



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 518 July 2019



From the President's Desk

Another successful Southern Highlands "Pie time" festival month has now concluded. Our Museum exhibition was very popular, resulting in a significant increase in revenue for the month of June.

Once again we ventured to the Bowral Golf Club for our June lunch. A happy group assembled in the warm and comfortable clubhouse overlooking the golf course. Manager Tim and his staff prepared elegant tables and served a delicious meal.

Guest speaker was Nick Rheinberger who kept us entertained for over an hour with his life story. Nick is a versatile and creative personality, he was born in Narrandera, has lived and worked in many parts of Australia but now calls the Southern Highlands home. Nick is currently the morning show compere for ABC Illawarra, a position he has held for eleven years. His resume highlights many accomplishments including

broadcaster, journalist, scriptwriter, singer, children's entertainer, songwriter, cook, musician and teacher. Nick started his career in radio as a comedy writer in Canberra and has worked all over Australia in jobs ranging from busker to university lecturer. His passion seems to be his singing and his collection of mainly small stringed instruments, some of them unusual.

During his presentation Nick described his collection and demonstrated guitars, a small ukulele and an electric guitar fashioned from a cricket bat. There was a promise to come back again in the future to show more of his collection of musical instruments including some constructed from galvanised iron.

The distinguished Garry Barnsley OAM will be our guest speaker at the general meeting on 25 July to be held for the first time in the Mittagong Playhouse Theatre adjacent to our Archives. See page 3 for a profile of Garry and a summary of his talk.

Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

JULY 2019:

Thursday 25 July at 2:00pm

SPEAKER:

Garry Barnsley OAM (will be held in Playhouse theatre)

AUGUST 2019:

Thursday 22 August at 2:00pm

SPEAKER:

Perry McIntyre on researching Irish family history

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 BIZARRE TRAVEL CALLS

It's always a source of amusement when

waiting for a plane/ferry/train to try and translate what garbled message is being relayed over the PA system.

Here are some examples:

"Would Mr Bilongski please proceed to Gate 57 and collect his body parts (boarding pass), as you will need your boring farts (boarding pass) for your flight to Auckland."

"Mr Abu Dabba Dingdong report to Gate 61 as your flight has just departed".

"Would all Virgin passengers please report to Gate 35." Funny about that ... no one turned up!

After arriving in Auckland, the announcement went: "All passengers please report to the Chicken Counter before passing through Customs." Being surprised that people would bring chickens with them on a plane, we at last spy the sign "Check In Counter". Ah, I love that funtestuk Kiwi iccent!

Here's a no-brainer: "Attention passengers. Please do not board the Vancouver Ferry until it has docked and the gangway lowered in place." Derr!

"Calling Qantas passengers Constance Noring, Callum Murray and Myra Mains please report to the desk at Gate 20."

On a Pan Am flight the Captain announced: "Ladies and Gentlemen, we have just reached our cruising altitude of 38 thousand feet and we will be shortly turning off the cabin lights. This is for your cruising comfort and also to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants".

"As you exit the plane, please make sure you take all your belongings with you. Any luggage left will be evenly distributed between your flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

A wise quote from Paul Theroux: "Tourists don't know where they've been; travellers don't know where they are going."

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

OPEN WEDNESDAY to SUNDAY
and **EVERY DAY** during NSW School
Holidays and on Public Holidays

HOURS

June, July and August: 10am to 3pm;

September to May: 10am to 4pm

Groups welcome at other times by
arrangement. Ph: Lyn 02 4862 1626
or John 0434 623 402.

Museum: Phone 4877 1130 or
email bdmuseum@bigpond.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

Research Fees

Research fees for non-members:

\$30.00 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.

Our July meeting will be in the Playhouse Theatre

This month's general meeting will be held in the Playhouse theatre rather than in our upstairs meeting room.

Being at ground level, the Playhouse is more readily accessible for those who have difficulty with the stairs to our meeting room. If you have ceased coming to our monthly meetings because of the stairs, we hope you will note this development and we look forward to seeing you again.

The Playhouse Theatre is located in the Old Council Chambers complex, Bowral Road, Mittagong, the building in which our research centre, archives and rooms are located. You enter by the same main doors as you would for our premises.

The BDHS Management Committee has decided to trial this venue and we have hired it and the ground floor supper room for this and upcoming meetings.

Garry Barnsley OAM, well-known for his many contributions to the local community, will be the first of our guest speakers in the Playhouse. See page 3 for a brief profile and outline of his talk.



Nick Rheinberger was our June Lunch speaker at Bowral Golf Club. During his talk he displayed some of his instrument collection, including a ukulele and cricket bat.

July Speaker: Garry Barnsley OAM

At our meeting to be held in the Playhouse Theatre, the speaker will be Garry Barnsley OAM.



Garry has a long family connection to the Southern Highlands, spanning seven generations since the 1860s. He was born in Bowral in 1950, and grew up in Sutton Forest where his parents ran the village store and post office. He attended Sutton Forest Public School and Bowral

High School. After graduating from the University of Sydney with a law degree in 1972, he returned to the Southern Highlands, entering the legal profession. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2000 for services to the Southern Highlands community.

Garry married Nerida Taylor, daughter of respected local schoolteachers, at Mittagong in 1974.

From 1972, for 24 years, Garry served as a volunteer office-bearer of the Berrima Court House Trust. With fellow trustees he oversaw the concluding stages of restoration of the historic building (circa 1838).

Garry and Nerida conceived the idea of the annual *Bundanoon is Brigadoon* gathering in 1978. For the first two years Garry served as chairman of the organising committee, on which enthusiastic local residents served. Brigadoon celebrated its 40th year in 2017. Nerida's home-baked shortbread was a feature of the gathering over a period of 35 years.

In 1983, Garry had the idea for a museum in Bowral, dedicated to the life and cricketing career of Sir Donald Bradman. The idea saw fruition. Garry is a former chairman of the Bradman Foundation, and served on the Board of the Bradman Museum Trust and the Bradman Foundation from inception until retiring in 2002. He is now a Life Member.

Garry has an abiding interest in, and great knowledge of, military history, which is the theme of his talk to us. The following is an outline of Garry's talk:

IN ACTION, ONCE MISSED, NOW FOUND – THE SEARCH FOR OLD SOLDIERS LOST IN TIME

“Wars are the punctuation marks of history.”

“We trace our progress through – or even *despite* - the periodic devastation caused by human conflict.

“Australia has endured 13 wars in its short modern history and suffered the loss of 102,874 of its people in active military service. Tens of thousands of books have been published chronicling the story, and yet our appetite for the telling of our people's military history is unabated.

“Newcomers to our progression as a nation are drilled annually to stand in silent awe on ANZAC Day and solemnly pledge to remember the fallen – and honour them. But what is the point of memorialising if it's not based in a robust knowledge of the lost soldiers and their sacrifice?

“Right now, we find ourselves at the most amazing crossroads – when curiosity about our forebears and kin who went to war, many of whom gave their all, intersects with the information revolution. Now, we can forage for their stories in the comfort of our homes or while the billy boils.

“Anyone with an internet connecting device can tap into the archival collections only recently exposed to public view. How tall was your great-great-grandfather when he enlisted? What was his eye colour? Who was the family he left behind, and what provision did he make for them when he departed for overseas battlefields?

“Where and with what comrades did he serve? What battles, wounds and illnesses did he endure? Was he brave enough to be decorated for valour – or just lucky to survive? How do YOU imagine YOU would have coped if YOU were in his boots?”

Garry Barnsley offers to guide listeners through the resources now available, all with a view to fulfilling the pledge of remembrance. “But it's not just family that matters” he says “It's commendable to place the National Flag on the local graves of old soldiers on occasions of commemoration. It's more instructive to learn about their war service years, their courage at enlistment and beyond, their deprivation and suffering, their losses, their victories, their return to their loved ones – or their final resting place.

“Honour boards in schools and halls, war memorials in parks, plaques in churches – all these are silent passive sentinels no longer. The names they bear plead for remembrance and recognition, now that the tools of discovery are readily at hand.

“Then and only then can we truly say ‘We will remember them’”.

During his talk at our meeting on Thursday 25 July, Garry will also touch upon the emerging controversy surrounding the expansion of the Australian War Memorial.

Local litter campaign goes historical!

The archives received a request in March from the Waste Education Officer at Wingecarribee Shire Council, Elizabeth Guest, who requested permission to use some of our historical photographs. Council was working with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation on a litter reduction program for the Shire and wanted to develop litter signage that depicted historical images, particularly of Robertson and Berrima. She included some examples of signs using an historical theme created for the Illawarra.

Elizabeth had looked through the Image Library on our website and provided us with a shortlist of appropriate images. These, along with several others suggested by Linda Emery, were scanned at high resolution and supplied to the graphic designer.

Once the signs were ready for installation in June, Elizabeth sent us photos of a selection of them. She was happy with the end result and thanked us for providing the best photos for the project. Using historical images certainly make the signage more eye-catching and our Society is most pleased to have assisted with this project.

Be on the look-out for the new signage!



Our extensive rail history holdings

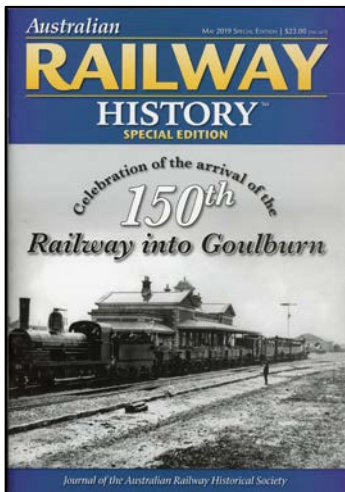
The Research Team has recently reorganised the material on local railway history held in our archives and Frank Mitchell has compiled an updated filing guide of the extensive holdings. This should prove useful to those with an interest in researching local railway history.

BDHS Railway History: NSW Southern Highlands/ Great Southern Railway/ Main South Line

1. Early Construction/Civil Works 1863 to circa WW 1 (1914-1918). This was the 'single track' era, from Menangle to Picton in 1863, to Mittagong via Picton Lakes (Thirlmere), Buxton, Hill Top and Colo Vale (known as 'Great Southern Railway')
2. Duplication and Deviation from proposal to construction as a 'new' Main Line double track railway via Bargo 1914 – 1919, referred to as 'Main Southern Railway' or 'Main South Line'
3. Stations and Staff of operational importance: Picton - 1863/ Mittagong - 1867/ Gib Tunnel and Bowral - 1868/ (Sutton Forest) Moss Vale - 1868/ Bundanoon - Marulan 1868/ Goulburn 1869
4. Trains and locomotives (engines) of early steam era 1860s to 1890s
5. Trains and locomotives (engines) of 'modern steam era' 1890s - 1970 (last steam in Highlands was 1969-1970)
6. Diesel trains and locomotives from 1950 to when NSW Government control ended in 1997-2000
7. Contemporary era of reorganised operations and ownership: 'State Rail Authority', 'Freight Corp' and 'Country Link' to privatisation of freight operation circa 2002
8. Heritage trains and 'Special Events' including Centenary 1967 / 150th events 2017-2019
 - Loop Line and Rail Transport Museum, later 'Train Works' at Thirlmere
 - Cockatoo Run on Illawarra Mountain line to Robertson and occasionally Moss Vale
9. Railway Accidents – derailments and collisions; many serious events have occurred over the decades, some with loss of life: Exeter 1917; Spirit of Progress at Mittagong/Gib Tunnel in 1969; Robertson in 1972
10. Private Railways and tramways: Mittagong Iron Works tramlines / Joadja tramways / Box Vale Colliery railway / Berrima Cement Works / Berrima Coal Mining Co / Erith coal mines at Bundanoon / Marulan – limestone quarries, etc.

Railway 150th to Goulburn celebrated

Our Research Team member Frank Mitchell recently wrote, on behalf of the Society, to the editor and contributors of *Australian Railway History* monthly magazine to congratulate them on the May 2019 supplementary edition. This special issue was entirely devoted to a celebration of the arrival of the railway into Goulburn on 27 May 1869, 150 years ago. Member Dugald Black has donated a copy of this issue of *Australian Railway History* to the Archives.



The issue provides a comprehensive history of the line from 1846, when first mooted, and then progresses along the rail line from Parramatta to Picton, to the opening as far as Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale in 1867, and then to Goulburn.

This superb publication is illustrated with many early photos, maps and

diagrams. It includes contributions by Dugald Black, who provides information on the effect of the railway on the small villages that developed along the line between Moss Vale and Marulan.

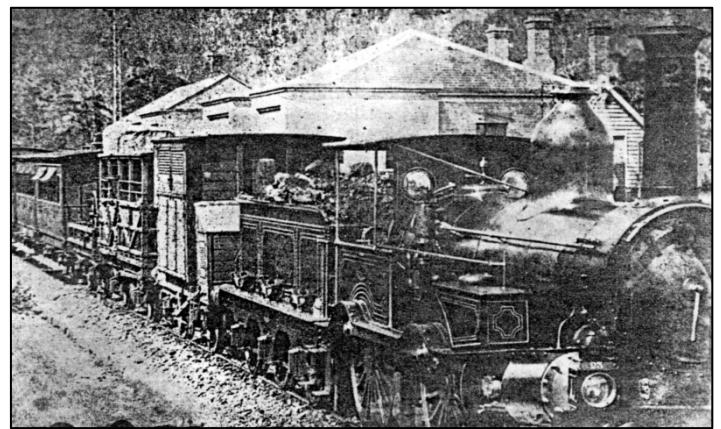
Jim Longworth, *ARH* editor, introduces the edition as follows: "Sesquicentenaries in Australian railway history are still relatively unusual. 27 May 2019 marks the 150th anniversary of opening the Great Southern Railway from Sydney to Goulburn. This supplementary edition to the *ARH* May 2019 issue celebrates the work in originally constructing the line between Parramatta and Goulburn".

The history provided includes how the southern line came about in the early days of the colony, various proposals for the route, the impact its construction had on the localities it passed through, with great detail provided about the bridges, stations and other structures required, and finishing with several articles providing an overview of the history of Goulburn.

For those with a particular interest in the Southern Railway's historical impact on the present-day Wingecarribee Shire, the edition has plenty to offer.

Two early photos are shown for comparison – one being of Bowral's original railway station building (the photo is from the BDHS image collection) and the other of Locomotive No 23 on a mixed train passing a station, which in the past has been

attributed to Marulan, but is now considered to be Bowral. The roofline of the building in the two photos shows a definite similarity:



Also in regard to the railway's history in the local district, Frank Mitchell happened to notice a minor omission in the special edition, on table 5, page 14, which lists gatehouses along the line.

The 'Cruciform'- style gatehouse that once existed at Mittagong was not listed, although understandable in that it was demolished when an overbridge was erected on Ferguson Ave adjacent to the Maltings site as part of the 1914-1919 railway duplication and deviation from Picton via Bargo to Braemar.

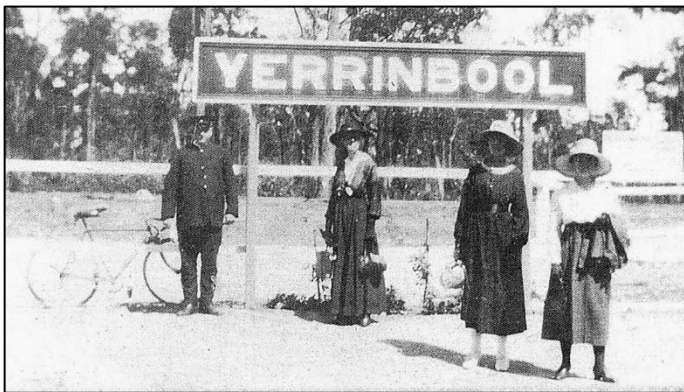


Prior to the much later deviation of the highway at this location in 1963, the original 'main road' crossed the railway and until 1919, as shown above, was protected by a typical Whitton-designed gatehouse.

Yerrinbool's 100th rail anniversary

On 19 July 1919 a new, double-track section of main line for the Southern Railway opened between Picton and Mittagong via Bargo and Yerrinbool, replacing the original section via Thirlmere, Hill Top and Colo Vale. Centenary celebrations are being held this month, including at Yerrinbool on Saturday 13 July.

Real estate development had already taken place along the new line before it opened. At Tahmoor an auction sale of over 300 lots was held in 1917 and at West Bargo the Hawthorne Estate was offered, both producing very satisfactory results. From there the line entered the local district (today's Wingecarribee Shire), with railway stations built at Yerrinbool and Aylmerton. During construction of the rail tracks and of the two tunnels required for the deviation, a tent-town of railway fitters and their families had existed in the area, along with stables for horses used in the heavy work.

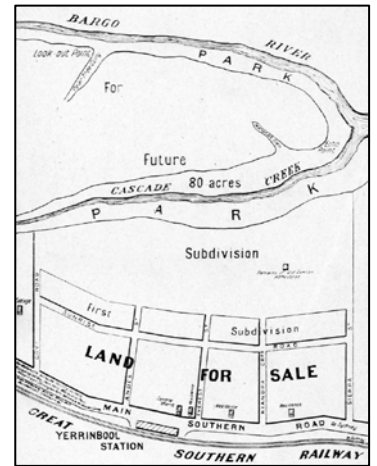


The Railway Department provided the station name Yerrinbool, it being an Aboriginal word said to mean 'wood duck', being plentiful in the area. Aylmerton Station took the name of nearby Aylmerton House, it being named by earlier owners for their English place of origin.

The location aroused the interest of developers, who capitalised on people's strong interest in the Southern Highlands as affording a change from the Blue Mountains. In 1919 the *Sydney Morning Herald* stated that "the new Yerrinbool station opens up a resort with great natural advantages. The Nattai Shire councillors are securing an area of about 80 acres, close to the station, as a public park. It will include nearly the whole of Cascade Creek, and many beauty spots along the Bargo River. A subdivision plan of the Yerrinbool Station Estate is now before the Council."

The subdivided estate was part of a 32-acre property initially obtained as a crown grant in 1902 by Albert Dawson, who then sold it to Hamilton Smith. After finding mineral springs on the property, Smith

developed it as a health sanatorium named 'Pine Camp'. The estate became the village of Yerrinbool. In a history compiled by resident Jan Heslep, it notes that street names such as Andes, Appenine, Sierra, Kiandra and Everest were given to emphasise the alpine theme. The first land



sale was successful and 42 lots fronting the Main Southern Road sold rapidly, as did 26 lots in Sunrise Road, but the proposed resort never eventuated.

Being already well established in the area, horticulture thrived with improved railway access and brought prosperity to Yerrinbool. Robert Bear had a 15-acre orchard planted with apples, pears, and cherries and the Bernard Brothers 16-acre orchard included tomatoes and gooseberries. Sid Parsons, whose land was at a location known as Sandy Pinch, grew tomatoes and kept chickens for egg production.

Yerrinbool Post Office opened on 1 December 1919, remaining in operation until 1977. A General Store was built in 1921 and a public school was opened on 20 August 1922 with 30 students enrolled. The *Southern Mail* reported that the Yerrinbool Progress Association had purchased several allotments of land for the school site on an elevated position fronting the main road and adjacent to the railway station. This land was enclosed with a substantial fence and cleared by voluntary labour before being conveyed to the Education Department free of charge. A fine structure was erected, the opening ceremony being performed by Mr Mark Morton, MLA, with many prominent local residents present, including Mr Lupton (Bargo), Cr Webb (Nattai shire) and Cr Blomfield of Sydney and Yerrinbool.

The school operated from 1922 until the late 1960s, the building being destroyed by fire in the 1970s. The Community Hall was built in 1938 by local voluntary labour. The Tennessee Orchard's apples-for-sale sign became a familiar landmark for travellers on the Hume Highway, although apple production has now much reduced and large-scale agriculture has taken over the site. Yerrinbool was split in half in the mid-1970s by the M5 motorway, joined by an overbridge. The village serves today as the Old Hume Highway's northern gateway to the Southern Highlands.

- compiled by Philip Morton

Sarah Loseby's 100 years honoured

Continued from last issue, compiled by Philip Morton

The 100th birthday of Miss Sarah Loseby, a Bowral resident, was honoured by the town on 4 September 1947. After a service in St Jude's Church Bowral, and accompanied by about 200 people, she unveiled a plaque marking Bowral's first church school site, and then attended the opening of a children's playground named in her honour at Bradman Oval.

A report in the *Southern Mail* described the events. It noted that Mrs W Foley, Bowral's Mayoress, unveiled the plaque and said it gave her great pleasure to dedicate and name the playground on the 100th birthday of Miss Loseby. Mrs F Griffin, a niece of Miss Loseby, then presented the Mayoress with a posy.



The paper continued that, after the opening, "a beautifully decorated three-tiered birthday cake, bearing 100 candles, was cut by Miss Loseby with a silver cake-trowel. She blew out the candles, and was presented with the trowel by the Mayoress. At the request of Miss Loseby, who had enjoyed them in her younger days at picnics, scrambles for oranges were staged for the children. All the children later received a free bag of sweets and fruit. After the public ceremonies, Miss Loseby entertained her relatives at her home."

The *Moss Vale Post*, in an article about Miss Loseby's 100th birthday, stated that as an old lady she still led an active life, spending her leisure hours in her flower garden. She did her own housekeeping and cooking, except for the midday meal which was prepared by a grand-niece who resided next door. She still read and did her own sewing. She was described as possessing a gracious and happy disposition and as being a close follower of current affairs.

An earlier *Southern Mail* article, in 1942, described her garden: "Near the corner of Boolwey and Bendooley Sts, Bowral, there is a small, old-fashioned garden, redolent of the scents of hyacinths and violets, and bright with other English flowers."

"The venerable old lady who has tended it for 40 years is Miss Sarah Loseby, grey-haired and old fashioned, but still as sweet as the garden itself. The years have dealt kindly with this sole survivor of one of the early pioneers of the district, whose 95th birthday was celebrated last Friday. She is still in possession of her mental faculties, attends to her housework, and tends her garden. It is not a big garden, but fortunate indeed is the possessor who derives as much pleasure from it as does Miss Loseby. It was in her garden that I talked with her the other day. She spoke of the newly opened blooms with enthusiasm and named them as accurately as might one of half her years. And when she spoke of other days, trees and flowers had a large part in her recollections. She herself had planted the ivy which covers an ancient tree and beautifies the entrance to Harby Farm, where first the family lived. The famous hedge had been planted by her father and his sons."



Sarah Loseby's father, Charles, had settled at Bong Bong in 1845, and acquired Mt Pleasant, one of the Veterans allotments along the river. He renamed it Harby Farm after the place in Leicestershire, England, where the Losebys were born.

The recollections of Sarah, as recounted in the *Mail* article, continued that her father "built a cottage of four rooms made of slabs with a bark roof. The old stable still stands. In it the wedding breakfast of Miss Loseby's sister was held after being married in Bong Bong Church. Charles made boots for the family from hides grown and tanned on the farm. They had always an abundance of fruit and vegetables and to this and the pure air of the district, Miss Loseby attributes her long freedom from illness. There was little money in circulation and her father, who was a shoemaker, bartered his work for wheat, which was ground at the Old Mill near Moss Vale into flour from which their bread was made at home. Their sugar was black, refined sugar being unknown, and their tea came in chests."

"Miss Loseby came to Bowral in 1912 when her cottage was built. The front garden was first planted with potatoes and a good crop was gathered. Then the flowers came and they have been her constant care and joy till to-day when her declining years are cheered by their beauty and fragrance."

Sarah Gregg Loseby passed away in June 1948, nine months after her 100th birthday.

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: Harlan Hall (Project Manager), Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Harold Wall (Human Resources) and John Schweers.
- 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.

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