



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 533 November 2020



### From the President's Desk

At our Management Committee meeting on 29 October a decision was made to re-open both the Archives and the Berrima District Museum to the public.

Obviously, social distancing and number restrictions will be in

place in accordance with State Government guidelines.

The Museum will re-open on Wednesday 11 November 2020. It will be open from Wednesday through to Sunday each week between the hours of 10am and 4pm. John Schweers was re-appointed as Museum Manager after standing down for some time due to illness and family commitments. Welcome back John. He will also be a regular representative of the Museum at the monthly Management Committee meetings and provide a monthly report.

It is proposed to hold a delayed Annual General meeting of our Society in March 2021 when the restrictions on the number of attendee's may be lifted.

A minor reorganisation has been made to the Archives to accommodate the current maximum number of visitors based on the floor area available.

A steady stream of research enquiries has been received during the month which are being attended to by our research team.

Membership renewals are now overdue and I would encourage anyone not financial to please help swell our COVID reduced coffers with some funds. This month six new desks and associated storage hobs and hutches have now been assembled and installed.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO .... In the early twentieth century our local towns were well serviced with private hospitals. Some were general in nature but quite a few were maternity only. Most were operating from residential premises outside of the main commercial centres.

An initial search of our records found information on the following private hospitals operating in this period and up until the 1970s. In Moss Vale were the following, "Garryowen", "Berida", "Ayrshire" as well as the Wingecarribee Community Hospital. In Bowral we had "Strathmore", "Yarrum" and "Chester". Our only recorded Mittagong private hospital was "Talgarno". Most of these hospitals have a story behind them.

What piqued my interest? Well, on my birth certificate it states that I was born at "Garryowen" Private Hospital, Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale in April 19## (oops, can't make out the last two numbers!).

I am sure that many of our members were born in one of these hospitals. If you have any information, photos or an interesting story to tell please contact myself or Philip at the Archives and we will endeavour to include them in future articles.

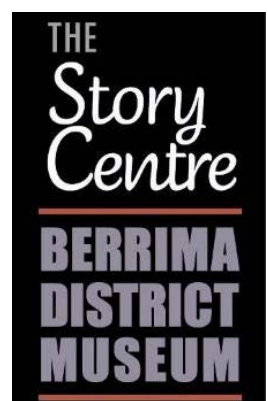
Our first article in a later issue of the newsletter will begin with "Garryowen" Private Hospital in Moss Vale.

Did you know that the De Mestre family owned "Garryowen" prior to it becoming a private hospital? The De Mestre story is very interesting. Stay tuned!

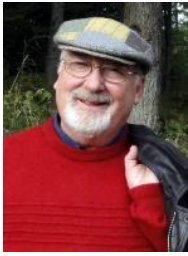
Ian Mackey

**ALL GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS POSTPONED TILL FURTHER NOTICE**

We will advise when the **Family History Interest Group** can meet again.



## Moore Memorable Musings



### 'ARF A MO'

Here's a look at some common slang words which are in use everyday, all ending in 'O'.

Aussies sure know how to deconstruct

a word. (About the same as a pompous person.)

I'm sure you can identify someone you know?

It all began when Johnno came in for after smoko this arvo.

He's a bit of a drongo and sometimes looks like a derro, you know.

He said 'can I see Bruno, the head honcho?'

'You're talking to him' I replied, finishing off my arvo tea.

'Well, coming home from playing bingo at the Bowlo last night, this copper pulls me up'.

He says to me, 'Half a mo, can I see your rego?'

'Goodo' says Johnno.

'This auto's out of rego, you know.'

'Righto, so what do I do now?'

'I see some ammo in the back seat', the cop says, getting a little bit aggro.

I was hoping he didn't use the biffa.

'Yeah, for your info, I live on a property that's got an outbreak of myxo.'

'Righto' says the cop 'I'll give you a demo so you can renew your rego docos pronto.'

'Thanks mate, cheerio,' he says.

Driving through Paddo last week, I heard on the radio there's an ambo heading to a servo where some weirdo psycho has set fire to a Volvo. So, I hope he gets some sort of compo.

It's got to be a druggo or some crazy dipso who'd do a thing like that.

My mate Mario, who lives at Mogo between the fisho and the bottle-o, was trying to fix a video he'd taken of a jumbo rodeo out near Bullio.

He met up with some Salvo rels who are all musos. They are really big on the piano, banjo and sometimes the cello.

One was a journo who was preggo at the time, is totally addicted to mango.

I was enjoying a quiet retro cappuccino saying hello to a mate from Dorrigo. Like our Robbo, you know, the town's famous for the potato. He moved from Kelso not long ago where he had a job as the local garbo. He became a bit of a hobo wino who had temporarily lost his Mojo.

By jingo he's improved himself now and owns a photo studio. He's also given up the benzos and tobacco.

Whacko the diddlia, what a hero!

**Bruce Moore**

### PLEASE NOTE:

Our Archives/Research Centre at Mittagong has now reopened to the public. Those wishing to visit are asked to make contact beforehand so their visit can be scheduled, thus allowing us to keep numbers within the current prescribed limits.

The Museum at Berrima reopens to the public on 11 November.

## Berrima District Museum

### THE STORY CENTRE

1a Market Place cnr Bryan St,  
Berrima 2577

OPEN WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY  
10.00am to 4.00pm throughout the year. This includes during school and public holiday periods. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Groups welcome at other times by arrangement. Ph John 4854 0165.

Museum: Phone 4877 1130 or  
email [bdmuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:bdmuseum@bigpond.com)

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



**At the Family History Group meeting in September 2019, Marg Muntz (seated) discusses a matter with President Ian Mackey and member Paula O'Rourke. Sadly, Paula passed away earlier this year (see next page).**

## Lunch at Burrawang in December

Members of the Society are invited to an outdoor lunch to be held at Burrawang Cemetery on Friday, 11 December 2020, commencing at 12:30pm.

Those attending are welcome to arrive earlier, as a group of researchers will be doing transcriptions of headstones at the cemetery from 10:30am.

This occasion is in lieu of our annual Christmas lunch, and is being held also to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Society that we had planned to celebrate in July.

The Society is paying for the lunch, so there is no cost to members. You will need to make your own way there or, if you require transport, let us know and we will arrange to get you there and home again. Two marquees will provide some shade, but please note that you will need to bring your own chair!

Individual bags of sandwiches, slices and fruit will be provided, and we assure members that all pandemic requirements will be adhered to.

Bookings essential and, as numbers are limited to 30, don't delay in contacting us by phone or email. This is a great opportunity for members to re-connect.

## From the Family History Group

Denise Mackey

### PAULA O'ROURKE – A TRIBUTE

It was sudden, unexpected and sad to hear of the loss of our member, Paula O'Rourke who tragically passed away on the 10<sup>th</sup> July.

A vibrant, passionate and knowledgeable researcher, Paula was our guru on Irish history. She willingly shared her expertise, suggested strategies and helped guide others in tracing their Irish roots with many successfully making significant headway in solving those family history puzzles.

A valued member, an asset to the group, Paula will be sadly missed.

### MARG MUNTZ - FAREWELL

From your friends in our Family History Group we say farewell and wish you every good fortune for the future in your new home.

Thank you for your generous contributions, for sharing your extensive knowledge, for relaying those many updates from the various British Archives and for your passionate enthusiasm for family history. We will miss you.

## BDH&FHS 2020 ANNUAL REPORTS

### President's Report

Ian Mackey, with museum input by John Schweers

Another year has passed and it gives me great pleasure to present my third annual report on the activities of the Society. I would like to thank the Management Committee and the Berrima Museum Sub-Committee for their support and efforts throughout this most difficult year. I would also like to thank all our volunteers who gave up their valuable time to help maintain a smooth-running Society.

Although there have been few meetings this year significant activity has been occurring behind the scenes. During the lock-down and isolation a considerable number of us undertook tasks at home such as de-cluttering, re-organising and, in some cases, renovations. The Society Archives and the Berrima Museum were no different. It was an opportunity too good to miss and significant works were carried out at both locations.

At the Archives in Mittagong we completed several projects. They were firstly a complete upgrade to our computer system with the installation of fixed data cabling and centralised data storage which not only improves the reliability of our system but also the security with the installation of dual hard drives and continuous back-up to the cloud. Our next project was to replace the old ground floor carpet, which has been in existence for the last 50 years, with rubber backed carpet tiles of a more subdued colour. This has much improved the ambience of the Archives and has drawn many favourable comments.

Our final project, with the assistance of two small community grants was to upgrade some office furniture and fittings and purchase a replacement computer, printer and vacuum cleaner.

At the Berrima Museum being closed to the public worked in our favour giving the opportunity to complete Stage 2 renovations of the Digital Gallery project. As there was extensive electrical and painting work to be done, display items were relocated to the Williams Gallery for safe keeping and to allow access to the rooms to be renovated. The Museum entrance and the adjacent kitchen/meeting room were extensively modified. All exhibits have now been returned to their respective locations.

Two new glass display cases have also been installed and lit with new LED lighting. A great big thanks to all involved especially to Lyn Hall who organised and coordinated all the site work. Huge support was



received from all the local trades and suppliers who contributed to a successful conclusion.

An important milestone was reached in August with the completion of the Digital Gallery project, ably managed by Harlan Hall over several years. Grant accession documents and audited financial accounts were submitted to the Regional Cultural Fund who provided 50% of the funding. The project consisted of two parts, the first being the installation of 10 large screen QLED TV's and associated equipment followed by the Stage 2 renovations to the older section of the Museum as previously described. Total expenditure was \$204,408.81.

When the Society closed its doors in March both Management and General Meetings were suspended. It was decided that to correspond with our members we would continue with producing our monthly newsletter. This was mostly carried out electronically except for the actual printing and folding for those who receive their copy by post. A special thanks to Philip Morton and all the contributors for producing our newsletter throughout what has been a decidedly unsettling year. Member feedback has indicated that the newsletter was a welcome addition each month.

Due to the COVID-19 lock-down significant regular activities were cancelled, such as Australia Day parade, Anzac Day commemorations, June luncheon and trips. I think when you look at the situation world-wide, Australia has fared incredibly well and hopefully we will soon be able to get back to normal.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

## Archivist's Report

**Linda Emery**

Despite the challenging times we have all faced, quite a lot was achieved in the archives this year. After the lockdown which closed our Mittagong research centre for a couple of months, a limited number of volunteers were able to return under the regulations although we remained closed to the public.

Gradually, we were able to welcome members by appointment and on 31 October, reopened to the public again, in accordance with the guidelines for safe operation.

As you will have read, improvements in the archives have included new carpet, so badly needed, and through grant funding from the Commonwealth through local member Stephen Jones and a

Community Assistance Grant from Wingecarribee Shire Council, we were able to buy heaters, computer equipment and new desks, so the archives are now looking very professional.

One of the successes of the year has been the move to our new online Image Library which is proving to be very popular. Volunteers have been cataloguing and a great many new images have been added. This new platform not only looks good but has resulted in increased photo sales for the society, all the more welcome because of this year of greatly reduced income. If you have not seen the new site *Look at Me* before the web address is [berrima.imagegallery.me](http://berrima.imagegallery.me)

The research team, led admirably by Frank Mitchell, has also been busy with so many people at home and turning their interest to family history and research. Frank has tackled some curly queries with enthusiasm and kept research income flowing. This is vital to our everyday operation that enables us not only to administer the Society but makes it possible for us to continue to build and maintain our fantastic collection.

Accessions this year have naturally been down, but we remain heartened by the willingness of so many people to donate and share their photographs, documents and research material. With their help we continue to add to our knowledge of our district.

Lastly, but most importantly, I thank our team of volunteers for their work in this difficult year. For most of us, it has been something of a lifeline to have a safe environment to come to each week and everyone has faced the restrictions with good cheer.

I would especially like to thank Carolyn Docherty, Rhonda Brown and Sandy McKenzie for their work on the Kevin Herring Collection which has been a huge task. All volunteers have worked hard on cataloguing, indexing, research, filing and – cleaning!!

We look forward to welcoming members back and hopefully by next year restrictions will have eased. Do come into your archives and see the changes. You are all welcome even if you are not researching – just come in to say hello.



**Burrawang Cemetery where members can re-connect at an outdoor lunch provided by the Society in December**

## Treasurer's Report

**Patricia Doris**

I am pleased to present the Society's Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 30 September 2020. The Financial Statement will be provided as an enclosure in the December printed newsletter or as an attachment with the email version. The Society has been through a challenging time since March and our income has been severely impacted, however our membership is still strong, as is demand for our research services, publications and photographs.

Our sincere thanks to Auditor, Ross Cowley for our Annual Financial Statement.

## Conservation Officer's Report

**Denise Mackey**

2020 was another productive and rewarding year for the Conservation team.

At the end of 2019 the Archives became custodian of a large collection of artworks from the Museum. The artworks were checked with those requiring attention repaired and cleaned before being photographed, re-wrapped and labelled. The extra artworks necessitated re-organising the upstairs storeroom and constructing additional racks for storage. The whole project was completed by the middle of the year.

There has been ongoing framing of photographs and pictures with some hung in the foyer outside the upstairs lunch room. Another collection of seven historical photographs of Bowral and Mittagong were cleaned, framed and displayed in the entry foyer.

Preservation and conservation includes careful cleaning of sometimes fragile items. One such article was a donated brown envelope found in the roof cavity of a house during renovations. The contents of the envelope was a collection of soiled, water and vermin damaged photographs, booklets and documents relating to a WW1 soldier who was killed in France in September 1918 and his family. After close to 100 years in the roof it was an uplifting experience to give these valuable treasures a new lease of life.

Most research enquiries in the Conservation rooms have involved extensive use of newspapers, rate books with some requests for artworks.

I would like to thank the many volunteers who have generously given their assistance and support.

## Publication Officer's Report

**Jenny Frost**

We continue to sell our large range of publications relating to the history of the Southern Highlands with 84 titles in stock. Sales, whilst down 20% on last year, continue to be constant and the revenue generated from sales at the museum, archives and website totalled **\$3,814** for the year.

A special thankyou to Linda Emery who runs our website which has generated significant publication sales during these COVID-19 troubled times, in part making up for lost sales opportunities consequent from the museum's temporary closure.

Linda completed and published her 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Exploring Exeter as well as publishing a history of the Mittagong RSL this year.

Destination Southern Highlands in Mittagong provides the Society with another sales outlet for our publications and we appreciate their support.

The support provided by Philip Morton in all things but particularly our in-house production of publications must also be recognised and thanked. The support of our talented and dedicated Treasurer, Patricia Doris, is also greatly appreciated.

## Family History Group Report

**Denise Mackey**

Because of COVID-19 restrictions our meetings have been severely curtailed this year. However, we did manage to sneak in two get togethers before the shutdown began. At one of our meetings some 13 enthusiastic family historians gathered to hear Maxine Gray's informative talk on Cornwall in England.

Under normal conditions our self-help group meets at 1pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month in the research room at the Archives in Mittagong.

The resources at the Archives are at our disposal to assist in research as well as to provide an opportunity to learn how to use them. It is satisfyingly rewarding to work with like-minded people, share experiences and travel some way in solving those family history puzzles. If circumstances permit the general consensus is to resume our meetings next year starting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 1pm.

Any member of the Society is welcome to join our informal self-help Family History Group.

## Bowral Station's official residences

The single-line Great Southern Railway was built from Picton to Goulburn in the 1860s. It opened to Mittagong in February 1867, and on 2 December to Sutton Forest Station (renamed Moss Vale in 1876), with a station also opening at Bowral in December.

The original platform at Bowral Station, 47-metres in length, was built on the east side of the line and in January 1868 a tender was awarded for the building of a combination station structure that would house a booking office, waiting room and staff residence. This was situated slightly north of the present main building. Nearby was a goods shed and level crossing, with the line arrangement consisting of a loop and one track (now the Down track).



The above photo, looking in the Down direction, shows the original station and residence, and a very tall semaphore signal. These signals, mounted with both arms attached to the same fulcrum point on a single tall post, were tall enough to give drivers of approaching trains the longest possible view of the signal. Atop the post sat a decorative finial, being an artistic flourish added by engineers. Signal arms were operated independent of one another to indicate to train drivers of both Up and Down trains. The signal in the photograph is indicating STOP to Down trains, and CAUTION to Up trains.

In 1880 the platform at Bowral was lengthened and a crane, weighbridge and milk-loading platform were added in 1883, the township having rapidly grown and prospered since its establishment in the 1860s.

In January 1892 Bowral was provided with an even larger platform on which was erected an elegant, Victorian gable-roof building, still in use today, to house a booking office, waiting room and facilities.

Being just for administrative purposes, it did not provide residential accommodation for staff as had the earlier station building.

A separate Station Master's residence was built in a similar style to the new station, located a short way beyond the south end of the platform, across from the Wingecarribee St level crossing.



Looking in the Down direction at Bowral, 1890s  
(ARH May 2019 – image RRC 507822)

Due to a steady increase in rail usage, in 1905 Bowral's platform was again further extended at the southern end. Duplication of the entire Southern Line was completed between Bowral and Goulburn in 1915. In readiness for it, an iron overbridge was constructed in 1912 at the south end of Bowral Station to provide pedestrians and traffic with a crossing of the rail lines that was safer and more convenient than a level crossing. In 1915 a new platform, office and waiting room were built on the Up side of the line, still in use today.

The new Station Master's residence faced to the station, overlooking the level crossing. It was hemmed in and overshadowed by the new iron overbridge and, unfortunately, the occupants were no doubt adversely impacted by the noise of vehicles and pedestrians using the bridge. Nevertheless, the residence has endured and, now privately owned, still stands just south of Bowral Station, in the south-west corner of the intersection of Station Street and Wingecarribee Street.

A history of the building and its occupants up to the 1950s was recently compiled by BDHS researcher Frank Mitchell for an inquirer on behalf of the present owners, the building currently housing a dental and medical practice.

Frank gathered information from early newspapers and other sources on Trove, and from 'Australian Railway History May 2019 Special Edition: 150<sup>th</sup> of the Arrival of the Railway into Goulburn'. Some extracts from his compilation are provided here.

On 22 October 1890 *The Bowral Free Press* advised that "the plans and specifications for a station-master's residence at Bowral may be seen on application to Mr. Bennett at the railway station.

They are the standard adopted by the Commissioners for first-class stationmaster's residences. On paper the building seems to be up to requirements, and neat and substantial in design. It contains six rooms, together with kitchen, pantry, bath, wash-house and other out-premises. The largest room is 16 ft 10½ in x 18 ft; there are three rooms 18 ft x 12 ft 6 in, and two others 11 ft x 10 ft. The walls are brick with iron roof. The site chosen for it is nearly opposite 'Neichdale', and the front elevation will face the north."

*The Goulburn Evening Penny Post* of 1 November 1890 noted that: "The Railway Commissioners have accepted the tender of Mr R Flook for the erection of a station-master's residence at Bowral. The contract price is £849 10s 6d" (which converts to around \$1,700).

Despite a lack of official railway records, Frank managed to piece together, from State Records, Government Gazettes and newspapers, a partial list of Bowral Station Masters and whatever additional information he could find about some of them.

#### **Bowral Stationmasters from 1869 to 1954, included**

- Mc Coy, Thomas - c1869 to 1872
- Mr Deegan or Dugan - 1872 - ?
- Mr Bradley - c1875 – 1880
- Bennett, Copeland - 1880 – 1891
- Kenney, Mathew - 1891 - July 1896
- Chapman, John H - 1897 - ?
- Riley, John H - 1903, then to Dubbo 1912
- McIntosh - Jan 1908
- Huthnance, Edgar Ernest - c1912 – 1938
- Temby, Ernest - Bowral 1938/retired May 1954

As Copeland Bennett was serving as Stationmaster when the residence was completed in early 1891, presumably he moved in with his family for the duration of his service, which was not long as he took extended leave during 1891 and by August had decided not to return from leave and submitted his resignation.

The *Bowral Free Press* of 3 December 1890 provided a snapshot of activity at the station: "Through the courtesy of Mr. C. Bennett, stationmaster at Bowral, we are enabled to supply our readers with the railway returns at the Bowral station for the month ending 31 October 1890. They are as follows —

Outwards: passengers, 1269; parcels, 1311; horses, 3; dogs, 11; cattle, 18; pigs, 127; vehicles, 2; goods, 479 tons. Inwards: parcels, 996; horses 10; cattle 11; sheep, 408; dogs, 6; vehicles, 2; goods, 558 tons.

Just a few years earlier, in May 1886, Copeland Bennet had been criticised as implicated in a serious accident between a passenger train for Sydney and a shunting goods train at Bowral Station. An account of this accident was provided as a 2-part series in the March and April 2018 editions of this newsletter.

A board of inquiry found that Bennett had displayed a want of ordinary caution by not taking steps to stop the shunting before it was too late. "But for this want of care, the gross neglect of the passenger train driver would not have been attended by such serious consequences." The board's recommendations included that he be reduced in rank for six months, with a proportionate loss of pay. Despite the finding against him, Bennett continued to be held in high regard by Bowral residents, described by the Mayor as "ever obliging and helpful in his official capacity".

Each of the Stationmasters at Bowral after Bennett had the right to live in the residence, although some may have preferred accommodation elsewhere in the town for themselves and family.

The last one listed here, Ernest William Temby, born in 1890, served at Bowral for 16 years. Frank's notes on him include that he entered NSWGR Service in 1906; was appointed to Bowral as S.M. in late 1938 from previous position at Dunedoo. He seems to have had a very mixed career, as some 16 card records show many misdemeanours, Cautions, Reprimands and Warnings and yet he held a distinguished record as a Senior First Aid student and practitioner, gaining a Life Membership Award of Ambulance Corps, granted by the Railway Commissioners at 31 Dec 1940.

The Station Master's house remained as an official railway residence at Bowral until the 1990s, when it was sold, falling victim to a disposal of properties that the railways deemed superfluous.



The first private owner of the SM residence at Bowral was Raine & Horne, a real estate agency, who used it as an office (photo above) from the 1990s.

*Compiled by Frank Michell and 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 a general collection.
- MUSEUM:** Market Place, Berrima. Tel: 02 4877 1130. Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com  
OPEN: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesdays to Sundays throughout the year. This includes during school and public holiday periods.
- 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.

If undelivered return to:  
Berrima District Historical & Family History Society Inc  
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## BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

<b>President</b>	Ian MACKEY	<b>Archivist</b>	Linda EMERY
<b>Snr Vice President</b>	Linda EMERY	<b>Museum Manager</b>	Sub-Committee
<b>Jnr Vice President</b>	Jenny FROST	<b>Membership</b>	Peg HARVEY
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<b>Hon Secretary</b>	Peg HARVEY	<b>Conservation Team</b>	Denise MACKEY
<b>Research Team</b>	Carolyn DOUGHERTY, Janet BLACK and Frank MITCHELL		

**Management Committee:** President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and members Bruce Moore, Leonie Knapman, Denyse Barker, Philip Morton, Carolyn Dougherty, Ros Dale and Kerry Bunker.

**Museum Sub-Committee:** Harlan Hall (Project Manager), Lyn Hall (Graphics, Exhibitions), Sylvia Carless (Roster), Harold Wall (Human Resources) and John Schweers.

**PATRON:** Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire, Councillor Duncan Gair