

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 469 February 2015

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ABN 29 362 616 937

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

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

MUSEUM: Market Place, BERRIMA. Tel: 02 4877 1130 Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com OPEN: 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 \$25.00 - Family \$35.00.

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

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday 26 February 2015 at 2pm

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

GUEST SPEAKER: Kevin Herring
Parish Maps

AFTERNOON TEA: The value of Parish Maps for local and family historians.
To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

MARCH MEETING: Thursday 26 March 2015 at 2pm

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

GUEST SPEAKER: Linda Emery and Max Rogers
Captured in the Light

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And more ...



Diary dates

FEBRUARY

12 Management Committee Meeting
26 General Monthly Meeting

MARCH

12 Management Committee Meeting
26 General Monthly Meeting

APRIL

2 School holidays commence
3 Good Friday
6 Easter Monday
9 Management Committee Meeting
21 School holidays conclude
23 General Monthly Meeting

From the President's desk

Author Lizzy Gardiner once quoted:
You never really understand who you've become until you remember and understand who you were.

On that note, a **Happy New Year** to all our members.

Where did January go? I hear you cry. After removing the last of the Christmas pudding from my teeth, we hurtled into 2015, hitting the ground running. Our Archives and Museum teams went straight back to work, archiving and keeping the museum open to the public.

A last-minute change came from the Australian War Memorial, which was to finally send its exhibition to us, as long as we paid for its transportation in specially designed crates. Of course we jumped at this offer, sending the Museum committee into a spin, designing brochures in readiness for the opening of "**camera on Gallipoli**" on January 24th. Hasty unpacking and precise hanging took place, dignitaries were invited and bingo! The opening day went off without a hitch, thanks to the organizational skills of our new Museum Manager, John Schweers.

Our Patron, the Mayor was present and Hon. Stephen Jones opened the exhibition. The curator, Peter Burness, long-standing employee of the AWM admitted this was the first time he had seen his framed photographs hung together. "**Camera on Gallipoli**" is open in Berrima until March 20th. Two days later, on Australia Day, while some of our members were

getting 'in costume' for the parade in Berrima, we were to learn that Harlan Hall, our Project Manager, was awarded Citizen of the Year by the Mayor. Congratulations to him and his wife, Lyn, who also was a key player in setting up this new extension and exhibition.

While all this was happening, the Berrima Gaol opened its doors to the public. Never to miss an opportunity, Carolyn Hutton and Ros Dale, who organised this limited-edition appearance through Rotary, were busy selling books promoting the history of the area and the BDHS generally. They had a team of willing helpers on rotating shifts.

I believe this was a mighty success and congratulate everyone responsible.

Our new sponsor for this year's newsletters is Southern Highland News and we're thankful to have Springett's Arcade on board again.

Now we can set sail for a smooth passage through February while the grandkids stress over their school work.

Grandad was reminiscing about the good old days:

"When I was a lad, me ole Mum would send me down to the corner shop with a shilling and I'd come back with a bag o'potatoes, 2 loaves o'bread, 3 pints o'milk, a Christmas pudding, mince pies, a chokkie and 2 dozen eggs.

Yer can't do that now. Too many damn security cameras!!"

Research fees

Research fees for non-members:

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

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

Membership details

Please note that all membership enquiries and changes of address details should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, c/- the Society's postal address or email to bdhsarchives@gmail.com

From the Editor's desk

'Welcome back,' to everyone in this New Year. I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to the year ahead with the anticipation of wondering what is in store for us.

This is the **first newsletter** for 2015. I am sure you will enjoy reading the interesting array of articles folded in the pages in the coming issues, and catching up with society news.

Have a wonderful year one and all.

Did you know that in 1821 there were 35 criminals executed in NSW.

Bowral Free Press and Berrima District Intelligencer, Wed, 6 May 1896 page 2

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 John on 4872 1660.

Newsletter deadline

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

Inaugural exhibition in new gallery

A camera on Gallipoli



An Australian War Memorial travelling exhibition titled *A camera on Gallipoli* is on show at our Museum in Berrima until 20 March.

The Society is proud to bring this important Anzac Centenary exhibition to the Wingecarribee Shire. It will be the first major exhibition held in the Museum's new gallery, the Williams Gallery, named in honour of the contribution by Bob and Gloria Williams to the Society and the Museum over the past 17 years.

A camera on Gallipoli showcases 39 candid World War I photographs captured by Charles Ryan while serving with the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in Turkey in 1914-15. Ryan's sensitivity, his empathy with those on both sides, and his eye for the remarkable - and the remarkable in the everyday - are apparent in his photographic work. These images take us behind the stirring accounts of battle being reported at home to reveal the dry, forbidding landscape, tired troops in the trenches, squalid dug-outs, and the horrendous task of burying the dead. In this display of mateship, stoicism and dogged endurance, is the spirit of Anzac.

Ryan led a remarkable life. He was born in Victoria in 1853, studied medicine at the University of Melbourne, completing his degree at Edinburgh in Scotland. After postgraduate studies in Europe, he served from 1876 as a doctor with the Turkish army and temporarily became a Russian prisoner of war.

He returned to Melbourne in 1878 and was commissioned as captain, Volunteer Medical Service. In 1880 he treated Ned Kelly and other injured at Glenrowan after police did battle with the bushranger's gang. As colonel, in 1902 Ryan was appointed Principal Medical Officer, Victoria.

He became a leading Melbourne surgeon and was honorary surgeon at the (Royal) Melbourne Hospital and Children's Hospital, Carlton, until his retirement in 1913, when he was appointed consulting surgeon. Throughout this period he maintained his association with Turkey, being for some years its consul in Victoria.

When Britain declared war on Germany in August 1914, Colonel Ryan, then 60 years of age, was appointed Assistant Director, AIF Medical Services and embarked for the Middle East. He served as soldier and surgeon at Gallipoli until becoming ill in July 1915 and spent the rest of the war at Australian HQ in London. He was knighted (KBE). Sir Charles Ryan died suddenly in 1926 at sea while returning to Australia from a private trip to Europe.

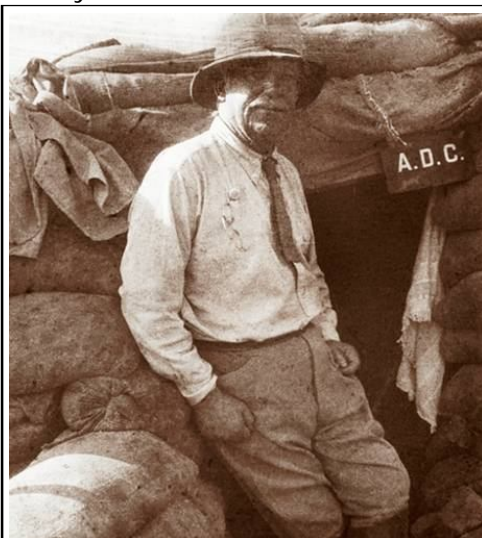
Ryan had a deep interest in ornithology and photography. His entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* states that he enthusiastically supported bird protection and the introduction of nature study in schools. "This vital, cheerful and sociable man delighted in being a raconteur and enjoyed debate and discussion with his many friends."

The exhibition opened on Saturday 24 January

The RSL Rural Commemorative Youth Choir brought music and history together in a recital outside the Museum and then moved into the new exhibition gallery to continue singing before the official opening of the exhibition commenced.

Society President Bruce Moore welcomed the large crowd assembled and expressed his gratitude to the Australian War Memorial and to all those who had made the exhibition possible, in particular Harlan Hall. Southern Phone and Wingecarribee Shire Council were acknowledged for providing a grant of \$5,000 towards the cost of mounting the exhibition.

Bruce then introduced the local Federal member Stephen Jones who spoke of the importance and significance of such an exhibition being able to be viewed in a local setting. Following this, the War Memorial's exhibition creator and curator, Peter Burness, addressed the gathering. After commenting on how neatly the exhibition fitted into the museum's new gallery space, he



Charles Ryan outside a dugout at Gallipoli in May 1915

described how the photographs were originally stereoscopic (double images) and, although seeming somewhat amateurish, were actually extremely candid images that conveyed both the horror and humanity of the Gallipoli campaign. He went on to outline some fascinating detail of the life of the photographer, Charles Ryan.

Also in attendance was Wingecarribee Shire Mayor, Duncan Gair, who afterwards mingled with the crowd as they absorbed the 35 images that portrayed the Gallipoli campaign as captured by the stalwart 60 year old surgeon.

It's well worth a visit to the museum for this exhibition.

Local citizen award to Harlan Hall

"Wingecarribee Shire 2015 Citizen of the Year"

On 26 January at Berrima, Harlan Hall became the recipient of a special Australia Day honour. He was named the Wingecarribee Shire's Citizen of the Year after being recognised for his ongoing volunteer work with the Society, the museum and the community.

Harlan Hall profile *compiled by Bruce Moore*

Harlan has contributed to Australian society in many ways. He was born in Nebraska, US.

In the 1960s he was project engineer for Pratt & Whitney in Hartford, Connecticut, US working on after-burners for the F111 engine. Those aircraft were ultimately bought by the RAAF.

In the 1980s Harlan was contracted to manage and restore artefacts for the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney. This was in preparation to meet deadlines for the then newly-constructed Powerhouse Museum. He assisted in raising funds to restore specific items.

For three years, Harlan was invited to become a member of the NSW Cultural Grants Advisory Council in an honorary capacity under Neville Wran, Premier.

At that time, he was General Manager of the Sydney Maritime Museum Ltd and was responsible for raising over \$1.5 million in grants as well as increasing the Museum's membership from 350 to 1700. He administered over 60 people and relocated the Museum to Goat Island where skilled repair work on historic ships has put Australia on the world map of leading maritime restoration.

Harlan's community work is legendary. He is a highly respected and dedicated member of the BDH&FHS. He is at present on the advisory committee for Art and Culture in the Wingecarribee Council in the Southern Highlands.

After four years of planning, Harlan has undertaken the unenviable task of building, by public and BDHS support, an Exhibition Hall attached to the Society's Museum at Berrima.

His quiet but firm resolve saw him working with local Council members and the BDH&FHS Management Committee to overcome what had been previously insurmountable hurdles. After which he was in charge of finances, corporate sponsorship, advertising, planning, raising money, volunteer labour, donations and grants.

This was no small task for a not-for-profit organisation looking to erect a \$500,000 building. The new exhibition gallery is now complete and in use.

This building will be a permanent dedicatory to those 1200 souls from the Highlands who enlisted for World War 1. It is an Anzac Centenary project and will be seen as a permanent exhibition, known as the "Southern Highlands 1200".

Harlan Hall has unswervingly helped the Society, the Shire and most of all the general community during the 15 years he has lived here. We can all learn something from his quiet but determined nature. He is a modest man who has devoted his life to advancing and improving the community.

The *Southern Highland News* interviewed Harlan at the award ceremony in Berrima and an article was published the following day.

In it, Harlan is quoted as saying that he was surprised to receive an Australia Day honour. He said the BDHS had more than 100 volunteers who deserved to be recognised.

"We have donors, sponsors and volunteer workers who primarily are people who give to the community - they are inspired."

The day was particularly special for Harlan, who moved to Australia from Hartford in Connecticut, US, 45 years ago.

He became an Australian citizen 25 years ago, and made the move to the Southern Highlands with his wife Lyn in 1999. Harlan said he had received great support from his wife Lyn, who also volunteers at the BDHS museum.

"Lyn has probably contributed more to the museum than I have," he said.

Interesting fact: Harlan and his wife Lyn sailed across the Pacific, single-handed, from Sydney to Honolulu in their own sailing boat in 1972.



Lyn and Harlan Hall at Berrima on Australia Day 2015

Berrima Australia Day weekend

It was a busier than usual long weekend at Berrima in the lead up to the official Australia Day ceremonies and celebrations on Monday, 26 January.

The Berrima District Rotary Club staged 'Gaulbreak', an open weekend at the historic Berrima Gaol, which was decommissioned several years ago. This was the first time the Gaol has been open to the public in more than a decade. The NSW Corrective Services Department, Lands Department and Wingecarribee Shire Council all supported the three-day event which attracted more than 6000 people through the Gaol, 250 tickets were sold to a bushdance and more than 500 people attended an entertaining opera evening.

The event netted more than \$100,000 which will be put back into the local community. As a thank you to Berrima people, \$2000 is being immediately directed towards the village's German Internees River Walk project to cover the final infrastructure and marketing costs before the walk launch in March.

Rotary invited our Society to set up a book sales table in the old print room at the back of the Gaol. Carolyn Hutton, our Publications Officer, organised a group of members who volunteered their time to 'man' the table and chat to the visitors passing through. It was a great success as a considerable number of books were sold and much information conveyed to visitors, particularly about the new exhibition at the museum and research facilities at the archives.



Connie Binks (right) looks after our book sales table while nearby another member, Ros Dale (far left) and Mary provide information about Berrima's past and books featuring stories of the Gaol's early days.



Yet another of our members, Don Moore, attracted a constant crowd of interested on-lookers to his display of local photographs in the old print room at the Gaol. Don is well-known around Berrima for his display of

historic photos every Sunday out the front of the old White Horse Inn.

On the Monday, after the annual official ceremonies took place on the lawn at the front of the Courthouse, the Grand Parade assembled at midday to begin its procession along Berrima's main street. As well as classic cars, historic tractors and emergency services vehicles, the parade included school groups, social, hobby and community groups - and, in what is now an annual tradition, a group of our members in period costumes presented a colourful display.



New museum manager John Schweers (above left) with Alan and Denyse Barker in their 1906 Darracq tourer and grand-daughters Courtney and Annalise.



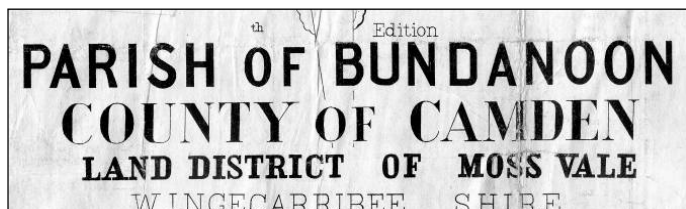
After-parade photo with President Bruce in centre and proud local Citizen of the Year Harlan Hall with flag.

Photos: C Hutton, G Morgan, P Morton

February guest speaker

Kevin J Herring, genealogy researcher

At the General Meeting on Thursday 26 February, Kevin will talk about the value of parish maps for local and family historians. He intends to demonstrate how different maps can provide surprises for researchers - as he discovered during a research journey into the Bradman family.



Early in his talk, the audience will be invited to inspect the Society's map for the Parish of Bundanoon and compare it to a different edition he will have available.

Linked to his research of parish maps is his delight at locating many of our locals who disappeared from this area. He has found many of them - some even went as far south as the Albury district.

Profile

Kevin commenced a banking career in 1947 in his home suburb of Enfield, Sydney. In mid-1956, at 25 years of age, he became the No.1 teller at the Deniliquin branch of the bank. By the late 1970s he was undertaking inspections of capital offices (Melbourne, Hobart, Sydney and Adelaide).

By around early 1980, when he was managing the major security department in the bank in Sydney, the Australian Bankers Association appointed him to a Consultative Committee at the then NSW Land Titles Office. At that time moves were being made to automate the NSW land title system. He maintains that the automated land title system for NSW was, and remains, a great success.

In 1987 he retired from Senior Management level in the Bank's Head Office. Five years later he enrolled in a 4-year local history course at Armidale University. He started undertaking research for others. Most of his work was for architects, a variety of consultants, some real estate people, and a mix of family and local historians.

We encourage members with an interest in research and in particular the use of parish maps to come along to Kevin's talk to learn from his vast experience and to show support for his contribution to the BDHS archives of his considerable collection of valuable research material.

Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve

New information booklet and map now 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 hectares. It was listed in 2013 on the NSW Significant Heritage Register, for both its endangered ecological communities and the heritage quarries complex.

The Reserve is an area of restored natural forest, a conservation site for wildlife and a pleasant area for quiet recreation. The tall eucalypt forest clothes the Reserve in a green mantle, providing an impressive backdrop for the towns of Bowral and Mittagong and a central landmark for the Shire.

Three lookouts provide distant views and there are many walking trails. The new booklet provides an overview of the history, geology, and flora and fauna as well as a map that identifies the lookouts, trails, access points, shelters, toilets and parking areas.

Observe, enjoy and cherish this beautiful place.

Berrima Heritage weekend

Saturday and Sunday March 21/22, 2015

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) Southern Highlands Branch & Harper's Mansion

Join the Trust in celebrating Berrima's colonial past. The weekend will feature talks, walks and visits inside houses, inns and churches in historic Berrima.

On Saturday morning well-known heritage architect Dr Clive Lucas will use local examples to illustrate how restoration of old houses can meet both heritage criteria and provide for modern living. On Sunday morning heritage garden and landscape specialist Stuart Read will consider the wider picture: the need not only to protect and restore the buildings but also the landscape in which they are set.

Afternoons will feature self-guided walks with entry to some of Berrima's older properties. Over time Berrima's cottages, inns and churches many dating from the 1830s, 1840s and 1850s have been altered and sometimes hidden behind extensions. On this weekend many premises will open their doors to reveal the wealth of history that remains and testify to the importance of the village in the colony's history and Berrima's unique position in the Australian landscape.

Go to www.harpersmansion.com.au to view the full program and costs and to download a booking form, or contact Chris at info@harpersmansion.com.au, tel: 02 48771375. Bookings are essential

Mittagong: Gateway to the South

Gatekeeper killed by train at level crossing, 1902

The northern approach into Mittagong is along a narrow plateau. From early days, this 'Gateway to the South' has served both road and rail traffic. A new line of the Great Southern Road was built through the district in the 1830s. It proceeded from Picton through Bargo and Yerrinbool to wind up Forest Hill and enter the plateau from an easterly direction to approach Mittagong. This was the most accessible route, as the terrain to the east falls away and to the west are hills.



Rear kitchen and stables of inn that faced Southern Road, c1869

The Great Southern Railway that opened from Picton to Mittagong in 1867 as a single line via Hill Top and Colo Vale also made use of the plateau but entered it on a westerly angle through Braemar. From there, in order to reach the railway station on the eastern side of town, the rail line had to intersect the Great Southern Road. This road/rail crossing point was near the former Fitzroy Inn building which, by the 1870s, housed Oaklands Boys School. For the safe crossing of local pedestrians and road travellers with their horses, buggies and drays, level-crossing gates were installed. A cottage was situated there as a residence and shelter for gate-keepers who, whenever a train was due, closed the gates to stop road traffic.



Mittagong level crossing and gate-keepers' cottage, circa 1910

It was here that tragedy struck on a Monday night in January 1902. The night gate-keeper, Edward Harold Nicholls, an 18-year-old local man, was killed by a passing train. Being the first such tragedy to befall Mittagong, townspeople were shocked by the death and took a great interest in the subsequent inquest.

Edward Nicholls had commenced night duty at 6pm. His uncle, Henry Nicholls, a fettler, stated at the inquest that: "I never heard him complain that the hours were too long; he was a smart lad, and very temperate; he lived with his parents at Mittagong".

Constable Prowse of Mittagong reported that after receiving word he proceeded to the spot and walked along the line in the direction of Sydney. He found a pair of socks and a portion of a coat, which was on fire at the time. He also saw fragments of flesh and bone and about 140 yards from the gates found the body lying between the rails; the top of the skull was completely gone, and the feet and legs were crushed to a pulp; the left arm was also terribly crushed. He surmised the deceased was fully dressed at the time of the accident. He added that the deceased's sight and hearing were good.

Sara Mary Myers told the inquest: "I am gate-keeper at Mittagong; my hours are from 6am to 6pm, when deceased relieved me; he came on as usual that night; I ever found him a respectful and prudent lad, always sober; he was in the best of spirits; he was well qualified for the position he held; I cannot account for the accident". Dr W Middleton attended the scene of the fatality and, at the inquest, described the horrific injuries, stating that death must have been instantaneous.

A local painter, Alfred Lippiatt, told the inquest that he last saw the deceased alive about 10.30pm at the railway gates. He was crossing the line with a companion, Charlie Turner, a carpenter, and had opened the first gate when the deceased came out of the gate-house and called 'look out, the train is coming'. They quickly crossed the line and closed the second gate, left their bikes against it and watched the train pass; it was going at a speed of about 20 or 25 miles an hour.

Then, as Edward was nowhere to be found, they walked along the line and found two boots, a hat, and a coat at different intervals; they recognised a letter in the coat as belonging to him and, fearing an accident, reported the matter to Constable Prowse. Turner added that there was plenty of time for the deceased to cross the line and shut the first gate. He could not account for the accident.

Edward Nicholls was buried in the Lower Mittagong Catholic Cemetery on Chapel Hill. At the time, many locals thought his death to be suicide prompted by an unhappy love affair. The jury's verdict, however, was that the deceased died from injuries accidentally received in the performance of duties, with no blame attachable to any person connected therewith.

This fatality foreshadowed decades of road accidents that occurred at the same locality after the railway level crossing was replaced with two road bridges over the new duplicated rail line that opened in 1919.

TO BE CONTINUED - compiled by P Morton

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	12 FEB	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26 FEB	Monthly General Meeting	2:00pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	12 MAR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26 MAR	Monthly General Meeting	2:00pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	9 APR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23 APR	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

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

*Southern Highland News
Springetts Arcade*