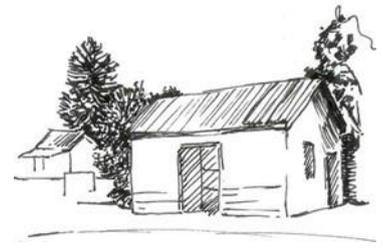


Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter



June 2019

From the Committee

Hello everyone. As our President David Brennen is on his way home from a holiday in France it has fallen to me to pen this message. David and Trish will be back with us for Monday's meeting.

Our Australia's Biggest Morning Tea event at our last meeting was well supported: a donation of \$600 has gone to the NSW Cancer Council.

We welcome Janet Black to our June meeting, who will bring some interesting stories from Tallong. Our coach trip to Parramatta last week was enjoyed by almost 40 members and guests. All were astounded to see the development which has taken place along the river.

The Coming Events column alongside this message outlines several excursions and important happenings coming up in the next few months; I commend them to your attention.

On a sad note, long-time BHG member Mary McCrodden died on June 22, aged 92. A service will be held on a date to be announced.

Best wishes, *Ralph Clark*

Coming Events

Monday July 1: BHG general meeting. Our guest speaker will be Janet Black, on Tallong history.

Friday July 12: Oral History Morning. 10am at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. All welcome; no charge, but a gold coin donation would be appreciated.

Monday July 29: Committee meeting

Monday August 5: BHG general meeting. Guest speaker Andrew Killingsworth, from Sydney Trains.

Tuesday August 13: Churches & cemeteries self-drive tour with Linda Emery.

Monday August 26: Committee meeting.

Monday September 2: BHG general meeting. Our speaker will be Helen Clark, on the Evolution of the Woodside Estate, Bundanoon.

Tuesday - Thursday September 10-12: A three-day coach trip down the South Coast - see details below.

Monday September 30: Committee meeting.

Monday October 7: Monthly meeting.

Monday October 14: Morton National Park walk and talk, with Helen Clark.

Saturday October 19: BHG BIG Book Sale.

Thursday November 14: Coach trip to *Bundanoon* and Kiama.

NSW South Coast - our big trip for 2019

Our major excursion for this year will be a coach trip down the South Coast, on September 10-12th.

We will travel by way of Kangaroo Valley and Nowra, then through Milton, Ulladulla, Batemans Bay and Moruya to Narooma, where we will stay for two nights.

On day two we will spend time in the enchanting twin-villages of Tilba Tilba and Central Tilba, before driving down the coast through the fishing village of Bermagui; Tathra, where we will see the damage from the 2018 fires and the famous wharf; scenic Merimbula; and Eden, where we will inspect the Whaling museum, among other things of interest. The return leg to our accommodation will be through Pambula, Bega and Cobargo.

The trip home on day three will be through the historic gold-mining town of Braidwood, with some interesting stops along the way.

The cost of only \$495 (*Single supplement \$110*) includes travel, accommodation, all meals, our traditional "happy hours" and admission to historic homes and other places of interest.

Bookings to Treasurer *Graham Morgan* please:

A deposit of \$100 per person should accompany your booking to morgan_gt1@yahoo.com.au or 4883 7714, or P.O. Box 180, Bundanoon.

President: David Brennen

Vice President: Don Gray

Secretary: Irene Brewster

Treasurer: Graham Morgan

Committee: Helen Clark, Ralph Clark, Dianne Gray, Kerri Goulding, Jewel Hillier, Beryl Seckington

BHG Bank details: BSB: 641 800 Account: 17104781 Ref: (your name or reference) **Website:** www.bundanoonhistory.org.au

Bundanoon Gullies: historical overview

Philip Morton

In 1818 explorer Dr Charles Throsby was taken through the wild, rugged Bundanoon Creek Gorge by Aboriginal guides, who knew it as 'Bantanoon', and in 1824 the locality was gazetted as a reserve.

Several sawmills and coal mines opened on the edge of the Gorge in the 1860s to meet the demand of the Great Southern Railway being built through the area, but it was the Gorge's beauty that became, and still is, a drawcard for visitors and holidaymakers to Bundanoon.

In March 1877 a correspondent to the *Moss Vale Scrutineer* wrote: "Just a few hundred yards from the (Amos timber) mill, is a dense scrub containing some splendid sassafrass, beech, musk, cedar and lillypilly trees. Along the edge of this scrub, which is filled with fern trees and vines, there runs a creek of cool and clear water. The place would make an excellent resort for excursionists and holiday folks, for a more pleasant place for a picnic I have not seen between Mittagong and Goulburn." The article also described the spectacular views: "After mounting a hill not far distant, a landscape unsurpassed for grandeur in this district meets the eye. It is called the Bundanoon Gorge. Range upon range, thickly timbered, now and then abruptly terminating in huge perpendicular rocks some hundreds of feet in height, while deep gullies and ravines make up the picture."

State authorities gave official recognition to the significance of these scenic attractions. The Reserve on the village side of Bundanoon Creek was enlarged three-fold and gazetted in 1877 as the Bundanoon Gullies Recreation Reserve, generally referred to as the 'Bundanoon Gullies' or just 'The Gullies'.

Being located a short distance from the village, the gullies attracted holiday-makers from Sydney in ever increasing numbers. They were enticed by the proximity of scenic spots along bush tracks already formed for the timber and coal workings.

From the 1880s numerous boarding houses opened at Bundanoon to provide country-style lodging. They were the backbone of the town's tourist trade, a trend that continued until the 1960s.

Special trains ran to Bundanoon on the Friday night of a long weekend, returning to Sydney on Monday evening. They were packed with visitors. The holiday makers were met at the railway station by boarding house operators with large seven-seater, canvas-hooded motor cars, or by a 'sociable' – a large,

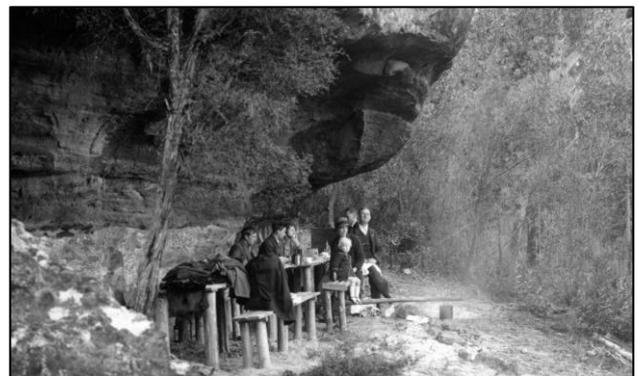
horse-drawn cart in which passengers sat knee-to-knee. When their stay finally came to an end, they would leave Bundanoon refreshed by the healthy exercise and laden with flowers and fresh produce, and even meat from the local butchery.

While bushwalking in the Gullies was a popular activity for anyone seeking strenuous exercise and adventure, others preferred a more sedate game of tennis or golf. Picnics were also a regular feature. Some who embarked on a picnic in the Gullies were taken in a horse-drawn buggy, while others reached the sights by trekking, cycling or horse-riding, the spectacular scenery and views rewarding the effort.

At first the Gullies Reserve was administered by an Honorary Trust and much of the work of making tracks and opening up the various lookouts was done voluntarily by local people. Shelter sheds were built, water tanks provided and protective fences erected. Paths were gradually extended to several lookouts, including at Bonnie View and Echo Point, with tracks also leading to the Amphitheatre sight and to the picturesque bowers and waterfall at Fairy Bower.

By the 1880s the Gullies Reserve was accessed directly from Church St in the village by heading down Constitution Hill to an amenities area and from there tracks were further improved to Echo Point, Fairy Bower, Erith Coal Mine Falls, Fossil Beds and other sights as funds allowed.

In 1970 Bundanoon Gullies Recreation Reserve was gazetted as part of Morton National Park, the stewardship of which had been given to the National Parks & Wildlife Service in 1967. Stretching from Fitzroy Falls to the Shoalhaven River, the extensive park preserves the habitat of a diversity of native animals and plants, and has a rugged and scenically magnificent landscape.



NATURAL SHELTER: A picnic at the Amphitheatre in the Bundanoon Gullies Recreation Reserve.