

The Berry & District Historical Society Inc

www.berryhistory.org.au

email: berrymuseum@bigpond.com

The Shoalhaven Chronograph with Berry Newsletter

October - November 2017

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Dates for your Diary

6th December All members are cordially invited to the Museum's Christmas Cocktail Party.



VENUE: The Museum, Queen Street, Berry

TIME: Wednesday 6th December at 6.00pm

RSVP: by 2nd December 2017 to Secretary Annette Frohling on 4464 3963, or leave a message at the Museum 4464 3097 or email: berrymuseum@bigpond.com

Reminder – Membership Fees

One final reminder has just been sent out to members who have not renewed for this year.

Check your Inbox for our email with the Renewal Form attached.

Here is a schedule of current membership fees:

Fees for 2017-2018	
Family Membership	\$20
Single Membership	\$15
Roster Family Membership	\$15
Roster Single Membership	\$10



The Museum needs your support.

John Hay Memorial Fountain

The deterioration of the Sir John Hay Memorial Fountain in the Showground is a cause of great concern. The tall fountain in the north-east corner of the Showground, near the Children's Play Area was erected as a memorial to Sir John Hay.

At the request of his cousin, David Berry, John Hay came to Coolangatta in the 1880s to assist him with the management of the Estate. After inheriting the Estate from David Berry in 1889, Sir John Hay made many improvements and additions to the town, at his own expense. David Berry had left large bequests in his will amounting to almost 250,000 pounds and John had to raise the money to meet these costs.

John Hay made many improvements to the Coolangatta Estate and developed land which had previously not been usable.

This historically important memorial has been damaged by vehicles in that area of the Showground. One collision even caused the entire monument to be shifted on its base, and there are many cracks and other damage caused by vehicles. The memorial has been temporarily fenced off to prevent further damage.

The Berry & District Historical Society and the Showground Management Committee are working with the Shoalhaven Council and the National Trust towards the restoration and conservation of the memorial. Funds are being sought from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to fund the work which will include an appropriate protective barrier around the fountain.

On October 14, 1914, The Shoalhaven Telegraph reported:

'Lady Hay is giving Berry Council 200 pounds to meet the cost of turning portion of the Park (the Showground) into a children's corner. A memorial fountain, costing 150 pounds will perpetuate the memory of Sir John Hay, while serving a useful purpose. The other 50 pounds will be expended in fencing and providing attractive features for children.'



The Memorial at its unveiling ceremony in 1915, and how it appears today

An article appeared in the Shoalhaven News and South Coast District Advertiser on the 6th February 1915. In the article, it describes the fountain as follows:

The fountain is ornate in design and appearance, is composed of granite and trachyte facings, and stands on a sandstone base. It bears the following inscription: 'Presented to the people of the Berry district by Lady Hay in memory of her husband, the late Sir John Hay, February 4th, 1915.'

Public Lecture by Donald Napper



On 19th September Donald Napper gave a lecture at Berry Masonic Village on William Wilkinson Wardell.

Donald Napper is Emeritus Professor and a past Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the College of Science and Technology at the University of Sydney. Over the years, Napper has developed an internationally recognised expertise in polymer colloids and the polymerisation processes. He has (co-)authored over 180 scientific articles and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (FAAS) and of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI).

Following his retirement, Napper offered to be a tour guide for the National Trust. He has developed an extensive knowledge of Australian colonial architecture.

William Wilkinson Wardell: the Pope's Architect in Australia



William Wilkinson Wardell's 50-year career was spent in three distinct geographical areas: Great Britain, Melbourne and Sydney.

Wardell was born in 1823. At the age of 20, he had already gained a commission to design and build the Mechanics Institute building in Surrey. This enabled him to start his own business. By the age of 27, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects which was very rare for someone so young.

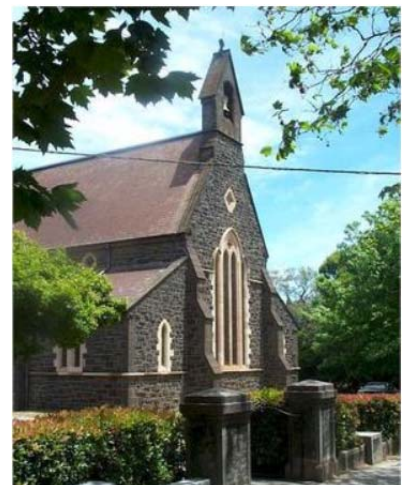
Most of Wardell's designs were in the neo-Gothic style of architecture, an asymmetric style that was initially criticised by adherents of the symmetrical Classical style. The term 'Gothic' was originally used as a perjorative term, meaning barbaric, but then became a term of endearment and eventually gained acceptance as descriptive of this new style.

Wardell's work was influenced by Augustus Pugin (1812-1852) who made the neo-Gothic architectural style popular in both the UK and Australia. Pugin designed 70 churches and five cathedrals in Great Britain. He also designed the tower for Big Ben.

Wardell moved to Melbourne in 1858 after being diagnosed with tuberculosis, though it is doubtful that the diagnosis was correct. Nevertheless, his move to Melbourne resulted in a glorious architectural heritage for Australia.

In Melbourne, he designed St Patrick's cathedral, eleven Roman Catholic churches and one Anglican church. Wardell did not confine himself to just designing churches; he also designed the imposing Victorian Government House (1876) in the Botanic Gardens, the Royal Mint and Customs House, as well as Genazzano College for Girls, which is still in operation today.

Wardell moved to Sydney in 1878. He designed St John's College at Sydney University, the Grafton Bond warehouse, the NSW Club, and the Anglo-Dutch style Australian Steam Navigation warehouse in the Rocks.



St Mary's Church East St Kilda, one of Wardell's designs (1861)

Wardell designed the second St Mary's Cathedral, after the first was destroyed by fire on the 29th June 1865. St Mary's is unusual in that was built facing north-south when most churches were built facing east-west. The front of the cathedral shows its French inspiration, and resembles Notre Dame in Paris.

Wardell designed the Head Office for the E.S.&A. Bank and also some twelve E.S.&A. Bank branches scattered around NSW, Victoria and South Australia. Of these only two remain: our very own Berry Museum, and one in Camberwell. These two buildings were designed in the Arts & Crafts style, one that his architectural partner at that time, Walter Liberty Vernon, introduced into Australia. Vernon later became the NSW Government Architect, in which role he designed the Berry Police Station.

William Wilkinson Wardell died in 1899 and is buried at Gore Hill Cemetery in Sydney.

A significant number of Wardell's buildings are now on the National Heritage List.



St Mary's Cathedral Sydney. Wardell's design of the cathedral towers included spires, but the spires were not completed until August 2000, 135 years after construction commenced

Photo: State Library of NSW

Berry Estate 1912

At 2.30 on Wednesday the 21st February, 1912, an auction was held to sell the lots of the Berry Estate in the Berry town subdivision.

A plan of the town showing the subdivisions survives to this day, and is on display at the Berry Museum.

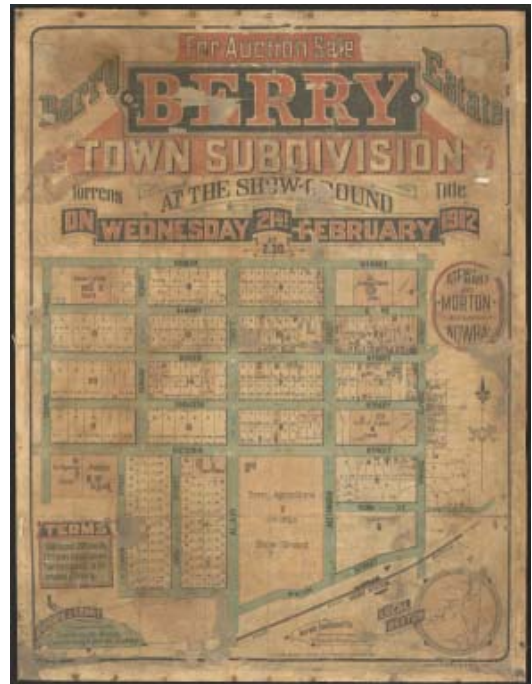
The plan was recently taken to Canberra and the National Library of Australia made a high-quality digital copy of it.

We are now pleased to offer prints of this plan that you can frame in a design to suit your decor.

The A1 size print (approx. 59.4 × 84.1cm) is offered to members at a special price of \$50 for an unframed print.

Imagine having one of these on display in pride of place in your home!

For all purchase enquiries, please contact our Secretary, Annette Frohling on 4464 3963 or email the Museum at berrymuseum@bigpond.com.



Special Exhibition – Berry Garden Club

An exhibition by the Berry Garden Club is currently on display in our Exhibition Room.

This display is for a limited time only, so come and see it soon.

Trivia

The question for last issue was...

In the grounds of the museum you will find one of the two flood boats donated by David Berry. The boats were built to rescue those caught during the 19th century floods.

How many times was the flood boat used for this purpose?

The answer was...

The flood boat was never used for this purpose. There were no major floods during the first half of the twentieth century. The completion of the Tallowa Dam in 1976 has ensured that future catastrophic floods are very unlikely.

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

The Berry Butter Factory opened on a hill in Broughton Creek in March 1889, and overlooked the growing township.

By what name did the hill come to be known?

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. Please make sure you send your answer to the editor's email address (museum@cpetty.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.

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The Berry & District Historical Society Inc. - Office Holders

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