

CHRONOGRAPH

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

OUR HERITAGE LISTED HOME IN BERRY

Berry Museum is a heritage-listed bank building and now museum at
135 Queen Street, Berry,
City of Shoalhaven,
New South Wales, Australia.



It was designed by
William Wilkinson Wardell
and built from 1884 to 1885
by W. Stoddart.

It is also known as the
E.S.&A. Bank and later the ANZ
Bank. The property is owned
by Shoalhaven City Council.
It was added to the New South
Wales State Heritage Register
on 1 Sept 2006.

The Berry Historic Museum
is a great place for those
interested in local history,
with an extensive collection
of artefacts, memorabilia,
photographs and records
donated by the local
community.

Visit:
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
11am - 3pm
School Hols:
MONDAYS and FRIDAYS also.

Notes from our President - Margaret Cullity

Hello Everyone,

Your new executive has now met several times and is formulating a forward plan for the Society, as well as busily administering the day-to-day. We have definite ideas for the year ahead with all Committee persons on board and dedicated to their tasks. We are excited about the future opportunities for the Museum.



Since our last Chronograph:

- *We have been successful in obtaining a couple of grants. In the current environment these are more difficult to secure and we are grateful for any help received. One is for our digitisation project and will facilitate our photography. The other will enable us to buy some equipment for general maintenance. Our grant writers deserve thanks... and encouragement to continue this battle.*
- *Our popular Linen Room has been updated. Many thanks and congratulations to the members who undertook this work. The displays now presents a much more cohesive story that will interest all visitors. To open the Room's new look, we have a very interesting exhibition. For more details, please see the article in this Chronograph.*

I hope to meet you at our Christmas drinks function. Bring a plate if you can. I'm planning to bring some chicken sandwiches. We'll see you then.

I would like to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and good health for 2024.

Cheers to all,

Margaret

FROM OUR COLLECTIONS

The Gall Medicine Chest

From the 1920s, this medicine chest was kept and used by the Gall family on their dairy farm near Berry. It remained in the family until the property sold, around 2007. It is a simple but captivating artefact that offers an insight into basic medical care on a family-run farm in twentieth century Australia.

In the busy environment of a dairy farm, it would have been reassuring to have the chest so that minor injuries and ailments could be treated without calling on a doctor or pharmacist. Although medical help was available throughout these decades at Berry, it was quicker, cheaper and sensible to have some medicines close at hand, especially when living out of town.

Medical chests were kept and used in many, and usually wealthier, homes from the mid-nineteenth century. By then pharmacy was a recognised profession and the medicines used from a medicine chest could be provided and refilled by a pharmacist. To guide the use of the medicines supplied, a booklet usually came with a medicine chest. And while some medicine chests were very large and elaborate, this one is modest in size, but sizeable enough to store core medical necessities.

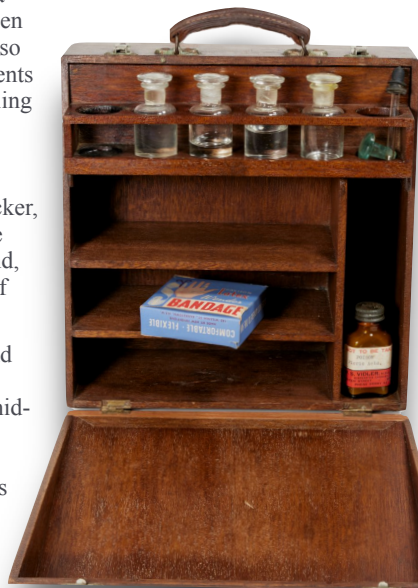
The lower shelves of the chest would likely have housed items such as a tin of Aspirin pills, antiseptic ointment, scissors, tweezers, and dressings like bandages.

The upper shelf held six refillable glass bottles for powdered and liquid medicines.

With no labels on the remaining four, it is unclear what they actually contained.

A typical domestic chest used in a 1920s home probably included smelling salts for reviving a fainted person,

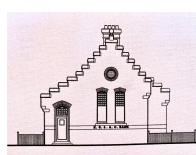
'Fishers Phospherine' (valerian) for nervous anxiety, rhubarb tincture for indigestion, castor oil for constipation, or ammonia for insect bites. Chapped or dry hands were a common problem for dairy workers, so a bottle containing syrupy liquid glycerin was often kept as a skin moisturiser.



Remaining in the chest today is a packet of bandages from around the 1960s, indicating the continuous use of the chest over the decades it was kept by the Gall family.

And the empty bottle that once contained Picric Acid, historically used as a surface anaesthetic for burns, was evidently dispensed by Vidler's Pharmacy at Berry.

Please come and have a look for yourself.



Megan Cardamone, Storyplace

Garden Cuttings

Maintenance of our building and grounds is expensive and on-going, but it is most essential to keep abreast of the work.



We are hopeful that the Berry & District Garden Club will help us refurbish the side garden where the dangerous camphor laurel tree was removed. All the plants around the tree had to be taken away and we are looking to replant... following the Conservation Management Landscape Plan as a guide

Our gardening team is doing hard and creative work on our spaces. We miss Hazel King who was a driving force and authority in the Museum and in the garden for many years. Join in if you can.

Berry Hotel RA23/1002

The society has formally lodged a submission that you can view on Council's website. You can link to the final version of the expert independent report by Baker Ryan Stewart via www.berryforum.org.au



We are grateful to the SCC's assistance with repairing and repainting the interior rooms that were affected by unsightly and damaging roof leaks.

The work has now been done so we can complete the displays in the Industry Room.



Grand
OPENING
INVITATION



"Wedding dresses and Trousseaus"

We are proud to open this very important display of gorgeous wedding costumes, accessories and linen. This exhibition is an ambitious, wonderful collection from many eras. You will be delighted.

**You are invited
to a Christmas
Celebration**

**Join us at the
Berry Museum
Wednesday
13th December,
from 5.00 pm to
7.00 pm**

We look forward to seeing you there.

Entrance via the side gate on the left of the Museum.

Please email R.S.V.P by
30/11/2023 to
berrymuseum@bigpond.com



If you wish to bring a plate to share, it would be most appreciated.

GREAT MEMORIES AT OUR WEDDING & LINEN DISPLAY

Not long after the final preparations for our new exhibition in the Linen Room - *Wedding dresses and Trousseaus*, Iris Agar and her daughter Robyn visited the Museum. They were keen to view Iris' wedding dress, one of the items on display. Both loved the costumes presented and stayed looking for a long time.

Over a cuppa, Iris, a very active 94- year-old, talked about her long life in Berry. She even told us how to stop possums from getting down chimneys - definitely something for us to know at the Museum.
A lovely lady.



Museum personnel meet in Nowra

Some Committee members attended a recent Museum Breakfast, hosted by Meroogal. The peer meetings are usually held quarterly and are attended by representatives from local Museums. They rotate venues and generally include relevant speakers and presentations. The events are always a great opportunity to talk to other local administrators, and to meet new faces from our sister institutions. We learn so much from the initiatives, challenges and programs of others.

Museums & Galleries NSW gave the talk at the breakfast. It was an interesting insight into grants that they offer. In particular, they talked about a new grant now available called 'Lights On, Doors Open' which was designed to make grant applications and their awarding a much more streamlined process. We were lucky enough to receive one which will be put to good use around the Museum.



Meroogal, in the South Coast town of Nowra, was built from 1885 to 1886. This delightful timber house, with its 'gothic' trimmings, is a charming testament to early days and early ways. Meroogal is a house that was greatly cherished by its owners. It was passed through the hands of four generations of women from the same family. The women led busy and fulfilled lives and their daily routines encompassed domestic chores and the pursuit of their own genteel interests and talents. Furniture, household objects, diaries, letters, scrapbooks, photographs and clothes allow a very personal insight into a more private world of the family. It is unusual for a house to be occupied by the same family for such a length of time, even in rural areas. Meroogal has survived to make its contribution to the study of our social history.

DATES TO NOTE

B&DHS Christmas Event

Wednesday, 13 December
5:00pm to 7:00pm at
Berry Museum

B&DHS Grand Opening of Wedding and Linen Exhibition

Wednesday 13 December
2023 during Christmas
event at Berry Museum

National Trust Australian Heritage Festival

Thursday 18 April - Sunday
19 May 2024.

[Information](#) from NT NSW.



**Death Love Art
OPENS 9 Dec 2023
to 3 Feb 2024**

Check out:

<https://storyplace.org.au/>

This is a great site with masses of interesting stories about items in the collections of museums and galleries all over the State.

Contributors and Photographs

Margaret Cullity;
Gail Paton;
Sandra Berner;
Megan Cardamone;
John Edmonds



B&DHS acknowledges the leaders past, present and emerging of the Wodi Wodi, the Wandandian and the Yuin of the South Coast.

We recognise the ongoing custodians of the lands and waterways where we work and live.

We celebrate Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique family and spiritual relationship to Country and acknowledge the significance of their cultures in Australia.

Your 2023/2024 Committee

President	<i>Margaret Cullity</i>
Vice President	<i>Janet Hanson</i>
Secretary	<i>Gail Paton</i>
Treasurer	<i>Hilary Brickhill</i>
Committee Members	
	<i>Sandra Berner</i>
	<i>Sue Davidson</i>
	<i>Frank Howarth</i>
	<i>Kay Jarrett</i>

The Chronograph is published four times annually. Contributions and ideas are always welcomed.

E&OE. © B&DHS 2023.

Email: berrymuseum@bigpond.com

B&DHS is a not-for-profit organisation depending on membership and donations. Throughout the year we host numerous exhibitions and events. You too can become involved hosting visits, researching family history, maintaining our library, recording photos, digitising the collection. or preparing exhibits. You will enjoy it and derive satisfaction from your efforts. We'd appreciate your help. Details can be found on our website.

We heard the Goss

Ian Goss gave a very interesting talk on September 25th about UN Treaty Negotiations- Protection of Indigenous Peoples Traditional Knowledge and Tradition Cultural Expressions (Arts, Crafts, Folklore).

Ian spent 10 years as head of the Australian delegation to a UN Committee negotiating three treaties in relation to the above. The first of these treaties will move to a final diplomatic conference next year.

The talk was a fascinating insight into the workings of the UN in regard to treaties and how they are worked through. Ian told us it can take on average 10 years to come to an agreement.

Fund Raising Heritage Sausages

On October 28th, a group of enthusiastic members and volunteers manned the Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings.



It was a very successful day - 950 sausages, 42 loaves of bread, 27kg onions, 250 drinks and 11 litres of sauces were consumed, raising around \$2200.

A huge Thank You to Steve Fellows, Karen Stieper and helpers.