



BERRY

TOWN CRIER

PO BOX 202 BERRY NSW 2535

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**I WILL NEVER, EVER
FORGET THIS DAY**

Narelle Barry from the Berry Magpies

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
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Rick Gainford
Holly Landgren
Dr Fiona Mackie
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Editor's Note



The closing date for our May issue will be Wednesday 16th April 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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UPDATE

The building and gardens are in need of regular maintenance, protection and repairs which requires constant attention.

We restore and repair the fabric of the building regularly and this protection particularly against damp (rising and lateral and sometimes falling – through blocked gutters and flashing issues on the 4 chimneys). This extends the time between necessary repainting the outside and the inside of the building. The air conditioners set on "Dry" for a period and / or opening the windows a little to allow better air flow regularly also assists in controlling damp and mould which has been an expensive issue in the past. Particularly a few years ago when we had to clean down and treat the ceilings and walls and did some new painting (and reduced the costs by using the scaffolding needed to do both jobs at the same time).

Even with these protective efforts we are approaching the time that the outside of the building needs painting.

Income earned by events at the Courthouse goes towards these things. We are grateful to the Council over the last 25 years for their assistance with the external painting costs. We have always contributed to the external painting costs with a monetary contribution (usually 33% or 50%) and sometimes also with an application for grant funding with some success.

We are currently addressing the income side of things and looking to do some fundraising to assist.

SAVE THE DATE

Art Show of local artists

WEEKEND OF 24TH AND 25TH MAY

More details in the May Town Crier, social media and posters around town.

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Narelle Barry went to Las Vegas on a trip of a lifetime to the rugby league opening round extravaganza in March.

Narelle is a 47 year volunteer with the Berry Magpies in the canteen.

She "bumped into" Peter V'Landys from the Australian Rugby League when she was at the ground and he invited her to join him in his private suite where she met other legends of the game.

To say that she was overjoyed is an understatement. She positively glowed when I spoke to her about her experience shortly after she returned.

She received a lot of coverage such as the photo she asked us to use in the Town Crier when asked if she was ok if we did a story on her experience.

As she said, "I will never, ever forget this day".

I have known Narelle for nearly 30 years. Not as long or as well as so many people in Berry but it was a pleasure talking to her and congratulating her on her experience.

Here are a couple of posts about her on the Magpies Facebook site:

f "Communities are built on the back of people like aunty 'relle. Always thinking of others, always putting the club before any self interest."

Glen Brandon

"Awww How wonderful Narelle Barry has a heart of pure gold."

Cindy Brookfield

"So good. Without Narelle clubs would not exist."

Judith Grigg.

Rick Gainford, Berry Alliance and Town Crier



SPORT News RUGBY LEAGUE LAS VEGAS



Narelle Barry, 47 year volunteer for the Berry Magpies in the Private suite at Las Vegas in March



I WILL NEVER, EVER FORGET THIS DAY

Narelle Barry from the Berry Magpies

NARELLE IS BACK HOME AGAIN.

And back in the Magpies Canteen of course. **Congratulations Narelle.**

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Shoalhaven Lydian Singers present

Songs and Sonnets

George Shearing's jazzy settings of Shakespeare texts, together with a selection of beautiful and rousing folksongs from the UK, USA, Torres Strait, New Zealand and Australia. Come and join us on the journey!

Saturday 12 April
at Berry School of Arts
Sunday 14 April
at Nowra School of Arts

Tickets available on
TryBooking.com or at the door
See us on Facebook
Enquiries Lorraine 0408 422 423



The Berry Celtic Festival is returning on Saturday 24th May 2025 at Berry Showground!

This whole day event is packed with family-friendly action including a grand street parade, pipe bands, jousting knights, medieval re-enactments, Highland Muscle competitions, traditional artisan displays, Celtic themed market stalls, Celtic dancing and musicians, plus all the colour of the clans.



SAVE THE DATE
Sat 24 May 2025



Berry Celtic Festival



A Community fundraising initiative of the ROTARY CLUB OF BERRY

PINK UP BERRY RECOGNISED IN THANK YOU LETTER

On behalf of the McGrath Foundation, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Berry community for their incredible support and fundraising efforts through Pinking Up Berry.

In 2024, Pink Up Your Town was an opportunity for communities to unite in pink, showing solidarity with those experiencing breast cancer.

I am proud to say that we have successfully reached our first mission of funding over 250 nurses to support those impacted by breast cancer. This would not be possible without the fundraising support of generous Australian communities like Pink Up Berry. This means that as of January 2025, we are taking our care to all cancers. We are so appreciative of the support of our Pink Up Your Town communities like yours who have helped make this happen.

Thanks to your valuable support, we are helping provide expert care and support for families across Australia going through cancer, for free.

Once again, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for the generosity of the Berry community during Pink Up Your Town. We are truly grateful for the support.

Kind regards,

Tracy Bevan, Ambassador & Director McGrath Foundation

Photo of the 2025 Committee (Back row) Sandy Bramley, Deb Woolford, Pauline Windley. (Front Row) Karen Brooks & Kerry Carter - with a crystal Trophy that has been presented to the town with the inscription-

"Presented to Berry in recognition of your ongoing commitment to ensuring no one goes through Cancer without care"



**TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY THE BERRY ALLIANCE
AND BERRY TOWN CRIER



DAVID BERRY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

"THERE WILL BE NO PRIVATISATION OF DAVID BERRY HOSPITAL. THERE WILL BE NO FOR SALE SIGN".



This was a statement from Ryan Park MP NSW Minister for Health, given at a private meeting with Voice of David Berry committee members Irene Birks and Margaret Walsh, on site, at David Berry Hospital in March.

The first round of consultations following the Have Your Say online survey will begin in

April, and our committee will be included in all discussions to ascertain the future use of the site. Health will be the primary focus following the survey results, where 87% of respondents were in favour of a health facility outcome, whatever that may eventually be. You can read the full engagement report here: <https://hdp-au-prod-app-nsw-haveyoursay-files.s3.ap-south...>

The David Berry Act 1906 will be amended prior to the new use. The focus groups will be overseen, co-ordinated and managed by an outside organisation, separate to government. We are very confident, following this meeting, that a suitable health use will be the final outcome. We thank the Minister for the time he accorded us to express ours and the community's concerns in maintaining our very important local site for ongoing health purposes.

For more information, please contact Irene Birks – 0408 096 109 or email dbhvoice@gmail.com.

DAVID BERRY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY - Our Easter chicken stall will be held on Wednesday 16th April in Broughton Court from 8.30am – 12 noon. These are all hand knitted chickens, with an Easter egg. They are a great small gift for children and adults alike. There will also be a raffle.

Auxiliary members attended the Zone United Hospitals Forum at Greenwell Point in March, which was a great opportunity to hear from our fellow regional auxiliaries. We are all still working hard for our local hospitals, providing funds for equipment, as required.

Two of our past members, Moira Harris and Judy McMillan, who recently passed away, were remembered as wonderful supporters and members of our auxiliary. A big thank you to Judy's family for their donation following her funeral.

Plans are underway to hold an "Open Day" at David Berry Hospital in Spring. This would be an opportunity for members of the public to take a walk around the grounds and remnant rain forest, appreciate the beautiful location, and understand how important it will be to remain as such. Only the grounds would be accessible, not the buildings.

The auxiliary meet on the second Monday of the month at 10am in the Uniting Church Hall Berry. New members are most welcome.

FIONA PHILLIPS

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GILMORE

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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

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



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How to recycle this Easter

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Aluminium foil is one of over a hundred items, listed in the **A-Z Recycling & Disposal Guide**.

Visit shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

APRIL PUBLIC HOLIDAY HOURS

Berry Recycling & Waste Depot | 174 Agars Lane

CLOSED Good Friday, Easter Saturday & Easter Sunday.

OPEN Easter Monday CLOSED Anzac Day (Friday 25 April)

Normal Opening Hours: Friday to Monday | 8am to 4pm

Keep up to date with opening hours at shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au



Our April meeting sees our new committee looking forward to their roles with enthusiasm for a productive year ahead.

Sadly, we chose to cancel our Parliament House tour earlier in the year due to the unrest with the trains, but we are looking forward to it happening again in the near future.

Our speakers are always interesting, at our last meeting everyone enjoyed a talk by Craig Murphy from Murphy Funerals in Nowra, it was a most interesting and informative talk for all ages, one of those subjects you usually avoid but it was enlightening in a good way.

Future speakers will be Shoalhaven Mayor Patricia White and a spokesman for Police dogs, every meeting we also have a short talk by a member which is always interesting, some older members have such interesting stories, having been lucky to live fuller lives in a great era.

Members enjoyed a Barbecue recently with perfect weather and great company, a beautiful way to relax and enjoy life with friends.

A visit to an Automated Dairy, with Lunch after at Pelican Rocks Seafood Restaurant Greenwell Point is happening in May while a Tour of the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre will be happening in June, Theatre and Shows with Pass the Butler at Nowra Players, The Ten Tenors, and the Victorian Ballet at Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre have been organised, while a 3-day trip away is still being planned.

Probus is for retired people who want to meet likeminded people who want to enjoy their life with social outings, some fun and lots of friendship and no fundraising.

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

If you would like to attend a Probus meeting please ring our President, Carol Orr on 0418 276 808, or email berryprobust@outlook.com to let us know you are coming, we welcome likeminded people to visit, a great way to meet friends you didn't know before.



PLANT PROPAGATION NURSERY

Growing Plants Growing Community

Tree Planting and Discovery Day is a day for parents and students from K-6 and their siblings to enjoy a range of science-based activities at a leisurely pace at our 3rd Annual Discovery Day.

This is a special opportunity for curious students to make interesting discoveries about the natural world around them in our own forest, gardens and plant nursery.

The theme this year is **Habitat**.

Students have the opportunity to plant a tree in **The Sensory Garden** and watch it grow throughout their primary school years. The first trees in this garden were planted by kindergarten students and parents in 2019.

The Habitat Forest is attracting a variety of local birds and insects, so we will plant some smaller species, ground covers and ferns to provide nesting materials for birds to use in the Spring.

Students will have an opportunity to use magnifying glasses and microscopes to discover some hidden worlds of plants and insects, as well as enjoying a potting session and some craft activities.

Change in nursery opening days.

From the beginning of April, volunteers will be working on **Monday** and **Thursday** afternoons. The nursery will be open for sales from 3.30-4.30.



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



Gareth Ward MP
Member for Kiama

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How is Your Comprehension?

Just last month Years 3,5,7 and 9 did the Naplan tests. Many children can find these stressful and a battle to understand. Lately I have had to fill in forms, also navigating the internet to find information and help to understand the forms. It can all be very frustrating and tempting to give up. I have asked for help from people who have known what to do or explained to me the part of the form I need help with.

How do we understand the Bible? The Bible is God's word to His people. From the very beginning of creation, God has listened, spoken to and guided His people. Many of the books of the Bible can be hard to comprehend. People at church, can listen as a preacher explains a part of the Bible. At Bible fellowship groups, there is discussion about a part of one of the books of the Bible. At Scripture in schools and Kid's church on Sundays, sharing the stories of the Bible gives opportunities to discuss God's promises, love, truth and faithfulness. One way to look at the Bible is to observe, interpret, and apply. Ask what does it mean, what does it mean to me, and what's the application? For children, these questions can help to comprehend the story told, but also give them opportunities to ask questions, give comments and think about how the stories can apply to their lives.

For children and even for adults, another way to learn about the Bible is through songs or Hymns. Most children love to sing and dance to many great songs that teach about God. One song our scripture children love is 'God is Great'. This song gives the facts about God- God is great, God is alive and God is King. A favourite hymn of mine is 'A New Commandment'. This talks about loving one another as God has loved us. At Kids' Club we talk about what it means to love one another in terms of being kind and caring to others, being honest even when it's hard, think about the words we use, how to forgive and how to say sorry for our mistakes too. Joshua 1:9 says 'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. *Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*' A great promise that will never be broken!

Kid's Club final Term1 date is 11th April. Term 2 resumes Friday 9th May.

Sue Skinner, Berry Presbyterian Church



SOUTH COAST LIFE CHURCH

Who is Jesus?

I think it would be safe to say that most people in society have heard of the name Jesus in some way. Some people would know of his name because they passionately love and follow him as a believer, some would know of him through family traditions or their religious upbringing, and still others seem to call out Jesus's name when they hit their thumb with a hammer. But who do you say Jesus is?

In the gospel of Mark 8 Jesus pauses to have a time out chat with his disciples. He asks them a really simply question "who do people say that I am" the disciples gives a mixture of answers, no different to how any of us would give an answer to the same question today. But, after hearing their responses, Jesus then intensifies the discussion and gets really personal. He tells them ok thats interesting, but what about you - Who do you say that I am? Peter one of the disciples responds with "you are the Christ". This was Peter's own personal response to this direct question, each one of us at some point in our life will need to answer this question from Jesus "Who do you say I am?" As Easter approaches once again, I want to encourage you all to take time to ask yourself the question of Jesus invites us all to respond to. We can easily let the importance of the message of Easter get lost amongst the other things of life. Yet, to know Jesus is to know love, freedom, salvation, forgiveness of sins, hope for today and for the future. Who do I say Jesus is, Jesus is my saviour, my king, my life, my joy and my greatest delight. I pray that this Easter you too may search and find the great love Jesus has for you too, and in finding Jesus you too may truly know him.



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

Kids' Club

Presbyterian Womens' Assoc

Mens' Group

Ordinary People worshipping

an Extraordinary God

www.berrypresbyterianchurch.net.au

02 4464 1020

Cnr Alexandra Street & Victoria Street, Berry



SOUTH COAST LIFE CHURCH

Bringing life through Jesus to the south coast and beyond

8 Schofields Lane, Berry

Sunday Services

10am & 5pm

Everyone is welcome!

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Easter at St Luke's Anglican

I'd love to invite you to our outdoor Easter Service this year!

In the past couple of years I keep hearing of people who have come to the conclusion there is more to life...more to life than just what they can see, more than just career, or lifestyle, more than just what they hear from the public square. A nagging thought occurs to them, that there might be something in those Sunday School stories they heard. Or for those who went through religious education, a memory of what was being said in those classes while they weren't really listening. They decide to come to church.

But where? And how? And what's it like?

It's not an easy thing to come to church for the first time (or the first time in a long time!).

I'd like to give some assurances that it will be ok, that lightening won't suddenly come down, that you'll be warmly welcomed and the experience will be a rewarding one, at any of the churches in Berry.

This year at St Luke's we'd like to make Easter an easier day to come along - by having a more relaxed service outside in our grounds. We've been doing this for a few years now, and people have found it a helpful and meaningful service for all ages. (A more traditional service is still held at 8am as well).

"Jesus came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near" Ephesians 2:17.

On Good Friday we remember Jesus' death on the cross. He did this so he could bring us forgiveness. On Easter Sunday we celebrate that Jesus rose to life, so he could bring us eternal peace - the new life he gives us.

Simon Chaplin simon@berryanglican.org

Easter Sunday: 9:30am at St Luke's Anglican followed by an Easter egg hunt



The band has a gig in May and we accepted, as a group, as long as we practiced, practiced, practiced and let me tell you, we have been doing just that. Starting at the front of the book and working our way through each tune and practicing that tune until we get it right. Come to the Berry Masonic Hall on a Monday night at 7.00 pm and you will hear music, sweet music (for the most part). Also, bring your instrument and join in.

This month's interview is with me, the drummer, Joanna Walmsley, and I ask myself:

How long have you been playing in the band?

I joined when Tom left, probably about 3 years ago, and I've been trying to fill his boots all that time.

How many instrumented do you play?

I play the drums! Unlike the rest of the band members, I only play the one instrument - I have refrained from adding cow bells, triangles or wood chocks to concentrate on the snare.

Do you like the music the band plays?

The short answer is yes. I took up the drums after attending a Bruce Springsteen concert in the Hunter Valley, so, although I listen to a few genres of music, I have had to download a playlist of the tunes we play, to know what they sound like.

Some tunes have a really tricky bass line, and Robbie, our bass player helps me enormously by playing louder.

What are the benefits of being in the band?

Gosh, heaps!! Friendship, camaraderie, making noise (in a controlled manner,) and I'm learning something new all the time. Reading drum music and playing what's written will always be tricky, but it keeps me busy, keeps my brain going and teaches my drum teacher patience and practice on a regular basis is a fantastic discipline. I have a tremendous fear of playing in public, so I guess I make myself get out of my comfort zone on a regular basis, and that's always a good thing.

WHERE *Hope* IS FOUND



EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday - April 18th
9:00am | Service followed by hot cross buns

Easter Sunday - April 20th
8:00am | Traditional Service
9:30am | Easter on the Green
An outdoor service for everyone followed by an Easter egg hunt

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
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SHED ANNOUNCES CONTINUATION OF ITS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS



Staff and students from Shoalhaven High School along with Steve Ford (President) and Richard Wiseman (Publicity Officer) Berry Men's Shed.

Once again the Berry Men's Shed, in conjunction with the Berry Uniting Church, will be offering Nowra High Schools the opportunity to continue participating in our Scholarship programme which is now in its twelfth year. During this time, we have made available nearly \$40,000 to assist the students that have been selected by their schools as the best candidates for a Shed Scholarship.

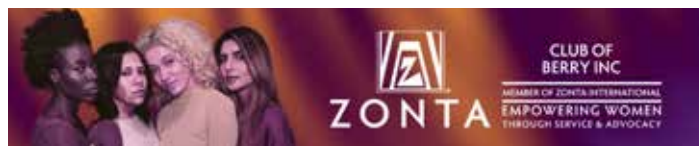
Each student selected by the schools must visit our Shed and talk with our members who have raised the money for their Scholarships. The students are awarded their scholarships at the end of year ceremony in front of the entire School. All school principals have been very supportive of our programme which gives those students selected an opportunity to buy items that will assist them in their further education.

The schools that have been invited to participate are Bomaderry, Nowra, and Shoalhaven High School.

We are undertaking many repair jobs in the Shed now as well as constructing items for our sale later this year.

If you would like to visit our Shed, we are open on Tuesday and Thursday at 140 North Street Berry.

Richard Wiseman, Publicity Officer



Zonta Berry was delighted to host a successful International Women's Day event at the beautiful Mountain Ridge Wines, Coolangatta. 44 members and friends of Zonta enjoyed a wonderful breakfast, great company and heard an excellent talk about the important projects of Zonta nationally and internationally given by Sue Johnston, human rights advocate and Lieutenant-Governor Zonta District 24. Thanks to all our wonderful local sponsors with the event.

It's that time of year for us to start accepting donations of clothes for our famous annual recycled fashion sale. Donations of used women's clothes, handbags, scarves, jewellery and shoes in good condition or indeed new clothes can be dropped off at the Raine and Horne office in Berry. Many thanks to the wonderful Jacqui Crapp and staff of Raine and Horne for their help with this.

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**

Top: Sophie Ray and guests enjoying the IWD breakfast



Below: Sue Johnston (Zonta District 24) and Barb Davis (Zonta Berry President) at the IWD Breakfast



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS BERRY BRANCH



BRANCH NEWS: On Sunday the 2nd March we held a **Red Cross Calling Collection at the Berry Markets.** Thanks to the generosity of locals and visitors we raised \$789.64. This goes to support all Red Cross functions. Our yearly cheque of \$1,000 will be presented to the Berry School Ensemble on 21st March.

CYCLONE ALFRED APPEAL: We also raised \$210 on Saturday 15th March for the Red Cross Cyclone Alfred Appeal 2025 at our stall in Queen Street. Red Cross is assisting at evacuation centres where our trained volunteers are working alongside impacted communities to assess needs and provide ongoing tailored support. They are also delivering psychosocial support and emotional care.

Anyone who would like to support this appeal can do so through the Red Cross website.

ANZAC BISCUIT STALL: On the 24th April we will once again have our Anzac Biscuit Stall in Broughton Court. All proceeds will be for the Red Cross Young Parents Program which supports young local parents. A Raffle and Guessing Competition will be run as well as selling biscuit. Our branch will also march in the ANZAC Parade on 25th as usual and take part in the ceremony.

BECOMING A MEMBER OR VOLUNTEERING

If you wish to find out about becoming involved with or volunteering with the Red Cross contact the Berry Branch of the Red Cross (see Community Groups page of Town Crier for contact details) or go onto the Red Cross website.

WWW.REDCROSS.ORG.AU

In February we visually wandered through the gardens of Edna Walling, in March we stepped into the world of the Ottoman Empire and this month we discover the opulence of China's Tang dynasty. These monthly lectures are a wonderful and informal way to make friends and to get to know others in our community. For more information on the remaining lectures in the 2025 Program and joining ANShoalhaven go to <https://www.artsnational.au/societies/shoalhaven/>.

The Glory of the Tang Dynasty

10 April 2025 - 7.30pm

Berry Uniting Church Hall, 71-77 Albert Street Berry

Step into the dazzling world of China's Tang Dynasty! Join us for an exclusive lecture on this golden age of prosperity, cultural fusion, and breathtaking artistry. Explore the vibrant city of Chang'an, the heart of the Silk Road, where merchants from across Central Asia and beyond exchanged exotic treasures. Discover how the Tang elite's lavish lifestyle and an increasingly affluent society fuelled the creation of stunning art, exquisite metalwork, textiles, and more. Don't miss this captivating journey through history!



Jackie Menzies OAM served as Head of Asian Art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales from 1980 to 2012, where she was instrumental in Asian art acquisitions, exhibitions, and the expansion of the Asian gallery in 1990 and 2003. An esteemed lecturer, Jackie has led numerous art-focused tours to Japan, China, India, Thailand, and Korea. Recognised with a Centenary Medal and a Medal of the Order of Australia, she has significantly contributed to promoting Asian art in Australia.

Visitors are welcome.

Visitors \$25 and Student Visitors \$15.
Tickets at the door on the night or book through Trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CWBG>



February was relatively quiet for the local RFS brigade with some call outs – including one to a gas cylinder fire, another to a structural fire and several motor vehicle accidents. On top of this, the brigade undertakes regular training sessions to be fire ready.



Let us introduce you to Rob, who has been a member of the Brigade for three years. He is also the Shoalhaven Fire District Lead Associate Chaplain. In this role he serves all volunteer members and their families of the 25 Shoalhaven Brigades, spanning Berry in the North to Durras Lake in the south. Rob also provides chaplaincy to the paid staff of District headquarters in West Nowra. In the last 35 years, Rob has volunteered in emergency and disaster recovery work across



the state with various agencies. He has fought fires, been involved in search and rescue, remediated storm damage, as well as working as a trauma counsellor & chaplain in the field and evacuation centres. As chaplain, Rob provides mental health first aid to members and families following a PTE (Potentially Traumatic event), offers early intervention support and helps resource these members. Rob thinks his most important tasks are to lend a listening ear, provide hope and a non-judgmental attitude 24/7. He also conducts weddings, baptisms, funerals and brigade memorial events for members and their community, as well as playing a role in RFS ceremonial events such as ANZAC Day, Medal Awards days and Brigade Anniversaries. Rob has just retired from church work (for the fourth time) and now loves to spend time with his family and friends. He loves his garden, his wife and travel (not in that order). Rob also enjoys the camaraderie, support, commitment and friendship of his Broughton Vale/Berry RFS family.

If you are thinking about becoming a volunteer, all enquiries can be directed to 0414 897 227 or EnquiriesBroughtonValeBerry@rfs.nsw.gov.au. For more info on being prepared, go to <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare> or use our Instagram or Facebook pages.

What's a life worth?

Life can be incredibly difficult. Hard things happen. For some people, hard things have happened repeatedly. The load can get overwhelmingly heavy.

How do we judge those who's load is heavy? Do we look at another person and judge them for how they are struggling under their load? Or do we draw alongside them and ask if we can help carry the load? Could we ask if we could smooth the path for them? Maybe we could simply encourage them, listen to them, Maybe they are self-medicating (because the load is so heavy), or angry (because the load is too heavy), or anxious, fearful, rude, hopeless, unkind (because at times the load feels unbearable).

Maybe, just maybe we could look at the heavy load bearers with compassion and awareness that in different that could be me. Every human is valuable, important, worthy of love. Let's be the kind of community that draws and becomes the kind of community that lifts others up.

Salt is a place where we aim to be load lifters, burden bearers, hope givers. We aim to look for the precious in all and call it out in them. We want to treat others how we want to be treated, be willing to serve and care in the place.

Every life has a story, and every life has worth.

Safe Shelter

Salt Assisted Housing

Mobile Response Vehicle

Wellness Farm

We are looking forward to new members joining and sharing in our fundraising efforts to help the Smith Family. The Smith Family, in their publications and TV ads highlight the disadvantages of children growing up in poverty. This limits their education outcomes, life choices, work prospects and through the circle of life, the disadvantage impacts the next generation.

With this in mind, the ladies of the Berry Evening VIEW Club invest in the education of a disadvantaged child. VIEW is the largest community sponsor of The Smith Family's Learning for Life program, which provides students with financial, educational, and personal support.

Our next dinner meeting will be on the 16th April 2025 at the Berry Bowling Club. We meet at 6.30 for 7.00p.m. To find out more about joining VIEW, visit view.org.au or call 1800 805 366.

To sponsor a child through The Smith Family, visit thesmithfamily.com.au or call 1800 633 622

Ring Jan Chambers (0490 054 574) for more information to book for the evening. We welcome new members and guests.



Sue Hinkley, President of the Berry VIEW Cub, shares a laugh with members and guests at our first get together after the Christmas break.



Berry ANZAC Day Commemoration Service

Friday 25th April - 10.30 am



March assemble in the Berry CBD in Queen Street – 10.15 am

Those in uniform are requested to wear medals and families attending can also wear their kinfolk medals (on the right-hand side of a jacket or shirt)

The inclement weather plan is to utilise the Berry School of Arts.

The sub-Branch is still seeking volunteers for qualified local traffic controllers to assist. If able, could you please contact the Secretary email BerrySB@rslnsw.org.au

ANZAC Badge selling

Prior to ANZAC Day, sub-Branch members will be selling ANZAC Badges, funds raised are used to assist veterans and their families. We are looking forward to a fine day and our usual Berry Community support.

Stuart Christmas, Hon.Sec.



COFFEE AND Friends

There won't be any Coffee and Friends in April. With Easter, School Holidays and Anzac Day, it is a very busy time for everyone. We'll be back again in May on Wednesday 28th and we look forward to catching up with everyone.

Everyone is welcome.

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

Berry Community Library

To celebrate International Women's Day, we assembled a display of some of our wonderful Australian women authors. We have new books by Geraldine Brooks, Dervla McTiernan, Toni Jordan, Natasha Lester, Charlotte Wood whose book *Stone Yard Devotional* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. So many books to read, so little time!!

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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ce of judgement.

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NDIS

Salt & Co

Salt Store

Disaster Relief



71-77 Albert Street Berry

Come and join us

Sundays at 9.30am

in person or on Zoom

Zoom meeting link:

<https://tinyurl.com/xu6v4hw3>

Meeting ID: 916 5034 4362

Phone in no.: 02 8015 6011

email berryuniting@gmail.com

Phone: 0467 422 046

Web: www.berryuniting.org

Minister: Rev Gordon Bradbery

For pastoral care, weddings, baptisms and funerals, Gordon may be contacted on 0419 600 589 or at gordonbradbery@hotmail.com



Community Groups

BERRY COMMUNITY GROUPS

Berry Alliance Inc. PO Box 202 Berry info@berryalliance.org.au www.facebook.com/berrytowncrier	0449 569 059
Berry Town Crier PO Box 202 Berry towncrier@berryalliance.org.au towncrier@berryalliance.org.au www.berryalliance.org.au	0428 037 572
Australian Labor Party Berry Shoalhaven Heads Branch PO Box 325 Berry secreatrybshalp@gmail.com	4464 2446
Australian Red Cross Berry Branch Margaret 0415 887 308 margaret.walsh21@bigpond.com	0411 120 034
Berry Community Activities Centre (BCAC) valhaz@bigppond.com www.facebook.com/berrymarkets	4464 2500
Berry Community Library At Berry Uniting Church berrycommunitylibrary@gmail.com	0425 220 258
Berry Courthouse Conservation Committee PO Box 218 Berry 2535 functions@berrycourthouse.org.au www.berrycourthouse.org.au www.facebook.com/berrycourthouse	0458 369266
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 meals2535@gmail.com www.northshoalhavenmeals.org.au	0418 422 088
Berry Men's Shed berrymensshed@telstra.com	0448 712 131
Berry Probus Club berryprobust@outlook.com	0409 651 298
Broughton Vale / Berry Rural Fire Brigade broughtonvalerfs@gmail.com	0414 897 227
Country Women's Association Berry Branch 79 Victoria St., Berry berrycwasecretary@gmail.com	0413 187 148
David Berry Hospital Auxiliary icbsle@bigpond.com Irene Birks 0411 120 034 margaret.walsh21@bigpond.com Margaret Walsh 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 Berry margaret.walsh21@bigpond.com	0415 887 308
Rotary Club of Berry berr Rotary@gmail.com www.berryrotary.org.au	0409 318 171
St. Vincent de Paul Society Vinnies Shop 1117B Queen St. Berry	HELPLINE 4421 0390 4464 3940

BERRY COMMUNITY GROUPS CONTINUED

Voice of David Berry Hospital margaret.walsh21@bigpond.com www.voiceofdavidberryphospital.org	0415 887 308
Zonta Club of Berry Inc. berry@zontadistrict24.org zontaberry.com.au Facebook – Zonta Berry	0402 394 211
ARTS	
Arts National Shoalhaven www.adfas.org.au/shoalhaven artsnationalshoalhaven@gmail.com	4464 2619
Berry Silver Band Kaye – kayecj@westnet.com.au adrian@fewwordsphotography.com.au or 0427 775 100	0490 037 619
Berry Spinners & Weavers berryspinnersandweavers@gmail.com	0418 407 959
Knit With Love St. Lukes Church Hall – 68A Princess St. Berry Lyn Oades – terryandlyn@gmail.com	0404 562 772
OpenField Arts Festival PO Box 5, Berry 2535 www.openfield.org.au info@openfield.org.au	0439 750 029
Red Berry Quilters redberrysec@gmail.com www.facebook.com/redberriesquiltinggroup	0409 641 667
CHURCHES	
Berry Uniting Church berryuniting@gmail.com 71 Albert St., Berry Rev Gordon Bradbery 0419 600 589 gordonbradbery@hotmail.com	0467 422 046
Meroo Union Church (Friends of) rim@virtualvity.com.au Facebook: Meroo Union Church	4448 6048
Scots' Presbyterian Church, Berry Rev. Isaac Jung colin@daydesign.com.au www.berrypresbyterianchurch.net.au	4464 1903
South Coast Life Church josh@southcoastlife.org.au Josh Duncan, Lead Pastor www.southcoastlife.org F: South Coast Life Church	0419 204 671
St. Luke's Anglican Church 87 Victoria Street Berry www.berryanglican.org office@berryanglican.org	4464 1058
St. Patrick's Catholic Church Berry nowra@dow.org.au PO Box 77 Berry www.nowraparish.org.au	4423 1712
EDUCATION AND PLAYGROUPS	
Berry Computers for Seniors Uniting Church Hall, 77 Albert St, Berry berrycfs@gmail.com	0414 982 010
Berry Community Pre-school berrypreschool@bigpond.com www.berrypreschool.org.au	4464 1764
Berry Kids Club Berry Presbyterian Church sueskinner83@gmail.com	0419 634 365
South Coast Life Church – Let's Play (Playgroup) Dale Wells 0409 262 971 Alison Page 0421 186 127 www.southcoastlife.org/lets-play	

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 kateweakley74@gmail.com www.southcoastlife.org/berry-youth.html	Kate Weakley 0403 915 728
GARDENING & LANDCARE	
Berry Landcare www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/berry-landcare/ www.facebook.com/Southerners2535/	0427 255 417
Berry & District Garden Club secretary@berrygardens.org.au www.berrygardens.org.au	0411 477 997
Berry Public School Plant Propagation Berryplantpropagation@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/BerryPlantProp Natural Studies and Plant Propagation Centre BPS	4464 3911
RECREATION	
Berry Bridge Club Inc. ceciliemlewis@gmail.com www.bridgewebs.com/berry	0417 207 130
SPORT	
Berry Men's Bowling Club draym@bigpond.com	4464 2995
Berry Riding Club info@berryriddingclub.com www.berryriddingclub.com	0410 506 143
Berry Tennis Club PO Box 133 Berry NSW 2535 berrytennis@hotmail.com	
Berry Women's Bowling Club	4464 3053
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@berryyritersfestival.org.au www.berryyritersfestival.com.au	
Bundanon Trust www.bundanon.com.au	4422 2100
Pink Up Berry Raises Money for the McGrath Foundation pinkupberry@gmail.com	0428 005 910
SALT Ministries Supporting those in need 5-19 Birley St. Bomaderry info@salt.org.au or Facebook	4480 5028
Shoalhaven Education Fund chair@sef.org.au www.cef.org.au/shoalhaven	0414 379 059

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



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.

The information on how you can see details and follow these applications, to make submissions and to follow an application 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.

CHANGES – You will note that we are no longer listing Determinations unless it is a significant application and in particular if a DA is Rejected. If a community member has an interest in any DA then all details are provided on the Council Web Site: <http://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/masterviewUI/modules/ApplicationMaster/Default.aspx> Development Application Tracking.

Also, you may note that there are an increased range of DA, PCD, MA titles to their number.

"DA" is Development Application and is still currently the standard application.

"PCD" is Private Complying Development an application being submitted and approved by a private Assessor. These are usually signed off and approved in a couple of days.

"MA" means Modified Application sometimes previously described as a variation. But it is an application for a modification to an existing approval.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

DA2025/1132 – 17/2/2025 – Alterations and additions to commercial building including bottle shop and storage – 129 Queen St., Berry
MA2025/1031 – 20/2/2025 – S4.55(1A) to DA24/1061 – proposed changes to windows, landscaping and appliances and revised BASIX certificates – 2 Kangaroo Valley Rd., Berry
PCD2025/110 – 19/2/2025 – Dwelling alterations & additions – 639c Coolangatta Rd., Berry
DA2025/1178 – 7/3/2025 – Swimming Pool, spa, & retaining wall – 26 Serendipity Ridge, Berry

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

DA2024/2307 – Approved – 5/2/2025 – Dwelling – 10 Serenity Ridge Rd., Berry
DA2024/1555 – Approved – 10/2/2025 – Occasional camping to be held in conjunction with existing riding events held by Berry Riding Club at the Shoalhaven Equestrian Centre of Excellence – Berry Riding Club 39 Schofields Lane, Berry
MA2024/140 – Approved – 21/2/2025 – Modification to amend location of approved Building Envelope – 35 Bryan Close, Broughton Vale
DA2024/2405 – Approved – 26/2/2025 – Demolition of existing dwelling and ancillary structures and construction of new dwelling, swimming pool and associated structures – 584 Tourist Rd., Bellawongarah
MA2025/1031 – Approved – 28/2/2025 – S4.55(1A) to DA24/1061 – Proposed changes to windows, landscaping and appliances and revised BASIX certificates – 2 Kangaroo Valley Rd., Berry
DA2024/2263 – Approved – 25/2/2025 – Dwelling house alterations and additions – 13 Mount Vista Close, Berry
DA2024/1771 – Approved – 25/2/2025 – Proposed dwelling, retaining walls, swimming pool and detached habitable room – 20 Serenity Ridge, Berry
MA2024/1427 – Approved – 3/3/2025 – S4.55(2) to DA20/2407 Importation of fill to the site to complete related environmental protection and watercourse restoration works of Bundewallah Creek – 218 Bundewallah Road, Bundewallah

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 include reminders of Deadlines and extended article on a number of issues.



Berry & District Garden Club

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE ALSO 

A Year of Gardening, Learning & Community

The Berry & Districts Garden Club is set for another exciting year of gardening, education, and community engagement. This month's education session focuses on growing standards, using fuchsias and Brazilian bell flowers as propagation mediums, and offering members hands-on experience in shaping plants. Last month, members sharpened their skills—literally—with a session on sharpening garden tools. If you want to expand your gardening knowledge and be part of a vibrant community, we invite you to join us! You can then also join us in supporting our key events in 2025.

Berry Camellia & Floral Show (26–27 July 2025)

The Berry Camellia & Floral Show returns to the Berry School of Arts, continuing its legacy as the longest-running show in the same venue in New South Wales. With stunning displays of camellias, floral arrangements, and expert advice, this event is a must for plant lovers.

Berry Gardens Festival (16–19 October 2025)

The Berry Gardens Festival is a spectacular showcase of town and country gardens, inviting visitors to explore a diverse range of private gardens, from quaint cottage-style designs to sprawling country landscapes. This festival is a true celebration of garden artistry and horticultural excellence, attracting thousands of visitors who come to be inspired by the beauty and creativity on display. Visitors can participate in workshops to hone their skills and knowledge of gardening. Funds raised support local charities and community projects, making this event a visual delight and a valuable contribution to the town.

Plant Sales: Supporting Gardening & Beautification in Berry

The Garden Club runs a series of popular plant sales throughout the year, offering a variety of plants grown by dedicated members. The funds raised go to beautification projects in Berry.

- February is time for the end-of-summer sale featuring stunning plants and bargains.
- We showcase a stunning array of autumn flowering plants in May, including large, beautifully blooming zygocactus.
- The Small Farm Field Days (September 2025) will offer another opportunity to take home garden treasures.
- The offering is fantastic during the Berry Gardens Festival (16–19 October 2025), including beautiful plants and sage advice. It is our premier plant sale event of the year.

More Than Just Gardening

The Berry and Districts Garden Club is about more than growing plants; it's about growing friendships and fostering a love of gardening. Join us for a year full of vibrant events, education sessions, and shared gardening passion!



Our motto: *Friendship through Gardening.*

Secretary, Margaret Street, welcomes enquiries at secretary@berrygardens.org.au

Proposed 40km/h speed limit throughout Berry

The Forum Committee, the Mayor and Ward 1 councillors received a second proposal from a resident claiming community support for a 40km/h speed limit for all streets in Berry. In September 2023, following the resident's first request, the community participated in an email vote resulting in **11** votes For and **160** votes Against the proposed 40km/h limit.

Resident's justification for the 40km/h proposal

The resident published a survey on social media, together with several claims justifying his proposal. He claimed he had received 348 responses, of which 74% supported his proposal.

Fact checks of justification claims

1. *"Using the Council's Business Case projections, annual traffic to the Boongaree Play Park will have increased fourfold by end-2025. An estimated 50,000 extra cars."*

FACT - The purpose of the Business Plan prepared ten years ago was to secure grant funding. The exaggerated traffic projections never eventuated and have never been referred to in any Council plans.

2. *"Our 3-part plan would see the town adopt a 40km/h speed limit."*

FACT - The survey fails to clarify that the proposed High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA) would require every street in Berry to have a 40km/h speed limit, enforced 24/7.

3. *"The intention for Bowral is that the main thoroughfare, Bong Bong Street, will be 30km/h with adjoining streets 40km/h."*

FACT - The speed limit in Bowral's main street was reduced to 40km/h but no other streets were impacted. Between 2015 and 2022, there were 13 crashes on the main street, but there's no history of any crashes on Berry streets since the bypass opened in 2017.

4. *"There's some misunderstanding about the number and frequency of raised traffic calmers (speed bumps) required"*

FACT - Traffic for NSW advised, "speed calming devices such as raised speed cushions are required at a spacing of maximum 90m apart to support the lower speed limit" and "a wider reduction to 40km/h across the town would need to involve significant traffic calming measures. It is unlikely that the wider community would support the additional traffic calming facilities needed."

5. *"Council would be asked to implement its Pedestrian Access & Mobility Plan (PAMP), which was drafted at least three years ago"*

FACT - The PAMP was introduced 15 years ago to identify potential sites for the expansion of paths, crossings and bike infrastructure. It is just a 'wish list' however and there is no funding available for additional crossings in the Shoalhaven.

In the Forum newsletter sent out on 10 March, residents were asked to vote again on the proposed 40km/h speed limit throughout Berry. The result of the vote - **11 votes For** and **242 votes Against** has been conveyed to Council.

www.berryforum.org.au

COUNCIL ADOPTS CHANGES TO 45 DEGREE RULE EXEMPTION FOR TREE REMOVAL

13 March 2025

Council will take the necessary steps to finalise the process to revert the 45 Degree Rule Exemption for tree removal in Shoalhaven to a previous version and rename the policy.

At Tuesday night's meeting Council resolved to proceed with Amendment No. 57 to Chapter G4: Tree and Vegetation Management and Chapter N20: Jerberra Estate of the Shoalhaven Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014, as exhibited.

The decision will see the 45 Degree Rule reverted to the version that was in place prior to 16 August 2023 (when the earlier 12-month trial changes commenced), and the name of the policy change 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.

The adopted change will permit tree removal or substantial pruning within a 45-degree angle of an approved building consistent with the provisions in the DCP.

Under the changes, residents will no-longer be specifically required to:

- Notify Council and neighbours before a tree is removed.
- Utilise a qualified and experienced arborist to remove the tree.
- Maintain evidence of compliance with the 45 Degree Rule.

Animal handlers are required to be on site for any tree removal where a hollow is identified.

Council will now update the policy and its website to reflect the changes. People who made a submission during the exhibition period, and key stakeholders including relevant, local, tree removal operators will also be notified of the finalisation of the changes.

It is intended that the changes will come into effect on 21 March 2025.

Brought to you by the
Berry Alliance Town Crier



Mowing schedules for the Shoalhaven's open spaces will be published on Council's website by the end of March.

4 March 2025

Following a resolution on 18 February this year, Council voted to develop and publish a public mowing schedule that outlines when Council-maintained parks, reserves and open spaces are due for cutting across towns and villages.

Mayor Patricia White explained that while the program would provide insight into the frequency of when local areas were due for a mow, as residents would appreciate, weather and staffing and equipment availability could impact the

schedule and make it subject to change at very short notice.

"The Shoalhaven has around 1,200 reserves and parks in addition to sportsgrounds, facilities and grassed pathways that need regular mowing and maintenance," Cr White said.

"Our community wants to know when the grass in their local area is being cut so I'm glad we can now provide a schedule that will indicate when and where is next on the list," she said.

"Council crews love caring for our grass and making everything look great, but it does have its challenges when it comes to the seasons and inclement weather."

Wet weather is a particular barrier to mowing and keeping to schedule. When soil is sodden, it can cause mowers to bog and lead to equipment and ground damage.

Residents can also expect to see more mowing in the summer months when the grass grows quickly, and less mowing in winter when there is minimal growth.

A dedicated page on Council's website will be publish by the end of March and this will be communicated on Council's channels when ready.

Brought to you by the
Berry Alliance Town Crier



RESIDENT NOTIFICATION – OPENFIELD ARTS FESTIVAL 2025

Dear Residents - OpenField Arts Festival will take place in Berry from 12-15 June 2025, with events running across multiple sites.

• **Festival hours:** 10:00am – 5:00pm (Friday 13 – Sunday 15 June)

• **Evening events:** 12 – 15 June at the Berry School of Arts

• **More information:** www.openfield.org.au

Street Parade – Saturday 14 June 2025

A street parade will be held on **Queen Street and Alexandra Street** on **Saturday 14 June**, requiring altered traffic arrangements.

• **Parade route:** Starting at the corner of **Queen Street and Prince Alfred Street**, proceeding along **Queen Street**, turning left onto **Alexandra Street**, and entering right into **The Showground** via the main entrance.

• **Road closures:** From **3:30pm**.

• **Parade duration:** **4:00pm – 4:30pm** (Traffic will be stopped only while the parade is in progress)

• **Traffic control:** Detours will be in place around the parade route, with traffic flowing normally on Alexandra St at **Princess St and Victoria Street** until the parade moves through.

• **Expected impact:** Residents may experience increased traffic on alternate roads during this time.

Additional Event

Following the parade, a **free, family-friendly video art activation** will take place outside the **Showground Pavilion from 5:00pm**.

For any concerns, please contact the **Event Hotline: 0477 634 754**.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

OpenField Arts Festival Committee

CONSERVATION AT TASTE OF PARADISE FARM

At the heart of our mission as a charity lies a core value: *"We will value and protect the biodiversity of our natural environment for future generations."*

A Taste of Paradise Farm, set amidst the rolling countryside hills, holds a treasure trove of history. Among its most remarkable relics is an ancient Aboriginal grinding stone, estimated to be up to 15,000 years old. This substantial artifact, the size of two wheelbarrows, rests on its side along the ridgeline in the "Gerringong Volcanics" area. Carved from hard basalt, it is a testament to the deep cultural history of the land and its early inhabitants, the Dhawaral people of the Wodi Wodi nation. Elders tell us that this location, which overlooks half a dozen sacred sites, was once a hub for gatherings, where food was abundant in the nearby rainforest and the ocean lay just a few kilometres away.

The grinding stone is more than just a fascinating artifact—it symbolizes the farm's dedication to conservation. Committed to preserving both the natural environment and its history, A Taste of Paradise Farm has allocated 20% of its property for conservation in perpetuity. This includes safeguarding the Aboriginal artifacts, like the grinding stone, found on the farm. Over the past 26 years, we've planted more than 15,000 trees, striving to restore the plant and tree species lost since European occupation. Ongoing partnerships in growing native tree seedlings with Illawarra and Berry Landcare are continuing to ensure local species are planted throughout our region.

Our programs also connect young people of First Nations heritage to this history. Visitors



to the farm have the opportunity to view the grinding stone and learn about its cultural and historical significance. This experience offers a powerful connection to the land and deepens understanding of the interplay between food, culture, and the environment. Far from being just a relic of the past, the grinding stone stands as a reminder of the farm's commitment to sustainable and regenerative farming practices. It embodies the philosophy of caring for the land to ensure its health and vitality for generations to come.

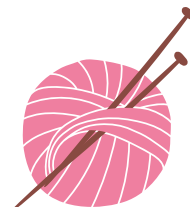
The Aboriginal grinding stone at A Taste of Paradise Farm is a remarkable artifact that bridges the past, present, and future. It not only offers a glimpse into the land's rich history but also highlights our dedication to conservation and sustainability. Visitors can experience this connection firsthand and leave with a renewed appreciation for the history, culture, and natural beauty of the area.

Stay tuned for details about our upcoming Community Open Morning. Those ready for a hill climb will be rewarded with the opportunity to visit the Grinding Stone and experience this extraordinary piece of history.

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KNITTING NEWS



Our year has started well, averaging about 17 per week (including one brave male!) One of the good things about *Knit with Love* is that we meet **every Friday** in St Lukes Hall at 1pm. So if we miss a week, we know we can still go the next week. We only knit for charity, but our group is friendly and welcoming. Yarn and needles can be provided. Crocheters also work for us.

Our interview for this month is with Barbara Jennings:

Who taught you to knit Barbara? My Mother and extended family struggled to teach me to knit in the right-handed way as I was born left-handed. It was not until I was 8 that I accomplished this feat. Being born left-handed was not accepted at that time. Now I only use my right hand to knit, iron and write. No one could ever teach me to crochet using my left hand.

Have you knitted much over the years? I spent 18 years in the tropics of PNG with my husband's work, so warm clothing was not needed. On returning to Australia I resumed knitting, mainly for my grandchildren. Now having reached the age of 92, I still knit, having no trouble following patterns.

What are your favourite projects? Nowadays I like to knit something quickly eg soft toys, children's headbands. Altogether I have knitted 23 rugs for *Wrap with Love*.

What do you see are the benefits of knitting? I have always had trouble sitting doing nothing, and knit at night whilst watching TV. Now with

arthritis in my left hand, I'm thankful my Mum taught me to knit in the right-handed way.

Lyn Oades



*Samples of
Barbara's knitting*



BERRY WOMEN'S BOWLING CLUB NEWS

The Club Major Singles Competition final was held on Tuesday 4 March. It was exciting and enthralling, a hard-fought contest, which came down-to-the wire with Jane Haddon finally turning out to be the winner (with 25 points) and Deborah Folkard the runner-up (with 23 points).

Congratulations to both Jane and Deb!

BERRY MEN'S BOWLING CLUB

The Club is preparing to hold the last of the Club Championships for the 2024/ 2025 year. The Club Pairs have been in progress for sometime and the final will be played in the next few weeks. Entries are now being taken for the Mixed Pairs and the Challenge Pairs which will be finalised mid April and then entries for the Triples will be taken.

The King's Cup tournament is scheduled to be played on the June long weekend and no further entries can be accepted. This is a Triples event and entries have already been received from a wide range of players from various Clubs. The Club and the Greenkeeping staff are hopeful that the weather conditions experienced last year do not return.

Despite the commitments to Championships social play will continue on Wednesday and Saturday with bookings by current non-members and visitors to Berry being made to 4464 2995 by midday on day of play. The greens and bowls are still available for social groups with bookings being made at the Club.



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A Berry Boy in Africa – Thomas Satchell Knight's Boer War Uniform

Thomas Satchell Knight (1873-1944) from Broughton Village was one of a hundred NSW Lancers who travelled to Aldershot, England in February, 1899 wearing the very uniform pictured below, currently on display in the Museum. As the contingent prepared to return home following six months of training, volunteers were sought to disembark at Cape Town to fight for the Commonwealth against the Boers. Most Lancers stepped forward. Whilst some may have done so willingly, social pressure was an understandably powerful force. Those who declined were greeted with derision from other soldiers and the public alike. Despite going against his father's wishes, Knight volunteered.

After disembarking at Cape Town Knight travelled 500 miles by train to the dusty base of De Aar Junction where some Lancers were attached to the command of John French, a British General. For months they carried out dangerous operations against the Boers.

On the second day of 1900, the Boers derailed a supply train. Knight spent several hours in and around the upturned rail cars, recovering goods while under heavy rifle and shell fire. Only under the cover of night was he able to escape.

In February, 1900 Knight wrote a letter home *'The country is very barren, our rations consist of tinned beef and hard biscuits. I think our next move will be Bloemfontein'*.

On arrival they discovered that the city was rife with typhoid and Knight became one of the hundreds who contracted it.

With no medicines or beds available, most had to suffer through fever and pain with only a blanket on hard ground. Knight was invalided out on the 'Persic' and in August, 1900 touched home soil for the first time in eighteen months. His hero's welcome began with cheering spectators in the streets of Sydney. In a quieter but no less genuine expression of pride, people from across the Berry District held a picnic and feted Tom Knight as the guest of honour.



Reference: Megan Cardomone for Berry Museum. <https://storyplace.org.au>. Date of story 31/1/2024

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

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 - We look forward to meeting you.



BERRY CWA

"Sleeping Rough"!

'Congratulations to members of Berry CWA who 'slept rough' in their cars in early March to highlight the urgency of the homeless situation across our region and indeed across Australia for older women. This was part of the 'Sleeping Rough Awareness Project', inspired by our member, Brenda Waters.

The 2016 Census showed that older women were the fastest growing group to experience homelessness in Australia. The 2021 Census reported a further increase of 6.6% to 7,325 women over 55 experiencing homelessness. Older women experience homelessness for a variety of reasons- a lifetime spent caring for others and raising children means they often have small reserves of superannuation, marriage breakdown and lack of family support. Although government bodies are taking action, it is also individuals and organisations such as the CWA who are making a difference and offering support to these women.

While it was not easy for the Berry CWA ladies to spend the night sleeping in their cars, we were reminded that it was only for one night and our members had homes to return to people 'sleeping rough' are not so fortunate.

Brenda Waters & Debra Ellison, Berry CWA



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



Stuttering Frog Release in Bundewallah Creek

By Will Armitage

On 6 February this year, 200 tadpoles and frogs were released into Bundewallah Creek near Berry as part of a wider translocation program to establish local populations of the endangered Southern Stuttering Frog (*Mixophyes australis*).

This program, started in 2017 by local ecologist Garry Daly and the Shoalhaven Landcare Association under a grant from NSW Environment Trust, is now continued by Garry through a partnership with Symbio Wildlife Park at Helensburgh. Symbio has recently developed a new frog breeding facility under an Australian Government grant.

Prior to this program, the Southern Stuttering Frog was locally extinct due to the impact of the Cytrid fungus which was accidentally introduced into Australia from Korea in the

1970s. The frog is considered endangered in NSW (but is yet to be formally listed). The program began with the collection of Cytrid resistant frogs from northern NSW, and breeding from this population. After testing, newly bred Cytrid free frogs were released at three locations in the Shoalhaven in 2019 and 2020. The frogs bred successfully in two of these locations and tadpoles were collected for further breeding.

The Southern Stuttering frog grows up to 8cm in length and has a series of dark bars across its legs. It hides under leaf litter and large rocks and can be difficult to spot. Its call has a distinct stuttering sound. The frog's natural habitat is small rainforest streams and it is hoped they will thrive in the Bundewallah rainforest. The tadpoles and frogs have been monitored on a weekly basis since their

release and appear to like their new home. The Bundewallah Bushcare group meet on the last Sunday of every month at 2pm and we look forward to hearing the call of the Southern Stuttering Frog during our working bees.



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