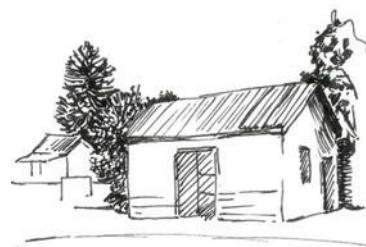


Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter

September 2020



From the President

Hello everyone. Despite reverting to Winter weather this last weekend, Spring is well and truly here and Bundanoon is looking glorious. With this new spirit of revival, the BHG is cautiously taking steps towards a return to the many activities we abandoned at the start of Covid-19 pandemic, all those months ago.

As a start, we hosted our first Members' Meeting in 6 months – see Di Gray's report opposite. We are now pressing ahead to install the Bundanoon Heritage Trail signs before Christmas, ready for residents as well as the seasonal influx of tourists. Following installation we are planning a celebration and get together for the completion of this major project. Finally we are planning our first outdoor gathering for a sausage sizzle in the Morton National Park on Friday 23 October. This is a free event and all are welcome.

In this Newsletter: Under Heritage we have a "correction" regarding an earlier item on the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. We also have a sneak preview of the Bundanoon Heritage Trail and a fascinating story about the De Meyrick Reserve which is located on Ben Nevis Circuit in Bundanoon.

Irene has shared an oily story relating to her special Oil Can and Beryl Seckington has given us a favourite recipe dating back to colonial times and traditionally associated with Pennsylvania Dutch cooking.

Best wishes and keep well, David

Email: david.brennen@yahoo.com

Tel: 0432 608 47

Heritage - Soldiers' Memorial Hall

Last month when reporting on the placement of the defibrillator in the entrance to the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, I referenced "the existing non-heritage BCA Notice Case". The BCA has subsequently corrected and expanded on this:

The Newsletter included reference to "the non-heritage BCA Notice Case" which is incorrect. The BCA discussed with heritage staff at Council to seek permission and approval for the style and placement of the board, ensuring it kept the heritage aspect of the Hall as true as possible.

Thanks also to the BCA there have been a number of other heritage sympathetic improvements which they have managed over the years, always consulting with heritage staff at Council. Some examples are: the picture rail, the replacement of the front doors, and the painting of the proscenium surrounding the stage.

September Members' Meeting Di Gray

After many months since BHG members have been able to meet due to Covid restrictions, we were finally able to hold a successful September General meeting in the Bundanoon Social Club.



Members resplendent in masks

The twenty-four members, who attended, armed with masks and following Club rules regarding hand sanitizing and social distancing were well rewarded and entertained by Harvey Grennen.



Guest Speaker Harvey Grennen in full flow

Harvey talked about a period in his life as a Journalist at the Sydney Morning Herald followed by ten years as Press Secretary to the NSW Minister for Transport, Milton Morris (Mr Road Safety) in the 1960s and 70s. It was fascinating to hear the behind the scenes anecdotes and how the very high road number of road deaths at that time was slashed overnight by a single stroke of the legislative pen.

The Bundanoon Heritage Trail

We are almost there!

It's been over two years in the making and has required enormous time and effort by our BHG volunteers to bring the Bundanoon Heritage Trail to fruition. Along with the help from the Wingecarribee Shire Council who provided a financial grant plus assistance from Council staff.

There are 9 signs, each supported by a mixture of audio, photos and written history revealing a fascinating insight into the history of the conservation area, the centre of Bundanoon.

The signs should be installed by Christmas and, Covid regulations permitting will give us a great opportunity for some sort of celebration. I believe they will significantly enhance the visitors' and locals' experience of the rich and recent European history of Bundanoon.

On the Old Goods Shed there will be a new sign giving an overall map and location of all the signs in the Heritage Trail.

The next page has a sneak preview of the sign to be installed in Picnic Park, on the opposite side of the road to the Primula Café and the Chinese Restaurant. The current usage of the buildings is not mentioned on the signs as this may change over time.

Each sign has a unique QR Code (bottom left) enabling the user to access more history and photos on their smartphone, as well as download an Audio Guide to their phone. We have called it "The Bundanoon Heritage Trail in your pocket."

Dance the night away at The Paragon

21 Railway
Avenue



The Paragon facade is behind the telegraph pole on the left of this postcard view from the 1950s

The Paragon Dance Studio opened upstairs in 1930. Mr Harold Roberts coached participants in 'fashionable dancing'.

Over 100 people attended the opening gala night to experience how dances were run in Sydney. Dusty Booth's Jazz Band and the 'Electric Amplion' (amplifier) provided the music. A Foxtrot competition and other novelties ensured patrons a memorable evening for an admission of two shillings and five pence.

Downstairs, the Paragon Cafe was run 'in the grand manner' by Gregorius Koutchavlis and his wife Epiniki, who kept strong links with Greek cafe traditions.

Chocolates and lollies were displayed in a counter down one side. Patrons could sit and enjoy a meal along the other side.

Photos from the Bundanoon History Group archive



Link to audio app and more information

Before supermarkets, there was the Bundanoon Emporium

15 Railway Avenue

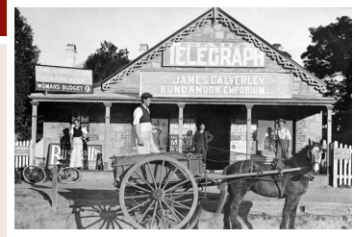
This brick and stone building was purchased in 1905 by James Calverley.

As the Bundanoon Emporium it supplied the village with drapery, groceries, boots and shoes, ironmongery, crockery, newspapers and journals, and from the 1930s, petrol from a bowser out the front.

The Calverley family ran the business until 1950.



James and Henrietta Calverley and children about 1913



James Calverley stands at the doorway, about 1910



1984, just prior to becoming The Primula

The Primula Cafe was moved into the emporium building in 1984, replacing a lighting and paint store.

Bundanoon Heritage trail



Bundanoon History Group

Bundanoon Heritage Trial Sign – relating to the current Primula Café and the Chinese Restaurant

The Battle for De Meyrick Reserve

Article: Ian Smith, BHG Archive Coordinator

The Reserve was once part of a magnificent fifty-acre property which belonged to Esther, Norman and Ivy de Meyrick. They called the property 'Ben Nevis', and they were captivated by its beauty, devoting themselves to its preservation. During their custodianship from 1924 to 1970 they protected the native wildlife and its habitat and created an extensive garden.

The property 'Ben Nevis' encompassed what is now the street of Ben Nevis Circuit and the southern portion of Panorama Road below Garland Road. In 1982 an application was approved to subdivide it into 50 housing lots plus one lot to be reserved for public recreation. The development application was approved,

houses were built, and the unnamed reserved land came under the control of Wingecarribee Council.



The de Meyrick Reserve

picture BCA

However, on 14 June 2006 Council passed a resolution such that the reserve, along with numerous others in the Shire, could be sold off

to fund a new leisure centre. Naturally, this caused much consternation and outrage among residents who objected to the loss of this green public space. The level of public concern was something that councillors eventually would find they had seriously under-estimated.

On 18 February 2008 Council held a public hearing in Bundanoon Memorial Hall where many residents voiced their opposition to the proposed sale. A petition of protest was presented to Council. Other protests followed. Initially there was a 'picnic in the park' protest by a few residents but this movement rapidly grew.

Very shortly after, on Sunday 30 March 2008, another 'picnic protest' was held. This time the Southern Highlands News reported over 100 Bundanoon residents turned out in the reserve to show their objection to the proposed sale of the reserve.

Soon after, in April, at a Council meeting attended by some 400 people brandishing 'NO' placards, and at times often noisy, Council finally decided to withdraw the reserve from sale, along with 11 other parks in the Shire. One councillor said "....it's been overwhelming, the voice of the community."

The saving of the Reserve also sparked a push to rename the park as the 'De Meyrick Reserve' in honour of Norman and Ivy De Meyrick who previously owned 'Ben Nevis'. After much research and a subsequent proposal by Ken Ferrier, in March 2010 Council agreed to a BCA proposal, supported by the BHG, to name the reserve 'de Meyrick Reserve'. Fittingly, a sign and accompanying plaque were erected in October 2010, a tribute both to the de Meyricks and those residents of Bundanoon who value this delightful green space.

Irene's special treasure – a Keystone Banjo Oil Can

Irene Brewster



Keystone Banjo Oil Can 12cm long x 3.5cm wide

When I worked in Granville/Rosehill at an aluminium company named Alcan, I came across this Keystone Banjo Oil Can 'residing' in the Stationery Cupboard. Alcan, which was Canadian-owned, commenced business in Australia in 1941, manufacturing aluminium for use in building aeroplanes during the war, and for other Australian industries. It was a large manufacturing company, employing over 300 people. The site was so vast, that bicycles were provided to the employees in the factory to save time when they had to move around the plant.

The oil cans would have been used for oiling the bicycles, as well as used for oiling the manual typewriters in the office.

Sadly, as happened to most manufacturing in Australia, the business was closed, and that's how I came to find the oil can in the cupboard – when we had to start cleaning out our offices.

The oil can would have been manufactured in England in 1930s/40s, and I love the fact that it was made out of metal – not plastic as is the case today. That it is a lovely design, with the end-screw, after all this time, still in place and the spout screw also in place. That it would have been 'designed' and not come out of a plastic mould. I hope that you, like me, can see its beauty.

Beryl's Apple Pan Dowdy

A simple and yummy recipe from Beryl Seckington

A desert dating back to colonial times and traditionally associated with Pennsylvania Dutch cooking.



Ingredients

- 3 good sized cooking apples
- 1-2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1-2 tablespoons golden syrup
- Grated nutmeg & ground cinnamon
- 4 oz self-raising flour.
- Pinch of salt.
- 2oz sugar
- 1 egg.
- 4 tablespoons milk
- 2oz melted butter or margarine.
- little sugar

Peel and slice the apples. Put into a greased 1½ pint pie dish with the brown sugar, syrup and a sprinkling of grated nutmeg and ground cinnamon. Do not add any water. Cover the dish with foil and bake in the centre of a moderate oven (180-190 °C) for about 15-20 minutes until the apples are nearly soft.

Meanwhile make a thick batter mixture by blending the flour, salt, sugar, egg, milk and melted butter or margarine. Spread the mixture over the apples, sprinkle lightly with sugar and bake in the centre of a moderate oven (180-190 °C) for 30-35 minutes. Turn the pudding upside-down on to a dish, serve with cream, brandy butter or vanilla flavoured sauce.

Coming Events

Mon 12 Oct 10.15am:

BHG Monthly Meeting at the Bundanoon Social Club. This is a week later than usual because of the long weekend. Guest speaker: Marina Beaumont *"An expat life in Singapore and Malaysia"*. As per last month, members must book in advance with Graham Morgan. Tel 4883 7714 or email: morgan_gt1@yahoo.com.au

Fri 23 Oct 12.00 mid-day:

BHG Sausage sizzle and drinks – Morton National Park, Gambell's Rest, all welcome, Covid compliant, no charge!