

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 461 May 2014

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Website: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au
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ABN 29 362 616 937

PATRON: Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire: Councillor Juliet Arkwright

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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 22 May 2014 at 2pm

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

GUEST SPEAKER: *Leonie Knapman*
Slideshow presentation on Marulan's limestone quarries opened in 1871, now the largest in Australia

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

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And more ...

JUNE LUNCHEON MEETING: Thursday 26 June 2014 at 12 noon

VENUE: Mittagong Uniting Church Hall, Albert Street, Mittagong

GUEST SPEAKER: *Marilyn Horton*
A talk on the history of the church and the hall.



Diary dates

MAY

- 8 Management Committee Meeting
- 11 Mother's Day
- 22 General Monthly Meeting

JUNE

- 12 Management Committee Meeting
- 26 General Monthly Meeting
- 28 School holidays commence

JULY

- 10 Management Committee Meeting
- 14 School holidays conclude
- 24 General Monthly Meeting

Research fees

Research fees for non-members:

\$20.00 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.

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.

From the President's Desk

Bruce Moore

About a century ago a Jamaican journalist/orator quoted: "A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." Wise words.

Someone once told me also that if you don't know where you've come from, then in all probability, you don't know where you're going!

This all makes perfect sense when entering the Historical Society's Archives and library. It still amazes me that so many of us are becoming more interested in our past, who lived where, why and for how long. Popular TV programs like 'Who Do You Think You Are?' speak volumes to fascinated audiences and perhaps stimulate us into researching our own families.

We beings are notoriously pre-occupied with and absorbed by other people's lives. Especially our own! (Let's face it, it's our favourite subject.)

Our researcher, Max Rogers can vouch for that. He is kept extremely busy receiving an average of 30 inquiries on a weekly basis. Of course, that's our job. It's great to see doubtful and worried faces arrive and smiling satisfied customers depart. Even though the archives are open a mere 2.5 days per week, a lot is happening behind the scenes. We're all positive Max sleeps on the premises!

A Clean Slate

Work has begun on our Museum site in preparation for its new extension.



This exhibition hall will be a memorial to the 1200 Southern Highland volunteers who joined the AIF between 1914 and 1918 and who were dubbed 'Anzacs'. That exhibition will be on display on Anzac Day 2015, to commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli landing.

Kenneth Graeme Reid



Ken Reid, who was known to many members and served as President of our Society from 2007 to 2012, passed away on 6 April 2014.

A Funeral Service was held on Wednesday 16 April in St Peter's Anglican Church, Campbelltown. Our Society was represented by a large group of members including President Bruce Moore and wife Chris, and Vice President Leonie Knapman and husband Greg.

Condolences on their loss were extended to Ken's wife Jan and the family. Jan had served as Society Treasurer from 2003 to 2012.

Born in 1934, Ken was raised in Sydney and went into the family retail hardware business. He married Jan and they raised two sons. From the early 1990s he and Jan pursued a shared historical interest. They joined and took on volunteer work for the Parramatta branch of the National Trust, the Parramatta Historical Society and with our Society as well when they moved to the Southern Highlands.

Ken is remembered for his kindly regard of others, his keen interest in all aspects of the Society and for representing it on wider spheres. He devoted considerable effort to the various stages of updating the Society's Constitution, bringing it into line with the Model Rules.

He took a great interest in museum matters and was always keen and happy to be driver on bus tours.

As a member of the Horbury Hunt Club, Ken had a great interest in the architectural heritage of the Wingecarribee district.

He will be missed.

May meeting talk: Marulan Quarry

Last year our Vice President Leonie Knapman gave a presentation at the 2013 Australasian Mining History Conference held in Beechworth, Victoria, entitled:

South Marulan Limestone Quarry - Building Australia

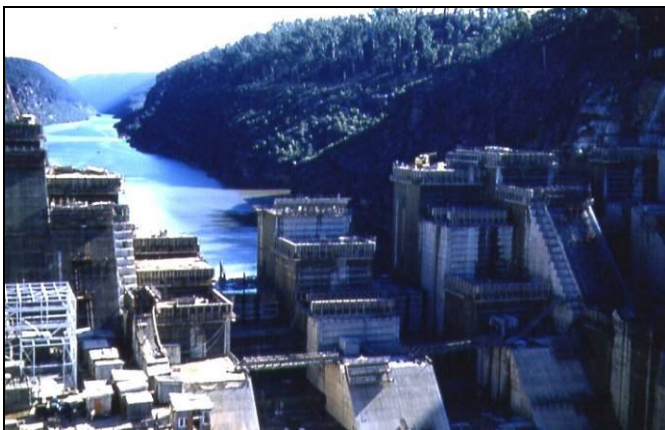
For the interest of local members, Leonie will give this talk again at our May monthly meeting, accompanied by photographs to illustrate the history of the quarry.



South Marulan limestone quarry is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere providing a raw ingredient for cement. Quarrying has been carried out, to varying degrees, since 1875. The current site of the quarry has been worked by a number of companies since the 1920s.

By the 1970s there were two major adjoining quarries, each independently owned and operated. In 1974 the two companies amalgamated and became Blue Circle Southern Cement Ltd (BCSC). In 1987 BCSC became a subsidiary of Boral Ltd.

As a raw material for cement, Marulan limestone has played a major role in the development of NSW and the ACT and its mark is instantly recognisable. Major projects include the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme, Warragamba Dam, Sydney Opera House, New Parliament House in Canberra, and the Darling Harbour complex. On the ocean floor, Marulan-based cement is in the submarine outfalls for Sydney's sewage system and in the immersed tubes of the Sydney Harbour Tunnel.



If you are aware of people who would be interested in this fascinating and important history, then let them know. The talk starts at 2:00pm on Thursday 22 May.

Bowral trachyte book released

Sydney's Hard Rock Story the cultural heritage of trachyte

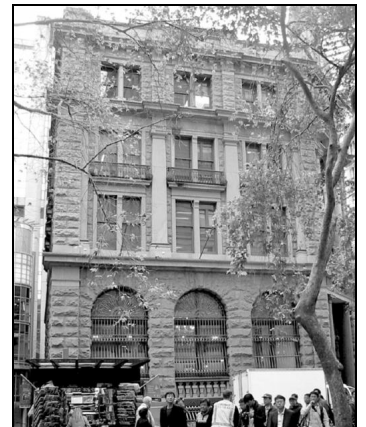
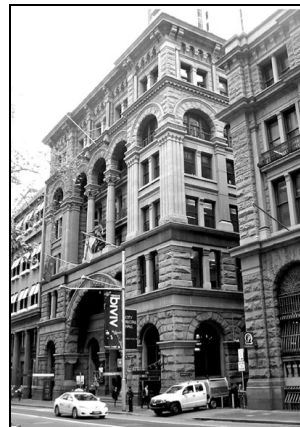
A recent release, this self-funded/self-published book may be ordered via its website:

www.sydneyhardrockstory.com

Several photos from our Society's collection are used in this handsomely illustrated book on trachyte that contains 245 illustrations including 25 colour photos.

Trachyte's extensive uses, geology and the dramas of The Gib and its quarrymen are covered in the book. It also examines trachyte's utilitarian beginnings like kerbing and looks at how, once designers realised its qualities, it was used for many of Sydney's finest commercial street-scapes, as well as for monuments, foundation stones, commemorative plaques and street paving.

The tough, distinctively coloured igneous stone was first quarried at Mount Gibraltar near Bowral in the 1880s and soon began appearing in the kerbs and gutters along Sydney's growing city's streets. Then it was adopted by builders and architects and it can still be seen overhead in the keystones of great buildings as well as underfoot, in myriad small and large scale projects throughout NSW and beyond. Its importance in the city is why the authors have called their tale Sydney's Hard Rock Story.



Showcasing many fine examples of the stone is an illustrated trachyte walk in central Sydney. This is a special feature in the book that may also be found on the book's website.

The authors: **Robert Irving** - an architectural historian and Fellow of the RAHS; **Ron Powell** - an architect, landscape architect and stone consultant who was manager of the NSW Centenary Stonework Program; **Noel Irving** - research assistant who served on Sydney's Sandstone and Trachyte Committee.

Anyone with an interest in the story of trachyte is well advised to look into the purchase of this book; a copy is being obtained for our Society's library.

'Forgotten Soldiers' - book launch

On Saturday 31 May the Society will launch a book titled "Forgotten Soldiers: Men and Women from the Southern Highlands who served in the Boer War 1899 - 1902". This is an updated and expanded version, by Janet Black, of research by the late Colin Sproule.

Copies of the book are available for \$20 at the Archives and museum or via our website

About 16,000 Australians served during the Boer War and, of these, 99 men and one woman have been identified as coming from the Southern Highlands district. This book outlines their family histories and activities during the war, through their letters home that were printed in local newspapers.



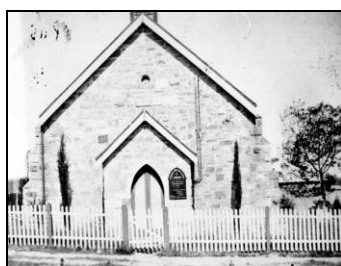
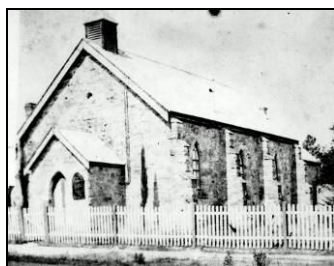
The venue for the launch is the Henrietta Rose Room, Old Bowral Town Hall at the Wingecarribee Library precinct. The event commences at 2:00pm. Afternoon tea will be served and members are invited to attend.

Please RSVP to the Archives by 26 May.

June Luncheon in Church Hall

This year our June Luncheon, on 26 June, will be at:

Mittagong Uniting Church Hall



The Church group ladies will do the catering and one of them, Marilyn Horton, who is also a member of our Society, will give us a talk on the history of the Church and Hall. A 3-course lunch will be provided:

Soup with roll

Quiche and salad

Dessert - slice or crumble

Bottomless tea and coffee (no alcohol)

All this for a very reasonable \$25 per head.

Members and friends invited. Bookings and payment to the archives - places are limited, so don't miss out.

New books in the Library

The following books have been catalogued and added to the collection with the majority placed in the Reference Collection for use in library only.

I will endeavour to purchase another copy of the Self-Guided Walks around Goulburn to be included in the General Collection so members may borrow. These two small books with wonderful illustrations, plans, photos and information would greatly assist members in identifying the various buildings of architectural significance when taking a leisurely ramble around the streets of Goulburn.

Great to include several new books relating to the local area. Happy reading, Carolyn Dougherty.

2014 - New Books added

Hidden Ireland in Victoria by Val Noone. Published 2012. REF. 04/85.

James Gough: a very industrious man by Marion Starr. Published 2013. Shelf No. 24/112.

Map Reading Handbook. 2nd ed. Published 1991. REF. 04/86.

Macarthur Heritage. Pictorial book featuring historical sites in Macarthur. Published 2000. Shelf No. 25/58.

Serving the Country: The history of the Country Women's Association of NSW by Helen Townsend. Published 1998. Shelf No.: Gen. Coll.

The Forgotten Arts & Crafts by John Seymour. Published 2001. REF. 04/87.

Brightly Fades The Don by J. H. Fingleton. Published in 1949. Shelf No. 24/113

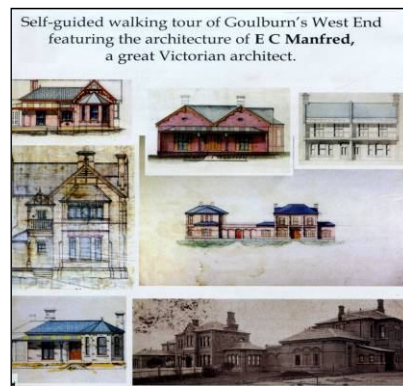
Cricket Walkabout: The Australian Aboriginal Cricketers on Tour 1867-8. Published in 1967. REF. 12/29.

95 Year History of the Moss Vale RSL Sub-Branch from Beginnings to Present Times 1919-2014 compiled by Robert John McLaren J.P. Published 2013. REF. 13/233.

Self-guided walking tour around Goulburn's Church Hill featuring the architecture of E. C. Manfred, a great Victorian architect. REF. 14/66

Self-guided walking tour of Goulburn's West End featuring the architecture of E. C. Manfred. 2012. REF. 14/67.

Joseph Peters, his Woolpack Inn and the Marian Vale Myth by Tom Bryant. Published 2010. REF. 14/65.



Matthew Dorrrough, Illawarra Pioneer

A family history hardcover book available from the Society for \$10 - but stocks limited

'*Matthew Dorrrough, Illawarra Pioneer*' was written by Elsie and Colin Macdonald and published in 1991.

Matthew Dorrrough was a farmer in Northern Ireland who emigrated in 1841 with his wife Martha Jane and five children. One of their great-grandchildren, Elsie Macdonald, at the age of seventy-one, in the 1960s commenced to write a history of the Dorrroughs.

Her son Colin explains in the book's Preface that Elsie's plan was to write about Matthew and Martha Jane and some of their descendants and relatives, following them from Ireland through Sydney and the Illawarra to the Richmond district. At her death in 1978 the book remained unfinished, covering only the period up to the Dorrroughs' move from Kangaloon to the Richmond early in the 1880s.

In 1991 Colin published the current book that is based on Elsie's manuscript with additions and some changes to smooth the reader's path. There are aspects of her work that may prove to make it of enduring interest, including her use of her mother's reminiscences of life at Kangaloon in the 1870s, and her attempt to convey something of the emotions of the people about whom she wrote.

This may be of particular interest to those members of our Society who have a special regard for the history of the Kangaloon district and for the people who came up from the coast in the 1860s once the Robertson Land Act opened up land for settlement in the rugged and densely timbered Yarrowa Brush.

"Land was found that appealed to John and James Dorrrough. It was at Kangaloon and lay beside the track that led from Dapto to Bowral. Many other of their kinsmen, including the Alcorns, settled there.



One member of the Alcorn family, Elizabeth, married Christopher Funston and they eventually moved to Bowral where they built a home they named *Hawthorn Park* (pictured above) that they later sold to Elizabeth's brother William and built themselves another home which they named *Belmore Park*.

More on this family history is presented in the book.



Belmore Park, home of the Funstons in Bowral

Newspaper extracts from *Mittagong Star*

Selected by Carol Nolan

1 March 1929

An amusing incident occurred during the week. Mr Lawson, snr was stropping his razor to have a shave in his home, when a knock came to the door and on opening it found it to be a foreign hawker with two portmanteaus. The hawker, on seeing Mr Lawson, grabbed his ports and rushed for the gate. Mr Lawson had forgotten to put his razor down which was in his hand and still open.

29 March 1929 HIS BOWLING FEAT

A proud man in the cricketing world today is Jack Chalker of Mittagong. A couple of seasons ago when Bowral met Mittagong he cleaned bowled Don Bradman for 13.

The two met the other day and Chalker recalled the incident, saying "I couldn't do it now, Don" "Yes you could Jack," replied Bradman "if you sent down the same ball that you did that day.

Jack Chalker, by the way, won the bomb-throwing championship when in France with the AIF; he comes of an old pioneer family of the district; one of his forebears was responsible for the capture of a famous bushranger; another was heavyweight champion boxer of the colony – *Daily Pictorial*.

9 September 1929

An amusing incident occurred on Sunday when the police were returning from Bargo, with a party on a motor lorry, which had been detained in connection with the removal of a child from the Farm Homes. The lorry was unable to negotiate Katherines' Hill and Sergt. Dudley had to tow it over the rise with the motor bike he was riding. The spectacle of a motor bike towing a lorry was a rather unique sight.

21 September 1929 A SMART CAPTURE

A Ruse that failed. On Sunday afternoon, the mother of a boy at the Farm Homes, who was accompanied by a man driving a lorry, called at the Homes and asked to see the boy. This they were permitted to do and during the temporary absence of one of the officials the lad disappeared. The police were at once notified and Sergeant Dudley and Constable Payne on a motor bicycle and side car started in pursuit of the lorry which they overhauled close to Bargo. But to their surprise there was no boy in it.

Sergeant Dudley was not at all satisfied with the outward appearance of things and devoted his attention to two young girls, who were also on the lorry. He demanded one of these girls to remove her hat, and at once recognized the escapee, who was dressed in all the usual female attire, even to snake skin shoes.

The party were then placed under arrest, the mother being charged with removing a child from the custody of the Child Welfare Department and the man with aiding and abetting her.

6 December 1929 COLO VALE

Quite a thrill was experienced by the residents of Colo Vale, when the great Fokker plane returning from Melbourne was sighted soon after midday. The residents of Hill View waved their greetings with tea towels and pillow shams and great was their delight when the plane flying low signalled with something white they have been seen.

It is characteristic of our gallant airman Squadron Leader Kingsford Smith that he would fly low, circling the house, and dipping in farewell to those waving their greetings, then like a huge bird the plane rose higher and set off to repeat the performance over the local store where his sister Mrs A Pike and her husband reside.

The residents of Colo Vale express the wish that some day Smithy will fly a plane to Bong Bong and give them a chance to view their own little village from the air as with Smith as pilot all will be well.

29 August 1930 MITTAGONG SPORTS GROUND

Mr S Meehan (Sec) Mittagong Football Club.

Dear Sir, I have been directed by His Worship the Mayor, to notify you that as a result of a protest from representatives of Mittagong religious denominations and complaints from the citizens, the playing of the game of football on the above Reserve on Sundays cannot be permitted.

Yours faithfully **H C Hain, Town Clerk**

Society members in action

As the photos here show, members have been busy!



President Bruce and Chris Moore attended Bowral Anzac Day service laying a sheaf of flowers on behalf of members



Alan Barker and Ian Mackay give a showing of historic tools and toolbox that belonged to Alf Stephens & Sons



Lyn Hall and John Schweers walking Berrima in costume with printed leaflets to inform people about our museum



Society members Bruce Moore, Harlan Hall and John Schweers staffing a stall at Throsby Park House Open Day

The Great Southern Rail saga

Part Four of a series compiled by Philip Morton

New era for Southern Highlands when railway opened to Goulburn in 1869

The railway transformed the life of the Wingecarribee district by shifting the centre of gravity from Berrima to the new towns of Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale, through which the railway ran.

Coaches ceased plying the Great South Road as did wagons drawn by horses or bullocks but some of these continued to provide produce feeder services to railway stations. Dairying became a thriving local industry when refrigerated rail vans came into use and, once visitors discovered the many attractions of the district, guest houses sprang up and flourished.

Contractors Larkin & Wakeford worked on the rail line southwards from Moss Vale to Marulan. Along this stretch and still within the local district, several sidings and loop crossings opened with the line.

Badgery's Siding, the highest point on the entire line, was renamed Exeter station in 1890 with a fully interlocked crossing loop and new goods siding.

Jordan's Crossing was a crossing for trains and the two trains daily of the initial service crossed each other there. A station building was added in 1873 and was renamed Bundanoon in 1881. It became such a popular holiday destination that extra trains were put on during busy periods.

Cable's Siding was a loop siding and from 1878 was also a crossing. It was moved to a nearby site during duplication in 1916 and renamed Penrose.

Barber's Creek Tank opened in 1869 as a watering place for locomotives; it gained a platform in 1878 and a new crossing loop in 1890 and was renamed Tallong in 1905.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* provided a description of this section in May 1868: "The progress which has been made with the Great Southern Railway towards Goulburn must, in many respects, be highly gratifying. The inhabitants of the districts to the south who have produce to bring to our ports will regard its completion as a boon. Goods will then be carried to the utmost point contemplated by the original projectors, who called their proposed line the Sydney and Goulburn Railway. On that part of the line contracted for by Messrs Larkin & Wakeford, from Mittagong to Marulan, the works are rapidly drawing to completion. The Colonial Secretary, on his way to Goulburn last week, was conveyed by one of this firm's engines to within two miles of the end of their contract.

"At a place called 'Barren Ground' [Bundanoon], the contractors have erected five batteries for breaking stone, and in this work they give employment to more

than a hundred men. In an agricultural point of view, the 'Barren Ground' seems appropriate enough, but it is otherwise now a very lively place with ruddy-faced, strong-limbed children gambolling about the rude dwellings of the hardy workmen.

"The plate-laying of the remainder of this contract is being proceeded with vigorously, a gang of eighty to ninety men being engaged on this work. The railway runs for a number of miles along a valley where the hand of the woodman has never been; however several patches have been taken up by free-selectors who appear not to have had a very good season.

"The line from the end of the contract is also progressing rapidly. The bridges are very noticeable. There is one over Barber's Creek, standing on four piers, which, like the abutments, are built of stone, and are remarkable for their finished appearance. This bridge has iron girders. Near it is another creek, spanned by a bridge resting on piles. These are near Glen Rock, a large estate, on which is a fine building of imposing appearance. The rail crosses the main road at right angles, close to the little township of Moorooloolen."

The *Herald* article went on to describe how the railway would enter Goulburn over a fine aqueduct. It further noted that while the citizens of Sydney throw open their windows, the inhabitants of Berrima and Goulburn fortify themselves against the mountain breezes and enjoy a blazing fire!

The Southern railway, first considered in 1846, finally opened to Goulburn in May 1869. It thereby provided the Wingecarribee district with more civilised travel and the dawning of a prosperous new era.



Contractors at work on Bundanoon-Marulan section, 1868.



Train steams into Tallong station, c1905.
(Tallong Community Focus Group photo)

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	8 MAY	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	22 MAY	Monthly General Meeting	2:00pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	12 JUN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26 JUN	Monthly General Luncheon Meeting	12:00 noon at Mittagong Uniting Church Hall
THURSDAY	10 JUL	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	24 JUL	Monthly General Meeting	2:00pm 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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