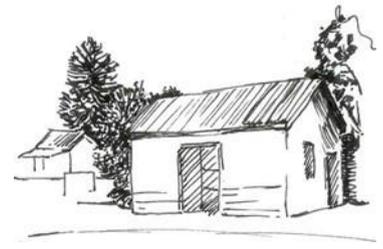


Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter

May 2020



From the President

Finally in NSW we have some “light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel” and your committee is already engaged in getting the BHG back onto a normal footing, as soon as it’s safe to do so. More on this later in the Newsletter.

Meanwhile, the Archive Team has been busy planning how to digitise critical items within the BHG archives collection to make records more accessible and secure – and just in case another fire comes through in the future. The Bushfires Archive project is also progressing well; collecting articles and photos, and recording oral histories about the fire.

Hurray, our Heritage Trail signs have been safely delivered, all the way from Lismore to Bundanoon and they look fantastic. The final stage is to get them installed around the village and then we will most certainly celebrate!

Some of you may already be aware of the sad news of Maureen Townsing’s recent death. Maureen and her husband Bud were longtime stalwart members of the BHG and we have sent our sincere condolences to Bud and family. Marianne and Joy have written a tribute in this newsletter telling us more about Maureen and her creative and productive life in the Southern Highlands.

Also in this Newsletter we have a great piece from Caroline Cosgrove on the Bundanoon Conservation Area, an article by Francesca Beddie on Sydney’s earlier epidemic at the start of the 20th century, plus an intriguing piece from Ian Smith on a pommie composer who had a brief but important connection with Bundanoon. Enjoy!

Best wishes and keep well, **David**

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

Vale Maureen Townsing

(7/7/1944 – 22/5/2020)

Joy Brown and Marianne Ward



Sadly, Maureen Townsing died suddenly on Friday 22nd May 2020 after attending a successful protest in Bowral over a planned redevelopment.

Maureen grew up in the Thirlmere district and married Bud in 1967. They were together for 52 years. Well before they moved to Launceston in Tasmania for Bud’s work, the Townsings bought what had been Dorothy Friend’s historic house off Broughton Street in Bundanoon. They returned to live there in the early 2000s.

Maureen and Bud became very involved in the Bundanoon History Group. Their absolute strength was in researching and staging major displays on aspects of Bundanoon’s early history in The Old Goods Shed. As a team, they spent their time (and money) on research and presentation way above the level the History Group had known in the past.

Some of the featured subjects included early Bundanoon gardens in time for one Garden Ramble, the history of all the shop buildings in Bundanoon on both sides of the railway line (and this resulted in a splendid book), and the history of the Bundanoon Public School with its original architectural plans

found and restored.

Maureen also trained and recorded for our Oral History Project for several years. In 2014, Bundanoon Photography Group published "Images of Bundanoon: Revisited". This was a project headed by Bud and heavily involving Maureen in research with her also appearing as a model for some of the photos. The book was a huge success and was enjoyed by many in the village and afar.

Maureen had a life-long interest in books on early Australian gardens and botanical drawings, which she housed in her collection of grand colonial furniture.

In July 2015, Maureen and Bud moved from Bundanoon to another old house within walking distance of shops in Bowral. Almost immediately they started researching old Bowral precincts and became active in the Berrima District Historical Society.

The Bundanoon History Group owes Maureen and Bud a special 'thank you' for their work in their retirement years in Bundanoon, and sends Bud and his family our sympathy and condolences on their great loss.

The Bundanoon Conservation Area

Carol Cosgrove **Archive Team**

The Bundanoon Conservation Area is located around Bundanoon's town centre. It runs from the southernmost bridge (Penrose end) over the railway line and along Erith Street, where it incorporates Peterson's garage (but not the houses near it), the doctor's surgery (former residence) next door and

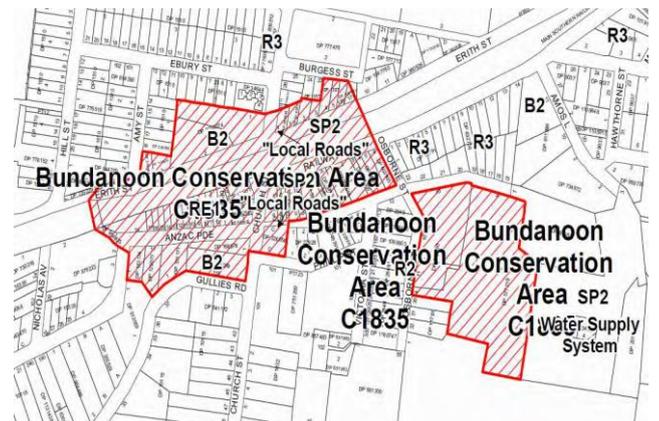


the Bundanoon Hotel. (The picture of the

Bundanoon Hotel is courtesy of the Australian National University).

It includes the residence at the corner of Ellsmore Road and Erith Street, across from the hotel, which is the site of Bundanoon's first post office (1889), and the remaining buildings along Erith Street to No. 34. Some of Bundanoon's earliest shops were located along this stretch. It also includes the Railway Station, which is the only place in Bundanoon to be State heritage listed.

At the opposite (southern) side of the railway line, the Conservation Area continues from Anzac Parade, along Church Street and Railway Avenue, to Osborne Street. A separate part of the Conservation Area runs along the upper part of Osborne Street and encircles Solar Springs, which was originally 'The Knoll'. The map below shows the outline of the Conservation Area.



MAP of Bundanoon Conservation Area (C1835).

Source: Bundanoon Town Plan Development Control Plan (effective 23 October 2019) Part A: All Land.

As noted above, the Bundanoon Conservation Area incorporates the Railway Station, including the buildings at the station, one of which is the Old Goods Shed. The Shed is occupied by the Bundanoon History Group and houses most of the BHG Archives, as well as featuring photographic displays on historic themes.

The Conservation Area also includes The Pill Factory, later known as Bundanoon Guest House. In 1976 it became the Old Heidelberg Gast Hof and Restaurant and later The Highlander (restaurant) and from 2014 it has again become The Pill Factory. Next door is

Mildenhall Guest House, which was restored and managed by stalwart History Group member, Pam Davies from 1989–2000. Further along, in Church Street, is the Anglican Church and cemetery. The Church, which opened in 1905, is the second one on this lot, after the first church, a slab building erected in 1879, burnt down. The cemetery was used from 1850 to 1829.

Across Church Street, the Old Methodist Church (now the Uniting Church) and cemetery are also within the Conservation Area. The original slab church was built in 1871 on the corner of Railway Avenue and Church Street, where the Memorial Hall now stands. The present church was built in 1885. While the Pill Factory and the Anglican Church and cemetery are both listed as local heritage items in their own right, the Uniting Church does not have its own separate heritage listing. You may recall that there was talk of selling it a few years ago. The Bundanoon History Group rallied and commenced efforts to raise funds, including by holding concerts, with the aim of purchasing it and thereby saving it. There were many suggestions as to ways it might be used following its purchase. However, after the BHG carried out further research on the church, which we sent to Council, the Uniting Church, possibly as a consequence, luckily decided to retain the building for its services.

The Bundanoon Conservation Area continues to the railway end of Church Street and along Railway Avenue to Osborne Street. It includes all the shops in this area, from Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe at the corner of Anzac Parade and Church Street to Bundanoon Pottery & Gallery at the corner of Railway Avenue and Osborne Street. It also covers the park across the street, which runs beside the railway, including the trees. In fact, all trees within the Conservation Area's boundary are included.

The Conservation Area cuts off behind the Uniting Church and runs along Osborn Avenue at the rear of the shops to Osborne Street, where it joins up with Bundanoon Pottery & Gallery.



The Knoll Guest House at Christmas 1933

The separate part of the Conservation Area referred to above takes in the Solar Springs accommodation building and property (formerly known as the Knoll Guest House). It does not include any of the residences in the vicinity of Solar Springs.

Neither is Bundanoon primary school included in the Conservation Area. However, the earlier parts of the school – the former school residence, 1909 library and toilet blocks, are separately listed as local heritage items.

Significance

The Statement of Significance for the Bundanoon Conservation Area from the Heritage NSW inventory (as at Dec 2005), which is the reference for its protection, follows:

Bundanoon is a good example of a railway village. The outstanding level of its preservation documents its history of development. This spans a period, from the cottages, tree plantings, railway structures and Samuel Tooth's buildings of the late nineteenth century, to the shops and English-style hedge rows of the mid-twentieth century. Despite many changes of use, the buildings are very much as they were built, and the village landscaping is intact.

The village centre has retained its community importance, recognised for its high integrity and aesthetic values. The last shops were built just after the end of the Second World War, completing the row of shops as they are today. The streetscapes are distinctive due to views, plantings, topography, setbacks, and building forms. The village centre has high social significance for local descendants, symbolising the early history and economic life of

the village.

What are the protections for the Bundanoon Conservation Area?

The provisions for the protection of Bundanoon Conservation Area are stated in Clause 5.10 of Wingecarribee Shire Council’s Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2010 and the Bundanoon Town Plan Development Control Plan (DCP). When Council receives a Development application, it has to consider the extent to which the proposal contributes to the following Heritage Conservation objectives:

- (a) Preserve and protect buildings of heritage and cultural value.
- (b) Ensure that redevelopment immediately adjacent to buildings of heritage or cultural value in no way detracts from the visual quality or amenity of heritage buildings.
- (c) Ensure that redevelopment within or immediately adjacent to Conservation Areas reflects the high heritage value of the Area and contributes to that value.

There are a number of specific principles that relate to heritage protection, but basically they state that any alterations to heritage items (includes Conservation Areas) or new development in the vicinity of heritage items, must be sympathetic to the item (Conservation Area) and retain its heritage significance and character.

Council has, at present, undertaken to keep the Bundanoon History Group informed of any development proposals that affect the Conservation Area. Nevertheless, it’s important that BHG remains alert to any proposed changes to the Conservation Area and to ensure that they don’t have a negative impact on our village character.

Other Contagions Francesca Beddie

COVID-19 has brought the 1919 Spanish influenza pandemic back into the popular memory. But did you know that in 1900 Sydney had another epidemic to fight: bubonic plague? Like the influenza and

COVID-19, the plague entered Australia from its trade routes.

Billy Hughes, a future Australian prime minister, but in 1900 a member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, said at the time:

The rat has an almost even-money chance. If he bites or scratches you, you will probably die. If you kill the rat and get bitten by one of the ten million fleas, which live on him, then all your worries in this world are over. It’s a great game.

After a couple of months of complacency, the people of Sydney were panicked by the spread of the bubonic plague. People who could moved out of the city towards the mountains; disinfectant sellers did very good business, as did sellers of an array of herbal remedies to fortify the system, strengthen the nerves and save on doctors’ bills.



The rat catchers, 1900

From a series of images showing the areas in Sydney affected by the outbreak of Bubonic Plague in 1900. Taken by Mr. John Degotardi, Jr., photographer from the Department of Public Works, the images depict the state of the houses and 'slum' buildings at the time of the outbreak

That Sydney fared better than other cities around the globe affected by this outbreak was thanks to the level-headed approach of the colonial and city governments who, as in 2020, acted on the advice of experts. The authorities instituted a three-pronged approach to controlling the disease: 1) transporting

infected individuals and anyone they may have had contact with to the quarantine station at North Head; 2) intensive cleaning and, in some cases, demolition of sections of the inner city and dock area; and 3) a rat extermination program.

The plague was present in Australia for the next 10 years. It contributed to a revolutionary new approach to public health, based on scientific knowledge and its effective application by governments.

Source: Beddie, F, *Putting Life in Years, The Commonwealth's role in Australia's health since 1901, 2001*

Getting the BHG back to normal - a date for your diaries – 3rd August



Whilst the government health advice for seniors remains the same i.e. we stay at home and avoid non-essential travel as much as possible, the post COVID-19 restrictions continue to evolve and from 1st June we can add a NSW road trip to our list.



Gatherings of up to 50 people will also be allowed

with pubs and clubs re-opening.

Assuming this relaxation of rules continues and Council re-opens the Hall sometime soon, we are provisionally planning our next Members' Meeting in the Memorial Hall on Monday 3rd August. Too early to say yet whether we can have morning tea but we will still start at 10 am for a much missed chat and social catchup.

Because of the social distancing rules, there are no plans yet to reopen the Old Goods Shed.

A Bundanoon Symphony ... from the BHG Archives **Ian Smith**

Edgar Leslie Bainton was an English composer, musician, conductor, music educator, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Music. In 1934 he was appointed Director of the NSW Conservatorium of Music, a position he held until his retirement in 1948.



Photo taken from "Celebrating Australian Music"

On Thursday 11 September 1941 at Sydney Town Hall he conducted his newly composed *Thalassa*, a symphony (no. 2) in D minor. Later, in November 1942 it was played by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and broadcast by national radio throughout Australia. The music critic for *The Age* newspaper described it as having 'a buoyant freshnessa delightful charm and variety of colour' while 'majesty [was] sought and attained'. They continued, 'the symphony takes an honoured place amongst the few successful Australian compositions in this the highest of musical forms.'

Now what was particularly unique and special about this work for us is that it was composed almost entirely at Bundanoon. Apparently Dr. Bainton, his wife and daughter took a holiday cottage here for six weeks from Friday 20 December 1941 - unfortunately we don't know which cottage. His daughter, Helen, later described how at Bundanoon they "settled peacefully for six weeks and out came the sketches for 'Thalassa'. The canvas increased in size and when the work was completed it was a symphony in D minor." (ref. *Remembered on Waking*).

Apparently in one portion of the work there appears the notes of a bird that Dr. Bainton heard in the bush at Bundanoon. He heard this only once but it must have had a profound effect upon him to include it in his work; it was just a pity that he couldn't identify which bird this was.

So, perhaps all we need now is to raise a Bundanoon Symphony Orchestra and have them play this symphony as their signature work!

Edgar Bainton remained in Australia until his death in 1956, by which time he was regarded as an Australian composer and his music and name in the United Kingdom were virtually forgotten.

Di's easy chicken soup recipe

Continuing our lockdown recipe theme, as we slowly emerge from under the doona, here's a nice and easy soup recipe created by our well-known BHG Committee member and honorary culinary adviser, Di Gray.

- Place in a large saucepan – 2 or 3 chicken breasts or thighs and cover with water.
- Add pinch of salt, chopped carrots, onion, chopped parsley leaves and any other soup vegetable available.
- Make a little bag of muslin or use a clean Chux cloth with a few sprigs of thyme, a bay leaf, some peppercorns and parsley stalks, tie and place in the saucepan.
- Add a couple of tablespoons of washed, dry soup lentils.
- Cover, bring to the boil then simmer for a couple of hours.
- Remove from the heat,

- Take out herb bag and discard, then remove the chicken and chop discarding any skin or bones and return to the soup adding a couple of cups of chicken stock and season to taste.
- Option: Other vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower, leafy greens can be added now and simmered until cooked through.

The BHG Catalogue of Library Books

Thanks to Beryl and Robert Seckington, a list of the books held in the Shed Library can now be accessed online. It's on our website, along with a list of subject headings:

<https://bundanoonhistory.org.au/library-catalogue/>

Until we are allowed to reopen the Shed, if you want to borrow a book, please contact any Committee member or myself.

Take care, fingers crossed, and hope to see you on Monday 3rd August.