

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 436 February 2012

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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 \$10.00 - 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 23 February 2012 at 7:30pm

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

Our guest speaker will precede the general meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER: John Vickery

John is President of the Tamworth Historical Society and great grandson of Ebenezer Vickery. John will be giving a talk on Ebenezer and the Fitzroy Iron Works. The talk will include family memorabilia and insights into the man himself.

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

MARCH MEETING: Thursday 22 March 2012 at 7:30pm

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

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And more ...



Diary dates

FEBRUARY

- 9 Management Committee Meeting
23 Monthly General Meeting - talk by **John Vickery** on *Ebenezer Vickery and the Fitzroy Iron Works*

MARCH

- 8 Management Committee Meeting
22 Monthly General Meeting - TBA.

APRIL

- 12 Management Committee Meeting
26 Monthly General Meeting - TBA

From the President's desk

Ken Reid

The Christmas School Holidays have been and gone, and a very special thank-you to Museum Curator, Bob Williams, Gloria Williams and all our other Museum Volunteers who made their time available to keep the Museum open every day. Having the Museum open during the holidays is very rewarding for the Society, and I trust that all visitors also had a rewarding experience. Thank you again everyone for a great job!

With the Archives reopen after the Christmas break, it has been very busy with over 40 enquiries received which has involved many hours spent in researching the information requested (mainly by Max), as well as the continuing work of the volunteers at the Archives with digitizing and recording our material. With all this work going on, plus members or visitors doing their own research and Archivist Linda, Secretary Philip, Membership Secretary Peg, Speaker's and Tours coordinator Bruce and Treasurer Jan all working on their duties, Monday's and Tuesday's are a hive of activity. I would also welcome our newer volunteers and thank you for your involvement with the vital role of preserving the District's history.

Also, a very special thank-you to Carol & Jim Hutton who spent several days steam-cleaning the carpet in the upstairs meeting room and foyer area outside the kitchen as well as a clean-up of the stairway. Carol and Jim both put in a lot of hard work to complete this very worthwhile job.

I noted in last month's President's Piece that I anticipated that Shylie Brown's book would probably be published in the early part of this year, but I was not aware that there is still a deal of work to be carried out to reach publishing stage, so it will most likely now be in the latter part of this year before it is available.

In closing: *to write with a broken pencil is pointless*

President Ken

New members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Robert **Barrett**, Bowral
Lindy **Bell**, Moss Vale
Jock **Bidwell**, Moss Vale
Jason **Ciprian**, Mittagong
Ralph **Clark**, Bundanoon
Lynn **Davies**, Bowral
Peter & Patricia **Doris**, Mittagong
Rachel **Fonti**, Mittagong
R K **McMenomy**, Penrose
Ian **Oates**, Moss Vale
Cheryl **Ouwerling**, Tweed Heads
Deborah **Schultz**, Curtin ACT
Kim Maree **Smith**, Moss Vale
Rose **Tsakiris**, Tinana, Old

Here's to a long and happy association.

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

Market Place, Berrima
Neat 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.

Newsletter

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

Wingecarribee butter factory

*The Scrutineer Saturday 16 June 1894
page 4 col 4*

This factory ceased butter making on Tuesday last, and is now sending the whole of its milk into the Sydney market. The company has made arrangements for cold storage at the Government Meat Stores, Pyrmont, and a Sydney manager has been appointed. The present supply is 300 gallons of milk a day.



KANGALOON: Waratah Dairy Factory, East Kangaloon 1891-1905.



The original Emu Butter Factory at Wildes Meadow [S R Beer, Bowral - photographer]

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

Research fees

Research fees 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.

Museum showcases its collection

The Society's Museum at Berrima displays a fascinating variety of historical objects from the collection in glass showcases located in the 'middle' room, known as the Bicentennial Room.

One special showcase in the room features new acquisitions and this is updated regularly.

Australian Federation Commemorative Mug

On display is this souvenir Australian Federation china mug.

Donated many years ago by the Rev. T Barrand, it bears a 'Rose and Waratah' pattern with green decorations, designed by John Slater and John Shorter.

"Australian Federation 1901" is in a scroll below a vignette of

Queen Victoria, flanked by an Australian infantryman or a Light Horseman on foot wearing a slouch hat, and a British infantryman wearing a pith helmet.

The matching caramel coloured Federation mug shown in the image below is a recent acquisition, donated by Roger Seville of Berrima. It will be on display in the New Arrivals case.

The vignettes on the reverse side of the mugs show the then Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, Sir Henry Parkes, and Lord Hopetoun the Governor General.

These earthenware mugs were made by Doulton & Co, Burslem works, England in 1901.



Another donation on display is a collection of child's brown leather court shoes with buttoned ankle strap and child's brown leather boots, brogue style, size 4. These date to the late 1800s.

These shoes were given to the donor Merran Kingsford-Smith in Melbourne around 1973 when she was procuring props for period television series. As they are unworn they may have been salesmen's samples.



The timber photographic exposure frames, shown below, belonged to Rosalind Badgery and were one of many items offered to the museum by her niece Jennifer Hammond.



Also now featured on display are the Match Box Covers from circa 1940s. Printed on tin with risqué novelty cartoons typical of the kind sold at holiday locations as souvenirs. Owned by Phylis & Bill Goodwin, parents of the donor Leonie Knapman.



Compiled by Lyn Hall and Philip Morton

February guest speaker has an ironworks family connection

John Vickery, President of Tamworth Historical Society, will be the guest speaker at our monthly meeting in February.

John will give a presentation about his ancestor Ebenezer Vickery, who played a significant role at the FitzRoy Iron Works in Mittagong.

Ebenezer Vickery, his great grandfather, was the Chairman of the FitzRoy Ironworks at Mittagong from 1864 to 1872.

One of the very few items from Ebenezer that the family has is the seal of the FitzRoy Ironworks that is in John's possession and he will bring it to the meeting for all to see.



FitzRoy is an historically interesting ironworks as it is the site where the first Australian iron ore was smelted with Australian coal to pig-iron.

Ebenezer was a controversial person, son of a bookmaker, who made himself one of the wealthiest persons in the colony. It is said that "You don't make omelettes without breaking eggs" and in his case he raided a lot of hen houses!



As the family holds virtually no records of Ebenezer's business activities, John has been trying to find out for most of his adult life what his great grandfather actually did. Even now he feels that he has just scraped the surface of a very complex man.

John will include a little of Ebenezer's family background and his life, together with some photographs and comments about his ancestor's business enterprises that he has managed to accumulate.



The Monthly Meeting will be held at the Mittagong Archives in the upstairs meeting room on Thursday 23 February, commencing 7:30pm.

All members, friends and visitors welcome to attend.

Museum busy in holiday period

Lyn Hall

The January holiday period is always a busy time for Berrima with plenty of people travelling through or visiting. The Society's Museum opened every day to provide a "not to be missed" attraction.

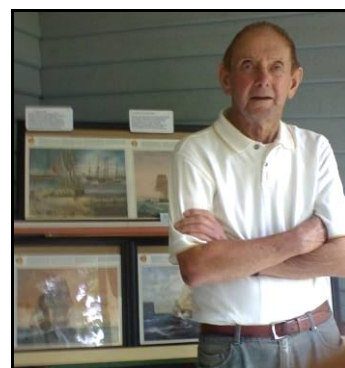
During the latter-half of December and through much of January there were numerous overseas visitors. The following locations are from the Visitors Book:

From UK: Lancashire, Northumberland, Somerset, South Yorkshire, London and Aberdeen. Also from: Stannsslad (Switzerland); Berlin (Germany); Ontario (Canada); Auckland and Otaki (New Zealand); also from Poland, Denmark and Malaysia.

A big annual event at Berrima is the Australia Day celebration commencing with a formal ceremony and various diverse attractions throughout the day. Two of our gallant volunteers elected to dress up and mingle through the crowds and entice people to visit the museum. Despite their appearance they had quite a lot of success!

Photo shows convict **John Schweers** (a new museum sub-committee member) and his guard **Philip Morton**, our very enthusiastic Publicity Officer who never seems to run out of energy and good ideas.

As well on Australia Day, the local chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters set up a marquee on the front lawn of the museum and a display stand on the verandah. A team of local first fleeters were on hand to chat to and inform visitors interested in the descendants from the first white settlers in the early days of the colony at Sydney Cove.



Pictured are **Glenda Miskelly** and **Don Moore**, First Fleeters and members of our Society who helped out on Australia Day at the museum.

Memories of Wanganderry

This article is a shortened version of a feature produced by, and used here with the permission of, ABC Open Illawarra Producer Sean O'Brien.

The full feature is available on the ABC website.

Miss Rosalind Badgery was one of a kind, and a farming legend in her community. Her large property Wanganderry, west of Mittagong in the Southern Highlands, has recently been sold.

"The only way I'll leave Wanganderry is feet foremost." These were the defiant words of Rosalind Badgery, then in her spritely mid 80s, when ABC Open Illawarra producer Sean O'Brien interviewed her for a radio feature several years ago.



Now, Miss Badgery has sadly passed on and her Wanganderry property, nearly 2,000 acres of rich basalt grazing land on the edge of the Nattai National Park, has recently gone to auction. The large auction sign stands next to the front gate, with a big red **SOLD** sticker across it.

"Developers are always knocking on the door telling me they'll give me so many millions for the place", Miss Badgery told Sean. "I'll give them a cup of tea and politely decline their offer".

Miss Rosalind Badgery was Sean's nearby neighbour on the Wombeyan Caves Road. She was a legend in the district. Rosalind lived alone in her old ramshackle timber cottage, and ran her enormous property virtually single handed right into her late 80s. She was adamant that rich farming land such as hers, so close to the metropolis, should remain productive rather than become a glorified housing estate.

Many large properties in the Southern Highlands have been subdivided for expensive hobby farms, or even purchased by mining companies. Potentially, as the auction sign states, Wanganderry may be subdivided into 12 or more smaller lots. However, there is talk that Wanganderry may remain as large parcel farmland, which would make Rosalind very happy. Good productive farmland. Either way, with Miss Badgery gone, an era has passed.

Rosalind was a daughter of the pioneering Badgerys. Her father purchased Wanganderry, which means water running through rocks, back in the early 1920s. He built the timber cottage with his own hands and without a set square, hence the structure's many

unusual angles, and together with his wife raised Rosalind and her sister Cecily on the property. Running sheep, and later cattle, Rosalind's father was engaged in a constant battle with the thousands of rabbits that burrowed over the property.

Rosalind recalled an idyllic childhood. She and her sister would ride their horses down the bridle track into the Burragorang Valley with a picnic, take a dip in the Wollondilly River, and be home by teatime.

An incredibly bright school student, Rosalind could have gained a university scholarship. She would have loved to have studied science. But when the Second World War broke out and the men of the district left for the battlefields, Rosalind chose to stay on the land and help her father run Wanganderry.

However, by the late 1960s Rosalind was alone. Her father, mother, and tragically her sister, had all passed away. For another 40 years Rosalind diligently tended Wanganderry, until in 2010 she finally realised the isolation was too much, and she moved into Mittagong. Never comfortable in town, Rosalind apparently pined for her property every day, and within a year she herself had passed away.

In some ways you could say Miss Rosalind Badgery was married to Wanganderry. She loved the property, and the surrounding wild country.

On one of Sean's visits to her cottage, Rosalind enthusiastically produced her slide collection. The beautiful Kodachrome images catalogued the hundreds of wildflowers and native flora specimens Rosalind had observed on her adventurous treks into the steep gorges of the Nattai wilderness. In fact, several of the wildflowers were discovered by Rosalind, and named by her.

Although Rosalind spent all her years within the boundaries of Wanganderry, she was entirely satisfied with the life she led. In many ways, in true Badgery style, Rosalind was a pioneer, a woman who took on a large property during an era when women traditionally worked in the home, or in nursing or similar.

We will never again see the likes of Miss Rosalind Badgery, and she is keenly missed. It remains to be seen what will happen to her beloved Wanganderry.



Photos: (top) Rosalind with 'Twinkle' (courtesy *Highlife*) and above Wanganderry homestead in 1945 (BDH&FHS).

Striking Bowral CBD bank built 1884

Article compiled by P Morton

When a new building for the Commercial Bank opened in Bowral it attracted great interest, as indicated by the following article from the *Bowral Free Press* of March 1884 which provided incredible detail.

"In order to keep pace with their rapidly extending and increasing business the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney has just completed the erection of a striking and handsome building in the township of Bowral.

On Monday last the bank moved from offices rented to the new premises. We are now able to present a descriptive account of the building.

Situated at the junction of Bong Bong and Merrigang streets, about fifty yards from the railway station, building operations were commenced in December 1882.

The architect was Mr Mansfield and the building contractor was Mr J J Campbell, whose business abilities are well known locally.

The style of architecture is 'Italianate'. The building is constructed of brick on heavy brick foundation with a stone base and is one storey high above the ground floor. There is a dwarf iron fence on a stone foundation facing Bong Bong and Merrigang streets, the stone being rounded at the top. At equal distances there are three beautifully carved pillars of freestone. A galvanized iron fence divides the bank allotments.

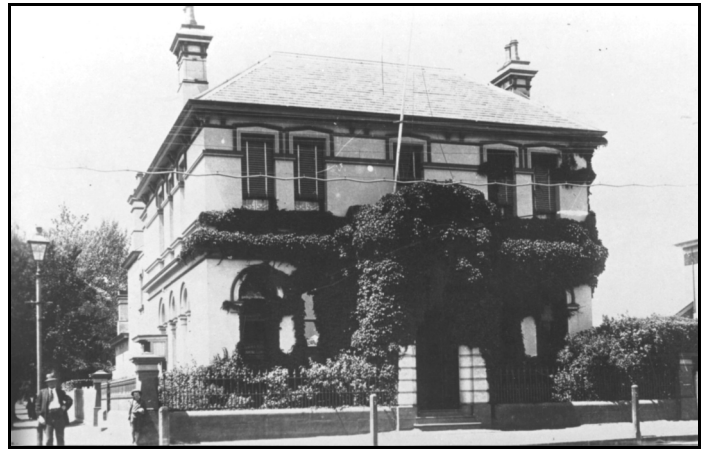
Facing Bong Bong Street is a modest though striking porch 4 feet wide by 7 feet long with slate steps and encaustic tiled floor. At the porch entrance is a five-paneled cedar door which fastens with an iron swing bar and bolt, staple, and Chubbs' patent padlock.

Passing through a double swing door of polished cedar we enter the business or public room, which is most elegantly furnished. At the right end of a 4 feet wide counter is the clerk's desk.

The inside is cemented, and there is a heavy cornice and girthing about three feet, with medallions every ten inches from centre, and a centre-flower, three feet six inches in diameter.

The strong room is entered from the right end of the clerk's desk. It has an arched roof of four rings of brick and cement on edge. The walls are 22 and a half inches thick.

The depth of the foundation is 6 feet, with one sheet of 6 pound lead covering the whole of the floor, with a top covering of two inches Yorkshire flagging.



The manager's room is at the left side of the public room. There is a fireplace with marble mantel-piece and grate; also an electric bell with wire running to the adjoining room. There is a hall leading out of the manager's room, in which there are four Clarke's electric bells with wires running to the same number of rooms.

The dining room is at the right of the hall and further along there are the pantry and kitchen, fitted up with a Lemmington stove.

A verandah extends along the back of the dining room with a store room at the western end, over which there is a bathroom thoroughly fitted up and entered from a balcony. Behind the kitchen are a wash-house with copper fittings and a fuel yard.

Returning to the hall the first storey is reached by a handsome flight of open string stairs of polished cedar with carved newel and swan-neck handrails, turned banisters, and panel spandril at bottom of under landing. At the head of the stair case there is a square landing, and the first room entered is the drawing room containing a fireplace with a white marble mantel-piece; the fittings are of cedar, the room plastered, with a cornice.

Another passage, running parallel with the balcony, leads to two bedrooms on the left side and one at the extreme end; and at the right of the passage there are a linen room and another bedroom. To the east of the landing are the servants' room and another linen room. All the windows are fitted with Venetian blinds.

At the back of the building is an underground tank, 14 feet deep and 12 feet in diameter, bricked and cemented. There is also a substantial brick coach house and stable, the latter with two stalls, loft, and a flagged floor, and a manure pit at rear.

The building's roof is of Welsh Banger slates, and a leaden piping carries rain water to the tank.

The completion of this structure has added very considerably to the architecture of the town."

Footnote: Sadly the building was demolished in 1960 and replaced with modern brick premises.

Bank images from NAB archives

In researching the establishment of local premises for the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, last year our researchers made contact with the National Australia Bank archives in Melbourne, the repository of all their early records.

While details are sketchy, the CBCS had opened banking chambers in the Wingecarribee district firstly at Berrima, then at Bowral and Mittagong, and later at Moss Vale and Robertson.

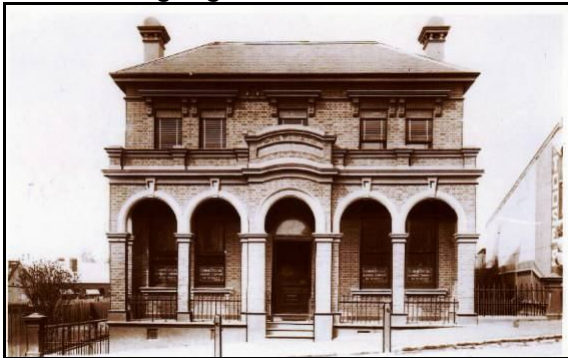
It appears the Berrima branch was first located in the building that became the White Horse Inn but it is not known if the bank constructed the building.

It certainly did build the premises in Bowral and Mittagong, both to an almost identical design by architect Mr Mansfield. Moss Vale and Robertson branches were constructed to a slightly later design.

The NAB archives provided the images shown here.



CBCS Mittagong



CBCS Moss Vale



CBCS Robertson

RAHS acknowledges our efforts

In the December 2011 issue of the Royal Australian Historical Society's magazine 'History', several mentions were given to our Society and its activities and contributions.

Grant to 'Hotels and Inns in the Southern Highlands'

The Cultural Grants funded by Arts NSW and administered by the RAHS were awarded at the RAHS State Conference.

Amongst the many awards made to various historical societies throughout the state, the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society was listed as receiving \$1,500 for 'Hotels and Inns in the Southern Highlands 1825 to 1925'.

This future publication is described as being a referenced biography of each of the hoteliers, innkeepers and their families and also including a comprehensive listing of all inns and hotels as a CD.

Linda Emery receives the 2011 Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) Merit Award

This Award is granted in recognition of a meritorious contribution to the community history and heritage movement nationally.



The Award was presented to Linda Emery, Archivist for the BDH&FH Society, professional historical researcher, local historian and author of several books. Linda also serves on several committees concerned with the preservation and management of heritage sites in the Southern Highlands. The nomination was recommended by the RAHS.

RAHS Dewey's Library News

An expression of appreciation was expressed in History magazine to our Society for the provision of a collection of amazing early Taronga Zoo images to the RAHS collection.

These images had been in the possession of our Society however the Archivist felt they would be better placed with the RAHS and thus more available to researchers and historians of early Sydney.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	9 FEB	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23 FEB	Monthly General Meeting	
THURSDAY	8 MAR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	22 MAR	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	12 APR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26 APR	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society

If undelivered return to:
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
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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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