

THE PIONEER

THE BUDERIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

October, November & December 2019

PATRON

Lorrell Jamieson

PRESIDENT:

David Wood 5477 0102

VICE PRESIDENT:

Kevin Briggs 0488 021 894

SECRETARY:

Bev Lavarack 5445 1355

TREASURER:

Margaret Welshe

CURATOR

Prue Cawley 5445 1341

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

Lorraine Buhk 5444 1955

Doug Benckendorff 5445 4683

Ruth Ormerod 5326 1740

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Jess Harris 5476 9539

HISTORY TALKS:

Bev & Bill Lavarack 5445 1355

MEMBERSHIP:

Ian Jackson 5445 4650

DIARY DATES

HISTORY TALK

Saturday 12th October @ 2.pm

Vise House

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 30th November

Buderim war Memorial Hall

SOIREE

Friday 6th December

5.30 – 7 pm

HISTORYSTORY TALK

Saturday 12 October 2019 – 2:00pm



Our next **History Talk** will be given by **Margaret Marshall**.

Her subject – the arrival of the **FOOTE FAMILY** to Buderim and their role in the developing community of the area and how they were linked to the Burnett family.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's report for 2019 Annual Meeting

As promised in my report last year it has been a year of consolidation, with the only major project being the unfinished preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for Pioneer Cottage. Following on from recommendations from the Standards Review we created a Policy and Process Subcommittee, which reviewed our existing Strategic Plan and Policies, and created a few new ones.

Policy and Process sub committee

A new Collection Policy was prepared together with processes and forms for receiving and disposing of items in the collection. A Cleaning and Housekeeping Policy was also developed, and a new Disaster Preparedness Plan has been finalized. The Strategic Plan was reviewed and updated, and the safety and fire plans were updated. We held a workshop in August for volunteers that included an update on the new policies and processes and a fire drill conducted by Simon Waterhouse from Buderim fire station. Ruth Ormerod chaired this subcommittee and did an excellent job of researching publications by museums around Australia to come up with policies and processes that are appropriate for our management of Pioneer Cottage.

Grants

We were successful in getting a grant from the Buderim Foundation for a second fireproof safe for storage of significant documents. Prue and I participated in the production of a video about the Foundation grants, and this is now on the Foundation website.

We received a Sunshine Coast Council Minor Grant for Audiovisual equipment for Vise House (\$2000) and this is now functional. There were some cost savings in the purchase of a screen and overhead projector and the remaining grant funds were used to purchase a new portable PA system.

Following on from recommendations from the Preservation Needs Assessment we got a Sunshine Coast Council Minor Grant for sun block out blinds for Pioneer Cottage (\$1551). One condition of the grant was to get an exemption certificate under the Queensland Heritage Act. After a drawn-out process and negotiation with staff of the Department of Environment and Science, the certificate was issued, and the blinds installed.

The Community Partnership grant from Sunshine Coast Council has been renewed for three years. This grant is funded from the Heritage Levy and is used to cover recurrent costs associated with the running of Pioneer Cottage. Without this grant we need to put in a significant fund-raising effort to cover these costs and would not be able to embark on other projects such as conservation of items in our collection. This grant is funded out of the Heritage Levy and I wish to acknowledge the Sunshine Coast Council for their continuing support.

Membership

Our membership has remained static with a farewell for Laurel and Peter Asimus, who have moved to Brisbane at the beginning of the year, however new members Gail MacDonald, Susan Guy and Janine Roberts have been enthusiastic with their volunteering.

Cottage Maintenance and the Garden

With Laurel's departure, a number of garden volunteers have rallied to assist with the future maintenance of the garden with major contributions by Lois Turnbull and her friend Viv and John Lyon supervising volunteers from the Garden Club on the first Wednesday of every month. Despite the current dry weather, the garden is looking very good.

Doug and I have been carrying out minor maintenance to the cottage, however I am getting tired of chasing up the roof plumber to investigate roof leaks. I may need to get another contractor to have a look.

A new five-year lease for Vise House and Pioneer Cottage was executed with the BWMCA president, with no change to existing conditions or costs. Although this is a formality it is confirmation that our management of the Pioneer Cottage and Vise House is well regarded by BWMCA.

Major events

We participated in the Sunshine Coast Open House in October last year with 67 visitors on the one day, half of whom were locals who had never been to the cottage before. It was a great way to expose Pioneer Cottage to a wide audience, and we have been invited to participate again this year on 19 and 20 October, in conjunction with the Buderim Garden Club Open Garden inspections, held at the same time. I expect that it will be a busy weekend, and the call has gone out for more volunteers to assist.

In November we participated in a meeting at Eumundi School of Arts Hall to report on our progress over the year, since the M&G Standards Review. We presented a report to the meeting summarising our progress with our Interpretive Plan, Preservation Needs Assessment, transition to eHive and review of our Strategic Plan.

Our main concern during February was the likely path of Cyclone Oma. Its potential arrival caused us to review our disaster preparedness and make changes around the cottage to increase its resilience to a storm and make preparations to protect our collection. Fortuitously the weather was not as severe as expected.

Website and eHive

Our website www.buderimhistoricalsociety.com went live early in the year, and I have been regularly updating the site with assistance from Alex Sweet who has moved from Buderim back to Victoria. The

updating of our collection database on eHive, with data being enhanced by Jess, Prue and Gail adding more information about items in our collection and improved images.

Training

The Sunshine Coast Council offers regular training on various aspects of museum management, and a number of volunteers have participated in the one-day workshops to increase their skills. Members of the committee have also participated in other workshops associated with policy and planning run by the cultural heritage staff from the Council, including the review of the new Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan.

Awards

Our Vice President Prue Cawley was a joint winner in the category 'Individuals: Volunteer Staff' with Geoff Moore, the President of North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerrabah at the Queensland Galleries and Museums Achievements awards. Prue received a specially commissioned trophy by Queensland artist, Bruce Reynolds, made possible through the generous sponsorship of Brian Tucker Accounting.

Jess Harris was also a finalist in the Sunshine Coast Senior Citizen of the Year, in recognition of her role behind the scenes involved with the administration and management of the BHS historical collection. In our nomination we described her as the 'engine room' of the BHS, instrumental in the development and maintenance of the collection database and aiding in the conservation of important items in the collection.

School visits

We had four separate school visits from July to June this year, and several since then. In the financial year we had a total of 276 students visit in organized tours. The pace of these visits can be very intense, with at least five volunteers required to guide small groups through each room and the slab hut. The visits organized by the Sunshine Coast Environmental Education Centre (Bilal) are less demanding and we have been encouraging schools to use their services with a full range of activities in the future, to reduce the volunteer workload. Prue and Kevin have been looking at other ways where we can increase the amount of interpretive material available to ease the load.

Outstanding tasks

An outstanding task that I need to address is to prepare plans of Pioneer Cottage and Wise House which show the location of significant items in our collection for the Fire Station. Jess and Prue have done the list of significant items, and I need to locate them on enlarged copies of the plan to be lodged with the fire services.

Donations and fundraising

We were fortunate to have a donation of a display cabinet by Patricia James. This cabinet with a timber frame and drawers, with glass shelves, was originally from Maisons store in Burnett Street. This has been placed in the parlour and filled with crockery. BHS was also the recipient of a bequest for \$5000 from the estate of Loloma Weir.

Our presence at the Buderim Easter Fair was a financial success with a special thank you to Prue for making the magnificent cake which was the highly sought-after raffle prize. Congratulations to the raffle winner Robyn Edwards. Thank you to the volunteers who staffed our stall at the Memorial Hall, and cooked produce for sale at our stall. It was a good opportunity to showcase Pioneer Cottage to the wider community.

Heritage Conservation Plan

Since February there have been three visits from staff from Australian Heritage Specialists associated with the preparation of the Heritage Conservation Plan for Pioneer Cottage, funded by Sunshine Coast Council. A draft plan was provided early in August; however, it contained some serious errors and omissions, because of incomplete inspection of the building and a lack of consultation with the management committee to check some of the facts about the history of the building. We still await arrival of the final version of the plan.

Acknowledgements

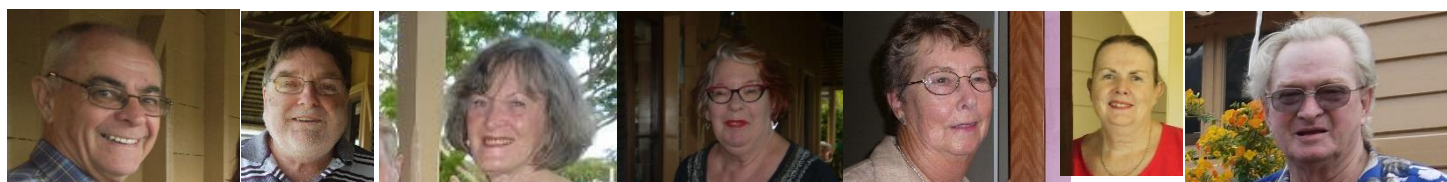
I would like to acknowledge the dedicated work of the BHS volunteers. We have had cleaning bees, garden working bees and regular attendance of door guides, not to mention the backroom work by Jess and Gail, the efforts in the garden by Lorraine, Lois, John and other helpers, and the Management Committee of Prue, Bev, Robyn, Doug, Lorraine, Kevin and Ruth. As Vice President, Prue continues to spend a lot of her time involved in Pioneer Cottage management, acting as curator, organizing SFG meetings and keeping people informed through the Newsletter and the Facebook site. I would like to make special thanks to Bill and Bev Lavarack for organizing the History Talks throughout the year. It is a difficult job to find people who are willing to talk about the different aspects of Buderim history, however all the talks this year have been informative and entertaining. I would also like to thank Robyn Edwards for the outstanding job she has done as Treasurer over the past five years.

We continue to get excellent support from the Buderim Community, the BWMCA and our political representatives from three levels of Government; Ted O'Brien, the member for Fairfax, Brent Mickelberg, the member for Buderim, The Mayor and Lady Mayor and Councilor Ted Hungerford.

They have shown a genuine interest in our organization and have always been readily available when we need them.

David Wood. 13 September 2019

EXECUTIVE 2019-2020



David

Kevin

Bev

Margaret

Lorraine

Ruth

Doug &

CURATOR'S REPORT

Prue

BHS AGM 2019

Another busy year has come and gone in the blink of an eye.

Ehive continues to be a big time consumer as there are so many levels that can be filled in and Jess continues to find new information to add. It is very interesting and would have been great if we had it years ago as a lot of the information has disappeared with the donors. It could be a full-time job if we let it.

We have recently realised how big a part Jess plays in this organisation. Her husband has been unwell, and she hasn't been able to attend as much as she would like. I feel like a rudderless ship when she isn't around, she has so much knowledge about not only the collection but also the computers and such.

Jess has been ably assisted by several people including Tanya who has done some wonderful work transferring most of our oral histories to digital. She is also very good on Ehive and has done a lot of cataloguing of articles in the cottage. Unfortunately, her husband has been very ill for months, so most of her work has been on hold.

Gail has joined us, and she works every Saturday afternoon with Jess, and they have continued with the cataloguing and updating articles from the museum room and hall. It is amazing what they are discovering and a few things that are missing as well. Gail attended a workshop on temperature control of collections. Janine Roberts also attended a workshop on photo and paper conservation. She is still working and helps when she can but plans to retire in a year or so. We hope to see more of her after that. Both she and Gail have been doing some conservation at home as well.

We received another fireproof safe through a grant from The Buderim Foundation and it is now full.

Ann's memories folder has been digitalised by the Sunshine Coast Council Cultural Heritage department at no cost to us.

We have been the recipients of two wonderful donations which has meant that we have been able to have Ellen's gladioli painting and Lionel's leather mirror conserved – only one is back so far. We have sent one of our dolls (Victorian or Edwardian) to the Brisbane Dolls Hospital for a quote to have her restored. Our future will continue this huge job of maintenance and storage of our collection as well as looking after the cottage cleanliness etc.

In preparation for our Open House and Open Garden in October we intend to have a cleaning working bee, windows cleaned and new net curtains on all the windows ready just in time. I hope the dust storm end soon or it won't be worthwhile.

Thank you. Prue Cawley

TWO BUDERIM IDENTITIES – LIVES INTERTWINED



. Clarence Blakey



Lionel Burnett

Clarence Blakey (1899 – 1966) was a photographer who lived at Buderim and later had a studio at Maroochydore. He was responsible for hundreds of photographs of the North Coast Region (now known as the Sunshine Coast). I have used his pictures of places like Buderim and Mooloolaba on numerous occasions in my research of the region. In his younger days in the 1920s he was a member of the fledgling Mooloolaba Surf Life-Saving Club.

Lionel Burnett One of the lives Charles Blakey saved in his life-saving club days was that of Buderim pioneer, Lionel Burnett. Lionel was the son of James Kerle Burnett the original builder of 'Pioneer Cottage'. The *Nambour Chronicle* gave this colourful account in February 1926:

'while a happy band of bathers were besporting themselves in the silvery breakers, they were given a thrill, when it was observed that one of them, Mr. Lionel Burnett, a well known resident of the district, was being carried out to sea by a strong current. The alarm was raised immediately and the life saving patrol, under the command of Mr. Percy Jakeman, sprang into action, Mr. Clarence Blakey demonstrated the value of the life saving reel and practical training, in the very able manner in which he swam out, through a very rough sea, to the rescue. Meanwhile, Mr. Burnett, although himself a good swimmer, found it impossible to swim against the current and fortunately kept cool and floated until Mr. Blakey reached him with the line. He was then 350 yards out. On being brought ashore Mr. Burnett was found to be little the worse for his experience. Had it not been for the life savers, that fine body of young 'athletes who devote themselves, voluntarily, to this humanitarian work', Mr. Burnett may have had a long swim.'

Presumably Lionel looked a little less dapper after his rescue!

Bill Lavarack