

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 521 October 2019



From the President's Desk

Spring has arrived and the district is host to visitors enjoying Tulip Time displays and festivities. Tulip Time, now in its 59th continuous year has been attracting tens of thousands of visitors to our district. Corbett Gardens in Bowral, the centrepiece of the Festival has a mass planting of over 75000 tulips and 15000 annuals in a truly spectacular display. If you have the opportunity, go and have a look, free for locals.

The lease of the Archives premises from Wingecarribee Shire Council has recently been received after being signed by all parties and registered. The lease is for a period of 21 years and will not expire until 2040. It will certainly be the responsibility of others to negotiate a renewal in the future, providing the Society is still in the same premises.

Having the lease in place gives us the confidence to pursue several projects that were deferred pending its renewal. Our initial project was installing block-out blinds to the first floor meeting room, replacing the old dust-catcher curtains.

The blinds are properly fitted giving greater control of light into our meeting room as well as a uniform appearance with the blinds installed last year in the ground floor archives room.

Our next project is to upgrade our present computer network by replacing the existing WI-FI system with a fixed wired network with centralised storage, dual hard drives and automatic back-up facility.

For nine months of the year we provide a guest speaker at our general meetings. This year we have showcased a series of diverse and interesting talks. Our last speaker for the year will be talking about the visit to our district by Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Este when he stayed at the Badgery Brothers' property Arthursleigh near Marulan in 1893. See report of the visit and our guest speaker on page 3.

Ian Mackey

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE

Please see page 2 for payment options

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

OCTOBER 2019:

Thursday 24 October at 2:00pm

SPEAKER:

Frank O'Rourke on Archduke Franz Ferdinand visit in 1893

NOVEMBER 2019:

Thursday 28 November at 2:00pm

EVENT:

BDHS Annual General Meeting

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

Can you believe one can conduct a conversation by using proper nouns?

Here are some dinky di Aussie pearlers:

We're as Happy as Larry, not long before Santa jumps down the chimney again. You see, Old Father Time waits for no man.

I'm Cool Man Luke about that, but Heavens to Betsy, my sister Sally, used to be a Nervous Nellie on Xmas Eve. She was always frightened that when she was getting ready for bed, it's Murphy's Law that Santa would catch her as starkers as Lady Godiva.

Sally was frightened of Peeping Toms as well. Once a Tricky Ricky came to the door and showed her the Full Monty. He thought he was In Like Flynn. She screamed the place down and before you could say Jack Robinson the Nosey Parker shot off down the street like a Bondi Tram. She didn't know if she was Arthur or Martha.

It has been as hot as Hades lately, so I took a dip in the briny. Watching out for any Noah's Arks, I ran into no-friends Norman. He's as old as Methuselah and is usually a Pain in the Gregory Peck. Wearing his Budgie Smugglers and a Jackie Howe, for Pete's sake, he's as boring as an Undertaker's apprentice.

At that stage, Hughie sent it down and it rained like the Dickens.

I don't want to be a Jonah or a Smart Alec, but I thought I had Buckley's chance of getting through that peak-hour traffic. Even Blind Freddie could see everyone was bolting for home. As game as Ned Kelly, I made it to the car and got through. Emerging in the clear, it was home James, so Bob's your Uncle and Fannie's your Aunt.

Great Scott & Caesar's Ghost! Is that the time?

Sheila will be home any tick of the clock and I haven't even peeled the spuds.

We're now Darby and Joan in our bonza little condo.

This certainly beats being on your Pat Malone.

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

OPEN WEDNESDAY to SUNDAY
and **EVERY DAY** during NSW School
Holidays and on Public Holidays

HOURS

June, July and August: 10am to 3pm;

September to May: 10am to 4pm

Groups welcome at other times by
arrangement. Ph: Lyn 02 4862 1626
or John 0434 623 402.

Museum: Phone 4877 1130 or
email bdmuseum@bigpond.com

Managed and operated by members
of our Society who volunteer their
time and expertise.

Tour to Wollondilly this Sunday

There will be a bus tour for members to the Wollondilly Heritage Centre at The Oaks on this Sunday 13 October. Cost is \$20 which covers the bus, morning tea and entry to the centre.

First stop is the Burragorang lookout, high above Warragamba Dam, a viewing point for nature's great beauty. You can look across the huge body of water far below that provides about 80% of Sydney's water supply currently at a concerning low level.

Bring or buy your own lunch; tea and coffee will be available at lunch time. Bus will leave at 9:30am from the parking area at Mittagong Railway Station. Seats are limited and must be booked and paid for by 7 October.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

due from 1 October.

A renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter. We are happy to receive payment by cash, cheque or money order, OR funds can be deposited to our bank account, details of which are shown on the Renewal Form.

NOTE: If depositing funds to our bank account, please ensure that your initial and surname are used as a reference. **PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED RENEWAL FORM AND COPY OF BANK RECEIPT** by mail or email, as this helps us to keep track of the many payments made.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 28 November along with the general meeting.

Members are asked to consider being nominated as an Office Bearer and/or committee member, or to apply for a non-elected position. A Nomination Form for elected positions and an Appointment Form for positions will be available from the Secretary and must be lodged two weeks prior to the meeting. Nominations for management committee, museum sub-committee and office bearer positions will be presented to the AGM for election.



The Bradman family's first Bowral home, in Shepherd St, with young Don out front, aged 3, in 1911. Read more about him on pages 6-7. (Photo: Bradman Museum)

October talk: about Franz Ferdinand's visit to Australia and locally in 1893

Dr Frank O'Rourke

Dr O'Rourke will give an illustrated presentation about the visit to Australia in 1893 of Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria-Este (Dec 1863 - June 1914), and will include details about his visit to the Badgery Brothers' property at Arthursleigh, situated north-east of Marulan near Big Hill.

The assassination of Franz Ferdinand in 1914 was one of the sparks that fired World War One. It is a fascinating story – one not to be missed.

Franz Ferdinand's visit to Australia was part of an around the world journey he undertook in 1892 and 1893. Dr O'Rourke has done extensive research into the journey. He notes that, after the suicide of crown prince Rudolf in 1889, Franz Ferdinand was the presumptive heir (given that his father Karl Ludwig had no intention to reign himself) to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The journey around the world had partly medical reasons: Franz Ferdinand's health was attacked by tuberculosis and the journey served both as a cover and as a means to recover. Science was the journey's official purpose and Franz Ferdinand travelled under the badly disguised alias of Count of Hohenberg on the cruiser *Kaiserin Elisabeth*.

Dr O'Rourke will show numerous photos of the tour, including at Arthursleigh, crossing the Wollondilly River and Australian Bush images by photographer/taxidermist Eduard Hodek Jnr. He will also show other images taken by Hodek of Ferdinand and his entourage on their tour west of Sydney, including at a lookout in the Blue Mountains, a couple of images of hunting parties at Narramine Station, and one of the ship *SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth* docked in Sydney.



The tour party crossing the Wollondilly, 1893 (Hodek)

A brief biography of our speaker:

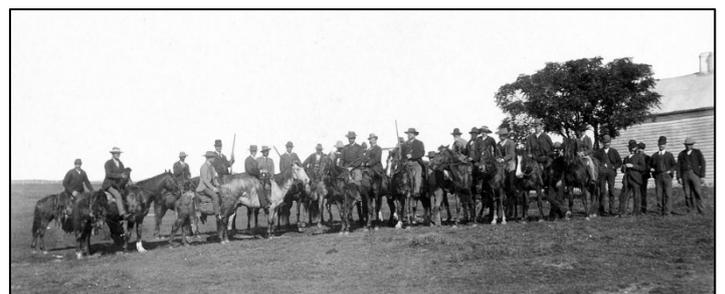
Frank O'Rourke was born and raised in Wagga Wagga. After a successful 36-year career in telecommunications, he jointly founded TDA Systems Engineering P/L (TDA), a Canberra based consultancy specialising in Defence acquisition projects. When TDA was subsequently sold to an American multi-national company, being an avid believer in life-long learning Frank returned to University to gain professional history qualifications so as to facilitate the research and publication of Local, Military, Sporting, and Technology histories.

Research for his PhD thesis titled "A History of the NSW War Service Land Settlement Scheme 1946-1960" involved travelling to many towns across NSW to interview former soldier settlers, or their widows, or their adult children.

Dr O'Rourke is regarded as the Australian authority on post-WWII soldier settlement in NSW – in which ex-service personnel were settled on 3,057 farms throughout the State over a period of 14 years.

He has written and published "A History of the Mundawadra Station property via Henty, NSW (1844-1960)" where his late father-in-law was a soldier settler. He is also writing "A History of the 'Will-I-Go-Bung' Soldier Settlement Estate 1950-1970" an aptly named disastrous apple orchard estate via Tumbarumba – where most of the settlers endured years of shocking hardship before tragically 'Going Bung'.

The October meeting will be held in the BDH&FHS upstairs room at our Mittagong Research Centre. Assistance will be provided for those who have difficulty getting up and down the stairs.



The tour party at Arthursleigh (Hodek)

RAHS 2019 Conference at Tamworth

Leonie Knapman

The Royal Australian Historical Society welcomed all delegates to the 2019 conference, held on Saturday 14 September at West Tamworth Leagues Club.

Our Southern Highlands delegates were Linda Emery (RAHS Councillor) as well as Greg and Leonie Knapman.

One of the first papers presented dealt with the beginnings of the Tamworth area. Members of the Kamilaroi Aboriginal group lived in the Peel Valley for thousands of years. Their first contact with Europeans occurred in 1818 when John Oxley's exploration party came into the area. The arrival of squatters and then the granting of a large tract of land on the western side of the Peel River to the Australian Agricultural Company followed.

Tamworth began to develop as two towns – the company town on one side of the river and the government town on the other. Settlement in the Peel Valley continued to develop, boosted by the discovery of gold, closer settlement brought about the Robertson Land Act of 1861 and the arrival of the railway in 1878. Despite the setbacks caused by floods, droughts and economic depressions, Tamworth has developed into the leading city in the New England-North West Region.

This year the theme for the conference was Illuminating the Past. In November 1888, Tamworth became the first city in Australia to have its streets lit by electric streetlights. Elizabeth Piper, the wife of Mayor James Piper, turned the power on with a golden key and Tamworth's residents saw 52 electric lights illuminate 21 kilometres of their city's streets.

The celebrations included another historical event – the heats and finals of a 130 yard race, which took place under the glow of four giant arc lights, making it the first outdoor athletics event to be held under electric lights. It was therefore fitting that Tamworth was the location of the 2019 RAHS Conference as their theme this year was Illuminating the Past.

Two tours of Tamworth were organised, one a walking tour and the other a bus tour.

The bus tour first visited the Power Museum, the site of the first electric street lighting in Australia, 14 years before Sydney. Next was the Australian Equine Centre (sometimes referred to as "The Opera House of the north"), and also the Oxley Lookout, which gave a great overview of the City and the Peel Valley.

The guided walking tour took in Peel Street which was never meant to be the main street of Tamworth, Marius Street was. However, easier access to water caused settlers to deviate from Thomas Mitchell's original town plan.

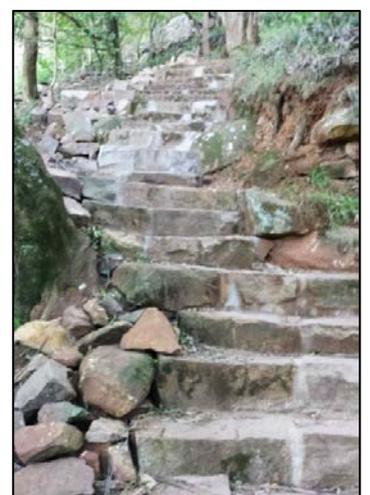
This walk showed a street known in the early days of settlement as "Dust Street" or at times "Mud Street". The tour looked at significant buildings that remain in the CBD and photographs of the buildings that unfortunately have been demolished.

Mount Gibraltar stair repairs

In his column in the September newsletter, President Ian Mackey spoke about the recently completed Mount Gibraltar stone stairway rebuilding project, now providing access from Cliff St to the old Bowral lookout and picnic area, which the NSW Heritage Council lists as a significant site. Ian stated that anyone willing and able to ascend the stairway will appreciate the scale of the project which was professionally executed and is a credit to all involved.

In noting that the stairs would soon be open to the public, the *Southern Highland News* stated in May that "it will be a popular alternative pedestrian route to the Bowral Lookout Picnic Area and walking track network. Mount Gibraltar Landcare & Bushcare Group secretary Jane Lemann said that stonemasons J & J Stonewall Constructions had done an excellent job maintaining the heritage and environmental components of the Trachyte steps."

The stairs were built during the 1930s as part of a depression relief program at the Mount Gibraltar quarries, and fell into disrepair when the quarries closed. They were uncovered by bush regeneration works and have now been restored to last for many years as part of the Heritage Quarries Circuit walk. (Photos: Ian Mackey)



JG Morris, a Bowral business pioneer

After the railway station opened in December 1867, Bowral began to develop and in 1886 its first Council was elected after the wider town area was gazetted as a municipality. On 13 November 1891 the funeral of John George Morris, mayor of Bowral, took place.

The *Goulburn Herald* noted that "it was the largest ever seen in Bowral. There were 44 floral wreaths, the gifts of former friends and tributes of esteem." Morris was only in his fiftieth year when he died.

Shortly after his death, his widow Sarah and her two sons by a previous marriage left the district. With no children of his own to keep his memory alive locally, J G Morris soon became just a name. No photo of him can be identified in the BDHS collection and Jervis' "A History of the Berrima District" has only a few mentions. In a compilation of early Bowral Councillors published by local historian A V J Parry in 1950, he notes that early local newspapers were his main source for Morris. From these and other mentions found via the Trove website's digitized newspapers, here is his story.

Morris had moved from Goulburn to Bowral in 1873 and set up as a store-keeper. By the 1880s he owned a residence in the town and was a well-respected auctioneer and proprietor of general stores at Bowral and Kangaloon. He also owned a stock saleyards near Bowral's railway yards. He helped build the district's prosperity and was a leading force in community and civic matters. He served as a Justice of the Peace, stood as a councillor at Bowral's council elections in 1886, receiving the most votes, and then served as mayor in 1888 and 1891.

An obituary in the *Bowral Free Press* on 14 November 1891 included details of Morris' early life, perhaps provided by him beforehand as his death was not unexpected. He had long suffered from an affliction of the lungs, and was palpably wasting away.

He was born at Marshall Mount, Illawarra, on 16 January 1842. His parents were amongst the early settlers in Illawarra. Shortly after his birth, they moved to Jamberoo and eventually to Mittagong, where Mr Morris senior, a devout Wesleyan Methodist, had charge of the public school for years.

John received his early education at Illawarra House Academy, Kiama. On leaving school he went into commercial pursuits at David Jones & Co in Sydney. His health then failing him, he was urged to leave Sydney for the Southern Highlands, and he accordingly went to Mittagong in 1865, where for

several years he managed the business of Mr Burritt. He moved to Goulburn in 1868, where he spent five years in the employ of Davies, Alexander and Co, a major retailer and stock agent with stores throughout the region.

In 1871 John married Sarah Wickham at Goulburn. Both were aged around 30. She was a widow with three young children, her first husband Ebenezer having died in 1870 after suffering with a low fever. Ebenezer had married Sarah Myers at Yass in 1861. They were Wesleyan Methodists and moved to Goulburn where he first owned a shoe shop, then worked as a book-keeper at the same firm where John Morris would start in 1868. Described as having an obliging disposition and extreme urbanity, Ebenezer earned local fame as a thespian, having a good singing voice and producing amateur plays. He and Sarah's children were Edward (1863), Ann (1864) and Henry (1867).

In June 1872 the *Goulburn Herald* noted that the Wesleyan Mutual Improvement Society held a complimentary tea for one of its members, John G Morris, who was about to leave town. It mentioned that he was going to the goldfields out west, which he may have done for a time.

Morris moved to Bowral in 1873 with his wife Sarah and step-children. According to his *BFP* obituary, he "at once started in business for himself. At that time Bowral was still little more than a village, a small homely place where everybody knew everybody, and where existed less of that exclusiveness that seems to become a feature of larger places. Mr Morris began his fortunes in a humble way in a humble place." As the town grew so his business developed.

The Morris family, being Wesleyan Methodists, would have fitted in well as most of Bowral's early business people were strongly connected to that church, including the Ward and Duprez families, the Harrisons who ran the first store, newspaper pioneers Daniel and William Beer, owners of the *Bowral Free Press* from 1884, and John Joseph Campbell, a timber merchant and builder. Despite his ongoing poor health, John G Morris became a leading businessman and a driving force in cultural and civic matters at Bowral.

A notice in the *Town & Country Journal* of January 1876 lists J G Morris as one of the agents appointed by a NSW Veterinary Association member for the sale of horse and cattle medicines. The *Goulburn Herald* of September 1878 advises that tenders for repairs to Bowral Public School be submitted to J G Morris, Hon Secretary to the Public School Board at that place.



In the late 1870s, J G Morris employed William Stokes (a son of early Bowral residents John & Elizabeth Stokes) to manage his Bowral retail emporium, which was situated on Bong Bong St's west side, midway between the Grand and Royal hotels.

From 1880, numerous notices in the *Sydney Morning Herald* indicate Morris had become active as a house, land and estate agent. For example, in November 1880: "Blocks for sale in Bowral. Hardie and Gorman, in conjunction with Mr J G Morris of Bowral, acting under instructions from PLC Shepherd Esq, will sell by public auction that large country estate known as the 'Gib' property. Later, in October 1881: "Gentleman's country residence to let, a few minutes' walk of the station, 70 acres, orchards, gardens etc. The house contains 14 rooms, also stable, coachhouse, dairy etc. J G Morris, Auctioneer Bowral."

On 10 June 1882, the *Sydney Mail* reported that a large and influential meeting was held in the Bowral School of Arts to form an Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Society, which would hold annual flower shows, and that "Mr J G Morris brought forward good arguments in favour of holding shows in a central position". In July 1882, the *SMH* advised that a public meeting was held at Charker's long-room, Bowral, to consider the desirability of building a new School of Arts. The meeting was well attended, Mr J G Morris occupying the chair.

In February 1883 the *Kiama Independent* reported that "Mr J G Morris has received instructions from Mr H Kennedy of Kangaloon to submit to public auction the lease of his 150 acre farm." The *Kiama* paper noted in June 1883 that "the Wesleyans of Kangaloon are deserving of great credit for their liberality and enterprise in erecting a substantial stone church. Mr J G Morris, Esq, of Bowral, was called to the chair and, after a few well-chosen remarks, called upon James Alcorn Esq to read the financial statement."

By 1883 Bowral was flourishing as the residential and social heart of the district. As a store-owner and property agent, J G Morris thrived. He would contribute far more than that, being described at his death "as the life and soul of Bowral". — *P Morton*

Bradman Oval and Pavilion, Bowral

Cricketing legend Sir Donald Bradman grew up at Bowral. He was aged 2½ years when in 1911 his parents relocated to the town from Cootamundra.

An account of his years spent locally was presented earlier this year in the April newsletter, along with a history of Bowral's Glebe Park and the naming of the oval there as Bradman Oval to perpetuate his fame.

At the Oval, on 14 October 1989, the Bradman Pavilion was opened by John Fahey MP, on behalf of NSW Premier Nick Greiner, in the presence of Sir Donald and Lady Bradman. As this month is the 30th anniversary of the opening of the pavilion, to mark the milestone some further history follows here.

The new pavilion building, to house club rooms and a cricket museum, was an initiative of the Bradman Trust, a community-based organisation led by local lawyer Garry Barnsley. Today the Bradman Museum and International Cricket Hall of Fame is operated by the Bradman Foundation.

As told in the April issue, Bradman Oval is on land that formed part of Governor Brisbane's grant in 1823 of 2,400 acres to John Oxley the surveyor, explorer and businessman, which was passed on to the Oxley family with further portions.

In 1859 Oxley's son, John Norton Oxley, subdivided 200 acres for a township at Bowral and granted a 43-acre portion to the Bishop of Sydney for the use of The United Church of England and Ireland. This area, being church land, was noted as a 'Glebe'.

The Glebe was first associated with cricket in 1891, when a match Bowral vs Marulan was played on the Bowral Association wicket in the Glebe paddock. In 1909 Bowral Council leased 24 acres of the Glebe from the Church for a sport and recreation park.

Glebe Park was officially opened by H M Oxley, the mayor of Bowral, on 26 February, preceded by a cricket match 'Aldermen v Town' which, according to the *Wollondilly Press*, caused much amusement.

During the early 1920s Bowral Council made improvements to Glebe Oval with the assistance of local cricket, football and soccer clubs. It was partly cleared of trees and drained, a concrete cricket pitch was laid and by 1927 a toilet block, shed and boundary fence were erected.

In a memorable game on Glebe Oval in 1925, Don Bradman scored 234 against the Wingello team that included Bill O'Reilly, who later achieved great fame as a bowler for Australia.

In 1926 Don Bradman was invited to a cricket trial at Sydney Cricket Ground and the rest is history.

An overview of Don Bradman's cricketering career is provided on the Bradman Foundation website. It includes that Don reached the scoring peak of his career in a Sheffield Shield match between NSW and QLD at the SCG in January 1930, breaking the world's batting record for the highest score in first-class cricket with 452 not out in just 415 minutes. Don was now called the 'run-making machine' and was carried from the field by some of the Queensland players.

In his first overseas tour to England with the Australian team in the 1930s, Bradman made a double-century in the first match at Worcester.

Locally, as early as 1930 suggestions were made to name Glebe Oval after Don Bradman. At the end of 1934 Bowral Council received agreement from the Archbishop of Sydney for the purchase of Glebe Park.

The purchase was only agreed to after lengthy negotiations. Council's Parks Committee had found that the land was divided into two allotments, with one, on a non-approved plan, divided into seven building allotments. As the Bowral Rector and Churchwardens felt morally bound not to let any of the land go out of their hands except as a park, Council agreed to acquire the land for use as a park only and to have it dedicated as such.

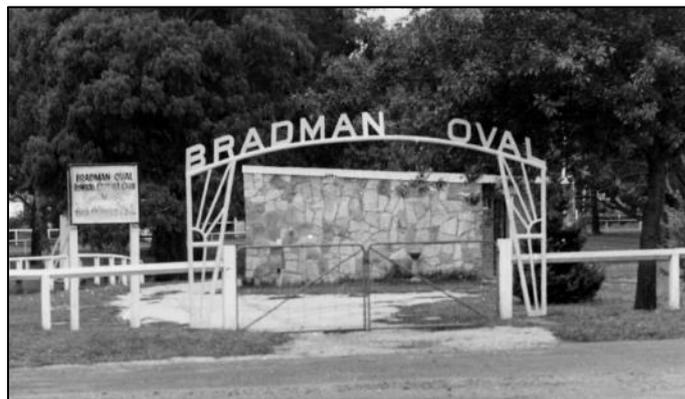
Once the purchase was finalised, Bowral Cricket Club suggested to Bowral Council that the oval's name be changed to Bradman Oval. On 11 October 1938 it was decided by the Council that the cricket oval in Glebe Park be named Bradman Oval.

At a Council meeting in October 1939 Alderman Crabtree stated that "it was all right painting the fence at Bradman Oval, but the lavatories were in a disgraceful condition. The last plan had been turned down because the doors opened opposite some nice homes". New plans were drawn up for sewered lavatories and a shed, but remained on hold.

In April 1942 the Health Inspector suggested a new brick pavilion and lavatory at Bradman Oval would be the most suitable. Due to it being World War Two, major improvements were delayed until 1946 when sightscreens were erected and the concrete wicket was replaced with turf, using black soil obtained from Oxley Hill. Then, in 1947, signage was erected to formally mark the ground as Bradman Oval.

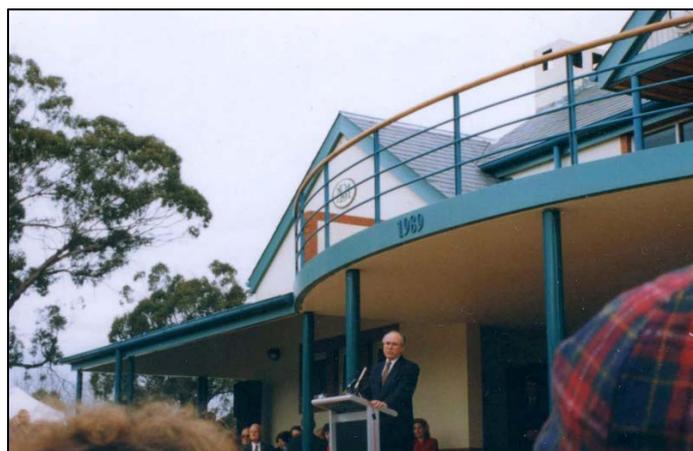
Bowral Council built a dressing shed in 1954 and, after being lobbied by Gordon Whatman (then President of the Moss Vale & Southern Districts Cricket Association and distant relative of Don

Bradman), made extensive upgrades in 1975 that included earthworks to provide a uniform slope away from the wicket and better seating.



On 4 September 1976 these works were officially recognised with the re-dedication of Bradman Oval featuring a cricket match between a local team and a Jack Chegwyn XI led by Doug Walters. In attendance were Sir Donald Bradman and famed bowler Bill O'Reilly, the match commencing with O'Reilly ceremonially bowling the first ball to Bradman.

In March 1989 the Bradman Trust began construction of the Pavilion to house the player's club room, change rooms and to serve as a cricket museum.



On 27 August 1996, Sir Donald's 88th Birthday, the Bradman Museum was opened by the Hon John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia.

An expanded museum and the International Cricket Hall of Fame are now operated by the Bradman Foundation which has also funded further improvements to the Oval including a new picket fence and upgrading of the central pitch.

Today Bradman Oval hosts regular one-day international matches, home games for the Bowral Cricket Club and social matches, while remaining true to its original 1909 purpose of being a recreation area for the township of Bowral.

- compiled by Philip Morton, with thanks to David Wells, Bradman Foundation

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

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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 a general collection.
- 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: Harlan Hall (Project Manager), Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Harold Wall (Human Resources) and John Schweers.
- 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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