

Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter



February 2019

From the President

Hello everyone,

Phew, the History Group year has whizzed by and it's once again time for our AGM. This year, as well as having the usual meeting formalities, we have two special guest speakers. Rosemary Page and John Brock are going to give us a talk about "*The History of the Bundanoon Rural Fire Brigade*". Both have been closely involved for many years. Our local branch was formed in 1939 and holds an important and respected role within our community. It's a fascinating talk, plenty of photos going back to the early days and something definitely not to be missed.

During February, Helen, Ralph and myself have had 3 meetings with the Council regarding the roll out of our planned Heritage trail. Most critical now is receiving Council's approval regarding where we locate the signs. This is now subject to a D.A. Application Watch this space.

Also during February, Helen and Peter have updated the display panels in the Old Goods Shed. We still have some stuff on the Railways but there is also now much more villagey information on display.

Finally, I would like to mention Philip Morton. Philip is both an active member in our group and the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society, as well as being a regular contributor to the local press with his articles on the history of the Southern Highlands. For all this work, Philip was recently awarded by the Royal Australian Historical Society a Certificate of Achievement – most deserved and congratulations Philip!

Looking forward to seeing you at the AGM, Best wishes,

David

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Members Morning Tea

It's one of the many things we come for...

.... and always makes a great start to our Meetings. We do however need more volunteers to provide morning tea – just add your name to the Roster. Also what you provide is entirely up to you. More importantly, **all expenditure is re-imbursable**; just pass the shopping receipts to Treasurer Graham but whether you claim is up to you.

Membership Renewals & the AGM

Still a few renewals to go

Last year's membership peaked at 154 and this year we are up to 114. If you haven't already done so, please consider renewing. Only paid up members can vote at the AGM. See Treasurer Graham, or make a bank transfer to Bundanoon History Group, BSB 641 800; account no. 17104781.

Glow Worm Glen **Ian Smith, Archives Team**

For perhaps a century Glow Worm Glen has been synonymous with Bundanoon, for visitors and locals alike. It is a tradition for visitors to undertake a night-time peregrination to see the glow worms. Given this, it's a little surprising that our archival collection holdings are somewhat limited concerning Glow Worm Glen track's history.

Just when people started to visit Glow Worm Glen is unclear, however by the 1920s it was certainly on the tourist itinerary. The pictorial guide Views of Bundanoon and guide to beautiful walks (published by the Melbourne & Sydney Guide Co. sometime in the 1920s) fulsomely described a visit to the Glen (which they called 'Glow Worm Valley'). The route they gave was a tad vague, directions included going "...past McWilliams farm and the big walnut tree and along a fenced half-chain road grown over with bushes and boggy in places."

President: David Brennen

Vice President: Neil Wright

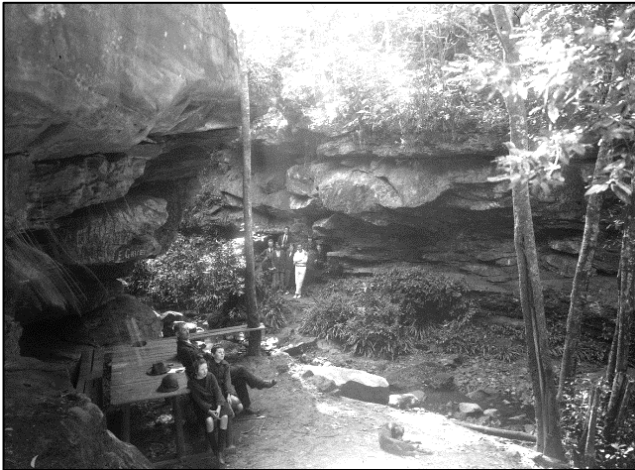
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Local informants had told the author “you can’t go wrong”, who in turn noted that “this is what they say in the country” when “you are feelingvery blank as to directions.” A fence (is this the existing stone fence?) guided one to within a quarter of a mile of the gully, along a bush path and down the steep-sided gully to some seats. As darkness fell the glow worms “reminded one of lights at sea from afar.”



In 1934 the *Scrutineer and Berrima Free Press* informed readers that a party of “Moss Vale girls” visited Glow Worm Glen and the “fairyland” they beheld elicited “exclamations of joy”. Despite glow worms being very sensitive to both light and noise, the “Moss Vale girls” lit a fire and cooked “strings of sausages”, potato chips and toast, whilst swapping yarns and even listening to a gramophone - they must have been keen to lug that down and back up the track!

Over the years reports of visitors to Glow Worm Glen continued in the press. For instance, Mrs. Norman DeMeyrick guided a group from the Boomerang Club to the Glen in the late 1930s whilst in March 1948 the First Goulburn Boy Scouts visited as part of a three-day camp at Bundanoon. Similarly, promotion of the Glen in tourist brochures and guidebooks ensured a steady number of people made the trek as part of their Bundanoon experience.

Before long though the nexus between human interference through pleasure-seeking and environmental disturbance became apparent. In 1984 Mr. Greg Slater (Ranger, Morton NP) observed that Glow Worm Glen was in danger of “being loved

to death.” The noise and smoke [from cigarettes?] that large numbers of visitors generated was having a deleterious effect on the survival of the glow worms.

Nonetheless, throughout the ensuing decades Glow Worm Glen continued to attract visitors. The National Parks and Wildlife Service began including a visit to Glow Worm Glen on their Ranger-guided walks holiday program.

By the 1990s, however, the track had become overgrown with exotic weeds which were even making it unsafe for night-time walkers. Consequently, in 1998 local resident John Dorman and others established the Glow Worm Glen Bushcare Group to eradicate these weeds and re-establish native bushland. The group continues today, celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year. As a consequence of their efforts Wingecarribee Council has over the years refurbished the track and visitors continue to flock to this icon of Bundanoon.

Coming Events

Mon 4 March 10.00am: BHG AGM at the Memorial Hall. Guest speakers Rosemary Page and John Brock on “*the History of the Bundanoon RFS*”

Sun 17 March 8.30am to 2.30pm: Men’s Shed Garage Sale. 11 Burgess Street, Bundanoon. Please take donations to the Men’s Shed on either 15 or 16 March [9am-3pm].

Mon 25 Mar 4.30pm: Committee Meeting at David’s

Mon 1 April 10.30: BHG Monthly Meeting at the Memorial Hall followed by visit to **The Story Centre** (Berrima Museum) to see their latest display “*A Butcher, a Baker, and a bunch of Makers*” . Introduction at the Museum by Harlan Hall. We will car pool to Berrima, it’s free but so that we can anticipate numbers, please contact Graham and add your name to the list.

Mon 6 May 10.30: BHG Monthly Meeting at the Memorial Hall. “*History of the National Parks*”, Pat Hall and Ralph Clark, followed by a BBQ and drinks in the Morton National Park.