

Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter



August 2022

Guest Editor: David le Cheminant

From the President

As I write my monthly report, members of the History Group are working to renovate the Old Goods Shed. Peter Goulding has been adding the final touches to the sliding door that faces onto Railway Parade. He was missing a significant piece of the main latch and was looking at the possibility of having to make one.

Enter the 'Cabinet cleaning team'. One of my jobs was to work with Marianne Ward to empty the glass cabinet. We photographed, wrapped, and carefully stored the many treasures. We found three items that could not have been any different to one another.

The first, Peter was very happy to see because we had uncovered the original latch for the Old Good Shed doors. This saved Peter a great deal of work.



Next, we found a small silver medallion from 1910. Cat Ayers quickly identified it as a 'Sweetheart' brooch. This is all we know. How did this come to be in the shed? Do you recognize it? It would be good to add a story to it.



Finally, the most unusual find was a full can of beer. At first, we thought it was leftover from the catering team until, on closer inspection, it was beer made in Bundanoon! We posted the photos on the local Facebook group in anticipation of some answers, and we were not disappointed.



Thanks to Peter Rocca for the following information.

'Adrian O'Donnell lived at Inniskillan and owned the land down Ross Street. Brought that beer out to go against Alan Bonds low alcohol beer during the beer wars of the eighties.'

Thanks also to the Fathers' Day Raffle organization being led by Noeline Thurston. The money raised will help to fund the shed refurbishment. The generosity of members has enabled us to have a large basket of treats for the fathers in our community. Don't forget to bring back your tickets to the meeting on Monday.

Amy Press

Ramblings from the Editor

One of the advantages of being the editor is – being able to work out what to include (after a bit of blind panic).

I had planned an article on the Parramatta Female Factory (<https://parramatta-female-factory-her-story-our-story.com/the-factory-system/>) and the early weaving of linen but time and my mortal enemy procrastination meant that the above link will give you a good background starting point. It also extends the history of Norfolk Island. And I promise to try and get more details later.

After inheriting the family photos we had to work out how to divide them amongst us the siblings. We had a sad truth. A lot of the photos meant something to Mum and Dad, but we had no idea who or where or what they were about. And it also made me realize about all those thousands of questions that I should have asked, but never did.

History is being made now. So talk to your nieces and nephews, add comments to your photos – either digitally or on the back. I can always remember reading my grandfathers dairy of coming to Australia during World War II and how they had butter (1lb!) on the table and the closing comment from his wife – they don't have a Marks and Spencer!

President: Amy Press **Vice President:** David Brennen **Secretary:** Steve Press **Treasurer:** David le Cheminant

Committee: Ralph Clark, Dianne Gray, Kerri Goulding, Beryl Seckington, Don Gray, Graham Morgan **Webmaster:** Robert Seckington

BHG Bank details: BSB: 641 800 Account: 017104781 Ref: (your name or reference) **Website:** www.bundanoonhistory.org.au

Archives Group Report to BHG Committee July 2022

Heritage Matters

Carol continues to identify and research potential additions to the list of Wingecarribbee heritage places, and also continues to liaise with the heritage people at Council.

Historical Matters

Carol, Ralph and Pamela met with Mrs Ailsa Curtis and her daughter, Helen (& a friend) to talk about Mrs Curtis's stay at Mildenhall with a school group evacuated from Sydney in 1942, when she was 10 years old. The meeting was at Marianne Wards' place and Marianne recorded the discussion which will be added to the collection; Carol will write some notes for file.

Alison has been busy researching and writing some most interesting article for our Facebook page and JCG including Dr Guy Gurney and Bundanoon street names. Other research projects include the Acton sisters and the Bundanoon Ladies Hockey Team plus our local CWA.

I researched and wrote article for the Newsletter and JCG ref. 1828 survey of Bundanoon Creek. I'm also currently researching the Becke sisters – Niya and Almira.

OGS Storage

Marianne met with Amy and Ralph to talk about the storage arrangements for the archives at the Old Goods Shed.

At the Movies

Beryl prepared another short movie "Tennis" for the BHG website.

Archival Collection

Beryl updated the Archive Database with Ian's 37 additions. Ian also obtained advice from the NAA and NLA about appropriate storage of maps (vertical or horizontal storage).

Public Enquiries

Beryl responded to some wide-ranging requests, including for a photo of the Bundanoon Community

Quilt, and for information on GC Riddell who served in WW2.

OGS Sub-Committee

Ralph, Carol, David B, Ian and Marianne have all been involved in the revamp of the OGS. Ralph, Carol, and Ian continue taking steps to rationalize storage in the archives area.

The Bundanoon History Group has History itself!

2024 – not that far off – will mark the 40th anniversary of Bundanoon History Group. Maybe now is the time to start planning an appropriate commemoration?

The first meeting of the Bundanoon Research & Preservation Group was held in March of 1984. The aim was stated as being "to collect as much information on early Bundanoon as possible".

The founders set down three goals, as set out in the first annual report:

1. "To identify as many early guest houses as possible, and gather information about their owners and their positions in the town, as many have since disappeared.

"In this we have been fairly successful, finding 64 guest houses from 1880 to 1980, and now have large current maps with numbers marked on them, showing where the guest houses were, and a legend on the side. We are now in a position to improve on our present set-up with more permanent boards and more information".

2. "To make a model of the early township around the railway station area, using old photographs as a guide.

"To this end, Mr Paix from Exeter, who is a High School teacher, has been approached to enquire if this would fit into any High School subject, so that maybe some local High School students could become involved in assisting us".

3. "To produce a book on the area, going as far afield as Exeter and Penrose, as they were very much a part of our early history".

The report went on to say: "We are affiliated as a group with R.A.H.S. and Berrima District Historical Society, and any doubts that B.D.H.S. may have had about us, have been completely dispelled to the extent that we work together in harmony, and they refer enquiries for this area to us, and we give them copies of our information".

The first annual financial statement, from 2.8.1984 to 1.2.1985, shows twelve members having paid the \$5 subscription; I suspect the former date is when banking commenced.

The earliest attendance record in the OGS shows that eight members were at the 4.12.1984 meeting: Lucy and Lou Rocca, Mary Condon, Jessica and Lloyd Watson, Bruce Slater, Norma Edmonds and Jim Rundle. Apologies were received from Vince O'Hara, three Willards: Beryl, Eric and Kim; and John Hughes.

For the next several years meeting attendances averaged around only six, with a few apologies, but the Group was amazingly active. In September 1987 the name was changed to Bundanoon History Group.

I will tell more about these early activities in the next newsletter.

Ralph Clark

From the Archives

Bill Rendell, the village cobbler



Bill and his wife Alice arrived in the area when they purchased an orchard at Glenroy, Wingello about 1957. In-between tending the apple trees Bill mended boots.

He was in fact the third generation of the Rendell family to be a cobbler. The family business was in Fremantle, WA, and as soon as he was 14, in 1919, Bill was apprenticed at 17/6 a week. He had to pay 16/- board and saved the shilling and sixpence remainder to buy his sweetheart Alice Warner an engraved friendship ring.

His grandfather and father taught him his trade, including that "you always make the left shoe a little larger than the right, for it was well known that a person's left foot is larger". He remembered repairing a 40 year old pair of kangaroo hide boots made by his grandfather for a grateful owner, who wore them constantly.

Bill and Alice were married in 1929 and soon left for Sydney to join Bill's father in his new boot-making business in Croydon. Bill eventually took over the business but the Depression meant times were hard - his take home wages were £2.60 a week, while the rent was £2.75. Alice remembered that the grocer would give them bacon scraps which they would have five times a week, in dumplings made with onion and swede turnip.

During the war Bill was swamped with hundreds of Airforce boots to mend and found his love of the boot making trade waning. He spent 10 years as a driver before one day he came home from work and said to Alice "How would you like to move to the country?"

After a stint at the Wingello orchard they moved to Anzac Parade, Bundanoon, and Bill became known as the village cobbler.

Bill's business was in the nature of a hobby during his retirement years and the interior of his "shop" at 11 Ebury Steet is remembered today by Marianne Ward: "I can remember going in there as a child. It was small and dark and full of shoes, with big pots of glue blobbing on a small stove! I loved the smell of the glue, and the whole place was magical for me! He had a big beard and always wore a brown leather apron."

In the Archive collection are three newspaper articles about Bill Rendell, 1905-1991, and his wife Alice 1907-1997 - a story by Peter Rocca, 1982; a piece on their 54th wedding anniversary in 1983; and one to mark their 60th wedding anniversary in 1989. They are available as digital files, so please make a request to an archive team member if you would like to learn more about the village cobbler.

Helen Clark (archive team convenor -2016)

Dry July Mocktail

I know the month is over but it's not my fault that the month has ended so quickly!

- 3 cups orange juice
 - 3 cups cranberry juice
 - 1 cup lemon juice (or more to taste)
 - 3 cups ginger ale
 - 1-2 cups pineapple juice (optional but adds zing)
 - Lemon, orange, cranberries, mint or strawberries to garnish
 - Ice cubes (or frozen cranberries)
1. Add orange, cranberry, pineapple and lemon juice to a large bowl or pitcher and stir well
 2. Just before you're ready to serve, add ginger ale and stir gently. (you don't want to disturb the bubbles too much)
 3. Add ice or frozen cranberries
 4. Garnish with fruit and mint.

Upcoming events

High Tea at the Pill Factory (9th August)

This has been very popular – so we may need to look at visiting a few other guest houses! If you haven't booked you will probably be on a wait list!

Junee Coach Trip (18-20th October)

What better way to travel than let someone else drive, and with the large coach windows you can really see the country as it rolls past.

We will be based in Junee and Ralph has planned a solid itinerary so expect an early start on Tuesday as we are visiting the Junee Museum in the afternoon. This is followed by a walking tour of the historic buildings (cast iron lace and columns, heritage colours, wide verandahs), trips to a few other museums and a slow trip home calling in at several places.

Fund Raising

As highlighted earlier in the newsletter we are wanting to give the old goods shed a refurbishment to make us attractive to visitors and to allow us to be number with our exhibition space. The opening of the main front roller door allows us to close the side door – keeping the noise of the trains out and allowing passing visitors to see the flicker of the computer screen.

Similarly, we are experimenting with our open days – the hotel is for example frequently booked out for

100 plus people for Saturday lunches. WE need to tap that market!

So the focus of our current fundraising is to update the Old Goods Shed for the first time in its life from when we made it our 'office'.

Father's Day Raffle – 4th September

This is one of our fundraisers for the year and if you have promised any item for the baskets now is the time to deliver! Talk to the convenor Noelene Thurston waubra04@gmail.com or Ph:0429169835 who is the convenor of the raffle on getting your donations into the baskets.

Tickets can be returned to Noelene or David le Cheminant (0413068138)

We need your help

We are holding raffle ticket sales outside the Newsagent for a number of days ranging from Friday 12th August to Saturday 3rd September with 2 shifts – 8-10am and 10-12MD.

We still have vacant slots and we need your help in sitting at a table, having a chat with passers by and selling them raffle tickets. You will be supplied with all items – tickets, table, stools, cash tin, credit card machine.

You just need to bring a happy smile and have some fun! If you can help us out add your name to the list – Chat to Noelene Thurston (waubra04@gmail.com or 0429169835)

| Date | 8-10am | 10am-12MD |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Friday 12 th August | 1. 2. | Cathie Rooney Annie Goodridge |
| Saturday 13 th August | 1. 2 | Alison Ayers Ted Ayers |
| Sunday 14 th August | 1. 2 | Kerri Goulding Peter Goulding |
| Friday 19 th August | 1. 2. | Rosemary Page John Brock |
| Saturday 20 th August | 1. 2. | Annie Goodridge 2. |
| Friday 26 th August | 1. 2. | 1. 2. |
| Sunday 28 th August | 1. 2. | 1. 2. |
| Friday 2 nd September | Irene Brewster N. Thurston | 1. 2. |
| Saturday 3 rd September | Christine Cassin N. Thurston | Jo le Cheminant D le Cheminant |

Add to your Diary

Here are a couple of local events in the coming months aimed at having fun and also raising funds for the refurbishment of the Old Goods Shed – more details to follow

1. Trivia Night (Saturday 24th September)

A fun night for all, good food, good company and good questions.

Put it in your diary now. Start to organize a group and plan to win!



2. Vote for Your Favourite Building (14th October)

We are going to hold a popular vote for anyone to vote for their favourite Bundy Building. Winners to be announced at the next time the History Group runs the raffles at The Bundanoon Club on Friday 14th October



Summary of Upcoming Events:

A cutout for your Fridge:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| High Tea – Pill Factory | 3pm 5 th August |
| Father Day Raffle | Ticket Sales 12 th – 3 rd September Drawn 5 th September at the meeting |
| BHG Committee Meeting | 29 th August |
| Next BHG Meeting | 5 th September |
| Trivia Night | 24 th September |
| Bundy's Best Building Competition | 14 th October |
| Junee | 18 th - 20 th October |