

THE CHRONOGRAPH



BERRY MUSEUM

Naming of WOODHILL

Historian Alan Clark AM
discovers the story.

The origin of the district name of Woodhill was revealed by a Wesleyan minister, *Rev. Richard Caldwell*, who was stationed in the Shoalhaven from 1866. Writing under the nom-de-plume of "*Old Traveller*", he told of his experiences in a lengthy article published by *The Methodist* newspaper (26 March 1910):

"A number of families from Donegal had taken up land on the mountain, and they wanted preaching. We put the place on our plan, and had to find a name for it.

At Mr (Adam) Boyd's suggestion, we called the area Wood Hill, by which it is still known."



Notes from the President *Margaret Cullity*

Autumn is with us and so just a few months left of the Museum's year. Without becoming complacent, we have made good progress over the term to date.

There are certainly gaps to fill in some of our positions, but overall with procedures and compliance we are looking good. We have now concluded negotiations on a new lease with council for our premises. This has been a long process but we have received good advice and help from the legal brains in our fraternity with these detailed terms. We are now happy with what Council is offering and to have a certainty to our tenancy.

Following Gail Paton's retirement we are still looking for a Committee Minute Secretary, as well as a Secretary for the Society. These needn't be onerous roles. We would very much like to hear if you feel one of these jobs is for you.

We always need names for the front desk roster. Please help out. It is a rewarding task to open up and welcome visitors, just once or twice a month.

Best wishes to all.

Margaret

Know Your 2025/2026 Committee

PRESIDENT
Margaret Cullity

ACTING VP
Lindsay Brien

SECRETARY
Vacant

TREASURER
Karen Stieper

COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

Sandra Berner
Hilary Brickhill

Sue Davidson
Frank Howarth

Donna Rainsford

**The Berry Historical Society and Berry Museum
celebrate 55 Years.**

Our stone tools classified by experts



In February, we invited Heritage Consultant, Kelvin Officer, to classify our stone artefact assemblage.

He met up at the Museum with Margaret Cullity, Sandra Berner, Frank Howarth, Uncle Gerry Moore, and Janet Fingleton

Kelvin is a well-known, local archaeologist with 30 years' experience. The museum thought it high time that our stone tool assemblage was classified properly.

Now we can display the tools in such a way that visitors can understand how and from what they were formed and how they were used.

We possess about 20 artefacts, most found locally on properties in Agars Lane and on Moeyan Hill. The most prevalent were ground-edge axes, some of which were hammer-dressed. A few had been hafted on to a wooden handle to use as an axe or anvil. Kelvin examined them individually with a magnifying glass, which enabled him to analyse the tool's characteristics, the type of stone used, the manufacturing techniques and expertise of the maker, the use-wear patterns and the cultural significance of the tools.



Some objects were identified as hammer stones,. One unusual piece was thought to be a wooden throwing club - a Lil Lil or Bundt, which could have been used for ceremonial purposes.

We are rehousing our collection to better light and display these precious objects.



BATHROOM RENOVATION COMPLETED

We are in the process of taking completion confirmation photos of the renovation of the old bathroom. This area has now been converted to a much needed storage room for our linen collection. New plastering, painting and shelving has seen this room converted.

A dollar for dollar contribution from Heritage NSW has achieved the outcome. Archive boxes now store these precious dresses and fabrics.

The inventory has been thoroughly catalogued, preserved, and moth protected!

OUR STAND AT THE BERRY SHOW CREATED INTEREST



CHANGE TO GRANT PROCEDURE

From 2026, the Volunteer Museum Grants will be delivered as a single, consolidated program. The former Small Grants, Skills Development, Leg Up, and Project Development Grants have been brought together, allowing the Society to apply for funding up to \$4000 per project.

The next round opens 13 July and closes 6 September 2026.

We will certainly continue to lobby for NOAH funding, and for display cabinets to better show our indigenous display in the Museum. *Janet Hanson* retired as our grants coordinator after her move to Sydney. A replacement is being sought..

Some events and dates to note.

NATIONAL TRUST (NSW)

Australian Heritage Festival - now on to 18 May.

Illawarra Branch Newsletter:

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Event: *Commemorating 125 Years of Australia's Navy*

This is an exhibition that remembers people and events that have shaped the country's interests in peace and war. A commemorative display that tells stories of love, loss, vigilance, community and sacrifice unique to navy life.

MUSEUMS OF HISTORY NSW

MEROOGAL WOMEN'S ART PRIZE

Entries now open for the Meroogal Women's Art Prize for 2026. Women artists from across NSW are invited to submit works, in any medium, that respond to the historic Thorburn and McGregor house, Meroogal, in Nowra.

There is a prize pool of over \$18,000. Entries close on Wednesday, 15 July. More info: [HERE](#)

Visit Meroogal 10am - 4pm on Saturdays. BOOK YOUR GUIDED TOUR [HERE](#).

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](#).

NSW PUBLIC SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

4 to 20 July; 26 September to 12 October 2026.

BBQs snag \$\$\$s as reward for a day's long, hot hustle

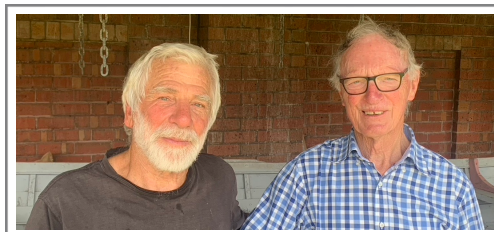


Karen's tenacity pays off each time her snag squad organises and (wo)mans a sausage sizzle on our behalf at a community event. Garry, Kerry, Ted and many others shop ahead; arrive early lugging heavy supplies of drinks, ice, produce, meats, bread and so on. Then a long day buttering, smiling, cooking before the clean up starts. Their hard yakka pays off. We will purchase an iPad from recent proceeds, with most gains heading to the NOAH restoration fund. We appreciate our Snag Legends very much. Karen is always looking for workers if you are keen (as mustard). Bun intended.

Peter Whitton's team reports on progress on NOAH

Conservation work progresses on the boat with painting the inside of the hull and some minor repairs.

There are three removeable fitted floor sections in the boat which require repair, some of the boards are split and a long board is missing from the central section.



The floors are otherwise all there and needed to be refastened to their own frames which has been achieved by our shipwright Jim. The missing board from the central section will be replaced with a similar board and when repainted will have the appearance of the original item.

Progress on the four oars is almost complete and they are expected to be in Berry by the end of May. Once here they will be painted and a method of stowing them securely in the boat, where they will be visible, will be devised.

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

Rainfall in March was reasonable with a total of 190mm, making a progressive total for 2026 so far of 478mm

April by contrast was quite dry with a total of only 25mm as of 28 April and no rain forecast until later in May.

The BOM has issued a forward forecast of what could be a drier than average winter and somewhat colder than average winter.

We remember *Rosalyn Pollard*, who died in April.

Ros was a long-time member of the Historical Society and a past President. She was very active in the Society, involving herself in many activities within the Museum. Apart from holding the position of President for a few years, she also did a wonderful job managing the roster for quite a long time. Ros was also instrumental in acquiring our current on-line accessioning system. While we were closed during Covid, Ros spent many hours in the Museum sorting and cataloging all our linen collection, albeit with lots of help from a number of people. Her contribution overall was greatly appreciated. MC

The Short List

DEED OF GIFT... another form revised and ready for use.

Thanks to *Julia Woinarski, Lindsay Brien, Janet Hanson, President Margaret and Keith Houston* for revising and updating our Deed of Gift form.

It is now a much better fit-for-purpose document.

GARDEN TEAM ACTIVE hunting down wasps terrorising our visitors.

Our Garden Bees are sourcing quotes for an irrigation system for the west garden, and are also formulating designs for a proposed rose bed. The members are mindful of our heritage conditions for any work in the grounds of the Museum.



OUR 2026 AGM WILL BE ON 10:00 am on FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2026

We have asked *Bill Gammage* to be our guest speaker for the event.,

Bill Gammage AM 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*.

It is a coup to secure him for our AGM. Save the date!

The Chronograph is published four times each year.

E&OE. © B&DHS 2026

Deadline for mid 2026 issue
- 20 June 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'.
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.



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

