

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 440 June 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

JUNE LUNCHEON: Thursday 28 June 2012 at 12:00pm
VENUE: Eling Forest Winery, Hume Highway, Berrima
Arrive 12:00 noon for seating by 12:30 pm

GUEST SPEAKER: Noeline Brown

Come and enjoy beautiful food and great company at our annual June luncheon. Our guest and speaker this year will be popular local identity Noeline Brown.

JULY MEETING: Thursday 26 July 2012 at 2:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong

GUEST SPEAKER: Geoff Goodfellow
Local Government and History

Inside this month ...

Diary Dates	2
The Charlie Jackson Show	4
<i>Now and Then</i>	5
Hillview	6

And more ...



Diary Dates

JUNE

14 Management Committee Meeting
28 Monthly General Meeting
29 School holidays commence

JULY

12 Management Committee Meeting
16 School holidays conclude
26 Monthly General Meeting

AUGUST

9 Management Committee Meeting
23 Monthly General Meeting

From the President's desk

Ken Reid

It was certainly a wintry day for our first daytime winter meeting in May, but that did not stop forty or so people turning up in the afternoon at the Research Centre for the Charlie Jackson slideshow. I'd like to thank Max Rogers and Philip Morton for the considerable effort they put into organising the presentation and thanks also to members Ian Mackey and Alan Barker who contributed their expertise during the talk. The many car enthusiasts were delighted.

I was unable to attend the meeting, as were both our Vice-President's, however Ron Mumford ably filled the President's chair - thanks Ron.

Don't forget that our June luncheon is fast approaching - if you wish to attend and have not yet booked, then best to do so soon - it should be a get-together not to be missed.

Unfortunately we had to postpone the drive-yourself tour scheduled for 6 June to Hillview and another historic house owing to the unavailability of this second house. We will reschedule in spring and let you know well in advance.

The Society was successful in its application for a community grant that will enable us to proceed with the next module of our photograph digitization program. Full details will be passed on when the grants are formally announced later this month.

Following is a brief summary of reports tabled at the May Management Committee meeting.

Archives: Furniture and equipment in the archives has been reorganised to make better and more efficient use of space. The microfilm and microfiche readers, previously housed in their own separate room, are now out in the main reading room, and the smaller room now houses the two computers used for scanning and cataloguing photographs.

Museum Extension Sub-committee: A complete costing of the proposed museum extension building has been received from MBM Quantity Surveyors. A sub-committee meeting held to discuss the costing and fund-raising will report back to the Management Committee.

Research: Enquiries for April were: phone 34, emails 65, personal 44, mail & fax 0, total 143.

Publications: Total book sales for April amounted to \$916.75.

Lastly, may I extend a warm welcome to new members Mrs Susan Dale, Mosman, Mrs Maureen Townsing, Bundanoon and Mr Darren Powell, Aylmerton.

Making Museums Heard

Hosted by John Hatton, the Southern Highlands and Illawarra Chapter of Museums Australia is holding a workshop on Sunday 15 July from 10am at the Mittagong Archives.

The workshop is in response to diminishing funds going mostly to art galleries and the Chapter is making a push to increase pressure on funding bodies. John was for many years in State Government as an Independent and will provide helpful advice on negotiating.

The Society's museum is a member of the Chapter and our members and those from the other museums in the Chapter are being encouraged to attend. Lunch will be \$15 per head. RSVP to Chapter Coordinator Tamara Hynd: tamara.hynd@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au or 4256 6698

Museum News

Recently the museum had a visit by two classes of 6 and 7-year-old children from St Thomas Aquinas school. They were a well behaved group, accompanied by their teachers and several parents. A short 'I Spy' sheet was prepared for them to fill in after they were shown around. It had them excitedly zipping from room to room. Everyone was extremely interested in the museum's displays and it was great to receive favourable comments from the parents who were first-time visitors

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.

Museum showcases its collection

The Society's Museum at Berrima has an extensive collection of historical items and objects that have been acquired or donated to the Society

A selection of interesting items from the museum's collection is displayed in glass showcases located in the 'middle' room, known as the Bicentennial Room.

The museum will be open every day during the July school holidays, so that may be a good time to plan a visit with family and friends. Society members and children are admitted free; the cost for adults is \$5.

Here are some sample items from the collection.



Mugs for Kings, donated by Leila Payne

(left) A 1936 sepia print for the coronation of Edward VIII which did not eventuate as he abdicated.

(Right) A 1937 coloured print for the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth



Obstetrics Kit 1930s, donated by Janet Dibdin.

Owned by Naomi Oxley (nee Murdoch) who was born in 1901 in Victoria and commenced general nursing in the 1920s at Wangaratta, doing Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Royal Hospital for Women in Paddington, Sydney.

Maternity work was her specialty and in 1965 she moved to Bowral and continued her work.

Museum photos by Lyn Hall

June Luncheon - a final reminder

Members and their guests are invited to join us at the comfortable cellar door/cafe in historic Eling Forest Winery for our June luncheon on Thursday 28 June, at 12:00 for 12:30.

Eling Forest is located on the Hume Highway south of Berrima just before the Illawarra Highway junction at Hoddle's Crossroad.

Popular local identity Noeline Brown will be guest speaker at the luncheon.



Bookings are open to members and non-members. Seating is limited so anyone still wishing to attend should book soon by phone or email to the Archives.

The cost is \$35 per head for members and their guests, and \$45 for non-members. Payment is required by Tuesday 19 June, where possible.



David Morrice and descendants (Little family) at the Eling Forest homestead in the 1920s.

The Charlie Jackson Show

Despite a rainy change to the fine weather, and with the temperature dropping to 8.5 degrees, around 40 members and guests still turned up to our May General Meeting for the story of local motor racing identity Charlie Jackson, and the history of MG racing cars.

The talk was put together by four of our member 'blokes' who presented a comprehensive slideshow.

Max Rogers commenced with the story of Charlie who came to Australia, worked as a chauffeur for Mrs Hoskins in Burradoo and opened a garage in Bowral as a Morris car and truck dealership in 1927. Philip Morton provided some detail about the Hoskins' family connection.

Ian Mackey gave an illustrated summary of the enigmatic William Morris and how MG racing cars evolved initially through the efforts of Cecil Kimber.

Alan Barker then masterly entertained the gathering, displaying some vintage car objects, including an air horn and a headlamp, and taking the audience through a collection of historic photographs and some fascinating vintage car trivia.

Tony Slattery, Queensland-based Representative of the International MG Y-Type Register, provided us with some recent photo-shoot images that recreated the original 1932 photo of Charlie in his MG Midget. With Charlie's daughter Margaret in the driver's seat, the trophies were arranged in almost the exact same way as in the original photo of Charlie.



Margaret doing what her father Charlie did in 1932 in an MG Midget



Philip Morton and Max Rogers



Ian Mackey and Max



Alan Barker and his vintage display



Thanks to Ros Dale and Carolyn Hutton for the catering



Plenty of discussion afterwards!

Event photos: Denise Mackey

Check for missing Library books

Missing Books at 30/4/2012

Following a shelf check of the library collection the following books have now been listed as missing.

Knowing how easily library books can get lost within our own personal collections, could members please check their book shelves for any of the items below, especially if one of the titles is familiar. A number of these books are now out of print or are family histories which cannot be replaced.

Library books can be placed in the blue crate on the desk in the library. Thanks, Carolyn Dougherty.

- REF. 01/66 Waite Family History
- REF. 01/89 Family & Local History Sources in the Sydney Area
- REF. 01/156 Go West Young Man
- REF. 02/32 Extracts 1828 Census - Goulburn District Historical Society
- REF. 02/35 Index to the Papers of the NSW Colonial Secretary 1788-1825
- REF. 03/03 In Old Australia - James Hassall. Record & Reminiscences from 1794
- REF. 03/36 Enemy Aliens - Internment and the Homefront Experience Australia 1914 - 1920 by Gerhard Fischer
- REF. 04/02 Newspapers in Australian Libraries - A Union List
- REF. 05/20 The Old Roads by Eirene Mort
- REF. 11/35 Exeter Public School Centenary
- REF. 13/83 Tales from a Churchyard by Linda Emery
- REF. 13/88 Notes on Early History of Berrima April 1966

General Collection

- 20/14 Captain James Cook: A History of the Whole of Captain Cook's Voyages
- 20/47 Convicts and Colonial Society 1788 - 1853 by L. Evans & P. Nicholls
- 28/08 Kangaroo Valley Historical Photographs. John Griffiths & Peter Price
- 30/176 Grafton through the Years
- 30/184 Lucknow: A Veritable Goldmine. Local History Series 2



"Now and Then": ABC workshops

**Creating a window into the past
Launched by ABC Open, Now and Then: Series 2
is an online contemporary photography project with
an historical twist.**

By holding an historical image in its present day location and re-photographing it, you can create a window into past events and the lives of people who have stood on the same ground as you.

ABC Open producer Sean O'Brien of ABC Illawarra is holding presentations and workshops in the Southern Highlands starting this month at Mittagong and Bundanoon.

Our Society has been offered the opportunity to host a workshop so, if you are interested in attending one in the Research Centre, let us know by 20 June.

Sean describes the process as a fun technique and a great way to re-imagine old photos and shine a new light on the places you know.



This image is from the ABC website

The ABC originally launched Now and Then: Series 1 in October 2010 and were flooded by over 1000 contributions from all around Australia.

To get yourself inspired you could start by checking out some highlights on the ABC Illawarra website: abcopen.illawarra@abc.net.au

One of the partners for this project is the Museum of Sydney who will be holding an exhibition featuring a selection of Now & Then photos from both Series 1 and Series 2 from 16 June to 28 October 2012.

Sean O'Brien has been Southern Highlands based for more than 20 years. His passion for the people and places of this region has shown through in his many projects, particularly for the ABC's Regional Production Fund. He has over 15 years experience writing, producing, and directing TV and radio documentaries for the ABC and SBS.

- compiled by P Morton

Hillview: Governors' country home

"For generations of State governors, Hillview (at Sutton Forest) was a secluded country house where, free from public expectation or scrutiny, they could spend time with their families, relax, and, like Lord Wakehurst, potter about the property in a baggy cardigan and moth-eaten tennis shoes."

With these words a *Sydney Morning Herald* article in 2001 introduced a heritage article on *Hillview* and the proposed restoration.

The *Hillview* property stands on a knoll five kms south of Moss Vale, where the South Road (now the Illawarra Highway) approaches Sutton Forest.

Opened in 1883 as a vice-regal country residence, it was used first by the Governor of that time, Lord Loftus, until 1885 and then by fifteen succeeding governors until 1957.

* * *

In 1819 Governor Macquarie commissioned Dr Charles Throsby to survey a road through the district and to grant land to settlers. This included Charles Wright and Benjamin Crew who each received 60 acres in 1822 and a lesser acreage to John Larkham. Their grants occupied the land that was later to become the Hillview estate.

From the earliest days of the colony, the Governors had felt the need for a residence outside Sydney to which they could move for a change of air and a relief from the oppressive summer heat.

One Governor, the Earl of Belmore, had spent some time at Throsby Park in 1868 as a country retreat, he being quick to realise the advantage that the just opened railway to Moss Vale provided in terms of access to the area.

When Lord August Loftus arrived as Governor in 1879 the question of an alternate vice-regal residence outside Sydney became even more pressing. Since the Governor at that time could not afford a private house, it was decided that the Colony should purchase a house at Sutton Forest for use as a vice-regal villa.

In 1881 the Henry Parkes Government purchased a property at Sutton Forest called *Prospect* for £6,000 from R P Richardson, who had built it as a country residence for his family and had retired there.

Richardson had tired of retirement and decided to return to Richardson & Wrench, the stock and station real estate firm he had established.

In 1850 Richardson had come to New South Wales from Liverpool in England, where his father had trained him in the wool merchant trade. He joined Mort & Co., the well known firm of auctioneers and

wool brokers in Sydney, where he soon became a valued employee and was promoted in 1855 to land manager. His work brought him to the Sutton Forest district, where he met and married Violet Alston, of *Woodside*, a prosperous Moss Vale property. They lived in Sydney.

At the end of 1857 Richardson resigned from Mort's and set up on his own, soon building quite a reputation both for his integrity and the sound and efficient manner in which he handled his client's affairs. In 1860 he took Edward Wrench as a partner.

Richardson and Wrench began to specialise in stock and station sales with the emphasis on country estates. In 1866 Richardson acquired Benjamin Crew's 60 acres and later bought Wright's and Larkham's acres. He called the property *Prospect* and had a two-storey house with detached stables built from stone quarried on the estate. So well did Richardson prosper that he retired from his firm in 1875 and took up residence at *Prospect*.

By then the Sutton Forest district had become a tourist destination as the railway that opened in 1867 brought visitors attracted by the healthy climate of the Southern Highlands. Moss Vale grew into a busy town located around the railway station that had first been called Sutton Forest North.

Richardson sold *Prospect* to the Government in 1881, returned to active business undertakings and built himself *Glenview*, another country residence.

Prospect, set in beautiful surroundings on 143 acres, was renamed *Hillview* and following the purchase, the Colonial Architect James Barnet proposed plans for additions to the house to make it suitable for a vice-regal residence.



It was extensively remodelled, the staircases and woodwork being done by William Barnsley of Sutton Forest. When completed in 1883 the house had 46 rooms, including nine bathrooms, and over three acres of landscaped gardens where many trees and shrubs were planted.

The alterations to the property and mansion cost the Government £10,000, which caused a furious debate in the Legislative Assembly. Over the years more money was spent on further additions including a billiard room, chapel, room call system, fire hydrants, electric lighting replacing gas, sewerage (1934), and connection to the town water supply (1950).

Hillview could accommodate more than 50 people, with a staff of up to 35 including butler, cooks, maids, personal servants and gardeners, although in later years the staff was 15 or less.

It was originally proposed that the property would provide food from the kitchen garden, orchards and dairy to Government House in Sydney and the gardens were extensively replanted.

There is no official reference to the involvement of Charles Moore, Director of the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens, with the design of the gardens, however the arrangement of annual and perennial gardens in radial shapes (known generally as the rose gardens), the plantings of pampas grass and supplementary tree planting, all indicate Moore's involvement.

As a summer residence, the house, with its large rooms and high ceilings, plus the 20 inch thick sandstone walls, allowed for restful coolness and pleasant living. However, winter heating of these rooms proved to be difficult.

The dining room is panelled in redwood and New Zealand rimus and the dining suite has carvings of Australian flora.

In 1892 the Earl of Jersey had the present drive constructed with handsome iron entrance gates bearing Queen Victoria's cypher surmounted with a crown. He also planted the six furlong road with pines -- these were felled and replaced with more pleasing elms by Lord Wakehurst.

In 1891, to convey the then Governor, the Earl of Jersey, and his entourage to Sutton Forest, a special state rail car was built and it continued in use until 1913. Made as far as possible from ornamental Australian timbers, there were three compartments: a main saloon, a boudoir, and a cypress-panelled smoking room with seating that could convert into three bunks. The door from this to the salon had a glass panel illustrating Australian wildflowers.

During its 74 years as a vice-regal residence, *Hillview* saw many fetes and gymkhanas. The tennis courts and cricket ground were regularly used. The cricket ground became home of the Sutton Forest Club which continued to maintain the grounds and pitch after 1957.

The local Red Cross ran garden fetes at *Hillview* during the years of World War I to raise funds. Produce, sweets, cake, jumble and tea stalls were arranged on the lawns, sheltered by shady oaks and graceful elms. Sir Gerald Strickland and Sir Walter Davidson were Governors during this time of patriotic fervour.

Lord Wakehurst was the second last Governor to use *Hillview*. From 1937 he and Lady Wakehurst made much use of the place and added considerable plantings to the gardens.

The last and longest vice-regal users of *Hillview* were Governor Sir John and Lady Northcott who made use of it for nearly eleven years and for whom some small additional amenities were provided.

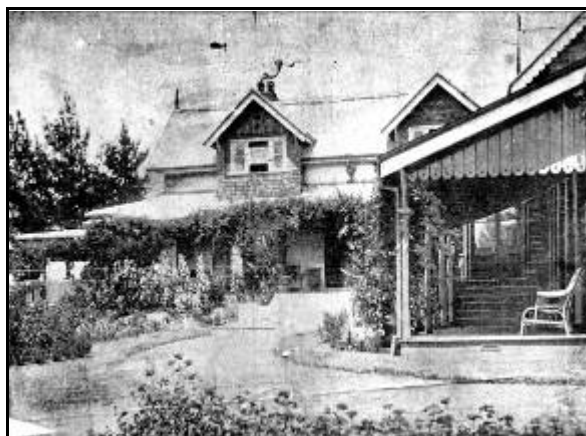
In 1957 the NSW Government felt that as *Hillview* was only used for short periods a few times each year, the cost of maintaining it was unwarranted. The property with most of its contents was sold by public auction in 1958 to Mr Edwin Klein.

The somewhat eccentric Klein embarked on a costly landscaping project with plans to run the house as a place for the elderly. However this did not take off and he shut up the main house, living in the aide-de-camps' quarters until his death in 1988 but he opened the property regularly for public visits and fund-raising events. Before he died he deemed *Hillview* back to the State, stipulating that it be conserved and some public access guaranteed.

A permanent conservation order was made on *Hillview* in 1986 and negotiations for a long-term lease began based on a proposal to convert and upgrade *Hillview* into a guest house and museum. The upgrade is nearing completion and it is intended that the historic property will be open for inspection.



Hillview Drawing Room



The remodelled house before major additions, with flourishing new gardens.

Images: BDH&FHS; article compiled by P Morton

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	14 JUN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28 JUN	June Luncheon	12:00 pm at the Eling Forest Winery
THURSDAY	12 JUL	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26 JUL	Monthly General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	9 AUG	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23 AUG	Monthly General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society

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