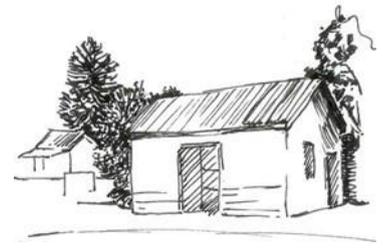


Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter



February 2021

From the President

It's still only February and in spite of COVID-19, the BHG has kicked off 2021 with some great results:

- Our first Members' Meeting at the Sunnataram Forest Monastery was both a memorable occasion and oversubscribed. I'm sorry if you couldn't get a ticket.
- Our video on the 2020 Bushfires is now part of the Archives of the National Museum of Australia.
- Our Bushfire poster was mounted on the Old Goods Shed, and our Bushfire video was still running until recently in the window of the Good Yarn.
- Our Bushfire Archive Project has been awarded a \$1,500 grant.
- And, after months of frustration and red tape, the metal posts have finally been cemented into the Bundanoon terra firma, ready for launching the Bundanoon Heritage Trail.

More details on all of the above successes later in this Newsletter.

Also well worth mentioning is the Archive Team which has been busy as usual, as well as advancing the digitization project. After months of analyzing the BHG Archive of pictures, documents and other items, we are about to pilot the processes for digitizing everything in the Collection.

It's a massive task being organized and directed by our Archivist Ian. The good thing is "that many hands make light work" and there will be lots of opportunities for us all to volunteer our help in the near future.

Finally, we welcome guest speaker Dr Narelle Bowern to the March AGM to talk about Australia's First Peoples' history in the Southern Highlands, with an opportunity to buy Narelle's latest book, \$20.

Stay safe and best wishes, **David**

Email: david.brennen@yahoo.com **Tel:** 0432 608 474

Bushfire Archive Project

by Francesca Beddie, Co-ordinator

The Bundanoon History Group has been successful in its application for the Oral History NSW Regional Engagement Grant 2020, which proposed to take further the Bushfire Archive Project. The grant will allow us to consult with an oral history specialist and to explore linkages with other bushfire projects. Watch this space!

Fundraising:

10th May Mothers' Day Raffle

For those who religiously scrutinise our monthly Treasurer's report, you will realize that holding the traditional Mothers' Day Raffle is a great opportunity to replenish the Group's coffers. Especially as COVID-19 prevented us from raising anything substantial over this past financial year.

Trisha Arbib, with the expert advice of Kay Morgan, is organising the Raffle.

Our plan is to fill a beautiful big cane basket donated by Kay and Graham Morgan with equally enticing contents to promote the sale of masses of tickets.

Please either bring your donations to the upcoming Members' Meetings, or ring/text Trish on 0437 974 191 to arrange a drop-off.

Sneak preview of a naked Bundanoon Heritage sign

On the next page is a picture of one of the eagerly anticipated sign posts, now in situ opposite Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe and forming part of the Bundanoon Heritage Trail. This is before the post is fitted with its weather and (we hope), vandal proof interpretive sign on top.

We are planning an official launch and celebration at the beginning of April. Details to be published later.



A Bundanoon Heritage Sign post

Visit to Sunnataram Forest Monastery

Report and Photos by Kay and Graham Morgan

So we have a novel coronavirus ... so we have a novel monthly meeting - at a monastery. The idea of meeting at Sunnataram Forest Monastery, and learning a little of its history, proved so popular that we filled our attendance quota in no time at all, and ended up with a waiting list. We were made very welcome by the Monastery Secretary Kim McSweeney and the Abbot, the Venerable Phra Mana, and were ushered into the spacious Meeting Hall for our business meeting and to learn about the history of Edenholme and the Teudt family from member Caroline Cosgrove. Two new members and one rejoined member were welcomed.



Statue in the gardens Photo: Paul Wallace

After the meeting we were entertained by a talk in the grounds, facing the wonderful view towards the distant coast, by the ever-smiling Abbot, who gave us some more recent history about the formation of the monastery and its activities.



The Venerable Abbot Phra Mana

He also touched on their experience during the near-disastrous 2020 bushfires – including a very graphic (and hilarious) demonstration of how to catch a lyrebird and put it under protection.

We were privileged to be the first party to be able to visit the monastery since its closure after the fires.

The Abbot's talk was followed by a delicious vegetarian lunch and a tour of the extensive grounds, guided again by the Abbot and Kim. The wonderful sandstone pagoda was a highlight.



Members hearing from Phra Mana about the Gratitude Pagoda, mostly made from Bundanoon sandstone



Phra Mana in front of that Pagoda that he helped to build, in gratitude to his mother

Those attending were then free to wander at leisure and many took full advantage of the offer.



A view of the gardens



In the gardens, near the Ancient Buddhist World Map

Some members made donations for plants from the nursery, mostly succulents and cacti.

The general view seemed to be that occasional meetings like this, away from “home”, were much appreciated. We passed on our grateful thanks in a letter to the monastery.

Coming Events

NOTE: It's no longer required to pre-book for Members' Meetings in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. Just turn up and register on entry.

Mon 1 Mar 10.30: *BHG Monthly Meeting and AGM* at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. Guest speaker: Dr Narelle Bower, local historian and author of *Aborigines of the Southern Highlands of New South Wales (1820-1850)*

Mon 29 Mar: *BHG Committee Meeting.*

Thur 1 Apr: 5.30pm *Official Launch of the Bundanoon Heritage Trail* – everyone welcome, details tbc

Mon 5 Apr 10.30 am:

BHG Monthly Meeting at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. Speaker: David Brennen, *History of Golden Vale Homestead. Sutton Forest*

Fri 9 Apr 10.00 am: Self drive to

Golden Vale Homestead. Sutton Forest.

A rare opportunity to tour the house and gardens of this 1870's National Trust property which is not usually open to the public. The tour will be followed by lunch. Details and cost tbc.