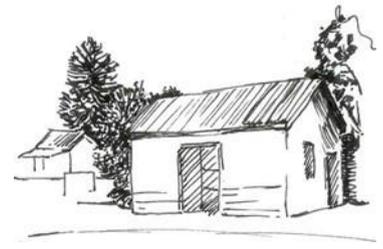


Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter

September 2019



From the President

Hello everyone. On 11 September we embarked on our main trip of the year. This Newsletter gives you a flavor of our three days away.

Excursion down the far South Coast

Day 1 We travelled in style. Thirty one members on a luxury Kennedy's coach, (onboard toilet and free bottled water), plus a barbecue in the hold and a ton of provisions, leaving just enough space for our overnight luggage.

First stop Nowra, morning tea on the banks of the Shoalhaven River followed by a guided tour of Meroogal House. Built in 1886 and now managed by Sydney Living Museums. The house was handed down through four generations of women and packed with their original belongings. Amazing!



Meroogal House (picture by G Morgan)

Continuing south we stopped for a 5 star BHG BBQ lunch by Burrill Lake before arriving in Moruya, famous for its granite used to build the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The Moruya Quarry

next to the river enabled the granite to be easily shipped up to Sydney by boat. We also visited the local museum followed by a guided tour of the town with its old weatherboard buildings and traditional Aussie pubs.

Final stop on Day 1 was Narooma where we stayed for the next 2 nights. We were divided into two motels on opposite sides of the road. This worked well as we were easily able to join up for our traditional Happy Hour drinks.

Day 2 another 8am start! First stop Tathra, the town on the Sapphire Coast sadly devastated by fires 18 months ago. Some 69 houses were destroyed in the fire, another 39 damaged and many families have yet to move back into their homes.

Tathra has the only coastal steamer wharf in NSW, built 1861 and used by the Illawarra Steamship Company for shipping goods up the coast to Sydney. The picture below is a view of Christine Cassin on the beach, not too far from the wharf – note how busy it was!



Next stop Eden, the most southerly town in NSW with the third deepest natural harbor in the Southern Hemisphere. It was intriguing to

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see the new wharf allowing cruise ships to dock “in the heart of the town”. The highlight was the Killer Whale Museum [see opposite].

Around the Bay was Boydtown, where we stopped for lunch. Boydtown was founded by Ben Boyd, a London stockbroker in the 1840s, and is now nothing more than a hotel and a few buildings. His unrealised plan was to make Boydtown the centre of his whaling and shipping business.

That night we took over a Narooma restaurant. The President of the local seafood industry spoke on Sydney Rock oysters and we feasted on a superb meal of the best local seafood.

Day 3 we visited Tilba Tilba, a tiny, one street town with timber houses on the side of a hill. Most were built in the 1890s goldrush era. Today it’s in a timewarp, preserved by the National Trust. At the far end of the street sits the ABC cheese factory - the first cheese co-operative in NSW, est. 1891. There was a small display of the process, sample tastings of local cheeses and plenty of other dairy products.



Tilba Tilba – main street (Picture by G Morgan)

After Tilba Tilba it was time to make our way home, via the Bega Cheese factory, lunch in Braidwood, a tour of the town and a visit to the local Museum. Well worth a second look.

On reflection, it was amazing how much we had packed into three days. A great mix of history, scenery, good food, fun and companionship.

A huge thanks to Ralph Clark and Pam Davies (plus helpers Don, Di, Kerri, Peter) for making it all happen. We had a wonderful time.

The Killer Whale Museum of Eden

The museum was established in the late 1930s to house the body of “Old Tom”, a Killer Whale washed up on the shore in 1931. Tom and other orca whales would help the local fishermen herd smaller whales into the Bay to be harpooned and killed by the whalers. Countless earlier generations of the local Yuin people inhabiting the Bay had established this unique cooperation between man and mammals. The Orcas were rewarded for their treachery by feasting on the tongue and liver from the whale carcass.



Skeleton of Old Tom, Killer Whale

Big Book Sale on Sat 19 October

Preparations are well underway. We need as many books and helpers as possible for the Friday and Saturday. Please contact Peter Goulding (t: 0419 639 6310) if you can help.

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Coming Events

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.