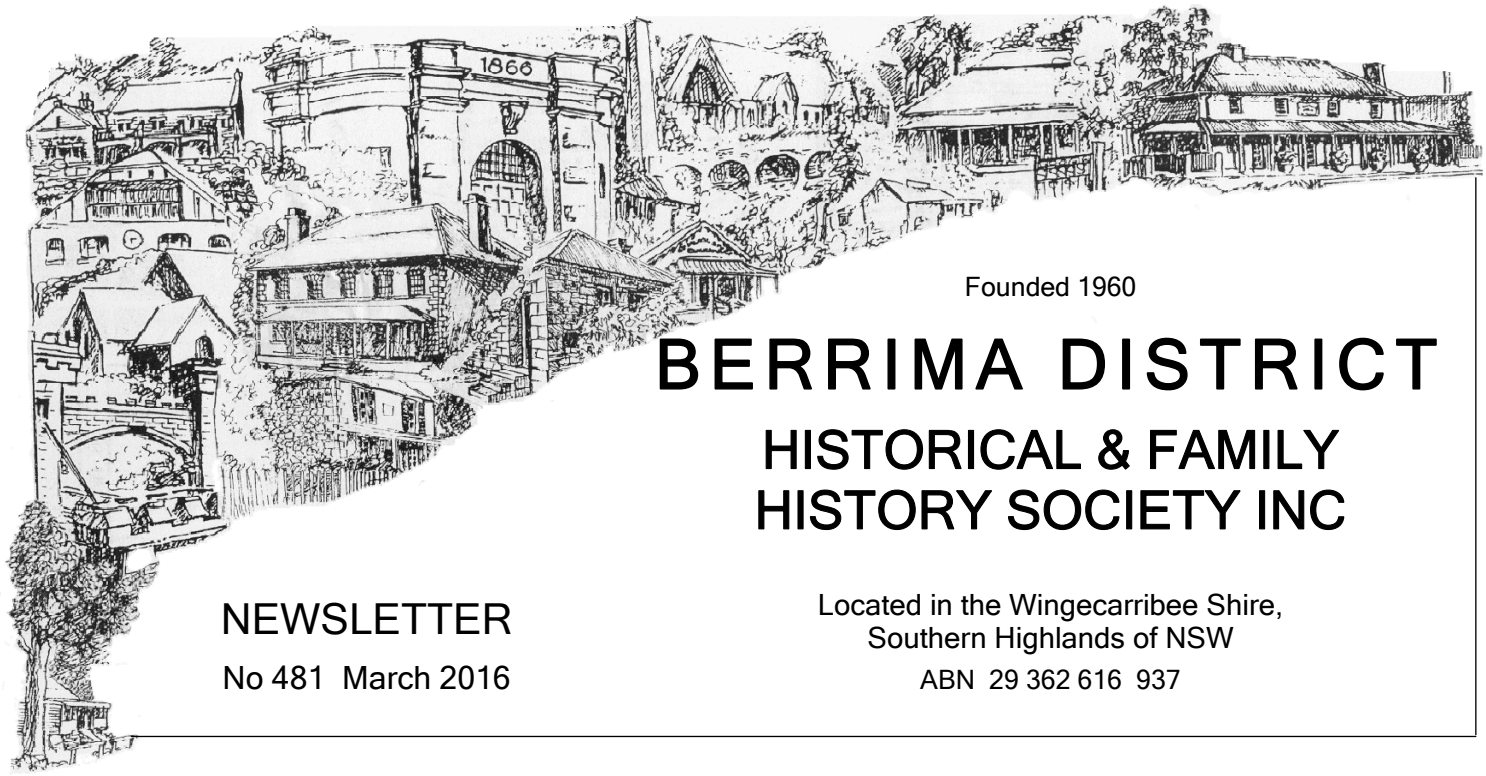


Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT
HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 481 March 2016

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW
ABN 29 362 616 937

From the President's Desk

Linda Emery and Max Rogers feted us with an interesting Power Point presentation last Thursday 25th. This was their 10th annual "Max and Linda Show" and despite the hot, sticky weather we had a good roll up at our monthly meeting. Everyone enjoyed the 'slide' show and no one fell asleep. Thank you both for your effort.

Memories flooded back to the '60s and '70s before colour TV. Some nights, our family entertained unsuspecting guests with those repetitive slides you had to show. When the lights came on for supper it was fun to pick the ones who were dozing from those who pretended to be interested. One guest, I remember, brought a boxful showing Aunty Madge, with handbag, standing in front of the Spit bridge opening at what seemed 100 different angles.

Whatever happened to all those 5000 slides you had tucked in the back of your wardrobe? Do you get them out, dust them off and show the family what you looked like last century?

We all had darker hair for one thing, shiny white teeth and funny coloured clothes. Although we appeared to take hundreds of Kodachromes, we were very careful how

Bruce Moore, President

Continued on page 2

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

MARCH MEETING:	**Thursday 24 March at 2:00pm**
VENUE:	Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKERS:	Dympna Irwin and Linda Emery with a showing of a documentary film about the Boyd tragedy of 1809 and its connections to the local Throsby family.
AFTERNOON TEA:	To be served following the speaker. Members please bring a plate or a donation.
APRIL MEETING:	**Thursday 28 April at 2:00pm**
VENUE:	Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER:	Arrangements still to be confirmed.
AFTERNOON TEA:	To be served following the speaker. Members please bring a plate or a donation.

From the President

Continued from front page

many we took as they were quite expensive and not to be wasted. Processing was quite a slow process, requiring you to send the used film off to Melbourne in its own yellow bag and then you waited, sometimes for up to 3 weeks for them to be returned to you in its own plastic yellow box.

Holding these transparencies up to the light, some were depressingly transparent. In fact a whole box of my 'prize-winning' 36 slides were transparent! Ahhggg!

I had inadvertently opened the back of my camera before the film had rolled back inside its cassette and bingo! I'd exposed the whole film to sunlight.

Unlike the happy snappy selfie digital age today. During the Australia Day formality we sat behind a couple with camera-phones who were taking dozens of photos of the ceremony? Nope…. you guessed it….of *themselves* of course*!*

I was once told that the best way to make money in photography is to sell all your equipment!

Would you consider…

As we all know Australia Post has significantly increased their postal charges, and as we have a sizable membership the cost for postage each month is quite substantial.

Therefore it would help immensely if you would agree to receive the newsletter by email.

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

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.

Throsby Park items

This finely worked timber highchair is one item in a collection donated last year to the BDHS by Sydney Living Museums (Historic Houses Trust).The items are from Throsby Park House, Moss Vale.

To view this and the collection and learn more about their history, be at our next General Meeting on Thursday 24 March at 2:00pm.

Archives opening hours

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

Research fees

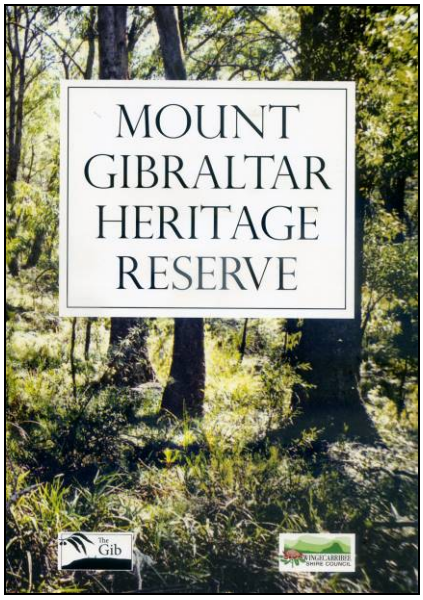
Research fees for non-members:

$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.

Local tours and walks

Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve information booklet with map available

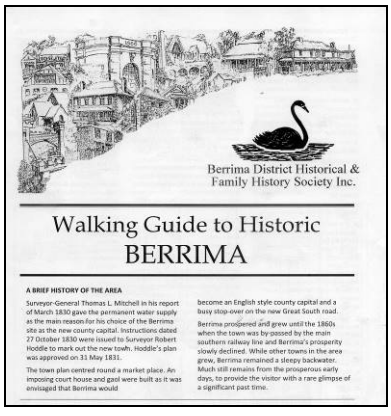


What began as a small reserve on the summit of Mount Gibraltar, popularly known as 'The Gib', has now grown to an area of 130 ha. It was listed in 2013 on the NSW Significant Heritage Register, for both its ecological communities and the heritage quarries complex.

The booklet provides an overview of the history, geology, and flora and fauna. It also contains a map that identifies the three lookouts, walk trails, access points, shelters, toilets and parking areas.

Copies of the booklet are available from the museum or the archives.

Berrima Historic Walk Guide



This walking guide to the historic sights of Berrima produced by the BDHS is a must have for visitors.

It is available at the museum for a $2 donation. Re-live local history as you follow the village pathways.

An Easter special showing at our March General Meeting

Young Betsey Broughton and the Boyd tragedy

Elizabeth Isabella Broughton was the daughter of William Broughton, Deputy Commissary-General of NSW. She was born on Norfolk Island in 1807 and then lived in Sydney. When two years old she sailed for England with her mother in the *Boyd* which, while in harbour at Whangaroa on New Zealand's north island, was seized by Maoris in December 1809.

Young Betsey was one of four members of the *Boyd's* complement who survived the seizure and massacre that followed. Shortly afterwards she was rescued by a ship bound for Lima, Peru, where she remained for almost a year before being returned to Sydney.

The *Boyd* tragedy is a story of mistaken identity and revenge, against a background of early and uneasy contact between Maori people and Europeans. The *Boyd* was ransacked, wrecked, caught fire and sunk while in Whangaroa Harbour. Most of the passengers and crew were killed as an act of *utu* (revenge) by a local chieftain named Te Puhi and his people. Then, in a tragic case of mistaken identity, not Te Puhi, but a chief called Te Pahi and the people of his village were massacred by a band of whalers taking the law into their own hands.

Young Betsey's terrifying experience is portrayed in a 3-episode documentary "The Tragedy of the Boyd" that was screened in NZ in the early 2000s as part of the popular Shipwreck series. This 20-minute film will be shown at our March meeting with an introduction by member Dympna Irwin.

The *Boyd* story has a direct connection to our local district as, in 1824, Betsey married Charles Throsby, nephew of surgeon and explorer Dr Charles Throsby. They lived at Throsby Park House where she gave birth to seventeen children. Charles died in 1854.

By 1866 only twelve of her children survived and all but the youngest of the girls were married. Betsey took up residence in 1868 in the cottage on the property and leased the House to the Earl of Belmore, Governor of NSW, and then to several other prominent families. She died in 1891, survived by her numerous children and their descendants.

The DVD we are showing was brought back from New Zealand in 2009 by a member of the Throsby family and given to Dympna, who is a member of the Throsby Park Friends group. The Moss Vale Throsby descendants had gone to NZ for the 200th anniversary ceremony of the Boyd incident. Later that year, a group of New Zealanders including a descendant of the Maori chief who saved and cared for Betsey (as opposed to the Chief who slaughtered most of the crew and passengers) came to Moss Vale and laid flowers on Betsey's grave, sang Maori songs and had afternoon tea at Dympna's place.

In the documentary, its presenter Paul Gittins travels to Whangaroa Harbour in New Zealand's Far North and carefully examines the lead-up to the attack. Former Race Relations Conciliator and local resident, Hiwi Tauroa, provides further context.

Following the showing of the film, our archivist Linda Emery will provide an overview of the discovery of the wreck of the *Boyd* in 2009 and its subsequent raising.

One of the Boyd's chests that was found in Athenree, further down the North Island from the wreck site.

A history of Kurkulla, a country estate on The Gib at Bowral

Part One: Kurkulla was boys' school from 1891

In the early 1880s a large property with magnificent views was established at Bowral.

Known as Kurkulla, it still exists today, located above the railway tunnel between Bowral and Mittagong, on a ridge of the western slope of Mount Gibraltar.

The property has had various owners over the years. It was for a time a high-class boys' school and later a self-supporting farm. Those who lived there include Cecil Healy, a champion Olympic swimmer, and Ada Evans, Australia's first female lawyer.

The original owner was Lucy Berthon, a widow with a large family including five unmarried daughters. Her husband, Edward (1812-1871), came from a family of English merchants associated with the East India Company. The family bought a residence in Sydney, naming it *Kurkulla*, which derived from their Indian association. After the death of her husband, Lucy established a boarding and day school at their Marrickville property, assisted by her daughters.

In the early 1880s Lucy, having sold the Sydney residence, purchased a 25-acre property at Bowral, where a substantial two-storey, eight-roomed house of stone and brick was built. She transferred the name Kurkulla to this property. The *Bowral Free Press* made mention of Mrs Berthon as an exhibitor of flowers at the annual Bowral Horticultural Show. In April 1886 it published the following notice: "Lost, between Bowral Railway Gates and lane leading to Mrs Berthon's, a silver watch and gold chain. A reward will be given to anyone returning same to Mrs Berthon, Bowral."

The Kurkulla house and grounds were advertised for lease in September 1886. The Bowral agent, J G Morris, described the property in a newspaper advertisement as "commanding the finest view in the district being situated on the 'Gib' hill, overlooking to the south Bowral, with Moss Vale in the distance, and the Mittagong Valley on the north. Just a few minutes' walk from the railway station. Containing eight large and lofty rooms and every convenience including kitchen with water laid on, bathroom, pantry, cellar, stables and garden, tastefully laid out".

It is unclear if the property was leased or for how long. The Berthon family were definitely there in 1890 and with plans to open it as a school. Notices appeared in Sydney papers advising that boarding places were available for young ladies at Kurkulla from that July. This venture must not have been a success as, in 1891, Lucy sold the property and moved her family to Nowra.

Under new ownership, in July 1891 Kurkulla became a high-class school for boys.

The school was established by J (James) Lee Pulling, a son of the Rev James Pulling, DD, a Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Educated at Haileybury, J Lee won a scholarship to Cambridge in 1884. Before completing his degree, in 1886 he commenced teaching in Devonshire and in 1888 came to Australia to join his older brother William who had opened a grammar school at Scone, NSW.

After two years at Scone, J Lee moved to Bowral where, as Principal, he opened a school at Kurkulla. From early 1891 he advertised in Sydney and locally that the school would take boarders and day boys, with all branches of general high class education being taught.

The *Bowral Free Press* drew attention in June that year to the school at Kurkulla "one of the best and most pleasantly situated residences in the town, and is especially adapted for the purpose. Mr Pulling comes very highly recommended by English and Colonial Testimonials, and his personal references are indisputable." Once established, the school soon acquired students and earned a fine reputation. In November 1892 a pupil, Arthur Cecil Dark, is listed in the *Bowral Free Press* as gaining second class honours in examinations held in connection with the University of Sydney.

In May 1894 it was noted in the paper that J Lee Pulling's wife had given birth to a son at Kurkulla. The next mention of Kurkulla is in November 1897, it being on a list of about 20 residences in Bowral leased for the summer – and taken by a Mrs Allen.

In 1895 Pulling ceased running his school at Kurkulla and established a boys' school in Spring St, Moss Vale. His wife gave birth to another son in September 1895. Pulling also had a school for a time at the Briars near Bong Bong. He left the district in 1897.

In 1904 he commenced at Sydney Grammar, where he earned respect as a caring man of simple tastes and high ideals. He became Acting Headmaster prior to his retirement in 1938.

One of the boys he had taught at Kurkulla was Cecil Healy (1881-1918) who subsequently became a champion Australian Olympic swimmer and, sadly, a casualty of war.

J Lee Pulling, Acting Head at Sydney Grammar in 1938; he had opened a school at Bowral in 1891.

Part Two: Boy student at Bowral in 1890s became champion swimmer

Cecil Patrick Healy was born in Darlinghurst, Sydney on 28 November 1881. He was the third son of an Australian-born barrister, Patrick Joseph Healy, and his wife Annie Louisa Girard.

During the 1890s he attended J Lee Pulling's school at Kurkulla until it ceased to operate in 1897. The 15-year-old Cecil then commenced his swimming career back in Sydney. In 1905 he smashed the Australian record when he won the 100 yards Australian Championship and he succeeded in defending this title for four of the next five years.

In 1906, while competing in the unofficial Olympic Games at Athens, he finished third in the 100 metre event. Then, while touring Britain and Europe, he won the English 220 yard Championship and was placed second in the 100 yard final. In Germany he won the Kaiser's Cup at Hamburg. In 1908, in Melbourne, he won the Australian sprint double, the 100 yard, in world record time and also won the 220 yard event.

In 1912 he was incorporated into an Australian relay team to compete in the Stockholm Olympic Games. The team defeated the Americans in the final, giving 30-year-old Cecil an Olympic Gold Medal.

Short and stocky with powerful arms and shoulders, Cecil developed the two-beat Australian crawl and was famed for his brilliant finishes. He contributed articles on swimming and other subjects to the press and was a fluent speaker. An excellent surfer, he was a founder and captain of the Manly Surf Club and prominent in the fight to deregulate bathing laws.

In September 1915, while working as a commercial traveller, Cecil volunteered for overseas service with the Australian Imperial Force. His records reveal that, although not tall, his huge chest and well developed arms meant he weighed in at 14 stone. He left Australia in November 1915 for training in Egypt and in March 1916 embarked with the 19th Battalion to Marseilles in France.

In November 1917 he was transferred to the Officer Cadet School at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he also swam, rowed, boxed and played Rugby.

He graduated in May 1918 and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in 19th (Sportsman's) Battalion.

Cecil Healy was killed in his first action in the battle for Mont St Quentin on 29 August, 1918. He was unmarried. A memorial service was held for him at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. He is commemorated by the Healy shield for life-saving in NSW and in 1981 he was honoured by the International Swimming Hall of Fame at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.

* * *

As mentioned previously, Kurkulla, the school Cecil attended in Bowral, closed in 1897. The magnificently located property on a ridge of The Gib with large two-storey house, gardens, orchard and stables was then leased as an exclusive summer residence.

An incident there was reported in the *Bowral Free Press* in January 1900: "Mr Percy Wallace, who was delivering orders for E Boardman, butcher, met with a painful accident by being thrown off the horse he was riding. It seems that on re-mounting the horse after delivering the order at Kurkulla, the residence of Mr Crawford, the animal took fright at the basket Wallace was carrying, and bolted for a hundred yards or so".

"The basket was thrown down, but in trying to pull in the horse, the saddle turned round, throwing Wallace off and on to his head, his foot still in the stirrup. He was dragged some distance, but kept a tight hold of the reins, which caused the horse to fall, and in so doing struck Wallace heavily on the chest with its hind foot, breaking several ribs. The horse soon got clear, and made towards Bowral."

"With great difficulty Wallace retraced his steps to Kurkulla, where he received every attention from Mr Crawford and family. We wish him a speedy recovery".

For several years from 1903, the Kurkulla house and 16-acre property was regularly listed for sale by its agents, Nott Bros of Pitt St, Sydney.

It was purchased in 1909 by merchant William Evans of Edgecliff, Sydney, for his sister Ada Evans, who was Australia's first female law graduate. They would turn the property into a self-supporting farm.

The story of Ada Evans and her love of Kurkulla will be featured in next month's newsletter.

CHAMPION: Swimmer Cecil Healy, Olympic Gold Medal winner at Stockholm in 1912.

WAR CASUALTY: Cecil Healy enlisted in AIF in 1915, became Officer in May 1918 and was killed in action that August.

Compiled by P Morton

From the early newspapers . . .

Empire Tuesday 7 February 1865 p5

BEN HALL'S GANG NEAR BERRIMA

The bushranging gang, instead of being dispersed, or captured by the regiments of police after them, seem to be increasing in their daring and depredations.

A gentleman who reached Sydney yesterday from the neighbourhood of Berrima, has furnished us with the following particulars of what took place in that vicinity on Friday and Saturday last. The gang, consisting of Ben Hall, Gilbert, and Dunn, were seen at Glenrock, near Marulan, on Friday. Shortly afterwards some of the Berrima police made their appearance, and were informed that the bushrangers had gone toward Paddy's River, and had said that they intended to visit Jenkins' place and Cowra next day. Word was also sent to Mr Blue, at Cowra, of the intended visit, and preparations were made to give the bushrangers a warm reception. Mr Blue and six men armed themselves with two double-barrelled guns, a revolver, axes, and such other weapons as were readily procurable.

Our informant was at Paddy's River on Sunday morning, and was told that Hall, Gilbert, and Dunn had arrived there on the Friday night just as the moon was going down. They bailed up the public-house there, and while one remained in the verandah in charge, talking with the maid-servants, the others proceeded to collect all the people of the place together, and brought them to the public-house - many having been taken from their beds.

They did not rob the publican, but plundered a Mrs Murray's store of a large quantity of goods, one portion of which was first sent off on a pack-horse, the messenger returning soon after, and taking another load. Mrs Murray, a poor woman with a large family, her husband being in a lunatic asylum, was robbed of nearly everything she possessed. The bushrangers, on leaving the public-house, gave the landlord five pounds to treat all hands.

They then left, taking with them a large supply of provisions, and saying they intended to stick-up the whole town of Berrima next day. The police got word of these proceedings on Saturday morning, and then proceeded towards Paddy's River. The bushrangers next went towards the Black Horse public-house, about nine miles from Berrima, on the Goulburn side.

There they stuck-up the place, took all the money in the house, and before they left set the taps running. This was at eleven o'clock on Saturday morning. While there, they told the people that they had waited on the top of the Hanging Rocks while the police passed them. After leaving the Black Horse they went to the ploughed ground at the Cross Roads, where, finding a man named Hines at work fencing, they turned his pockets inside out, but got nothing.

They then proceeded to a hill opposite Brennan's Inn, and Hines having run to a smith's shop close by, on coming back was again searched and threatened; the bushrangers thinking he had been giving information.

James (before he was committed) and Jane Murray

They found nothing on him, however, and he was again set at liberty. The publican, Mr Brennan, having been made aware of the vicinity of the scoundrels, at once sent a messenger to Berrima for the police. He also made the Sutton Forest people aware that the bushrangers were in the vicinity. The whole of those who were made aware at once prepared to resist.

The bushrangers returned that night to Paddy's River, when a small settler, named Campbell, living at the junction of Wingello Creek and Paddy's River, and only about a quarter of a mile from the public-house robbed on the previous night, was ordered to get supper, and provided them with accommodation.

The bushrangers turned their horses into his hay-stack yard, and stopped in his house until the following (Sunday) morning. They left soon after daylight, and followed the Wingello Creek towards Goulburn. On the previous (Saturday) night the inspector of police at Berrima, with several of his men, had retraced their steps to the public-house at Paddy's River, where they remained till morning, the bushrangers being at the same time at Campbell's place, only a quarter of a mile off.

In the morning, the police being informed that the bushrangers had just left, followed in close pursuit, but did not succeed in overtaking them. It is due to the Berrima people to say, that as soon as they got information, a considerable number volunteered to assist the police, but when they applied to the police establishment for arms, not a single weapon could be procured. It will be seen from our telegraphic intelligence that after leaving the neighbourhood of Berrima, the bushrangers proceeded towards the Braidwood side of Goulburn, and were committing their usual depredations in that direction.

Scrutineer 2 August 1892

A Local Industry.

Mr McCLEERY'S COACH AND BUGGY FACTORY

In the 'good old days' of the colony almost everything had to be imported from the mother country, and sad to say through misgovernment and inglorious tariffs there are many articles yet imported which should be made in this country.

There has been, however, notwithstanding such drawbacks, a steady progress made in the establishing of industries in our district. And this often has been simply because many articles made in England and elsewhere are not adapted either to our climate or the requirements of our population in various ways. Take travelling on some of our up country roads for instance. An English madcor even American buggy is too light, and cannot stand the strain upon its weak build and after two years wear, including first cost and amount paid in repairs – without reckoning loss of time and inconvenience – costs nearly double the colonial made article.

The other day we paid a visit of inspection to the factory of Mr James McCleery who has been carrying on the business of coach and buggy builder, practical horseshoer, general blacksmith and wheelwright some eight or nine years in Moss Vale. We noticed a new hearse was just about approaching completion built to the order of Mr Matthews of Berrima to be used in the pageantry of death of those who in the future must find that "Death dare kill whom he will".

This hearse is of superior workmanship and most modern and best design; plate glass side windows are placed, nickel-plated mounts, well-finished corner ornamentations and is built with a double-socket forecarriage. It is fitted with a dual self-acting brake easily manipulated and which throws equal leverage on each wheel, giving an easy and gentle motion so necessary in a vehicle of this description to avoid undue pace down-hill.

A buggy of a special design was also in hand by Mr McCleery, a feature of which is that it can be altered to suit a commercial traveller or be formed with a back seat and a drop tail board. This was fitted with best buffalo hide side and real leather covered cushions. McCleery had also just completed a very stylish looking gig for Mr Wynne– in fact it looked such a handsome vehicle that, (much trained as is our newspaper mind to resist the demon spirit of envy) we became covetous and ardently wished that the gig called us owner.

One of Mr. McCleery's accessories in the trade is a patent platform which he had made in his yard and which is used when putting tyres on wheels, the working of which is most ingenious. By a simple contrivance a tyre while red-hot can be covered over with water so soon as laid on the wheel and thus prevent the woodwork from being burnt.

In the paint shop are every kind of paint in all colours for different work. In the store room is a splendid stock of trimmings and materials of every kind required in the trade, for Mr. McCleery being an enterprising and pushing business-like man, keeps a large and well-assorted stock in the interests of his customers.

Any order entrusted to his care is turned out quite as promptly and accurately as could be done by any Sydney firm for the latest improvements in the trade are availed of by Mr. McCleery, including a tyre bending machine, a machine for bending shafts and rims, and a number of other mechanical appliances. Mr. McCleery has on hand large stocks of seasoned timber of every description used in the trade – American hickory, ironbark, and box dressed and undressed. The iron used by him is of best quality as we could see by the brand.

Before we inspected we had no idea of the resources of Mr. McCleery's establishment, but can safely say it is able to turn out any work required in the district. New and second hand vehicles are always in stock, and buggies are made by Mr. McCleery from £25 up. Spring carts from £10 10s. Farm waggons, drays, coaches, waggons, etc., are made to order, the best material and workmanship being employed. Plough and other farm implements are also made and repaired.

Mr. McCleery has two sons with him in the business who are well grounded in every branch of the trade.

Scrutineer 18 March 1893

At the Berrima District Show:

A few vehicles were on view by Messrs. Brownlow and Mirow and James McCleery respectively, and deserve more space than we can devote to them.

The latter had a single-seated gig fitted with patent spring Hood, sliding seat, patent lamps etc., to go tandem or single, the cost of which splendid little yet strongly made vehicle was only £20, and which was highly commended.

These four blacksmith tools are stamped "Jas. McCleery Moss Vale". Photo provided by Alf Wilford, Spence, ACT

Compiled by Lavinia Ford and P Morton

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

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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), 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.

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