
THE CHRONOGRAPH



**A THANK YOU
MORNING TEA
AND BRIEFING
FOR ALL MEMBERS
WHO DO ROSTER DUTY
and to those who would
like to become involved
in hosting visitors.**



This event is in appreciation of your time looking after our visitors. You will also be able to refresh your knowledge of exhibits and changes to the Museum.

You may have questions about the current procedures in place and make suggestions to make your shift of better value to our users and your time.

We'll welcome feedback of your rostering experiences.

**10:00 am
WEDNESDAY, 22 July
At the Museum**

**RSVP Margaret [HERE](#)
by 20 July.**

Notes from the President Margaret Cullity

Hello Everyone,

Here we are at the EFY, and very soon the B&DHS has its AGM... all shorthand for electing a Committee, delivering an Annual Report and assessing our stewardship of the Society over the past year. But what of the next?



For your Executive, 2025/26 has been very challenging on one particular front. We haven't been able to find souls to replace our Secretary and to fill other important roles at the Museum. This shortage of man-power has meant those responsibilities must be shared amongst others. This is onerous on those involved and lessens the impact of our common endeavours. Continuity of progress and change is impaired. Unacceptable.

The Society is yours. We need your assistance, expertise and willingness to be fully engaged. A recent list of our teams show that we have nearly fifty tasks to administer. We can't do it all with a depleted group of workers. There will be a role to suit your interest time available and experience.

**Please seriously consider
nominating for Committee
at our coming elections.**

Best wishes to all,
Margaret

**OUR 2026 AGM WILL BE ON
10:00 am on FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2026
at the Uniting Church Hall**

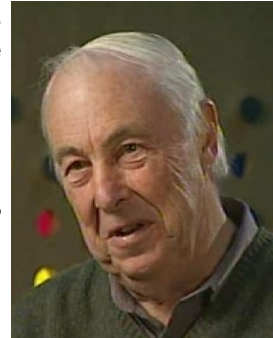
**The Agenda will consist of MINUTES from our 2025 AGM,
Margaret's President's Report, Election of Office-bearers,
and the introduction of our guest speaker.**

**We have asked *Bill Gammage* to be our guest speaker for the event.
He will talk on *Seeking the Shoalhaven*.**

This talk repeats the familiar account of events
leading to the first European settlement of the
Shoalhaven district in 1822, but with emphasis on
the question:

*Since Europeans knew of the Shoalhaven since 1797,
and had occupied the Illawarra just north since 1815,
why did it take so long to occupy this district?*

If you wish, would you kindly bring along a plate
of morning tea to share.



***Bill Gammage AM FASSA is an Australian historian, author of many books,
particularly the ground-breaking military history *The Broken Years*,
and *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines made Australia*.***

**The official BOM rain gauge
for Berry is located
in our back yard.**

We monitor our equipment at least
weekly to record and report on
local conditions. This meticulous
attention is very much appreciated
by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Unlike earlier drier months, May
has proven to be quite wet.

Total rainfall for May is 150.6
millimetres with most of that
rainfall between 22 and 29 May.

Highest rainfall period was the 24
hours to 0900 on 29 May, a total
of 38mm. The total year to date
2026 now stands at 654.3mm,
which is about 10% above
average.

PW

**HELP NEEDED AT FUND-
RAISING STREET STALL**

An enthusiastic group of members
are hosting a street stall
on the Market Weekend -
SATURDAY, 1 August.

We will sell framed photos from our
collection, books, postcards, copies of
Harvey Blue's building and house
drawings, as well as scones, slices
and cakes.

Show favourite *Vonnie Muller's* recipe
book *My Favourite Recipes* is a
popular buy.

If you can contribute items, help man
the stall, or cook up sweet treats,
please contact Sandra Berner [HERE](#).

BERRY Country Women's Association of NSW

75th Birthday Lunch and Fundraiser for Pancreatic Cancer Research

Berry Bowling Club Thursday, August 20, 2026. \$45pp

Booking & payment: <https://www.trybooking.com/DMOIL>

It is time to renew your membership

This should be done BEFORE our **Annual General Meeting**, which will be held at **10:00 am on FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2026.**

*You will then remain a financial member and be eligible to vote in the election of Office Bearers and for/against resolutions.
The Annual Report is always presented at the AGM.*

Fees remain unchanged:		Discounted Fee for Roster Members:	
Family Membership	\$40	Family Membership	\$30
Single Membership	\$30	Single Membership	\$20
Once or twice a month open/close up the Museum and welcome visitors. For just two hours each month, mostly on weekends, sign onto the roster and you will be eligible for discounted membership fees.			

Email us of any change in your details... phone, email, address.

If convenient could you please pay the fees directly into the Historical Society's bank account with the NAB either in person in Nowra or by bank transfer. Details of the account are below.

Payment can also be made in person at the Museum with cash or EFTPOS.

NAB Details: BSB: 082 435 Acct: 175071089

Name: The Berry & District Historical Society Inc

Important: Please include your name as payment reference.

We sincerely thank you for your membership and involvement over the past year.

As our Society and Museum get more active and relevant to our community your ongoing support is vitally important. We will be very sorry if you choose not to renew and would welcome feedback as to the reason for your decision

SOME DATES, SOME LEARNING and SOME READING

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES (FAHS)

Australia is served by some 1200 community history and heritage societies, operating in every electorate and local government area across the nation. FAHS is the national peak body representing the interests of these societies and their 100,00 members throughout Australia.

FAHS website is [HERE](#). Latest newsletter is [HERE](#).

KIAMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Building research skills seminar

Saturday 18 July, 10.00 am - 1.45 pm, Kiama Library Auditorium

\$25 members, prior booking needed. Includes morning tea and light lunch

Carol Liston RAHS President and Christine Yeats Senior Vice President will share life-long insights into how to best explore our past.

[https://us.list-manage.com/K6EslCrPg_?
e=2d98f6b9a5&c2id=1f5216ff29515eaae5c6fa5e77cd41da](https://us.list-manage.com/K6EslCrPg_?e=2d98f6b9a5&c2id=1f5216ff29515eaae5c6fa5e77cd41da)

BERRY COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE PEACE

World War I had been finished for a year before the NSW South Coast township of Berry decided to hold its celebration of peace that included an official welcome-home to the soldiers who had enlisted from the district.



A public holiday had been proclaimed in the local municipality for Thursday, November 13, 1919 when the streets were decorated with flags and bunting.

Notable were the five arches erected at different spots along the route of the procession by the council, agricultural society, dairy factory, diggers, and well-known local identities, brothers *Matthew and Thomas Pulman*.

The day began at 10.30am with the procession that travelled through the main streets including Anzac Avenue, where trees had been planted in memory of local men killed in action, and wreaths were laid there before the sounding of The Last Post.

It was led by "Joan of Arc" – *Miss Johnston* riding a grey charger, who was followed by the brass band, returned soldiers, fire brigade, and students from district schools.

Two lorries represented the Allies – one drawn by six horses and the other by four – and the prize went to that prepared by *Kirton & Co's sawmill*.

Local Aboriginals took part in the procession, and one later gave an exhibition of boomerang throwing that was much appreciated.

Activities continued at the showground where lunch was served in picnic fashion under the shade of the trees, to the huge gathering of adults and children.

There was a sports program, but significantly the presentation of certificates with the Berry Council's seal to many of the 150 young men from the district who had enlisted. "Of that number no less than 20 per cent had made the supreme sacrifice, and today they enjoyed liberty at the price of the blood they had spilt," the Mayor said.

Kiama photographer *Samuel Cocks* attended Peace Day, and within days was selling postcards of his images. This card, above, shows the arch erected by the Diggers in Alexandria Street, and among the returned servicemen A top of the structure was *Lovel John Towers* who had joined the Royal Australian Navy at the age of 13.

B&DHS thanks Alan Clark, AM for this abridged contribution, which first appeared in NSW Post Card Collectors' Society Bulletin.

Sources: Nowra Leader – Friday 7 November 1919; Shoalhaven Telegraph – Wednesday 12 November 1919; The Shoalhaven News and South Coast Districts Advertiser – Saturday 15 November 1919; The Town of Berry Remembers, by Robyn Florance and Robyn Stanger – Robyn Florance, OAM.

Peter Whitton's team reports on progress on NOAH



Work is proceeding steadily preparing the interior of the hull for final painting.

The proposed colour scheme is very similar to the SHOALHAVEN flood boat, which remains in its 40 foot container in SCC storage.

Jim continues repairing and rebuilding the removable floor sections (limber boards) of the boat of which there are five, ably assisted by the other crew members Graham, Doug, Rob and Barry. None of the floor sections were complete with some boards either missing or broken and the underside battens mostly missing. Jim has a personal supply of Australian Cedar boards and copper nails which he has used to create replacement boards for the floors as well as battens, all re-fastened with copper nails identical to the originals.

Unlike the sister ship SHOALHAVEN which has new floors made from imported Indonesia/Malaysian Merbau hardwood, the NOAH floors will be exact replicas of the originals. Many thanks to Jim and the crew for achieving such an excellent and original finish to this important part of the boat.

To date there have been more than 400 volunteer hours invested in the NOAH during the conservation.

There is discussion amongst the boat crew on an idea to have the NOAH secured in a weatherproof structure at the Museum, to preserve the NOAH into the future and to also offer a secure site which is suitable for visitor viewing. Storing the NOAH on its launching trolley on a roadworthy trailer would allow transport of the NOAH to a nearby show, festival or school which not only offers educational opportunities to a wider audience, it also is an opportunity to create awareness of the B&DHS and Berry Museum. That may seem a grand plan, however following the conservation, the preserved future of the NOAH requires some appropriate planning.

Peter Whitton

The Chronograph is published four times each year.

E&OE. © B&DHS 2026

Deadline for Sept 2026 issue - 20 August 2026.

For all contacts please email: berrymuseum@bigpond.com

135 Queen Street, 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 and/or Membership.
Thank you.

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

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

Sandra Berner
Alan Clark
Margaret Cullity
John Edmonds
Janet Fingleton
Peter Whitton

Articles and ideas are always welcomed.



Our garden bees are busy in the east garden and want to lay down a brick border.

Do you have any new/ recycled house bricks that we could use?

We'd appreciate any you may have.

