

Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 445 November 2012

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 Telephone / Fax 0248 722 169
Website: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au
Email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com

ABN 29 362 616 937

PATRON:	Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire: Councillor Juliet Arkwright		
President:	Mr Ken REID	4622 5028	kandjreid@viceroylead.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.

ANNUAL GENERAL AND MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER MEETING: Thursday 22 November 2012 at 2:00pm

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

TOPIC: **AGM and General Meeting**

Our honoured guest at the AGM will be the WSC mayor Juliet Arkwright, who will give an inaugural address as the new Patron of the Society.

AFTERNOON TEA: To be served after the meeting - Members - please bring a plate or a donation

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And more ...

JANUARY MEETING: Thursday 24 January 2013
No Meeting





Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year

This is our last newsletter for 2012. The next newsletter will arrive in your letterbox in January 2013. There is no January general meeting on **24 January 2013**. The Berrima District Historical and Family History Society wishes to take this opportunity to extend to all our members, a merry Christmas, and a very safe and happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back - renewed, relaxed, and ready for 2013.

AGM

WHEN:
22 November 2012
following General Meeting
at 2:00 pm

WHERE:
**Historical Society Archives,
Mittagong**

Its time for our Annual General Meeting in November. As is the case every year, some people will not be nominating for positions. Please consider standing for a position that may interest you.

Christmas Closing Dates

Historical Society Archives
Closed Dec 11, 2012
Open Jan 7, 2013

Berrima District Museum

Open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm 7 days a week during school holidays, commencing on December 27, concluding on Australia Day.

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

Diary dates

NOVEMBER

8 Management Committee Meeting
22 **AGM & Monthly Meeting**

DECEMBER

7 **Christmas Dinner**
11 **Archives close** at 4:00 pm for Christmas break.
13 Management Committee Meeting
21 School holidays commence
27 **NO** General Monthly Meeting
27 Society Museum Open Daily 10:00 am - 4:00 pm closed Christmas and Boxing days

JANUARY

Museum open daily during school holidays
7 **Archives reopen after Christmas**
10 Management Committee Meeting
24 **NO** Monthly General Meeting
29 School holidays conclude

FEBRUARY

14 Management Committee Meeting
28 Monthly General Meeting

Christmas Gift idea

Do you have a bookworm in the family, or maybe someone who enjoys history?

Drop into the society and view the extensive selection of books we have available to keep members of your family amused these holidays.

Newsletter

Newsletter Deadline is **25th** of every month. It may be necessary to hold submissions after this date till the following month.

Research fees

Research fees 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.

Christmas Function

Friday 7 December 2012

Alexandria Room, Mittagong RSL Club, Mittagong
from 6:30pm for 7:00pm.

\$38 per person

Includes Tea, Coffee and Orange Juice
Bookings & Payment essential by Tuesday 27 November 2012
to the Archives 4872 2169

Could each person please bring a unisex gift to the value of approx. \$5.00. There will be a Raffle and lucky door prizes.

Museum News

Bob Williams

Two recent visitors to Berrima District Museum had a special interest in the exhibition on the German Internment Camp, Berrima, during 1915-1919.

Sisters June Wood and Joy Miller came to see the zither owned by internee Karl Pfingst. He gave music lessons to Evelyn Alice Welch, a local lady who befriended Karl during his time at Berrima. At war's end, when Karl, along with his fellow detainees, was repatriated to Germany, he gave his zither and a music book to Evelyn.

The zither's story from that time to its arrival at the museum is an interesting one. Evelyn Welch married James Smith in 1935 and they lived at Mittagong. In the late 1960s Evelyn gave the zither to a friend, Olga Buley, also of Mittagong. Olga's brother, Geoffrey Squires was aware of the significance of the zither.

In 1994 Olga included it in her garage sale and a Mrs Robinson of Buxton bought it. When Geoffrey discovered this, he traced the zither and was able to buy it, albeit at an increased price. He was Hon Secretary of our historical society and reported the story to a meeting of the then society Council, today known as the Management Committee. Geoffrey was reminded that the society had a policy of not purchasing artefacts, however, after some discussion, the Council agreed to make an exception on this occasion. The zither was then transferred to our museum, where it remains one of the most significant objects in the collection.

The zither came complete with its embroidered red felt dust cover in its timber carry case. It was accompanied by the music book inscribed "To my diligent pupil Evie with my best wishes. Karl Pfingst (teacher)."

Evie, or Evelyn, was the grandmother of our two visitors, June and Joy. They knew the story of the zither and were thrilled to finally see it.



L to R: June Wood and Joy Miller with the zither.

President's Report

Ken Reid

It is with pleasure that I present my report for the year.

I would first like to express my thanks to the Management Committee, Museum Sub-committee and Museum Extension Sub-Committee members for their time and effort in serving and supporting our Society, and dealing with matters that keep the Society running.

Also a special thank-you, to all our wonderful volunteers, both at the museum and archives. The Society is totally dependant on our band of volunteers who contribute so much to the performance of the Society and their valuable contribution is greatly appreciated by both myself and the management committees.

Members who filled other positions again carried out their duties to a very high standard. They all maintain a high level of expertise in their areas of responsibilities, and add much to the smooth running of our Society.

Thank you also to our Guest Speakers at the monthly meetings. I thank them all for their time in making themselves available to us. They covered a variety of interesting and varied subjects during the year, and I know members and visitors who attended the meetings enjoyed and learned something from the talks.

Wingecarribee Shire Council once again has been very supportive of the Society and I thank them for their ongoing support on behalf of all members.

Publication of Shylie Brown's book *Inns and Hotels in the Wingecarribee District* is nearing completion and should soon be ready for publication. Philip Morton's book for the Society on *Early Industries of the Shire* is in final stages of publication. This publication has been made possible by a \$1000 grant from the RAHS and may be ready before Christmas. Harlan Hall is working towards grant applications to stage an exhibition at the Museum for the centenary of Gallipoli.

Congratulations to our Archivist Linda Emery, who with assistance of a grant from the IMB Foundation has commenced putting our extensive image collection on to our website. This achievement has only been made possible by many months of scanning our entire collection of photographs and preparing them for this project by dedicated volunteers. This will make our collection available for viewing world wide.

Leonie and Greg Knapman, assisted by Ros Dale attended and set-up our table at the Nowra Book Fair

during the year. Max Rogers and Leonie Knapman represented the Society at the Royal Australian Historical Society Annual Conference and received our grant. Again this year we have been well represented at Museum and Galleries Chapter meetings, and we have been well publicised through the regular history articles in the Southern Highlands News, which are prepared for weekly publication by our Publicity Officer, Philip Morton.

Our newsletter continues to keep members informed and also includes regular local history and other articles of interest that I know members enjoy. Thank you to Lavinia for your time and effort with the publishing of the newsletter, to those who contribute articles and also to Peg Harvey and her band of helpers who fold and ready the newsletter for mailing.

Other aspects of Society activities during the year I am sure are well covered by reports from those members who have undertaken various roles in the Society, and I thank them on your behalf.

It has again been an honour to have served as your President, and I wish all members a happy and safe Christmas.

Secretary's Report

Philip Morton

This year has been my second year in the role, having first served as Secretary in 2010. The duties are quite varied. As well as the regular post-box mail that has to be opened and directed to those concerned, a steady stream of e-mails arrive to our web address that need to be sifted through and either deleted, redirected or actioned. Thanks to Max Rogers for dealing directly with the many e-mail research enquiries, for forwarding on email book orders, and for printing out invoice emails.

A list of all inward and outward correspondence is presented each month to the Management Committee for review and any matters of significance tabled. The Secretary prepares the agendas for each Management Committee and General meeting and helps prepare the monthly Management Committee Summary Report that is presented by the President to the General Meeting and included in the newsletter.

Correspondence received includes newsletters, journals, bulletins etc. from other Societies and Family History groups. Some of these are: *Descent* a magazine of the Australian Society of Genealogists; *Founders* the First Fleeters magazine; and Historic Houses Trust *Insites* magazine.

We receive the NSW Association of Family History Societies newsletter, Placenames Australia bulletin, the RAHS monthly magazine and Affiliates newsletter, the Australian National Maritime Museum quarterly magazine *Signals*, the *1788 Chronicle* from

First Fleeters Southern Highlands Chapter, the *Ancestral Searcher* from the Canberra Genealogy Society, and the Southern Highlands and Illawarra Museums & Galleries Chapter e-news.

Outward mail this year included thank-you's to people who assisted the Society, sympathy cards, an invitation to the new WSC Mayor Juliet Arkwright to be Society Patron (which she accepted) and replies to members who wrote in with requests and comments.

Hopefully the secretarial operation has functioned with care and attention to detail.

Archivist Report

Linda Emery

Each year as I write this report, I think that surely the archives could not have been any busier than the year before, and each year, I realise that it has! There is rarely a day on which we open to the public that the archives are not full of members and visiting researchers carrying out the wide variety of activities in which we are involved. On the days that we are officially not open, there is still much activity, dealing with the many research requests we receive by email and through our website.

There has been a steady stream of acquisitions to the archives during 2012 including papers relating to organisations in the Southern Highlands. This material has been carefully sorted and stored by Sally Ross and the Conservation Room volunteers in the area we use to house the records of local organisations and societies. These will be a valuable resource in the future. We have also acquired a number of photographs to add to our already impressive collection.

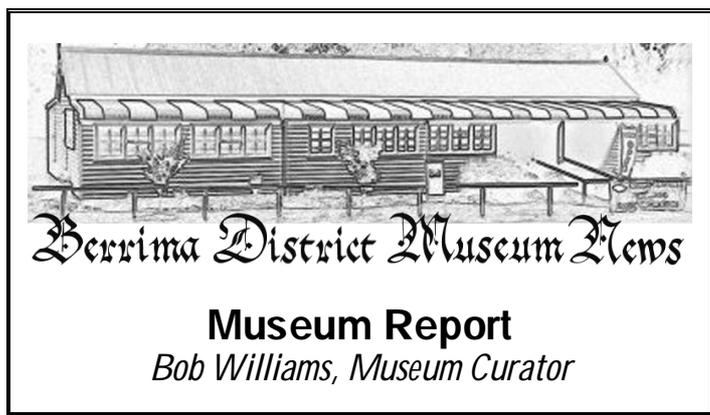
During the year we were fortunate to receive a wonderful collection of papers from Kevin Herring, well known to members as an expert on land title research. Over many years, he has detailed land acquisitions and the people involved in them in the towns and villages of the Southern Highlands. The Kevin Herring Collection will be a most valuable resource for our work and we thank Kevin for his generosity.

We received a donation from the Wingecarribee Shire Council Community Grant Scheme for \$500 to buy a new scanner for the archives. This will assist in our ongoing work on the photographic collection. The majority of our images have now been scanned, but as the collection keeps growing, it will never end.

We were also delighted to receive a grant of \$3,300 from the IMB Foundation to purchase software that will allow us to put our collection of photographs on to

the internet. This process has already started and over the next few months, we hope to have a large percentage of the collection uploaded and therefore available worldwide.

Most importantly, I would particularly like to thank all the volunteers who staff the archives on the three days a week that we open to the public, as well as other days during the week when the 'behind the scenes' work is done. At last count, there were 29 members who give their time to the archives to assist visitors and researchers, work on research projects, indexing, cleaning and general administration. Without them, we could not provide what I believe is an outstanding service to our members and the general public. They help keep our history alive and spread the word to others, so take a bow one and all.



Wow! The year is fast drawing to an end. It's been another busy time for everyone involved with the museum. I'll briefly touch on as many activities as space permits.

A decision has been made to designate the proposed new building as an exhibition space. Subject to funding and lead time, an exhibition to commemorate the local men who enlisted in World War 1 would be developed for 2015.

A shipping container was purchased and is being prepared for use as additional storage. This will free up space in the museum and make working behind the scenes more comfortable.

The museum once again hosted the Anzac Day breakfast, following the Dawn Service.

Extra activities devised for children are very well received by both the children and adults.

Tourism Southern Highlands invited us to install our display 'From the Battlefields' in the Visitor Information Centre to coincide with a presentation by staff from the Australian War Memorial.

Two huge photos were installed. The one on the verandah shows the Wingecarribee River with huts built by the German internees. The one in reception features the German internees at roll call prior to being released for their daily recreational activities. These photos were donated by the Museum of

Sydney following their exhibition, 'The Enemy at Home, German Internees in World War 1 Australia'. If you haven't seen them, please call in and have a look.

Volunteers got together at a meeting in March, river walk for museum volunteers in May and the annual Volunteers Thank You Morning Tea in September.

We continue to receive fascinating objects for the collection. These include tools and other items from the workshop of Bowral saddler William Oldridge and items of uniform from both Mittagong and Bowral Town Bands.

A slideshow of interesting photos from the early days of the Wingecarribee Shire has been installed in the museum and gives visitors a window into the past.

Wingecarribee Shire Council plans to re-locate the fully restored water pump, originally used at Moss Vale, to the museum grounds in time for Moss Vale's sesquicentenary in 2013. This has been endorsed by Berrima Residents Association and Berrima Town Life.

Representatives attended a meeting and later an inspection, of the now empty Berrima Gaol, to consider possible future use for the property.

A survey of museums in our Chapter, comparing locations, visitor numbers, volunteer numbers and annual turnover, showed that Berrima District Museum is doing quite well.

Our museum hosted a Chapter workshop, held in the archives meeting room, to promote community involvement with museums. Guest speaker John Hatton titled his talk 'Making Your Museum Heard'.

Delegates attended all three Chapter meetings, always held on a Sunday. These were hosted by Trainworks at Thirlmere, Pilot's Cottage at Kiama and International Cricket Hall of Fame at Bowral.

Representatives from our museum and Wollondilly Heritage Centre, represented our Chapter when they met with Michael Rolfe of Museums and Galleries NSW to raise issues of concern.

An approach has been made to Wingecarribee Shire Council regarding an interpretive walk along that part of the Wingecarribee River used by the German Internees during World War 1 which is now listed on the State Heritage Register.

Our thanks go Wingecarribee Shire Council for its ongoing support. This includes the painting of the outside of the museum building in October. Thank you to the local media, both radio and print, for its support during the year.

Finally, thank you to my fellow volunteers for devoting your time, expertise and enthusiasm to the museum. I appreciate your support in all the varied aspects of the museum's operation. This includes a big 'thank you' to the members of the Museum Committee for a

job well done. They are Lyn Hall, Sylvia Carless, Judith Green, Ian Alexander, Gil Wheaton and John Schweers as well as George Schofield who resigned mid-year for personal reasons, after 2½ years' service.

Treasurer's Report

Jan Reid

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to present the Annual Financial Statements covering the year 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012, for the information of members.

The accounts again show expenditure which will be an overall benefit to the Society. During the year a security system has been installed at the Archives following two burglaries. We received a \$3,300 grant from the IMB Foundation to cover the next stage in providing access to our wonderful pictorial collection through the internet, a \$1,500 grant from the RAHS for the publication of Shylie Brown's book and a \$500 grant from the Wingecarribee Shire Council for a printer/scanner - all of these items will be purchased during the 2012/13 financial year. We purchased a storage container for \$2,500 which will greatly relieve the pressure on our limited storage at the Museum and we networked the computers in the Archives which has increased the number of computers now available for internet access and also for searching our own data bases.

The Special Purpose Account grew by \$66.73 as a result of our Christmas raffle and bank interest.

My thanks go to our auditors Ross Cowley & Co. who have again agreed to audit our accounts and meet our very tight time frame. Their co-operation is greatly appreciated.

My thanks also go to those members who contribute to the collection of funds from various sources throughout the Society - their continuing efforts in both collecting and recording funds are greatly appreciated.

Library Report

Caroline Dougherty

A comprehensive shelf check was conducted early in the year to identify books missing from the collection. Results were published in our magazine, however of those identified only one book was returned as a result. The majority of books missing have been missing for a number of years, included in previously published lists, and are irreplaceable.

The number of new books received for inclusion in the collection was not as high as in previous years, the upside of this is that we have not had to make any serious adjustments to shelving to provide extra space.

Library usage has remained at similar levels to previous years with the borrowing system in place working well with few outstanding items requiring attention.

Research Report

Max Rogers

This has been another busy year for research. We now have in place: website, email, phone/fax plus walk-in and this keeps our volunteer staff very busy on the days we are open and also the days we are not open. Enquiries were received from all Australian states and from overseas (America, UK, NZ); we even had an inquiry from French Polynesia this year. Not only personal family history is wanted; information is also wanted on local history, family homes and properties and just about anything else that the public can think of on what they think we would have in our archives, or in some cases what we do not have available, unfortunately we cannot help everybody.

To the beginning of November we have had over 1,187 inquiries from the various sources mentioned.

We have been lucky in receiving lots of donations of information from the general public; Kevin Herring has donated to the archives a mass of information he has collected over the years, this material in the coming years will be invaluable in all aspects of local history, we thank Kevin for this amazing collection; it has already started to be of immense value to our archives, it will be kept together as "The Kevin Herring Collection".

Thanks to all those who have assisted me in many ways, it makes the workload a lot easier.

Publicity Report

Philip Morton

Having been in this position for several years now, it seems I have built up a routine that has had some success in promoting our monthly General Meeting guest speakers with posters around town, media coverage, outreach to other local groups, and articles in our newsletter.

One particular general meeting topic stands out as a big success: despite a rainy change, and with the

temperature dropping to 8.5 degrees, around 40 attendees still turned up to our May General Meeting for the story of local motor racing identity Charlie Jackson, and the history of MG racing cars. The talk was put together by four of our member 'blokes' - Max Rogers, Ian Mackey, Alan Barker and myself - who presented a comprehensive slideshow of images and history.

Tony Slattery, Queensland Rep of the International MG Y-Type Register, provided us with some photo-shoot images that recreated the original 1932 photo of Charlie in his MG Midget. It was a great team effort and the slideshow was sent to Queensland for the MG buffs there to enjoy.

A weekly history column continues to be compiled from local historical sources and provided to the *Southern Highland News* for the Monday history column. My thanks to the many people who have contributed ideas and research material and to Jan Reid for her invaluable assistance with proof-reading the articles. As well, historical photos are supplied monthly to Snapshot magazine for the 'Snaps in Time' page that acknowledges the Society.

In conjunction with museum volunteers Lyn Hall, Gloria Williams and John Schweers publicity efforts have helped promote museum activities to the local public through articles in the *Southern Highland News*, and to the Society membership through our newsletter.

Any ideas or suggestions on how to further promote the Society would be most welcome.

Newsletter Report

Lavinia Ford

Looking through Christmas designs on the internet, you can't help but delight in this beautiful and special time of year we are approaching; homes, malls and streets decorated handsomely, and families coming together. So, I would like to wish each and every member a safe and wonderful festive season, and a new year filled with health, safety, peace and joy.

This is the last newsletter for this year. The next edition will be in your post box in January.

As always the newsletter has been full of interesting articles and society news. Thank you to Philip for your invaluable assistance. Thank you also to the all the volunteers who assisted in folding and posting the newsletter - I cannot thank you all enough.

Other societies send us their newsletters and journals which provide a vast array of tips and tricks as well as being very interesting and informative. They are located in our library.

The 2012 newsletter distribution has increased. We distribute 265 newsletters to our 317 members, and a further 56 to other societies and legal deposits, giving a total of 321 newsletters, an increase of 8 on last year.

At the conclusion of this year we will have posted our newsletter to 168 members and 38 legal deposits and we will have emailed our newsletter to 97 members and 18 legal deposits.

	Members	Newsletters
Honorary Life Members	5	4
Single Members	207	207
Family Members	105	54
	317	*265
Wingecarribee	189	
NSW Country	34	
NSW Metro	32	
ACT	4	
VIC	1	
QLD	5	
	265	
Legal Deposits	19	
Other Societies	37	
	56	321

Based on figures for 2011, HLM membership has decreased by 1, Single membership has increased by 12 and family membership has decreased by 3. Of those figures, Wingecarribee has increased by 8, NSW Country decreased 1, NSW Metro decreased 1, ACT increased 1, Victoria is unchanged, and Queensland increased 1.

As a matter of interest, the majority of members reside in the Wingecarribee (189) and is divided as follows: Bowral (58), Mittagong (56), Moss Vale (27), Bundanoon (15), Burradoo (4), Berrima (3), Colo Vale (3), Exeter (3), Willow Vale (4), Aylmerton (2), Hill Top (2), Sutton Forest (2), Burrawang (1), Canyonleigh (1), High Range (1), Kangaloon (1), Kangaroo Valley (1), Mt Murray (1), Penrose (1), Robertson (1), Tallong (1), Wingello (1).

From the Secretary

Philip Morton

Correction to October newsletter. In his column on page 2 "From the President's Desk", Ken Reid expressed his thanks to one of our members, Liz Walker, for offering to provide us with a copy of the Bundanoon History Group's archive database. Liz is the Archivist of the BHG, but Ken inadvertently referred to her as the President of that Group. In reality it is Marianne Ward who currently serves as the BHG President, so our apologies for confusing these roles.

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	8 NOV	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	22 NOV	Monthly General Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
FRIDAY	7 DEC	Christmas Dinner	6:30 pm at the RSL Club, Mittagong
TUESDAY	11 DEC	Archives close for Christmas Break	4:00 pm
THURSDAY	13 DEC	Management Committee Meeting	
FRIDAY	21 DEC	School holidays commence	
THURSDAY	27 DEC	NO Monthly General Meeting	
MONDAY	7 JAN	Archives reopen following Christmas Break	10:00 am
THURSDAY	10 JAN	Management Committee Meeting	
TUESDAY	29 JAN	School holidays conclude	

If undelivered return to:

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc
PO Box 131

MITTAGONG NSW 2575

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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.

Boral
Hypercet Printing
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