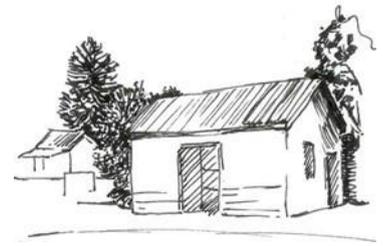


Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter

April 2020



From the President

As many of us remain in social isolation and others venture out to practice their social distancing skills, Zoom has become the new buzzword and taken on a totally different meaning.

And thanks to this latest video conferencing technology the BHG has still managed to move forward on some of its activities from the comfort of our own homes. Despite these tiny crumbs of “comfort”, I can’t wait to get back to our monthly meetings and morning teas in the Hall!

This last month we continued to make progress with the Bushfires Archive project via Zoom meetings. Francesca Beddie has Zoomed and recorded two bushfire interviews and Oral History co-ordinator Jim Rooney is busy scheduling a mass of others, all to be conducted via Zoom or telephone.

Beryl Seckington and Carol Cosgrove continue with the research and writing of content to support the Heritage Trail project. Armsign, near Lismore, are now making the signs, although who knows when we will be able to install them?

Ian Smith and the Archive Team have created a BHG Archives policy providing future guidance for accepting donations into the BHG collection.

Our Newsletter this month covers a broad range of topics from Captain Cook to antique inkwells. We are pleased to have contributions from Trisha Arbib, Christine Cassin, Graham Morgan, Gil Wheaton and Ken Hillier.

Finally, April 29th marks the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook arriving in Botany Bay. Some will see the day as a reason to honour Cook's feats of navigation and exploration whilst others will see it to be an occasion of mourning.



A romanticized poster from 1930 of Cook landing at Botany Bay in 1770 copyright Getty Images

Regardless of your views, the National Museum in Canberra has created an impressive online display focusing on Cook, transcripts of his journals, his voyage, and his encounters with Australia’s first peoples. The display is highly recommended and the details are also included in this Newsletter.

Best wishes and keep well, **David**

Email: david.brennen@yahoo.com Tel: 0432 608 47

Personal treasures

Graham Morgan

An inky story with some lessons learnt

My “Personal Treasure” story begins in Bucharest, Romania, in September 2013. In an interesting shop, a kind of bookshop cum antiques centre, a small inkwell of Italian origin took my fancy, and I bought it, not anticipating that it would be number one in what is now quite a large collection. This month’s story is about item number five, a silver inkwell with a hinged lid and glass insert, and inscribed “To The Right Rev. Alex. McKinlay On the occasion of his marriage From the Church Office Staff 21st March 1906”.

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,

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I saw the inkwell in an antiques centre in Blackheath in May 2014 and, to my regret, didn't buy it. I thought about it for 13 months, went back in June 2015 – and it was still there!

Herein lies the first lesson: Never put off until next year what you can buy today if you really like it - you may not be as lucky as I was!



Italian Silver Inkwell c1900

It turns out that the inkstand, and Rev. McKinlay, have a very interesting history. Rev. McKinlay was born in Campbelltown, Argyleshire, Scotland, in 1852. He completed an Arts and Divinity course at Glasgow University and was ordained as assistant Minister at Inverness. He was later invited to come to Australia, arriving in Sydney in 1888, and became Minister of the Presbyterian Church at Germanton (now Holbrook). During his ministry there he was ordained Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly – a distinguished churchman indeed. He served for 18 years in Germanton and then accepted a call in November 1906 to Chatswood (he was “translated” there, in Presbyterian speak) where he served for another 12 years. He retired due to ill health in 1918 and died at the age of 95 on 9 January 1948.

In 1910 Rev. McKinlay conducted the first Presbyterian service in Roseville, where Kay and I lived before coming to Bundanoon. That congregation later became St. Luke's church, just down the street from the Methodist Church Kay and I attended. Some members of the St. Luke's congregation joined ours when the Uniting Church was formed in 1977, others stayed at St. Luke's as a Continuing Presbyterian congregation.

On 21 March 1906 McKinlay married Elizabeth

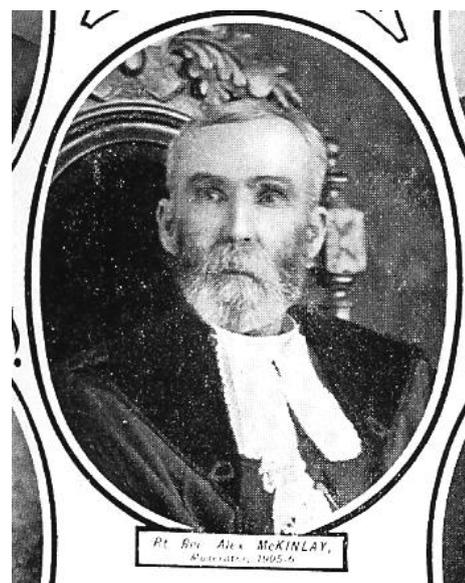
Miller, daughter of Mrs Robert Miller of “Rathglin”, Petersham. *The Newsletter, an Australian Paper for Australian People* (a Sydney Presbyterian paper) reported at length on the wedding in its issue of 31 March, and the narrative included the following:

“ ... The gifts were very numerous and costly, and included ...[an] inkstand ...” – now MY inkstand!

The State Heritage listed house “Hilton” (formerly “Broxbourne”) at 313-315 Mowbray Road Chatswood, erected in 1903 for the industrialist WH Hoskins, was subsequently occupied and later purchased by McKinlay. He lived there until 1924. The house is still there, and Kay and I have driven past it many times.

I don't know where my inkwell was made or purchased, or engraved for presentation to Rev. McKinlay, but I find it fascinating to wonder where it has travelled: Germanton, Chatswood, Gordon (where he died), Blackheath, Bundanoon that I know of, and who knows where else between 1906 and 2014. But I'm very glad I went back to Blackheath and nabbed it!

Our second lesson for today is: Try as many sources as you can find to discover the history behind your personal treasures – you may turn up much interesting information.



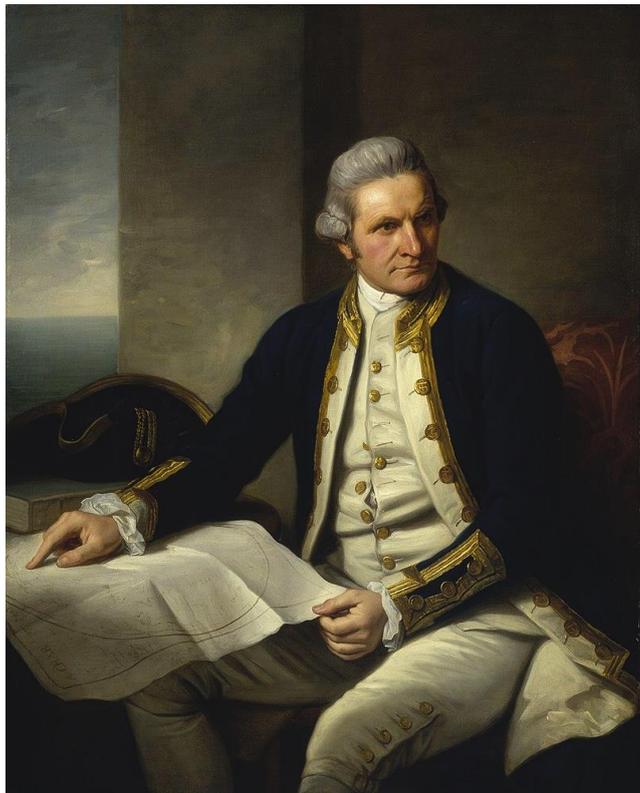
There's an addendum to this story. Having found out quite a bit about Rev. McKinlay, I couldn't help wondering what he looked like. After the History

Group book sale in 2018 I was helping clean up when I saw a very large red-covered book go into the “throw-out” bin. Its title? “Centenary History of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales”, published in 1905 – and within were three photos of the Moderator, a very distinguished-looking Rt. Rev. Alex. McKinlay (plus several text references). A very lucky find! So herein lies the third lesson: Never throw out a book without first asking if somebody’s interested. Graham Morgan

Footnote: On the edge of the flip-top lid is the delightful inscription “MAY THE CONTENTS OF THIS INKPOT PRODUCE GOOD RESULTS”.

Endeavour Voyage – the untold stories of Cook and the first Australians

The following is extracted from the RAHS April Newsletter and showcases the online display by the National Museum Australia.



Captain James Cook. Famous picture by Nathaniel Dance-Holland - from UK National Maritime Museum

While the National Museum of Australia in Canberra is closed to the public, their new exhibition, ‘Endeavour Voyage: The Untold Stories of Cook and the First Australians’, has launched online and can be

enjoyed from the comfort of your home.

At the heart of the exhibition is a specially commissioned film by award-winning film makers Alison Page and Nik Lachajczak, which was made in collaboration with Indigenous communities along Australia’s east coast and features descendants of those whose ancestors witnessed Cook’s passage. The film gives voice to the largely untold view from the shore and powerfully reimagines the message of the Endeavour’s arrival being passed up the coastline. [See the full version on the exhibition page.](#)

Over the next few months, take a journey and travel on board the Endeavour with Captain Cook and for the first time hear the stories from those on the shore. New content will be released on the website to mirror the Endeavour’s 1770 passage up the east coast between April and August and which reflects on the key moments of that voyage.

[Check the website](#) for more stories from the Endeavour Voyage exhibition and follow NMA’s social media for all the latest stories in the weeks to come.

Bundanoon Railway Station Gil Wheaton An update on recent works

Being good citizens, you have all no doubt been staying home so as not to contract Covid 19 and so will not have been using the train. This being the case you may not have noticed the work carried out by Sydney Trains at the station in March with the work consisting of:

- Cleaning out roof gutters
- Repainting the replica lamp on the down platform
- Doing other touch up painting
- Performing miscellaneous minor repairs
- Removing leaf litter from around the waiting room on the up platform
- Replacing the crepe myrtle that had died
- Planting some native grasses near the pedestrian ramp
- Planting some grevilleas in the embankment near the waiting room on the up platform
- Placing wood chip on the embankment over about half its length

- Replacing the water tank with a tank of larger capacity
- Diverting water from both sides of the roof of the waiting room on the up platform into the new tank

What is so pleasing about this work is that it is follow-up work. So often State Authorities “do” jobs and never revisit their work. The result is that the original work rapidly deteriorates and the community never gains the value it should from the original investment.

The Bundanoon Community Association and History Group had made representations to Sydney Trains about the station. The placing of the wood chip and the alteration of the plumbing to the water tank had been specifically requested.

Would this work have been carried out without these representations? Possibly yes but we like to think we helped bring it about. Either way the opportunity is taken to publicly thank Sydney Trains for their efforts in maintaining the excellent presentation standards that currently apply to Bundanoon station.

Dressing for dinner

Ken Hillier



The recent viral crisis has forced many of us into unfamiliar isolated lockdown mode.

This change in behaviour has been further amplified by the closure of our cafes and restaurants which in turn has thrust the designated mealmaker into a more extensive and demanding role.

To show gratitude and respect for this extra work several of us in Bundanoon have agreed to honour the new chefs by wearing more formal attire for the evening meal.

This group, known as the NSW Dinner Jacket Society is highly select and seems to bring a smile from the chefs when they see their opposite number wearing a coat or jacket (ties are optional, it's the thought that counts). In the event that the roles are reversed then the ladies can either wear jackets or choose a tiara or pearls. Each evening, as proof of commitment, SMS photographs are exchanged.

Members of History Groups have an opportunity to travel back in time and dress somewhat like we did in earlier days. Why not join with us to lighten things up in this new lockdown period.

If you are interested in our little Society please advise the Secretary of the Bundanoon History Group and invitations will be issued accordingly from the NSW DJS Patron's Office.

It was all the fault of the bushfires by Christine Cassin

A very sweeping statement but believe me, it's true! Being my first experience of Australian bushfires, I took onboard the instructions and helpful hints offered. What to take, what to leave? Remember you will have to carry whatever you decide to take.

So, it came down to “I'll take the two most important things”. My photo albums and all the genealogy: folders; boxes; papers; photos. Fortunately I didn't have to leave Bundanoon, just overnighting in Bowral.

Mid-February – a reorganization of what needed to be put away again and a surprise. I discovered a small blue cardboard notice – it was off the maternity ward crib with my son's birth details. What a find! And that became the first item of a 70 pictures photo library. Why – you might ask? Who would the photo library be for?

Well, my eldest son was soon to have his 50th birthday and what do you buy a 50 year old who already has most of what he considers he needs and is important in his life. I sorted the new album decade by decade, places, birthdays, class photos, uni photos, graduation day, wedding snaps, sightseeing, travel etc.

The final entry was a snapshot of Mathew Green. Mathew was the grandfather of my son Simon's grandfather. I was struck by the striking resemblance between the two of them, especially the forehead and hair. It made a fitting conclusion to a distinctive 50th birthday gift.

CoronaHuma **Gil Wheaton** **Awards for "Best Efforts" during the Corona Virus emergency**

Best Political Announcement: From the Tasmanian Government when they closed their borders to interstate traveller "we have a moat and we are going to use it"

Cheekiest Comment: From the young people referring to Covid-19 as "*the Boomer Remover*".

Best Cartoon: The drawing of a herd of cows frolicking around in their paddock with rolls of toilet paper on their horns. The caption: *Herd immunity*

Best Face Book image: A Border Collie sheep-dog sitting in an office chair and peering at a screen. The image is a flock of sheep staring out of the screen. The caption: *This is Wilson. Wilson is working from home today.*

Trisha's baked rhubarb recipe

This is delicious spicy comfort food, and so easy to make. It could just as well be made with dried figs and dried pears as with the apricots and dates of the recipe. Use any dried fruit that appeals to you and that you have in your pantry. At the moment it's all about using what you've got.



Baked Spiced Rhubarb and Dried Fruit

- 500g rhubarb, trimmed and cut into 2.5cm lengths
- 3/8 cup currants or sultanas
- 3/4 cup dried apricots, chopped (or other dried fruit)
- 3/4 cup dried dates, chopped (or other dried fruit)
- 3/8 cup brown sugar
- 3 teaspoons grated lemon or orange rind
- 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon or orange juice
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 1/2 tablespoons butter

Mix it all together except the butter and place in an ovenproof dish. Dot with butter. Cover and cook in preheated 180 degrees Centigrade oven until the rhubarb is cooked – 1 to 1 1/4 hours. Serve hot or cold with cream. Note: Rhubarb can vary in sweetness. If necessary, stir in a little more sugar to taste, after cooking.

We are still here if you need us

If anyone needs assistance or a human voice - please do not hesitate to contact either myself: 0432 608 474; Don Gray: 0429 828 126; or Irene Brewster: 4883 7214. We're all in this together and we need to care for each other.