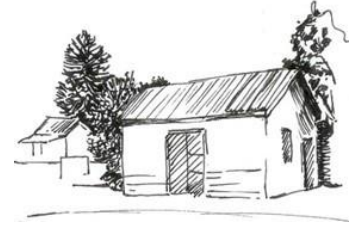


Bundanoon History Group

Monthly Newsletter



February 2024

Guest Editor: Jo le Cheminant

From the President

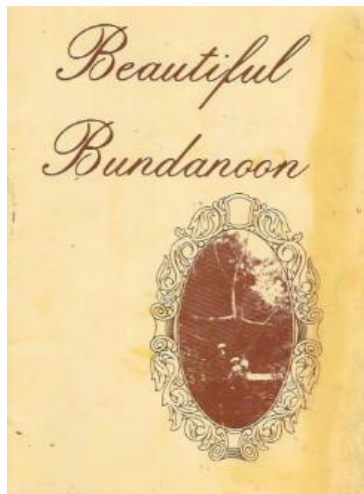
As we begin 2024, it is fitting to note that this year The Bundanoon History Group is 40 years old. There will be celebrations and information will be forwarded to members when it is finalised.

Each newsletter will include a snippet from the first 15 years when the foundations were laid.

Three significant events before 1984 paved the way for Norma Edmonds and Lucy Rocca to establish the 'Bundanoon Research & Preservation Group inc:1984'

This name was kept until 1988.

1. In 1960 Berrima District Historical Society was founded
2. In 1964 Berrima District Post published a series of articles by Les Grice on Bundanoon History
3. In 1980 Bundanoon resident Dulcie Shannon published 'Beautiful Bundanoon'



On the 28th of March 1984 Lucy Rocca convened a meeting to form a society for the collection and preservation of the history of Bundanoon. They met on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Community Health Centre. The First President was Mary Condon.

From this humble beginning we now have extensive archives and around 150 members.

At our first meeting for 2024 on Monday 5th February in The Soldiers Memorial Hall, our guest speaker will be Andrew Killingworth. He will be sharing with us a new plan to allow the Bundanoon Community access to the Historical Railway Precinct. This is very exciting news!

I also ask that you seriously consider joining the BHG Committee for 2024. Nominations for all positions are now open and elections will take place at the March AGM. You may also know someone who could be nominated for a position.

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

New BHG Bank details: BSB: 633 000 Account: 209647668 Ref: (your name or reference)

Website: www.bundanoonhistory.org.au

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

Please don't hesitate to contact us with their names. They will thank you for nominating them!

We also need a Travel Group Convenor and people to add their names to rosters for The Old Goods Shed and The Morning Tea roster. We need You!

Thanks To The Social Committee



Our Social Committee also needs to be commended for the gathering at Gambell's Rest in the National Park. On Tuesday 30th January at 4pm approximately forty people gathered for drinks and nibbles followed by a sausage sizzle. The weather was perfect and the company even better.

Amy

Archives Group Report

By Ian Smith, Archives Group
Convenor

December 2023 – January 2024

Heritage Signage

- Carol and I commented draft signage text for the Bundanoon heritage sign. Beryl reviewed the 'Armsign' artwork for the sign but returned it for amendment as it was different to the design she provided.

Collection and Subject Headings list and databases

- New Subject Headings have been created for Good Yarn, Real Estate – General, and Bundanoon Bushfire Brigade Auxiliary.
- I will be adding some sixty-five new items to the collection. These are mainly uncatalogued items discovered during a clean-up of the Shed late in 2023.
- Beryl has updated the Shed laptops with the latest Archive Database and Subject Headings files.

Public Enquiries

Beryl has:

- Supplied an Amos family photo (P01859) for the March edition of *JCG*
- Commenced researching an enquiry for information on James and Catherine Callaghan who arrived in Sydney in July 1853 with their 2yo daughter.
- Received a request from Pam Cooke for someone to talk about Erith Coal Mine to a group of volunteers from the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. Passed this to Steve Press.

Cloud Storage

- Beryl is processing an account setup received from Andy Carnahan for uploading archive files to Microsoft Cloud storage.

Exhibitions

- Beryl has received comments and a query about Bud Townsend's photographic equipment display in the Shed; this has been referred to Steve Press and Bud.

Donations

- Beryl has received a donation offer from Tathra and Denis Fletcher of a history of the cottage at 1 Ebury Street.
- Bronwyn Ellis donated a letter dated 1961 from Robert McLeod to Richard Oertel.

Oral histories

Beryl has:

- Received recordings of talks by Garry Barnsley, Kate Perkins, and Christine Smith. These have been converted and archived.
- Updated both oral history back-up drives.

Old Goods Shed

- Following a clean-up of the archives room in the Shed late last year, I have been making 'executive decisions' about various collection-related items therein.

Bundanoon History Group

By Ralph Clark

Some months ago, I produced a couple of articles for the newsletter about the early history of Bundanoon History Group. It was intended to be the first of a series leading through to the Group's 40th anniversary.

In late 1993 – early 1994: thirty years ago, Jill Francis was president and Ken Phillips secretary, it was a period of significant events.

Attendances ranged from eight to eleven; there would be three or four apologies. Meetings were held in what was then the Bundanoon Health Centre – the small cottage behind what is now the Bakery – *Laurisel* – and commenced at 7.30pm.

In July a special resolution was passed that the Group become Incorporated and adopt the Model Rules alongside the constitution. John Hartnett, of Garland Road, became the first Public Officer. Fittingly, the motion was moved by Norma Edmonds and seconded by Lucy Rocca, arguably our two most significant members over the past forty years.

The Group had been negotiating with the NSW Rail authorities over the lease of what we now know as The Old Goods Shed; a DA was submitted to Wingecarribee Shire Council. Local member, later Premier, John Fahey had been involved. It may be remembered that he was responsible for extending the network to include Exeter and Bundanoon instead of finishing at Moss Vale as is the case now,

The following month saw meetings held with WSC about a DA for the project. An invitation from BCDA (now

BCA) to be involved in a Tidy Towns entry was declined as members were involved with other organisations as well as BHG. The bank balance stood at \$8,615.39. Jill Francis and Lucy Rocca were to attend the annual RAHS conference, to be held at the Goulburn Police Academy.

In September Alec Cameron, who would later become BHG Archivist, was welcomed as a new member. WSC approved the DA and the NSW Rail Estate sent the lease for signature. The annual rent was \$100.

Local identity, and long-time BHG member, David Lidgard had offered to coordinate the renovation of the Shed; he intended to recruit some of the local builders for the task.

As Bundanoon Station was to be repainted it would be necessary for the revamped OGS to comply with the colour scheme. Local community groups were invited to suggest colour schemes. Norma Edmonds had been in discussion with Pam Davies, representing DCDA in this regard. After discussion among the eight members present it was agreed to put forward Brunswick Green for the roof Biscuit walls and Venetian Red trim, but this first had to be agreed to by WSC.

A letter was received stating that the 'Railway and Erith Street – Bundanoon Railway Station and Yard Group' had been classified by the National Trust.

Fred and Irene Angel joined the Group in November. The Council had been requested to extend the kerb in front of the OGS but the response was that no funds were available in the 1993 or 1994 budgets. Instead, concrete may

be made available if voluntary labour can be obtained to lay it.

Voluntary labour would also be needed for painting the OGS. The colour scheme had been approved, but SRA will only supply the paint for the Shed.

The last meeting for 1993 was told that Dave Lidgard had arranged for the RFS to clean out the OGS with a fire hose and that internal building work would start after Christmas. He thought that the \$2,000 Council grant would cover most of the cost.

David Lidgard was at the February 1994 meeting. The building had been cleaned and flooring had been ordered from Council and will be laid by Karl Burg and Bill Testing. James Peters and Carl Manning would soon commence the painting. A new door and window had been ordered. Wayne Todd had supplied and fitted new guttering and downpipes. Illawarra Electricity had been requested to supply power; Chris Bromfield would carry out the work with BHG paying for materials only. It was hoped that the building would be ready for Brigadoon.

It was agreed to revert to the original name: The Old Goods Shed, instead of The History Group Building as had previously been decided.

The March 14 AGM saw Jill Francis elected as President, Cora Frost VP, Ken Phillips Secretary, Lucy Rocca Treasurer and Norma Edmonds Archivist/Librarian. Enid O'Hara continued as Auditor and John Hartnett Public Officer.

To be continued.

Letters from Nancy Kingsbury's Sister – Jean Foskett

By Steve Press

Whilst researching items to put in the History Group's gardening exhibition, I came across two letters from Nancy Kingsbury's sister, Jean Foskett to members of the garden club commenting and supporting them in managing the memorial park to her sister Nancy Kingsbury.

The first letter dated 22 May 2022 was to Norma Waldon, the then President of the Bundanoon Garden Club. The brief letter was in support of the Garden Club taking on the maintenance of the Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park and it included a photo of Nancy (from 1955) and a small donation towards the parks upkeep.

The second letter dated 9th May 2003 was to Margaret Murty who had for many years tended the park. In it Nancy's sister Jean, writes that she had visited the park on her way from Sydney to Canberra. Jean was *"delighted to see how attractive everything looked."* Jean also notes in the letter *"I felt quite emotional when my husband suggested that my father probably never envisaged that the park would look so attractive so many years after Nancy's passing and how happy he would be."*



The letters show an address in Blakehurst where Nancy's sister lived and an internet search has disclosed that Jean Foskett was born on 31 May 1929, four years after Nancy. Jean died in 2020 and her husband died in 2011.

You can see the letters as part of our Garden History Exhibition on Now at The Old Goods Shed



Garden History Exhibition Opening



RSVP for catering purposes to Historygroupbundanoon@gmail.com

My Nana Mary Gertrude McGuren

By Josephine le Cheminant (nee McGuren)

My paternal grandmother was born Mary Gertrude Hutchby in October 1886, in Nottingham U. K. She left England with her father Herbert Hutchby, mother Mary Gertrude (nee Booth) and her sisters Beatrice, Maud and Eva. They arrived on the ship Ortona in 1908.

Nana Married Herbert William McGuren in 1909, and quickly settled into motherhood bearing Uncle Frank (FW) later that year and Uncle Fred (AF) in 1911. Grandfather McGuren trained as an Articled Clerk in his cousin's Solicitor's office but did not continue in legal work. He retrained and became a Health Inspector, employed by South Grafton Council for many years until his death.

I don't know any more details of Nana's life until she delivered twins in 1920, at age 34. One of the twins was my father. A gap of nine years between births. I am left to wonder about this long gap, as women's health was not openly discussed. Aunty Pat was born about three years after the twins.

When Grandfather died in 1939 at age 59, Nana was left to support herself, and daughter Pat. The twins Jack and Mary were both working, and Frank and Fred had long since left home. She had always been a home dressmaker so that became her profession. Many of the ladies of the Grafton district came to her for their formal gowns, suits, Race Day ensembles, and overcoats. Word spread and she was always busy. Her

beautiful old treadle Singer sewing machine had been converted to electricity so she could sew for hours without tiring.

I was twelve when Nana died, but I remember her clearing away the breakfast dishes, cleaning everything so she could cut out another creation on the kitchen table. I often stayed overnight with Nana, and it was she who taught me to sew. No big stitches were allowed, "that seam could fall apart"! I remember her disgust when she saw a dress in the window of a local shop with a "machine sewn hem"!

Nana was always addressed as Mrs McGuren and was always beautifully dressed. Nothing fussy, she preferred tailored clothes, and never left the house without a hat. I remember her dressing up to go to CWA meetings.

How I wish I could call on her now for a chat, there is so much I would like to know about her life. Aunty Pat is the only Immediate member of the family left now and sadly she doesn't remember much. There are many descendants of whom she would be proud, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

An Update on The Bundanoon Pharmacy History

By Steve Press

In our November 2023 newsletter, Kate Perkins set out the history of The Bundanoon Pharmacy as she remembered it. In that article Kate remembered –

“Mr Es Hinde ran the (pharmacy) business from 1955 to about 1976, his wife Bess opened a gift shop next door. After Es died the pharmacy was closed for two years and was reopened by Mr S. Smith of Bowral for the years 1977 and '78. Then to the Weilands, from whom the Perkins purchased it in 1988”.

Es Hind’s daughter, Jan Hinde has provided some clarification regarding her father and mother. Jan has let us know her mother’s name was Bet (Elizabeth) not Bess. Jan confirmed her mother did open the gift shop next door to the pharmacy and then later a new shop in the old theatre arcade in Moss Vale next to Ken Pogson’s dental surgery. Jan has supplied a photo of her mother standing outside her Bundanoon gift shop in 1968 – the photo taken from a slide by Ted Swadling was posted on the “Old NSW Facebook Album” by his son Mark Swadling in 2019.

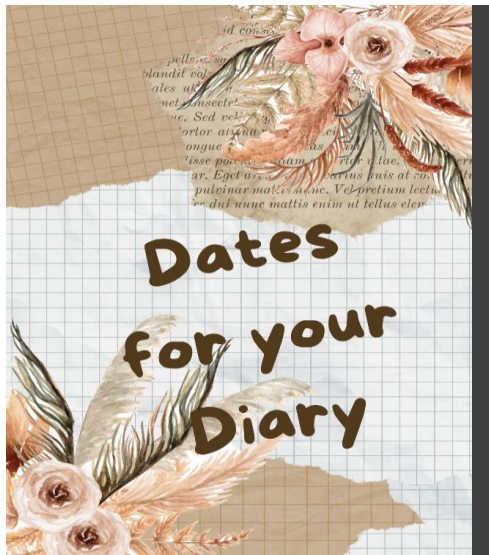
Jan noted her parents had worked nine to five thirty every weekday since they arrived in Bundanoon in the nineteen fifties. Her father also worked from nine to twelve thirty on Saturday, from seven o’clock to nine o’clock on Saturday night and from nine to twelve on Sunday. Because of these hours and being on call every day to open the shop for any good (and some

dodgy) reasons, they had no family holidays and the hours were relentless.

In Jan’s opinion this contributed to his health crisis. Jan advised her father closed and sold the pharmacy because he had a heart attack in the dispensary. He managed to put the right pill under his tongue before a customer found him. In a one in a million chance the ambulance was in town collecting fees and so he was rushed to hospital.

Her parents decided to sell the pharmacy and retire after his heart attack on his doctor’s advice. They went on to travel extensively and they also lived in Spain for three months. The rest of their long retirement was spent in Bundanoon and they died within a month of each other thirty one years ago. They had been together since they were fifteen so leaving so close together was the best outcome Jan her family could have hoped for.





complex, which includes the Old Goods Shed.

First Meeting of the Year - Monday
5th February 10am for 10:30am in the
Soldiers Memorial Hall. Our first speaker for
2024 will be Transport Asset Holding Entity
(TAHE) Manager and BHG Bundanoon
History Group Member, Andrew
Killingsworth. 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

Drinks & Nibbles at The Old Goods Shed - Thursday 15th February at
4:30pm. Join us to celebrate the opening of the new Gardening Exhibition at the
OGS. A free event where we are also inviting members of the Bundanoon Garden
Club who assisted with funding the exhibition and members of the Australian Garden
History Society who assisted with curating the exhibition. Please RSVP by 11/2/24.

Our AGM - Monday 4th March at The Soldiers Memorial Hall

Oral History Morning Tea at the Bundanoon Club - Wednesday 20th
March. 10am for 10:30am. A free event, we will be asking for RSVPs early in 2024.

April General Meeting (NB Moved to 2nd Monday of April) - We have
moved this meeting to **Monday 8th April** as the first Monday of April is Easter
Monday. There will be a later starting time of 10:30am for 11am.