriving, self-contained community. Leonie's commentary detailed the history of the magnificent one and two storey buildings which have been lying idle for many years; a classic example of demolition by neglect.

Berrima District Museum assisted the museum's establishment by donating some display cabinets surplus to our requirements. I visited the museum and took part in the tour several years ago. On the penultimate weekend of its operation I returned to enjoy 'Reflections on our Past', a selection of the best features of ten years of themed exhibits. It was heartening to see the results of the volunteers' dedication to keeping Kenmore Hospital history alive. On the other hand, the 'for sale' signs dotted around the displays brought home the reality of the present situation. The museum's lease expires in January 2012, leaving just eight months to perform the heartbreaking task of dispersing the collection.

Congratulations to Leonie Morgan and her team on a job well done.

Bob Williams, Hon Curator

Research Fees

The basic research fee for non-members is \$15.00 for email, telephone and postal enquiries and this same fee also applies to those attending the archives in person. Additional charges for copying and printing apply.

Scans of photographs may be obtained and can be supplied as quality photo prints (up to A4 size) or as digital images on CD. Price on application.

Kenmore Hospital Museum talk

MAY MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS

Jenni Aubrey Chairperson and
Leoni Morgan Secretary, of the

Kenmore Hospital Museum Committee
To start 2:00pm on Thursday 26 May, at Archives

Our two speakers from Goulburn will take us on a photographic tour around the original Kenmore hospital and environs and also will speak on aspects of the museum collection.

Both Jenni and Leoni are former employees of the hospital at Goulburn, who undertook their training as Psychiatric Nurses there during the 1970s.

Kenmore Hospital was the workplace for thousands of people since building began in 1894. Although established as a hospital (the first of its kind in the country), many other occupations were involved in assisting in the smooth running of what was to become a self-sufficient country asylum.



Kenmore Hospital Museum is staffed and run by volunteers interested in maintaining this vital piece of Australian Mental Health history.

In 1995, during the Hospital's centenary year as an institution for the mentally ill, the idea was born for a permanent display of memorabilia. The current site was chosen to house and display the vast array of exhibits collected from across the site and through donations from numerous interested people.

The collection covers many aspects of the history of Kenmore Hospital. The Friends of Kenmore Hospital have collected enough material to change the theme of the exhibitions every year on an eight-year cycle. Ownership of the collection, but not the building, rests with the Friends.

The Kenmore property was sold last year, and with it went security of tenure for the Museum which has to vacate by January 16, 2012. An extension of the licence agreement has not been forthcoming, so plans need to be made for the collection's safety.

VIP Red Carpet Day at Visitor Information Centre, Mittagong

Tourism Southern Highlands held a VIP Red Carpet Day on 13 April at the Visitor Information Centre. The day was designed to provide the local community with information about attractions, history and opportunities in the local area.

The Society contributed to the day's events by setting up a display of local historical photographs and images and members were on hand to talk to locals and visitors about local and family history.

In addition, a guided local historical walk around Mittagong was organised to showcase some of the beautiful buildings and historical sites around the township. Leonie Knapman conducted the morning walk, estimated to be of an hour's duration.

The Tourism Centre arranged publicity to promote the day, using the local paper and radio station 2ST.

Despite a bitterly cold day, the 10 local people who had called to book a place on the walk arrived well-rugged up and were so keen they inspired another couple of visitors at the Centre to join in.

Almost two hours later they returned, full of praise for the event and keen to undertake more such outings.

We have taken note of this and our newly appointed Tours and Talks Organiser, Bruce Moore, is in the process of compiling a list of future walks and tours. Any suggestions would be most welcome.



Above two photos courtesy Tourism Southern Highlands

Brief history: 'The Prince Albert Inn', formerly 'The Poplars'

Our June Luncheon is to be held at The Prince Albert Inn, meticulously restored to its former glory. Hopefully the following article will entice members to attend.



Built during the early Victorian period, the building's architecture is an excellent example of a highly intact two storey early Colonial Georgian Inn.

Simple elegance and history will take you back to a bygone era as you enjoy the Inn and its beautiful grounds at Braemar.

The Prince Albert Inn was built during the early 1840s by Esther and William Green, originally on 100 acres of land.

On 22 June 1846 the "License to Retail Fermented and Spirituous Liquors was issued in favour of William Green for the House known by the Sign of The Prince Albert Inn at Nattai". The Inn was sold to Robert Cork in 1854 and continued to operate as an Inn until sold again in 1860 to Bartholomew Rush.

Rush's family operated the property as a Boarding house and renamed the Inn to Willow Vale, Nattai due to the notable trees in the area. Willow Vale subsequently became the name of the western adjoining local village about 1882.

Rush was renowned for the supply of fruit from his orchards. He is also known for organising a railway platform on the "loop line" which was named "Rush's Platform" for the transportation of his fruit to Sydney markets and the convenience of his guests.

During the financial crisis in 1891, the property was sold to a consortium of investors. These investors leased the property to a local family who continued to use the premises as Willow Vale Boarding House.

The property became derelict from c.1925 until it was sold to Dr Edward Ludiwici of Sydney in 1933. Ludiwici carried out significant restoration which was crucial for the long term survival of the building. Ludiwici renamed the property "The Poplars".

In 1947 the property was sold to Manchester Unity which was responsible for the additional Two Wing alterations at the rear of the building.

Property was sold to Johnswoods in 1953 who subdivided the land into smaller portions. In 1961 Arthur and Irene Benton purchased the property and were responsible for the significant restoration for which they were awarded third prize by *The Sydney Morning Herald* for Preservation and Restoration of Historic Buildings in NSW in 1963. The plaque remains in place adjacent to the main entry.

There have been several owners since 1973 as The Poplars Restaurant, Design Studio and an Antique Shop until the property was sold to the Graban Family in 2007, who have painstakingly restored the building to its original use, look and name.

The Prince Albert Inn reopened in February 2011 and was overall winner of the recently announced 2011 Wingecarribee Heritage Awards. Ted Graban took out the honour for 'Traditional Tradesperson'.

The biennial awards recognise the craftsmanship of traditional tradespersons and promote heritage conservation in the Wingecarribee Shire.



Above text and images are courtesy of the Inn's website www.theprincealbertinn.com.au

Early Settlement at Sutton Forest

This article compiled by Philip Morton

After the early explorers came south, steps were taken in 1819 by Governor Macquarie to found a settlement in the Wingecarribee district. He wrote: "having deemed it advisable to permit Charles Throsby Esq., and nine other free persons with their families to become settlers in that part of the County of Camden recently discovered by Mr Throsby, I have granted then victualling orders".

Four settlers with wives and children plus two unmarried men ventured forth to the area. The Governor was greatly impressed when he passed through in October 1820. "The situation of the new settlers four miles south west of Throsby Park is particularly beautiful and rich - resembling a fine extensive pleasure ground in England."

He named the area Sutton Forest in honour of Sir Charles Manners Sutton, Speaker in the House of Commons and the Archbishop of Canterbury's son.

The little settlement formed the nucleus of the occupation of the Southern Highlands country and, where the Argyle Road passed through, a small village took shape.

Meanwhile at Bong Bong, beside the Wingecarribee River and near the Throsby land, a site was selected in March 1821 by Macquarie for a Government township. The first buildings erected were for the police and to house a small military detachment. In 1826 an inn was built by William Bowman, but the township itself never really developed.

Although for a time Bong Bong was the civil and military hub, Sutton Forest flourished as the centre of population and social activity.

In 1822 between forty and fifty small settlers were granted land, averaging 30 to 50 acres, in the district of Sutton. Many of these grants were later sold to bigger landholders.

The first settlers were supplied by the Government with stores until they were able to cultivate their land. Then they grew some wheat and vegetables and bred pigs and poultry, becoming self-sufficient.

Closely following these first landholders came men of capital and influence who received large land grants, among them James and John Atkinson, Captain John Nicholson and the Badgery family, whose properties would be among the best in the district for years to come.

Wheat and maize, barley, rye, peas, potatoes and turnips were grown. Some tobacco and hops were cultivated. Turnips grew well and were regarded as essential for feeding working bullocks, cows and pigs. Dairying began and good butter was made.

During the 1830s Captain Nicholson of 'Newbury' was sending quantities of salt butter to Sydney.

In 1847 it was reported that Sutton Forest was one of the finest wheat growing districts in the colony, although wheat rust eventually brought about a change, predominantly to grazing.

The first liquor licence in Sutton Forest was issued to Henry Badgery in 1829 and three more inns, the Harp, the Talbot and the Red Cow, were opened along the Argyle Road in the growing village.

In 1828 an arrangement concerning a piece of land for a burial ground was made with Captain Nicholson. A weatherboard Church of England chapel was erected and opened by Archdeacon Broughton in 1830. It was named 'All Saints' and was the only church in the entire district until Charles Throsby built Christ Church at Bong Bong in 1845.

A Church of England school opened in 1831 and had some 60 pupils in the 1850s. A Catholic school also operated, with about 50 pupils. Sutton Forest Public School replaced both these schools in 1880.

A more substantial All Saints church was desired but it was not until August 1861 that a new stone building, designed by Edmund Blacket, was opened.

In the 1830s, Sutton Forest was bypassed by the Great Southern Road, which went through Berrima, and by the railway from 1867, which created Moss Vale as the area's township (the station there was originally named Sutton Forest North). Yet the village survived and thrived as a farming and social centre, and as a country resort for the gentry.

By the 1880s Sutton Forest had gained a reputation for having some of the finest houses in the district, such as *Oldbury*, *Whitley*, *Summerlees* and *Hillview*. Many others were built after *Hillview* became the NSW Governor's country residence in 1882.

Sutton Forest remains an area worth visiting today for its picturesque landscape and historic buildings.



ALL SAINTS: The Church of England and historic graveyard at Sutton Forest in the 1920s.

A tour to Sutton Forest and the All Saints Church and graveyard is on our Tours Organiser Bruce Moore's agenda for later this year.

The Crowe Collection/Nurseries

The Southern Highlands Branch of the Australian Garden History Society recently held a display of material featuring the life of Claude & Isobel Crowe.

"Recollections of Claude and Isobel Crowe and Berrima Bridge Nurseries" was held at Berrima as a featured event of the National Trust's Heritage Festival during April.

On exhibit was the 'Claude Crowe Papers' courtesy of the Historic Houses Trust that included plans of more than 200 gardens designed by the Crowes. The originals of these papers are held in the Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection, Macquarie Street, Sydney (the site of the former Sydney Mint).

Also on display were story boards featuring a history of the nurseries and biographies of Claude and Isobel, with illustrations, plans, photographs and press clippings that spanned the entire period of the nurseries' existence.

Visitors were able to share their memories of the Crowes and their nurseries and find out more about this special couple who made a lasting contribution to the landscape of the Southern Highlands.

Claude and Isobel Crowe started the nurseries on a 2 acre (0.8 hectare) site in Jellore Street, Berrima in 1943. Their first job was to clear it of blackberries and other weeds which was all done using hand tools. Cypress trees (*C. torulosa* & *C. macrocarpa* 'Aurea') were planted as windbreaks.

During the war, vegetable seed was grown in the nursery for the "Mother Seed" program and a "Turn Key" horticultural operation in the Pacific. Through a national company, United Seeds, the Government granted military exemption to those people with expertise to produce pure strains of vegetable seed.

The harvested "mother seed" was stored in underground vaults for future replanting of crops should the Japanese invade Australia. A military program was to be implemented by the Australian Government to destroy all food crops and thus hinder and delay the Japanese military invasion, forcing them to extend their food supply logistics to rely on resupply by ship and thus force the Japanese to abandon military operations here.

The "Turn Key" operation involved a complete horticultural kit packed in wooden crates consisting of farming equipment for ploughing, tilling and sowing and manuals on the methods of planting and harvesting seed to be used in the Pacific War, to grow fresh food crops to feed the American Army.

They also produced and supplied a range of herbs for use as natural medicines in the war, being before the development of antibiotics.

After the war, an increasing range of cool climate trees and shrubs were propagated in the nurseries and sold throughout the State. Four glasshouses were used for propagation, which generally involved growing from seed, cuttings, budding and grafting.

An irrigation system was installed in 1946, using a small single cylinder engine. This was later superseded by a 6 HP three phase motor driving a 50mm centrifugal pump lifting 2700 litres of water an hour from the river delivered through an underground fibro-cement and steel reticulation system installed by Claude using hand tools.

It was a very labour intensive operation, with all weeding by hand and the only mechanisation small rotary tillers. Herbicides were not used, and pesticide usage kept to a minimum. Natural predators and birds were encouraged to assist in pest control.

By 1960, the nursery property had increased in size to 10 acres (4 ha) and consisted of the "Home Block" with the home and glasshouses, "The Corner", which became the public retail section and where the pump irrigation system was installed, and a separate open ground growing area in Wingecarribee Street with its own electric pump and underground irrigation system.

With the addition of a property across the river, Berrima Bridge Nurseries grew to 23 acres (about 9 hectares). Claude built a bridge to enable a small tractor and trailer to cross the river from the main property and this land was irrigated from the main system on the home side of the river. The blocks on that side of the river were warmer and

well drained.

In 1983, Isobel and Claude were joined in managing the nurseries by their son, Noel. A new 10 ha block was purchased at Robertson while new work sheds and facilities were constructed at both Robertson and Berrima and the business expanded to include a construction team to implement Noel's designs.

Claude was awarded an Order of Australia (OAM) and passed away in 1999. The business closed in 2000 and Isobel continued to live there until her passing in 2009.



Text written by Laurel Cheetham, Australian Garden History Society, Southern Highlands Branch with the assistance of Noel Crowe.

Centre photo courtesy *Highlife* magazine.

FREE RAHS WORKSHOP

A free 5 hour RAHS workshop has been arranged by the Society to be held at the Society's Archives in Mittagong

RESEARCHING MAPS AND LAND TITLES ON THE WEB

DATE: Saturday 28th May 2011

TIME: 9.30am

Presented by RAHS Councillors:

Dr Carol Liston

Dr Lesley Muir

The workshop has been designed for Community and Family Historians wanting to know more about using the internet for researching land. Participants will learn how to use the resources of NSW Land and Property Management Authority, including Torrens titles, boundaries and ownership, Parish, Town and Valuer-General maps as well as 1880s NSW property plans.

There will also be an optional segment describing 19th century NSW Land Laws and a presentation introducing land title research to beginners.

Numbers are limited and bookings are essential.
Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided.

Please phone the Archives on 4872 2169 to make a booking.

Miscellaneous items of interest

Mystery photo

If any readers know who this person might be, or have any clues that might help us discover her family connections, please contact the Archives.

The photo was donated some time ago and added to our collection, but any notes and details provided with it can no longer be located. Unfortunately, as is so often the case, nothing was written on the photo's reverse side.

It is assumed that, as the photo was added to our collection, there must be some local connection.



Thank you from Tumut District Historical Society

Thank you Max so much for the photos of Tumut, Adelong and Gundagai. They are wonderful to have (of a bygone era). We welcome visitors any time to our lovely town and please call in any time. Many thanks from our Society members. Sincerely, Daphne Clark, Secretary. (Written 16.4.2011)

Peabody Historical Society, Massachusetts USA

I have recently been in touch with the Peabody Historical Society of Massachusetts, USA who have been researching my wife's Osborn family in the 1800s. This society is very active covering areas north of Boston ie Salem, Danvers and Peabody and was founded in 1896.

Their president sent me an e-mail complimenting the Berrima & District Family Historical Society on their impressive website and suggested we keep in touch.

I shall be only too happy to do that, on behalf of the Society, if approved by the committee.

Bruce Moore

Did you know . . . ?

Australia House, in London, built of Bowral trachyte and Bondi sandstone, was Gringott's Bank in the film "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone".

Sally Ross

DIARY DATES

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 Historical Society
THURSDAY	14 JUL	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28 JUL	Monthly General Meeting	2:00 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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