

Founded 1960

# BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER  
No 447 February 2013

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 Telephone / Fax 0248 722 169  
Website: [www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au)  
Email: [bdhsarchives@gmail.com](mailto:bdhsarchives@gmail.com)

ABN 29 362 616 937

<b>PATRON:</b>	<b>Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire:</b> Councillor Juliet Arkwright		
<b>President:</b>	Mr Bruce MOORE	4872 3762	<a href="mailto:actmoore@bigpond.net.au">actmoore@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>Snr Vice President:</b>	Mrs Linda EMERY	4883 4271	<a href="mailto:lemery75@southernphone.com.au">lemery75@southernphone.com.au</a>
<b>Jnr Vice President:</b>	Mrs Leonie KNAPMAN	4871 1804	
<b>Hon Secretary:</b>	Mr Philip MORTON	4883 7862	<a href="mailto:flipmort@bigpond.com">flipmort@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Hon Treasurer:</b>	Mrs Patricia DORIS	4872 3313	
<b>Archivist:</b>	Mrs Linda EMERY	4883 4271	
<b>Curator - Museum:</b>	Mr Bob WILLIAMS	4889 4405	
<b>Editor</b>	Ms Lavinia FORD	4869 4038	<a href="mailto:lavinias@dodo.com.au">lavinias@dodo.com.au</a>
<b>Research Officer</b>	Mr Max ROGERS	4861 3526	<a href="mailto:robert.rogers2@bigpond.com">robert.rogers2@bigpond.com</a>



**ARCHIVES:** Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.

OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.  
Library collection contains reference books, journals and newsletters of other societies.

**MUSEUM :** Market Place, BERRIMA. Tel: 02 4877 1130 Email: [berrimamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:berrimamuseum@bigpond.com) 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 \$10.00 - 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

**FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday 28 February 2013 at 2pm**

**VENUE:** Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong

**GUEST SPEAKER: Linda Emery and Max Rogers**

Captured in the Light - the stories behind some of the interesting photographs from the Berrima District Historical Society collection.

**AFTERNOON TEA:** To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

Inside this month ...

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And more ...

**MARCH MEETING: Thursday 28 March 2013 at 2pm**

**VENUE:** Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong



## Diary dates

### FEBRUARY

- 14 Management Committee Meeting
- 28 General Monthly Meeting

### MARCH

- 14 Management Committee Meeting
- 28 General Monthly Meeting

### APRIL

- 12 School holidays commence
- 11 Management Committee Meeting
- 25 **ANZAC DAY - No** General Monthly Meeting
- 29 School holidays conclude

## 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 **25th** of every month. It may be necessary to hold submissions after this date till the following month.

## From the President's Desk

*Bruce Moore*

Another year dawns as Australia celebrates her 225<sup>th</sup> birthday and for you historian buffs, we've been a Nation almost as long as we were separate States.

We slowly replace holiday mode by waving off children/grandchildren, vacuuming up the crumbs, returning our swimmers and thongs to the wardrobe and generally gearing up for the months ahead. This also applies to your Society which, after a summer break and a day's clean-up in January, has earnestly begun with researching, archiving, curating and the carrying on of general business.

Our monthly meetings begin this month on the 28<sup>th</sup> at 2pm upstairs at the Archives. This will be brief, after which the ever popular 'Max and Linda Show' is guaranteed to exclusively entertain us. Max Rogers (researcher) and Linda Emery (archivist) are invaluable to the Society as professional chroniclers and historians. Each month, after a short meeting, we usually have an interesting guest speaker(s) followed by the all-important afternoon tea.

In March (28<sup>th</sup>) we will meet at the Bowral Library where Roxanne Seaward will talk to us about the Library's local collections. The fourth Thursday in April happens to fall on Anzac Day and in respect of that day, no meeting will take place.

The Australia Day celebrations and parade at Berrima on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> went off with aplomb where several members in appropriate colonial costume took part by walking from one end of town to the other. They looked so authentic that one member was asked if she happened to know her grandmother

*On things historical: A busload of tourists arrived at Runnymede, England to hear the guide announce that this is where the Barons forced King John to sign & seal the Magna Carta. An interested man up front asked, "When did that happen?" "1215" quickly answered the guide. "Damn, we've missed it by a half an hour!"*

## Berrima priests and their church

A twilight fork supper, including wine and soft drinks will be served in the garden of Harper's Mansion followed by presentations on Berrima Church's architect, Augustus Pugin and the mainly Irish Catholic Priests who resided at Harper's Mansion and officiated at the Church.

Augustus Pugin is recognised as one of Britain's leading Victorian architects. Though he never visited Australia his buildings are scattered along the east coast and in Tasmania.

St Francis Xavier's Church at the south end of Berrima village was designed in 1842 and constructed between 1849 and 1851 and is notable for having had little or no alteration since that time, thereby retaining the essence of Pugin's design.

Harper's Mansion was used as a presbytery. Soon after James Harper died the Catholic Church became tenants and purchased the property in 1853. It became the home of sixteen of their priests between then and 1899: the most notable occupant being William Lanigan who went on to become Bishop of Goulburn.

The speakers will be:

**Ian Stapleton**, a Director of Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners well known for restoring, adapting, and adding to historic buildings, and undertaking heritage assessment. Ian was active in achieving the heritage listing of St Xavier's, and has recently restored the Bradman House.

**Ann Beaumont**, historian involved in the ongoing research into Harper's Mansion and its occupants. She recently received a federal grant to produce a book on the property's history.

**WHEN:** Saturday 9 March 2013  
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

**WHERE:** Harper's Mansion, Berrima  
**COST:** \$30 per person. Bookings essential as places are limited. Send cheques made out to Harper's Mansion (National Trust) to PO Box 7123, Berrima 2577. Include your email address or phone number to confirm it has been received.

**RSVP:** by February 28. For more information ring Chris on 4872 1315.

## Monthly meeting speakers in 2013

*28th February at 2.00pm*

**Max Rogers and Linda Emery**

Captured in the Light - the stories behind some of the interesting photographs from the BDHS collection.

*28th March at 2.00pm*

**Roxanne Seaward, Local Studies Librarian**



The March meeting will be held in the Henrietta Rose Room at Bowral Library, with a talk from Roxanne Seaward, the Local Studies Librarian about the collection, followed by a tour of the Local Studies Room, located in the old Town Hall, to familiarise members with the extensive holdings available at the library. Afternoon tea will be provided.

**April - NO MEETING**

As our regular 4th Thursday meeting falls on Anzac Day, there will be no General Meeting in April 2013.

*23rd May at 2.00pm*

**Dr Robyn Arrowsmith**

"All the Way to the USA: Australian War Brides in World War II".

Society member Dr Robyn Arrowsmith will speak on her recently published book on women who married US Servicemen and went to live in the United States.



Guest speaker details for the year are provided on the Society's website and the listing for 2013 will be progressively updated once we have confirmed the arrangements for the later months of the year.

**Check out our new look website - any comments and suggestions would be most appreciated.**

## Local family research matters



**The Fleeton family**, photo circa 1890s

George Fleeton, an early settler in the district, is recorded as marrying twice - first to Elizabeth Hibbard in 1847 who must have passed away for, in 1853, he married Margaret O'Brien at All Saints Church, Sutton Forest.

Margaret O'Brien had come out from Ireland as a free immigrant and found employment at Throsby Park. Once married, they settled in Waite St, Moss Vale and raised a family of 13 children (this may include some from the previous marriage).

Photo shows *left*: Margaret (Granny) Fleeton, Mr J Fleeton, Mrs J Fleeton nursing son Roy, with Samuel at Granny's hands. *Right*: Sister-in-law Mrs Johnston from Newcastle with son and daughter. The photo was taken at Hoskins Street, Moss Vale, c1900 and donated to the Society by Mrs R Quigg in 1986.

A search of the NSW Birth-Death-Marriages Index gives a death in 1903 of Margaret Fleeton at Albury.

Recently descendants of this Fleeton family from Sydney came into the Society's archives to research their history. Colonel Graham Fleeton RFD (Retired) and his sons are putting together a comprehensive family history and will provide the Society with a copy of the finished document.

If any members or readers have information that could add to this history, we would appreciate hearing from you.

**Another family history query . . .**



Does anyone recognise the woman in this photo? It is from member Phil Hay and belonged to his grandmother. On the back of the portrait is written '6130 G Farmers Rings'.

Phil's grandmother was Beatrice Irene Macdonald, who was born 18 November 1890 at Bowral.

He would be pleased to identify the photo and retain it, rather than have it disposed of when he passes away.

## The life of Rosalind Badgery

Rosalind Leila Badgery was born in 1921 to Thomas & Enid (nee Hammond) Badgery at Wanganderry, their property situated between Mount Burragorang and High Range, west of Mittagong on the Wombeyan Caves Road.



**John Badgery family c1913 shows Rosalind's parents Thomas (left middle) and Enid (right front)**

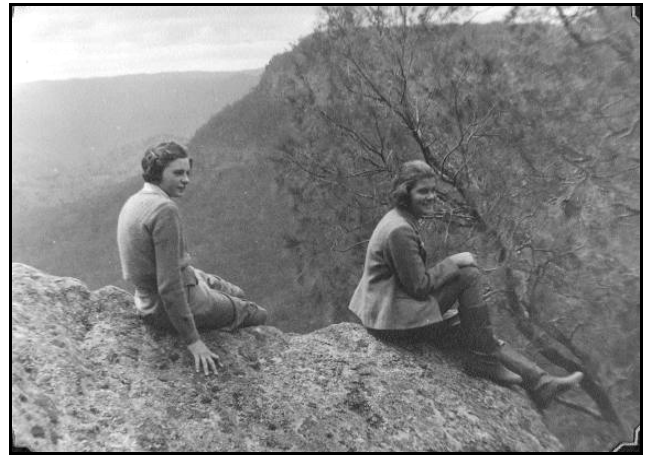
Her father was a descendant of the pioneering James & Elizabeth Badgery who arrived in Australia in 1799 and took up a 500 acre grant, Spring Grove, near Sutton Forest in 1821. The Badgery holdings were expanded at Sutton Forest and beyond by sons Henry, William, James and Andrew and the family prospered.

The Hammonds were also a pioneering local family, settling in the district in the 1820s.

In 1920 Thomas Badgery and his wife Enid moved from Sutton Forest to Wanganderry, an 809 hectare (2,000 acre) property they purchased on the Wombeyan Caves Road. The property had been first occupied by the Cordeaux family in 1823 and its name means 'water running through rocks'.

Tom Badgery intended to build up the property and then sell, but this was not realised due to the Great Depression of 1929-1932 and the advent of World War Two.

He built a timber cottage with his own hands using second-hand materials and without a set square, hence the structure's many unusual angles. Here he and Enid raised two daughters, Rosalind and Cecily, and ran sheep and later cattle. The two sisters would ride their horses down the bridle track into the Burragorang Valley with a picnic, take a dip in the Wollondilly River, and be home by teatime - in many ways an idyllic childhood.



**1942 photo by Rosalind shows Cecily (left) and friend**

At age 14 Rosalind was sent to Abbotsleigh Boarding School in Sydney and missed out gaining a university scholarship as she did not have the right subjects. Then when World War Two broke out and the men of the district left for the battlefields, she chose to stay on at the property and help her father. She is said to have always regretted not being able to attend university.

Soon after the war ended Tom suffered a heart attack and daughter Rosalind took over managing the property, which she did for the next 65 years. In this she was well ahead of her time - women running properties during the 1950s and 1960s was not quite as accepted then as now.

However stock agents always referred to her as Miss Badgery and treated her with the utmost respect for both the knowledge and judgment of the stock she would sell.

During the 1950s 'wool boom' they carried 3,000 merino sheep as well as breeding cattle for vealers. This enabled the mortgage to be paid and prospects were good. Rosalind with her sister and their father would drive cattle to the saleyards at Moss Vale and then make the long ride home, often in the cold and dark.

Rosalind continued on after the death of her father in 1957 and the even more tragic death of her sister Cecily. Then in the 1960s her mother passed away.

The homestead building remained unchanged, staying as it had been prior to 1950, as Rosalind was not interested in upgrading with modern conveniences. She was far more concerned with holding onto the property and not allowing it to be carved up for hobby farms or having mining leases granted on it.

In 1963 she began the unusual process of having the property officially declared a wildlife refuge and this became a reality in 1968, which meant that all native fauna in it was protected - the property became a prized destination for bird watchers.

The Nattai, a vast expanse of wild mountainous country that bordered the Badgery land, had been proposed as a national park from the 1930s. Rosalind, along with other conservationists, fought hard to bring this about and, after issues over mining rights had been resolved, the Nattai National Park became the first wilderness declared under Australia's inaugural Wilderness Act, in 1991.

The Park occupies the south-eastern corner of the Blue Mountains plateau, between Lake Burragorang and the

Wingecarribee Shire, with limited vehicle access and minimal facilities but is open to bushwalkers. Of its 50,000 hectares, two thirds are specified as wilderness.

In December 2000 the massive Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area was declared, including Nattai. This listing would have been a great satisfaction to Rosalind.

In 2010 old age forced Rosalind Badgery to move into town where she pined for her property and, within a year, passed away, marking the end of a great era for her and for Wanganderry.

**The museum's diverse display**

Rosalind was an enthusiastic photographer who compiled many albums of scenic views, often very artistic, and of hundreds of wildflowers and native flora specimens she observed on her treks through the wilderness.

She also developed an eye for spotting Aboriginal artifacts and gathered an extensive collection that is now held at the Society's museum in Berrima. When she moved from Wanganderry she also gave the museum two kitchen items of the 1930s from the homestead - a 'Metters' rotary canister cabinet and a 'Glacier' ice-drip refrigerator - both now on display.

After her death, a further collection of diverse items was provided to the museum by her niece, Jennifer Hammond. Reflecting Rosalind's personal interests, it includes an AWA Transistor 7 radio, a hand-painted plate featuring native birdlife, given in appreciation by the Illawarra Bird Observers' Club, and an old scientific microscope.

The microscope is an early 'compound' unit on a stand, inscribed No.124 C. Zeiss Jena, resting in a handmade walnut case with extra screw-on lenses included. How did this intriguing object come to be in Rosalind's possession and did it have an interesting story?



**No.124 stand 111b Zeiss compound microscope and walnut timber case 1863**

Seeking its provenance, museum volunteer Harlan Hall made contact with Dr Wolfgang Wimmer, Curator at Zeiss Archive in Germany and established that the microscope was produced in 1863 at the Carl Zeiss workshop in Jena, Germany. This particular microscope remained unsold until 1870 when it was purchased by 'Herr von Macley, Jena, Russia', a person who normally lived in Russia but was in Jena when he bought it.

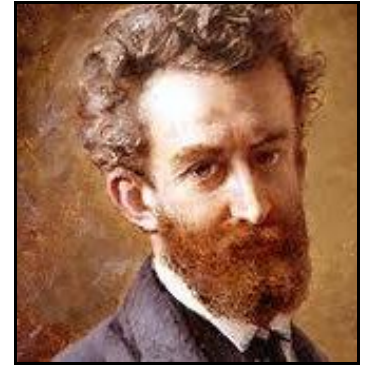
When queried regarding the 7-year time gap, Dr Wimmer suggested that such "old" stock were sold for less money and maybe the purchaser was a poor Russian student.

As it happened, von Macley was from a wealthy Russian family, and was a student in Germany during the 1860s. He then set forth on an overseas scientific expedition in 1870 which would have incurred considerable expense for supplies and equipment, so this particular top quality microscope no doubt appealed as it was cheap.

'Herr von Macley' was actually the highly regarded Russian scientist and explorer, Nicholai Mikluho-Maklai, usually known as Nicholas Maclay. He was born in 1846, at Rozhdestvenskoye in the Russian Empire, second son of a hereditary nobleman of Ukrainian-German-Polish ethnicity.



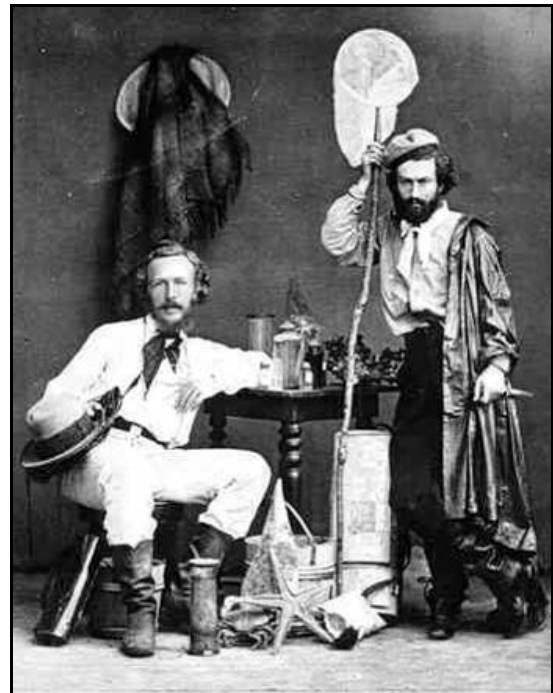
**Rosalind with 'Twinkle'**



**Nicholas Miklouho-Maclay**

Nicholai worked and lived for the major part of his short life outside Russia with Australia becoming his adopted country and Sydney the home of his family.

Educated in St Petersburg he studied law and philosophy at the university but was expelled for "breaking the rules" and, having to complete his studies in Germany, moved to Heidelberg in 1864 and then studied medicine at Leipzig in 1866 and palaeontology, zoology and comparative anatomy at Jena.

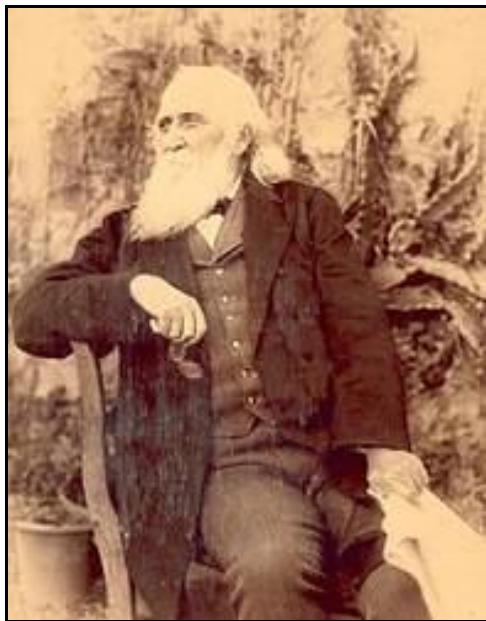


**Ernest Haeckel with his assistant, Nicholas Miklouho-Maclay, in the Canary Islands, 1866**

On vacation travels he became a competent linguist and, in the Canary Islands, examined sponges and shark brains, but his attention was drawn to New Guinea as a promising field for anthropological and ethnological studies.

He won fame as the first scientist to live among and study people who had never had contact with a white man. One of the earliest followers of Charles Darwin, Nicholai is also remembered today as a humanist scholar who, on the basis of his comparative anatomical research, was one of the first to refute the prevailing view that the different 'races' of mankind belonged to different species and that some races were inferior - an attitude used to justify slavery and colonialism.

Miklouho-Maclay arrived in Sydney in July 1878. With the Linnean Society he established the Marine Biological Station in Watsons Bay, Australia's first marine biological research institute. He married Margaret-Emma Robertson, the widowed daughter of Sir John Robertson, five times Premier of NSW, after whom the Wingecarribee Shire town of Robertson is named.



**Sir John Robertson**

In 1887 he returned to St Petersburg, with his young family. In poor health and despite treatment he died of a brain tumour, aged 42. His widow returned to Sydney with their two sons.

So how did his microscope come to be at Wangenderry? We do know that his eldest son, Alexander Maclay (father of former ABC announcer Paul Maclay) moved to Moss Vale where he died in 1950.

Was he a Badgery family friend? Or perhaps his possessions were auctioned and the microscope ended up at Wanganderry? We do know that a David Badgery mentions seeing it there in the 1940s.

Our research has not been able to make the connection and we ask does anyone have information that might shed more light on this story?

*Compiled by Philip Morton and Lyn & Harlan Hall*

## St Xavier's talk & supper at Harper's

**Harper's Mansion will host a Twilight Supper and talks on the architect of Berrima's St Xavier's Church, Augustus Pugin, and the priests who officiated there.**

Saturday 9 March, 5.30 to 8pm at Harper's Mansion, Berrima.



Society members are invited to join with other guests at the annual Harper's Mansion Fork and Talk Supper in the garden. A delicious fork supper, including wine and soft drinks, will be served before the presentations.

Augustus Pugin is recognised as one of Britain's leading Victorian architects. Though he never visited Australia his buildings are scattered along the east coast and in Tasmania. St Francis Xavier's Church at the south end of Berrima was designed in 1842 and constructed between 1849 and 1851. It is notable for having little alteration since, thereby retaining the essence of Pugin's design.

The link with Harper's Mansion is the house's use as a presbytery. Soon after James Harper died in 1845 the Catholic Church became tenants and finally purchased the property in 1853. It became the home of sixteen of their priests between then and 1899: the most notable occupant being William Lanigan who went on to become Bishop of Goulburn. The speakers will be:

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**COST:** \$30 per person. Booking is essential as places are limited. Send cheques made out to Harper's Mansion (National Trust) to Harper's Mansion, PO Box 7123, Berrima 2577. Please include your email address or phone number so we can confirm it has been received.

RSVP by February 28. For more info: Chris on 4872 1315.

## Australia Day parade at Berrima

On Saturday 26 January the annual fair and parade took place at Berrima. Once the official ceremonies were over, the parade commenced at Oxley Street and proceeded to the southern end of the village.

This year a group of keen Society volunteers donned period outfits and participated in the parade, carrying a banner to highlight the existence of the Historical Society and our Berrima District Museum.

The crowd clapped and cheered and snapped their cameras as the group passed by on the Old Hume Highway.

Lyn Hall looked particularly fetching in her authentic period outfit complete with matching bonnet and she bravely ignored the discomfort when the sun came out to warm things up. Patricia and Peter Doris made such a charming couple, he as a convict and she as a sweet young thing.

Harlan Hall, John Schweers and Philip Morton made quite an impression with their well-chosen outfits.



*Peter & Patricia Doris with Harlan Hall*



*Philip Morton, John Schweers, Lyn & Harlan Hall*



*Our crew on parade with guest Susan Carveth (umbrella)*



*Lyn & Harlan Hall*

*Photos provided by Gloria Williams and Peter Doris.*

## DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	14	FEB	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28	FEB	Monthly General Meeting	<b>2:00pm</b> at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	14	MAR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28	MAR	Monthly General Meeting	<b>2:00pm</b> at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	11	APR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	25	APR	Monthly General Meeting	<b>2:00pm</b> 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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