

PATRON

Lorrell Jamieson

PRESIDENT:

Kevin Briggs 0488 021 894

SECRETARY:

Margaret Thursby 0421 832 855

TREASURER:

Margaret Welshe 0414 452 722

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ruth Ormerod 5326 1740

Geoff Baker 0435 068 241

Athol Lubbe 0419 789 125

MEMBERSHIP:

Steve Ormerod 0412 392 488

DIARY DATES

BHS Volunteers drinks Friday

13 June 5 – 6.30pm

(BYO and bring a plate to share)

BHS Stall at Buderim Mountain

State School 150th anniversary

- Saturday 21 June 9.00am –

2.00pm at BMSS Hall

Notes from the President

Kevin is away at present and the notes below are based on his report to the Management Committee in April 2025.

I wish to welcome Athol Lubbe who has agreed to join the Management Committee. Athol has skills and knowledge that will certainly give increased depth to our hard-working committee. Athol has recently become involved in the implementation of our new interpretation plan for Pioneer Cottage and has also joined the curatorial team working with Melanie Fihelly on the preservation of our historical collection.

We are all saddened to see that Doug Benckendorff will be leaving the area, however, family circumstances are such that the move was essential for he and Lika. We were delighted to organise a combined morning tea with the Tramway group to farewell Doug, held on Friday 2 May on the verandah at Pioneer Cottage. Thank you to all the members who came along to make it a memorable occasion.



Doug's Farewell

(Image Steve Ormerod 2025)

The Easter school holidays saw increased visitor numbers, with family groups figuring highly. I thank the guides for walking through the cottage with groups containing school-aged children. The feedback received from such groups was pleasing. There was also an increased number of visitors from overseas (New Zealand, Ukraine, USA and Sweden), who spoke highly of our museum and its collection. Our curatorial team were praised for the way our collection has been cared for and displayed.

The hard drive for our security system had to be recently replaced and while the replacement is not cheap, it is nonetheless essential when safeguarding our museum and collection. Many thank thanks to Steve Ormerod for his management skills in dealing with the electronics firm which assessed the situation and replaced the hard drive.

Our ANZAC celebrations this year featured the military service of Dorothea Burnett. While this year's Anzac display may be smaller than last year, it has nonetheless been researched with great enthusiasm and for this, I thank the efforts of Janet Baker and a new member, Belinda Mayall. The research was based on material

from Dorothea's diary, a collection of photographs taken by Dorothea and other primary and secondary sources. Steve Ormerod also helped to finalise and set up two audio-visuals displays to accompany the other material. We opened Pioneer Cottage on ANZAC Day from 10am until 1pm, so that the local community could take up the opportunity to visit our display after the annual ANZAC Day service at the school. Greenwood Residential Village once again produced many red, white and purple poppies, which were used for sale and as decorative items. Greenwood residents came for a Devonshire tea on Wednesday 23 April to view our display and I thanked them for their wonderful contribution to our display.



Dorothea Display

(Image Ruth Ormerod 2025)

We received a request from the Sunshine Coast Council's Heritage Department to borrow selected sporting objects from our collection to enhance a themed display on sport on the Sunshine Coast, which opened at Landsborough Museum on 17 May. The items in question include the early days tennis dress and the Len Sorensen cricket bat. Len was often described as the "Don Bradman" of the Sunshine Coast because of his prowess with the cricket bat. The Council also obtained approval from the Foote Sanctuary to borrow the George Eggmolesse portrait currently on loan to BHS. The appropriate paperwork for the inter museum loans and the collection and care of the objects was prepared and it is a great feeling of support when we are able to assist museums within our network.

It was a pleasure to be able to host volunteers from the Old Post Office on the verandah of Pioneer Cottage on Thursday the 10 April. The purpose of the gathering was to introduce the volunteers to the workings of the of the Buderim Historical Society and to give them a first-hand experience of Pioneer Cottage. We served light refreshments to the group and informal discussions with those present occurred at the end of our formal presentation. We hope that it helps the Old Post Office volunteers to inform visitors about what they can experience at Pioneer Cottage. Many thanks to Ruth Ormerod, Janet Baker, Margaret Thursby and Pam Wood, who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the evening.

The conservation and care workshops with our mentor Melanie Fihelly have been well attended by members keen to participate in our curatorial and conservation teams. The knowledge and skills that Melanie is imparting by mentoring our volunteers is a valuable help in understanding how to preserve and care for our collection.

I wish to thank Alan Butcher for the work that he has recently carried out in maintaining our buildings and grounds. Alan singlehandedly provided a load of mulch and mulched the entire garden bed on the northern side of Pioneer Cottage. At Lorraine Buhk's request, Alan set about providing shelving for potted cuttings and plants on the eastern end of Sybil Vise House. We thank Alan for all that he does in general maintenance around Pioneer Cottage and Sybil Vise House.

Finally, I wish to thank all members who assisted with the provision of goods for sale for the BHS stall at the Easter Fair held on Easter Saturday at the BWMCA Hall. The stall proved very popular with visitors to the Fair, who seemed focussed on the second-hand books, cakes and slices, raffle and the published historical books sold at Pioneer Cottage. I thank the Social Marketing Group for the work done prior to the fair and

the manning of the stall during the opening hours on the Saturday. The financial gain from the stall and the excellent exposure that BHS receives is well worth the effort. Well done everyone!

Pioneer Cottage Roof Update

The application to the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund for a grant to help meet the cost of replacing the Pioneer Cottage roof was unsuccessful. The committee is working with the BWMCA to seek funding from other sources. We are very grateful to the BWMCA for its leadership in persevering with the challenge of securing funding to replace the roof. We'll keep members updated as developments occur.

Garden Update

Preparations are well under way for our participation in the Buderim Garden Club's annual festival and the Sunshine Coast Open House, which fall on the same weekend in October. Pioneer Cottage will be one of the Open Gardens. Pioneer Cottage will also be open to participants in the Open House, with entry by a gold coin donation. BHS will have a stall selling plants, books and puzzles, baked goods etc. We are looking to have a garden working bee in July to help in preparing the garden for October – more details will be emailed out to members who would like to help.

Interpretation Plan for Pioneer Cottage

Work on implementing the first part of the Interpretation Plan for Pioneer Cottage is continuing, with the working group finalising the display furniture to be purchased and getting the text for the interpretation display panels finalised to go to the graphic designer.

Athol Lubbe has begun work on dating and expanding the description of selected objects in the collection, focusing initially on where we have multiple items of the same kind, such as our collection of five sewing machines. Accurate information about the items for display will facilitate decisions about the displays in each room and enable us to give an extended description of significant items.

National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant

Our monthly sessions with conservator Melanie Fihelly have continued, with Melanie completing the inspection of the displays in Pioneer Cottage, identifying potential improvements for preventative preservation, conservation of specific items and making better use of storage space.

Melanie also has also given a demonstration of her Triage process for assessing the condition of objects and recording key provenance information (maker's marks etc), using three items to demonstrate the process – Ann Burnett's photo album, the Greater Britain Exhibition Diploma for a Gold Medal awarded to Ernest Burnett in 1899 for coffee and a Pictorial Atlas of Australasia.

Melanie, assisted by Athol, assessing the condition of Mrs Ann Burnett's 19th century photo album and writing materials drawer



(Image Geoff Baker 2025)

Now that Melanie's inspection of the display items is completed, upcoming sessions will focus on preservation and cleaning practices that could be undertaken by BHS volunteers, using the objects she identified in the house and storeroom inspections. The curatorial team will undertake a condition assessment of the items for discussion with Melanie. It will also provide an opportunity for Melanie to identify any items which require professional conservation.

Work has continued on the re-organisation of storage space in Vise House following Melanie's assessment, with Store Room 2 now devoted to collection storage and storage of other BHS items (eg, event related materials and maintenance equipment) re-located to other spaces. Alan Butcher has removed one set of fixed timber shelving in Store Room 2, as proposed by Gail, which has enabled full use to be made of the mobile shelves. It also makes it easier to move the mobile shelves for cleaning.

Melanie cleaning the silk dress in preparation for removal and more detailed cleaning and condition assessment



(Image Geoff Baker 2025)

Cogill Family Gathering

Descendants of Dan Cogill and his wife Elizabeth (nee Walker) gathered at Diddillibah Hall on 15 March 2025. BHS members John and Lyn Nichols played a key role in organising the gathering, John being a descendant of Dan and Elizabeth.

John had asked if it was possible to have the Bingeye breastplate on display at the gathering and Geoff Baker volunteered to accompany the breastplate for the afternoon. Geoff also compiled a summary of the history of the breastplate, including why Dan's name is on it, based on Dr Elaine Brown's account in her PhD thesis on William Pettigrew. This summary is now displayed with the breastplate in the Museum room at Pioneer Cottage.

The breastplate attracted much interest from participants at the Cogill family gathering.

John and other family members have put together a wonderful archive on Dan and Elizabeth and their descendants, who are scattered far and wide but also still have a strong presence on the Sunshine Coast.

Congratulations to John and Lyn – it takes a lot of work to organise a gathering like this, but such events play a vital role in passing on family stories and keeping descendants in contact with each other.

Devonshire Morning Tea at Pioneer Cottage

Our Devonshire morning teas continue to be popular with social groups in the area.

This group of ladies from IRT The Palms recently visited and had a great time on a rare sunny morning! One of the ladies was born in Somerset, where the Burnett's were from, and another had known Sybil Vise years ago.

Visitors from IRT The Palms



(Image Ruth Ormerod 2025)



(Image Ruth Ormerod 2025)

Thanks to the volunteers who help make these occasions a success by showcasing the Cottage, it's stories and the collection, and helping to promote the work of the Society.