

The Shoalhaven Chronograph with Berry Newsletter

May - June 2018

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Dates for your Diary

19 th June	2.00pm	Member Talk :Berry's cottage Hospital" by June Robson
19 th June	3.00pm	AGM

AGM

A reminder to members that our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th June at 3.00pm, immediately after our Member Talk at 2.00pm.

The Constitution of The Berry & District Historical Society Inc. has been updated in accordance with the new legislative requirements for associations, and approval of this revised Constitution is required at the Annual General Meeting.

A copy of the revised Constitution can be found on the Museum Website www.berryhistory.org.au/sub/constitution.pdf and will also be tabled at the AGM.

We will also be holding elections for office bearers for the coming year.

Member Talks

In March our guest speaker was Lyn Clark, who is the Coordinator of the Berry Public School Native Plant Propagation Nursery.

Lyn's Talk on 'Plants Communities, Connections' described the Berry Public School Propagation Nursery's involvement with RMS for the Berry Bypass Project.

The RMS had approached Lyn to provide seeds for planting along the new Berry Bypass.



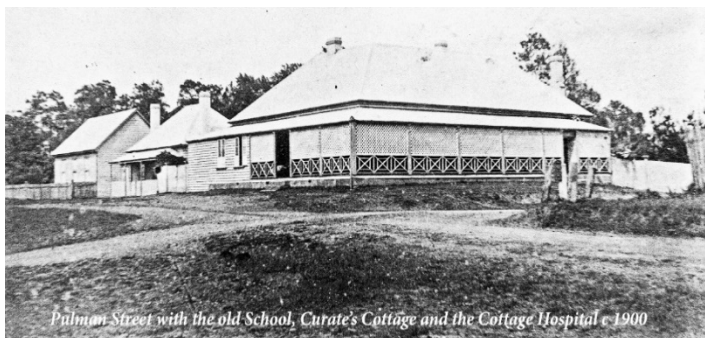
Lyn Clark (left) and Chris Currey

It was interesting to note the care that was taken with this project, and the challenges associated with it. The plants that were chosen were not just native plants, but were plants native to the local area. The collection and storage of the large quantities of seeds was interesting, too, as the plants only produce seeds at certain times of the year. The children at Berry Public School also played an important role in sourcing trees that had produced seeds.

Our next Member Talk will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 19th June immediately prior to our AGM. June Robson will talk about the Berry Cottage Hospital.

In 1895 a cottage hospital known as the Berry Hospital was built on the corner of Pulman Street and the old Princes Highway. The building was originally an old store, post office and telegraph station and was leased from the Berry Estate by James Wilson.

The cottage hospital was used from 1895 to 1907 for private and nonpaying patients. It had 6 beds for men and 3 for women, plus a cot; an outpatients section and a dispensary. Those suffering from an infectious disease were treated in a cottage next door to the main building. This latter cottage in Pulman Street, burnt down completely in 1896. The rather grim addition of a morgue, was built by the local undertaker in 1898.



The Cottage Hospital on the corner of Pulman St c.1900

The main building was provided with all the most update facilities including a well-equipped kitchen and hot and cold running water in the bathrooms.

The hospital closed in 1907 just before the David Berry Hospital opened in 1908.

Frankenstein and the Shoalhaven



Dr Deirdre Coleman

In a unique event, Berry Conversations and The Berry & District Historical Society hosted a public lecture on the 20th May, entitled "Frankenstein and the Shoalhaven – the Berry-Wollstonecraft Connection". The lecture was delivered by one of Australia's prominent literary scholars, Dr Deirdre Coleman, Robert Wallace Chair of English at the University of Melbourne. The talk was well-attended, with all 120 tickets sold out before the event.

Mary Godwin Shelley (1797-1851) was the daughter of Mary Wollstonecraft, author of *The Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, published in 1792 at the height of the French Revolution. She was also the cousin of Elizabeth Wollstonecraft, Alexander Berry's wife. Mary Shelley was only 19 years old when her Gothic novel *Frankenstein* was first published in 1818. Although Mary Shelley never visited the Shoalhaven, the two cousins kept up a regular correspondence. After Elizabeth's death in 1845, Mary Shelley continued to correspond with Alexander Berry.



Mary Shelley

How Can You Help?

Visitors to our Museum often leave comments telling us how much they have enjoyed the experience. Behind the scenes, there is a team of volunteers making that experience the best we can.

We are currently working to update the running of the Museum to reflect the technological age that we live in. We have many projects, including cataloguing, and digitising many of our records and artefacts.

We are also looking at ways of preserving some of our more fragile objects. But we need your help. There are many tasks that need to be done, and even a small amount of your time will help.

If you can help, please let us know. You can even learn new skills, if you'd like. All you need is a willingness to participate.

There are so many areas where your help would be valued. Here are just a few:

- Research
- Computer skills
- Planning displays and exhibitions
- Catering events
- Museum tours
- Curating
- Gardening
- Maintenance
- Conservation
- Collections
- Cataloging
- Publicity and marketing

125th Anniversary of the Bombo-Bomaderry Rail Line

On Saturday 2nd June, celebrations were held at Berry Station to commemorate the extension of the South Coast rail line from Bombo to Bomaderry.

As part of the celebrations, The Berry & District Historical Society mounted a display in the waiting room showing photos from earlier times.

At 12.11pm, they greeted the train carrying members from the Gerringong Historical Society and a talk was given by Janet Fingleton on the history of the rail line.



The display in the waiting room at Berry Station

Transcript of Janet Fingleton's talk

The NSW Government Railways opened its South Coast Line extension from Bombo to Bomaderry on 2 June 1893. A 15-mile section of the line through the Berry Estate, between Gerringong and Bomaderry was donated by John Hay. Berry Station was built to serve at the time the largest town on the alignment and opened as part of this extension. The station was constructed by the firm of G. J. Featherstone & T. J. Barbel, including a passing loop, stationmaster's cottage, platform, waiting shed and goods shed. The main platform building contained a ticket office, general waiting room, 'ladies room' and toilet. The buildings were constructed from weatherboard with corrugated steel roofs. Though the original plans of 1894 made allowance for a second platform and waiting shed, these did not eventuate. The platform was lengthened in 1915 to accommodate the especially long trains that ran for the Berry Races and a horse dock was added. The racecourse lay between the railway station and Broughton Creek. No races seem to have been held there after WWI.

As was common practice in rural locations, accommodation for rail workers attached to the station was provided. At Berry, four cottages, including a Station Master's residence, were built. One, identified as a fettler's cottage and a ganger's cottage were built diagonally opposite each other at the level crossing. In 1920, a gatekeeper's cottage was built on the other side of Prince Alfred Street. A hierarchy for the design of these structures reflected the seniority of the position of the occupant (CMP 2013:16). The Station Master's residence was extended with the addition of an extra room in 1903 and a fernery added some time later.

The station precinct grew to include the Berry Central Butter Factory, 1895, and cattle yards. It was the largest creamery in the colony with its own engine house, and with deliveries of cream and transport of butter between Nowra and Sydney. A signal box was installed in 1912 to house the signal lever frame for the upgraded signal and interlocking arrangements. That same year, a shelter shed was added to the station to house an ambulance litter for the David Berry Hospital which had been established in 1906. A brick toilet was added later in 1979. Of the former goods yard, today only a small up siding opposite the station and a small down siding to the west remain.

In the 1970s the Berry Station Master's Residence was being used by the Boy Scouts Association. About this time, works to it included removal of a number of internal walls and erection of a free standing toilet block adjacent to the building.

With most of its 1893 buildings intact as of 2009, Berry Station was considered of state-significance and listed on the State Heritage Register. As the buildings pre-date the standardisation of railway buildings, they are relatively rare examples of their type. The signal box is one of many moveable heritage items of significance.

The Dapto to Kiama line was electrified in 2001, but the line from Kiama to Bomaderry has never been electrified.

Stop and check: Is this for real?

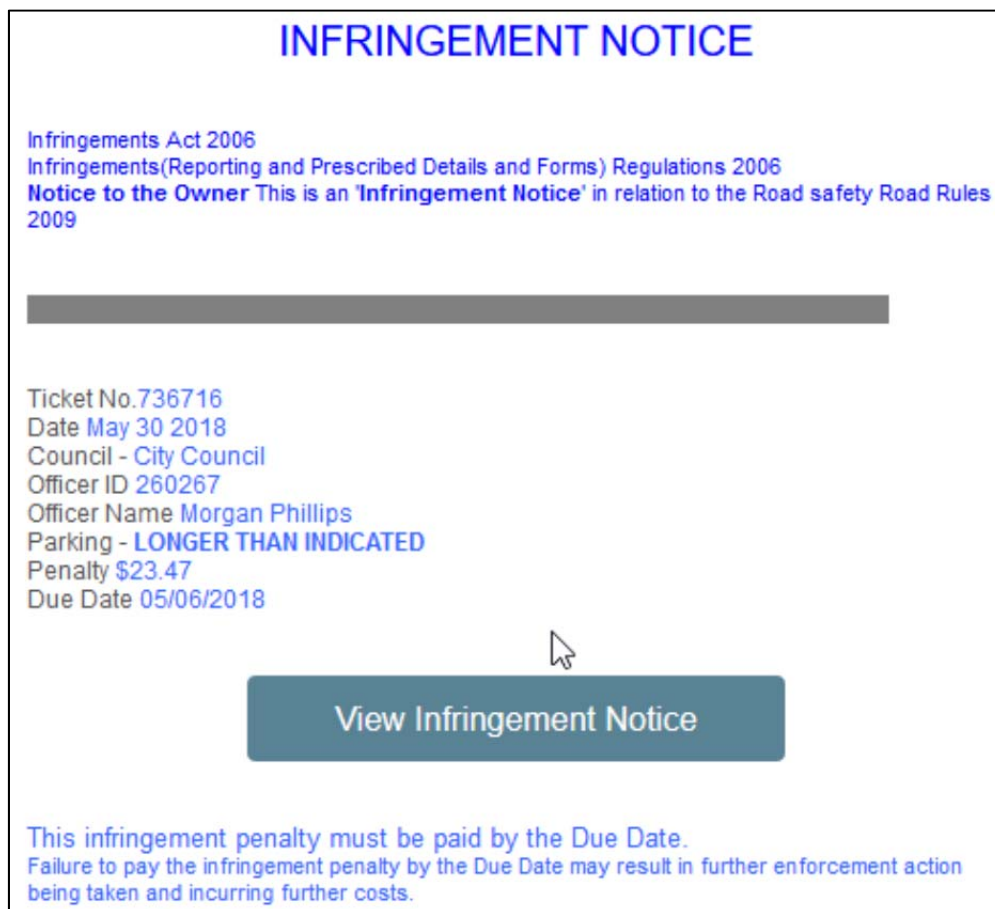
With more and more members going online and using email and the internet, I thought it might be a good idea to alert you to some of the ways that scammers try to steal your money.

When dealing with uninvited contacts from government agencies or trusted businesses – whether over the phone, by email, mail, in person or through social media – always consider the possibility that it may be a scam.

Scammers are always thinking up new ways of making easy money, and over the next couple of issues, I will spend a little time showing you some of these scams.

Part 1 - False Billing

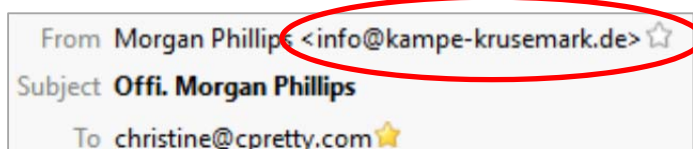
I recently received this email:



This kind of scam is designed to shock you into responding quickly. But after the initial surprise, I looked more closely at this message.

It does not specify which council has imposed this fine, and it does not specify who the "owner" is.

If you receive emails for suspicious invoices, or bills or infringement notices, stop and ask yourself: "Is this for real?". Check the email address it came from. The email address on the above notice came from Germany (.de)!



Scammers may pretend to be from trusted businesses and organisations, including energy or telecommunications providers, postal agencies, banks and government agencies such as the police or the ATO.

Their aim is to scare you into parting with your money or personal information and if you don't, they threaten you with fines, disconnecting your internet, taking you to court, arrest or even deportation. But these are empty threats.

Don't open suspicious texts, pop-up windows or click on links or attachments in emails – these could infect your computer with malware which can collect your personal information or damage your computer software.




In the example above, there is a button they want you to click to "View Infringement Notice". Do NOT click on this or any other links in the email. Just delete the entire email.

If you have received a suspicious phone call, then tell the caller you will call them back. Do NOT use any phone number they give you. Use the genuine phone number in the phone directory or on one of your genuine bills, and ring that number to check. Nowadays, most genuine organisations will not ring you to elicit personal information from you, so treat uninvited phone calls with caution.

Articles for the Next Issue

If you have any interesting stories about the Berry region or its history that you would like to share, please forward them to the editor for inclusion in our next issue.

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Berry and District Historical Society Office Holders 2017-2018				
President	Christine Currey	Committee	Ros Pollard	Peter Knevitt
Vice President	Nancy Bevan		Gail Paton	Christine Yeo
Secretary	Annette Frohling		Christine Pretty	
Treasurer	Hilary Brickhill			