




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 569 April 2024



From the President's Desk

It has been a month dominated by the sad news of the passing away of Harlan Hall, and Bob and Gloria Williams, three of our museum's committed and more influential characters. Harlan had the exceptional ability to access finances for the development of our Berrima District Museum (see tribute page 3). The Williams Gallery naming is a recognition of the years of whole-hearted commitment by Bob and Gloria to the Society and to the museum (see tribute page 4).

From storing artifacts in each other's houses and displaying them in shop windows to having our own museum has only been made possible by the unflagging commitment of so many members over the years. An historical society with its own historical museum, such an achievement. With an ever-growing collection of exhibits the museum then squatted in temporary accommodation. The preparation of three rooms in Courthope House, Berrima is an earlier example of the devotion showed by enthusiastic members with the support of their families. To make the rooms fit for purpose volunteers put in a new floor, whitewashed the wattle and daub walls and stripped cedar doors to provide a home for the duration of a mere two-year lease.

You probably know the story of how our museum started life in its current location as a donated cottage delivered on the back of a lorry. For that to happen weeks of hard graft were put in by men and women working shoulder to shoulder partially dismantling the cottage before preparing the new site followed by doing a rebuild. Hours of cleaning and decorating followed to prepare it for visitors.

By May 1999 three extensions had been added, made possible by the commitment of the often-overlooked work of the fund raisers in prising money from various organisations and via garden parties and assorted donations. One intrepid group even helped re-roof Throsby Park homestead!

Alongside this has been the planning and organising carried out behind the scenes by so many committee members and office holders.

The addition of the Williams Gallery coupled with the state-of-the-art digital technology thanks to Harlan Hall's vision, means that we have an award-winning museum along with a first-class archive and research centre. Is it any wonder I feel it such an honour to serve alongside today's superstar volunteers?

Reference: *BDH&FHS Celebrating 50 Years.*

\$10 from Archives or online.

Stuart Handley

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS and EVENTS

APRIL 2024

Thursday 25 April at 2:00pm
No speaker being Anzac Day

MAY 2024

Thursday 23 May at 2:00pm
Researcher Heather Garnsey with a history of Sydney's colonial Benevolent Asylums and their useful records
AFTERNOON TEA is served following the speaker

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



... for museum crew

Moore Memorable Musings



AUSSIE DISTANCES

How many times have you asked someone "where is ..." or "How far to"

Probably not often these days. Today's generation (and older) have thrown their out-of-date NRMA maps into the glovebox and are now using the more sophisticated driver's screen.

You know, digital maps.

Growing up in Australia, we refer to long distances a little differently from our European counterparts. We get used to travelling from A to B. Some surfing teenagers travel hundreds of kilometres to get a 'good break'.

I like reinforcing old colloquialisms, reminding us that we still understand Aussie English. Here are some familiar ones, some borrowed from the old digger himself, Russell Coight.

Next door: 1-2 minutes

Around the corner: 5 mins

Just up the road: 10-20 mins

A couple a K's: 20-30 mins

Not too far: 30-60 mins

Just past the next pub: An hour or two

Up the road a bit: 1-3 hours

A decent drive: 5+ hours

A fair way away: 2000 to 4000 kms

Across the ditch: A trip to New Zealand or Canada.

Popping over to dig up the rellos: 20-24 hours by jet.

This list reminds me of when we lived in the 'bush' during the '80s.

Although the town dispensed coffee from its several cafes, the standard was pretty poor. Floor sweepings, was a term used rather liberally for a local cuppa.

So at least once a week, we would drive 'up the road, not too far' about 110 kms to the next large town where we knew we could enjoy a real frothy cappuccino or flat white coffee.

The round trip took about two and a half hours. The coffee itself took a whole 5 minutes to drink!

Crazy? Not really. Just very Aussie.

One time we stopped at a petrol station in Kalgoorlie. The man said, 'which way are youse headin'?'

We replied, 'west to east across the Nullabor'.

'You're goin' then right way then,' he assured us.

'Why's that?' I inquired.

'Becus you've got the inside lane, the wind behind youse, plus you'll save heaps in petrol!'

Bruce Moore

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

1a Marketplace cnr Bryan St, Berrima

OPEN: FRIDAY to SUNDAY

10.00am to 3.00pm

throughout the year including school and public holiday periods. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day.

Groups welcome at other times by arrangement. Ph 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.

Archives' opening hours

Monday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tuesday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

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

BDHS General Meetings 2024

Please note there will be no General Meeting on Thursday 25 April, it being Anzac Day. On our website is a full listing of monthly speakers for the rest of the year, including:

Thursday 23 May at 2.00pm:

A Triangle of Care in Colonial NSW - The records of the Benevolent Asylum, Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children and the Liverpool Asylum for Destitute Men. Speaker: Heather Garnsey

Thursday 27 June, at 12 noon for 12.30 - June luncheon:

Convict Women Speaker: Associate Professor Dr Carol Liston

Thursday 25 July at 2.00pm:

Charlotte Atkinson and her new statue at Berrima

Speaker: Author Belinda Murrell, 4 x great granddaughter of Charlotte Atkinson.



In October 2014, at our museum in Berrima, Harlan Hall and Gloria Williams watch on as Bob Williams displays the name sign for the then newly built Williams Gallery that states "named in appreciation of 17 years dedication by Bob and Gloria Williams to the advancement of the museum".

All three have recently deceased. See pages 3 and 4 for tributes to them.

A tribute to the late Harlan Hall

Harlan Hall, a member of our Society along with his wife Lyn since 2002, passed away on 5 March 2024. Both became actively involved with our museum at Berrima and greatly assisted in its receiving numerous awards for excellence. Although living with Parkinson's Disease for eleven years, Harlan continued an active interest in the museum incorporating current electronic assets.



Harlan was an experienced engineer who applied creative thinking to solving problems. His early years were spent in rural Bennet, Nebraska and his parents sacrificed a lot to buy him a trumpet so he could play in a school orchestra and marching band. He always cherished his musical education. After high school Harlan attended the University of Nebraska and was awarded a degree in Engineering in 1964. His first job was at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft as a test engineer on the F111 engines. One of his first tasks was the design of fuel lines for the after burners. Situated in Connecticut, he moved into a share house called The Bachelors and there he made life-long friends. He was introduced to the joys of sailing by his fellow housemates, hiring a vintage 60-foot yacht and sailing to Newport for the Jazz Festival in 1965.

The experience gave Harlan a keen interest in sailing, and he followed his urge to experience life away from America. He migrated in late 1968 to Sydney, chosen as he had one Australian friend and it was possible to sail there all year long. He lived at Balmain and found employment with the company Honeywell. He then bought *Ingrid*, a 37-foot ketch to live on and later sail back to America for an adventure. Through mutual friends Harlan had been introduced to Lyn who also wanted an adventure. With two others they set sail for Suva in August 1972, reaching Honolulu 66 days later. After a good holiday and selling *Ingrid*, Harlan and Lyn flew from Hawaii to America where they married. A year later they returned to Sydney, living in Balmain and then Annandale. Harlan wanted to build a boat so, as Lyn was employed, Harlan took 6 months off, working every day to build *Nantucket* a 30-foot Cat boat following plans from 1888. Next was a small carpentry business.

Harlan was introduced to the existing Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences director who was then currently involved with the transformation of the old Sydney tram Power House into a new museum. Much of the collection had been in storage and required attention to be suitable for display. Harlan was offered the job and together with the conservator the Contract Restoration Project was established. Artifacts including steam engines, cars, wagons,

paintings and bicycles were restored by craftspeople in the community. From the success there he moved in 1982 to the Sydney Maritime Museum in the role as General Manager. Over the five and a half years as GM the collection of needy historic vessels in the care of volunteers honed his fund-raising skills with the end result being that the \$1.5m floating dock gave *The James Craig* a platform to be restored on followed by the other vessels. It is a lasting legacy.

In 1999 Harlan and Lyn decided to move out of the city and build a residence in Bowral. For Harlan it was home on weekends while he continued to work weekdays in Sydney until 2013. Lyn, with her graphic art experience, became involved at our museum. In 2006 she curated *Hillview, Country residence of NSW Governors 1881-1958* an exhibition that for the first time at the museum used professionally printed display panels. Lyn's uncle was Edwin Klein's younger brother, so she felt a strong connection to the museum. It was Klein who for a time owned Hillview and did very much to support our Society in its early days. The next major exhibition was *Prisoners in Arcady*, which opened in 2009. It was observing this process that gave Harlan the solution of how to avoid the expense of mounted panels by going digital and using TV screens, a concept he would make a reality.

Harlan's most significant contribution to the museum was as Project Manager for the construction of an exhibition gallery alongside the main building that required applying for and receiving 11 grants, a major fundraising effort plus the organising of local support. The gallery initially displayed photographs taken at Gallipoli, then came the major event, *The Southern Highlands 1200* exhibition, curated by Linda Emery, dedicated to the local men and women who served in World War I, launched in April 2015 on the Centenary of Anzac Day. Harlan also undertook the further project of setting up the exhibition space as a Digital Gallery, now made good use of by our *Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands* exhibition.

At a barbeque to celebrate the completion of the gallery in October 2014, Harlan thanked all those who had contributed and announced that the gallery was to be named the Williams Gallery in honour of the contributions of Bob and Gloria Williams.

In 2015, Wingecarribee Shire Council named Harlan its Australia Day Citizen of the Year and in 2017 both Harlan and Lyn received the Order of Australia Medal for their services to the village of Berrima.

Harlan served as a member of the Wingecarribee Arts and Cultural Advisory Board. His interest in arts and culture grew from a life of varied careers, activities and interests. All of this has benefited our museum.

A celebration of the life of Harlan Hall will be on Friday 26 April 2024 at 1:00 pm for 1:30 at Berrima District Museum. If you wish to attend, please RSVP by 22 April to Lyn Hall (0407 271 041) or email lyn@hall41.com

A tribute to Bob & Gloria Williams

Bob and Gloria Williams joined our Society in 1994 and were very active members until a few years ago. They both recently died in Cowra. The museum's Williams Gallery was named in 2014 in honour of their long service to the Society and the museum.

From the funeral notice in *Southern Highland News*: "Gloria May WILLIAMS passed away on 18 March this year, aged 78 years, and Robert John WILLIAMS 'Bob' on 25 March, aged 86 years. They were a devoted husband and wife. Late of Cowra, formerly of Colo Vale. Beloved parents of Jenny and Caroline (dec) and loving grandparents of Andy and great grandparents of Emily, Bentley, Harry and Jessica. A combined funeral was held on 27 March at Cowra followed by a private cremation."

Bob and Gloria moved from Sydney to Colo Vale after he retired from a career with the Railways. They joined our Society in 1994, and Bob was elected to the Museum Sub-committee in 1995.

In 1997 the BDHS Archives, situated at Mittagong in the Old Council Chambers building, moved from the small rooms it occupied into the current premises. Bob was Project Manager for the move. His skills in planning and carpentry proved most useful and the move was described as "going without a hitch".

Bob was elected as Museum Curator in 1997, a position he held until 2014. The museum is described in our *Celebrating 50 Years* book as going from strength to strength by 2002 "through the hard efforts of the museum organiser, Curator Bob Williams and his exceptional team, not forgetting his supportive wife, Gloria. Through the years they had obtained grants that helped fund equipment and extensive displays."

Bob became a member of the BDHS Management Committee in 2001, a position he held until 2014.

Gloria became part of the BDHS Editorial Committee and Management Committee in 1994, newsletter editor in 1995, and was BDHS Secretary from 2005 to 2007, when she then served on the Museum Sub-Committee for one year. After that she took on the role of museum collection management and oversaw accessions while regularly doing duty on open days with Bob, and supervising a team of volunteers who took on the important behind-the-scenes work. Being aware of their lack of specific training at the start, Bob and Gloria attended numerous courses to learn about museum management and passed their knowledge on to the volunteers whom they trained.

The museum hosted the October 2006 meeting of the Southern Highlands and Illawarra Chapter of Museums Australia, held at Holy Trinity Hall, Berrima. Our Society was a foundation member of the Chapter that had been formed in March 1982 by John Hatton, Independent in NSW Parliament and his wife Vera. It grew to represent museums, galleries and keeping places from Campbelltown to Lake Tabourie in the south. Bob and Gloria were actively involved with it, demonstrating a vision that encompassed the wider district. John and Vera thought very highly of them.

The deputy chairman of Germany's Social Democratic Parliamentary Group and the senior foreign policy adviser visited Berrima in 2009. They had learnt of the *Prisoners in Arcady* exhibition at the museum, featuring the story of German internees at Berrima during World War I. Bob and Gloria guided the visitors on a tour of the exhibition.



*Bob and Gloria with German visitors
Walter Kolbow and Martin Weiss*

The NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards in 2010 acknowledged the achievement of hundreds of heritage volunteers. Bob and Gloria were recipients in recognition of their outstanding contribution to heritage conservation in NSW. Their contribution was described as follows: "An inspired and creative team, Bob and Gloria have built the Museum at Berrima upon the strong foundations set by previous volunteers."

"Their long-term commitment has included museum renovations, collection management, fund-raising and improvements to exhibition quality. The Museum received several awards in 2009 for its exhibition *Prisoners in Arcady*."



Bob regularly undertook repairs and maintenance of the museum building, inside and out. His carpentry skills were put to good use, and he was a deft hand with a paint brush.



Bob and Gloria Williams were made Life Members of our Society on 26 May 2011. Life Member Awards were presented to them by Acting President Ken Reid (pictured above) prior to the May General Meeting.

Member Ron Mumford highlighted the various roles Bob and Gloria had carried out for the Society since the early 1990s and praised their tireless efforts in operating, managing and improving the museum.

A special afternoon at museum in 2014

An afternoon barbeque was held at the museum on 19 October 2014 as a thank you to all the tradesmen and volunteer members who contributed expertise, materials and services to build the extension gallery.

After the barbeque, everyone made their way into the gallery for a special announcement. Harlan Hall, in his role as Project Manager of the gallery building and exhibition space, praised the contribution of all those who assisted in the building of the gallery. He then explained that much thought had been given to a name for the gallery extension. It was decided, and kept a closely guarded secret, that a most fitting name would be the 'Williams Gallery'.

It was so named, said Harlan, to honour Bob and Gloria's contribution over the past 17 years. Together they had played a major role at the museum by keeping its on-going functions running like clockwork and helping guide its development into a highly regarded community asset.

At the time, Bob had just stepped down as the museum's honorary curator, a position he had held since 1997. The current manager, John Schweers, took over after being a volunteer for several years.

At the museum, Bob and Gloria set in place the standards of excellence that are still abided by today.

Gwen Meredith, writer of *Blue Hills*

A talk on the life of Gwen Meredith was presented by Ian Mackey at our March Meeting. Gwen, who lived much of her life in the Southern Highlands, was well known as a playwright, author and scriptwriter, and won fame for her radio serials broadcast by the ABC. *The Lawsons* ran from February 1944 to February 1949 and was replaced by *Blue Hills*, at one time Australia's most popular radio serial, heard week-days at 1pm, for 15 minutes, until September 1976.

Audio of the theme music, an interview with Gwen, and extracts from episodes of *Blue Hills* were played at the meeting. For those unable to attend, here is the life story of Gwen as presented at the meeting.

Gwen Valmai Meredith BA, MBE, OBE (also known by her married name Gwen Harrison) was born at Orange in 1907 and died at Bowral in 2006. She was the only child of George and Florence Meredith. They were a middle-class family and moved to Sydney when Gwen was young. She attended Sydney Girls High and in 1929 completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney. The details that follow are mostly drawn from two published sources:

1. Gwen Meredith's biographical entry in *The Golden Age of Australian Radio Drama, 1923-1960*, a history through biography by Richard Lane, 1992; and
2. A tribute to Gwen by Dr Michelle Arrow, Macquarie University, published by *The Sydney Morning Herald* in October 2006, shortly after Gwen's death.



Back in 1930, with the Great Depression in full swing, Gwen's father believed that there were too many people needing jobs and she should stay at home. She obeyed and managed the housekeeping for a while but then, in 1932, opened a library/bookshop called the Chelsea Book Club, which she owned and operated until 1939, located in the State Shopping Block in Market Street, Sydney.

A drama group, the Chelsea Drama Club, was set up attached to Gwen's bookshop/library. Here Gwen started writing stage plays, as did several others involved in the enterprise. In Lane's biography, he states that "Gwen's first play of note was *Wives Have Their Uses*, a three-act stage comedy of quite unusual wit and sophistication for Australia, at all events, at that time. It concerned a man who used the fact that he had a wife to protect him as he pursued dalliances with other women. It was first presented by the

Chelsea group, had successful productions in most Australian capitals, and was published in 1944. Like most writers of the younger school, Gwen began writing for radio in the late 1930s."

In December 1938, Gwen married a Sydney engineer, Ainsworth Harrison. According to Dr Arrow, it was the start of a long, happy union. He was a devoted and supportive husband, travelling around Australia with Gwen as she researched aspects of her serials.

After their marriage, Gwen and Ainsworth lived at Castlecrag, Sydney, moved to Melbourne for a time, then back to Sydney, and would also establish an ongoing connection with the Southern Highlands. They travelled overseas several times.

Gwen's big break came in 1943, when the ABC rural and drama departments asked her to produce an educational serial for the *Country Hour*. Gwen was chosen because of the success of her existing work.

The serial would depict the problems of rural life during the war and communicate new farming methods – Gwen later remarked that it was to be "sugar-coated pill propaganda". At the time she was in Melbourne, where her husband was working. She was brought to Sydney, under contract to the ABC's Rural Department. It was then found they were not ready to begin the proposed serial to be called *The Lawsons*, so during the hiatus Gwen wrote documentaries for the ABC. Lane says that "with her lively mind and keen ability as a researcher, she proved herself a first-rate documentary writer".

The Lawsons debuted on February 23, 1944, and its combination of information and drama was an enormous hit. It played five days a week at 1 pm, lunch-time, for the convenience of country people, especially those working on farms. But it quickly became apparent that this was not a serial for country folk alone. Very soon it had hosts of listeners all over Australia, in town and country alike, and was repeated daily at 6.45 pm so that city workers could hear it when they returned home.

The serial is described as 'human-hearted, observant and lively' in Lane's biography. Every episode was produced by veteran ABC producer Charles Wheeler who told his actors at the beginning that it was to be played differently from most radio they had done. 'These are not people in a play. They are everyday Australians, relaxed and natural in their speech.' He set the style not only of *The Lawsons* but of *Blue Hills* which was to follow. Gwen gave Wheeler much of the credit for the success of *The Lawsons*.

When Gwen started writing *The Lawsons* she used a typewriter; halfway through she changed over to a

Dictaphone. After that everything was dictated.

Around that time, in 1947, Gwen and Ainsworth moved to Moss Vale, living at Lynton, 618 Argyle Rd. The scripts may have been posted to the ABC in Sydney or perhaps she regularly travelled to the city and helped supervise the program. Whatever way she handled it, by early 1949, she had scripted the serial for five years, and felt she had provided all she could about the Lawsons and their friends, says Dr Arrow; Gwen wanted to broaden her horizons, introduce new characters, develop new themes.



After 1,299 episodes of *The Lawsons*, Gwen created a new serial, **Blue Hills**. It began on the Monday after *The Lawsons* ended on Friday 25 February 1949. It was named, Gwen said, because "everywhere you go in Australia there are blue hills in the background". Several of the most popular characters from *The Lawsons* were brought over, notably Hilda, the cook, and her niece Emmie, played by Gwen Plumb. It was estimated that at 1pm all over Australia nearly half the sets then in use were tuned to *Blue Hills*.



In 1954 Gwen and Ainsworth returned to Sydney, living at Braybrook in Seaforth. Maybe this move was so she could be more available for the ABC. Dr Arrow states that if *The Lawsons* made Gwen famous, *Blue Hills* made her a legend! "It was a drama of character, rather than plot, and Gwen was masterful in her creation of a family of believable, warm characters. Whereas many commercial radio serials relied on sensation to advance their plots, Gwen depicted the drama of middle-class life, with a distinctively Australian accent. Within this, she dealt with a range of social issues – alcoholism, migration, Aboriginal assimilation – all with a sure, even hand, even if they sometimes sparked controversy."

In Gwen's biography, Lane says that she never wrote about anything she hadn't researched, nor about any place she hadn't seen. Her research took her all over Australia – to a sugar cane farm in north Queensland; to the red centre for a Flying Doctor sequence; and,

when she was writing a story about immigration, she went to London so she could return on a migrant ship, assimilating colour and collecting material. Authenticity was always a cornerstone of *Blue Hills*.

Blue Hills started at five episodes a week, but as time went on Gwen grew weary, and the serial was reduced to four days a week. Many times, Gwen felt she had had enough, but the program had become such an integral part of Australian life that she yielded to management pleas to continue.

Gwen and Ainsworth moved back to the Southern Highlands in 1972, settling in Berrima, so once again they had to manage being at a distance from the city. After several more years, Gwen decided she could go on no longer with the scriptwriting. She was then in her late sixties. The final episode of *Blue Hills* went to air on 30 September 1976. It had run for 27 years, and Gwen wrote almost all of the 5,795 episodes.

In regard to the life of Gwen and Ainsworth in the local district, the BDHS is fortunate to have learnt more about them thanks to Jill Lees. Jill worked for real estate firm Burton of Bowral and has been a member of our Society for 50 years, joining in 1974.

Jill was a friend of the Harrisons and recently spoke with Ian Mackey. She first met Gwen at the St Jude's Flower Show where Gwen presented the prizes. Jill was around 12 years old and Gwen in her early 40s.

Gwen and Ainsworth had extensive interests in property, both locally and in Sydney. When they first moved to the local area in 1947, besides purchasing *Lynton* at 618 Argyle Street Moss Vale they also owned a property in Argyle Street, where Moss Vale Motors now stands, and two Blues Point units in Sydney. *Lynton* was split into two flats plus another flat above the stables.

Jill started work for Burton of Bowral when she left school. Burton's had the property management rights for all Gwen and Ainsworth's properties from 1954, this being after they had moved back to Sydney. Jill was delighted to find that the Harrisons were clients.

When Gwen and Ainsworth then moved back to the Southern Highlands in 1972 and settled in Berrima, they owned three properties in Wingecarribee St at different times, ending up on a property called *River Bend* on a bend of the Wingecarribee River.

After finishing with the *Blue Hills* serial in September 1976, Dr Arrow says that Gwen took up watercolour painting and she and Ainsworth enjoyed their garden, friends and family at Berrima. Dr Arrow described Gwen as "elegant, charming, and with an appealing mischievous air, she was quick-witted and gracious."

Gwen and Ainsworth decided to move to Bowral in the 1980s and asked Jill Lees to sell their Berrima property. As it did not have a name, they asked her to select one and she came up with *River Bend* which they accepted. *River Bend* is still a Berrima property today and is currently owned by Jimmy and Jane Barnes. The Barnes's co-wrote a cookbook called "Where the River Bends".

After moving to Bowral, Gwen and Ainsworth settled into life at *Kenilworth Gardens* in Kangaloon Rd. Jill was very good friends with them and often visited. She remembers spending many enjoyable days in their company and always responded to an invitation to "come around for a laugh". Jill describes Gwen as a genuine, funny, no-frills person.

Ainsworth had interests in the motor car industry. He drove a Bentley and on occasions used to carry bricks in it. When asked 'Why do you carry bricks in your Bentley?' he used to remark "the car has to earn its keep".



He was related to two sisters, Tempe and Penelope Manning, who lived in Bowral. Tempe was an artist and painted a portrait of Gwen with plaits tied above her head. Later, the painting turned up in a sale and Gwen went but couldn't park, so she missed out on seeing it. Jill later noticed it at a Burradoo residence.

Gwen went to London as a journalist in 1953 to cover the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Megan Machin stood in for her during the absence and wrote some episodes of *Blue Hills*. This piece of information was recently provided to us by Michael Sharpe, a relative of Megan's, who lives in Bendooley St, Bowral. She had worked with Gwen before and in 1950 they co-wrote an ABC serial called *Ask Ginger*.

All of Gwen's life she collected buttons. Clothing that was discarded had the buttons removed and stored in boxes. Towards the end of her life, she asked her niece if there was any keepsake that she would like – and she replied – yes, your button collection.

Gwen Meredith received an MBE in 1967 and an OBE in 1977 for her contribution to the literature of radio broadcasting. Gwen was writing a novel at the time of her death in 2006, at the grand age of 98.

Compiled by Philip Morton with thanks to Jill Lees and Ian Mackey for their contributions

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 a general collection.
- MUSEUM:** Marketplace, Berrima. Tel: 02 4877 1130. Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com
AT PRESENT, OPEN: 10.00am to 3.00pm, Fridays to Sundays.
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.

If undelivered return to:
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
PO Box 131
MITTAGONG NSW 2575
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
Newsletter
Print Post Approved
PP100001055

PRINT POST
100001055

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

President	Stuart HANDLEY	Archivist	Linda EMERY
Snr Vice President	Linda EMERY	Museum Manager	John SCHWEERS
Jnr Vice President	Ian MACKEY	Membership Secretary	Janet BLACK
Hon Treasurer	Rhonda BROWN	Newsletter Editor	Philip MORTON
Hon Secretary	Patricia DORIS	Conservation Team	Denise MACKEY
Research Team	Frank MITCHELL, Carolyn DOUGHERTY and Janet BLACK		

Management Committee: President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and members Denyse Barker, Peg Harvey, Jenny Frost, Ros Dale, Carolyn Dougherty, Philip Morton, Robyne McKinnon

Museum Sub-Committee: John Schweers, Harold Wall, Lyn Hall, Sylvia Carless, Michele Woods, Bud Townsing