

Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter



December 2022

Guest Editor: David le Cheminant

This was supposed to have been the big bumper issue of the newsletter sent to you before the Christmas Party. Well, it looks like one out of two is your lot.

And please I want to stress (what's Christmas without stress?) that all responsibility is mine. I have had to have a couple of whiskies as it suddenly dawned on me that the editor of the JCG is in fact a member of the History Group and will be getting a copy of this document. So, Christine please print it on glossy paper (or at least get some light reflection on the screen), wear a paper hat, have your favourite music playing and all mistakes (including late delivery) are mine!

From the President

Many thanks to David for being our guest editor this month. Members of the committee take on this role a couple of times a year and it is appreciated.

Our Christmas gathering was held at the Carriage Club on Monday with superb catering (as always) by the Lions club. The raffle for two books donated by Bud Townsing was drawn and they went to two deserving homes. One of the winners only bought his winning ticket at the event!

You now have the opportunity to renew your membership for 2023. Planning is well under way for some interesting guest speakers, several social events, and another First Class BHG Tour. Ralph will fill us in on the details, but it is looking very promising.

Over the past six months, several generous members presented a short account about a significant member of their family. It is good to hear from members and I encourage you to come forward to fill some of these slots for our 2023 meetings. It does not have to be a

family story, perhaps you have a family 'Treasure' you would like to share. You could bring the item to the meeting or use a photograph. Some things are just too cumbersome to fit in the car!

You may also like to volunteer to help in the Old Goods Shed on the Saturday mornings on the Market weekends. With the opening of the big front door there has been an increase of visitors. David would be delighted to fill his roster for the first half of 2023. It's a relaxing couple of hours with interesting visitors. We try to have an experienced person with you so you will understand the shed procedures.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Second, Bundanoon came together to celebrate with a street parade and a planting of trees at the entrance to the oval.

Last year, the BCA applied for a Government Grant to plant a new grove of trees for the Platinum Jubilee. On Sunday 4th December at 2:30 these trees were planted and officially recognized with a ceremony near the RSL building at the entrance to the oval followed by light refreshments at the Bundanoon Club.

For those who did not make it to the BHG Christmas Party, good wishes are extended for a very happy Christmas and a wonderful start to the New Year. We will look forward to seeing you at the February Meeting.

Amy

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

BHG Archives Report

NOVEMBER 2022

Collection Database

- I added forty-eight new items to the collection and the database including records of the Garden Ramble (from 1997). I have also begun processing records of Bundanoon's bushfire brigade.
- A new category has been added to the subject headings file - 'Shops and Businesses - Restaurants' (subject heading number 5.6/32).

Research and Writing

- Carol has been researching a for a future Newsletter article.

The Cloud

- David and I attended and contributed a meeting to facilitate adding BHG data to the Cloud.

Public Enquiries

Beryl **undertook** the following:

- Did some research on the Atkinson family in relation to Charlotte Atkinson
- Had an enquiry about two framed pictures relating to Aboriginal history which Chris Illert donated several years ago. These are currently in storage in the Up platform shed.
- Had an enquiry from Peter Lucas who has a photo he is trying to identify. Sent several replies but they were all rejected because of the email address. Can't do anything with this enquiry.

Heritage Trail

- Beryl scanned the latest version of the Heritage Trail brochure and updated the BHG website.

Photographs

- Received a photo of Ted Anderson next to the Tennis Club heritage sign. Ted is 93 and the club's oldest playing member. This will be added to the photographic archives.

- Received from Ian some photos from the 2021 Garden Ramble. To be added to the picture database.

Heritage Matters

Carol has received an image from Denis McManus of the architectural concept drawing of 'Spring Hill' property.

Presentation of the Bushfire Archive Project to Oral History NSW.



Francesca Beddie, convenor of the BHG's bushfire archive project, presented at Oral History NSW's AGM on 29 October. Over Zoom she explained the background to, and objectives of, the project and how the BHG used the Oral History NSW regional engagement grant to make a video that showcases the powerful [oral history and archival collection](#) we have created.

A scheduled ten-minute presentation turned into a half-hour discussion about the project. The video attracted praise for its content, emotional impact and its production, especially the high quality of the sound recordings. The discussion ranged from the approach to conducting interviews about a natural disaster to the question of how historians and others might use this archive.

These are issues that will also be explored at a University of Wollongong workshop, *Remembering Black Summer*, on 3 November 2022.

It was suggested that local radio stations may be interested in using some of our Bundanoon voices, something to be tested when we send out a media release about the project. We will also be following up with the winner of this year's Oral History NSW Community History Award, filmmaker Sandra Pires, who has created an app, *Yesterday Stories*, to

showcase the stories and history of the Illawarra and other NSW towns. The app allows people to watch videos of historic tales or upload their own:

<https://www.yesterdaystories.com/>

DR. GUY S. Gurney Memorial – Morton National Park entrance, Bundanoon

Researched Cat Ayers

Bundanoon physician Dr. Guy Stephen Gurney died on Coronation Day, June 2nd, 1953, aged just 33. The district felt the loss keenly. The Bundanoon florist, Mrs. Sanders, worked a 24-hour shift to fulfill the orders from villagers for funeral flowers and wreaths. On the day of his funeral, 4th June, all Bundanoon businesses including garages and the hotel, closed their doors for half an hour as a mark of respect.

There was a great desire to honor Dr Gurney and a collection was undertaken to fund a suitable memorial. Donations were collected in Bowral and in "every town between Moss Vale and Tallong so that the whole district in which the late Dr. Guy Gurney was so well known and so well liked, is now joined in this move to pay some fitting tribute to his memory." (*The Southern Mail* Friday 23 October 1953.)

Money was raised, meetings were held, and plans were made for twin stone pillars to be erected at the entrance to the Bundanoon Recreation Reserve. The honorary architect was Mr. R. Newton-Tebbitt, Wingecarribee Shire Engineer. The sandstone for the memorial was from Bundanoon quarry and was crafted by Mr. Frank Hayman of Bundanoon. The memorial was opened on Saturday 8 March 1958. Guy's widow Elsie Gurney and their children attended the ceremony.



Who was Dr. Guy Gurney?



Bowral born and educated; Guy Gurney was the son of long-term Bowral Alderman Richard Victor Gurney. In 1937, as a Bowral High school boy, Guy was one of the local students chosen to plant the row of memorial red oak trees along Station Street Bowral, near the War

Memorial. Guy attended medical school at Sydney University and was a member of Wesley College. He graduated in 1943 and spent his probationary 12 months at the Coast Hospital (Prince Henry Hospital, Little Bay) where he met his future wife, Nurse Elsie Hellier. They were married at the Wesley College chapel in 1944.

As soon as he was able to, Guy Gurney volunteered for war service with the Australian Army Medical Corp and was made a Captain. He served in the Pacific, then became very unwell on Tarakan, Indonesia. Following the discovery of a malignant tumour, he was returned to Australia for treatment at the military hospital at Concord and was discharged from service.

The Gurneys moved to Bundanoon in early 1946 and took up residence at "Bushlands," on Penrose Road, where Guy established his medical practice, in conjunction with the Moss Vale practice of Doctors W. N. Newton and A. G. Wise, covering Bundanoon, Exeter and the southern part of the district. In 1947 he was appointed Government Medical Officer at Bundanoon. The couple had three sons, Richard (b.1949), Stephen and David.

Ill health returned in 1952, most likely cancer. Despite his father urging him to decrease his workload, Dr Gurney averred that he could never let down 'his people' in Bundanoon. He said to his father, "Oh no, I couldn't leave Bundanoon. I love the people of Bundanoon and I feel that this is my life's work." (*Moss Vale Post*. 11 March 1958.)

In January 1953 treatment was undertaken at Concorde Repatriation Hospital and a locum installed at Bundanoon. Guy Gurney then returned to be nursed in his childhood home in Bowral, where he died in June 1953.

The following year, he was fondly remembered in an address by Dr. Allen Wise, a doctor at the Moss Vale

practice. "After the war, Dr. Gurney joined us, and was with us for about eight years. His coming proved of great benefit to the Bundanoon area, and he was also a great help to us at Moss Vale. As our practice increased, Dr. Gurney also began to feel the strain and I have no doubt that, to some extent, his untimely death was accelerated by his devotion to his work. The whole district, as well as Dr. Newton and myself, suffered a great loss when he finally passed away." *The Southern Mail*, 9th July 1954

News from Bundanoon – December 1933

Researched Caroline Cosgrove

The following newspaper report tells something of what was happening in Bundanoon in December 89 years ago. Terry's new golf links adjoined the property where Warrigal is located today. Warrigal was then a guest house called Woodside, which burnt down in the summer of 1934/35. A new and popular guest house, Linkside, was built on the site and operated until 1958; it was converted into Linkside Rest Home in 1961 and later became Warrigal.

The existing Bundanoon swimming pool wasn't opened until 1960, so the pool referred to in this article is most likely the one at Leaver Park, which was a little way out of town, unlike the present one.

**BUNDANOON (from our Correspondent) *The Scrutineer and Berrima District Press*,
Wednesday 20 December 1933, p. 2**

Two events of importance to Bundanoon are to take place during the Christmas period. One is the opening of the new golf links. Mr Terry, the promoter, has spared no expense in making the links up-to-date in every respect. The whole area has been sown with suitable grasses and machine mowers are being used to keep it in order. An electric pump has been installed, and the whole area reticulated with miles of piping. With beautiful scenic surroundings the links will doubtless be one of the best and most popular on the southern line.

Another advantage will be their proximity to the town; they are within a quarter of a mile of the business centre. Mr. Terry is to be complimented for his enterprise.

The other event alluded to is the opening of the swimming pool. Under the management of Mr Cooke, a transformation has been brought about. Shelter places have been erected, and the surroundings are now suitable for picnic parties, etc. Although some distance from town, there is no doubt that the swimming pool will be well patronised during the holiday season.

A movement is on foot for the erection of a hall in Bundanoon. The Returned Soldiers' Association have applied to the Government for £3000 loan, and are negotiating with the trustees of the Methodist Church for the purchase of the corner block immediately opposite the railway station.

Heavy bookings have been made by the guest houses for the holiday season. The country round about is in beautiful condition and visitors should find all to their liking.

The annual entertainment given by the pupils of the local school was held on Thursday evening last and was, in every respect, a great success. During the interval Mr J Counsell, president of the P. and C. Association, distributed the prizes. The principal prize winners were as follows:
Class VI— 1st prize, Hazel Morris and Ella Liehr (aeq.); 3rd, Dudley Morris, 4th, Ken Lyons, 5th, Mervyn Bayliss
Class V — 1st, Ross Counsell, and Ona Murray, 3rd Oliver Fisher
Class IV— -Marie Clarke 1, Leslie O'Donnell 2, Noel Rickwood 3
Class III — Jessie Morris 1, Doreen Ellsmore 2, Jim Osbourne 3
Class II— Patricia Liehr 1, John Greenaway 2, Gregory McNally 3
Class I — Mary Lansdown 1, Mervyn Ryman 2, Cecil Greenaway 3

A presentation of a special prize was made to Hazel Morris who is about to leave school after an uninterrupted attendance of seven years schooling without the loss of a day.

The president, after congratulating Hazel upon her splendid achievement, handed her a gold-mounted fountain pen, suitably inscribed.

Subsequently Mr Hawes, the headmaster, said that not only had Hazel attended school regularly, but during the four and a half years in which he had had charge, he didn't remember Hazel having been once late for school. She had passed the Primary Final exam, two years ago, and had now carried off the Dux prize of the school. He said also that he felt sure that her mother must have made many sacrifices in order to allow Hazel to attend regularly as she had, and he called for three cheers, which were lustily given.

Joan Toms' Link to WW II

by Joan Toms and Trisha Arbib

It seems a tenuous link from Laurie Cohen, early doll maker of Sydney in the 1920's, to WW II, to Joan Toms in Bundanoon today. So, who was Laurie Cohen and what is the link?

The link is dolls. Specifically, the "Hush-A-Bye" cloth dolls.



From her childhood Joan has always been interested in craftwork. Her mother, who was a tailoress, introduced her and her sisters to sewing when they lived in Collarenebri. This was a necessity as much as a pastime. And it gave her the skills she used in later life for cloth doll making.

Laurie Cohen, was an importer and wholesaler of fancy goods, giftware, and artificial jewelry in Sydney from about the mid 1920's. About 1928 his son Laurie Cohen junior, who later took over the business, went to Germany to learn the art of doll making. After he returned with supplies of bisque porcelain heads, and

with the importation of celluloid arms and legs from Japan, the Cohens began operating as the Hush-a-bye doll factory, making and assembling dolls at a price suitable for sale in Australia.

But with the outbreak of war the heads and other parts were no longer available. Many of the staff were directed to other jobs under manpower regulations, but Laurie Cohen junior was able to convince the authorities that even during war dolls were essential for the morale and welfare of children.

He was given permission to manufacture dolls as long as one third of production was sold in NSW country areas. His samples of German doll heads were used as molds for Australian manufacture. Molds were also made from imported arms and legs and cast in a mixture primarily of plaster of Paris and latex.

There was another result of the war years and the inability to import parts from Germany which concerns us here. Laurie Cohen introduced patterns, still under the Hush-a-bye imprint, so that women could make cloth dolls at home. Cloth dolls were called "the stopgap of the forties." From the end of 1941 until 1944 it was almost impossible to buy a doll. Those that were made legally under the auspices of the War Organisation of Industry Permits sold quickly as the need for dolls far outweighed the supply.



Joan Tom still has and uses the original pattern from this time. "Betty" was for a 19-inch cloth doll, and the pattern includes the firm's trademark of a shield, and in small print at the bottom the words (A WARTIME

PRODUCT.) The L.C. on the pattern refers to Laurie Cohen.

I photographed the dolls at Joan Tom's home a few weeks ago. Encouraged by her grandmother she made the one dressed in gingham just after the War. She's still making them from the original pattern.

The pattern came with a screen-printed cloth and felt face and instructions and included patterns for the dress and bonnet. All for 6 pence, as you can just see written in pencil on the pattern envelope. Instructions state that "It is a good idea to make this doll from remnants of last year's tub cotton frock". The idea was that women would reserve their clothing coupons for necessities. The dolls therefore often had the most unusual coloured arms and legs says Joan but still, or because of, looked rather wonderful.

Joan would cut out 3 or 4 dolls at once, embroider the faces, then put them together. She individualised her dolls by embroidering their faces instead of using the original screen printed felt design.

In 1994 she began making more than 100 of the Betty Doll over 12 months as a fundraiser for the Theresa Byrnes Friedreich's Ataxia foundation. Her friends' daughter Theresa Byrnes was diagnosed with the disease when she was 16. This was a great money maker for the Foundation.

When she made a Betty Doll for her great-granddaughter, using furnishing fabric, her friends began placing orders. Thus began her donations to the Melanoma Foundation at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Joan still regards doll making as a pleasurable hobby, although she makes more crocheted dolls nowadays, and takes her work to Bundanoon's Needles & Natter which meets every Thursday. So, this is a real Bundanoon story.

Ref. Marjory Fainges, *Australian Dollmakers A History*, Kangaroo Press, 1986

The Royal Australian Historical Society

Ralph Clark

The Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS), to which our Group is affiliated, offers a series of lectures on matters of historical interest, either in History House or online. Use the link <https://www.rahs.org.au/events/> to see what zoom events are coming and may be of interest to you.

To register, use the link at the end of this article or visit the RAHS website: www.rahs.org.au there is always something interesting to read.

Recent Zoom meeting held (sorry its already happened -editor)

Our Food and Cookery Experts: Revealing the Australian Women's Weekly food editors who transformed the way Australia ate.

Presenter: Lauren Samuelsson

As Australia's preeminent women's magazine, the Australian Women's Weekly (the Weekly) had an immense impact on Australian food culture throughout the twentieth century. The role of food editor was integral to the Weekly's food offerings, yet little consideration has been given to the influence of the women who held this position.

In this lecture, Dr Lauren Samuelsson will reveal the importance of the Weekly's food editors, uncovering their identities and exploring the ways that their professional expertise and individual interests shaped the Weekly's food pages and left an imprint on Australian food culture.



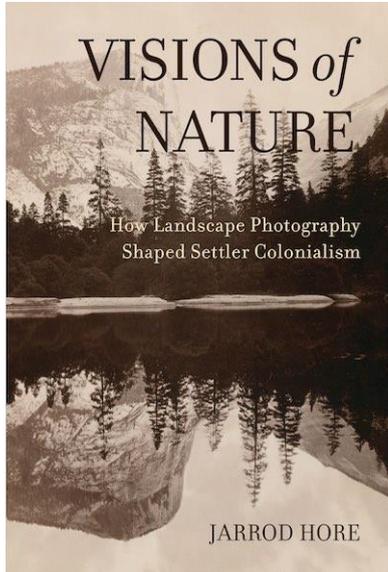
'Our Enlarged Test Kitchen', AWW, 11 July 1962, p.45

Upcoming RAHS Events:

February 1, 2023 @ 13:00 - 14:00

RAHS Day Lecture – Reviving a Settler Colonial World: Landscape Photography in Australia and California

Online via Zoom



In this lecture, Jarrod Hore will discuss the work of late nineteenth-century landscape photographers who shaped environmental attitudes.

His address introduces and surveys the white settler world of the late nineteenth century from the perspective of six different landscape photographers. It explores how a range of sites in the Australasian colonies and the American West were defined by a confrontation with environmental limits that led to the development of new territorial imaginaries. I suggest that landscape photography offers a fresh perspective on this settler colonial world, foregrounding new environmental attitudes and their immediate effects for both colonists and Indigenous peoples.

<https://www.rahs.org.au/event/reviving-a-settler-colonial-world/>

March 15, 2023 @ 11:00 - 13:00

RAHS/WEA Workshop – How to Research Your House's History

Online via Zoom



In this seminar, Christine Yeats and Carol Liston will show you how to learn about the history of your house and your local area. \$32 – \$35

Have you ever wanted to go back in time and learn more about your house's history and the area where you live? This seminar will use two case studies – one in the city and one in regional NSW – to look at the records you can consult to find out more about the history of your house.

We will show you how to search for previous owners using the Historical Land Records Viewer and associated records. Then we will discuss the records that can tell us how the house was previously furnished. These can provide a glimpse into the social life of the former occupants, remembering that possessions are not only about how the house was furnished. Finally, there will be a discussion about strategies for discovering more about the history of your locality. <https://www.rahs.org.au/event/how-to-research-house-history/>

Coming events for your calendar:

Monday February 6:

Our first meeting for 2023. Our guest speaker will be well-known local identity Peter Rocca, who of course grew up in Bundanoon.

Later that afternoon, from 4.00pm, all members are invited to an informal and free drinks and nibbles session at Gambells Rest.

Monday March 6:

The AGM. Later in the meeting Helene Jessep will tell us something of the fascinating history of her property *Ferndale* and the mystery will still surrounds it.

Immediately after the meeting we are invited to inspect the ruins of the old guesthouse and enjoy a BBQ lunch. It is BYO wine, but the meal and soft drinks will be provided. The cost is \$5pp; booking details will be announced in January.

Excursions

We are working on two excursions for next year:

- a three-day trip to the historic Hawkesbury area in May and
- a tour of Tasmania towards the end of the year.

The social subcommittee would be interested in hearing from any member with expertise on either destination to make sure we get all possible input on the obvious and less obvious gems.

More details will be provided by the February meeting, but members may be assured that both will be well-priced and enjoyable. Watch this space!

Ralph

The Final Word

So, there you have it – the not so early, the not so big Christmas Newsletter.

One final anecdote for you. Our family Christmas Pudding is an original recipe from my Great Grandmother. She came from Earls Court and was on a boat going to New Zealand for her health. Now my Great Grandfather must have been a great talker as she convinced her to marry him, get off the boat in Adelaide and then live in a tent out near Echuca when the land was being opened up (a large step from having servants!)

So if it looked like you were going to be a serious girlfriend you were given after great internal discussion her Suet pudding recipe (it was fruit with a little suet and even less flour as a binder). And you also got a warning – *Halve the quantities!* This was a recipe for a large household, with one pudding for upstairs, and the second for downstairs, and even then they were large puddings!

Now the problem was with the recipe as written out by Dad - it said “quantity in half” So the issue was had he already halved it (he had). But it did not specify what pudding bowl size it used. As the volumes looked quite small (it was written in the older way of writing a recipe and in imperial measures). The trouble was the girlfriend then feel obliged to make the suet pudding. Many a time as the ingredients got mixed in we would be running around looking for a ceramic bowl to steam the second pudding in, and as it was a 5 hr steam it normally meant a rather late night, and us meaning to add a note to the recipe -which of course you never did!

David le Cheminet