

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 422 October 2010

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ABN 29 362 616 937

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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

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: Philip Morton
There has been a change to the previously advertised speaker. Philip Morton will be presenting a slideshow on *Early Industries in the Berrima District*.

SUPPER: To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Thursday 25 November 2010 at 7:30pm

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

GUEST SPEAKER: AGM and General Meeting

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The Tallong	7

And more ...



Diary Dates 2010

OCTOBER

- Tulip Time
1 **MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**
11 School holidays conclude
14 Management Committee Meeting
28 Monthly General Meeting - Slide show by *Philip Morton on **Early Industries in the Berrima District***
31 Office bearer nominations due
31 Notices of motion due

NOVEMBER

- 11 Management Committee Meeting
25 **AGM & Monthly Meeting**

DECEMBER

- 9 Management Committee Meeting
10 **Christmas Dinner**
14 **Archives close** at 4:00 pm for Christmas break.
17 School holidays commence
23 **NO** General Monthly Meeting
28 Society Museum Open Daily 10:00 am - 4:00 pm until 26 January 2006.

Nominations Please

In this month's Newsletter members will find a nomination form for next month's AGM. Please think about taking on a position, or perhaps being an understudy to someone. Forms must be returned to the Secretary by 31 October 2010.

Annual Reports Due Now

A reminder to Officers - your annual reports for inclusion in the November newsletter are due **NOW**. Please email the Editor by **Friday 29 October 2010**.

Newsletter

Newsletter Deadline is **1st** of every month. It may be necessary to hold submissions after this date till the following month.

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members.

Stephen **Bollinger**, Hill Top
Mrs Patricia **Greenhalgh**, Bundanoon
Mr Geoffrey **Jones**, Burradoo
Ms Grace **Lawrence**, New Berrima
Mr John **Parmenter**, Lower Portland
Mr John & Mrs Judy **Regan**, Bowral
Mr Peter **Stock**, Moss Vale
Mr Robert **Taylor**, East Denistone
Mrs Margaret **Wilson**, Pendle Hill

Here's to a long and happy association

Membership Reminder

As the Financial Year of the Society ended on 30 September 2010, memberships not renewed by **30 November 2010** will lapse. A renewal form was enclosed in the September 2010 issue of the Newsletter. It would be appreciated if members could return this completed form with their payment to assist the Membership Secretary with her recording of renewals. Thank you in anticipation of your prompt cooperation.

FAMILY \$33.00 SINGLE \$20.00

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 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

From the Newspapers

Contributed by Carol Nolan

The Scrutineer Wednesday 15 July 1896
page 2 col 2

An unruly seven-year-old

A lad named Wright was found wandering about Throsby-street on Thursday night and was brought up before the local magistrates on Friday afternoon. The child's step-father appeared, and stated that the boy (seven years of age) was beyond his control, and frequently stayed away from home for days in the surrounding bush. The boy, who said he did not desire to return home, was ordered to be taken to the Sobraon, where it is hoped he will come across a man who will be able to control him.

The Goulburn Herald, Saturday 3 July 1852 page 4 column 4

Gold At Paddy's River

As Mr. Dignam was returning from Sydney the other day he saw Mr. Ward's children amusing themselves by washing the soil taken from the bank of Paddy's River. They were getting small quantities of gold very readily. Mr. Dignam washed a few handfuls of earth taken from the surface, and procured several large particles of precious metal. We mention this fact, not in belief that a gold field exists at Paddy's River, but more as evidence of the general distribution of gold throughout the colony.



Christmas Function

Friday 10 December 2010

Our Christmas function this year will be held at the
Scottish Arms, Boardman Road, East Bowral
from 6:30pm for 7:00pm.

Cost will be **\$35 per person**

Includes Tea, Coffee and Orange Juice

Bookings and Payment are essential by Tuesday 30 November 2010
to the Archives 4872 2169

Could each person please bring a unisex gift to the value of \$5.00

There will be a Raffle and lucky door prizes.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Berrima District Museum News

MOSAiC Plus

Training Course report

Ian Alexander

Collections MOSAiC Plus is currently used in museums, historical societies, galleries, libraries and private collections across Australia and beyond.

It is an Australian-designed software program used to catalogue collections and has recently been upgraded with several new features to make the task easier.

This includes a third tier of classification that will help in properly and precisely determining the category an object belongs to.

I attended a three day MOSAiC training course in July at Shellharbour along with colleagues from other regional museums of the Illawarra South Coast Museums and Galleries local chapter.

The training was delivered by Information Services & Technology Pty Ltd (IST) of Western Australia, the owners and developers of the software.

We covered the following topics: managing and linking data, system backups, search functions and Internet links. The course was designed to bring users up to speed with the various functions of the program. These can be summarised into the following areas: data entry, linking files, search, backup and edit.

I recommend the upgrade so that we can keep up to date with the latest developments in the program and as well it provides an extra category classification.

The Society's Museum has been using the MOSAiC system for several years to catalogue the collection. I am roughly half way through this process. When the collection is fully classified it will make curating exhibitions easier as all objects of a similar kind will be linked together.

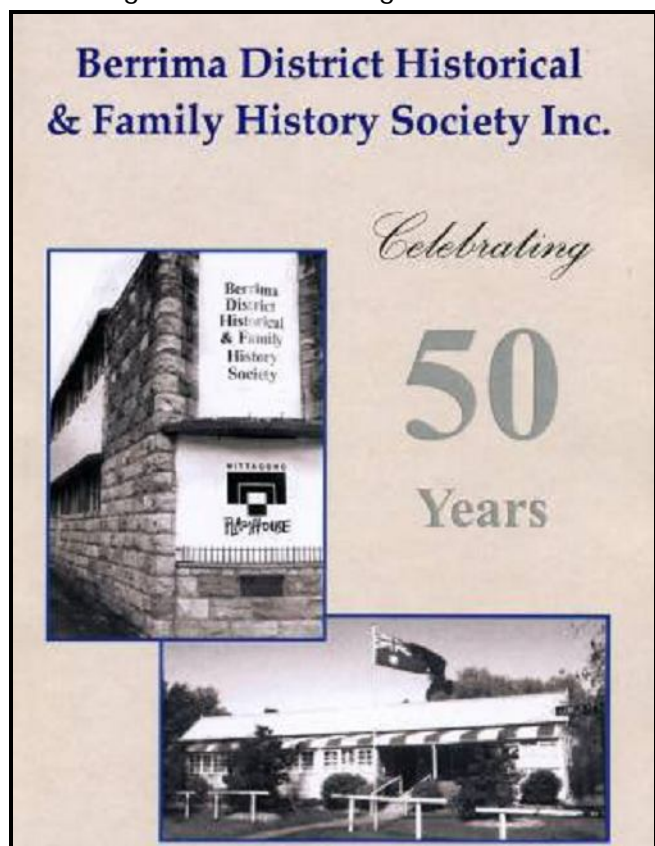
I would like to thank the Management Committee for recommending my attendance at this course. It certainly has helped me garner insights into the machinations of the software and to better understand the use of the complete MOSAiC system that is available.

I have tabled the three course workbooks at the Museum Committee meeting and they are now held in the museum for reference and perusal purposes. I aim to spend at least one day (probably Wednesday) a week classifying the collection when the new software has been installed.

Celebrating 50 Years - book launch

The society's 50th Anniversary Book will be launched by Dr Lesley Muir OAM on Wednesday 13 October in the Moss Vale CWA Rooms at 2:00pm.

All members are invited to attend. For catering purposes, please RSVP asap to the Archives if you are attending. There is no charge for this event.



"The Society was started by a group of dedicated people, to whom we owe a great deal for their foresight in commencing an organization to record, for future generations, the history of the Southern Highlands in oral, photographic and written forms and to hold, and where necessary, restore, articles and items for our museum. These people had a vision, and that vision was unswerving, even when things didn't go to plan – they never lost sight of that vision.

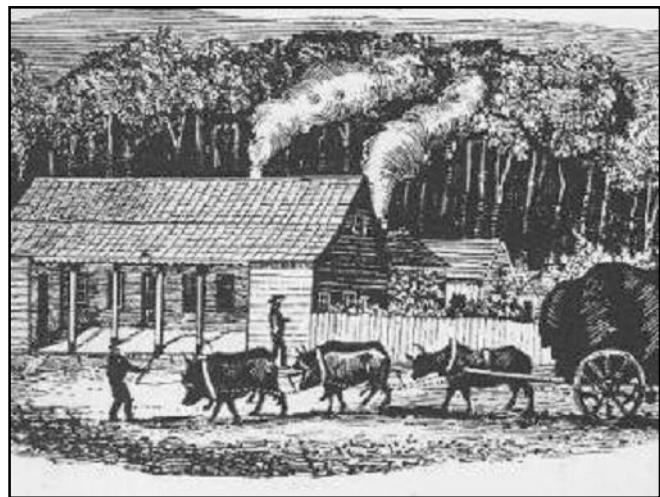
This book highlights the progress of the Society since 1960 in a condensed form. Extracts from minute books and newsletters have been used to compile these pages.

The book has been divided into ten year segments and into various sections within each ten year period. It contains a condensed timeline of a great many of the recorded important events that took place over the fifty years."

— from the Foreword, by Ken Reid, **President, 2010**

Copies of the book may be purchased for \$10

Guest Speaker - October meeting



Early Industries in the Berrima District Images from the Early Industries Exhibition at Berrima District Museum

A PowerPoint presentation by Philip Morton

The story of the district's settlement and its early industries is a fascinating tale of human endeavour as the settlers created an existence in a land where much had to be discovered and lessons learned.

Philip's presentation will draw on the extensive exhibition material to take you back in time for a wander through the early days of the Berrima District, showing images of the first industries.

The Wingecarribee Shire has existed in its present boundaries only since 1981, and is generally known today as the Southern Highlands. The area was originally associated with the Gundungarra people and with other language groups using the area seasonally.

From the mid nineteenth century it was known as the Berrima District because the county town of Berrima was established in 1831 on the Great South Road as the locality's main centre. By then Mittagong was a thriving town and in the 1860s the railway was built through it and through what became Bowral and Moss Vale townships, so those centres grew and Berrima languished.

Once the first roads were put through, iron ore and coal were mined, stone was quarried, farms flourished and dairying became a major industry.

Come to the meeting on Thursday
28 October at 7:30pm to enjoy this
fascinating glimpse into the district's past.

More Early Industries at Museum

Several fascinating additions to the Early Industries exhibition at the museum are now on display.



This **Rotary canister cabinet**, donated by Rosiland Badgery, was called the "hurdy-gurdy" by the Badgery family. It provided maximum storage for dry grocery items that at the time were sold in loose quantities and taken home in a paper bag. The revolving cabinet has 29 metal removable drawers and is a fine example of metal worker craftsmanship of the time (1912). A bowl on the lower stem for water prevents ants.



Donated by Rosiland Badgery the '**Glacier' Refrigerator** from the 1930s is commonly known as an Ice Chest. The timber cabinet is heavily insulated with galvanised metal. A lined box at the top contained a single block of ice. The melted ice water flowed through the draining tube into a tray under the food storage chamber.



Donated by Doug Moore, the **Alfa Laval Cream Separator** invented by Gustaf de Laval in Sweden in 1878, revolutionised dairy production. Before that the job was arduous and time consuming, with added difficulty in an Australian summer of keeping milk fresh before refrigeration.

Hand operated for separating cream from whole milk, it is based on the fact that skim milk (milk with no butterfat) is heavier than cream. The separator consists of a centrifuge (shown in the photo) in the form of a rapidly revolving bowl, mounted on a spindle, containing a set of disks.

The whole machine may be viewed at the museum along with diagram and description. *Photos: Philip Morton*

"Megaethon 150" stops in Berrima

The Sydney to Goulburn Re-enactment Road Run of the Megaethon arrived in Berrima on Sunday 26 September, 2010, as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of its first journey.

Making history in 1860, it used steam power to transport two loaded wagons and a water cart from Sydney to Goulburn, taking 169 days to arrive. The trip was hampered with constant mechanical failures and by it getting bogged in Berrima.

While it was an improvement on bullock teams for transporting heavy loads, once the railway became established the Megaethon was put to other uses.

A Fowler traction engine built in England in 1911 was used for the re-enactment. This engine had worked in the Cowra district until 1939 hauling wheat and clearing land.



Bob is dwarfed by the monster!



A blow of the whistle, a puff of steam and the Fowler rolls and thumps its way along the Old Hume Highway through Berrima, as part of the Megaethon re-enactment.

Photos: Gloria Williams

Society Management Committee member profile



Jan Reid

My early years were spent in Lane Cove and in 1948 we moved to the country town of Fairfield and from there I traveled by steam train to Parramatta High School. Leaving school to become a town clerk my plans were changed when I was offered a position as secretary (really it was the do everything girl) for an uncle who owned a plastics importing company which at that time employed 5 people - Manager, Sales Manager, Salesman, Driver and Secretary, me. I stayed with that company until retirement when the company had grown to 80 employees and I had become the Supply Manager; I saw some vast changes over that time - from ready reckoner to desktop computer, manual typewriter through electric typewriter to computer word processing.



Ken Reid

Although born in Marrickville, I grew up in Fairfield where my parents had a hardware shop and florist shop. At that time all shops, apart from family businesses, closed for lunch as employees had to be given time to travel home for lunch. I went to Fairfield Public School and then on to Parramatta Junior Boys High School, traveling on the same train as Jan although we had not yet met. In fact we met through tennis which was the sport we both loved.

I worked in the family business until the business closed with the death of my father. I then went into sales, management and eventually marketing and the production of computer generated technical manuals for the plumbing industry.

Shared interests:

In 1991 we enrolled with the Parramatta Evening College to do a course on the history of all aspects of Parramatta. The late John McClymont headed this course and it was through John that we developed another of our loves, architecture and in particular that of the architect John Horbury Hunt. We remained with the course until we moved to the Southern Highlands. We were also involved with the Parramatta Branch of the National Trust; Ken as Secretary and Jan as Treasurer.

At the history course we rekindled a friendship with Ken and Shylie Brown (known previously through tennis) and with Shylie as Team Leader, we completed two projects for the National Trust. Firstly over a period of three years, we photographed and recorded every house in the Parramatta Local Government Area and produced a CD which became very useful for Parramatta Council when handling Development Applications, and remains a record of houses existing at that time. This project won a prestigious National Trust Energy Australia Award. Our second project was to photograph (and record) every one of the 1100 items on the Council's heritage register as they had 'mislaidd' the original photographs. Again this was a lengthy project but the result was a great addition to the Historic Houses Trust website where each of the listed items now has a photographic reference.

While with the Parramatta Historical Society, with Bev. McClymont as Editor, we formed the Newsletter production team.

We moved to the Southern Highlands from Northmead in 2002, were welcomed by Leonie and Greg Knapman who we had known from RAHS conferences, joined the Society in due course and so began our involvement which has developed into our current activities.

From the Newspapers

Further to the newspaper article *Resourceful Boat Builder* (Sydney Morning Herald Thursday 23 May 1912 page 8) printed in our newsletter No. 418 June 2010 page 2, society member, Janet Black, found a subsequent article, printed below, on the fate of Mr Shimmin's ketch, *Tallong*. Thank you, Janet.

Sydney Morning Herald Tues 2 September 1913 page 9

ALONE AT SEA. FIGHT AGAINST TERRIBLE ODDS. VETERAN MARINER'S STORY

Few men can boast of a struggle against the elements for two nights and a day in a six-ton ketch, with a wreck on a rock-bound coast, a swim in the bulling breakers with the handicap of an injured leg, and several hours on a wave-washed ledge of rock, as a climax.

This was the experience of Captain E. J. Shimmin, of the ketch *Tallong*, who has now returned to his son's residence in Hanover-street, Waterloo. Captain Shimmin was 75 years of age last July, but a life spent in the open air has given him the appearance of being much younger.

"Yes, no doubt I'm a lucky man to be here to-night," said Captain Shimmin, when seen at his home in Waterloo last night. "I left Bottle and Glass at about 12.30 on the afternoon of Sunday, August 10, and cleared Sydney Heads, bound for Gosford, where I intended to take on a cargo of firewood. The *Tallong* was a trim little craft of about six tons. I built her myself in the bush near Tallong station, about four and a half miles this side of Marulan, on the Goulburn line. When she was finished we loaded her on to a bullock waggon, and took her two miles to the railway station, where she was put on a truck and brought to Sydney. The trip, which has now ended up in her being wrecked, was the third I had made in her.

I was the only one on board when I cleared Sydney Heads, and the wind fell light shortly after I got outside. When I arrived off Broken Bay on Sunday night it began to blow very hard, and as it was impossible for me to get into Pittwater, I decided I would let her run before the wind. As the night advanced the wind increased and a very heavy sea worked up. I stuck at it all night, and continued to run before the wind until daylight when I noticed I was nearing Norah Head. I passed this point between 10 and 11 o'clock on Monday morning. The wind still blew a gale, and when I was nearing Lake Macquarie I pulled up one of the two flags I had on board, thinking I might get in there. The wind was 'right out,' however, and the sea was far too heavy so I shaped a course for Newcastle.

"From 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Monday I was beating up towards Newcastle. They must have seen the fight I was

having from Nobbys and Signal Hill, but there was no sign of a boat coming out to help me. I got right up to the entrance, but was caught in the confused water inside the breakwater. The wind was blowing a howling gale from the south-south-east and I was afraid it would blow me on to the northern wall, so, seeing no signs of assistance, I slewed round and stood out to sea. I thought afterwards that I should have hauled down my ensign, and ran her up upside down. They might have taken notice of that signal of distress in Newcastle and sent assistance. I had my work cut out, however, to handle the boat.

"I stood well out to sea on Monday night, and at 11.30 p.m. sighted Port Stephens light. The moon had risen with big heavy clouds. Strong squalls struck the ketch, the weather was thick and dirty, and the sea very heavy.

I had had the mainsail down most of the way and was running under a staysail and mizzen only. I thought I would make Port Stephens safely, and so set a source for the light. I went aft to see the time at midnight, and I was then a few miles south of Morna Point. About half an hour later there was a crash, and I knew the ketch was on the rocks. "I just glanced round and saw breakers to seaward; then a big, green wave struck the vessel, and flung me and most of the stuff in her out into the sea. As I went overboard, my right ankle struck the side of the ketch, and I thought at first that it was broken.

I found myself floundering about in bulling surf, which was breaking on numbers of sharp boulders. The moon came through the clouds, and I could see I was about 30 years from the shore. I swam with the waves, and grabbed a boulder, clinging to it until the backwash eased off. Then I struck out on another wave and reached another boulder.

By degrees I managed to reach a ledge of rock, just washed by the waves, on which I lay down absolutely done. When day broke, I managed to creep to a patch of green grass close to the beach. Four fishermen found me here at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, and, after giving me some hot coffee, they succeeded in reaching the remains of the ketch, and fetching ashore the sails. With these they rigged up a camp and I remained in this for about a fortnight, while my ankle, which was badly injured, healed. One of the fishermen (Mr. Morris), who lived about two miles away, sent me provisions, and, at the end of the fortnight, drove me in a sully to Nelson's Bay, where I caught a steamer, and came on to Sydney.

"I forgot to tell you," concluded Captain Shimmin, "that the cat, which was the only other living thing on the *Tallong* with me, also got ashore safely, and turned up mewing outside the camp on the second night."

This is the third wreck Captain Shimmin has experienced, being in charge of the ketch *Pearl* when she foundered off Queensland 26 years ago, and also of the fore-and-after *Dora*, lost while crossing the bar at Lake Macquarie about 40 years ago.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	11	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	
THURSDAY	25	NOV	Monthly General Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	9	DEC	Management Committee Meeting	
FRIDAY	10	DEC	Christmas Dinner	6:30 pm at the Scottish Arms, Bowral
TUESDAY	14	DEC	Archives close for Christmas Break	4:00 pm
SATURDAY	17	DEC	School holidays commence	

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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PP239679/00002

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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
Blue Circle Southern Cement
Fletchers Fotographics
Hypercet Printing
Mittagong Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Springetts Arcade*

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Society will be held on **Thursday, 25 November 2010** in the Society's Archives, Mittagong following the Monthly General Meeting
The General Meeting will commence at **7.30pm**

The following positions are to be appointed or re-appointed at the AGM:

Archivist, Research Officer, Tours Officer, Catering Officer, Museum Curator; Newsletter Editor; Librarian; Public Relations Officer; Publications Officer; Property Officer, Speaker's Convener, Minute Secretary, Membership Secretary and Conservation Co-ordinator. Members interested in being appointed to any of these positions should advise the Hon. Secretary in writing on the form below or similar.

Patrons to be appointed on recommendation from the Management Committee.

Appointment Form

I am willing to be appointed or re-appointed to the position of _____

(Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms.) _____

Signature _____

Notices of Motion: Only business listed in the November issue of the Society's **Newsletter** published 14 days prior to the AGM will be transacted at the meeting. Members desiring to bring before the meeting any business must give advance notice. Movers and seconders of motions must be financial members of the Society.

Notice of Motion forms are available from the Hon. Secretary if required.

NOMINATIONS for OFFICE BEARERS, OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS, written interest in APPOINTED POSITIONS and NOTICES OF MOTION must be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary not later than SUNDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2010.

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Society will be held on **Thursday, 25 November 2010** in the Society's Archives, Mittagong following the Monthly General Meeting.
The General Meeting will commence at **7.30pm**.

Elections will be held for all offices in the Society. Nominations are required for the following:

Office bearers: *President; 2 Vice Presidents (1 of whom shall be Senior Vice President); Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.*

Other Committee Members: *Other members may be elected to make a maximum total of 12 for the Management Committee.*

A Public Officer, Auditor and a Museum Committee of not more than eight members shall also be elected at the AGM.

Nominations for Office bearers and other Committee Members should be made on the form below or similar. Nominees, nominators and seconders must be financial members of the Society and nominees must sign to indicate their willingness to serve.

Nomination Form

(Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms.) _____

is nominated for the office of _____

Nominated by _____ Seconded by _____

I am willing to undertake the duties of _____

Signature of Nominee _____

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NOMINATIONS for OFFICE BEARERS, OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS and NOTICES OF MOTION must be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary not later than SUNDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2010.