



THE PIONEER

THE BUDERIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

November/December 2020

We have decided to put out this edition of the newsletter to keep you advised as to what happened at our Annual General Meeting last weekend. We were very pleased with our largish turnout and it was a beautiful (hot) afternoon on the cottage veranda.

PATRON

Lorrell Jamieson

PRESIDENT:

Kevin Briggs 0488 021 894

VICE PRESIDENT:

David Wood 5477 0102

SECRETARY:

Bev Lavarack 5445 1355

TREASURER:

Margaret Welshe

0414 452 722

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

Lorraine Buhk 5444 1955

Doug Benckendorff 5445 4683

Ruth Ormerod 5326 1740

CURATOR:

Prue Cawley 5445 1341

OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR

Jess Harris 5476 9539

HISTORY TALKS:

Bev & Bill Lavarack 5445

1355

MEMBERSHIP:

Ian Jackson 0429 862

050

DIARY DATES

Launch of

Bill Lavarack's

latest book

Pathways to the North Coast

Saturday 24th October

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year started off fairly normally with a number of projects proposed and an expectation that we would increase our public profile and visitor numbers to Pioneer Cottage, however with the arrival of COVID-19 in February, any plans that we had were no longer relevant. Luckily, the impact of the pandemic on us has not been as bad as first thought, and we have resumed operations with new processes to ensure the safety of volunteers and visitors to Pioneer Cottage. The closure of Pioneer Cottage from 17 March to 1 July did not mean the cessation of all activity, with work continuing in the garden and an opportunity to carry out much needed maintenance to the cottage. The administration and curatorial work continued, and a solution found when the management committee were not able to meet face to face.

Whilst we missed the camaraderie and fun of our regular monthly face to face meeting, it appears that sharing reports and ideas by email and consolidating the information into one document, was an effective way to keep our organization functioning. Thank you to Bev our Secretary for coordinating and consolidating the flow of information. Whilst not ideal this arrangement was a good way to record the functioning of Buderim Historical Society through these trying time.

Through the year it has been my mission to stop the leaks in the roof, with the frustration of finding contractors with an interest or capability to take on the work. I did finally find two contractors who have been efficient, reasonably priced and easy to work with. It appears that we have located the sources of the major leaks, however with this recent rain we still have one on the southern dormer window persisting. I hope that this can be rectified in the next week or so

Conservation Management Plan

The final version of the CMP from Australian Heritage Specialists arrived in September and was shared with the Cultural Heritage Services branch at Sunshine Coast Council, BWMCA and the Heritage Branch of the Queensland Department of Environment and Science. The plan has been posted on the BHS website for the information of the public.

The maintenance and repair work identified in the report was prioritized and discussions held with the Council staff and the DES Heritage Branch to ensure that our plans for remediation did not compromise the heritage status of the building and that all work to be carried out would be 'Best Practice'. The Plan has been accepted by the BWMCA who have sent a letter of appreciation to the Council for funding the study and production of the report.

Cottage Maintenance

Below is a brief list of some of the maintenance and repairs carried out to Pioneer Cottage in the last year.

- Verandah sanded painted with decking paint
- French doors cleaned and oiled
- Roof sheets replaced and painted over verandah
- Repairs to dormer windows and ceiling joists
- Replacement of lining boards in the attic bedrooms
- Installation of a termite management system to Pioneer Cottage and Vise House

School Visits

School visits have always been a rewarding experience for our volunteers, giving our younger generation some idea of the way people lived in the past and changes in technology. In the latter part of last year we had several visits and two more planned for early this year, with inquiries about visits later in the year. However, these visits have not gone ahead due to COVID-19. In April the Sunshine Coast Environmental Education Centre (BILAI) came to Pioneer Cottage to make a video about the cottage for use in remote learning. We may need to follow up on further use of this media for use with future school visits and promotion of Pioneer Cottage.

Sunshine Coast Open House and Buderim Garden Festival

In October 2019, The Open House and Open Garden weekend went over very well despite the 7mm of storm rain on the first morning and strong wind on the second day. On the Saturday we had a total of 480 visitors of which 413 registered as Open Garden visitors which means 67 were for Open House, and on the Sunday 309 people of which 244 registered with the Garden Club or 65 for Open House. The feedback from our visitors was positive with most people commenting on the presentation of the garden and the interesting things in the cottage.

I would like to record my thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the weekend, the gardeners, the door volunteers and our paid staff, Susan and Simon. There is no doubt that many of our visitors will visit again.

The Garden

There have been many changes to the garden over the past year. Under the direction of Lois Turnbull, (and her partners in crime, Lorraine and Viv) many new plants have been introduced into the garden and several beds rejuvenated. Their work has been supplemented by the Buderim Garden Club volunteers, who offered a range of skills. Recent changes have involved the laying of turf by Doug who has been able to source offcuts from Glenview turf farm. We have installed additional soaker hoses in the garden beds around the cottage. When these are working the water goes straight into the ground with no evaporation loss, with more efficient delivery of water to the plants. This also reduces the amount of work required to move hoses and sprinklers around in dry times. With the talented people working in the garden there are a lot of ideas bouncing around about what further improvements that we can make to complement the 'Heritage Garden' theme. The long-term vision is to have a show of plants that do not require much maintenance, which would be limited to weeding and pruning to ensure that some plants do not dominate the garden.

Volunteers

Following on from the success in sourcing new volunteers by our colleagues at Eumundi, the decision was made to join Volunteering Sunshine Coast. At first we were daunted by their annual

membership fee, but they do offer a good network, a database of people interested in volunteering and assists with publicity and screening of potential volunteers to ensure that their skills and interests match the roles that we have to offer. There have been several referrals from them since we joined.

The COVID closure caused several of our long-standing door guides to review their situation and the risks associated with public exposure and have decided to retire. The contributions made by Joan, Jan, Martin, Janet and Bernard in greeting visitors to the cottage and other activities such as SFG are highly appreciated.

While these long serving door guides have retired, we also have a few new members to assist with a number of roles. I hope you all enjoy your work with us at the BHS.

Grants

Sunshine Coast Council initiated a round of COVID-19 Community Response Grants with four separate categories. We were successful in getting grants under two separate categories for the Dormer window repairs, engaging Chris Gardner from Complete Property Maintenance and the installation of a termite management system for Vise House and Pioneer Cottage, by Suncoast Termite & Pest.

The repair project involved removal of the bottom dormer windows and the lower rail in each replaced and painted and the windows reinstalled. Using recycled local hardwood, we also strengthened several ceiling joists that were termite damaged about 60 years ago. Both projects required liaison with Council's Urban Designer, Evelyn Murphy, and consultation with the DES Heritage Branch. A condition of both grants was preparation of reports, with photographs of the work as it progressed. These reports will be placed on the Pioneer Cottage maintenance record. I would like to extend a special thank you to Ruth and Steve for their work in rearranging and covering the furniture before the repair work and reinstating the attic bedrooms after the work.

The grant for the Termite system is about \$800 less than the final cost, and a request will be made to BWMA to assist to make up this shortfall, as it is an investment in the future preventive maintenance for both buildings.

I wish to acknowledge the Sunshine Coast Council for their ongoing support in providing these grants and the annual Partnership Grant which assists in covering our fixed costs. Without these grants we would have to devote significantly more of our time and effort to fundraising endeavours.

Our response to COVID-19

There was a lot of preparation to ensure that members of BHS and visitors to Pioneer Cottage are safe when we reopened on 1 July. Ruth has done an excellent job in examining the COVID-19 guidelines and protocols to prepare the necessary processes and documentation to enable us to provide a safer environment for our visitors and volunteers since the reopening. We have also been assisted by the Cultural Heritage staff at the Council in providing guidance on new COVID rules and in providing signs and other materials to assist with the reopening.

It's great to see Pioneer Cottage open to the public again and our COVID-19 safety measures functioning well. It appears that our Eftpos machine is doing its job, but a high proportion of our visitors still seem to pay cash. Visitor numbers also seem to be up a bit as local people emerge from lockdown.

Gifts

In January we had a presentation ceremony at Pioneer Cottage to acknowledge the gift of the plan of Buderim's second golf course from the Neuendorf Family. A reporter from the Buderim Chronicle was in attendance to take photographs and as a result we got good publicity in the Chronicle.

I would like to acknowledge the major financial contributions made to the BHS during the year by two donors who wished to remain anonymous. I would also like to thank those members who made donations when they renewed their membership.

Thank You

Over the past few years as President I have been fortunate to have had strong support from the Management Committee. Members of the committee have a wide range of skills and interests and have a willingness to hop in when help is needed. I would like to sincerely thank the committee for nominating me in the Sunshine Coast Australia Day awards and for supporting me at the awards ceremony. I was honoured

to be a participant in the awards among people who have made extraordinary contributions to our community.

Throughout the year we have had excellent support from the Cultural Heritage staff at Sunshine Coast Council. Regular training for volunteers was suspended due to COVID-19, however they have been readily available to provide technical advice and are assisting with the production of new promotional material to assist in attracting more visitors to Pioneer Cottage.

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

David Wood

TREASURER'S REPORT

Margaret Welshe tabled these reports – the accounts have been audited. She commented on figures in the report. Income for the year \$26,500, Expenditure \$24,588. During the year building repairs and maintenance has been carried out, restoration done on several objects as well as computer expenses. She is now using Xero software, suggested by the auditor, which makes her job easier.

Margaret Welshe

CURATOR'S REPORT:

Our small team of Curators has had fluctuations in numbers but at present stands at three. Jess, our mainstay and font of all knowledge, has mainly worked from home during Covid-19 but has kept up a steady workload on entering more and more items on eHive. She continues to come in most Saturdays to educate both myself and Gail McDonald who works on Saturday afternoons. Luckily, Gail loves cleaning!!!. Our great disappointment is the lack of provenance on most of the objects in our collection.

During this year we have acquitted 25 objects which have included the following interesting items:

1. A donation from Nambour Historical Society of memorabilia of Ernest Middleton. This included many letters from Ernest's mother in Wales and a couple of notebooks. These had been discovered at the local garbage tip and donated to Nambour. We have transcribed the letters.
2. A painting of Pioneer Cottage by Betty Schultz donated from Loloma Weir's collection by her nephew.
3. Bev Lavarack has donated another scrapbook which she has diligently collected for us. She has stated that this may be the last one due to the demise of local newspapers. Thank you, Bev, for your great effort.
4. In August last year we were offered a painting of the original plan for Buderim's second golf course by Keith Neuendorf which he also had framed for us. It is an incredibly detailed and decorative plan drawn by Buderim resident Captain George Burrows in 1936. We accepted it and it is now displayed in the cottage's hall.
5. A set of five tools used by Jack Holliday during his lifetime on Buderim as a builder. He assisted in building his own home, Underwood's house and factory, many houses in Nambour and donated his time to help build the Scout Hall in Lindsay Rd.

A few items have been de-accessioned and several not accepted as they did not meet our criteria.

An interesting project has commenced due to an exceptional offer by a local photographer, Ross Eason. We are looking at our collection of photos, many of which are deteriorating due to age, and will select several important photos which Ross will conserve and preserve for us. We have three extremely interested and expert volunteers who will support him in this endeavour.

Prue Cawley

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

. Nominations as follows:

POSITION	NAME	NOMINATED	SECONDED
PRESIDENT	KEVIN BRIGGS	David Wood	Ruth Ormerod
VICE PRESIDENT	DAVID WOOD	Prue Cawley	Margaret Welshe
SECRETARY	BEV LAVARACK	Ruth Ormerod	Margaret Welshe
TREASURER	MARGARET WELSHE	Prue Cawley	Kevin Briggs
CURATOR	PRUE CAWLEY	Bev Lavarack	David Wood
COMMITTEE	LORRAINE BUHK	Kevin Briggs	Prue Cawley
COMMITTEE	DOUG BENCKENDORFF	Bev Lavarack	Ruth Ormerod
COMMITTEE	RUTH ORMEROD	Lorraine Buhk	Bev Lavarack

Steve Ormerod, who was officiating for this section of the proceedings, asked if there were any other nominations for committee positions? No. He moved that the nominations be accepted – all agreed. He then handed over to the incoming President Kevin Briggs.

Kevin Briggs congratulated David for a job well done. He said David was an avid repairer and, being a forester, was very capable and willing to attend to any repairs where needed; he also has great expertise applying for grants – successfully. He has done an outstanding job as President.

He also said this is a wonderful organisation, an excellent committee to be on. Ruth has done a tremendous job with COVID-19 guidelines and protocols and Doug is always here doing something, from putting the bins out to recently laying turf offcuts – outstanding, as are other committee members. Kevin also thanked the local members for attending this afternoon.



UPCOMING EVENT

Bill Lavarack will launch his new book **‘Pathways to the North Coast – to Buderim and Mooloolaba by Horse, Boat, Train, Tram & Car’** on Saturday 24th October on the cottage veranda.

Due to Covid-19 this will be by invitation only but this book and a revised edition of his 2012 book **‘History of Sport on Buderim’** will be available for sale at the cottage after that date.