

# CHRONOGRAPH

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



## Notes from our President Margaret Cullity

*Welcome to our June Chronograph. I hope you are keeping dry after all the rain we have been having. Even the gardens have had enough!*

*Like ducks paddling, the Society is active with submissions; grant applications; research; together with administrative and compliance matters. But, we are also responsible for presenting a fine physical Museum for the district. We have to undertake the vital upkeep associated with the historic fabric of the building; the careful and instructive display of our exhibits; and the staffing requirements for opening and operating the site each weekend.*

*We need your help. We have a shortage of members willing to assist on one of our working groups or to join the main Committee; for assisting our curators; for lending a hand researching; or entering information on a computer. We have no budget for paid staff. Our members are the ones who have to achieve our goals and complete our tasks. And that's me - and you.*

*Your involvement will really be rewarding. You will enjoy participating and being with friends. What is your talent and skill? Writing? Social media? Consider offering a few hours per month. Please get in touch with a Committee Member soon or email the office.*

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

Cheers to all,  
**Margaret**

## Service and collaboration: Society member and Berry volunteer, appointed AM

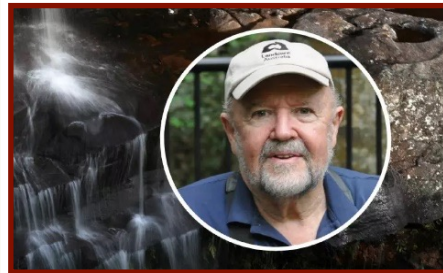
Landcare stalwart and former international medic

**Bill Pigott**

has been appointed as a  
Member of the Order of Australia.

For his volunteer work with Landcare, as well as his medical work in Cambodia and Nepal and subsequent medical education, Mr Pigott has been appointed a member of the Order of Australia in this year's King's Birthday honours.

While the two parts of his career local Landcare volunteering and work for an international medical organisation, may seem at polar opposites, for Mr Pigott they are two sides of the same coin. What connects them both is a spirit of service, and an ethos of collaboration.



Living in Berry since his retirement, Mr Pigott has been involved in local Landcare groups for over two decades, and has watched the regrowth of endangered Illawarra subtropical rainforest in pockets of the area, while also tending to a small amount on his own property.

It is there while having his morning coffee before getting to work that the now 82-year-old has had time to reflect on the work that he and his fellow volunteers have been doing, as well as the teams he collaborated with around the world.

He has been a valued member of the Society. We are very proud of his receiving this distinction and extend our congratulations to his family.

Adapted from a South Coast Register article  
written by Connor Pearce. Background photo by Robert Peet.

## Know Your 2023/2024 Committee

**PRESIDENT**  
Margaret Cullity

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Janet Hanson

**SECRETARY**  
Gail Paton

**TREASURER**  
Hilary Brickhill

**COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS**

Sue Davidson  
Frank Howarth

Kay Jarrett  
Sandra Berner

We very much regret  
that we are now not able  
to hold this function.  
We extend our apologies.

*Christmas in July*

## Fifty Pounds Worth of Silver

Made before decimal currency was adopted in Australia, this bank bag was used in Berry by customers and staff of the local English, Scottish and Australian Bank (ES&A Bank) up until its closure.

In 1884-5, the ES&A Bank began building a branch in the country town of Berry. The building was one of five small-scale banks designed by William Wilkinson Wardell (1823-1899), making it the first building in Berry to be designed by a prominent architect.

As the Berry branch of the ES&A Bank, the building served Berry locals for nearly sixty years before being sold to the Council in 1943. Just eight years later, the bank was reopened in the same building. However, they ceased business following a merger between ED&A Bank and the Australian New Zealand Bank (ANZ) in December 1972.



Today, the building is only one of two remaining small-scale bank buildings designed by Wardell. Significantly, many of its original features, both inside and out, have been preserved to the present day.

The Berry Historical Society began to operate in the former banking chamber in the 1970s, and the property has been used as the Berry Museum ever since. Throughout this time, the banking chamber and its history have engaged visitors interested in the years spent processing thousands of withdrawal, deposits, and loan negotiations.

This small, cotton bag has likely spent most of its existence within the same walls. A bank, now long-gone, becoming its permanent home.



Story by Megan Cardamone from [storyplace.org.au](http://storyplace.org.au).  
Investigate hundreds of other objects from Australia museums.

## Random Notes from recent Committee meetings for your interest

A future display will mark the  
Red Cross 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the institution in this country.



**The old blinds in the Coolangatta Room  
will being replaced. Our friends at  
Budget Blinds are doing the job for us.**

We thank Steve Fellows and his dedicated  
team for manning Bunnings'  
Saturday sausage stands.

The effort brings in welcome cash,  
whenever the willing bunch mans the grill.  
We appreciate you Steve - and Bunnings.

**Whilst our application for a grant to  
renovate the old bathroom area was not  
successful, we will still go ahead with  
the work thanks to the help of Ben  
Morgan from Buildfest Pty Ltd.  
The bathroom is being converted  
to a much-needed storage area.**

The Noah Flood Boat's restoration goes  
ahead as money permits. We have now  
authorised funding for new oars, rollicks  
and rudder.

A transport/storage cradle is being  
investigated, and designed.

Our shelter dates from the 1990s  
and may also have to be rebuilt eventually.

**We are watching the debate regarding  
the sale of David Berry Hospital; the  
Berry Hotel situation; and our  
Development Control Plan (DCP).  
We thank the Heritage Sub-Committee  
- Jan Hanson Catherine Barlow,  
Janet Fingleton, Judith Ball for  
keeping their ears and eyes alert.**

Our popular give-away sheet  
*Walks in Berry; Historic Queen Street* is  
being revised and reprinted.

*Significant Trees Register - of Berry*  
is also due for a redesign.

Is there a Graphic Designer out there  
who could assist with the pre-prints?

**The recently newly-framed Broughton  
Lodge Masonic collar and apron will  
soon hang in the Military Room.  
It all looks great.**

We welcome our new cleaners, Jodie,  
Jemma and Crystal.

### NEW LIGHTING NOW INSTALLED throughout



**Efficient and effective... our long-awaited LED bars are now in place.** They give greater clarity to our displays and remove the gloominess of the interiors. We are very fortunate to have received a generous grant from Horizon Bank towards the cost.

**Horizon Bank**

Shoalhaven Council liaised with our heritage advisors and contracted the installation. Again we are very thankful.

**Shoalhaven City Council**

Above:  
President Margaret Cullity and Secretary Gail Paton approving the brighter lighting.

### CONDUCTED TOURS ALWAYS POPULAR

**Members are often asked to open specifically to cater for special interest groups and historians.**

We recently welcomed a group of Rotarians, and also 40+ children and teachers from Berry PS. Students of different ages are regular visitors.

The children were very excited to see so many special aspects of Berry's history. The visit has put a lot of their learning into context and made the remainder of the heritage studies a lot more realistic and exciting! Hopefully they bring their families on a weekend soon.

The well-behaved students very much enjoyed looking at and thinking about how our way of life has changed or stayed the same.

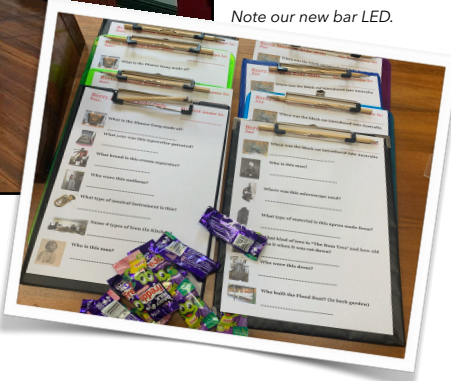


Left:

Our "hands on" room is a big success with the kids. They are encouraged to investigate intriguing, obsolete equipment such as our old telephone switch board, dial up telephones, typewriters, stamp vending machine, manual scales and school slates.

This room was once the Manager's office. The hallway led to the residence. Managers and their families were often uprooted and transferred between branches.

Note our new bar LED.



Right:

We reward our young visitors for playing detectives. A simple questionnaire is designed for self-discovery and exploration of the exhibits. The adults appreciate the diversion of attention also !





### The Berry Camellia and Floral Show

will be held at the School of Arts on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July.

Our *Lasca Beauty* is a winner year after year. We'll enter some blooms and hope that we can repeat previous success.

Look for the tree in the western side garden.

### AN APPEAL FOR HELP

As you know, the Society relies on the dedication and support of members to help us fulfil our mission of preserving and promoting our local heritage. We need more members to share the load.

We are currently looking for a member to take on the role of **Social Media Administrator** for the Museum's Facebook and Instagram accounts.

The Social Media Administrator has overall responsibility for the Society's social media presence, including doing regular posts.



This role, which includes updating our website, helps us reach a wider audience and ensures that our digital presence reflects our values and mission.

If you are interested in this non-onerous task, or know of someone who would fit this role, please send a response to: [berrymuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:berrymuseum@bigpond.com).

We truly appreciate all that our volunteers do to make our Museum a special place for our community to visit and to preserve our heritage.



### HOLD THE DATE

### JOIN THE TEAM

### Family History Information Session

Friday 12 July - 2:00 pm

The general public enquiries we receive involve identifying relevant information, using on-line and our own Museum resources, and then presenting the research to the enquirer.

Learn the accepted methods and protocols used in research and accessioning. Get to know our collections and files.

This activity is a fascinating and satisfying way to get involved, and, time-wise, not onerous.

Local historian and family historian, *Robyn Florance* will be with us to provide guidance.

If you are interested in seeing what is involved, please join us for this afternoon tea info session at the Museum.





## FROM OUR COLLECTIONS

### Musings for your morning coffee

**How many containers did you handle this morning to make your coffee? Containers familiar to our touch and eye, by their shapes and colours, help us to identify their contents. Designs that we take for granted.**



Sadly, the introduction of cheap plastic and waxed containers, and foil wrapping, has ensured the demise of many types of iconic glass bottles and jars. One by one, those familiar containers are now made of plastic. Most never to be made in glass again. Soon, they will be seen only in museums and personal collections. Items we must treasure for future generations.

The Berry Museum is lucky to have a wide and fascinating selection of glass containers. Many of the smaller bottles were found in a Berry back garden and kindly donated to the Museum so others can see them.

Form usually follows function. Witness the narrow openings for pouring, e.g. sauce and wine bottles and those for liquid medicine, but wide openings for jars where the contents are accessed in the jar, e.g. jam, bottling and paste jars. Other examples include those for medicine in pill form, Bovril, Vegemite, ink, perfumes, and the 'Kilner' jar for bottling fruit.

Ideally, the cheapest bottle or jar is one with the maximum volume in relation to the minimum amount of glass. However, other considerations are often paramount. For example, the iconic shapes for product identification; the ease of handling; for bulk storage and display; the space taken on the shop shelf where every inch of shelf space has to earn its keep; the thick and or dimpled glass to infer the volume of the bottle was greater than it looked; and space for labels to not only advertise the product, but the requirements to list contents etc.

In addition to their shape, colour is an important identification and marketing ploy. Consider the clear glass for purity; the blue for poisons; the brown beer bottles where the darker colour deceives the drinker into thinking the contents are stronger; the iconic dark brown Bovril bottles (green bottles were a marketing failure) and black Vegemite bottles - the dark colour inferring concentrated contents.

Do you remember the old glass milk bottle? No longer that crisp, chilled, and solid feel of glass, or the gentle twist of the silver or gold top - the thin aluminium foil - to be carefully replaced. Those old feelings of round and firm familiarity lost forever, replaced with single use, ugly angles, and floppy forms.

No longer the clip-clop of the horse's hooves and the tinkle of the bottles as the milkman delivers the morning pint. And gone is the pint. No longer those sounds to waken one who has overslept. No longer the race to beat those early morning doorstep sparrows pecking through the foil to get at the cream risen to the top.

And no cream either to delight the cat!

*Thanks, Keith Houstén*

**The Museum recently applied for a \$2000 grant to restore and preserve an important, local wedding dress.**

**We were delighted when the donor of the dress even added a generous donation towards the quoted costs.**



The tiny 20" waist requires a bespoke mannequin for storage and display. No modern 'off the shelf' mannequin is available.

This fine example of a 1891 wedding dress was donated to our collection in 2022. The dress is very worthy of repair and we are committed to its long-term preservation.

The LUMSDEN WEDDINGS DRESS is described as a gold Dutchess satin two-piece wedding dress,

**Visit:  
SATURDAY  
& SUNDAY**

**11am - 3pm**

**Admission is  
FREE**

Often open  
during some  
**SCHOOL  
HOLIDAYS**

**Group tours by  
arrangement**

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

E&OE. © B&DHS 2024

Deadline for 4th quarter issue  
- 1 Sept 2024

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

### **Federal grant helps our volunteers**

South Coast MP,  
*Fiona Philips*, has  
successfully arranged  
a small grant to help  
our volunteers with  
day-to-day tasks.  
We are very grateful  
for this gesture as our  
helpers are always the  
last to complain.

We have identified a  
microwave; a stick  
vacuum cleaner; panel  
heater; and a strong  
Gerni pressure cleaner  
as being on our wish  
list. These items will  
certainly assist us.

### **NOTES**

Royal Australian  
Historical  
Society  
**NEWSLETTER**

June 2024  
[rats.org.au](http://rats.org.au)

Weds 7 August  
1:00pm to 2:00pm

### **RAHS DAY LECTURE**

Sylvia Lawson's  
Journey from film  
critic to Historian

Sam Twyford Moore



**This former English Scottish & Australian Chartered Bank (1884) is now Berry's local history museum.** The building has an asymmetrical stepped facade and distinctive casement windows. It was built of Flemish bonded bricks and is probably the only survivor of about six country banks that William Wardell (1823-1899) designed.

Wardell also designed St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, Melbourne's St Patrick's Cathedral, and the E S & A Bank head office in Melbourne which, at the time, was acclaimed as "the most distinguished building of the whole Australian Gothic-Revival Era".

The Berry bank is a fine Scottish Baronial example and one of Wardell's more modest projects. It was designed at a time when he was expressing "his newly discovered love for Italianate, Palladian and Venetian architecture". The bank merged with the ANZ Bank and ceased operating in Berry in 1972. In October 1975 the Society moved the Museum from behind the Chemist shop, where it had been since 1970, to the banking chambers and later acquired additional rooms. By 1984 the Museum had full use of the buildings and grounds.



**VALE**

**Harvey Desmond Crampton Blue**  
**9 July 1938 - 22 May 2024**

**It is with great sadness that we announce  
 the passing of member, *Harvey Blue*.**

He died peacefully on Wednesday 22nd May 2024,  
 surrounded by his family, at the David Berry Hospital in Berry.

Harvey was an extraordinary man who lived a full and happy life. A visionary architect, enthusiastic sportsman, avid reader, gardener, and lover of classical music, his greatest sources of joy were his family and his garden at the Blue family property on Tindalls Lane,



Harvey sketched a score of Berry buildings and published posters and cards of these, which we sell in the Museum.

Harvey was an avid lover of local history and assisted us in so many ways.

We will miss him.

A celebration of Harvey's life will be held at 11:00 on Saturday 13 July at the Berry Court House (58 Victoria Street, Berry). In his name please make a donation to Bush Heritage Australia - <https://www.gofundraise.com.au/payments/donate/beneficiary/350?embed=true>

### A HARVEY ANECDOTE

Back in 2018 *Glen Frohling* and *Tom Bevan* tested the strip of pale coloured paint around the exterior of the Museum. We learnt that it was lead based and so needed to be removed. The removal of the old lead paint exposed the 19<sup>th</sup> Century blond brick work and the original ES&AC Bank sign.



Harvey was walking past just when Council workers were stripping the paintwork and who seemed determined to obliterate the name as well. Harvey, in a determined manner, demanded they stop immediately. And history was saved.

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

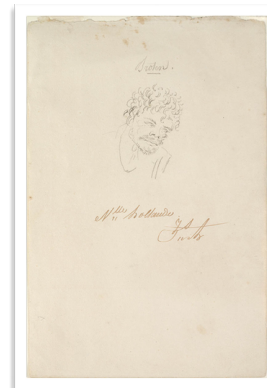
We recognise the ongoing custodians of the lands  
 and waterways where we live and work.

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



*Before European settlement the Wodi-  
 Wodi people lived in the area known  
 as Boon-ga-ree.*

*Alexander Berry gave his trusted  
 landsman Tooodwick, who was born  
 here, the European name of  
 Broughton. The creek and township  
 were named after him. He was an  
 important figure in early European  
 exploration of the Illawarra and  
 Shoalhaven having acted as a guide  
 on numerous trips to these areas from  
 Sydney and the Southern Highlands  
 for Charles Throsby, James Meehan,  
 John Oxley and Alexander Berry.*



*Recommended by Throsby, Broughton  
 was of great importance to Berry as he  
 helped him find a site for his  
 homestead, assisted in cutting the first  
 track to bring cattle down from the  
 tablelands and guided Berry to large  
 cedar stands on the lower slopes of  
 the mountain. He helped build the first  
 homestead on Coolangatta Estate and  
 undertook a wide range of jobs for  
 Berry on and off the estate.*

A full biography can be read here:

[adb.anu.edu.au](http://adb.anu.edu.au)

and also at:

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

1819 portrait sketch by Jacques Arago