



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 492 March 2017

### From the President's Desk

We are still smarting from the death of our ace researcher, Max Rogers, last month. Max was always at the centre of our archive activities.

Condolences have been flooding in from many sources to acknowledge the man.

Cards and emails have arrived from members and friends, one notably from the Fellowship of First Fleeters who Max helped many times. They suggested his loss would be felt "not only to your Society but to the Wingecarribee Shire."

There's no doubt about that-we miss you Max.

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Anniversaries throughout the Southern Highlands are occurring thick and fast. In early March exactly 150 years ago the 1st steam engine arrived at Mittagong Station, formerly New Sheffield (see article) puffing all the way from Sydney.

This 'iron horse' ran on rails incidentally, made on site, at the FitzRoy Iron Works in



Bruce Moore,  
President

*Continued on page 2*

### GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

**MARCH MEETING:** Thursday 23 March at 2pm

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

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** James Walters

James will present a brief history of photography and speak about the conservation and repair of damaged, degraded photographs and the digitization of images

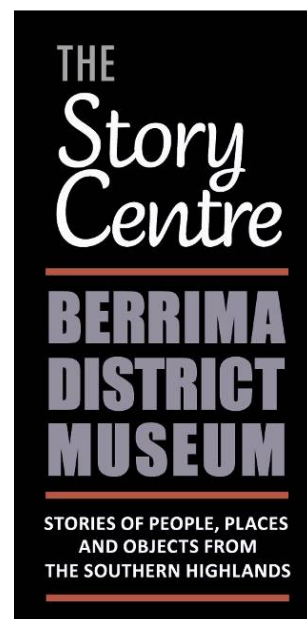
**AFTERNOON TEA:** To be served following the speaker. Members please bring a plate or a donation.

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**APRIL MEETING:** Thursday 27 April at 2:00pm

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:** *To be announced.*



## From the President

*Continued from front page*

Mittagong.

Brigadoon at Bundanoon turns 40 this April. Who'd have thought it!

We know the canny Scots were clever inventors of the steam engine and among other things they exported golf, their particular brand of whisky, Sean Connery, Billy Connolly, the kilt and not forgetting the lowly shortbread---their National Biscuit.

Mary Queen of Scots was so thrifty that she made sure shortbread was only eaten on Christmas Day and Hogmanay (New Years Day.) Later the Scots found an excuse to break out the shortbread biscuit on Robbie Burns' birthday.

So to celebrate this auspicious occasion there is a local shortbread baking competition you can enter this month. First prize will be announced on April 1<sup>st</sup> and is said to be worth \$250.

For more details visit [www.brigadoon.org.au/festival/shortbread](http://www.brigadoon.org.au/festival/shortbread)

Having a shot at the Scots I did hear once a first prize offered to a lucky Scottish couple was a haggis dinner. The runner-up scored a haggis dinner for 2, whilst serenaded by doleful bagpipes during their meal!

No one is sure about the origins of Scottish food. Some say the Romans built Hadrian's Wall to keep all their tasty tucker down south.

There's a cheeky sign at the border saying "BYO FOOD".

Porridge and smoked haddock are still part of their staple diet, but I can easily give the deep fried Mars bars a big miss!

To give Scots chefs their due, a juicy Aberdeen Angus steak is something to die for. Perhaps that's going a bit too far.

How about this one:

In some Scottish restaurants they heat the knives so you can't use too much butter.

## Archives opening hours

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

## 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:

\$25.00 per hour/part thereof for email, telephone and postal enquiries.

\$5.00 per hour/part thereof for those 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](mailto:bdhsarchives@gmail.com)

### Mittagong station's birthday



This lavishly presented birthday cake was cut and shared in a ceremony at Mittagong Station on 6 March to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the station's opening in 1867. An article on its history is provided in this newsletter.

## National Trust event in March

### 'Conviction' a National Trust Event at Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall, Berrima in aid of Harper's Mansion

Gay Hendriksen will speak about the Parramatta Female Factory c1802 - 1827 on Thursday 30 March, starting with lunch at 12 noon.

Gay will shine the spotlight on daily experiences of the women in the female factory system, with the focus on the Parramatta Female Factory - Riot Day!

The archeological finds from the site have been in the news recently and, although Gay is focusing on the early years of its existence, she is well acquainted and up-to-date on site happenings.

Gay Hendriksen has worked as an art and history curator, writer, educator and director in the museum and gallery environment for over 25 years researching and interpreting cultural, local and family histories. She has specialised in women's history within Australian cultural heritage.

The cost to attend the talk and a light lunch beforehand is \$35. Afterwards Harper's Mansion will be open for those wishing to view the Mansion and garden and maybe visit the shop.

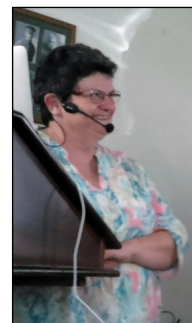
A booking form containing all payment details is available on line at Harper's website or may be obtained from Suzanne Douglass on 0407 612133.

Closing date for bookings is 24 March.

### Trove presentation handout

In February, our meeting room was filled to capacity by those interested to hear Jenny Higgins speak about the National Library's Trove website.

Jenny provided an overview of the site, and demonstrated a number of techniques by which users could improve their search results. For those who missed out, copies of the handout may be obtained from the Secretary at the archives. As well, Frank Mitchell is keen to form a Trove user's group for BDHS volunteers and is also willing to provide one-on-one guidance.





## A brief history of photography

### Our March General Meeting speaker is

James Walters, of Vivid Recollection

James will present a brief history of photography and speak about the conservation and repair of damaged, degraded photographs and the digitization of images.



Vivid Recollection is a Canberra-based company run by James, which uses advanced digital technology to restore damaged slides, photos and documents, including old maps, charts and certificates.

The company has a scanning centre in Wahroonga and has teamed up with framing shops in Sydney, Brisbane, Gosford and Adelaide. It has done work for the BDHS on old photographs from our collection which needed specialised scanning.

James set up the company several years ago with his sister Rachel, to bring faded memories back to life. This was after he discovered a shoebox of forgotten family slides and negatives at his father's sixtieth birthday and taught himself how to restore the images digitally. The enthusiastic response convinced them to help other families with boxes of old photos.

James developed his skills through studies in fine arts and 15 years' experience as a graphic designer in publishing, advertising and communications. He is a keen amateur photographer with an eye for colour and composition. Vivid Recollection has worked for a variety of clients including genealogists, war veterans, memorabilia collectors, hurricane survivors and thoughtful gift-givers.

James developed his skills through studies in fine arts and 15 years' experience as a graphic designer in publishing, advertising and communications. He is a keen amateur photographer with an eye for colour and composition. Vivid Recollection has worked for a variety of clients including genealogists, war veterans, memorabilia collectors, hurricane survivors and thoughtful gift-givers. Some examples of 'before and after' image restorations.

Come along on Thursday 23 March to be enthralled.

## Wombeyan Caves stereo collection

The Image Library on the Society's website now holds over two thousand local historic images available for viewing and purchase. Amongst these are more than 30 stereoscopic images taken at Wombeyan Caves.

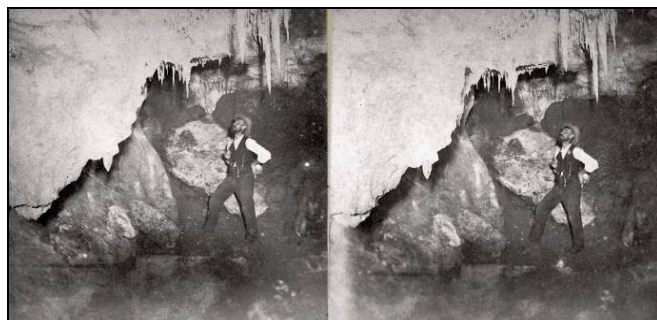
These images are from the Taylor collection, donated to the BDHS by descendants of the Taylor family who had once lived at Moss Vale. When donated, these images were in very poor condition. To enhance their value, Linda Emery chose Vivid Recollection to do the cleaning, repairing and scanning of the images. The transformation was beyond expectations. The images shown below are from the enhanced collection.



Three men on the Wombeyan Caves road which opened in January 1900. The photographer, Charles Taylor, operated Taylor Bros Store at Moss Vale with his brother William.



In front of the original Caretaker's cottage at Wombeyan Caves in 1899. The group includes Charles Taylor and another photographer Ernest Brocke (seated front right).



Cave formation, Wombeyan Caves, 1899.



## Vale Robert Maxwell Rogers

Max Rogers, our Research Officer, passed away at Bowral Hospital on 1 February 2017.

Members of our Historical Society and a great many people within the Southern Highlands' community have very good reason to be grateful to Max for the research assistance he provided them. His research covered everything from family history to the history of local residences, buildings and organisations. Max was always friendly, willing to assist and generous with his time.

Robert Maxwell Rogers, or 'Max' as he preferred to be known, was born in 1937 at Orange, NSW. After completing his schooling there, Max worked at a local newspaper and then moved to Sydney in the late 1950s to join the staff of the *Sydney Morning Herald* as a linotype compositor. He subsequently became proficient at computerised photo-typesetting systems as these were progressively brought online.

During his years in Sydney, Max occasionally visited the Southern Highlands with work mates to play golf. Retirement prompted a permanent move to Bowral.



Professor R Ian Jack, RAHS President, presents Max with an Achievement Award at the 2006 Conference, Hornsby

Max joined the Berrima District Historical Society in 1995 and almost immediately began volunteering at the archives in Mittagong. By the end of that year, he had taken on the role of librarian and in 1999 he added another string to his bow - Research Officer. Throughout his many years as a volunteer he donated countless books and other publications to our research library, contributing in a major way to this outstanding resource.

In 2006, Max received a Certificate of Achievement from the Royal Australian Historical Society for his service to our Society and, as it says on the award, for "his wonderful enthusiasm for history and its practitioners". This award was followed in 2009 by Honorary Life Membership of the BDH&FHS for his outstanding contribution to its work. This is the highest honour our Society can give and there was never a member more deserving of it.



Max's passion was research. The countless hours spent at the archives - almost every day - together with many hours of research at home, were done because he loved it. He never dismissed any query, no matter how trivial or obscure, and persevered long after others would have given up. His knowledge of the resources held in the archives was amazing.

Many members have been the recipients of Max's thoughtfulness and generosity. He gave so much yet never asked for - nor expected - anything in return. He was humble, caring, reserved, loyal, tenacious and generous.

There are very few people in this world who tread so lightly and yet leave such large footprints. Max was one of those people. He was truly a man without enemy - and many friends. We are so grateful to have been able to enjoy his friendship, company and collaboration over the years.

Max will be sorely missed by his many friends, family and colleagues.

## Mittagong station's 150th birthday

The Great Southern Railway extension from Picton to Nattai (Mittagong) opened to traffic on 1 March 1867.

The route was selected in 1862 by John Whitton, Engineer-in-Chief for the NSW Government Railway. He chose the least expensive way which traversed a ridge on the western side of the Bargo River. In doing so he avoided the more direct line carrying the Great Southern Road (now Old Hume Highway) through the Bargo Brush that would have required bridges and tunnels beyond the means of the colony at the time.

Mittagong was the southern railway terminus until contractors completed the line to Bowral and Moss Vale, where stations opened on 2 December 1867. Moss Vale Station (initially named Sutton Forest) was then the terminus until the line reached Goulburn station, which opened to traffic in May 1869.

This year, 2017, we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, or Sesquicentenary, of services between Picton and Moss Vale on the Great Southern Railway, and the opening of Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale stations.

The official opening of the Picton-Nattai section of line was held on 28 February 1867. A special 15 carriage train left Sydney at 10:00am conveying Members of Parliament and distinguished visitors to Nattai. Along the way, more people boarded at Picton and the carriages were divided between two engines to cope with the steep grades ahead. The opening function was held at the new station, named Mittagong, an Aboriginal word which had already been adopted as the locality's parish name. The first train arrived at 1:30pm to an occasion described as being like a fair with refreshment booths and sundry amusements. The senior district member, John Morrice MLA, took the chair and many speeches and toasts were made. A luncheon was attended by 160 paying guests and, in tents nearby, Larkin & Wakeford, the company that built the line, provided food and ale for its 200 navvies and their families.

On 1 March 1867 the single line was handed over to the government and opened to traffic. Loop lines and refuge sidings had been provided at intervals so opposing trains could pass, or slower goods trains overtaken. It would be another 50 years before a duplicated line was built on an alternate alignment through Bargo.

In 1867 the station complex consisted of one platform (now Platform 1) and a small station building. The platform was set back from the main line, on a loop siding. There was another short loop line on the other side of the main line adjacent to an engine turntable, 40 foot (12.1m) in diameter, set in its rotational pit, and connected to the main line by a short siding. This arrangement allowed engines of terminating trains, once detached, to be turned and shunted to the train's other end for the return journey.

From 1867 a goods shed was in use near the Sydney end of the platform and connected to the main line by a short siding. Level crossings were installed at both ends of the station complex for road traffic.

A temporary refreshment room, opened in 1870, was replaced in 1873 with a more substantial two-storey building which housed the first Railway Refreshment Room on the Southern Line where food, beverages and accommodation were available.

In 1874 a Stationmaster's residence was built nearby in Victorian Rustic Gothic style. It remains a feature in the landscape and, although no longer owned by State Rail, is a part of the station's heritage precinct.

In 1881 a 5-tonne crane was installed in the railway yards and a water supply system with tank, pump and jib was erected to provide steam locomotives with their essential supply. The engine turntable was later removed and transferred to Moss Vale. In 1882 Mittagong Station's platform was extended by some dozen yards (15 metres) at the Sydney end and a large parcels office and toilets were erected.

In 1891 Mittagong's Railway Refreshment Room was closed and the facility replaced with one built at Moss Vale Station. This change was at the request of the Governor, Baron Carrington, who alighted at Moss Vale for his Sutton Forest country residence, Hillview, and did not want to be kept waiting at Mittagong while refreshments were taken. The Refreshment Room at Mittagong was opened again briefly during the first and second World Wars.

Today the Mittagong precinct is an important regional railway complex. Its Victorian Georgian buildings remain substantially intact and are an important civic landmark in the townscape of Mittagong.



**This Mittagong Station photo shows the Refreshment Rooms after their completion in 1873.**

In foreground is engine turntable pit and on right is an early goods railway wagon loaded with building stone blocks at the buffer stops. Frank Mitchell notes that there were no continuous brakes on wagons in those early days, and what appears to be possibly a wagon wheel 'sprag' is shown lying in the foreground, (it looks like a cricket bat) that would have been used to 'sprag' wagon wheels on the siding to prevent them from rolling away down the line.

- compiled by Philip Morton with the assistance of Frank Mitchell and Marg Muntz



## Member Philip King remembered

Michael King of Hornsby wrote to the Society recently in regard to the 'Phil King Boathouse' built in 1980 by his father at the side of our museum in Berrima.

Michael stated that he had visited the museum and, while he understood the necessity of removing the boathouse to make way for the new Williams Gallery, he lamented the museum's lack of acknowledgement of his father's many contributions to the Society and the museum.

The matter was raised with John Schweers, museum manager, and exhibition volunteer Lyn Hall, who both regretted the oversight. Our 'Celebrating 50 Years' book outlines the Society's history since its inception in 1960 and the role of volunteer members at the museum and archives. There are still, however, untold stories and thought is being given to how these stories may live on.

Presented here is an overview of Phil's contributions, compiled from the memories of members who knew him, and from entries in Society minutes, newsletters and archives files. Phil King's daughter Lyndal, who lives locally, has been contacted and has provided memories and some photos. Our Secretary has responded to the letter from Michael who is most pleased that his father's story is being revived.

So what purpose did the 'Phil King Boathouse' serve and why was it so named?

In his retirement, Philip King became a member of the Society during the 1970s. He was a friend of member Edwin Klein and they helped 'transport' the front section of Weyhill, a weatherboard cottage at Moss Vale donated to the BDHS by Frank Lansley. It was moved to the current site at Market Place, Berrima, which Wingecarribee Shire Council made available in 1975 as the location for the Society's museum. After volunteers renovated and cleaned the cottage, it opened as the museum's first building in 1976. Phil assisted with two extensions added over subsequent years.

Phil served from 1982 as both Society Vice President and a member of the Museum Committee until his death in September 1992. He also served periods as Property Officer and contributed to the newsletter, gave talks and led outings.

In 1978 a dug-out canoe, 17 feet in length, built by German internees at Berrima during WW I, was discovered by Steve Dickman, Council noxious weed inspector, in undergrowth along the Wingecarribee River after heavy floods.

The discovery became a matter of local interest and our Historical Society was approached regarding its preservation. Phil King offered to repair the badly distorted canoe, took it to his home at Moss Vale and used sheet lead to restore and hold the shape.

The story of the canoe revived interest in the German internee period at Berrima and the canoe was later identified by Society Archivist John Simons as being the hull of *Stortebeker*, one of the canoes featured in photos of regattas held on the river by internees.

In 1980 a structure with protective wire mesh walls and an iron roof was erected at the west side of the museum to house and showcase the canoe.

In 1990 the museum curator, Mrs Bonnie Pierce, requested approval from the Society Council (now called the Management Committee) for permission to extend the boathouse, at a cost of approximately \$2,000, with most of the work done by volunteers. The existing structure was to be used for the display of blacksmith shop tools.

On 29 June 1991 the new Boathouse was declared officially open by Shire President, Peter Reynolds in a brief ceremony. In the August 1991 newsletter, Mrs Pierce reported that: "The Phil King Boathouse has now been completed. The first section of the building was designed and built by Phil King, and the extension to it was designed and supervised by member David Kemmis. Two members from Corrective Services at Berrima, namely Warwick and Kevin, along with John Smith, the Officer-in-Charge of the Activities Section, carried out the construction and yeoman service was performed by all concerned. Phil King and his wife Kath, along with members of their family, friends and members of the BDHS were present. The Boathouse was greatly admired and should be an attraction for visitors to the museum."

Phil is remembered as saying after the ceremony that "most people have to wait until they're dead to have something named after them".



The extended structure had see-through panels, timber cladding and an iron roof. It was set up in such a way that visitors to Berrima could easily view the canoe, even when the Museum was closed.

In October 1992, Society President Joe Ford wrote in the newsletter that "the Society suffered a great loss on the death of Vice President Mr Philip King on 11 September 1992. Mr King was a very active member and staunch supporter right up to the time of his death. His memory is perpetuated by the 'Phil King Boathouse' at the museum, named in his honour in recognition of his tremendous efforts."

Bob Williams became museum Curator in November 1997. He and the museum committee decided that, as the internees' dug-out canoe was irreplaceable and of local, national and international heritage significance, it would be better protected if brought inside the museum. A major museum extension, the Federation Room, was completed in 1999. The canoe was moved into a section of the new room as a permanent display. That year the Society launched 'Prisoners in Arcady' the book by John Simons about the WWI German Internment Camp.

In 2009 the expanded Prisoners in Arcady exhibition opened in the renovated Federation Room, where the canoe remained in pride of place. The outside boathouse was used for storage until dismantled in early 2014 to make way for the new gallery.

\* \* \*

Philip Moses King was born on 29 March 1911 at Lithgow, NSW. In 1914 his mother, Katherine Louisa, moved to Moss Vale as a sole parent with Philip and her older children. To support the family she became a midwife, delivering numerous local children.

On 7 October 1992 the *Southern Highland News* published a tribute to Philip King written by his eldest grandchild, Tony King. After briefly describing his grandfather's origins and arrival in Moss Vale, Tony stated that "many of Philip's unique characteristics could be attributed to his mother Kath, a fine woman. Philip grew up in a household of women and was doted upon, particularly by Nancy, five years his senior." Tony King continued:

"Phil attended school, only when badgered, at Moss Vale Public and Berrima Public. In 1926 he began an apprenticeship with Horace Winch, a Moss Vale carpenter. On the completion of his trade, the 1930s depression hit. Life was hard and Phil took in work from diverse sources. During a heavy snowstorm in September 1930, Phil was clearing limbs from trees in the Dominican Convent grounds. He fell, was knocked unconscious and was out cold for a week. This incident may have saved his life, as he was later rejected for enlistment during WW II."

"In 1935-36 Phil built a house close to his mother's place [at the corner of Watson and Berrima Roads, Moss Vale]. Phil married Kathleen Mary Armstrong who was an outstanding Bowral violinist. The marriage produced four surviving children: Lionel, Oliver, Michael and Lyndal."

"Phil worked a succession of jobs at Moss Vale Timber Yard, Produce Store and Southern Portland Cement, New Berrima. After retirement he did gardening jobs, working into his late 70s. He followed his passionate interest in local history and joined the Berrima District Historical Society. He enjoyed nothing better than to go to meetings and stir."

"Phil was a man of many contradictions. His outward manner was stern, militant, cavalier, defiant and frugal. He had a strong work ethic."

"Essentially self-educated, Phil had a great interest in literature, poetry, history, economics and music and had a lifetime of excellent health."

His grandson Tony concluded the tribute by saying that Phil left a wonderful legacy and "he would want us to continue vigorously forward as the fallen forest giant provides nutriment for the juvenile canopy".



**Philip & Kath King at their Golden Wedding anniversary in 1986. Photo: Lyndal Breen**



**At right is the internees' dugout canoe *Stortebeker***



**The *Stortebeker* on permanent display at the museum**

- compiled by Philip Morton with the assistance of Marie Chalker, Linda Emery, Lyn Hall, Lyndal Breen and Gloria Williams

## 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), 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  
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<b>PATRON:</b>	Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire: Mayor Ken Halstead		
<b>President:</b>	Mr Bruce MOORE	4872 3762	actmoore@bigpond.net.au
<b>Snr Vice President:</b>	Mrs Leonie KNAPMAN	4871 1804	
<b>Jnr Vice President:</b>	Mrs Linda EMERY	4883 4271	lemery75@southernphone.com.au
<b>Hon Secretary:</b>	Mr Philip MORTON	4883 7862	flipmort@bigpond.com
<b>Hon Treasurer:</b>	Mr Ian MACKEY	4861 2933	
<b>Archivist:</b>	Mrs Linda EMERY	4883 4271	
<b>Museum Manager:</b>	Mr John SCHWEERS	4872 1660	schweers@hn.ozemail.com.au
<b>Membership:</b>	Mrs Peg HARVEY	4861 4521	
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Ms Lavinia FORD	4869 4038	
<b>Research Officer:</b>			

**Management Committee:** President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Museum Manager, Research Officer, plus members Peg Harvey (Minute Secretary), Denyse Barker, Denise Mackey and Jenny Frost.