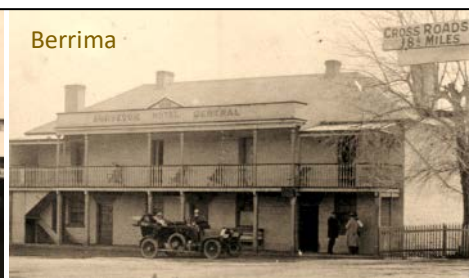




Bowral



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 531 September 2020



From the President's Desk

The Digital Gallery Stages 1 and 2 at the Berrima Museum has now been completed with the recent submission by Harlan Hall of the acquittal documents to the Regional Cultural Fund. Our auditor is now in the process of auditing the accounts for final closure of the project.

The next exhibition at the Museum will be featuring the gardens of the Southern Highlands, a joint project between our society and the Southern Highlands branch of the Australian Garden History Society. This exhibition will be an exciting project with not only the beauty, but also the history behind the establishment of these iconic gardens. Most of the large digital screens in the Williams Gallery will be used. The opening will be in March/April 2021, hopefully with the Museum operating normally post COVID-19 restrictions.

Our Mittagong Archives are quietly going about its business with a constant input of research enquiries to keep our volunteer team occupied. We have again reviewed our COVID-19 plan for the Archives. We now have a plan displayed on our notice board showing the number and location of the seating to comply with the physical distancing restrictions.

Members are still encouraged to attend the Archives but a phone call to book a date and time will help regulate the numbers.

The purchase of office equipment to enhance the ambience of the Archives is progressing with the next purchase using grant funding to be several desks and chairs.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO As the world was emerging from the Great War, the Spanish flu pandemic and the dire economic circumstances, Australia was gradually getting back on its feet.

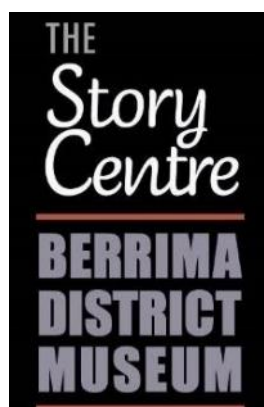
Forefront on people's minds was the remembrance of those servicemen and women who fought for our country. The establishment of RSL Sub-Branches throughout the country was deemed very important.

As featured in our last newsletter, Linda Emery's book *Pride, Spirit & Enthusiasm*, a history of Mittagong RSL Sub-Branch 1919-2019 was typical of these organisations.

Local communities throughout Australia formed working committees to raise the funds and build iconic war memorials. Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale, together with outlying villages all met the challenge.

Today we continue to commemorate these men and women at these memorials build 100 years ago. Inside this newsletter we are featuring the origins of the three major war memorials in our district, Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale.

Ian Mackey



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE 1 OCTOBER

Please see page 2 for payment options

ALL GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS POSTPONED TILL FURTHER NOTICE

We will advise when the **Family History Interest Group** can meet again.

Moore Memorable Musings



BLOW ME DOWN!

Have you ever noticed that the tissues that you buy today are getting smaller, thinner and having an offensive smell?

No, I'm not talking about toilet tissues, but just plain ordinary facial tissues.

The ones you keep beside your bed and can never find during the night when your proboscis is in need of a good blow.

In the early stages of the 2020 pandemic, for some unknown reason, they were rarely seen on supermarket shelves. For some, they have become a luxury from a bygone era.

However, if you have purchased a box, I'm sure that it's no coincidence there are less tissues in it than there used to be.

I can recall the day when there were something like 2000 in a box, about a metre square in size and you could substitute one as a sunshield. They were called Man Size which meant you could get 3 or 4 decent blows to the square foot. After which they could be used again.

Today, for the same price, you get only 60 scrumpy moth-eaten see-through miserable pieces of paper that are a poor excuse for a tissue.

Being a facial tissue aficionado for over 60 years, I've noticed Kleenex is the big culprit in the short-change department. After selling them, sampling them and finally blowing my nose on them, I can remember the soothing feel of aloe on the raw nostril or the gentle waft of eucalyptus to your olfactory gland.

Now I'm lucky to rip out one from its box in fear of tearing it into shreds.

If you're unlucky enough to sneeze into one, rip out another one quickly, because you're likely to blow a hole through it.

So my friends, let's take it to task ... resurrect one of your favourite 1950 initialled hankies that Aunt Glad gave you for your birthday and blow those make-believe tissues away.

Bruce Moore

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

That time again!!

Renewals are 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 YOUR COMPLETED RENEWAL FORM AND COPY OF BANK RECEIPT by mail or email, as this helps the Membership Secretary to keep track of the many payments to be processed.

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Museum at Berrima and the Mittagong Archives/Research Centre remain closed to the public.

Anyone with a question, a research inquiry, or who wishes to obtain local or family history information, or order photos from our Image Library (viewable via our website) may do so by emailing the Society.

New publication out now

Once Upon a Hume, volume 4

The series of travellers' companion books by Thirlmere-based author Stephen Gard now has a fourth volume. This anecdotal, informative, and chatty series of books peoples the Hume Highway landscape with vivid characters and occurrences.

Some members may remember the witty talks Stephen gave to us when volumes one and two were released.

Volume 4 pursues the journey down the 'Great South Road', as the Hume Highway was once known, exploring the stretch of Old Hume highway between Gunning and Gundagai.

We meet odd and interesting people and investigate intriguing places and events, taking in bushfire, pandemics, bunyips and bridges.

There are colourful, admirable, execrable and astute persons, and locales remote, abandoned, busy and becalmed, including:

Deep waters at Burrinjuck; The Jugiong Rioters; Apocalypse at Coolac; and Gunda-guys. Gunda-gals. A night in the Niagara Café.

Now available from BlueDawe Books

http://www.stephengard.com.au/Hume_4.html



A group of workers at The Maltings, Mittagong. Date unknown

New lease of life for Maltings?

The northern entry into Mittagong has long been dominated by The Maltings with its three large, stylish malthouses and associated buildings.



The first was built in 1899 and the industrial complex operated successfully for more than seventy years, playing a major role in Mittagong's commercial life.

A malthouse fire in 1942 and devastating out-breaks in 1969 and 1980 severely curtailed the capacity of The Maltings and led to its closure.

In 1981 the complex was sold to a consortium of local businessmen who drew up plans to develop it as a hotel and conference venue along with a museum, cultural centre, theatre, gallery and craft workshops. The project was approved in principle by Council but abandoned after financial and other problems arose.

Wingecarribee Shire Council then commissioned a survey of the Maltings site, undertaken in 1989 in association with Dr D K Mead, Consultant Industrial Archaeologist. It supported a sensitive development, concluding that the Maltings was a place of heritage significance with strong community association. The complex was added to Council's heritage list.

Over following years redevelopment and subdivision proposals were submitted but none reached approval stage, and The Maltings complex has become ever more weatherworn and derelict looking.

In April 2019 it was reported in newspapers that the historic Maltings site had been sold for \$6.05 million to father and son property development duo Roy and Anthony Medich. It was stated that "they are moving ahead with plans and are conscious of the history surrounding the property".

Redevelopment plans have been submitted to WSC and are now available on the Council's DA Tracker. What is proposed is a historically sympathetic redevelopment of the malthouse buildings to provide a hotel, conference centre and other facilities. Some subdivision at the rear of the property for housing is

proposed for a later stage. The development application is currently being assessed. If the proposal does proceed, most local residents and those interested in the history and heritage of the Southern Highlands will be overjoyed to finally see the historic site come to life again.

Our society holds a considerable collection of information about The Maltings and a large collection of photographs. Details have been provided to the many inquirers over the years and a history of the Maltings was published as a 3-part series in this newsletter, from October 2013 to January 2014.



Operational problems began when Malthouse 2 was gutted by fire in 1942, although it was later rebuilt in 1953. The fire in 1969 damaged Malthouses 1 and 3. Until then, 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 mechanisation. In December 1969 another 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.

With the capacity of The Maltings being severely curtailed, Tooth & Co faced a major and costly repair job. In view of the high running costs and the ability to readily secure malt supplies from contract maltsters, it was 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.

Since then an avenue of perimeter trees has grown large enough to screen off the slowly deteriorating buildings from the main road, yet their iconic, stylish appearance may still be viewed and have been a source of fascination to both visitors and locals.

The origins of local war memorials

100 years ago, a retrospective by Ian Mackey

MITTAGONG WAR MEMORIAL



Laying the foundation stone at Mittagong in 1919

January 1920 was a busy time for the Mittagong War Memorial Committee who were raising the estimated £500 to construct a memorial at the junction of Hume Highway and Bowral Road. The committee was made up of prominent local men, none of whom were returned soldiers.

The design and plans were prepared by Melbourne Architect Philip Burgoyne Hudson, himself a returned serviceman. Mittagong resident Ben Bourne was appointed supervisor for the project as no successful tender could be obtained.

Work continued throughout the year but at one stage was delayed for many weeks, not from a lack of funds, but from the lack of skilled labour to cut the names on the polished trachyte plates quarried on Mt. Gibraltar and supplied by Loveridge & Hudson, stone merchants.



An important feature of the memorial was to be an electric clock. Proud's Ltd, a Sydney watchmaker and jewellers' company, was successful in supplying a four faced electric clock for the sum of £185. Fundraising was successful with sufficient money being raised from card parties, art union, street fairs,

cake stalls as well as private donations. Funds were also needed to construct a perimeter fence and appropriate beautification of the area. The aim was to be debt free at the completion of the project.

On 18 December 1920 the unveiling of the Mittagong War Memorial took place, together with a sports carnival and stalls at the lake grounds. It was deemed an unqualified success. The Mayor of Mittagong, Alderman Harvey officiated at the ceremony as the State Governor, Sir Walter Davidson could not attend due to a prior engagement.

Mr. McDonald, the President of the Returned Soldiers' League was asked to unveil the memorial tablets. Alderman Harvey briefly referred to the efforts of the Mittagong people to erect a suitable memorial in the town to the memory of those who had made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War, and all of those who had obeyed the call for service.

BOWRAL WAR MEMORIAL



Laying the foundation stone at Bowral in 1919

According to a report of 3 February 1920 in *The Southern Mail*: "the town of Bowral is gradually being made more attractive, and one of the eyesores of its main street will in the very near future be almost blotted out, and the northern corner of Bong Bong and Merrigang Streets, previously used as a dumping ground for telegraph poles and the like, will be a sacred and picturesque spot. A handsome memorial has been erected on the site in honour of those who responded to the call of duty to King and Country in the Great War."

The memorial was unveiled on Friday 30 January 1920, in the presence of an immense gathering, and is a credit to the town and district. The memorial is constructed of polished trachyte and was described as a handsome and everlasting piece of workmanship. It contains 211 names, 41 of whom made the supreme sacrifice. His Excellency the Governor Sir Walter Davidson, accompanied by Lady Davidson, was present to unveil the memorial.

Bowral mayor, Alderman H.J. Pickard in opening the proceedings said it was a great pleasure to welcome their Excellency to Bowral. The memorial which they would see has been erected by the people of Bowral, Glenquarry and Burradoo (a suburb of Bowral). The Governor was then invited to unveil the memorial.

His Excellency, on rising, was warmly applauded. He said the monument, as it stood, represented the best people, whatever their station in life, of Bowral, Glenquarry and Burradoo. It was a monument put up by the people in honour of their fighting men. Whether they were fighting men, munition workers or nurses, they had all taken their chances in order to do their duty to their country. In raising the Union Jack covering the monument his Excellency said that: "There it is in all its glory; all honour to the fighting men, all honour to the dead. Nothing could be more typical of the people than having a monument of stone of the hills of their own district".

The Mayor thanked his Excellency, on behalf of the people of the district, for coming to Bowral to perform such an important function. His Excellency said that his wife and he were Bowral's neighbours, and they desired to identify themselves with all national and social functions in the district. The proceedings terminated with cheers for the King and for His Excellency and Lady Davidson.



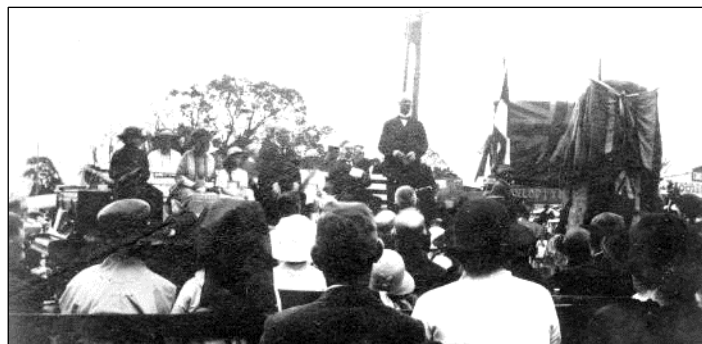
Bowral War Memorial Park in the 1930s

MOSS VALE SOLDIERS MEMORIAL

On Friday 27 February 1920 a public meeting for a soldiers' memorial was held in Moss Vale. The meeting was presided over by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Walter Davidson. After an excellent address, His Excellency presented war certificates provided to each returned soldier or representative. An appeal was made for funds, contending that no sacrifice would be too great for the sacrifice the men had made for them. Over one year elapsed before the next ceremony took place. On 16 April 1921 a historic event took place when the first sod was

turned on the grounds, and the work which Moss Vale has turned its hands to commenced in earnest.

Almost two years elapsed before the project was completed and on 8 January 1922 His Excellency the Governor, Sir Walter Davidson (pictured below) unveiled the memorial to the sixty-six soldiers of the Moss Vale district who fell in the Great War.



The memorial took the form of a mass of trachyte, four sided, weighing about 10 tons and standing 10 feet in height in the memorial grounds at the corner of Argyle Street and Yarrowa Road. On one side, that facing north, appears the words set in block letters of bronze, which were sung in Westminster Abbey at the burial of the unknown warrior:

O valiant hearts who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame,
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Above this and on each side are handsome polished tablets bearing the names of the fallen, surrounded by the rising sun and laurel wreaths in bronze.

In asking His Excellency to perform the unveiling ceremony, Alderman E.B. Hawkins (ex-Mayor) mentioned that Sir Walter had launched the memorial campaign.

Alderman Hawkins took the opportunity of publically thanking Mrs Violet Bennett for the very handsome gift of the land on which they were assembled, for without it he was puzzled to know where their memorial would have been erected. Sir Walter then addressed those present and unveiled the memorial.



Moss Vale Soldiers Club and Memorial in 1930s

Continuing a history of local newspapers

The first newspaper of substance in the local district was *The Scrutineer and West Camden Advocate*, established at Moss Vale in 1874 by William McCourt. From the 1880s newspapers were also published weekly at Mittagong and Bowral, all three of them also being circulated throughout the district.

An outline of *The Scrutineer's* early years and its various owners was provided in last month's article, including that the *Scrutineer* was purchased in 1899 by Edmund Hewison who moved from Cooma to Moss Vale with his wife Annie and the younger of their ten children. Despite failing health, Edmund produced the paper almost up to his death in August 1913, aided by his elder daughters Ada and Clara.

Ada had left a teaching career in Sydney to assist her father and would remain as the newspaper's sole publisher until it ceased publication in 1948.



Purchased jointly by Ada and Clara in 1903, the Hewison family home, 'Woodville' (pictured) was at the rear of the *Scrutineer* office and print shop, located next door to the Central Hotel on Argyle St, up from the rail bridge. The house was surrounded by pine trees, still there today behind the former hotel.

Edmund's death was reported on 22 August 1913 in Sydney's *Daily Telegraph*: "The funeral took place yesterday of the late Mr Edmund Hewison, who died on Monday at his residence Woodville, Moss Vale, at the age of 80 years. The deceased was born in Lincolnshire, England, and came to Australia in 1855. After a few years spent in Sydney, his scholarly attainments qualified him for appointment as the first schoolteacher at Cooma."

Edmund's life was chronicled at much greater length in *The Scrutineer* of 20 August 1913. Some edited extracts are presented here to provide a more detailed account of his accomplishments: "It is our painful duty to have to chronicle the death of Mr Edmund Hewison, proprietor and editor of the Moss Vale *Scrutineer*. All through life the deceased had

proven a fond husband and a devoted father. Amongst those left behind are a fond and loving wife and ten children, besides a large circle of relatives."

"The late Mr Hewison came to Australia in 1855, at the time intending to return to England to settle there, but like many others he made his home in Sydney, holding an important position there for about eight years. His scholarly attainments soon attracted the attention of the Department of Education, and he was appointed the first school-teacher at Cooma, the capital of the Monaro district, the school shortly after becoming the Public School."

"He carried out his duties as teacher with infinite credit to himself and his pupils, as will be gathered when we mention the latter comprise Henry Dawson, ex-MLA for Monaro, and Percy Dawson, present city solicitor in Sydney, besides whom he turned out a number of pupils at present occupying important positions as bank managers and surveyors."

"After about 10 years' service as a public-school teacher, Mr Hewison resigned owing to insufficiency of house accommodation. His retirement from the service was the one great mistake of his life. However, he decided otherwise owing to the niggardly treatment he had received from the Department. He then followed pastoral pursuits for some years, during which time, on the incorporation of Cooma into a municipality, he was appointed the first Council Clerk and Civil Engineer, and while holding those positions he was instrumental in laying out and aligning the streets of Cooma."

"In his early days on Monaro, Mr Hewison took an active part in politics, and was one of the first and most ardent protectionists in NSW, a policy which he advocated up to his death. He championed the free selectors' cause and trenchantly criticised the weakness of the various Land Acts, and suggested remedies for the betterment of the smaller man on the land. His actions in this direction brought him constantly before the public notice, and was urged to stand for Parliament at the time of the death of Mr H Stephen, the then sitting member for Monaro, but his reserved and retiring disposition prevented him, and he declined the honour, which was taken up by Mr G T Miller (son-in-law), who won the seat and still is the present sitting member."

Edmund's funeral took place in the Church of England portion of the Moss Vale Cemetery, a large crowd attending. Just months after he died, in November 1913 his wife Annie also passed away at the family residence. Their daughter Ada then ran the business as sole publisher, leader writer and editor.

She also provided general print services, making use of the press between runs of *The Scrutineer*, and the newspaper office was also a stationery shop, where items including note paper, writing pads, envelopes, cash books, blotting paper, playing cards, novelties and most school requirements could be purchased.



Miss Ada Jane Hewison (1860-1949), portrait provided by a nephew, Fred Hewison of Queensland
 Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* provided a snapshot of Miss Hewison and the tone of her paper in a column called 'The Looking-Glass' by Roland Pullen, published on 10 December 1944:

"'The time has come', says elderly Miss Ada Jane Hewison, editor of the Moss Vale *Scrutineer*, 'to speak in no uncertain terms about the goings-on in Moss Vale'. Established in 1874, the *Scrutineer* is Moss Vale's oldest established journal. It circulates in Moss Vale, Burradoo, Burrawang, Kangaloon, Kangaroo Valley, Yarrunga, Cross Roads, Barrengarry, and other districts. And many thoughtful and progressive readers it has in those places, too, says Miss Hewison. Where the *Scrutineer* sees evil rearing its ugly head in national or domestic life, it will never fail in its duty of ruthless exposure, she says."

"The motto: 'Uttered out of time or concealed in proper season, good savoreth of evil' appears at the head of the leading columns in every issue."

"Having noticed bare legs in Moss Vale, Miss Hewison considers that now is the time and proper season to raise a new hue and cry. In a leading article on the subject *The Scrutineer* says that Moss Vale is

indubitably reverting to the dark ages. 'We notice,' says the leader, 'what a flair Moss Vale womenfolk have for parading in stockingless legs – a thing unheard of in better days, when people had better principles. It is not because they cannot afford to buy stockings, but they simply are exercising the lower morals of their nature, and are less refined than formerly. No less than 12 women were seen in one cluster walking down Argyle St. Not one had a stocking on, but otherwise decently clad. We hope to see a change for the better, and it would tend to make life happier for themselves, as well as for their friends. The time is not far distant when all this impropriety will have to be swept away, and in its place a better class of people must take the reins and guide the young to live in a different way. What is the use of being thought vulgar, and vulgar they are today by their stage lips and stockingless legs? They look like barbarians instead of civilised people.' Miss Hewison herself favors unrelieved black muslin dresses, black hats, and brown stockings."

"Miss Hewison says that common decency is at so low an ebb in Moss Vale that the circulation of the *Scrutineer* is not rising. 'In the great days, when our circulation was more than 500, the *Scrutineer* was a power in the land,' she says. 'What we need today is greater liberalism in thought and outlook.'"

Ada put the business up for sale in August 1948 and published the paper's final issue on 4 September. There were no purchasers for the business. She passed away the following year, aged almost ninety.

The Southern Mail advised the death of Miss Ada Jane Hewison on 12 August 1949, noting that she was a deeply religious woman who, in her writings, encouraged all that was righteous. "Her passing will be regretted by many friends in Moss Vale, who held her in high regard. Following a service conducted in St John's Church of England, the remains were laid to rest in Moss Vale cemetery."

The Scrutineer had long been a competitor of the Bowral-based *Southern Mail*. The former's closure allowed the Bowral paper to further increase its district circulation in the post-WW II years and in 1960 it was rebranded as the *Southern Highland News*, remaining as the only local newspaper today.

The demise of *The Scrutineer* ended, in historian AVJ Parry's words "the paper's unbroken association of almost 75 years with district journalism". For those interested in local history, the available issues of the Moss Vale-based paper, from January 1892 to September 1948, provide an invaluable resource.

- compiled by Philip Morton

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 throughout the year. This includes during school and public holiday periods.
- 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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