



# BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,  
Southern Highlands of NSW

## NEWSLETTER

No 498 September 2017

### From the President's Desk

A quick reminder that our Financial Year ends on 30 September and we are now gratefully accepting rejoining fees.

One of our members, Trevor Benson lent me his book called "The Surgeon of Crowthorne". It described the life of a mad American doctor, incarcerated most of his life for a murder he involuntarily committed in England. During his confinement, he contributed thousands of words and meanings to the production of the voluminous Oxford English Dictionary, which incidentally took 76 years to produce.

What a mammoth task. Conceived in 1857 the complete set of 13 volumes was finally published in 1933 to which about 1000 words a year was added.

The French didn't show as much fanaticism as the English, as their lexicon was published well before the OED. Theirs contained a mere 100,000 words.

The English now have a word bank of over 5 million! Sacré bleu! No wonder they fought each other for 100 years.



**Bruce Moore,  
President**

*Continued on page 2*

### GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

**SEPTEMBER MEETING: Thursday 28 September at 2:00pm**

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:** David Blair of the Australian Placenames Survey Project and current editor of its quarterly journal

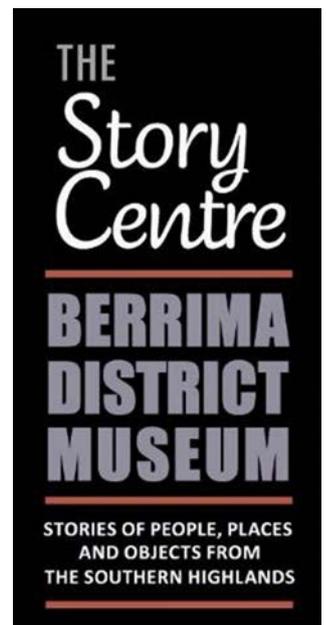
**AFTERNOON TEA:** To be served following the speaker. Members please bring a plate or a donation

**OCTOBER MEETING: Thursday 26 October at 2:00pm**

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

**EVENT:** An 'Archives Roadshow' – members invited to bring along interesting objects for a "Show and Tell" afternoon

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



## President's Report

*Continued from front page*

Here is what happens when these two languages meet. It's called Franglais:

I telefon le restaurant to dine with my compagnon to have a tête a tête. I asked for the a la carte menu, but the maître d' suggested we begin with hors d'œuvre some soupçon then soupe du jour, followed by another course of omelette and salade. Ou la la, le dessert was magnifique; a crème brûlée avec l'ice crème. All washed down with a superbe glass of Chambord rosé.

Le waiter, Jacque Attacke was savant in his job. He used to reside at La Perouse but has joined the nouveau riche living at Sans Souci. Waving us bon voyage was déjà vu to us. A taxi arrived and voila, we're off home.

En route, the chauffeur asked in his bourgeois manner if the lady was my fiancé. I replied this chic petite brunette is my wife who loves to wear eau de cologne. She is my joie de vivre and I am about to buy her a bouquet of pot pourri from a boutique depot around the next cul-de-sac.

A propos a souvenir, it is always a cliché to purchase some chocolates. Last time I made a faux pas buying her some toilette soap. She then accused me of being a voyeur! Enchanté. Quelle critique!

That's enough to make you want to nonchalantly pas de deux across the table, doing a brisk pirouette finishing with an arabesque delicately landing on your feet. Merci bucket!

Trés blasé, non?

Cheers, Bruce

## Archives opening hours

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

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

That time again!!

Renewals are due from 1 October. A renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter. We are happy to receive payment by cash, cheque or money order, OR funds can be deposited to our bank account, details of which are shown on the Renewal Form.

**NOTE:** If depositing funds to our bank account, please ensure that your INITIAL and SURNAME are used as a reference.

The completed Renewal Form and copy of bank receipt must be returned by mail or email to the Membership Secretary. This helps us with updating the records.

## THE STORY CENTRE Berrima District Museum

Please note that the museum is 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. Ph John 4872 1660.

## BDH&FHS 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.

## 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 us immensely if you agreed to receive the newsletter by email. For those of you who prefer receiving the newsletter by post, we assure you the printed version will continue to be issued.

## RAHS Conference 2017

The Royal Australian Historical Society's Conference this year will be at Cowra, on 28 and 29 October.

For the interest of members, a brief outline of the conference theme and details are provided here.

### ***Finding Lost Places, Lost People***

Uncovering hidden stories helps us better understand the past and can challenge our understanding of how the present came to be.

Historical societies have an important role to play in ensuring that their communities' history does not get lost and that members of the broader community can find out about their work so they too can learn and contribute to this history. Lost communities can be remembered and found through written archival records, photos and voice recordings. The digital revolution is increasing accessibility to records and providing more tools to reach a wider audience.

A dynamic range of local and specialist historians will explore these topics.

The 2017 Lesley Muir Address will be delivered by renowned academic and historian Professor Peter Read, and the 2017 Create NSW Cultural Grant and NSW Heritage Grant Awards, both of which assist the research and publication of local and specialist history, will be presented.

Delegates can choose from three history tours on Saturday afternoon and attend the conference dinner at Cowra Services Club on Saturday evening. There is also a free pre-conference event at the beautiful Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre on the Friday.

For more information and booking form, visit: [www.rahs.org.au/2017-rahs-conference](http://www.rahs.org.au/2017-rahs-conference).



*Kendal Street Cowra, 1888  
(Cowra & District Historical Society).*

## Our guest speaker in September

**David Blair** MA FSCD FRSA

David serves as researcher on the Australian National Placenames Survey project and edits its quarterly journal, *Placenames Australia*. He also directs the progress of the Survey's database of 330,000 items.

For our talk he will start showing how the way we name our places says a lot about our culture; and then will deal with questions like:

- How many placenames are there in Australia?
- Who names our places?
- What can you do if you hate the name of your suburb/street?
- What do Wagga Wagga, Woy Woy, Goonoo Goonoo and Bong Bong have in common?
- How confident are we about the meanings of names like *Bowral*, *Mittagong* and *Berrima*?

After completing an MA thesis at Sydney University on early Australian pronunciation, David Blair moved on to Biblical Studies and theology at Sydney Missionary & Bible College, Croydon. He then had brief careers at Sydney University's Fisher Library and in NSW high schools before taking on a research position at Macquarie University.

He retired in 2003 as Dean of Humanities and Chair of the Academic Senate at Macquarie; subsequently he served as consultant and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Special Projects), and as Chair of the University's Library Committee. He is currently Chair of the Research Ethics Committee of the Sydney College of Divinity. He is a Fellow of the Sydney College of Divinity, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

David was one of the founding Editors of the *Macquarie Dictionary* and worked on it until 2005. He was the editor of the *Pocket Macquarie* and *Macquarie Junior* dictionaries, co-editor of the *Australian Learners Dictionary*, and Australian consultant for the *Encarta World English Dictionary*.

For many years he advised the ABC on matters of usage and pronunciation, as a member of its Standing Committee on Spoken English. From 1998 until 2007 he was the Director of the Australian National Placenames Survey, a project which aims to discover and publish the stories behind Australia's millions of placenames and which will take many decades to complete.

Come along and learn more about your culture, the naming of places and the Placenames Project.

## Carol Nolan and Rowes Hill cemetery

*by Carolyn Dougherty*

Following the death of our Society member, Carol Nolan, in a car accident in April last year, her family passed on boxes of her papers for the Society to sort through and to keep any which could be of use.

Many of the papers related to Carol's research into the Rowes Hill Cemetery, research she was involved in at the time of her death. Carol had discussed with other members her passion for Rowes Hill Cemetery, the final resting place of her parents and grandparents, and her determination to give a name to as many of those interred there as possible by creating a database or book with names and any details such as obituaries, she could locate.

Carol particularly stated she did not want listed only people from well-known local families but people from all backgrounds. She was particularly interested in the fact that many babies and children from the Mittagong State Farm Homes were buried in unmarked graves in one section of the cemetery.

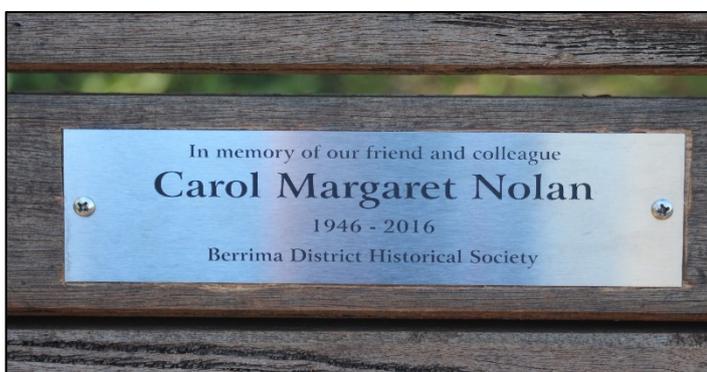
Those who journeyed to the cemetery with Carol on one of the Society's tours will never forget her efforts that day. Following a brief talk Carol gave each member a small bunch of flowers from her garden to place on the area where these mostly forgotten children now lie. It was quite an emotional experience realising that for most of them, these would have been the only flowers ever to be placed over their burial site.



**Carol Nolan (seated) at Rowes Hill cemetery as tour leader in 2013, with Carolyn Dougherty and Ros Dale.**

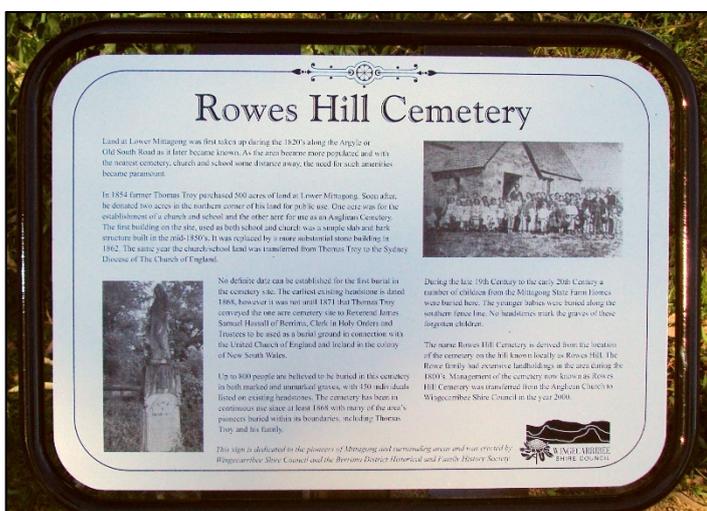
Currently, our volunteers are busy creating the book/database as envisaged by Carol which will include the name and obituary of as many of those who rest at Rowes Hill as possible.

Karen Allison, Wingecarribee Shire Council's officer responsible for maintaining local cemeteries had become aware of Carol's enthusiasm for Rowes Hill cemetery during their meetings. When the Society sought permission to place a plaque in memory of Carol on seating within the cemetery grounds Karen kindly supported our request.



Council recently requested that the Society provide input into the wording of an information sign to be located within the cemetery grounds detailing the history of Rowes Hill Cemetery.

Drawing on Carol's research and existing Archives material we were able to provide the relevant information. The sign has been installed adjacent to the seat with Carol's plaque now also in place.



The sign is dedicated to the pioneers of Mittagong and surrounding areas. The cemetery is located at what was once known as Lower Mittagong.

The following information is provided on the sign:

Land at Lower Mittagong was first taken up during the 1820s along the Argyle or Old South Road as it later became known. As the area became more populated and with the nearest cemetery, church and school some distance away, the need for such amenities became paramount.

In 1854 farmer Thomas Troy purchased 500 acres of land at Lower Mittagong. Soon after, he donated two acres in the northern corner of his land for public use. One acre was for the establishment of a church and school and the other acre for use as an Anglican Cemetery. The first building on the site, used as both school and church was a simple slab and bark structure built in the mid-1850s. It was replaced by a more substantial stone building in 1862, as shown.



The same year the church land was transferred from Thomas Troy to the Sydney Diocese of the Church of England. No definite date can be established for the first burial in the cemetery. The earliest existing headstone is dated 1868, however it was not until 1871 that Thomas Troy conveyed the one acre cemetery site to Reverend James Samuel Hassall of Berrima, Clerk in Holy Orders and Trustee to be used as a burial ground in connection with the United Church of England and Ireland in the colony of NSW.

Up to 800 people are believed to be buried in this cemetery in both marked and unmarked graves, with 450 individuals listed on existing headstones. The cemetery has been in continuous use since at least 1868 with many of the area's pioneers buried within its boundaries, including Thomas Troy and his family.

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a number of children from the Mittagong State Farm Homes were buried here. The younger babies were buried along the southern fence line. No headstones mark the graves of these forgotten children.

The name Rowes Hill Cemetery is derived from the location of the cemetery on the hill known locally as Rowes Hill. The Rowe family had extensive land holdings in the area during the 1800s. Management of the cemetery was transferred from the Anglican Church to Wingecarribee Council in the year 2000.

## Stories from the Archives

An occasional series by Linda Emery

### The de Cairos Rego Family

We have more than 4,000 biography files in our Mittagong archives, all relating to individuals and families who have, in some way, been a part of the Southern Highlands' community from first settlement to the present. Among these files are many hidden gems – stories that are crying out to be told. I came across one such 'Biog' file recently which I had not previously seen.



Iris de Cairos Rego may not be a household name, but would perhaps be familiar to old girls of Frensham. Miss de Rego taught music at the school from 1935 until her retirement.

Largely unknown today, the de Cairos Regos – Iris, her father George and brother Rex – were among the most influential musical families in Sydney in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Born in Marrickville in 1894, Iris was a prodigiously talented pianist. At the age of nine, she passed the Trinity College, London senior examination, the youngest ever to do so at that time. In 1907, her mother took her and her brother Rex to Berlin to study with a renowned teacher, Alberto Jonas.

Two years later, she gave successful recitals in Berlin and London before returning to Australia in 1910. As music critic for the *Daily Telegraph*, her

father George was certainly in a position to promote his talented daughter's career, but there is no doubt she was a gifted musician. She taught at the Conservatorium of Music in Sydney from 1915 and over the next 20 years, forged a solid career as a concert artist, teacher and published composer.

Iris's father George was also a pianist and composer. He was born in Tarrengower, near Maldon in Victoria in 1858. His father, Francisco, was from the island of Madeira in the North Atlantic, probably lured to Australia by the gold rush. George made his home in Sydney and became one of Sydney's best known professional musicians in the late 1800s.

In 1912, he became a founding member of the Music Association of NSW (now the Music Teachers Association) and served as its secretary for more than 20 years. He was an advocate for the establishment of a Conservatorium of Music in Sydney, which eventually came to fruition in 1915. As secretary in Australia for Trinity College, London, George organised all their music exams for over 40 years.

Rex de Cairos Rego was the third member of the family to excel in the music world. He was a fine singer and conducted a very successful music school in Sydney. Rex and Iris often performed together, and in retirement, lived in adjoining houses in Tyndall Street, Mittagong.

The biography file at BDHS contains a small album put together by Rex's wife Nance, plotting the building and growth of their house and garden, *Pathways*, completed in August 1942, along with photos of Iris's house, *Rusper*, named for a village in Sussex very close to Ifield where Iris lived for two years in the early 1930s with her cousin, Hazel Hirsch. It was here that Iris became acquainted with Sir Douglas Mawson who was a friend of Hazel and a regular visitor.

During the many years she spent at Frensham, Iris composed music for her students and the school orchestra. She gave Friday afternoon recitals and her Sunday afternoon music hour was a highlight of the

school week. She was a passionate gardener and continued to help at both Frensham and Gib Gate after her retirement. Iris lived a full and long life.

She died in 1987 at Kenilworth Nursing Home in Bowral at the age of 93.

The photos in the de Cairos Rego biography file have all been scanned and will be added to our online image library in the near future.



## Berrima District Museum report

Museum manager John Schweers recently received a letter of thanks from Bowral Public School, following a visit to the museum in August of around 200 pupils who came in groups over two days.

"Dear John, Thank you so much for hosting our Stage 2 students at the Museum last week. The feedback from students and teachers has been outstanding. Your organization of the tours and the knowledge of the guides meant that the excursion was both educationally engaging and hassle free.

Some of our class groups have composed thank you letters for your guides based on their memories and thoughts of the day. Please pass on my thanks to all your guides for their commitment to making the day such a success. 'Best excursion ever' was the quote from staff and students alike! With kind regards, Libby Paisley (Teacher) & Wendy Buckley (Principal)."

The guides mentioned were museum volunteers Lyn Hall, Sylvia Carless, Diana Taylor, Harlan Hall, John Schweers and Harold Wall. Each were located in a different display area of the museum and gave a short talk and object demonstration to class groups of up to 10 students rotating through the two-hour visit. Quotes from the students' thank you letters:

Dear Lyn – "thank you for letting us wack the anvil with the blacksmith hammer. We enjoyed it."

Dear Sylvia – "Thank you for showing us how they stored food, and what money looked like."

Dear Diana – "Thank you for showing the wonderful artefacts in the museum."

Dear Harlan – "Thank you for telling me about World War I. We learnt some very fantastic facts."

Dear John – "I enjoyed the kerosene lamp and how when you change how far it is open depends on how much light it gives off. It was a wonderful day."



## Golden Cross Ointments and Pills

**At the Society's museum in Berrima a new display features a collection of printing blocks used by Bundanoon homeopath William Augustus (Gus) Nicholas to advertise his remedies from the 1880s.**

The display, in the Klein Room, provides a snapshot of his life and highlights his years as a practising homeopath, manufacturing and selling remedies for humans as well as for animals until his death in May 1921, aged 76.

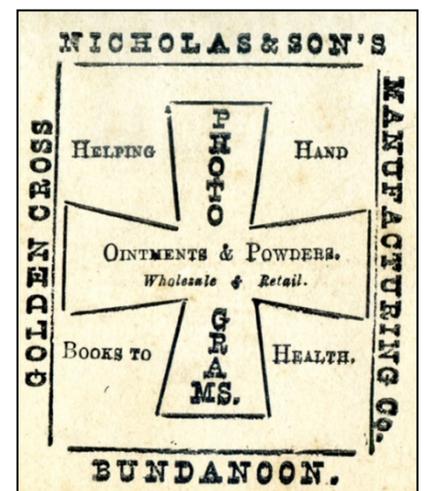
Born in Wales, Gus came with his parents to Sydney at age nine. As a young man he went to the goldfields in central NSW. Around 1868 he met the already married Sarah Mardon and formed a relationship.

In about 1872 they moved to Jordan's Crossing (later named Bundanoon) and purchased substantial land holdings. Gus became well-known as an entrepreneur, landowner, developer, community leader, Anglican Church warden, veterinarian, homeopath, cricketer, singer and renowned photographer.



Sarah and Gus married in 1878, after her estranged husband died, by which time they had four children. After Sarah died in 1894, Gus remarried and erected a two-storey building at Bundanoon, in which from 1897 he ran a studio and printing workshop on the ground floor and manufactured his Golden Cross Ointments and Pills in a laboratory above.

He advertised his wares as remedies for many ailments including Caked Breasts, Tumours, Swollen Joints, Fistula, Burns and Scolds, Chilblains, Burning in the Soles of Feet, Protruding Piles, Bleeding Cancer, Varicose Veins, Stiffness and Crick in the Back, Warts, Moles, and Eyelid Tumours.



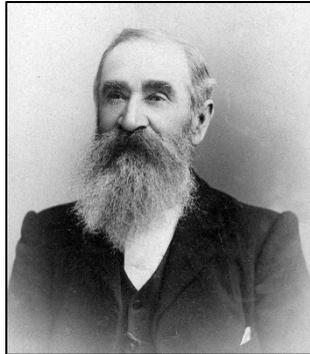
## Henry William Taylor of Moss Vale

*Part One of a history compiled by Philip Morton*

One of Moss Vale's early residents was Henry William Taylor. From 1866 he was a major contributor to town growth and district development.

An overview of his life is presented here, drawn mostly from newspaper articles and reports.

When Henry died in April 1923 he was described as an active and public-spirited man, with ancestral connections to some of the earliest history of NSW.



Henry was a great grandson of James Ruse, the First Fleeter who in 1789 was the first in the colony to receive a land grant from Governor Phillip. At Windsor on the Hawkesbury River, the ex-convict Ruse grew wheat and proved himself an enlightened farmer. By 1791 he was able to support himself and wife Elizabeth, and was given title to the land.

Their daughter, Elizabeth, was the second white child born in the colony. She married Edward Armfield and they had 11 children. One of them, Annie, married John Taylor who originated from Birmingham, and they lived at Richmond. Henry William was their son, born on 6 December 1838. A few weeks later his father accidentally drowned in the Hawkesbury.

In early 1839 the widowed Annie brought her infant son to Berrima, where her married older sister Rebecca had settled. There Annie met Lewis Levy, a Jewish free emigrant from London who around 1836 had moved to Berrima where his uncle Joseph had purchased land and settled.

Annie and Lewis were married in 1840 at All Saints Anglican Church, Sutton Forest. Young Henry thus became Lewis Levy's step-son. In the 1840s the family lived at Goulburn, where Lewis was licensee of the Victoria Inn. By 1850 they were back in Berrima, operating a merchandise store. Annie did not give birth again, so Henry remained her only child.

While growing up Henry learnt to handle horses, then became a bullock teamster, travelled extensively and followed the gold rushes in the Monaro district. According to the Moss Vale *Scrutineer*, he "was stuck up at one time by Starlight, but that demon's search did not reveal the plunder, which was hidden in the grease box on the axle of Henry's wagon".

In 1866, at age 28, Henry Taylor married Jane Taylor at Christ Church, Bong Bong. She was born at Narellan, the daughter of Amos and Mary Taylor, and at an early age came with her parents to Mereworth, a property near Berrima. Although with the same surname, the families were unrelated.

Once married, Henry and Jane moved to the new township that would become Moss Vale. They operated a store established by Lewis Levy who had realised that, when the railway station opened in December 1867, the area would flourish and Berrima decline. His store was located near the corner of what is now Waite St and Argyle Rd. Initially this corner was the town's major intersection, where the roads to Berrima and Sutton Forest met. It was only gradually that the railway station, to the north along Argyle St, became the town's hub.

Henry was Moss Vale's first postmaster. He ran an unofficial post office at the store until a postal service was established in 1871 at the railway station. As well, Henry was the first contractor to carry mails by packhorse between Moss Vale and Nowra via Kangaroo Valley, and to and from Kiama.



In the early 1870s two substantial buildings were erected near Henry's store, on either side of the Waite St corner. Both two-storeyed, one became the Commercial Hotel in 1873 and is now the Jemmy Moss. The other was erected as a hotel but, as the owner was unable to obtain a license, he sold it to the ES&A Bank and it became banking premises.

Within a few years Henry Taylor had purchased the Commercial Hotel and obtained its license. As well as providing accommodation, food and beverages, the hotel became a busy meeting place for many clubs and organisations which Henry either founded or supported. These included jockey and race clubs, rifle and gun clubs, and numerous local football clubs. The premises were also Henry's family home.

When the Berrima District Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Society was formed in 1880, Henry became its inaugural secretary. *To be continued*

## 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.

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<b>Hon Treasurer:</b>	Mr Ian MACKEY	4861 2933	
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<b>Museum Manager:</b>	Mr John SCHWEERS	4872 1660	schweers@hn.ozemail.com.au
<b>Membership:</b>	Mrs Peg HARVEY	4869 5894	

**Management Committee:** President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, plus Peg Harvey (Minute Secretary),  
Denyse Barker, Denise Mackey, Carolyn Dougherty and Jenny Frost