



# Berry and District Historical Society Inc

## The Shoalhaven Chronograph with Berry Newsletter

### FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016 EDITION

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#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

2016 dates are now available for the breakfast Series – see full program listed in this issue of the Chronograph

#### **BERRY SHOW REPORT**

The Berry & District Historical Society again had a display and book stall at the Berry Show. There was a lot of interest in the display mounted by Nancy Bevan and her assistants. Members of the public also browsed through the books on display and quite a few were sold.

Thank you to all the members who assisted on the two days of the show, especially under some very wet conditions.

## THE STATE LIBRARY FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP – REPORT

This workshop was held at Nowra Library on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. Curator Elise Edmonds spoke of how the NSW State Library's great collection of World War 1 soldiers' war diaries began in December 1918 when the then Principal Librarian of the Mitchell Library, William Ifould, actually advertised in Australia and the UK, for returned soldiers to sell their diaries to the library. By June 1920, 224 war diaries had been purchased and there also began a very strong collection of WW1 material from soldiers, cooks, chaplains, stretcher bearers and others.

The collection has been included on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register. Amongst the diary entries read out at the Workshop were some from the diary of Charles Vincent Monaghan, a Pyree farmer who enlisted in the Medical Corps on 15 July 1915. This great library collection is easily accessed from the website of the State Library of NSW. [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au) -Research Guides -History & Biography -World War 1 and Australia

The Workshop on preserving family history provided very good practical advice and the main points addressed were:

- Storing your material in a suitable environment - eg in an area free of food & dust and away from sunlight, continually checking for mould & insect activity
- Placing your material in protective enclosures - eg using acid free paper enclosures, avoiding chlorinated plastics (PVC), magnetic albums and wooden boxes
- Using careful handling techniques - eg not laminating or using metal fasteners, tapes and adhesives & avoiding pens, highlighters & DIY repairs.

The address of a very good website was provided:

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/collections/preservation/index.html>

Annette Frohling

**“SOMETIME, SOME DAY, WE WILL UNDERSTAND:  
FAMILIES DURING THE GREAT WAR”**

**BY JOHN McQUILTON  
Associate Professor Of History  
SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG**

About sixty people turned up to the Berry Masonic Village hall on the afternoon of Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November to hear John McQuilton discuss the impact of the Great War on the Australian nation, communities and families. John, who has led study tours for students to the battlefields of Gallipoli and the Western Front, illustrated his talk with compelling accounts of five soldiers killed or wounded during the war. (He noted that Australian soldiers at the time were exclusively male).

In the course of his talk, John gave a picture of the life in Australia that these men left behind. Some 80% of men were single, leaving parents, brothers and sisters and sweethearts behind, but not wives. In a time of drought, with little work about, enlistment might have been

attractive to the men, offering pay, clothes and accommodation. Their leaving had a negative impact on the household economy, as many mothers relied on pin money from their sons to keep the household going. Many sons, however, allocated part of their soldiers' pay to their mothers.

For the first time sons predeceased their parents. Parents needed to know details of their son's deaths, as they were denied the usual mourning ceremonies surrounding burial. However, accounts given by their mates or superior officers would often spare the family the horrific details of their deaths. The women could weep, but the men were expected to be stoic. While some argue that a mother felt a son's death more keenly, fathers could show their grief in different ways. One father pursued his son's entitlement to the highly-valued 1914-1915 Star.

John concluded his talk by observing that the vast majority of Australian parents, unlike their English and American counterparts, would never see their son's far-distant graves.

Janet Fingleton

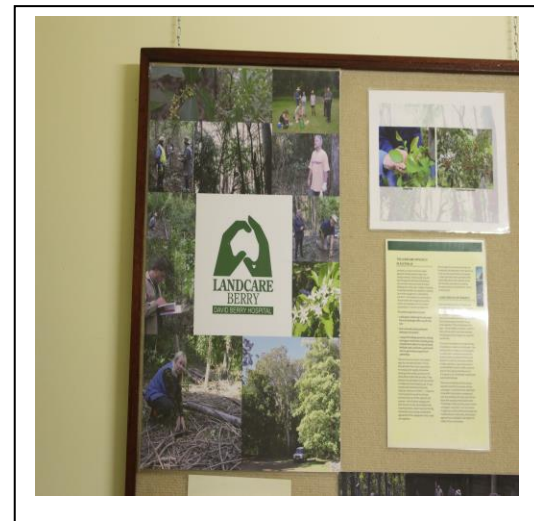
## LANDCARE DISPLAY

Hi Members! Have you been into the Museum yet to see the fantastic displays put on by some of our communities most enthusiastic plants persons?

The PLANT PROPAGATION UNIT at Berry Public School was begun in 1990 by retired school teacher Dave Johnson, assisted by Barry Virtue, a teacher at Berry School. Since that time, countless children have learned to grow trees and other plants from locally sourced seeds and cuttings and eventually plant them out.

The Unit's present contribution to the "Beautification of Berry" is the growing of plants for the Berry Bypass Landscaping Project. One day, many years hence, our roads will be once more tree lined thanks to the Berry School's Plant "Prop" students and volunteers.

The other occupants of our Special Display Room are the LANDCARE/BUSHCARE GROUPS of Berry - *Broughton Vale, Coolangatta Mountain, David Berry Hospital, Moeyan Hill, Bong Bong Rd., Bundewallah, Strongs Rd.* I notice several others are mentioned in the *Town Crier* - you should have no trouble finding one near you. Each group meets for working bees at times to suit themselves. Groups are concerned about local ecological and sustainability issues and each group has a project plan and objectives.



Come in to follow up on the work that both PLANT "PROP" and LANDCARE do and check out their smiling faces. Nancy Bevan

## NELLIE WILLIAMS

Nellie was an early member of the Berry and District Historical Society. Nellie lived at Broughton Vale all her life and died on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

Her friends and fellow residents from Broughton Vale arranged with the Men's Shed to make a plaque in her memory. It is attached to the fence on the corner of Broughton Vale Road and Boundary Road.

Nancy Bevan

## MUSEUM & GALLERY BREAKFAST DATES 2016

Month	Date	Venue	Organiser / Contact	Session	Time
Feb	Thursday 25	Bundanon Trust	Jennifer Thompson	Regular Breakfast Meeting	7.45am to 9am
May	Thursday 5	Fleet Air Arm	Ailsa Chittick	<b>Professional Development Session:</b> Preparing for and Disaster Recovery Planning <b>Dinner:</b> Speaker: Kay Soderlund, Preservation Australia	3pm-5.30pm  6 pm– 9pm
Aug	Thursday, 25	Jervis Bay Maritime Museum	Diana Lorentz	Regular Breakfast Meeting	7.45am to 9am
Sept	<b>To be Confirmed</b>	Shoalhaven City Arts Centre	ADFAS/Brigitte Carter	<b>One full professional development day</b> – to commence with 1 hr opening talk by ADFAS followed immediately by morning tea (provided by ADFAS instead of breakfast). SCAC to provide lunch & afternoon tea.	9am – 10.30am ADFAS 10.30am – 4pm Prof. Dev.
Nov	Thursday 25	Kangaroo Valley Pioneer Village Museum	Garth Chittick	Regular Breakfast Meeting	7.45am to 9am

## ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING EDITIONS OF THE CHRONOGRAPH

If you have any items which you feel might interest members of the Berry and District Historical Society could you please send them to the Editor, Anita Chalmers.