

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 457 January 2014

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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 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

JANUARY MEETING: No Monthly Meeting

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday 27 February 2014 at 2pm

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

GUEST SPEAKER: *Linda Emery and Max Rogers*

Another in the series *Captured in the Light* by Linda Emery and Max Rogers. The stories behind some of the interesting photographs recently added to the BDH&FHS collection.

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

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And more ...



Diary dates

JANUARY

- 9 Management Committee Meeting
- 23 **NO** General Monthly Meeting
- 26 Australia Day
- 28 School holidays conclude

FEBRUARY

- 13 Management Committee Meeting
- 27 General Monthly Meeting

MARCH

- 13 Management Committee Meeting
- 27 General Monthly Meeting

From the President's Desk

Bruce Moore

Again, I feel very privileged to be re-elected as President of your Society and now, after removing my training wheels, we look forward to a bright and exciting year in 2014. We have two active committees who have the interests of the Museum and Archives at heart.

Many events will occur in the year ahead and we shall keep you informed via this newsletter.

We encourage members to visit us at the archives, introduce yourselves and feel free to volunteer your time or expertise or helpful suggestions which may benefit your Society.

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Oscar Wilde once quoted "*The Young are always ready to give those who are older, the full benefit of their inexperience*".

This became reality over the holiday break and pondering the aftermath of the family Christmas at our place. My wife and I, however, did enjoy experiencing the dynamics of our family just as much as they enjoyed tucking into the food. Observing little faces opening presents on Christmas morning gives one an indication of their personalities. Some open them with gusto to see what Santa brought, another spent more time opening the gift than appreciating the contents while one or two littlies are more content to play with the box it came in.

One young grandson, sitting straddling my knee came out with the classic statement: "Pa, why don't you get some children of your own?"

The Management Committees of both the Archives and the Museum wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Frank Debenham feedback

Linda Emery was delighted to receive information from two members in regard to her piece on Frank Debenham in the November issue of the newsletter.

Philip Weate came across the story of the Bowral-born Antarctic expedition some years ago when he purchased his terrestrial and celestial globes, together with one of his teaching notebooks. He generously donated them to the Hobart Art Gallery and Museum, where they are now on display in their splendid Antarctic Section. He also alerted us that an interview with Professor Debenham was recorded by the BBC before his death, but so far he has not been able to track down a copy.

Frank Mitchell also contacted us with information about the plane table Frank Debenham was using in the photograph we printed in the newsletter. Mr Mitchell's brother, Peter, is a former Professor of Geomorphology at Macquarie University and made the following comment: Frank Debenham "*is using a plane table for his survey. A devious instrument loved by geographers because most of them couldn't handle trigonometry! You actually plot your map directly onto paper on the table top (tripod) using an alidade for bearings. They are difficult to use in windy or wet conditions and I reckon he would have to be a masochist to try it in Antarctica.*"

Thank you to both members for their comments - we love to receive feedback and information that can be added to our Archives

Some 2013 facts & figures

Results achieved by our many volunteers during 2013 include:

Publication sales revenue:

\$5033.75 at the archives, and
\$1855.50 at the museum.

Museum admissions:

1,631 door sales @ \$5 (\$8155);
463 group visitors (\$2002).

Research handled at archives:

Phone enquiries - 522
Requests by email - 459
Personal visits - 370
Total for year - 1,351

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:

\$20.00 per hour or part thereof for telephone and postal enquiries.

\$5.00 per hour or part thereof for enquirers who attend the archives and carry out their own research.

Archives opening hours

Opening hours are as follows:

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

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

Market Place, Berrima
Near the bridge

OPENING HOURS

10 am - 4 pm.

Weekends, Public Holidays and
NSW Public School Holidays.

Closed Good Friday, Christmas Day
and Boxing Day.

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

Southern Highlands 1200 project

Ready to Start!

Construction of the new Museum Exhibition Building alongside the Society's museum at Berrima is set to start this February. Project Manager Harlan Hall has so far raised \$250,000 towards its construction, thanks to many donors and supporters and the Arts NSW Regional Capital grant. Three more grant applications for the project have been submitted.

Planning is underway for the "Southern Highlands 1200" Anzac Centenary Exhibition to open on Anzac Day 2015 in the new building. Funding of \$150,000 in donations and grants is being sought for the display.

Throughout Australia in 2015 commemorations will be held for all those who served and for those who gave their lives in World War 1. Over 1200 men and women from the Southern Highlands served overseas in that war. Many of their stories will be featured in the museum exhibition, based on a soon to be published book *Our Boys in Khaki* by archivist, author and historian Linda Emery.

For more information and to support the project visit www.sh1200.org or contact Harlan on 0417 861 575.

St Paul's International College - a supporter

Recently a student group from St Paul's International College in Moss Vale visited the museum at Berrima with their history teacher John Wilson and were most impressed with the range of exhibitions. Brochures were taken back to college about the "Southern Highlands 1200" project and College Director Sister Fong felt it appropriate to provide a \$600 donation. St Paul's is the first school in the district to give financial support to this local commemorative project.



St Paul's College Director Sister Angelina Fong and Principal Peter Morgan present cheque to Society President Bruce Moore and Harlan Hall.

27 November 2014, Photo: Roy Truscott (S H News)

Society's Christmas Dinner

At Dormie House in Moss Vale

As it was Friday 13th, our annual Christmas Dinner became a 'fancy dress' gathering. Some were inspired by the date's superstitious overtones while others dressed in keeping with the 'old world' plush charm of Dormie House.

A good time was had; the food and service were excellent. President Bruce congratulated members on a great team effort and most received a gift when lucky numbers called.



Leonie ('Cher') Knapman (left); Robyn Arrowsmith and Lyn Hall - not how we usually see them at committee meetings!



Linda Emery (right) with Michelle Bown and Denise Mackenzie; Bruce Moore sports his top-hat.



From left: Patricia Doris, Chris Moore, Maureen Townsing and Peter Doris

Photos: Max Rogers, Philip Morton

Berrima Museum river walk

The morning was warm with a cool breeze blowing on the first Wednesday of November. A small posse of about 13 avid history lovers gathered outside the Berrima District Museum at the Market Place in Berrima. The aim of the excursion was to visit sites of the German Internee recreational huts built during the First World War, along the Wingecarribee River.

Bob Williams pointed out some interesting items as the group walked through the Market Place and town to the river behind the gaol. Lambie's Well was visited where the graffiti, old and recent, was discussed. At the camping ground, the former site of the internee-built Hansa bridge was viewed. Further along the track, water monitors were seen basking in the sun before swimming off once disturbed by the trekkers.



After passing the back of the Scout Hall and along the path next to the river, the group stopped to see the site of a number of huts along the river bank. Lyn Hall, armed with maps, pointed out the places where these innovative and resourceful men spent many happy hours swimming, boating, sun-baking and building gardens and huts.

When the proposed river walk is finished, information will be available to visitors to the park. The outing was a great success and enjoyed by all, thanks to Bob, Gloria and Lyn.

Ros Dale

Community Heritage Grant award

The BDH&FHS has recently been awarded a federal Community Heritage Grant totalling \$8,900 to fund preservation equipment and the purchase of image scanning and software. This will enable several of our local collections to be connected to the National Library of Australia's powerful 'Trove' search engine, including the World War 1 German internment camp at Berrima collection. These collections will become infinitely more 'discoverable' world wide.

The grant was announced at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, on 29 October 2013. This year, grants worth \$426,000 have been distributed to 77 community groups and organisations from around Australia to assist in the identification and preservation of community owned but nationally significant heritage collections.

In addition, archivist Linda Emery attended a three-day preservation and collection management workshop in Canberra at the National Library, the National Archives of Australia, the National Museum of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive.

Director-General of the National Library, Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, said the CHG program showed the commitment by the National Library, along with its partner institutions and the Federal Government, in encouraging communities to care for the nation's heritage, be it in small country towns or capital cities.

Our collection of Berrima Internment Camp photos had already been assessed as nationally significant, so Linda knew that the Society was well placed to receive this funding. Nevertheless she was extremely pleased on behalf of the Society to accept the grant and looks forward to the collections being more widely available.



Linda Emery accepting the CHG grant from Ms Anne McLean, Acting Assistant Director-General, National Library of Australia,



German mariners at Moss Vale Station - one of the images from the BDH&FHS collection

Publicity material compiled by Philip Morton

Mittagong Maltings history (part three)

Water and setbacks from fires

Originally the Maltings at Mittagong obtained water from Nattai Creek, which runs through the property, by means of a small dam, but this proved uncertain and was superseded by the use of specially filtered water from the Mittagong town supply.



Prodigious amounts of water were required as the steeping process needed three changes. By the 1940s the average water consumption was 94,000 gallons per week.

Arthur W Tooth, one of the early Company directors, had played a leading part in inaugurating the municipal water supply that commenced in 1909 and subsequently a larger municipal reservoir was completed in 1930.

The issue of water supply and the requirements of the Maltings regarding quantity, quality and regularity of supply dominated the relationship between the company and the local town and shire councils for decades.

From 1919 the Maltings supplemented town water with an artesian bore drilled close to the creek and in the 1940s used professional water diviners. Nattai Creek ceased as a supply but took most of the site's stormwater and remained valuable for fire fighting purposes.

Without it, the fire of August 1942 would have been even more disastrous. The first of three major fires, this was in Malthouse 2 and it burnt for over 24 hours and also damaged some of the facilities shared with Malthouse 1. The malting process had to be halted for more than a year in No. 1 and for a decade in No. 2 as wartime shortages and restrictions made rebuilding impossible. However Malthouse 3 as an autonomous unit remained in continuous production.

Malthouse 1 was returned to service by constructing a temporary shell of timber and fibro inside the original brick walls, and fuller repairs were made during the ensuing years. Malthouse 2 was completely rebuilt and recommenced active operation in 1953.

The impact of fire and mechanization saw the size of the labour force slowly drop, so that by 1950 there were about 22 employees. Between 1938 and 1953 the managerial and head maltstering roles were split between John Kennedy as manager and G C (Clarrie) Jones head maltster. Clarrie had joined the company in 1916 and, upon his appointment, took up residence in the company cottage that had been home to his elder brother and late father, while Kennedy resided at The Gib.



From 1953 to 1974 Clarrie was in sole charge until supervisory control shifted to Tooth & Co's head maltster in Sydney and yet another member of the Jones family, Clarrie's younger brother Ernest, became local manager.

Until 1969 the three malthouses were in continuous production and this period saw significant technological improvement with the introduction of an oil-fired kiln, bulk handling systems and greater mechanization.



In December 1969 a second fire caused major damage to Malthouse 1 and, as it was decided not to rebuild, its interior was dismantled.

Production continued in Malthouses 2 and 3

until early 1980 when a third major fire caused significant damage to the tower section of Malthouse 3.

The capacity of the Maltings had been severely curtailed and Tooth & Co faced a major and costly repair job. In view of the high running costs and the ability to readily secure supplies from contract maltsters, Tooth & Co decided to close down and sell off the entire complex.

A major clearance sale was held on site in November 1981 at which were offered many pieces of equipment and materials including shovels and augers, diesel engines, pumps and office equipment. Some pieces were taken by Tooth & Co for its museum at Kent Brewery and were later donated to the Powerhouse Museum.

In 1981 the site was sold to a consortium of local businessmen who drew up plans to develop Malthouses 1 and 2 as cultural centre, theatre, gallery and craft workshops, Malthouse 3 as a hotel, restaurant, conference venue and museum, and the company cottage as a gymnasium. These proposals were approved in principle by Council but financial and other problems arose and the project was abandoned. A comprehensive survey of the Maltings site, commissioned by Wingecarribee Shire Council and undertaken in 1989 in association with Dr D K Mead, Consultant Industrial Archaeologist, concluded that the Maltings was a place of important heritage significance with strong community association and it supported a sensitive heritage development.

24 years further on, the now derelict-looking complex appears almost beyond redemption, given the high cost of even modest restoration. Yet it possesses a rich heritage and retains an essential spirit and style.

Compiled by Philip Morton

RAHS State Conference 2013



KATOOMBA

More than 125 delegates attended the 2013 Conference at Katoomba RSL, even though recent bush fires had caused many problems in the area.

In an RAHS e-newsletter after the Conference, it was stated that delegates enjoyed the hospitality of the region and it was an opportunity for the RAHS to show its support to the Blue Mountains as it recovered from the recent bushfires.

The Conference theme was **The Great Divide: Getting there from here** that examined new family history resources; commemorating the past; places and landscapes; museum collections and society management.

Representing our local BDH&FHS at the Conference were Leonie and Greg Knapman, Linda Emery and Max Rogers.

Leonie Knapman provided the following report.

There were pre-Conference drinks at Hobby's Reach on the Friday evening hosted by Blue Mountains Historical Society.

Saturday morning started off with the Topic:

Lest we forget? - Commemorating the Past

In this session speakers examined remembering or forgetting in time of commemorations, such as the Centenary of World War 1 in 2014 and of Gallipoli in 2015.

Linda Emery was amongst the speakers and she explained the work that she has undertaken over the past couple of years in finding and recording all World War 1 records of those who lived in the Southern Highlands and took part in the war effort.

Other Topics on Saturday included:

Lives obscurely great? Papers covered famous people and how they get all the attention in history books, but historical events are shaped by the lives of ordinary, often unnamed, people.

Finding their stories adds richness and humanity to a local or national history that often seems remote from the daily lives of those who lived through the events.

Museum exhibitions and archaeological undertakings offer techniques that bring to life the ordinary and unnamed people in our past.

After the Conference, delegates were taken for a tour through the Carrington Hotel resort a short distance away. This was followed by the conference dinner.

Sunday morning topics included:

Understanding Place and Reading Landscape

It was recommended historians get a good pair of boots and explore their locality. In the digital age of desktop research, the local historian confronts a potential chasm where physical reality and virtual reality merge indistinguishably. Understanding place through a reading of the landscape and the reading of documents was explored in this talk.

Sunday afternoon topics:

Local History and Family History - divided loyalties

Papers covered local and family historians and how they use many of the same resources yet often do not see that their work is closely related.

Good family history needs to understand the locality where people lived and worked, while effective local history relies on the life experiences of the people to document local events. They are mutually dependent.

Delegates learnt about new online resources that will support and enhance their local history research.

At the finish of the Conference it was announced that the 2014 Conference will be held at Mittagong.

A very successful conference was held here in 2003, so we have experience in showcasing the Southern Highlands and our archives and museum.

The Conference will be held at the RSL Club on the last weekend in October. Our Society will host drinks on Friday night at a historic venue, and several of our members are attending meetings at the RAHS to finalise themes and speakers.

Leonie Knapman



New publications available to buy

Picturing Penrose: 1911-2011 a hamlet in the Southern Highlands

Written by Society member Keith McMenomy, this book documents Penrose by building the stories of its history around a comprehensive collection of photos that range from the early days up to recent times; reminiscences and anecdotes from some local family members are also featured.

Wingecarribee Council assisted with production and printing and the BDH&FHS and Bundanoon History Group archives provided research and photographs.

To convey something of the essence of the book, the following is quoted from its Introduction:

"One could assume nothing much happens in a little place like this – blink and you'll miss it – but you would be surprised. Many of the great dramas and challenges of Australian history have been played out or had effect in districts like this.

Aboriginal inhabitants, *Gundungurra* or mountain people inhabited locations across the highlands in family groups and visited this dense bush locality attracted by springs, spectacular gorges and game.

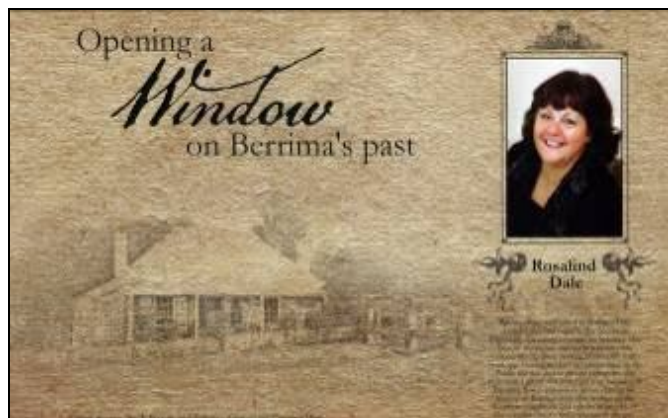
According to local legend they named Kareela *place of high winds* and Wingello a *place of fire*. Possibly because aborigines were guides for early European explorers, the Argyle road and later the railway line in part follows the traditional boundary between *Gundungarra* and coastal *Wodiwodi* peoples.



Penrose railway station opened in 1916

Government surveyor and Irishman James Meehan, an emancipated convict, brought an exploring party through here in March 1818, discovering a small stream a few hundred metres north of our present hamlet that he called St Patrick's, now known as Paddy's River. With arrival of European settlers soon after, the potential pastoral areas to north and west developed in the 1800s. Penrose, like neighbouring Bundanoon, developed after the railway came through in 1869, opening former remote country to closer settlement."

Soft cover, 92 pages A4, colour illustrated. Cost \$25.



Opening a Window on Berrima's Past

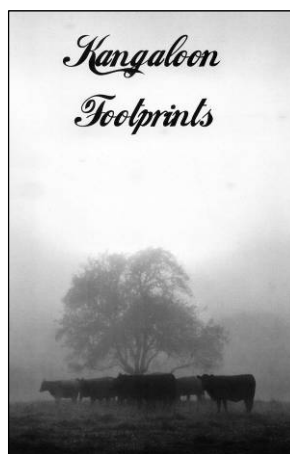
This book by Society member Rosalind Dale portrays the charm of historic Berrima and its pioneers through words and a multitude of fascinating photographs, and with stories of people and events from by-gone days. The people, streets, parks and old buildings of this heritage village are skilfully brought to life.

Soft cover, 81 pp A4, colour illustrated. Cost \$30.

Kangaloon Footprints

Compiled by Bernadette Mahony, this book is a collection of recorded events, written and spoken, along with photographs, charts and anecdotes that together tell us much about Kangaloon's past, and the people who lived there. It contains chapters concerned with aspects of life in Kangaloon, East Kangaloon, Boxvale and Mount Murray.

Until 1891, Kangaloon as we know it now was called West Kangaloon, and Kangaloon was used to refer to today's East Kangaloon, which was the more important of the villages, due mainly to its proximity to Robertson and the coast which in the early days of settlement was the only reliable means of getting produce to market.



Research and publication of the book was undertaken at the request of the Kangaloon Hall Committee as part of the centenary celebrations of the Hall.

Follow the footprints and enjoy.

The cover photograph "Morning Light" is by Rex Dupain 1997 and is used with his blessing.

Soft cover, 409 pages A4, illustrated. Cost \$50.

These and many other publications may be purchased from the Mittagong Archives, the museum at Berrima, or ordered on-line through the Society's website.

DIARY DATES

MONDAY	6 JAN	Archives reopen after Christmas	
THURSDAY	9 JAN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23 JAN	NO Monthly General Meeting	
SATURDAY	25 JAN	Society Museum open Weekends and Holidays	
THURSDAY	13 FEB	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	27 FEB	Monthly General Meeting	2:00pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	13 MAR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	27 MAR	Monthly General Meeting	2:00pm at the Historical Society

If undelivered return to:
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THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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preserving and maintaining the history of the Southern Highlands.

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