



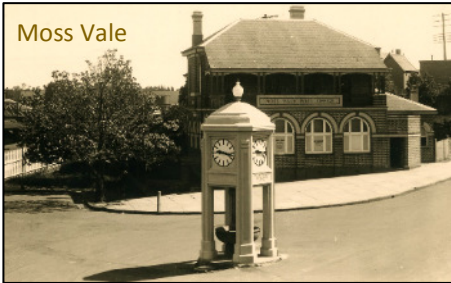
Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

NEWSLETTER

No 485 July 2016

From the President's Desk

Whew! Another election over and now we are left hanging in the balance.

They say there could be a 'hung parliament'. The name is somehow appropriate.

My version of the lead up rhetoric goes like this:

"Let me say that I would like to be up front and accountable so that a general snapshot of our strategy means that we're on the same page as you.

I call it a quantum leap jumping on board and on line to seamlessly focus on this state of the art meaningful dialogue for our forthcoming ballot.

Goals have been set to assist the financially challenged as well our keynote speakers are to be up front and transparent when assisting the pension-driven minority. We are actively considering changes to the senior allowance to stretch the envelope without moving the goalposts.

It's not a knee jerk reaction when we also believe proactive sustainability will



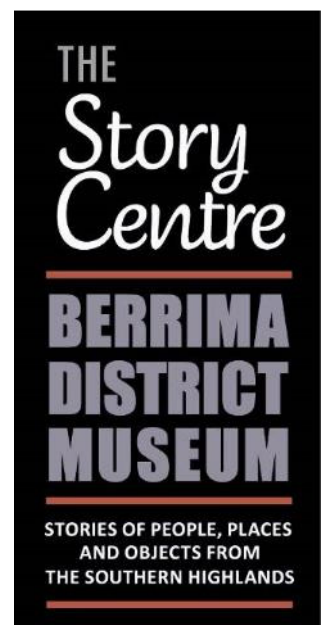
Bruce Moore,
President

Continued on page 2

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

JULY MEETING: Thursday 28 July at 2:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: Leonie Knapman
AFTERNOON TEA: To be served following the speaker. Members please bring a plate or a donation

AUGUST MEETING: Thursday 25 August at 2:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: To be announced
AFTERNOON TEA: To be served following the speaker. Members please bring a plate or a donation.



Museum news on page 4

From the President

Continued from front page

galvanize off shore quality-driven investments. This per se will ramp up viability on our coral reefs translating into hands-on approach without it being a smokescreen. Stretching the envelope further we are outsourcing the front-runner to our policies for our indigenous cousins to go forward in a meaningful way.

This quid pro quo methodology of maximizing opportunities for jobs and growth will make it a win-win situation conveying a carbon-neutral approach that dovetails to our guidelines.

Of course jobs and growth are both on the table and our benchmark is to be cost effective in every way. I make it crystal clear that up cycling the budget is on our radar so we can go forward and fast track this transition for a stronger surplus in our economy. Naturally, we are shovel-ready."

Durrrr! No wonder the Australian public were confused!

Andrew Barton has been the only Australian Prime Minister who didn't blame the previous government for their blunders....

And, what Government was that? - Ed

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.

Archives opening hours

Monday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tuesday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Archives open day

On Saturday 16 July we are holding a special Open Day at our Archives and Research Centre in Mittagong.

Details have been sent to local media and flyers put up in libraries, etc. We realise it's very short notice, but we'd be most grateful if our members would help spread the word and, if you can spare the time, we encourage you to drop in, between 10am - 3pm.

Our extensive collection and research resources will be on display. We hope this will be of interest to all those local people who are keen to know what a local historical society does and what makes it a valuable community asset.

Archivist Linda Emery will be on hand to advise people on how to go about doing their family history, and Leonie Knapman will be available for queries about her areas of expertise, including Joadja and Renwick.

Special items from our collection and historic photographs will be displayed.

A wide variety of pre-loved books will be available for sale in the foyer.

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

Bundanoon upcoming events

The Bundanoon History Group will be holding another mammoth book sale on **Saturday 23 July** in the Bundanoon Memorial Hall.

Past book sales by the History Group have been a huge success, and this year it will follow a similar pattern with stock priced at \$1, \$2 and \$5 and a table of special and collectable books in a higher price range.

An **Oral History Morning Tea** will be held on Wednesday 17 August at the Bundanoon Club, commencing 10:00. All are welcome to attend. This annual event provides a most interesting stroll down memory lane. Recordings of the reminiscences of several long-time residents of the town will be the feature of the event.

For the record . . .

Several errors in the June newsletter have been brought to our attention.

* * *

In regard to last month's report about the May General Meeting which was held at the Museum in Berrima:

In summarising the talk presented by Michele Woods, we noted that she said the initial list of local personnel who served in WWI evolved for over 10 years from bits and pieces at the museum, and was then worked up by Harlan Hall and Linda Emery into the SH1200 Exhibition. We omitted to note that Michele had made clear the list was primarily based on extensive research undertaken by Linda Emery.

Further, in the report of the talk given by Gloria Williams on behalf of the museum conservation team, it was stated she said that "If an object is accepted, an accession form is filled out". In fact, Gloria had said that an accession sheet is filled out for each object when it is first offered to the museum. This accession sheet forms the basis of the later decision whether to accept or return the object.

Our apologies to those concerned for these several lapses in our reporting.

* * *

John McColgan, one of our treasured members, recently wrote to President Bruce saying he enjoyed his column in last month's issue and provided a yarn about two Irishmen talking. One said "I know a man who is so strong he could put his hand in his hip pocket and balance himself out horizontally in mid-air." His friend said "No man can do that", to which the first replied "It's McGinty I'm referring to". "Aargh," his friend replied "that's different".

John then pointed out that in our story on James McCleery, the founder of a Moss Vale business, it stated that he was most likely born in Ireland in **1934 and arrived in Sydney in the 1850s** becoming a farrier and blacksmith by trade.

John was wondering if this was just a simple printing error, or if we were hearing about the marvels of another 'McGinty' episode! Being of Irish descent, he could only say, "Sure, and the wonder of it all."

John, in turn, may we wish you "the top of the morning" and let you know that Philip Morton has arranged a visit to OPSM for an eye test.

July guest speaker

Leonie Knapman

The Mittagong Farm Home, Cottage Homes and Renwick: a history spanning 115 years

The Southwood/Renwick Farm and Cottage Homes around Mittagong saw many changes over their 115 year history. Leonie has undertaken major research into this topic and will provide some fascinating detail about the farm and cottage homes and the Mittagong Welfare system, which when closed in 1994 was the oldest still operating in Australia.

In the mid 1800s many of the orphanages and reform schools in NSW had in excess of 500 children. It was generally accepted that these were far too large and it had become obvious that their designated purpose of altering the 'bad habits of wayward children' was not working. In 1874 a "boarding-out" system was called for, this being similar in many respects to modern day foster-care. In 1881 the NSW Parliament constituted the State Children's Relief Board, but it was soon discovered that children needed different forms of care, because some were crippled, mentally deficient, suffered some form of disease or maybe even had a combination of all three.

In 1885 four Cottage Home were established: one at Picton and at Mittagong and two at Pennant Hills. Mittagong became the place to send weak children as it had "a wholesome country environment essential for building up their health". Those children that could attend the local school, others just convalesced. Soon there were six cottages around Mittagong.

By 1886, Dr Renwick was advocating the purchase of a farm, which would provide milk, fruit and vegetables for the children in the homes. He also advocated that as the cottage homes were rented and far from ideal, new cottages should be constructed especially for the needs of the children.

Thus in 1896, 100 acres of 'Southwood Estate' (on which stood a large cottage) were leased for a 5 year period. In 1900, the first of the 'otherwise unmanageable' boys came to Mittagong and took over from the old men who were working the farm. In 1976, the Mittagong Farm Home was renamed Renwick.

Leonie has many early images of the Farm and Cottage Homes and will present these at her talk to highlight the poignancy of this local history.



Clarification of our towns & villages



Street scene, Bundanoon c1940 - History Group collection

An article in last month's newsletter explained about our new cover design which features local landmarks. It was stated that: "Our Society's collections cover the towns of Bowral, Mittagong, Moss Vale, Robertson and Berrima and many villages." Numerous of these villages were listed, including Bundanoon.

It has been brought to our attention that, in regard to Bundanoon in particular, this is somewhat misleading.

While often referred to as a village and affectionately so considered by many of its residents, Bundanoon was conferred the status of 'town' by Wingecarribee Shire Council about 12 years ago. The Bundanoon Community Association was advised of the change.

The current 'About the Shire' page on Wingecarribee Shire Council's website acknowledges this status:

"The Shire covers an area of 2700 square kilometres. The main towns are Bowral, Moss Vale, Mittagong and Bundanoon."

"As well, there are smaller villages including Hill Top, Yerrinbool, Colo Vale, Robertson, Berrima, New Berrima, Exeter, Burrawang, Penrose, Willow Vale, Alpine, Balaclava, Renwick, Wingello, Sutton Forest, Avoca, Fitzroy Falls and Balmoral Village. The pattern of development is one of small towns and villages, separated by a semi-rural landscape."

Despite this many people, including us at the BDHS, are in the habit of referring to Bundanoon as a village. We now hereby acknowledge its status as a town.

A search on-line about settlement hierarchy brings up a wealth of information. In brief, there are no universal definitions of 'locality', 'hamlet', 'village', 'township', 'town', 'urban area', 'city' etc. It is a matter of common usage and varies from place to place and country to country. To provide our readers with a general guide, the following is from Wikipedia:

"A village is a small settlement usually found in a rural setting, generally larger than a 'hamlet' but smaller than a 'town'. Some geographers specifically define a village as having between 500 and 2,500 inhabitants. In most parts of the world, villages are settlements of people clustered around a central point."

Activities of archives volunteers

Our Archivist Linda Emery has recently returned from a working holiday in Europe. During her absence, a considerable collection of objects to be accessioned and research matters to be dealt with have mounted up on her desk and in boxes around it.

So, while Linda is catching up and settling back into the swing of things, several archives volunteers have put together the following brief outline of what's been accomplished at the archives in the past month or so. Please note that a selection only is presented here, not a listing of all archive volunteer projects.

Progress continues on most projects agreed to at a meeting in May 2015, and on some newer initiatives.

Research Officer, Max Rogers, as usual deals with a constant stream of requests by email, phone, postal letter and from people who visit the archives.

Denyse Barker and Frank Nevill are continuing with the digitising of photographs. Denyse, in conjunction with the museum's Lyn Hall, has been sorting through newly acquired Berrima Internment Camp photos for the reprint of John Simon's book *Prisoners in Arcady*.

Shylie Brown continues her project of entering details from the Rate Books and the Herring Collection.

Sandy McKenzie is researching the names registered of those buried at Rowe's Hill Cemetery. Some turn out to have been residents, some were inmates of local institutions, and there's some lost souls. This research has the goal of completing the book that our dear departed volunteer Carol Nolan was working on.

Besides her Librarian duties, Carolyn Dougherty is in the process of transcribing old records from All Saints Church of England, Sutton Forest. At present she is doing marriages from the 1830s.

Peg Harvey is continuing with the computer entry of details of hand-written Accession Forms dating from 1985. Since 2010 all Accession Forms are filled out digitally with details on a searchable database. It will be an advantage to have the entire Accessions as a searchable database.

Recently joined volunteers, Jenny Frost and Warren Musgrave, are making steady progress with scanning all our paper biography files as digital files. This is a very big, but worthwhile project. Marg Muntz, another relative Archives' newcomer, helps out on Saturdays and continues with her genealogy and poppy Index research. She recently visited NSW State Archives and brought back copies of the will and probate of Euphemia McCleery to add to our archive files.

Roberta Stove and Denise Mackey continue with the re-organising of our collection of local newspapers in the Conservation Room and have made progress with the repair and restoration of several valuable objects in our collection.

Enjoyable June luncheon

Our June Luncheon in the dining room at Mittagong's Lion Rampant Hotel was a warm and hearty occasion on a cold and blustery winter's day.



During the lunch Shylie Brown gave a brief talk on the history of the site. She is pictured here with President Bruce under a painting of the site's original hotel.

Museum a backdrop for WWI story

This week our museum was visited by a local family, Judy Sargeant and her grandchildren. Recently Judy had discovered her grandfather's (Pte Les Williams) WWI diaries, still well preserved in their original army-issued satchel.



The Sargeants and their grandchildren are travelling to Pozieres in France where young Eve (pictured above in centre) will read a passage from the diaries. This will serve as a commemoration of the infamous battle which took place there on 23 July 1916.

The family really appreciated being able to use the museum's Southern Highlands 1200 Exhibition in the Williams Gallery as a fitting back-drop for a feature article being published in the local paper.

A History of McCleery & Sons

A continuing series compiled by Philip Morton

In the early 1880s James McCleery came to Moss Vale with his family. Prior to that, he had worked as a blacksmith at Nattai and Albion Park, married Euphemia Thomson in 1869, set up as a smithy and coachbuilder in Wollongong and by 1877 had fathered four children. James then went to Nowra, where his brothers-in-law operated the Nowra-Moss Vale mail run, and he became a mail contractor. By the end of 1878 James was declared insolvent.



After satisfying the legal requirements, he moved to Moss Vale with his wife and five children.

The children were: James William (born 1870) at Kiama, Euphemia (1874), Frederick (1875), John Edward (1877), all born at Wollongong, and Robert Albert (born 1881) at Nowra.



In 1883 James established a blacksmith, wheelwright and coachbuilding business at the corner of Argyle and Valetta Sts, Moss Vale, opposite the main railway yards. Then in his fifties and with a wealth of experience, he specialised in quality buggies and carts which were in great demand. In 1885 he received first prize for his spring cart exhibit at the Berrima District Show in Moss Vale.

After establishing at Moss Vale he trained his sons in the business. The eldest, James, was then in his teens with Frederick and John a few years younger.

Their mother Euphemia gave birth to another son, Arthur, in 1884. Sadly, four-year old Robert died in 1885. After that four more daughters were born - Ethel Florence (1886), Eva Amelia Blanche (1887), Lillian Myrtle (1889) and Ada Amelia (1891). Ada lived only a couple of years. Their last son, Edgar Percy Everard, was born in 1893.

HORSESHOERS & GENERAL BLACKSMITHS.
MANUFACTURERS OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

James McCleery & Sons,
Coach Builders and Wheelwrights,
Opposite the Railway Goodshed, Moss Vale.

Coach and Buggy Painting and Trimming a
Speciality.

ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR ALL KINDS OF
WORK.

GOOD WORK EXECUTED.

PROMPT ATTENTION.

LOWEST CHARGES.

The coachbuilding business thrived. McCleery was able to satisfy any work required in the district. New and second hand vehicles were always in stock. Buggies, spring carts, farm waggons, drays and coaches were made to order using the best material and workmanship. Ploughs and other farm implements were also made and repaired.

In 1894 the McCleery's built a substantial two-storey residence, 'Rosebank', facing Valetta St on land behind the workshop. This was the family home for several decades. By 1896 James snr. was seriously ill and went to Sydney for treatment. The elder sons - James, Frederick and John - formed a partnership to operate the business as 'James McCleery & Sons'.

This business thrived, innovating successfully through challenging times and war. Its story follows here.

By the late 1890s McCleery's had established a good reputation in the district. According to the *Scrutineer* of 17 December 1898: "The coachbuilding works of James McCleery & Sons are extensive and complete in every detail. McCleery has for a number of years conducted business here, and now that his sons are associated with him - each personally controlling some particular branch of the business - there is no doubt but their united efforts will build one of the largest and most extensive businesses on the southern line.

Every class of vehicle from the highly finished dogcart to the knockabout sulky is built and completely finished at these works. For repairs, painting, re-trimming and horse shoeing, McCleery & Sons have established a good reputation."

The partnership of the brothers, however, was dissolved in December 1902. The eldest, James William, who had also served as an alderman on Moss Vale Council from 1901 to 1903, then left the district for good. He had married May Toose in 1898 at Dubbo and eventually they settled in Sydney.

James William died in 1942 and in his will he was listed as a retired commercial traveller.

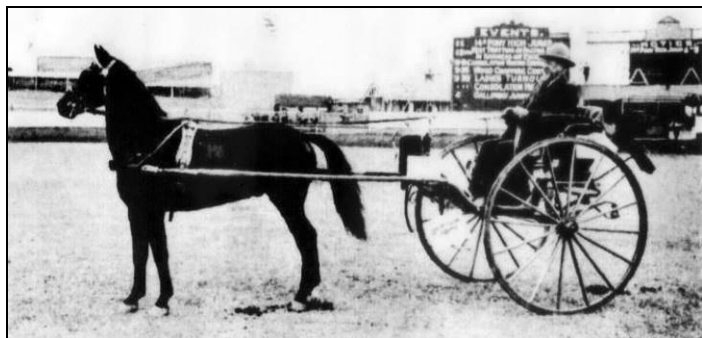
Frederick managed the business by himself until his brother John Edward came back on board in 1903. By this time both were aged in their late twenties and had married - Frederick to Amy Moore of Sydney in 1902 and John to Mary Cockell of Bowral in 1903. Together these two brothers would take the business to new heights of success.

The following year, 1904, was a year of personal loss for the family of James and Euphemia McCleery. In February, at only 19 years of age, their son Arthur Samuel died at the family home. In July that year James senior himself died, aged 70. Both were buried in the Presbyterian section at Christ Church, Bong Bong. The legacy of James McCleery lived on through his sons and the business he founded.

First prize at Sydney Show in 1906

On 20 September 1905 Frederick McCleery filed an Australian Patent for a Harness Vehicle. It detailed improvements in harness methods and the means of attaching horses to vehicles. This new McCleery Patent Harness was immediately seen as ingenious and having many advantages. Frederick thereby gained recognition as an innovative inventor.

His brother John seems to have concentrated on becoming an expert business manager. He is listed in the September 1905 NSW Index to Registers of Firms as the sole person in charge of the coachbuilding, horseshoeing and general blacksmithing business of Jas McCleery & Sons.



The brothers were undoubtedly proud the following year when their phaeton sulky, a light open carriage, was awarded first prize at the 1906 NSW Royal Agricultural Society's Show exhibition in Sydney.

Following this, their sulky was prominently featured in the *Australian Town and Country Journal* of 25 April:

"The firm has been established as coachbuilders in Moss Vale for over 26 years, and has a reputation for first-class work. They build all classes of vehicles. The phaeton sulky, for which they were awarded first prize, and to which was attached the McCleery Patent Harness, was one of the most interesting features of the exhibition. The vehicle itself was very richly finished, and showed to what an artistic point sulky building has been brought.

It was made of the very best material, fitted with ball-bearing axles, acetylene gas lamps, and leather trimmings, with spring cushion and squab. Its seat wings and dashboard were silky oak, and altogether the shape and style of the vehicle excellent.

Attached to the shafts of this vehicle were the fittings belonging to the McCleery Patent Harness, which is really a simple device by means of which a horse can be more easily harnessed to the vehicle. For this patent, the firm was awarded a special prize, and gold medal for the best invention since 1902.

Crowds of people were round the sulky during the whole time of the show, and it kept two members of the firm very busy showing it. Such remarks as 'this is the best thing we have seen at the show' could be often heard. The invention has many advantages over the ordinary harness. It does away with the dangerous projecting ends of shafts, gives the horse a nice appearance, more freedom to work, and, at the same time, affords more control of him by the driver.

Everybody interested in turn-outs would do well to get one of Messrs McCleery & Son's little booklets, which explains all about their patent harness. The invention is an ingenious production and worthy of the attention of people interested in horses and vehicles."

The photo opposite showing the sulky and harness accompanied the *Journal's* article.

The Show award and the resulting publicity brought an increase in orders to the McCleery's. A few years later the *Scrutineer* of 8 March 1911 reported that:

"Messrs Jas McCleery & Sons of Moss Vale inform us that owing to the large demand for their vehicles they have not had time to build any special vehicles for our local show, but hope to have a non-competitive exhibit of one or two sulkies of ordinary style, so that anyone who desires to make a purchase will be able to inspect them at the showground or at their premises. They are exceptionally busy just now with orders locally and from different parts of the colony.

They inform us that they are doing a big country business extending to Tamworth, Dubbo, Wagga, Germanton, Temora, Junee and many other large towns. They are receiving repeat orders, customers being exceptionally pleased with the class of vehicles turned out, and in order to cope with the large and growing business they are busy preparing their premises and re-arranging of present machines in order to make room for a 16-h.p. suction gas engine, also a power hammer for doing all heavy forgings, which they expect to arrive during this week. They also intend to drive a fan or blast with the engine to blow their forges. These additions will make them one of the most up-to-date coach factories in the State. They tell us that later on they intend to still further increase their plant."

The photos courtesy Laurel Ingate

TO BE CONTINUED

New Books in our library

Carolyn Dougherty, Librarian

The books listed below have been catalogued and added to the library since July 2015 with the majority placed in the Reference Collection for use in library only. Great to include several more books relating to the local area. Happy reading.

Frensham: An historical perspective by Susan E. Emilsen. Published 1988. Shelf No.: REF. 11/61.

Tales of Tallong by John Lombard. Published 2015. Shelf No.: REF. 13/249.

Our Liverpool Boys produced by Liverpool City Council as part of the Anzac Commemorating 100 Years Program. Published 2015. Shelf No.: 25/59.

Revised edition of **James McClelland's Convict Pioneer & Immigrant Records of Australia Book No. 2 Vol. 1**. Published 1982. Shelf No.: Ref. 07/13.

Changing Fortunes: A History of Willow Vale, Southern Highlands, N.S.W. by Carolyn Dougherty. Published 2015. Shelf No.: Ref. 13/248.

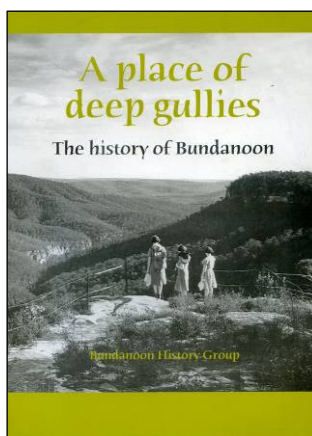
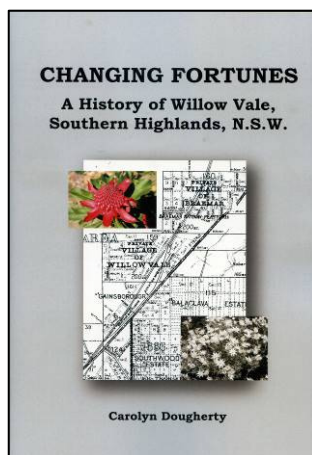
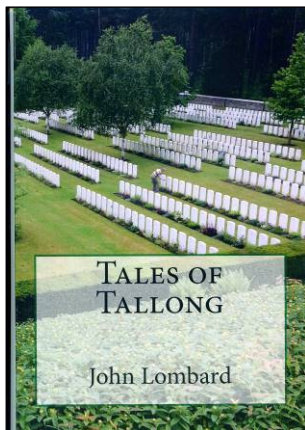
Celebrating 150 years. Mittagong Public School Sesqui-Centenary 1865 - 2015. Shelf No.: Ref. 11/62.

A place of deep gullies: The history of Bundanoon. Produced by the Bundanoon History Group. Shelf No.: Ref. 13/251.

Bowral Bands: the Early Days 1881 - 1899. Shelf No.: Ref. 13/250.

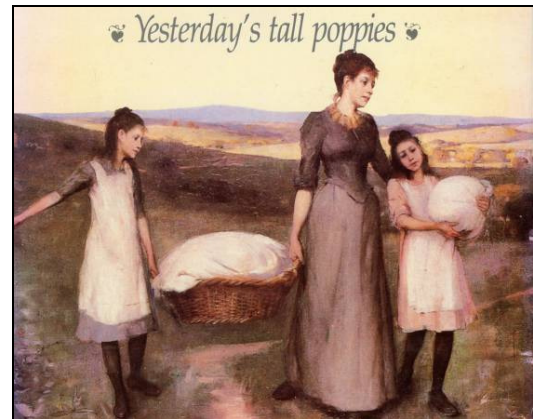
The Spirits of Gallipoli: A Centenary of Anzacs. The stories of 100 Australian soldiers who are commemorated at Gallipoli by Kim Phillips. Published 2015. Shelf No.: 35/75.

Kangaroo March 'Troop Train' Buxton/Thirlmere (NSW) Wednesday - 7th October 2015. Format: DVD. Held in AV.



Hill End Gold by Malcolm Drinkwater. Second Ed. Pub. 2013. Shelf No.: 30/196.

Blue Mountains Dreaming: The Aboriginal Heritage (Second Edition). Published 2009. Shelf No.: REF. 12/01.



Pioneer Women Pioneer Land: Yesterday's tall poppies by Susanna De Vries-Evans. Published 1987. Housed in General Collection.

Mittagong's Picturesque History by Leah Day and Tim McCartney. (Second Copy). Published 1996. Shelf No.: REF. 13/75.

The Women of the 1790 Neptune by Anne Needham with Laurel Riddler, Merle Hadley, Phyllis Scotpt. Published 1992. Shelf No.: REF. 07/86. Nancy Reynolds collection.

Peter Hart 29/09/1910 - 01/02/1970 Who Were You? By Veronica Steep et al. Published 2010. Shelf No.: REF. 01/211.

Exploration between the Wingecarribee, Shoalhaven Macquarie and Murrumbidgee Rivers by R. H. Cambage. Read before the Royal Australian Historical Society July 26th, 1921. Shelf No.: 20/177.

Orange Remembers Boer War 1899 - 1902 by Heather Nicholls. Published 2005 by Orange City Council. Shelf No.: 30/197.

Documentaries - Val Mulcahy, Aboriginal Elder and footage of Joadja property designed by Harry Seidler and featured on TV program Sandcastles. DVD format. Shelf No.: GAV.

Glimpses From The Past: History of Bundanoon. This documentary takes a trip into Bundanoon's past and highlights some of the events that have contributed to the development of the village. Shelf No.: GAV.

General Muster of New South Wales 1814. Dup. copy. To be held in Stack. Edited by Carol J. Baxter. Shelf No.: REF. 07/06.

Hill Top Church Centenary 1916 - 2016. Published 2016. Shelf No.: REF. 09/64.

Memories of Goulburn: Oral history recorded and collated by Heather West and Lynette Brown. Published 2013. Shelf No.: REF. 14/72.

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

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- ARCHIVES:** Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.
OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.
Library collection contains reference books, journals and 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.

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