

## BHG 2022 Annual Report

I present to you my first report as President of the Bundanoon History Group.

Looking back on 2022 I was exhausted just recalling the extent of the pursuits undertaken by the BHG. It is wonderful to see our group achieve so much in one year. The membership is growing, as are the archives and the opportunities to meet socially outside of meetings. We have also worked to raise necessary funds to complete a variety of projects, with the support of the Bundanoon community. Two new signs were added to the Heritage Trail for the Tennis Club and The Bundanoon Hotel and work began on the refurbishment of the Old Goods Shed.

**FEBRUARY** To begin the year, Omicron reared its ugly head, and it was decided to revert to a Zoom meeting to protect our members and the relentless rain began to fall. Beryl Seckington provided us with a video titled 'Gems from the Archives' for this meeting.

**MARCH** The Annual General Meeting, held in The Soldiers' Memorial Hall, began with David Brennen presenting his final report as president of the BHG. Thankfully he agreed to stay on the committee for another year. In no way did David slow down in his pursuit of enhancing the role of our group in the wider community. In fact, he stepped into the role of coordinating a visit by the National Trust to Bundanoon.

Joy Brown spoke to us about the Black Madonna in preparation for a visit to the Pauline Monastery on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. where there was a replica of an Icon said to have been painted by St Luke the Evangelist. The original Black Madonna having been held by the Pauline Fathers since 1382 in their Mother House in Poland.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> of March saw a group of sixty members of the National Trust visiting Bundanoon for the day. David and his team led them along our Heritage trail with the addition of special presentations by our members at significant buildings.

**APRIL** Well, unfortunately, it had to happen! April meeting was back to Zoom. Brigadoon was cancelled, but Bud Townsing stepped up to present to our meeting the story behind some glass slides from 1891 he had acquired.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> a group of hardy travellers left for Norfolk Island and enjoyed a week of great company and significant Australian History.

On the 25<sup>th</sup>, Neil Wright laid a wreath on behalf of the BHG at the ANZAC ceremony.

**MAY** Saw us back in the Hall with Chris Thompson speaking about 'Life in Berrima-200 Years Ago'. This was followed by a visit to the Berrima Story Centre for the special exhibition "Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands Then and Now'. This exhibition contained lots of Bundanoon Content and member contributions.

**JUNE** began with a celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer research. Neil and Ralph coordinated a display of Royal memorabilia-there was even a golden teapot. We were treated to early footage of the Queen and Bundanoon and David Brennen announced the formation of the OGS Committee. Two days later, a busload of members travelled to Yass for the day to explore two of Hamilton Hume's Properties finishing with the usual afternoon drinks and nibbles in a park at Gunning before heading home.

**JULY** saw Marie Pender, an ex-Bundanoon Hairdresser, share stories of her time working in the community. David Brennen shared the final edit of the 2020 Bundanoon Bush Fire Project.

In **AUGUST** there was a slight change in our meeting format with the beginning of members talks about their family history, with Alison Trotter being the volunteer for the first presentation. Not forgetting the presentation by Bud Townsing on the History of the Pill Factory that followed and then the visit to the Pill Factory for a sumptuous High Tea for members who were greeted and served by waiters in black Tails. As it poured rain outside, inside was warm and welcoming and the food was exceptional.

**SEPTEMBER** was Father's Day month and the drawing of the raffle. Over the previous months, Noeline had led a team of volunteers to assemble and sell tickets to raise much needed funds for the renovations in the OGS with a very successful outcome. Christine Cassin spoke to us about her family members and Andy Carnahan delivered a thought-provoking presentation on The History of Information Management. Three days after our meeting, the world heard the news that Queen Elizabeth the Second had passed away thus ending her long reign. Early that morning a lone piper played a Lament near the war memorial under the Australian flag as the mist rolled in.

**OCTOBER** Christine Janssen was our next member to speak about her family history centred in the Hawkesbury area of NSW and another of our members, Geoff McCubbin, presented The History of Methodism. June was beckoning and Ralph and his team led another three-day excursion to discover the history of this area. Then we were off fundraising again at the Bundanoon Club knowing that fundraising always makes for a happy treasurer.

**NOVEMBER** saw our final meeting for the year with John Vaughn, Vexicologist, not only speaking about the history and design of flags but also showing us a colourful array of flags, some he designed himself.

**December** To put a final stamp on our year, we celebrated Christmas in style at the Carriage Club. The Christmas Feast was organised by the Lions Club, where we raffled two of Bud Townsing's photographic books and a ham or two. Then Christmas Trivia was thrown in for a laugh and a good time was had by all.

I have only spoken briefly about the comings and goings of the BHG. There would hardly be a week where a smaller group of members would be meeting casually or formally in order to ensure the smooth running of our club. This involves lots of extra people with new ideas, many cups of tea and coffee and of course, cake...sometimes even a glass of wine.

Members have cleaned, sorted, built, painted, scanned, preserved, recorded, researched, written, travelled and enjoyed the good company of others with the ongoing support of the committee members and other team leaders.

To everyone, I say Thank you! 2023 is shaping up to be another phenomenal year for the Bundanoon History Group and I anticipate the continued and generous support of you the members.

I ask, "That the 2022 President's report be adopted".