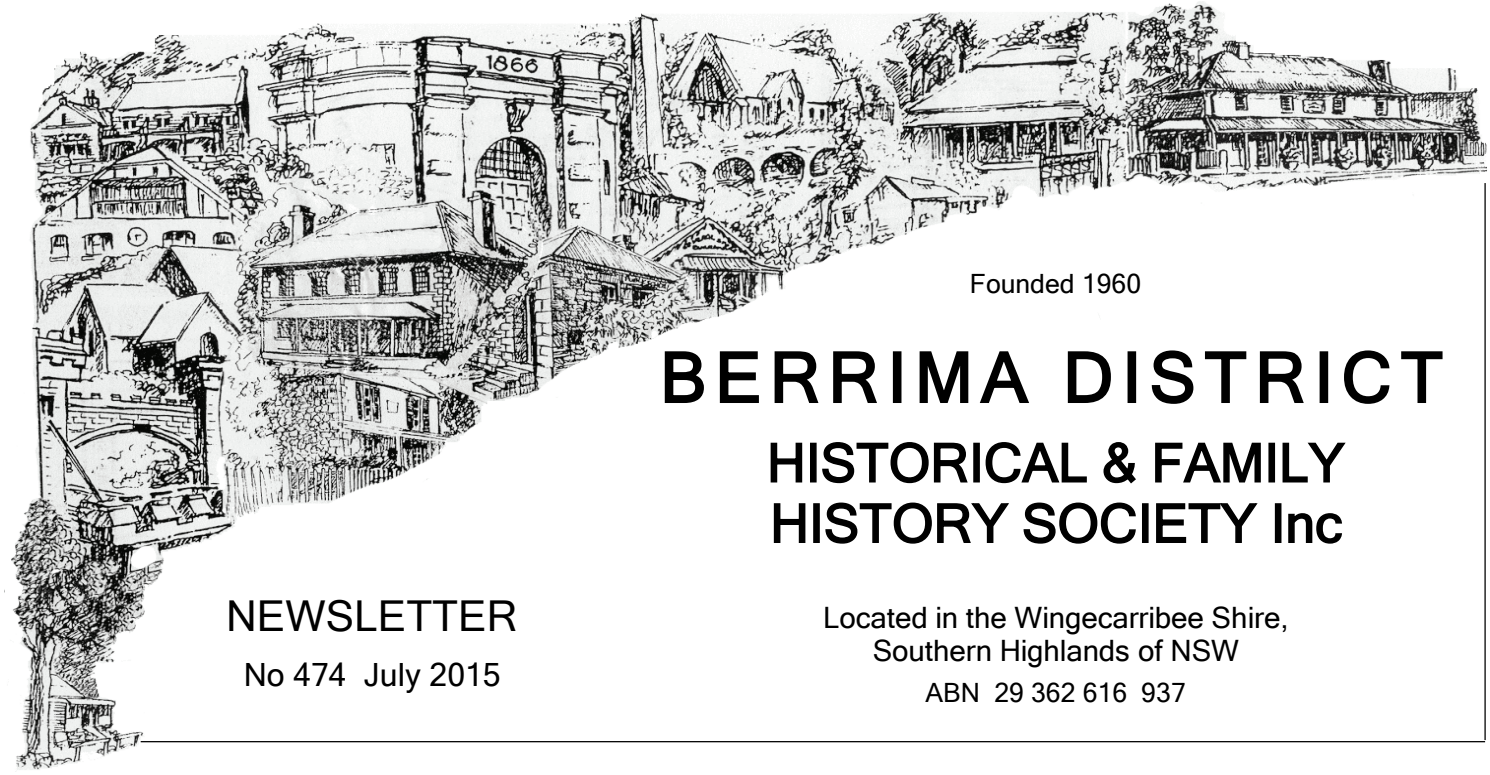


Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT

HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc

NEWSLETTER

No 474 July 2015

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29 362 616 937

From the President's Desk

Bruce Moore

What a great luncheon we enjoyed on Thursday 25th June at the Bowral Bowling Club. The fine food, the drinks, the company, the speaker all contributed to an entertaining afternoon. Many thanks to those involved.

Having spent some time at the Museum in Berrima, I can recommend if you like meeting and greeting people, this is the place for you. We are looking for more volunteers (out of a membership of 300) to do perhaps one day once a month in this wonderfully updated Museum space. This means a commitment of 6 hours (10-4pm) only once a month. Opening days each week are Wednesdays to Sundays.

To discuss further, please ring Sylvia Carless on 4861 2728 or 0419 623 402.

I found an old postcard the other day addressed to Miss Gladys Jenkins "Linga Longa" Croydon.

Years ago, the Postie knew where this person lived and I'm sure most of us could find the addressee, but today this card would sit in the dead letter Office 3809 forever.

Continued on page 2

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

JULY MEETING:	**Thursday 23 July at 2:00pm**
VENUE:	Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER:	Leonie Knapman – The Transportation of Coal and Shale This talk will focus on the ten early private mining railways that connected to the Southern Railway along its Mittagong to Bundanoon stretch through the Southern Highlands.
AFTERNOON TEA:	To be served following the speaker. Members please bring a plate or a donation.
AUGUST MEETING:	**Thursday 27 August at 2:00pm**
VENUE:	Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER:	Keith Brown, Gunning & District Historical Society Author of "The Day Dunkley Died", the story of the murder of Henry Dunkley and the subsequent hanging of his wife.

THE Story Centre
BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM
STORIES OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND OBJECTS FROM THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Museum news on page 5

President's Report

Continued from front page

Our postal Serviceton 3420 has gone Berserker 4701!!

There are now around 10 Croydons in Australia so if you don't enter the postcode after the suburb, you're up Black Duck Creek 4343 without a Packsaddle 2880.

Also the addressor's name, address and postcode must be clearly written on the envelope.

Has the post office gone Pearshape 7256? Now see what it's done?

Now they have the hide to state (NSW) that deliveries will be cut and the letter rates will rise from 70c to $1. Perhaps 50c of that $1 is storage charge?

There's a place in Queensland called Postmans Ridge where I guess old Posties Retreat 2355 to after they've done too many Miles 4415 on their Vesper 3833. When they Carcoar 2791 I believe they are placed in a Burra 5417 lined with Boxwood 3725.

So it's Goodna 4300 from him and Goodnight 4671 from me.

A lady bought a stamp at the post office and asked the clerk, "Do I stick it on myself?" The clerk replied gently, "No, it'll get there faster if you stick it on the envelope."

P.S. Our Newsletter is posted to you in black and white format. If you wish to see this in full-blown glorious Technicolor by email instead, then please let us know.

Cheers, Bruce

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

Archives Opening Hours

Monday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

Please note that the museum is now open at least 5 days a week

MUSEUM OPEN: 10am to 4pm

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

and every day during NSW school holidays and on public holidays.

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

Archives 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.

Desmond Kennard awarded OAM

Desmond Kennard, a member of our Society, was this year among those awarded an OAM for services to the visual arts, particularly to the museums and galleries sector, including his work as director of the Australian Bicentennial Exhibition.

He is Museum Advisor for Goulburn Mulwaree Council and for Marulan and District Historical Society.

Desmond specialty is the planning, development and management of universities and museums, and has held senior posts in several major Australian museums. He has experience in concept development and strategy implementation for tourist attractions and museums, with responsibility for their revival and the creation of exhibitions.

During his tenure in 1988 as Australian Bicentennial Exhibition Director, Desmond worked closely with the then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, and with Federal and State Government Departments, and with many local government authorities, in every Australian State and Territory.

We congratulate Desmond.

From Early Papers

Max Rogers, our Research Officer at the Archives, happened upon the following letter published in an early Sydney paper. He was amused by it and thought he'd share it with us.

Sydney Gazette 28 January 1841

Hint to the Police - I wish you would call attention in the *Gazette* to the fact that *boys* and *girls* (the latter big enough to wear laced stays) were bathing publicly together, at the end of the street leading to the Commercial Wharf, and close to the place, and at the very time, when people assemble for the steamers, on Monday last at 4 o'clock.

One young girl standing in the water told a bigger one standing out, both naked, "not to be a b----dy fool." There were sundry little girls and big boys looking on. One of the naked girls deliberately came out, put on her shift, stays, frock, etc in the presence of the boys, who were all looking on. - Correspondent.

Southern Mail, September 1931

Member Ros Dale has provided the following reference to Berrima Gaol from the decade after the German internee period when it still lay idle.

BERRIMA GAOL, BERRIMA

Tenders are invited for the Leasing for a term of 3 years of Land and Building known as Berrima Gaol.

Conditions and form of tender may be obtained from the Clerk of Petty Sessions at Bowral, Moss Vale and Mittagong, and from undersigned, to whom also tenders properly endorsed should be addressed on or before noon, 21st September, 1931. – Resumed Properties Dept, 16 Grosvenor Street, Sydney.

On another page in the same issue of the paper was the following short article that drew attention to the tender notice, reproduced here with the exact spelling used.

Jail to Rent: "Historic Berrima Building: In another column tenders are invited for the lease for three years of the historic old jail at Berrima. The jail is now an object of interest to tourists and if adequately advertised should prove a profitable investment."

Ros wonders whether it would still be a profitable investment today ?

July General Meeting Speaker

Leonie Knapman
An historian and author, Leonie became a member of our Society in 1982, has served as President and is currently a Vice President. She is our representative on the RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee.

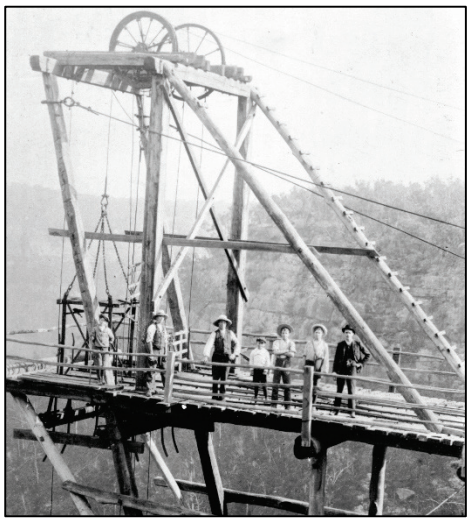
Leonie grew up in the NSW shale mining town of Glen Davis, where her life-long interest in all aspects of mining first developed. She has researched and published histories on Glen Davis, Joadja Creek and Berrima Cement Works. As well, she has compiled information on a variety of local history subjects and produced brochures, DVDs and articles. She is often called upon to speak at conferences and meetings.

The early transportation of coal and shale in the Southern Highlands of NSW

Earlier this year Leonie presented the above topic at the Australian Mining History Association's annual conference in Darwin. Leonie will present this talk at our general meeting on Thursday 23 July, at 2pm.

Her focus will be the ten private mining railways that connected to the Government's Southern Railway on its stretch through the Southern Highlands from Mittagong to Bundanoon. These 10 private lines are: The Gib ballast quarry link; Mt Alexandra tramway; Joadja railway; Berrima colliery line; Cataract mine line; cement works link; Gingenbullen line; Erith coal mine link; Ringwood coal mine link.

In any mining operation, transporting output tonnage to market presented many problems, including that of distance, and cost and efficiency of the transport. Leonie will illustrate how, when the southern railway came through the district in 1867, it revolutionised coal and shale transport to Sydney. Many of the local mines were located within deep valleys or on the steep sides of mountains.



Initially flying foxes or skips were utilised and inclines constructed to haul the minerals up to a rail link for transport by auxiliary private lines to the main southern line.

A most enjoyable June Luncheon

This year our June Luncheon was at the Jack High Bistro in Bowral Bowling Club. On a wintry day it was a fine setting with the Club's large glass windows framing a green and misty view of Mount Gibraltar.

A gathering of around 40 members and friends were welcomed by President Moore in the cosy bistro. The two-course meal choices - main and dessert - were magnificently presented and everyone agreed were most delightful.

Our special guest speaker was Dr Penny Olsen who is based at the Australian National University.

With illustrations from her books, she spoke of her career as a field biologist, and how she began writing books on natural history, beginning with birds of prey. She included an historical section in her first major book – *Australian Birds of Prey: Biology and Ecology*. And so began her interest in early Australian natural history: explorers, collectors and illustrators. This led to a book on the illustrators of birds titled *Feather and Brush: Three Centuries of Australian Bird Art.*

The two Neville Cayleys were an obvious choice for a book. Father Neville Henry and son Neville William lived in Bowral briefly, when Cayley junior was a toddler. Cayley senior was then Australia's most successful illustrator of birds. The son became an influential figure in the ornithological world,. He is best remembered for *What Bird is That?*, a ground-breaking book that allowed all Australians to identify the bird they saw, first published in the early 1930s and reprinted many times since.

Dr Olsen also mentioned another local identity who features in a new book published by NLA Publishing. 'Louisa Atkinson's Nature Notes' features extracts of Louisa's writings selected and with commentary by Dr Olsen. A copy of this wonderfully illustrated book has been provided to our library.

It was an informative and most enjoyable occasion.

Dr Penny Olsen with Linda Emery and Bruce Moore

New Books in our Library

Carolyn Dougherty, Librarian

The books listed below have been catalogued and added to the library with the majority placed in the Reference Collection for use in library only. Great to include several more new books relating to the local area. Happy reading.

Go North Young Man: From South Coast to the Big Scrub by Ian Kirkland. Published 2014.
Library Shelf No. 28/33.

Kenmore Psychiatric Hospital: Wednesday's Child. Volume 1 by Phil Leighton-Daly. Published 2014.
Library Shelf No. REF. 14/68.

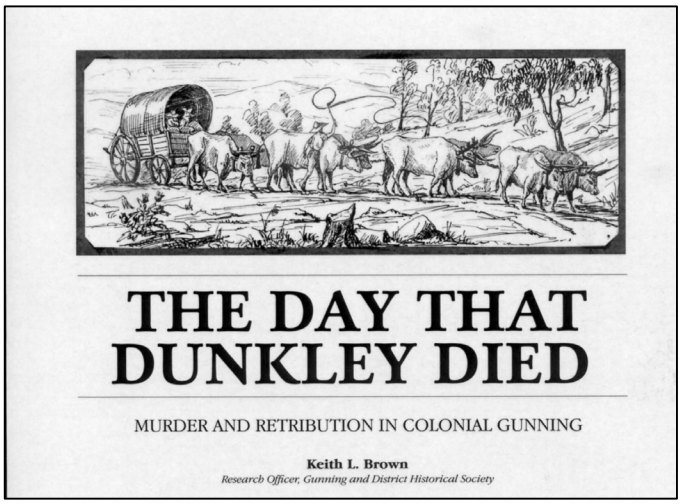
The Bush: Travels in the heart of Australia by Don Watson. Published 2014.
Library Shelf No. Gen. Coll./WAT

Currawang: Church and Community by Paul John Wheeldon. Published 2015.
Library Shelf No. REF. 14/69.

Cayley & Son: The life and art of Neville Henry Cayley & Neville William Cayley by Penny Olsen. Published 2013. Library Shelf No. REF. 13/246.

Images of Bundanoon: Revisited. Produced by the Bundanoon Photography Group, 2014.
Library Shelf No. REF. 13/245.

St. Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn: A short history and guide book by Ransome T. Wyatt. Published in 1945. Library Shelf No. REF. 09/61.



The Day that Dunkley Died: Murder and retribution in colonial Gunning by Keith L. Brown, Research Officer, Gunning and District Historical Society. Published 2014. Library Shelf No. REF. 14/70.

The Generations of Men by Judith Wright. Published in 1959. Library shelf no. Gen. Coll./WRI.

Native Welfare in Australia: Speeches and Addresses by the Hon. Paul Hasluck. Published 1953 Perth, Aust. Library Shelf No. REF. 12/30.

Marulan Catholic Churches, School and Cemetery 1859-2014 by Lorna Parr. Published 2014.
Library Shelf No. REF. 09/62.

Pictorial History Hunters Hill by Linda Emery. Published 2011. Library Shelf No. 29/128.

Aussie Wildlife Poems for Kids & the Young at Heart by John McColgan. Illustrated by Becky Roberts. Published 2014. Library Shelf No. 33/23.

The Gib. Mount Gibraltar, Southern Highlands. Donated. Published 2007.
Library Shelf No. Gen. Coll./GIB

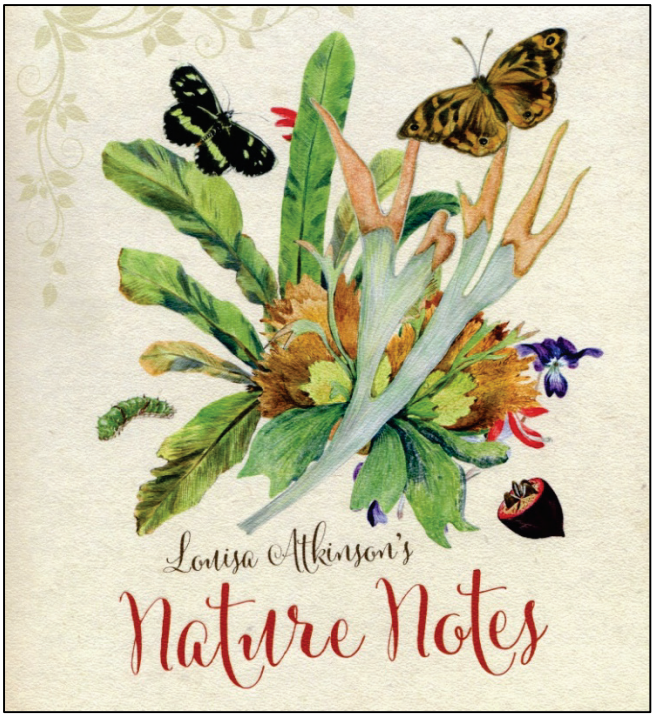
Secret Sydney: Discover the hidden heart of one of the world's greatest cities by James Cockington. Published 1999, 2014.
Library Shelf No. Gen. Coll./COC.

How to be a Victorian by Ruth Goodman. Published 2013. Library Shelf No. Gen. Coll./GOO.

The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England by Ian Mortimer. Published 2009.
Library Shelf No. Gen. Coll./MOR.

As it Happened: Part 1, "Pernickety Parsons & Passionate People" The Wesleyan Connection 1855-2015, Mittagong by Marilyn Horton, 2015.
Library Shelf No. REF. 09/63.

Louisa Atkinson's Nature Notes



Selection and commentary by Penny Olsen. NLA Publishing 2015 in association with State Library of NSW. This is a beautifully produced book bringing together selected extracts from Louisa Atkinson's newspaper articles with illustrations from her sketch-books. It marries her delightful commentary with her drawings and paintings of the natural world.

We thank Penny Olsen for donating a copy of this book to our Society. Library Shelf No. REF. 13/175.

Museum's SH1200 Remembers our Nurses and Red Cross efforts

By Michele Woods

The Southern Highlands 1200 exhibition currently on show at Berrima District Museum pays homage to the efforts of our Nurses and Red Cross activities during World War 1.

During the Great War many soldiers, airmen and sailors were sent to the idyllic Southern Highlands of NSW to recuperate and recover from horrendous injuries, illness and shell shock. Three Convalescent homes and hospitals provided welcome relief, with fresh air, clean and comfortable conditions and the kind words of many volunteer nurses.

One item in our exhibition is the photo album from Burradoo Convalescent Hospital which includes candid photos of the nursing staff, patients and day to day activities. It portrays the serenity of the surroundings against the obvious pain, both physical and emotional, experienced by the returning men.

We also have two Red Cross feeder cups, one quite unique, as the cross was apparently hand painted onto the mass produced Staffordshire piece. A Red Cross Care pack still containing the original First Testament Bible was amongst the Caseley family collection which survived the 1939 bush fires at Mittagong, sealed in an army trunk. A typical nurses' Lunett lamp completes the Hospital collection on display.

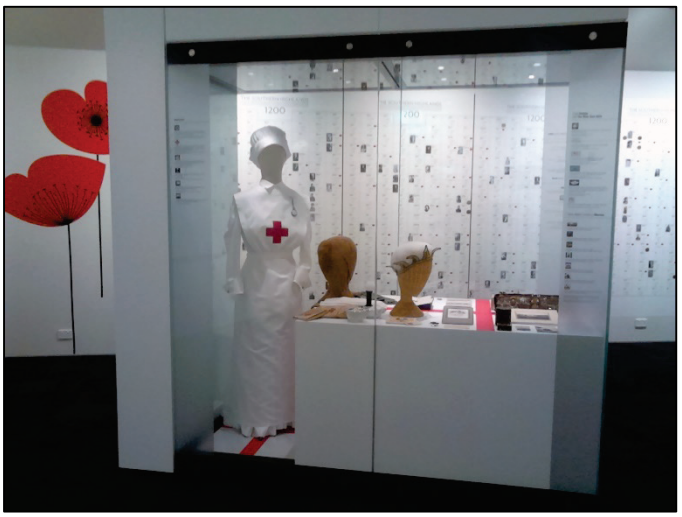
The efforts of our local Red Cross contingent are also portrayed through a replica of the standard nurse's uniform at the time complete with original Fob watch belonging to Ruby Harding, one of our local Exeter nurses; along with the original pattern book used to make socks, gloves, beanies and balaclavas for the soldiers. The current Burradoo Red Cross team have kindly knitted examples from the pattern book. Dianne Barr (Burradoo Red Cross) was so impressed with the exhibition she will be including photos of the opening in the Southern Region Red Cross newsletter which is distributed across southern NSW.

We hope to see many Red Cross members visiting over the course of the exhibition and spreading the word about our Museum to their friends and family.

In addition, our Feature wall tells the story of the Convalescent Homes and Hospitals and their impact on the lives of many locals. Ada Harper is featured in an outstanding photo of the local sewing group. They too provided welcome comforts for the troops overseas. Without these valiant efforts on the home front many of our local boys may not have survived or retained their will to come back to a better life.

Generally it is the men who served overseas who are most honoured and remembered. This is why our exhibition has a special focus on some of the unsung heroines of the day.

Nurses Margaret Eldridge and Nellie Morrice, both highly decorated for the efforts on the battlefields, complete our emphasis on the fact that women in the Great War provided a valuable contribution.



We look forward to seeing all of our members, their family and friends at the Museum to experience a poignant reminder of our local efforts during the Great War.

The Collett Papers at Mittagong

By Frank Nevill

In the 1980s workmen were clearing out a house on the property "Mossleigh Park", Hume Highway, Mittagong. The property was owned by James Ralph Winsor COLLETT (usually known as Ralph) and his third wife Kathleen. James had passed away in 1978 and by the 1980s Kathleen was apparently not capable of caring for herself. Whilst clearing out the house a set of papers was discovered and one of the workmen decided to try and find family members to give them the papers. He was not successful and the papers were placed in a cupboard and only came to light again last year during a move and renewed attempts were made to locate family members.

The papers contained a number of personal letters, business correspondence and some reports that Ralph had written.

James Ralph Winsor COLLETT was born on 3 Aug 1899 in Duddeston, Aston, Birmingham, England the son of James George COLLETT and Ellen Lucy BOND. Ellen's father was James Winsor BOND and Ellen had graduated from Cambridge University in 1886. Only men were allowed a degree but Ellen received a parchment. James George COLLETT was a Minister in the Baptist Church at King's Heath, Birmingham, England at the time of his marriage to Ellen in 1898 and also at the time of Ralph's birth a year later.

Ralph attended school in Birmingham and then took a Chartered Accountancy qualification at Edinburgh University. He married Margaret (Peggy) WOOLHOUSE in 1921. She was the widow of an Australian airman killed in World War 1. Ralph was recruited by Whittall and Co and he and Peggy emigrated to Malaya in 1923 where Ralph managed the company's rubber business.

In 1942 Ralph and Peggy were caught in the Japanese advance through Malaya and fled to Singapore. Peggy attempted to escape Singapore on board the "S.S. Kuala" with over 600 other people. The ship sailed on 14 Feb 1942 but was bombed and sunk near the Indonesian island of Pom Pong. It is believed that Peggy made it to shore with about half the passengers and crew. At dawn on 17 Feb 1942, 188 of the survivors were taken off by the "S.S. Tanjong Penang" but it too was sunk by the Japanese and Peggy is recorded as having died when the ship was sunk.

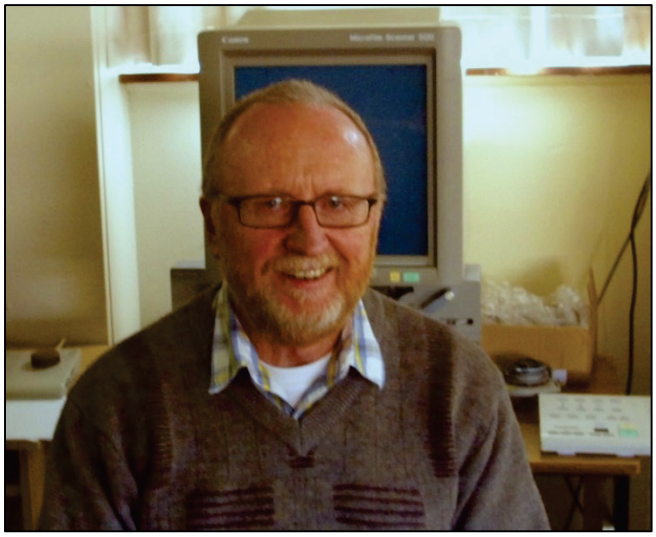
Ralph was captured by the Japanese and spent the rest of the war in the Changi civilian prison camp. He was appointed as the Commandant of the North Area of the camp. Ralph survived the war and like all the survivors of Changi he emerged emaciated. In 1946 he was awarded the MBE for his services during internment in Changi and for organising the return of English survivors to the United Kingdom. Ralph was a signatory on a report prepared on the internment of civilians in Singapore and a copy of this report was part of the papers found in the 1980s. It detailed the treatment of the prisoners, daily rations and various administrative arrangements. Also in the papers was a copy of a report into the "Double Tenth" investigation. This report was a summary of the information collected from members of the camp who were arrested by the Japanese Military Police following a raid on Changi Camp on 10 Oct 1943. The report details the conditions under which the prisoners were detained, the facilities (or lack thereof) provided and the treatment and torture of the prisoners.

After the war Ralph lived in Sydney for a while and then returned to Malaya and in 1948 he married Daphne Kate Winifred (known as Pat) BARNARD at Waverley, Sydney. He eventually retired to Church Point, Sydney with Pat. Pat was killed in a car accident in 1963.

Ralph then married his third wife Kathleen and moved to "Mossleigh Park" where he lived until his death in 1978.

After the papers were "re-discovered" last year attempts were made to track down any of Ralph's descendants. Eventually through Ancestry contact was made with Ralph's son in law (Dr Peter Evans) in England. Peter had married Ralph's daughter Valerie but unfortunately Valerie had passed away in 2014. After an exchange of e-mails the papers were posted to Peter who was very grateful to receive them.

Among the papers was a letter to Ralph from his father James dated 15 Jan 1929. James had just celebrated his 70th birthday and the letter contains a large amount of family history information which Peter Evans found extremely useful. Incidentally, James Collett lived to the ripe old age of 102 and passed away in 1962.



Archives researcher Frank Nevill - one of the Monday team who helps with cataloguing photos.

Our Book Sale at Archives

This was the book sale that had to happen!

It was organised by member Carol Nolan with lots of help from fellow volunteers. The idea was to find a home for the boxes of books that had been building up at the archives, donated from various members' collections, including from the late Joe Ford. As well, there were excess library books and second-hand books provided by our volunteers.

The local media, both print and radio, was utilised to promote the book sale and posters were displayed around our building.

The book sale was held in the foyer of the Mittagong Archives Research Centre (Playhouse) building on the last Saturday of June, with the books being displayed in a room leading off from the foyer. This proved to be a great method as many of the buyers commented favourably on the layout arrangements and liked being able to browse at their leisure, and this certainly helped boost the amount of books sold.

Carolyn Dougherty, Peg Harvey and Patricia Doris were on deck to help Carol with sales and money.

Caroline Stanley, our young intern at the archives, was very helpful beforehand with pricing and lifting. We also thank Roberta Stove who was pivotal in climbing up our building to attach the banner. Ros Dale assisted by sitting at the archives front desk and selling some of our own Society publications.

There was a wide range of books on offer – biography, history, military, travel, fiction etc. These were all well priced – from 50c to $25. There was a steady stream of buyers and most bought something. We even sold our only copy (donated) of "50 Shades of Grey" to a gentleman (his wife helped him choose it).

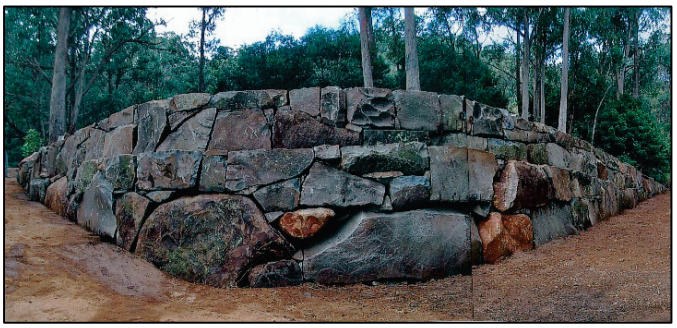
After the sale, Patricia and Peter Doris, and Carolyn Dougherty were most obliging in transporting left-over stock to Vinnies.

Happy book sale customers - from left: Val Cooper, Alison Zenere and Diana Brandon in red beret

Pre-pricing books: Carol Nolan, Roberta Stove and Patricia Doris

Mt Gibraltar Landcare

Jane Lemann - Bushcare volunteer



This Commemorative Trachyte Entrance Retaining Wall has been constructed at the entrance to Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve in Oxley Drive, Bowral.

Isn't it magnificent! The wall is a permanent and impressive improvement to the landscape that evokes the magnitude of the quarry industry that has such an important place in the history of our Shire.

It commemorates one hundred years of the quarrying industry (1886-1986) and its importance to the economy of the Shire. The Bowral Trachyte (microsyenite) is famous for its strength and beauty and was used in many great buildings at the time of Federation, and for steps, kerb and guttering and for many memorials.

It is a grey/green stone that polishes beautifully.

There were several quarries on Mount Gibraltar and this wall marks the entrance to a Heritage Quarries Circuit walk that tours two of the now-closed quarries in the public Reserve.

The construction was funded from money raised by the Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare group from the sale of their book 'The Gib: Mount Gibraltar, Southern Highlands' and a grant from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust.

It was designed and managed by Dominic Lucas from Wingecarribee Shire Council.

A celebration is planned for Sunday 25 October.

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 ~ Telephone / Fax (02) 4872 2169

email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com ~ web: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

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: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesdays to Sundays, and during school and public holidays.

Museum Committee: John Schweers (Manager, Tour Bookings), Harlan Hall (Project Manager), Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Chris Moore (Artist, Children's programs), Judith Green (Procedures), Michele Woods (Exhibition content), Harold Wall (Human Resources).

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.

If undelivered return to:
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Management Committee: President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Museum Manager, Research Officer, plus members Peg Harvey (Minute Secretary), Carolyn Hutton, Denyse Barker, Robyn Arrowsmith and Ros Dale

Newsletter proudly supported by: **Southern Highland News**

Springetts Arcade