

**PO BOX 202 BERRY NSW 2535** 

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7

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Geasons Greetings to our much valued readers, advertisers, contributors and Friends of the Town Crier. We have been so grateful for your community engagement over the course of 2024 and look forward to continuing the journey with you next year!

From the Berry Alliance Editorial Board

## 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

#### **TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL BOARD:**

Martin Aicken Nancy Davies Rick Gainford Holly Landgren Dr Fiona Mackie Guy Mainsbridge

### Editor's Note



There is no January edition of the Town Crier, our next edition is the February 2025 issue, the closing date will be Wednesday 15th January 2025 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

Phone 0428 037 572

Town Criers can be downloaded for free from www.berryalliance.org.au or our Facebook Page: Berry Town Crier.

Nancy Davies - Berry Town Crier

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## WHAT A MONTH OCTOBER WAS FOR PINK UP BERRY AND HOW BEAUTIFUL DID OUR TOWN LOOK!

There are so many to thank that it is impossible to list you all but each and every one that has helped at functions, made donations, attended our events, bought raffle tickets, cooked, knitted, crocheted, sewed, decorated your home or business, held morning teas, had pink mufti days, paper plane races, had raffles, bought auctioned goods, held in-house fundraising, provided venues and food free of charge, donated gate takings, sponsored races, donated prizes and vouchers - well give yourself a pat on the back because together we have raised \$75,154.

I am so proud to be part of such a hardworking committee and team of volunteers and thank every one of you.

We also received some very exciting news in that Pink Up Berry has won the McGrath Foundation initiative for Pinking Up your Town and have won 4 seats to the Jane McGrath Pink Test on January 5th but more important is that we will be a part of the opening ceremony on this very special day so you might see us on the television that morning and we will be feeling so proud representing our town. We will do our best not to cry but can't guarantee that will happen.

Once again thank you - this has been an amazing community effort, and we sure have made a difference.

If you would like to be involved next year or have any enquiries, please drop us an email pinkupberry@gmail.com or phone Deb 0428 005 910.









## BERRY PROBUS

Another great time for Probus members this past month with various lunches at local restaurants and a club BBQ. A great way to finish of the year is the upcoming Christmas lunch at the Mercure Gerringong, always a great venue.

Our major speaker last month gave a very thought-provoking talk on a kinder way to die, something we all avoid taking about but something that is necessary to talk about at any time of life.

Our separate monthly Ladies and Men's morning teas have proved to be a big hit especially among the men, it is always good to talk, and these morning teas are providing just that.

Next years activities and outings are in the planning stages, with some very interesting events proposed for our members.

Probus is for retired people who want to meet like-minded people who just want to enjoy their life with social outings, some fun and lots of friendship with no fundraising, if that is you, please feel welcome to come along to one of our meetings.

Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month except January at the Uniting Church Hall, Albert Street (behind the Men's Shed) from 9.00 for 9.30 to 12.00noon.

Please feel free to ring our President, Peter Harding on 0417 485 564 for any further information.



## BERRY COURTHOUSE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

#### **OFFICE TO RENT**

ONE OF THE TWO OFFICES IN THE BERRY COURTHOUSE

IS NOW AVAILABLE

Would you like an office in a fabulous, heritage building with ample street parking that is airconditioned, 3 windows, and a security system then please get in touch with us.

Email: functions@berrycourthouse.org.au



#### We are gearing up for the **Berry Grand Christmas Street Parade.**

We assemble in Broughton Court — near the power point!



As a community band, we offer each player a chance to shine - a solo for each instrument, giving us our 10 minutes of fame (not really, the solos only last a few bars - it can sometimes feel like 10 minutes!).

Join us  $\stackrel{-}{-}$  practice is at the Berry Masonic Hall on a Monday, from 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Our interview this month is with Maureen Bell.

How long have you been playing in the band?

I'm in my 3rd year with the band.

#### How many instruments do you play?

I play basic piano and I also play the Alto Saxophone. If I have a favourite it is the saxophone because I get to play with the band. I really only use the piano to help stave off dementia.

#### Do you like the music the band plays?

Yes, I love the music. It's jazz based and I like the big band arrangements — that's my favourite style. The variety is fantastic. We go from uplifting, toe-tapping swing to reflective slow ballads. For example Caravan is a tune that rips along and feels really energising, while Angel Eyes is a beautiful ballad where I play background harmonies to Janeta's lovely lead melody, and I love that. It gives me a warm feeling when the sound comes together. That's when I feel immersed in sound — you are in the music and the music is in you.

#### What are the benefits of being in a band?

There are many. I think of the band as education in its broadest sense. It's a creative process and even though you read music individually, you are working with all the other band members and you are creating a harmonious sound together. Reading and playing music exercises both sides of your brain. It's the best form of education because you learn and develop and you progress with a community of fellow musicians. In the Berry Band you're accepted at whatever level you play. You are always supported and never criticised, even if you make horrible mistakes. AND playing music makes you happy.



This festive season, the Berry Chamber of Commerce created a vibrant Christmas Shop Local campaign to bring our community together and encourage support for our local businesses.

The campaign included exciting initiatives such as the Berry Merry Deals Coupon book, designed to reward customers for shopping locally, and the much-anticipated Late Night Shopping evening, which saw the town buzzing with festive cheer, a fashion parade and beautiful carol singers. Adding to the magic, our streets are now adorned with new Christmas decorations, including our new Christmas Tree proudly donated by Horizon Bank Berry, ensuring our town looks its absolute best for locals and visitors alike.

**Shopping locally is more than a convenience** — it's an investment in our community. Studies show that 56 cents of every dollar spent locally stays local, benefiting our town through increased employment, stronger community ties, and a thriving economy. By choosing Berry businesses for your Christmas shopping, you're helping to sustain the character and charm that makes our town so special.

We wish our Chamber members a joyful, safe, and festive December and January. For those fortunate enough to take a well-earned break, we hope it's restful and rejuvenating. For businesses plunging into their busiest time of the year, we hope it's a wildly successful period that rewards your tireless efforts.



Thank you for being a part of what makes Berry a wonderful place to live, work, and visit. Let's make this Christmas season one to remember by coming together as a community and celebrating the heart of Berry — our incredible local businesses.

There is much planned for 2025, so stay tuned!







Zonta Berry is launching its annual "16 Days of Activism" part of Zonta International's campaign taking a stand against the devastating pandemic of violence against women. The campaign begins on November 25th which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This day is remembered for the brutal assassination of the Mirabel sisters in 1960, killed for fighting for women's rights on the orders of Dominican dictator Trujillo. This year's campaign which runs until December 10 aims to raise awareness of women's rights violations and highlight the alarming statistics of domestic violence within the Shoalhaven region and across Australia.

In the year leading up to June 2023, domestic violence-related homicides in the Shoalhaven area reached nearly twice the New South Wales average. These tragic figures reflect an ongoing crisis that has deeply impacted local communities and countless lives. Across Australia, a woman loses her life to domestic violence every six days, a statistic that the Zonta Berry campaign will highlight with a powerful visual display at Broughton Court in Berry.

Throughout the 16 days, Zonta Berry will decorate Broughton Court and shops with orange ribbons and symbolic orange shoes, each pair representing a life lost to domestic violence. The color orange, internationally recognized in campaigns to end violence against women, stands as a beacon of hope and resilience for those affected, as well as a call to action for community members to stand together in opposition to violence.

Zonta Berry encourages everyone in the community to visit Broughton Court to reflect on the impact of domestic violence and to join the movement to end it. Each ribbon, each shoe, is a reminder of those lost and of our collective responsibility to create a safer world for women and girls. On Sunday December 1 Zonta members and friends of Zonta will be marching across Sydney Harbour bridge in solidarity against violence against women.

For more information on the "16 Days of Activism" campaign or to learn how you can get involved, please contact: **Zonta Berry Club** Website: zontaberry.com.au

Zonta Berry is always looking to welcome new members to our group of women. **Dinner meetings are now held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Berry Pub at 630pm.** If you are interested in either joining or just trying out a dinner meeting please contact Barbara Davis, Zonta Berry President on 0402 394 211

Dr Fiona Mackie, Advocacy Director, Zonta Berry



## BERRY VIEW CLUB URGES COMMUNITY TO EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF GIVING AND GET BEHIND THE SMITH FAMILY'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

BERRY VIEW Club is calling on the community to help raise funds for The Smith Family's Christmas Appeal, ensuring disadvantaged students will be supported in their education in 2025. The charity aims to raise \$4.91 million nationally through the appeal, which will provide more than 11,700 children with access to critical learning and mentoring programs to help them stay engaged and motivated at school.

Today in Australia, one in six children are growing up in poverty, limiting their ability to make the most of their education. Everyone is feeling the on-going effects of the cost-of-living crisis, but it is not felt equally.

For families who were already doing it tough, the higher cost-of-living means having to make tough choices between everyday bills and being able to support their children's education.

All funds raised through donations to the Christmas Appeal will ensure students can take part in The Smith Family's evidence-based numeracy, literacy, tutoring, digital and mentoring programs to help them catch up and keep up at school.

Nationally VIEW Clubs currently support more than 1,785 students on the charity's flagship Learning for Life program, which provides educational, personal and financial support.

At BERRY VIEW we love hearing about how well our students are doing on the program and receive several letters a year which detail their achievements, hopes, and dreams. We are so proud of the young people we support, and there's no better time than Christmas to show them our generosity.

VIEW (Voice, Interests and Education of Women) is a national women's organisation and support network, bringing together women to enjoy social activities, develop skills, and make connections — all while supporting Australian children experiencing disadvantage.

For those who are interested to find out more about VIEW or who would like to join visit view.org.au [or call Jan on 0490 054 574] For more information on the appeal, go to www.thesmithfamily.com. au or call 1800 024 069

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR, BERRY!** 



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### **ROTARY CLUB OF BERRY**





## Grand Christmas Street Parade

Saturday
7 December



#### Starts at 4pm.

From Berry Showground, up Albany St, then along Queen St.

## IN THE ROTARY NATURE PLAY PARK AFTER THE PARADE

- \* Selfie Photos with Santa
- \* Sausage sizzle & drinks (Compliments of Rotary)

Merry Christmas

Another community event by the Rotary Club of Berry



Here are some of our precious livestock who help with our one-on-one farm-based mentoring of disadvantaged and at-risk young people.













Our unique day program offers a rare opportunity for kids in need to connect with our mentors and animals on the farm. By engaging with these animals they learn trust, gain confidence and increased self-esteem, as well as learning practical skills for their futures

We are very grateful for the support we receive from the local community who are generous with donations, support us at the Berry Farmer's Market, and volunteer their time.

Tim, Andrea and the whole team at A Taste of Paradise would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and Happy New Year.

For any enquiries, please call 0490 060 251 or email admin@atasteofparadise.org.au







Christmas is here and now front and centre of all our minds. Planning events, organising which uncle or Aunty is hosting Christmas Day this year. What budget are you going to work with for food and presents, even though we probably wont stick to it! Christmas means a lot of different things to everyone, there are parts to Christmas we really love, such as the food, Christmas carols, catching up with friends and family. There are other parts that we may dread, like shopping centres, carparks, family gatherings. Yet at the heart of Christmas is something that is truly wonderful, in fact the message of Christmas is great news that brings great Joy to all of the world. The best part is, this Joy lasts longer than 25 days. The true meaning of Christmas centres all around Jesus, in Luke 2:10 we read of God's angels coming to visit some shepherds caring for their sheep, in a burst of glorious light and sound they declared to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause Great Joy for all people, today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you, he is the Messiah, The Lord". Now thats good news that brings great Joy. Christmas brings Joy, because Jesus brings us Joy, yes all the food and gift giving, decorations, Christmas songs, they do bring us joy, but this only lasts until the 25th December and then its on to the boxing day test match. With Jesus, the promise of Joy is something we get to enjoy at all times, it's a gift offered to us all, but it's a gift we must choose to receive. The season of Christmas is here, seek Jesus this season and you will find the true Joy of Christmas.





I'm proud to be your local voice in parliament and to continue delivering cost-of-living relief, tax cuts and vital road and infrastructure projects.

I'm here to help you with issues like Medicare, Centrelink, aged care and pensions, the NDIS, Veterans' Affairs and community grants. I can send you our Seniors and Pensioners Kit, and arrange special birthday and anniversary messages.

#### I'm on your side.

4423 1782 @ Fiona.Phillips.MP@aph.gov.au

3/59 Junction St, Nowra NSW 2541 1/6-8 Orient St, Batemans Bay NSW 2536

FionaPhillips.com.au

AUTHORISED BY FIONA PHILLIPS MP, ALP, 3/59 JUNCTION ST, NOWRA NSW 2541



4pm 22nd December 8 Schofields Lane, Berry

Join us for an evening of carols and family fun as we celebrate the

birth of Hesus There will be a free sausage sizzle and activities for the kids, and of course a great evening of carol singing.



e: hello@southcoastlife.org w: southcoastlife.org





## **Christmas recycling and operating hours**



#### Berry Recycling and Waste Depot | Open 8am to 4pm

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
OPEN	CLOSED	25 CLOSED Christmas Day	26 CLOSED Boxing Day	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
OPEN	CLOSED	JANUARY 1  CLOSED  New Years Day	2 CLOSED	3 OPEN	4 OPEN	5 OPEN
6 OPEN	7 CLOSED	8 OPEN	9 CLOSED	10 OPEN	11 OPEN	12 OPEN
OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	16 CLOSED	17 OPEN	18 OPEN	19 OPEN
OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	25 OPEN	26 OPEN
27 CLOSED Australia Day Holiday	CLOSED	OPEN	30 CLOSED	OPEN	FEBRUARY 1  OPEN	OPEN

Return to normal opening hours (Friday to Monday 8am to 4pm) from 31 January



#### The Berry & District Historical Society

### The Cullunghutti Banners

'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that the following story contains images and names of people who have died'.

The Berry Museum has a special new exhibition which highlights the importance of the Cullunghutti (Coolangatta) Mountain and how it is central to Aboriginal spiritual life in the Shoalhaven area and was the site of some of the earliest European settlement in the area. The material shown in the exhibition is from the report "Cullunghutti, the Mountain and its People" by Kate Waters, and the display was endorsed by the Cullunghutti Aboriginal Area Celebration Steering Committee.

Cullunghutti is known as the 'stepping off' place to the afterlife. It is closely connected with Moeyan (Moyean) Hill to the north, where large Bunan ceremonies were performed and also with the sacred mountain Didthul (Pigeon House Mountain) to the south. The last large scale ceremony to be held in the Shoalhaven occurred at Moeyan Hill in the 1880s and was witnessed by ethnologist R. H. Mathews, who was taken to the Bunan ground by a group of Aboriginal men from the Coolanagatta Estate, including Buttong, a senior elder.

The exhibition tells of the cooperation and resistance between the local Aboriginal peoples and the early explorers and settlers. It tells of Alexander Berry's close Aboriginal friend and helper, Broughton (Toodwick) and it also mentions how the Aboriginal people began to keep their burials secret after Alexander, a medical man, exhumed a body and sent the skull to Edinburgh Museum as a scientific cranial specimen.

It tells of the working of the Aboriginal people on the Berry Estate and then in 1900 of their displacement to Roseby Park at Orient Point, which, despite its repressive management, became an important community for local Aboriginal people and others travelling from around the state. Other camps, reserves and settlements up and down the coast were, and are, home

to Aboriginal people with connections to, and stories of, Cullunghutti.

Cullunghutti was gazetted in 2011 as the 'Cullunghutti Aboriginal Area' under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the area is managed cooperatively between representatives of the local Aboriginal Community and the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service, working together to protect the culturally significant mountain and to keep the stories of Cullunghutti and its surrounding landscape alive.



Berry Museum

135 QUEEN STREET BERRY

If you'd like to join us, please call in to the Museum and have a chat, call (4464 309 or email us berrymuseumshignond com - We look forward to meeting you.



#### Take a moment for a deeper look this Christmas

One of the great things about Berry is that people put such a value on family and community. In a more regional setting, there seems to be more time and space for these things to be more central in our lives rather than get squashed to the side, as it did for us when we lived in a big city. Add to this our beautiful surroundings and it all helps us to step back and breathe it in. I know many people who have moved to Berry for this very reason.

There is a wider movement in our society that is rebounding from a focus on just the materialistic things to explore deeper things in life. As we do this I would like to invite you to consider the spiritual side as well. Perhaps that is something you haven't thought about for some time, and I'd love for you to be able to engage with that part of your life.

Somewhat ironically, Christmas can be frustrating in this regard. We know it should be about more than just the stuff we buy but there is so much inertia that pushes us in that direction. This Christmas I'd love to invite you to come to a church in our town. I'd love it to be ours, but whatever one you have a connection with I am sure you will find it a worthwhile and fulfilling experience. There are some wonderful and deep truths that Jesus brings, and that is, after all, what Christmas is really about. Simon Chaplin, St Luke's Anglican.

Christmas on the Green 8th December 5:30-7:30pm. Christmas Eve 8pm, Christmas Day 8am & 9:30am.







## bagan bariwariganyan echoes of country

Aunty Cheryl Davison Aunty Julie Freeman Jonathan Jones Mickey of Ulladulla

bagan bariwariganyan: echoes of country is a body of works by renowned Gweagal/Wandiwandian storyteller & artist Aunty Julie Freeman, leading Walbunja/Ngarigo artist Aunty Cheryl Davison, & Wiradyuri/Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones.

The season upholds & maintains Aboriginal values & kinships, featuring an immersive gunyah (home) installation including drawings by the significant Yuin artist Mickey of Ulladulla, a solo exhibition of paintings by Aunty Julie sharing grandmother stories of local plants, animals and weather patterns, & a new installation by Aunty Cheryl, representing the importance of Burrawang seeds, a key traditional food source. Connected through new soundscapes, the exhibition sings the stories of this place, celebrating local traditions & the ongoing collaboration of these artists & cultural leaders.



#### EMMA DONOVAN & DJINAMA YILAGA

#### SATURDAY 11 JANUARY, 5PM

Australia's queen of soul, Emma Donovan & her band take to the stage at Bundanon, supported by South Coast Yuin choir Djinama Yilaga with a breathtaking performance in Dhurga language.

Donovan  $\mathcal{E}$  her band will play her new album 'Til My Song is Done', blending reggae, gospel, soul  $\mathcal{E}$  country in a performance that will enchant audiences with heartfelt songs  $\mathcal{E}$  rich storytelling.

From

\$45

BOOK NOW bundanon.com.au



**BUDANON** 

Art Museum | Wednesday-Sunday, 10am-5pm Ramox Café | Wednesday-Sunday, 10am-4pm Homestead & Arthur Boyd's Studio | Saturday & Sunday, 10am-5pm Homestead Kitchen Café | Saturday & Sunday, 10am-3pm



### **BERRY MEN'S SHED**

#### BERRY MENS SHED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Members of the Shed after the AGM. Appointed once again as President, Steve Ford along with Chris Simnadis as Secretary and Brett Cousley as Treasurer. All executive positions were filled unopposed.

The Shed has operated very successfully over the last year with new members both men and women joining the Shed to learn new skills. Our Scholarship programme continues to be highly acknowledged throughout the Schools in the Nowra area. The final presentation being made this month is to Nowra High School, a school that has benefitted from the Shed's Scholarship program for over 10 years.

Our sales of garden utensils during the Berry Garden festival was very successful leaving the Shed now low on stock. Repairs to timber

chairs and other items continue to come into the Shed and we have a very dedicated team of members happy to carry out repairs as required by customers.

A big welcome back to long time member Terry Smith who recently underwent hip surgery in Nowra and is so pleased to be leaving his walking stick in the cupboard.

Please call into the Shed on Tuesday or Thursday and have a look around and a chat with our members. We are located at 146 North Street Berry.

Richard Wiseman, Publicity Officer



Many thanks to all our wonderful speakers throughout the year. Thanks also to those who have come along and listened and supported our Coffee and Friends group. I think we've all enjoyed the entertaining speakers and catching up with friends, old and new. I must also thank all those who have helped with setting up, baking the morning tea and helping with the running of Coffee and Friends. It's a great team! See you all in 2025.

Thank you to Nancy and the Town Crier team for their help throughout the year. Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas. Take time to enjoy and value family and friends.

See you in the New Year!

#### **Berry Community Library**

The last Community Library day for 2024 will be Friday 19th December so come along and stock up on your holiday reading. We will reopen on Monday 20th January 2025. The outside shelves will be stocked regularly and available while the Library is closed so community members can continue to borrow. We've had an amazing year and thanks must go to our great volunteer team who play such a vital part in keeping the Library up and running.

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







71-77 Albert Street Berry Come and join us Sundays at 9.30am in person or on Zoom for joining details email berryuniting@gmail.com **Enquiries: 0467 422 046** www.berryuniting.org





## Good things are on the horizon

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The comparison rate is calculated on a loan amount of \$150,000 over a term of 25 years, WARNING: \* This comparison rate is true only for the example given and may not include all fees & charges. Different terms, fees or other loan amounts might result in a different comparison rate, Loan is secured. Special discount rate - the rate includes a 0.60%p,a honeymoon discount for 2 years. At the end of 2 years the rate reverts to the Home Sweet Home Loan standard variable rate, The standard variable rate is available on application and is published at each Horizon branch and on Horizon's website. Minimum loan of \$50,000. LVR 70% or less. Owner occupied only. New business only. Terms and Conditions, fees & charges apply & are available on request. Horizon Credit Union Limited ABN 66 087 650 173 AFSL and Australian credit licence number 240573 trading as Horizon Bank. 27 Stewart Street, Wollongong NSW 2500. Information correct at 27.8.24 subject to change.

## Pretty spring flowers attract pollinators to gardens

This last month has given the volunteers many opportunities to collect ripe seeds for propagating small shrubs and grasses that are suitable for town gardens.

The pea plants, in particular, *Indigofera australe* - **Indigofera**, *Goodia lotifolia* - **Clover bush**, *Hovea acutifolia* - **Hovea**, *Senna acclinus* - **Native senna** as well as small acacia species have flowered profusely. Another small shrub, *Alygone heuglii* - **Lilac hibiscus**, has flowers that last only 1 day, but continues to flower for most of the year.

Grasses such as *Bulbine bulbosa* - **Bulbine lily**, *Dianella caerulea* - **Dianella**, *Libertia paniculata* - **Branching flag grass**, lomandra species and the larger more dramatic *Crinum pedunculata* - **Crinum lily**, have also flowered well this season.





Goodia lotifolia - Clover bush

Indigofera australe - Indigofera

When planted together, Indigofera and Clover bush complement each other





Crinum
pedunculatum
- Crinum lily

Libertia paniculata

#### - Branching flag grass

These smaller shrubs and grasses are hardy and can be pruned and planted in the garden or grown in containers, making them very suitable for small garden spaces.

Some of our smaller **fern species** such as *Christella dentata* - **binung** are also very hardy and can be grown in containers too.

More details about these plants can be found online. Use the botanical name for correct identification.

www.growingillawarranatives.org or https://plantnet.rgbsyd.nsw.gov.au Please note — BPS Plant Nursey will be closed over Christmas and New Year and will reopen on Wednesday 8th January 2025.

Contact: berryplantpropagation@gmail.com or Berry Plant Prop facebook

## Landcare BERRY Re-Veg the Edge By Kelvin Officer



The Coomonderry Wetland, framed between Gerroa Road, Agars Lane, Beach Road and Coolangatta Road, is a mostly hidden survivor from our past, and an inspiration for our future. The wetland's eastern side is in a natural state and grades into forests in Seven Mile Beach National Park. However, the remaining edges were subject to wholesale vegetation clearance and pasture development in the nineteenth century and are bare of fringing habitat.

The Coomonderry basin is a rare landscape from our past when the coastal lowlands of the Shoalhaven formed a patchwork of 'meadows' surrounded by woodlands and dense 'brush' rainforests. In the early nineteenth century, this remained a prolific source of food and resources for the local tribes of Dharawal speakers, and to the eyes of the newly arrived Europeans the meadows seemed to offer bounteous native pasture.

Today, Coomonderry Swamp is the largest semi-permanent coastal wetland in NSW. It supports over 200 plant species, a range of threatened ecologically significant communities, and is associated with four endangered or threatened species: the Green and Golden Bell Frog, the Australasian Bittern, the Greater Glider and the Powerful Owl. It is now imperative that the habitat values of the wetland are bolstered with restored corridor connections and fringing shoreline vegetation. With the new century, changes in land use and community attitudes

now provide conservation opportunities. Since 2003, a program of shoreline revegetation by volunteer groups has progressed in a portion of pastureland from the former Campbells Run property, now National Park. The most recent effort was on November 3, when 37 volunteers, coordinated by Berry Landcare, planted 275 native plants next to a patchwork of previous plantings. The growing forest fringe is an inspiration towards a long term objective of a continuous habitat corridor between the escarpment and the sea.

#### BERRY MASONIC VILLAGE AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary has been busy in recent months with a visit to the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple in Berkeley and a fashion parade in Albion Park alongside our regular activities. We were lucky to have our volunteer bus driver Richard available on each occasion.

Some members attended the RFBI Annual Report Luncheon at which we heard from Frank Price (the CEO) and other members of the Leadership Team. We were also given a tour of the new building during which the space for our kiosk was determined. We hope to start the New Year with a space of our own!

Our final fundraiser for 2024 was a successful Street Stall in Broughton Court on Saturday 16th November. During December we will join the residents and carers at a Christmas luncheon which we believe Santa and his elves are planning to visit. Our final meeting for the year was held on Wednesday 20th November as the December meeting will be our Christmas Party at which we will celebrate our achievements knowing that our contributions to the residents and programs at the village have made a difference in their lives this year.

Berry Masonic village offers its residents a full and varied activities schedule. The lifestyle team plans activities to meet the needs and preferences of the residents. Some of the favourite activities are: day

trips and outings, bingo, gentle exercise groups, games sessions, musical sessions and painting and craft classes. Currently the village is unable to offer regular outings because we do not have enough volunteers to drive our bus. It sits sadly in the parking lot waiting for a caring community member to take it out. If there is a driver out there who can help please contact the village or visit the friendly office staff. We would warmly welcome new members to the auxillary. We meet at the village on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30am. Your involvement in our activities either as a member of the auxillary or as a village volunteer would be greatly appreciated in 2025.

The new and impressive entrance to RFBI Berry.







#### ABOUT US

At Shorebreak Finance, we understand that investing in property can overwhelming, whether you're a first-time buyer or a seasoned investor. We're here to support you every step of the way, making the lending process smooth and stress-free.

Shorebreak Finance founder and director Ron Ratini BAcc Dip. FMFB has extensive experience as a property investor and is passionate about helping others build wealth through property.

Reach out for a casual chat over coffee to discuss your property goals and plan for success.

#### OUR SERVICES

Utilising us as your mortgage broker can save you valuable time and money, as well as grow your wealth through strategic planning and advice. Our services include:

- · Doing the legwork for you by finding the best fit product for your unique scenario with access to over 40 lenders:
- Specialised advice for unique scenarios such as self-employment, first home buyers, or SMSFs.
- Handling the majority of the paperwork involved in securing a loan and navigating the process, ensuring you meet all requirements and deadlines.







### "CELEBRATION"

This was a very special meeting for us this month as we celebrated the 99th birthday of Mrs Betty Henderson. This quiet, unassuming yet inspirational lady has been a member of the Berry Branch of CWA for over 40years. Betty has been very much part of the Berry Community living at Broughton Vale on a farm, whilst her husband ran a real estate business in Berry. Betty was an avid tennis player, playing for Berry, and then Bomaderry, after relocating there, she has many trophies from her tennis competitions.



Betty still swims regularly, has been and still is very social, playing cards and belonging to Probus as well as being a regular at our meetings. Betty has two sons, a daughter, grandchildren and great grand children and now lives in Bomaderry. We surprised Betty with this celebration but a 99th birthday is a wonderful achievement, it has to be recognised and congratulated, now we are all looking forward to that special telegram next year.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Colin and Helen for inviting us to their garden at Foxground for this year's Garden Festival. You accommodated us and made us so welcome with amazing facilities in your beautiful garden. We were so well supported from the visitors and trust that you too, were aware of and heard all the wonderful comments from people as they enjoyed their refreshments or strolled around the garden. We felt very privileged to be there and share your space, thank you.

On Wednesday 4th December we are inviting members of the community to join us for a Community Christmas Craft Morning - a craft session to make simple hand made Christmas decorations, please come along to participate, or just come along to have a cuppa with us. There will be no charge and all materials will be supplied along with morning tea. We will be there, in our rooms, from 9.30am until 12.30noon

For more information email: berrycwasecretary@gmail.com or Facebook: (Berry Branch of the CWA of NSW).



#### **December @ Berry Riding Club**

We will be wrapping up a fun year with a couple of really popular events. Watch out for our *Christmas Funkhana, Sunday 8th December.* Everyone will be dressing themselves and their horses in Christmas colours and tinsel will be glittering everywhere. The popular hacking rings are always busy with riders of all ages always having a lovely day out with their horse. Jumping will also be available for beginners to experts.

Our final event for the year will be a *Hunter Trial, Sunday 15th December.* It is an exciting event to watch, as riders put their skills to the test, at speed, jumping fixed, solid obstacles across the undulating terrain of our cross-country paddock.

At this time of year, it is great to look back on our achievements over 2024. There have been so many great days. Special thanks go to all those involved in those fabulous events, especially the outstanding efforts of volunteer helpers and groups. Their ongoing support, giving their precious time and energy always makes for amazing events. Special thanks must also go to Gareth Ward who helped secure a grant for a tractor, a much-needed necessity for the maintenance of

our vast grounds. The continued sponsorship by local businesses, small and large, is very much valued too. We're a very lucky club to have the support of so many. Thank you!

We hope you have a fun time over the New Year holiday period and we look forward to seeing everyone back after a short break when *Twilight Jumping* commences on *Tuesday 7 January.* 

Berry Riding Club would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and healthy new year.

Photo Credit: Shelle Smith from Elegant Exposures.



## The Berry Forum www.berryforum.org.au

#### **Berry Hotel DA**

In November last year, Council received a record **325** submissions objecting to the original DA, and 40 in support. By 13 November this year, Council had received a new record number of **360** objections to the amended DA, and just 3 in support. The Berry community has sent a very clear message to the Court that it will not tolerate the proposed severe overdevelopment of the site.

The community funded Barker Ryan Stewart (BRS) report on the amendments proposed by Feros to its DA can be viewed on the Forum website. BRS determined that the proposal continues to represent an overdevelopment of the site which has not been addressed through the revised design and technical documentation. **Key concerns** identified include:

- Adverse impacts to heritage items and the heritage conservation area due to the scale and design of the development,
- Insufficient parking provided to cater for the increase in scale of the development,
- Inadequate loading/unloading facilities,

- Impractical and insufficient noise mitigation measures,
- Non-compliances with the applicable planning legislation and requirements

Council's lawyer will present the submissions to the Court prior to the onsite hearing on 13 December, where six oral submissions will be made to the Commissioner by community members.

It would be very beneficial if many residents attended the onsite hearing to show the Commissioner the level of community concern. We will advise details closer to the date.

### Council CEO and new Financial Review panel

At the Council meeting on 12 November, Councillors appointed Director of City Development, James Ruprai to act in the role of CEO while recruitment is considered by the elected council. Earlier in the day, former CEO Robyn Stevens had announced her resignation.

The new Financial Review Panel had its first meeting on 11 November to agree

Terms of Reference. The Panel membership consists of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, one councillor from each Ward, the CEO, CFO and five community members with financial experience and acumen.

The Panel community members met on Friday 15 November to decide which areas of investigation should be prioritised. Two areas of major concern are the unexplained significant growth in employee costs over the last three years, and construction of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at West Nowra.

When Council authorised the MRF project in 2020 the estimated capital cos was \$23m. A year later it had increased to \$28m and now stands at \$37m. The amount spent to date is \$22.4m, so a further \$14.8m is required to complete the project.

#### **Next Forum Meeting**

On 12 December, the Forum Committee invites residents to Christmas drinks & nibbles at 7pm at the Uniting Church Hall. The main meeting will commence at 7.30pm.

### Community Groups

BERRY COMMUNITY GROUPS	
Berry Alliance Inc. PO Box 202 Berry info@berryalliance.org.au	0449 569 059
www.facebook.com/berrytowncrier	
Berry Town Crier PO Box 202 Berry towncrier@berryalliance.ot towncrier@berryalliance.org.au	0428 037 572 org.au
Australian Labor Party Berry Shoalhaven Ho	
PO Box 325 Berry secreatrybshalp@gmail.com	4464 2446
Australian Red Cross Berry Branch Margaret 0415 887 308 margaret.walsh2	0411 120 034 1@bigpond.com
Berry Community Activities Centre (BCAC) valhaz@bigppond.com www.facebook.com	4464 2500 berrymarkets
<b>Berry Community Library</b> at Berry Uniting Church berrycommunitylib	0425 220 258 rary@gmail.com
Berry Courthouse Conservation Committee PO Box 218 Berry 2535 functions@berrycourthouse.org.au www.berrycourthouse.org.au www.faceboolberrycourthouse	
Berry & District Historical Society www.berryhistory.org.au berrymuseum@bigpond.com	0413 893 508
Berry Evening VIEW Club janchambers49@hotmail.com	0490 054 574
Berry Masonic Village Auxiliary icbsle@bigpond.com	0411 120 034
Berry Meals on Wheels alisonmack@hotmail.com www.northshoalhavenmeals.org.au	0418 422 088
Berry Men's Shed berrymensshed@telstra.com	0448 712 131
Berry Probus Club lambone@bigpond.com	0409 651 298
Broughton Vale / Berry Rural Fire Brigade broughtonvalerfs@gmail.com	0414 897 227
Country Women's Association Berry Branch 76 Victoria St., Berry berrycwasecretary@gmail.com	0417423 018
David Berry Hospital Auxiliary icbsle@bigpond.com Irene Bir margaret.walsh21@bigpond.com Margaret Wal	ks 0411 120 034 sh 0415 887 308
Huntingdale Park Resident Action Group PO Box 325 Berry 2535 rick.bmfberry@bigpond.com	4464 2446
Masonic Lodge Broughton 131 Agricultural Hall, Berry Showgrounds kevinwant@gmail.com	0401 395 401
Red Cross margaret.walsh21@bigpond.com	0415 887 308
Rotary Club of Berry berryrotary@gmail.com www.berryrotary.or	0409 318 171 g.au
Slow Food Berry Berry2JB info@slowfoodberry2jb.com.au www.slowfoodberry2jb.com.au	0416 018 977

BERRY COMMUNITY GROUPS - CO	NTINUED
St. Vincent de Paul Society	HELPLINE 4421 0390
Vinnies Shop 1117B Queen St. Berry	4464 3940
Voice of David Berry Hospital margaret.walsh21@bigpond.com www.voiceofdavidberryhospital.org	0415 887 308
Zonta Club of Berry Inc. berry@zontadistrict24.org zontabe Facebook – Zonta Berry	0402 394 211 erry.com.au
ARTS	
<b>Arts National Shoalhaven</b> www.adfas.org.au/shoalhaven artsnationalshoalhaven@gmail.com	4464 2619
Berry Silver Band	0490 037 619
Kaye – kayecj@westnet.com.au adrian@fewwordsphotography.com. meet at Masonic Hall Berry on Mond	
Berry Spinners & Weavers berryspinnersandweavers@gmail.co Meetings: Berry School of Arts on We Thursdays 9.30-12.30	
Knit With Love	0404 562 772
St. Lukes Church Hall – 68A Princes Lyn Oades – terryandlyn@gmail.com	
OpenField Arts Festival PO Box 5, Berry 2535 www.openfield.org.au info@openfi	0439 750 029 eld.org.au
Red Berry Quilters	0409 641 667
redberrysec@gmail.com	
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www.facebook/redberriesquiltinggro	oup
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#### EDUCATION AND PLAYGROUPS - CONTINUED.

South Coast Kid's Club Sharayah Lardner 04073 791 886 sharayah@southcoastlife.org www.southcoastlife.org/kids-club

Berry Youth Group Kate Weakley 0403 915 728 kateweakley74@gmail.com www.southcoastlife.org/berry-youth.html

#### **GARDENING & LANDCARE**

**Berry Landcare** 0427 255 417 www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/berry-landcare/ www.facebook.com/Southerners2535/

Berry & District Garden Club 0411 477 997 secretary@berrygardens.org.au www.berrygardens.org.au

Berry Public School Plant Propagation 4464 3911
Berryplantpropagation@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/BerryPlantProp
Natural Studies and Plant Propagation Centre BPS

#### RECREATION

Berry Bridge Club Inc. 0417 207 130 ceciliemlewis@gmail.com www.bridgewebs.com/berry

## Berry Men's Bowling Club draym@bigpond.com Berry Riding Club info@berryridingclub.com www.berryridingclub.com Berry Tennis Club PO Box 133 Berry NSW 2535 berrytennis@hotmail.com Berry Women's Bowling Club 4464 3053

Derry Women's Downing Club	4404 3030
SPONSORED	
A Taste of Paradise admin@atasteofparadise.org.au www.atasteofparadise.org.au	0490 060 251
Berry Community Library 77 Albert St (Berry Uniting Church Hall) berrycommunitylibrary@gmail.com	0425 220 258
Berry Public School Plant Propagation Berryplantpropagation@gmail.com	4464 3911

Berry Writers Festival info@berrywritersfestival.org.au www.berrywritersfestival.com.au	
Bundanon Trust www.bundanon.com.au	4422 2100
Pink Up Berry	0428 005 910

Raises Money for the McGrath Foundation pinkupberry@gmail.com

SALT Ministries 4480 5028
Supporting those in need 5-19 Birley St. Bomaderry info@salt.org.au or Facebook

Shoalhaven Education Fund
chair@sef.org.au
www.cef.org.au/shoalhaven
Shoalhaven Heads Surf Life Saving Club

secretary@headssurf.com.au

Any Berry Community group who are yet to provide their updated details (after your AGM elections for example) please email them to info@berryalliance. org.au. If you need a form please email us for that. Please ensure that we always receive any updates or changes.

**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.

**Berry Alliance and Town Crier Management Committee** 







#### **SUSTAINABLE BERRY SUMMER 2024**

**FOOD SAFETY:** With escalating food prices, avoiding waste is even more pressing. Other than lobbying governments and supermarkets, there is little individuals can do about the food that gets wasted between the producer and the retail outlet. But once we bring it home it's up to us to try to keep it out of landfill.

**USE BY v BEST BEFORE DATES:** Use By dates are required by legislation on perishable foods that may become unsafe after a certain time. This includes milk, eggs, and meats including fish. Foods that are less perishable are often still safe to eat past the Best Before date, but the appearance or texture may change over time. If you are going to Sydney, Beyond Best Before has two retail outlets, in Newtown and Miranda, selling items that are sourced from large supermarkets that are beyond the Best Before date, but still safe to eat/use. Visit www. beyondbestbefore.com.au to place a Click and Collect order from the Miranda Store.

**SAFE STORAGE:** Foods requiring refrigeration should be kept at a temperature of between 4°C and 0°C. The chiller section of your fridge, used for storing meats, should be 0°C. It is recommended to set the thermostat at 3°C. This will avoid accidentally freezing produce. The upper part of the fridge is the warmest section. Items requiring cooler temperatures should be stored in the lower sections of the fridge. During warmer weather butter and oils should be stored in the fridge to stop them becoming rancid.

Ideally, the freezer temperature should be set at  $-18^{\circ}$ C. At  $-15^{\circ}$ C you will see ice crystals forming in ice cream, and inside containers or bags storing food. At  $-18^{\circ}$ C oxidisation and other chemical changes are slowed down. Nuts can be frozen, stopping the nut oils from becoming rancid. Herbs, seeds and spices can also be frozen, to preserve freshness. The safest way to thaw meat, fish etc., is in the fridge, as the food will not pass through the temperature danger zone of  $5^{\circ}$ C and above, as it thaws.

Food stored out of the fridge should be protected from sunlight and artificial light to avoid photodegradation and oxidisation. For this reason, clear glass jars or plastic containers of oils, honey, seeds, nuts, pulses, etc., should not be stored on open shelves. Ultraviolet and visible light exposure leads to degraded odours and flavours, loss of colour and the possible formation of toxic substances. Tropical fruits and tomatoes should be stored at room temperature, as should potatoes and onions.

**USING MORE PERISHABLE ITEMS FIRST:** If you're not organised to plan meals ahead before shopping, aim to use the most perishable items before those with a longer shelf life. For example, strawberries and beans will last less than a week in the fridge. Cucumbers and lettuce will last about a week, as will mushrooms. Mushrooms will last longer if kept in a paper bag and wrapped in a tea towel. Leafy greens, such as fresh herbs and spinach leaves, should be stored wrapped in paper towel (or a tea towel) in a plastic bag. The paper will absorb moisture transpired by leaves, slowing wilting/rot. This way they will last about a week. Broccoli and blueberries will last one to two weeks in the fridge, oranges, lemons, and carrots up to four weeks.

THE 2-HOUR / 4-HOUR RULE: Food Standards Australia recommends using the 2- or 4- hour rule, which is based on how quickly microorganisms grow at temperatures between 5°C and 60°C, to ensure the safety of food taken out of the fridge. At these temperatures and less than two hours, food can be used or put back into the fridge safely. Between two and four hours, food can be used, but shouldn't be put back in the fridge. After four hours, food should be discarded.

#### 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 last Berry Town Crier.

If you are interested in any DA then all details are provided on the Council Web Site:

Go to: http://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/masterviewUl/modules/ApplicationMaster/Default.aspx Development Application Tracking.

#### **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS:**

DA2024/1397 - 16/10/2024 - Proposed Dwelling & swimming pool - 17 Serenity Ridge Berry

 ${\sf DA2024/1721} \quad - \quad 14/10/2024 \quad - \quad {\sf Dwelling house, swimming pool and detached studio} \quad - \quad 13 \, {\sf serenity Ridge Berry} \quad - \quad 14/10/2024 \quad - \quad 14/10$ 

 ${\sf DA2024/1854} \ -\ 17/10/2024 -\ {\sf Dwelling\ Alterations\ and\ additions} \ -\ 36\ {\sf Priddles\ Lane\ Wattamolla}$ 

PCD2024/1551 - 18/10/2024 - Swimming pool - 220B Strongs Road, Jaspers Brush

 ${\sf MA2024/1391\ -\ 25/10/2024-Modification\ to\ increase\ shed\ size-18\ Serenity\ Ridge\ Berry}$ 

PCD2024/1555 - 24/10/2024 - Two storey dwelling, pool, pool house & shed - 32 Serenity Ridge Berry

PCD2024/1558 - 25/10/2024 - Dwelling alterations & additions & spa - 106 Kangaroo Valley Rd Berry

PCD2024/1560 - 25/10/2024 - New Dwelling - 34 Serenity Ridge Berry

 $MA2024/1368\ -\ 22/10/2024\ -\ S4.55(1A)\ to\ DA22/1006\ -\ internal\ and\ external\ changes\ -\ 171B\ Strongs\ Road\ Jaspers\ Brush\ Brush\$ 

#### **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED:**

DA2024/1397 - Approved - 16/10/2024 - Proposed dwelling and swimming pool - 17 Serenity Ridge, Berry

DA2024/1721 - Approved - 14/10/2024 - Dwelling house, swimming pool and detached studio - 13 Serenity Ridge, Berry

 ${\sf DA2024/1854} \quad - \quad {\sf Approved} \quad - \quad 17/10/2024 - \\ {\sf Dwelling alterations and additions} \quad - \quad 36 \quad \\ {\sf Priddles \ Lane \ Wattamolla} \quad - \quad {\sf Value \ New \ Ne$ 

DA2024/1418 - Approved - 30/10/2024 - Two storey dual occupancy (attached) - 75 Parker Crescent Berry

MA024/1368 - Approved - 29/10/2024 - S4.55(1A) to DA22/1006 - internal and external changes - 171B Strongs Road Jaspers Brush

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 Newsletters which are emailed out. Subscribe to be a Friend of the Berry Town Crier by emailing 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 prior to delivery) plus can includes reminders of Deadlines and extended article on a number of issues.

### Huntingdale Park Resident Action Group

Update on SF10965 – Hitchcocks Lane Berry – Staged residential subdivision to create a total of 118 allotments.

At the time of writing and Deadline for the Town Crier (20/11/2024) this is now in a 3 day hearing before the Land and Environment Court. Application Number SF10965/8

STOP PRESS — 21/11/2024 — The Parties look as though they have now reached agreement and it is now up to the Court to consider agreeing to the application and conditions.

Updated info in Friends of the Town Crier Newsletters.

Council wrote a letter to the applicants on 14/7/23 concluding by advising the applicants that:

- their "consolidated response" providing the additional information is required within 28 days of the letter, and
- if there is no response or no request for an extension of time, that Council will assess the application based on the information submitted to date.

Quote from the last page, page 7:

"Please note that if the requested information is not provided as part of any response Council will proceed to determine this application.

"As the application has been "called in" by the elected Council, it would be reported to an Ordinary Meeting for consideration. The current issues identified in this letter would prevent Council from making a favourable decision."

The Applicants went past the deadline set and then communicated to Council that they would not be providing the requested items and that they wanted their application to revert to their original application when Council Officers were reporting back to Council for the elected Council to make a determination on the DA.

This provided them some additional negotiating room or things that they can give away in any future negotiation when the applicants applied to the Land and Environment court appealing the Council decision to refuse their application. Council then voted on the application by way of a Refusal.

26th April 2024 there was a Conciliation Meeting of the Land and Environment court on this issue to see if the parties could resolve all issues. The conciliation process continued between the parties for a little time but then advised the Court that they were unable to resolve all the issues.

The Court then set the matter down for a hearing on 20,21 & 22 November 2024.

10 September 2024 (6 weeks prior to the hearing date) the applicants then applied to the Land and Environment for leave of the Court to amend the plans submitted with the Development Application (DA).

19 September 2024 that leave was granted.

11 November 2024 Council wrote to those who had made a submission originally advising that the applicant had sought leave and was granted the application and had submitted the amended plans and associated documents were now available on the Councils DA Tracking site and submissions were called for with submissions due on or before 19 November. And because the hearing was due to commence on 20 November 2024 "Please note that an extension to the notification period is not possible as this matter is listed for hearing before the Land and Environment for 3 days commencing 20 November 2024."

Our group has worked hard and provided a detailed written submission as well as our oral submission for the first day of the hearing.

We noted that in the new submission **SF10965/8** there has been some movement in terms of the use or otherwise of Hitchcocks

Lane amongst other issues but there is still a lot of disagreement.

Some matters we have in our formal submission go to the following:

- 1. Use of Hitchcocks Lane at all.
- 2. Priority of the Unnamed Link Road as the Primary access road.
- 3. The Staging of the development should ensure that the un named Link Road, the "Primary" road should be completed before Stage 1 commences.
- 4. That there should be no building / construction access to the entire site apart from the Primary Road (un named link Road. This to minimise any traffic going past existing dwellings where there is the option to use that Road.
- 5. Further investigation into the use of Schofields Lane for access.
- 6. A lot of internal road issues such as width, sight lines, bus bays, pull in bays and more.
- 7. Landscaping and Planting guides.
- 8. Noise Barriers.

There should be news on this application and hearing prior to Xmas and certainly prior to the next Town Crier (which is in late January 2025.)

We recommend that if you are not a member of our group you might like to join us if you live or own property in the Huntingdale Park Estate.

The other way to gain information is to become a Friend of the Berry Town Crier and we will attempt to get any news out in those Friends Newsletters from the Town Crier between editions of the Town Crier.

### Old Nowra Bridge transformation underway

Work to transform the historic Nowra Bridge into a dedicated pedestrian and cycling path is now underway thanks to a \$20 million investment from the Albanese and Minns Labor Governments.

The transformation will be carried out in four stages over the next three years, with the first stage to include:

- truss repairs
- repairing the end truss lattices
- repairs to the concrete bridge deck
- removal of the old handrail connections
- and replacement of rosette style diagonal bracing washers.

More than 140-years-old, the bridge is an icon of the community and work to transform it has been informed by close consultation with the community over the past decade.

Due the age of the bridge, the work required to restore it is very detailed and labour intensive. While this significant work will take time, once complete, it will be a long-term asset to the region that the community can enjoy as an active, healthy transport option.

The first stage of work starting Monday 11 November is expected to take around six months, weather permitting. Work will be

carried out between 7am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Further details about future stages of work will be shared with the community as work progresses, however, these will involve removal of the cantilevered footpath, prioritised repainting and installation of lighting.

For the safety of the community, the historic Nowra Bridge will remain closed with street lighting switched off while work is carried out. Temporary fencing, signage, and security cameras will be in place to discourage pedestrians from accessing the bridge.

Federal Member for Gilmore Fiona Phillips said she was thrilled to see work commence on the project.

"This project has been talked about for years and it's taken the Albanese and Minns Labor Governments to finally get it done," Mrs Phillips said.

"I am so excited to see this work begin and look forward to seeing how our iconic old Nowra Bridge is transformed into a wonderful active transport asset we can all enjoy."

State Member for South Coast Liza Butler said the Albanese and Minns Labor Governments were delighted to be investing

in the "incredible transformation project the community will benefit greatly from".

"The old bridge has worked hard over the years and it's now in need of a lot of tender love and care to bring it back to its former glory," she added.

NSW Labor's Kiama spokesperson Dr Sarah Kaine MLC said she was pleased to see Transport for NSW delivering the project.

"This is such an exciting milestone for the community and I want to thank the many residents who have advocated over many years for this repair and revitalisation work to happen," she said.

The new Nowra Bridge was opened to traffic in February 2023 and major work on the project was completed in November 2023. Finishing work carried out in the last six

Finishing work carried out in the last six months included building footpaths, finalising landscaping, removing excess spoil from the Bolong Road stockpile site, and removing and replacing contaminated mulch from several locations across the project.

Fiona Phillips Federal Member for Gilmore Liza Butler Member for South Coast Dr Sarah Kaine Member of the NSW Legislative Council and Kiama spokesperson

## BERRY REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION 2024

Under cloudy but pleasant weather at the Berry Memorial Park, the Berry RSL Sub-Branch Remembrance Day Commemoration Service was observed on Monday 11 November Mr John Wells as MC introduced Mr Clyde Poulton, President of the sub-Branch to deliver the opening address that on this day 106 years ago WWI had finally concluded; a focus of Clyde's address was the historical aspects of Berry servicemen to the war effort and subsequent conflicts.



Rev Joshua Duncan of the South Coast

Life Church, led the service in a very thoughtful prayer; that lessons of 1914-1918 in seeking peace in the World are still relevant particularly given the current global events in the past year.

Berry Public School Captains Misses Ava Rootham and Piper Barnett recited the poem, "Somewhere In France".

CIr Selena Clancy read the tribute to PTE Raymond Septimus McIntyre, who enlisted on his 18th birthday in Kiama in 1916 and served on the Western Front before being killed by artillery fire while laying telephone cabling in 1917. PTE McIntyre's name is listed at the Menin Gate, Belgium.

Commander Craig Castle of HMAS Albatross delivered the Commemoration Address during which at 11.00 am, he paused to observe the ceremonial One Minutes silence.

The Ode was recited, followed by the "Sounding of The Last Post", the time being 11.00 am One Minutes Silence was observed for the cessation of hostilities of WWI followed by "The Rouse".

Wreaths were laid by the Sub-Branch, and local community organisations, during which Piper John Morrison played "The Lament".

MC John Wells recorded the RSL Sub-Branch's 'appreciation for the efforts of those whose assistance had been invaluable for the Commemoration Service; RAN HMAS Albatross for providing the Cenotaph Catafalque Guard, Shoalhaven City Council (who did a final pathway cleaning prior to the service), the Women's Auxiliary for their loyal and sustained work throughout this year, Berry Rotary (chairs), Gavin Rogers from Turfco for his loyal support to the sub-Branch, Piper John Morrison and a special mention for Miss Harper Broad a Year 6 Berry Public School student for playing The Last Post and Rouse.

The service concluded with the Australian National Anthem. An enjoyable function was conducted after the service at the sub-Branch hall.

#### Berry Men's Bowling Club

Advancing towards the end of 2024 and good bowling weather is creating a busy period for bowlers. In addition to the Wednesday and Saturday Social Play members have also been undertaking Championships in both the Major Singles, Fours and Pairs. The Challenge Singles were won by Rob Folkard from Frank Picciolini by a small margin and the Mixed Fours by Rosa Burn, Bob Dunn, Margret Hayes and Terry Hayes. In addition to these the Club hosted on 26th October the annual "Chittick" Social Day which was attended by 45 bowlers and visitors. Ladies kindly provided sandwiches and cakes for lunch

Members have played in four Area competitions held at various Clubs and in the finals held 7th November they were winners in two sections, Pairs and Fours which will now progress to Merimbula to be played in the regional finals. The Pairs team of Paul Bezant and his brother Nathan defeated Huskisson and Culburra and the Fours team made up of Keith Pepper, Bob Dunn, Graham Hook and Rob Folkard defeated two Worrigee teams, Shoalhaven Heads and Greenwell Point to qualify for the Region play off.

The Club will be open from 11-00 am Wednesday to Sunday and additional information can be obtained from staff or telephone 4464 2995.

Bowls and Para Bowls will be included in the 2026 Commonwealth Games which will be held in four venues within an 8 mile corridor of Glasgow. There will be another 9 sport programmes.

In addition to Bowls - Congratulations to Karen Murphy who commenced playing Bowls at Shoalhaven Heads and now has been inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

The Club extends wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Health 2025.

#### BERRY WOMEN'S BOWLING CLUB

Despite some overcast and showery Tuesdays, three rounds of our Club's 'Consistency' was held over three weeks in October. This is a four-bowl singles competition where points are scored according to closeness to the jack, which remains in a fixed position. The winner is the first to reach 150 points.

This year's results: Winner, Ruth Willdig. Runner-up, Jane Haddon. Please be advised that:

- Summer break begins on 12 December 2024
- Social Bowls will resume on Tuesday, 14 January 2025 when we look forward to another fun year of bowling and fellowship.
- If you would like to join us or would like more information, please phone 4464 3053.

## Thinking about Christmas

I love Christmas and each year it seems to come so quickly. The decorations in the shops start in September and from November on we are bombarded with online videos and T.V adds for things to buy, must have decorations and even plentiful amounts of food to create for that perfect time together. As I said, I love Christmas; looking at the pretty decorations, thinking about gifts for family and friends and planning for a family get together at Christmas time, but do we forget *Why we even have Christmas?* 

A beautiful Christmas carol sung is "Unto us a child is born". That moment in life filled with hope and love, when you hold a newborn baby. Who does not pray that this baby would grow to do good in their world? How natural that God chose a baby to be the light, hope, and saviour of the world. When God's son came to earth, he was not born in a palace with glory and splendour, but in a stable in a small town in Bethlehem. His mother was not a princess, but a wife of a village carpenter. His birth did not go unnoticed or unheralded. Angels came to shepherds caring for their sheep, not to kings or priests. The shepherds believed and accepted the good news and went to worship baby Jesus in the stable. They thanked God for the gift that came into the world. Majesty had come to the manger. Why? God wanted to bring us peace and to show us His great love. Peace on earth can be found- it starts in the manger, finishes on the cross and lives in our hearts forever- because Jesus has promised to come again.

Today, along with all the customs and traditions of Christmas, let us keep; our faith in God; the love and hope brought into the world through Jesus; respect for all that is good and right; loving, caring, being patient and spreading joy and hope in Jesus. John 3:16 says For God so loved the world, He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

At Christmas time, we hope and pray you feel God's love, hope and peace, together with family and friends, remembering that **Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season.** 

Family service 8th December. Kids' club and JAM/BAM presentation,

Berry Presbyterian Church, Sue Skinner



#### 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**

Monday 2pm • Thursday 9.30am • Friday 10am

#### **Activities**

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#### Everyone is welcome—we'd love to see you there!



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#### SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL ISSUES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### Announcement of CEO Resignation 12 November 2024

Robyn Stevens has today announced her resignation from her role as CEO of Shoalhaven City Council. At tonight's Council meeting, Councillors appointed Director of City Development, James Ruprai to act in the role while recruitment is considered by the elected council.

Ms Stevens started in the role in February this year with a focus on improving the financial sustainability of the organisation through driving process change and streamlining systems.

"On behalf of Council, I would like to thank Ms Stevens for the positive impact she has had on the culture of the organisation and the efficiencies that she has implemented in the short time in the role," Mayor Patricia White said

"She has shown incredible leadership and drive for the organisation, and we wish her all the best for the future." Cr White said.

#### Council launches business partnerships program 31 October 2024

Council is launching its inaugural Business Partnership Program that will invite industry to partner with the organisation to deliver essential programs for growth.

Local Business Chambers, and Industry Associations and Groups are encouraged to apply to partner with Council in the delivery of events, projects and programs that benefit our business community.

The Business Partnerships Program will provide various streams of funding for local organisations to deliver workshops, information sessions, mentoring programs, industry showcases, awards, networking events and forums that celebrate, develop, grow and create new opportunities for Shoalhaven businesses.

"Council's Economic Development and Tourism Team is committed to working with local business, big and small and across all industries to create opportunities for growth and prosperity in the Shoalhaven region," said Mayor, Patricia White.

"Council's goal is to amplify the great work our industry associations and groups are already engaged in. We are excited that this funding can help bolster the depth and breadth of the programs, networking and training that is already in market.

"Our goal is to foster a thriving business environment which focuses on building and supporting strong business networks to ensure the Shoalhaven continues to be a vibrant place for enterprise," Cr White said

There will be four streams of funding for the 2024/25 financial year including \$15,000 for business networking, \$20,000 for business development and training, \$10,000 for workforce attraction and employment and \$25,000 for Business Excellence Celebrations.

To be eligible, applicants must be from, or in partnership with, a not-for-profit organisation and all events must be delivered across the Shoalhaven Local Government Area.

For more information visit Council's Economic Development website

#### Kangaroo Valley access improved Major milestone for region's road to recovery

Extract from Shoalhaven City Council Mayor Patricia White 8 November 2024

The final landslip in a \$59 million remediation package is now complete, heralding the end to more than two years of major reconstruction works in the Shoalhaven.

Declared a natural disaster area following severe weather and flooding in March 2022, joint funding by the Australian and NSW governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements has resulted in the remediation of 38 major landslips in Kangaroo Valley and surrounding communities. The completion of the last landslip on Bunkers Hill Road in Barrengarry signalled the end to major work, putting the local community well on track to recovery.

Construction group Symal carried out the contract to repair the Shoalhaven's 38 worst landslips. The scale of the job is highlighted by the people-power and materials it took to repair the region:

- 1,000 bored concrete piles (7,700 metres drilled total)
- 1.6 km of capping beams formed and poured (capping beams tie the piles together to reduce movement)
- 3,600 cubic metres of concrete (used for piles, capping beams and shotcrete)
- 1,050 soil nails (steel bars used to reinforce slopes)
- 19,500 tonnes of imported quarry product (stone, shale, crushed rock, ballast etc.)
- 225.000 worker hours.

#### Quotes from Patricia White, Shoalhaven City Council Mayor:

"Today marks an incredible milestone that is testament to the resilience of our community and the dedication of the project team to get the job done."

"There's still plenty of work to be done to recover from consecutive natural disasters, but this package of 38 major landslips was by far the most challenging reconstruction project in recent history.

"The record-breaking rainfall, the terrain, the widespread damage and the risks associated with the landslip works across the region certainly provided a logistical challenge for our geotechnical engineers and work crews

"The task to fully remediate 38 landslips has been a mammoth undertaking resulting in the delivery of robust and fully remediated roads."

#### Quotes from Fiona Phillips MP, Member for Gilmore:

"The completion of works will come as a huge relief for local residents.

"I saw firsthand the devastating impact these landslips had on our local communities.

"People were often isolated and had to undergo huge changes to their circumstances just to go about their day-to-day lives.

"I'm really happy to see this final landslip fixed and I thank everyone involved in the repair works."

#### Quotes from Dr Sarah Kaine MLC, NSW Labor's spokesperson for Kiama:

"The extensive South Coast repair effort reinforces the government's commitment to helping communities rebuild after disasters.

"In the recent NSW Budget we announced \$3.3 billion to repair state and local roads in areas impacted by natural disasters across NSW.

"We know there is more work to do to overcome the damage our roads have incurred but we're pleased to be getting on with the job with federal and local governments."

Shoalhaven City Council Issues and announcements continued

Feedback sought on proposed changes to 45 Degree Rule for tree removal 30 October 2024

Residents have the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed changes to the 45 Degree Rule Exemption for tree removal in Shoalhaven.

Council voted on Monday 14 October in support of a Mayoral Minute to amend Chapter G4 Tree and Vegetation Management in the Shoalhaven Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014.

Council resolved to revert the 45 Degree Rule to the version that was in place prior to 16 August 2023, and to change the name of the policy to the Gordon Timbs 45 Degree Rule, in recognition of the Shoalhaven resident who was killed when a tree fell on his home in 1998.

Councillors also supported providing the community with a list of potential replacement native tree species.

"The 45 Degree Rule is an important measure that was implemented to save lives and enable residents to mitigate risks. The original version of the policy has achieved that goal for over 20 years," Mayor Patricia White said.

"I encourage residents to have their say on the proposed changes, to ensure we continue to make informed decisions that reflect the wishes of our community." Cr White said.

The current version of the rule, which was being trialled by Council, permits tree removal or substantial pruning within a 45-degree angle of a lawfully erected building, if the tree poses a short-term risk to the building.

Under the current (trial) rule, approval to remove a tree is still not required however landowners must:

- Notify the Council and neighbours before a tree is removed
- Utilise a qualified and experienced arborist to remove the tree.
- The proposed changes that will be exhibited would see the rule's previous version reinstated and landowners would not be required to:
- · Notify council and neighbours of tree removal
- Utilise a qualified and experienced person to undertake the tree removal
- Maintain evidence of compliance with the 45 Degree Rule.

The proposed changes will be on public exhibition for review from 30 October until 29 November 2024.

#### Get the tick on your septic 8 November 2024

#### Property owners with an onsite sewage management system (OSSM) are being reminded about the importance of Council's inspection program and the associated required approval to operate

There are more than 7,000 properties in the Shoalhaven that do not have access to Council's sewerage system and operate an OSSM, more commonly referred to as a septic system or septic tank. "It's important that property owners with onsite sewage management systems operate them efficiently and safely to protect the health of our community and the environment," said Manager Environmental Services, Dr Michael Roberts.

The NSW Government introduced the inspection and approval program in 1998 after an outbreak of Hepatitis A on the Mid North Coast was linked to oysters. They were found to be contaminated with sewage from failing septic systems in the catchment.

"The Shoalhaven has a substantial oyster industry and has many waterways that are used for recreation and tourism that we want to protect from pollution and contamination. Systems that are in the drinking water catchment need to be carefully managed to prevent contamination of our drinking water," Dr Roberts said.

Properties with a septic system must treat and dispose of their own sewage on site or collect it for pump out by a licensed contractor for disposal at a Council sewage treatment plant.

Council monitors the operation of all the local septic facilities, including on residential and commercial properties such as caravan parks, to assess their performance against environmental and health criteria.

Every property owner with an onsite sewage management facility must have an approval to operate their system. An approval lasts for up to five years before it needs to be renewed.

If a system is not working properly, a licensed plumber should be contacted immediately. Approval from Council is required prior to the installation of a new system or new disposal area.

Residents are required to pay an annual charge to recover the costs of inspection and approval to operate, with charges listed within the annual rates notice.

For more information or to arrange an inspection, visit Council's Onsite Sewage Management webpage.

#### A pool that complies, saves lives 12 November 2024

Swimming pool owners across the city are being encouraged to ensure they have a compliant, child-resistant barrier installed around their pool ahead of Summer.

Commercial and residential pool owners are legally required to register their pool on the NSW Swimming Pool register, and ensure it adheres to a range of safety standards to mitigate the drowning deaths of young people.

"Now the weather is starting to heat up it's a great time to check your pool has the appropriate barriers and signage in place. I want to ensure our community is safe this Summer," said Mayor Patricia White. "I'd particularly like to remind residents that inflatable pools also need to be surrounded by a barrier - a pool that complies really can save lives," she said.

Under the Swimming Pools Act 1992 pools owners must ensure:

- Their pool is surrounded by a child-resistant barrier
- · All gates are self-closing and self-latching
- Gates are never propped open
- Climbable objects should have been removed from around the barrier
- · A resuscitation CPR chart is secured to the inside of the barrier
- · Children are supervised in the pool area at all times.

The law applies to all pools with a depth of 30cm (300mm) or more of water, including those that are portable and inflatable. Small spas are required to have a lockable lid.

Penalties of \$550 apply if a pool is not surrounded by a compliant barrier.

Council's Swimming Pool Barrier Inspection Program aims to educate property owners of their responsibilities and raise awareness about safety to prevent drownings.

Swimming Pool Inspectors are available to visit homes and business and advise owners of any changes required to obtain a compliance certificate.

To report a non-compliant pool or to learn more about what is required to obtain a certificate of compliance, visit our website or call Council on 1300 293 111.

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Together, we've created warm and welcoming stays while ensuring your properties are cared for to the highest standards.

To our guests, thank you for choosing Berry Getaways for your holidays and special occasions. From family gatherings to romantic retreats, we've loved being part of the memories you've created this year and can't wait to welcome you back.

This holiday season, we wish you all joy, relaxation, and time to celebrate with those who matter most. Here's to another year of shared success and cherished memories in 2025!

Warm regards,

The Berry Getaways Team

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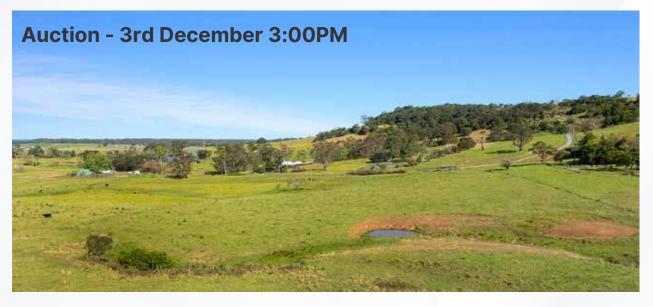


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**79 Albert Street**Berry



**12/146-152 Fern Street** Gerringong



**219 Hanigans Lane**Bolong



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**261 Donovan Road** Broughton Village



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# Raine Horne Merry Christmas!

As the Christmas break draws near, we'd like to take a moment to reflect and express our gratitude for your continued support throughout 2024.

To our customers and clients—past & present—thank you for choosing us. We hope you and your loved ones enjoy a wonderful Christmas and a fresh start to the New Year.

A big thank-you also goes to our tradies and staff, whose hard work and reliability have helped us achieve great results this year. Your efforts don't go unnoticed, and we're grateful for everything you do.

Your support has enabled us to give back to the community, contributing to local groups and sports clubs. Together, we've accomplished a lot, and we look forward to doing even more in 2025.

- Jacqui & the team at Raine&Horne Berry



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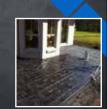
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## Season's Greetings from McGoldrick Estate Agents!

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To our **past clients**, thank you for trusting us to help with some of life's most significant milestones. To our **current clients**, thank you for allowing us to walk this journey with you. And to our **future clients**, we look forward to meeting you and helping you achieve your dreams in the year ahead.

This holiday season, we're reminded of how lucky we are to work and live in such a supportive, vibrant town. From buying your first home to selling cherished family properties, we're here to make every step of the journey as seamless and enjoyable as possible.

From our family to yours, we wish you a joyful and safe holiday season filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories.

May the new year bring health, happiness, and exciting new opportunities for us all!

Warmest wishes, Tim McGoldrick and the Team

McGoldrick

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