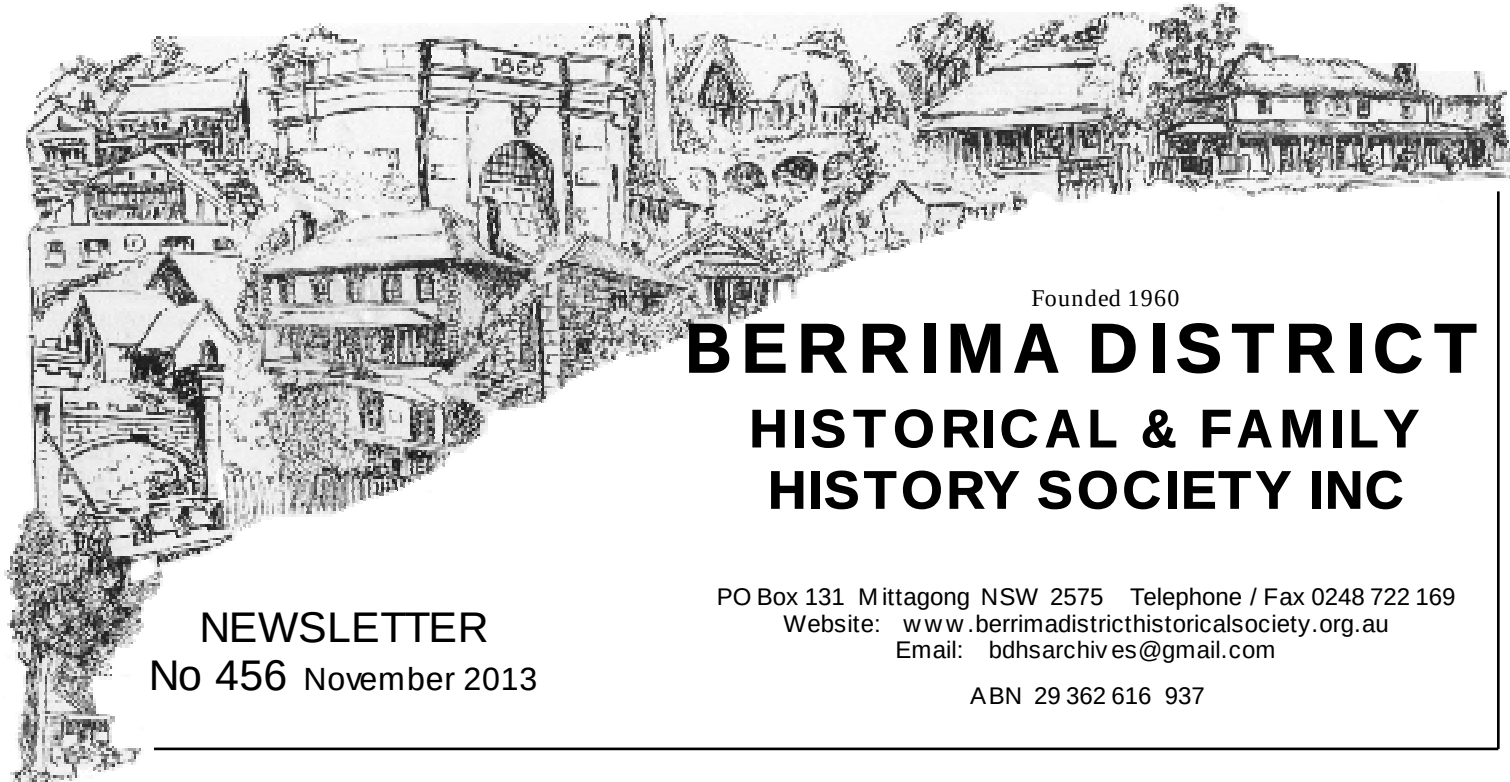




Founded 1960

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
No 456 November 2013

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ABN 29 362 616 937

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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: berrimamuseum@bigpond.com OPEN: Saturdays, Sundays, NSW Public and School Holidays (except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day) 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

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 \$20.00 - Family \$33.00.

AFFILIATIONS: Royal Australian Historical Society, NSW Association of Family History Societies, Museums Australia Inc & Regional Chapter.

ANNUAL GENERAL AND MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER MEETING: Thursday 28 November 2013 at 2pm

VENUE: Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building, Bowral Road, Mittagong

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TOPIC: **AGM and General Meeting**

Our honoured guest at the AGM will be the WSC mayor Juliet Arkwright, who will give an inaugural address as the new Patron of the Society.

AFTERNOON TEA: To be served after the meeting - Members - please bring a plate or a donation

Inside this month ...

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And more ...

DECEMBER MEETING: No Monthly Meeting





This is our last newsletter for 2013. The next newsletter will arrive in your letterbox in January 2014. There will be no January general meeting on **23 January 2014**. The Berrima District Historical and Family History Society wishes to take this opportunity to extend to all our members, a merry Christmas, and a very safe and happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back - renewed, relaxed, and ready for 2014.

AGM

WHEN: Thursday 28 November 2013
following General Meeting at 2:00pm

WHERE: Historical Society
Archives, Bowral Rd, Mittagong

Diary dates

NOVEMBER

Office Bearer Nominations due
Notices of Motion due

28 **AGM & Monthly Meeting**

DECEMBER

Christmas Dinner

10 **Archives close** at 4:00 pm for
Christmas break.

12 Management Committee Meeting

26 **NO** General Monthly Meeting

27 Society Museum Open Daily

JANUARY

6 **Archives reopen after Christmas**

9 Management Committee Meeting

23 **NO** General Monthly Meeting

Christmas Closing Dates

Historical Society Archives

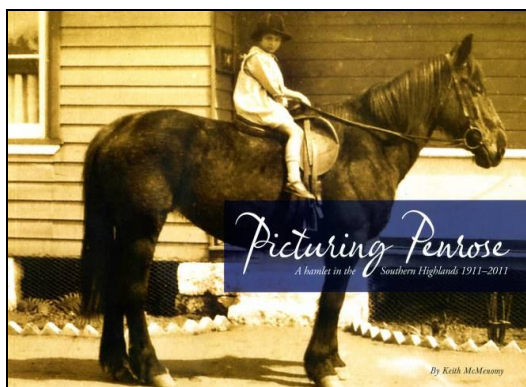
Closed Dec 10, 2013

Open Jan 6, 2013

Berrima District Museum

Open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm 7 days a
week during school holidays,
commencing on December 27,
concluding on Australia Day.

'Picturing Penrose' book for sale



Copies available for \$25 from archives and museum

Recently published, this limited-edition book provides a well-illustrated glimpse into the history of Penrose, a hamlet in the Southern Highlands.

It was researched and written by Keith McMenomy who is a member of our Society. Wingecarribee Council provided grants for production and printing and the author credits the archives of our Society and the Bundanoon History Group for providing valuable assistance.

Christmas Function

Friday 13 December 2013

Dormie House, Moss Vale

arrive 6:30pm for 7:00pm start

\$35 per person Includes Tea and Coffee

There will be two courses, Main and Dessert (alternate drops):

Main

Roast turkey with roast vegetable melange and cranberry sauce
OR

Pine nut & basil crusted Atlantic Salmon with mashed potato & lemon

Dessert

Christmas pudding with a brandy sauce
OR

Chocolate tart served with berries & cream

Bookings & Payment essential by Tuesday 3 December 2013

to the Archives 4872 2169

There will be a Raffle and lucky door prizes. Members are welcome to wear fancy dress in keeping with the spirit of the 'superstitious' date.

Professor Frank Debenham, polar explorer

by Linda Emery

A few weeks ago, we were fortunate to receive a donation of material from the grandson of an early member of the BDHS, the Reverend Stanley Howard, who was a pioneer of local history in this area. Stanley's father was the rector of St Jude's in Bowral, and was responsible for the building of the lovely rectory. The box that landed on my desk contained a number of wonderful photographs that we do not have in the collection, but one, with a slightly cryptic caption written by Stanley on the back, caught my attention.

From what I knew about the incumbents at St Jude's the caption made it clear that the photograph included Frank Debenham, the son of the Reverend John Debenham who followed Stanley's father as rector of St Jude's. But the photo also included a face well known to those of my generation – Captain Robert Falcon Scott, famed polar explorer.

A quick bit of research soon identified the photo as Scott's birthday dinner on 6th June 1911 at the Antarctic base of the ill-fated British Antarctic Expedition 1910-1913 and that Frank Debenham was a member of Scott's team. Born in Bowral on Boxing Day 1883, he was educated at a small school in Bowral run by his father and later attended The Kings School where he was Dux of his year. After graduating from Sydney University, Frank Debenham was selected to accompany Scott to Antarctica as one of the expedition geologists. During the summer of 1911-12 he was a member of the Northern Party, and the experience in mapping he gained there gave him an interest in cartography and survey.

Like his brother, Herbert Debenham, Frank served in a British regiment in the First World War. Herbert was killed at Gallipoli and his name is on the Bowral War Memorial and St Jude's Honour Roll.



*Second from right is Frank Debenham;
at head of table is Captain Scott*

After the war, Frank, known as 'Deb', became a lecturer in cartography at Cambridge University and, in 1920, established the Scott Polar Research Institute with a colleague Raymond Priestley. He was its first director, a position he held until his retirement in 1946. He was responsible for developing the Department of Geography at Cambridge and was appointed its first professor in 1931. He is commemorated in several places in Antarctica – the Debenham Glacier, the Debenham Islands between Millerand Island and the west coast of Graham Land, and Debenham Peak in the Scott Mountains.

This story highlights the importance of captioning photographs. Without Stanley Howard's notes on the back of the picture, we may never have known that Bowral was the birthplace of one of the pioneers of Antarctic exploration, who went on to have a stellar career in one of the world's most prestigious universities.

There is a Debenham exhibition at the new Polar Museum at the Scott Polar Research Institute, along with a collection of Professor Debenham's medals and surveying and drawing equipment. The website for the institute is excellent and well worth a visit: <http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/exhibitions/debenham/>

He also has an entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Frank Debenham OBE died in Cambridge in 1965.



Frank Debenham surveying on Scott's Antarctic Expedition

Mittagong Maltings history (part two)

Aesthetics and working conditions

That the Mittagong Maltings was a 'British-style' plant was directly reflected in its layout and form. The buildings attracted considerable aesthetic interest because, to quote from the Conservation Report of 1989 'their strong functionalism was softened through Federation-style detailing that imparted an almost domestic feel with gabled and decorated rooflines, polychrome brickwork and varied window forms'. Even the willows along the banks of the creek and other exotic trees in the grounds added to the look of the malthouse traditions of the 'mother country'.

Tooth & Co was well aware of these aesthetic qualities. In 1928 the company removed a number of unsightly shacks on land it acquired on the western side of the railway so as to improve 'the general appearance' of the Maltings from the highway. The overriding concern was not to detract from 'the dignity of the malthouse buildings'.

The Maltings were Tooth & Co's main malt supplier until 1980, with the early 1940s being the most active period when output was about 200,000 bushels of malt annually. Basically, the process was that trains arrived with sacks of barley at the private platform and were unloaded by men who trolleyed the sacks to elevators that weighed each bag and took it to the barley floor. When barley was required to be malted it was taken to the second floor, mechanically graded and dirt and deleterious matter taken out.



The graded barley was taken to steeps, large circular tanks equipped with four revolving sprinkler arms, where it was sprayed evenly and soaked for around 48 hours. After the water was drained off and the barley let down to the germinating floor, it remained some 7 days and was turned on the floor every morning and evening by means of a wooden shovel and a 'plough', a long wooden implement pushed through the barley to create a regular furrow and throwing the bottom layers up to the top.

The barley then went to the kiln floor where it was gradually heated to 190 degrees (F) for 3 days and regularly forked over. It then passed down by chute to the malt room where it rested for 14 days. The malted barley was then stored in silos ready for a final clean before being bagged for delivery.

Many variables, including air, water and temperature, potentially affected the quality of the malt and, devoid of modern technology and quality controls introduced at newer sites, the process relied heavily upon the highly specialised and traditional, unique skills of the head maltster. The Maltings were fortunate in that regard to have the Jones family.

New Zealand-born William Henry Jones came to Sydney with his wife Alice in 1895. He joined the Malting Company in 1901 and was appointed manager-head maltster in 1905 when Tooth & Co took over. He worked hard to improve conditions and amenities until his death in harness in 1928. He left a widow and eight children, several of whom succeeded him as head maltster. His eldest son, Arthur, had joined the company in 1913 and taken over as assistant maltster in 1916 from an older brother, Harold, who was killed in action in World War I. Arthur left ten years later to become head maltster at Kent Brewery in Sydney.



During the early 1920s the workforce numbered up to 40 men, with temporary hands taken on from time to time. The Maltings was largely an all-male domain. The work was strenuous and the environment noisy and often dusty from the handling of barley, malt and coke. There was a danger of industrial accidents, although the record was very good.

The pay was not any higher than that earned in more salubrious workplaces and turnover was high. Despite this, there were a number of long-serving employees, explained partly by loyalty to the company, its policy of not putting off old hands, and the specialised nature of the process.

The 1920s saw the beginnings of modern mechanisation with various technologies, such as overhead carrying barrows, introduced. Until then, manual labour was used to heap up the 'green malt' as described: 'The grain is carried to the heap on light wooden barrows with four handles. There is one man at each end of the barrow and a third man filling a second barrow while the other barrow is being carried up. Each barrow holds a little over a hundred weight of grain and the average distance the barrow would have to be carried is about 45 feet'.

Compiled by Philip Morton

Part three in next issue

President's Report

Bruce Moore

Greetings! With only a few weeks left before Christmas, I think it's a good time to take stock of the year and what's been achieved.

I'm so grateful for all the help I've received this year, my first in the Presidential chair of the BDHS. The committee has been a great support team and with the tireless work of dedicated volunteers (let's face it...we all are) my job as a rookie was, dare I say, satisfying.

I'm told it has been a 'first' for a few things the Society has undertaken. The main one was the bold decision to build a new exhibition extension building to our Museum at Berrima and to mount an Anzac Centenary exhibition, *Southern Highlands 1200*. The new building and exhibition is budgeted over \$500,000. The fundraising campaign was launched on the 4th of April and received overwhelming support, raising over \$20,000 in just four months from Members and the community. Our project manager has stoically got on with the challenging task of fundraising, applying for grants and seeking professional help to complete the work. To-date \$400,000 has been raised in cash, in-kind and in grants. Congratulations Harlan Hall! Work begins early next year in readiness for the WW1 centenary exhibition of the *Southern Highlands 1200* by Anzac Day 2015. We still require \$150,000 to mount the exhibition and fundraising will continue throughout next year to meet our target.

The theme in the Southern Highlands this year was the 150 year celebration of gazetted settlement of the towns of Bowral and Moss Vale. Although settlers had arrived earlier from the Illawarra, clawing their way up the steep incline from Jamberoo to stake their land claim in the Highlands, substantial residences like Throsby Park and Oldbury were already established. Berrima itself was already a designated government military town when in 1848 the Fitzroy Ironworks in Mittagong (then New Sheffield) was operating full steam ahead, or hammer and tongs, as the old idiom goes.

Our June luncheon was held in the Exeter Hall deftly organized by Linda Emery who arranged for Canberra 'flapper' Elizabeth Burness to give her presentation called *Knickers to Knickerbockers*, a touch and feel look at garments of the '20s. 'A pleasant *unfashionable* show' as someone has noted. The lunch was delicious.

At each general monthly meeting we enjoyed being entertained with interesting speakers. The subjects varied from local historical content, travels through Russia to Aussie war brides living in the US. Meeting times were deliberately held at 2pm on the 4th

Thursday of each month which seemed to be more suitable for members than the after-dinner evening meetings (yawn).

Books have been produced by our various members as mentioned in previous reports. The more celebrated were the re-issue of Ron Mumford's *Echoes Through the Mist* followed by Philip Morton's edited *Early Industries in the Berrima District*. Ros Dale will at the end of October be launching her two new books about Berrima.

On a more sombre note, this year we lost a couple of our members including, sadly, a favourite ex-president, a true character, devoted Society and committee member Ron Mumford, who as his family and friends attest, was able to talk underwater with a mouthful of marbles. We all miss you, Ron!

We'll be winding up the year with a Christmas Dinner at Dormie House (book now) which is on Friday 13th Dec. at 6.30 for 7pm. All members are welcome and the theme of the night is a mad hat and/or fancy dress, to overcome any old superstitions about Friday 13th. See you there!

Please accept our warm wishes for a happy Christmas holiday and may you look forward to an exciting New Year.

Archivist Report

Linda Emery

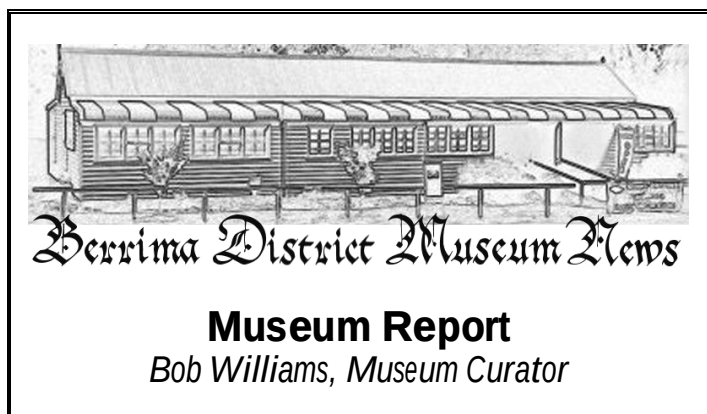
First and foremost, I would like to thank all the volunteers who staff our archives on the three days a week that we open to the public, as well as other days during the week when the 'behind the scenes' work is done. We have a brilliant group of 30 people who come into the archives each week, including several new recruits during 2013. As well as keeping the voluminous administration of the archives on track, they assist the ever-increasing number of visitors to our archives, undertake research, digitising and cataloguing, indexing and publications to name but a little of the work they do. They are the backbone of the archives and happily help our members and the general public to access our collection. Members who feel they would like to join us in the work we do, even if it is only for a few hours, would be very welcome. Please give me a ring or come in and see me.

In October, we were fortunate to be awarded a grant of \$8,900 from the National Library of Australia through their Community Heritage Grants. This funding follows from the grant we previously received through this scheme in 2009 to undertake a Significance Assessment and Preservations Needs Assessment for our collection. Our collection of photographs of the Berrima Internment Camp was assessed as nationally significant, and so we were well placed to receive funding to preserve and make this collection available more widely. The grant will

not only fund preservation materials and storage, but importantly will enable us to add a module to our photo cataloguing program that will connect it to Trove, the National Library's powerful search engine. This will mean that the collection will be infinitely more 'discoverable' worldwide.

We have received several interesting collections of material into the archives this year, along with photographs and other archival material. We are always delighted to receive donations that add to our outstanding collections and thank all those people who have been generous enough to bring them to us.

Storage is an ever present challenge as the archives grow, and a recently installed compactus upstairs will assist us with appropriately storing the collection. In the coming year, we will review and tighten the current Collections Policy to enable us to accept only what is appropriate to our collection and perhaps as importantly, de-accession material that is not. In the past, historical societies were inclined to accept any material offered, the philosophy being that if it was old, we would take it. With the finite space we have, we need to be selective, focussing on material that will add to the significance of our collections.



I thought I might begin at the beginning and reflect on the small band of local people who had the vision to establish an historical society in 1960 with the express purpose of creating a museum for the Southern Highlands. I feel they, and those who have followed, would be pleased with what exists today, some fifty three years on.

Last November I reported on the decision to designate the proposed new building as an exhibition space and, subject to funding and lead time, an exhibition to commemorate the local men and women who enlisted in World War 1. What a difference a year makes! The fundraising campaign was launched in April with a target of \$500,000. I am pleased to report that the project has received overwhelming community and government support. \$250,000 has been raised in just six months to construct the new extension building, which is due to commence in February 2014.

The 'Southern Highlands 1200' Anzac Centenary Exhibition, planned to open in April 2015, will cost \$150,000. Fundraising for this project will continue over the next year. If you would like to support this exciting project, please go to www.sh1200.org where you can contribute by card or cheque. Alternatively, pick up a donation form at the museum or Mittagong archives. Every dollar of your donation will add weight to further grant applications. The legacy of this exhibition will provide Berrima District Museum with facilities to develop new exhibitions well into the future. Harlan Hall has been the driving force behind this project and I congratulate him on the results he is achieving.

Australia Day 2013 was the first time that our society had members who dressed up and joined in the parade at Berrima. The museum once again hosted the Anzac Day breakfast following the Dawn Service. I felt honoured to lay a wreath once again at that service.

Delegates attended all three Chapter meetings, held on the third Sunday in February, June and October.

We received a grant of \$915 from Museums & Galleries NSW to assist with the purchase of LED lights for some of the exhibition areas. These provide a cool light and better protection for the exhibits.

In July we were shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Ron Mumford, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the museum. He was given a fitting farewell at Avoca Hall, where there was barely any standing room as the service began.

In September the museum hosted the launch of the book 'Early Industries in the Berrima District', compiled by Philip Morton and launched by Professor Ian Jack.

Volunteer meetings were held during the year. The annual Volunteers Thank You Morning Tea was well attended in October and new volunteers Anne Gibson, Michele Woods and Denise MacKenzie were welcomed. We were sorry that octogenarian Jim Galloway retired after a decade of doing school holiday duty. He has a wealth of local knowledge.

We continued to receive fascinating objects for the collection. These include a bridle, halter and reins, of the type used by the Australian Light Horse Brigade and bought by the donor at the Throsby Park auction sale in 2006.

In October a display was mounted at Moss Vale showground for a one day event '150 years of Transport through the Ages'. This was part of the Bowral and Moss Vale sesquicentenary celebrations. Our museum's subject was Bowral saddler William (Bill) Oldridge and featured some of the tools he used, together with large photos of his workshop. The display has now been installed in the museum.

In late October we lent some objects to the Bundanoon History Group. These were the music graduation cap and gown belonging to Bundanoon identity Lillian Calverley, together with her framed music diploma and framed exam results. This was for a display held during the Bundanoon Garden Ramble, at the Uniting Church, which local residents fear may be sold. Lillian was the church organist.

Our thanks go Wingecarribee Shire Council for its ongoing support. Thank you to the local media, both radio and print, for its support during the year.

Finally, thank you to my fellow volunteers for devoting your time, enthusiasm and expertise to the museum. I appreciate your support in all the varied aspects of the museum's operation. This includes a big 'thank you' to the members of the Museum Committee for a job well done. They are Lyn Hall, Sylvia Carless, Judith Green, Ian Alexander, Gil Wheaton, John Schweers and Harlan Hall.



Museum volunteers at the recent annual thank-you morning tea

Treasurer's Report *Patricia Doris*

For this first period as the Society's Treasurer, I am pleased to present the Annual Financial Statements covering the year 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013.

A copy of the Annual Statements is enclosed with the printed newsletter and attached with the email version.

Our thanks go to Ross Cowley & Co who once again agreed to audit our accounts and meet our very tight time frame. Their co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Also a thank you to all our members who continue to donate so much time to the Society - their continuing support in the Archives and Museum is greatly appreciated.

Library Report *Caroline Dougherty*

As of this month the collection now numbers 2480 items, the majority of which are held in the reference section. Lack of space remains a problem and limits our ability to expand the collection. Once again the annual shelf check is under way to identify any missing books. Thanks to members for following library protocol and registering their loans in the loan book on the desk in the library.

It is great to see a number of local histories being produced by our members and to include copies in our local area collection in the reference section. Borrowing numbers remain small with 60 loans registered over the last 12 months, though many more books are used by those who carry out their research within the Archives. We are grateful to all those who donated books throughout the year.

Wishing all members a happy and safe festive season.

Newsletter Report *Lavinia Ford*

This is the last newsletter for this year. The next edition will be delivered in January. I would like to wish every member a safe and wonderful festive season and a new year.

Compiling the newsletter has come along fairly smoothly with a new baby tucked under my wing. Thank you to all the volunteers for your assistance with the newsletter.

The 2013 newsletter distribution has remained the same. We distribute 264 newsletters to our 314 members, and a further 21 to other societies and legal deposits, giving a total of 285 newsletters. 153 newsletters were posted to members and 11 legal deposits, and 111 newsletters were emailed to members and 10 to legal deposits.

	Members	Newsletters
Honorary Life Members	5	4
Single Members	210	210
Family Members	97	48
Organisations	2	2
	314	*264
Wingecarribee	189	
NSW Country	32	
NSW Metro	33	
ACT	3	
VIC	1	
QLD	6	
	*264	

As a matter of interest, the majority of members reside in the Wingecarribee (189) and is divided as follows: Bowral (56), Mittagong (54), Moss Vale (28), Bundanoon (17), Burradoo (6), Berrima (5), Colo Vale (3), Exeter (3), Willow Vale (3), Avoca (1), Aylmerton (1), Canyonleigh (1), Hill Top (1), High Range (1), Kangaloon (1), Kangaroo Valley (1), Mt Murray (1), Penrose (1), Robertson (1), Sutton Forest (1), Tallong (1), Wingello (1).

DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	14 NOV	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	28 NOV	Monthly General Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting	2:00 pm at the Historical Society
FRIDAY	13 DEC	Christmas Dinner	6:30 pm at Dornie House Moss Vale
TUESDAY	10 DEC	Archives close for Christmas Break	4:00 pm
THURSDAY	12 DEC	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	26 DEC	NO Monthly General Meeting	
MONDAY	6 JAN	Archives reopen following Christmas Break	10:00 am
THURSDAY	9 JAN	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	23 JAN	NO Monthly General Meeting	

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THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

is proudly supported by the following organizations that encourage the work of our Society in collecting, preserving and maintaining the history of the Southern Highlands.

*Boral
Hypercet Printing
Retravision/Home Hardware, Mittagong
Springetts Arcade*