

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 409 August 2009

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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. OPEN: Saturdays, Sundays, NSW Public and School Holidays (except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day) 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

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 \$5.00 – Single \$20.00 – Family \$33.00.

AFFILIATIONS: Royal Australian Historical Society, NSW Association of Family History Societies, Museums Australia Inc & Regional Chapter.

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

AUGUST MEETING: Thursday, 27 August 2009 at 2:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr John Bunt, Founding Director of the Australian Institute of Marine Science
TOPIC: An Australian in Antarctica
Society member John Bunt had five stints in Antarctica during his scientific career, two with the Australian station and three with the United States. John's talk will focus on a consideration of how history is created.
See page 6 for a description of Dr John's book "Antarctic Memoirs". Copies will be on sale at the Archives.
AFTERNOON TEA: To be served after the meeting. Members - please bring a plate or a donation

Inside this month ...

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And more

GENERAL MEETING: Thursday, 24 September 2009 at 5:00pm
VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong



EVENTS CALENDER 2009

AUGUST

13 Management Committee Meeting
22 Working Bee at Archives
27 Monthly General Meeting - Talk on *The Science of Antarctica* by John Bunt.

SEPTEMBER

6 Fathers Day
10 Management Committee Meeting
16 Powerhouse Discovery Tour
24 Monthly General Meeting

OCTOBER

Tulip Time
1 **MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**
3 School holidays commence
8 Management Committee Meeting
17 Hollands Family Picnic
18 School holidays conclude
22 Monthly General Meeting

NOTE TIMES GENERAL MEETING

The General Meeting times for the remainder of 2009 are: August will be the usual **2pm**, and for the months of September, October and November the time will be **5pm**.

NEW MEMBERS

John **Bunt**, Burradoo
Gwenda **Churchill**, Moss Vale
Anne **Kavanagh**, Moss Vale
Jocelyn **Park**, Bowral
Jennifer **Woolard**, Colo Vale

Here's to a long and happy association.

NEWSLETTERS

Don't forget - previous editions of our newsletters and other societies newsletters are available in our library.

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR?

FATHERS DAY - Our society will be holding a Father's Day stand at the Highlands Marketplace, Mittagong on Thursday 3, Friday 4, and Saturday 6 September. Can you spare an hour to man the stand? Please ring the archives 48722169 with the times you are available. Many hands make light work.

WORKING BEE AT THE ARCHIVES

- On Saturday 22nd August we are having a working bee at the Archives in Mittagong. We want to do some re-organising of the storage area, general tidying up and cleaning and removal of obsolete equipment. If you have some time available, please come along and join the fun, even if it is only for an hour or so.

We will start at 9.30am but you can join us at any time during the day. Coffee and cake provided, but BYO lunch if you are staying.

POWERHOUSE DISCOVERY CENTRE TOUR

A tour of the Powerhouse Discovery Centre at Castle Hill and Rouse Hill House at Rouse Hill has been arranged for Wednesday 16 September 2009. We will travel from Mittagong by mini bus (limit 20 seats) to Castle Hill for morning tea and a 60 minute guided tour of the Display Store. Following this visit we will travel to Rouse Hill House for an inspection. A boxed lunch will be provided.

Bus departs from Mittagong Railway Station (town side) at 8.30am and return at approx 4.00pm.

Cost including morning tea, boxed lunch, travel and entry fees is \$40 per person.

Please book at the Archives - limited seats so book early!

HOLLANDS FAMILY PICNIC

The annual family picnic day and meeting of the descendants of **JOHN and MARY HOLLANDS** of the Sutton Forest area of NSW will be held on October 17, 2009 at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church hall, Berrima from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Morning tea provided. BYO lunch.

Some associated families:
Bainbrigge; Davis; Donnelly; Foley;
Hannaford; Henry; Hughes; Ison;
Menzies; McGuire; Orford; Owen;
Ritchie; Shippley; Whatman; Whipp.

Secretary: Allan Shephard
(02) 4774 0405
alshep@pnc.com.au

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Honour Rolls: President, Ken Reid has prepared honour rolls for the positions of Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Life Members within our society since its foundation; these are now mounted at our archives.

Laptop: We have purchased a laptop for use at general meetings in conjunction with our digital projector.

Microfilm Reader: Our society has purchased two microfilm reader / printers.

Newsletter: Our newsletters are now available on our website.

Society Signage: A sign showing the name of our society has been erected on the Bowral Road / Old Hume Highway corner of the building.

Our 50 Years Anniversary in 2010: A sub committee has been formed to coordinate our 50th year celebration in 2010. After many, many months of research by Peg Harvey of society records, we have applied for a grant from the RAHS to publish a book to celebrate the occasion.

CAN YOU HELP

Narelle Hohnberg asks: I am seeking any photographs of my mother who died in 1946. Her name was **Beryl Florence SIMPSON** born 1910, the second of five children born to Robert Baker SIMPSON and his wife Caroline. Beryl married Edwin Ernest GARRETT and I am the youngest of their three children. I have only one good snapshot of my mother and would very much like to know if there were others and if possible to get copies. Any help in this regard would be very much appreciated.

Contact: Narelle Hohnberg
28 Sladen Street East
Henry NSW 2658
dhohnber@bigpond.net.au

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

The Colonial Observer Thursday 14 October 1841 page 15 column 2

NEWS OF THE WEEK SYDNEY

OLD GAOL.—This building was sold by the Government on Friday last, for 300/. The removal of the materials commenced on Saturday, and it is to be hoped that the present week will see the greater portion carried away; when the ground is cleared the lower part of George-street will be greatly improved by the present street being rendered more straight than it is at present, particularly where the gaol buildings project.

The Colonial Observer Thursday 21 October 1841 page 22 column 4

The bodies that have been buried in the old Prison grounds are in course of being dug up, to be re-interred elsewhere. The materials of the old Gaol are rapidly disappearing. [Note: this paragraph refers to the above paragraph on the old gaol.

The Colonial Observer Thursday 28 October 1841 page 31 column 3

BERRIMA.

CURRAN THE BUSHRANGER.—On Thursday last this notorious bushranger suffered the last penalty of the law. He was attended by the Rev. Mr. Gould of Campbelltown, and the Rev. Mr. McGrath of Goulburn. His conduct since the period of his sentence has been of the most inconsistent character, now blasphemy, and then penitence and prayer. On the scaffold he acknowledged the murder of Mr. Fuller, for which another individual named Bright had been tried and transported for life. Mr. Keck, junior, discharged the functions of the sheriff on the occasion.

Scrutineer Saturday 3 August 1895 page 2 column 3

QUICK DISPATCH

If you have only three minutes to spare (it will not take longer) you should not miss the opportunity of being photographed by an entirely new process, and have the likeness finished to takeaway with you for sixpence. The operator's tent is now fixed on the vacant ground near the railway bridge (opposite Mr. Salmon's). Mr. Newrick (the manager) announces in our advertising columns that the first twenty children coming after 9 o'clock this (Saturday) morning will have portraits taken and finished free of any charge.

The Scrutineer Saturday 8 August 1896 page 2 column 2

SUGAR BEET.

The cultivation of sugar beet in this district has been recently discussed in our column. It may interest our readers to learn that Mr. Andrew Elliott has left at our office (where it may be inspected) a sample of sugar beet grown by him in admittedly poor ground which appears to be a really good specimen weighing over ten pounds.

The Southern Mail 29 August 1902

Finding the family tree hard... ..try researching this family.

ELEVEN TRIPLETS

The Italians are discussing the advisability of pensioning Mrs. Maddalena Granatta, a lady of 57, who lives near Nocera, 12 miles from Naples. Her husband has been dead for 10 years, but during the 19 years they lived together as man and wife they had 62 children born to them, 59 of the lot being males. Eleven different times in nine years triplets were born, on three occasions four boys were announced, and once there were four boys and a girl.

RESEARCH FEES

The research fee for non-members:

\$15.00 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.

ARCHIVES OPENING HOURS

Opening hours are as follows:

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

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

Market Place, Berrima.
Near the bridge.

OPENING HOURS

10 am - 4 pm.
Weekends, Public Holidays and
NSW School Holidays.
Closed Good Friday, Christmas
Day and Boxing Day.
Groups also welcome at other
times by arrangement.
Please telephone Bob or Gloria
on 4889 4405

EXHIBIT IMPRESSES GERMANS

The museum supplied the following article and photo to the *Southern Highland News*. It featured in the 17 June 2009 issue.

Berrima District Museum has attracted visitors from the German Parliament with its impressive 'Prisoners in Arcady' exhibition.

During their current visit to Australia, deputy chairman of Germany's Social Democratic Parliamentary Group Walter Kolbow and senior foreign policy adviser Martin Weiss insisted on adding Berrima to the itinerary.

Previously Mr Kolbow was parliamentary state secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defence.

He had learnt of the museum's 'Prisoners in Arcady' exhibition, featuring the story of German internees at Berrima during World War I, and through the German Consulate in Sydney, a visit was arranged.

Honorary museum curator Bob Williams took pleasure in guiding the visitors on a tour of the exhibition.

They were fascinated by the story of the German internees and the conditions they enjoyed while detained by the Australian Government. Mr Kolbow said he was pleased that the name "Concentration Camp" had soon given way to "Internment Camp" during the internees' stay.

Locked up at night, the internees were allowed their freedom during the day and used a section of the river for their recreational activities. A harmonious relationship developed between the internees, residents and local authorities. The internees' activities during their internment are the focus of the exhibition.

Of particular interest to Mr Kolbow was the story of the five officers from SMS *Emden* who were among the detainees at Berrima.

He spoke of the new German warship *Emden*, which is currently patrolling the Indian Ocean in search of pirates.

Mr Kolbow summed up his visit to the museum with this comment in the Visitors' Book:

"Thanks for the outstanding guidance and information over a part of German history in connection with World War 1," Mr Kolbow wrote.

"As a member of the German Parliament I am grateful for this museum, which is now also an example for the cooperation between Australia and Germany. Our duty is peace!"

Mr Kolbow will visit Canberra, Melbourne and Perth before returning to Germany.



Honorary museum curator Bob Williams and volunteer Gloria Williams with visiting members of the German parliament, Walter Kolbow and senior foreign policy advisor Martin Weiss.

Following the visit, the Museum received a letter of thanks from Walter Kolbow. An extract is reprinted below.



Dear Bob Williams,

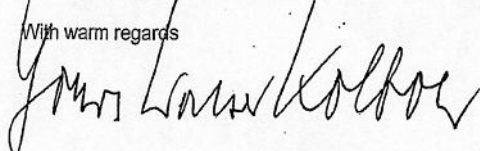
Back in Germany we want to thank you once more for the wonderful presentation you and your wife gave us.

It was really a great pleasure for us to see this museum with its interesting presentation of the life of German prisoners in Australia.

The life in the "*Arcady of Berrima*" was able to overcome the enmity between Germans and Australians and is therefore a model of early peace-building.

To visit this museum should be a duty to all German tourists who come to New South Wales.

We wish you personally all the best and great success for your important work

With warm regards

Walter Kolbow, MdB
Deputy Chairman of the Social-democratic Parliamentary Group in the Deutscher Bundestag

HIGHLANDS HISTORY

The *Southern Highland News* published an article about the Society on 24 July 2009 in regard to our supplying history features to the paper. Extracts from it are reproduced here.

Delve into Southern Highlands past

Readers can take a journey into the Southern Highlands' past every week with a new column beginning on Monday.

The Berrima District Historical & Family History Society, Bundanoon Historical Society and local historian Leah Day will be presenting the weekly column.

"We are going to start at the beginning and work through history," Berrima District Historical & Family History Society vice president Leonie Knapman said.

"There will be articles from our records and even some newspaper articles written decades ago."

Articles already planned include stories connecting the shire's past to the present, such as histories of buildings or businesses still in existence.

The society is also planning stories shedding light on aspects of living we take for granted today, such as modes of transport.

The volunteers of Berrima District Historical and Family History Society have worked hard since 1960 to establish a museum and a permanent archive for the preservation of the documentary and material heritage of the Southern Highlands.

"We want to encourage the study of Australian, local and family history," Mrs Knapman said.

"There is so much interesting history and we are really lucky that a lot of it has been recorded."

"So many new people have moved into area with no idea what has gone on before them," said Mrs Knapman.

"It is through this column that we can give them an insight into what has happened in the past."

The award-winning Berrima Museum houses more than 2000 items, from artefacts made by the German internees at Berrima during WWI to Aboriginal relics.

The society's archives in Mittagong contain an extensive collection of the history of the Wingecarribee Shire ranging from records of all pre-1856 births, deaths and marriages for NSW to biography files for hundreds of local families, and local papers in hard copy and on microfilm including the *Berrima District Post*, *Bowral Free Press*, *The Four Mails* and *Goulburn Herald*.

"We collect all the early history so that no matter what the interest is, whether it's family history or the history behind a house about to be purchased, we can provide all the information to whoever requests it," said Mrs Knapman.

"We have now gone computerised and are working on indexing all of our collection, so finding a photograph or article will only take seconds," Mrs Knapman said.

The first of the 'Highlands History' features supplied by the Society was published in the Monday edition of the *Southern Highland News* on 27 July 2009.

It related some of the interesting history concerning Wombeyan Caves and the building in 1900 of the road through difficult terrain from the Highlands, which cut 100 miles off the trip via Goulburn.

There was not space enough for the paper to print more than one of the several rare photos and sketches from our archives, so here are two of them.

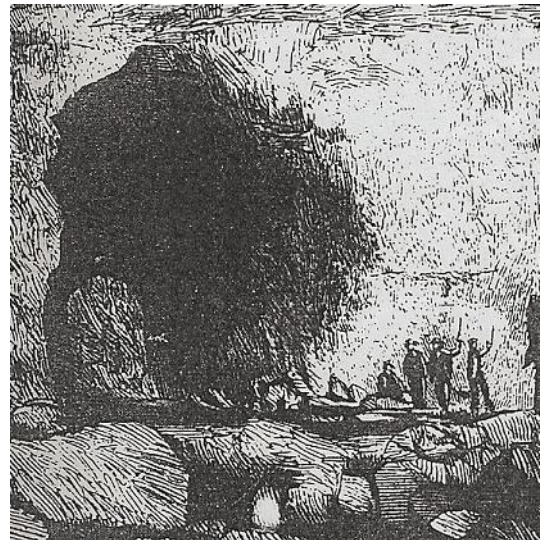


Figure 1. An engraving from 1865 shows explorers with candles gathered at the entrance of a cavern.

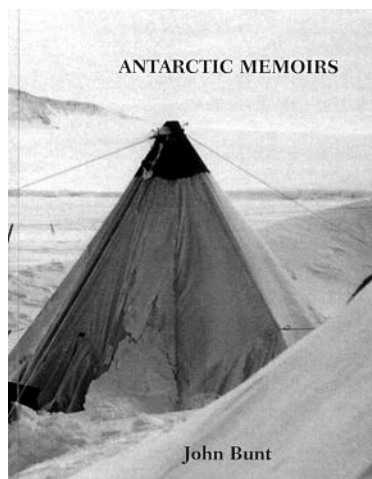


Figure 2. On the road to Wombeyan Caves in 1928.

ANTARCTIC MEMOIRS

by John Bunt, Society member

John will be guest speaker at the August monthly meeting of the Society. He will build on his Antarctic experiences to focus on a consideration of how history is created.



"A rare account, at first hand, of the brave new world of Antarctica in the early days of the 1950s, within the repetitions and routines of scientific work in a place of ultimate isolation, camaraderie and the magic of the first contact with the last unknown region of our planet."

David Malouf

From early in 1951 John found himself in the Antarctic, on Macquarie

Island, studying the microbiology of its primitive soils. The results of that enterprise were all published within a year or two of his returning to Australia. A doctoral thesis was submitted in 1955. Following convention, though, nothing in those reports said anything personal about that period.

Antarctic Memoirs describes those experiences that did not find their way into research publications. John never imagined that over fifty years would pass before he had time to begin this writing. Yet how vividly he brings alive his recollections, as in the following extract:

"Directly ahead, a stark vista of low peaks spanned the lifeless upper plateau. They evoked a sense of loneliness altogether beyond description. It seemed to me almost as though we were intruding upon a land of totally alien dimensions; ourselves specks of nothing, with neither substance nor significance; unheeded and irrelevant. I kept these thoughts to myself. During a brief stop, none of us spoke a word. When Earl moved off, we followed, still silent, toward the rim of the escarpment high above the wave-battered, wildly jagged western coastline."

In the first half of the book, John details the years 1951/52 when he was at Macquarie Island; it then moves on to 1956/1957 when he joined the team at Mawson, an Australian base established in 1954 on the Antarctic continent which by 1956 was serviced by aircraft.

John Bunt lives locally and recently joined the Society. He was a founding Director of the Australian Institute of Marine Science in far north Queensland. Honours include a Polar Medal awarded by Queen Elizabeth, a US Antarctic Service Medal and several locations, an island and a mountain, named for him in Antarctica.

Born in the English Colony of New South Wales 1788 – 1800

This new addition to the Society's library is compiled by Dr. Craig James Smee of Canberra. It was published in July of this year.

The work claims to identify, trace and flesh out the lives of all children born in the English colony of New South Wales during its founding period between the years 1788 and 1800.

The book consists of thirty lists and fifty tables, covering various aspects of the lives of the first generation of our colonial born. Aspects such as: birth, baptism, marriage, death, appearances in various colonial musters and the 1828 census.

Dr. Smee explains in the book's Introduction that for completeness all children arriving in the colony on board ships for the same period have also been included. To avoid the cumbersome phrase 'colonial born and childhood arrivals' as well as to give them their proper historical due, the term 'First Generation' has been employed throughout the work to describe them.

Principle sources of birth information

The four major sources of information on the birth details presented in this work were derived from:

1. St. Phillips Sydney - Baptismal register
2. St. Johns Parramatta - Baptismal register
3. Norfolk Island and its First Settlement - Reginald Wright
4. The Pioneer Register - Dr. C J Smee.

The Pioneer Register project is a collection of family trees for persons arriving in the colony between the years 1788 and 1820. The project was commenced in the early 1970s and to date four thousand families have been published in over 58 separate books.

Extracts from the Prologue to Dr. Smee's work

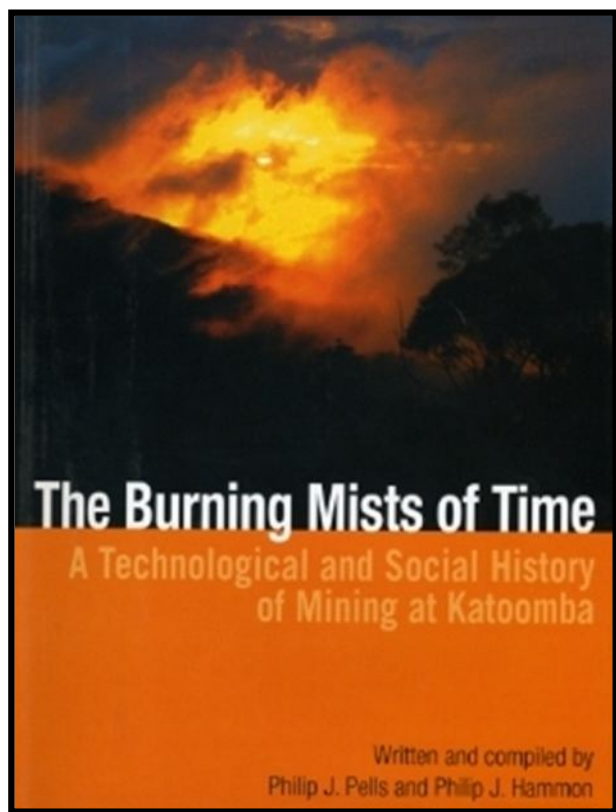
"There is probably not another nation on earth that would be able to generate a book such as this - documenting as it does the lives of an entire generation of the nation and the first generation at that."

"One would think as soon as the English arrived they were driving along New South Head Road in a sports car sipping champagne with the wind blowing through their hair! Nothing could be further from the truth. The death rates endured by our settlers in pioneering this nation matched those of the Anzacs ... on the Western Front in the First World War."

New book in our library

A new addition to the Society's library is this publication about Katoomba in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales.

***The Burning Mists of Time*, written and compiled by Philip J Pells and Philip J Hammon, was published in August 2008.**



The book relates the fascinating story of the establishment of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains of NSW, including the history of the Scenic Railway.

It traces the people who lived there in the late 1800s, the pioneering developers who were drawn by the world's richest oil shale deposits and associated coal seams, and the roles of those people and their works in the rise of Katoomba to touristic fame.

The authors say that while quite a few books, and papers, have already been published that include material concerning this history, some were not as well researched as they might have been. They claim that the primary source documents checked against for this publication have shown that the accepted history of the discovery of oil shale in Australia is incorrect, as is much of the local history about mining in Katoomba.

The wealth of primary source information found has added very substantially to the historical validity of this book. However the authors found that they exposed the golden rule of research, "The more you find out, the more you find out what you have yet to find out".

As a solution to this problem they have a page on the Scenic World website www.scenicworld.com.au/bmot, into which they will put further information or photographs that become available. The website also includes the complete reference list for the book in electronic, searchable form to enable other researchers to follow up on the work and perhaps find out more.

Skip a chapter if you must

In their introduction, the authors explain that some quite technical explanation is necessary to back up what they have written and to explain the various problems that beset their heroes. Skip a chapter if you must, they say, but they hope that in reading this book you will come away with an understanding of the times, trials, successes and failures of these pioneers of the Blue Mountains.

They offer special thanks to a variety of people who provided valuable assistance including "the wonderful Leonie Knapman of Joadja Creek fame".

The title of this book came to Phil Hammon when he was photographing, from his balcony above Narrow Neck, the sunset that forms the dust cover of the book. "Burning" refers to combustion of all the oil shale and coal dug from beneath the sandstone ramparts, and "Mists of Time" acknowledges how difficult it is to formulate an accurate history of what was done, and why it was done, as little as 150 years ago.

A wealth of drawings and photographs illustrate the book. The one shown below is an etching from 1886 of the Incline, a near vertical fissure in the sandstone cliff at South Katoomba. It was down and through this fissure that it was decided to build an incline railway.



A copy of this well-researched and wonderfully illustrated book has been donated to the Society and may be found in the library at the Archives.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	13	AUG	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	27	AUG	Monthly General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	10	SEP	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	24	SEP	Monthly General Meeting	5:00 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	8	OCT	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	22	OCT	Monthly General Meeting	5:00 pm at the Historical Society
	3-18	OCT	School holidays	

If undelivered return to:

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
PO Box 131
MITTAGONG NSW 2575

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
Newsletter

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THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

is proudly supported by the following organizations that encourage the work of our Society in collecting,
preserving and maintaining the history of the Southern Highlands.

*Brewsters Coffee House
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Hypercet Printing
Mittagong Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Springetts Arcade*