



Bowral



Mittagong



Berrima



Moss Vale

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

Founded 1960

Located in the Wingecarribee Shire,
Southern Highlands of NSW

ABN 29 362 616 937

NEWSLETTER

No 509 September 2018



From the President's Desk

A clear path has now been set for the Berrima District Museum upgrade. The previous schedule has been revised to allow more time, with the Museum now closing in June and July 2019 for renovations and reopening

in August 2019. The project will be managed by Museum volunteer Harlan Hall.

Kristie Phelan has been engaged to undertake the Story of Wine Exhibition project. Kristie and her family have relocated back to the Southern Highlands and live in Bowral. Her family is third generation Southern Highlanders. Kristie has all the skills and experience necessary for this project with her most recent undertaking being the production of the Hillview Bi-annual Sculpture Exhibition. She is also a member of the Wingecarribee Shire Council Arts & Culture Advisory Committee.

During the closure, the existing Southern Highlands 1200 Exhibition will be dismantled and relocated. The Prisoners in Arcady and Klein rooms will be stripped, painted, carpeted and new LED lighting installed.

New glass showcases will be installed in a revised layout. The digital gallery will be erected in the William's Gallery following the removal of the S.H. 1200 Exhibition.

The main feature of the digital gallery will be 10 large OLED HD television screens, 6 of which will be used to showcase the Story of Wine in the Southern Highlands. They will feature tales of our wine pioneers, along with our region's celebrated wineries and winemakers.

Motion sensor speakers will detect visitors and play audio of local winemakers showing their passion for their industry. The screens will display stunning images of our local vineyards and our beautiful Highlands.

As part of the joint promotion, coach tours coming to the local wineries will be directed to our Museum with expected increased patronage. Also available will be a companion booklet featuring the history of wine making in the Southern Highlands.

The research and compilation of this booklet is being undertaken by our volunteers at the Archives.

Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 2018:

Thursday 27 September at 2:00pm

SPEAKER:

Alan Clark from Shoalhaven Historical Society will speak about his new 'Coachman of the Nowra District' book

OCTOBER 2018:

Thursday 25 October at 2:00pm

EVENT:

Another 'Archives Roadshow' – members invited to bring along interesting objects for a "Show and Tell" afternoon

AFTERNOON TEA is served following the speaker.
Members please bring a plate or a donation.

NOTE: on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm



Senior Vice-President's Column



Bruce Moore FAMILY FURPHIES

A furphy, as you know, originated during WW1 when a family called Furphy had its name painted on water & sewerage carts where the soldiers visited the latrines and exchanged gossip. Some whopping Furphies were born.

There's this hoary chestnut about an Archbishop in the family back in England. The real story was that the said immigrant's Uncle was in fact an ordained minister in a rural parish.

Frank Mitchell wrote about another vigorous rumour that two ancestral brothers actually built the railway line from Sydney to Melbourne. What these two fettlers really did was to maintain a section of the Southern line between Picton and Minto.

Lyn Hall tells me that family and friends honoured one bloke after he retired. He was purportedly a long term and prominent Station Master at Katoomba. However his real job was in charge of goods and freight!

There's a story about a lady who said her husband was killed in action in WW1. The widow was taken in by the family and became everybody's favourite 'poor' auntie. When she died, the husband turns up at the funeral to claim what's his!

A similar thing happened to a close friend of mine whose father was 'missing in action' in the WW2. He and his Mum lived alone and it was not until Dave's 50th birthday that a cousin of his knew his father was still alive, re-married and living on the Central Coast.

An interesting bit comes from some people who are researching their family tree. I love the ones who are invariably related to the royal household, Napoleon or even Captain Cook. We know precisely that James Cook had six legitimate children with his wife Elizabeth. And we know that none of those children had any issue. So if you hear that a person is related to Captain Cook, you can validly say that he is telling a Furphy!

One sure thing is that it's a wise man who knows his father.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

That time again!!

Renewals are due from 1 October. A renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter. We are happy to receive payment by cash, cheque or money order, OR funds can be deposited to our bank account, details of which are shown on the Renewal Form.

NOTE: If depositing funds to our bank account, please ensure that your initial and surname are used as a reference. **PLEASE** return completed Renewal Form and copy of bank receipt by mail or email, as this helps the Membership Secretary keep track of the many payments to be processed.

Membership Details

Please note that all membership enquiries and changes of address details should be addressed to:

The Membership Secretary
c/- the Society's postal address
or email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com

Research Fees

Research fees for non-members:

\$25.00 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.

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

Please note that the museum is open at least 5 days a week

MUSEUM OPEN: 10am to 4pm

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

and every day during NSW school holidays and on public holidays.

Groups welcome at other times by arrangement. Ph John 4872 1660.

Archives opening hours

Monday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tuesday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

RAHS Conference 2018

Surveying the Past, Mapping the Present

The Westport Club, Port Macquarie
20 – 21 October 2018

This year, at Port Macquarie, the Royal Australian Historical Society's annual conference will explore how historians survey the past by searching through records as part of a continuous journey to map the context of events that have shaped our shared history.

For more information and booking arrangements, visit the RAHS website or ask at the archives.



Member Denyse Barker in period dress at Bundanoon's celebrations on 5 August for the 150th anniversary of the railway through the area.

Our September Guest Speaker

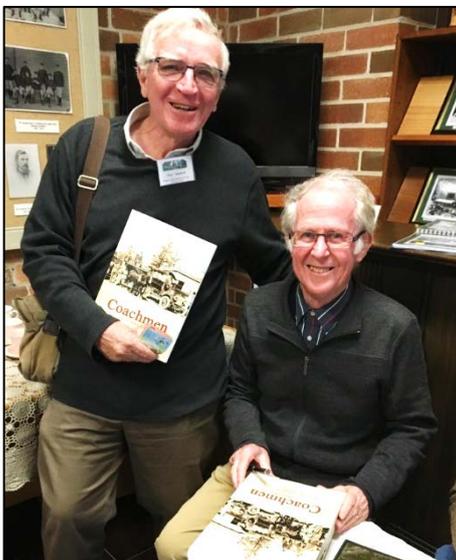
Alan Clark, Shoalhaven Historical Society

Alan Clark, AM, spent more than 50 years working in the newspaper industry, starting at Warragul as a compositor when his duties included hand-setting headings. As a Linotype operator, he joined *The South Coast Register* at Nowra in 1975, and while the first computer system came the following year, his role evolved to that of journalist and proof-reader. While he specialised in writing about local cricket, for 10 years before his retirement in 2012, he wrote a weekly column called "Historical Happenings".

He had joined Shoalhaven Historical Society soon after arriving at Nowra, and served 25 years as secretary. He also prepared various local history publications, often in collaboration with fellow life member Robyn Florance.

After retiring from his day job, Alan updated two earlier publications, firstly *Early Years of Nowra District Pubs*, and then the *Waratah Recruiting March* which was released in time for the centenary in 2015. He had long recognised the role of the early settlers and the way they used horses, and that led to him deciding on a series of three books to be published by Shoalhaven Historical Society. The first one profiled blacksmiths of his district released in 2016, followed by the coachmen completed earlier this year, and the third will cover the saddlers and those who worked in tanneries - that is well advanced.

Coachmen of the Nowra District includes profiles of the coaching proprietors, drivers and builders, with even a couple of coach-painters thrown in. The route between Nowra and the Southern Highlands was important, especially before the railway was extended to Bomaderry.



Alan's talk will focus on some of the people involved on the Nowra-Southern Highlands run.

Alan Clark at the launch of his *Coachmen* book with Kangaroo Valley Historical Society secretary Peter Dumbrell (standing).

'BIG' Book Sale at Bundanoon

The Bundanoon History Group will be holding a 'big' book sale in the Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall on the weekend of 22-23 September.

Come along and enjoy browsing on Saturday 22nd (9am - 4pm) or on Sunday 23rd (9am - 2pm). Stock will be available at very reasonable set prices, with special and collectable books in a higher price range.

Books to donate? Please deliver to the Supper Room at the Hall on Friday 21st September after 10am, or contact Peter Goulding 0419 639 531/4883 7700.

RAHS Regional Seminar at Bowral

ADVANCE NOTICE for Saturday, 1 December

The Royal Australian Historical Society, as part of its regional seminar program, will be holding a seminar in the Henrietta Rose Room, Old Town Hall, a section of Bowral Library.

The highlight will be a presentation on Land Titles research by Associate Professor Carol Liston. Other speakers include Dr Katherine Reynolds and Christine Yeats, who will give sessions on research topics, and Bowral Library's Billie Arnall, who will talk about the local studies collection. All are welcome to attend.

More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

'Placenames' now an e-publication

The *Placenames Australia* magazine, which until now has been published quarterly and posted out to its many subscribers, including our Society, has moved to being an e-publication only, with the September issue now available for download from the Australian National Placenames Survey website: anps.org.au.

The main feature article is Jan Tent's investigation of how Yo Yo Creek in Queensland got its unusual name.

Updated index of 196,270 records

The *NSW Colonial Secretary's In-Letters Index, 1826-1895*, is now available in a field-searchable format on either CD-ROM or on USB for \$65 plus \$5 p&p from the publisher, Linda Bowman. It is based on the index *Convicts and Others* which her mother, Joan Reese, had compiled and is published in memory of her.

Enquiries: linda-bowman@bigpond.com

Centenary Mittagong Fire Brigade

In August this year we received a research request from Belinda McMartin, Senior Heritage & Research Officer at the Museum of Fire. The museum is a popular family attraction at Penrith.

Tasked with preparing a history booklet for the centenary of Mittagong Fire Station and Brigade, Belinda wondered if we had historical material or photos that would assist them in producing the book.

Our research team members Carolyn Dougherty and Frank Mitchell, together with photograph collection person Denyse Barker, tracked down a considerable amount of relevant material and several early photos. These were provided to the Museum of Fire which was most appreciative.

The centenary will be celebrated on 28 September at the fire station.

To provide an overview of the history of the brigade and the station, two newspaper articles follow here.

Mittagong Fire Station Official Opening

The Southern Mail, 20 September 1918

'The newly erected fire station at Mittagong was officially opened on Thursday night last by the president of the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Hon E H Farrar, MLC. He was accompanied by Ald R Shepherd, the council's representative on the Board, Mr H M Webb (secretary); and Mr W McNiven (architect).

The building is a fine piece of workmanship, and a decided ornament to the Main street. It is substantially built of brick on a concrete foundation, with tiled roof, and consists of a spacious engine room, watch room, single man's room, bathroom, storeroom and fuel room, also a drill tank or motor pit. Electric light fittings have been put in, waiting for the long looked for installation by Mittagong Municipal Council, which now fortunately appears on the horizon in the direction of Moss Vale.

A handsome maple tablet inside the engine room is inscribed with the names of the members of the Fire Board, the builder (Mr S Box) and the architect.

The president formally opened the building in the presence of a large gathering of townspeople assembled in the station, with the firemen under Captain Terry looking spick and span in their uniforms, and everything about the place in apple pie order. The Hon Mr Farrar, in his speech, gave some interesting details regarding the progress of the board during recent years, and pointed out that they

were not only fighting fires, but constructing motor engines and other materials in their own workshops in Sydney, and building the engines £200 cheaper than they were importing them previously.



The newly built Station in 1919, photo taken at the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone for the Mittagong Memorial Clock Tower

The cost of the building was £812, and the land £200, towards which an annual charge was made of 4½ percent for interest, and 2½ percent for repayment of principal, making a total of £70 per annum, of which the local council paid one-third, the insurance companies one-third, and the Government one-third. The total cost to the town of the brigade, including the above charge, was £92 per year.

They had a building that would be there in a hundred years' time. [Indeed!]

The Mayor (Ald. Springett) then made a few remarks, and outlined the manner in which the brigade had come to life locally. It was the present captain when an alderman of the council who had been instrumental in bringing the brigade into existence, and the building of which they all had reason to be proud; he would be glad to see other similar buildings raise their heads in the Main street. He had heard a remark that it was too good for Mittagong, but he considered that nothing was too good for Mittagong or for any other town where there was likelihood of danger to life and property from fire.

Afterwards an adjournment was made to the School of Arts, where the members of the brigade entertained the visitors, the aldermen and friends at a supper in honour of the occasion. The Mayor presided, and a most enjoyable and instructive social evening was spent. The usual toasts were honoured.'

Sundowner was the Fire Engine

Berrima District Post 15 December 1976

A horse 'Sundowner' figures prominently in the early history of the Mittagong Fire Brigade: he (or she) provided the motive power for the brigade's first Turbine Fire Engine.

The brigade was formed in November 1915, when the Municipality of Mittagong was brought under the jurisdiction of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Prior to that, there had been no fire protection in the town, even when the Fire Brigades Act was enacted in 1909. Pending the purchase of a site for a fire station, a coach-house measuring 13ft by 14ft at the rear of premises in Bowral road owned by Mr Henry Springett, grandfather of the present family, was rented at five shillings (50 cents) a week.

This may seem small for a fire station but the only appliance the brigade of that day had was a hand-drawn hose reel, so the coach-house was ample.

The present fire station was erected in 1918 on land bought from a Matilda J. Peter for £200 (\$400) and was opened on 12 September by the president of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Mr E H Farrer MLC.

At that time, the water supply for the town was drawn from a storage reservoir on "Nattle" Bakers Creek, with a capacity of 7 million gallons.

In those days water mains pressure was not sufficient at high levels to combat major outbreaks of fire and, in 1919, the board provided a horse drawn Turbine Fire Engine, the hose reel being relegated to use on smaller outbreaks.

This is where "Sundowner" entered the story. A horse drawn Turbine Fire Engine was not much use without a horse, so the brigade captain, Ald W Terry, bought a horse called Sundowner and placed it at the disposal of the brigade.

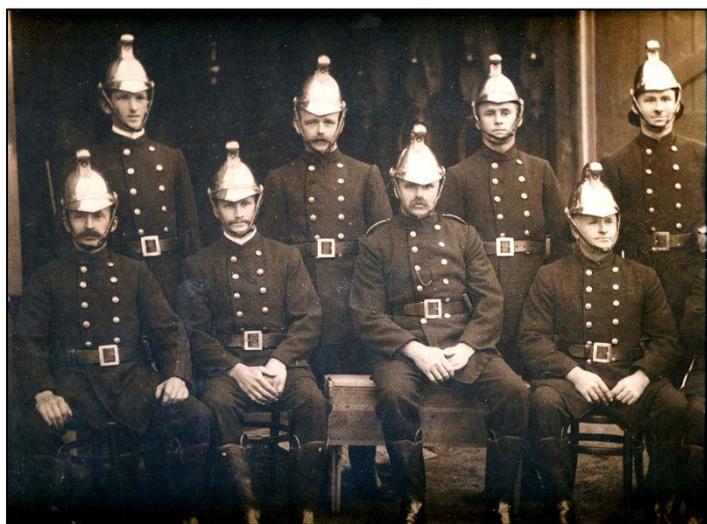
While this solved the motive problem for a while, by 1923 Sundowner was experiencing difficulty in pulling the heavy turbine pump around the undulating country. The Board came to the rescue by transferring two brigade horses from the Sydney Fire District to Mittagong in December 1923.

FIGHTING HORSES

This was not a great success as the two brigade horses, "Sharpey" and "Arthur" had a long standing feud and fought viciously in the station yard.

Because of this, they had to be given individual stables – which may have been what the fighting act was staged for. Anyway, when on duty pulling the turbine, they worked well together.

These horse troubles had barely settled down when, on 27 April 1924, Sharpey and Arthur completed their term as Fire Horses and were retired to the spacious paddocks of Mr W H Jackson of Avoca where they passed out of this history.



Mittagong Fire Brigade of 1926; photo: brigade archives

Once again without motive power, the brigade made enquiries around the town for some public-spirited citizen to lend his motor lorry to tow the Turbine, but without success. At length poor old Sundowner, enjoying four months long service leave, was recalled to duty and worked hard for about 12 months, ultimately retiring on March 25, 1925.

There is a blank in the brigade's history for the next 12 months – perhaps the brigade, unable to move the Turbine, went into recess.

FIRST MOTOR

3 May 1926, was a great day, marking the dawn of the internal combustion engine for the Mittagong Fire Brigade. On that day a Garford Hale motor fire engine arrived to replace the Turbine which had served for seven years.

This motor had a pumping capacity of 200 gallons a minute which was a big advance in firefighting ability, but it was replaced in 1935 with a Dennis Tamini of 250 gallons capacity. In 1972 the brigade received a Ford Thames of 600 gallons/minute capacity carrying a crew of five. With 180 gallons of water in its tank, 10,000 feet of hose, and its pumps and crew, it could reach a speed of 70 mph in good conditions. Old Sundowner, were he alive today, would be envious.'



Mittagong Fire Brigade team at the Maltings in 1969, where a huge blaze destroyed Malthouse No 1.

- compiled by Carolyn Dougherty and Philip Morton

From the Archives

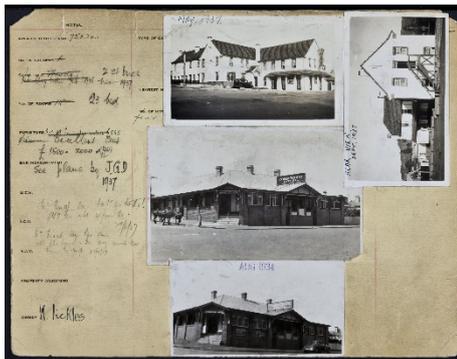
Linda Emery

As we all know, new and interesting research websites continue to appear or add to the resources they offer. Here's a couple of my recent favourites.

Noel Butlin Archives at the Australian National University. This is an often-overlooked archive of business and labour in the Menzies Building in Canberra. Among their rich holdings are the records of Tooth & Co, and of particular interest to family and community historians are the 'yellow cards', an index to Tooth's hotels in NSW. Maintained from the 1920s to the 1970s, they provide valuable information about hotels, licensees and lessees and include thousands of photographs.

In the past, consulting this index meant a trip to Canberra, but the collection has recently been digitised and is now online, with the facility to download high resolution images of hotels.

This example shows the Commercial Hotel, Bowral, cnr Bong Bong and Banyette Sts, demolished in 1936 to make way for the present Bowral Hotel.



Go to the website listed below and click on the link to the online exhibition. It has an excellent search facility. While on the Noel Butlin site, take the time to explore the material – it is full of treasures.

<http://archives.anu.edu.au/exhibitions/tooth-and-company-hotels>

Theatre Heritage Australia

Ten volumes of the J C Williamson Scene Books were recently digitised and are now available online. For anyone with an interest in theatre history, or just those of us with nostalgic memories of the heyday of JCW and the wonderful theatres they operated, this website will delight you. It contains images of sets, backdrops, scenic details, lighting rigs etc. stretching back to the end of the nineteenth century, but also many photographs of shows and people.

Was your ancestor a showgirl (or boy)? Take a look – you might find just the information you have always wanted. <https://www.theatreheritage.org.au/digital-collection/jcw-scene-books>

Upcoming Oral History Workshop

A one-day Oral History workshop will be held at our Mittagong Research Centre, in the upstairs meeting room, on Tuesday 9 October. An introduction to oral history will be presented, covering the key stages.

The workshop is provided through Oral History NSW and will follow current professional standards. The presenters are Dr Alexandra Dellios and Dr Mary Hutchison whose combined experience covers a wide range of oral history activities and community-based projects. For attendees, the expected cost is \$30-\$35.

The limit is 20 attendees and is almost fully booked. Those who have not yet booked and wish to attend, should immediately contact Lyn Hall, ph. 4862 1626 or by email to: lphall@lhd.net.au

Request for volunteers at Museum

There is always a need for volunteers at the museum to help with a wide range of duties, from greeting visitors to helping with maintenance and gardening.

As well, volunteers who type accurately and can help with entering object numbers and descriptions into the accession database are now urgently needed.

When an object is moved, its changed location must be noted. This is a major priority as the museum is about to embark on a series of exciting and bold new projects (as outlined by the President on page one).

Also being sought are creative people, young and not so young, with digital know-how and skills in design, photography, video production, research, and oral history, to be part of an exciting volunteer team.

Information sessions are held by appointment on Monday afternoons. Call Harlan Hall, 0417 861 575.



THE
Story Centre in HD

Carrington Falls, local scenic wonder

The district's three main waterfalls are named for NSW Governors: Fitzroy, Belmore and Carrington.

As told in the last issue, the name Carrington came into common usage around 1890 for the falls reserve located about 10km down from Robertson off the Jamberoo Mountain Rd, now cared for by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, located within Budderoo National Park.

A history of Carrington Falls Reserve continues here.

The Public Trusts Act of 1897 officially sanctioned the appointing of trustees to care for various Crown Land reserves. In 1898 a trust was appointed to care for the Carrington Falls Recreation Reserve. It appears this was an official re-appointing of an original trust appointed in 1887, the first trustees being William Walker, Walter Haynes, James Stone, William Vandenberg, and Joseph Williams.

Robertson resident Quentin Waters writes in a history of the Falls on Facebook that "tucked away at the head of Kangaroo Valley is one of the jewels of the Robertson District. Here is where the Kangaroo River plunges 90 metres over the edge of the escarpment into the depths of the narrow gorge, creating the spectacular Carrington Falls." He states that initially the site was largely unknown to the tourist, lying a mile off Jamberoo Road without access tracks. Even Belmore Falls had better access and facilities, albeit not to the level of Fitzroy Falls. Yet, of the three, Carrington Falls has the longest single drop.

The Carrington Falls Trust members resolved to improve access, and in 1901 cleared an area for horse yards and cut a path down to view the Falls. The trustees were a small band of locals who dedicated their time to caring for the reserve. Two families in particular, the Missingham and the Vandenberg, have been closely associated with the Trust. The Bunt/Mauger family also served over a number of decades.

William, son of original settler Charles Vandenberg, was on the first Trust but moved to Sydney in 1915. His brother Henry was appointed in 1910. Claude then followed in his father's steps from 1935 through to 1960. Basil was the third generation to be appointed in 1975 and continued through to the dissolution of the Trust in 1986.



One of the most influential trustees over the years was John Missingham, appointed in 1909 and serving until his death in 1949. John and his wife Mary moved from Jamberoo to the Carrington Falls locality in the 1880s. At first John found work in Robertson building fences and horse yards. In the early 1900s he purchased a timber mill at Carrington Falls and established a sawmilling business. He logged on private property and secured a crown licence to log in the surrounding forests. Much of the timber was used for building houses around the Wingecarribee district. Four generations of the family worked the Missingham & Sons sawmill until the 1980s.

In the 1920s John was responsible for organising much of the safety fencing at the Carrington Falls lookouts, which his mill labourers erected.

It is worth noting that the area suffered a major drought during 1907. In January 1908 the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that "dozens of farmers from Robertson and Kangaloon are sending their stock to the Northern Rivers for grass, and several have given up their rented farms, and shifted altogether. The oldest inhabitants never remember such a bad time, and

water in some places is almost exhausted. The Carrington Falls have ceased running for several weeks, a fact never before known. Missingham's sawmill has had to close down, as no water could be procured for the boiler".

Most residents toughed it out and, sure enough, the rains returned and the Falls were back in action.



Picnic at Carrington Falls c1900, held at the 'Racecourse', across from the Blue Pool, where some sports events were once held. Today it's open swampy land. John Missingham is 3rd from left, middle row, with his wife Mary next to him. Photo: Q Waters.

TO BE CONTINUED

- compiled by Philip Morton.

Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc

PO Box 131 Mittagong NSW 2575 ☎ Telephone (02) 4872 2169

email: bdhsarchives@gmail.com ☎ web: www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au

- 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: bdmuseum@bigpond.com
OPEN: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesdays to Sundays, and during school and public holidays.
Museum Committee: John Schweers (Manager), Harlan Hall (Project Manager), Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Alan Hornsby, Harold Wall (Human Resources).
- 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 \$25.00 – Family \$35.00.
- AFFILIATIONS:** Royal Australian Historical Society, Museums Australia Inc and NSW Association of Family History Societies.

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