

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 439 May 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

MAY MEETING: Thursday 24 May 2012 at 2:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: Max Rogers and Philip Morton
Max and Philip will present the story of local motor racing identity Charlie Jackson and his wife, and their association with the Berrima District Automobile Club.
SUPPER: To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

JUNE LUNCHEON: Thursday 28 June 2012 at 12:00pm
VENUE: Eling Forest Winery, Hume Highway, Berrima, south of Berrima before the Illawarra Highway junction
GUEST SPEAKER: Noeline Brown

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And more ...



Diary Dates

MAY

10 Management Committee Meeting
24 Monthly General Meeting

JUNE

6 Hillview, Sutton Forest tour
14 Management Committee Meeting
28 Monthly General Meeting

JULY

12 Management Committee Meeting
26 Monthly General Meeting

June tour *Bruce Moore*

Here's a brief update on our tour next month:

We're invited to see 'Hillview' (the old Governor's residence) at Sutton Forest on Wednesday, 6th June at 10am.

I suggest tag along driving, meeting at Mittagong Station car park (shops side) at 9.15 and again for collection at Bowral swimming pool at 9.30. Alternatively meet at Hillview by 10am.

BYO lunch as we may be able to dine on the lawn, weather permitting.

Cost is \$10 per head and we're looking forward to a mystery visit after lunch.

From the President's desk *Ken Reid*

Our April meeting speaker, Charlotte Webb, attracted another large number of members and visitors. Charlotte's illustrated presentation was very informative, covering the evolution of gardens in the Southern Highlands from the early 1800s to the present. Speaker's Convenor, Bruce Moore,

thanked Charlotte on behalf of those present.

This meeting was the last evening meeting as we head into the colder months. Our daytime winter meetings start this month and commence at 2.00pm.

As you will see in a separate article, our June Luncheon is to be held at Eling Forest Winery. This should be one not to be missed with Noeline Brown as Guest Speaker. Book early!

You will also see in a separate item that Harper's Mansion have offered our members free admission to their historic property. This is a most generous offer and a great opportunity to visit and see the improvements that have been made. While in Berrima, take the opportunity to visit our Museum and catch up on the Exhibits that may have changed since your last visit - entry is free to members.

The Archives recently hosted a visit by WSC General Manager, Jason Gordon, and two newly appointed Deputy General Managers, Ann Prendergast and Phil Marshall. This visit gave them an insight into the valuable asset we hold covering the District's history, heritage and family history. Archivist, Linda Emery, spoke of our plans for the ongoing digitization of our photographic collection and other ideas for the preservation of our collection. Hard copies of items from our collection were displayed which they found very interesting. This was a great opportunity for the new Deputy General Managers to see first-hand our holdings and the work carried out at the Archives as they had only commenced duty the week of the visit. Ann is Deputy General Manager - Corporate & Strategies, and Phil, Deputy General Manager - Operations. I extend a warm welcome to new members Mr Richard Webb, Kiama Downs; Mrs Julie Walker, Bowral; Mr Robert and Mrs Gwen Herbert, Bowral and Ms Colleen Hitchen, Bundanoon.

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

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.

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.

Newsletter

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

Free admission to Harper's Mansion

In a recent letter from Chris Thompson, Secretary of Harper's Mansion in Berrima, members of our Society are offered free admission to this historic property until April 2013.

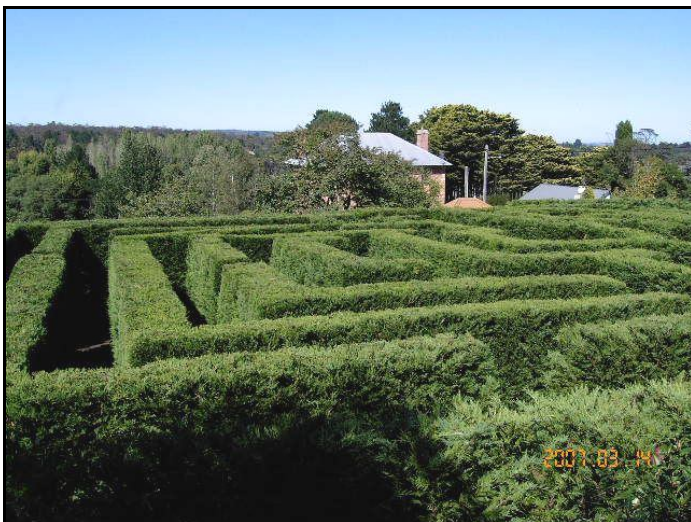


To take advantage of this offer, members need to show a current membership card to the Harper's Mansion guides on arrival. Any accompanying persons would need to pay the normal admission charge. Harper's is open every weekend 10:30am to 4:00pm and most public holidays.

Chris Thompson hopes this will encourage members to visit or revisit the property and to bring along their friends. A number of improvements have been made recently that should add to the experience as well as some on-going projects including the establishment of a heritage rose garden.

Harper's Mansion is a National Trust (NSW) property and is listed on the NSW Government Heritage Register as a property of State heritage significance.

The circa 1834 house is a fine example of a colonial Georgian residence furnished in period style. The house is set in two acres of gardens of cool climate heritage plants overlooking Berrima and features one of the largest hedge mazes in Australia.



Early Industries on display at WSC

As part of the 2012 National Trust Heritage Festival the Wingecarribee Shire Council in conjunction with our Society and the National Trust presented *Industrial Innovation & Invention in the Wingecarribee* a display that was mounted in the Foyer Gallery at the Council Chambers in Moss Vale during April.



Curated by Sarah Websdale Farnese, the Heritage Land Use Planner at Council, the superb display was mounted with the help of member Leonie Knapman, using historic materials borrowed from the Society that included the large original oil painting of Black Bob's Bridge done by Ulf Kaiser. This painting usually hangs in the front alcove of the upstairs meeting room at our Mittagong Research Centre.



A reproduction was also on display of a painting of the first David Lennox designed sandstone bridge that opened at Berrima in 1836 but that was unfortunately destroyed by flood in 1860.

Extracts and images from the story panels of the *Early Industries in the Berrima District* exhibition at the Society's museum in Berrima were also featured at the council display and credited with signage that encouraged people to visit the museum.

June luncheon at Eling Forest

The June luncheon will be held this year at Eling Forest Winery located on the Hume Highway south of Berrima just before the Illawarra Highway junction. The cost is \$35 for members and their guests, and \$45 for non-members.

Noeline Brown is the guest speaker. Seating is limited and will be available to interested non-members, so members who wish to attend should book as soon as possible by phone or email to the Archives. The menu selections are:

Entree

Salad of Gravalax cured Salmon with cucumber & dill, or
Goat Cheese, leek & baby Spinach Tart
with balsamic reduction

Main Course

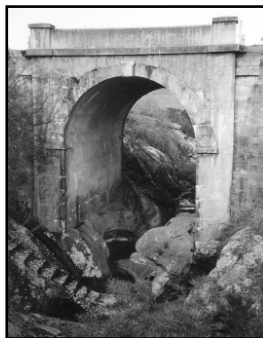
Lamb Pie with butter puff Pastry, or
Chicken & Mushroom Pie with Filo

Eling Forest and the Morrice family

In the 1830s Surveyor-General Mitchell marked a new road through the Wingecarribee district for the Great Southern Road (eventually to be the Hume Highway). At Alpine Hill it deviated westward from an earlier south road to avoid the steep Mittagong Range and the flood-prone river at Bong Bong. Mitchell's road proceeded through Nattai (now Mittagong) and on to a river crossing at Berrima and then directly to Goulburn.

The earlier South (Argyle) Road of the 1820s went through Bong Bong and to Sutton Forest from where it branched, with one line heading westward. When Mitchell's new road was built through, it intersected with this branch at a point called The Crossroads (now Hoddle's Crossroad) that is located about 20km south of Berrima near where Black Bob's Creek flows westward to join the Wingecarribee River.

An elegantly compact stone bridge designed by colonial architect David Lennox (and still standing) was built for the new road to cross Black Bob's Creek, which was probably called after an Aboriginal tribal elder. As many as 300 Aboriginals are said to have camped there at certain times of year.



In the 1820s, before the new road was put through, the wild wooded country around Black Bob's Creek, although isolated, was easily accessible from Sutton Forest, the district's most populous settlement at that time. The Black Bob's area had fine land suitable for farming and grazing, so land grants there were eagerly sought.

One such grant of 1000 acres, promised in 1824 to free settler William Lang, was released in 1835 to the Morrice brothers, John and William, who took possession of the land and established the Eling Forest and Comfort Hill properties.

The Morrice brothers

William and his younger brother John were from a British family involved in ship building and their father David had tea plantations in the West Indies. The brothers were raised in Jamaica, with John born there in 1811, but educated in the home country.

The Morrice brothers came to Australia in 1834 on the ship *James* with Rev. Dr John Dunmore Lang who had chartered the vessel to bring Presbyterian clergymen, teachers and skilled immigrants to the colony. Near Brazil provisions ran desperately short

and Dr Lang was obliged to accept a loan from the Morrises to replenish supplies.

Dr Lang, as a means of repayment for the loan, released his father William Lang's 1000-acre grant at Sutton Forest to the Morrice brothers for the sum of £500. Dr Lang was able to do this because his father had died and, as eldest son, he inherited the estate.

In August 1836 a Deed of Partition was drawn up with John and William Morrice taking equal shares of the 1000-acre grant. Located between the Black Bob's Creek area and The Crossroads, it was conveniently dissected by the Great Southern Road.

John's share was on the eastern side. He named it Eling Forest after Eling in Hampshire, England, the seat of his uncle Sir Walter Morrice. William took up the western half calling it Comfort Hill, named after the village of Comfort in Jamaica.

The deeds for the grant were issued to John and William Morrice in November 1841 and the property remained one title, in two names, for many years.

William, before taking up residence on his portion, resided in Sydney. Meanwhile John undertook to journey southward along the route opened by Hume and Hovell to the Murray River district where he established himself as a successful station owner on the south side of the Murray and was later to amass a fortune there selling picks and shovels during the gold rushes of the 1850s.

In 1838 John married Jane Osborne (1822-1916) at All Saints Church, Sutton Forest. She was a daughter of James Osborne of Yackandandah in the Kiewa River district. The couple settled at Eling Forest, John being described as a landed proprietor engaged in pastoral and agricultural pursuits. A large homestead was built in 1840 and they started a family that eventually numbered 12 children.



John Morrice

John added to his holdings in the 1850s by acquiring *Eccleston Park* on Canyonleigh Road and *Browley*, a significant Sutton Forest property. The latter was to later become the home of his eldest son Walter and his family. However at first John made *Browley* his residence, with his second son David remaining at Eling Forest. The holding there was extended with the purchase of 156 acres known as Cherry Tree Hill in 1863 and a further 34 acres between Black Bob's Creek and The Crossroads. Other sons managed John's landholdings in the Murray River region.

John Morrice served as a magistrate and in 1860 was elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly as a member for Camden County. He was described as a sensible, clear-headed man who managed to accumulate considerable wealth.

In the 1860s John began acquiring properties in the Barber's Creek (now Tallong) area, first purchasing Glenrock from the Barber family. The fine mansion *Glenrock*, built by George Barber a few years before his accidental drowning in 1844, became the Morrice family home. Their extensive landholding included an area called Moorooloolan that became the site of a village when the railway was put through, later to be renamed Marulan.

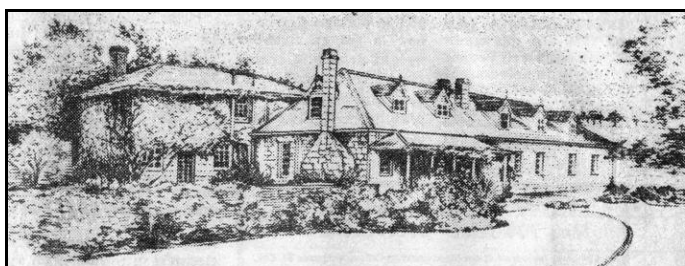
In 1871 the property Bombala was also acquired, making the Morrice family the largest landowners in the Barber's Creek area.

John Morrice died at *Glenrock* in his 64th year and after the funeral his body was conveyed by rail to Sutton Forest and interred in All Saints graveyard.

The Goulburn Herald of 24 February 1875 devoted a large column to his obituary recalling that many years ago he was appointed to the commission of the peace, and proved himself an upright and intelligent magistrate. The obituary stated that "as a member of the House he was seldom a speaker, but his good sense and honesty secured him general respect. He was popular among his constituents, especially in the Berrima portion of the district where he was best known. He took great interest in educational matters and several of the school buildings owed their erection chiefly to him".

Comfort Hill

William seems to have lived a quieter life than his brother and remained at Comfort Hill, where he built a homestead consisting of four main rooms, two attic bedrooms and a large detached kitchen.



The house was built of sandstone quarried on the property at Black Bob's Creek. The homestead was expanded over the years to a 100-square sandstock collection of buildings and the extensive property with dairy, silo, shearing sheds and workshops remained in the Morrice family until 1940.

Eling Forest

When John Morrice first acquired Eling Forest it was in its natural wild state. It is said that he established a good rapport with local Aborigines and employed them to help establish the property. The first building

erected was a basic structure nearby to Black Bob's Creek and then a stone cottage nearer to the Southern Road was built by assigned convicts as a government school that was in use until 1883.

The present brick and stone portion of Eling Forest house built in 1840 stayed in the Morrice family as the home of John's son David, his wife Sarah and their eleven children until David's death in 1923.



The homestead had several successive owners, including the Needhams who sold it to E C Gordon in the 1960s. Then it was bought by the Murphys in the late 1970s, a family who pursued an equestrian interest, building stables and breeding horses.

These owners made alterations and timber additions but much of the original house was preserved. From the flagged verandah with simple timber posts one enters the main house through a traditional six-panel Georgian front door with glass surround and in the dining room the original beamed ceiling is retained.

In the mid 1980s Mr Lesley Fritz, an 80-year old Hungarian emigrant, was looking for a new interest so he purchased the property, obtained a vigneron licence and commenced a small boutique winery. He could see the potential of the Southern Highlands as a grape producing area and started with Hungarian varieties, planting around 11 acres of grapevines. He crushed up to 10 tons of fruit annually (8000 bottles) with the first vintage released in 1995.

Mr Fritz's son Peter took over the running of the business and like his father could see its potential. In the early 2000s he transformed the main residence into a restaurant and wine tasting room and other rooms into B&B style accommodation. The old school house on the property became the winery.

Under current ownership and with a new winemaker, the property has gained a fresh lease of life. The winery processes grapes for many local growers and operates a cellar door/cafe serving home-made country fare for both locals and travellers. A separate restaurant has won 'Best Restaurant in a Winery' for two years running.

The property boasts arts and craft displays and a large modern facility for weddings and conferences. Comfortable B&B accommodation is provided for the traveller and visitor to the Southern Highlands.

Compiled by P Morton

The Charlie Jackson story on show

At the next General Meeting in May, guest speakers

Max Rogers and Philip Morton

will present the story of local motor racing identity Charlie Jackson and his wife, and their association with the Berrima District Automobile Club

Some of Charlie's MGs and trophies will be featured along with other vintage car photos and a discussion panel will examine the nitty-gritty for car enthusiasts.



To put members in the picture, the following article outlines Charlie Jackson's life and the many achievements he and his wife Eva notched up.

Charles Nelson Jackson was born in December 1885 in Denby, Wortley, West Riding, Yorkshire, England. He was the first son of Joel Jackson (a farmer) and Emma (nee Heppenstall). There are two gold medals from 1905 and an undated Gold Watch from the same period that indicate Charlie was a champion cyclist at around the time one William Morris was also a champion cyclist and manufactured cycles in a little workshop in Oxford.

The 1911 census shows Charlie had married Eva Lockwood (in 1910), and was living with his in-laws in Brush View Lane, Wakefield, Yorkshire. He was an 'employer' and listed his occupation as Carting Agent, so he was certainly into the transportation business at only 26 years of age.

In October 1911 Charlie and Eva left London on the *Wilcannia* bound for Australia. The first record of their new life there is in July 1916, when Charlie, the captain of the Bungendore Bowling Club, won first prize and was hailed for his coaching of members.

In 1918, there are records of Charlie competing at the Queanbeyan Show in horse trotting events, making a speech at the "Show Smoke Concert" and then donating two guineas for special prizes at the next year's show - his community spirit on display.

Charlie and Eva had moved to Bowral by 1925 and Charlie was listed in the electoral roll of that year as a chauffeur in Burradoo for the Hoskins family, owners of *Abergeldie*, a grand late Victorian home (circa 1880) on Chisholm Hill in Burradoo. As employees they resided at *Abergeldie Cottage*, located diagonally across the intersection from the stately home. Charlie undertook the role of chauffeur and Eva performed home duties.

In October 1926 the Bowral Motor Cycle Club was founded and one of its founding members and its first elected Chairman was Charles Nelson Jackson. It may be of interest to some that the Assistant Hon Secretary was Mr V C Bradman, a soon-to-be-famous surname in Australia, especially in Bowral.

Charlie was in his early forties when, in 1927 he took up the local Morris Trucks dealership in Bowral and commenced making a name for himself as a motorsport champion - as did Eva.

He operated the dealership from a garage located on the corner of Bowral and Bong Bong Streets and the garage building is still there, opposite the present service station. Charlie is reported to have had a small battle with council as it had refused him permission to erect a petrol pump at his garage.



The first record of Charlie in motorsport is in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of March 9, 1928, when he is recorded as being the outright winner of the Berrima Automobile Club Reliability Touring Contest from Berrima to Canberra and back (by way of Bungonia, 240 miles). The contest included a hill-climb and petrol consumption tests, with speed averages to be maintained ranging from 22-24 mph.

Charlie was driving a Morris Oxford. He placed first in the hill-climb and reliability part of the trial, but was unplaced in the petrol consumption (you can't have it both ways!). A Morris Cowley utility won the petrol consumption test with an amazing 63 miles per gallon (but placed second to Charlie in the hill-climb).

On March 15, a few days after his win, Charlie placed an advertisement in the *Southern Mail*, promoting sales of the "New Standard MORRIS COWLEY Roadster" soundly constructed of the finest British materials procurable and equipped with 5 detachable steel wheels, 5 tyres and speedometer. Charlie was selling it for 199 pounds.

The 1928 Electoral Roll shows Charlie and Eva Jackson residing in Woodbine Street, Bowral with his occupation as 'Motor Mechanic', while Eva's was 'Home Duties'.

The *Southern Mail* of April 9, 1929 carried a list of trophies presented to members of the Berrima District Automobile Club with six of these won by Charlie and one by Eva. Their run of successes continued, as detailed in a report headed 'Automobile Trial' on March 7, 1930 in *The Southern Mail*:

"The Berrima District Automobile Club completed its 3-days' trial on 2nd March. The first course was through Goulburn, Bungendore and Collector. Several events took place on Lake George: the flying mile, standing half-mile and slow running. All cars assembled for the hill-climb, which was very well contested. Some good times were made, but Mrs C N Jackson's MG gave her club-mates a wonderful exhibition of hill-climb and lowered N Payne's time by 13 seconds and a fifth. Mrs Jackson spoiled a beautiful card by losing one point for running in one minute early on the Bungendore control."

So it appears that the first record to be found of an MG winning a motor sporting contest in Australia was by Mrs C N Jackson – Charlie's wife, Eva.

On April 5, 1930, Charlie Jackson was 'driver' for F Flanagan in a 847cc Morris Midget (a sports model of the Morris Minor type). The event report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of April 7 records the car as a Morris Midget, not an MG Midget (a common confusion at that time).

There is a report of Charlie competing at Penrith Speedway in April of 1930 with "no luck on the track", then with regularity Charlie in his Midget seemed to enter every competition motoring event possible in Sydney or Bowral. The following statement and a photograph appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on September 23, 1930:

"Mr C N Jackson is one of the few Australian owners of the special sports model MG Midgets, produced by the Morris organization in England, and with it he is a frequent competitor in events promoted by the Royal Automobile Club of Australia and the Sydney Bicycle and Motor Club. Mr Jackson is sometimes accompanied by Mrs Jackson in the speedy little car, which has some good performances to its credit in hill climbs, flying mile tests, and similar events."

Charlie appears in the entries for the Sydney Bicycle and Motor Club Reliability Contest to Robertson on November 15 and 16, 1930 in a Morris Midget, setting the fastest time on the hill-climb and finishing second overall in the contest.



The Mail reported on November 21, 1930 that Charlie Jackson had won for the second time in succession the reliability section and that there were not many drivers to complete the last seven miles of the Pass to Robertson at the average speed.

Charlie headed the list of the Sydney Bicycle and Motor Club with the most wins in the 1930 season. His performance was the more meritorious in that the car he drove was an absolute standard MG.

In March 1931 Charlie and Eva won the Berrima District Automobile Club Reliability Trial and that was it! There were no more motorsport events to be found after that date in which they participated.

In August 1931 the Jackson's left Bowral for a new life as hotel publicans in the Newcastle District. They moved further north over the years and had hotels in Nobby, Gympie, and in Miles by 1940. Eva died in 1945 and Charlie married a much younger Margaret Gardiner in the late 1940s and adopted a daughter Margaret in 1953.

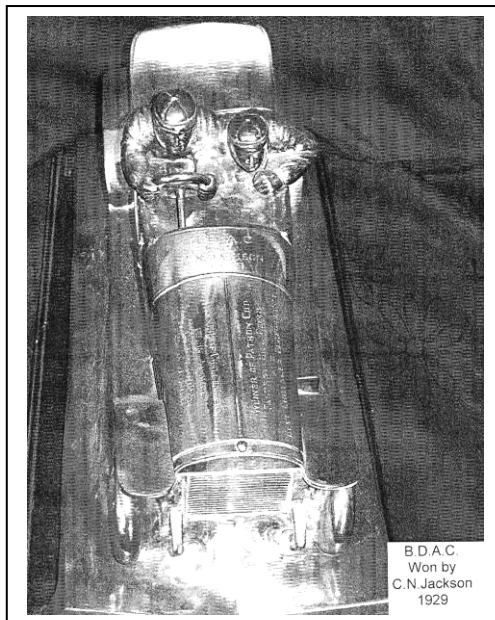
Charles Nelson Jackson died of a heart attack in 1957 at Childers in Queensland and was laid to rest in the Degilbo Cemetery.

* * *

We are indebted to Tony Slattery of the MG Club in Queensland, on whose historical research this article is based. It was a display of unlabelled trophies at the Queensland MGCC Clubrooms in the name of one Charles Nelson Jackson that prompted Tony to undertake historical research into early MGs in Australia and the mysterious Charlie Jackson. Charlie's daughter Margaret provided valuable information about her father's motorsport life. As she was only 3 years old when Charlie died, most of what she knows today came from her mother and the treasured trophies from the past.

It is truly remarkable that all those trophies so proudly displayed on the MG Midget still survive as a collection today.

Trophy photos courtesy of Margaret Jackson



DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	10 MAY	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	24 MAY	Monthly General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
WEDNESDAY	6 JUN	Hillview Tour	9:00 am meet at Mittagong Station
THURSDAY	14 JUN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28 JUN	Monthly General Meeting	12:00 pm at Eling Forest Winery
THURSDAY	12 JUL	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26 JUL	Monthly General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society

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THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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