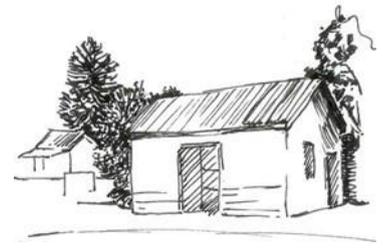


# Bundanoon History Group

## Monthly Newsletter



November 2019

### From the President

Hello everyone.

Thanks to Ralph Clark, our resident tour operator extraordinaire and his team, we recently enjoyed a fabulous BHG excursion to Bundanon and Kiama.... and beautifully written up by Helene Jessep below.

Don't forget, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December you can meet Santa at the Railway Station with your grandkids. And at the 2nd Dec Meeting we will enjoy a wonderful Xmas lunch and a talk from Les Rundle.

My best wishes to you all for the festive season.

David [david.brennen@yahoo.com](mailto:david.brennen@yahoo.com) t: 0432 608 474

### Excursion - Bundanoon to Bundanon

14 Nov 2019

Helene Jessep

It was a sparkling summer morning as forty-two intrepid travellers gathered for a prompt 8am bus departure; our destination was Kiama by way of the Shoalhaven hinterland including a special visit to one of our nation's unique treasures, "Bundanon".

Tuesday prior, everyone was on fire-evacuation standby, uneasy as we witnessed the horror of bushfire ravaging northern NSW, so a day without tension was welcome relief. All were looking forward to a pleasurable and safe jaunt, exploring bushland and discovering more of Australia's heritage.

Our coach driver Ron was brilliant, entertaining us with historical facts, fascinating anecdotes and folklore connected with passing areas and farms as we travelled through Fitzroy Falls

towards Cambewarra. Certain characters stood out in their settlements and local communities for good (AND BAD) reasons. Ron's dialogue offered insight and depth into the lifestyles and struggles of these people. Both hostile and friendly interaction resulted between white settlers and the local indigenous Wadi-Wadi tribe; at times aggressive, other times beneficial, each culture learning from the other. These early pioneers and convicts were toughened men and women. Their determination and stamina created the heritage that modernity wants to know about and must preserve.

"Bundanon" homestead, located on 1,100 hectares of bushland and cleared ground, includes the "Riversdale" property; the land skirts and overlooks Shoalhaven River, close by to Nowra. Originally the only way to the property was by river, but today it's a classical Aussie bush track. It's narrow, dusty and tricky, winding slowly down to the river, brushing past thick eucalypt and scrub. Ron manoeuvred the coach with such skill that he becalmed the obvious facts that we were tightly hugging the cliff face while overlooking the bottomless drop-off on the other side.



Bundanon

(photo Bundanon Trust)

**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: 017104781 Ref: (your name or reference) **Website:** [www.bundanoonhistory.org.au](http://www.bundanoonhistory.org.au)

We were greeted warmly by volunteers of “Bundanon Trust” and invited to share a welcome morning tea. The shade of wisteria offered cool respite from the burning sunshine. Our group enjoyed the setting, which is a gorgeous terrace between Arthur Boyd’s house and its outside kitchen that for reasons of fire safety, was fashionable at the time.

After a general briefing, we split into groups in order to tour the homestead and studio. Within the house, art works dedicated to Arthur Boyd’s family are displayed. Boyd’s entire kin were gifted and inspired (as he was) with their individual creative interpretations of art within the Australian landscape. His studio still overflows with the core of his character, talent and idiosyncrasies.



Bundanon, in Arthur Boyd’s Studio (photo G Morgan)

Although we were totally captured by the essence of “Bundanon”, lunch was beckoning, so we departed. We toured the back roads of Nowra, Bomaderry and general outskirts of the Shoalhaven region. Lunch and a couple of ‘cool ones’ were consumed at Kiama Bowling Club, restoring energy and our tummies. Being refreshed, our next stop was to the Kiama Pilot Museum for a detailed tour and historical presentation. We heard about Kiama’s origins. George Bass first recorded in his official journal the sound of The Blowhole, and noted sightings of flowering Gynea Lillies.

Cedar-getters were the first entrepreneurs in the area and they worked mercilessly, finally decimating the local cedar trees. Sydney-town demanded more timber as its population grew. Following growth spurts within the Kiama region came from farmers, miners and fishermen and during this time, the importance of Kiama Harbour became paramount.



Pilots Cottage Museum, Kiama (photo Gabriel Rey)

The harbour was solely controlled by the Pilot and the current museum was his domestic residence as well as maritime headquarters. He maintained every aspect of shipping and commerce to Sydney and beyond.

Afternoon tea was taken in Kevin Walsh Park, Jamberoo. It was a leisurely break under the shade of massive Morton Bay Figs. A few chilled bubbles, a glass of red accompanied by cheese snacks offered a short time to reflect upon a truly inspiring outing. The Bundanoon History Group demonstrated once more that Australia’s historical spirit is far from dull. It’s on the doorstep of Bundanoon and it’s to be cherished.....and enjoyed.

### Coming Events

**Sun 1 Dec 9am:** Santa arrives at Bundanoon Railway Station.

**Mon 2 Dec 11 am:** BHG Monthly meeting, Xmas luncheon in Memorial Hall.

**Mon 27 Jan 4.30pm:** Committee Meeting at David’s.

**Mon 2 Feb 10.30:** BHG Monthly Meeting at the Memorial Hall. Guest speaker Ralph Clark, “Captain James Cook, in Context”.