

# Bundanoon History Group

## Monthly Newsletter

May 2023



**Guest Editor:** David le Cheminant

*Next Meeting*

*Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May*

*Bundanoon Memorial Hall*

*10am for 10:30 meeting.*

### From the President

Greetings from Land's End in the United Kingdom! We have only been in this country for a little over a week and we have already explored many interesting places. After a very long flight to London instead of an hour and a half stopover in Singapore we spent seven hours because British Airways needed to find a replacement pilot, an essential person on any flight!

On arrival at Heathrow we left immediately for Reading and began exploring surrounding areas using the great British rail system. A walking tour in Winchester and then Gloucester allowed us to explore two great Cathedrals and the surrounding areas. The two local tour guides spoke passionately about their cities and showed us corners that we would never have seen on our own. How wonderful it is that the BHG is now offering walking tours to Bundanoon visitors. Our guides lead visitors through the town with the same passion and our little churches are an important part of our community.

On entering the great cathedrals you can only look in awe at the magnificent structures but it is also important to consider the tradesman who built

them. Generations of stone masons dedicated their lives to the creation of these structures and they are probably the last people we think about when we enter the building. In the Gloucester Cathedral there is a poignant reminder of these men with a small stone carving called The Mason's Mark, an old sculpture of a stone beam depicting a young mason appearing to fall whilst an older stone mason stands below with a shocked look on his face. It is not known if the sculpture is a memorial to the young man or a means of thanking God for him surviving the fall.

Our next tour, in London, was given by one of the Vergers of Westminster Abbey. After struggling through a huge peaceful Climate Change protest at the front of the building, we entered into another magnificent structure. We were able to visit the Queens Jubilee Galleries where we were able to see the original plans for the Abbey and a huge selection of other historic items previously hidden away. High up in the gallery we could see the recently restored Big Ben in all its glory. This was one of the last tours to be given before the doors are closed in preparation for the Coronation.

We are now in Cornwall, a place of small fishing villages, old Tin Mines, spectacular scenery, Cornish Pasties and cream teas. Luckily we are doing a lot of walking!

Finally, many thanks go to David Brennen for stepping back into the role of President, being supported by the members of the committee.

Amy

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**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   General A/C: 017104781   (Excursion A/C 20097505)   Ref: (your name or reference)

**Website:** [www.bundanoonhistory.org.au](http://www.bundanoonhistory.org.au)

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

## **BHG Archives Report**

Ian Smith - Convenor

### **Public enquiries**

- I responded to Mr. Michael Cusack who sent some clarifying information regarding Bridget Mary Cusack's (his aunt) ownership and management of Mildenhall/Glendalough (1941-late 1960s) plus some additional personal information about her. I will be adding this information to the collection.
- Beryl responded to an enquiry from Herb Norton requesting information about the Bundanoon butcher shops. Provided some information we already had.
- A request to use the Bushfire oral history recordings has been received from (Professor) Catherine Travis, ANU. This has been passed to Jim Rooney.

### **Collection**

- Beryl entered the Archive database changes for March.
- I housed last month's additions to the collection.
- I expect to only be adding about ten items this month.

### **Heritage**

- Beryl researched information on the house at 47-49 Railway Ave (next to the CWA rooms). Carol is also researching this property.
- Carol sent information to David Collingridge (President of Southern Highlands Branch of the National Trust NSW) on *Emerson Grove/ Marylands/ Ash Grove*, 9 Panorama Ave, Bundanoon, for a National Trust visit on 10 May 2023 to 15B Panorama Road, a recently built house on a lot that was part of the original estate.
- Carol also responded to Amy Press with details of the date of construction for Mildenhall Guest House (1938-39) and some info. about the former building on the site, the Wedding Cake House, the home of Mrs Sarah Nicholas after Gus Nicholas died. Amy has received some early photos of Mildenhall.

### **BHG website**

- Beryl has written an article and produced a movie ref. the Bundanoon tartan for the website.

### **Recent Events**

**Brigadoon** has been and gone. And it was wonderful to see our pipe band in full action! The crowds were quite large and hopefully a good time was had by all.

The History Group was approached by Helene Jessep to assist in the preparation of food for the VIP area and also for the Ceilidh. In return we would be reimbursed for time volunteered. I think a few of us got a little dazed when Helene casually mentioned that she needed 40 dozen or so hard-boiled eggs – but we pressed on and got involved (and indeed she really did need that number of boiled eggs!)

I was involved mainly in the Ceilidh - preparation of the snack packs and serving on the night. It was a fun night and we all split into groups and had periods of activity followed by periods of rest.

By far the highlight was the Address to the Haggis. A procession of a piper, the person doing the address, the haggis itself and finally a tray with 4 shot glasses.

As far as I am concerned anything that starts with a shot of whisky and 4 men in kilts is pretty good. But the highlight was the energy that was placed in the address to the Haggis. Not being a Scot I did not understand all the words – but the energy of the performance was resounding. The link below is a pale example of a reading compared to what we got <https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poem/address-haggis/>

So come join us next year in helping at the Ceilidh – but be warned we may tell you it wasn't like last yr!

Update: we received an email from the Brigadoon committee to say that we had amassed a total of

64.5 volunteer hrs. which will be reimbursed once the books are closed (possibly June).

And as Helene stated:

“we as a committee are ecstatic, very proud and privileged hearing the announcement that our Chieftain of the Day, the 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Loudoun, accepted an invitation from The Crown, to participate in King Charles' coronation in May in London.

The Earl holds very prestigious titles....as mentioned on Brigadoon's website...It's an incredible honour for a tiny village to hold links to the Royal Family, whether people are royalists or not.

The Earl told me he thoroughly enjoyed his day in Bundanoon, the warmth and friendliness of locals and visitors was truly a blessing.

He is such a nice man. He told me he wishes to attend in 2024....overall, great honour for Brigadoon and the entire Bundanoon community.

<https://brigadoon.org.au/stalls-exhibitors/chieftain-for-the-day/>

### Other Fund Raising Events

Never let it be said that moss grows around our feet –

6<sup>th</sup> May : Guided heritage walking tour for a group of Hash House Harriers (HHH) from Sydney. (HHH are a global running organization who have as a motto – “runners with a drinking problem or drinkers with a running problem” all events start and finish at a pub).

1<sup>st</sup> July : Guided tours during Winterfest. At this stage three tours planned.

And during these walks don't be surprised if the tour guides look very dapper as we will be sporting station master blue pinstripe vests and hats.

## The Old Goods Shed

### David Brennen

Not a lot to report this month.

You may be interested in the pic below showing a lonely and neglected Old Goods Shed in the early 90's. The pic was taken prior to the BHG taking up residence in 1994, giving the building a new lease of life plus a new entrance door at the side.



On the refurbishment front things are progressing slowly although I am assured by ARTC (our landlords), that a decision to go ahead and replace the roof is pretty imminent.

We have also applied to Council for a grant to cover the cost of installing new flooring in the Shed. We will know whether we are successful in July.

And after six months of baiting and spraying it seems we have finally got on top of the termites problem. There were no signs of any activity at the most recent inspection.

It's also good news as we continue to open the Shed on Saturday Market weekends. April was our best month ever for visitors, when over 2 mornings we topped 50. This is very encouraging with a record 34 visitors at the most recent opening.

## A Chat with Alison Ayers

It's fun to suddenly realise that it's your time to be the guest editor again. Yes – you have a brief moment of a cold sweat, (particularly severe in my case as I am always late!) but then you start to think of what has happened around you recently. And this got me to thinking about one lady that is part of the Ayers power team – Alison (or Cat).

All of those interesting posts about things that I never even thought of seem to be from Alison's pen. And that got me to thinking – how do you find the data?

So one morning I sat down with Cat to have a chat – fully intending to write it on the spot and instead we just chatted. So any mistakes are mine and I promise next time to do it earlier!

It is hard to believe but Cat and Ted have only been in Bundanoon for 4 odd years. Cat is a walker and a history tragic and always observing what going on around her – why is that street called Erith St? Why Sandstone Gates? Why is that name on the base of the gate?

As Cat admits she is also a Trove Tragic \*\*. Now it has taken me a while to work out what Trove is – it sounds almost mystical.

So if she is not making costumes, knitting, drinking tea or gardening you will find Cat poking around in Trove – and looking mainly at the newspaper and similar collections. The key is also your search terms – they can make or break your search but Cat seems to have the art, and a good retention of names to search hunt and find. As she says herself, she may be finding things that everyone else already knows, but no one else is aware that they know!

One of my big queries with Cat was why? What got her into searching out history and found out that one of her largest influences was her mother. Cat's mother was the matriarch of the family and grew up in a country town. So as they walked around town her mother would fill her in on all the details of who was who and what happened where.

As for the tickle that gets her down a specific line – she just goes into Trove and other search sites and just pokes around- mainly looking at the newspapers and then starts to focus on a year, or a name and then just follows her nose. For example the gates at the oval had a name, and that led to newspaper articles and then to the jockey club and that led eventually to the gates at Ferndale oval. So what was a "I wonder who that was" can go off into a whole flood of lines of investigation.

I think I need a few more hours in my day to keep up!

\*\* Trove is a search engine

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/> that was launched in 2009 by the National Library of Australia and its aim is to bring together collections of wonderful things and has several subsets.

## Anzac Day

This year we had Neil Wright lay our wreath at the Bundanoon memorial. This year the wreath was made by Jo le Cheminant using handmade red poppies with a base layer of Magnolia leaves





## Where is the Biscuit

Bet you were expecting an ANZAC Biscuit recipe this month! We have instead....

## Coronation Quiche

- 250g plain flour, plus a little for dusting
- 50g cold butter, diced
- 50g lard (or use butter if you prefer)
- 4 tbsp milk, plus a splash
- Or 250g block of ready-made shortcrust pastry

For the filling

- 125ml milk
  - 175ml double cream
  - 2 medium eggs
  - 1 tbsp chopped fresh tarragon
  - 100g cheddar, grated
  - 180g cooked spinach, liquid squeezed out and lightly chopped
  - 60g cooked broad beans or soya beans (double pod the broad beans, if you like)
1. Sieve the flour into a bowl with  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt. Add the butter and lard, and rub the mixture together using your fingertips until you get a sandy, breadcrumb-like texture. Add the milk, a little at a time, and using a cutlery knife, start to bring the dough together, using your hands, making sure it has no dry patches and feels smooth. Cover and allow to rest in the fridge for 30-45 mins.
  2. Put a 20cm loose-bottomed tart tin or a 20cm pastry ring on a baking sheet. Lightly flour the work surface and roll out the pastry to a circle a little larger than the top of the tin and approximately 5mm thick. Carefully lift the pastry into the tin and gently press into the corners, taking care not to have any holes or the mixture could leak. Cover and rest for a further 30 mins in the fridge. Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5
  3. Line the pastry case with greaseproof paper – to do this cut a disc of greaseproof paper larger than the tin, scrunch it into a ball (this makes it more pliable), then unwrap and place it in the pastry case. It should come above the sides. Fill with baking beans or uncooked rice and bake blind for 20-25 until nicely golden and dry. Carefully remove the greaseproof paper and baking beans, and

return to the oven for 5 mins to dry the base. Reduce the oven temperature to 160C/140C fan/gas 3.

4. Beat the milk, cream, eggs and herbs with some seasoning. Scatter half of the grated cheese in the blind-baked base, top with the chopped spinach and beans, then pour over the liquid mixture. If required, gently give the mixture a delicate stir to ensure the filling is evenly dispersed, but be careful not to damage the pastry case. Sprinkle over the remaining cheese. Place into the oven and bake for 20-30 mins until set and very lightly golden.

Quite fitting as even if you are a republican the Chieftain of the Day, the 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Loudoun from Brigadoon was invited to the coronation.

## Mothers Day Raffle



I was actually rostered on the day after the Ceilidh. When in the queue to get a coffee in the Café I looked behind me to see a piper in full rig leaning against the counter and not really firing on all cylinders. On querying he had been in the pipe bands at Brigadoon, then played at the guest house and finally at the church in the morning. Needless to say he was “tired” so I showed him my hip flask that was still in my bag from the night before and told him to meet me at the raffle table when he got his coffee.

This seemed to revive him – and gave me a good excuse to fortify my coffee too (also seemed to attract other kilted gentlemen)

Now while I didn't sell too many tickets in my shift the rest of you are doing a sterling job! We don't have the final numbers - but it will be over \$2,800. Well done!

## Coming events for your calendar

### 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May Hawkesbury Trip

*Coach leaves the Old Goods Shed at 8:30am.* This is when it leaves, not the time to arrive! The early birds get the front seats.

### 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – 7<sup>th</sup> November Tasmania

See below for the payment schedule

| <b>Tasmania 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – 7<sup>th</sup> Nov</b> |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| BSB 641800 A/C 200970545<br>Ref: Surname "Tas"           |                   |
| Deposit  | \$200 per person  |
| 31st March   | \$300 p/p         |
| 31st May   | \$1,000 p/p       |
| 31st July  | \$1,000 p/p       |
| 15th Sept  | \$1,450 p/p       |
| 15th Sep<br>(Single Supplement if applic)                | \$1,090           |
| Total (per person)                                       | \$3,950 / \$5,040 |

### Morning Tea Roster

|  |                                |                               |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> May  | Janet Capener<br>0434414506    | Marina Beaumont<br>0459261001 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> June (Biggest Morning Tea so we need extra people) | Sandra Hankin<br>0439048050    | Jo le Cheminant<br>0416042434 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> July   | Andrea Ward                    | Marianne Ward                 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> August   | Fran Bosly-Craft<br>0427003561 | Lynn Adlard<br>0466 980376    |

### Trivia Night at the Bundanoon Club

Tentatively booked for Saturday 12th August. Lets go Italian – food and dress at least!