

Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter

October 2023



Guest Editor: David le Cheminant

From the President

The history of Bundanoon's gardens is well documented and the beginning of Spring showcases yet another year of 'rambling' through a small selection.

In recognition of this wonderful event conducted annually by the BCA and supported by the Garden Club, the Bundanoon History Group will have a special display in the Old Goods Shed.

With assistance from Bud Townsing and his Graphoscopes, you will be able to view early images of gardens in Bundanoon accompanied by their stories, view a selection of footage on the big screen collated by Beryl, special gardening catalogues and implements on loan from BHG members and much more.

Over the next few weeks, a small team will be working on this display. The OGS will then be open for visits on the Ramble weekend.

David Brennen will have a roster to fill for this special opening and would appreciate as much help as possible.

Manning any of the stalls during the Ramble weekend is a marvelous way to meet people and help them to enjoy the wonders of living in a village in the Southern Highlands.

Archives Group Report September 2023 – Ian Smith

Public Enquiries

- We received an inquiry to from the new owners of 'Estoril' (17-19 Panorama Road) for information about this property. Information that Carol has previously researched will be sent to her.
- Beryl received an old photo of railway gatehouse and an enquiry about when it was demolished. Beryl's research revealed that the image was of somewhere other than Bundanoon.
- Some months ago, I wrote a newsletter article about Alrema and Niya Becke. Beryl passed on to me a request from Dr Chrystopher Spicer, James Cook University, QLD, to see if there are photographs of the graves of the Becke sisters. Dr. Spicer is also the co-founder of the Louis Becke Society (Louis being Alrema and Niya's father). I replied that I would attempt to track down the graves and take photos for him.

Heritage Matters

- The Art Deco house, 'Fairways' (10 Hill Street) is for sale. Carol is assessing if the property has any heritage significance; if it does then it may be worth adding it to Council's Community Heritage Study.

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

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

Webmaster: Robert Seckington

Website: www.bundanoonhistory.org.au

BHG Bank details: BSB: 641 800 Account: 017104781 Ref: (your name & purpose.)

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

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Movies

- Beryl completed her movie based on historic photos of Bundanoon. It is intended to be played on in the OGS during open days.

Collection Databases

- Beryl updated the archive database with the additions for August.

OGS Displays

- Beryl conducted research on Bundanoon gardens for the new OGS display about gardening in Bundanoon.

Heritage Trail Signage

- BHG receiving a grant [editor: \$700] to fund a heritage sign for the Bundanoon School; Beryl will be creating its design.

Oral History

- Beryl, Marianne and Jim Rooney met and commenced selecting recordings for a forthcoming Oral History morning tea (on 22 November). Beryl also designed a poster for the morning tea; this is now on the 'What's On' page of the BHG website.
- Beryl and Marianne met with Professor Catherine Travis, ANU, to discuss her request for oral history her project examining language, life and community in regional Australia. Beryl and Marianne will provide her with a selection of some of the early oral history recordings.

BHG Website

- Beryl updated the BHG website to correct information about OGS opening times. She also amended the Image Order form and the Publications Order form and

removed Ralph Clark's old contact details from the publications page.

Newsletter

- I researched and wrote an article about how Bundanoon got electricity.

Collection

- At present I will be adding 12 new items to the archival collections. I expect there will be more by the end of the month.

Ian Smith Convenor, BHG Archives Group

Steven Press – Notes from a trip to Tasmania

Hoddles Crossing – ever wondered where the name of the junction of the Hume Highway and the Illawarra Highway came from? The junction gives its name to the surrounding locality as well. Its named after Robert Hoddle (1794-1881) and on a recent trip to the State Library of Victoria I was pleased to find a portrait of Robert Hoddle on display.



Robert Hoddle was a surveyor who did his most important work in Victoria which is why his portrait hangs in the Victorian State Library. He surveyed and planned many

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Victorian towns including Geelong. Locally in our area he surveyed and planned both Berrima and Goulburn, which is why he has a crossroads named after him.



We visited the Victorian State Library to do some family history research but the library building is well worth a visit just to see it. It is



part art gallery and museum as well as a library. The library has Ned Kelly's armour on display, together with a copy of Kelly's Jerilderie Letter.

Steve Press

A Wild Collective of Useless Information - and Other Stuff

David le Cheminant

I'm afraid that today's ramblings have taken a decided mechanical bent. However I will offer the following image and an explanation later!



Graphoscope

Bet you looked at the President's report and wondered what a *Graphoscope* was! I had an idea, but I just had to dig around to find out as I would hate to front up to Bud (or the shed during the ramble) and not know!

Goggle gave me a few different images of the device. Some with and some without the two lenses at the bottom.



As you can see the image is mounted on the holder and then slid back and forward to get the image in focus of the large lens. This is a graphoscope (images in these days were small so this gave you the ability to enlarge the image to a decent size.)

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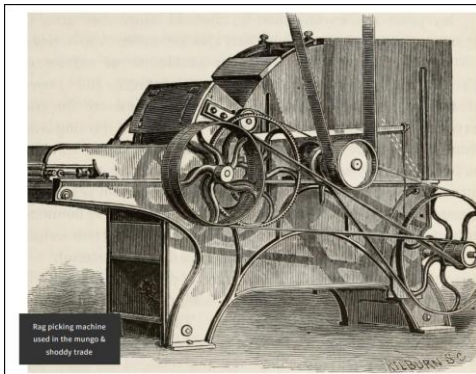
It was also possible to get stereoscopic postcards



These were taken by two cameras mounted approximately 6 foot or so apart and then printed side by side. By using the two smaller lenses on the bottom of the apparatus with these postcards you looked at slightly different images with each eye – and fooled your brain into seeing a 3D image from your *stereoscope*.
single picture – graphoscope,
dual image - stereoscope.

The true meaning of “Shoddy”

The term shoddy is used today to mean that something is not really the best quality work – to call something shoddy is to say that for example a DIY with no skills attempted the task at hand in blind faith.



But the story of shoddy trade is actually that of early recycling. During the Napoleonic wars in the 19th Century trade sanctions restricted the wool imports into England at a time when a lot of fabric was needed for uniforms etc.

In 1813 Benjamin Law of West Yorkshire ground up woolen waste and tailors offcuts using a rag machine. This was then mixed with some raw fleece to create a new

upcycled cloth called ‘shoddy’. So shoddy really is a type of cloth!

The rag ripper was a machine not to fall into!

Knitting Machines

What a labour saving device it was The first knitting machine was invented by a clergyman -William Lee in 1589. There are conflicting reports on why he invented it – but the strongest seems to be money! His first machine had 8 needles pe inch, but was refused a patent by Queen Elizabeth I. Even when upgraded to 20 needles per inch and able to knit fine silk stockings it was blocked, in part to protect the livelihood of her subjects.

This original machine was like a loom and used barbed needles and has evolved into the modern flat bed knitting machine.

In 1759 a patent was granted to Jedediah Strutt who developed a ribber attachment, allowing rib and garter stich fabric



Marc Brunel designed the first circular knitting machine in 1816 and created tubes of fabric. This gained popularity in WWI when thousands of socks were needed for soldiers.

Even today circular knitting machines are used to make medical stockings and socks!

Pins and Needles (Bit of a theme here)

Pins were expensive, and you could not afford to lose them. It is potentially because of this that they appear in many common sayings – “see a pin, pick it up , all the day you’ll have

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good luck. See a pin and let lie bad luck you'll have all day" as well as in everyday expressions such as to get a camel through the eye of a needle, sharp as a needle, on pins and needles. Pin back your ears, pin them down, pin up. In fact they were frequently left in will to their descendants.

Pins were originally wood thorns or slivers of bone from neolithic times, with the Sumerians making iron pins at least 5,000 yrs ago and Egyptians had decorated bronze pins to secure clothing. Needles had an even older heritage, with some of the earlier versions having a split in them to hold the thread before an eye was formed instead.

By the 14th Century the demand for pins was so high in England that a law was passed banning their sale except for two days in January. The cottage industry of pin making was replaced eventually by factories (first factory opened in 1620s by John Tilsby in Stroud) with Birmingham becoming the centre in the 1800's. (hundreds of pins were needed to hold together a pleated frill or ruff.

Drawn wire eventually became the staple for needles from the middle ages, with Germany being the main producer. Flemish refugees set up needle making centres near London Bridge and Whitechapel, However the original guild set up such conditions that needle making in Britain moved to the Midlands. The essentially cottage industry amalgamated into approx. 00 companies based around Redditch, supplying about 90% of the worlds hand sewing needles. These companies diversified into all types of needles and hooks including fishing hooks, sewing needles, safety pins, hair pins etc.

The industry has been replaced by imported goods from India and the far East. While of lower quality the yare much cheaper. One company still survives in the Midlands, as does the worshipful company of needle makers.

Raffle – Yes a Christmas Raffle



Recently members Roz Fidge and Jan Shier donated their collection of silks to the Bundanoon History Group.

This collection was acquired over many trips to Southeast Asia and Japan. One of these scarves will be raffled and drawn at our Christmas Party on Tuesday 5th December.

The scarf is a Gallery piece, of pure silk, hand woven in a Lao Traditional design, and dyed using natural dyes. The colours and design are muted and are suitable for use by a man or woman. There is also a mystery second prize.

Tickets will be on sale at our meetings on Monday 2nd October, delayed meeting 13th November and before the draw at the Christmas Party.

Price \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Cash or Card.



What's in a Drawing?

Bet it didn't take too many of you too long to work out who that line drawing was somehow related to me.

Well as a family we may be poor breeders but we have strong genes as that is a line drawing of my grandfather about 1945.

The shame for me is he has more hair than me – my verandah is even thinner than my

fathers! Let us just say that if dad caught up to me at work, they already knew who he was visiting before he asked for me!

And as for my grandfather – ex Bristol, exported during WW2 and went from turning steam engine wheels to developing airplanes. But that's another story for another day!



WINE and ROSES

Harper's Mansion
4pm – 7pm
Friday 10 November 2023

You are invited to join us on the evening of Friday 10th November from 4pm to 7pm for our **'Wine and Roses' Open Garden Event**, at Harper's Mansion, 9 Wilkinson Street, Berrima.

Visitors will be able to wander through our collection of over 100 heritage roses, which will be in full bloom, while enjoying the produce of some of our best local wineries.

Entertainment includes "Persephone - The Goddess of Spring," a short play, performed by The Melting Pot Theatre (6:30pm)

Entry \$10.00
(Wine and food available for purchase separately)
No bookings necessary

Proceeds from the event will go to Challenge Southern Highlands, supporting people with disabilities in our community, and to our Regional Heritage Rose Group, for the conservation of old roses.

Contact Peter Rezek for more information
P. 0413 153 650



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For your Diary

25th October – 9am

Tasmanian Tour starts with Bus leaving the Old Goods Shed 9am sharp.

26th October - 9:35am

Second pick up at Lions Park Bowral.

7th November 8pm

Tasmanian tour group returns to the old goods shed!

10th November - 4-7pm

Wine and Roses at the Harper's Mansion. 9 Wilkinson St, Berima (see flyer)

Entry \$10. Able to wander through the garden and look at the heritage rose collection (includes "Persephone – The Goddess of Spring" by the Melting Pt Theatre at 6:30pm)

13th November - 10:30am (2nd Monday of the month)

History Group Meeting – Bundanoon Memorial Hall. (delayed 1 week as Tasmanian tour away on first Monday)

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.

22nd November - 10am

Oral History Morning Tea -10am

Auditorium Bundanoon Club

Marianne Ward will introduce extracts from a number of recordings of Bundanoon residents held in our oral history archives. Discussion on how, when and why.

5th December - 12MD (Tuesday NOT Monday)

Christmas party at the Southern Highlands Carraige Club!

Ps 2024 memberships due end November / December .