



BERRIMA "GAOL BREAK" CAPTURES COMMUNITY INTEREST

For release 22 August 2014

Local charities and non-profit organisations could benefit from an open day at Berrima Gaol on the Australia Day long weekend in 2015.

The Rotary Club of Berrima District has proposed staging an open day at the historic gaol, which has been decommissioned in recent years. The Gaol will be open to the public for the first time in over a decade.

Rotary has gained approval from the Corrective Services Department for this one-off use and is seeking to work with a range of organisations including local Aboriginal representatives and the Berrima community to make the open day a success.

Club President Allen Cupitt describes it as a chance to showcase an important regional heritage structure for a long weekend in January 2015 in advance of final decisions about its future and management, which is currently the subject of determination by the courts.

"This is an ideal opportunity for the community to satisfy their curiosity by visiting an iconic landmark structure in the region by facilitating tours over the Australia Day long weekend in January."

"Rotary is actively seeking to work with other groups to make the proposed **Berrima GaolBreak** weekend a community fundraising success."

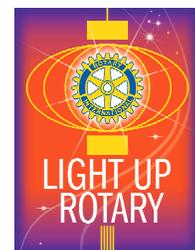
"Rotary appreciates the support we have received from our Local State MPs Pru Goward and Jai Rowell who have been one hundred percent behind our vision. The Corrective Services Department, Lands Department and the Wingecarribee Shire Council have provided us with welcome assistance and share our desire to support our community through this event."

Senior Gundungurra Elder, Velma 'Aunty Val' Mulcahy welcomed the opportunity to work with the Rotary Club of Berrima District on this community fundraising project.

1111The Rotary Club of Berrima District Inc.

District 9710 NSW Australia
Chartered 13th August 1991.

Meeting: Wednesday, 12pm, Club Bowral, 40 Shepherd St Bowral, NSW, 2576
PO Box 1311, Bowral 2576
ABN 147 842 963 15





"We have worked with Berrima Rotary on a number of occasions in the past. The most significant is the Oxley Hill Rotary Lookout. We worked together as a team and through goodwill and respect we built a special place and a lasting monument to understanding," she said

"We will continue to work with our Rotary friends on the Berrima Gaol opening to support the young people and our community, working respectfully together for the good of all is the important thing."

Berrima Courthouse CEO Col Gelling who coordinates the Australia Day celebrations welcomed the project as a marvellous addition to the traditional Berrima events and activities on that long weekend.

"Like the Courthouse, Berrima Gaol is an iconic heritage building in the district. Opening its doors and sharing the mysteries within will be a fascinating experience as it has only been opened to the public a couple of times in recent history," he said.

Vice Chairman of the Southern Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Industry Steve Horton also welcomed the open day experience as a boost for the regional economy, adding another element to the attractions available to Berrima for the January long weekend.

More detailed information about the format of the weekend event will be released following consultations with the co-operating community groups and Wingecarribee Shire Council.

ENDS

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