

THE BIRTH OF THE COOLAMON FIRE MUSEUM



THE OFFICIAL OPENING DAY 05.10.2015
By the Commissioner of NSW Fire & Rescue
Mr Greg Mullins.



The Commissioner of NSW Fire & Rescue Mr Greg Mullins, Coolamon Shire Mayor Mr John Seymour & Joanne & Chris Berry Managers.

How the Collection began.



Chris & Joanne Berry first moved to Coolamon with their three children Belinda, Johnathon & Daniel in 1976. They had a Furniture Factory on the Temora Road (now the Rannock Road).

It wasn't long after that George Tokley the then Coolamon Fire Captain asked Chris to join the Coolamon Fire Brigade.

And so it began. Chris had a real passion for the Fire Brigade, he was a dedicated Fire Man & an enthusiastic Engine Keeper for 22 years in Coolamon & Temora. Chris has also received the National Long Service Medal.

One day while installing a new kitchen for Bluey a retired Fire Man in West Wyalong, Chris caught sight of a brass helmet sitting on top of the old kitchen cupboards he was dismantling. Bluey's wife saw how excited Chris was so she said he could have it, she said she was glad to see it go along with Bluey's belt, axe & spanner. Chris was overwhelmed & said he would purchase his very first collectables from Bluey & this is how his collecting was set in motion.



Over the next three decades that followed Chris was always on the lookout for any thing that was associated with Fire Fighting not just in NSW or Australia but from around the world. In that time he gained his Long Service Medal. He would go to clearance sales, garage sales, markets, swap meets & in later years he advanced to EBay. His family always new what to buy him for his birthday, Fathers day& Christmas.

Now Chris wishes to share his collection with The Coolamon Shire Community & Tourists. Preserving Fire Fighting Equipment, Uniforms and Memorabilia of days gone by, for the enjoyment and education of the young & old alike. We were honoured to have the Commissioner of Fire & Rescue NSW Greg Mullins to open The Coolamon Fire Museum on 5th October 2015.

Chris & Joanne wish to thank the Coolamon Shire Council & all involved for helping to make this dream a reality.

Everyone is most welcome by a kind donation.
Preserving our history for our future.

THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION FROM AROUND THE WORLD & LOCAL HISTORY

