

CHRONOGRAPH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
BERRY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
& THE BERRY MUSEUM

55
Years of
Local History



Notes from our President Margaret Cullity

Hello Everyone.

Our Committee has set Wednesday 20 August to be the date for our Annual General Meeting. That gives time after membership renewal at the end of the financial year to determine eligible voters.

A new year is a time for introspection and renewal. We commit ourselves to a revitalised charge of activity. I will stand again for President. There are still objectives to achieve under my watch, and I am enjoying the challenges and close involvements.

My annual report will be sent out closer to the time, but I reflect now on what we have achieved in the past twelve months. Improvements to the fabric and continuity of our building have been a constant. Our grounds look great - a patch of green and colour in the middle of town. Our teams have been tremendous in fostering their areas of expertise and responsibility. Exhibits have taken on an ever-more-managed appearance. Talks and events have had good attendances and responses. Society membership and museum visits have maintained.

There is always a sense of awe when I consider the practical and monetary assistance we get from Berry/Shoalhaven businesses & organisations, benefactors, grant donors, volunteers and members. You are appreciated.

The Museum celebrated 55 years of operation this year. This is an amazing achievement considering we operate on volunteer help alone. We always welcome "more hands on deck". The Committee needs the continued input and expertise of willing voices. The roster would welcome more hosts. Please consider whether you can contribute. I'd like to hear from you.

Best wishes,

Margaret

AGM - Weds, 20 August in Uniting Church Hall. Reports, elections, afternoon tea and chats.

Know Your 2024/2025 Committee

PRESIDENT
Margaret Cullity

VICE PRESIDENT
Janet Hanson

SECRETARY
Gail Paton

TREASURER
Karen Stieper

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sue Davidson
Frank Howarth

John Jeston
Sandra Berner

Hilary Brickhill

A full house participated in an important topic in our latest *Voices in Focus* series of public conversations.



Uncle Gerry Moore & Lisa Ogle  Aunty Ruth 



Members and locals turned out in force, about 130 souls, for the Society's special presentation at the Uniting Church Hall on Sunday, 8 June.

We were fortunate in gaining the wisdom and memories of a much-loved community elder - Uncle Gerry Moore, OAM.

President, Margaret Cullity introduced the event and then Aunty Ruth, who started the day with a Welcome and many thoughts that have shaped her life and experiences.

Interviewing moderator, Lisa Ogle, then queried and led our guest, Uncle Gerry, through his account of local native history and current developments in reconciliation and rights. Wonderful story telling.

Questions from the audience followed before a standing ovation of appreciation was recorded for our visitors. Tea and coffee followed along with the opportunity to talk over the history and issues discussed.

The small profit from the day will be put towards our current appeals: Restoring the NOAH Flood Boat; the bathroom repairs; and the purchase of an updated iPad for the Treasurer.

We thank organiser Sandra Berner; the many folk who brought along afternoon tea and helped with the catering; the ever-helpful and non-stoppable John and Janet Brentnall; all those who helped with the seating and sound; and the members and locals who attended.

HERE is an article by *Mitchell Beadman* on **P7** in *The Bugle, Gerringong* about Uncle Gerry's presentation.

HERE is a video of the talk on YouTube, filmed/edited by John Bretnall's team at the Uniting Church.



Aunty Ruth posed the question: *Who is the man on the Australian \$50 note?*

Silence, then member *Donna Rainsford* conjured up the answer from the depths of her trivia knowledge.

David Unaipon (1872-1967) was a Ngarrindjeri man, a brilliant inventor, writer, preacher, and advocate for Aboriginal rights. He's often referred to as

"Australia's Leonardo da Vinci" because of his wide-ranging talents and visionary ideas. David Unaipon's inclusion on the \$50 note honours both his individual genius and the enduring contributions of Aboriginal Australians to our national story.

CROZIER MEMORABILIA SAVED AND REMEMBERED

Last year the Museum was contacted by Tina and Santo, who live in Belfield, Sydney.

Their neighbour was an old lady, Maud Dorothy Summers (née Crozier). Yes, of the very same *Croziers* of Berry.

Tina used to visit Maud who was very proud of her brother Roy Stanley Crozier who served in WW1, and of her uncle Montague Broughton Crozier who went to the Boer War. Their large framed photos and Roy's Discharge Certificate were hung in pride of place in her house.

After Maud passed away Tina was horrified to find the three items thrown out on the footpath for rubbish collection, and decided to rescue them. She then contacted the Berry Museum to see if we would like to add them to our collection of wartime memorabilia.

Tina and Santo made a special trip to Berry for the handover, and the items are now safe with the Museum.

Subsequent research by Society members on these soldiers has brought together quite a lot of information, which is now filed with our Family History records.

What thoughtful neighbours.



Peter reports in what's been achieved by the NOAH team...

"NOAH conservation is progressing well. In June the trolley and horse shafts were dismantled.

Needless to say, removing 136 year old blacksmith-made bolts and nuts seemed a daunting task. However, with shipwright Jim's experience and patience with such methods everything came apart with the iron fittings and bolts now being cleaned and ready for replacement. The hardwood timbers of the trolley and horse shafts is in excellent shape and

only require a wash down before application of a preservative finish. Oar making is progressing well, we have seen a photo of a finished oar with the other three and the rudder well under way. The hull bottom is undercoated and awaiting minor repairs before the final finish coat is applied.

My many thanks to the boat crew team for their ongoing dedication and enthusiasm for the NOAH project."

Peter Whitton - Email [HERE](#). The team meets on site every 2nd Tuesday.

FYI: ONE WINNER OF THE 2025 NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE AWARDS CONSERVATION OF THE BARANGAROO BOAT

Uncovered in 2018 during excavation work for the new Sydney Metro Barangaroo Station, the Barangaroo Boat is believed to be pre-1830s and is the earliest known colonial-built boat made entirely of Australian timbers. During the six years conservation process, the timber was treated with polyethylene Glycol (PEG) to reinforce its structure, the first time Australian timbers have been conserved using this internationally recognised process.

Our current NOAH Flood Boat restoration is also an important historical milestone. Shoalhaven and Noah were gifted by David Berry in 1889, after earlier government flood boats drifted into disrepair.

KEEN, NEW FRONT DESK RECRUIT ON DUTY

Lindsay Brien recently learnt the ropes to open and close the Museum, together with security Dos/Musts/Shoulds, and hosting tips to care for our weekend / holiday visitors.





The COEN Museum. Thanks for photo from WA and FW, on a recent excursion to Cape York and the Strait islands.

BIG STORIES IN A SMALL MUSEUM: Coen's little gem.

COEN residents assembled this fledging museum to showcase local, indigenous and gold mining history... with a sense of humour and irony.

Coen is a small township located in far north Queensland. Historical records indicate that these are the traditional homelands of the Kaanju people.

Though the community falls within the boundaries of the Cook Shire, it is about 400km from the main centre of Cooktown, or about a 6.5 hour drive.

The community is quite busy, particularly in the dry season, with all tourists and visitors travelling the Peninsula Development Road up to the tip of Cape York having to pass through the town.

Some Reading and Dates to note...

The latest events and information about Museums of History NSW 's collections, incorporating the State Archives Collection, the Caroline Simpson Library Collection and museum collections.
[LINK HERE](#)

The **Hambledon Herald, the Newsletter of the Parramatta Historical Society** features **Hambledon Cottage Museum**
[LINK HERE](#)

Alstonville Plateau Historical Society. Crawford House Museum
[LINK HERE](#)

B&DHS AGM
Wednesday, 20 August

Royal Aust Historical Society
RAHS June eNewsletter,
[LINK HERE](#)

The **FAHS Newsletter** is an interesting read this month. Check out the old photos too. **Federation of Australian Historical Societies**
[LINK HERE](#)

Sydney Open... is the city's premier architectural event offering exclusive behind-the-scenes curated tours, providing access to, and sharing stories of, unique places and spaces across the city.

Get ready.... on Sunday 2 November, Sydney Open will present a major city-wide experience, giving visitors access to more of Sydney's secret locations and icons.

Berry's TOWN CRIER
tells our stories and history.

The Society and Museum are grateful for the opportunity to write a regular article for this community magazine. The cover photo of the July edition highlights our *Lasca Beauty* from the West Garden.

A bloom will be entered again in the Berry Camellia and Floral Show run by the Berry Garden Club in July. It is always a sure winner. Cross fingers.
School of Arts, \$7 per day
Sat 26 July - noon to 4pm;
and Sunday 27 July - 10am to 2pm



Constant activity at the Museum

- *The Garden Bees have a Magnolia Michelia Fairy Blush in mind for an empty patch in the garden. This will give masses of fragrant pink flowers and glossy deep green leaves just where needed.*
- *Our Heritage reps are following up on the lack of decisions ref the use of the renovated Station Master's Residence. Many locals contributed time and efforts to this initiative.*
- *Conversion of the bank's family bathroom is proceeding towards restoration. The room will act as a repository for our fabric collections in the short term. NSW Heritage generously matched our allocation of costs.*
- *We're in a big, beautiful war on pesky, hungry, messy bugs and moths. Sticky traps help, but we are becoming proactive by buying a chest freezer and zapping all new exhibits and vulnerable fabrics. It will be sooo cold. The coldest we've ever had. No ceasefire until our goals are achieved - we will have total surrender.*
- *Sandra Berner has been busy for many, many hours sorting and cataloguing the photographic collection. This is a massive job that has been waiting for years for a dedicated Crazy to attempt. Great effort.*
- *We are anticipating changes to the current Cemeteries and Crematoria Act to be legislated that may make it easier for volunteer 'Friends' groups to work in historic cemeteries. Two of our members are writing a history of the Berry Cemetery. It will be published before the end of the year.*

OpenFields ART COMES TO THE MUSEUM

During the weekend of 13-15 June last, Berry was home to the very successful OpenFields Arts Festival which sought to transform the town's heritage spaces into immersive art experiences, challenging perceptions of culture, identity and our relationship with nature and history.



Read the Artist Statement [HERE](#).

As part of the Festival, the Museum housed an art installation entitled 'The Gravity Of Silence', by the Kiama based artist, Chick Butcher, who has work installed in Australian and International collections.

The much discussed art work was well received by visitors and attendance over the weekend was high with over 370 visitors. Thanks to Annette Frohling and her helpers for the facilitation.

The Chronograph is published four times each year.

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Deadline for next 2025 issue - 20 Sept 2025.

For all contacts please email: berrymuseum@bigpond.com

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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
John & Janet Brentnal
Margaret Cullity
John Edmonds
Janet Fingleton
Annette Frohling
Gail Paton

Articles and ideas are always welcomed.



Welcome to our new members...

Richard Miller;
Kristin Mills; and
Annie & Bob Hinkley

Our Membership year runs from 1 July. We'll send out renewal notices soon. The Committee has agreed to leave the yearly fee as is.