



The Berry & District Historical Society Inc

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Chronograph

August-November 2021

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Dates for your Diary

4th December – 2pm promotion of the Berry Museum at the gates

16th December – 5.00pm - 7.00pm Christmas Drinks, for Members and partners, will be held on the side verandah. Entrance will be via Side Gate, near ramp, and please BYO drink and food. RSVP: berrymuseum@bigpond.com. for Covid 19 tracing purposes. We will have social distancing protocols in place, taking every effort, to ensure your protection.

Annual General Meeting

The Berry & District Historical Society Annual General Meeting was held on 17th November at 2pm in the Uniting Church Hall.

Elections were held for committee members and office holders. The results are:

President – Ros Pollard

Vice President – Margaret Cullity

Treasurer - Hilary Brickhill

Secretary - Gail Paton

Committee Members:

Peter Knevitt

Janet Hanson

Sue Davidson

Sandra Berner

Julia Wionarski

Annette Frohling

Peter Knevitt

Congratulations to all.

President Ros Pollard's Annual Report

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Dharawal people who are the traditional custodians of this land on which we are meeting and pay respects to the Elders of the Dharawal Nation, Past, Present and Emerging.

20/21 Report

Thank you all for coming today.

This past year has certainly been eventful and educational. The number of people affected by the Covid 19 virus made us very aware that we had to be careful to keep our volunteers safe. So, we have been open only 4 weekends this year.

We are very lucky to have such a diverse group of members who are willing to come forward and donate their time and expertise in making the Historical Society and Museum so successful.

Keith has been very busy he was able to negotiate with council to have the garage floor concreted, and so we now have the Compactus ready to be used. He has erected hand rails at the stairs from the verandas to the north, re-done the camera display near the kitchen, and created two more displays one of bottles and the other of large old tools commonly used on farms or in the garden. These can be found in the small rooms between the Kitchen and the maid's room.

Annette for researching and writing such interesting articles for the Town Crier.

Sandra attacked the Hands-on Room with amazing results.

The battle of maintaining the Heritage of Berry and the surrounding area is ongoing and the Heritage Sub-committee led by Janet Hanson, has been kept remarkably busy. We appreciate the hours spent by the team researching and presenting their findings in an attempt to Maintain the history of our town. Janet Fingleton, Catherine Barlow, Sally Lindsay and Judith Ball.

As always, the gardens are kept beautiful by the gardening team led by Hazel, and including Jenny, Sandra, Trish and Annette. When we are open, they are admired by many of our visitors.

Our Federal Member Fiona Phillips, and the staff of the Art Gallery of Nowra were successful in gaining a grant for five Museums to digitise their collections. Berry is included in the five and our team of members has been busy selecting and researching items to be included in the first photographic event.

For the past few years, we have been fortunate to have Margot Jolly, a museum adviser contracted by the Shoalhaven Council visit us usually every second month. Margot is very generous with her time and knowledge, not only when she is here but also between visits if we have any questions or wish for advice.

Thank you for your time and expertise.

I would like to also mention Nancy Bevan, who gave so much to the museum, and is now enjoying the Masonic Nursing Home. She is still being missed.

Let us hope that the next year will see the end of Covid 19 and we can open our doors without fear of infection. We have missed seeing each other and also our visitors in the Museum.

Ros Pollard

Life Members

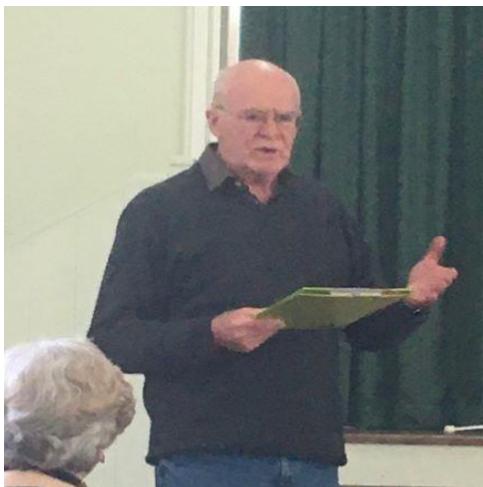
Last AGM in October 2020, 2 new Life Members were announced – Margaret Ogle and Margaret Stephens. This year, these ladies were presented with their certificates.



Congratulations ladies!

Defend Berry Heritage

Guest speaker Bill Woinarski



Bill Woinarski explained how the Defend Berry Heritage group came about and what their aims were.

In 2017, Council identified community concerns that unsympathetic development was eroding the unique heritage character of Berry. That erosion has accelerated recently with growth in demolitions, dual occupancy and other 'complying developments', many of which did not consider retention of heritage character.

Berry Community Strategic Plan (endorsed by Council in 2016) -

- Berry is highly valued by both its residents and its visitors for its location and its heritage village atmosphere. Future development and growth of tourism will be carefully balanced with a heightened focus on Berry's unique historic charm and rural character.
- Ensure that the town's planning controls and any proposed CBD developments retain existing character buildings and reflect the heritage appeal.

Shoalhaven 2040 Strategic Land-use Planning Statement (September 2020) -

- In-fill development, such as dual occupancy, is how villages like Berry will support housing supply. In areas with valued historic character and relationships with the landscape, village communities expressed a strong desire to be protected from overdevelopment.

After four years work, Council obtained approval for two additional Heritage Conservation Areas and 12 dwellings for heritage listing. However, there is now an urgent need for more extensive action to prevent further loss of Berry's unique character.

Concerned residents have formed an incorporated association 'Defend Berry Heritage Community Association' (the Association) to establish a broad community group to gather input and work with Council on expediting implementation of critical planning controls. The Association intends to work closely with other community groups who are concerned with heritage character issues, and has sought assistance from the Forum Committee on community communication and liaison with Council. Aim of the Association: To maintain the unique character, history and setting of the Berry area through careful planning and development. This includes protecting amenity, and social and cultural values.

You can support this community initiative by joining the Association and responding to requests for your views and consider becoming actively involved in developing the Association strategy and plans.

Old Berry Cemetery CMP



Laurelle Price, Catherine Barlow and Janet Fingleton spoke about the work they have done on the Conservation Management Plan for the Old Section of the Berry General Cemetery. Laurelle has several generations of her family buried in the Berry Cemetery.

PULMAN STREET

Pulman Street Berry, originally known as Pulman's Lane until 1973, has a very interesting history.

As you may have noticed, many of the roads around Berry bear the name of the person or family to whose farm the road or lane led, and one of the earliest was Pulman's Lane with the Pulman family farming land at the southern end of the track on the ridge at the northern end of the village. Interestingly this was Darawahl country and story has it that it was the birthplace of the aboriginal man, Broughton.

In 1859 Mrs Margaret Pulman, a 39 year old widow, had taken a lease from David Berry on a small cottage and 15 ½ acres of land on this area in Broughton Creek. With her were her 5 children - Elizabeth 19, William 18, Thomas 15, Catherine 14 and Matthew, 6 years old. Margaret's widowed mother, Mary Smith, lived with them.

But let's go back a little.....

Margaret had been the daughter of a convict, Thomas Smith, who had been convicted of house breaking in 1826 at Maidstone Assises, Kent and sentenced to be deported to New South Wales for life. He was a 42 year old farm labourer who was married with two children

and he arrived at in NSW in 1828 on the ship Bussorah Merchant. This ship also carried women and children whose names are not given in the passenger list, and so it is possible that Thomas' wife Mary, his daughter Margaret & her sister, travelled with him.

He was assigned to Messrs Berry and Wollstonecraft at Coolangatta in 1828, where he received a ticket of leave in 1836. He was pardoned in 1845 and in the 1844 census it was recorded that he was working as a calf feeder at Coolangatta.

In 1836, his daughter Margaret, at the age of 16, was married to William Tiller Pulman, a man almost 20 years her senior and who came from Devonshire in England. He was a master mariner and had charge of several of Berry's ships including the Star, the Susan, and the schooner Edward and it was also reported how he had helped deliver and erect a windmill on Coolangatta Estate. When he retired in the 1850's, he tried farming on a small holding in Bundanoon but sadly, after crop failures, he was admitted to the asylum at Ryde, with Melancholia, where he died in 1857.

And so it was that two years later in 1859 his widow Margaret and the Pulman family began their new business enterprise at Broughton Creek, as share farmers with David Berry. Share farming was based on the Scots' "Steel Bow" practise. The landlord accepted labour in payment of rent and provided seed, machinery and animals to get the enterprise underway. The produce was marketed by the owner, with the share partner receiving half the proceeds, less the selling cost. The Pulmans grew maize, practised dairy farming and planted an orchard on their property.

In 1863, at Alexander Berry's request, Mrs Pulman went to Sydney, accompanied by her mother, to give evidence in court at the hearing of a dispute over land ownership between Berry and William Elyard. Alexander was very appreciative of Margaret's assistance, but he noted one year later in a letter to his brother, David, that because of her poor health she would not be required to travel to Sydney again to swear an affidavit for him.

Margaret Pulman died in July 1877 and The Kiama Independent, July 21st, 1877, reported:

....'Two deaths have recently occurred here. One an old and highly respected resident, Mrs Pulman, widow of the late Captain Pulman, formerly well known in the Shoalhaven and Sydney trade. She was in a delicate state of health and eventually passed away in her 58th year. Mrs Pulman was a steady member of the Church of England and her religious principles were fixed, and well matured. The Rev. J. Elkin administered religious consolation to the last and read the funeral service over her remains very feelingly at the funeral, the interment taking place at the cemetery....'

Sadly Margaret was buried in an unmarked grave.

Carrying on Margaret's hard-working tradition, her son Thomas continued to lease land, increasing the amount over the years from 41 acres in 1873 to 73 acres in 1887. He also worked as a carpenter and interestingly was a member of Berry Rifle Club and the local Masonic Lodge.

Younger son Matthew married Clara Vidler in 1886. But sadly in 1891, soon after the birth of her last child, Clara died, leaving Matthew with 4 children. He had bought the carrying business of McDonnell and Quilkey in 1890 and then eight years later was appointed an Inspector of Dairies for the Berry Municipal Council.

In the early 1900's the Berry Estate sold the farm in Pulman Street and both Thomas and Matthew bought small acreages in George Street and on land adjacent to the school. They had farmed in Pulman Street for about 44 years but during that time had saved enough to buy land of their own. They were certainly true battlers from a family of true battlers.



Ploughing on the Pulman Farm

June Robson & Annette Frohling