

Founded 1960

# BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER  
No 450 May 2013

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**ARCHIVES:** Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.

OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.  
Library collection contains reference books, journals and newsletters of other societies.

**MUSEUM :** Market Place, BERRIMA. Tel: 02 4877 1130 Email: [berrimamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:berrimamuseum@bigpond.com) OPEN: Saturdays, Sundays, NSW Public and School Holidays (except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day) 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Any person wanting to join the Society may do so at any stage during the year by completing a form and paying the appropriate fee. Joining Fee \$10.00 - Single \$20.00 - Family \$33.00.

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

## GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

**MAY MEETING:** Thursday 23 May 2013 at 2pm

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Dr Robyn Arrowsmith

**TOPIC:** **All the Way to the USA: Australian WWII War Brides**  
Robyn will share some of the poignant stories of the young Australian brides and fiancées in relation to her newly published book.

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

Inside this month ...

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And more ...

**JUNE LUNCHEON MEETING:** Thursday 27 June 2013 at 12 noon

**VENUE:** Exeter Village Hall, Exeter

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Elizabeth Burness



## Diary dates

### MAY

- 9 Management Committee Meeting
- 12 Mother's Day
- 23 General Monthly Meeting

### JUNE

- 13 Management Committee Meeting
  - 27 General Monthly Meeting
- LUNCHEON**
- 28 School holidays commence

### JULY

- 11 Management Committee Meeting
- 15 School holidays conclude
- 25 General Monthly Meeting

## From the President's Desk

*Bruce Moore*

I am pleased to inform you of our progress with the Berrima Museum extension and future exhibition of the Southern Highlands 1200, an Anzac Centenary project.

The launch took place on Apr.4<sup>th</sup> fittingly at the Empire Theatre, the venue where men enlisted for WW1 almost one hundred years ago. Richard Rufus openhandedly donated the theatre (in between shows) and as well the AWM offered us the film "Gallipoli" to watch. Our Mayor, Juliet Arkwright announced the project before the film was shown to the audience which numbered well over 100.

I was pleased to announce that James Fairfax AO donated \$5000 which certainly gave us a kick start.

Response to the project has been positive with donations arriving daily and as we go to press the figure is over \$17,000 and rising.

A special thank you to all those generous contributors.

The Manager of the project, Harlan Hall is now organising cash donations, in-kind donations and grants which will enable us to begin the approved building extension at the Berrima Museum. He is also busy preparing a building budget.

Anzac Day was commemorated, for the 98<sup>th</sup> year, in all our Southern Highlands villages. There were larger crowds than last year at each service, which echoed the sentiments of all towns, villages and cities across Australia.

Berrima Museum provided hot drinks and nibbles for their dawn service attendees while volunteers served about 130 people.



The 'official' launch - (L to R): Harlan Hall, Rhondda Vanzella, Juliet Arkwright (Mayor), Linda Emery and Bruce Moore.

## Correction

Correction in April's newsletter.... erroneously the word *conscript* was used for the Anzacs when it should read *volunteers*. I sincerely hope that nobody was offended.

## June Luncheon

Thursday 27 June 2013  
12.00 for 12.30pm

This year our June luncheon will be held at Exeter Village Hall



### Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Burness

We are pleased to welcome back Elizabeth who delighted us in 2009 with her wonderful presentation *There's history in the bottom drawers*. Showcasing her vintage clothing collection, she returns to bring us more history with a difference.

*Flapper Fashion* will take us back to the 1920s & 30s and show how

women changed in that era, not only in appearance, but also in attitude.

A two-course lunch with juice, tea and coffee will be prepared by the Society's Master Chefs. BYO wine.

Cost: \$25 per head

Exeter Village Hall was built as the School of Arts in 1902. The charming building was designed by Sydney Architects Slatyer and Cosh and constructed by well-known Moss Vale builder William Jones, who also built St John's Rectory, Moss Vale and Sutton Forest Public School. The hall has been in continuous use since then and remains a focal point for community activities in Exeter.

**There is plenty of parking adjacent to the hall. Book early, as this will be a popular event and is sure to be not only informative, but great fun.**

## New members

Ms Ling-Ling **Chao**, Moss Vale  
Mr John **Howard**, Hunters Hill  
Mrs Kathleen **Pearce**, Robertson  
Mrs Pippa **Robinson**, Moss Vale  
Mrs Elizabeth **Smith**, King Creek  
Mrs Marianne **Ward**, Bundanoon

## Newsletter

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

## Research fees

Research fees for non-members:

\$15.00 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

## Guest speaker at May meeting

### Dr Robyn Arrowsmith

The guest speaker at our general meeting on 23 May will be Dr Robyn Arrowsmith, a member of this Society and of its Management Committee.

She will be talking about her newly published book,



### *All The Way to the USA: Australian WWII War Brides*

which is based on ten years research for her PhD at Macquarie University.

Robyn will share some of the poignant stories of the young Australian brides and fiancées, set in an historical context: meeting their future husbands in wartime; their courtships; weddings; and subsequent travel to the USA to start a new life in a country about which they knew very little. These women bravely displayed commitment, resourcefulness and determination, as they dealt with red tape, chronic homesickness and grief for the families they left behind, while adjusting to different aspects of cultural change and settling in to a new life of wife and mother.

There were 15,000 Australian WWII War Brides of American servicemen, but no in-depth study has been made until now, and their stories have remained untold. After 60 years, these women have been officially recognised as great ambassadors for good relations between the two countries.

Signed copies of *All The Way to the USA: Australian WWII War Brides* will be available at a pre-launch discounted price of \$25 (RRP \$29.95) - payment by cash or cheque only would be appreciated.

## Society at Anzac Day services

Our Society was represented this year at the main local Anzac Day memorial services by members Glenda Miskelly (Mittagong), Bruce Moore (Bowral) and David Baxter (Moss Vale) who each laid a sheath of flower on behalf of all of us.

Museum Curator Bob Williams attended the Dawn Service at Berrima.

Linda Emery attended the Sutton Forest memorial service giving an address on the Australian Women's Land Army in WWII known as the "Land Girls".



Glenda Miskelly at the Mittagong service. Photo courtesy Wendy Selman

## Gathering at Local Studies Library

After a brief Meeting in the Henrietta Rose Room, Old Bowral Town Hall on the fourth Thursday in March, our members and a number of visitors were given an address by Wingecarribee Central Library's Local Studies Librarian Roxanne Seaward.

Roxanne briefly outlined what is available in the local studies collection and explained how the job of librarian has changed with the introduction of new technology and how it is being used. Equipment is now commonly available that did not exist even 10 years ago. Historical collections housed elsewhere may be remotely accessed and the search process is now greatly facilitated by new systems such as Trove.

Following Roxanne's talk, Linda Emery introduced long-standing member Marie Chalker who, on behalf of the Society, presented Roxanne with a framed photo and biography of Henrietta Rose after whom the meeting room was named. This naming was the result of a request to the Society by the Wingecarribee Chief Librarian in 2001 for suggested names for the room that was then being made ready as part of renovations to the Old Town Hall.



Marie was instrumental in suggesting Henrietta Rose as a most fitting person for the room to be named after, being a lady of distinction and a local pioneer in health education.



Members inspect some pieces of the collection in the Local Studies Room located upstairs in the Old Town Hall.

- Photos courtesy Desmond Kennard

## Remembering Henrietta Rose

This article researched and compiled by Marie Chalker

In 1999 the Wingecarribee Central Library opened in new premises in Bowral's historic Bendooley St precinct. The Old Bowral Town Hall that had housed the town library for almost 20 years was then converted into a multi-purpose space that included a large meeting room.

Suggestions for a suitable name to bestow on the meeting room were called for and the name Henrietta Rose, put forward by the Historical Society, was accepted. The Henrietta Rose Room opened in 2001 as a fitting tribute to her achievements.

Henrietta Eliza Bertha Rose was a lady of distinction who excelled in the science of agriculture and its application, as well as possessing very strong views on the welfare and health of women and children, especially in the care of mothers and babies.

She was born at Westminster, London, in 1891, the daughter of George Daniel and Aimee Henrietta (nee Delphine) Rose. Her mother was a lady of French origin who took up British citizenship on her marriage. Henrietta received her education in France, Switzerland and the UK, from where she graduated from university in the field of Agricultural Science.

With her parents and elder brother Frederick, Henrietta immigrated to Australia in 1910. Her father George had contracted with William Beale to come to Australia to manage the manufacture and general affairs of the Beale Pianoforte Company at Ultimo, Sydney. Since the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Rose family had been involved in pianoforte manufacture in England. In Henrietta's words "her father could construct a piano, with all its components, from the bare materials".

In 1913 the family purchased and took up residence on a rural property known as Craig Royston, located on the Hume Highway at Aylmerton, situated 5kms north east of Mittagong.

Henrietta proceeded with her agricultural pursuits at Craig Royston and was employed for a time at the Department of Agriculture.

She became well known for her scientific work with dairy herds. It was through this work that the testing of dairy herds for tuberculosis was first introduced. This led to a better control of tuberculosis and other associated diseases. It was found that contaminated milk being produced by diseased cows and unhygienic practices being observed by many dairy farmers resulted in catastrophic ailments occurring. Henrietta is quoted as saying at the annual conference of the CWA of NSW in 1926 that: "Good milk is essential for children. It is so easily contaminated that only persons of refinement will realise and insist on proper care".

Through Henrietta's work a branch of the NSW Agricultural Bureau was opened and operated from Craig Royston in 1924. By 1925 Henrietta had been instrumental in the opening of the ABC (Aylmerton, Braemar, Colo Vale) Co-operative Society, together with a Womens' Auxiliary. These two organisations were run in conjunction with Henrietta as secretary.

Under her guidance the group organised first aid lessons with the assistance of Sister Parry from Bowral Hospital, accompanied by a local doctor of the time. Educational competitions for children were held. Lectures and demonstrations on general farming, native plants suitable for cultivation, pruning of orchards and garden plants were conducted. For several years Henrietta operated Craig Royston as an experimental farm for orcharding, the cultivation of onions, lucerne, kikuyu, other grasses and dairying.

The year 1925 saw the Aylmerton branch of the NSW Agricultural Bureau at Craig Royston looking into the welfare and health of country women, especially the care of mothers and babies. It was at this time, with the support of the auxiliary, that Henrietta formed the Aylmerton branch of the Country Womens' Association which continued for the following five years.

For some time Henrietta served as a member of the executive committee at head office of the Country Womens' Association of NSW.

Another beneficial work was undertaken in 1942, during WWII, when Japan made an attack on parts of Sydney. Many children were evacuated from the city to country areas and Henrietta and her mother allowed Craig Royston to be set up and operated as an evacuee centre with a matron, nurse and other staff employed for care, cooking and cleaning. Recuperation facilities were also provided for officers of the armed forces.

All in all, it may be said that over her lifetime Henrietta had an overwhelming desire to foster the education, good health and hygiene of people and to contribute to the advancement of agricultural science. She passed away at Craig Royston on 23 July 1982.

A kind and gracious woman who positively influenced many people's lives, Henrietta deserves to be remembered.



Henrietta's pet koala



Craig Royston in 1915, showing Henrietta's parents.

## Throsby Park: future and the past

In our April newsletter mention was made of the Open Day on 14 April at Throsby Park House being a rare chance to see the historic site before Historic Houses Trust placed the restored property on the market. This could have been interpreted as meaning that the property was to be put up for sale, but that is not so.

The situation was outlined in the *Southern Highland News* in February: "Throsby Park will be put to tender by the HHT later this year. A Wingecarribee councillor says she will talk to fellow councillors about lodging an application for the lease." Councillor Holly Campbell is quoted as saying the property was historically significant to the Highlands, not only for its architecture but its human history and she wanted to make the site 'part of the community'.

The newspaper article continued that business operators keen to relocate to Throsby Park would be sought and the idea would be to compliment other similar businesses in the region and help boost tourism.

The Historic Houses Trust became the owner of Throsby Park in September, 2010, after it was transferred from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which owned the site since 1975. From 1934 the property was home to Del Throsby's riding school. The estate was originally granted to Dr Charles Throsby by Governor Macquarie in 1820.

During the period when Throsby Park was under the control of the National Parks & Wildlife Service, many local people served there as volunteer guides and helped with maintenance. Some of these came from the Bundanoon History Group, one being Jill Francis who enjoyed her 20 years of service there. Another group was the "Friends of Throsby Park" that included some of our Society members. One such was Judy Gray, whose recollections from that time are provided below.

### Memories of Throsby Park

Some memories I have begin in the late 1980s when the late Judith Ralph, who was then the archivist, invited me to come along two days before the house had an open day, to assist others to clean it. Rachel Roxburgh was the driving force on these occasions.

We swept, dusted, cleaned the silver, glassware including windows and French doors, and a couple of ladies came with flowers which they arranged in vases belonging to the house in the style of 1800s. Rachel then put out various ornaments in each of the rooms belonging to the house. I do remember that an open book upside down was put on the arm of the lounge with a pair of pince-nez eye glasses alongside. Various implements including hairbrush and comb, button opener/closer for dress or shoes arranged in bedrooms, cloth and dishes on morning room table;

various dishes, cutlery, candelabra and glasses on extended dining room table and sideboard.

Ann McDermott of the Embroiders Guild embroidered the bell pull alongside the fireplace in the Drawing Room and also the door stops. The semi circular table in the Drawing Room dated 1810 is the oldest in the house.

The rooms had 17'9" high ceilings and particularly fine recessed cedar shutters on the windows mainly to keep the cold out in the winter, or the sun out in the summer months. The glass in the French doors was Austrian. The Oatley clock dated 1822 was ordered by Mrs Throsby and the most valuable piece in the house. There were 22 made, this was No. 15 and 12 have been located.

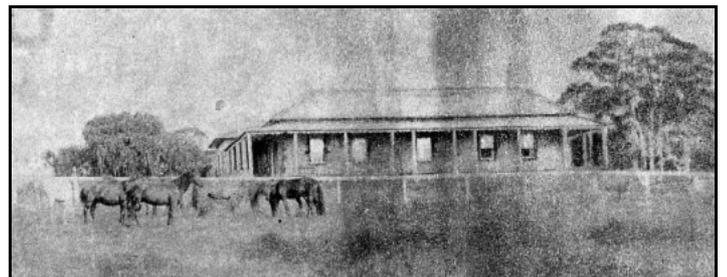


Detail from the 1834 painting of Throsby Park by Conrad Martens showing the house in the distance on the hill

The house was built by a master builder to an architect's design. There are Georgian wooden columns on the original front (western side) into the original hall, but later because of the cold westerly winds, the hall was turned into a bedroom and the entrance was on the northern side.

The main bedroom had an 1800s 'built-in' wardrobe. The drawing room had a white marble fireplace, and the dining room, a black marble fireplace which was typical of each of the rooms. The horns above the front door belonged to a valuable Durham bull owned by Charles Throsby, which sired most of his excellent herd. The horns over the passage door belonged to a small deer which ran with his herd until being shot by a neighbour.

The Chinaman's hat roof was added around 1900 over the original timber Casuarina shingles (which have been preserved) due to continual overflowing of the central roof valley and gutters. This water was collected in this central valley and ran through lead-lined gutters into the well in the courtyard. A fence was added in the early 1900s when one child walked the plank in the middle of the well !!



Throsby Park House prior to 1900 with shingle roof



The House with its 'Chinaman's hat' roof added

## New book in Society Library

### Guides of Wombeyan Caves 1864-2012

by John & Glenda Wylie

The recently published *Guides of Wombeyan Caves* covers the almost 100 guides and workers who have served at the Caves since they first opened to the public in the 1880s.

The publication is a limited edition of 140 books, with 100 copies in black and white and an additional limited edition of 40 in colour.

The launch took place at Taralga on 9 February and around 40 people gathered, many who have spent most of their lives at the Caves.

The Federal Member for Hume, Alby Shultz MP launched the book which was published by the Sydney Speleological Society and written by two of its members, John and Glenda Wylie. This labour of love has taken many years as they interviewed people and researched the history of the Caves by delving into recorded histories of this interesting area.

Due to previous involvement with Wombeyan Caves books and with the scanning of thousands of caving photos from around Australia for the Speleological Society, Leonie & Greg Knapman were invited to the dinner and book launch. Our Society now has No. 18 of the limited colour edition. Library Ref is R13/224

Bedroom No. 2 was usually kept for visitors, but contained some children's clothing in the wardrobe, it had outside shutters on the window as it overlooked the well, It also had a length of wood about 2-1/2 ft long used by the young girls to put across their back and held by their arms, I think for about 5 minutes a day to keep their backs straight. I tried this and it is most comfortable and does make one stand up straight !!!

The bedroom No. 1 which was altered by Frank and Jeannie Throsby has a bay window but, when the flooring was lifted to be replaced in the restoration, it was found to have originally been two rooms. Charles Throsby was a Magistrate and one room was thought to have been his office and the other a 'Stranger's Room'. Anyone riding through could stay there for the night (there being no inns close by) but there was no entrance into the house as a doorway was put in onto the verandah.

It always amused me when I commenced a guided talk starting in the Drawing Room as it was said that Charles & Betsy Throsby had 17 children who survived their childhood - you could see everyone's jaw drop - but with no TV and whatever else we do these days, what else did one do then !!!!!

After Rachel Roxburgh had decorated each room with personal items belonging to the house, it looked like Mrs Throsby had just gone out the back door as we came in the front entrance. Also the clock was made by Oatley Bros in Sydney and there is now a suburb called Oatley there.

Other Friends of Throsby House that I remember include Dymrna Irwin, Clarice Boyd, who liked to sit at the door taking the entry money, and Edith Tetlow, who was the BDHS Newsletter editor for many years.

My late husband Douglas and I joined the Society in 1987/8 transferring from Brush Farm Historical Society at Eastwood in Sydney. When we joined the BDHS, Doug Cull was President and in the early 1990s we were elected members of the Management Committee for a short time, Doug was Librarian and I was Assistant Secretary. I was also involved in the Museum and, along with Diana Taylor, replanted the garden. Doug passed away in 2001.

I am sure I could think of a few other things but this is enough for now. Regards, Judy Gray



Del Throsby in action at her Throsby Park riding school

### Guides of Wombeyan Caves 1864-2012

John Wylie & Glenda Wylie



The cover is a reproduction of Wombeyan [sic] Cave from *Sketches in Australia and the adjacent islands: selected from a number taken during the surveying voyage of HMS Fly and Bramble 1842-46* by Harden S Melville. Printed in England, c1849. From Mitchell Library Collection

## Berrima District Council into 1850s

Part Two of a 2-part series compiled by Philip Morton

**In last month's article, the name of one of the councillors was wrongly given as 'James Cowan'. While this was how he was listed in early State records, it is now established that he was in fact James Comer, a well-known, respected Berrima landholder and businessman who was reelected to the Council in 1844, as the following text reveals.**

Found abandoned in an old shed at Upper Kangaroo River in 1966 was a Minute Book containing the only available records of the Berrima District's earliest local government body. The Minute Book commences with the first meeting of the District Council held on 26 September 1843 at the Council Chambers (Berrima) in the Court House.

The Warden is recorded as stating that the meeting had been called for "the purpose of reading the Charter incorporating the District Council and to constitute same".

At the 2 February 1844 meeting Councillor Sherwin moved: "That the resolutions respecting Education be taken into consideration at the next meeting."

The 'Resolutions on Education' was a comprehensive plan empowered by Imperial edict that laid out specific guidelines for how schools were to be established, operated and paid for in each colonial district.

The local guidelines consisted of eight points of action, including: "That it is of paramount importance to the future of this Colony, to its children and to the well-being of the people, that a social, moral and practically useful education be given to the rising generation by means of Public Schools and that the utmost facilities should be afforded to the children of all religious denominations.

That to carry out this purpose, it was necessary to erect a school house in Berrima, Bong Bong, Mittagong and Sutton Forest and in other parts where there were children in readiness to attend. That a master or mistress shall be chosen by the Council according to his or her merits irrespective of religious distinction provided that such teacher shall be of some one denomination of religion of acknowledged professing Christians and shall be of good moral character."

To the credit of the Berrima Council this resolution on education was acted upon to some extent with new schools opened in the district. Less immediate action resulted from a report of the 'Road Committee' that was considered on the 9 February 1844.

The following month it is recorded that the Warden was the only member of Council to attend who therefore had to adjourn the meeting.

It seems several Council members had stepped down and, to fill the vacancies, an election meeting was set for 7 May 1844, with the following persons being nominated: James Comer, James Harper, John Morrice of Eling and John Nicholson junior.

According to a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, a large number of inhabitants collected at the Court House for the May meeting dressed in their best and everything was conducted in a mild manner, more so than had ever

been noticed at any previous meeting of the inhabitants. It seems from the tone of this statement that the locals had a reputation for being a rowdy bunch.

A majority were in favour of Comer and Harper. Morrice and Nicholson were also voted in and then "a great number of the electors proceeded to the Surveyor General Inn and partook of an excellent dinner provided gratis by the worthy landlord (Mr Taylor) in his usual good style".

It was reported in the Government Gazette of July 1846 that, because vacancies on the Berrima Council had not been filled, the Governor appointed Robert Campbell and John Morrice to hold office until May, 1849.

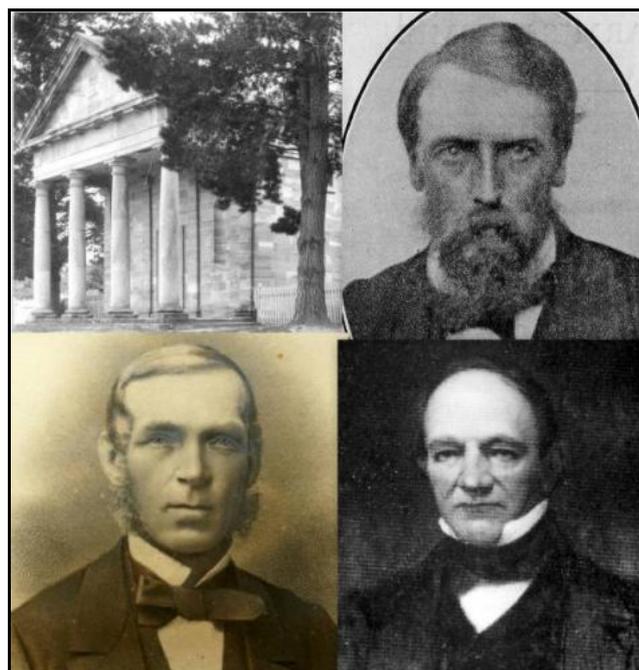
A similar notice in June 1847 announced the appointment of Henry Molesworth Oxley and William Cordeaux to hold office until 1850. Another such notice of October 1849 listed the appointment of John Nicholson and Henry Badgery to hold office until May 1851 and John Morrice and James Comer until May 1852. In June 1854 it was announced that Charles Throsby had resigned and in his place Henry Molesworth Oxley was appointed Warden.

By this time it had become evident that the District Council was achieving little apart from the election of a few councillors. This was a colony-wide problem as the District Council system met with strong opposition.

Economic conditions, thinly spread population and some obnoxious clauses in the Act told against the system. Numerous petitions revealed the inability of sparsely settled rural districts to raise sufficient funds for any of the more important functions prescribed, such as roads, provision of schools and bearing half the cost of the police.

Many District Councils became insolvent and the Berrima District Council had ceased to exist by 1858, when new legislation, The Municipalities Act, became operative and District Councils were officially disbanded.

However the groundwork had been laid and out of their failure grew municipal institutions more suited to the people and the times.



**DISTRICT COUNCIL** met in Berrima Court House.  
Henry M Oxley (top) appointed Warden in 1854.  
John Morrice (left) and Charles Throsby were councillors.

## DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	9 MAY	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23 MAY	Monthly General Meeting	<b>2:00pm</b> at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	13 JUN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	27 JUN	Monthly General Meeting Luncheon	<b>12:00 noon</b> at Exeter Village Hall
THURSDAY	11 JUL	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25 JUL	Monthly General Meeting	<b>2:00pm</b> at the Historical Society

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## THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

is proudly supported by the following organizations that encourage the work of our Society in collecting, preserving and maintaining the history of the Southern Highlands.

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