



The Berry & District Historical Society Inc

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The Shoalhaven Chronograph with Berry Newsletter

February-March 2019

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Dates for your Diary

19th & 21st March 9.30-11.30am **Working Bee at the Museum**

25th March 10.00 am **Member Talk: The Berry Golf Course**

3rd April 10.00am **New Member Morning Tea**

Other Dates

27th March 10.00am **Museum Tour - Warrigal Community Group**

5th April **Museum Tour – Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Services**

8th August 2.00pm **Annual General Meeting (To be Confirmed)**

Member Talks 2019

Submitted by Annette Frohling

Four Talks for our Members are planned for 2019.

Monday 25 March A Talk on the Berry Golf Course

On Monday 25 March, at 10.00 am, there will be an update for Members on the Society's activities, followed by an informative talk on the Berry Golf Course and the sport of golfing in Berry. Our very own Nancy Bevan will be sharing this information with us as we continue our search through Berry's rich history. There will be a light morning tea after the talk.

There will also be a member talk on Berry Race Course later in the year. The date for this talk is still to be advised.

New Member Morning Tea

On the 3rd April we will be holding our first New Member Morning Tea to welcome new members, and to give them an orientation of the Museum and the role of The Berry & District Historical Society.

While this is primarily for new members, we would welcome other members, too. It is intended that these New Member Morning Teas will be held quarterly, so there should be plenty of opportunity to participate.

Bookings are essential. Numbers are limited, so if you are interested in attending, please contact the Museum to book your place.

Annis & George Bills Horse Trough

On the corner of Prince Alfred and Queen Streets, Berry, is an example of an Annis and George Bills Horse Trough. Annis and George Bills made their money from slumber rest mattresses. They were a married couple with no children and they had a great interest in animal welfare. When George Bills died, he left his estate to fund a humble, yet remarkable community initiative.



The horse trough at the entrance to Apex Park, Berry

Bills horse troughs are watering troughs that were manufactured in Australia and installed to provide relief for working horses in the first half of the twentieth century.

One of the things that the Bills thought important, was to see that when a horse came into town there was somewhere for the horse to have a drink. Hence the Annis and George Bills trough.

The troughs were more likely to be placed at the entrance to a town, so after a long ride, the horse could slake its thirst at the trough. Many of the troughs also had a dog bowl attached on the end of them, so dogs had somewhere to drink too.

The trough here in Berry is one of around 700 horse troughs distributed around Australia, and 50 more overseas. You can see the dog bowl on the right hand side of the trough.

The plaque on the front of the trough reads:

DONATED BY
ANNIS & GEORGE BILLS
AUSTRALIA

According to the Monument Australia website, troughs were donated in memory of the horses that did not return from World War One. At the end of the WWI, Australians had 13,000 surplus horses which could not be returned home for quarantine reasons. Of these, 11,000 were sold, the majority as remounts for the British Army in India. The rest were considered too old or infirm. Only one horse, "Sandy", was returned home. "Sandy" had belonged to Major General Sir William Bridges who was killed at Gallipoli.

Ernest Shackleton - Postscript

We have had many visitors to the Museum over the summer break, with many specifically coming to see the Shackleton exhibit. While this exhibit has now finished, you can find more information on the BBC News website.

On the 27th January, the BBC News website featured an article about a new scientific expedition which has set out to find Shackleton's lost ship, the *Endurance*.

Those who are familiar with Shackleton's amazing escape from Antarctica will know that Shackleton never made it to terra firma on this, his third visit to the Antarctic. The *Endurance* was trapped in ice, was crushed and eventually sank in the Weddell Sea.

For more details on the search for the *Endurance*, you can see the full article on the BBC News website: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-47000896>

Or you can find out more about Shackleton's crossing of South Georgia on this page of the BBC News website: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41030235>

Reminder to All Members

Members are not permitted to remove items from the Museum. This includes photos, articles, files, books and all other artifacts.

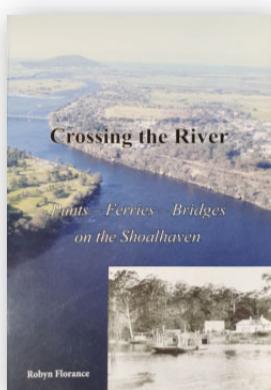
If you have borrowed items in the past, please return them to our collection, so that they are available to all for research and reference. Thank you.

Help Wanted

Can you spare a couple of hours? On the 19th and 21st March between 9.30am and 11.30am, we will be having a working bee to help with cleaning of some of the displays in the Museum.

If you can spare even a little bit of your time, please contact Margaret Ogle on 4464 2499 or Ros Pollard on 4464 1261 for more details.

Book for Sale at the Museum



CROSSING THE RIVER

Punts – Ferries – Bridges on the Shoalhaven

Author: Robyn Florance

Original photos included with well-written articles about the ferries, punts, the ferry men and women from 1822 when Alexander Berry was commissioned to explore the South Coast of NSW by sea.

No. of pages: 87 pages

Articles for the Next Issue

If you have any interesting stories about the Berry region or its history that you would like to share, please forward them to the editor for inclusion in our next issue.

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