



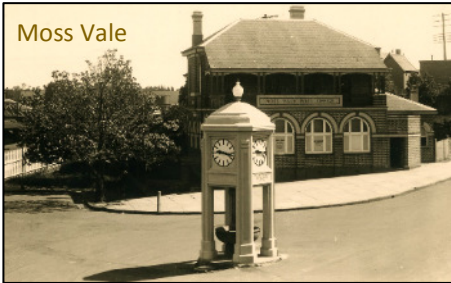
Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

NEWSLETTER

No 489 November 2016

From the President's Desk

I would say that 2016 has been a successful winding down year after a couple of hectic ones. Except just like 'the colt from old Regret'... it has just bolted!

Now we have arrived seamlessly at the month of our AGM when all positions and appointments are declared vacant. So if you are considering nominating yourselves for either the Management Committee (Mittagong) or the Museum Committee (Berrima) please do so at the archives before 15th of November.

Sadly a few of us have other commitments and obligations and will have to move on. We look forward to welcoming new faces (and bodies) on our team.

Reminding you that the AGM is held at the Archives on Thursday 24th at 2pm.

Again I would like to thank both committee members for their unswerving commitment this year to minimize any hurdles or obstacles so that John Schweers at the Museum and myself at the Archives can enjoy our respective posts, stress-free.

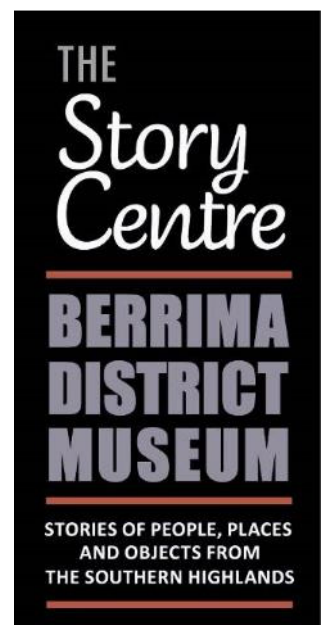


Bruce Moore,
President

Continued on page 2

AGM and GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER MEETING:	Thursday 24 November at 2:00pm	
VENUE:	Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong	
TOPIC:	AGM and General Monthly Meeting	
DECEMBER MEETING:	Thursday 22 December	No Meeting
JANUARY MEETING:	Thursday 26 January	No Meeting
FEBRUARY MEETING:	Thursday 23 February	



From the President

Continued from front page

As volunteers, I really admire the way our meetings, social events, collections and speakers are handled without protest or a grumble. Shelves are built, cabinets moved, banners erected, rooms painted, but most importantly, yummy food is supplied and ravenously enjoyed.

I think there must have been some magic fairies working through the night!

A couple of events were held this year, which should be mentioned, such as the June luncheon.

This was a cozy affair, which saw a crowd of us sitting snugly in a room at the Lion Rampart Hotel in Mittagong and enjoying a tasty meal together.

Both the Archives and Museum organised a 'thank you' luncheon & morning tea for their respective volunteers.

In late October, Linda and Philip assembled a group for a bus tour with car procession to Hill Top, Colo Vale and Balmoral where we were treated to luncheon, courtesy of the Balmoral Village Hall group of ladies. We inspected a monument, sites, historic houses and a disused railway cutting that excited us train buffs.

Accolades go to all our unnamed archivists, researchers, librarians, photographers, catalogers, filers and recorders who regularly arrive and work tirelessly. You know who you are and you keep this Society running.

Thank you.

A bloke rang Max in the middle of the night one Sunday and asked, "what time do you open?"

Max replied, "I'll be there around 9 o'clock in the morning. What time would suit you to come in?"

The bloke retorted, "Come in? I want to get out! I've been inside here since Saturday."

Notice of BDH&FHS Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Berrima District Historical & Family History Society will be held on 24 November 2016 in the Meeting Room, Old Council Building, Bowral Rd, Mittagong.

AGENDA: to confirm minutes of 2015 AGM; to receive and confirm financial and Auditor's reports; annual election of office bearers, committee members and position holders; Annual Report from President; vote of thanks and call for questions from members.

The AGM will take place following the Monthly General Meeting at 2:00pm.

Cr Ken Halstead, recently elected to the position of Wingecarribee Shire Mayor, has accepted the invitation to be Patron of our Society. He will join with us at the November meeting.

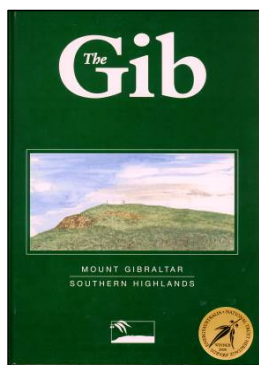
Nominations & appointments

For the attention of BDH&FHS Office Bearers, Other Committee Members, Appointed Position Holders and any prospective nominees: Nomination and Appointment Forms are available. These forms are to be lodged with the Secretary by Tuesday, 15 November for consideration at the AGM.

The Gib book now on-line

Now available in full on Wingecarribee Shire Council web site is the book *The Gib: Mount Gibraltar, Southern Highlands*.

It was first published in 2007 and later reprinted by the Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare Group under the auspices of the Council.



It provides a freely available, attractive and well researched social, industrial and environmental history of the site. An updated Appendix has been added that maintains the book's importance as a reference source. Go to the home page of wsc.nsw.gov.au and 'search' Mount Gibraltar.

- from BDHS member Jane Lemann

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Just a reminder that renewals are now due. Please remember to mail or email renewal form when paying by bank transfer.

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. Phone John 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

Research fees

Research fees for non-members:

\$20.00 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.

Membership details

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

Would you consider . . .

As we all know Australia Post has significantly increased their postal charges and, as we have a sizable membership, the cost for postage each month is quite substantial. It would help if more members agree to receive the newsletter by email.

We thank the numerous members who have already responded to this appeal. For those of you who prefer receiving the newsletter by post, we assure you the printed version will continue to be issued.

Invite to our Christmas lunch

Society members and their guests are warmly invited to our Christmas lunch gathering, to be held this year at the popular Bowral Bowling Club.

This will take place on Friday 2 December, 12:00 for 12:30pm. The cost is \$35 per head.

Lunch will be a self-serve buffet with a fine selection of traditional Christmas fare:

Mains

Roast seasoned turkey with cranberry sauce
Glazed baked leg of lamb with apple sauce
Roast leg of lamb with brown gravy,

Desserts

Traditional plum pudding with brandy custard
Australian pavlova with fruits & cream
Tea and coffee included.

There will be a Raffle and Lucky Door prizes.

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

Recent tour to Hill Top/Balmoral and human endeavour sculpture

Society members recently participated in a bus tour to the Wingecarribee Shire's northern villages.

After a tour of Hill Top and morning tea in the park, the tour proceeded to the 78-foot high Big Hill Railway Cutting for a spectacular walk along a section of the rail line. Excavated by hand and explosives in the 1860s, it is a monument to the workers' endeavour.

A stop was made near the bridge over the cutting to view the concrete monument, a sculpture to human endeavour, erected in 1980. Linda Emery paid tribute to the sculptor, German-born Simon Joe Enfield, who had retired to Balmoral. Next was a visit to Balmoral's third school, built in 1893, which today is a private residence. Tour members were fascinated by the classroom where much of the original layout remains.

Balmoral Village Association members welcomed our tour group into the Balmoral Hall where tables were set and tea and coffee provided, enabling the group to enjoy the lunch prepared by Linda Emery and her team of helpers.

After lunch the bus headed to the Old Hume Highway and into Old South Road, where Aylmerton House, an historic property built around 1870, was visited. The original section of the house has been completely restored and additions made. It is now a luxurious country retreat.

All agreed it was an enjoyable and interesting day. Thanks to Linda Emery and Chris Moore for photos.



Tour group members in the Big Hill Cutting.



Gathered around the memorial sculpture.



In the former Balmoral School grounds, owner Janine King (left) with Carolyn Dougherty, Chris Moore and Peter Doris.



The front entrance of historic Aylmerton House.

History unearthed, now at Museum

Recently a hand-made, wooden water pipe arrived at our museum in Berrima. This unusual acquisition was delivered by staff from Wingecarribee Shire Council's Mittagong Water and Sewer Depot.

It was quite a surprise to Council staff when the rare old water pipe, also known as a wooden stave pipe, was spotted in a corner of the depot by Construction Team Leader Frank Van Haeff.

It had been excavated at Moss Vale by Council water crews in 2006 and has lain undisturbed ever since. In recognition of its significance, it was decided the curio deserved a more appropriate home.



WSC staff Peter Gagin and Frank Van Haeff deliver the water pipe to the museum.



WSC staff hold the water pipe with museum volunteers and three sisters (in centre) who were visiting the museum on the day. Photos: David Sommers

To store it under the museum building until it can be incorporated into a public display, a modern pipe was donated by Reece Pty Ltd Plumbing Suppliers.

The WSC Media and Communications Coordinator, David Sommers has researched the history of stave pipes for a forthcoming Council newsletter. We thank him for providing us with some background. His predecessor, Geoff Goodfellow, was on the job when the pipe was unearthed.

He provided the following 'scoop' to the local media including the *Southern Highland News*:

"Wooden water pipes unearthed in Moss Vale"

by Geoff Goodfellow, 30 March 2006

"A Wingecarribee Shire Council road crew unearthed wooden water pipes this week when doing some excavations along Suttor Road in Moss Vale.

They were able to carefully dig out a length that included two intact collars about eighteen feet apart in an almost perfectly preserved section.

Our experienced Council staff have been scratching their collective heads to work out when and why wooden pipes would have been used. We know that when the original Moss Vale water supply began pumping water up to town from the Bong Bong reservoir in 1894 there were around six miles of reticulation pipes of 6, 4 and 3 inch diameter laid around the main streets of Moss Vale. These were cast iron pipes, so the use of wooden pipes remains a bit of a mystery.

This old section of pipe is wrapped in a wire that hasn't rusted and seems to have been treated with some sort of bitumen. The lads have dug up wooden pipes before, particularly in Bowral around Merrigang Street and also in other parts of Moss Vale."

Geoff asked if any readers knew more about wooden water pipes and their use in Wingecarribee Shire, to contact him:

"Following our request for more information in the *Southern Highland News* this week, several people have come forward with information that is starting to give us a clearer picture of the use of wooden water pipes.

However, despite this new knowledge, we still haven't nailed anything that can confirm how old our pipes are. Similar pipes were used in the 1880s at Corowa, which is the time we suspected wooden pipes were used in Wingecarribee Shire, but we don't really know that for sure.

Lifelong local John Burgoyne recalls digging wooden pipes up on a building site between the two motels along the old Hume Highway at Mittagong. It was rumoured at the time they may have had something to do with the Maltings, according to John.

Former Bowral Council Alderman Col McPhedran grew up in Burma, where bamboo pipes were all the go. But he also remembers digging up wooden water pipes in Cliff Street Bowral many years ago. They took water from a spring coming off the hill."

BDHS research into wooden water pipes on the web has found some information on an archived Migration Heritage website featuring an 1880 Wood Staved Pipe found at Liverpool and held in the Liverpool Regional Museum collection. The site informs that similar pipes have been unearthed in other parts of

Sydney and the Southern Highlands, yet the reasons for their usage remain largely a mystery.

Two similar wooden water pipes on display at the Corowa Museum were apparently used at Corowa for the town water supply in the late nineteenth century. Like the one from Liverpool and Wingecarribee, they are made by joining sections of wood that are bound together with wire. In regard to the Liverpool pipe, it is stated that "the wood staved pipe has aesthetic significance in the design and manufacture of Victorian building materials, bores, tunnels and pipes. It is significant for further research as one of the few existing in Australian public collections."

Further historical information

David Sommers has provided the following details about wooden pipe history and usage.

Wooden stave pipes are amongst the earliest examples of below-surface pipes used in Australia to feed water. Indeed, the issue of providing clean and convenient water can be traced back to our fledgling colony's original colonial-built water supply - the *Tank Stream*. This open cut water drain in Hyde Park was closed due to pollution and disease in 1826. That's less than 40 years after the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove in 1788!

As a result, pioneers around Sydney and other early colonial settlements, including our own Shire, began looking at cleaner and more reliable ways to transport water for human consumption. This search led them underground and following the lead from the United States and Europe, wooden stave pipes were among the first below-surface pipes used in Australia for this purpose.

At the height of their popularity and high demand in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, these pipes were assembled on the job by skilled tradesmen. This helped reduce expensive transport and labour costs.

Meticulous construction methods were used when building wooden stave pipes. Most were constructed using several pieces of bevelled wood, usually hard wood like eucalyptus, and then bound with iron wire binding. This process was not dissimilar to how beer barrels were made. In fact specialist coopers were often employed to make the timber pipes on site. Once complete the pipe was then coated in bitumen to help water-proof the finished product.

Our Suttor Road wooden stave pipe was unearthed by Noel O'Malley's crew in 2006. Unfortunately the maker remains anonymous because, unlike modern UPVC blue brute pipes, the timber pipe doesn't contain any manufacturing or identifying information.

Also unknown are the exact date of construction and when the pipe was laid. Best guesses from old hands suggest the pipe could be over 100 years old and was possibly used as an original main-line feeding from the Bong Bong Reservoir or Cecil Hoskins Reserve.

These assumptions pose further questions because Council records show that Moss Vale's original water supply of 1894 was constructed with some six miles of varying diameter cast iron pipe.

Other examples of wooden pipes, however, have previously been unearthed in some of the Shire's older established areas including Merrigang and Cliff Streets in Bowral and along the Old Hume Highway in Mittagong.

Sadly, few examples still exist today of this unique Victorian-era building practice and it wasn't long before modern construction practices caught up with the plumbing industry. Wooden stave pipes soon made way for cast-iron, cement-lined, asbestos and today's UPVC pipes. Although still used in some parts of the world - including America - wooden stave pipes are no longer used in our Shire. In fact very few examples of original Australian wooden stave pipes exist today. Notable exceptions include displays in Sydney's Powerhouse Museum and at Corowa's Federation Museum on the Victorian border.

But that will change thanks to the efforts of Frank Van Haeff and Graeme Mellor from the Mittagong Depot. The Berrima District Museum has now secured this fine example of early Australian building technique and construction infrastructure.



In it goes - for safe keeping until it becomes a display item.

- compiled by Lyn Hall and Philip Morton

Archivist's report

Linda Emery

For me, the most important part of the annual Archives Report is to thank all the volunteers who keep the archives humming on the three days a week that we open to the public, as well as the many other days when the 'behind the scenes' work is done. We have a wonderful group of 25 people who come in each week, including several new recruits. As well as dealing with all the administration of the Society, they assist visitors to our archives, undertake research, digitising and cataloguing, indexing and publications to name but a little of the work they do. Our volunteers are the backbone of the archives and happily help our members and the general public to access our collection. Members who feel they would like to join us in the work we do, even if it is only for a few hours, are always very welcome.

During the year I have undertaken another review of our Collections Policy and have recently completed rewriting it. The document was submitted to the Management Committee meeting, and once approved will be available on our website.

We had a very successful Open Day at the archives in July, welcoming many visitors and researchers who had not been to our research centre before. We were able to help a number of people with their local and family history questions, as well as showcasing our collections. One very pleasing aspect of the day was the contact made by Carolyn Dougherty with John Murray of Willow Vale, who brought in a treasure trove of photos of the village from the 1920s onwards. Our holdings were previously quite small, so with John allowing us to scan them, and the publication of Carolyn's book on Willow Vale, *Changing Fortunes*, we now have a much better record of this northern village.

Another highlight during the year was the donation from the Southern Highlands News of bound copies of the newspaper. I suspect that our conservation team, in particular Roberta, would be more likely to call it a flood, but the end result is that Roberta is steadily working through all our newspaper holdings to identify duplicates, missing issues and other conundrums to ensure that we have as complete a record as possible. It has, and continues to be, a mammoth job which has meant moving and rehusing the papers. Additional shelving has been ordered and will soon accommodate our increased holdings. Bravo to all involved.

Several volunteers are diligently scanning our Biography files into PDF format, another huge job but one that fulfils several roles. Importantly, it means that we will have a digital record of the material collected in these files over more than 50 years which is stored on our archives computers, off-site on an external hard drive and backed up to the cloud. It also means that if we have an enquiry from a researcher for information on a particular person or family, we can easily email the full file to them for our standard research fee of \$25.

I have accessioned 27 items or collections during the year all of which have added to our wonderful holdings. Our archive represents the collective memory of the Wingecarribee Shire and as such is a very precious resource of which members can be justly proud.

Museum manager's report

John Schweers

I am pleased to report that it has been a very successful year in the operation of the Society's Museum / Story Centre.

We have had over 3600 adult visitors plus children and members this year. This generated a small surplus after paying expenses. Check out the financial statement included with the newsletter for the complete details.

The museum continues to be a successful enterprise operated by a dedicated team of volunteers who give their time to fulfill the tasks and duties required.

The museum is being well promoted by the Council's Welcome Centre in Mittagong who feature it as part of the Berrima experience as well appearing on various web sites.

The museum team can take pride in being part of a great museum from the glowing comments that are made by visitors in its visitor's book. I would like to acknowledge the work of Sylvia Carless who has the challenging task of managing the volunteer rooster. Having to organize 10 to 14 volunteers each week is a mighty task done so well by Sylvia.

The garden which is maintained by Brian Carless is always a picture all year round and makes a lasting impression on visitors and the committee. Thanks to Brian for all his efforts.

Gloria Williams does a terrific job in cataloguing and managing the museum collection. She has an excellent and dedicated team who work most Mondays. They are Lyn O'Reilly, Grahame O'Reilly, Marg Muntz, Cosette Hamilton, Yvonne Souter and Bob Williams. It is our collection of artefacts and the stories researched by our team that make our Story Centre a top and award winning museum.

I also thank the Museum committee of Harold Wall, Sylvia Carless, Michele Woods, Harlan Hall and especially secretary Lyn Hall for ensuring that we are running an efficient museum.

I must mention and thank Michele Woods for her contribution to the museum and the committee. She is taking a break from the committee this coming year and we hope that she can rejoin in the future.

We have made good progress in the past year with a number of important projects, including the following:

Filling in the spaces around the bottom of the building for security and fire safety. This project was made possible from our fundraising and the generous contribution of professional building labour from Bruce Stokes and Phil Langley. Their building efforts are greatly appreciated. All up this project was worth \$3000.

The installation of the new signs and banners. Thanks to Lyn Hall for producing the artwork and working with the supplier and Bruce Stokes and Phil Langley for the installation. The project was worth \$4000, covered by fundraising and a Council Community Grant of \$2500.

Two additional security cameras, one in the Klein Room and one in the Arcady Room. This project was worth \$1500 including \$1000 from fundraising and installation donated by Mathew Burke Electrical.

Two new curved video screens and video drivers have been installed in the Arcady room to replace the older models which were outdated. The front counter in the reception area has been relocated to create more space for visitors. New LED showcase lights have been installed in the Klein Room showcases.

Looking forward, the museum committee already has a list of new projects that we will undertake in the coming year.

Once again my thanks to all that work to make our museum the success that it is.

Treasurer's report

Patricia Doris

For this fourth period as Society Treasurer, I will be pleased to present the Annual Financial Statements for 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016. I will be available to explain further at the Annual General Meeting.

Research report

Max Rogers

The archives has had another successful year regarding information wanted for research purposes. Requests for information come in by email or phone or by personal visit, we have visitors from all over New South Wales plus other Australian states; we have even had a couple of visitors from overseas.

The yearly totals (up to the end of October) for research requests received this year are: Phone 489, Email 434, and Personal 248. Year to end of October total: 1720 different requests. This total is considerably higher than for the same period last year, which was 1335.

Most requests can be answered and information supplied; once again some researchers have reciprocated by sending us information. Some of our own members have supplied information and photos: Alan and Madeline Strachan on Moss Vale Police Station and residence; Leonie Knapman on the Maltings and the original Visitor Information Centre in Winifred West Park now called the Welcome Centre; other members have also supplied information.

Librarian's report

Carolyn Dougherty

2016 has been a very quiet year at the Archives library. The loans book shows only 26 items have been borrowed over the year so far with a similar number of items added to the collection. Few local history publications were received over the last 12 months. Most of the loans registered were to volunteers undertaking research projects on behalf of the Society. The policy of not allowing reference books to be borrowed contributes to the low loan numbers. This restriction is necessary as many of our reference books are now out of print and cannot be replaced. We do however hold a substantial number of books in our open collection and I encourage all members to visit the Archives and check out the library shelves. You may just find that wonderful book that will encourage you to find a shady spot and help you retain your sanity over the coming festive season.

Season's greetings to all our volunteers and members.

Newsletter report

Lavinia Ford

Thank you to the volunteers for your newsletter assistance. The 2016 newsletter distribution has decreased by 11. We distribute 267 newsletters to 323 members, and a further 23 to other societies and legal deposits, giving a total of 290 newsletters. Of that, to members, 109 were posted and 158 were emailed. To legal deposits and other societies, 12 were posted and 11 were emailed.

Members Newsletters

Honorary Life Members	4	3
Single Members	208	208
Family Members	110	55
Organisations	1	1
	<u>323</u>	<u>*267</u>

Wingecarribee	203
NSW Country	32
NSW Metro	21
ACT	5
QLD	3
SA, VIC	1
England	1
	<u>*267</u>

The majority of members reside in the Wingecarribee (191) and is divided as follows: Bowral (63), Mittagong (57), Moss Vale (22), Bundanoon (17), Burradoo (10), Berrima (4), Colo Vale (3), Hill Top (3), Exeter (3), Willow Vale (3), Kangaloon (2), New Berrima (2), Sutton Forest (2), and one each for other villages.

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), 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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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), Denyse Barker and Robyn Arrowsmith