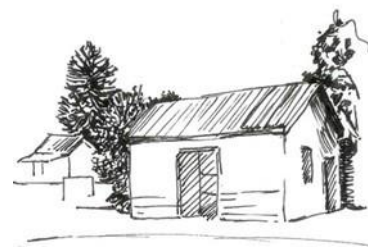


Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter

September 2023



Guest Editor – David Brennen

From the President

It is hard to believe that we are already preparing the September newsletter. Recently, on a warm spring day, a group of BHG members assembled on Bundanoon Railway Station to catch the 9:06 train to Goulburn. The conductor was quite surprised to see such a large group hopping on the train and asked what we had planned for the day. The same conductor excitedly asked us how our day had gone. You can read an account of our excursion in this newsletter.

As part of the day included a visit to the library, I encourage you to use these wonderful resources, especially for all types of research. Take time to explore what the [library holds and other external links](#).

I encourage you to think about contributing to our monthly Newsletter. If you have an interesting article or a family story, send it to the History Group (Secretary Steve: historygroupbundanoon@gmail.com) in Word Format. All contributions are gratefully received.

Another significant event took place recently when The Lion's Club, The BCA and The BHG gathered in The Memorial Hall to say 'Thank you' to Pam Davies and Ralph Clark for their contributions to the Bundanoon community over many years. With drinks and nibbles and gifts and lots of speeches and the presentation of a beautiful Wooden key to

Bundanoon (carved by Cameron Reid of the Reid Brothers) so that they were always welcome to return.

Amy



From the Guest Editor

A couple of months ago Amy brought to your attention the free RAHS monthly Newsletter. There is also one other Newsletter I can recommend, issued by the History Council of NSW. Again, it's a monthly with many varied articles and also free. The latest update has a wonderful quote:

"...History is inescapable. It studies the past and

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the legacies of the past in the present. Far from being a 'dead' subject, it connects things through time and encourages its student to take a long view of such connections... [History] is not just 'useful', it is essential".

- Penelope J. Corfield, Professor Emeritus,
University of London

And as we will soon be making Referendum history ourselves, I have included a statement in this Newsletter from the History Council of NSW on Advocacy and Recognition through a Voice (1).

Also in this Newsletter there is a fairly long extract from Trove on Bundanoon's early sawmills, with a fascinating insight into the area at that time.

We also have reports on the three major BHG social events in August including some great pictures from the Italian Ferragosto evening at the Bundanoon Club. Amy and Steve are to be especially congratulated in organising the Italian Trivial pursuit. Divertiti! (Enjoy!)

David Brennen

Statement from the History Council of NSW (HCNSW) :

“ Recognition through a Voice

The HCNSW embraces and advocates studying the past and telling its stories as foundational to our sense of belonging, to our communities, to our economic well-being and to our shared future. The HCNSW recognises the profound importance of the Referendum concerning an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. We acknowledge past injustices: that First Nations' lands were seized without treaty, that massacres occurred, that families were separated, and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were denied basic human rights. We recognise that, despite overt and structural

discrimination and extreme disadvantage, First Nations cultures remain strong and vital. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities hold deep knowledge about our shared history, about how to care for Country and for each other, and we will listen closely.

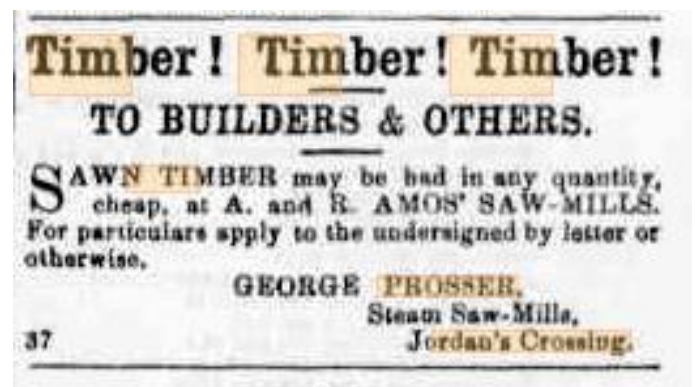
The HCNSW highlights truth-telling and the voices of Australia's First Peoples as a critical element of the Value of History.

The General Council of the HCNSW supports the Voice to Parliament to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution and encourages members, and all those who value learning from the past, to do so as well.”

David Brennen

A & R Amos Sawmills – an extract from Trove

Bundanoon really “took off” after the arrival of the Railway at Jordans Crossing in 1868, with the local timber and coal industries playing a significant role in its early development.



Newspaper Ad in Goulburn Herald and Chronicle, 14 Nov 1877

As always, there is much to be uncovered within Trove chronicling these early colonial times. I discovered the following article, which I found very interesting describing a visit in Feb 1877 by a Goulburn correspondent to the Amos Sawmills in Bundanoon. The visit happened eleven years after the Railway had arrived at Jordans Crossing and

¹ History Council of NSW, August 2023 Newsletter

work was still ongoing extending the line to Wagga Wagga, and eventually beyond to the Victorian border.

A vast amount of timber for railway sleepers, bridges, buildings and fencing was always in high demand at the time, and Bundanoon, was well placed to supply them.

This particular article is about the two Amos mills (2). The Tooth family also operated sawmills in the area around that time.

“Messrs. A. and R. Amos' (Railway Contractors) Timber Works, near Jordan's Crossing. (Goulburn Southern Argus cor.)

As the railway extension towards the Victorian border is progressing, it may not be out of place to give my renders an account of a brief visit I made lately to Messrs. Amos' sawmills at Amos' Siding, about two miles on the Sydney side of Jordan's Crossing, and forty miles distant from Goulburn. Messrs. Amos are the contractors for the extension of the line to Wagga Wagga and will have probably completed their work as far as Murrumburrah by the end of this month, and the time specified for the whole contract to be finished to Wagga Wagga is in December of this year. There will then remain only a span of about eighty miles to Albury—that is, if the line goes direct there.

The saw-mills and works which I am about to describe are situated on one of the spurs of the range dividing the waters of the Shoalhaven and Wollondilly Rivers, at a height of about 2000 feet above the sea level. The property is in Messrs. Osborne and Morrice's bush, the Messrs. Amos having purchased the right to the timber for three years for a large sum, one year of which has lately expired. The mills, one half a mile apart from the other, are built on the top of a thickly timbered hill, while around it for miles the country is nothing but dense forests of huge trees. The average length of some of these trees is about seventy feet. I saw twelve eight feet logs, and two sixteen feet logs, cut from splendid box trees. A few

first published in the Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW : 1843 - 1893), Saturday 17 February 1877, page 4.

hundred yards from the mill is a scene almost tropical, a dense scrub containing splendid sassafras, beech, musk, cedar, and lily-pilly trees. Most of these woods are used by cabinet-makers, the sassafras being a soft and yellow coloured wood, whilst its bark is well known as an excellent tonic. The lily-pilly is used for furniture, in imitation of bird's-eye maple. Along the edge of this scrub, which is filled with tree ferns, some growing to the height of ten or twelve feet, and vines and climbers of numerous kinds, there runs a creek of never-fail-ing clear and cool water. A thought came across me, when viewing this beautiful scrub with its shady and natural bowers, and the bright green foliage with the placid stream of water flowing through it, and the sweet scent of the musk-bush filling the air, that the place would make an excellent resort for excursionists or holiday folks from Goulburn; for a more pleasant place for a picnic and its accompanying amusements I have not seen between Mittagong and Goulburn. And again, after leaving the scrub, and mounting a hill not far distant, a landscape unsurpassed for grandeur in this district meets the eye. The scene before you is one of wild beauty, and of great extent—it is called the Bundanoon Gorge. Range upon range, thickly timbered, now and then abruptly terminating in huge perpendicular rocks some hundreds of feet in height, with deep gullies and ravines, make up a picture that would well repay the time and trouble of the traveller. I was in-formed that from a certain part of this property the dim outline of Jervis Bay Heads can be seen. But to return to the works. The mill close to the railway line is one of Hoffman's patents, driven by two 16 horsepower engines, "breaking down" with a six feet circular saw that is used to make the first out in the logs, which are afterwards taken to smaller saws in the saw-mill. Attached to this mill there is also an adzing machine for " slotting" sleepers. This machine can, with ease, prepare and make ready sleepers to be laid on the line-as many as 100 per hour. As soon as they come off the machine they are loaded in trucks and despatched at once to their destination. 600 sleepers are the average number daily sent away from the works. The timber used for these sleepers is box and stringy bark, of the very best quality obtainable, and the average cutting by saw is about 15,000 superficial feet daily—an amount which cannot be equalled, I am informed, by any other mill in the colony. A tram-road of about half-a-mile in length leads to another mill, which is worked by a vertical " breaking down" saw, and two small circulars, driven by one engine of eighteen horsepower, and is used for cutting sleepers.

Besides the timber sawn for railway purposes, the first mill mentioned turns out boards, battens, scant lings, &c, of all lengths and sizes, and are sold to any of the public requiring such materials and are duly advertised in our local papers. The number of hands employed at these works is about 100, 60 of whom work in and about the mills, at a wage of from 7s 6d to 12s a day each. The 40 others are engaged in the bush splitting and making hewn sleepers, girders, piles, and posts and rails; and are paid by contract. 11 drays and 110 bullocks, and 5 horse-drays and 25 horses, are engaged drawing logs from the bush to the mills.

The management of the sawmills is under the supervision of Mr. J. Bradley, an able engineer, of much experience in mill-sawing. Mr. George Prosser is the general outside manager of all timber, besides superintending the loading of trucks, letting of contracts, &c. This last-named gentleman was with Mr. D. Williams (contractor of the extension from Goulburn to Yass) the whole of the time the Yass extension was under construction Mr. J. B. Hayes is clerk of the works. Besides the mill premises and cottages for the officials, there are about forty huts, which have been built by the workmen as residences for themselves, the timber for their construction being given to them without cost. In fact, there is quite a little township at Amos's Siding, and I would advise anyone wishing for a pleasure-trip to give the place a visit, and I feel sure no disappointment will be experienced.

Before concluding this brief sketch, I would take this opportunity of thanking Mr. George Prosser, the general out-door manager, for the kindness and hospitality shown me by him on the occasion of my visiting these works. E. C. A."

David Brennen

A Cheerio to Pam Davies and Ralph Clark



Amy has already mentioned the Bundanoon turnout of friends in the Memorial Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 6 August to say farewell to Pam and Ralph.

To many of us, Pam and Ralph were an integral part of the social fabric of Bundanoon community life as well as being major forces within the Bundanoon History Group. And then, in a whirlwind they were gone – moving back to Sydney and on to the next chapter in their lives.

We will all miss them and wish them a long and happy retirement, hoping they will return many times with their key. There will always be plenty of welcoming doors open in Bundanoon to receive them.

David Brennen

Celebrating Ferragosto with a Quiz Night



Our major fundraising effort for this half year was our second quiz night at The Bundanoon Club. When I was mentioning to the Club's chef, Anthony Pellegrino a few months ago that we wanted to hold another quiz night, this time in August, he suggested we hold it at the time of the [Italian festival Ferragosto](#), which is celebrated on the 15th of August each year.

And so it was that we picked the closest Saturday to the 15th of August. Our second History Group Quiz Night was held with an Italian theme. The night was a sellout, the crowd being made up of both history group members and non-members.

It was fantastic how everyone got into the spirit of the evening and either dressed up themselves or dressed up their table in an Italian theme. The quiz itself consisted of almost exclusively Italian



questions. Congratulations to the winners – Table 8 “La Dolce Vita”. The prize for the best dressed went to Noelene Thurston dressed as an Italian cook, her

costume made by Jo Le Cheminant, herself dressed as an authentic Nonna. An honourable mention to David Le Cheminant dressed as a mafioso. Roz and Jan also entered the spirit of things, coming as two gondoliers, though I don't think I'd like to have been in their gondola as they were using croquet mallets as poles! Congratulations to Alison Trotter who won the lucky door prize of Italian produce (straight from aisle 3 in the Reject Shop). Strangely Alison was less than impressed about the “Super Gummy Pizza” she won in the first round of multiple choice.

Lots of red, white and green. Anthony Pellegrino gave us a sumptuous Italian themed supper, Italian music strummed in the background and mood lighting provided by Dean from the Club. The night was complete with a penalty shootout from the Matilda's triumph over France. After costs we cleared about \$470 on the night – thanks to everyone who attended.

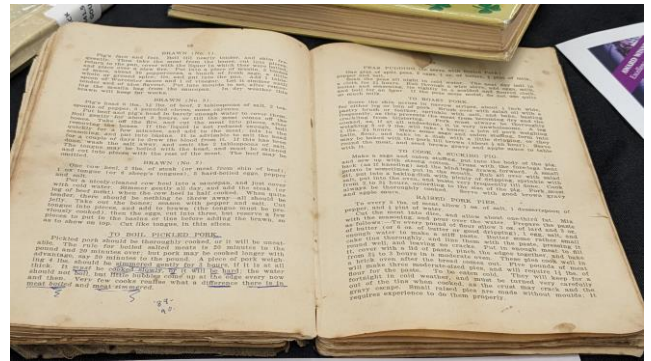
Steve Press

Our Trip to Goulburn

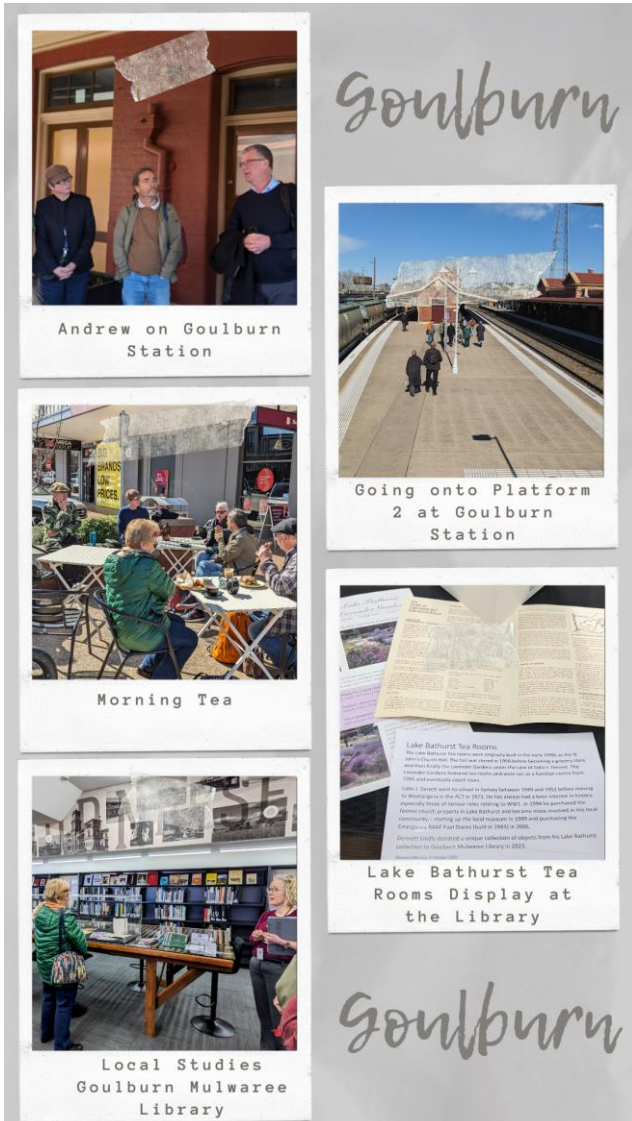
During the month an intrepid group of history members embarked on an early morning trip to Goulburn. We all met on Bundanoon Station about 9am to catch the *Canberra Train* and alighted at Goulburn, where we were met by Andrew Killingsworth from the NSW Government's Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE). Andrew, who is a History Group member, arranged access for our group to the refreshment rooms on both Goulburn's platforms. The rooms are no longer used but are maintained by TAHE as heritage buildings.

After visiting the station, it was time for morning tea, a walk across Belmore Park up to the Harvest Café on Auburn St. Andy Carnahan then took us on heritage walk up through the Goulburn shopping centre ending up in the Local Studies section of the Goulburn-Mulwaree Library, where the local studies officer – Fran O'Flynn gave us a talk on the resources available in the library, many of which are [available on line](#).

The Library holds a large collection of Goulburn and surrounds historical artefacts and memorabilia. We were particularly interested in a recent addition to the historical records of “The Lake Bathurst Tea Rooms”.



The Goulburn Cookbook



We were also shown a copy of The [“Goulburn Cookbook”](#) written by Mrs Forster Rutledge of Bungendore in 1899 and an original copy which has been donated to the Library. The cookery book is shown in the picture below and can be accessed digitally.

Steve Press

Garden History in Bundanoon – A New Exhibition In The Old Goods Shed

As part of the reinvigoration of The Old Goods Shed, we are looking to have a new exhibition in the OGS at least every six months. The current exhibition with items from the guesthouses will be replaced towards the end of October with a new exhibition celebrating gardening and garden history in Bundanoon. We hope to have the exhibition in place to coincide with the Garden Ramble (28 and 29 October).

We are very keen to hear from anyone who would be prepared to lend historical garden memorabilia for the exhibition. The exhibition will have two themes, but we are happy to consider any garden history items –

1. ***“The Berrima Bridge Nursery and the impact it had on Southern Highlands Gardens”*** Claude and Isobel Crowe, celebrated horticulturists began Berrima Bridge Nurseries in 1943 and operated it for more than 50 years, building, in particular, a state-wide reputation for growing and retailing cold climate trees and shrubs. We are keen to discover what connections there might be for gardeners in Bundanoon and the Berrima Bridge Nurseries– no matter how tenuous!

“Bundanoon’s Town Gardens”- (Nancy Kingsbury Park and The Garden of Memories -including the Remembrance Garden). Maybe some of our members have items in relation to the town gardens or have information/memories about working in the gardens, how they came about?

If anyone has any items, photographs or even memories on our two themes or even something unrelated but important to gardening in Bundanoon, please get in touch with Steve Press, the Secretary of the Bundanoon History Group at historygroupbundanoon@gmail.com or phone 0455 155 897

Steve Press

ARCHIVES GROUP REPORT

MOVIES Beryl has:

Started making a movie with historic photos of Bundanoon. This will be played on the television in the OGS during open days.

Completed an article and short movie about Bundanoon School and added it to the BHG website as the featured video for August.

ORAL HISTORY Beryl also has:

Received Marianne Ward’s oral history recording with Lois Saunders, with notes. This has been archived and two sets of CDs of the recordings were created.

Received recording of Ralph Clark’s farewell talk and archived the file.

Archived recordings given at BHG general meetings by Marianne Ward and David Brown.

Met with Marianne Ward and Jim Rooney to plan an oral history morning tea for November.

PUBLIC ENQUIRIES Beryl:

Received a request from Dr Harry Blutstein,

University of Melbourne, for a transcript of the Barbara Eckersley Bushfire interview. He is writing a book about Barbara.

Request from Catherine Travis, ANU, for OH recordings for a research project. Provided access to the bushfire recordings and am working with Marianne and Catherine to provide suitable recordings of other OH interviews.

Received an enquiry about German internees during the Second World War. There is no record of them in Bundanoon.

Received a query asking when ‘Tree Tops’ guest house became flats. The Guest House book and archives state that Tree Tops guest house was originally known as ‘Gemona’ and was run as a guest house from about 1925 until the late 1940s. In 1947 it was advertised as ‘Gemona Flats’. The name was changed to ‘Tree Tops’ in 1948 and a succession of owners operated the premises as flats. By the 1980s its use as a guest house was reinstated.

HERITAGE MATTERS

Carol has spoken with Sarah Farnese, Council’s Heritage Planner, about the stone gateways and bridge at ‘Spring Hill’ property. She also mentioned that we do not have any evidence of Italian POWs during the Second World War working there, including building stone structures. Carol sent Sarah some photos of the stone gateways and bridge as they are today.

Noted that Sarah advised that there will be further opportunities for comments and information to be added to the proposed listings for the Heritage Planning Proposal when it goes out for exhibition. BHG will be advised of this by letter from Council; they expect this will happen in October this year.

Drafted a letter for Council to send out to owners/renters in the Bundanoon Heritage Conservation Area, advising of what it means to own or rent a property in the Conservation Area. This was a BCA (Planning Committee) initiative and Andy Carnahan will manage the process with Council.

PHOTOS

Carol's husband Paul has scanned in all the photographs from Sandra Hankin pertaining to Mildenhall Guest House and the Riding School established in 1937 by the Mildenhalls. Certain newspaper articles were also scanned.

STORAGE

I did some housekeeping in the OGS, rationalising some non-collections therein and moving them to the UP platform shed. This has freed up shelf-space in the OGS, which has been promptly filled up with other stuff.

ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION

I am in the process of adding some sixty-five new items to the collection.

Beryl received some photos taken at an oral history interview with Kathleen Smith. These have been archived.

Ian Smith, Convenor, Archives Group

COMING EVENTS!**4 Sep – 10 am Members Meeting in Soldiers' Memorial Hall**

On Monday next we welcome guest speaker Margaret Stuart who will talk about the *Throsby Family History in the Area*. Margaret is a great great granddaughter of Charles and Betsy Throsby who built Throsby Park at Moss Vale.

2 Oct – 10 am Members' Meeting in Soldiers' Memorial Hall

A focus on the history of two local shops. Kate Perkins will talk about Her's and husband Des's time running the Bundanoon Pharmacy.

Christine Smith will talk about the history of The Good Yarn.

25 Oct – 7 November Members' trip to Tasmania.**13 Nov – 10.30 am Members' Meeting in Soldiers' Memorial Hall**

Note that because of the Tasmania trip, the date of our November Meeting has been moved from the first Monday in November to the following Monday at 10.30am.

TAHE Manager and BHG Member, Andrew Killingsworth will be our Guest speaker. Andrew will talk about exciting new developments between TAHE, Freeman Ryan Design, the BHG and BCA plus the Bundanoon community, regarding plans for our heritage listed Railway Station complex, which includes the Old Goods Shed.

22 Nov Oral History Morning Tea – 10 am

Marianne Ward will introduce extracts from a number of recordings of Bundanoon residents held in our oral history archives.

**ORAL HISTORY
MORNING TEA****SAVE THE DATE**

A SPECIAL ORAL HISTORY MORNING TEA
10AM TO 12 NOON
IN
THE AUDITORIUM
OF THE BUNDANOON CLUB