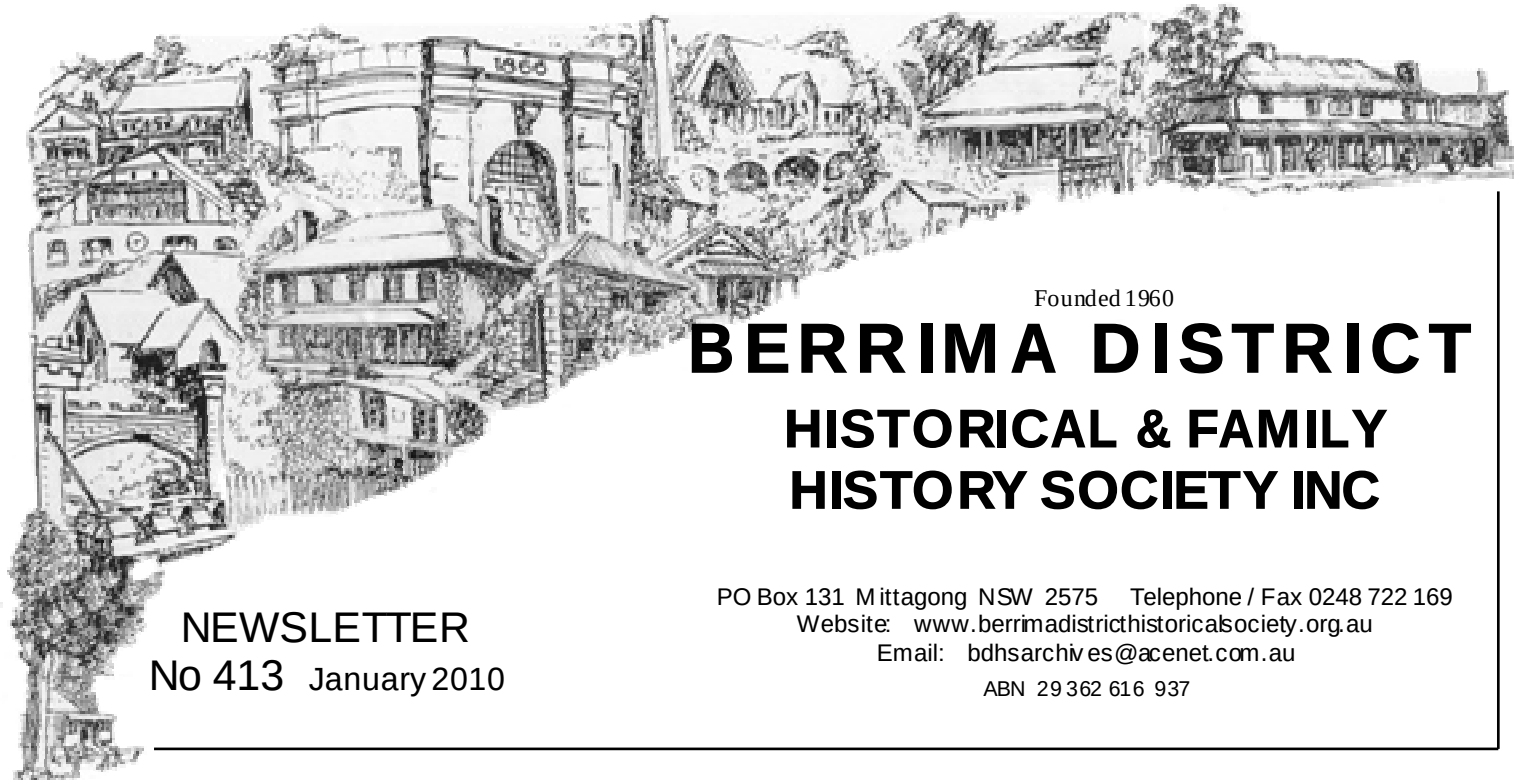




Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 413 January 2010

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 Telephone / Fax 0248 722 169

Website: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

Email: bdhsarchives@acenet.com.au

ABN 29362 616 937

PATRON:	Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire Council: Councillor Duncan Gair		
President:	Mr Ken REID	4871 3391	reidken@bigpond.com
Snr Vice President:	Miss Judith GREEN	4861 1926	
Jnr Vice President:	Mrs Leonie KNAPMAN	4871 1804	
Hon Secretary:	Mr Philip Morton	4883 7862	
Hon Treasurer:	Mrs Jan Reid	4871 3391	
Archivist:	Mrs Linda EMERY	4883 4271	
Curator - Museum:	Mr Bob WILLIAMS	4889 4405	
Editor	Ms Lavinia FORD	4869 4038	lavinias@aapt.net.au
Research Officer	Mr Max ROGERS	4861 3526	robert.rogers2@bigpond.com



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. OPEN: Saturdays, Sundays, NSW Public and School Holidays (except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day) 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

MEMBERSHIP: Any person wanting to join the Society may do so at any stage during the year by completing a form and paying the appropriate fee. Joining Fee \$5.00 - Single \$20.00 - Family \$33.00.

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

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

JANUARY MEETING: NO Monthly General Meeting

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday 25 February 2010 at 7:30pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building,
Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: Max Rogers and Linda Emery
Max and Linda will be giving a presentation of historical
photographs.

The general meeting will commence after the guest
speaker.

SUPPER: To be served after the meeting.

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And more ...



DIARY DATES 2010

JANUARY

- 11 Archives reopen after Christmas
- 14 Management Committee Meeting
- 28 No Monthly General Meeting
- 26 Society Museum open Weekends and Holidays
- 27 School holidays conclude

FEBRUARY

- 11 Management Committee Meeting
- 25 Monthly General Meeting - presentation by Max Rogers and Linda Emery of *Historical Photographs*

MARCH

- 11 Management Committee Meeting
- 25 Monthly General Meeting

'Childhood Treasures' closing soon at Berrima District Museum

Be sure to see this popular exhibition before it closes in early February.

Members lent their toys and other keepsakes. They wrote a few words about their treasures and supplied childhood photos of themselves to further set the scene.

The exhibition has been a real trip down memory lane for the young-at-heart and an eye opener for today's children.

Baby Boomers - share with your children and grandchildren the toys from your childhood.

Berrima District Museum, Market Place, Berrima, at the southern end of the village near the bridge.

Open daily 10 am to 4 pm up to and including Australia Day, 26 January.

Members - please show your membership card for free entry. Telephone: 4877 1130.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

General Meeting Times: The General Meeting times for 2010 will be:

February - April	7:30 pm
May	2:00 pm
June	12:00 pm
July - August	2:00 pm
September - November	7:30 pm

Archives Information Form: An information form on the archives designed by Philip Morton is now ready for distribution.

Highlands Post: Following discussion it was moved that the Society would not hold copies of the Highlands Post from 1 January 2009.

Highlands Publications: John McColgan, author of *In search of the Southern Highlands* and *The Southern Highlands Story*, will no longer be printing these books. Stock is available from our society.

Hilda Parry Painting: Leonie Knapman has presented a painting by Hilda Parry to our society.

Museum: Our museum entry fee will be \$5.00 from January 1, 2010.

Photographs: Scanning of our photograph collection is progressing very well.

Railway Stations: David Sheedy has supplied our society with information on district railway stations from Picton to Penrose.

Southern Highland News Articles: Society Publicity Officer, Philip Morton, aims to continue to provide articles of historical interest to the local newspaper this year.

RESEARCH FEES

The research fee for non-members:

\$15.00 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.

ARCHIVES OPENING HOURS

Opening hours are as follows:

Monday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

Market Place, Berrima
Near the bridge

OPENING HOURS

10 am - 4 pm.
Weekends, Public Holidays and NSW Public School Holidays.
Closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
Groups also welcome at other times by arrangement.
Please telephone Bob or Gloria on 4889 4405

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Deadline is **1st** of every month. It may be necessary to hold submissions after this date till the following month.

JOHN SIMONS DEDICATION CEREMONY



**John Simons
(1922 - 2009)**

More than 50 people gathered in November last year under the trees at the Berrima District Museum to commemorate the life of John Simons. John passed away on May 7th 2009.

Berrima District Historical and Family History Society members joined with John's family and friends for the dedication of a memorial plaque which now accompanies a claret ash, *Fraxinus Raywoodii*,

planted as a memorial to John.

The plaque, mounted on a slab of Bowral trachyte stone, was the gift of Patricia Robins, a long-time friend of the family.

John was a scientist and historian who led an active retirement in the Highlands. While Archivist of the society during the 1990s, John researched the story of the German mariners interned at Berrima during World War 1. This culminated in the publication of his book *Prisoners in Arcady* and formed the basis of the museum's award winning expanded exhibition that opened in February this year.

John was an Honorary Life Member of the society.

Society President, Ken Reid, chaired the occasion and Linda Emery, the Society's current Archivist, recalled John as always being open to the concerns of the society and to the requests of the public, even while deeply immersed in his research projects.

John's wife, Jenny, spoke on John's family connections with the Highlands and recalled memories of his move from scientist to historian. Jenny was gracious in her thanks to the society for their regard of John and his contribution to the district's historical record.



FOND MEMORIES: Linda Emery recalls John's years with the society.



ATTENTIVE CROWD: at John Simons' commemoration.



INSIDE MUSEUM: Bob Williams, Jenny Simons, Jane Lemann and Linda Emery.



FAMILY GATHERING: Jenny Simons with family and friends gathered around the memorial tree.

Photographs courtesy of Mark McInnes.

FITZ ROY IRON WORKS MODEL UNVEILED AT MUSEUM

A meticulous scale model of the furnace section of the Fitz Roy Iron Works was unveiled at the Berrima District Museum on Sunday, 29 November 2009 by its creator George Thirkell. A large gathering of society members and members of George's family attended.

George, a long time local resident of Mittagong and a former mining engineer, invested several years of intensive research to painstakingly recreate the dimensions of the original in the construction design of the model.

It represents the second phase or 'top works' of the Fitz Roy site where, under the management of English iron-maker Enoch Hughes, a blast furnace complex was erected in 1864.

The grand expectations of the developers of the furnace works were short-lived, and problems became insurmountable. Despite several attempts to upgrade the works and make them profitable, the iron works never achieved its potential.

However it is recognised today as the birthplace of the Australian iron and steel industry, for it was the first attempt in Australia to develop an iron works using locally sourced ore and other raw materials. The experience gained at the Fitz Roy works led to the development of the iron industry at Lithgow and Port Kembla. Mittagong also owes much to the iron works for helping shape the future of the town.

As a significant early industry in the Berrima District, the Fitz Roy Iron Works well deserves its place of honour in the Berrima District Museum's new exhibition on local early industries.



The model displays the furnace works in intricate detail.



George ensures that all is well with the model in its new home.



Gathered around (from left) George's daughter Kim Morse-Evans with her sons Harrison and Rhys, Ken Reid, Bob Williams and George and Barbara Thirkell.



Harrison (left) and Rhys check out their grandfather's handiwork.

Photographs courtesy of Mark McInnes.

THREE LIFE MEMBERS APPOINTED

At the Annual General Meeting of the society held on Thursday 26 November 2009 President Ken Reid announced the appointment of three Life Members as proposed by the Society's Management Committee and confirmed at the meeting.

Leonie Knapman received the honour in recognition of her dedicated service in promoting the activities of the society, serving in several positions and also for her publication of aspects of local history.

Max Rogers was awarded the honour in recognition of his dedication as Research Officer at the Archives where he is the mainstay of the research facility and also for his involvement in many other aspects in the successful running of the society.

Linda Emery was recognised for her achievements in support of the society and also the publication of several books on various aspects of the history of the area. Over the past twenty years Linda has held various positions in the society and is currently the Archivist where her major project is the digitizing of the photographic collection.

These three long serving members may feel assured that the entire membership joins with the Management Committee in their appreciation and congratulations.

On the night framed awards were presented, and Desmond Kennard was there with his digital eye. Here are some of his images.



Leonie and Max display their award



President Ken congratulates Max Rogers.

Linda Emery was unable to attend on the night of the AGM and received her award the following night at the society's Christmas dinner.

By courtesy of member Mark McInnes, we show Linda at the memorial for John Simons held in November 2009 at the society's museum at Berrima.



Leonie Knapman with Ken Reid



Linda enjoys a laugh with Jane Lemann.



Photo: Bundanoon History Group

Don't give Bundanoon the cold shoulder!

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
in a tour of historic Bundanoon village
and the sandstone quarry

This day trip by small coach to Bundanoon is on
Wednesday 17 February 2010.

On arrival in Bundanoon first stop will be the Bundanoon History Group's Railway Shed to inspect their display of historical photos and artefacts.

A member of the History Group will then conduct a guided tour of the many interesting features of the village. This will include a stop at Jackman's cottage, the oldest residence in Bundanoon and still in use as a dwelling, situated in a picturesque country lane.

Lunch will be served at the comfortable CWA premises in town and consist of a ploughman's lunch along with tea/coffee and cakes, all provided fresh and home-cooked by the members of the local CWA.

After lunch a visit to the Bundanoon Sandstone Quarry is scheduled for a guided tour of the works, which have been in continual operation since the 1860s, producing high quality sandstone that has featured in many prominent buildings in NSW and as retaining walls at the new Parliament House in Canberra.

Cost and Booking

The tour with lunch included will cost \$25 per person.

To secure your place - add your name to the list held at the Archives, either in person or by phone.

Seating on the coach is limited so don't delay.

Coach pick-up arrangements:

Mittagong railway station at 9:30 am

Bowral swimming pool at 9:45 am

Moss Vale Services Club at 10:00 am

NEW BOOK IN THE LIBRARY:

The Wolf

Philip Morton

Drawing on eyewitness accounts, declassified government documents, unpublished diaries and correspondence unearthed during five years of research, Australian writers Richard Guillatt and Peter Hohnen have brought to life one of the most remarkable and least-known episodes of the First World War in this gripping and fascinating book.

A *Sydney Morning Herald* review of July 2009

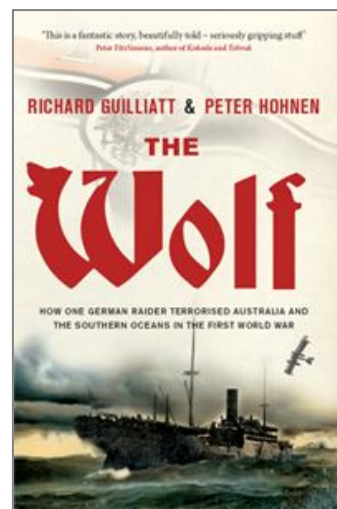
summarised the story of this armed and disguised German merchant ship. For 444 days – from November 1916 to February 1918, without pulling in to any port and without any outgoing wireless communication – Captain Karl August Nerger guided the *Wolf* in an unbroken voyage of more than 100,000 kilometres.

While evading the combined navies of Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, America and Japan, the *Wolf* sank or damaged 30 ships totalling more than 138,000 tonnes. When Nerger finally returned to the German port of Kiel, out of almost 750 men, women and a few children on board only a handful of crew and prisoners had perished.

The SMH review says that what is fascinating is the comparison between the considerate behaviour of the *Wolf*'s German crew and the scare-mongering, anti-Hun propaganda perpetrated by Allied leaders. Hatred of the Germans was perhaps expressed most vociferously by Australia's combative wartime prime minister, W. M. (Billy) Hughes, who was widely known as "the Little Digger".

Even though the pursuit of active enemy aliens was one of Hughes's main obsessions and thousands of German "enemy aliens" were interned during the war, as Guillatt and Hohnen point out, "not a single case of German espionage within Australia would be substantiated".

For those of us familiar with John Simons' *Prisoners in Arcady* and the museum exhibition, *The Wolf* provides a fascinating wider picture of German behaviour and of British/Australian propaganda during the First World War. It is remarkable that the Germans interned at Berrima were allowed such freedom of movement. An advantage, perhaps, of being in a largely forgotten backwater, in the hands of ordinary Australian guards and townspeople.



GRAY FAMILY GATHERING / REUNION

Were your ancestors George Gray (*Morley* 1817) and Mary Connor (*Elizabeth* 1828) ? All descendants of "Poppa George" and "Pejar Mary" are invited to attend a family reunion on 30th and 31st October 2010 at the Crookwell Showground.

"Poppa George" and "Pejar Mary" settled and raised their children in the Pejar district near Crookwell, NSW.

Names of interest include but are not limited to: Gray, Seery, Seary, Levett, Leary, Dalton, Druitt.

To register your expression of interest, receive details regarding the reunion and gathering and future updates and newsletters please contact one of the following:

Barry Gray
1 Queen Street
BRADFORDVILLE NSW 2580
Phone: (02) 4821 5202

Stuart Leary
29 Wran Street
GOULBURN NSW 2580
Phone: (02) 4822 6770

Gerry Dalton
tomandgerrytravel@hotmail.com
Phone: 0427 211 143

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY MANAGEMENT & MUSEUM COMMITTEES & OFFICE BEARERS 2010

President	Mr Ken Reid	4871 3391
Vice President - Snr	Miss Judith Green	4861 1926
Vice President - Jnr	Mrs Leonie Knapman	4871 1804
Secretary	Mr Philip Morton	4883 7862
Minute Secretary	Mrs Jan Reid	4871 3391
Treasurer	Mrs Jan Reid	4871 3391
Archivist	Mrs Linda Emery	4883 4271
Catering Committee		
Conservation Officer	Mrs Sally Ross	4872 1947
Guest Speaker Convenor		
Museum Curator	Mr Bob Williams	4889 4405
Research Officer	Mr Max Rogers	4861 3526
Librarian	Ms Carolyn Dougherty	4872 3610
Membership Secretary	Mrs Peg Harvey	4861 4521
Newsletter Editor	Ms Lavinia Ford	4869 4038
Property Officer	Mr Peter Cruickshank	4872 1497
Public Officer	Mrs Peg Harvey	4861 4521
Publications Officer	Mrs Sally Ross	4872 1947
Publicity Officer	Mr Philip Morton	4883 7862
Tours Officer	Mr Ken Reid	4871 3391

Management Committee Carolyn Dougherty; Lavinia Ford; Carolyn Hutton; Bruce Moore; Max Rogers; Sally Ross; Bob Williams.

Museum Committee Ian Alexander; Sylvia Carless; Judith Green; Lyn Hall; Carolyn Hutton; George Schofield; Bob Williams.

Patron Councillor Duncan Gair
Honorary Auditor Mr Ross Cowley

Archives 4872 2169 **Museum** 4877 1130
Email: bdhsarchives@acenet.com.au
Website: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

A JOURNEY THROUGH OUR JOURNALS

Source: Berrima District Historical and Family History Society Newsletter No 188 May 1989

"MEREWORTH"

With the kind permission of the owner, Mr John Oxley, a group of over twenty members and friends visited *Mereworth*. The group was entertained by the Manager, Mr Peter Holmes, who told them some of the fascinating details of the house and garden.

The house was designed by John Amoury, and gardens were built at the same time, 1968. Some of the older trees were incorporated in the landscape plan which was the work of Paul Sorenson of Leura. One feature of the garden is a lovely hedge of white *Sasanqua Camellias*.

The original "Mereworth" was built by John Atkinson, who received a grant in 1823, becoming the inn at the Medway Rivulet, known, first, as The Kentish Arms and, second, as The Three Legs of Man.

DIARY DATES

MONDAY	11	JAN	Archives Re-open at 10:00 am following the Christmas Break	
THURSDAY	14	JAN	Management Committee Meeting	
WEDNESDAY	27	JAN	School holidays conclude	
THURSDAY	28	JAN	No Monthly General Meeting	
THURSDAY	11	FEB	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25	FEB	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	11	MAR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25	MAR	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society

If undelivered return to:
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
PO Box 131
MITTAGONG NSW 2575
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
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THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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Fletchers Fotographics
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Hypercet Printing
Mittagong Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Springetts Arcade*