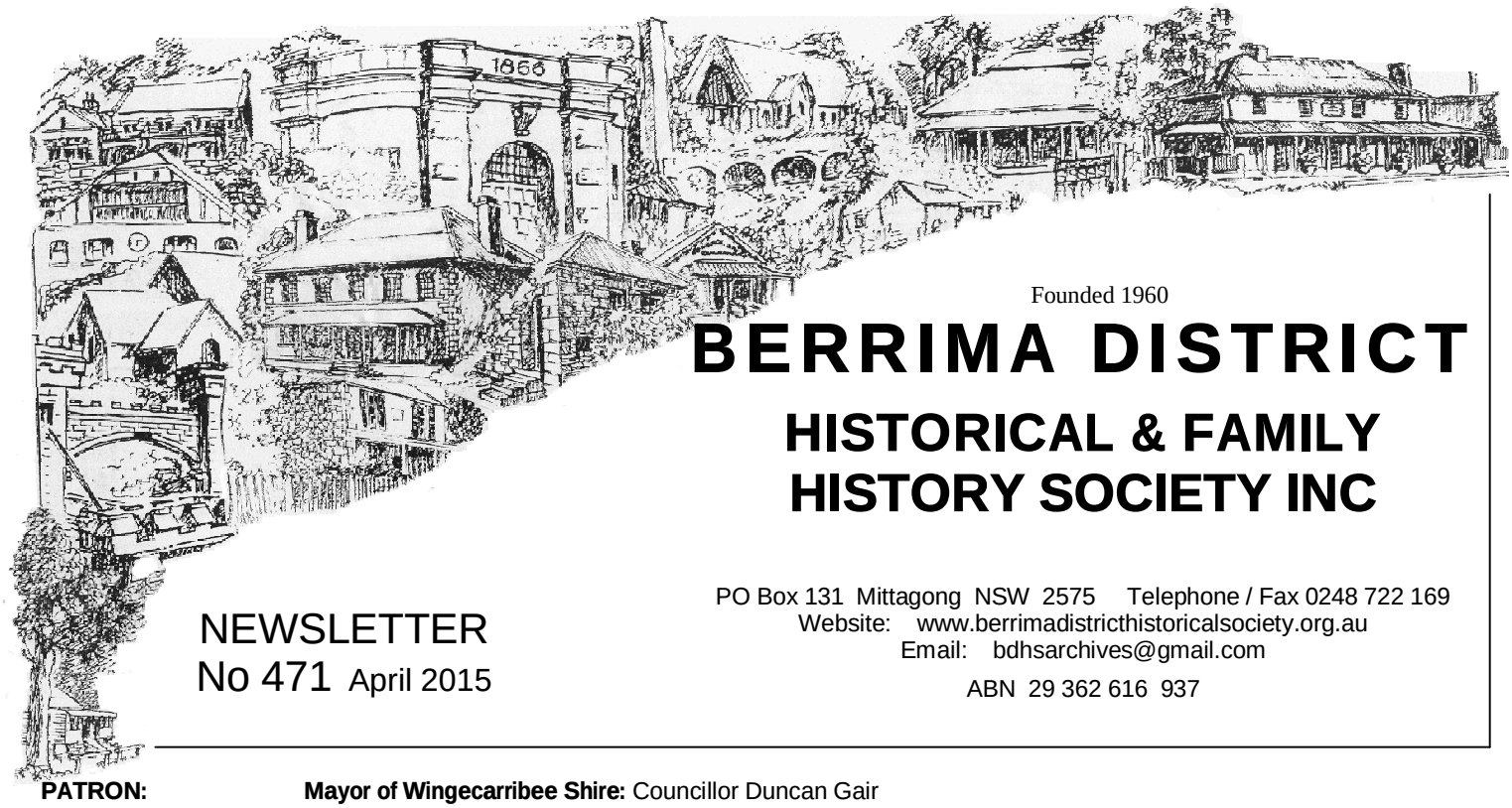


Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 471 April 2015

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

PATRON:	**Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire:** Councillor Duncan Gair		
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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: bdmuseum@bigpond.com OPEN**:** Wednesdays to 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 $25.00 - Family $35.00.

AFFILIATIONS: Royal Australian Historical Society, NSW Association of Family History Societies, Museums Australia Inc & Regional Chapter.

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

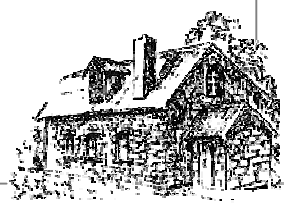
APRIL MEETING: **Thursday 23 April 2015 at 2pm**
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: **Linda Emery**
Linda will present a talk on our Southern Highlands 1200 Anzac Exhibition that is soon to open at the museum.
AFTERNOON TEA: To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

MAY MEETING: **Thursday 28 May 2015 at 2pm**
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: **Philip Yeo**

Inside this month …

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New Museum entrance opened 3
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Mittagong: Gateway to the South 6

And more …



Diary dates

APRIL
2 School holidays commence
9 Management Committee Meeting
21 School holidays conclude
23 General Monthly Meeting

MAY
10 Mother's Day
14 Management Committee Meeting
28 General Monthly Meeting

JUNE
8 Queens Birthday Holiday
11 Management Committee Meeting
25 General Monthly Meeting
LUNCHEON
26 School holidays commence

From the President's desk

Wow, yet another successful month for our Society! The Camera on Gallipoli exhibition attracted visitors in droves and is now on its way back to the War Memorial in Canberra.

At the end of February, Pru Goward's Government granted our Museum money to build a toilet for the disabled.

She officially presented her cheque outside what is now humorously dubbed "Pru's Loo".

Early this month, my bride and I undertook a road trip to Melbourne. Giving us a chance to see one of our sons, we offered to collect a couple of items loaned to the Museum.

The first was our old typewriter that was being repaired by one of Australia's only living and breathing typewriter repairer. His name is Tom the Typewriter Guy.

His shop is absolutely chockas with typewriters. It's amazing to think that not so long ago there were typing pools with (mostly) ladies banging out an average of 50 words per minute. When I first heard of a typing pool, I thought seriously about how they could ever keep the paper dry!

Heading south down the picturesque Mornington Peninsular, we enjoyed the coastal scenery immensely before spotting a ferry waiting for us at Sorrento that took us across the infamous 'Rip' of Port Phillip Bay landing us in the sleepy old historic town of Queenscliff on the western side.

At nearby Point Lonsdale we met up with the grandson of Eric Eldridge who offered to loan the Society his grandfather's WW1 uniform, diaries, medals, photos etc. Eric and his sister, Margaret, joined the Army as a nursing sister in 1915. They lived at Hilltop at that time.

These historic items will form part of our next exhibition opening on April 18th and represents one of many stories of the 1200 Southern Highlanders who went to war. Luckily Eric returned to Australia in 1918 with his sister, Margaret, who was a decorated nurse.

Eric's uniform is still in immaculate condition with one brass epaulet reading "AUSTRA". The "LIA" had disappeared from his shoulder with the assistance of a Turkish bullet.

Anxious to see these items carefully retrieved, our archivist, Linda Emery, called us and asserted; 'now come straight home you two, and don't let your car out of your sight!'

Our Patron, Mayor Duncan Gair officially opened the Museum's new entrance including a disabled access ramp and landscape. This was the result of two grants, one from the Council and the other from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust plus some 18 generous community donations.

Our Southern Highlands 1200 exhibition will open on April 18.

John, Michelle, Lyn, Harlan, Linda and the team are working at fever pitch to get this blockbuster showcased in time.

The Eldridge's story is just one of 1200 we can proudly share with you.

Tour of Towrang

Members are requested to contact the Archives by 30 April 2015 if interested in attending a tour of historic Towrang to be held during September. The people who run this tour take groups around in their bus to a number of sites of historic interest including a David Lennox bridge and the site of the convict stockade. There is a small amount of relatively level walking.

Tour guide is John Jarvis. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are provided. (The cost last year was $30 per person.)

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

The Story Centre BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

Market Place, Berrima
Near the bridge

Please note that the museum is now open for at least 5 days every week, and not just on weekends and daily through school holidays as previously.

OPENING HOURS

10 am - 4 pm

WEDNESDAY to SUNDAY

and every day during NSW School Holidays and NSW Public Holidays.

Closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Groups also welcome at other times by arrangement. Please telephone John on 4872 1660.

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.

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

Archivist's Report March 2015

Linda Emery

We have had several interesting acquisitions to the archives this month. Keith Brown, researcher and archivist of Gunning & District Historical Society, has just published a book *The Day that Dunkley Died* about the murder of Henry Dunkley and the subsequent trial and execution in Berrima of his wife Lucretia and her lover Martin Beech for the crime. There has been much written about this case over the years, much of it inaccurate. Keith has now written an extremely well-researched account and was good enough to donate a copy to our library. The book is also available in our bookshop.

Peter Rumble of Moss Vale donated a photograph of the first Moss Vale Bowling Club taken c.1905-1910. The green was at the back of the Royal Hotel (now Moss Vale Hotel) and this view looks back towards the hill. The area is now built out with the IGA shopping centre and the many buildings and houses behind that. We have a couple of poor quality images of the bowling club, but this is an excellent photo and very clearly shows a match in progress.

Archives volunteers are undertaking some interesting indexing and research projects at the moment, having completed the transfer of the newspaper card index to computer. The index is now word searchable making a check of the indexes much quicker and more reliable. The indexing of the books in the Kevin Herring Collection is almost complete. One of our volunteers commenced the computer index in September last year and has completed ten boxes, with a total of around 300 books, maps, journals etc. There are nine columns of information for each item which equates to over 2,700 column entries.

Roberta has completed a catalogue and index of all the artworks in the archives, both those hanging on the walls and in storage. She has done some excellent research on the pictures and photographed each of them so we now have a very good record. Some of the pictures have been in the archives for longer than any of us can remember and have no accession details, but where possible we have attributed them and tried to establish provenance.

New book available for purchase

In *The day that Dunkley Died: Murder and Retribution in Colonial Gunning* author Keith Brown has outlined the murder case of Henry Dunkley. The story began when London-born convict Dunkley came to Port Jackson in 1818 and, as it unfolds, the reader is drawn into a tale of adultery, deception and murder in a fine description of rural life in the 1840s. Copies may be purchased for $20 from the Archives, the Museum in Berrima and via the BDH&FHS website.

New entrance at museum opened

An upgraded front entrance to our Berrima Museum was officially opened in March by Counsellor Duncan Gair, Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire. The facility was recently completed as part of major the development works at the museum, including the new Williams Gallery extension.

The upgrading was required to meet disabled access standards and to make the entrance more attractive to visitors. It was part-funded with grants from Veolia Mulwaree Trust and Wingecarribee Shire Council.



Councillor Gair (right) and Project Manager Harlan Hall



Society members look on while Clr Gair cuts the ribbon

The mayor congratulated the members of the society, and Harlan Hall in particular, for the upgrading effort at the museum that expands the community facility.

Many generous local community donations were also received and for these we are most grateful. Goods and services donations from local building contractors and suppliers included:

Action Hire, Alderwood Nursery, Allman Johnston Architects, Beaumont Tiles, Boral Cement, Canturf, Createscape Landscaping, Highland Sand & Gravel, Highlands Tiling, John Roman Earthmoving, Lifeline Concrete Pumping, Mittagong Home Hardware, Mittagong Plumbing Services, Pisano Plumbing, Plumber Supplies Co-Operative Ltd, Reece Plumbing Supplies, Rentokil, S & I Constructions and The Box Concrete Company.

Our Anzac Centenary Exhibition

The Southern Highlands 1200 Exhibition

will be opened on Saturday 18 April

All members are invited to the official opening which will commence at 11:00am. Personal invitations have been posted to all members living locally – however if you haven't received one, please note ALL members are welcome to attend. The exhibition will be open to the public from the following day and then each week, with the museum open every Wednesday to Sunday.

This exhibition project was launched in April 2013 at the New Empire Cinema in Bowral to raise donations and obtain grants for the building at the museum of a new extension to serve as a state-of-the-art exhibition gallery. The intention of the project was that the new gallery would, from April 2015, house a very special exhibition focusing on the 1200 Southern Highlands' men and women who served in World War 1.

This project was planned to be a local contribution to the Anzac Centenary commemorations taking place throughout Australia in this centenary year of 2015.



Project Manager Harlan Hall, along with a large team of dedicated museum volunteers, made rapid progress with the building of the exhibition gallery as an extension attached alongside the existing museum building. The project could not have been completed without the help of many generous community donors and the obtaining of numerous grants. The support of over sixty businesses, which provided in-kind donations of services and goods, was crucial. As were the grants: in particular a grant under the Arts NSW Regional Capital 2013/14 grant program ($98,000), an Anzac Centenary Grant, a Veolia Mulwaree Community Grant, a Wingecarribee Shire Council Community Assistance Grant and a share through Council of Southern Phone's local community support funding.

The fit-out of the new gallery to include showcases, interactive displays and lighting, received a $35,000 grant provided under the Arts NSW Regional Capital 2014/15 grant program. The new exhibition space was formally opened as the Williams Gallery in January 2015 and an inaugural exhibition 'A Camera on Gallipoli' was mounted. This collection of images by medical doctor and photographer Charles Ryan was made available by the Australian War Memorial as a travelling exhibition.



This first exhibition, which ran for two months, proved extremely popular. The museum was open every day for this period and we thank all the volunteers who devoted their time and effort to make this possible.

- compiled by P Morton

Remembering the locals who served in WWI

- from an article by Linda Emery in April 2015 Highlife

Throughout the nation in this Anzac Centenary year, Australians are commemorating and interpreting the involvement of their people in the Great War through many mediums: in books, film, re-enactments and exhibitions.

In the Williams Gallery at our museum in Berrima, the *Southern Highlands 1200* Exhibition will open for Anzac Day as our Society's contribution to marking this defining period in our history. Over 1200 men and women from the Southern Highlands served overseas as soldiers, sailors, airmen and nurses in that war and the museum exhibition will be focused around them.

Archivist and researcher Linda Emery and museum volunteer Michele Woods with the assistance of other members and in conjunction with exhibition designer Lucy Banyan, have compiled personal histories and obtained display objects to portray a cross-section of those who served overseas and on the home-front.

The names of all 1200 men and women will appear on one side of the gallery space, an imposing tribute to the commitment of the district's population to the war. There will be photos of young men in uniform, so many of them never to return, looking out proudly from the wall. Rural Australia was particularly devastated by 'the war to end all wars'. Country boys were resourceful and could ride and shoot, and they joined up in large numbers. Many saw the army as an opportunity not only to serve their country but also to see the world, and Southern Highlands' lads were no exception. But the reality of war soon hit home as casualties mounted. The impact of the Gallipoli campaign was immediate and by the evacuation in December 1915, 33 soldiers from this district remained on the peninsula in their graves.

Worse would follow on the Western Front, where 173 Southern Highlands' boys would perish. Few of the 1200 would come through the war unscathed by wounds, the effects of poison gas and disease, and many would be damaged by their experiences for the rest of their days. And yet, the war was the great adventure of their lives despite the hardship.

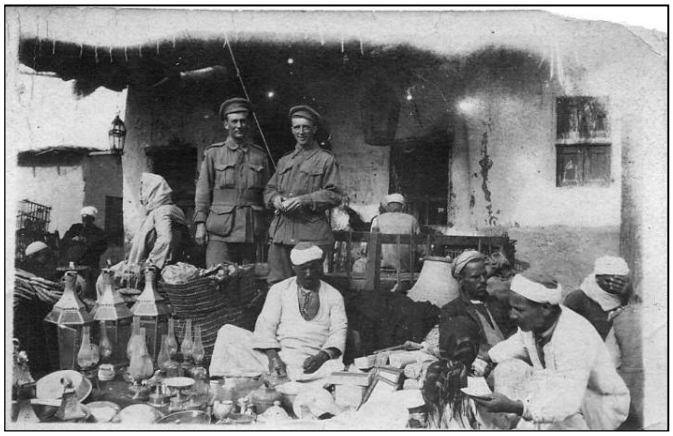
In their diaries and letters home, in the photographs they took and the friendships they made, their resilience and good humour is ever present. The museum exhibition has drawn on these sources as well as official records to tell the story of the people of our district in The Great War, both at home and overseas. The names of the 1200 appear on memorials and honour rolls throughout Wingecarribee Shire and, until now, many have been lost to memory. They served both in the Australian and British forces.

Most were Australian-born, but many were born in other countries, including England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Scandinavia and New Zealand.

Several family names are still familiar in the Southern Highlands and some wonderful memorabilia has been loaned by their descendants for the exhibition. The Pope family, who for four generations have worked as stonemasons on The Gib, loaned a precious photo album from the Middle East, put together by Don Pope of the 1st Light Horse for his mother, and photos from Gallipoli sent home by Don's brother Jim, who would later die in France. Selections appear below.



Drying Clothes after Ramaleh Stunt



Egyptian Bazaar 1916

The medals and diaries of Eric and Margaret Eldridge (brother and sister) of Hill Top have been obtained from Melbourne. Eric won the Distinguished Conduct Medal and Margaret, a sister in the Australian Army Nursing Service, was awarded the Royal Red Cross.

Sister Nellie Morrice, who features in the exhibition, was one of nine members of her family from the local area to serve. She also received the Royal Red Cross and went on to have a distinguished nursing career after the war.

The exhibition also explores the efforts of those on the home front, especially the women who worked so hard to send comforts overseas to 'the boys' and to raise funds for organisations involved in supporting the troops, especially the Red Cross. Objects on display include an original Red Cross uniform from World War I, a nurse's lamp and pattern books for the most useful items to send overseas - socks, mittens and balaclavas.

Women were also the major driving force behind the establishment of three convalescent homes in the Southern Highlands for returned soldiers. *Fairholme* at Burradoo, *The Mill* at Moss Vale and the *Southern Home* at Exeter were all run by volunteers who did basic training to become Voluntary Aids for the Red Cross. Hundreds of recovering wounded and those suffering from shell-shock benefited from the tender care of the women and girls in the healthy Highlands' air. Our archive holds a collection of photographs from all three homes. Some are on display, but the whole collection is being screened in digital format in the museum, along with the Pope and other images.

Reaching beyond the gallery walls

A major component of the SH1200 exhibition is a bank of iPads within the exhibition space. Visitors can find details of those listed on the memory wall. The names of most of the 1200 are linked to the National Archives of Australia's *Discovering Anzacs* website, which holds service records of Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women along with other records and photographs, all freely available.

This commemorative exhibition will be on display until 2018, with items on rotating exhibition, and museum volunteers have developed an online version, making the story accessible beyond the walls of the gallery.

This is the most ambitious project ever undertaken by our Society. We can all be immensely proud.

It will serve as a key facet in the museum's long-term vision to be a 'Story Centre' that informs, educates and entertains both local people and visitors, enabling a greater appreciation of the Wingecarribee Shire's rich heritage.

April General Meeting: Linda Emery

Linda will be guest speaker
on Thursday 23 April at 2:00pm.

This will be a special presentation on the Southern Highlands 1200, a subject of great personal interest for Linda who has devoted much time over the years in researching 'her boys in khaki'. Her talk will expand upon themes that feature in the museum exhibition.

Members, guests and visitors are welcome to attend.

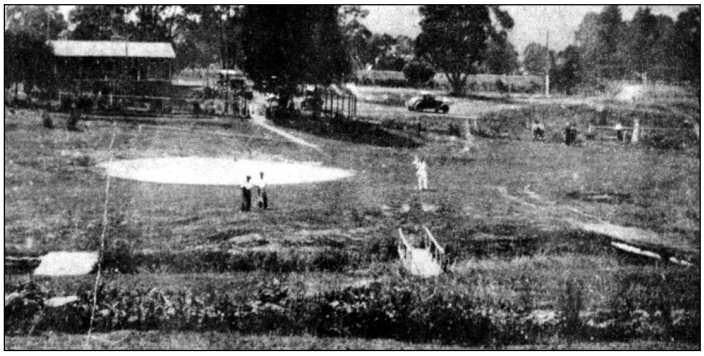
Mittagong: Gateway to the South

Part 3: Highway deviation to go through golf links and bowling club

From the 1920s there were calls for the replacement of a dangerous Hume Highway stretch on Mittagong's northern outskirts. No progress was made in the early 1930s as the Main Roads Department could not raise funds. An overview of this saga continues here.

Southern Mail December 1936: "On Christmas Eve, Amos Singleton, of Waite's Dairy in Mittagong, was found on the road between the Maltings and Drabbles bridges, suffering from a probable fracture of the skull. It is thought he was struck by a passing car".

In 1937 the Main Roads Department proposed a deviation that would run through Bowling Club and Golf Links land. Local residents were disturbed at this as the land was part of the Mittagong municipal recreation reserve that, from the 1920s, had been established to the west of the rail line. Initially a sports oval and gymnasium, further facilities were added: Caravan Park and Swimming Baths in 1931, Golf Club in 1933 with a 9-hole links stretching from the rail line to beyond the Baths, and Bowling Club in 1936, located between the Oval and rail line.



An early view of Mittagongs 9-hole golf course, c1920

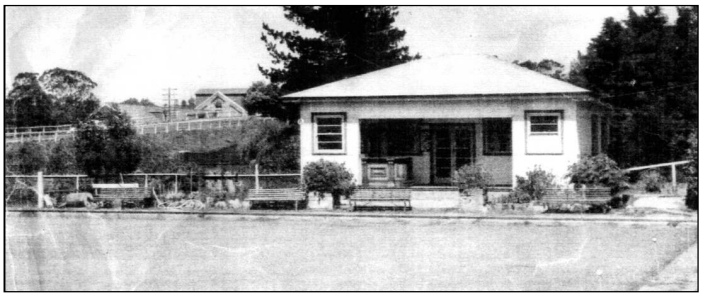
Though acknowledging that the Maltings bridge was dangerous and many appeals had been made for a deviation, Council felt that the proposed deviation would be the ruin of the recreation reserve. Council revealed that three schemes were being considered by the Main Roads Department. One was to widen the existing bridges and raise the road between them; another was to put in a level crossing. The third, a deviation scheme, would require an overhead bridge and interfere with the golf links and bowling green. It was moved that Council strongly protest on the condition that the Department be informed Council was in accord with its proposal to widen the existing bridges. Meanwhile, accidents continued to happen.

SMH August 1938: "A motor cycle, ridden by Errington Lewis, of Marrickville, skidded on the wet surface when crossing the Maltings bridge, and when the brake was applied Amy Young, 22, of Petersham, who was riding pillion, was thrown to the roadway. She received a fractured skull and other injuries. The ambulance conveyed her to Bowral District Hospital, where she died about an hour after admission. The rider of the cycle was not injured."

Southern Mail February 1939: "Four Salvation Army members were injured when the car in which they were travelling failed to negotiate the turn on Drabbles bridge and crashed into the fence." The report stated that one passenger received fractures in the right leg, abrasions to the forehead and severe shock, and was taken by ambulance to the District Hospital, as was the driver's 15-year-old son who suffered severe shock. The other passengers incurred only minor injuries.

Southern Mail April 1940: "The telephone service between Mittagong and Sydney was interrupted for some time on Wednesday night when a furniture pantechnicon left the road near the Maltings bridge, and crashed down an embankment. The vehicle broke 35 telephone lines in its descent. George Sheargold, of Randwick, who was travelling in the pantechnicon, received a probable fracture of the skull and injuries to the shoulder. He was taken to the District Hospital by ambulance and was reported to be in a serious condition."

The Main Roads Department submitted plans for eliminating the bridges to Nattai Shire Council in May 1946. A new road would be built proximate to the western side of the rail line, passing through the Bowling Club and a portion of the Golf Links. It offered to pay for the construction of a new bowling club on a site owned by Council. This deviation would by-pass both bridges by commencing a little north of Drabbles bridge near the nursery and re-join the Highway at the Maltings near the Sports Oval.



Original Mittagong bowling green near Hume Highway

The *Southern Mail* reported in July 1950 that the Bowling Club was in favour of Council's suggestion that bowling greens and clubhouse be established at Alexandra Square. It was stated that enquiries at the Registrar General's Dept revealed that Council had clear title to Alexandra Square and could use it for any purpose. The Golf Club opened a new clubhouse in 1950 located on the track leading to the Baths. Concerned about having to forego some land for the by-pass, it asked about compensation but was advised by Council that no claim could be made. Discussions continued as did accidents on the stretch of dangerous highway bridges.

To be continued - compiled by P Morton

Recent Mittagong historic tour

Last month we conducted a tour to two outstanding buildings in the historic New Sheffield precinct of Mittagong that stretches from the old town centre to Lake Alexandra. Organised by member Ros Dale, the tour attracted 25 participants who, despite the windy day, found it a most enjoyable outing.



Ros Dale in charge with members entering Leslie Cottage

First was Leslie Cottage, at the corner of Queen and Albert Streets. Owner Ms Lisa Delahunt allowed the group to wander through this lovely 1879 residence. The tasteful restoration, furnishings, landscaping and general ambience were greatly admired.



Marie Chalker in the Library providing the building's history

Then tour members made their way up the street to the Old Public School (now Mittagong Library) where, outside, our member Marie Chalker spoke about the original 1878 stone structure and its later additions. Once inside, she explained the history of it being the town's public school until 1937 and then becoming a children's library and eventually the town library.

After morning tea, those willing to carry on walked to the Methodist (now Uniting) Church where features of its brick structure were examined, including the visible remaining features of the earlier Missionary's Cottage that had been extended and turned into a teacher's residence and upstairs attic classroom that served as Mittagong's first public school from 1865 to 1877.

Thanks to all those who made this tour possible.

From early local newspapers

Robertson Advocate 4 April 1898

(supplied by Ros Dale)

An Old Offender

William Ellis, with half a dozen aliases, was liberated last week from Berrima Gaol, where he had just served a sentence of three years. He came to Bowral, and on Friday celebrated his liberty by getting drunk. In a rollicksome state he was dropped across by Senior Const. Gallagher, who extended him an invitation to the Government lodging house in Wingecarribee Street. William, however, did not take kindly to the invitation and had not proceeded far when he commenced to be obstreperous. He started by forcibly punching the constable, and finding that didn't pay, refused to budge any further. The scuffle that ensued attracted a number of people, who had their hearing greeted with language most filthy. This, of course, was not used by the constable.

Finally, with the assistance of three other persons the man was lodged in a cell at the local lock-up. At the police court on Monday he was brought before Messrs R S Mackenzie and F B Kyngdon, JP's, and the charges of drunkenness, using indecent language, and assaulting the police were preferred against him. The accused pleaded for mercy and promised to reform. The Bench heeded his plaintive cry, and notwithstanding this his only "reference" was a record of about thirty previous convictions for which he had undergone some 14 years imprisonment, the light penalties of 1s, 2s 6d, and 10s respectively were imposed, in default seven days. William, with a broad smile, went back to Berrima for the week. The leniency of a Bowral Bench is well known, but the above decision "surpasseth all understanding."

Aaah! Why don't they write news like this these days?

Mittagong Star 1 October 1943

(supplied by Carol Nolan)

Reminiscences. The first electric light in Mittagong was not (as popularly supposed) the present system. The Mittagong Town Band holds that distinction. For many years they experimented with electricity for lighting the band room and for street playing, the supply being derived from a car battery. For street playing a four armed stand was made by one of the bandsmen. Unfortunately, though the lighting was good, it did not last long enough, having to be recharged after every using.

The first lighting used in the Soldiers' memorial clock tower was supplied by the Band lights, which was about 300 candle power. They were petrol air gas lamps. Mr Ness Harvey was the mayor at the time and asked the Band who obliged.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	9 APR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23 APR	Monthly General Meeting	**2:00pm** at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	14 MAY	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28 MAY	Monthly General Meeting	**2:00pm** at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	11 JUN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25 JUN	Monthly General Meeting	**12:00 noon** *to be announced*

If undelivered return to:
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
PO Box 131
MITTAGONG NSW 2575

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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.

Southern Highland News
Springetts Arcade