

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER

No 478 November 2015

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29 362 616 937

From the President's Desk

This looks very much like a final report for 2015. Well, it is!

In this newsletter, appointed members will share with you the activities of the year before we have our General Election at the AGM on Thursday Nov.26th

Naturally all positions will be declared vacant, so to all you prospective volunteer Presidents, Treasurers, Archivists, Secretaries or Committee Members etc. *please* consider nominating yourselves at the archives before the 19th then rock up on the 26th November at 2pm.

Who knows? Some of us need a break next year and it's always refreshing to see new faces on board. Archives and Museum Committees meet just once a month and likewise a Monthly General Meeting is on offer, featuring a stimulating guest speaker.

2015 has been a significant year in the history of the Southern Highlands and especially meaningful for our Society.

Briefly, our new Williams Gallery at the Berrima Museum was completed and opened well before Anzac Day. It was built entirely with voluntary labour, donations and grants to



**Bruce Moore,
President**

Continued on page 2

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER MEETING: Thursday 26 November at 2:00pm

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

GUEST SPEAKER: AGM and MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

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

DECEMBER MEETING: NO December Monthly General Meeting

JANUARY MEETING: NO January Monthly General Meeting

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday 25 February 2016 at 2:00pm

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

THE
Story
Centre

BERRIMA
DISTRICT
MUSEUM

STORIES OF PEOPLE, PLACES
AND OBJECTS FROM
THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Museum news on page 5

From the President

Continued from front page 1

honour the Southern Highlands 1200 local boys who went to fight in WW1.

Mittagong School, the Uniting Church and the Fitz Roy Ironworks blast furnace turned 150. Appropriate signs for pedestrians and tourists are now in place throughout Mittagong.

All of these ceremonies welcomed a plethora of dignitaries, relatives, celebrities and members to solemnize the occasion.

I thank everyone, committee members especially, for your help and participation this year. It has made my job so stress-free. If I mention individuals by name, I'm sure to leave out an important person.

So please accept this as your big THANK YOU.

The opening of our new Gallery at Berrima was the best experience for me. The Australian War Memorial provided us with a blockbuster-travelling exhibition in January called *A Camera on Gallipoli*. This photographic display proved so popular that we decided to open 5 days a week and sometimes all week when groups came through.

By April our expert team of Curators, Archivists, Designers Researchers, and Managers professionally put together *The Southern Highlands 1200*, which is currently on display. This exhibition opened for Anzac Day and has proved enormously popular with locals and tourists alike.

Government and private grants enabled us to build a disabled toilet and entrance to the Museum. Pru Goward and former patron Duncan Gair cut ribbons for these events and we now possess what is fondly dubbed "Pru's Loo."

Our June luncheon was a foodie success at the Bowral Bowling Club followed by a guest speaker. On the subject of guest speakers, I thank all those who took part each month. Their effort, research and expertise are greatly appreciated.

October's meeting turned into a fascinating experience allowing around 10 members to 'show & tell'

their personal artifacts in what could be renamed the "Antique Road Show Experience" (A.R.S.E)... perhaps not?

Here's a brief report on one of our esteemed committee members, Ros Dale. Mid-year she was involved in a horrific car accident in Victoria. Battling multiple injuries, she has reported from Melbourne that her body is recovering slowly and should be back on deck early next year. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Noticing an ad in a local paper:

"Wanted, an antique writing desk for a lady with thick legs and large drawers."

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday, 26 November 2015 in the Society's Meeting Room, upstairs in the Old Council Building, Bowral Rd, Mittagong, following the Monthly General Meeting at 2:00pm.

The Wingecarribee Shire Mayor, Cr Larry Whipper, recently elected to the position, has accepted our recent invitation to be Patron of the BDH&FHS. He has been invited to join with us at the AGM.

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

Please note that the museum is now open at least 5 days a week

MUSEUM OPEN: 10am to 4pm

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

and every day during NSW school holidays and on public holidays.

Groups welcome at other times by arrangement. Please phone John on 4872 1660.

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 to:
bdhsarchives@gmail.com

Cultural Grant Award



Amongst other historical society recipients is Max Rogers (on right, middle row) who received a \$600 cheque on behalf of the BDHS. This was at the 2015 cultural grant awards held during the RAHS Annual Conference at Bankstown. The Cultural Grants Program is funded by Arts NSW. Our Society's grant was for the scanning and conservation of 32 stereoscopic views of Wombeyan Caves in 1899.

Christmas lunch

Society members and their guests are invited to our Christmas lunch, to be held at Dormie House, Moss Vale, on Thursday 10 December, at 12:30 for 1:00pm.

The cost is \$35 per head.

On the menu are two courses as alternate drops:

MAIN

Roast Pork with pears, apples, parsnip, gravy and apple sauce

OR

Caper and Herb Crusted Atlantic Salmon with saffron rice and lemon

DESSERT

Christmas Pudding served with brandy custard

OR

Home Made Profiterols with a warm chocolate sauce and cream

Tea and coffee included. There will be a Raffle and Lucky Door prizes.

Bookings and payment essential. Please pay at **Archives by Friday 27 November**. Phone 4872 2169.

Tour to Sutton Forest properties

A group of members recently visited two historic properties with Linda Emery as guide. The tour was to Browley and Oldbury, both on the northern slopes of Mt Gingenbullen, up from the Illawarra Highway between Sutton Forest and Moss Vale.

First visited was a large stone barn at Browley. The property was established by John Waite, an early settler in the district, who



was granted the land in 1820. By 1828 he had increased his holding to 1000 acres, growing grains and grazing cattle and sheep. The barn was built during the 1830s and used for shearing and grain storage. This structure, with its splayed vertical openings to provide ventilation for grain and with large doors to allow easy access for wagons, remains an impressive building today.



Browley is still a working farm and the barn remains in use for housing machinery and workshop tools.

From there the group proceeded to Oldbury Farm. It is on land granted by Gov Macquarie to James Atkinson in the 1820s.



He established a large estate on which he bred sheep and cattle, raised crops and grew fruit and vegetables. With his wife Charlotte, he built a fine stone farmhouse, and raised a family. James died in 1834, just 39 years old, but achieved a great deal in his short life and his legacy lives on at Oldbury.

Oldbury is rarely opened for tours. Our members' anticipation was rewarded with a comprehensive viewing of the cottage gardens, lawn trees and hedges, and the parkland with nature garden, magnolia walk, prairie garden and arboretum. The NSW Heritage Register's entry on Oldbury lists its Elm Avenue and hawthorn hedges as significant, and describes the layout as "a rare combination of small, formally enclosed cottage garden giving onto an impressively scaled carriage circle".



Our group was welcomed at the front of the house by owner David Newby, who introduced head gardener Ian Carroll. After explaining the history of the gardens and the process of hedge making, Ian took the group for a leisurely and extensive tour of the property.

We thank both owners for their welcome. The tour finished with a picnic BYO lunch on the lawn at All Saints Church of England in Sutton Forest.

Kangaroo March Re-enactment

A centenary re-enactment of the 1915 Kangaroo Recruitment March departed Wagga in September 2015, for a 36 day, 520km trek to Campbelltown.

The 1915 'Kangaroos' signed up for WWI service. After Bundanoon, the march passed through Exeter on 30 December 1915, on its way to the NSW Governor's residence, Hillview, at Sutton Forest. The Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, inspected the troops after lunch and the march left for Moss Vale.

On 2 October 1915, the re-enactment stopped in Exeter for lunch. The photo below from the BDHS collection shows this march passing the entrance to St Aidan's Church. A photo taken by Linda Emery shows the 2015 re-enactment at the same spot.



Pugin church a Berrima treasure

From the earliest days there was a strong Roman Catholic presence in the Berrima District. Mass was periodically celebrated by visiting priests in huts, farms and pubs. The first Catholic mission in the district was established in two former convict huts at Berrima. The site, on the southern side of the Wingecarribee River, was obtained from the Government in 1838 by the Catholic chaplain of NSW, Father John McEncroe.

It had been the Berrima Stockade where convict road gangs, many of them Catholic and Irish, were housed in numerous wooden huts while they worked on the Berrima stretch of the Great Southern Road including the bridge. By 1838 these gangs had moved further south.

Charles Throsby, a local Protestant landowner, having purchased several of the huts, donated two of them to the mission. One was turned into a chapel where the first mass was celebrated in 1840 by Bishop John Bede Polding of Sydney. He was accompanied by Dean James Goold, who was in charge of the Campbelltown mission, and later became the first Catholic Bishop of Melbourne. The other hut was used for a time as a school.

The fine, compact Gothic-revival sandstone church that today stands on the site was first mooted by Polding and Goold during their visit.



Work commenced in 1849 and, as the Church of St Scholastica, it opened in 1851 to become the hub of worship for the widely spread Catholic flock.

When Father McGinty was appointed to Berrima in 1847, Harper's Mansion became the presbytery. As his ministry extended from the Mittagong Ranges to Marulan, he regularly travelled on horseback to say mass and administer the sacraments.

By the 1870s, Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale were developing and Berrima went into decline. New Catholic parishes were created and churches built. These churches served the purpose and were enlarged or replaced as needed, but no one would expect any of them to rank as heritage treasures!

However unlikely it may have seemed in the past, the status of the Berrima Catholic Church is now that of significant heritage treasure.

In use from 1851, it was renamed St Francis Xavier in 1891 and eventually closed in 1973. After falling into neglect, it was reopened in 1984 and has since been substantially repaired. Listed in 2008 on the NSW Heritage Register, it is considered by some historians to also be a significant national treasure.



The reason is that the Berrima church was designed by the great English early-Victorian architect, designer and theorist Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin (1812-1852). His design was that of a small English medieval village church.

The significance of Pugin's work was generally overlooked in England after his death and largely forgotten until more recent times. In 1994 this was revived locally when the BDHS was visited by Brian Andrews, then living in South Australia. His interest in architectural history had led him to an investigation of Pugin and thus to finding that he designed Berrima's St Francis Xavier Church.

Geoff Squires, BDHS Secretary at the time, noted: "Berrima has long been proud of its Blasket-designed Anglican church, Holy Trinity, at the top of the rise at the end of the park, so much so that the St Francis Xavier Catholic Church across the river has been considered of secondary importance. Indeed until now, we have known very little".

Pugin's most celebrated commission was to design the Gothic detail for the Palace of Westminster in London: the outside crockets and statues and every detail of the interior, from the House of Lords throne to inkwells. He also designed the building's clock tower everyone knows today as Big Ben.

He was a convert to Catholicism and a pioneer of the Gothic Revival. He designed many churches, convents and other buildings to exacting standards of proportion which are evident in the Berrima church and its decoration. Pugin was interested in reviving some church rituals which had fallen into disuse since the Middle Ages. He had a short but highly creative, hectic life and died insane in 1852 (possibly due to mercury poisoning).

Subsequent to 1994, Brian Andrews continued his research and verified his claims regarding Pugin and the design for the Berrima church. An essay of his findings may be found on the Pugin Foundation website. He inspired other historians locally and the State heritage listing eventuated in 2008.

How it came about that Berrima gained a Pugin-designed church will be explained next month.

Compiled by Philip Morton

Archivist's report

Linda Emery

The Annual Archives Report is both a way of summarising the activities for the year and to acknowledge the work of our volunteers, without whom our society would be much the poorer. We have nearly thirty regulars who undertake the many and varied roles within the Mittagong Research Centre and Administration Office and keep everything running smoothly on the three days a week we are open to the public.

As anyone who comes in to the archives will know, it is a very busy place, and on occasions, it is almost standing room only with visitors and volunteers using our facilities to the full. I thank each and every one of our wonderful volunteers for the work they do.

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers, so members who feel they might like to join us, please contact me. It is not all work - we do make time for fun and fellowship!

During the year I have accessioned more than 50 new items and collections. Among the highlights have been significant additions to the Kevin Herring Collection which is such a valuable resource for researchers. The Taylor Collection of family history and photographs was very welcome. We have received a grant of \$600 from the Ministry for the Arts through the Royal Australian Historical Society to have the stereoscopic images of Wombeyan Caves in the Taylor Collection professionally digitised. This is in the process of happening and they will soon be added to our online image library.

Another marvellous collection of early images of the Marshall Family of Sydney has come to us, some dating back to the 1860s and 1870s and this collection is in the process of being cleaned and catalogued. A more recent collection relating to the establishment of Moss Vale Caravan Park in the 1970s was donated by Ken Pogson and the photos of the building and opening of the facility will also be on our online image library in the very near future. Sydney Living Museums generously donated a number of items that had been part of the displays at Throsby Park until it was leased recently to a member of the Throsby Family. Some of these items are on display in the archives in our small display area, beautifully put together by volunteer Roberta Stove.

Donations that add to our outstanding collection of local history are always very welcome and we thank all those people who have been generous enough to bring their precious memories and memorabilia to us during 2015.

Museum manager's report

John Schweers

What a year it has been at the museum.

The completion of the new extension has been a feather in the cap of the BDH&FHS.

As members of the society, we are aware that this has been achieved with the great effort of our volunteers, donors, grants and donations of materials from local suppliers which enabled us to complete the extensions on time and to open our first exhibition in January 2015.

This exhibition "Camera on Gallipoli" proved very popular with over 1700 people viewing it. We opened the Museum every day for six weeks. This was a big effort from our volunteers. I congratulate and thank them for their big effort. The results and feedback were outstanding.

The current exhibition SH1200 which has been four years in the planning was opened on 18 April by Pru Goward MP. It has been greatly acclaimed by many visitors who have visited the museum.

The new extension has been named The Williams Gallery in honour of Bob and Gloria Williams who have served the Society for over 17 years and have given countless hours of their time to the museum.

The Museum Committee members with the support of the Management Committee have worked hard to continue to make visiting our museum a memorable experience for all visitors, whether local or tourist. Berrima continues to be a valuable tourist destination to the Highlands and our museum is ideally located to take advantage of this.

The Museum is continually being promoted in the media and on Australia Day 2015 the society was once again part of the Berrima street parade.



On Anzac Day Bob Williams represented the Society at the Berrima Dawn Service by laying a wreath and once again after the service the Museum was open to all for tea, coffee and Anzac biscuits. Over 135 attended. This event was started some years ago and has become a tradition for those attending the dawn service.

The Museum Committee will continue to work towards making our Museum a must-see for locals and visitors and to be the best regional museum in the state.

As Museum Manager I wish to thank the Museum Committee and all the volunteers who have given hours of their time to make the museum a most valuable resource of the Society.

Research report

Max Rogers

It was another successful year for research. Most of our research requests now come in by email or phone and they come in every day. Personal visits vary, but these have picked up lately. Over several days in mid-October the archives was buzzing with people who came in with their research inquiries. Linda Emery was on hand to assist along with our regular volunteer researchers and including new volunteer Marg Muntz.

The yearly totals (up till end October) for research requests received this year are: Phone 590, Email 397 and Personal visits 336. This total of 1335 requests is 180 higher than the same period last year.

Most requests can be answered and information supplied. Once again some researchers have reciprocated by sending us information. We now have five volumes of research from Daryl Taylor of Bathurst who last year provided us with two files on his family history including the Taylor Brothers of Moss Vale.

The life history of Mr Fred Dye is an example of how sheer good luck can play a part. We received a letter from a lady in 2007 asking for information about him. At that time there was nothing in our files. Recently however, while searching on other matters through early newspapers on Trove, I happened to notice his name. This led to the discovery that he came from Armidale between 1910 and 1920 to work at the Yates Trial Farm in Exeter. He later went back to Armidale where he was head gardener at the Teachers College from 1930. This information is now in our Dye biography file.

So that's it for this year.

Treasurer's report

Patricia Doris

For this third period as Society Treasurer, I will be pleased to present the Annual Financial Statements for 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015.

The end result this year has changed considerably from the 2014 accounts due to the completion of the

Museum extension and the exhibition.

I will be available to explain further at the Annual General Meeting.

Librarian's report

Carolyn Dougherty

The collection currently contains 2,530 items. Many of the new books received over the last 12 months are local histories produced by our members while others refer to the surrounding towns and villages and their past inhabitants. All of these books are to be found in the Reference Section and I would encourage members to check out these new acquisitions. Lack of space remains an ongoing problem within the library and limits our ability to expand the collection. Thanks once again to members for following library protocol and registering their loans in the loan book on the desk in the library.

Wishing members a happy and safe festive season.

Newsletter report

Lavinia Ford

This year the society newsletter has had a slight alteration in appearance in an effort to bring about a more contemporary look. In addition it has also been full to the brim with all the happenings within the society; at times it has been a mission, but a joy, organising everything to fit. Thank you to the volunteers for your newsletter assistance.

The 2015 newsletter distribution has increased by 9. We distribute 278 newsletters to 336 members, and a further 23 to other societies and legal deposits, giving a total of 301 newsletters. 163 newsletters were posted to members and 115 newsletters were emailed to members and 23 to legal deposits.

	Members	Newsletters
Honorary Life Members	5	4
Single Members	216	216
Family Members	114	57
Organisations	1	1
	336	*278
Wingecarribee	213	
NSW Country	33	
NSW Metro	22	
ACT	4	
QLD	3	
SA	1	
VIC	1	
England	1	
	*278	

The majority of members reside in the Wingecarribee (213) and is divided as follows: Bowral (69), Mittagong (57), Moss Vale (27), Bundanoon (16), Burradoo (9), Berrima (4), Hill Top (4), Exeter (3), Willow Vale (3), Colo Vale (2), Kangaloon (2), New Berrima (2), Robertson (2), Sutton Forest (2), and one each for other villages.

A Place of Deep Gullies: the history of Bundanoon



New publication for sale

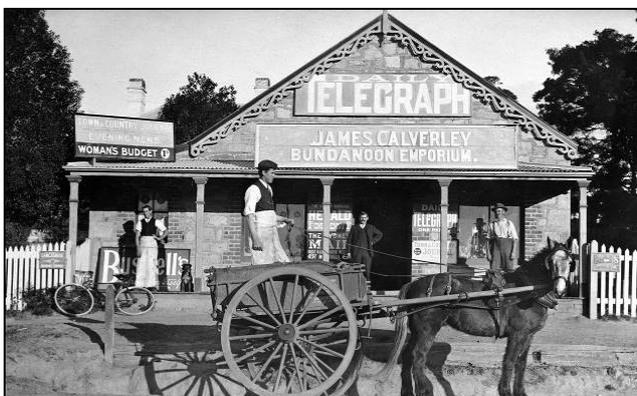
Author: Bundanoon History Group

Soft cover, 120 pp A4, illustrated, Cost \$20

This 2015 Bundanoon History Group publication updates *From Jordan's Crossing to Bundanoon*, a previous local history published in 1990. Providing a comprehensive, thoroughly researched history of the Bundanoon area, it 'fleshes out' many of the earlier stories with a wealth of new material.

The book relates how from early days the wild and spectacular gully country, now part of Morton National Park, attracted considerable interest.

A small station called Jordan's Crossing was opened in 1873 and renamed Bundanoon in 1881. The name was then applied to the fledgling village and its surrounds. Timber and coal were sourced from the gullies and sandstone quarries opened. Attracted by the unique natural features, healthy atmosphere and ease of travel on the numerous trains, visitors flocked to Bundanoon. Guest houses were established and businesses opened, including general store, cafés, livery stables and bicycle shop. Entertainment and sports were organised. At Easter in 1903 the village had around 300 visitors.



This interesting and informative book is available for purchase from the archives, museum and via our website. It may also be obtained from outlets in Bundanoon and from Bundanoon History Group.

From the newspapers

Bowral Free Press and Berrima District Intelligencer, Saturday 27 July 1895 page 2

"OLD JERRY," or properly called Ralph Randles, will not be seen in Bowral again for two months at least. Constable Woods has had a great interest in Jerry since he came to Bowral, and has many times had a serious chat with him to try to get him to go to the Liverpool Asylum for old men, but Jerry would never consent. However, the winter continuing so severe, and Jerry's domicile being merely a hollow log about a mile out along the Kangaloon road, Constable Woods took possession of Jerry on Thursday morning, and brought him up at the Bowral Police Court before Mr. H. Foord, J.P., on a charge of being without proper means of support. Mr. Foord saw the justice and mercy of the arresting constable, and ordered that Jerry be taken care of in the Berrima gaol for two months, when the severe weather will be about over. By the mid-day train yesterday Jerry was escorted to Berrima by Constable Noble, a number of townspeople wishing him good-bye.

The Goulburn Herald and County of Argyle Advertiser Saturday, 29 June 1850 page 5

MAIL COACH ACCIDENT. - We regret to state that an accident happened yesterday to a new omnibus which has been put upon the road in place of the "slow" mail between here and Sydney. It appears that on its way up, the coachman, a remarkably steady driver, stopped at Brown's Inn, at Wingello, and before going into the house on some business he had to transact, gave the horses heads in charge of the ostler. The man after holding them for a few minutes became frightened and let them go. The animals finding themselves freed from restraint started off and galloped along the road dragging the ponderous vehicle after them. They continued their course for two miles, when on an endeavour being made to stop them by some men with a team, they turned into the bush, and one of the wheels coming in contact with a tree stopped their career. There were four passengers inside, three males and one female, who jumped out and escaped uninjured. The vehicle did not turn over, and the only damage it sustained was the breakage of a spring. It is now at Marulan undergoing repair. This carriage will no doubt be of great accommodation to travellers, as the passengers will be protected from both rain and dust. It has six windows on each side, and is capable of holding about fourteen passengers.



Compiled by Lavinia Ford.

Omnibus, carries 25 people, located at the Cobb and Co Museum, Toowoomba.

Photo courtesy Lavinia Ford

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 ☎ Telephone / Fax (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 newsletters of other societies.
- MUSEUM:** Market Place, Berrima. Tel: 02 4877 1130. Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com
OPEN: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesdays to Sundays, and during school and public holidays.
Museum Committee: John Schweers (Manager, Tour Bookings), Harlan Hall (Project Manager),
Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Chris Moore (Artist, Children's programs),
Judith Green (Procedures), Michele Woods (Exhibition content), Harold Wall (Human Resources).
- 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, NSW Association of Family History Societies,
Museums Australia Inc & Regional Chapter.

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

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PATRON:	Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire: Councillor Duncan Gair		
President:	Mr Bruce MOORE	4872 3762	actmoore@bigpond.net.au
Snr Vice President:	Mrs Linda EMERY	4883 4271	lemery75@southernphone.com.au
Jnr Vice President:	Mrs Leonie KNAPMAN	4871 1804	
Hon Secretary:	Mr Philip MORTON	4883 7862	
Hon Treasurer:	Mrs Patricia DORIS	4872 3313	
Archivist:	Mrs Linda EMERY	4883 4271	
Museum Manager:	Mr John SCHWEERS	4872 1660	schweers@hn.ozemail.com.au
Membership:	Mrs Peg HARVEY	4861 4521	
Newsletter Editor:	Ms Lavinia FORD	4869 4038	
Research Officer:	Mr Max ROGERS	4861 3526	robert.rogers2@bigpond.com

Management Committee: President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Museum Manager, Research Officer,
plus members Peg Harvey (Minute Secretary), Carolyn Hutton, Denyse Barker, Robyn Arrowsmith and Ros Dale

Newsletter proudly supported by:

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