

The Shoalhaven Chronograph with Berry Newsletter

February - March 2017

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Dates for your Diary

7th March 5.15pm - Meeting of the National Trust at the Berry Museum.
Members of the B&DHS are invited to attend.

6th May 1 pm - Berry Silver Band will perform at the Museum. Please RSVP.

Berry Silver Band

This year marks 120 years that the Berry Silver Band has been playing for the Berry community. A display of instruments and Band memorabilia has been set up in the special display room in the Museum. It is well worth a visit, and includes some of the original brass instruments, which were donated to Berry when the Coolangatta band folded. Many items on display were collected and cared for by Mr Leslie Crawford, who was Bandmaster from 1948-88.

On Saturday May 6th the Band will play at the Museum, starting at 1pm.

Several Band members will receive long service awards, there will be some short speeches, and afternoon tea. If you are able to attend, please arrive before 1pm, and register your attendance with Kaye, ☎4465 1240.



Berry Silver Band Exhibition at the Museum

Congratulations to Robyn Florance

We would like to extend our congratulations to B&DHS member Robyn Florance. Robyn was awarded the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division in the Australia Day 2017 Honours List for service to community history and heritage preservation.

Robyn's service also includes:

- Shoalhaven Historical Society and Nowra Museum:
 - President, 1996-2005.
 - Life Member, since 2005.
 - Committee Member, 1987-2015.
- Foundation and Committee Member, Shoalhaven Family History Society, 'for many years', and Journal Editor, 1994-1997.
- Coordinator, Centenary Commemoration of Gallipoli, and the Waratah March, 2015-2016.
- Past member/historian, Kiama Heritage Study Review, Kiama Municipal Council, 2000.
- Past member/historian, Heritage Study, City of Shoalhaven, circa 1995-1998.



Robyn Florance at the Not Forgotten Exhibition at Nowra Museum October 2015

Photo courtesy of the South Coast Register
<http://www.southcoastregister.com.au>

Robyn was born in Berry, and her passion for the region is borne out in her extensive body of work. Robyn is author of a range of publications, including, among others:

'Heroes Of The Dardanelles', 2015

'Nowra Red Cross - Celebrating 100 Years, 1914-2014', 2014.

'The Soldiers Memorial Gates, Nowra', 2011.

'Broughton Village in Past Times', 2011.

'The Old Catholic Cemetery, North Street, Nowra', 1990.

'German Immigrants in Shoalhaven, 1850-1900', 2013.

'A Touch of Greece in Junction Street', 2006.

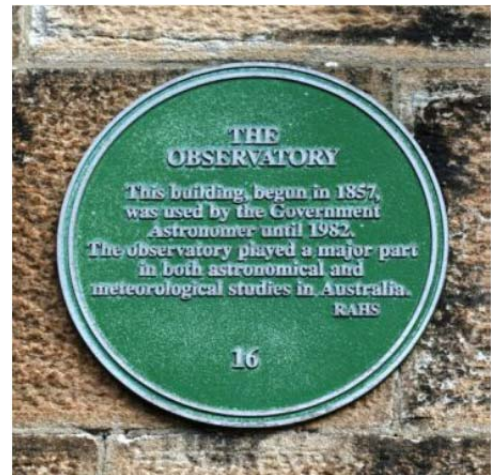
'The Chinese in Shoalhaven', 2004.

We are very appreciative of Robyn's contributions to our community history and we offer her our congratulations for a well-deserved award.

Plaques Project

The Berry & District Historical Society's plan to put circular bronze green plaques on specific historical buildings in Berry is progressing well.

After successful negotiations with Shoalhaven Council, the Society has now received a formal and favourable response from Council's Heritage Advisor, Ms Louise Thom and Council's Planning and Development Group, so we are ready to move forward with the project. We have also received very positive support from all of the buildings' owners.



An example of the style of plaque

The Berry buildings to be included are:

- In Queen Street:
 - The E. S. & A. Bank (The Berry Museum)
 - Wilson's Stores
 - Post & Telegraph Office
 - Berry Hotel
- In Albert Street:
 - The Uniting Church (formerly the Wesleyan Chapel)
- In Princess Street:
 - The Anglican Church
- In Victoria Street:
 - The Agricultural Pavilion
 - Presbyterian Manse
 - CWA Building
- In Station Street:
 - The Railway Station
- In Alexandra Street:
 - The Old Council Chambers
 - School of Arts

The Historical Society has been successful in obtaining a development grant of \$5,000 from Shoalhaven Tourism towards the project.

The Society has also received a generous offer of sponsorship from the Berry Community Activities Centre.

Proudly supported by

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The plaques are being made by Phoenix Foundry in Euralla, a firm recommended by the Royal Australian Historical Society. They will be fitted by a South Coast stone mason experienced in heritage work.



Post and Telegraph Office



Agricultural Pavilion



Presbyterian Manse

The Society hopes that this plaque project will be very worthwhile for Berry, historically and culturally. It will enhance recognition of Berry's rich and unique history, and improve the tourism amenity of the town as a heritage destination.

Get Involved

The Museum needs you!

We need volunteers to help run the Museum, in a variety of different roles; greeting visitors to the Museum or working behind the scenes.

Do you have librarian skills? We need you.

We also need researchers to help meet the number of requests from visitors to the Museum.

Don't have any experience? That's not a problem. Our dedicated team will give you all the help you need to develop your new skills.

Most of the research requests we receive are from people wishing to trace their ancestors, or from people wanting to know the history of their new home in Berry.

It is interesting and rewarding work. And you will learn more about the history of the area, as well.

Let us know if you would like to help. And if you're not sure, contact us and have a chat. Contact the Museum by phone (☎4464 3097) or email: berrymuseum@bigpond.com



The 4-shaft Counterbalance Floor Loom

In the Military Room at the Museum, you will find a 4-shaft timber floor loom, recently donated by the Berry Spinners and Weavers.

Former Woodhill Mountain resident Betty Burke had inherited the loom from her mother.

The loom is typical of the type of loom that was given to returned WWII servicemen to operate as part of 'craft therapy'. The returned servicemen had been traumatised by what they had seen and done during the terrible and shocking time they had spent on the front line and in support services.



The loom in the Military Room

Many were suffering what was described at the time as 'shell shock', and which we now know as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The purpose of the weaving and other hand crafts was to help them to slow down and concentrate on the task at hand. The repetitive nature of the tasks had a meditative effect on them and assisted them to take their minds off the horrors that they had experienced. It also enabled them to share the camaraderie of the craft meetings.



CLUB ATMOSPHERE is noticeable in Discharged Servicemen's Handcraft Centre when morning tea is handed round and men leave their hand-weaving looms to exchange the news of the day, discuss their work.

IN all states the Australian Red Cross teaches hand-craft to discharged servicemen as an important part of their rehabilitation. The Discharged Servicemen's Handcraft Centre, at Red

Cross House, Sydney, has 500 men on its books. If men are not strong enough to come to the Centre they are taught their craft at home. About 100 country men learn by correspondence. Proceeds of their work help by supplementing pensions. Red Cross needs funds to maintain its services. The handcraft service costs more than £15,000 a year in New South Wales alone.

Photo and text from the Australian Womens Weekly Saturday 4th December 1948

Reproduced courtesy of the National Library of Australia

New Book for Sale in the Museum

We have a limited number of copies of 'Blacksmiths of the Nowra District' available at the Museum.



Blacksmiths of the Nowra District

A fascinating insight into our dependence on the blacksmith/farrier in the early days of the Shoalhaven district.

73 pages

Author: Alan Clark

Trivia

Each issue, there will be a trivia question, and you are invited to join in the fun.

We did not have a correct answer to our last trivia question. The correct answer was:

At 97-99 Queen Street, Berry on the corner of Alexandra Street, is the two-storeyed building built by James Wilson in 1892.

The other date on the façade of this building – 1857 – signifies the date James Wilson arrived in Australia.

And here's the question for this issue...

In order to receive a grant in the colony of New South Wales, Alexander Berry and Edward Wollstonecraft were required to become permanent residents. By 1821 when the new governor arrived in the colony to replace Lachlan Macquarie, Alexander Berry had fulfilled this condition and had applied for a grant of 10,000 acres and 100 convicts.

Who was the new Governor of New South Wales?

First correct answer will win the honour of being recognised in our next issue.

The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Send your answer to the editor's email address (museum@cpretty.com).

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.

Editor: Christine Pretty ☎ 02 4480 2125 email: museum@cpretty.com