

# CHRONOGRAPH

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

## Notes from our President Margaret Cullity



Hello all,

The Museum is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday each week but it often surprises me, when I pop in at other times, just what a hive of activity it can be. Just look...

A local resident had requested information about their relatives' past occupations and when these pioneers arrived in the area. A member was researching our records and library for this information.

Two more were improving some exhibits with new labels, dusting and rearranging as they went. And chatting, of course.

Tradespersons were working on some repairs under our heritage consultant's guidance.

Our Secretary was escorting some SCC staff to check on possible building upgrades, and on it went.

It is gratifying to see so many members willingly and regularly involved in the work of the Society and preserving our past. The rostered weekend hosts are our front line and do a great PR job.

If you would like to be included, and have a few hours though during the week and would like to be involved, send me an email at [berrymuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:berrymuseum@bigpond.com) and someone will meet you on site and explain a compatible task for you to assist with. We would love / do need your help.

We have some interesting talks scheduled for the coming months. Try to attend. You won't be disappointed.

Kind regards  
Margaret

## MUSEUM HEAVIES GATHER FOR A BREAK-FEST.

In February, Nowra's delightful house of history, *Meroogal*, hosted local area historical societies and their ilk for the bi-monthly GLAM\* working breakfast and discussions.

\*GLAM = Galleries, libraries, archives and museums

These get-togethers are a great chance for executive members in like organisations to compare insights, ideas and information.

VP Janet Hanson, Keith and Robin Houston, Sandra Berner, Janet Fingleton and Catherine Barlow attended as our reps.

Brett Addington from Museums & Galleries NSW spoke to the group on bringing a stronger First Nations voice into the museum experience. Our new Cullungutti banners and upcoming talk by Uncle Gerry fit this concept.



We came away with some good thoughts regarding our administrative procedures and also the complex digitising process we are engaging in.

It will be our turn to host the group in Berry later in the year.

The Meroogal Women's Art Prize for 2024 has been judged for this year and is on display at Meroogal every Saturday - 10:00 am to 4:00pm - until 24 May.

Cnr West & Worrige Street NOWRA

## Know Your 2024/2025 Committee

PRESIDENT  
Margaret Cullity

VICE PRESIDENT  
Janet Hanson

SECRETARY  
Gail Paton

TREASURER  
Karen Stieper

COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

Sue Davidson  
Frank Howarth

John Jeston  
Sandra Berner

Hilary Brickhill

## We invite you to join us to hear local Yuin Elder,



**Uncle Gerry Moore,  
OAM,  
in conversation with Lisa Ogle.**

Gerry Moore is a Yuin Elder with links to the Jerrinja, Wodi Wodi, Dharawal and Wandj Wandandian Peoples.

He has over 40 years' experience working in senior roles in Aboriginal Affairs. Lisa is a lawyer and part time local resident in Berry. Gerry will be speaking with Lisa about local history in the Shoalhaven area from an Indigenous perspective.

Hailing from Wreck Bay in Jervis Bay, Uncle Gerry is highly engaged in our local community, working to strengthen connections. He is a member of the board of Arthur Boyd's legacy *Bundanon*.

Positions he has held include chair of the Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council, and CEO of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) - Australia's peak body representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.

Uncle Gerry's previous experience also includes CEO of the Aboriginal Legal Service New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

His service to the Indigenous community was recognised in 2020, where his Indigenous advocacy was recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia.

**UNITING CHURCH HALL, Albert Street, BERRY.  
2:00pm, SUNDAY, 8 June 2025.**

**Entry: \$5 donation Afternoon tea included.**

## Earlier in March we gathered for the first of the Society's 2025's community talks.

**We invited a new member, resident of Berry,  
Therese Sweeney, (pictured right)  
to present on her podcast project  
"Dairy Lanes of Berry".**



Therese is a Social Historian who has applied cameras, sound recording & moving image to collect memories for over 30 years; as archives, and to create family, community, industrial and regional 20th century digital histories. We now have a good understanding of her career to date, her skills and tenacity.



*Vice President, Jan Hanson welcomed the community and introduced Therese. A get-together and generous afternoon tea followed the talk.*

Her current project is recording the oral history of dairy farmers who operated in the Berry/ Meroo Meadow districts. These creatively edited sessions are being presented in a series of podcasts called *The Dairy Lanes of Berry*. Further follow-up episodes will expand stories of Bomaderry and Jaspers Brush.

A book is also well underway, and we look forward to seeing photographs, anecdotes, family personalities, local history, and exploring interesting facts - only too briefly touched upon in her talk.

<http://theresesweeney.com.au>  
**The Dairy Lanes Project S1**

## All the Good of the Land Selling Berry Butter to The World

The Berry Central Creamery was built in 1895 and within a few years became the first factory in NSW to adopt pasteurisation technology. Farmers from across the region delivered their milk to the Creamery, then described as 'the largest and most complete butter factory in the colony.'

This advertisement was printed and distributed in England. The English market had become very important for Australian butter, however it had to out-compete high quality butter products from Denmark and New Zealand. So advertising became a vital part of that competition.



Then as now, images of rural landscapes were persuasive in food advertising, especially if the target audiences were people living in industrialised towns and cities. The poster depicts picturesque, idyllic landscapes with serene, gently grazing cows, unhurried workers in clean white clothing, and a clean and orderly facility.

The woman in classical Roman draping is a variation on Flora, the Roman goddess who embodies fertility, plants, and Spring. She is a sophisticated variation of the cheery milkmaids common in dairy food advertising at this time. All the iconography evokes a sense of fertility, abundance, and health from a carefully managed, peaceful landscape.

Australian dairy advertising sought to emphasise products as being Australian, in this case using Lilly Pilly foliage, the coat of arms with kangaroo, and Australian place names. To the consumer in a large English city, Australia could be distantly imagined as a pristine, natural environment. However, this is an imagined version.

Simply put, this was an ideal image of colonised Australia, its landscapes modified for and by British farming practices. It is a version of Australia that could subtly draw the consumer's mind back to a nostalgic notion of pastoral England.

Apparently these advertising strategies were effective with British consumers. In March 1899, the Broughton Creek Mail reported that 'Berry Butter is now a fancy brand on the London market and commands fancy prices there.'

Advertising Poster for Berry Creamery, c 1895

Thanks to Margaret Cardamone for Berry Museum. 2023

[www.storyplace.org.au](http://www.storyplace.org.au)  
Museums & Galleries of NSW.



## Our backyard "BOM" is bang on... daily

Until recently the Bureau of Meteorology's local weather station was located near the Showgrounds. Now it resides at the Museum where our members reliably record measurements at 9:00am every day that it rains... as has been done in Berry since 1886!

Updated rainfall for Berry is now being included on the BOM website.

August - 14mm; September - 31mm; October - 35mm... are quite dry months.

November - 134mm was the wettest since winter.

December - 18mm; January - 185.4mm,

February - 64.4mm.

Berry township seems to receive less rain than outlying areas in the catchment towards Berry Mountain and Broughton Vale.

Peter Whitton is your guy if you'd like to be involved in the very interesting and useful process of collecting, collating and comparing the figures. Have a look at our "BOM" the next time you are at the Museum.



### Some Reading and Dates

**Thursday, 10 April 2025**  
***The Glory of the Tang Dynasty***  
**Jackie Menzies OAM**  
**7:30pm, Uniting Church Hall,**  
**BERRY.**

**Visitors \$25**  
<https://www.artsnational.au/societies/shoalhaven>

Weds to Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm  
 Until 6 April  
 Museums of History NSW  
 Renovation Sale  
 40% off at Vacluse House shop

**19 - 25 May 2025**  
**National Volunteers Week**  
**"Conservation in Action"**

### to note...

18 April - 18 May 2025  
 Australian Heritage Festival  
 Coordinated by the National Trust  
<http://www.australianheritagefestival.org.au>

**10 May 2025 9:00am to 12:00am**  
**Canberra History Book Fair and**  
**Open Day**  
<http://www.canberrahistory.org.au>

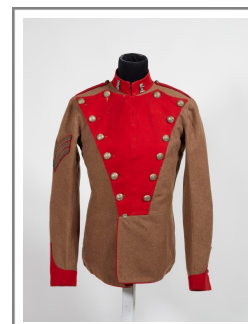
March issue of *Pioneer* - Alstonville  
 Plateau Historical Society  
[www.aphsmuseum.org.au](http://www.aphsmuseum.org.au)

**March issue #57 of FAHS**  
**Newsletter is an interesting read**  
**this month. (Federation of Australian**  
**Historical Societies.)**  
 It included snippets, history, news and  
 developments from capital city heritage  
 societies around Australia.  
<http://www.history.org.au>

### A Berry Boy in Africa

Thomas Satchell Knight (1873-1944) from Broughton Village was one of a hundred NSW Lancers who travelled to Aldershot, England in February 1899 wearing the very uniform pictured here currently displayed in the Museum.

How he came to fighting in the Boer War, his story and subsequent history will be featured in the April issue of Berry's Town Crier.



## Constant changes at the Museum

- You'll see a new safety handrail on the stairs to/from the West garden entrance. That assistance has been needed for some time.
- Also, near the back entrance, there now is a guard rail to prevent falls to the garden.
- The renovation of the old bank's family bathroom to a much needed storeroom is underway. Of course, the builder may discover more tasks as the job proceeds! That now looks like including patching up plasterwork in the hall areas. Painting and shelving will be on the To Do List also.
- The front entrance lobby looks dark and unwelcoming. It will soon be lightened with still-heritage-conforming paintwork, rather than the darker colour scheme that is in place.
- The display book shelves in the foyer "shop" is being revamped with more appropriate display units. These will feature the brochures and booklets more effectively and carefully.

### Welcome to our new members...

Some have joined after working with the flood boat crew. Some others have put their names forward for two hours duty on the front desk on one weekend a month. We hope you'll all become involved and active with our projects quite quickly. It's a great way to meet members.

<i>Donna Rainsford</i>	<i>Libby Turnock</i>
<i>Therese Sweeney</i>	<i>Daniel Fotheringham</i>
<i>Graham McMillan</i>	<i>Kristin Mills</i>
<i>Ron Bas</i>	<i>Richard Miller</i>
<i>Jim Christodoulou</i>	<i>Paul Crapper</i>
<i>Robert Wallis</i>	<i>Nina Douglas</i>

### Family History sleuths

**Our wide experience, together with the Museum's reference library of photos, documents, accession items and books allow us to offer a Family History user-pay service to Society members and the public.**

We also mentor members who would like to assist with this research. We explain the workings of paid sites, Trove for eg, and where to find what in our archives and files.

The time spent is interesting and gratifying. Please email Sue Davidson or Margaret Cullity if you are interested in assisting.

[berrymuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:berrymuseum@bigpond.com)



**Can you offer just two hours of gardening help?**  
**The Museum Worker Bees would welcome you**  
**from 9:00am to 11:00am on Thursday, 3 April.**



Kevin Dwyer is providing invaluable knowledge and assistance in the west side garden. This work will be completed in stages - the first on **Wednesday, 26 March (9 to 11)**. We will be working on the garden near the ramp. We still need one volunteer for that day please. Our following work day is **Thursday, 3 April**.



The Chronograph is published four times each year.

E&OE. © B&DHS 2025

Deadline for mid 2025 issue  
 - 20 June 2025.

For all contacts please email:  
[berrymuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:berrymuseum@bigpond.com)

PO Box 153 BERRY NSW 2535

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

Please support us with a tax deductible bequest.

BSB: 082 435 Account: 175071089  
 with your name plus 'donation'.

Thank you.

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

[berryhistory.org.au](http://berryhistory.org.au)

The Chronograph appreciates the written contributions and photographs for this issue from:

Sandra Berner  
 Margaret Cullity  
 John Edmonds  
 Paige Gleeson (Meroogal)  
 Gail Paton  
 Janet Fingleton  
 Peter Whitton  
 Meroogal, for the break-fest pic  
 and Bundanon for the photo of  
 Uncle Gerry.

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](mailto:berrymuseum@bigpond.com)**

