

Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29 362 616 937

NEWSLETTER

No 511 November 2018



From the President's Desk

Each year affiliated members of the Royal Australian Historical Society are invited to submit the names of volunteers who are considered worthy of a Certificate of Achievement. This year two of our members were nominated and awarded Certificates of Achievement for many years of dedicated service to our Society. The two recipients are Carolyn Dougherty and Philip Morton. Carolyn is our Librarian, a member of our research team and has been volunteering at the Archives since 1999. Philip, currently our Newsletter Co-Ordinator and Publicity Officer, was previously Secretary for six years. Congratulations to both Carolyn and Philip.

Our Society proposed an art exhibition at Mittagong RSL early in the New Year. It has been necessary for several reasons to defer this until April/May 2019.

Two of our volunteers have health problems requiring hospitalisation. We wish Leonie Knapman and John Schweers a speedy recovery. To facilitate his recovery John has stepped down as Museum Manager and Sub-Committee member.

We are sorry to lose another member of the Museum Sub-Committee, Alan Hornsby who has permanently returned to the UK for family reasons.

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Archives on 22 November 2018. If any member wishes to apply for a Committee or Appointed position please see Secretary Peg for an application form. There will be no guest speaker but it is proposed to show two short films.

Another reminder, which indicates how quickly we are approaching the end of another year is our Christmas lunch. This year it will be held on 13 December at the Scottish Arms, Boardman Rd. Bowral at 12pm. The cost is \$30 per head and includes a main course, dessert and a drink. Please register and pay at the Archives.

Recently, our Federal Member for Whitlam Mr Stephen Jones made a speech in Parliament about the centenary of Armistice in the First World War. In his speech he thanked Linda Emery for assistance in compiling stories of local soldiers killed in this war. See extracts from his speech elsewhere in this newsletter.

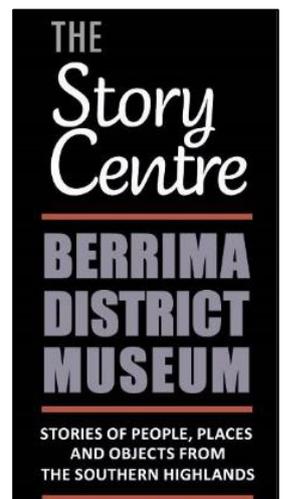
Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 2018:	Monthly Meeting and Annual General Meeting
EXTRA FEATURE:	Showing of extracts from a DVD which explains the history of early explorations through the local district, taken from a DVD created for the Bundanoon History Group
DECEMBER 2018:	No meeting

AFTERNOON TEA is served following the speaker.
Members please bring a plate or a donation.

NOTE: on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm
the **Family History Interest Group** meets at the Mittagong Archives



Senior Vice-President's Column



Bruce Moore AUSTRALIAN HISTORY?

(Apologies to Malcolm Knox and all historians)

The Australian Abor-Originals were the first people to baggs our country.

They walked across the water and their leader, Jimmy Blacksmith, said 'Boy this is a dry place!'

So they stopped at the first Hotel to lubricate themselves with a few Darwin Stubbies. Then the publican told them, 'you'll have to pay for all this!' 'Tell him he's dreaming', said Jimmy. So dreamtime was invented.

They gave him a few dot matrix paintings that made the publican rich.

Then Dirk Warthog uncovered Western Australia and invented the BBQ on the beach. After he finished his meal he nailed his plate to a tree.

William Damper, who invented his own bread, had his own BBQ.

Found Warthog's plate, used it for a meal, and then nailed it back to the same tree.

Soon afterwards Jim Cook looking for Venus, bumped into Australia in his bark Endeavour. Getting very wet in the process, he thought Botany Bay was a fun place to dry out.

Matthew Flinders decided to marry Ann Chappell and produce two fine cricketers. He left them behind to practice while he circumcised Tassie, then the whole of Australia.

More drama amidships when hardship struck the tall ships, one being the Bounty. Captain Bligh was a sluggish, poorly dressed captain but one of his men wasn't. His name was Fletcher Jones, who was a Christian by day and a mutineer by night.

He sent Bligh off in a boat to buy better clothes while he founded Tincain Island. There was another island called NoFolk because it didn't have anyone on it. So the Tincain Island mob rowed their boat ashore, led by Fletcher Jones.

Led by Phillip Arthur, the 1st Feet rounded the Cape of No Hope bound for South Australia. They sailed past their turnoff and landed at Botany

Bay, just in time for Australia Day celebrations.

Because Phillip discovered the Tanks-A-Lot Stream, the 1st Feet settled at Circular Quay.

They tied up at the Overseas Turmoil because the ships couldn't fit under the Harbour Bridge.

Membership Details

Please note that all membership enquiries and changes of address details should be addressed to:

The Membership Secretary
c/- the Society's postal address
or email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com

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. Ph John 4872 1660.

RAHS Regional Seminar Bowral

Saturday, 1 December

A seminar will be held by the Royal Australian Historical Society, as part of its regional seminar program, in the Henrietta Rose Room, at Bowral Municipal Library, 18 Bendooley St, Bowral, from 9:30am-3:30pm. Lunch and afternoon tea will be served.

The highlight will be a presentation on Land Titles research by Associate Professor Carol Liston.

Other speakers include Dr Katherine Reynolds and Christine Yeats, who will give sessions on research topics, and Bowral Library's Billie Arnull, who will talk about the local studies collection.

All are welcome to attend. The cost is \$20. For more details and booking go to the RAHS website.

LAST CHANCE: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW OVERDUE

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.



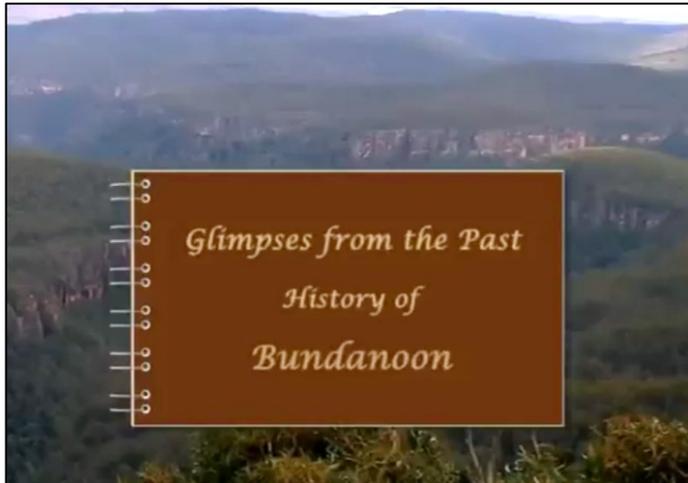
The **SH1200 Exhibition** in the Williams Gallery at Berrima District Museum, portraying the stories of local men and women who served in WWI. It closed on 11 November 2018, having run for 3½ years, receiving much acclaim.

Our AGM and November Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting and monthly meeting will be held on Thursday 22 November.

After the AGM, we will screen segments of 'Glimpses from the Past' a Bundanoon History Group DVD produced by Beryl Seckington several years ago.

The DVD highlights historical events that contributed to the growth and development of the district and of the village at Bundanoon.



The first chapter (taking 20 minutes) portrays the explorations through the local district undertaken by Dr Charles Throsby and young Hamilton Hume in 1818, which should be of great interest to members.

The DVD also features interviews and photographs to tell the history of Bundanoon and its industries, guest houses, residents and community activities. We may have time to screen portions of these segments.

As well, Linda Emery hopes to show a short film from the archives which she promises will be entertaining.

Our Christmas Lunch

Celtic Room
Scottish Arms Hotel
East Bowral

Thursday, 13 December at 12:00 for 12:30pm

The hotel chef will serve a main course and dessert. The cost is \$30 per person which includes one drink (glass beer/red or white wine/soft drink).

Tea and coffee will be provided and there will be the usual door prizes and raffle.

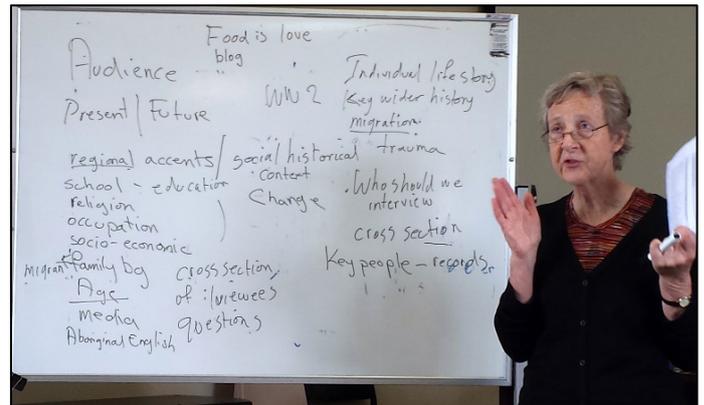
Please make your booking and pay at the archives before Saturday 8 December.

Oral History Workshop Report

Denise Mackey

On 9th October an Oral History Workshop organised by members Lyn and Harlan Hall was presented in the upstairs meeting room at the Archives.

A group of twenty people from an array of organisations including the Illawarra History Society and Museum, Harper's Mansion Garden History, Berry Historical Society, Shellharbour City Museum, the Bundanoon History Group and our Society were captivated by the dynamic and knowledgeable speaker, Dr Mary Hutchinson.



A public historian and writer as well as a regular oral history interviewer for the National Library, Mary's extensive experience in conducting community workshops soon became evident to her audience as she swept us along the lively and entertaining journey of discovery.

Following our comprehensive reference notes on the Introduction to Oral History distributed by Mary such topics as: what is oral history, why use it, the value and uses of oral history, understanding personal memories and examples of oral history, were covered. Throughout the day with well guided and interactive discussion, planning an oral history project, interviewing skills, aspects of recording and managing the recorded material were other aspects covered in the workshop.

A positive and rewarding experience, the Oral History Workshop provided ample opportunity for all to express ideas during discussion with contributions acknowledged, respected and valued. Not only informed and enlightened, those in attendance finished the day motivated and clear sighted ready to pursue future projects.

Our thanks to Lyn and Harlan Hall for arranging such a well organised, interesting day conducted by such an outstanding speaker as Dr Mary Hutchinson.

Stephen Jones MP speech extracts

The Centenary of the 1918 Armistice has recently been commemorated nation-wide. In a speech to the House of Representatives on 25 October 2018, the Federal Member for Whitlam, Stephen Jones MP, acknowledged its significance, using information provided by our Society.

“Almost 62,000 Australians died in that war fighting for our freedom and in service of our nation. On the centenary of Armistice, we'll take this opportunity to remember some of those from the Illawarra and the Southern Highlands, in my electorate, who gave their lives for us.

One of those was James David Pope, who was a corporal in the 1st Australian Machine Gun Company. James was just 18 years of age when he enlisted in January 1915. He was with his mate, Bert Stokes. They had previously worked as stonemasons with his father, who operated the trachyte quarries on Mount Gibraltar—and if you know Mt Gibraltar, it overlooks Bowral in the Southern Highlands. On 20 July, just four days after his 20th birthday, James was killed during heavy shelling and gas attacks at the Somme. James' name appears on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, one of 11,000 Australians commemorated there who died in France and have no known grave.

We also remember Fredrick Crisp from Bowral. Fred was a corporal in the 1st Australian Light House Brigade—again, another famous brigade—and was among the first men in the Southern Highlands to enlist. He was just 19 when he signed up on 25 August 1914 and he landed at Gallipoli some months later. Fred was mentioned in despatches for his bravery, including his daring rescue of a wounded mate, Trooper Donovan. At Quinn's Post, considered the most dangerous place on ANZAC Cove, Fred volunteered to go out under heavy machine gun fire to within 20 yards of enemy trenches to carry his wounded mate to safety. Fred was one of 11 Southern Highland boys killed during the fierce Battle of Lone Pine in August 1915.

These were very small communities 100 years ago. To have 11 boys killed in the same place on the same day was a devastating blow to these communities. In June 1916, Fred was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry in the rescue of Trooper Donovan. I'd like to thank Linda Emery at the Story Centre at Berrima District Museum for her assistance in compiling some of these stories.

They are some of many hundreds of stories that are available to visitors to the museum, which does a great job of keeping the stories of the district alive.

I am also pleased to say that in later years locals have taken up the stories of the women who were enlisted in the medical corps – nurses, assistants and other women – who travelled to these war zones, many of whom did not come back, who died of injury or disease and who did not receive until late the recognition that they deserve. Their stories and those of everyone else who suffered the consequences of this horrific war never fail to move us.

Shortly our focus will turn to commemoration of the Centenary of Armistice. Commemoration is just one of the ways way that we ensure our appreciation of the service and sacrifice made by all of those from this date until today, from those days and until today, the men and women of our armed service continues. I am pleased to have provided some support to the commemorative efforts of the Berrima District Historical and Family History Society, for example, for their recent poppy seed project as a part of the Armistice commemorations.

In January 1920, Joseph Maiden, the director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, received a parcel from France, sent by Ettie Rout, who was the secretary of the New Zealand Volunteer Sisterhood.

The box contained poppy seeds gathered in the Somme Valley by school children of Villers-Bretonneux and came with a request that the seed be distributed to the relatives of Australian and New Zealand soldiers who had fallen on the battlefields and given their lives for France, so far from their native land. Joseph Maiden published a letter in *The Sydney Morning Herald* offering a small packet of the seed to relatives who had lost a loved one.

Volunteers from the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society have indexed the 1,077 names from the registers and have so far identified more than half of the soldiers for whom the seed was obtained and planted. Funding from their Armistice grant will go towards publishing a book which will tell some of the moving stories uncovered by the society's volunteers. The book will be widely available in Australia and at the Sir John Monash Centre at the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, providing another tangible link to the town that is so significant in the commemoration of the Anzacs in France.

The society will also encourage local schools to plant poppy seeds, and descendants of soldiers to plant those poppies as well.”

President's Annual Report

It is with great pleasure that I present my first annual report of our Society. Firstly, a special thanks to the Management Committee and the Museum Subcommittee for their support and enthusiasm throughout the year. All our volunteers deserve a special thanks, without whom we would not exist. As always we are in an ageing demographic and we would love to attract more volunteers to sustain us.

Our monthly newsletter has proven very popular, coordinated by Philip Morton and supported by contributing articles from many members. Philip provides much of the editorial content himself as well as regular historical articles in the Southern Highland News.

During the year we received our first batch of photographs from the Robertson Heritage Railway Station for scanning into our system. We have a limited number of photographs of the Robertson area and these will be a valuable addition to our collection.

This year's activities kicked off in January with a good roll up to the Australia Day parade at Berrima which again proved to be a fun event. "Our Creative Past" was the theme for a very successful art exhibition held in the Foyer Gallery at the Council Chambers during the month of March.

Our July luncheon was held at the Bowral Golf Club and was a resounding success with our guest speaker being Kim Eberhard, Westpac Bank's head of historical services. Kim explained the transition of Australia's first bank, the Bank of New South Wales established in 1817, through various mergers and acquisitions to what is now Westpac Bank currently celebrating 200 years of continuous service.

Our family history interest group continues to meet at the Archive on the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm where everyone is welcome to bring along your own family history question for discussion. During the year a new public access computer was installed for research. Access to Trove Newspapers, Ancestry, State BDM'S, State Archives plus internet access is available in a quiet area of the Archives.

A successful oral history workshop was held at the Archives in October. See report elsewhere in this newsletter.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Ian Mackey

Archivist's Annual Report

It seems such a short time ago that I last wrote the annual report for the archives – how quickly this year has flown by.

As usual, it has been a busy but productive year, with our many volunteers working on a variety of projects and assisting researchers, both those who come in to the archives and the many people who contact us from all parts of Australia and indeed the world.

The research team has worked together very effectively as they continue the work of our much-loved and never forgotten Max Rogers.

Accessions to the collection this year have included a number of important items.

Professor Ian Jack donated some wonderful material relating to FitzRoy Iron Works including some very early photographs.

Kevin Herring has made several further donations of documents, copies of Conditional Purchase Registers and maps relating to the Wingecarribee Shire, along with electoral rolls, which have all been added to the Kevin Herring Collection in the archives.

During the year the Society added membership of Ancestry.com to the services offered to researchers who come in to the archives. We have purchased a dedicated computer for the use of members and visitors so they can undertake their own research, or enlist the help of our volunteers.

Following a talk at BDHS by David Blair from the Australian National Placenames Survey, several members have been using the resources of the archives to research the origins of placenames in the Wingecarribee Shire. They have just completed a first draft and will hopefully complete their current project during 2019.

The most important aspect of my report is to thank the fantastic volunteers who give their time and expertise on the three days a week that we open to the public. They are a happy and cohesive group who not only research, catalogue and organise our collection, but administer the affairs of the society to a very high standard.

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers to join us, so if you have some time on Mondays, Tuesdays or Saturdays I would love to hear from you.

Linda Emery

Museum Manager's Annual Report

It is with great pleasure I wish to acknowledge the great work our volunteers have achieved this year at the Story Centre, Berrima District Museum.

There have been a number of special events and exhibitions. The most successful were Windows Into Wartime, First Fleeter's Bonnets and the Southern Highlands Pie Time exhibition.

Group and school visits have increased. The largest group comprised 200 students from Mittagong Public School. The feedback from students was very positive and made the exercise rewarding for all involved.

The gardens and lawns maintained by volunteers Brian and Sylvia Carless make a great presentation to our visitors. The Museum continues as part of the tourist scene in the Southern Highlands.

The Museum's Southern Highlands 1200 Centenary Exhibition, which was opened in the Williams Gallery in April 2015, closed recently on 11 November. The exhibition's wall of names will be mounted in 2019 on a wall at the Mittagong RSL. The Exhibition web site will remain permanently linked to the Museum's web site www.thestorycentre.com.au.

The Williams Gallery will be fitted out with 10 high definition screens and will become a unique digital gallery providing the capability to mount new exhibitions economically that will appeal to and attract both local residents and visitors. The first digital exhibition will be *A Baker, a Butcher and a Bunch of Makers*, opening 20 February 2019.

Funding for refurbishment and major upgrades for all of the Museum's five galleries, new visitor entrance and the new digital gallery and its exhibitions, is the result of grants from the Commonwealth Building Better Regions Fund, the NSW Regional Cultural Fund, the Wingecarribee Shire Council Community Assistance Grant Scheme, corporations, private trusts, generous community organisations and individual, in cash and in-kind.

Our Museum Sub-Committee is confident that the new digital exhibition facility will be a strong and appealing incentive for more visitors to discover and enjoy the many entertaining stories we have to tell.

I encourage Society Members to visit your Museum in 2019. I wish to thank our great team of volunteers at the Museum and the Management Committee for their support over the past year.

John Schweers

Treasurer's Annual Report

I am pleased to present the Society's Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 30th September 2018. 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 source of income is from membership fees and Museum entry fees. Our sincere thanks to Auditor, Ross Cowley for our Annual Financial Statement.

Patricia Doris

Membership Annual Report

In 2018 the Society had a total of 258 members. This included five Honorary Life Members, and 56 of the 258 were family or group members.

A total of 199 members are located in the Southern Highlands area from Colo Vale to Goulburn, 16 in the metropolitan area, 30 in country towns, 7 interstate and 1 in England.

Peg Harvey

Librarian's Annual Report

Over 50 items were catalogued during the last 12 months, the majority of which related to the local or surrounding areas. Most books were donations. The Society purchased a couple of items to add to our Aboriginal Studies collection, most with relevance to the Wingecarribee area. While our loans over the last year numbered only 30, our library was extensively used by those visiting the archives for the purpose of carrying out research as well as our own volunteer research staff. I encourage all members to utilise our comprehensive collection.

While reference books are for use within the archives only, almost half our collection is available for loan. The borrowing procedure is simple, requiring only that members list their details and details of the borrowed items in the 'loan book' in the library.

I wish all volunteers and members a happy and safe festive season, hopefully with time to read at least one book during the break.

Carolyn Dougherty

Research Team's Annual Report

I am pleased to report that the year has been productive research wise, indeed we are all a little wiser for our efforts. We often learn items of interest from others, in seeking those elusive answers.

Looking back through our combined folder of email queries that have been comprehensively answered, there are at least 36 substantial research papers, compiled by Carolyn, Janet and myself. Some of those queries became extensive studies and joint efforts, over emails, a few coffees and the odd lunch.

The Centennial of the Mittagong Fire Brigade's establishment in 1918 and inauguration in September 2018, kept each of us busy for some weeks into that study along with additional input from the photographic scanning team of Jenny Frost, Dianne Mc Allery, Veronica Rickard, and others I may have overlooked. Denise Barker's connections through the SES was fruitful in establishing co-operative relations with the Moss Vale Volunteer Brigade too, where a cache of historic local photographs were made available to our archives.

There was ongoing searching and research into the next stage of the Main Southern Railway opening from Moss Vale and Bundanoon to Marulan, much of that work was admirably performed by Janet and Dougal Black, along with the Railway Historical Resource Centre at Redfern.

Many 'Family History' puzzles were looked into for different clients to assist in establishing the facts of their ancestral roots and circumstances of their immigration or transportation, along with at least a handful of home residence and building histories.

One local industry that continues to draw attention from even our youngest curious minds is the shell of the former Maltings, two different people have requested material there on that establishment.

**Frank Mitchell for the 'Research Team'
being Frank, Carolyn Dougherty and Janet Black**

Conservation Officer's Annual Report

It was another interesting, productive and successful year for our Conservation team. No sooner had 2018 declared itself that preparations for the March exhibition, "Our Creative Past" in the Foyer Gallery at Wingecarribee Shire Council Chambers were under way in earnest. Fortunately much of the research for the items had been completed at the end of 2017.

Our exhibition included an interesting array of old photographs, maps, paintings, embroideries, illuminated addresses and drawings from the collections at the Archives and Museum. The month long exhibition was attractively presented, well received and appreciated by the public, and provided an opportunity to showcase our Society. The experience of organising such an event was not only rewarding and fulfilling but presented many opportunities to learn new skills. It was also a chance to learn about and discover the stories hidden within the items in our collections. Some discoveries were quite amazing and intriguing.

In September the unexpected arrival of further bound copies of newspapers and other items from the Southern Highlands News was a most welcome surprise as existing gaps can now be filled and newspaper collections completed.

There remains much to be done in Conservation and the team looks forward to a productive and rewarding year in 2019. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers especially Linda Emery, Lyn Hall and Philip Morton for generously giving their assistance and support.

Denise Mackey

Publication Officer's Annual Report

During the past year the number of publications relating to the history of the area stocked by us increased to 80 titles. We also sell a small selection of second-hand and rare books. Sales are slow but constant and the gross revenue generated from sales at the museum, archives and online during the 2018 financial year totalled \$4,161.50.

A second edition of the very popular "Prisoners in Arcady" book, authored by John Simons, is currently being prepared. It will be ready for publication in 2019 thanks to the outstanding dedication and professionalism of Lyn Hall, with the support of Denyse Barker, Phillip Morton and Linda Emery.

Several book titles are no longer available in print and I wish to advise members that there is one final copy of 'The Gib' available in case an additional Christmas present is desired!

I also wish to thank our previous Publications Officer, Carolyn Hutton, for her comprehensive handover and generous support to me while I learnt the ropes! In addition, the support and guidance of our fantastic treasurer, Patricia Doris is invaluable.

Jenny Frost

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 ☎ Telephone (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 a general collection.
- 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), Harlan Hall (Project Manager), Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Alan Hornsby, 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, Museums Australia Inc and NSW Association of Family History Societies.

If undelivered return to:
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AUSTRALIA

BDH&FHS PATRON: Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire

President	Ian MACKEY
Snr Vice President	Bruce MOORE
Jnr Vice President	Linda EMERY
Hon Treasurer	Patricia Doris
Hon Secretary	Peg HARVEY
Archivist	Linda EMERY
Museum Manager	John SCHWEERS
Membership	Peg HARVEY
Newsletter Co-ordinator	Philip MORTON
Research Team	Carolyn DOUGHERTY, Janet BLACK and Frank MITCHELL
Conservation Team	Denise MACKEY, Roberta STOVE

Management Committee: President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and members Leonie Knapman, Denyse Barker, Philip Morton, Carolyn Dougherty, Denise Mackey, Jenny Frost, Ros Dale.