

Bundanoon History Group Inc.

President's Report 2017-18

It has been a great privilege to serve as your President for a third term - something which I have thoroughly enjoyed.

It has been a year which has seen the Group grow to a membership of 148 - something of which we should all be very proud. Due to the temporary closure of the Club early in the year meetings were held in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, a venue which proved very satisfactory. As always we have been treated to morning tea at each meeting - my thanks to all responsible. All meetings were again well attended and we heard from some excellent guest speakers:

At the February meeting Philip Morton told some of the story of the *Ferndale* guesthouse, while Sandy Mackenzie added further information. Thanks to Helene Jessep we enjoyed a sausage-sizzle at the site of the property afterwards.

March was the AGM, but we enjoyed Beryl Seckington's short DVD about *Serendipity: the choir*. At the April meeting Thomas-Andrew Baxter, president of the Bundanoon Highland Gathering committee, spoke about *Brigadoon* and highland games in general. 2017 saw the 40th gathering, an event marked by the erection of a sandstone sculpture and a series of well-attended events. I extended congratulations to the committee on behalf of our Group.

In May we heard from John Lovell, a descendant of early Bundanoon resident Henry Lovell. The following month the topic was the old Hume Highway, presented by Tom Bryant.

George McKinnon came all the way from Toowoomba to tell us about growing up at *Lynbrook* in July, while I teamed up with Elizabeth Cranny in August to relate some of the 100-year history of the Lions Club movement.

In September Dr Leah Day shared with us her research into the history of the Waterfield family, from which came local broadcaster Graeme Day. Graeme was at the meeting and spoke briefly; the following morning on 2ST our Group received a glowing review.

Beryl Seckington showed her film of a Q&A with late Bundanoon resident Mick Greason at the October meeting, following which we adjourned to the site of the Greason Butchery slaughter-house for another get-together. It is to be hoped that this significant part of our history can be preserved now that the property has been sold.

I believe that small social functions such as these should be continued, as they add another dimension to our offering to members.

Collectable ceramics was the November topic, very capably presented by Greg Slater, who has published on the subject and is an avid collector. In December Bruce and Janine McLaughlan told us about their trip to South America and the Inca and even earlier civilisations there.

That meeting was our traditional Christmas party, which this year was catered for by the Lions Club. Having the function catered has proved to be a popular formula, which I hope finances will allow us to repeat in future years.

A monthly newsletter was again produced and distributed to members. I recommend that this should continue, as it is a valuable form of communication. Ideally we would have someone as an editor for this task.

We had two one-day coach outings during the year: to the historic Joadja township in March and to the Gunning area in September. Both were filled to capacity and enjoyed by all participants. The big trip for 2017 was a three-day excursion to Hill End. The longer duration allowed the inclusion of a number of places of significance, as well as a full day in this fascinating place. I hope this will not be the last such venture.

In October Philip Morton provided a guided tour for a coach party from Kiama when they stopped here as part of their trip.

We had not organised a luncheon for a few years, so it was good to see such a get-together restored to the calendar. The Dining Room at the Bundanoon Guesthouse was an excellent choice for this function, held in August.

The past twelve months have seen some very significant happenings at the Old Goods Shed. The installation of reverse-cycle air-conditioning has made the building far more comfortable for volunteers and visitors. A small but important gesture has been the provision of a coffee voucher for volunteers on the Shed roster on open days. It was good to see a few more names on the roster, but more are needed. Mention must be made of Fred Angel in this regard - Fred's infectious smile is a regular feature in the Shed.

Peter Goulding assumed the role of Shed coordinator and has done a wonderful job in maintenance. The OGS will play a significant role in the 2018 commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the rail service, an event for which Peter is leading the planning subcommittee.

Also at the Old Goods Shed, we saw last month the unveiling of a series of semi-permanent display panels, designed by Helen Clark. These very effectively show the story of the development of Bundanoon. At the same time a set of four panels on Leaver Park was erected. An informal opening of the Shed improvements was held.

Our Guesthouse book has been revised and reprinted, thanks largely to Marianne Ward and Philip Morton. It was on sale at a BHG stall at the Bundanoon markets, achieving great publicity for us at the same time.

Our mounted images, books and other material which had been stored in the unit at the Bundanoon convenience store had to be moved to a new unit in Moss Vale, again shared with the Community Association. It appears likely that a more convenient arrangement will be achieved in 2018.

The last task for the committee was preparing some necessary changes to the constitution, which will be considered at the AGM.

No organisation can enjoy a successful year without a good team, and this was no exception:

Neil Wright as Vice-president, Dianne Gray as Secretary and Treasurer David Brennan have been a hard-working and effective executive.

The committee has again provided a mix of long-serving and newer members. Patricia Guy, Marianne Ward and Graham Morgan have provided essential experience, ably augmented by Philip Morton, Christine Cassin, Beryl Seckington, Helen Clark, Pam Davies and Kerri and Peter Goulding. Committee meetings have been harmonious and effective. Patricia Guy has decided not to nominate for the 2018 committee - her absence will be felt. Pat has been a stalwart of

BHG for many years, serving as President and filling many other roles. She has contributed significantly to the success which the Group has enjoyed.

The Archive team - Helen Clark, Carolyn Cosgrove, Jim Rooney, Beryl Seckington and Ian Smith - has again rendered a valuable service. Their efforts add very much to our success - indeed our archives are arguably the main reason for the existence of BHG.

Robert Seckington has once more done an excellent job with the BHG web page - www.bundanoonhistory.org.au - an avenue for members to keep informed and to promote BHG to the community. Beryl Seckington has continued curating the image collection, as well as putting her film skills to very good use. Heather Turner joined the Image team this year, looking after orders.

Christine Cassin has handled the duty rosters; Graham Morgan again maintained our membership records, as well as clipping relevant newspaper articles for the Archive. Andrew Pardoe continues to maintain the *JCG* index.

Peter Goulding has looked after the library and has brought a selection of books to each meeting. Peter also was the main organiser of our very successful garage sale in October.

Pam Davies has been actively behind me all of the way - catering, editing, organising and loyally supporting and generally keeping me on track.

Many others have assisted towards another successful year - too many names to record here. And of course nothing could have been achieved without the support and active involvement of the members - thank you all.

This has been my final term as your president, ending three years which have been busy but enjoyable. The most significant feature was our two-year tenancy of the Old Methodist (now Uniting) Church, which had a successful outcome. The term included the 2015 Bundanoon sesquicentenary, production of Michele Bomford's Bundanoon history *A Place of Deep Gullies*, the installation of three fireproof archive storage units and a lot more.

It has been a privilege to serve as your president, thank you.

Ralph Clark
President