

# THE PIONEER

THE BUDERIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

July & August 2002

## PATRON

Lorrell Jamieson

## PRESIDENT:

David Wood 5477 0102

## VICE PRESIDENT:

Kevin Briggs 0844 021 894

## SECRETARY:

Bev Lavarack 5445 1355

## TREASURER:

Margaret Welshe 0414 452 722

## 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

**WE ARE REOPENING ON July 1<sup>st</sup>**  
after being closed for COVID-19 so we are extremely excited

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This week we were advised by Sunshine Coast Council that our application for a grant for urgent repairs to the Pioneer Cottage dormer windows was successful. The building contractor Complete Property Maintenance has been advised and will be ready to start the work on July 6. Some of the materials will need to be organized before then and I plan to collect timber from Brisbane and Mooloolah for the work. I will also need to liaise with Council's Urban Designer, Evelyn Murphy, regarding this project "as the building is Heritage listed and a heritage assessment of works is required". Confirmation is required that the timber species and the window sash for both dormers is applicable to heritage period. Funding is also conditional on obtaining Owner's Consent, obtaining all relevant approvals and engaging local contractors".

I expect that we will hear of the other application to install a termite management system in the grounds of the Cottage and Vise House in mid-July.

I have almost completed the repainting of the Cottage verandah floors, with the ramp and back verandah only remaining to do. I expect to have this all completed by the time we reopen on 1 July. One of the recommendations in the CMP was that we create a gap between the ramp and the wall so that termite attack can be minimized or arrested. I have completed this, however in the process have exposed some very old paint and this will need to be repainted to match the rest of the wall.

There has been a lot of preparation to ensure that members of BHS and visitors to Pioneer Cottage are safe when we reopen on 1 July. Ruth Ormerod has done a fantastic job in researching the information about COVID-19 precautions and preparing us for a number of new processes for when we get visitors to Pioneer Cottage and Vise House. It may take us a little while to settle into these processes, including the use of an Eftpos machine, but it will be all worth it as we share what we have with our visitors. I would like to extend a special thank you to Ruth for the effort that she has



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**What is this all about?  
See report about Ruth's  
activities. →**

put in to ensure that we are fully compliant with COVID-19 guidelines and legal requirements.

Now that the Old Post Office has reopened there is a joint display of BHS and Foote Sanctuary posters in the front window and BHS timelines on the boards inside. This may generate more interest among visitors to the OPO.

Finally, I wish to give formal notice that I will not be standing for President again this year. I think that it is time for a change in leadership and I encourage all members of the management committee to consider stepping up. I am happy to continue on the management committee, however my other commitments mean that I will not be able to dedicate as much of my time to BHS.

David Wood

24 June 2020

### **HISTORY TALKS**

Bev has advised us that History Talks will recommence next year when we hope that personal distancing will enable to have more people in our meeting room. Bev has arranged some wonderful talks for us previously and she is always keen to hear from anyone willing to entertain us.

### **COVID-19**

A great band of our volunteers have put in a lot of effort getting us through this difficult time. David has worked solidly throughout the lockdown period sanding and repainting the veranda. He has been there nearly every day. He has also done the two grant applications, one of which has been successful so far.



Ruth has done such excellent research on COVID-19 and not only made signs and laminated them but also run in-service programs for our Volunteers, so we are now ready to proceed from the 1<sup>st</sup> July. She has also resourced all the equipment – had some trouble getting the plastic aprons. Lorraine, Bev, Jess and Prue joined Ruth for a deep clean of the cottage on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Our gardening team has continued throughout this time and luckily we have had some rain which has helped. Special thanks to Lois, Lorraine and the Garden Club members whose effort is clearly visible.

Doug has sprayed the lawns for weeds as many have grown lately.

We have lost a few volunteers because of this pandemic, but we have some new people interested and their training will start soon. We even got one applicant through our Facebook page.

### **Buderim's First Car**

The first car on the Sunshine Coast was an 'International Motor Buggy', a 2 cylinder 18 h.p. vehicle with large carriage-like wheels suited to the rough roads. It was owned by Edmund Harris Biggs of Montville who purchased it in 1910. It was used for transporting fruit to the rail at Palmwoods. The first car, as we know the term, in Nambour was owned by George Pitman also in 1910 and he brought it to Nambour by train, not risking the roads. When he pulled into the back of his old cordial factory, a horse grazing nearby jumped the

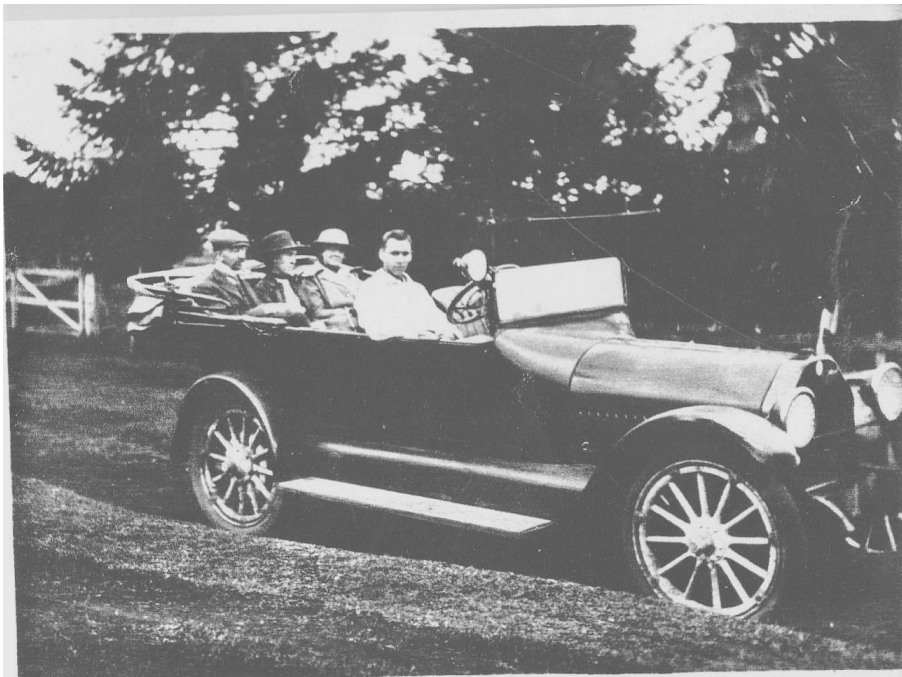
fence and had to be restrained. However, in April the following year a Bleriot car (a French made vehicle) became the first to reach Nambour on its own wheels. In his book 'Digger's Luck – the autobiography of an octogenarian' (1951), Ambrose Vise gives a graphic description of the arrival of this car in Woombye in 1911, citing some of the problems of the Gympie Road:

*When I drove in to Woombye one day, I noticed a crowd of people in front of the store looking at the first motor car they had ever seen. Two men had travelled from Brisbane in it. Between Woombye and Landsborough there was a very steep, rough hill that no wheeled vehicle could negotiate. I said to the driver, "How the devil did you get over that place that was so badly washed out, leaving a series of rocky ledges up to three feet high?" He grinned and said, "We had ropes with us and let the car down from ledge to ledge by taking a turn of rope round the trees growing alongside to ease the car down." It was some years later before that road was made so that ordinary traffic could use it.*

The first car on Buderim has been a mystery for some time, but recently a copy of a photo turned up showing Percy Board in a Studebaker. Handwritten on the base of the photo is: 'Uncle Percie's (sic) car and him driving. It was the first car at Buderim.' The car, according to Noel Williams, is a Studebaker Big Six, 1916 or 1917. Percy Board (born 1901) was Harry Board's son.

The second bit of evidence is a report from 1990 titled 'Harry Board House, Buderim. Conservation Study', which was compiled by Bruce Buchanan Architects Pty. Ltd., probably in 1990. This was commissioned to assess the condition of Harry's old house before it was moved to its present position at Buderim Forest Park where it was renovated and is now known as the restaurant 'Harry's on Buderim'.

This Report includes a chapter titled 'Historical Background' written by Stuart Weir, Meg Board and Alec Simpson. On page 4 of the Report it is stated that '[Percy] is also remembered for owning the first car on Buderim.' Meg Board was Percy's widow so it must be assumed that she knew what she was talking about. The late Stuart Weir was a much-respected historian, so it is reasonably safe to assume that this Studebaker was, indeed, the first car on Buderim.



UNCLE PERCIE'S CAR AND HIM DRIVING  
IT WAS THE FIRST CAR AT BUDERIM

Harry Board was a builder and was involved in building Pioneer Cottage. Percy was his son, born in 1901. Of course, we don't know if Percy purchased the car new, or in which year it came to Buderim. Hopefully further research may provide these details.

Bill Lavarack

← Percy Board in his Studebaker about 1920. The author of the handwritten note on the photograph is unknown. Does anyone know who was a nephew or niece of Percy Board?

## ROSS EASON

Ross Eason, a local photographer, has offered to help with the restoration of some of our wonderful photographs. The problem is that a lot of them are deteriorating because of the paper they are printed on.

This is a huge job entailing a lot of research after which he will improve the photos and place them on better paper which should last a further 100 years. Together we will select those photos that we consider have the best provenance and importance to us. He will then try to find the original to copy (this may be in our collection, Brisbane or Nambour).

We will have to apply for a grant the amount for which will depend upon the number of photos we decide to have conserved.

This is an extremely exciting new direction for us, and we realise it will take some time to achieve. Thank you, Ross.



These are photos I took of some Ross has done to show us how the restoration will improve not only the photo but also its life span. I love the broken window in the school photo.



## SCHOOL VISITS

As you all probably realise, we had several school visits cancelled this year. Apart from the reduction of income we do miss the eager children. As a result, a teacher from Sunshine Beach State School and three teachers from Sunshine Coast Environmental Education Centre (SCEEC) attended and recorded video sessions for the children. SCEEC also had a drone film the cottage from above. Hopefully the children will be back again next year.