BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER No 434 November 2011 PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 Telephone / Fax 0248 722 169 Website: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au Email: bdhsarchives@acenet.com.au ABN 29 362 616 937

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A RCHIVES:	Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.				
			m and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays. e books, journals and new sletters 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 \$10.00 - Single \$20.00 - Family \$33.00.					

AFFILIATIONS: Royal Australian Historical Society, NSW Association of Family History Societies, Museums Australia Inc & Regional Chapter.

ANNUAL GENERAL AND MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER MEETING: Thursday 24 November 2011 at 7:30pmVENUE:Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building,
Bowral Road, MittagongTOPIC:AGM and General MeetingSUPPER:To be served after the meeting - Members - please bring a
plate or a donation

JANUARY MEETING: Thursday 26 (Australia Day) January 2012 No Meeting Inside this month ...

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And more ...



Merry Christmas Happy New Year

This is our last newsletter for 2011. The next newsletter will arrive in your letterbox in January 2012. There is no January general meeting on <u>26 January 2012</u>. The Berrima District Historical and Family History Society wishes to take this opportunity to extend to all our members, a merry Christmas, and a very safe and happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back - renewed, relaxed, and ready for 2012.

AGM

WHEN: 24 November 2011 Following General Meeting at 7:30 pm

WHERE: Historical Society, Mittagong

Its time for our Annual General Meeting in November. As is the case every year, some people will not be nominating for positions. Please consider standing for a position that may interest you.

Christmas Closing Dates

Historical Society Archives

Closed Dec 13, 2011 **Open** Jan 9, 2012

Berrima District Museum

Open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm 7 days a week during school holidays, commencing on December 27, concluding on Australia Day.

Congratulations Dr Leah Day

Member Leah Day recently received a Phd from the University of Technology Sydney for her thesis on the life and work of Enoch Hughes who was responsible for building the blast furnace at Fitz Roy Iron Works, Mittagong, rolling mills at Sydney and Melbourne and iron works in Lithgow. Well done Leah and congratulations from the Society !

Diary dates

NOVEMBER

- 10 Management Committee Meeting
- 24 AGM & Monthly Meeting

DECEMBER

- 2 Christmas Dinner
- 8 Management Committee Meeting
- 13 Archives close at 4:00 pm for Christmas break.
- 20 School holidays commence
- 22 **NO** General Monthly Meeting
- 22 No General Monthly Meeting
 27 Society Museum Open Daily
 10:00 am 4:00 pm

JANUARY

- 9 Archives reopen after Christmas
- Management Committee Meeting
 Society Museum open Weekends and Holidays
- 26 **NO** Monthly General Meeting
- 29 School holidays conclude

Auditors Report

The Auditors report is unavailable for this newsletter. The figures will be presented at the AGM and posted out in the next newsletter.

New Constitution

The Special General Meeting held on 27 October adopted the proposed Constitution as mailed to all members as the Society's Constitution by special resolution, with one amendment and dating of the document.

Would members please make the following amendments to their copy of the proposed constitution booklet:

1. Date on front cover to be 27 October 2011

2. Alter wording of item 18 (3) by adding the words *in the same position* between the words office bearer and for a continuous period in the first line. Item (3) now reads *No person is permitted to serve as an office bearer in the same position for a continuous period exceeding three years.....*

3. Add date of 27 October 2011 to the paragraph Adopted by Special Resolution at a Special General Meeting held.....

If you would prefer to have a new copy of the constitution they are available from the Archives. Ken Reid



Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

Newsletter No. 434 November 2011

"Echoes of War in Avoca"

The service and sacrifice of a small rural community in two world wars is portrayed in a book written by Ron Mumford.

The book contains a small biography of each of those named on the World War I and World War II Honour Rolls displayed in the Avoca Hall.



At the send-off for James Cleary held in the Burrawang Hall on September 1, 1916, Mr Charles

Wright, first President of the Yarrunga/Avoca Progress Association, referred to this 36-year-old as "the last of the eligible soldiers from the district".

These few words were clear evidence of how deep an incision this war of attrition was making into a generation of Australian men, particularly those in rural communities.

Whether they fought in the trenches of Gallipoli, flew bomber aircraft, tended the wounded, worked on broken engines or cooked meals for the troops, every person who served in the Australian Military Forces during the conflicts put their own life on hold to help defend Australia.



Unveiling Honour Hall at Avoca Public School, November 1918

For those in the Avoca district who left to serve their country in both world wars, it meant the abandonment of primary industries such as farming and food production which was vital to the support of the troops as well as the loved ones at home.

Many paid the supreme sacrifice and others would never recover from the scars inflict by war. Without exception, the lives of those who returned were changed forever.

The Avoca Remembers Committee will launch its publication ECHOES OF WAR IN AVOCA ON SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2011 at 2.00 pm in the Avoca Hall ALL WELCOME

To be launched by well-known local historian Linda Emery

RSVP: Ron Mumford 48 623 083 <u>rmumford@bigpond.com</u>

The book will be available for purchase from the Archives

Professor of Music nameplate now on display at Archives

George Ernest Vincent (1874-1932) was a Professor of

Music in the local district. He regularly gave music lessons at his Mittagong residence where a brass nameplate was displayed.

This nameplate came into the possession of a Society member



who has kindly donated it to the Archives, where it is now mounted on permanent display on an inside wall.

Accompanying the plate is a framed poster that gives a brief outline of George's life in the district and his musical accomplishments. Some extracts are given below.

George was a self-taught, world-class musician who, when just a lad, moved to Mittagong with his family and went on to become deeply involved in the town bands of Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale.

At age 21 he was notified by Trinity College, London that he had been appointed an Associate of Music, the highest musical honour obtainable in Australia at that time.

The Association Band was established in Bowral in 1894 and George Vincent was appointed Bandmaster, a position he held until 1932. From 1908 George also served as organist and choirmaster at St Jude's in Bowral until his death in 1932.

George was a most prolific composer of all types of musical works. Amongst those he produced were the wellknown Easter anthem 'In the End of the Sabbath'; many part-songs, including 'Sweetest Love I do not go'; patriotic songs, such as 'The Soldier's Last Message'; dance tunes, of which the lilting mazurkas, 'Myee' and 'Ilma' were popular favourites; canticles, ballads, madrigals, and a mass of other material.

His fame extended beyond Australia. On the departure of

the first battle cruiser Australia from Portsmouth Harbour in Britain, his song 'The Star Crossed Flag of Australia' was played by the ship's band.

George helped establish the Bowral Choral Society in the 1920s, building the choir to a high standard, and he often stepped in as conductor, particularly during preparations for the "Haymakers".



George Vincent died on 6 March, 1932, at the age of 58, deeply mourned by family and locals.

President's Report Leonie Knapman

Another successful year has passed for our Museum and Archives. Our Senior Vice President Ken Reid took over the role of President for me when a number of projects I had been working on for some time, all came to fruition this year. I really appreciate the sterling job Ken has done in standing in for me and I'm sure all members would agree what a valued asset he is to our Society.

Thanks to our supporters who have assisted the Society with donations and grants throughout the year - special acknowledgement must be made of the continuing support given by Wingecarribee Shire Council. There are a number of organizations who also generously support the publication of our monthly newsletter with financial contributions.

Many projects and activities have been undertaken during the year - some completed and others still a work in progress. These include the digitizing of our Archives photographs and hard copy historical documents, installation and launch of the "Empire Theatre" exhibition at the Museum, purchase of new exhibition display stands, various promotional displays and book sales including displays at the Mittagong Market Place, Nowra History Fair, Moss Vale Showground Market Day, Hill Top Memorial Hall and Colo Vale book launch.

Member Shylie Brown has put in a great deal of time and effort into researching material for a new book to be produced by the Society entitled *Inns and Hotels in the Wingecarribee District.* We have a new Rate Book storage cabinet - thanks to Ian and Denise Mackey for making this very useful item. A "thank-you" morning tea for both archives and museum volunteers was held last December, and members enjoyed a Christmas Dinner and a very pleasant luncheon was held in June at the Prince Albert Inn. Several conferences and workshops have been attended by members as delegates of the Society. As usual we have had a variety of interesting and informative Guest Speakers throughout the year.

Gloria and Bob Williams were elected as Life Members of the Society in recognition of their many years of dedicated work for the Society and in particular at our Museum. They were also presented with *Heritage Heroes* awards from the Heritage Office.

Bob Williams arranged for the Museum to assist the Museum of Sydney present an exhibition on German Internees in NSW by the loan of several items from our German Internees exhibit.

DA approval was given for the proposed addition of a storage facility at the Museum. Also, congratulations

to Geoff Jones for his work on the gardens at the Museum.

Due to changes by the Department of Fair Trading, a new Society Constitution was accepted by members at a special meeting in October.

As the country representative on the Affiliated Societies of the Royal Australian Historical Society, I have been involved with the organizing of this year's conference at Maitland on the 29th and 30th November. The theme is *Of Drought and Flooding Rains' Australian Disasters: Research, Recording, Recovery.* I will give a full report in the next issue of our monthly magazine.

We have had more than our share of publicity this year. Our Publicity Officer has achieved an incredible amount of interest with well researched articles on local history in a number of publications. The Southern Highland News not only prints a weekly half page story along with a photograph from our archives collection, but have included us on their website.

Thank you, to those who each month supply information to the editor of our newsletter which now goes out to more than 300 members. Our profile is also increasing in the public eye with our website, which brings in inquiries and books sales from around the world. Our research officer now spends most days answering emails.

Many new books have been added to the approx 2500 in our library collection. Whilst some books can only be used in the research section, there are also books that can be borrowed by our members.

A couple of years ago when I asked my accountant if he would take on the BDH&FH Society Tax each year, he said so long as they were in reasonable condition. Complements to our Treasurer for her wellpresented books as he said they were the best community tax he has dealt with.

To the incoming committee I wish you the same success that we have achieved this year.

Conservation Report Sally Ross

The conservation group has worked on backing and enclosing various maps this year. I have worked on photographs belonging to the Badgery family. These are now ready to be returned together with a collection of maps that we had previously worked on.

Earlier this month I attended the Working Spaces 5 weekend at Galong, organised by the Lachlan Chapter of Museums Australia. The sessions I chose were very intensive. As usual it was an excellent weekend, although attendances were down on previous years. I thank Museums & Galleries for the grant which made this attendance possible.

Archivist Report Linda Emery

During the year the archives have continued to be very well patronised both by members and visiting researchers. In addition to personal visits, our volunteers deal with a huge variety of enquiries by email and mail. Over the past six months, we have been keeping a track of the number of enquiries we deal with and have found this to be anything from 60 to 100 a month. Sometimes these are easily dealt with, but often require extensive research or enquiry. The number of enquiries will give members some idea of the amount of work that goes on in the archives every week.

Accessions have again been significant this year, with 45 new donations received into the archives, ranging from photographic collections, books and ephemera that all add to our knowledge and holdings on the Southern Highlands. Among the photographs there have been many rare or unique images to add to our already impressive photographic collection.

We have had a number of new volunteers join us at the archives this year, all of whom are busily learning the ropes and making valuable contributions to the work we do in the archives.

Several ongoing projects are nearing completion, including Shylie Brown's excellent research and writing about the Pubs and Inns of the Southern Highlands, due to be published next year. The Society was fortunate to receive a grant of \$1,500 from the Royal Australian Historical Society to help with the cost of publishing the book. Janet Black is working on a revised edition of Southern Highlands Soldiers in the Boer War by Colin Sproule and Narelle Bowern on the street names of Moss Vale, both of which we look forward to seeing in print before long.

Photo cataloguing is proceeding slowly but surely and in the coming year we hope that we will be in a position to upload much of our photo collection to the internet. It is a much larger task than we first anticipated, but we are fortunate to have several dedicated volunteers doing a great job in transferring scanned images and data to our new cataloguing program.

In addition to research enquiries, we also have the many day-to-day tasks of cleaning, filing, updating storage requirements to name but a few. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers. Even if you can spare just a few hours a month, especially domestic Gods and Goddesses who might like to do a bit of dusting now and then, we would love to hear from you.

Publicity Report Philip Morton

The main role of Publicity Officer, as I see it, is to disseminate information regarding guest speakers at monthly meetings and, over the past year, I have provided information to members each month via the newsletter. Also I distributed promotional flyers to local libraries and some cafes and bookshops. Plus a brief outline was provided to the local newspaper and radio stations that sometimes gained coverage.

Members of the public with an interest in a particular month's speaker topic have turned up to our meetings and been grateful for the opportunity. Some even joined up as members.

Society events and activities of interest were regularly covered with a write-up and photos in the newsletter. These included:

• the Tulip Time display at Bradman Museum, the November 2010 book stall fundraiser at Mittagong Marketplace and the Volunteers Morning Tea at the Archives (all in January newsletter)

• Australia Day at Berrima and a report on the museum's busy holiday period including the very successful Mystery Object Quiz (in February newsletter)

• The opening of the new Bowral Central Library Local Studies Room (April)

• Mothers' Day raffle and book stall at Mittagong Marketplace (June)

• June luncheon at Prince Albert Inn (July).

As Publicity Officer, I have contributed to the local newspaper each week articles that provide historical information about the district for the interest of the general reading public. This also serves to keep the Society in the public eye.

Research material for these articles is drawn firstly from the vast collection at the Archives, but other sources are tapped into as required. For instance, Judith Green was very helpful in providing background information for the articles on the Moss Vale Show's history. Prim Moss provided valuable assistance with the story on Sophie Corrie and the Art of Canning. Marie Chalker was responsible for getting the Prince Albert Inn history on the right track. Their efforts and those of the many others who have helped are most appreciated.

A collaboration effort with our museum exhibition curator, Lyn Hall, resulted in the three-part Empire Cinema history being one of the most popular articles in the paper in 2011 and it also helped draw people to visit the Empire display at the museum. Hopefully, the effort put into Publicity contributes to the Society being regarded by the people of the Southern Highlands and beyond as a valuable resource that preserves and disseminates the history of the Berrima District.



A sincere 'Thank you' to my fellow volunteers for devoting your time, expertise and enthusiasm to the museum. I appreciate your support in all aspects of the museum's operation. The last twelve months have been a very busy period for all involved. Here are some of the highlights -

The museum was connected to the internet and it is a very valuable resource.

Objects in our museum, that were made or owned by German internees in Berrima during WW1, were listed on the State Heritage Register, along with the riverside site of their daytime activities.

The museum hosted the Anzac Day breakfast following the Dawn Service.

Lyn Hall received a Certificate of Appreciation in a Federal Government initiative during National Volunteers Week, to recognize volunteers' contributions to the community.

We lent three objects to the Museum of Sydney for its exhibition 'The Enemy at Home' which told the story of the German internment camps in New South Wales in WW1. The exhibition ran for four months.

Gloria and I received a joint award in the NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards. Later in the year we were pleased to be recipients of Honorary Life Membership of BDH&FHS.

The museum's Development Application for a conservation and storage facility was approved by Wingecarribee Shire Council.

We hosted an extraordinary Chapter meeting to discuss the Watt review of Museums and Galleries NSW following ten years of operation.

The newly appointed German Ambassador, Matthias Sonn, requested a private viewing of the museum for himself and his partner. They spent around 1½ hours absorbing information and enjoyed their experience. The museum has been included in the Berrima map produced by the Berrima Business Houses.

Objects received this year include Masonic Lodge items belonging to the late Alf Knapman and accessories belonging to Leonie Knapman's mother, the late Phyllis Goodwin.

An exhibition on the longest running commercial cinema in Australia, the Empire Cinema, Bowral, was officially opened in June. An exhibition titled 'Babies of Yesteryear' was created by two of our newer volunteers. The Mystery Object Quiz is very popular with our visitors.

The museum's volunteers greet visitors; research objects and exhibitions; create graphic art to support exhibitions and promotion; create smaller displays; host group visits; do regular cleaning; mow lawns; maintain garden beds; organise rosters; accession new arrivals; photograph objects; write descriptions and condition reports for objects; write grant install maintain applications; and electronic equipment; serve on the Museum Committee in various capacities; arrange promotion and publicity; open the museum on Saturdays, Sundays, most public holidays, school holidays, Mother's Day and Father's Day; attend Chapter meetings; liaise with other organisations; maintain the building; cater for volunteer meetings and do data entry. The list seems endless. Well done! I look forward to seeing you all at our annual Thank You Morning Tea.

The quality of the work carried out by my fellow volunteers is reflected in the comments in the museum's Visitors Book.

Our thanks go to the local media for its support during the year. This includes ABC Illawarra, Highlands FM and Radio 2ST; Southern Highlands News and Highlands Post; Southern Highlands Visitors Guide and Your Times.

Library Report Caroline Dougherty

Thanks to those members who donated books to the library over the last twelve months, many excellent books have been received and catalogued. Those deemed unsuitable for our collection were sold on to our members to assist in raising much needed funds. A number were duplicates and these we are now holding in stack in the store room upstairs in the Archives.

Space limitations have resulted in some culling of the collection primarily where we have multiple copies of books, the extra copies being retained but placed in stack as above.

A shelf check will be carried out over the month of November to ensure all books are correctly located in the right order and identify any missing items.

Newsletter Report Lavinia Ford

Alas another eleven months has indeed fleetingly sneaked away, and as such this is the last newsletter for this year. So, I would like to wish each and every member a safe and wonderful festive season, and a new year filled with health, safety, peace and joy.

As always the newsletter has been full of interesting articles and society news, much of which was a flowon from Philip Morton's publicity of our society. Thank you for your invaluable assistance Philip.

Thank you to all the members who have contributed articles towards the newsletter and assisted in folding and posting - I cannot thank you all enough.

Other societies send us their newsletters and journals which provide a vast array of tips and tricks as well as being very interesting and informative. They are located in our library.

The 2011 newsletter distribution has decreased. We distribute 257 newsletters to our 315 members, and a further 57 to other societies and legal deposits, giving a total of 314 newsletters, a decrease of 9 on last year.

At the conclusion of this year we will have posted our newsletter to 167 members and 39 legal deposits and we will have emailed our newsletter to 90 members and 18 legal deposits.

Honorary Life Members Single Members Family Members	Members 7 195 <u>113</u> 315	Newsletters 5 195 57 * 257
Wingecarribee NSW Country NSW Metro ACT VIC QLD	181 35 33 3 1 <u>4</u> *257	_
Legal Deposits Other Societies	17 <u>40</u> 57	314

Based on figures for 2010, HLM membership has decreased by 1, Single membership has decreased by 4 and family membership has decreased by 4. Of

those figures, Wingecarribee has decreased by 4, NSW Country is unchanged, NSW Metro has decreased by 3, ACT has decreased by 1, Victoria has decreased by 1, and Queensland unchanged.

As a matter of interest, the majority of members reside in the Wingecarribee (181) and is divided as follows: Bowral (57), Mittagong (51), Moss Vale (29), Bundanoon (16), Berrima (3), Burradoo (3), Colo Vale (3), Exeter (3), Willow Vale (3), Hill Top (2), Sutton Forest (2), Alpine (1), Avoca (1), Aylmerton (1), Burrawang (1), High Range (1), Kangaloon (1), Kangaroo Valley (1), New Berrima (1), Mt Murray (1), Tallong (1), Wingello (1).

Treasurer's Report

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to present the Annual Financial Statements covering the year 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011, for the information of members.

The accounts again show expenditure which will be an overall benefit to the Society. During the year our main purchases were an upgrade of the security system at the Museum, a display panel system, the first part of a new search program to replace Heritage V at the Archives and payment to Art & Archival for their Significance Assessment and Preservation Needs Assessment of the collections held at the Archives which was covered by a grant received in the previous financial year. Expenses have been incurred with the planning and Council approval for the Museum extension which have been partly covered by a grant of \$5,000 received from Wingecarribee Shire Council

The Special Purpose Account grew by \$831.06 as a result of raffles, the levy on sales of *Digging up the Past* and a member donation as we raise funds for a new microfilm reader/printer for the Archives.

My thanks go to our auditors Ross Cowley & Co. who have again agreed to audit our accounts.

My thanks also go to those members who contribute to the collection of funds from various sources throughout the Society - their continuing efforts are greatly appreciated.





DIARY DATES						
THURSDAY THURSDAY		Management Committee Meeting Monthly General Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting	y the 7:30 pm at the Historical Society			
FRIDAY THURSDAY TUESDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY	13 DEC 20 DEC	Christmas Dinner Management Committee Meeting Archives close for Christmas Break School holidays commence NO Monthly General Meeting	6:30 pm at the Scottish Arms, Bowral 4:00 pm			
MONDAY THURSDAY SUNDAY	9 JAN 12 JAN 29 JAN	Archives reopen following Christmas Management Committee Meeting School holidays conclude	Break 10:00 am			

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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.

Boral

Hypercet Printing Retravision/Home Hardware, Mittagong Southern Highlands Food & Wine Inc Springetts Arcade