

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 435 January 2012

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 Telephone / Fax 0248 722 169

Website: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

Email: bdhsarchives@acenet.com.au

ABN 29 362 616 937

PATRON:	Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire: Councillor Ken Halstead		
President:	Mr Ken REID	4622 5028	kandjreid@viceroygilead.com
Snr Vice President:	Mr Bruce MOORE	4872 3762	
Jnr Vice President:	Mrs Leonie KNAPMAN	4871 1804	
Hon Secretary:	Mr Philip MORTON	4883 7862	flipmort@bigpond.com
Hon Treasurer:	Mrs Jan REID	4622 5028	
Archivist:	Mrs Linda EMERY	4883 4271	
Curator - Museum:	Mr Bob WILLIAMS	4889 4405	
Editor:	Ms Lavinia FORD	4869 4038	lavinias@dodo.com.au
Research Officer:	Mr Max ROGERS	4861 3526	robert.rogers2@bigpond.com



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 Email: berrimamuseum@bigpond.com 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 \$10.00 - 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

JANUARY MEETING: No Meeting

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday 23 February 2012 at 7:30pm

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

Our guest speaker will precede the general meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER: John Vickery
John Vickery, President of Tamworth Historical Society, will speak on his ancestor Ebenezer Vickery, who played a significant role at the FitzRoy Iron Works in Mittagong.

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

Inside this month ...

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And more ...



Diary Dates

JANUARY

- 9 **Archives reopen after Christmas**
- 12 Management Committee Meeting
- 26 **Society Museum open Weekends and Holidays**
- 26 **No Monthly General Meeting**
- 31 School holidays conclude

FEBRUARY

- 9 Management Committee Meeting
- 23 Monthly General Meeting

Member information

The Audited Figures and Report for the 2010-2011 year are included as an insert".

Name Badges

Official Society Name Badges can be ordered by members and printed to their requirements at a cost of \$9. An order form is available at the Archives

From the President's Desk

2012 - welcome to another year of the twenty-first century and another Society year. Thank you to all members who nominated for positions or accepted appointment with the Society at the Annual General Meeting in November and a very warm welcome to new members of the Management Committee and the Museum Sub Committee. A list of election results is published in this newsletter.

At the Archives the invaluable work of digitizing our photographic collection is an ongoing project and also the Management Committee has asked our Archivist, Linda Emery, to investigate an upgrade to our IT system. Shylie Brown's book on early inns and hotels of the district is nearing completion and will be published in the early part of the year.

Unfortunately we had two intruder events at the Archives, one in November and another in December. As a result we have had a back to

base alarm system and a monitored smoke detector installed.

Wingecarribee Shire Council were very helpful by replacing our entrance door with a more secure solid timber one, and fitting an additional lock, and I would thank them for their very prompt assistance.

2011 ended with a very busy November and December at the Archives where we handled approximately 150 enquiries for family history and other information. The Museum is in school holiday mode and open every day during this period. It is a great opportunity to visit if you have not been for a while. Why not take family or visitors out to Berrima, visit the museum and then enjoy a coffee break.

Our Christmas function at the Scottish Arms at East Bowral was very successful and enjoyed by those attending - good food, good company and good fun! Thank you Leonie Knapman and Philip Morton for your wholehearted help.

And, in closing "*Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?*"

New Management Committee

The Society's Annual General Meeting for 2011 was held on 24 November. Nominations for executive and Management Committee positions and appointment of Office Bearers were presented. These were accepted by the members present.

New Management Committee and Office Bearers

President: Ken Reid
Sr Vice President: Bruce Moore
Jr Vice President: Leonie Knapman
Hon Secretary: Philip Morton
Hon Treasurer: Jan Reid

Other Committee Members: Robyn Arrowsmith, Rosalind Dale, Judith Green, Ron Mumford, Max Rogers.

Museum Committee: Bob Williams, Lyn Hall, Ian Alexander, Sylvia Carless, Judith Green, George Schofield, Gil Wheaton and John Schweers.

Appointments

Archivist: Linda Emery
Museum Curator: Bob Williams
Research Officer: Max Rogers
Newsletter Editor: Lavinia Ford
Publications Officer: Carolyn Hutton
Property Officer: Peter Cruikshank
Librarian: Carolyn Dougherty
Publicity Officer: Philip Morton
Tours Officer: Bruce Moore
Speakers Convener: Bruce Moore
Conservation Co-ordinator: Sally Ross
Membership Secretary: Peg Harvey

Patron: Councillor Ken Halstead, Mayor, Wingecarribee Shire Council

Auditor: Ross Cowley & Co, Mittagong

Publications Report *Denyse Barker*

Book sales at the archives and museum have continued to be steady, with over 470 books sold during the December 2010 to October 2011 period, including 62 books sold at our successful sales events, 'The History Days' at the Marketplace in Mittagong and, the Nowra Book Fair.

New stock is constantly being added to our collection, the latest being 'Berrima Gaol Records 1840 -1847' a soft cover book and separate CD. These are now available at \$20 and \$25 respectively.

Several books have been reprinted as stocks run out, whilst others have been withdrawn as they become unavailable or out of print.

100 books were sold to Hillview for their open days, with orders received from the Berrima Courthouse (39 books) and Southern Highlands Tourist Centre (59 books).

32 internet or mail orders were received, whilst others seek photos from our various publications.

The increase in postage rates has necessitated a rise in our postage and handling costs. International postage is now calculated on the weight of the order.

My best wishes are extended to the incoming Publications Officer.

Museum showcases New donations

New donations to our museum are displayed in a special showcase and these reveal a diverse mix of interesting objects that is updated regularly.



One outstanding new donation on display is the **AWA Transistor 7**. Released in 1957, it was the first Australian-made portable battery operated radio that became very popular.

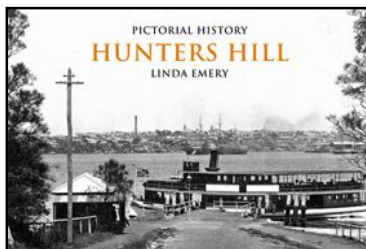
This unit had belonged to Rosalind Badgery and was one of many items

offered to the museum by her niece Jennifer Hammond.

For local members, especially those with guests staying these holidays, a visit to the museum is recommended to enjoy the new objects on display as well as taking in the regular features that include the unique story about the German Mariners interned at Berrima during World War I, which is a real eye opener.

As well, there is the comprehensive Early Industries exhibition that provides insights into the development of the Southern Highlands district. Another drawcard is the Mystery Object Quiz display that intrigues both young and old. Imagine anyone not knowing what a 'soap saver' was! Come visit, enjoy the museum and spread the word.

Pictorial History Hunters Hill



The Pictorial History of Hunters Hill is a new book celebrating the history of Hunters Hill and the sesquicentenary of Hunters Hill Council.

Written by historian and archivist Linda Emery, who grew up in Hunters Hill, the book is rich in historic photographs sourced from the Hunters Hill Historical Society and NSW archives. The loveliness of the suburb's setting has attracted a variety of photographers who captured life on the ferries, the shorelines, the two rivers which run on either side of the peninsula and the unique nature of the early French settlement.

Architecturally the area is outstanding. It has also been host to many private schools, particularly in the nineteenth century. A great number of famous creative artists, poets and writers have also lived in the area. Surprisingly it was also the municipality where resident action groups began in the early 1960s to save historic buildings and later the famous fight to save Kelly's Bush where the first Green Ban was imposed by the Builders' Labourer's Federation.

The book is available at the Historical Society Archives for \$25 or from our online shop for \$25 plus \$11.00 postage and packaging (128pp, soft cover, published Nov 2011)

2012 Guest Speakers Overview

Speakers' Convenor Bruce Moore is in the process of organizing speakers for this year's monthly meetings.

For February he has lined up John Vickery, President of Tamworth Historical Society. John will speak on his ancestor Ebenezer Vickery, who played a significant role at the FitzRoy Iron Works in Mittagong. John is in possession of the original Iron Works seal.

In March, Max and Linda will present another fascinating slideshow of recent photo acquisitions.

Other possible speakers are Brad Argent of ancestry.com, Hugh Mackay, author and psychologist, and Ita Buttrose.

Max and Philip are working on a presentation about Charlie Jackson, a Bowral champion of motorsports in the early 20th century. He was a local Morris dealer and raced motor cycles, Morris Oxfords and MGs.

New Committee Member

Robyn Arrowsmith has been a member of the Society for the last two years since moving from Sydney to the Southern Highlands six years ago.

Always a lover of history, and seeking a new direction in life when she was widowed, Robyn enrolled as a mature-aged student at the University of New South Wales, majoring in History with an honours degree in 1988. Her thesis was on the subject of The Influenza Epidemic of 1918 and its impact on NSW.



While bringing up her young daughter, Robyn spent the next 15 years carrying out historical research for various academic

projects where she enjoyed 'the buzz' of discovering original documents in archives, libraries and private collections. Involvement in a research project at the University of Western Sydney, documenting original land grants along the South Creek - stretching from Windsor to Narellan - whet her appetite for local history and she went on to obtain a Graduate Diploma of Local and Applied History at the University of New England.

Robyn moved to the peace of the Southern Highlands while finishing her PhD in Modern History at Macquarie University. Having graduated in 2010, she is now converting her thesis into a book on the subject of Australian WW II War Brides who married US Servicemen and went to live in America.

Having worked in various capacities while studying, Robyn brings to the Society her administrative and computer skills, her experience in conservation, cataloguing old photograph collections, and a love of research and the deciphering of dusty records.

Robyn joins the other members whose nominations to the 2012 Management Committee were recently accepted.

Echoes of War in Avoca Book launch a huge success

Approximately 200 people attended the Avoca Hall on Saturday 26 November, 2011, for the launch of "Echoes of War in Avoca" a book written and researched by Ron Mumford, long-time member of our Society.

In attendance was Stephen Jones, the Federal Member for Throsby; Gareth Ward, the NSW Member for Kiama; and Councillor Jim Maugher who represented the Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire. Also attending was the Principal Chaplain of the Australian Army, Brigadier Geoff Webb.

Councillor Duncan Gair was Master of Ceremonies and Society Archivist Linda Emery launched the book.

Society members assisted the Avoca Committee with the running of the event and managing the crowd.

"Echoes of War in Avoca" contains a small biography of each of the service personnel and a photograph of most whose names are recorded on the World War I and World War II Honour Rolls in the Avoca Hall.

The book is available from the Society, cost \$20.



Betty and Ron Mumford chat with Gareth Ward



The Hall was filled to capacity on the day



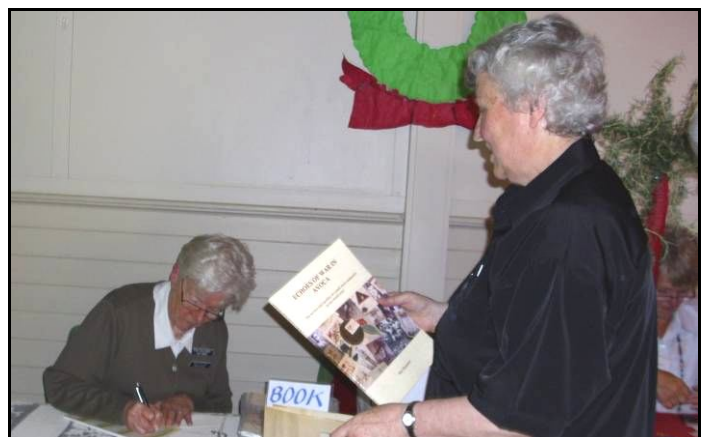
Avoca School pupils accept a book for their library



Society members Carolyn Hutton, Denyse Barker and Bruce Moore provided invaluable assistance (above) as did Jan Reid and Leonie Knapman (below)



(from left) Ron and Betty Mumford, Linda Emery, Duncan Gair and Stephen Jones.



Mittagong Town Band's history

Compiled by Philip Morton

Almost as old as the town, Mittagong Town Band was the first to be established in the district and it survived many trials and tribulations until the 1970s.

Funds were collected in 1881 for a band in Mittagong and it was established with Mr Appleby as first Bandmaster. Another early bandmaster was Mr Hutchison, under whose leadership the band practised in a small hall located in the back lane next to what is now the Hotel Mittagong.

From its beginnings, the Band helped town citizens to celebrate and rejoice in their sports and festivities and to commemorate the more solemn occasions.

Then, as now, to equip a band of thirty or so players with instruments, uniforms and music requires considerable expenditure. However the town was fortunate in that individual band members bought their own sheet music and owned their instruments.

George E Vincent was a young musician who often visited the district with his father during the 1880s. At age 15, he moved to Mittagong in 1890 where he continued with his professional music studies and was appointed Bandmaster of the Town Band. In 1896 George became an Associate of Music at Trinity College, the highest musical honour obtainable in Australia at that time.

From 1891 practice sessions were held in a newly built rotunda in Alexandra Park which was erected at a cost of approximately forty five pounds. This was the Band's first, and only, home - the Rotunda still exists in its original setting behind the now defunct Mittagong Bowling Club.

George was Bandmaster until 1894, being paid £5 per quarter. He then became Bandmaster with the Bowral Association Band, but returned to the Mittagong Band as its Bandmaster for a second term from 1900 to 1904.

Mr Wade from Sydney replaced him as Mittagong Bandmaster from 1895 and was paid 18 shillings per week for his short term and then came Mr Goodsell until mid 1896. A four year recess followed until Vincent returned.

In 1904 Mr H Gotting took the baton but two years later the Band went into recess again. However interest was revived for a brilliant but brief period in 1907 when a Yankee military bandsman, Thomas Mitchell, put the Band back on its feet but 'his own feet were too itchy'.

Ollie Bedoes, employed at the local butter factory, took over the baton for a short time until passing it to Charles Andrews, a local council waterworks engineer

who also played the cornet. He was Bandmaster through the years of the First World War and beyond.

During the war years the Band was present as men were farewelled for war and was there at the railway station to welcome those returning home.

When another council position, that of a health inspector, became vacant it was filled by William Powell who also became Bandmaster. Powell retired in the early 1930s and was followed by George Green, a solo cornet player.

Under his guidance the Band extended its services further afield and had the distinction of holding the interest of the crowd at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932.

Before the Premier, Jack Lang, could conduct the opening ceremony it was famously disrupted when Francis De Groot, a member of the fascist, anti-Lang New Guard, rode across the bridge on horseback and slashed the ribbon with a sword. After De Groot was taken away by the police, the ceremonial ribbon was held in place and Lang cut it, declaring the bridge open. The Mittagong Band made use of the commotion to push to the front and were the first to march across after the official ceremony.

The next Bandmaster, Victor Yields, was appointed in 1938 after serving in the ranks from 1917. He first played euphonium and won a gold medal for a solo in 1925. During Victor's term, the band reminded all that Christmas was approaching by hiring a dray and, in later years, a bus and toured towns in the district playing carols.

A presentation of a silver tea service was made to Victor in 1959 at the Mittagong Bowling Club in tribute to his then 21 years of service. He remained Bandmaster until 1970 and passed away in 1973.

While the Mittagong Band folded in the mid 1970s, the tradition of local bands continued with the formation in 1985 of the Wingecarribee Community Band, renamed Southern Highlands Concert Band in 1998. Still going strong, last year it celebrated 25 years of performance and now has 50 players.



1894: Mittagong Town Band in the Goulburn Rotunda.

New Books in our library to December 2011

Squatters and Settlers by Derrick Stone and Donald S. Garden. Library number: 20/168

Pere Receveur: Franciscan, Scientist and Voyager with Laperouse by Edward Duyker. Library: 24/108

Lairds, Lags and Larrikins: An early history of the Limestone Plains by David Meyers. Library: 26/26

Bargo Cemetery Memorials: A pictorial record to December 2009 Library: Ref.10/64

Elizabeth 1828: the worst and most turbulent. From Celtic Cross to Southern Cross. By Suzanne Voytas Library: Ref.07/76.

Sydney's Forgotten Military Railways by John Oaks. A photo from the book is shown below. Library: 21/96



This rail bridge crossing the Georges River at Liverpool includes the original single-line Argyle St Moss Vale bridge built in 1886. It was relocated in 1914 after line duplication.

The Old Razorback Road: Life on the Great South Road between Camden and Picton 1830 - 1930 by Elizabeth Villy. Library: 21/97

Hugh Hoskins: Memoirs 1918 - 2008. Library: 24/109

100 Lives of Bourke: A cemetery interpretation book. By Barbara Hickson, Ann McLachlan and Heather Nicholls. Library: Ref.10/65.

Lairds, Lags and Larrikins by David Meyers

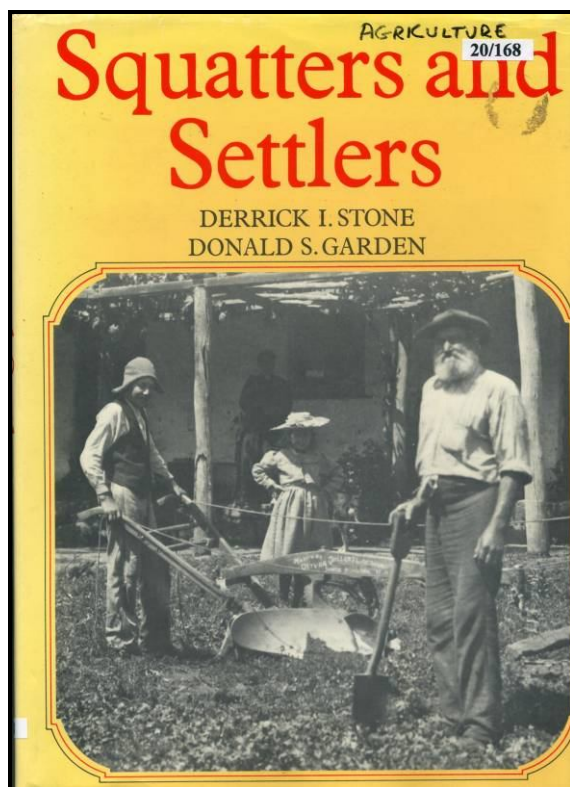
For those with early family connections in the Canberra region this book will be of interest. Using the 1828 census as a basis for his research and covering the area taken up by the city of Canberra and Queanbeyan and extending west to the Murrumbidgee River, it looks at the lives of the first settlers in the region, the absentee landlords and the farm workers. David also looks at the reasons behind the expansion into this 'new country' beyond the settled areas. I recommend that you have a detailed map of the area with you while reading unless you are extremely familiar with the area.

Pere Receveur: Franciscan, Scientist and Voyager with Laperouse by Edward Duyker. Less than 20 pages of text (excluding the original French texts) in this short but interesting book which sheds light on the tombstone at Laperouse dedicated to Pere Receveur. With his ability to fulfil dual scientific and spiritual roles plus his past military career in his favour, Receveur joined Laperouse's expedition to follow up on James Cook's surveys in the Pacific. Wounded in Samoa in December 1787 he died in February 1788 at the age of 31 at Botany Bay.

One book I have just finished reading from our June/July book list was ***Scurvy: How a Surgeon, a Mariner and a Gentleman Solved the Greatest Mystery of the Age of Sail*** by Stephen R. Brown.

Any romantic notions about the age of sail will soon be dispelled by reading Brown's book. Scurvy was described as the plague of the sea, the author listing the symptoms of this affliction as 'where the body's connective tissue degenerates resulting in bleeding gums, wobbly teeth, rot-reeking breath, anaemic lethargy, physical weakness, the opening of old wounds and the separating of once-healed broken bones'. No wonder they had to kidnap the poor off the streets to man their vessels, exacerbating the situation as the poor were usually in poor health to begin with making them even more likely to succumb. The author traces the history of the disease and the attempts to achieve a cure based on the medical beliefs of the day, often overseen by members of the medical profession with the right connections and patronage but lacking competence. Worth reading.

Happy reading, Carolyn Dougherty.



Our Affiliation with the RAHS

Some readers may not be aware that we are an affiliated member of the Royal Australian Historical Society and benefit greatly from this association.

A brief summary is provided here and more details may be found on their website www.rahs.org.au.

The Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) is a voluntary organization founded in Sydney in 1901 to encourage Australians to understand more about their history. It has a membership throughout Australia and all its activities and facilities are funded by contributions from its members and benefactors.

SERVICES TO AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Services to Societies affiliated with the RAHS include:

- Public Liability and Personal Accident Voluntary Workers insurance schemes
- Workshops on research and education
- Annual Conference
- Administration of small grants schemes on behalf of the NSW Ministry for the Arts and the NSW Heritage Office, Department of Planning
- Specialist advice.

The 2011-2012 Affiliated Societies Committee membership is:

- Dr Lesley Muir (Convener) (RAHS Council)
- County of Cumberland representatives: Robert Hutchinson (Marrickville), David Craddock (Hornsby)
- Beyond Cumberland representatives: Leonie Knapman (Berrima), Lesley Gent (Paterson)
- RAHS Council: Associate Professor Carol Liston
- Technical adviser: Angela Phippen (Local History Librarian).

GRANTS

The RAHS administers a small grants scheme on behalf of ArtsNSW as part of its Literature and History Grants program. The Cultural Grants program administered by the RAHS assists historical research and publication of local, community and regional history projects.

The New South Wales Minister for the Arts, Hon George Souris, has approved the allocation to the RAHS of \$45,000 per annum between 2012 and 2014 for the devolved Cultural Grants Program for Local History Research and Publication. This is a very considerable increase from the \$23,000 the Society received in 2011. The increased funding results from the RAHS successfully convincing the government that more funds were required to support the grants program, which plays such a vital role in encouraging historical activities throughout the state.

RAHS Library

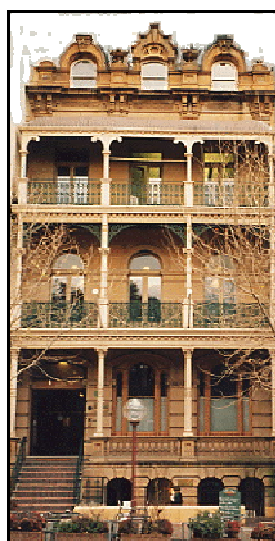
The Library specialises in NSW local history and contains an extensive collection of both written and pictorial resources on all aspects of Australian history. Included in the collection are printed books, pamphlets, newspaper cuttings, manuscripts, ephemera, journals, maps, microfilm, microfiche, photographs and glass slides.

It also holds the only comprehensive computerised index to the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, which has been publishing scholarly articles on Australian history since 1906.

Computer databases also list over 12,000 items held in the library and computers are available for accessing the library catalogue, specialist indexes of the society's collection such as the picture collections and the local history bibliography. The computer can also be used for internet access to other collections.

Cost: free to members and to members of Affiliated Societies undertaking society research. \$5.50 per day (including GST) for non-members and Affiliated Society members undertaking private research.

Location: First Floor, History House,
133 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.



Home of the RAHS, History House was built in the 1870s as an upper middle-class Victorian gentleman's residence. The building has old-world charm and elegance with well-proportioned Victorian era rooms.

If you are in Sydney for Australia Day,
the RAHS invites you to stop by History House
between noon and 3pm to hear short talks on history
and to enjoy the historic late
Victorian townhouse.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	12 JAN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26 JAN	No Monthly General Meeting	
TUESDAY	31 JAN	School holidays conclude	
THURSDAY	9 FEB	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23 FEB	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	8 MAR	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	22 MAR	Monthly General Meeting	7:30 pm at the Historical Society

If undelivered return to:
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THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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preserving and maintaining the history of the Southern Highlands.

*Boral
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