



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 510 October 2018



From the President's Desk

Paper, paper, paper! The catch cry of many a newspaper vendor in eras gone by. It was not long ago when the newspaper was king, hitting the streets with two editions per day communicating the news of the world to the masses. No matter what your interests were, be it politics, general news, social pages, finance, sport or even the crossword, there was something for everyone and most of us read the daily newspaper. Newspapers were both national and regional, the latter where you could catch up on all the local news and perhaps see your name or photo recorded for posterity.

Social media today has transformed the print media industry with the news of the world available at the click of a button using computers and smart phones. All we do is dial up Mr. Google to tap into any subject or event in the world. How much of today's news will be lost in cyber space we do not know but having hard copies of newspapers from the pre-digital era allows us to research what happened at any particular time.

A researcher's dream is to find an obituary detailing the life of a relative from a bygone era.

Our Society has a large collection of newspapers from the late 1800s to the present day, which was considerably boosted in 2016 and recently with the arrival of many bound copies of the *Southern Highland News* and the *Highlands Post*. Our Conservation room has copies of the *Southern Highlands News* from 1968 to the present day, the *Highland Post* 1983-2012, *Berrima District Post* 1964-1980 and *The Four Mails* 1942-1959. Other newspapers stored, although not necessarily complete issues, are *The Scrutineer*, *Bowral Free Press*, *Southern Mail*, *Moss Vale Post*, *Wollondilly Press* and the *Mittagong Express*. These older papers range in date from 1883 to 1960.

A modern twist is the combination of digital and print with the advent of trove where an ever increasing number of older newspapers are digitised and available to the public on the web. Currently newspapers to about 1957 are available.

Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

OCTOBER 2018:

Thursday 25 October at 2:00pm

SESSION:

A "Show and Tell" Archives Roadshow event

NOVEMBER 2018:

Thursday 22 November at 2:00pm

SESSION:

General Meeting and Annual General Meeting

AFTERNOON TEA is served following the session.

Members please bring a plate or a donation.

NOTE: on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm
the **Family History Interest Group** meets at the Mittagong Archives



DID YOU KNOW: Fred Allen once said that a committee is a group of the unprepared, appointed by the unwilling to do the unnecessary.

Senior Vice-President's Column



Bruce Moore CRUISING with CHUMPS

Cruising the high seas seems to have won favour with retirees these days.

Years ago it was the only affordable way out of Australia.

After WW2, it was fashionable for young Aussies to do the obligatory 'tour of duty' to the British Isles and back after a brief Continental visit.

Before 1970, all emigrants arrived here by ship.

But now, once more, we're busting to get aboard something akin to a livestock carrier with 4000 of our second best friends and float off into the sunset. Every passenger gets thumb printed, photographed, a necklace cardholder and a name badge to assure Alzheimer patients who they really are. If they wander aimlessly about the ship, someone else can gently guide them to their cabin.

All ships have a Captain Schpeeking who was either a retired U-boat commander or a former Greek tanker navigator. He will always give you a positional update each morning when his female companion lets him out of bed.

"Allo this is your Captain Schpeeking. Ve are currently heading in a SSW direction at 23 knots. No, correction, that is a NNW direction....."

On a relocation cruise from US to Aussie, I learnt of the stupidity of some passengers. The purser told us that one passenger couldn't get out of her cabin.

"There are two doors", she exclaimed. "One leads me into the bathroom and the other one has 'Do Not Disturb' on it!"

"Where do the crew sleep?" was another doozie. The purser calmly explained that they are put into life boats and towed behind each night.

There was a musician in the band who couldn't quite keep up with the group and was always a half a beat behind. The Captain was angered by the man's poor performance and threatened to toss him overboard if he didn't improve.

It was a genuine case of Sync or Swim.

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.

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

Archives opening hours

Monday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Tuesday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

Please note that the museum is now 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.

REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE THIS MONTH

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.

REMINDER: ANNUAL REPORTS

Position holders are reminded that a report on each area of responsibility is required for the November issue of this newsletter.



The Four Mails office and printery in Wingecarribee St, Bowral. It became the *Southern Highland News* in 1960. (More about local newspapers on page 1.)

'Archives Roadshow' Show and Tell

Members are invited to come along to our general meeting on Thursday 25 October to once again enjoy the showing of objects just like on TV's 'Antiques Roadshow'. Linda Emery will host the session.

Members are encouraged to bring any interesting objects they may like to show and talk about. Objects may be of any shape, size or form. It is requested that those intending to show objects log their intention before the session. This will help us to better plan the event and keep things running smoothly on the day. You can log your details by phone or email to the archives, or by informing Linda Emery or the Secretary in person.

Shown here is a pair of objects held in the BDH&FHS collection which have significant historical value and a direct connection to our local history.



Shelly vases (photo Denise Mackey)

A pair of Shelly vases picturing the Mittagong Soldiers' Memorial, presented to Henry and Harriet Rainbow when they left Mittagong in 1924. They were both involved in fundraising for the memorial. Rainbow St in Mittagong is named for Henry who was Shire Engineer for many years.

Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on 22 November along with the general meeting.

Members are asked to consider being nominated as an Office Bearer and/or committee member, or to apply for a non-elected position. A Nomination Form for elected positions and an Appointment Form for positions will be available from the Secretary and must be lodged two weeks prior to the meeting.

Nominations for management committee, museum sub-committee and office bearer positions will be presented to the AGM for election.

RAHS Regional Seminar at Bowral

One of the Royal Australian Historical Society's key goals is to deliver educational programs that promote the study, writing and dissemination of Australian history and to develop historical expertise in the community that support history/heritage projects.

A core component of this program are the regional seminars that the RAHS organises in conjunction with NSW regional historical societies, supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

The next seminar in the RAHS's program will be held, in conjunction with our Society, at Bowral.

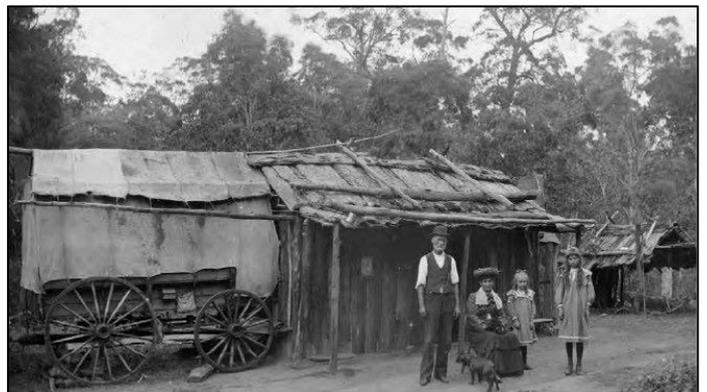
A seminar titled **Women, Place and Your Community** will be presented on December 1, from 9:30am to 3:30pm, in the Henrietta Rose Room, Bowral Central Library. All are welcome to attend. The cost is \$20. Lunch and afternoon tea will be served. Tickets may be purchased via a link on the RAHS's website: rahs.org.au/event/create-nsw.

The seminar will offer participants practical advice on assessing key record sources, followed by a range of case studies on applying this to research projects.

Associate Professor Carol Liston (RAHS Senior Vice-President) will highlight the range of records now available online that can help researchers investigate land settlement in the Southern Highlands.

The presentation by Billie Arnall (Library Information Services Officer, Wingecarribee Shire Council) will examine the resources available in the local studies collection at Bowral Municipal Library.

Dr Kathrine Reynolds (RAHS Treasurer) will discuss the joint project she is undertaking with Carol Liston on female convicts transported to NSW between 1801 and 1836, and Christine Yeats (RAHS President) will delve into the largely forgotten history of silk growing in the late-nineteenth century and consider its links to the Southern Highlands.



Eccleston Family at Andrewville from BDHS Collection

From the Archives

Linda Emery

Book review

Anyone who has done research using the digitised service records of the AIF in World War I will have come across letters from Base Records in Melbourne. Throughout the war, the signature on the bottom of the letters was that of Major James Lean.

Having looked at probably thousands of these files over many years, I have often wondered who this man was and was pleased to find out recently that a Melbourne historian, Carol Rosenhain, has published a biography of Major Lean, one of the unsung heroes of the Great War.

Her book, *The Man who Carried the Nation's Grief: James Malcolm Lean and the Great War letters*, explores the work of Major Lean in establishing and maintaining the operation at Base Records throughout the war. From a staff of two clerks in 1914, by the end of the war more than 400 were working at the Central Army Records Office.



Files like sandbags at Base Records c1919 AWM DAX2211

Whilst the majority of the material in the files is of an official nature, by far the most interesting and moving are the letters from family members asking, and often begging, for information and news of their loved ones. With great courtesy and compassion Major Lean replied to every letter, going far beyond what was required of him to try to assist the thousands of correspondents. At the end of the war, the Defence Department denied his application for the war gratuity and Victory Medals on the grounds he had not served.

Carol Rosenhain has spent many years researching Major Lean and his contribution to the war effort. The resulting publication fills a gap in our understanding of this unprecedented period in our history. Australians are indeed fortunate to have

access to the comprehensive records of the war years, made all the more important by the work of Major Lean and until now his story has been largely unknown. I commend this book to anyone who has an interest in World War I history and the background to the service records of their ancestors.

Websites. Another website that may interest the family historians among you has gone on to my favourites list. The Parish Registers of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle 1826-1995 are being digitised and many are already available online: <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/anglican/parishregisters>

Many people trace their ancestors to the Maitland area, settled so early in our history, so these records will be very useful. The Sydney Diocese Parish Registers are already available on Ancestry.

Robertson Heritage Railway Station

Ian Mackey

Over the past several months our Society has been talking to the Robertson Heritage Railway Station Inc. regarding the scanning and possible future archiving of their collection of historical documents and photos.

This collection, accumulated over many years, holds some important aspects of Robertson's history. What is significant is the fact that our Society only has a small number of historical photos relating specifically to Robertson. Helen Tranter, a member of both Societies, acted as co-ordinator and secured the approval of the Heritage Railway Committee for us to commence scanning some of their records. The aim of this project is to digitally scan the photos, save to our picture library and at an appropriate time upload them to our website for public access.

The Robertson photos we do currently hold include these two by prolific local photographer S R Beer:



Hoddle St, c1900



Butter factory, c1915

Carrington Falls, local scenic wonder

The name Carrington came into common usage around 1890 for the falls reserve located about 10km down from Robertson off Jamberoo Mountain Rd. It is now cared for by NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, located within Budderoo National Park.

The Carrington Falls Recreation Reserve Trust was appointed in 1898. The local trustees cleared paths and built fences. The Missingham, Vandenberg and Bunt/Mauger families were active on the Trust.

A history, compiled by Philip Morton, and drawn in part from research by Robertson's Quentin Waters, concludes here.

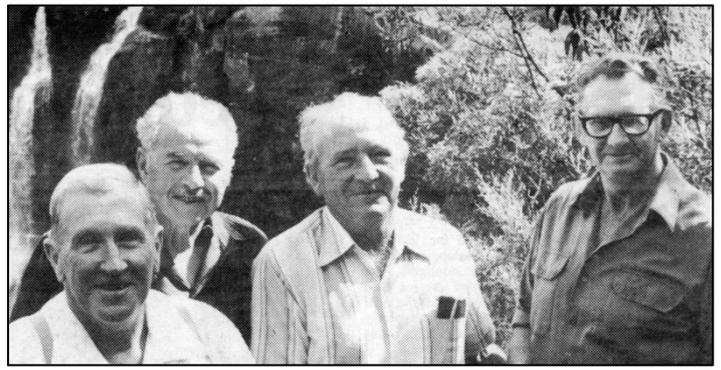
Part 3 of 3: After 99 years, local trust dissolved and National Parks appointed

Seven Missingham family members served on the Trust and later Committee over the course of a century. John Noble Missingham was appointed in 1909. His son James served from 1935 to his death in 1956, replaced by his nephew Gordon Missingham in 1960. Gordon's brother William was also appointed in 1960, to fill Claude Vandenberg's resignation. William was President of the Trust for many years. Douglas followed his father Gordon, serving on the second Trust from 1990. His niece Jennifer was also appointed in 1993. Gordon's grandson, Brendhan Waters, was appointed in 1983, also later serving on the second Trust, and then on the Committee formed in 2001 when National Parks took over the remaining portion of the Reserve. He was the fifth generation of the family to have served on the Trust.

Victor Thomas, another key Trustee, was an avid bushwalker and he marked many of the trails and passes around the Falls including a shortcut to the bottom of the Falls. In memory of his significant contribution, the picnic area on the southern side at the top of the Falls was named 'Thomas' Place'.

In 1977 Kiama Council built a timber access bridge across the Kangaroo River. Until then the Falls were approached by crossing a ford at the top of the Falls, but wet weather frequently made crossing the creek and the river impossible, so the bridge was built upstream. It has recently been replaced with a new concrete structure.

The most significant change at Carrington Falls took place in 1986 when the State Government gave responsibility for the Falls and a surrounding area about 200 metres back from the cliff face to the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, to be absorbed into the newly created Budderoo National Park.



Trustee members in 1986 included (from left) Gordon Missingham, Dr G Sutton, Bill Missingham and Basil Vandenberg. Photo: Highlands Post.

The Trust, after almost a century of maintaining the Falls, was dissolved. A report in the *Highlands Post* of 28 February 1986 stated that "It will be a sad day for Robertson's Missingham and Vandenberg families when Carrington Falls becomes part of the new National Park." It continued that Bill Missingham, the current Trust Chairman, had been involved for about 30 years and, for many Robertson locals, Carrington Falls had been a focus of family and social life. The Nellie's Glen picnic area was a great gathering spot with its wooden tables and shelters and was also popular with Sydney visitors, there being for many years a picture of it at Central Railway Station.

The *Post* also noted that during its 99 years the Trust built pathways, walking tracks, safety fences and a toilet block, erected ladders to provide visitors with a unique view of the Falls and undertook fire hazard reduction. The paper quotes Bill Missingham as saying that the National Parks' local superintendent offered to join with the Trust to put on a good show for its 100 years' celebration. No event, however, seems to have been held.

With a more significant budget at their disposal, National Parks set about a significant works program. They erected steel steps over the gully on the southern side and built concrete pathways to the main lookouts. The Trust was reformed in 1990 to care for the Reserve's remaining portion that included the Blue Pool campground, Nellie's Glen, quarry and track out along the escarpment's northern rim. This portion was then taken over by National Parks in 2001, and in 2003 a new toilet block was built and the Blue Pool campground rebuilt. National Parks then set up a committee to coordinate with local residents and have since completed further improvements. The Falls track, closed in 2016 due to bushfire damage, is expected to soon re-open.

A tribute to the generations of families who have cherished the site, Carrington Falls remains a jewel in the crown of natural attractions in the Highlands.

About Berrima in early newspaper

Empire (Sydney), 4 November 1853:

BERRIMA. From a Correspondent: "Since the late rains, the country hereabouts looks beautiful, the grass has at last begun to spring. This year the small farmers have indeed reaped a rich harvest, with hay at £15 a ton and potatoes at the same price. There is a considerable amount of land under cultivation, and though here in Berrima we cannot boast of much arable soil, our gardens promise a large crop of fruit.

There is a report that the present warden will resign at the end of this year, and it is said he will probably be succeeded by Mr Higgins our coroner, who has been as active as his associate in superintending the repairs of the roads. A new Commissioner of Crown lands, in Mr H Oxley, has been appointed, and has already given evident tokens of his vigilance and efficiency, by causing the chief constable to seize a large quantity of shingles on Government ground. However there is much talk that the matter will not be permitted to rest here, as the injured party intends to have the case tried in regard to whether the Commissioner, being a mere bailiff, can depute any of his duties either to the Chief Constable or to the Clerk of the Court.

It was expected that Mr Liardet, having great interest at Government House and with his relative the Colonial Secretary, would have received the appointment of Commissioner, but it is said that he will fill the next vacancy in the unsettled districts, for which he is eminently qualified. The fees collected here are but small, and Mr Antile was at first appointed to act for this district as well as for Picton; but Mr Oxley being on the spot, rendered his holding the office preferable. I understood that the shingle-splitter held a license, in which case it would appear that the chief constable or commissioner has exceeded his duty.

The number of teams which have passed through here of late, *en route* for the Ovens diggings, is almost incredible, and many of our own people have been seized with the mania. Shepherds and labourers are hard to procure now, though wages rule high. One proprietor has discharged all his shepherds, and his sheep roam at liberty, being tended by a man mounted, who traverses the run every day. I fear the native dogs, of which numbers have been destroyed by poison, will commit havoc among them some day.

I read in the papers complaints from all quarters of the fearful spread of drunkenness; and I regret to say that this neighbourhood is a perfect hotbed of the vice. The constables do what they can to suppress it;

but as they cannot detain a man in custody after the deposit of a pound, the drunkards willingly incur that penalty, which they treat with derision in these days of gold and high wages. We have no less than four public-houses in this small place, and our magistrates are going to license another – besides, roadside pot-houses, which are to be found every mile or two along this road. Can nothing be done to stop this dreadful evil? Almost all the cases which have required our worthy Coroner have been caused by intoxication; only last week a man at Bong Bong was drowned in a well, having fallen in when drunk.

The Judges would have been surprised the other evening, to have witnessed the solemnity of the judgment hall here, invaded by a band of so-called 'serenadors'. Who gave them liberty to occupy the Court House, for three evenings, for such a purpose I do not know; but I suppose the Clerk of the Court being 'a great man with his masters', the Executive, can give to these buffoons the permission which has been denied to ministers of religion. It is not the usual course for Government to give Clerks of Petty Sessions houses; but our fortunate incumbent is allowed to live in the judges' lodgings, and to occupy the whole building, without paying any rent. Surely the Government can devise some plan for converting into use the large jail and court-house here, the former of which is fast going to ruin, for want of occupation and repairs. There was talk some time ago of making it an asylum for juvenile offenders, or a lunatic asylum for the southern districts, but nothing has been done.

We congratulate ourselves, and our southern friends, on the resumption of the mail contracts, by Mr Jones, as it will now be in our power to calculate with some degree of certainty when we may receive our letters and newspapers, which, during the late winter, has been a perfect lottery." – Berrima, 31 October.

Empire (Sydney), 10 November 1853:

Berrima. "To the Editor of the *Empire*. Sir. A letter from 'A Correspondent' which appears in your paper of 4th instant, has set us all wondering whom it could be from? One more wise than the rest says "Oh, that's from Mittagong." "I'll swear the man on the Hill wrote it" says another; whilst a third attributes it to our very important coroner. Now, for my own part, I don't believe it emanated from any of those quarters, because the economy of Berrima is too well known to them all to admit the supposition that any of them would publish such mis-statements in a widely diffused journal like yours. No, your correspondent must be some bilious coach passenger who has been detained on account of bad roads or worse horses in Berrima for a day, and availed himself of the opportunity to put his impressions upon paper.

In the first place – hay and potatoes are now, and have been for some time, double the price your correspondent mentions. It is a favour, I assure you, to get hay now at £30 per ton.

Secondly – There is no probability of Mr Throsby's retiring from wardenship of the district. As to the activity displayed by either the Warden or his "associate" (as your correspondent, facetiously I presume, distinguishes Mr Higgins,) in superintending the roads lately, it is a superstition which has seized on your correspondent's mind. 3rdly – the shingles were seized, not in consequence of the vigilance of the Commissioner, as your correspondent would have us believe, but in consequence of the fact of their existence having been made known to our very active (in some cases) Chief Constable, who, I presume, informed Mr Oxley of the circumstance and acted under his instructions in seizing them. The Chief has just purchased a house, which is in a very dilapidated state, and he says they'll come in very handy for it, but I presume they will not be disposed of privately, or clandestinely.

4thly – I can't help laughing – do, for goodness sake tell us who your facetious correspondent is? "Mr Liardet's interest at Government House! and with his relative the Colonial Secretary." I fancied when I had got thus far in your correspondent's letter that I knew the author. I put down Billy Cordeaux there and then as the man, poking fun as he often does at his small, large friend, I'm sure it was Cordeaux wrote that part. But to be serious, we have never till now heard that the Hon E D Thomson was a relation to Mr Liardet, although for aught we know, he may, and indeed most likely is, for in the course of several amusing conversations I have had with Liardet, I never knew the name of any distinguished English family, whether of the nobility or not, to whom he was not closely allied by either consanguinity or marriage, and was (not consequently, however) on terms of the closest intimacy with.

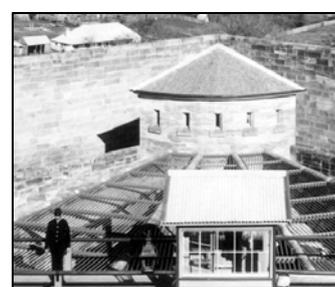
5thly – The amount of fines would, I presume, be the best criterion by which to judge of the amount of drunkenness which exists in this "hot-bed" of that vice. I believe them to be comparatively very small, and the cases which do and will occur of this disgusting habit, are, in my opinion, by no means remarkably numerous. "The constables do what they can to suppress it," so says our correspondent; and so they do, poor creatures, do all they can; but 'tis nothing. I wish you could see our police force. Our chief is an active, and so far as I have had an opportunity of judging, a tolerably intelligent man. Nevertheless he, as well as his men, are physically unable to compete with a moderately sturdy drunkard, unless when incapable of resistance.

We have five public-houses, begging your correspondent's pardon, not four; but I have not heard of any more licenses having been applied for. As for the roadside pot-houses, they, no doubt, exist, but it is in the diseased imagination of your friend only.

Intoxication, I find upon inquiry, has not been (with one exception) the immediate or remote cause of death in any cases which has come under the coroner's jurisdiction for the last five months; at least, such has not been proved; and as for the Bong Bong case, I would like much to be informed upon what premises or evidence the jury arrived at the conclusion that the man had been drowned, in the absence of any medical evidence. The man may have been drowned – very likely he was; but it is as likely that he was poisoned by either an assassin, accident, or intention, or he might have been otherwise murdered, and subsequently left in the water, for aught the coroner or the jury knew.

6thly – Your Correspondent is evidently neither a musical character, nor an appreciator, at its true value, of feminine loveliness; else he would not grumble about "The Serenaders' Invasion of the Judgment Hall". I cannot help smiling. There is no object more productive of risibility and contempt than a canting hypocrite: a Methodist preacher in "The Judgement Hall!" (I like the name immensely). The Roman Catholics here have their chapel; the Protestants their church; so that I am at loss to know to what denomination the Hall was refused.

In the last place, and in reference to its gratuitous occupation by the Clerk of Petty Sessions, such occupancy is neither unusual nor uncommon. Mr Liardet, however, is not the fortunate incumbent who "is allowed to live in the judges' lodgings, and to occupy the whole building without paying any rent". I think his rent is somewhere about £35 per annum.



Both "Judgment Hall" and Gaol are now undergoing repair. 'Tis a pity, at your Correspondent says, to see the latter going to ruin, as it would make a most admirable asylum for lunatics or juvenile offenders. In fact, it is suited in every respect for the reception of a number of persons, of both or either sex, requiring temporary confinement.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant, QUOD VERUM TUTUM." – Berrima, 6 November 1853.

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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