

CHRONOGRAPH



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE. BERRY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC & THE BERRY MUSEUM

Notes from our President Margaret Cullity

Welcome again to our Chronograph.

I recently had the pleasure of welcoming members and friends for Christmas/end-of-year drinks, held in the West Garden of the Museum.

I felt great pride, and thankfulness, as I surveyed the scene. Our refurbished gardens on both sides of our historic building looked so impressive, and fitting to our ideals; our dedicated members were gathered to happily socialise for the Season; and we all could reflect in the healthy achievements for the year past.

We are not just... maintaining, but improving. Our work and achievements carry the Society forward. We are leaving a legacy well nurtured.

I am so thankful for the support and commitment of the team in every capacity. Well done to all.

Best wishes for a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Margaret



On Wednesday, 11 December, Members gathered in good numbers to enjoy Christmas drinks.

We were fortunate to have excellent conditions for our end-of-year function. - the rain (and insects) kept away, the dusk wasn't too humid. The refurbished gardens looked lush and very cared for. They were the perfect setting for the event and coped with the number of guests well. Tables were groaning with plates of home-made goodies prepared by members and orchestrated by Annette, Karen and Robin. Gail and Lyn welcomed our visitors. Owen manned the bar and kept the soft drinks and bubbles flowing. President Margaret spoke with passion about the progress made in many areas of operation and advocacy, and of the fabric of the collection and the building over the year. She thanked all concerned for their contributions and dedication. In all, a fitting and happy occasion.



Know Your 2024/2025 Committee

PRESIDENT <i>Margaret Cullity</i>	VICE PRESIDENT <i>Janet Hanson</i>	SECRETARY <i>Gail Paton</i>	TREASURER <i>Karen Stieper</i>
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	<i>Sue Davidson</i> <i>Frank Howarth</i>	<i>John Jeston</i> <i>Sandra Berner</i>	<i>Hilary Brickhill</i>

BERRY ROTARY NOT ONLY INITIATED THE IDEA OF NEW SIGNAGE TO IMPROVE OUR STREET IMAGE, BUT THEN SUPERVISED THE SIGN WRITING - AND PAID FOR THEM ALL !!

We are so appreciative of the Rotary Club of Berry. Some Rotarians noticed the dilapidated state of our Heritage Walk sign and offered to replace it. The original sign writer is no longer with us so the Club approached Nowra Signs. A budget was allocated and as the original quote came in well under, Rotary suggested that we might want an additional sign or two replaced.



Did we ever! In all we now have FOUR new signs: our Name Plate, Opening Hours, the illustrated Heritage Walk masterpiece, and a new sign fronting the East Garden entry, yet to be erected..

Each sign is beautifully framed or mounted on long-weathering polished boards.

How smart we look now. Our thanks to President Bill Seelis and his generous members; to Nowra Signs; and to the coordinators of the project.

The cost ran over \$4k. How could we ever have afforded that? 'Tis brilliant cooperation between local organisations displayed in practice.



We now have our own set of National Parks and Wildlife banners on Cullungutti, which will dress the Exhibition Room when a signature display is not scheduled. We received a welcome donation for the purchase from the Gibbon Foundation. Many thanks, Claire.

They look wonderful.

Random Notes from recent Committee meetings for your interest

Negotiations are scheduled ref our building lease with the Shoalhaven City Council. We are confident our new local representatives will be supportive of our needs, wants and druthers.

The November Berry Town Crier features the story of our front desk. It has had a very interesting past as initially integral to the Berry Court House in 1890, then forgotten and neglected, and restoration by the Mens' Shed, with specialised help from Tom Darby and Fred Niesche in 2002/4. Check it out on P17. www.berryalliance.org.au.

Suggestions for articles and editorial contributions are always welcomed.

Museums and galleries around the Shoalhaven meet regularly to compare notes and ideas. The Kangaroo Valley Pioneer Museum hosted us for a working breakfast on 14 November. Margaret, Keith and Sandra attended. One useful presentation was on tips for submitting and securing grants. The next breakfast will be at Meroogal, 20 February 2025.

The Linen Room is to be revamped in February. The Bridal Gowns were a big visitor drawcard, so Sandra and her team are assessing blockbusting items to feature in this new display.

We will be mounting a stand at the Berry Show, 31 January / 1 February 2025. We are promoting our Family History Research Service and Membership . Our focus for the donation box will be for the Flood Boat refurbishment.

The December issue of Shoalhaven Family History *Time Traveller* journal #136 can be accessed at www.shoalhavenfamilyhistory.org.au.

The Pyree research rooms will close Sunday, 15 Dec and reopen Thursday 9 Jan 2025.

The TT includes an account of the annual conference of the NSW & ACT Assn of Family History Societies.

We are expecting more group tours of the Museum during 2025.

Sandra Berner confirmed recent visitors from the Oaks Probus Club enjoyed their day.



**Work continues on the
Noah Flood Boat restoration**

Saturday, 26 October saw the gathering of 21 local volunteers who arrived at the Museum to carry the NOAH out of the shed, onto the grass, roll over and return to the shed.



Peter Whitton leads the team refurbishing our only-one-of-two flood boat. Below: Jim Christadoulou

Due to the experience and background of shipwright and boat crew member, Jim Christadoulou, the rollover went safely and without incident.

Our thanks go to the seven Museum boat crew volunteers and the 14 local volunteers who happily gave their efforts on the day.

The oar maker, Nick Lawther, has collected the cedar timber and is preparing to make the four oars and the rudder in his workshop in Dee Why.



A replica oar and the rudder off the SHOALHAVEN boat were loaned to Berry Museum by Shoalhaven City Council and have gone with Nick to allow faithful reproduction. The boat will now be prepared for painting, utilising the same colour scheme as SCC's sister boat, Shoalhaven.

Workdays on the boat are on the first and third Tuesday of the month and crew members have already made good progress preparing the overturned hull for repainting.

Our Christmas get together was held in the West Garden. It was a luxuriant setting. Have you seen the East Garden now that the driveway tracks are in; the new hedge planted; and the grass lush and green?

A donation from the Garden Club's 2023 Gardens Festival, plus \$5000 from the Club's Beatification of Berry Fund, provided the extra we needed to proceed.

Ever-helpful Turfco donated Sir Walter Buffalo turf. A Camellia hedge has been planted along the fence line.

The planted garden will now be renovated to ensure it is in keeping with the heritage of the building.



In early 2025 Karen Stieper will form a gardening group to work (gently) in our new garden areas.

Enjoy gardening? Like to help on the fourth Thursday of every month for two hours?

Please let her know.

berrymuseum@bigpond.com - attention Karen.



Cheryl and Jude at our Christmas do.

Our GRANTS Team is always active.

It is often a challenge to meet the conditions set by organisations offering grants to groups such as ours. Timing, wording, objectives all have to abide by the specified style.

Thankfully we have people experienced and tenacious who do win us money for specific purposes. Their involvement is crucial and appreciated.

- The Copeland Foundation grant for the restoration mod the John Hay portrait has now been fully paid.
- We are continuing to seek donors to assist with the restoration of our NOAH Flood Boat.
- The RAHS Cultural grant application for a book on the Berry Cemetery has been successful.
- The application for a grant from MGNSW Small Grants for Mrs. Lumsden's dress was successful.

HERE'S ANOTHER NEWS SHEET FOR YOUR INTEREST

Issue 56 of the Federation of Australian Historical Society's eNewsletter emphasises the importance of digitisation in these days of climate uncertainty and looks at the recovery of some societies which have experienced flood damage.

See the latest issue at <https://www.history.org.au/newsletter/>

Don't miss this exhibition on show until 27th January 2025

Since the earliest days of film, the moving image has taken viewers behind the scenes of events from our military history. Discover the experiences of Australians armed with cameras who have witnessed conflict and recorded history.

This is an important touring exhibition from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. **ACTION! Film & War**

Jervis Bay Maritime Museum & Gallery
WOOLLAMIA Road HUSKISSON

enquiries@jbmm.asn.au

The Chronograph is published four times each year.

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Deadline for 1st 2025 issue.
 - 20 February 2025.

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B&DHS is a not-for-profit organisation depending on membership and donations.

Throughout the year we host numerous exhibitions and events. Details can be found on our website.

The Chronograph appreciates the contributors for this issue:

Margaret Cullity

John Edmonds

Gail Paton

Peter Whitton

Articles and ideas are always welcomed.



Web Master & Socials Editor

Do you post to the socials? We could use your help to keep our profiles active and interesting. A back-up web role is also envisaged. Can you help?

Please let Margaret know by emailing berrymuseum@bigpond.com

