

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 421 September 2010

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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

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Thursday 23 September 2010 at 7:30pm

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

Our guest speaker will precede the general meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER: Leonie Knapman
Leonie will be giving a talk on Convicts which were not of British stock.

SUPPER: To be served after the meeting - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

OCTOBER MEETING: Thursday 28 October 2010 at 7:30pm

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

Our guest speaker will precede the general meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER: Brad Argent, from Ancestry

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And more ...



Diary Dates 2010

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Father's Day
- 9 Management Committee Meeting
- 23 Monthly General Meeting - Talk by *Leonie Knapman* **Convicts: Not all from British Stock**
- 24 School holidays commence

OCTOBER

- Tulip Time
- 1 **MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**
- 11 School holidays conclude
- 14 Management Committee Meeting
- 28 Monthly General Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 1 Office bearer nominations due
- 1 Notices of motion due
- 11 Management Committee Meeting
- 25 **Monthly & AGM Meeting**

Tour

We have organised a tour of Berrima. Please see page 7 for more information.

Management Committee News

50 Year Anniversary Book Launch: In recognition of the inaugural meeting of the society that was held at the CWA in Moss Vale in 1960, the present CWA Room in Moss Vale will be the venue for the launch of our anniversary book.

This will commence at 2:00pm on Wednesday 13 October. Dr Lesley Muir OAM, Royal Australian Historical Society Vice President and Chairperson of the Affiliated Societies will launch the book.

Afternoon tea will be provided by the CWA ladies. Members are urged to attend to help mark this milestone occasion. If transport is required, contact the Archives beforehand to make arrangements.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase from the society for \$10.

Tulip Time Exhibition and Stall: The society will be displaying Tulip Time early photographs and memorabilia in an exhibition at Bradman Museum during Tulip Time and will conduct an information and book stall.

This will be on Wednesday 22 September to Monday 4 October. Volunteer members are sought to handle enquiries and book sales during these days. There is a roster for morning (10am to 1pm) and afternoon shifts (1pm to 4pm). If you can help out, please contact the Archives to be added to the roster.

Combined volunteers get together: An informal get-together for museum and research centre volunteers will be held on Wednesday 1 December at the Archives. This will start later than previously, at 11:30, so that the volunteers can share a light lunch together. Those attending are asked to bring a plate.

Change of period rates for new membership fees: Our financial year is from 1 October to 30 September. New members joining the society during 1 October to 31 March pay the full subscription rate. Those joining from 1 April to 31 July pay half subscription rate. Those joining from 1 August pay full subscription rate and are covered until the end of the following financial year.

Society Membership

Membership renewals are due by October 1 and a renewal form is enclosed in this month's newsletter.

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members.

Anne **Kavanagh**, Moss Vale
Don **Moore**, Bowral
Grahame **O'Reilly**, High Range
Marjorie **Payer**, Budgewoi
Fay **Powell**, Mittagong
Sandra **Reynolds**, Bargo
Maureen **Schroder**, Nowra
John **Schweers**, Mittagong
Mike **Scott**, Beecroft
Ken **Smith**, Rozelle
Sue **Taylor**, Bundanoon

Here's to a long and happy association

From Beverley McClymont OAM

To the Society,

This message is to say what an enjoyable day I had when I took my Macquarie lecture to Mittagong. Everything I needed was there, including some old friends, and I am delighted with the gift book I was given; I have read quite a bit already.

I hope the Society will continue to follow the lives of Lachlan and Elizabeth, especially when they get to the Southern Highlands. There are two web sites which I mentioned and which can be 'googled':

- Macquarie University LEMA (click on *Documents* for the Journals and *Gallery* for pictures)
- Macquarie 2010 Bicentenary Commemorations (NSW Government site).

I was very impressed with your research centre and congratulate the Society on the resources and the on-going use of the facility. The hospitality shown by the Society was much appreciated by me.

Regards Bev McClymont.

Annual Reports

A reminder to Officers - its almost that time again - annual reports for inclusion in the November newsletter will be due at the end of next month. Thank you.

BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

Market Place, Berrima
Near the bridge

OPENING HOURS

10 am - 4 pm.
Weekends, Public Holidays and
NSW Public 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

September Guest Speaker

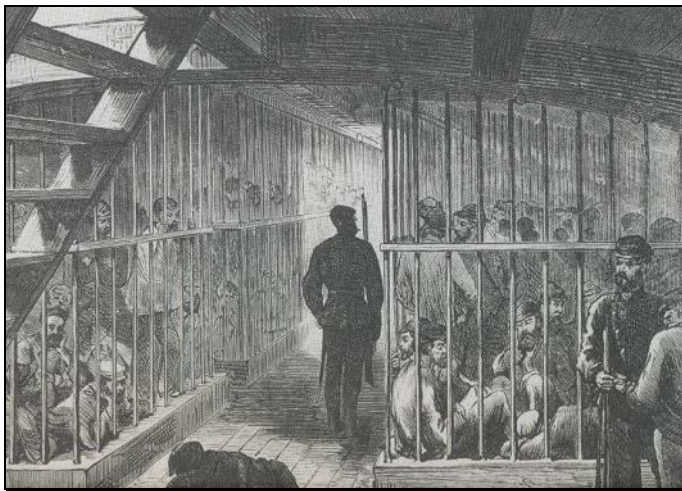
CONVICTS

not all from British stock

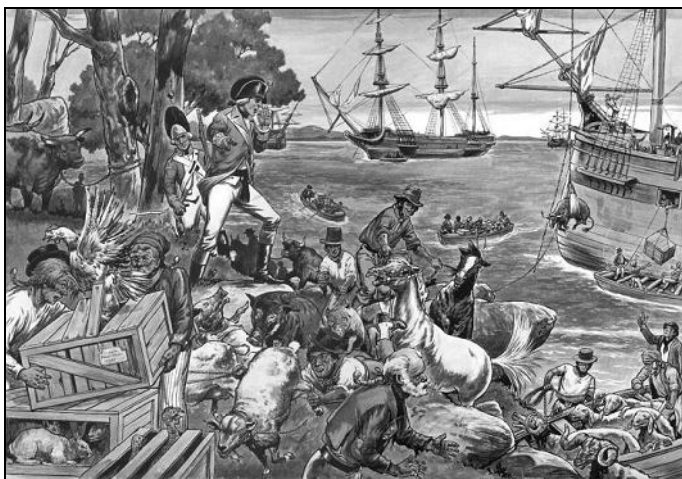
a Leonie Knapman presentation

Having discovered that she was a descendant of a First Fleeter, Leonie started to look into the history behind the convicts who arrived in those early ships.

When Leonie spent a couple of years working at the Registrar Generals Office for BDM in Sydney she worked from the Office of the Assistant Registrar, James Hugh Donohoe.



At this time he was writing a book explaining how 165,000 convicts were sent to Australia during the convict period. He found that it was not just Anglo or Irish Courts which sent convicts to Australia. Convicts were sentenced in criminal courts on every continent of the world and in many exotic places.



Leonie's talk centres around James's book, which covers every aspect of the countries that convicts came from, including the different countries that the First Fleet convicts came from.

Be there to hear all about it on 23 Sept. at 7:30pm

Society Management Committee member profile



Leonie Knapman

When Leonie was 14 her family came to Mittagong from the mining town of Glen Davis. They took over the new caravan park and swimming pool in the 1950s and started the first Tourist Centre in the Southern Highlands. From those early days the history and promotion of the Southern Highlands has been her passion.

During the 1970s and 1980s she spent 14 years working at the Tourist Centre when it was set up in Winifred West Park. Leonie became an active part of the BDH&FHS whilst working at the Tourist Centre. She then joined BDH&FHS as a member in 1982, and has held the positions of President and Management Committee member for many years. She is currently Vice President.

In the late 1980s she organized her first "Back to Joadja" weekends, attended by eleven thousand people over two days and raised funds for local charities. She has since written two books and produced a DVD on the ghost town of Joadja Creek. Leonie has also produced a book on the history of Blue Circle Southern Cement (now Boral) at New Berrima. Her latest book on the now ghost town of Glen Davis (where she was raised) has just been produced and will be available as this newsletter is being read.

Leonie was also involved as the Promotions Officer for the tourist attraction "Sutton Farm" and when it closed she then became involved with Tulip Time at their Headquarters raising thousands of dollars for charities.

In 2003 Leonie was President of our Society. During this time she brought to public attention the story of the Mittagong Farm Homes and organized a reunion, and photographic exhibitions, supported by the RAHS and Wingecarribee Shire Council.

In 2003 Leonie organized the National Trust Heritage Festival hosted by our society and in the same year she organized the RAHS Annual Conference at Mittagong also hosted by our Society. She has been a member of the Affiliated Societies Committee of the RAHS since 2003.

Dairying in the Berrima District



This dairy article is in tribute to Joe Ford, a member who passed away earlier this year. For many years Joe served on the Board of the Berrima Rural Cooperative. He provided the society with a wealth of information and photos of the local dairy industry. Philip Morton made use of Joe's material to compile this dairy feature.

Dairying in the district's early days

In the early days, small dairy herds in the Berrima District provided milk and butter for the farm and for nearby villagers. Excess milk on each farm was used for the making of butter.

The milk was poured into wide shallow pans which were placed on shelves in a small room or hut near the farm house and allowed to stand for the cream to collect. The women-folk later skimmed the cream off and churned it into butter. After being washed and salted the butter was packed in brine barrels or kegs for transport to Sydney. Gross contamination was inevitable and exacerbated by hot weather so, in general, the product quality was very poor.

With the opening of the railway through Bowral and Moss Vale in 1867, transport conditions improved as butter was then taken to railway depots for despatch to Sydney.

Dairying had already been established on the coast as it was nearer the ports. However farmers there had many problems with the selling agents in Sydney, including arguments about weights and quality, as well as prices. In 1879, at Kiama, the first farmers' co-operative movement was formed to act as selling agent for dairy produce. Many dairy farmers in the Highlands became inaugural shareholders of this co-operative.

Starting from 1888, small farmer co-operative butter factories/creameries were established throughout the district. These included ones at Robertson, Wildes Meadow, Glenquarry, East Kangaloon and from 1892 at 'Wingecarribee' on Oxley's Hill, Bowral.



Butter factory, Wildes Meadow, late 1880s

Farmers gradually abandoned their old methods of making butter and carted their cream to the nearest factory in cream cans.

In 1881 a new era dawned when recently invented cream separators were gradually installed in the factories. The farmers carted their whole milk to the nearest one and thus moved the butter making process from farm to factory. After separation the skimmed milk (already going sour) was returned to the farm for the pigs, calves and fowls.

Then along came an even more revolutionary development: refrigeration. In the 1860s Thomas Sutcliffe Mort financed Eugene Nicolle to develop refrigeration techniques and Mort realised that preserving perishable goods with ice opened many opportunities for transporting food. He looked for a way to preserve milk by refrigeration but when milk was chilled or frozen the cream separated off. It was not until the use of a simple agitator to blend milk in large vats during chilling was devised that he was able to go ahead with his plan to introduce country milk to city tables.

Bowral chosen by Mort as first country milk supplier

An *Illustrated Sydney News* in 1875 reported that 'Mr Mort is arranging for large supplies of pure milk from the neighbourhood of Bowral, where there is a great extent of the finest land in the world and which is never subject to drought'.

Mort, while an astute businessman, was concerned about the large death rate among the infants of Sydney caused by impure and poisonous milk. He sought to supply Sydney with pure and unadulterated milk from a country district.

The NSW Fresh Food and Ice Company (FF&I), established by T S Mort to supply country milk to Sydney, began to receive milk in 1876 from local farmers around Bowral and in the first month 6,450 gallons (29,322 litres) of milk were sent from Bowral.

This was sufficient to keep four or five horse-drawn carts fully employed in delivering 10-gallon cans of fresh milk to the railway vans at Bowral station.

The milk was sent in the suppliers own cans, cooled with equipment Mort supplied, or in a large cylindrical container on a rail truck packed with ice to keep it cool on the trip to the city.



Typical milk cart at Frensham in Mittagong, 1890s

When exactly a receiving depot was first constructed near the railway at Bowral to facilitate loading of the milk is not known, although it seems that some such depot existed on the Station Street site prior to the opening there of the FF&I factory in 1921.

FF&I opened dairy factory in Nattai, then relocated to Bowral in 1921

Demand grew to such an extent that a major factory depot was needed in the district so in 1882 the FF&I Company opened a depot with rail siding on the Oaklands Estate at Nattai, just north of Mittagong, in which a cooling room was installed. Arrangements were made for the collection of milk for the company from Robertson and along the route to Mittagong.



FF&I's dairy factory at Nattai, near Mittagong.

At this depot was also established the first butter factory in NSW and the first to be equipped with the new Danish cream separator, destined to reduce farm labour and improve cream quantity and quality. Surplus milk was separated into cream and churned into butter.

By 1884 the FF&I Company was railng local milk and butter to Sydney daily and even sent the first butter to be exported from Australia – one ton was shipped to England on the steamer Iberia. Factory butter sold at a higher price as it was of uniform quality instead of being different in colour, taste and texture as butter previously had been.

In the late 1880s, FF&I closed its Mittagong factory but continued to rail milk from Bowral. By then the company was receiving milk in Sydney from other country localities and its processing facilities at Darling Harbour became a major enterprise.



The FF&I milk factory at 43 Station St. Bowral

In late 1921 FF&I constructed a new milk factory at Station St. Bowral with modern refrigeration units so that the district's milk could be brought there and then be railed to Sydney. This became the first of two milk factories on the site and FF&I operated it successfully for almost 30 years until the late 1940s when Peters Milk purchased it.

Another factory opened by Berrima Dairy Company in Bowral

Into the 1890s, local dairy farmers had become dissatisfied with the variations in prices they received from FF&I for the transport of their milk to the Sydney market. They also accused the South Coast and West Camden Co-operative which marketed their butter in Sydney of discriminating against them.

To establish a local farmer-owned selling floor in Sydney, the Berrima District Farm and Dairy Company was formed. In mid-1895 this new company acquired the former FF&I Company factory at Nattai and made it a central butter factory for the district. It also ran the Robertson dairy factory until it was repurchased in 1914 by local Robertson farmers.

In 1924 the Berrima Dairy Company transferred the butter operations to a new central butter factory and distributing centre in Bowral, built on railway land in Station Street, located next to the FF&I milk factory, and officially opened by the NSW Premier on 11 June.



Berrima Co-op's butter factory next to the FF&I factory, 1930s

In 1925 the Berrima Dairy Company amalgamated with the Coastal Farmers' Cooperative (which had replaced the South Coast and West Camden Society at the turn of the century), to constitute the Producers Distributing Society (PDS) Limited. This was essentially a marketing organisation and its policy was to handle the sale and distribution of farm produce and leave the manufacturing side entirely in the hands of the producers.

After some negotiation the Berrima Dairy Company's recently erected butter factory in Bowral was offered to the local cream suppliers for the modest sum of £8,000 (\$16,000).

Bowral butter factory taken over by local farmers

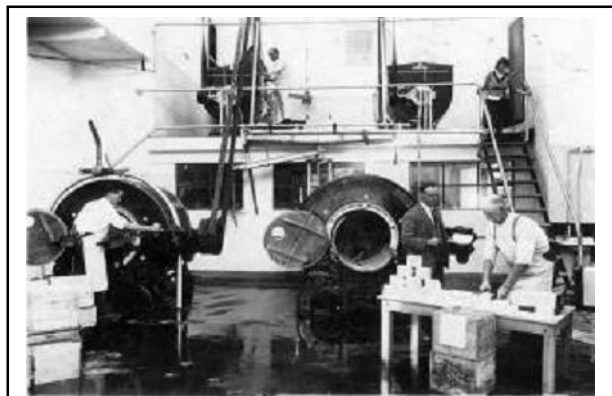
A meeting of suppliers held in Bowral on October 6, 1926 accepted the generous offer and formed the Berrima Co-operative Rural Society Limited, which is still operating today.

The cream received for the manufacture of butter was the only activity of the new Society during its first 10 years. The installation of the latest butter moulding and wrapping machinery in the 1930s made it one of the most modern factories in NSW and it had around 140 dairy farmer suppliers. In 1935 the output of butter reached 292 tonnes for the year.

The local industry benefited by being in the Sydney Milk Zone created in 1931 by the State Government to restrict the areas from which for the city milk could be supplied.

The Berrima Society established a produce department in 1936 and later ventured into hardware and rural merchandising for the benefit of the farmers.

Berrima Co-op acquires full control of local milk



Making butter at the Berrima Co-op in 1924

A major milestone for the Society was the acquisition of the FF&I milk factory from Peters Milk in 1953. For years it had been the ambition of the local farmers to gain control of the factory which received and treated their milk. Finally they gained total ownership of the premises and business that held the treatment of all milk in their own area.

In 1964 the Berrima Society became the third factory in NSW to introduce bulk pick-up of milk from refrigerated vats on the farms. The greatest annual intake of milk was in 1967 when 4,078,264 gallons (18.54 million litres) was received.

The manufacture of butter ceased in 1971 as the quantity of milk required for Sydney had increased to such an extent that there was not enough available for butter manufacture. When milk began going direct to the city by road tanker in 1992, the Bowral milk receiving depot closed. The site was developed to become the Milk Factory Gallery complex.

Dairy Farmers' opened Moss Vale factory in 1922

Throughout World War I, Australia was the chief supplier of dairy products to Britain. All surplus butter and cheese was exported and prices were good. The local dairy farmers within close proximity to the central factories in Bowral benefited the most.

Further a field, small butter factories had continued in operation at Kangaloon, Robertson and Wildes Meadow. In 1919 some of the farmers supplying milk to these smaller factories were made offers by FF&I and broke away, sending their milk to Sydney.

In 1920, due to local dissatisfaction with these arrangements, a general meeting was held to discuss the prospect of building a milk depot and factory at Moss Vale. Arrangements were finally made with Dairy Farmers and the new Moss Vale factory was built in Lackey's Road near the walkway overpass on the

western side of the railway. So another major player entered the local milk industry.

Dairy Farmers Co-operative Milk Company was established at Albion Park on January 15, 1900 by a large group of coastal dairy farmers dissatisfied with their middlemen's costs. Run on true co-operative lines, it enabled farmers to work together effectively to market their milk and butter direct to consumers. It linked its fortunes with the Illawarra Co-operative butter factory and grew rapidly, becoming a major player in the Sydney market.



Dairy Farmers factory at Moss Vale in 1926

The Moss Vale factory was opened on October 22, 1922 by the Mayor of Moss Vale, Mr. E B Hawkins, and the first intake of milk was delivered by Don Parker. The factory was an instant success, sending liquid milk to Sydney by rail or separating it for butter-making on 'block days' when no milk was sent to Sydney and only cream was sent to the factory. Up to 30 tonnes of butter would be made at the factory on such a day.

Milk came from the areas of Robertson, Wildes Meadow, Avoca, Burrawang, Fitzroy Falls, Moss Vale, Exeter, Werai and Bundanoon. The suppliers numbered around 80 in the early days, increasing to 180 in the 1950's boom period, but dropping to 65 in the 1970s due to farm mergers and closures.

In 1955 the Robertson Co-operative Dairy Society, which had operated the cheese factory since 1936, was taken over and, in 1956, Dairy Farmers at Moss Vale was appointed by the Dairy Industry Authority as processing agent for the Highlands.

That same year a pasteurising and bottling plant was installed at Moss Vale and land and buildings were purchased in Bowral. Bulk milk pick up was introduced in 1966 and in 1973 the first cartoned milk was distributed in the district with the introduction of the Seal-o-Matic cartoning machine/homogeniser.

In 1992 milk began going direct to Sydney by road tanker. The Moss Vale depot was demolished and the site today houses the Harvey Norman centre.

Milk is still produced on a large scale by local dairy farmers. However now it all goes in road tankers direct to central processing facilities elsewhere.

By Philip Morton

Hidden Treasures Berrima

Thanks to Lyn Hall for sending these photos for our newsletter.

Lyn says:

I thought these could be of interest to you for newsletter.

Rosalind Badgery recently donated her Aboriginal collection of weapons and tools gathered over the years on the family property 'Wanganderry'.

These were installed in a new small exhibition and Jenny Simons brought Rosalind to the museum to see her donation displayed.



Berrima Tag-along Treasures Tour

Linda Emery will be our tour leader



On Wednesday 29th September, we will be doing a car tour of Berrima - a "tag-along with the leader" inspection of two private houses, Harper's Mansion and Holy Trinity Church. Where possible, we will be pooling cars to minimise the impact on parking - and losing people!

Lunch and morning tea will be BYO, so pack a sandwich and a thermos for what should be a delightful day. A map, itinerary and notes will be provided when we meet at Berrima. Parking is plentiful adjacent to Holy Trinity Parish Hall.

COST: \$10 per person. Bookings and pre-payment are required. Please phone the archives on 4872 2169 or email bdhsarchives@acenet.com.au to make your booking. We can arrange pick ups for members who do not wish to drive.

- 10:00 Meet at Holy Trinity, Market Place, Berrima for an inspection of the church and a short talk on its history.
- 10:45 BYO morning tea in the park.
- 11:00 Drive to *The Gunyah* on the southern side of Berrima. Owner Terry Brooks brought the wonderful old slab cottage back from the brink of demolition. Built in the 1880s, the cottage was the first home of German immigrants Adolph and Sophia Barth. Terry will be on hand to talk about the history of the house, the restoration and additions.
- 12:15 Drive to the National Trust property, *Harper's Mansion*, for a picnic lunch in the grounds, followed by a guided inspection of the house.
- 2:15 Drive to *Greenwood* on the Mandemar Road to inspect the cottage built in the 1870s by stonemason Robert Metz, brother of Sophia Barth of The Gunyah. We will have an opportunity to inspect the house before extensive conservation and restoration works are carried out by the new owners, Grant & Margaret Williamson.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	9 SEP	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23 SEP	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
	25 SEP	School holidays commence	
	10 OCT	School holidays conclude	
THURSDAY	14 OCT	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28 OCT	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	11 NOV	Management Committee Meeting	9:30 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	25 NOV	Annual General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society

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*

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc.

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575

Telephone: (02) 4872 2169

ABN 29 362 616 937

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Due: 1 October 2010

Name: _____ Phone (Home): _____

Address: _____ Phone (Work): _____

_____ Fax: _____

_____ Mobile: _____

Postcode: _____ Email: _____

Fees: **Single** (12 months) \$ 20.00 _____

Family (12 months) \$ 33.00 _____

Student (12 months) \$ 5.00 _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NEWSLETTER: I would like to receive a newsletter: YES (via email) ☐ NO ☐

YES (via post) ☐

Membership No: _____

***** Please do not detach *****

VOLUNTEER REGISTER

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

PLEASE INDICATE below any aspects of the Society's activities where you feel you could become involved.

This may be on a regular basis or from time to time as the need arises.

Members experienced in various aspects of the work of the Society are able to train or guide new members.

ARCHIVES	Tick	MUSEUM	Tick
Cataloguing our collections: Photographic		Front desk duty on: Weekends	
Donated items		School holiday week days	
Conserving various types of articles in our collections		Catering for special functions	
Working with other volunteers on enquiries at Archives		Catalogue updating (Mosaic)	
Data entry as the need arises (retyping manuscripts etc)		Exhibition design and research	
General duties such as 'meet and greet' Archives visitors		General building maintenance	