



Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29 362 616 937

NEWSLETTER

No 508 August 2018



From the President's Desk

The Bowral Golf Club played host to 49 members and guests at the Society's July lunch. The dining area was creatively decorated with a Christmas-in-July theme. The lunch, highly commended by all, consisted

of two courses plus cheese platter, tea and coffee. Lucky door and raffle prizes were also drawn.

The main event was our guest speaker Kim Eberhard who joined Westpac Bank in 2015 as head of historical services. Kim commenced her career in media and journalism and held a number of archivist and research positions. At one stage she also held the position of President of the Australian Society of Archivists.

Kim is responsible for the archival records at Westpac Bank dating back to 1817, currently held in the Bank's archives at Lane Cove. The Archives have 6km of shelf space allocated to housing bank documents and ledgers. In the early days of the Colony due to changing economic circumstances one of the earliest needs was

for a bank to finance overseas trade and to fund local economic activity.

As there was no stable monetary system such things as rum, promissory notes, British Treasury bills, foreign coins and barter was the currency. Governor Lachlan Macquarie signed a charter of incorporation which established the Bank of New South Wales in 1817.

Westpac Bank is currently celebrating 200 years in business. The Bank of New South Wales merged with the Commercial Bank of Australia in 1982 to form the Westpac Banking Corporation, thus ending the use of the Bank of New South Wales name.

A local connection to the Bank was William Hutchinson, a large local landholder although he never lived here. He attended the inaugural meeting of the Bank of New South Wales and later became a director.

DID YOU KNOW: Fred Allen once said that a committee is a group of the unprepared, appointed by the unwilling to do the unnecessary.

Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

AUGUST 2018:

Thursday 23 August at 2:00pm

SPEAKER:

Ros Dale will give a presentation about her new book

SEPTEMBER 2018:

Thursday 27 September at 2:00pm

SPEAKER:

Alan Clark from Shoalhaven Historical Society will speak about his new 'Coachman of the Nowra District' book

AFTERNOON TEA is served following the speaker.

Members please bring a plate or a donation.

NOTE: on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm
the **Family History Interest Group** meets at the Mittagong Archives



Senior Vice-President's Column



Bruce Moore

DE-CLUTTERING

There is a very sensible quote: 'The best things in life are not things'.

"Now we're downsizing, we have to de-clutter (the old word was unclutter) and get rid of a few things." How many times have you heard that cry?

Over half a century of buying stuff and bringing bags of goodies into the home, I'm sure an equivalent amount of junk hasn't been thrown out.

So we find more space to stuff more stuff into. A relative of mine has decided to de-clutter and downsize because of an imminent move. "I've sold one of my coffee machines", she declares confidently. "So how many do you have?" I ask innocently. "Five."

Imagine how much 'stuff' she has to sell off or for that matter, give away.

We're also guilty of picking up a bargain and putting it away in a safe place for someone's birthday or hiding it until next Christmas. We have presents squirrelled away all over the place, some of which will never be found, nor even seen again.

I'm so proud of my bride. She's saved me heaps of dollars over the years buying all these specials for those special occasions. Good old cupboard clean outs can offer up a variety of surprises. Our linen cupboard was a good example.

Only last week we uncovered a parcel, neatly wrapped in gift paper, which we carefully unwrapped. "Oh, yes, I remember. That's those large grip tap handle doovers we bought for Auntie Thelma!" "She died 2 years ago." I suggested. "Perhaps we can re-assign them to someone who is suffering chronic arthritis?"

Recently I uncovered my old school blazer, cub's uniform and running shoes, which were kept to show my achievements to the grandchildren.

At Easter I proudly displayed them. "...so this was my reward badge for Bushcraft and this was for First Aid....kids? Kids?" They were gone. I think it is time to lose some of my apparel as well.

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. Ph John 4872 1660.

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:

\$25.00 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: bdhsarchives@gmail.com

RAHS Conference 2018

Surveying the Past, Mapping the Present

**The Westport Club, Port Macquarie
20 – 21 October 2018**

The Royal Australian Historical Society's annual conference will be held at Port Macquarie, where it will be explored how historians survey the past by searching through records as part of a continuous journey to map the context of events that have shaped our shared history.

The 2018 RAHS Conference is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Port Macquarie, with local historians speaking about the experiences of the Birpai, life on the early estates in the Hastings, and Port Macquarie's last convicts.

The keynote speaker is Dr Mathew Trinca, Director of the National Museum of Australia, who will discuss the very pertinent theme of 'History from the ground up'.

As always, there will be plenty of opportunities to network with RAHS members and friends, especially at the pre-conference event on Friday 19 October, which will be hosted by Port Macquarie Historical Society at its award-winning museum.

Our Society will be represented by Linda Emery and Leonie Knapman. For more information and booking arrangements, visit the RAHS website or ask at the archives.



At last month's Bowral Golf Club lunch, after her presentation Kim Eberhard was thanked and presented with a book and flowers by BDHS member Amanda Mackevicius

Our August Guest Speaker

Rosalind Dale, BDHS Member

On Thursday 23 August, Ros will give a presentation about her new, recently published book for children "Bunty Bailey's Adventures in Berrima".

Ros Dale was employed by NSW Corrective Services at the Berrima Correctional Centre until its closure in 2011. Following her change of circumstances, she made a study of Berrima's past to assist her historical and ghost tours of Berrima. She decided to write books based on the information gathered.



Ros published "Opening a Window on Berrima's Past" in 2013. The lavishly illustrated book takes the reader around the village of Berrima, once an important coaching stop on the main south road. The buildings are explored as are some interesting residents.

Her new book is set in 1849. It explores the life of Bunty, a girl aged 9 years who lives with her family in Berrima. Adventurous, brave, kind-hearted, every day brings a new adventure for Bunty as she explores the secret places around the growing township and neighbouring countryside. Differences between our Colonial beginnings and the present day are highlighted in the story.



Ros will explain her motivation for writing this book aimed at the younger generation, including the use of new media and technologies.

Come along and be entertained by this talk.

Colo Vale Railway Station Open Day

The Colo Vale Community Association, with the permission of Transport Heritage NSW, invite you to take advantage of a rare opportunity to visit Colo Vale's historic Station on Saturday 1 September, from 9.00am-1.30pm, during the Colo Vale Village market.

The station building was restored by the Colo Vale Community Association in 1997 with trains now just a distant memory but remembered fondly by all who used them. Further details, 0401 971 220.

150th of section of rail to Marulan

On Sunday 5 August, the 150th anniversary of the Moss Vale to Marulan section of the Great Southern Railway was celebrated. The section of line, which opened on 6 August 1868, passed through where the villages of Exeter, Bundanoon, Penrose, Wingello, Tallong and Marulan would develop and flourish.

To mark the occasion, dignitaries, townspeople and visitors, including members of our Society, attended events at Bundanoon, hosted by Bundanoon History Group, and at Marulan. Dignitaries included Mr Tom Bathurst, Lieutenant Governor of NSW and Howard Collins, CEO Sydney Trains and NSW Trainlink.

At Bundanoon, a large crowd assembled outside the station where Howard Collins performed the official opening of the refurbished heritage-listed station.

At Marulan, in the park outside the station, speakers included Bob Kirk, Mayor of Goulburn Mulwaree Council, and Mr Bathurst, who unveiled a plaque and planted a tree to commemorate the occasion.



Bundanoon Station, where speeches were delivered and a replica station oil lamp was unveiled. Photos: SHNews



Marulan Station in 1964, with the Southern Highlands Express arriving at the Up platform. Photo: J. Ward Collection, ARHS NSW Railway Resource Centre No. 548699.

Archives Report for July

Linda Emery

We were delighted to receive news earlier this month that we have received a Centenary of Armistice Grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs for \$6,750. The funds are to publish the results of a project we have been working on over the past couple of years at the archives, Poppy Seed from France. From records at the Sydney Botanical Gardens, we transcribed and recorded the names of almost 1100 people who applied for and received poppy seed gathered on the Somme in 1920 by schoolchildren from Villers Bretonneux. Their express wish was that the seed be sent to Australia and New Zealand to the loved ones of those who had died on the battlefields of France, so far away from their homes.

We had the names of those who had received some seed, but not the name of the soldiers in whose memory they were planted, so we set about trying to identify them, quite a challenging task given how little information we had. However, to date, with help from a number of members both of our society and of other historical societies, we have around 600 names – and counting! Some wonderful and very touching stories have come to light, and these will be included in the publication along with the database of names. The book will also include two essays, one of Ettie Rout of New Zealand who sent the seed to Sydney and one on Joseph Maiden, the director of the Botanical Gardens whose meticulous records have made this project possible.

You can read more about it on the BDHS website <http://www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au/poppy-seed-from-france/>

In other news from the archives, we recently purchased a new computer specifically for use by researchers. It is set up to allow users to access Ancestry.com as well as the Society's newspaper and other indexes, the library catalogue and many resources for helping with family history.

Denyse Barker recently donated some great photographs of Mittagong from her grandfather's collection, including several of Evans' Bus Company vehicles from the 1920s onwards. An excellent addition to our archives.

Shylie Brown has almost completed uploading photographs and transcriptions of all the headstones and memorials at All Saints Church cemetery and columbarium. These can be found on the Find A Grave website which allows researchers and family

members to download a high quality photo of the memorial. Shylie and her band of helpers have put in countless hours to be able to offer this service, for which we thank them. We have already received several 'thank you' messages from people who have appreciated the work they have done.

Max Rogers and the Manildra Movie Museum

BDHS Members Alan and Madeline Strachan have paid a wonderful compliment to our late research officer, Max Rogers. Alan wrote the following tribute to accompany a display of Max's movie books.

"Max was a keen movie enthusiast and over his lifetime collection a large number of movie books and those associated with Hollywood companies and the stars themselves. When Max passed away on 1 February 2018 (four days short of his 80th Birthday) a large number of his books were purchased by Alan and Madeline Strachan of Mittagong and many were donated to them on behalf of the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society.

As a tribute to Max, a bookcase featuring the entire collection of his movie books is now included in a display at the Manildra Movie Museum (Alan Strachan Collection) situated next door to the historic Allan Toms Amusu Theatre, 45 kms west of Orange.



This display was organised by Alan and Madeline and the President of the Amusu Theatre Trust and Movie Museum, Joan Stevenson and was opened on 13 June 2018. No doubt, in his younger days growing up in Orange, Max would have made the journey with his family to attend the pictures at the Amusu Theatre which was built in 1936, a few months before Max's birth in 1937. The Amusu Theatre will celebrate its 81st birthday in November 2018.

Although in memory only, Max, a local boy has come home again. Alan R. Strachan"

Oral History Workshop

Tuesday 9 October 2018

Meeting room BDH&FHS ARCHIVES

1 day workshop will cover

An introduction to oral history covering key stages of an oral history project

- planning your project
- background research
- selecting, approaching and encouraging interviewees
- the interview process and questions
- ethics and consent
- uses, documentation and storage of collected material.

Examples of projects and appropriate equipment will also be discussed. Please bring ideas and issues to discuss. The workshop will include large and small group discussion and practice interviews.

The workshop is provided through Oral History NSW and will follow current professional standards and guidelines. Workshop leaders are Dr Alexandra Dellios and Dr Mary Hutchison whose combined experience covers a wide range of oral history activities and a focus on community-based projects.

Alexandra Dellios is cultural historian in the ANU Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies. Her research considers the history of migrant and refugee communities in Australia. She has published on child migration, popular representations of multiculturalism, immigration centres and hostels, and public history and heritage in Australia. Her book 'Histories of Controversy: Bonegilla Migrant Centre' was released with Melbourne University Publishing in August 2017.

Mary Hutchison is a public historian and writer whose professional experience includes working with community memories to create museum exhibitions, heritage site interpretations, publications and public artwork. She is a regular oral history interviewer for the National Library and has extensive experience in conducting community workshops. She is a visiting fellow at the ANU Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies.

If you are interested please email Lyn Hall – lpHall@lhd.net.au or phone 48621626.

Cost There will be a fee, expected to be between \$35-\$40 depending upon how many make a firm booking.

Project to repair stone stairway

The Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare group has advised us about a project they are undertaking to restore a significant feature of the Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve.

The volunteer group assists the Wingecarribee Shire Council in the Care, Control and Management of Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve situated between Bowral and Mittagong.



The group has worked on a weekly volunteer basis for 25 years in restoration of the Reserve which is now listed as a significant site by the NSW Heritage Council, both for the nationally endangered ecological community and for the quarrying industry from which stone for a great many heritage structures was extracted.

The current project is to restore the Stone Stairway, a set of 200 Bowral Trachyte steps rising 70 metres, to provide access from Cliff Street to the lookouts, picnic areas and network of walking trails in the Reserve. The steps were built in the 1930s, fell into disrepair and were uncovered by volunteers during bush regeneration activities.

The group is applying for multiple grants to raise the required \$106,000 for a qualified stone mason to repair and replace missing steps using the stone material found on site beside the adjacent old quarries. This will retain their heritage integrity while providing impressive off-road access for the community and visitors.

The group has agreed to contribute \$12,000 raised from the sale of their book 'The Gib, Mount Gibraltar, Southern Highlands', and the Commonwealth Bank has donated \$500 seeding funds.

Our Society has written to support the project and hope the group is successful in the endeavour.

A look at the district's scenic falls

"Every traveller who has crossed by rail from Sydney to Melbourne knows the Southern Highlands." Thus began, in September 1909, a feature article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. It continued as follows:

"This tourist district is comprised in the towns of Mittagong, Bowral, Moss Vale and Bundanoon, all within three hours' run by train. The train passes through Balmoral, Hill Top and Braemar into a region of bracing air and picturesque scenery, practically commencing at Mittagong, 77 miles from the city."

"The towns have for many years attracted a regular stream of visitors, who come from the city every summer in search of health, rest or recreation. The average tourist, however, is not in search of health, the objective generally being a change of scenery. One of the charms of this district is the combination of bold mountain scenery with the peaceful rural country-side. Chief amongst the district's scenic features are falls and cascades, which compare favourably with any in the State. The falls can be comfortably reached in vehicles by good roads, and the drives in themselves well repay the visit. At each of the falls are pavilions and stalls for horses."

"One of the finest sights are the Fitzroy Falls. The principal fall leaps over a granite precipice of 270 feet, and then, foaming and bounding over boulder and cliff, finds its way to the bed of the valley, 1000 feet below. The canyon forms a magnificent panorama, immense gullies, precipices, and forests stretching away as far as the eye can see."



On the rim at Fitzroy Falls, early 1900s.

Photo: Bundanoon History Group

"From Fitzroy Falls, by a picturesque route arched with spreading trees, the visitor can reach Belmore Falls. The height of the first fall is over 300 feet, with two further considerable bounds before the waters reach the bed of the valley. At the base of the first fall is a large basin with the purest and coldest of

water. From the lookout on the summit of the falls one gains a wonderful panorama. At Carrington Falls, 5 miles from Robertson, the cascade negotiates a dizzy precipice which forms a continuation of the flows giving rise to the Fitzroy and Belmore Falls."

The *Herald* feature also noted that "the Southern district has long had the hall-mark of favour as a summer resort, for ever since the days of Earl Belmore (Governor, 1868-72) the State Governor has had his country residence there. The vice-regal residence, Hillview, is delightfully situated at Sutton Forest, 3 miles from Moss Vale, and the pretty manors around the township are astir with fashionable house parties during the season".

The district's three main waterfalls bear the name of NSW Governors. While visiting the Highlands in 1850, Sir Charles FitzRoy (Governor 1846-54) went to see what was then known as Throsby's Falls, and from then the name Fitzroy Falls was adopted.

In 1870 John Hanrahan, a district pioneer, led a party to spectacular falls near Robertson. The group included the Royal Botanic Gardens Director and Doctor Reed of Sydney who named the site Belmore Falls, after Sir Somerset Lowry-Corry, Earl of Belmore (Governor 1869-72).

The choice of names reflected the significance of the sites to the district. Fitzroy and Belmore Falls were both designated as crown reserves and had trustees appointed. Histories of both have been provided previously in this newsletter. Following here is a history of Carrington Falls, also designated as a crown reserve and named for a NSW Governor.

Today the popular scenic reserve, located southeast of Robertson off Jamberoo Mountain Road, is within Budderoo National Park, run by the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.

While the site would have been long known to Aboriginal people, Surveyor Robert Hoddle is credited as the first European to view the falls while surveying Kangaroo Valley and surrounding ranges in 1831. The year before he had surveyed a track from Bong Bong, cutting through thick rainforest to the escarpment and down via Barren Ground to Kiama. Despite his efforts, the early district's eastern side remained unsettled until the Robertson Land Act of 1861 attracted settlers to the area.

As settlement began, some land was set aside from sale, including the temporary reservation for public recreation of 749 acres at the Falls, notified in 1869. It appears, however, that little was done to provide access or amenities for the next two decades.

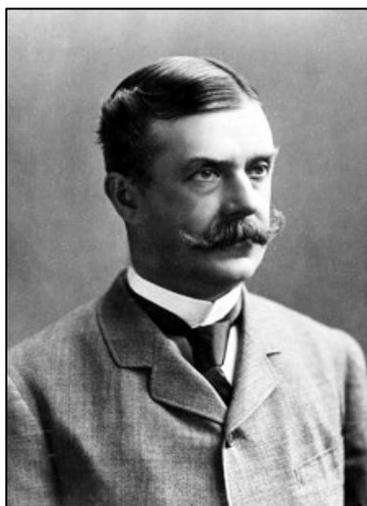
The temporary notice was revoked in December 1887 and a new larger reserve of 1,460 acres was notified, encompassing the Falls and surrounding valley, and a trust appointed. While the Falls were thus recognised, the reserve was still without a name.

A *Bowral Free Press* article in March 1888, after alluding to the attractions of Fitzroy and Belmore Falls, continued that:

“There is a third fall that has not yet decidedly been baptised, the water being there but not the name. Let the residents of Robertson arrange for a public picnic, and invite His Excellency and Lady Carrington to be present, and let these falls receive the appellation of Carrington Falls.”

Although Lord Carrington often holidayed in the Southern Highlands, no report of him attending a name day at the Falls has been found, nor has any official notification surfaced from the time.

Nonetheless by 1891 the name had come into usage, as instanced by an article about Robertson in the *Sydney Mail* of 28 November 1891. After describing Fitzroy and Belmore Falls, it stated that: “Four other waterfalls lie within easy reach of Robertson: the Bridal Veil, Carrington Falls, Gerringong and the Macquarie Falls.” In regard to Carrington Falls, they “would perhaps be better described as a cataract. There is a considerable body of water falling to a depth of about 200ft; the surrounding cliffs being in a comparatively narrow gorge, heavily timbered, but withal very beautiful. With the exception of the road to the Falls, the place is in its primitive state, forming a contrast to Fitzroy Falls.”



Lord Carrington, who served a 4-year term as Governor, was a distinguished and popular figure.

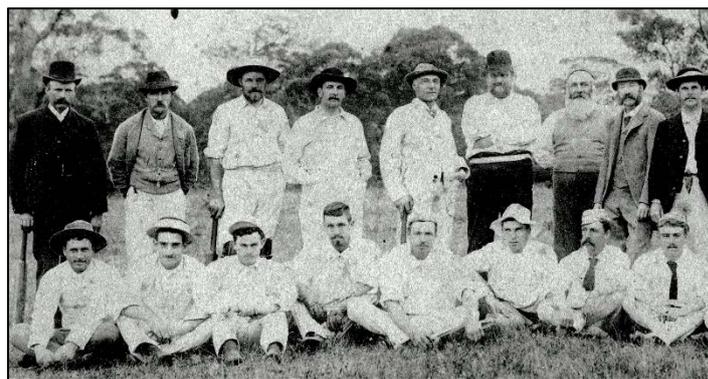
Born in 1843 at Whitehall, Middlesex, England, Charles Robert Carrington was the son and heir of the second Baron Carrington. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge and was

known as the Lord Carrington from 1868. He served in the military and, in particular, with the cavalry. Serving as NSW Governor from 1887, his term spanned much change and trouble as the colony was in the grip of drought, recession and political crisis. He proved an able and tactful governor and his

diplomatic work was crucial in paving the way for the Federation Conference of 1890. Lord and Lady Carrington fulfilled their social role with warmth and generosity.

Back in England in 1891, his first speeches caused a sensation by his espousal of Australian nationalism. He was appointed lord great chamberlain in 1910 and died in 1928. A fuller account may be found on the Australian Dictionary of Biography website.

The Carringtons were the second vice-regal couple to use Hillview at Sutton Forest as a summer residence, the property having been purchased in 1881 and the residence extended to contain 46 rooms.



Lord Carrington (on the right, back row) with a cricket team at Hillview, during his period as NSW Governor.

In February 1889 Lord Carrington laid the foundation stone for the Berrima District Cottage Hospital in Bowral at a ceremony attended by nearly 700 people.

Although they may never have visited the Falls for an official naming, surely the Carringtons would have approved the use of their name for one of the most magnificent natural sites in the local district.

The *Kiama Independent* of 14 July 1894 published an article about a venture up to the Highlands. It described returning from Robertson down the mountain-side along Jamberoo Road when “we turn to the right where a track leads to the Carrington Falls. The popular ex-Governor of NSW could not have had his name perpetuated in a more pleasing manner, for the falls rival in picturesque beauty the Fitzroy and Belmore Falls, although of less [overall] depth. The water, divided into two portions, sweeps over a mass of rugged rock, and rapidly uniting, rushes down into a large natural basin, fringed with luxuriant ferns and bush plants, from whence it becomes lost in the wilderness. The view from below is extremely beautiful.”

Local trustees were appointed in 1887. By 1900 they had improved access to Carrington Falls and were active in maintaining the reserve and its amenities.

TO BE CONTINUED

- compiled by Philip Morton.

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 ☎ Telephone (02) 4872 2169

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

- ARCHIVES:** Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.
OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.
Library collection contains reference books, journals and newsletters of other societies.
- MUSEUM:** Market Place, Berrima. Tel: 02 4877 1130. Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com
OPEN: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesdays to Sundays, and during school and public holidays.
Museum Committee: John Schweers (Manager), Harlan Hall (Project Manager), Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Alan Hornsby, 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, Museums Australia Inc and NSW Association of Family History Societies.

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