



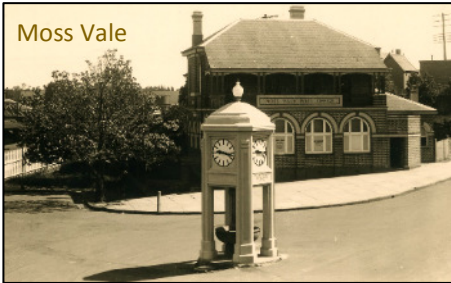
Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

# BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,  
Southern Highlands of NSW

## NEWSLETTER

No 494 May 2017

### From the President's Desk

Anzac Day was commemorated in all major villages in the Southern Highlands. Chris and I were privileged to participate by laying a wreath for the Society in Bowral, in memory of the diggers left behind. The numbers in attendance were again impressive as each year brings a stronger commitment in recognizing the sacrifices that were made on behalf of our country over 100 years ago.

Two Oxley High students gave amazing speeches, spoken straight from the heart, delivered by mouth, producing a tear to the eye and a generous round of applause.

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Our inimitable researcher Max Rogers, who passed away in February last has left a gap and is sorely missed at the Archives. At our last committee meeting in April we all agreed, reconfirmed later at our General meeting, that we will name our library "The Max Rogers Research Library" in his memory.

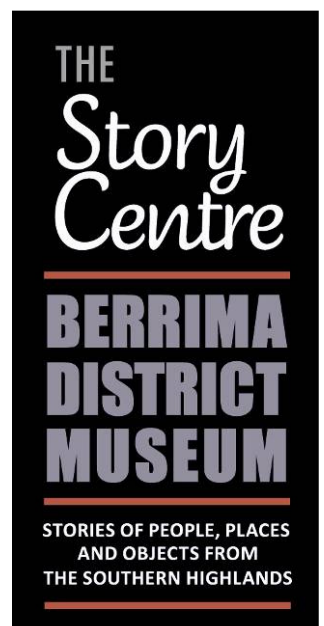


**Bruce Moore,  
President**

*Continued on page 2*

### GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

<b>MAY MEETING:</b>	<b>Thursday 25 May at 2pm</b>
<b>VENUE:</b>	Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
<b>GUEST SPEAKERS:</b>	Eric Savage  Berrima member Eric Savage, on the significance of Sutton Forest and Berrima historical landscapes
<b>AFTERNOON TEA:</b>	To be served following the speaker. Members please bring a plate or a donation.
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<b>JUNE LUNCHEON:</b>	<b>Thursday 22 June at 2:00pm</b>
<b>VENUE:</b>	Bowral Golf Club Kangaloon Road, Bowral
<b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b>	<i>To be announced.</i>



## From the President

*Continued from front page*

His legacy will live on.

Max began his work at the BDHS 20 years ago as a librarian, as well donating many publications to that space, so it would be appropriate to name it after Max. A brass plate will be in place shortly.

I'm sure it will be dubbed "The Maxie Factory" not to be confused with that famous American line of greasepaint cosmetics!

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Our conservation team, led by Denise Mackey and Ros Dale brought home our highly commended art and photographic works from the Shire Council at Moss Vale. They were prominently displayed in the foyer over the month of April. The council's cultural development officer (Jenny Kena) has already booked us in again next year for another Heritage display. Many very favourable comments by viewers have been recorded.

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Food for thought:

Regular naps prevent old age, especially if you take them while driving.

## Membership details

The Membership Secretary, c/- the Society's postal address or email to: [bdhsarchives@gmail.com](mailto:bdhsarchives@gmail.com)

## 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

## June Luncheon 2017

**Our June Luncheon this year will be at Bowral Golf Club, Kangaloon Rd, Bowral. This will be on Thursday 22 June, starting at 12:30 for 1:00pm.**

The cost is a very reasonable \$30 per person. A two-course meal with tea/coffee will be served.

There are beautiful views out across the golf course from the historic club building. As usual there will be door prizes, a brief history of the venue and a guest speaker (to be advised in next newsletter).

We invite members and their friends to attend - the more the merrier!

Please book and pre-pay as soon as possible at the Archives.

## Anzac Day attendance

Our Society was represented at the Anzac Day services held locally this year, as is the custom.

At Mittagong memorial clock-tower, the street parade terminated for the mid-morning service where tributes were paid to all those who served in war. BDHS Vice President, Leonie Knapman, laid a sheaf of flowers.

John Schweers, Museum Manager, represented at Berrima.

Member David Baxter attended at Moss Vale on behalf of the Society.

At Bowral, President Bruce Moore and wife Chris were the Society's representatives (pictured below).



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## Research Fees

Research fees for non-members:

\$25.00 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.

## Trove Group News

### - from the Berrima Bull

You may now find our common 'Trovellers Group' site within the Trove/Forums/'Community' where it has been activated as a 'Group' known as Berrima District Historical Society.

We currently have 3 or 4 enrolled members, and I would like to see quite a few more. Please note that personal mentoring is available on request to interested parties.

It is preferable that you register your own 'Trove' username with your own password, however our 'Community/Group' username and password may be used, it being BerrimaBull (one word and case sensitive).

We invite you now to participate in this forum and start 'Tagging' text correcting and 'Listing' on subjects of Local and Family mutual interest. The 'BerrimaBull' has already commenced with a few sample 'Tags' and an extensive 'Listing' feature will commence shortly.

The 'Berrima Bull' encourages you to check pre-existing Tags & Lists and use their same format where applicable.

Thank You and 'Happy Trovelling' 'Trov-le-dyte' - Frank Mitchell

## May Guest Speaker: Dr Savage

### Does the Past have a Future?

Personal reflections from a heritage activist !

At our meeting on 25 May, Dr Eric Savage will reflect on his personal experiences with trying to protect heritage places, drawing on lessons from working with the NSW National Trust, Harper's Mansion in Berrima, the local Council and most recently with the Sutton Forest cultural landscape area (heritage study) and the threat of Hume Coal's mining proposals.

Dr Savage (aged 3 months in photo with his great grandmother) grew up in Longueville, Sydney, and studied geology at the University of NSW. In 1976 he graduated with a PhD. As a victim of the end of the then mining boom, Eric moved to Canberra as a wide-eyed, green public servant working mostly in international commodity trade policy.



This involved stints with the Australian Uranium Export Office, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Departments of Trade and Resources, Foreign Affairs and Trade and two overseas postings: the first as First Secretary Commercial at our Washington DC Embassy, responsible for bilateral relations on sugar, coal and uranium; the second, a decade later, with the International Energy Agency, a part of the OECD, for 6 years, in Paris. Returning from France in 1999 to his terrace house in Darlinghurst, Eric moved to Berrima in 2002, after a dramatic period of civic rebellion dealing with the corrupt South Sydney Council. He was drawn to the Highlands by its climate, location, friends, and a highly frustrated gardener, as a partner.

A sucker for further punishment, Eric cut his heritage teeth with the local Branch of the National Trust, as Secretary, and then on the Committee set up to run Harper's Mansion in Berrima in response to the decision by the National Trust Board to sell the property in 2006. Eric was awarded a NSW Government Volunteer Heritage Award in 2008. Currently he is Chairman of the Harper's Management Committee, which has raised over \$600,000 to maintain and improve the property since 2007. As the current President of the Berrima Residents Association, Eric is steering efforts to list Berrima as an item on the NSW State Heritage Register. The current challenge is how to upgrade the heritage protection of the Sutton Forest/Exeter Landscape Area in face of the threat of coal mining by Korea's Hume Coal.

## Archives Report - April 2017

### Linda Emery, Archivist

We continue to feel the loss of Max Rogers in the Archives both as our friend and amazing research officer. We are all sharing the many things Max did from opening the archives, setting up for meetings, 'boiling the billy', not to mention his main focus, the research. Happily, many volunteers have stepped up to take on new tasks and I thank them most sincerely.

I have run one training day for volunteers to familiarise themselves with the holdings at the archives and some basic skills on research enquiries. We had a very enjoyable day. I will be running more of these workshops as the year progresses, the next one later in May.

We welcomed a new volunteer to the Archives in April - Veronica Rickard from Bundanoon - who is already proving to be a very useful organiser. She has begun indexing the 'Towns and Villages' files which contain so much fantastic information, but can be difficult to access at times.

Other continuing projects include the scanning of all our biography files - all 3,500 plus of them. It is a slow job, but will be invaluable when completed. Not only does it mean that we can provide PDF files for researchers, but more importantly, a digitised version is stored offsite and in the Cloud, so the irreplaceable material is safeguarded in case the unthinkable happens and we were to lose the paper-based files.

The archives mounted a photographic/art display in the Wingecarribee Shire Council Foyer Gallery for the National Trust Heritage Festival. We had only a few days' notice that the space had become available and Denise Mackey, Ros Dale and Philip Morton did a brilliant job in getting together a representative sample of our picture collection. The show received some lovely comments from the public and council staff. We will be doing another display in March next year using more of our art collection.

We have received some interesting accessions during the last few months, including some photographs of a house on Cutaway Hill, Fairlight, which was owned by the Henderson family for many years, and before that, the Reverend James Hassall.

The property became famous, or perhaps infamous, in 1971 when a music festival was held there, attracting the ire of neighbours, Council and the Church for the supposedly scandalous behaviour of the participants. Does anyone remember that occasion?

## Exhibition of Convict Bonnets

In conjunction with Southern Highlands Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, the “Stitched with Love” Heritage Festival exhibition is currently on show at the Society’s museum in Berrima.

A small crowd of First Fleeters, Society members and invited guests gathered for the official opening of the exhibition on Wednesday afternoon 19 April.

The occasion was attended by Claire Fenwicke, a reporter from the *Southern Highland News*, who was most impressed by the display and provided a detailed report on the opening for the paper and its website. Her coverage is reprinted here.

Step into Berrima District Museum and discover the hidden ancestors of our region. The ‘Stitched with Love’ exhibition is now open, with 28 hand sewn and embroidered bonnets on display. Each bonnet represents a convict woman who has an ancestor living in the Highlands.



Bev Schweers and Gwen Herbert at the opening

The idea was started by the Fellowship of First Fleeters Southern Highlands Chapter members. Secretary Wendy Selman said they had been sewing the bonnets since November, 2016.

“We based the designs off an 1860 servants pattern, which was used in the female factories,” she said. “We were inspired by Dr Christina Henri’s ‘Roses From The Heart’ project, where she collected more than 25,000 bonnets, representing each female convict.”

First Fleeters members and The Friday Girls sewing group contributed to the display. Ms Selman said they wanted to bring to light female convicts, whose stories often faded into history.

“They were women without voices, and it’s very difficult to find public information about these women,” she said. “There’s the conception that they were all

prostitutes and criminals, but they weren’t, they were more than that.”

Ms Selman said while the bonnets were not easy to make, they were worth the difficulty. “Some of us have not sewn for a long time, so while some may not be bonnets of skill, they are bonnets of love,” she said.



Highlands author Linda Emery officially opened the exhibition, and spoke about the history of female convicts. “Some of the women were drunks, but some were good with business, some were prostitutes and some were homemakers,” she said. “Some purposefully committed crimes, especially the Irish, to come out to Australia or meet up with their husbands.”

Few letters, images, photographs, domestic items, artefacts and related-material from these women have survived. “Their contributions have largely been ignored, yet they are the ‘mothers of the modern nation’ - women with grit who survived the dire conditions of late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19th century colonial Australia,” Ms Selman said.

The exhibition will be on display at the Berrima District Museum until May 21.

## Convict Bonnet Number 11

### In memory of Ann Pugh (1785-1849)

G .G. G. Grandmother of Bundanoon resident John Kirkby. ‘To live on in the hearts and minds of descendants is never to die.’ Nationality: English.

**Crime:** Ann Pugh (age 14) was indicted for stealing articles of clothing and coin from Esther Edwards, widow, on 20 April, 1799. The total value of the goods was 2 pound, 12 shillings.

**Trial:** Tried at the Hereford Assizes by jury for Larceny 17 July, 1799 before Sir Alexander Thompson and Sir Charles Rooke who had arrived in the city escorted by Sir Henry Tempett, Baron High Sheriff and the usual retinue. Found guilty.

**Punishment:** 7 years transportation. Transported on the *Earl Cornwallis*, arrived Sydney Cove, 12 June, 1801.

Ann was rowed up the Parramatta River and after alighting was chosen by John Nichols, a First Fleet convict of the *Scarborough* to work on his farm at Prospect. On 24 March 1788 Nichols had married Mary Carroll, a former mantua make, who was convicted at the Old Bailey in 1786 for stealing goods to the value of 15 shillings. Mary was 36 at the time and was married to James Carroll. Mary was separated from Nichols when she was transported to Norfolk Island on the 2 October, 1788.

By the end of April, 1791 Nichols had completed his sentence and was one of the few convicts whose sentence had expired who chose to take up the offer of a grant of land and become a settler. He took up his grant at Prospect hill in 1791.

In July, 1794 Mary Carroll left Norfolk Island for Sydney. There is no evidence that Nichols and Mary got back together, in fact Mary received a land grant at Mulgrave Hill, some distance from Prospect.

Ann Pugh, either assigned to or chosen by Nichols was living with him at Prospect by 1802. John's and Ann's first child, John, was born about the middle of 1802.

The 1802 muster shows John as supporting one woman and one child with no assistance from the government store. In March 1803 John was the Chief Constable of Prospect Hill.

Ann, their second child was born 22 May, 1803 and was amongst the first to be baptised in the new St. Johns Church at Parramatta.

**Married:** With the death of Mary Carroll in April, 1803 John was free to marry Ann. On 25 August, 1803 the Rev. Samuel Marsden married John Nichols and Ann Pugh at St. John's Church, Parramatta. Their fifth child, Mary, was born 2 April, 1808 but died the next day and was buried at St John's Cemetery. Their sixth child, Martha, was born about 1809, Amelia, their seventh child was born 26 February, 1811 and Susannah, the eighth child, was born the 18 January, 1814. Thomas, their ninth child, was born about 1814. Joseph, their tenth child and last son, was born about 1816. Their eleventh child, Eliza, was born on the 8 June, 1819 and Sarah, their twelfth child, was born about April, 1822.

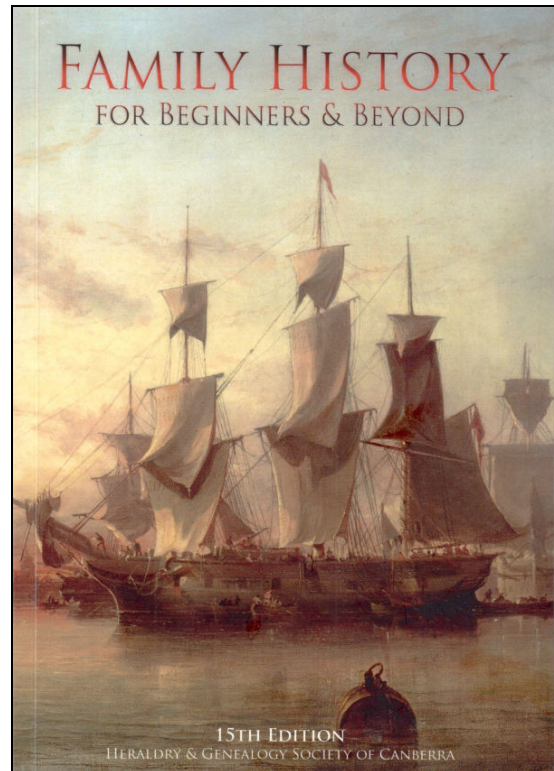
**Died:** John Nichols died in December, 1822 and Ann died 10 July, 1849, 27 years later.

Ann travelled on the same voyage and ship as Philadelphia Pounds, mistress of James Underwood and mother of Charlotte Underwood who married Joseph Kirkby.

Bonnet created by: Rosemary Kirkby.

## New book available for research

The Heraldry & Genealogical Society of Canberra proudly announces its rewritten and updated 'Family History for Beginners and Beyond'.



The book was first published in 1981 and is now in its fifteenth edition. A copy is available to view at the archives. It has been extensively rewritten and updated to give the latest and best references and guidance of experts to beginners who are seeking their ancestral origins.

You will find listed the best websites, CD storage, microfilm and print references for Australian and overseas sources.

This volume will lead you through getting started, organising your records, explaining available records, using those specialist libraries for Family History with extensive references to vital records, Immigration and Shipping, Indigenous records, Convicts and Free Settlers, Military, etc.

Geographical reference sections cover all of Australia and New Zealand, the UK and some 20 other European countries.

Entirely new sections provide a look at historical photography types and uses, to the latest digital recording and storage of your images.

Copies may be ordered from myself personally (to avoid postal costs) at the Archive or online on the HAGSOC website. Non-member cost = \$35.00; Member cost = \$31.50 plus postage of \$13.80

- member Frank Mitchell, Mittagong

## Local Post & Telegraph services

### A history of local postal and telegraph services up to 1899, with a focus on the struggle of Bundanoon residents to acquire full services

The Wingecarribee district's first postal service opened at Bong Bong in 1829. Initially the mail between Stonequarry (Picton) and Bong Bong was carried by mounted police. The district's postal service was relocated to Berrima in 1838 by which time mail was transported by cart or coach along the Great Southern Road.

NSW postal services became more regular during the 1850s gold rush period, when substantial investment in postal infrastructure commenced.

The opening of the Southern Railway through the district from 1867 improved local mail services. A close working arrangement developed between the Government's railway and postal departments.

From 1865 travelling post offices (TPOs) operated on trains, and postal employees would drop mail bags at stations. The Railways adopted the newly invented electric telegraph and telephone, building networks as part of the rail system. These were crucial for safety, providing communications between staffed stations.

The Postmaster-General, who controlled the postal service, was a cabinet minister, an indication of its importance in colonial social and economic life. Government architects built imposing post offices in Sydney and provincial towns.

During the 1860s post offices acquired ancillary services, most notably the burgeoning telegraph and banking facilities. All colonies had some sort of government savings bank; in some cases owned by the post office, and others using post offices as agencies. All these services meant that post offices, like railway stations, were focal centres of social interaction in country towns.

It took a while for full post and telegraph services to be operational at the newly established railway townships of Mittagong, Bowral, Moss Vale and Bundanoon. By the 1870s these were expanding with new residents, businesses and numerous boarding houses catering for visitors.

It was not until 1887 that the district's first official Post & Telegraph Office was opened. This was at Bowral, where a two-storey brick premises was built on Bong Bong St near the railway station.

Prior to that the Postmaster J D Sheriff, appointed in 1882, operated at the store of J G Morris where locals complained that telegrams had to be written on an "open, comfortless verandah".

At Mittagong, for some years after 1867, the town's post office was located at the railway station with the stationmaster in charge. This was common at the time for localities where volume did not warrant an official building. By 1891, however, Mittagong made the grade and a stylish brick, two-storey Post & Telegraph Office was built in Station St.

At Moss Vale, an official post office was opened in December 1867 at Levy's store but was relocated in 1871 to the railway station where it remained for 20 years. A two-storey Post & Telegraph Office was built near the station in 1891. Many rank it as the most stylish, elegant post office built locally.



Moss Vale Post & Telegraph Office, 1909

Today the restored building is a café/restaurant.

Thus by the 1890s regular postal services were in operation at the district's three main towns. Local residents south of Moss Vale along the Southern Railway were not so fortunate.

### Jordan's Crossing/Bundanoon



At Jordan's Crossing a platform stop was opened in 1868 to serve the fledgling village which grew around the rail. By the early 1870s this locality was flourishing with coal mines, sandstone quarries and sawmills, and was attracting interest as a healthy and picturesque holiday resort. It would be renamed Bundanoon in 1881.

Townpeople had to make do with unofficial postal and telegraph services until 1899, when eventually an official Post & Telegraph Office was opened. Until then, for almost 30 years residents constantly agitated for better services.

This 30-year period of Bundanoon's history is well documented. From its inception, the Postmaster-General's Department of NSW (PMG) maintained records of all policies and correspondence for each of its localities. These written records were preserved and now have been digitized and made available by the National Archives.

The Jordan's Crossing/Bundanoon (1871-1899) file provides a rare insight into village life. It was transcribed in 2010 by Bundanoon History Group's then archivist Liz Walker. Extracts follow here.

The first PMG record, dated 21 April 1871, is a petition to the Postmaster-General signed by 62 people: "We the undersigned residents at, and in the vicinity of, Jordan's Crossing situated on the Southern Railway Line, and others interested in this locality, respectfully beg to bring under your notice the serious inconvenience and loss we sustain from there being no post office nearer to the above-named place than Sutton Forest, which is very difficult of access from Jordan's Crossing, and in fact almost unapproachable in the winter time, or after heavy rain."

"The locality of Jordan's Crossing is fast becoming one of importance, especially since the opening up of their coal mines by the Rock Roof Coal Mining Company who employ a great number of men. The Railway Stationmaster at Jordan's Crossing would, we presume, be glad to do duty also as postmaster. The outlay required therefore by the Government would be but trifling."

This prompted the PMG to ask postal staff at the surrounding localities of Murrumbah, Moss Vale and Moorooloolan (Marulan) as to whether the Jordan's Crossing petition should be actioned. One said yes, one said no and one expressed no opinion. No decision was reached.

George Wilson Osborn wrote to the Postmaster General in January 1872 complaining of the mail service between Jordan's Crossing and Moss Vale. George and his wife Dinah had moved to Jordan's Crossing around 1867, purchased land near the railway station and established a dairy. It was on a portion of this land, which he subdivided, that the village took shape.

George suggested that a letter box be placed on the station platform in which a bag could be placed (twice a week), in charge of a responsible person. He said this would be quite sufficient and would be very little expense to the Government.

The manager of the Rock Roof Coal Mine, Robert Longmore, also wrote to the PMG expressing frustration with the inadequate postal service which was impacting his business. He had attempted to take matters into his own hands by entering into an arrangement with the Moss Vale Postmaster to get

improved mail deliveries for Jordan's Crossing, which had worked for a while then stopped. Longmore claimed that when the Jordan's Crossing residents did not send suitable Christmas gifts to the Moss Vale Postmaster, the service was discontinued. Since then residents had been compelled to take it in turns to collect, weekly, the mail from Moss Vale.

As a result of these petitions, on 1 May 1872 the Postmaster-General approved an unofficial post office. Such offices were established at localities the PMG Department considered did not warrant an officially trained postmaster and where basic telegraph services were provided separately at railway stations.

Longmore had proposed that James Cambourn, a railway fettle "who lives in the Station House at the Crossing" could handle receipt and despatch of mail. This was accepted by the PMG and his house became the unofficial Jordan's Crossing Post Office. Mails were sent and received three times weekly by train. Cambourn, who could not write, was paid 10 pounds per annum postal allowance. Osborn and Longmore were sureties.

A new platform and siding were built at the station in 1875 to better serve the flourishing village but dissatisfaction remained regarding postal services.

*- to be continued in next newsletter*



**An elderly George & Dinah Osborn (at right) with Bundanoon Holy Trinity Ladies' Auxiliary members, c1910.**

*- compiled by P Morton*

## 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), Alan Hornsby.
- 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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<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, Carolyn Dougherty, Jenny Frost and Denise Mackey.