



BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

NEWSLETTER

No 500 November 2017

From the President's Desk

Welcome to our 500th Newsletter and boy oh boy, have we seen a few changes!

We were established in July 1960 as the "Berrima District Historical Society" as it was felt the name encompassed the area adequately. Berrima had been the district's first admin centre and, even well into the 20th century, the Southern Highlands continued to be referred to as the Berrima District.

In 1963 our fledgling Historical Society's first 'Dear Member' letter was roneoed off via a stencil. There was concern about the enormous cost of postage 5d (4c) to our members. Some things don't change much. Our first official Newsletter hit the stands in January 1973 with postage then set at 7d (6c) per letter. Outrageous!

My grandchildren tell me that in 'those days' the wheel had just been invented and we had just switched from cuneiform writing on clay tablets to typewritten notes on paper. On cold days, rubbing two Boy Scouts together to light a fire was quickly stamped out. Our members soon learnt to throw away their knee rugs and plug in electric heaters.



**Bruce Moore,
President**

Continued on page 2

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

NOVEMBER MEETING: Thursday 23 November at 2:00pm

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

EVENT: Annual General Meeting
Monthly General meeting

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

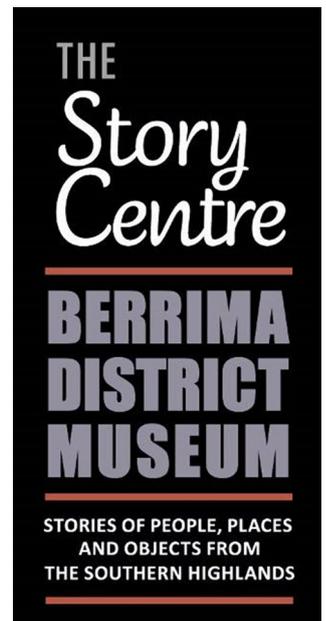
DECEMBER 2017 No meeting

JANUARY 2018: No meeting

FEBRUARY 2018: Thursday 22 February at 2:00pm

SPEAKER: To be announced

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



President's Report

Continued from front page

Our 'Celebrating 50 Years' book tells us that a steering committee was formed in 1959 and the first meeting of the Society took place in July 1960, held in the CWA rooms at Moss Vale. Ten people turned up, barely enough to elect office bearers, but very keen.

The local librarian thought of establishing a 'Folk Museum' at the School of Arts in Moss Vale. One of the first donations was a huge iron plough, originally pulled by eight oxen. The idea was great, but where to keep the oxen?

From shaky beginnings, shunting between Berrima and Moss Vale, our Society took shape, becoming established in two locations under the same BDHS umbrella.

In 1975, a Moss Vale house was offered to display the Museum artefacts and it was towed to its present site, on the banks of the river at Berrima.

In 1982, an office was leased in the former Mittagong Council Chambers building, which eventually became a permanent home for the Society's archives. In that stone beached whale in the centre of Mittagong, we settled for the 'pointy end' sharing toilets with the Playhouse.

By 1999 our archives, library and meeting room complex was firmly established after the signing of a long lease with Council. It is still the nerve centre of our Society, holding a mammoth amount of photographic, biographic and written records.

Our award-winning Museum at Berrima is now a powerhouse in itself, generating grants which have added to and improved the building.

Over the past 44 years our monthly newsletter has kept members informed about the Society's activities, local historical matters, family histories and much, much more.

Cheers, Bruce

NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be on Thursday 23 November, at 2:00pm in the Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Rd, Mittagong.

2017-18 Nominations and Appointments

For the attention of Office Bearers, Committee Members, Appointed Position Holders and prospective nominees: Forms are available from the Secretary and should have been lodged by 7 November to the Secretary for consideration at the AGM. Nominations from the floor may be made at the meeting.

Family History Interest Group

Member Maxine Gray, on behalf of our Family History Interest Group, has advised of the group's decision to hold a monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm for however long it takes.

The next meeting will be held on 6 December and members with an interest are always welcome.

Placenames Interest Group

At the September meeting, following a very interesting talk by David Blair about the Australian National Placenames Survey project, it was decided we should establish a Special Interest Group to research the meanings and origins of placenames in the Southern Highlands.

Anyone who is interested in joining this exciting project should contact Narelle Bown on Tel: 4868 3972 or email nbown@gmail.com

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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

A reminder that renewal of Memberships is now due.

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.

Archives opening hours

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

Requested Family Recipe

Last month we held an Archives Roadshow, a 'Show and Tell' to which members brought along interesting objects.

Bev Schweers showed a family heirloom: a brass pickle pan, hand made by her great grandfather in 1915. It was used to make pickles and to preserve fruits grown in her grandmother's orchard at Bellambi.

Bev provided her family's recipe for Green Tomato Pickles, and we have been requested to reproduce it.

Green Tomato Pickles

2 dozen Small Cucumbers
3 Large Onions
2 dozen Green Tomatoes
Few Young Peas

Method

Peel onions and cucumbers etc and cut them into small pieces

Boil 4 quarts water plus 1lb salt

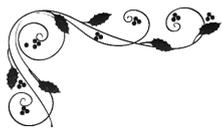
Pour over vegetables let stand for 24 hours then drain in a colander.

Mix 3 table spoons mustard plus 1 tablespoon spice, 1 level teaspoon cayenne pepper with enough cold vinegar to make a smooth paste.

Add to 2 qts vinegar till it thickens, stirring all the time. Add vegetables and cook until well heated.

Bottle when cold. Enjoy!

Christmas lunch at Mittagong



Our Society's Christmas Lunch

will be at Highlands Golf Club, Mittagong
on Friday, 15 December at 12:00 for 12:30

A two-course Christmas lunch with all the trimmings
will be served as an alternate drop.

The cost is a very reasonable \$28 per person.
Members, partners and friends are most welcome.
There will be the usual lucky door prize and raffle.

Bookings and payment must be made by Friday
8 December. Please contact the archives.

2018 Australia Day Parade

Over the last few years some members of the Society
have creatively donned themselves in vintage outfits
and joined the Australia Day Parade at Berrima.

Following the parade we indulge in a traditional
Aussie lunch of pies, lamingtons and a cuppa on the
verandah at the museum. We would like more
members to join us! Why not come along all dressed
up and share in the fun.



Being seen to promote an interest in the district's
history is a rewarding experience in itself, and the
crowd's applause lifts your spirits.

For more details contact the archives or museum.

Member's Book Review

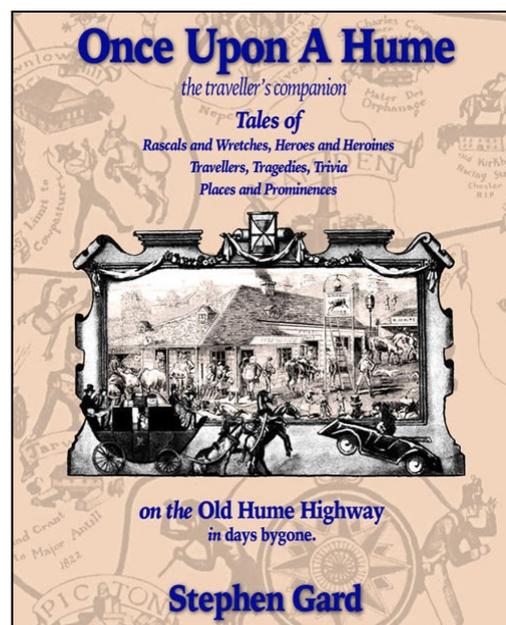
'Once Upon a Hume' the traveller's companion

by Stephen Gard
BlueDawe Books, Thirlmere 2017

This lovely little volume of local history along the
route of the early Hume Highway goes back to our
earliest penetration of the rugged country beyond
the settled Cowpastures of Camden, where Governor
Macquarie and his cohorts had restricted access to
land seekers and cattlemen.

This book could have just as easily been titled as
'Ruffians, Ratbags and Rascals we met on Razorback'
or 'Beyond the Bargo Brush'.

The author guides us over the Nepean, and up the
original Razorback where the Bullockies struggled,
then through the Bargo Brush avoiding the
highwaymen and escaped convicts.



This volume is beautifully printed on fine gloss paper
with excellent photographic reproductions of early
etches, photographs and fine maps. However you will
need a magnifying glass on the maps as they are
somewhat on the small side to read easily.

Much of the text and history has been gleaned from
our earliest newspapers, containing all matter of
enlightenment and education for the reader, some of
it sad, some of it humorous, all of it interesting. This
is a volume quite different to earlier published local
histories such as James Jervis, 'A History of the
Berrima District 1798 – 1973'.

This new volume takes us places and explains the
political and personal backgrounds to much of the
intrigue in relationships of our earliest settlers.

President's Annual Report

I'm very pleased to report this year has been one of those fortunate years when our engine ran smoothly, kept on track and none of the wheels fell off. Sure, we've had a couple of emergency stops, some excess steam released, but any overheating was soon cooled down, and overall it has been a comfortable ride.

This year we have had an interesting assembly of speakers at our general meetings. Earlier in the year the Max and Linda show became the Linda show as sadly Max passed away. We certainly miss him and his research but now, fortunately, we have a ready team of researchers stepping into the breach.

My warmest thanks go to all those volunteers who have contributed to our continuing success. I won't mention any names in case I leave anyone out.

New recipients of an OAM, Harlan Hall and his wife Lyn, continue to devote a lot of time and effort to the museum and its future. John Schweers is doing a splendid job as museum manager and, like the pied piper, has encouraged literally hundreds of schoolchildren to visit the museum, but not fall into the river!

Our June luncheon was an outstanding success this year with guest speaker Dr Carol Liston from the RAHS giving us the lowdown on the wives of former governors of the Colony. During the delicious luncheon Peg Harvey was fittingly granted Life Membership for her unswerving 20 years duty.

This year we celebrated 150 years of rail travel from Sydney to Mittagong and in December we will do the same at Bowral and Moss Vale Stations. Looking forward to dining with the Governor, perhaps?

Membership of almost 300 remains fairly static and, like all not-for-profit organisations, we are more concerned about the diminishing numbers of volunteers, not the quality of their work.

I feel most honoured and very privileged to have been allowed to spend five years as President of the BDH&FHS. This is the last report for my term.

Naturally, all positions will become vacant at our AGM in November and we look forward, as always, to the change of guard on our Management Committee. Luckily I feel there is a new and very gifted team waiting in the wings. I'm confident we will have a very healthy balance of committee members at both the Archives and the Museum.

Season's greetings from Chris and myself and wishing you a safe and happy New Year.

Bruce Moore

Archivist's Annual Report

The first and most important part of the annual archives report is to acknowledge the work of our archives volunteers and thank them for all they do for our Society. This has been especially so this year, after the death of our much-loved Research Officer Max Rogers in February. It is often said that no one is indispensable, but I think Max went close. He took responsibility not only for the research but so many day-to-day tasks, all done in his quiet and unassuming way. He has left a huge gap in our lives but his legacy is that his work ethic has inspired us to step up to take on some of his many roles.

The archives are officially open to the public three days a week, but the work of researching, filing, cataloguing, cleaning and administration happens throughout the week. The team of around 25 regular archives volunteers does a wonderful job of researching and caring for our important collection, along with assisting the many visitors to the archives. In 2017, we have welcomed several new volunteers to the team who have become enthusiastic workers.

A number of interesting items have been accessioned this year including a further donation of material from Kevin Herring consisting of copies of conditional purchase registers which when indexed will provide yet another valuable research tool. Any members out there who would like to volunteer to undertake this job would be very welcome to take on the project. We are always grateful for items that add to our outstanding collections, provided they fit the guidelines of our Collections Policy. I thank all those people who have been generous enough to make donations to the archives over the past year.

Max Rogers' family generously donated most of the contents of his extensive library to BDHS. Many of the books have been added to our library – now named the Max Rogers Library – but the majority related to Max's wide interests from Hollywood and films, American Civil War to antique weapons to name but a few. We held a very successful book sale at the archives and now have only a few of the great mountain of boxes left to sell.

After an enjoyable family history seminar held at the archives in August, a new special-interest family history group has been formed by a number of BDHS members. They are going to meet monthly at the archives to discuss various aspects of family history and help each other with the inevitable brick walls that face researchers. It will be an informal group co-ordinated by Maxine Gray.

Linda Emery

Museum Manager's Report

The end of the Society's financial year provides me the opportunity to review the activities of the museum. I am pleased to report that this year has been successful both financially and culturally.

This year we hosted 3,168 adult visitors, school groups and bus groups. The museum continues to make a yearly profit for the Society.

The museum's volunteers gain great pride and satisfaction in giving the hours of their time to provide the support required to operate the museum and give the region an award-winning museum. The success is directly achieved by their dedication.

The museum was open Wednesday to Sunday and every day in the school holidays. The rostering of volunteers was smoothly achieved by Silva Carless with her great organising abilities.

I must mention Bowral Public School who sent a total of 201 students to visit. To date this is the largest single group to visit the museum. The group was managed over two days by a team of ten volunteers. The feedback from the school was very rewarding.

The temporary exhibition of Bonnets arranged in conjunction with the First Fleet Group proved to be very successful. It reinforced the fact that small temporary displays are beneficial to the overall running of the museum by generating local interest and attendance. This display was completed with a small material cost and a large effort by Lyn Hall and the cooperation of the First Fleet Group.

Our committee has started planning for new exhibitions in the Williams Gallery, as the current Southern Highlands 1200 WW1 display concludes next November. The Committee is also planning a museum make-over if the funding can be obtained.

I must add that the attendance figures are low for locals, with the majority of museum visitors coming from outside the area. I urge all our local members to use and visit the museum when hosting visitors. It is a great resource that should not be overlooked when we are showing the Southern Highlands to family, friends and visitors.

I thank the Society's Management Committee and all the volunteers for their involvement and contribution this year. Without their efforts we would not have our award-winning museum.

I look forward to being part of a successful 2018.

John Schweers

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Annual Financial Statement for the Society for the year ending 30th September 2017. The Financial Statement will be available at the Annual General Meeting. For Members not present at that Meeting, a copy will be made available via the printed newsletter or as an attachment with the email version.

The Society has had another successful year, with income comfortably exceeding expenditure. Our main sources of income is from membership fees and Museum entry fees. The Museum's recent entry fee increase will assist in offsetting their ever increasing expenses such as gas and electricity.

Our sincere thanks to long standing Auditor, Ross Cowley, for our Annual Financial Statement.

Ian Mackey

Research Report

This is not so much a research report as a formal acknowledgement of our amazing Research Officer Max Rogers who passed away on 1st February this year. His work over many years was exemplary – he truly was a 'one off', going above and beyond what could be expected of any one person.

Since his death, we have handled the research enquiries by sharing them around amongst the archive staff. In the coming year we will be appointing a Research Team rather than one person to undertake this important work. The quality of the research we provide to enquirers is one of the strengths of our society, and with several of our volunteers sharing their knowledge, I have no doubt that we will be able to keep up the standard that Max set for us. It is an important part of our community outreach to share the rich resources we have in our collection.

Linda Emery, Archivist

Librarian's Report

Following the death of Max Rogers, and in recognition of his many years of dedicated service at the Archives, initially as Librarian then Research Officer, 2017 saw the Library officially named the Max Rogers Research Library. Max built up the collection during his term as Librarian, regularly donating books he considered relevant to our needs.

His knowledge of the library was amazing. When asked if we held a certain book Max would instantly respond, and if held, be able to go to the exact location of the book on the shelves. Following his death his family kindly donated Max's personal 'reference' collection to the Archives to be catalogued and added to our library shelves.

Over the last six months we have been working towards making the 'Aids and Guides to Research' section, section 3 of the Reference Collection, more user friendly. Hopefully this will assist members of our recently created Family History Group as well as our volunteers. As research aids such as the Australian Dictionary of Biography are now online, we have moved such items from the Reference Section thus freeing up much needed space. The entire collection contains well over two and a half thousand items. Sections one to 15 make up the Reference Section with items available for use in the library only, while the remaining sections are available for loan. We encourage all members to make use of the resources housed in the Max Rogers Research Library.

Wishing all members a safe and happy festive season.

Carolyn Dougherty

Publication Officer's Report

The Society currently stocks 77 books and DVDs. During the past financial year, revenue from sales at the museum totalled \$1307.00 and at the archives \$2041.95, making a Total Publications Revenue of \$3348.95.

Regarding the 'Prisoners in Arcady' book, we only have one hard cover and one soft cover copy remaining in stock. This book is currently in the process of being updated for a reprint.

There were no opportunities during the year to conduct any book stalls at outside venues or events. We are, however, currently in preparations with the Moss Vale Railway Station 150 Year's Committee to participate in the Sesquicentenary celebrations on Saturday 9 December. Several of our volunteers will 'operate' a small table inside the Waiting Room to showcase our Society and we will have some specific publications for sale.

I advise the membership that, after six years in the volunteer position, I am retiring as Publications Officer. I wish my replacement and the Society all my best wishes.

Carolyn Hutton

Conservation Officer's Report

It was an interesting, challenging and productive year for the team in Conservation. One of the major success stories was completing the task of checking, sorting and storing the large collection of bound newspapers donated by the Southern Highlands News at the end of last year. This was a huge job and consumed many hours. The additional shelving acquired proved essential to house the sudden increased volume of this archival material.

Conservation, preservation and cataloguing of the older, more fragile newspapers is steadily progressing but is a gradual, ongoing process.

Early in the year construction modifications for the improved storage of artworks in the upstairs storeroom of the Archives was finished with additional space available for framing and packing materials and for any future donations. The modifications also improved accessibility to and preservation of the artworks.

In April, with barely a week's notice, an exhibition of a selection from the Archive's artworks and photographs was presented in the Foyer Gallery at Wingecarribee Shire Council Chambers. Valuable assistance was given by willing members with the month long display being well presented, enthusiastically received by the public and the successful event providing an opportunity to showcase the Society.

The repair, conservation and preservation of a variety of donated items whether they be photographs, documents, maps, paintings, framed or unframed always presents the Conservation team with interesting challenges and opportunities to learn new skills.

A further challenge in the second half of the year has been the preparation and organisation of artworks from the collections at the Museum and Archives for another exhibition in the Foyer Gallery scheduled for March in 2018.

My thanks and appreciation go to Roberta for her support and assistance with congratulations for the successful conquest of the mammoth newspaper undertaking. I also extend my thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers especially Linda Emery, Ros Dale, Lyn Hall, Ian Mackey and Philip Morton for your generous and willing assistance, support and advice.

Denise Mackey

Henry William Taylor of Moss Vale

Part 3 of a history compiled by Philip Morton

One of Moss Vale's most prominent early residents was H W Taylor. The story of his active and public-spirited life, drawn mostly from newspaper articles of the time, concludes here.

Taylor became president of Wingecarribee Shire Council in 1910. He was aged 70, had owned Moss Vale's Commercial Hotel since the 1870s and was a town alderman of long standing.

In June 1910 a Labour League branch was formed at Moss Vale with Taylor an office-bearer. For NSW state elections coming up that October, he actively supported a candidate against William McCourt, who had been the district's sitting member since 1882 and whom Taylor had unsuccessfully opposed for the seat in 1894. McCourt was Speaker in the NSW Legislative Assembly, having been appointed to the role by his liberal affiliates in 1900.

At the October 1910 elections, the labour party won government by a very tight margin. McCourt retained his seat but, for the first time in years, the liberals no longer held power.

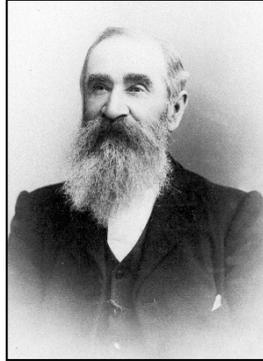
H W Taylor appointed District Coroner

In December that year, Taylor was appointed to the position of District Coroner for the Berrima district and this caused some minor furore in Parliament.

Usually the highly responsible position was filled by a justice of the peace or magistrate. The Coroner presided over a court, heard medical and other evidence regarding deaths that required examination, and delivered a verdict. For a number of years Andrew Badgery had filled the role. He was a pastoralist, auctioneer and JP, related to several Badgery families prominent in the area.

When he passed away suddenly, aged 73, in August 1910, two nominations for the position were received. Only their surnames are now known, being McCarthy and Badgery. The district Police Magistrate recommended the Badgery applicant who also had the support of McCourt.

The appointment, however, was delayed due to the October state elections. With the result going against the sitting liberals, Taylor seized the opportunity and nominated to be Coroner. The new labour Attorney General, Mr Meagher, over-ruled the magistrate and appointed Taylor.



When his appointment was announced on 20 December, the *Robertson Advocate* declared that "probably no man can lay claim to having been a more consistent worker. The insights he has thus gained should serve him well". Wingecarribee Shire Council heartily congratulated their president on attaining the honourable position.

Not everyone was pleased. An irate McCourt declared in the House on 24 December that it was "the most disgraceful appointment ever made in NSW . . . a very dirty job indeed". He accused the Attorney General of having been influenced to act improperly, as Taylor was unsuitable for the position and had been appointed against recommendations.

McCourt's outburst caused an uproar in the House and was widely reported in newspapers with headlines such as 'Alleged Improper Appointment', 'Spoils to the Victors' and 'Challenge to Mr McCourt: Say it Outside'.

Over the years McCourt had earned respect for his impartiality, so his reaction was out of character. The new Premier suggested McCourt was politically motivated as, at the election, Taylor had supported a labour candidate and had stood against him previously. The Attorney General reassured the House that Taylor was highly intelligent and above reproach. The Premier declared it a trifling matter and McCourt's motion was lost by 41 to 30.

Taylor, as District Coroner, presided at countless inquests, including deaths by drinking, drowning (of which there were many), house fire, suicide, railway accident and the disastrous Exeter railway smash.

Forced by illness to retire in October 1922, Henry Taylor died on 28 April 1923 with his wife, five sons and six daughters present. He was aged 84. Members of the friendly societies to which he had belonged preceded the hearse to Moss Vale cemetery.

Not long after, in July, his widow Jane died at her son-in-law's residence in Croydon. Her remains were interred alongside her husband at Moss Vale.

Henry and Jane Taylor are fondly remembered by their many descendants.



Taylor family and friends, Fitzroy Falls in 1911.

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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AUSTRALIA

- PATRON:** Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire: Councillor Ken Halstead
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- Hon Treasurer:** Mr Ian MACKEY 4861 2933
- Archivist:** Mrs Linda EMERY 4883 4271
- Museum Manager:** Mr John SCHWEERS 4872 1660 schweers@hn.ozemail.com.au
- Membership:** Mrs Peg HARVEY 4869 5894
- Newsletter Team:**

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