



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 554 November 2022



### From the President's Desk

Two significant dates indicate that we have again navigated through another year. One is the end of our financial year on 30 September, the other is our Annual General Meeting which is to be held on 24 November 2022.

The end of financial year is also membership renewal time. The membership renewals are flowing steadily but we have a long way to go before reaching last year's number. At the Annual General Meeting we will have the election of office bearers for 2023.

If any member is interested in nominating for any position, please get in touch with our secretary.

Our guest speaker at this meeting will be Georgina Chaseling, a member who had the privilege of leading a women's only team in the London to Sydney Car Rally of 1993. Should be an entertaining story!

On Sunday 16 October the Australian Antiques Roadshow, a charitable event sponsored by the local Peter Fritz Foundation was held at the Mittagong RSL Club. All funds raised went to the Mittagong Community Playgroup.

The Museum and the Archives both had a table at the show with the former showing artefacts and the latter selling books. The day was reasonably successful with eight books being sold and two new Society members signing up. Thanks to all those who gave up their Sunday to fly the Society flag.

We are currently planning our Christmas lunch, this year to be held in the Celtic Room at the Scottish Arms in East Bowral on Thursday 15 December. More details will be forthcoming in our December newsletter but in the meantime, bookings are now open at the Archives.

On page 3 we tell the story of Moss Vale baker John Sexton who was a successful exhibitor at the 1964 Shoalhaven Agricultural Show.

We are seeking missing issues of the *Highlife* magazine to complete our collection which dates from 1996. The list of missing issues is shown on page 6.

The *Bowral Free Press* ran a story in November 1889 on the Bowral Horticultural Society's Spring Show and so, to coincide with spring being once again upon us in the Southern Highlands, is reprinted on page 7.

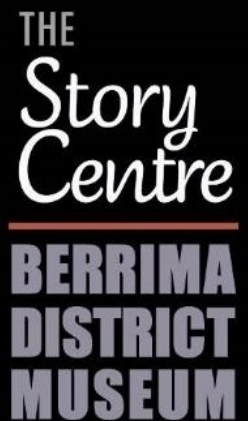
Ian Mackey

### GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS 2022

<b>NOVEMBER 2022</b>	<b>Thursday 24 November at 2:00pm</b> Annual General Meeting and November General Meeting <b>SPEAKER:</b> Georgina Chaseling participant in London-Sydney Car Rally 1993 <b>AFTERNOON TEA</b> is served following the speaker
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<b>DECEMBER 2022</b>	<b>Thursday 15 December at 12:00 for 12:30pm</b> Christmas Lunch at Scottish Arms, East Bowral
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The **Family History Interest Group** meets at the Mittagong Archives on the first Wednesday each month, at 1pm



## Moore Memorable Musings

### WHISTLE-STOP CHIT-CHAT



Whoever was responsible for naming Australian towns either was a bad stutterer or had a wicked sense of humour. Having

finished reading my book of the month, I turned to glancing through some 17,000 names in my postcode book. My bride is now thinking of getting me certified.

Here's a sample road trip through what I call echo-word towns:

Beginning at Baan Baa I thought of zig-zagging around the countryside via Bli Bli and perhaps ending up at Bael Bael. We can say hooroo to the Bungle Bungles as they are somewhere in the Never Never. Woop Woop is a lot closer.

Queensland is a bit ho-hum when it comes to itty bitty place names. Gin Gin and Kawl Kawl are too far away from Billa Billa, which is just over the border.

New South Wales is definitely numero uno when it comes to ridgy didge towns. We can farewell Wee Waa and perhaps travel south through Willi Willi, Bril Bril and Topi Topi ending up at Woy Woy for the night. Silly-billy Sydney doesn't miss out with its own Lilli Pilli.

Here in the Wingecarribee we have our own Bong Bong, the abandoned Government town, now perpetuated by naming Bowral's main dinki di street. Picking up some cheese in Tilba Tilba, we make Wagga Wagga our next stopover. From here we can visit Grong Grong, Book Book and Gol Gol.

Not leaving the Victorians out of the picture, they make sure echo names are not forgotten. So we cross the Murray to find Bael Bael and Jil Jil, wondering how to cope with Cope Cope, Gil Gil and Wal Wal and realise there is no toll road to Tol Tol. Heading south we pass Joel Joel, back to Brit Brit and wonder how they ever came up with the name Wool Wool?

On the road to Nhill we find Gerang Gerung midway from Melbourne and Adelaide. Returning home through Ghin Ghin and Mitta Mitta.

The South Australians were more particular with their name choices.

Those crow-eaters have simply chosen Ki Ki as a town. A plain name for a simple town.

The West Aussie 'sandgroppers' have their own nomenclature for towns ending in ...up. Such as Yallingup, Kordabup, Manjimup, Nannup, Hiccup and Roundup followed by a Kneesup.

So it's definitely bye-bye from me, it's time to go nigh-nigh.

Bruce Moore

### NOTICE

#### 2022 Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the BDH&FHS will be on Thursday 24 November at 2pm along with a monthly meeting, in the upstairs meeting room at the Mittagong Archives.

### Please note:

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW OVERDUE

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, sent out in September and available on request from the Society.

Thanks to all those members who have already paid.

## Our Christmas Lunch

Thursday 15 December 2022  
at 12:00 for 12:30pm



Celtic Room,  
Scottish Arms  
Hotel

East Bowral



Lunch will be a two-course meal of main and dessert, with tea and coffee provided. There will be our usual door prizes and raffle, and Linda Emery will host a trivia quiz. The cost is expected to be around \$55 per person.

Those members and friends wishing to attend should contact the Society as soon as possible to book and make your payment.

## BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

### The Story Centre

1a Market Place cnr Bryan St, Berrima

#### OPEN: FRIDAY to SUNDAY

10.00am to 3.00pm

throughout the year including school and public holiday periods.

Groups welcome at other times by arrangement. Ph John 0434 623 402

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



Our sales team at Mittagong RSL Club on Sunday 16 October for the Antiques Roadshow, from left Vanessa Dagleish, Alan & Denyse Barker, Jenny Frost our Publications Officer (see President's Column for details about the event)

## Guest speaker at November meeting

After the AGM on Thursday 24 November, Georgina Chaseling, one of our members, will give an historical and entertaining account of the 1968 and 1993 London-Sydney Marathon Car Rallies.

Georgina, together with co-driver, the late Virginia Bevan, took part in their Volvo Amazon in the 1993 Rally, the only female team to race.



All vehicles were 25-year-old cars, it being the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inaugural 1968 Rally that had evoked world-wide interest. A more volatile political situation was encountered by the 1993 Rally and last-minute changes had to be made, as travel through Iran and Afghanistan was unexpectedly denied. The teams also battled heat waves and snow-covered roads, triumphs and despairs, to finally reach Sydney, the Aussie ladies and their Volvo mostly in one piece.



Georgina was raised in the Southern Highlands and attended Frensham School. She later became an occupational therapist, obtained a Diploma in Family History from Tasmania, completed the Applied and Local History Course from the University of New England, and has a Diploma in Horse Business Management.

Motor racing and horses have been lifelong passions.

At our meeting, Georgina will recall her experiences on the 1993 Rally Marathon, recounting the epic nature of the rally in words and pictures, and will screen short videos of the 1968 and 1993 Rallies.

Members are encouraged to come along and be fascinated by these reminiscences.

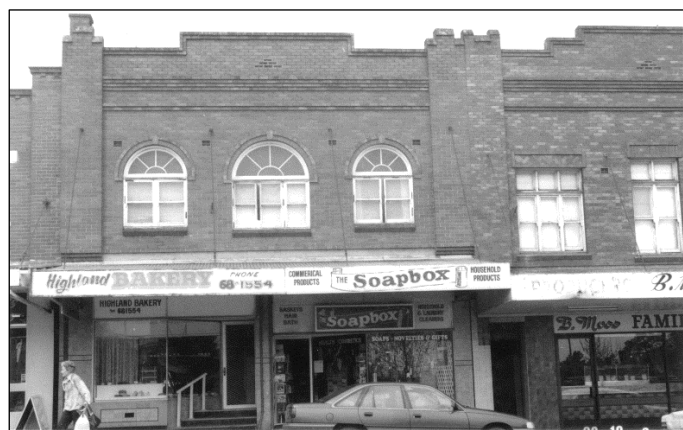
## Moss Vale baker's success in 1964

By Alan Clark AM, Shoalhaven Historical Society

For at least a decade from the late 1950s, a bread show was held in conjunction with Shoalhaven Agricultural and Horticultural Association's Show. It was the brainchild of Nowra baker, Jim Milligan who for his efforts in organising and promoting the event, would be honoured with life membership.

Bread had to be baked on the day before judging – usually the Thursday prior to the annual show, and the prizewinning loaves would then be put on display. With entries being received from far and wide, Mr Milligan and his helpers met the trains that arrived at Bomaderry, and even went to the airport to collect those received from interstate.

The seventh annual bread show in February 1964 attracted the attention of John Sexton who had taken over the Moss Vale Bakery from his father, James. He entered several classes and secured first places with his married tin and a half-married loaf, one of which was named as "best loaf in the show", for which he received high praise from judge Arthur Denison of Sydney. Mr Sexton also received minor placings for a wheatmeal loaf and six bread rolls.



*Moss Vale Bakery, at 332-334 Argyle St, became Highland Bakery as pictured here in 1992*

A prize donated by the Bread Manufacturers of NSW for the most successful exhibitor was awarded to the Golden Crust Bread Company (Goulburn), while the Federal Bakery (Canberra) exhibited the best starch reduced or milk loaf.

**SHOW HISTORY:** The Shoalhaven Agricultural and Horticultural Association evolved to become Nowra Show Society which is currently organising its 146th annual show to be held in February 2023.

Anyone reading this article with artefacts or an interest in the Nowra Show can contact me at [alanwclark@yahoo.com](mailto:alanwclark@yahoo.com).

## **"Freckles" – the Vice Regal Horse**

**Linda Emery**

We never know what is going to turn up in the archives. Last week Philip found a photograph album in the archive's mailbox with no details of where it came from or from whom. It has proved to be a small gem, with images from the early 1900s mainly of Sutton Forest. The album belonged to Bernard Christian Corlette, born in 1896, was the son of the Reverend Arthur Corlette, Rector of the Parish of Sutton Forest. Educated at Tudor House, he later returned to the school as a master and in 1925 became Headmaster.



Notes he made on the last photo in the album tell a delightful story: *"Freckles" was Lord Chelmsford's horse & well known in Sutton Forest. On his return to England he gave Freckles, his saddle & Bridle to B C Corlette. This photo was taken about 1917 when "Freckles" was getting very old & turned out in the Rectory paddocks. BCC visited Lord Chelmsford in London in 1930 & he was anxious to hear how long his old horse lived. He died of old age about 1920.*

Lord Chelmsford was Governor of NSW from 1909 to 1913 and was a frequent visitor to Hillview, the Vice Regal residence at Sutton Forest.

## **President's Annual Report 2022**

**Ian Mackey**

It gives me great pleasure to present my fifth annual report on the activities of our Society. I wish to thank the Management Committee and the Berrima Museum Sub-Committee for their work over the past 12 months. At the beginning of the year everyone was cautious as we re-opened to the public.

Throughout the year we have continued to attract an enthusiastic band of volunteers at the Archives on the three days we are open each week and I wish to thank them for their continued support.

Our monthly newsletter has continued to be produced throughout the year. A special thanks to Philip Morton and all the other contributors.

Our Archivist, Linda Emery has again led the volunteers in successfully completing many important tasks throughout the year. Our research team led by Frank Mitchell has dealt with many enquiries.

A very successful lunch was held at Marist Brothers Hermitage Restaurant in Mittagong in December with Linda Emery presenting an interesting history of Lower Mittagong where the Hermitage Restaurant is located. Also at this event I had the pleasure to present three of our retiring committee members with Certificates of Appreciation for their many years of service to our Society.

Our mid-year lunch was also held at the Hermitage Restaurant where Judith Dunn OAM, who is a guide, public speaker and educator entertained us with tales of a variety of crimes and murders that show the tumultuous life around Sydney in colonial times.

Anzac Day remembrance services were resumed this year throughout the district and thanks should go to the volunteers who agreed to lay wreaths at Moss Vale, Bowral, Mittagong and Berrima services.

The proposed upgrade to the Mittagong Memorial Hall which includes the repairs and re-configuration of the Playhouse Theatre and the relocation of our Society to the exclusive use of the first floor of the building has been indefinitely delayed due to the unsuccessful grant application for the \$5 million in funding required to complete the project. To date, approximately \$2 million has been spent on design.

A new 21-year lease for the first-floor occupancy has been approved for our Society but the signing is being held in abeyance until we are certain that the project will proceed. The present lease is still applicable for the area we currently occupy.

In recent months we have experienced a spate of computer related problems with one computer being replaced, another requiring a new hard drive, another in go-slow mode and our ScanPro microfilm reader requiring attention.

Welcome back to the Archives is our Secretary Peg Harvey after a short stay in hospital. Peg works away in the background attending to correspondence, meeting agendas and minutes plus all the Public Officer responsibilities. Recently Peg handed over the duties of Membership Secretary to Janet Black. Janet is currently very busy processing membership renewals for the current year.

Thanks to Denise Mackey for co-ordinating the monthly meetings of the Family History Group which generally consists of 12 to 15 participants.

## Museum Manager's Annual Report

**John Schweers**

The Museum has received many reports from visitors congratulating the volunteers for the outstanding standard of presentations it offers the public.

Even though there has been an increase my observation is that visitor numbers continue to be greatly affected by the virus and wet weather. Over the last three months we have had interested people from the USA, Canada, England, New Zealand and Korea calling into the Museum.

The visitations of local residents has risen due to the current Gardens & Landscapes in the Southern Highlands Exhibition in the Williams Gallery which is proving very popular.

The Museum has been open for eight months this year and as a result of diligent management of costs and overheads we have been able to produce a trading profit for the protracted year.

My thanks go to all volunteers who continue to provide such an outstanding Museum.

## Archivist's Annual Report

**Linda Emery**

With the easing of Covid restrictions, operation of the archives has pretty much returned to normal, although we are finding fewer people are making personal visits, instead favouring email enquiries.

Accessions this year have been steady and as always we have received a number of interesting donations. Items relating to The Mittagong Maltings from the Estate of the late Terry Brooks were among them including two wooden shovels used on the germinating floor and framed original drawings of the buildings.

Frank Mitchell has again done a wonderful job leading the research team. Frank puts a great deal of time into research to ensure good results for enquirers as well as adding to our knowledge of people and places in the Southern Highlands. Income generated from research enables us to invest in resources to build and maintain our unique collection.

Our collection includes around 3,500 biography files on local families, and I am pleased to report that Diane McAllery and Denice Welch have now digitised 90% of these paper files. This information, gathered over many years, is now safely in cloud storage and each file available to researchers as PDF documents.

During the year we published a new book researched by archives volunteers *'What's in a Name – the street names of Mittagong'* which has proved very popular. The next volume in the series will be on the origins of the street names of Moss Vale, Berrima and Sutton Forest and is almost ready to go to the printer.

I would especially like to thank the enthusiastic band of archives volunteers for all they achieve. We have a regular team of 22 who are all doing valuable work both dealing with the day to day running of the society as well as helping visitors, cataloguing, scanning, indexing and undertaking research projects. We have added several indexes to our website for researchers to access with two more in the pipeline.

We are a friendly, welcoming and cohesive group of people who share a love of history. I encourage any members who are interested in becoming more involved to come in and talk to us about how you can help. Morning coffee on Monday is a great time!

## Treasurer's Annual Report

**Patricia Doris**

I am pleased to present the Society's Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 30 September 2022. The Financial Statement should be available at the AGM and a copy will be sent out with the newsletter. Sincere thanks to Auditor, Ross Cowley for the Annual Financial Statement.

The Society has had a reasonably successful year with our expenditure exceeding income by a small margin. Our main income sources are membership fees, Museum entry fees, research fees, and the sale of books and photographs.

## Publication Officer's Annual Report

**Jenny Frost**

We continue to sell our large range of publications relating to the history of the Southern Highlands with 55 titles listed for sale on the Society's website. Of these, five top-selling books are currently out of stock and will be revised and reprinted in the coming year.

Sales remain strong with a total annual gross revenue of \$4,698 primarily generated via our museum at Berrima, the archives at Mittagong and our website.

Destination Southern Highlands outlet at Mittagong and the Berrima Court House provide the Society with additional sales outlets for our publications, and we appreciate their support.

Much appreciated also is the support provided by our talented and dedicated Treasurer, Patricia Doris.

## Librarian's Annual Report

### Carolyn Dougherty

How exciting, the first library report since 2019. Covid has certainly had an impact with libraries everywhere closed for the greater part of the time. Our focus over the last 12 months has been sifting through the books held in 'stack' to identify duplicate copies and donations that are surplus or not relevant to our collection. These have been offered for sale via our newsletter which has brought us in a small income.

We have received a number of interesting donations over the last six months which have been added to the collection. For those members who prefer a 'real' book rather than Kindle, please come into the library and check out our collection.

engaged in general discussion about discoveries, challenges and those solid brickwalls inevitable in family history.

This year our presentations included Writing a Family History, Memoir or Biography; Exploring Trove; What is in our Library?; Treasures in the Map Drawers; Maritime History in Australia; Interpreting Old Photos; An Introduction to the FamilySearch Platform; Scanning and Editing Photos, Documents and Newspaper Articles and Storming the Magdala: The Abyssinian Campaign. A sincere Thank You to all our presenters for generously sharing knowledge and expertise. Any member of the Society is welcome to join the informal self-help Family History Group.

It is planned to schedule the first meeting for 2023 on Wednesday 1 February.

## Conservation Officer's Annual Report

### Denise Mackey

It was another rewarding year for the Conservation team starting with completing the task of transferring the historical newspapers from the non-standard, deteriorating folders to the proper archival folders.

The collection of *Highlife* magazines dating from 1996 was transferred from downstairs storage to shelves in the upstairs Conservation room. There has been an effort to complete the collection because some issues are still missing, and an appeal is being made.

Sorting and rationalising stock has continued, with excess copies of RAHS journals now available free to members at General Meetings and Family History Group meetings. Throughout the year there was the ongoing task of cleaning, repair, framing and storage of photos, documents and books. The repair of our donated grandfather clock is of particular interest.

A number of researchers visited the Conservation rooms, the main request being the newspapers not available on Trove. Rate books were also sought.

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

## Seeking issues of *Highlife* Magazine

The BDHS holds a collection of *Highlife* Magazine, the highly prestigious bi-monthly publication that since July 1996 has featured country life in the Southern Highlands, creating a link for residents to feel connected to their community.

At least 150 issues have been published and of these 13 are missing from our collection, as listed below. If you have or know of a spare copy of any of these, we would be most appreciative if they could be donated to our Society. Please contact us first so arrangements for collection or delivery can be made.



Missing Issues	Vol	Number
2010 February/March	14	3
2010 August/September	14	6
2010 October/November	15	1
2010 December/2011 January	15	2
2011 February/March	15	3
2011 April/May	15	4
2011 June/July	15	5
2011 August/September	15	6
2011 December/2012 January	16	2
2012 August/September	16	6
2014 June/July	18	5
2017 April/May	21	4
2021 June/July	25	5

## Family History Group Annual Report

### Denise Mackey

What an uplifting experience it was to return to normality this year with the Family History Group meetings taking no time to be in full swing again.

The self-help group of enthusiastic family historians generally number between 10 and 20 and, during the year have enjoyed presentations from either one of the group or an outside guest speaker, or have simply

## Spring horticulture, November 1889

**THE FLOWER SHOW** *Bowral Free Press*, 9 Nov 1889

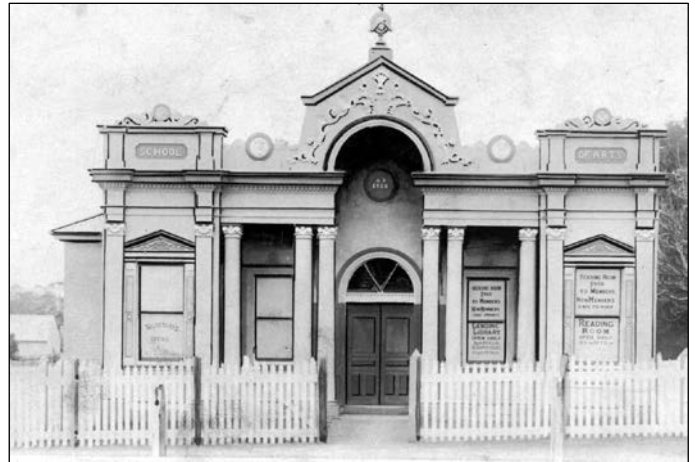
"The Bowral Horticultural Society's Spring Show of Roses, Pansies, and Wild Flowers was opened in the School of Arts on Wednesday last at 2 o'clock and remained open until 10 in the evening. It was a genuine and complete success; and would have done credit to any horticultural society either in or out of the metropolis. Everyone was surprised and delighted with the magnificent display of roses; they were exceptionally fine, and it can be honestly said, without a word of exaggeration, that nothing equal to them has ever before been seen in the district. The excellence of the display was not centred in individual or special excellence, but in a uniform merit throughout, and in the abundance of the collection; while the prize collection, N H Throsby's, a fine lot of 24 from the Rockdale Nursery, Sydney, and several other exhibits were fit to hold their own in any competition. No wonder that the portion of the building in which the roses were displayed was a chief centre of attraction throughout the day; nothing more beautiful need have been desired.

As Moore graphically wrote: 'Like a vase in which roses have once been distilled/You may break, you may shatter the vase if you will/But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.'

The scent of the roses hung round it still, permeating the room with a lovely fragrance, refreshing, delicate, exquisite. Nearly every imaginable variety of rose – the king of flowers – was represented, and bouquets and other deft devices served to show them off in all their glory. The display of wild flowers was unusually good: this season they are blooming to perfection, and the modest native rose and the brilliant waratah were seen to every advantage, while the many others of lesser attractiveness were collected and displayed in profusion.

Next in point of merit came the pansies – the unpretentious, delicate, pretty, pansy. The display was very large and choice; for the most part they were show flowers of the first order; and they assisted materially in the adornment of the room. In this department of horticulture, the Messrs Grove were prominent exhibitors, Mr F Grove, who secured the prize for pansies last year, again carrying off the honour this. These three – roses, wild flowers and pansies – were the prominent features of the show; next came the ferns, not as well represented as they have been on former occasions; and, after them, the details were filled in with pot and foliage plants.

The Society certainly scored a brilliant win; the patronage accorded them was handsome, and the interest taken clearly indicated that in Bowral the spring flower show supplies a want and fills a place.



**Bowral School of Arts building that opened in 1885**

During the afternoon the hall was filled with visitors, noticeable among whom were many from different parts of the district; but there was not the gathering that may be expected later on in the season. The stewards kept assiduously at their work during the morning, and they were ably assisted by the president of the society, Mr Gavin George, and his estimable wife, and by others in the labour of love. At 2 o'clock the arrangement of the flowers was complete, and the judges, Messrs C Funstone, C J Archer, and J Taylor, had finished the judging.

The opening was announced by Mr Gavin George who congratulated the society upon the success of the show and specially thanked the large number of non-competitive exhibitors who had so handsomely come forward with able and generous assistances. He formally declared the show open, and three cheers followed for the president. The visitors, even at this early hour were fast arriving, and an interesting and minute inspection at once commenced."

The prize list was provided in full in the newspaper article but is not reproduced here. The paper also described the scene at the hall after tea in the evening as being particularly enlivening. The show was crowded with visitors, and a musical programme was provided. An auction sale of the flowers then took place, "nearly all the exhibitors having handed their exhibits over to be disposed of on behalf of the Society". Bidding was brisk and the sale realised about 7 pounds. The proceedings terminated with the singing of God Save the Queen, and cheers.

Several local flower shows are still held annually, but Moss Vale Show has become the main exhibition event for the district.

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 a general collection.
- MUSEUM:** Market Place, Berrima. Tel: 02 4877 1130. Email: bdmuseum@bigpond.com  
AT PRESENT, OPEN: 10.00am to 4.00pm, Fridays to Sundays.  
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  
PO Box 131  
MITTAGONG NSW 2575  
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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
<b>Hon Treasurer</b>	Patricia DORIS	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Philip MORTON
<b>Hon Secretary</b>	Peg HARVEY	<b>Conservation Team</b>	Denise MACKEY
<b>Research Team</b>	Frank MITCHELL, Carolyn DOUGHERTY and Janet BLACK		

**Management Committee:** President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and members Denyse Barker, Rhonda Brown, Kerry Bunker, Jenny Cox, Ros Dale, Carolyn Dougherty, Philip Morton

**Museum Sub-Committee:** Sylvia Carless, Ros Dale, Harlan & Lyn Hall, John Schweers, Bud Townsing, Harold Wall, Michele Woods