



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 513 February 2019



From the President's Desk

A Happy New Year to all our members and welcome to 2019. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas with family or friends.

One aspect of January has been the extreme heat that we have all had to endure. Air conditioners and fans have been working overtime. It does seem obvious that locally we are experiencing hotter temperatures over longer periods together with a reduced rainfall.

Australia Day has passed for another year with the district celebrations taking place in Berrima as usual. The day was extremely hot at about 38 degrees and this was reflected in the hugely reduced numbers of spectators watching the parade. Several people were treated for heat related problems. Thirty-one local residents made the pledge of Australian Citizenship at the Wingecarribee Shire Council ceremony.

This year promises to be transformational for our Museum at Berrima. The culmination of many years planning and building will be achieved.

The journey began over four years ago with the construction of the Williams Gallery which housed the brilliant Southern Highlands 1200 exhibition. This closed at the end of last year and the room was converted to a digital gallery with the installation of 10 TV screens and associated equipment as well as two large glass cases for the display of supporting objects. The Management Committee recently had a preview of the installation and the quality of both objects and content was exceptional. I am sure that the up-coming digital exhibition will create much interest as it features several local businesses. All members are invited to the official opening on 16 February at 5pm, see elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

Our enthusiastic Archive team have already returned after a short break and everyone looks fresh and ready to face the challenges of 2019. The Family History study group will resume on 6 February at 1pm and those interested in researching their own history are welcome to come along and use the facilities.

Ian Mackey

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 2019: Thursday 28 February at 2:00pm
SPEAKER: Narelle Bovern on her recent research (see page 3)

MARCH 2019: Thursday 28 March at 2:00pm
SPEAKER: Linda Emery: 'Captured in the Light No 12'

AFTERNOON TEA is served following the speaker.
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



Senior Vice-President's Column



Bruce Moore

BRAINS vs. BRAWN

My Mum's cooking was perfected during the great Depression.

This paints a picture of pure survival.

To keep our family alive, she used the most offensive offal known to mankind: brains, brawn, heart, tongue, tripe, liver and kidneys all spring to mind.

Brawn is a taste no dictionary can describe. Given to maximum-security prisoners in solitary confinement, this meaty, gristly, pickled terrine was always labelled as 'nourishing'. In reality it should have been labelled 'poison.' To me, its taste lay somewhere between overcooked tripe and bile.

However Mum's brawn sandwiches were legendary in our family.

As a special treat, we used to meet my father after work at a Sydney theatre where, in the '50s, there was often a blockbuster Cinemascope film showing. In the dimness of the theatre Mum would unwrap her specially made sandwiches, to prevent us all starving to death.

Among them, you guessed it, appeared the pervasive and tasteless brawn sandwich and washed down with welcome tea from a thermos.

Often disguised in school lunches, stuck between the peanut butter and the strawberry jam, Mum would go to great lengths camouflaging this unbelievably distasteful meat & jelly loaf.

Dinners in the 1950s were served at 6pm sharp. If you were late, as quite often I was, frequently a plate would be sitting on top of a hot water bath on the stove. The composition of the meal was generally chops grilled to a cinder, sitting alongside miserable-looking vegetables.

To give you an idea of food preparation, the chosen vegetables were to be boiled for hours on end, usually sometime after lunch. All of their nutritious vitamins were to be found on the kitchen ceiling.

If that wasn't enough for a growing schoolboy to stomach, next morning on my plate appeared fried crumbed brains and bacon for breakfast!

Although that was not very appealing then, I can now realize the trouble Mum went to preparing the meal and appreciating its delicate taste.

Mentioning 'brains' or in fact any offal in front of my vegan/vegetarian/lacto-ovo-piscatorial-whatever grandchildren makes them turn a whiter shade of pale.

'How could you eat such a thing?' comes the expected response.

'Because food was fuel', I say. 'And we had no choice in what we ate. We trusted our mothers to give us something sustaining to eat. We never went to school feeling hungry. And besides, we weren't culinary scientists.'

To be fair, our mother always gave us two choices: 1) *Take it*, or 2) *leave it!*

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

Berrima District Museum

THE STORY CENTRE

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: Museum 4877 1130

After hours 4862 1626

Managed and operated by members of our Society, who volunteer their time and expertise.

Archives opening hours

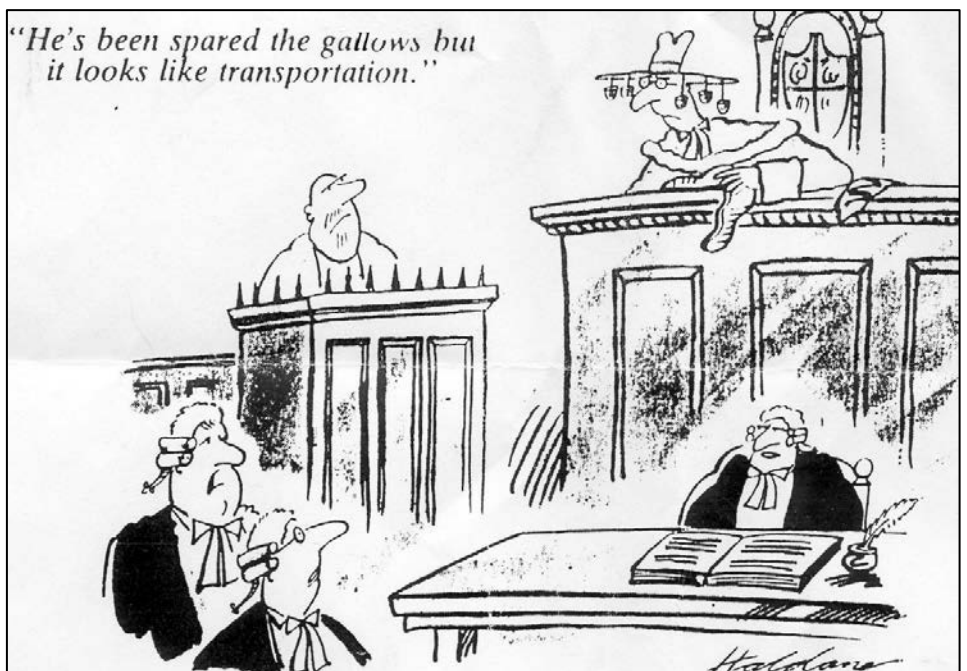
Monday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tuesday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

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.



Cartoon from *Punch*, courtesy Linda Emery

February General Meeting Speaker

Narelle Bowern

We begin our year of meetings with a speaker who was born in the local district, is well known to many members, and is a member herself.

Narelle Bowern (nee Hodge) grew up in Moss Vale where she attended Koyong School for two years and then Annesley Girls School in Bowral.



In 1962, she moved to Canberra where she worked as a laboratory assistant and studied Science at ANU.

In 1968, Narelle travelled to England, working at St Thomas' Hospital Virology Department while completing a MPhil in Immunology.

Back in Australia, she gained a PhD in Experimental Pathology at the ANU. She began working as a toxicologist in 1986 for the Commonwealth Department of Health, evaluating new medicines and chemicals. Later, she worked as a freelance consultant and then for Medicines Australia in the fields of medicine regulation and toxicology.

On retirement, Narelle began researching the history of the family and community where she grew up, beginning with an extensive family history and a book describing an amazing trip taken by her grandfather in 1883, which took him across the northern Simpson Desert from Queensland to Barrow Creek, to deliver 2,000 cattle to the new Barrow Creek Station.

With her aunt Laurel Ingate, Narelle wrote a book about Koyong School in 2012 which is available from the Society.

This was followed by a history of the schools and medical services (hospitals, doctors and nurses) of Moss Vale. A history of the Moss Vale Methodist Church is in progress.

As part of researching the history of Berrima Bridge Nursery, Narelle compiled a list of all the plants used by Claude Crowe in his landscaping plans, for those wishing to maintain the original garden designs. Other more recent projects Narelle has undertaken include the origin of Moss Vale's street names and a larger compilation of the origin of local place names, in conjunction with Placenames Australia.

At the February meeting, Narelle will talk about her latest publication and some recent research she has undertaken. Her most recently published book is "The Aborigines of the Southern Highlands, NSW (1820-1850)".

Here follows a review of the book by our member Ros Dale:

When Europeans first ventured south to the Southern Highlands, the area was already inhabited by a clan of 65-75 Aborigines that the Europeans called the "Bong Bong Tribe" or the "Shoalhaven Tribe". Who were these Indigenous people? What was their territory? Who were they friendly with and who did they fight with? What was their language?

Narelle has obtained information from newspaper articles, official documents and accounts written by the early European settlers. The end product is a book that adds to our knowledge of this period of local history. It examines questions such as what is the origin of the name "Bong Bong", what happened to the Bong Bong Tribe, and was there really a massacre at Gingenbullen? The evidence is examined in a thoughtful and empathetic way.

This book will prove a valuable and useful resource for those interested in local studies as it shows not only the movements and interactions of the Indigenous people with other Aboriginal groups but their interactions with the first European settlers of the Southern Highlands.

The Aborigines of the Southern Highlands, New South Wales (1820-1850)



Narelle Bowern

The book is available for \$20 from our Mittagong archives and the Berrima District Museum, and a copy is in the library.

Opening of museum's digital gallery

The first exhibition in the museum's new HD digital gallery will open this month. All BDHS members are invited to attend the launch party. See invitation below for details. Not necessary to RSVP.

In June 2018 our Museum at Berrima received a grant for a digital gallery and museum renovations. The announcement was made by the NSW Minister for the Arts, the Hon Don Harwin, who presented a replica cheque for \$113,324 at a museum function.

Also in attendance were the local member for Goulburn, the Hon Pru Goward MP, Councillor Larry Whipper representing Wingecarribee Shire Council, as well as BDH&FHS Committee members and guests.

The receipt of this grant was due largely to the tireless work and dedication of project manager Harlan Hall. It was a matching grant that represented 50% of the total project cost with the Society responsible for raising the balance of the funds.

The total funding, over \$300,000, has now been raised, with grants from the Commonwealth Building Better Regions Fund, NSW Regional Cultural Fund, the Wingecarribee Shire Council Community

Assistance Grant Scheme, corporations, private trusts, generous community organisations and individuals, in cash and in-kind.

The funds have been allocated to the refurbishment and major upgrades for all of the Museum's five galleries, including the new digital gallery, visitor entrance and new exhibition. Work on these various upgrades is progressing in stages.

The Williams Gallery has now been fitted out with 10 high definition digital screens to become a unique digital gallery providing the capability to mount new exhibitions quickly and economically. It is expected that a range of exhibitions will appeal to and attract both local residents and visitors.

The new digital exhibition facility provides a fresh approach to storytelling that will be a strong and appealing incentive for visitors to discover and enjoy the many entertaining stories our story centre museum has to tell.

The first HD Exhibition in the Williams gallery is *A Butcher, a Baker, a Bunch of Makers*.

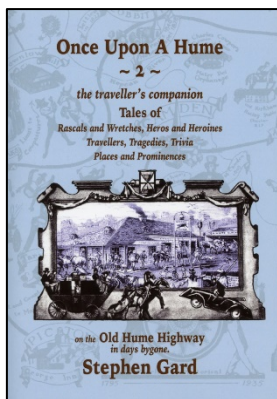
It celebrates makers and artisans of the Southern Highlands, and will be open to the public from Wednesday, 20 February 2019.



Once Upon a Hume 2: book review

'Once Upon a Hume' the traveller's companion - by Stephen Gard, BlueDawe Books, Thirlmere 2018

This second volume of Hume Highway history continues from Stephen's earlier work in Volume One. He now traverses the Mittagong to Marulan segment and briefly enters the outskirts of Goulburn, watching out for the hazards not only of motorists versus Hanging Rocks, Black Bob's Creek and Paddy's River obstacles but Berrima pedestrians and enthusiastic Billy Cart Derby participants.



Once again this volume is beautifully printed on gloss paper with a fine reproduction of Major Thomas Mitchell's depiction of the Berrima Bridge, a David Lennox design and creation. As well as Martindale's newer replacement bridge, those works from our State repositories are well worthy of such reprinting.

Like some of the Ruffians and Ratbags we met in Volume 1, there is no scarcity of them again, however one received far too much attention. Bruce Lewin, a self-styled journalist, traveller, wife deserter and imposter occupies almost 20 pages and much of that reported from afar – from Mudgee, Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Mullumbimby and Melbourne. His impost and two similar portraits were a serious distraction. Like the 'Tantaloon Tiger' of Mt Gambier, Marulan's version of the beast occupies far too much space and a good map spoiled by its effigy.

An interesting aside was the chapter on Arthursleigh and the importation of Alpacas smuggled out of Chile by 'Duffer' Duffield's agent. As well, murder and intrigue are described at Arthursleigh, following the disappearance of quarrelsome Richter, one-time partner to Thomas Holt, MLC & MLA. Supposedly murdered by a German station hand (wrongly accused and later proven innocent), Richter re-appeared five years later, alive and well. That tale reminded me of another local fact in that district about John Jamieson jnr of Greenwich Park. In 1827, Jamieson was implicated in the hunting down and killing of 'Hole-in-the Book', a native inhabitant. He was eventually tried and found 'Not Guilty' on account of 'Justifiable Homicide'. That is a story not to be forgotten but it has been overlooked here.

- Frank Mitchell, alias the 'BerrimaBull' in Trove

Recent arrivals in the BDHS Library

Our Librarian Carolyn Dougherty has provided the list below of recent acquisitions to the library.

The Towrang Stockade: Reflections of the Goulburn District by Phil Leighton-Daly. Ref 14/80

The First Titleholders of Land in County of Camden compiled by Geoff Cannon. 2010. Ref 03/05-13

History of the Robertson School of Arts Incorporated 1885 to 2017. John Johnston. 2017. Ref 13/276

Elizabeth Macarthur: A Life at the Edge of the World by Michelle Scott Tucker. 2018. Ref 24/120

Desert Queen: The many lives and loves of Daisy Bates by Susanna De Vries. 2008. Ref 24/124

Females on the Fatal Shore: Australia's Brave Pioneers. By Susanna De Vries. 2009. Ref General Collection/DEV

The Unusual Life of Edna Walling by Sara Hardy. 2005. Ref 24/123

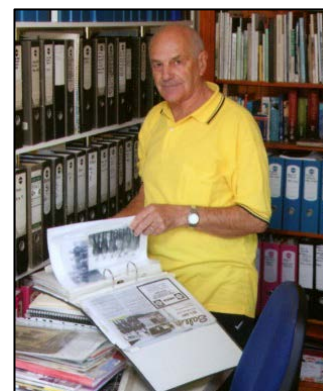
The 2015 Kangaroo March by Angela Williamson. 2018. Ref 13/275

The Europeans in Australia: A History. Vol 1. By Alan Atkinson. Published 1997. Ref 20/184

Helping children to learn well for 150 years: Moss Vale Public School 1868-2018 by David Baxter. Ref 11/64

A thank you note on the sleeve of the Moss Vale School book says that "as the old adage goes *it takes a village to raise a child* and there is a long tradition of community support and affection for our school, from its first days in 1868 to the formation of the P&C Association in 1906. The founding fathers would no doubt be very proud that the tradition they started is still alive and well in the 21st century".

About the author David Baxter it is stated that he grew up in Moss Vale and has lived in the town all his life. He can trace his own family tree back to 1834 when John Bunt, his maternal g/g/g/great grandfather arrived in the area. Seven generation have attended MVPS.



As many of our readers know, David is a member of our Society and is well respected as a local historian.

RAHS Achievement awards

In the November newsletter last year, our President Ian Mackey congratulated the two members of our Society awarded Certificates of Achievement by the Royal Australian Historical Society at its annual conference held in Port Macquarie.



Certificates of Achievement provide recognition to those members of the RAHS's affiliated societies whose contribution to their society is deemed significant and noteworthy. The 2018 recipients included Carolyn Dougherty and Philip Morton, whose awards carried the following citations:

Carolyn Dougherty

for her dedication and contribution to the Society since 1999, including her role as Assistant Librarian (2000) and Librarian since 2011.

During this time, Carolyn has managed the library, overseen the growth of the collection and has retained the most comprehensive collection of local material in the Wingecarribee Shire. Carolyn has served on the management Committee at various times and continues to make a valuable and worthwhile contribution to the work of the Society.

Philip Morton

for his considerable contribution to the Society since 2008 including his time as Secretary and as the current Publicity Officer.

In this role, Philip has written popular weekly articles for the press enhancing the public face of the Society in the local community.

Philip's computer and writing skills, original ideas and readiness to participate have contributed to the Society's progress. He works tirelessly for the good and welfare of the Society, generously offering to help and volunteering for projects.

Interesting snippets from Ros Dale

"My! How things have changed!"

From: The Parry Papers, various extracts from the NSW Calendar and Post Office Directory of 1834.

Police Act: "Abstract of an Act of the Governor and Council, intitled, 'An Act for regulating the Police in the Town and Port of Sydney, and for removing and preventing Nuisances and Obstructions therein.'"

Some extracts:

Any person assaulting or resisting a constable in the execution of his duty, to pay a fine of 5 shillings.

Publicans or others harbouring constables when they should be on duty, to be fined not exceeding £5.

Shops should not be kept open on the Lord's Day; excepting butchers, bakers, fishmongers, and greengrocers, until ten in the morning, bakers between one and two in the afternoon, and apothecaries at any hour. Offenders to be fined not less than £1, nor exceeding £3.

Owners of billiards rooms, or other places of amusement suffering persons to play on Sundays, to be fined £5, or not less than £3.

Justices to disperse all meetings for the purpose of gambling on Sundays, and to seize all implements or animals used, or intended to be used therein, and all persons found gambling to be prosecuted."

Post Office Regulations. BONG BONG ROYAL MAIL. Every Tuesday and Friday, at 4 o'clock P.M., taking all letters for Mittagong, Wingecarribee, Oldbury, Newbury, Sutton Forest, Bullio, and the surrounding stations. **ARRIVALS.** Bong Bong Mail – Every Tuesday and Friday, at half past 10 o'clock, A.M.

MAIL AND STAGE COACHES

Bong Bong – Royal Mail, will leave the Talbot (Inn) every Tuesday and Friday, at 4 o'clock, and the King's Arms, Campbell Town, next morning at 9 o'clock and arrive at Mr Loseby's Inn, Bong Bong at 6 o'clock in the evening every Wednesday and Saturday. The mail will return from Bong Bong every Thursday and Sunday, at 6 o'clock in the morning, and arrive at the Talbot the following morning. Fares to Bong Bong £1.6s. [The Talbot Inn was in George Street, Sydney.]

DISTRIBUTION OF THE FORCES. HIS MAJESTY'S 17TH REGIMENT OF FOOT. Bong Bong – One subaltern, one sergeant, and twelve rank and file.

MOUNTED POLICE, SECOND DIVISION. Argyle District. Bong Bong – Three rank and file.

The Cullens at Burrawang/Moss Vale

Part 2 of a series compiled by Philip Morton

One of the earliest selectors in the densely forested Yarrowa Brush on the district's eastern side in the 1860s was John Cullen. He prospered at Burrawang and at Moss Vale where, in the 1870s, he and his brother James became hotel owners. A history of the Cullen families continues here.

After the Southern Railway opened through the local district in 1867, the town of Moss Vale grew steadily around its railway station. As told previously, in 1875 John Cullen purchased the town's Terminus Hotel (renaming it the Royal in 1880), adjoining shops, hall and land at the rear. He was an Irish immigrant who, when aged in his 30s, had settled at Burrawang in the early 1860s with his wife and children. His younger brother James built the Family Hotel at Moss Vale in 1879, operating it until the 1890s.

The Burrawang & West Camden Agricultural Society, numbering over 300 members, held a show in April 1880 at Burrawang, the first annual show to be held in the Southern Highlands. As exhibitors had difficulty travelling to the event due to heavy rain, it was decided to hold the next show at Moss Vale. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported in April 1881 that "the present show was held on a large piece of ground close to the railway station, kindly lent to the Society by Mr John Cullen, who also gave the use of his large public hall, which answered admirably for the display of miscellaneous exhibits." After 1884 the Burrawang Society's show was held at Robertson and a district-wide Show Society was subsequently formed at Moss Vale.

John Cullen kept his property at Burrawang, on which he raised livestock. The *Illawarra Mercury* reported in February 1881 that "eighty-nine snakes were destroyed from a hollow log on Cullen's farm, the largest being six feet in length." Would present-day Burrawang residents be astounded at this?

Cullen acquired another hotel at Moss Vale. This was the Tattersall Hotel, a late-Victorian two-storey, brick building erected at the corner of Lackey and Argyle Sts by Thomas Cosgrove who was the first proprietor and licensee, followed by Thomas Tate in 1879, who then sold it to Cullen in December 1883.

After being its lessee for only a year, Cullen passed the licence to Edward Aland, the husband of his daughter Elizabeth. The Alands changed the name to the Central Hotel in 1891 and in 1906 made additions and renovations, decorating it with an elegant first

floor wrap-around verandah, timber posts and fine balustrade. They held the licence until 1910 and sold the property in 1914.



Many publicans then came and went and the building was greatly altered in character, especially with the verandah's removal in 1928. The Central Hotel closed its doors in 2013.

Having become well established in the district, John Cullen nominated as an alderman on the first Moss Vale Municipal Council, gazetted on 14 September 1888. Out of 29 candidates, he was one of the nine alderman elected. His brother James was subsequently elected but only served one term. After five years as an alderman, John stepped down in 1893, then being in his sixties, and was made an honorary magistrate, serving on the bench at Moss Vale Police Court until well into the 1900s.

On 19 March 1898 the *Scrutineer* reported that the Royal Hotel, Centennial Hall, and adjoining shops, the property of John Cullen, were disposed of at auction to the then licensee, Ed Goodridge, for a satisfactory 6,700 pounds. Cullen had already disposed of his Burrawang land and purchased a property known as The Camp (later as Southdowns), described by a visitor in 1896 as "a beautiful homestead". Located a few miles out of Moss Vale on the Robertson Rd, John and his wife Anna Maria lived there until moving to Ashfield, Sydney, around 1910.

John's sister, Mrs Jane Vance, had emigrated from Ireland in 1855, the same year as he had. She died in July 1913, the *Scrutineer* describing her as an esteemed Burrawang resident.

At their home in Ashfield, Anna Maria Cullen passed away in July 1919, aged 85, and John Cullen in December 1921, aged 88.

The *Scrutineer* noted that he "was one of the oldest identities of this district, a widely known and a highly respected citizen. The surviving family are Messrs Robert and Fred (Northern Rivers), Alfred (WA), Isaac (Wagga), Walter and Stan (Crookwell), Mrs Aland (Mosman), Mrs W Holt (Moss Vale), Mrs Lamb (Victoria), and Miss Cullen (Ashfield)".

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 a general collection.
- 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: Harlan Hall (Project Manager), Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Harold Wall (Human Resources) and John Schweers.
- 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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AUSTRALIA

BDH&FHS PATRON: Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire, Councillor Duncan Gair

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Newsletter Co-ordinator	Philip MORTON
Research Team	Carolyn DOUGHERTY, Janet BLACK and Frank MITCHELL
Conservation Team	Denise MACKEY

Management Committee: President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and members Leonie Knapman, Denyse Barker, Philip Morton, Carolyn Dougherty, Jenny Frost, Ros Dale.