



# BERRY TOWN CRIER

PO BOX 202 BERRY NSW 2535

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MAY 2023 PRICE: \$5.00



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DAVID BERRY  
HOSPITAL AUXILIARY'S  
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# BERRY ALLIANCE INFORMATION



The Town Crier is produced by the Berry Alliance Inc.

The purpose of the publication is to communicate to the people of Berry about community activities and aims to share information amongst community groups, individuals and the community. A community that is well informed with a range of different opinions makes better decisions and that makes for an even better community that we can continue to be proud of.

**Contributions are from the Berry Community who have news and information for our readers.**

**The opinions expressed in the Town Crier are not necessarily those of the Berry Alliance or of the Editors.**

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Berry Alliance costs \$15 per annum and is open to Berry community groups registered with the Berry Alliance as well as individuals. To join please write to Berry Alliance, PO Box 202 Berry NSW 2535 or email: [info@berryalliance.org.au](mailto:info@berryalliance.org.au)

## Editor's Note



The closing date for our June issue will be Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 5pm. Please submit prior to this date if it is your first submission. Material can be submitted via e-mail to:

[towncrier@berryalliance.org.au](mailto:towncrier@berryalliance.org.au)

Phone 0428 037 572

Town Criers can be downloaded for free from [www.berryalliance.org.au](http://www.berryalliance.org.au) or our Facebook Page: Berry Town Crier.

Nancy Davies - Berry Town Crier

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## OPENFIELD ARTS FESTIVAL IS ON THE WAY! THIS JUNE 22-25 BERRY WILL COME ALIVE WITH CONTEMPORARY ART.

Don't miss out! Head to our website to see the updated program and plan your weekend.

And if you feel you could spare a few hours of your time as a volunteer, we'd love that! Click Volunteer on our website and join a team of fun creatives!

[www.OpenField.org.au](http://www.OpenField.org.au)



Anna Glynn DWELLING (video still) 2023

**Proudly Sponsored by the Berry Alliance and Town Crier**



## SPECIAL GUEST FROM AMSA

This month members of the Shed were addressed by Beth Gow who is the NSW and ACT Support officer for the Australian Men's Shed Association. Beth talked to the members about what other Sheds in NSW were doing. This was to give us an opportunity to introduce new initiatives for members to undertake during Shed time. Some of these ideas included cooking, no work days replaced by open discussions, inviting local community members to come in and talk about their businesses (we recently had Ray White Real Estate visit us and a Dietitian talk to us about good eating habits) exercise lessons and to invite other Sheds to come and visit us.

The Shed in conjunction with the BUC have spoken to the four schools about the continuation of our Scholarship programme in 2023 and we have also increased the prize money by \$800 for 2023.

We plan to hold an Open day as part of Seniors Week this year and give members of the community the opportunity to call in and see what we do at the Shed.

Finally for the first time in ages we are looking for work. If you have anything that needs repairs or something you think we could make please call in on any Tuesday or Thursday and have a talk with us.

**Richard Wiseman - Public Relations**



*Richard Wiseman, Beth Gow AMSA Support Officer, and Chairman Steve Ford*

## Application for New Service Station at 75-79 Queen St. Berry

Still No Decision yet on the application for modifications to the existing development consent (as at 19-4-2023)

Council ran a Community Briefing Webinar on this application on Tuesday 18-4-2023 where there were over 250 community members logged in to participate.

At the conclusion of the webinar staff outlined what the next steps were. This included the fact that due to the very high interest in this application it had been "called in" – which means staff will make a recommendation to the full elected Council. Those Councillors will vote on the decision taking into account the staff reports, the staff recommendations, the appropriate legislation and the hundreds of community submissions.

During the Briefing Council staff highlighted some particular submissions and questions – from community groups and individuals. The staff paid tribute to the detail and hard work put into those hundreds of submissions and advised that this was an important part of their community consultation.

They are anticipating a briefing to Council and then a vote on the Council floor by the elected Councillors reasonably shortly now. Until such time as that happens staff will continue to take and consider every submission – this is their usual practice. There was some suggestion that submissions may be closed off in a week or so following the publication of the recorded community briefing we attended on 18-4-2023. You should be able to access that recorded briefing using Council's web site.

You may still be able to make your submission by going to: <https://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Home> choose DA Tracking; and enter DS22/1239 this will take a little time to load as there are a large number of documents and submissions.

We will keep the community informed with each Town Crier and for mid month, or urgent updates we will publish information in our Friends of the Berry Town Crier email Newsletter updates. Just email your Name, email address and telephone number to [info@berryalliance.org](mailto:info@berryalliance.org) and you will start receiving the Friends Newsletters as well as a bonus – an E copy of the Monthly Town Crier.



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**71-77 Albert Street Berry**

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**Sundays at 9.30**

**in person or on Zoom**

**for joining details**

**email [berryuniting@gmail.com](mailto:berryuniting@gmail.com)**

**Minister: Rev Andrew Watts**

**0400 059 191**

**[www.berryuniting.org](http://www.berryuniting.org)**





Our speaker on 26th May at 10am is aviation writer and author of ten books Jim Eames. Jim has always been interested in planes and worked as an aviation writer and Press Secretary to the Minister for Civil Aviation. He joined Qantas in 1975 as Chief Press Officer and later as Director of Public Affairs. He will tell us how he became so interested in planes and especially the Mighty 747. Everyone is welcome.

The venue is the Main Hall at Berry Uniting Church, 77 Albert Street.

## Berry Community Library

Things have been very busy in these last months with lots of borrowing and also donations of great current fiction books. 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus has been a favourite and also books by Liz Byrski, Heather Rose and Harlan Coben. We also look forward to recommendations by our borrowers.

### Library Opening Hours

Monday and Wednesday 1-4pm  
Tuesday Thursday and Friday 10-1pm  
77 Albert Street, opposite the IGA  
carpark, behind the Uniting Church.  
For more information contact  
Janet on 0425 220 258

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## CWA Celebrates 75 Years at Royal Easter Show

CWA of NSW has celebrated another milestone this year with 75 years of the Tea Rooms at the Easter Show. The Tea Rooms have long been an institution at the Show and one most people visit during their day.

Volunteers come from all over NSW and this year members from Berry spent time working at the Show. Approximately 250 volunteers work at the Tea Rooms over the course of the Show where approximately 4000 scones are made and served each day. The record for the number of scones served was reached in 2017- when the Show still went for 14 days-where 54,000 scones were served to enthusiastic customers....an incredible number!

The Tea Rooms are the major fund raiser for the organisation each year where money raised is around \$150,000. The CWA is very grateful for the sponsors who support this event each year and, of course, the many volunteers who work so hard during the 12 days of the Show. Members at Berry CWA are busy working towards our next fundraiser. We will have a market stall at the Celtic Festival on May 27. We will be selling all our usual handicrafts, baked goods and our delicious jams and chutneys. Our knitters have been busy making beanies, scarves and socks, so if you need some new 'winter woolies', why not drop by our stall at the Festival and stock up for the colder months ahead.



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## Berry Remembers World War II



**This book written by local Shoalhaven Historian Robyn Florance was launched just prior to ANZAC Day in Berry.**

The book covers various aspects of the Berry community including local militia units and individually all that served with the men lost during the conflict highlighted at the beginning of the book.

The book can be purchased from the Berry RSL sub-Branch, the Berry Museum or the Berry Post Office.

*Picture is Robyn receiving her personal copy from Berry RSL Secretary, Stuart Christmas.*

## BANK BRANCH FOR BERRY ON THE HORIZON

Good news for the township of Berry with the Illawarra and NSW South Coast based Horizon Bank announcing the opening of a Berry branch in May 2023.

Berry has been without a bank since the closure of the National Australia Bank in May 2022. Bank branch closures in regional areas has been a rising trend for years but in a rare move Horizon Bank goes against this trend by opening one.

"Whilst many of our competing banks are choosing to close regional branches, Horizon continues to see strong opportunities and potential in locations such as Berry.

When it comes to important banking decisions and questions, the majority of people still appreciate the ability to have a face-to-face conversation with a real person. Horizon also provides customers with the ability to phone their local branch, so that if you're a customer in Berry, you can talk to your local Berry branch, not a call centre somewhere else in Australia or overseas.



Horizon also offers the convenience of online, mobile and other tech facilities expected of a progressive bank" said Horizon Chair, Mark Crowther.

The new Berry branch will be located in Broughton Court and scheduled for opening in May. A feature of the branch will be a 24 hour ATM.

Horizon already has an existing Shoalhaven Mobile Lender based out of Berry, which provides the Berry community with additional personal lending access.

**HorizonBank**

### **Editorial**

*The Berry Alliance and Town Crier Management Committee are supporting Horizon in their effort to provide adequate and full banking services to our town.*

*We welcome this decision and we welcome them to Berry.*

*Our concerns about a lack of banking facilities for our community appear to have been addressed with their move.*

*For example: for our wonderful Berry Community Groups –*

- *Who will enjoy the benefits of being able to deposit cash and other payments as well as open accounts, make enquiries, change signatures on our accounts in person and not have to travel away from home;*
- *they have a special account for Not For Profit community groups - called their "Community Support Account"*

*And for all the community – business as well – An Automatic Telling Machine.*

*You can see if this product suits your needs by looking at their website: <https://horizonbank.com.au/savings/everyday-accounts/community-support-account/>*

## Berry Automotive Repairs

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## The sixteenth Berry Celtic Festival on Saturday 27 May 2023, is a uniting of Celtic spirits.

The Grand Street Parade down the main street commences at 9.30am leading to the Berry Showground.

Then the moment when the mass bands stream onto the arena causes us, like our ancestors, to hear the cries of the bag pipes rallying emotions - raising thoughts of the mystical spirits of the past, and heralding the start of a day full of entertainment.

The stalls, Scottish soldiers' camp, Celtic musicians, the spinners and weavers, and artisans form an avenue around the parade ground where the pipes and drum bands, jousting knights on steeds, dancers, and battling Scottish soldiers all feature.

Games, tea, coffee and scones, crafts, steam engine, fiddles, kilts, long socks, sashes, feathers help make the day memorable.

The Rotary Club of Berry stages the Festival as a fund-raising activity with proceeds going towards disaster relief projects, youth education and community development programs.

Join us - the \$15 entry allows you to unite with your Celtic spirit.  
Under 15 years Free.

Pre-purchase tickets at  
[www.berryrotary.org.au](http://www.berryrotary.org.au)

We thank Shoalhaven City Council and all our sponsors.

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## Berry Celtic Festival



Rotary  
Club of Berry



## University Grant

The Rotary Club of Berry will again award two undergraduate students with an "open gift" scholarship grant towards the costs of their university studies.

There are 2 grants offered.

- The Jack 'Mo' Higgins Memorial University Scholarship of a \$1000 for students under the age of 25.
- The Jack 'Mo' Higgins Mature Age University Scholarship of a \$1000 for students over 25 years of age.

Applicants must be:

- A resident of, or have come from, the areas of Berry, Gerringong or Shoalhaven Heads.
- Studying full-time at a university in NSW or the ACT.
- An Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia.

**Application Closing date: 31 May 2023**

To find out more: contact Rotarian Dr Shona Gibson 4464 1810 or email [berryrotary@gmail.com](mailto:berryrotary@gmail.com)

**Help make a difference - support ROTARY**

# A BERRY ICON

The **BERRY DONUT VAN** is one of the most recognised landmarks not only in Berry, but along the NSW South Coast. One only has to mention Berry to someone from Sydney or Melbourne and the first thing they will remark upon is the Berry Donut Van! For nearly 60 years the van has served the many travellers who visit or pass through Berry and also the many locals who are after a coffee and some of those delicious cinnamon donuts.

The van itself, a restored 1902 railway van, was towed as a caravan around Australia for a year by husband and wife, Colin and Shirley London, as a travelling purveyor of the holey snack, before they decided to settle in the township of Berry. Here they decided to market it as The Donut Van and so they created and designed this unique business, opening up their doors in 1964. The van today is the original van still, having had a few face lifts and no doubt, internal changes. At the time, Colin and Shirley purchased the home that is behind the van, with the latter being set up in their front yard, right on the Highway, as it was then.

At one time the business was open 24 hours, and so the famous Berry Donut Van was practising 'Stop, Revive, Survive' long before the Road and Traffic Authority's program. Locals can remember calling in at the Donut Van in the evening, after attending a dance or the movies.

Colin London had the business until 1995 when it was offered up for Public Auction in September that year.

The present owner is about the 4th owner/operator. Hands may have changed over that time, but the queues remain for good reason – it's a doughnut that's a destination and the popular well known business is still going strong. Locals will remember how in early 2020 the Donut Van's 'Covid 19 spaced' queue reached right down to the Great Southern Hotel on the corner of Alexandra Street. Not even Covid could stop its fame and popularity.

*Pictured: The Donut Van c. 2010*



**Berry Museum**  
135 QUEEN STREET BERRY



OPEN HOURS: Saturdays, Sundays, School Holidays  
and Public Holidays 11.00am-3.00pm

**FREE ENTRY**

[www.berryhistory.org.au](http://www.berryhistory.org.au)

If you'd like to join us, please call in to the Museum and have a chat, call (4464 3097)  
or email us [berrymuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:berrymuseum@bigpond.com) - We look forward to meeting you.



Be amongst the  
first to celebrate  
King Charles'  
Coronation Day with  
a delicious morning  
tea in picturesque  
surrounds.

Come to Meroo Union Church (cnr. Princes Highway and Boxsells Lane, Meroo Meadow) between 10 am and 12 noon on Saturday 6th May and enjoy a relaxed time with your friends for just \$10 per person.

There will also be a trading table selling plants, jams and craft items, and all funds raised go towards maintenance of this historic building.

Offers of help before or on the day would be greatly appreciated by our small committee – phone Kevin on 0401 395 401 with your offer, suggestions, or for more information.

Meroo Union Church (non-denominational) was a gift from David Berry to the people of Meroo Meadow (tenants of the Berry Estate), with the foundation stone laid in October 1889. A service of worship is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2.00 pm where all are made welcome.



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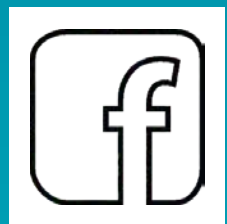
# Horizon Bank

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**horizonbank.com.au**

\*A Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) is available from any Horizon branch or our website. You should consider the relevant PDS in deciding whether to buy or hold the products. Horizon Credit Union Ltd ABN 66 087 650 173 AFSL and Australian Credit Licence Number 240573 trading as Horizon Bank.



On the 30th of March, we opened our evening with three songs, including the resonant rendition of Stars from Les Misérables sung by Finn Lochrin, a music student of Olivia Corish Studio. We enjoyed an enthralling and entertaining evening of court drama of **Whistler vs Ruskin** by Alan Read of London. Alan Read presented the different perspectives of Whistler and Ruskin on what art is by weaving court testimonies and contemporary caricatures flawlessly into his lecture.

Our 2023 lecture series have continued to appeal to many in the Shoalhaven. We have been voted by Alan Read who spoke at 15 other societies as the most "splendid and engaged audience". We look forward to welcoming you and your friends to another enthralling evening of music, quiz, lecture and champagne.

Information on the Society, Program and membership can be found at:

[www.adfas.org.au/societies/shoalhaven/](http://www.adfas.org.au/societies/shoalhaven/)

or from Richard at [richardcwiseman@hotmail.com](mailto:richardcwiseman@hotmail.com)



**ADFAS-shoalhaven**

**1 JUNE 2023– 7:30PM**

Berry Uniting Church Hall  
71-77 Alfred Street, Berry

### **GENDER AND THE BODY: KEPT BEHIND CURTAINS, THE STORY OF THE NUDE**

**Lecture by Leslie Primo**

Visitors Fee: \$25 Adult, \$15 Students (up to university)

The nude is still seen in our modern age as the pinnacle of creative artistic perfection, but throughout the course of art history the notion of the perfect body and consequently gender has been constantly reshaped and redefined. This lecture will look at the continuing fascination with representation of the body in sculpture and in painting across the ages. This span of time will encompass iconic works within this lecture by Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, Bernini, Degas, Renoir and Velazquez, to name but a few.

Leslie Primo holds a BA in Art History and an MA in Renaissance Studies from Birkbeck College, University of London. He gives lectures at the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery and the City Literary Institute and has presented a series of talks at the National Maritime Museum and the Courtauld Institute. His book, *The Foreigners that Invented British Art: From Renaissance to Enlightenment* will be published by Thames and Hudson in Spring 2023.



## **Landcare BERRY** **Out-Foxed**

The NSW NPWS estimate there are around 10,000 foxes in the Shoalhaven.

Foxes in the wild live for about 3 to 4 years and are mostly nocturnal and hunt solitarily. Individuals pair up during the breeding season between July and October. Every night in Australia it is estimated that well over 1 million native animals are killed by foxes and feral cats.

In the Shoalhaven, the fox is implicated in the local extinction of the Eastern Quoll, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Red-necked Pademelon, Parma Wallaby and the Bush-stone Curlew. It is also implicated in the decline of the Spotted-tailed Quoll, Long-nosed Potoroo, Koala, and Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby.

In addition to preying on, and outcompeting our native fauna, foxes spread weeds such as Bitou Bush, Blackberry, Olives and Lantana. They also spread a range of diseases such as sarcoptic mange to wombats and Neospora - a protozoa that causes abortions in cattle. Fox predation of ground-dwelling mammals and birds is linked to increases in fire risk across eucalypt forests, due to the reduced processing and turnover of ground litter.

This RAP sheet provides ample motivation for landowners to actively control foxes on their properties, if not for the ever-present legal obligation to do so.

For some however, the use of chemicals, such as 1080 baits poses humane issues, and/or their properties are too small (less than 5 hectares) to deploy baits. In these contexts, the use of a cage trap is a real option to consider. Berry Landcare owns two cage traps which are available for loan. You will need: gloves, subterfuge, replacement meat lures every 5 to 14 days, your presence to monitor the trap when set, and a person with a gun licence to dispatch any captured ferals.

Please contact Berry Landcare on 0427 255417 for more information, and visit <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/shoalhaven-landcare-association-inc/shoalhaven-fox-control/>



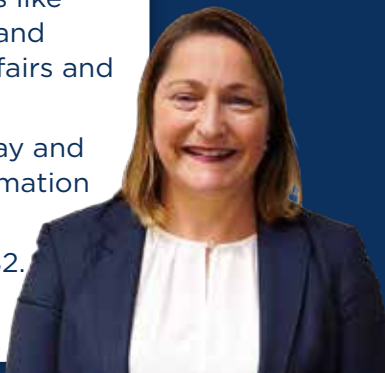
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I can also arrange special birthday and anniversary messages, and information for pensioners and seniors.

You can contact me on 4423 1782.

*Fiona Phillips*



**FIONA PHILLIPS MP**

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GILMORE

Authorised by Fiona Phillips, ALP, 3/59 Junction Street Nowra

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★ 1/6-8 Orient Street Batemans Bay NSW 2536

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## **Berry Show Society Inc.**

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Website: [www.berryshow.org.au](http://www.berryshow.org.au)

President: John Miller Vice President: Paul Andersen  
Treasurer: Bill Seelis Secretary: Catherine Mason

### **Notice of Berry Show Society AGM 2023**

The Berry Show Society AGM will be held on the 23rd of May 2023 at the Presbyterian Church Hall at 7.30pm.

All current financial members have the opportunity to attend and vote at this meeting. If you are unsure if your membership is current, please email the secretary on [berryshow@virtualcity.com.au](mailto:berryshow@virtualcity.com.au). If you would like to update your membership or join, please do so on our website [www.berryshow.org.au](http://www.berryshow.org.au).

# Is being a Christian still relevant?

Yes! I want to shout loudly and clearly. Being a Christian is still relevant today. In fact, it's the only thing that makes sense in this crazy, mixed-up world.

Being a Christian (literally means little Christ) helps make sense of the world we live in. The Christian worldview holds that there is brokenness in the world; that wars, disasters, pain, relationship breakdown, are all part of this. It's not God's intention, but unfortunately sometimes it is part of living.

And that's not to say you can't do anything about it! In fact, we should do something about it. If you are a follower of Jesus, you are called to be God's ambassadors on this earth. This means to act to restore creation, to act to reduce poverty and to act to restore human dignity.

Our next sermon series in May is on gospel intersections. How does the gospel intersect with situations we find ourselves in 2023? We are going to be looking at issues like Australian culture, war, disability, education, mental health, ageing and human trafficking. We will be exploring how the Bible interacts with these issues. What did Jesus do when he was faced with these or similar situations? My guess is that we'll find that the Bible, and Jesus extremely relevant. To be a follower of Jesus is not to stick our head in the sand, but to face adversity with courage, like Jesus did. If you would like to know what Jesus teaches about these issues you can watch our sermons online at YouTube under South Coast Life Church, or even better, come along to one of our services at 10am & 5pm at 8 Schofields Lane, Berry. We'd love to see you there.

**Erica & Joel Noonan - Lead Pastors**



When you think about a mother, what words come to mind? Maybe, loving, kind, caring, gives a good hug, can drive a car, works hard, falls asleep watching TV, funny, generous, busy, happy, as well as, sometimes frustrated, stressed, upset or angry? I'm sure you could think of many more words too.

Motherhood is spoken of throughout Scripture as a high and important calling. God uses the metaphor of mothers to describe the ways He loves and cares for His children (Isaiah 66:13). "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you" In Proverbs 31:25, it says, "She is clothed with strength and dignity." Her precious love demonstrates the love Jesus Christ has for mankind.

God created mothers to play multiple roles in a child's development. They have a heart and soul that can carry the triumphs, heartaches, and heart-bursting moments, as well as, managing the ups and downs of life. They are a gift from God and carry that love to the children they care for every day. Below is a poem/prayer for mothers. We think about:

New mums who are overwhelmed, so tired you want to weep,  
To mums whose never met their babies or were born asleep.  
To single mums who do it all, please try to have some rest,

To single dads, trying to do their best.

To the step mums who are so unsure, no manual for this,

To Grandmas' far away, sad what they'll miss.

To mother figures, God mums, aunts, we pay tribute to you too,

And those who've lost their mum, wondering how they'll make it through.

On Mother's day you'll celebrate, receive a card or pressie,

Or maybe you'll shut things out, these days can weigh so heavy.

You might feel gratitude and joy, with sadness mixed in too,

Whatever mothering Sunday means, God loves and cares for you.

Like all of us, mothers need to be praised. Praised for her skills to care for herself, her family and for others; her faith, trust and love for God, shown in her words and actions towards others. Most of all, knowing the praise from God. 1 Peter 3:4 says, beauty is something inside the heart that cannot be destroyed. It expresses itself in a gentle and quiet attitude, which in God's eyes is very valuable. Wishing all mothers, a very happy Mothers' Day, today and always.

**Sue Skinner**

**Berry Presbyterian Church**



## Scots' Presbyterian Church, Berry

**Minister: Rev Isaac Jung**

### Service Time

Worship Service 10am

Jesus And Me (JAM)

& High School Bible Study 10am

### Bible Fellowship Groups

Tuesday 5.30pm • Thurs 10am • Friday 10am

### Activities

Kids' Club

Presbyterian Womens' Assoc

Mens' Group

*Ordinary People worshipping  
an Extraordinary God*

[www.berrypresbyterianchurch.net.au](http://www.berrypresbyterianchurch.net.au)

02 4464 1020

Cnr Alexandra Street & Victoria Street, Berry

## LYNDEY MILAN – DESTINATION FOOD



**Lyndey Milan joins the list of celebrity chefs at the Autumn Celebration of Food and will be delivering a special presentation on the value of local produce and restaurants to attract visitors and grow the destinations appeal at the Growers at Worrigeer Sports Club on Wednesday 10 May from 5pm.**

Lyndey is thrilled to be involved in this year's Autumn Celebration of Food in the Shoalhaven and commented, "I have had a long connection with the region and am delighted to be part of this extraordinary program of events showcasing local produce and restaurant culinary experiences.

Lyndey will be sharing her stories and passion for food particularly regional produce and will be joined by two local producers, Rosie Cupitt, Cupitt's Estate and Terry Robinson, Old Salt Distillery who will talk about the importance of promoting the region as a food destination and more.

The presentation will be followed by drinks and canapes and we invite you to join Lyndey, Rosie and Terry and enjoy local produce at The Growers.

The Food Destination event is presented by the South Coast Centre of Excellence as part of the Autumn Celebration of Food. To book your ticket register here.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/destination-food-using-regionalism-to-attract-visitors-tickets-610256201727>





**David Berry Hospital Auxiliary hosted the Illawarra Regional forum in late March, with branches from Greenwell Point, Nowra, Shellharbour and Milton-Ulladulla in attendance, together with Zone Rep. Marjorie Booth, Fiona Warren – Corporate Services Co-Ordinator and Catherine Hall - NUM Karinya Palliative Care Berry.**

Luke Worth, representing Margot Mains, CEO of Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, spoke extensively of matters affecting local hospitals, particularly the moral and psychological “injury” to staff since Covid. All hospitals are still struggling post Covid. He said, “Health is harder now than ever before”. Another issue is the current exodus of GPs in the local areas. GPs per head of population is a very real problem at present.

Our Easter chicken stall was a wonderful success. Thanks to our knitters Fran, Barbara, Judy, Marilyn and Margaret, we raised \$770.80 and \$111.00 from the raffle. But more importantly, we wish to send a big shout out to everyone who so generously supported our cause. All monies raised go towards equipment for David Berry Hospital. Our next stall will be held on Saturday 13th May in Broughton Court, and this will be for Mother's Day. All the usual craft and cooking items will be for sale.

We meet on the second Monday of the month at 10am in the Uniting Church Hall Berry, but hopefully back at David Berry Hospital when restrictions allow. For any enquiries, please contact Irene Birks on 44 642612. New members are always welcome.

# The Berry Forum

[www.berryforum.org.au](http://www.berryforum.org.au)

## Council webinar on proposed 24/7 convenience store / fuel outlet

At least 265 people logged into the Residents Briefing Webinar on the proposed service station on Tuesday 18 April, including all councillors. The presentation was chaired by Director City Development James Ruprai, supported by Council planning staff. Some initial technical teething problems were overcome and the designated planner Elizabeth Downer provided an informative presentation. At the time of the presentation, the legal opinion provided by the Forum in conjunction with the Preserve Berry's Character group was still under review. Council has now received almost 300 submissions relating to this application, a record number as far as we're aware. The main issues raised related to the legality of the modification, permissibility and characterisation, incompatibility with the village/heritage character of the surrounding area, impact of additional traffic, hours of operation and the signage.

Other issues raised related to the fence, the car wash location and hours of operation, impact on neighbouring properties, illumination, potential for future liquor licence, relocation of bus stop, no EV charging, impact on Donut van entrance and the lack of stormwater drainage. The application was called in previously, which means the staff recommendation will be considered by all councillors at a future Council meeting. Residents who made submissions will be advised of meeting details in due course.

## Acquisition of OTR service stations by Viva Energy

Viva Energy, a major Australian fuel supplier and the operator of Shell service stations, has announced its intention to acquire South Australian convenience retail business OTR for \$1.15 billion from Peregrine Corporation.

Viva acquired the Coles Express network for \$300 million in September and is seeking to become Australia's leading convenience retailer. The deal is subject to regulatory approvals from the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) and the Australian consumer watchdog.

Viva CEO Scott Wyatt said OTR would become Viva's 'flagship convenience brand' once it replaces the Coles Express brand, with a pathway to 1,000 stores nationally.

The introduction of OTR's superior convenience offering, including quick serve restaurants, will help revolutionise the diversity and attraction of our retail offering. As our stores increasingly become retail destinations, we expect convenience earnings will grow and reduce our dependency on traditional fuels."

OTR founder Yasser Shahin will be retained by Viva to support the existing group and transition the business. He is one of the three Shahin brothers that run Peregrine Corporation. Together, they are considered South Australia's richest family, with a combined net worth of \$2.27 billion according to The Australian's recently published Rich List.

## Berry & District Garden Club News

 CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE ALSO



# Dahlia Growing Workshop!

One of the great joys of gardening is being able to share your love of it with the community. It may be as simple as gifting a small posy of flowers to someone who needs cheering up, or sharing seeds or cuttings of a prized plant with your neighbours. Even just waving to passers-by from your front garden, secateurs in hand, may just brighten someone's day. And then there's the generous act of opening your garden, either for our club's Wednesday visits, or for the Berry Gardens Festival in October, which is a fantastic way to inspire others to grow their own little piece of paradise. Cherished community events, such as the Berry Camellia And Floral Show (stay tuned for details!) and the Berry Show would not be complete without local gardeners enthusiastically contributing to the exhibits. One of the highlights in the Berry Show's exhibition hall are the dahlias. These exquisite blooms have the most amazing array of colour and form and are equally stunning in the garden or as cut flowers. The Berry Show Society would love to see many more dahlias on display in the years to come. To encourage this, they are offering a dahlia growing workshop run by Gerard Oldfield of Highland Dahlias. Due to be held on Saturday May 6, 10am - 4pm, at the Berry Showgrounds, you'll learn all you need to know about growing these beautiful flowers. The cost is \$70 and spaces are strictly limited. To secure your spot or for further details, please contact Sharon Jeffery, Show Steward, on 0412 055 579. As always, we'd love to welcome you to our club. Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm at St Luke's Church Hall.



**Our motto: Friendship through Gardening.**

SECRETARY, DEB WOOSTER, WELCOMES ENQUIRIES AT [SECRETARY@BERRYGARDENS.ORG.AU](mailto:SECRETARY@BERRYGARDENS.ORG.AU)

# Community Groups

## BERRY COMMUNITY GROUPS

<b>Berry Alliance Inc.</b> PO Box 202 Berry info@berryalliance.org.au www.facebook.com/berrytowncrier	0449 569 059
<b>Berry Town Crier</b> PO Box 202 Berry towncrier@berryalliance.org.au towncrier@berryalliance.org.au	0428 037 572
<b>Australian Labor Party Berry Shoalhaven Heads Branch</b> PO Box 325 Berry secrearybshalp@gmail.com	4464 2446
<b>Australian Red Cross Berry Branch</b> kate@sommer.net.au	0418 604 004
<b>Berry Community Activities Centre (BCAC)</b> valhaz@bigpond.com www.facebook.com/berrymarkets	4464 2500
<b>Berry Community Library</b> at Berry Uniting Church berrycommunitylibrary@gmail.com	0425 220 258
<b>Berry Courthouse Conservation Committee</b> PO Box 218 Berry 2535 functions@berrycourthouse.org.au www.berrycourthouse.org.au www.facebook.com/berrycourthouse	0458 369266
<b>Berry &amp; District Historical Society</b> www.berryhistory.org.au berrymuseum@bigpond.com	0413 893 508
<b>Berry Masonic Village Auxiliary</b> icbsle@bigpond.com	0411 120 034
<b>Berry Men's Shed</b> berrymensshed@telstra.com	0448 712 131
<b>Berry Probud Club</b> berryprobud@gmail.com	4464 1868
<b>Broughton Vale / Berry Rural Fire Brigade</b> broughtonvalerfs@gmail.com	0414 897 227
<b>Country Women's Association Berry Branch</b> 76 Victoria St., Berry berrycwasecretary@gmail.com	0417 423 018
<b>David Berry Hospital Auxiliary</b> ibscle@bigpond.com Irene Birks	0411 120 034
<b>Voice of David Berry Hospital</b> margaret.walsh21@bigpond.com www.voiceofdavidberryhospital.org	0415 887 308
<b>Huntingdale Park Resident Action Group</b> PO Box 325 Berry 2535 rick.bmfberry@bigpond.com	4464 2446
<b>Masonic Lodge Broughton 131</b> Agricultural Hall, Berry Showgrounds kevinwant@gmail.com	0401 395 401
<b>Red Cross</b> kate@sommer.net.au	0418 604 004
<b>Rotary Club of Berry</b> berryyrotary@gmail.com www.berryrotary.org.au	0409 318 171
<b>St. Vincent de Paul Society</b> Vinnies Shop - 1117B Queen St. Berry	HELPLINE 4421 0390 4464 3940

## ARTS

<b>ADFAS (Australian Decorative Fine Arts Society)</b> www.adfas.org.au/shoalhaven richardcwiseman@hotmail.com	4464 2619
<b>Berry Silver Band</b> Kaye – kayecj@westnet.com.au Meet at Masonic Hall	0490 037 619
<b>Berry Spinners &amp; Weavers</b> berryspinnersandweavers@gmail.com	0411 040 976
<b>Knit With Love</b> St. Lukes Church Hall – 68A Princess St. Berry Lyn Oades – terryandlyn@gmail.com	0404 562 772
<b>OpenField Arts Festival</b> PO Box 5, Berry 2535 www.openfield.org.au info@openfield.org.au	0439 750 029
<b>Red Berry Quilters</b> redberrysec@gmail.com www.facebook.com/redberriesquiltinggroup	0432 603 484

## CHURCHES

<b>Berry Uniting Church</b> berryuniting@gmail.com 71 Albert St., Berry	0466 717 254
<b>Scots' Presbyterian Church, Berry</b> Rev. Isaac Jung colin@daydesign.com.au www.berrypresbyterianchurch.net.au	4464 1903
<b>South Coast Life Church</b> erica@southcoastlife.org www.southcoastlife.org Erica Noonan, Lead Pastor F: South Coast Life Church	0402 699 732
<b>St. Luke's Anglican Church</b> 87 Victoria Street Berry www.berryanglican.org office@berryanglican.org	4464 1058
<b>St. Patrick's Catholic Church Berry</b> nowra@dow.org.au PO Box 304 Berry www.nowraparish.org.au	4423 1712

## EDUCATION AND PLAYGROUPS

<b>Berry Computers for Seniors</b> Uniting Church Hall, 77 Albert St, Berry berrycfs@gmail.com	0414 982 010
<b>Berry Community Pre-School</b> berrypreschool@bigpond.com www.berrypreschool.org.au	4464 1764
<b>Berry Youth Group</b> kateweakley74@gmail.com org/berry-youth.html	Kate Weakley 0403 915 728 www.southcoastlife.
<b>South Coast Kid's Club</b> Sharayah Lardner 0407 791 886 sharayah@southcoastlife.org www.southcoastlife.org/kids-club	
<b>South Coast Life Church – Let's Play (Playgroup)</b> Sharayah Lardner sharayah@southcoastlife.org www.southcoastlife.org/lets-play	0407 791 886

## GARDENING & LANDSCAPE

<b>Berry Landcare</b> www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/berry-landcare/ www.facebook.com/Southerners2535/	0427 255 417
<b>Berry &amp; District Garden Club</b> sel4957@bigpond.net.au	0411 477 997 www.berrygardens.org.au
<b>Berry Public School Plant Propagation</b> berryplantprop@outlook.com https://www.facebook.com/BerryPlantProp Natural Studies and Plant Propagation Centre BPS	4464 3911

## RECREATION & SPORT

<b>Berry Bridge Club Inc.</b> ceciliemlewis@gmail.com	0417 207 130 www.bridgewebs.com/berry
<b>Berry Men's Bowling Club</b> draym@bigpond.com	4464 2995
<b>Berry Riding Club</b> jasiy@bigpond.net.au www.berryridingclub.com	0410 506 143
<b>Berry Tennis Club</b> PO Box 133 Berry NSW 2535	berrytennis@hotmail.com

## SPONSORED

<b>A Taste of Paradise</b> admin@atasteofparadise.org.au www.atasteofparadise.org.au	0490 060 251
<b>Berry Community Library</b> 77 Albert St (Berry Uniting Church Hall) berrycommunitylibrary@gmail.com	0425 220 258
<b>Berry Farmers Market</b> Berry Showgrounds, Thu 2pm – 5pm www.berryfarmersmarket.com.au and Facebook	0431 823 078
<b>Bundanon Trust</b> www.bundanon.com.au	4422 2100
<b>Pink Up Berry</b> Raises Money for the McGrath Foundation pinkupberry@gmail.com	0428 005 910
<b>SALT Ministries</b> Supporting those in need 5-19 Birley St. Bomaderry info@salt.org.au or Facebook	4480 5028
<b>Shoalhaven Education Fund</b> chair@sef.org.au www.cef.org.au/shoalhaven	0414 379 059
<b>Shoalhaven Heads Surf Life Saving Club</b> secretary@headssurf.com.au	

Any Berry Community groups who are yet to provide their updated / renewal registrations please email them to info@berryalliance.org.au. If you need another form email us please. We will add groups as their current details are provided to us. Our apologies if this list does not include your group. Please ensure that we have received your renewal.

## Berry Alliance and Town Crier Management Committee

## EMERGENCY 000

Police Assistance Line (Non-Urgent Police Reports) 131 444  
Berry Police 4464 2175  
Fire & Rescue NSW 02 4478 4924

Rural Fire Brigade (Broughton Vale) 4464 1522  
SES For Emergency Help in Floods & Storms 132 500  
Ambulance – always call 000

## We would like to recognise and recommend our Printers – Berry Printers.

Berry Printers have been our partners in producing the Berry Town Crier for nearly twenty years now and since we also engaged them to do our graphic design we have enjoyed excellent, seamless and on time production.

They are a local business (which is an important consideration for us) and a family owned and run business. We certainly recommend them if you need and printing done, from shop signs to business cards and everything in between. Thank you for your partnership with us. Berry Printers 4422 3774





## SUSTAINABLE BERRY AUTUMN - WINTER 2023

**BUILDING A RAT-PROOF COMPOST BIN:** Adding compost to your garden beds will improve the biodiversity and fertility of the soil. An ideal ratio for a healthy compost is around 25-35:1 Carbon to Nitrogen. Carbon is found in drier or 'brown' items; paper towels or bags, newspaper, torn up pizza boxes, fallen leaves, chipped twigs and branches, etc. Nitrogen is found in the wet or 'green' items; kitchen scraps, lawn clippings, weeds, etc. Bacteria that break down compost need carbon for energy, and nitrogen to grow proteins.

Traditionally compost is made in open heaps, with layering of materials and turning, to assist the breakdown of matter. From experience, that is an open invitation to rats. A compost bin is a compact solution, and one that can be effectively rat-proofed. When setting up a compost bin on ground, a couple of layers of wire mesh laid below the bin, with a base layer of decomposing leaves, will keep rats out but allow worms in. A ring of bricks around the perimeter of the bin further deters rats. I have yet to have a rat in the bin when I use these steps. I have two bins on the ground that I alternate, and have added a tumble bin, which is the first stop for kitchen and garden waste. While expensive, tumble bins accelerate the breaking down process, and when semi full, the contents can be transferred to the bin on ground.

**AUTUMN LEAVES:** The practice of burning autumn leaves or sending them to landfill should absolutely be a thing of the past. It is a waste to miss out on this valuable (but free) annual addition to the soil's biology. If fallen leaves aren't in danger of smothering plants below, retaining leaves in place is a good way to add organic matter to the soil, and suppress weeds. Left in place on marginal parts of your garden, autumn leaves build healthier soil, and give food and shelter to over-wintering insects and wildlife. If you have an excess of fallen autumn leaves, they can be put aside to add to your compost bin as needed. Alternatively, you may choose to make a Leaf Mould compost enclosure, which is a simple process that mimics fallen leaves in a forest.

Lawns become dormant in the colder weather and may fare poorly under a heavy carpet of dead/wet leaves. Leaves can be mulched in situ when you mow, thereby adding to the lawn's fertility. If you need to clear areas, use a rake. Leaf blowers are noisy, use fossil fuels, annoy the neighbours, and should only be a last resort.

For further information visit Sustainable Gardening Australia [sgaonline.org.au/the-science-of-composting/](http://sgaonline.org.au/the-science-of-composting/) or Compost Magazine [compostmagazine.com](http://compostmagazine.com)

**COUNCIL RECYCLING DATES:** Yellow bins are emptied this month on 10 and 24 May. Bins go out the night prior to collection.

**USED RAT TESTS AND DISPOSABLE MASKS:** Used test kits are considered contaminated medical waste and must be disposed of in landfill, not your yellow recycling bin.

**RETURN AND EARN:** Closest recycling facilities are at Gerringong (at Blackwood Oval), Bomaderry (Bowling Club), and Nowra (Nowra Fair, Stocklands Mall). Some larger op shops accept bottles and cans to generate income for charity.

### **ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATIONS:**

- Park Ridge Retreat, Gerringong: 3 Mennekes (Type 2)s
- Berry Bowling Club: NRMA Network CHAdEMO DCFC, CCS DCFC
- The Silos Estate, Jaspers Brush: 6 Tesla Superchargers, 2 Tesla Model S / Model Xs, Wall Outlet (3112)
- Woolworths, Bomaderry: 4 Mennekes (Type 2)s
- Mountain Ridge Wines, Coolangatta: 2 Tesla Model S / Model Xs, 2 Mennekes (Type 2)s
- Bangalay Luxury Villas, Shoalhaven Heads: 4 Tesla Model S / Model Xs
- The Haven at Berry: 1 Tesla destination charger
- Dovecote, Gerringong: 2 Porsche Destination chargers, Type 2

**KEEP UP TO DATE:** Visit [local.berry.org.au/berrycare/](http://local.berry.org.au/berrycare/) for updated news, as well as facebook groups Berry Town Crier, Berry Community Facebook Group, and Berry Community Noticeboard.

## Alligator Weed Alert

Alligator Weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) is recognized as a weed of national significance. It is possible the weed, native to South America, was introduced into Australia around the Second World War, and is already impacting crop and turf farming in the Lower Hunter and Sydney Basin regions. Personnel from Shoalhaven Council have been inspecting rural areas and properties to determine the presence and/or extent of this weed in recent weeks.

**APPEARANCE** Alligator weed is a summer growing, vigorous perennial herb. It has small white papery flower heads 8-10 mm in diameter, generally appearing from November to March. The flowers grow at the end of short stalks, which rise from the leaf axils. Alligator weed has leaves occurring in opposite pairs along the stems. The stems are hollow, and can grow to 10 m long on water. The weed has an extensive root system; roots can grow to more than a

metre in length, allowing for survival of the plant during extended dry periods.

Alligator weed is capable of growing in waterways, flood plains, and on poorly drained land. In waterways it can completely blanket the surface, impede water flow, and displace native flora. It is tolerant to 30% seawater. The weed mat can become dense enough to support a person's weight.

**HOW IT SPREADS** In Australia the plant does not produce viable seeds. However, new plants can occur at any stem or root node. Breaks in stems, either by natural or man-made disturbances, create new plants. Movement of turf, soil and dredged material can further spread the weed.

**CONTROL** Alligator Weed is extremely difficult eradicate, is able to tolerate many herbicides, and cannot safely be composted. It should never be sent to landfill or green waste for disposal. It may be dried out and incinerated. Weed mats should covered in place to keep out



light, for 6 to 12 months, checking edges for creeping stems.

For herbicide options refer to [dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-control](http://dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-control)

**CONTACTING COUNCIL** There are plenty of photographs of the weed online, which will be helpful to familiarize yourself with the appearance of Alligator Weed. If you believe you have the weed on your property, or you have seen it in a local waterway, you should call Shoalhaven Council. Eric Hore, the Council's appointed inspector, will arrange for an inspection. Call 4429 3111 (Monday to Friday 7.00 am – 3.30 pm.)

# DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND DETERMINATIONS

Here is a list of the most recent Shoalhaven City Council Development Applications and Determinations since the list was produced in the Berry Town Crier – April 2023 edition.

The information on how you can see details and follow these applications, make submissions and see the determinations and details of any conditions applied is provided in the Town Crier each month. It is also provided in the “Friends of the Berry Town Crier” Newsletters sent out regularly between editions of the Town Crier. Go to: <http://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/masterviewUI/modules/ApplicationMaster/Default.aspx> Development Application Tracking.

## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS:

DA23/1224 – 22-3-2023 – Dwelling Alterations & Additions – 50 Victoria St, Berry

DA23/1226 – 23-3-2023 – Community Facility with Car Parking Area – Station Rd, Berry

DA23/1227 – 23-3-2023 – Dwelling Additions – 54 Princess St, Berry

CD23/1185 – 29-3-2023 – 2 Lot Sub Division (Torrens) – 27 Albert St, Berry

SF 10986 – 28-3-2023 – Two Lot Boundary Adjustment & Vegetation Clearing for the Purpose of a Dwelling Envelope – 61C Priddles Lane, Wattamolla

DA23/1254 – 4-4-2023 – Dwelling Additions and Alterations – 74 Borrowdale Cl, Berry

DA23/1261 – 5-4-2023 – Dwelling Additions – 391 Agars Lane, Berry

DA23/1264 – 6-4-2023 – Dwelling – 1A North St, Berry

## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED:

DA23/1014 – Approved – 17-3-2023 – Dwelling Alterations & Additions – 117 North St, Berry

DA23/1034 – Approved – 13-3-2023 – Demolition of Dwelling & Construction of Dwelling – 39 Albert St, Berry

DA23/1073 – Approved – 13-3-2023 – Dwelling Alterations & Additions & Carport – 1 Gwenda Ave, Berry

DA23/2251 – Approved – 17-3-2023 – Detached Habitable Room & Art Studio – 115D Brogers Creek Rd, Brogers Creek

CD23/1185 – Approved – 29-3-2023 – 2 Lot Subdivision (Torrens) – 27 Albert St, Berry

DA22/2271 – Approved – 28-3-2023 – Garage & Attached Driveway Works – 10 Borrowdale Cl, Berry

DA23/1070 – Approved – 27-3-2023 – Detached Secondary Dwelling – 88C Kangaroo Valley Rd, Berry

DA23/1099 – Approved – 28-3-2023 – Deferred Commencement – Construction of New Dwelling – 110 Tindalls Lane, Broughton

DA22/2336 – Approved – 6-4-2023 – Demolition of Existing Dwelling & Construction of Dwelling – 235B Agars Lane, Berry

DA23/1168 – Approved – 6-4-2023 – Temporary Camping Grounds & Car Parking Associated with the Lazy Mountain & Arts Festival – Wharf Rd & 639 Coolangatta Rd, Berry

DA22/1204 – Approved – 3-4-2023 – Ancillary Landscape Works – 28 BroughtonVale Rd, Broughton Vale

SF10966 – Approved – 14-4-2023 – Two Lot Torrens Title Subdivision of a Detached Dual Occupancy – 9 Tilgman St, Berry

DA22/2354 – Approved – 13-4-2023 – Demolition of Dwelling, Construction of a Single Dwelling & Detached Garage – 271D Tindalls Lane, Broughton Vale

NB – Where the letters “CD” appear in a number or next to a number for a DA this means it is being treated as a “Complying Development” and has been submitted and approved by a private Assessor. This is a rule that the State Government have brought in and imposed on all Councils. State Government also listed a wide range of what they determined as a Complying Development. It was said that it was to speed up Development Applications but the result is that the community hear nothing about some applications until they have been approved. In fact, Council hear nothing about these Applications until they have been determined by the private assessors. This robs the community of an opportunity to scrutinise and have a direct input (ie lodge a Submission under the DA Tracking process) on what is happening in their neighbourhood or town. This has proven contentious and upsetting for many community members. We have taken to drawing attention to CD’s in this way so our community understand why they may have heard nothing about the development previously.

Brought to you by the Management Committee of the Berry Alliance Town Crier. More updates (between issues of the Town Crier) can be found in the Friends of the Berry Town Crier in the Newsletters. Subscribe to be a Friend by emailing [info@berryalliance.org.au](mailto:info@berryalliance.org.au) with your name, email address and telephone number with your request “Subscribe to Friends Newsletter”. Friends also receive an “E” version of each Town Crier (most often prior to delivery) plus reminders of Deadlines and extended article on some issues.

Brought to the Berry community by the Berry Alliance and Town Crier Management Committee



**Our meeting venue is the  
Uniting Church Hall,  
Albert Street (behind the  
Men's shed) at 9.30am,  
with the meeting finishing  
at 12.00 noon.**

Berry Probus Club are looking forward to another year packed with some very interesting speakers, the April meeting was very informative with a great talk by Dr Spencer Murray, A specialist Urologist, our next speaker will be Nicholas Carlisle talking on the habits of birds, we are also looking forward to hearing from Rosemary Stanton a bit later in the year.

Plans are in the making for various outings, shows and lunches, we are especially looking forward to a Christmas in July at the Historic Robertson Hotel, the next lunch is the May changeover lunch being held at the Farmgate Restaurant

Our club welcomed 12 new members last year and we have had another two membership forms presented this year already, friendship is truly alive at all meetings and outings.

If you are new to this wonderful area of our country, the Berry Probus club is great to join and meet likeminded people, they are the members of our community who have retired and want to mix socially and enjoy their retirement.

If you would like to come along and join some friends, you may not have met before please ring our President, Joyce Kenny on 4464 1594

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month except January, it is always great to see many familiar faces and some new ones as well.





# PLANT PROPAGATION NURSERY

Growing Plants Growing Community

## Gmelina leichhardtii - White beech

In 2015, while collecting seeds to propagate, a student discovered a White Beech seed germinating in the leaf litter under the parent tree.

In 2017, the small seedling was planted in the tree orchard area now known as The Habitat Forest.

The White beech seedling is powering along and is now about 2 ½ metres tall. While it will be many years before it bears fruit, the parent tree fruited again this year.

The parent tree in the school grounds has grown straight and tall to compete for light. If grown in a more open space, this ornamental feature tree would develop a shady canopy without excessive height. White beech is a tree to be valued, and by every standard it will enhance any large garden or park space.

### A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE WHITE BEECH

- White beech has a protracted cycle of flowering, pollination and seed germination.
- Carpenter bees pollinate the flowers.
- A mature tree bears fruit every 2-4 years. The fruiting is prolific if conditions are favourable.
- The ripe purple fruits contain a capsule with 4 seed chambers, but not all seeds will be viable.
- Seeds can take from 6 months to 2 years to germinate.



The majestic mature White beech tree in the school grounds  
Photos taken by Joanna Walmsley



Pictured right: Some of the many fruits collected this year

## SHOALHAVEN BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEDIA RELEASE

### Have your say on bush fire risk in the Shoalhaven

Wednesday April 19, 2023

Fire agencies and land managers are developing a Bush Fire Risk Management Plan for the Shoalhaven area, and the community is invited to participate in this process by having a say on how bush fire risk is managed.

The plan will map and describe the level of bush fire risk across an area and sets out treatment strategies to reduce the risk of bush fires and better protect the community over five years.

The Have Your Say survey is the way the Shoalhaven Bush Fire Management Committee gathers feedback from the community to assist with the risk planning.

"Bush fires can affect our lives, homes, livelihoods and communities with devastating consequences," said Shoalhaven Bush Fire Risk Management Committee Executive Officer, RFS Superintendent Matthew Reeves. "Community input will provide valuable insights that enable the Bush Fire Management Committee to prioritise places, spaces, resources and assets that the community hold of most value", said Superintendent Reeves.

All residents and landholders residing in the region are encouraged to participate in the short, 5 minute survey on how bush fire risk is managed over the next 5 years.

Communities can access the confidential survey by clicking on this link: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/managing-bush-fire-risk/bush-fire-management-committees/shoalhaven>

The survey is available until May 30, 2023.

For more information, please contact the NSW RFS Shoalhaven District Fire Control Centre Monday to Friday on tel. 4424 4424.



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#### Sundays

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- Holy Communion: 11.00 am on 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays.
- Quiet Prayer: 11.00 am to 11.45 am 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

### Bible Study Groups

- Women, men, and mixed groups.

### Activities

- Knit with Love: 1.00 pm, Fridays.
- Card Making.
- Exercise Classes.
- Lunch on the Verandah: 3rd Sunday each month.

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---

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You also have the flexibility to opt in and out as required without paying any penalties.

If you're over 65 and require support, we can help you to find out if you qualify for government funded meal support.

Just visit the website, [northshoalhavenmeals.org.au](http://northshoalhavenmeals.org.au), where you'll find an application form and can review the variety of meals available, from satisfying soups to tasty mains and delicious desserts.

If you prefer a phone chat, simply call North Shoalhaven Regional Meals on Wheels on 4422 5111.

Maybe it's time you took a closer look at the quality of food and service Meals on Wheels delivers every week.

## Berry Riding Club Autumn News

Now May is here we are looking forward to getting together with friends and their horses in some milder weather.

Come and join us because no matter how well you and your horse perform at home, being "out" and away from home, challenges both horse and rider. Ask the riders who were competing in our Twilight Jumping event earlier this year. A mob of kangaroos surprised everyone with a visit. It was a great confidence builder for those riders who took it in their stride and kept their horses on task.

May is set to begin with a **Dressage Practice Day on Saturday May 6th** in preparation for a **Dressage Competition** the following day **Sunday 7th May**.

Berry Riding Club is always working hard to make improvements at the grounds. Scoring for Dressage competitions is done online and has always been a challenge with demands on the internet in Berry on the weekends. Generous supporters have enabled updates to the Club's internet connection. We are all looking forward to seeing the results of these efforts next competition day.

Something else to look forward to this month is the **Show Jumping Competition Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May**.

The show jump courses are looking very smart with the addition of some new jumps from our sponsors. The Illawarra Equine Centre's jump is very striking. At the moment, the Club is in the process



of designing new show jumps for our newest sponsors, Bendigo Bank and the Rotary Club of Berry. We really appreciate their support and hope they are as impressed as we are with the quality of the jumps.

Many thanks must go to Judith Rudwick for recently gaining her First Aid qualifications so we can consistently have a dedicated club member/ First Aider in attendance at events. There are quite a few tasks that non rider volunteers can enjoy. Tasks might be simply organising/ counting out ribbons for an event, checking contestants in at the beginning of the day, issuing wrist bands or picking up completed test sheets from judges and delivering them to the scorers. Small tasks but important ones, that keep the events rolling along. If you like horses or simply would like to do something different, every now and again you could have a chat with our friendly club secretary, Judy Sweeney at 0410 506 143.



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**26th May 2023** – a wine tasting event at Berry Uniting Church Hall starting at 17:30.

**15th June 2023** – a 'conversation' meeting on Recycling Waste combined with a tour of the Nowra Recycling Centre. Slow Food welcomes non-members to most of its events albeit at an increased entrance fee.

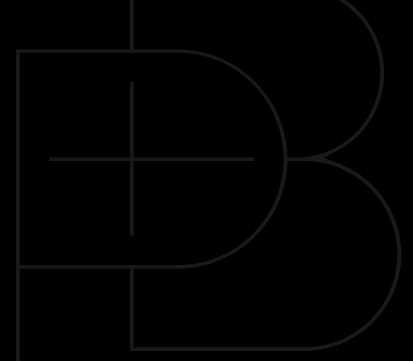
For further details of all events visit the website [www.slowfoodberry2jb.com.au](http://www.slowfoodberry2jb.com.au). All bookings can be made through Trybooking.com

Slow Food membership continues to grow. If you would like more information please email [info@slowfoodberry2jb.com.au](mailto:info@slowfoodberry2jb.com.au) or visit [www.slowfoodberry2jb.com.au](http://www.slowfoodberry2jb.com.au)

Slow Food Berry to JB is a local organisation that promotes Good Clean and Fair Food for everyone. It has monthly events for its members which range from long lazy chatty lunches at local restaurants to meetings more of an informal informative nature which address important issues to all who are interested in sustainable food and drink production.

After the holiday break SlowFood is back in action with a busy programme of activities in February, March and April and with more planned for forthcoming months .....

- The first event of the year was an alfresco one with a picnic at Greenfields Beach in Jervis Bay on 15th February 2023. The beach could not have looked better with the white sand shining in the sun and the sea a sparkling blue. A delightful lunch combined with a swim and a bushwalk for over 20 members and friends present.
- On 25th March 2023 SlowFood had the next of its 'conversations' addressing issues with relevance to sustainable foods and their production. This time it was on soil and how its condition is critical to growing crops and maintaining biodiversity. Kirsty Hambrook of Terrewah Farm in Kangaroo Valley led the discussions. It was also the launch of 'Soil Your Undies' whereby volunteers are burying cotton underwear for two months to see how much they will deteriorate ..... the more they do, the better your soil.
- The April event was the Smoke and Fire Long Lunch held on 2nd April 2023 at Meroo Meadows with nearly 50 members and guests enjoying a splendid barbeque and smoking menu of meat and fish with all the trimmings.



## Congratulations to Lindsay Brien on his retirement

After more than 45 years practising law, Lindsay Brien, of Parnell + Brien Solicitors, has now retired from legal practice.

Lindsay has provided expert legal services to the Berry community since 1990! Specialising in conveyancing, personal injury, commercial and estate law, Lindsay had the opportunity to work with a vast number of local community members and businesses during his career.

The team at Parnell + Brien Solicitors wish to congratulate Lindsay on his lengthy and accomplished career. Lindsay brought a

wealth of legal experience and knowledge of the local area to the team, and his contribution will be missed by all. We wish him many happy years of retirement, to enjoy with his wife Anne and family.

Lindsay's clients can rest assured that the fantastic legal team at Parnell + Brien Solicitors, under Principal Solicitor and Managing Director, Liz Parnell, will continue to provide exceptional legal services on their behalf. The team works collaboratively with each individual client, recognising their unique circumstances and prioritising their needs.



## BUSINESS IN BERRY IN APRIL 2023

We're definitely seeing some businesses in Berry struggle along with the rest of the community with cost of living pressures- rising interest rates, whether it's for business loans or in their personal life with their mortgages. People are definitely starting to feel the squeeze. And it's making businesses more conservative and cautious about unnecessary expenditure and reviewing the main headline costs for their businesses.

Businesses generally have been coming back strongly after the pandemic, however the extraordinary boom in regional tourism has definitely tempered. So we're hearing that it's a much more competitive market for holiday accommodation operators now- with bookings happening very close to the time. But for the restaurants and hospitality venues, really the key issue is still access to staff. The rental crisis in the region means that for those essential workers and people on the lower awards, it's increasingly difficult to find or afford a house to rent and work in the area. And that's definitely having an impact on the availability of staff for tourism and hospitality businesses.

On a positive note, the increasing return of international tourists, and people's ability to work from anywhere, means that we are seeing an increase in midweek or extended travel. Over Easter there are plenty of people wanting to bring their families down for the school holidays, but work while they're here.

And it's really great to start to see independent international tourists popping up again in the town looking to be able to indulge in all of the lifestyle experiences that Berry has got to offer. In terms of general trends that we are observing- there is an explosion of creative tourism with the opening of the new Bundanon gallery in the area. We are seeing plenty of demand for paddock-to-plate experiences that capitalise on the regions agricultural offerings. The nature and adventure travel market continues to grow as people seek better connections with the great outdoors. And there is a pleasing increase in people seeking authentic indigenous cultural experiences as part of their itinerary. Plus I couldn't not mention the incredible drawcard to town which is the new Boongaree Nature Playground with its incredible pump track and skate bowl- the place is a major drawcard for the town and a kids and parents paradise on weekends.

For me as the owner of a coworking business in town, people are wanting to make sure that when they are on holidays, they're still able to keep in touch with their jobs and work remotely. We never used to have any kind of holiday visitors as part of our membership base, where now that's a big part of what we do. That feels very connected to a post-covid, future of work mega trend.

And from my position as President of the Chamber of Commerce. I think that the issue

which is really starting to bite for businesses is the last few years outsized increase in rents. For many local businesses still carrying debt from COVID lockdowns, the unaffordability of rent is starting to bite and vacancies are increasing. There is a concerning trend for long term businesses just shutting their doors and walking away. This if it continues will see empty shopfronts which would be a terrible look for town if the new generation of landlords don't respond to the changed economic conditions with more reasonable rent increases.

Plus with the rise in trade and hospitality wages, combined with the impact of staffing shortages, a number of venues are just not being able to trade as often as they would like to. These are the sort of structural challenges which businesses are facing.

As a general rule, Berry is a thriving and growing treechangers mecca of a town. We are the gateway to the best of the South Coast and with all of the bypasses and roadworks of the last few years- we are closer and closer to leaping within the magical 2hrs from Sydney ring.

Tourists have always been essential to the lifeblood and culture of this place and with fresh blood and new ideas arriving all the time, the diversity of experiences for them is increasing.

Berry Chamber of Commerce and Tourism  
info@berry.org.au

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