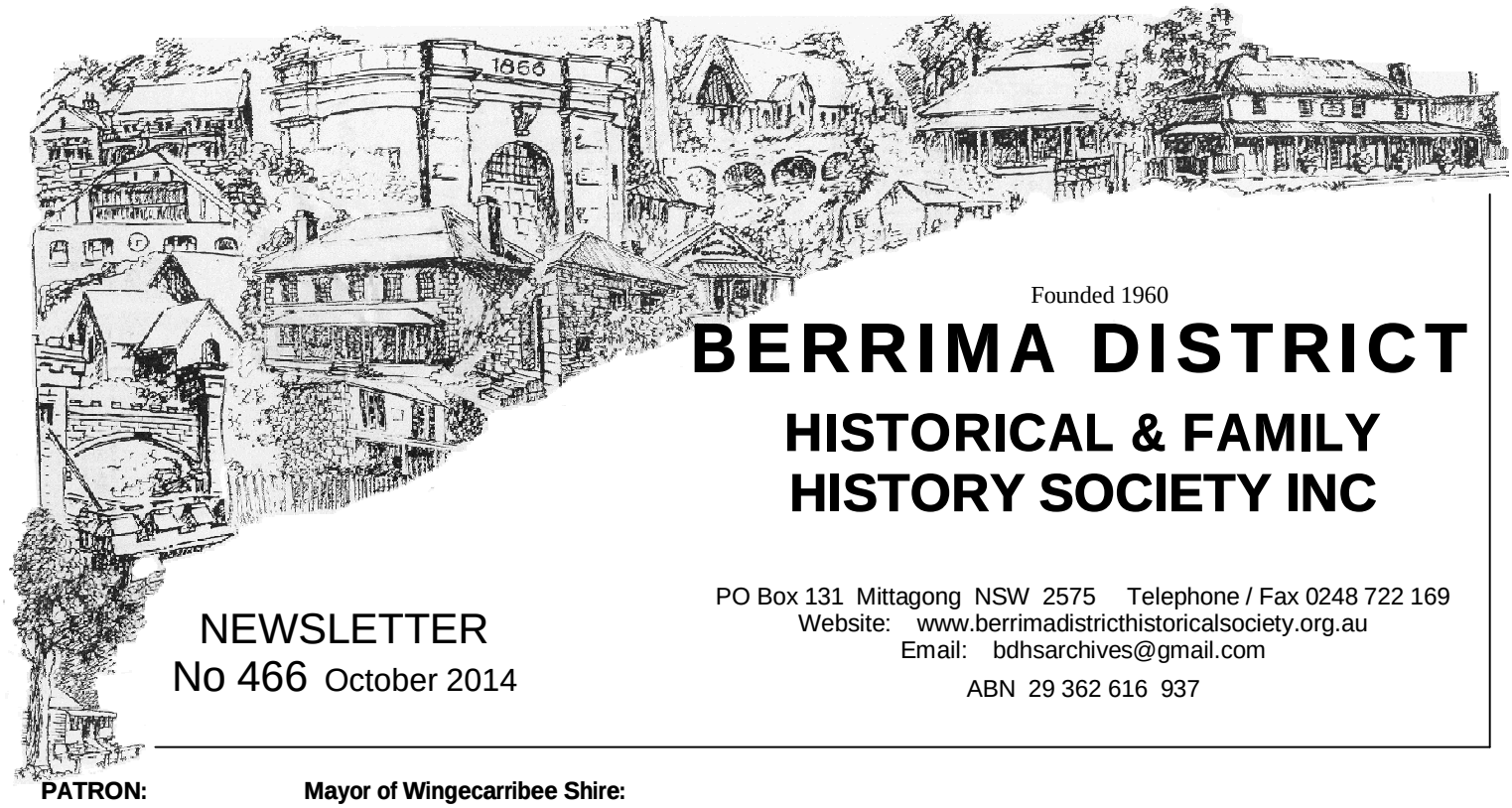


Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 Telephone / Fax 0248 722 169
Website: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au
Email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com
ABN 29 362 616 937

NEWSLETTER
No 466 October 2014

PATRON:	**Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire:**		
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Curator - Museum:	Mr Bob WILLIAMS	4889 4405	
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Newsletter Editor:	Ms Lavinia FORD	4869 4038	lavinias@dodo.com.au
Research Officer:	Mr Max ROGERS	4861 3526	robert.rogers2@bigpond.com

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

OCTOBER MEETING: **Thursday 23 October 2014 at 2pm**
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: **Dennis McManus**
Dennis will give an illustrated talk on the application of the NSW Eight Point Heritage Management Program to our Shire
AFTERNOON TEA: To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

NOVEMBER MEETING: **Thursday 27 November 2014 at 2pm**
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: **AGM and General Meeting**

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Early newspapers: travel 7

And more …



Diary dates

OCTOBER

Tulip Time
1 **MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**
6 School holidays conclude
9 Management Committee Meeting
23 General Monthly Meeting

NOVEMBER

Office Bearer Nominations due
Notices of Motion due
13 Management Committee Meeting
27 **AGM** & **Monthly Meeting**

Membership fee reminder

Just a reminder that membership fees were due by October 1. If you have forgotten there is still time to renew so you won't miss out on your newsletter.

The annual fee is now $25 for a single membership and $35 for a family membership.

Nomination and appointment forms

It is brought to the attention of all BDH&FHS Office Bearers, Other Committee Members, Appointed Position Holders and prospective nominees that Nomination and Appointment Forms are available from the Secretary. Forms are to be lodged with the Secretary by 20 November for consideration at the AGM on 27 November, 2014. Office Bearers & Position Holders are reminded that a report on their individual areas of responsibility is required for the November issue of the newsletter. Please submit to the Secretary by 28 October.

Membership details

Please note that all membership enquiries and changes of address details should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, c/- the Society's postal address or email to bdhsarchives@gmail.com

Christmas lunch at Dormie

This year a Christmas lunch rather than a dinner has been arranged and will be at Dormie House, Moss Vale on Friday 28 November 2014, at 12:30 for 1:00pm. $35 per head.

On the menu are two courses as alternate drops:

Main

Roast Turkey with a pear and sage stuffing, roasted garlic butter, seasonal roast vegetables and gravy

OR

Crispy Skinned Atlantic Salmon with cauliflower puree and oregano butter

Dessert

Christmas Pudding with brandy custard

OR

Rhubarb and Apple Crumble with ice cream

Tea and coffee included. There will be a Raffle and Lucky Door prizes.

Bookings and payment essential by Friday 21 November to the Archives. Phone 4872 2169.

Sewell 200 year reunion

Fred Sewell has provided us with the following information.

George Sewell arrived as a convict 200 years ago on the 16 October 1814. To celebrate this milestone event, Sewells and related families such as Nye, Cosgrove, Lord and many others are gathering at the Mittagong RSL on 8 November 2014 (a Saturday) for a daytime information exchange and an evening dinner. Any contact please to Stan Gordon 66587955 or Fred Sewell 48624284.

Newsletter

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

New members

Welcome to new members who have joined in the past months:

Joanne **Birkl,** Moss Vale
Carolyn **Bourke,** Bowral
Fiona **Burns,** Berrima
Amanda **Fenner,** Bowral
Ann **Fieldhouse,** Bundanoon
Warren **Glase,** Moss Vale
Susan **Graham,** Burradoo
Margaret **Holt,** Fitzroy Falls
Rodney **Moore,** Kiama Downs
Meg **Probyn,** Mittagong

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.

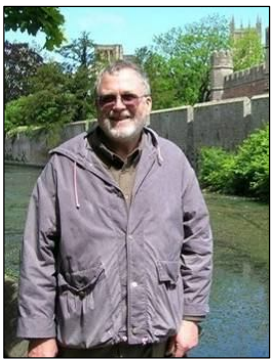
Groups also welcome at other times by arrangement. Please telephone Bob or Gloria on 4889 4405.

October guest speaker

Dennis McManus

Heritage Management in Wingecarribee Shire - an illustrated talk

Dennis started work as a planner with the NSW State Planning Authority in 1966. In 1981 he was seconded for 3 months to the Heritage Branch set up in 1978 which serviced the NSW Heritage Council. He recounts that the 3 months turned into 25 years of work in an area he loved and was made a pleasure by the nature of the work and by the people he worked with both inside the office and in the wider community.



Because of his planning background he realised that what happened at local government level was very important in terms of the outcome for the environment as a whole including heritage. In due course, with his colleagues he developed an eight point program on how councils could better manage heritage.

1. Establish a heritage committee
2. Complete a heritage study and list the items in your local environmental plan
3. Run a heritage advisory program
4. Manage heritage in a positive way
5. Run a local heritage fund
6. Run a main street program
7. Present educational and promotional programs
8. Set a good example by making sure council's own heritage items are well looked after.

For his services to heritage Dennis received an Order of Australia Public Service Medal in 1997. He joined our Historical Society this year and he is currently a community member on Wingecarribee Shire Council's Heritage Committee. He is also on the WSC's Joadja Trust and very much involved in the current $214,000 conservation project including the reinstatement of 6 cottages in Carrington Row (photo below August '14).



At our October 2014 meeting Dennis will give a richly illustrated talk on the application of the NSW Eight Point Program to our Shire.

New Wingecarribee Shire mayor

Our Society congratulates Duncan Gair who has returned as mayor of Wingecarribee Shire

Councillor Duncan Gair won the mayoral election vote last month and Councillor Graham McLaughlin was elected deputy mayor. Both gentlemen grew up, went to school and have raised families in the local district.

It is a tradition that the mayor is invited to be Patron of our Society, and we look forward to Cr Gair taking on that role. Recently the Tulip Time Street Parade took place along Bong Bong St, Bowral in which the newly elected mayor, deputy mayor and other councillors made a stylish appearance riding in vintage vehicles.



1952 Chevrolet convertible - Cr Gair waves to onlookers



1906 Darracq open tourer - owner/driver Alan Barker with deputy mayor Cr McLaughlin in passenger seat



Cr Ian Scandrett (in cap) on a 1950s Bedford fire engine

Bundanoon celebrating 150 years

Next year Bundanoon is celebrating 2015 as the 150th year of it becoming a village community. An overview of this historic milestone continues here.

Origin of the name 'Bundanoon'

The name 'Bundanoon' came to be as a result of its earliest mention by explorer Dr Charles Throsby in his Journal dated 29 March 1818, which records that he and his party visited the locality noted as Bantanoon, an Aboriginal word meaning place of deep gullies. So impressed was he with the grandeur and beauty of the gully country that he recommended a portion be reserved to the Crown and 1200 acres in the vicinity of Bundanoon Creek were duly reserved in 1824.

This visit by Throsby came after he had taken part in Surveyor Meehan's expedition to the south country in 1818 that was initiated by Governor Macquarie and guided by the young Hamilton Hume. Two results of this 1818 expedition connected with the landscape would shape Bundanoon.

The first was the knowledge of the gully country that would later provide timber and coal for a time, and a section of which became the Gullies Recreation Reserve that eventually attracted holiday makers to the area. The other result was that it led to settlement at Sutton Forest and along a road that proceeded southeast from it. Meehan explored further to the southwest after a quarrel near present-day Marulan with Throsby who, guided by Aborigines, returned northeast and explored the gully country.

Meehan's traverse became an early settlers track leading to Bungonia and beyond. It branched off the South Road built by Throsby for Governor Macquarie who, when he made a tour of inspection in 1820, was so impressed by the fertile Sutton Forest area he gave it that name and encouraged settlement. A village soon flourished there.

Meehan's track became known as Argyle Road and settlement spread along it. About 10 miles southeast of Sutton Forest it passed within a few miles of present-day Bundanoon's location. Here a locality known as Jumping Rock attracted settlers (today's Ferndale Road out of Bundanoon passes through the area). Several bark hut inns served travellers for the decade or so that the road was busy. Early settler families that became established there include the Haymans, Jefferys, Hines, Conlons and Dignams. A small private school operated from the 1840s.

This Jumping Rock area was situated a few miles to the northwest from where the line of the southern railway would be built. Earthworks commenced along the line in 1865 and a railway-based community began at a nearby locality known as Barren Ground.

Thus the focus of settlement shifted from the Argyle Road out of Sutton Forest to Barren Ground where a workers' tent camp was established by the railway contractors, Forster & Roberts. As well, from 1863 selectors took up scrub land in the vicinity, including Samuel Tooth, Charles Jordan and Walter Grice.

The contractors employed a motley crew of labourers, including unemployed from Sydney and immigrant families from England and Europe. Many of these moved on, but some stayed and settled in the area.

The first mentions of life at Barren Ground appeared in the *Goulburn Herald* from 1865 and included reports of theft, drunkenness and alleged rape.

The paper reported on 16 September 1865 that at Berrima Quarter Sessions, William Graham (known as Bill the Jordy) was charged with having, at Barren Ground, stolen from the person of Henry Homsberg (a Swede) money amounting to 15 pounds. The prisoner pleaded not guilty. Homsberg had met the prisoner and others at the hut of Charlie Woods, a Forster & Roberts sub-contractor. He had too much drink and, on leaving, he fell and lost recollection; on reviving in the middle of the night he missed his money, suspected the prisoner, and gave information to the police. The paper did not provide the outcome.

In April 1866 the paper reported on an alleged rape at Forster & Roberts contract. James West, a labourer, was charged with having committed a rape upon Christiana Frederica Gotzsch, a German, and pleaded not guilty. Gotzsch was a married woman, living on the contract; she remembered the prisoner coming into her hut asking for bread and meat; he then took hold of her and threw her down on the bed; three men came into the hut shortly afterwards and put him out. The jury brought in a verdict of not guilty and the prisoner was discharged.

* * *

It was not just from these rough and raw beginnings that a community evolved, as revealed by the history of free selectors in the area.

One prominent settler family at Barren Ground was that of Samuel and Emily Tooth who had emigrated from England in 1859 with a two-year old daughter and one-month old son born on the way out.

In 1863 Samuel applied for the conditional purchase of 40 acres at Barren Ground near the railway line and over following years purchased further portions. He commenced the hard work of clearing his land by hand, saw and axe and constructed a slab house.

In early 1865 Samuel and Emily's fourth son, Reuben, was born at the new Barren Ground home. He was the first of a further ten children to be born there and heralded the birth of the fledgling community that would become the village of Bundanoon.

- compiled by P Morton from BDHS and Bundanoon History Group archives material

Archaeological dig at Harpers

Uncovering the kitchen at Harpers Mansion

The following report is supplied by Chris Thompson, a local National Trust volunteer at Harpers Mansion.

After an amazing and very satisfying week in early September, the remnants of the outside kitchen at Harpers Mansion have been revealed.

Built at the same time as the house, sometime in 1835/6, the kitchen collapsed in the 1930s and had become a dump pile, which the garden volunteers occasionally disguised with pumpkins and the like.

A team of 12 volunteers drawn from as far afield as Adelaide and Newcastle worked under the direction of field archaeologist Ted Higginbotham and John van Tilberg over five days to reveal what lay below the pile. And it proved much more than was expected.

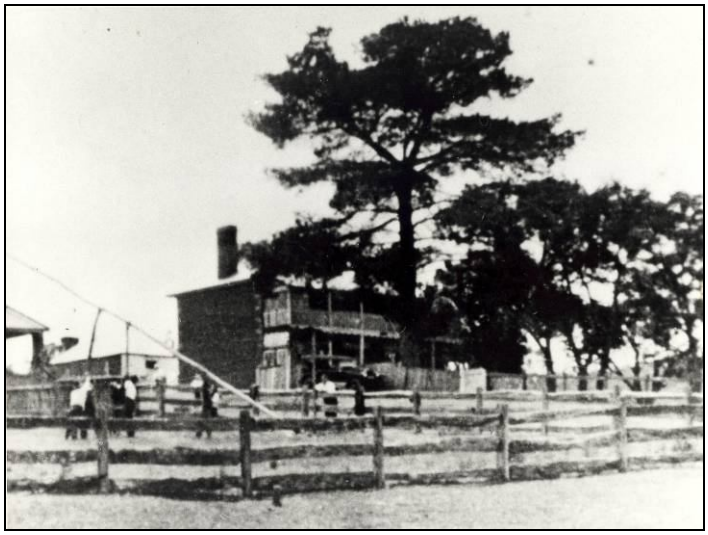
Part of the back wall has always been visible but more courses and a longer length have now been revealed. Also a good section of brick floor plus the hearth area and a brick partition wall between what was the main room and possibly a cool room at the southern end. The front (eastern) and southern walls are missing but there are traces of a footpath that may have gone along the front wall and linked with the house. The floor is well above present ground level accounting for the apparent height of the building in the one old photo we have.

There were some delightful details remaining. An iron ring that would have held a vertical support for pots and pans is still set into the side of the hearth as is a hole into which a bolt would have gone to hold the main door open.

The dig also turned up lots of what some might call 'rubbish' but which are professionally called 'artefacts'. Among the most interesting was a small (child's) crucifix which links beautifully to the 120 or so years the house was owned by the Catholic Church and a brick whose markings show it has come all the way from Scotland. More mundane were several rabbit traps which had to be carefully trowelled in case they were still set.

The site has been prepared for display but is temporarily protected beneath straw bales and tarpaulins and will need to stay this way until the frosts are over as the brickwork is fragile. Though it can be uncovered occasionally for visitors, the Harper's committee is now considering how best to provide permanent protection so that it can be viewed all the time.

The archaeological dig was funded by proceeds from Ann Beaumont's book, *A Light in the Window*, a grant from Wingecarribee Shire Council and generous donations from several local National Trust members.



Harpers Mansion external kitchen c1926. Taylor Collection.



Day 1 - Carefully removing the top soil



Day 3 - the partition wall appears



Day 5 - the site as it will be displayed showing evidence of continued use as a functional building over 150 years.

New book on local inns and hotels

The Society's latest publication, *Life Behind the Bar: Inns and Hotels in the Southern Highlands1824-1924* is soon to be available.

It is the culmination of years of historical research by Shylie Brown, a member of our Society for 11 years and an active volunteer at our Mittagong archives. Her research covers more than 450 licensees, their families and where their premises were located along the Great South Road and other Southern Highlands localities.

The book will be launched on Friday 24 October at our newly extended museum in Berrima by Associate Professor Carol Liston, current President of the Royal Australian Historical Society which assisted with the book's publication.

As readers will be aware, the 'Royal' is holding its 2014 State History Conference at Mittagong RSL on the weekend of 25-26 October. At the museum on the Friday evening there will be a pre-conference event to welcome delegates to the area and to showcase the new extension. The book launch will be a highlight of this function for the visitors and invited guests.

Life Behind the Bar provides a comprehensive listing and description of all the licensees who ran the inns and hotels that operated in the local district between 1824 and 1924. An extensive index of licences is provided as an Appendix. The book includes location maps of the inns, starting at the northern point, the Traveller's Inn Tahmoor, following the Great Southern Road (renamed as the Hume Highway in 1928) and Illawarra Highway through the district localities and ending at the Imperial Hotel, Bowral.

Shylie Brown has had a great interest in Local and Australian history since completing the course at the University of New England in 1995. In the early 1990s she became aware of the JKS Houison collection of lantern slides depicting early Parramatta, held at the Society of Genealogists. With permission, hundreds of these slides were identified and researched. In partnership with her husband Ken, Shylie published *Parramatta, a Town Caught in Time, 1870*.

Shylie has had an active interest in conservation of heritage buildings at Parramatta and she received a number of awards from the National Trust, Energy NSW and from Parramatta City Council. She was selected for her work in heritage at the inaugural NSW Heritage and Community Awards.

After moving to the Southern Highlands, Shylie joined our Society and, at the suggestion of Linda Emery, began research into the inns and hotels in the district. This took more than six years as the inns and hotels numbered in excess of 86 with over 450 publicans.

The chequered early history of the colony's taverns and inns is also outlined in the book. When Governor Hunter arrived, finding that drunkenness abounded, in 1798 he introduced controls on the importation of liquor. Despite this, many small buildings, no better than humpies, were erected and it was to these that convicts, settlers and travellers were drawn to drink and socialise. Seen as more useful than a church, many of them were the first buildings erected in new settlements where beer, wines and spirits were available. When Governor Macquarie arrived in 1810 he was soon urging explorers to open up land and encouraging new settlements. He insisted that the rapidly erected outlying inns and hotels provided accommodation and food, as well as liquor and a place for horses and animals to rest securely.

As a result, many of the shanties were replaced with a distinctly colonial style of building displaying quality joinery, wide eaves and a verandah. A tap room was also included in the building, which was a small locked room with an opening to serve drinks.

The earliest inns in the local district followed the old South Road, before Berrima was surveyed in the 1830s on a new line for the Great Southern Road. A regular stream of traffic then passed through the Berrima district. By 1879 there were 17 inns and hotels listed, including at Nattai (Mittagong), Bowral, Robertson and Marulan. By 1900 only nine inns were listed. The Royal Hotel was the sole hotel listed in Bowral, even though there were three hotels trading at that time. As the population grew in the districts of Moss Vale and Picton, licensing courts were established. After 1922, Publicans' Licensing Courts were held in the local area and the names of the hotels and licensees appeared in local newspapers such as the *Scrutineer*.



The Royal Hotel Bowral opened 1878, pictured here c1903.

Life Behind the Bar: Inns and Hotels in the Southern Highlands, 1824-1924 will be available for $30 from the archives, museum and via the Society's website.

Would any BDHS members who wish to attend the book launch and who have not as yet received an invitation, please advise the Secretary, Philip Morton.

Early newspaper stories: travel

Compiled by Research Officer, Max Rogers

The Southern Mail (Bowral)

10 August 1934

Dangerous Action

The dangerous practice of pedestrians walking along the Hume Highway when footpaths were provided for them was recently discussed at Mittagong Council.

Ald. Solomons asked who would be responsible if a person walking along the road was struck by a motor car and fatally injured? Ald. McFarlane said that in a case in Drummoyne some years ago it had been held that a pedestrian had as much right to the road as a motorist provided he observed the rules of the road.

Ald. Solomons said if anyone drove along the main street, where there were good footpaths, they would see people walking along the middle of the road. Something should be done before some person received serious injury or was killed.

On wet nights when visibility was poor, it was also a matter of whether a car's lights were powerful or not.

3 April 1937

Motor Fatalities

During the Easter holidays a number of more or less serious motoring accidents occurred in this district.

In one of these mishaps, a fatal crash occurred on the Hume Highway, about 7 miles south of Berrima, when a car ran over an embankment. Two passengers were killed, while the driver was severely shaken. All were visitors passing through the district. The car was badly damaged.

A number of other cars, seen passing through the town and along the Hume Highway, in a more or less battered condition, show evidence of a hectic holiday. It is safer to travel by rail.

13 March 1940

Snakes Crawl Over Injured Men

Four men, 60 venomous snakes, and a number of lizards were thrown to the roadway when a motor truck overturned on the Hume Highway near Berrima on Sunday. The snakes wriggled over the dazed men as they lay on the ground, but nobody was bitten.

The snakes and lizards belonged to George Cann, of La Perouse, a snake 'charmer,' who with three assistants had captured them in the Goulburn, Braidwood, and Crookwell districts. The men were taking them to Sydney in the truck when a stub-axle broke and the truck overturned. The boxes containing the snakes were smashed, and the men, two of whom were injured, spent an alarming few minutes while the snakes wriggled over them.

Cann had two of his fingers broken, and one of his assistants had a thigh broken. They were taken to the Berrima District Hospital. Mechanics who arrived to salvage the truck refused to begin work until assured that all the snakes had been recaptured and packed safely back into the boxes. Both they and the truck are now at a Mittagong garage, the proprietor of which has received full instructions how to feed the snakes.

16 October 1953

Smash in Tunnel

Railway traffic on the main southern line was diverted through the Mittagong-Picton loop line on Monday, following a collision between two trains in the Yerrinbool tunnel.

The collision occurred between what is known to Berrima district residents as the 'Paper Train' and part of a preceding goods train, which had broken away. The guard of the goods train brought the brake-van and trucks attached to it, to a standstill in the tunnel, and endeavoured to stop the following train with a signalling lamp.

The Mail interviewed a passenger on the paper train who said he was sitting in a carriage with his back towards the engine. On the opposite seat was another male passenger. The front portion of the train had entered the tunnel when there was a sound of a crash, followed immediately by a similar sound. The passenger opposite him was thrown across the carriage and luggage on the rack fell on him. The water bottle hit the floor and was smashed to pieces and the luggage rack came away from the wall.

The carriage in which the men were seated was just outside the tunnel. They got out to the permanent-way and discovered that the guards van on their train was badly damaged and the guard had a bump on his head.

Smoke and steam were pouring out of the tunnel and there was considerable wreckage. They were informed that it was impossible to get through the tunnel and subsequently walked out to the Hume Highway where they got a lift to Bowral. This passenger estimates that there were about 30 passengers in the two carriages attached to the paper train. No one was seriously injured in the smash and none of the passengers were treated by the Berrima District Ambulance.

One man who was about to enter the toilet when the crash occurred was thrown forward and his face hit a mirror and smashed it to pieces. He was suffering from cuts and a bruised nose, but it is not known whether he sought medical attention.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	9 OCT	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23 OCT	Monthly General Meeting	**2:00pm** at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	13 NOV	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	27 NOV	**AGM and Monthly General Meeting**	**2:00pm** at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	11 DEC	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25 DEC	**NO** Monthly General Meeting	

If undelivered return to:
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PO Box 131
MITTAGONG NSW 2575

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.

Springetts Arcade