

Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter



April 2023

Guest Editor – David Brennen

From the President

When we bought our house in Bundanoon, most weekends were spent tending to the overgrown garden. We awoke one Saturday morning to a street full of cars with not a person in sight. In the distance there was the sound of bagpipes. There was only one thing to do, go for a walk and see what was happening.

We arrived at the station just in time for the start of a street parade with people in kilts everywhere. Brigadoon was in full swing and from that day on the first Saturday in April was set aside by our family to participate in an exceptional community activity.

People are in withdrawal because of Covid and then relentless rain so everyone is looking forward to Saturday 1st April and the long overdue parade and Highland Games.

Brigadoon will go down in our history books as an exceptional example of community involvement.

The History group Membership is growing and this afternoon the Committee welcomed some new members with drinks and nibbles in the Old Goods Shed. Monthly Meetings are often very busy, so this was a good opportunity to chat with one another.

On another note, Bundanoon History Group provided the following letter of support for the Bundanoon Folk Festival to apply for a grant to run a festival.

The inaugural festival, to be held in Bundanoon, NSW, on 24-26 November 2023 will celebrate original live

Australian folk music, dance and spoken word, presenting opportunities for folk practitioners from beginners and emerging artists to high level professionals to perform in multiple quality indoor venues. The program will promote local and regional artists as well as those from further afield and encourage the creation of music and poetry that tell stories of the people, history, and places of the region. It will offer attendees of all ages and abilities the chance to actively participate in exciting folk music, dance and spoken word sessions, workshops, busking and blackboard stages.

We understand that the Bundanoon Folk Festival will provide joyful participation in and appreciation of a diverse range of innovative folk culture in all its forms with a special focus on works reflecting the unique character and history of the region.

There will be activities throughout the year which build community involvement and investment in the creative and performance arts in our region.

A few weeks ago, we had the opportunity to hear Mahesh and The Tapestries of Sound perform at the Bundanoon Club. Mahesh led a group of musicians who had been researching at The National Library the History of British Folk Music in Australia and India. The culmination of their research was to create new compositions that reflected their findings and to blend it with a wide range of instruments used in the early colonial reign. Each piece of music played was preceded by a description of the sources used. It was unique and entertaining.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Brigadoon on Saturday, and on Monday at the Bundanoon Club for our monthly Meeting at 10:00am.

Amy

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

Committee: Ralph Clark, Jo le Cheminant, Dianne & Don Gray, Kerri Goulding, Graham Morgan, Keith Spencer

Webmaster: Beryl Seckington

Website: www.bundanoonhistory.org.au

BHG Bank details: BSB: 641 800 General Account: 017104781 Excursions only: 200970545 Ref: (your name + event identifier)

The views expressed by the editor or individual contributors do not necessarily represent the views of the committee or membership.

From the Guest Editor: David Brennen



Hello everyone – as I am half Scots and there will be plenty of kilts in Bundanoon this coming weekend, I thought it appropriate to have a bit of a Scottish theme to our Newsletter this month.

Whilst Brigadoon is a relatively new phenomenon in the Southern Highlands, the question regarding what Scotsmen wear under their kilts has been intriguing people all over the world for many generations. Here’s a lovely French cartoon published over 200 years ago of two ladies subtly stooping down on the pretext of tying their laces.



Satirical caricature of French women curious about kilned Scottish soldiers, c. 1815 (Published by Aaron Martinet (1762 - 1841))

Also in the Newsletter this month, Ian Smith has written a topical piece about the state of the roads and historically, how some things never change.

I have included a piece about *Bundanoon is Brigadoon*, and Trish Arbib and myself have written about Scotland’s world famous cuisine.

There is an update on Travel and Guest Speakers from Ralph Clark, and Treasurer David brings to our attention a new bank account he has set up.

We also welcome our two new Committee members, Jo le Cheminant and Keith Spencer who have written a little bit about themselves by way of

introduction.

And finally, I have included the latest update from our Archive team who diligently continue to provide such a valuable service. Indeed, it could be argued that managing the archives could be one of the main *raison d’etre* of the Bundanoon History Group.

My thanks to all our contributors.

David

Roads and Potholes – some precedents
Ian Smith

The joke goes that in Australia we drive on the left side of the road, in the Southern Highlands we drive on what’s left of the road!

Many, many times over the past few years it has seemed that this is all too true, what with the roads being potholed, washed away, etc.

“Why isn’t something being done....?” is an all-too-common expression by frustrated residents.

However, today’s situation is far from unique, as the following reveals.

Firstly, back in July 1887 Messrs. Tooth, Mitchell, and Grice met with the Hon. Mr. John Sutherland, the NSW Minister for Works. This deputation pleaded for money to repair damaged roads at Bundanoon, especially the roads leading to the railway station. These roads they said, were almost impassable. The Minister replied that he could promise nothing “but would do whatever could be done.” We can imagine those of a cynical demeanour may have had a less than positive response to the Minister’s reply.

The following year, in 1888, a person describing themselves as ‘a visitor’ extolled the beauty of the gullies but they were less than impressed with the road to get there. They declared it almost too rough to take a vehicle along. They chastised the folk of Bundanoon who have made a “very great mistake” in not trying to get “a good road out to the beautiful

scenery...”.

Further afield, in 1891, the complaints were many about the road between Bowral and Berrima for it was said to have become simply impassable.

In 1894 the Bundanoon Progress Committee could report that after strong representations and “extensive correspondence” with the State government, tenders were sought to work on the road between Exeter and Bundanoon. With a touch of irony, a Committee spokesman said the proposed work “should make it at least passable in ordinary weather.”

It appears the “disgraceful” state of the road between Bundanoon and Exeter was an ongoing source of angst among local residents (as indeed it is today). The President of the Shire Council, in May 1908, declared it “the worst piece of road in the Shire”, yet nothing was done to fix it. One suggestion offered was to use coal mine refuse (presumably he is referring to the Ringwood coal mine), a heap of which was lying alongside the road.

In 1913, the road on the other side of Exeter, on the way to Sutton Forest, was the focus of yet more frustration. Once again Council responded by saying that “the matter would be attended to this year if sufficient funds were available.”

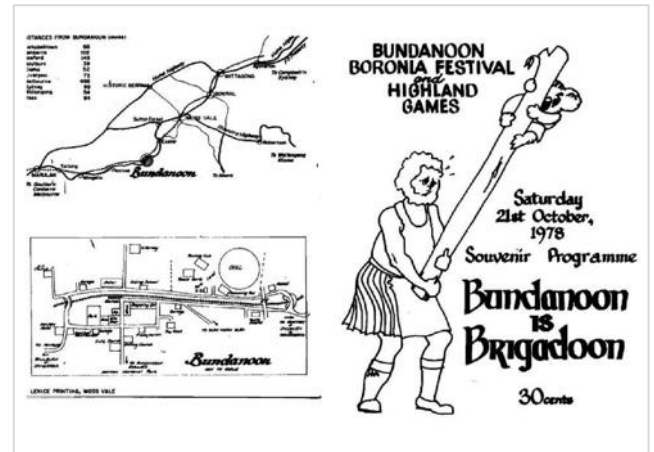
Returning to today’s roads, and in the light of the above, perhaps we can be forgiven for thinking plus ca change, plus c’est la meme chose. (The more things change, the more they stay the same.)

“Bundanoon is Brigadoon”

David Brennen

It’s been going for more than 40 years and after two failed attempts in 2022, this coming Saturday, 1 April is the long anticipated Brigadoon Highland Gathering. It’s the day when many will bring out their Scottish heritage, others their ear plugs, and Bundanoon is once again transformed into the mythical village of “Brigadoon”.

And we can all be justly proud that since the very first gathering in 1978 when it was part of Bundanoon’s long standing Boronia Festival, the Bundanoon Highlands Gathering has grown into and recognized as one of the finest Highlands events in Australia.



Poster for 1st Brigadoon in 1978

Amazingly, Brigadoon is all done by volunteers with all the day’s takings passed on to local charities and volunteer groups that help on the day. Since that modest beginning in 1978, the event has grown to attracting upwards of 15,000 visitors and generated around \$1.5 Million back into the local community. That’s a staggering amount!

This year we have 14 BHG volunteers involved in packing supper boxes, sandwiches, and assisting at the Ceilidh, all contributing to raising funds for the Bundanoon History Group.

Below are a few pics extracted from the Archives of some of the past gatherings.



Marching along Railway Ave at the first Brigadoon 1978



Tartan Warriors - stones of Manhood c2003. Just to clarify, whilst the man in the middle may bear a stark resemblance to Treasurer David in his younger years, David assures me he was elsewhere at the time.



Unusual bicycles accompanying the Piped Bands procession at Brigadoon in 1997



Jack Hepher, who ran the Old Bike Shop Jack was a regular Brigadoon participant on his Penny Farthing and can be seen these days, depicted on the Mural outside the Bike Shop. He died in 2011, aged 96.

Helene and David Jessep who purchased the Bike Shop when Jack retired in 1984 now own the bike. It was built c1832 and is still in its fine original condition. Many will remember Helene and David would stand it outside the Tea Rooms on display.

The Mighty Haggis

Trish Arbib

Brigadoon wouldn't be a true Scottish gathering without haggis. A high point of the Ceilidh held in Bundanoon's Memorial Hall on the night of Brigadoon is the piping in of the haggis.

I remember when my then partner Howard



Nicholson used to make haggis in the huge kitchen at the Bundanoon Hotel, probably in the 1980's. He bought the whole pluck,

i.e. heart, lungs and liver joined at the windpipe from the butcher. Howard would place the pluck in a large saucepan of water to boil, with the windpipe leaning over the side of the pot so that all the impurities could spill out into another saucepan to be discarded. Pretty disgusting to watch.

Once cooked, the meat was minced and combined with oatmeal, suet and herbs. It was then stuffed into commercial sausage casing. Traditionally this was a lamb's stomach. The resultant sausage was boiled, time dependent on size. It could be served in slices, or the filling removed and served loose. Howard's version was actually haggis royale, which also included minced lamb, and to my taste was more delicious than the straight haggis made with just the offal.

Traditionally haggis is paired with tatties and neeps, that is mashed potatoes and turnips, sometimes swede, and of course a shot of good Scotch whisky.

The Haggis was immortalized by the poet Robert Burns in his poem *Address to the Haggis* written in the 18th century. Robert Burns is celebrated in Scotland and throughout the world on Burns Night, January 25th. Common celebration food then, and at our Brigadoon Ceilidh of course, includes haggis.

The most important part of the supper is the ceremonial introduction of the haggis. Everyone stands while the haggis is brought into the room accompanied by a piper playing a traditional Scottish tune on the bagpipes. The *Address to the Haggis* is recited while cutting it with a ceremonial knife.

The *Address to the Haggis* starts

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o the puddin'-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy o' a grace
As lang's my arm.*

Wonderful recited in a Scottish accent.

In translation this is

*Good luck to you and your honest, plump face,
Great chieftain of the sausage race!
Above them all you take your place,
Stomach, tripe, or intestines:
Well are you worthy of a grace
As long as my arm.*

It continues for another 7 stanzas, finishing with (in translation)

*You powers, who make mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill of fare,
Old Scotland wants no watery stuff,
That splashes in small wooden dishes;
But if you wish her grateful prayer,
Give her [i.e. Scotland] a Haggis!*

Some people go pale at the mere thought of eating haggis. But when you consider the modern version, which is minus the sheep's stomach, and probably minus the lungs, it is really a superior sausage

(although maybe you don't say this to your Scottish friends) that does admittedly have offal, heart and liver, in it. There is a commercial product fairly readily available, which can be boiled, steamed or microwaved. So please, if you get a chance, try it.

Another Scottish delicacy

David Brennen

For those not into their Scottish savouries, you may like to try the Deep Fried Mars Bar. Scotland's other great contribution to the healthy cuisines of the World.

It's a delicacy for all those with a sweet tooth, originating in the North East of Scotland. The dish was invented by the local chippie at the Carron Fish and Chip Shop in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, mid-90's.



A group of young lads enjoying deep-fried Mars Bars from The Haven Fish and Chip Bar in 1999. (Pic: The Press & Journal Scottish Daily)

It's a simple dish to prepare: – most generously coat a Mars Bar in the same batter as you would fry your fish and chips, and deep fry, preferably in the same oil.

In 2007 it was named as the 10th most unhealthy food ever. Not that this has dented its popularity or fame. It's now known all over the world and just a standard part of the offering at most "chippies" in Scotland.

My cousin Andrew who lives in Galashiels (near Edinburgh), tells me it's very popular with the English tourists these days. Andrew's not a great fan

of the English, nor Brexit. He's all for Scottish Independence and sees massive English consumption of the battered bar as just as another subtle Scottish way of getting rid of 'em.

Guest Speakers **Ralph Clark**

Our guest speaker for the April meeting will be **David Collingridge**, President of the Southern Highlands branch of the National Trust. The talk will cover the early days of the Trust's formation, its key role, issues facing the business, principal properties across NSW and local offerings in the Wingecarribee Shire.

In May we will welcome **Liz Gorman**, from Sue Rosen and Associates. This company has done heritage studies on many significant areas and properties, including some in the Southern Highlands. It will be interesting to learn more of how this process works from the inside.

Travel **Ralph Clark**

Our next excursion is to the Hawkesbury area, on May 9-11. The party is almost full but there is still room for another three or four. Ralph Clark (0418 265 529 or rlc2578@gmail.com) has the details.

Later in the year – October 25 to November 7 – is our trip to Tasmania. Again the group is almost complete, but we can fit in two more.

There will be other activities in the second half of the year still to be announced.

Welcome to our new Committee members

Keith Spencer



My wife Tessa and I bought our place in Bundanoon around 6 years ago. We have been living here permanently since the Pandemic hit. I have always

had a huge interest in history. This was further enhanced during the 3 years we lived in the UK. A lot of time was spent exploring Saxon barrows and proposed sites for Camelot. I have great interest in boxing, comic books, pop culture, aircraft, automobiles and space travel. Always happy to chat with anyone keen on any of these topics.

Jo le Cheminant

I have been a History Group member for about 3 years joining soon after coming to Bundanoon. I enjoy the meetings, learning about the history of the area, and the activities of the group. The same committee members seem to always be busy so I decided to offer my assistance to lighten the load



Archives Report for March **Ian Smith**

Public Enquiries

- Beryl provided more information about the Pill Factory and Gast Hof to the editor of High Life magazine.

Collections

- Deborah McDougal sent Beryl her research document on the Tully, Wood and Bearman families. This has been added to the BHG archives.
- Valerie Duncan sent Beryl some Valentine's postcards stamped with Bundanoon. These have been added to the archives and filed in the cabinet under Ref 6.
- For February-March Ian added thirty new items to the collections. These include early records of Bundanoon Rural Fire Service, and Bundanoon Garden Club; most have been housed in archive boxes which will be stored in the metal bookcases in the archives area.
- I located early images of Bundanoon Hotel that show different stages in the renovation and extension of the building. These are from the Noel Butlin Archives of Business

and Labour at the ANU, Canberra. Beryl has added copies to the images database.

- Beryl updated the Archive database with Ian's and Beryl's changes and additions for January and February. Also updated the shed laptops.
- Beryl added a new subject heading 'Glow Worm Glen & Track'. 6.5/1/1 to the main subject heading file.

Donations

I received two collection items as donations:

- Firstly, two telephones originally used at the Bundanoon Telephone Exchange. These were donated by Peter Dodds via Sylvia David.
- Secondly, from Sandra Berry, a Certificate of Appreciation given to Peter and Joy Berry for having their garden open for the first Garden Ramble (on 19 October 1977).

Digitisation

- Beryl received digital copies of Lillian Anderson's history articles. Most of these have now been added to the digital archive drive.
- In addition, she helped facilitate copying Photo Archive files to Cloud storage (via Andy Carnahan).

OGS

- Beryl received two enquiries about the shed opening times. The correct days and times are on the BHG website. The BHG printed brochure has the old information and needs to be updated. She has referred this to the BHG committee for consideration.
- She also provided some information for the OGS procedures.

Oral History

Beryl:

- had an oral history meeting with Jim Rooney and discussed the revival of the oral history morning tea presentations. It is anticipated that the next one could be later in the year.

- processed and archived a recording of Peter Rocca talking about growing up in Bundanoon. This was recorded at the BHG meeting in February.
- received an oral history recording between Pat Guy and Marianne Ward. This is still being processed and will be archived.
- received an email from Jan Hinde. They will meet to talk about her life in Bundanoon, probably followed up with a formal oral history interview. Her father was the chemist in Bundanoon and her mother owned a gift shop.

Films

- Beryl commenced producing a movie from Philip Morton's presentation on Ferndale. The audio recording has already been processed and archived.

Heritage Issues

- Carol continues to liaise with Wingecarribee Shire Council in the development of their Heritage Register. She now has the final PDFs for Bundanoon and will need to get them all (hard copies & digital) onto the relevant files. She will send digital version to Beryl when the relevant files have been identified.
- Carol also advised that the planning proposal to list additional heritage places in the Wingecarribee Shire Council has still not been processed (i.e. sent to the Planning Committee for endorsement and sent out for consultation). This is the source of much anguish for Dennis McManus who, with Bud Tonwising, did so much work on it. She and others who worked hard on it are keen for it to happen as well. In the meantime, if there's a DA for any of the places that are part of the proposal, they will be assessed for heritage value & will - probably - go on the Interim Heritage Register.

Financial Matters – new Bank Account Numbers

Treasurer David le Cheminant

(Need to keep you on your toes!) To make the accounts easier to follow we have created a separate Excursion Account. This account will be used only for excursions (such as Junee, Hawkesbury, Tasmania) and any payments for these excursions should be made to this account.

Our smaller social events (Ferndale, Gambells Rest, High Tea) will be to the general account. By splitting it is much simpler to ensure that we are always holding a strategic reserve to cover our day-to-day expenses.

Account	BSB	Account Number
General	641 800	017104781
Excursion	641 800	200970545

So call one “BHG”, and the other “BHG-EXC” in your banking external payments system (and remember to reference your surname and an identifier showing what the payment is for)

Bundanoon’s Tartan



The tartan was designed by Betty Johnston, House of Tartan Australia, and Peter Rocca. It was prepared for weaving by Marton Mills and Inglis Buchan and registered in the official Scottish Register of Tartans in 1999.

The tartan was first launched at the 2000 Brigadoon Highland Games.

Coming Events

Sat 1 Apr 9.00 am: *Old Goods Shed and Heritage Railway Station Rooms* open for Brigadoon.

Mon 3 Apr 10.30 am: *BHG Monthly Meeting* at the Bundanoon Club. Guest speaker: David Collingridge on *The National Trust NSW*

Mon 24 Apr: *BHG Committee Meeting.*

Mon 1 May 10.30 am: *BHG Monthly Meeting* at the Soldiers’ Memorial Hall. Speaker: Liz Gorman on *Heritage Assessments.* :

The *Mothers Day Raffle* will also be drawn at the May meeting.

Tue 9-11 May: **BHG Coach trip to Hawkesbury Region**

Mon 29 May: *BHG Committee Meeting*

Mon 5 Jun 10.30 am: *BHG Monthly Meeting* at the Soldiers’ Memorial Hall. Speaker: tbc.

We will also participate in *Australia’s biggest Morning Tea* at the June meeting.

Mon 3 July 10.30 am: *BHG Monthly Meeting* at the Soldiers’ Memorial Hall. Speaker: Gary Barnsley