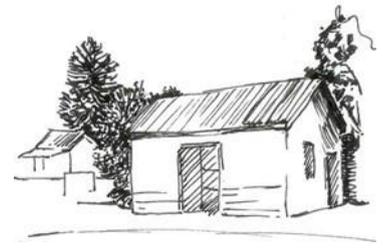


Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter



August 2019

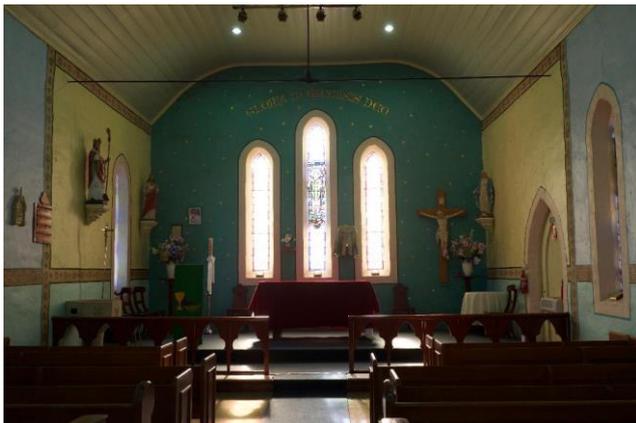
From the President

Hello everyone, and good to know that Spring is just around the corner. Slap bang in the middle of it, on Saturday 19 October, we are holding our Big Book Sale in the Hall in support of the Heritage Trail. So if you are Spring Cleaning and clearing out books or DVD's, please let us have them. Full details on the attached flyer.

We are also looking for volunteers to help, so if you have a few spare hours on either Friday or Saturday 18/19 October, please let Peter Goulding know.

Recent Visit to Sutton Forest Churches and Cemeteries - 13 August

Forty members turned up to hear many fascinating stories narrated by Linda Emery on a tour of the Catholic and Anglican churches and cemeteries. Below is a picture of the interior of St Patricks Catholic Church.



Finally, whilst the BHG has no political views, the Archive Team have done an interesting piece of research this month on Bob Menzies.

Best wishes, David

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On 21 September, Wingello will Honour its WW2 Heroes by Colin Reed

Better late than never! The Wingello Village Hall, built in 1918, has an Honour Board keeping alive the memory of those who served in World War I, but has never had Honours Boards for the many who served in the next great conflict. Carol Olde has coordinated a great project, to gather the information on those from Wingello or round about who served in WWII, and to get Honour Boards prepared to put up in the Hall. These will be officially presented and dedicated on Saturday 21 September, at 2:00 pm, and you are all welcome to attend. As well as the Honour Boards, there will be an accompanying booklet giving some of the details of those who served.

Incidentally, when you look at the Wingello Honour Board for WWI, you will see that it was never quite completed: it commemorates those who served in the War between 1914 and 19.. Somehow the 18 was never included. The copper shield was a standard design which a community could buy, and add little individual name plaques. When the shield was made, presumably the War had not yet ended. Fortunately, that War did end in 1918 ... and, tragically, another generation had to face another one not too much later.

Bob Menzies, Bundanoon and the rise of the Liberal Party by Ian Smith

Recently, I was surprised to find a connection between Bundanoon, the Liberal Party and Robert Gordon (Bob) Menzies (QC, Chief Commander of the Legion, Knight of the Order of the Thistle, Knight of the Order of Australia,

Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Australian PM 1939-1941 and 1949-1966 etc. etc.).

In 1944, the Liberal Party was formed under Mr. Menzies' aegis, it was formally launched in August, 1945, and contested its first election in 1946. It was in June, 1946, that the connection with Bundanoon occurred, when a conference of some seventeen new Liberal Party candidates was held here from 21 to 24 June.

Mr. Menzies arrived in Bundanoon on Friday 21 June, planning to address a group of 17 new candidates for the Liberal Party. Unfortunately, he had a sudden change of plans upon hearing that his eighty year old mother in Melbourne was afflicted by a serious illness. He caught the Melbourne Express from Moss Vale that night.

Nonetheless the convention continued, in camera, with the new candidates talking over details of the Party's policy platform and of campaign tactics with experienced Party members. These included Mr. T.M. Ritchie (Federal Liberal Party President), Mr. Eric Harrison (Deputy Leader of the Federal parliamentary party) and Mr. W.H. Spooner (State Liberal Party President). Such get-togethers today are common-place but, in 1946, were a rarity. The Melbourne Herald considered this convention was probably the first time in Australia that new candidates were given, en masse, hints and addresses by seasoned politicians.

Subjects the convention discussed included the need for increased national economic production, incentives for people to work, opposition to strikes, taxation reduction, and removal of almost all wartime economic controls. Subsequently, many of these topics became party policy for the September, 1946, Federal election.

Meanwhile, Mr. Menzies' mother's health had improved sufficiently for him to return to Bundanoon to address the convention on its

final day (24 June). Perhaps to encourage people to attend on a cold winter's night, a free bus from Bowral was available for attendees.

Mr. Menzies' address, given in the Soldiers Memorial Hall at 8.00pm, was reported widely throughout Australia. In it he said Australia had the opportunity for a generation of enormous advancement, but criticised the ALP government for ignoring the problems of peacetime whilst Communists dominated foreign policy and stirred-up industrial unrest.

Menzies, an acclaimed orator, also encouraged the new candidates to become skilled public speakers. He stressed the need, for example, to avoid over-elaboration, to use correct intonation, and to tailor an address to the audience's capacity to understand and absorb ideas.

Though Menzies and the Liberal Party lost the Federal election that year, they had resounding success the next time, and were in power for the next 23 years. It is intriguing to ponder the influence the Bundanoon convention may have had on that outcome.

Coming Events

Mon 2 Sep 10.30am: *BHG Monthly Meeting* at the Memorial Hall. Our speaker will be Helen Clark, on the Evolution of the Woodside Estate, Bundanoon.

Tue-Thu 10-12 Sep: *Coach trip down the South Coast*, stopping 2 nights at Narooma and visiting numerous places including the Tilba's, Bermagui, Tathra, Merimbula, Eden. Enquiries to Treasurer Graham Morgan on 4883 7714

Mon 30 Sep: *Committee meeting* at David's

Mon 7 Oct: *BHG Monthly meeting* at the Memorial Hall. Our speaker will be John Creighton, on his work with wombats.

Sat 19 Oct: *BHG BIG Book Sale.*

Mon 2 Nov 10.30am: *BHG Monthly Meeting* at the Memorial Hall. Our speaker will be Dr Eric Savage, on the history and heritage of Berrima.