

## HISTORY TALK

**Saturday 2 April at Vise House at 2:00 pm.**

It's good to have History Talks back again. At this point in time there are no limits on numbers. However we recommend that face masks are worn at the individual's discretion.

The speaker will be **Audienne Blyth** who lives in Yandina. She is a descendant of the pioneering Low family and enjoys researching and writing about the history of the district. For the last seven years she has contributed historical articles for the magazine 'Your Time'.

The talk will be mainly about business partners, James Low and William Grigor and early timber getting on the Mooloolah and Maroochy Rivers, with mention of Thomas Petrie, William Pettigrew, William Peter Clark, Barbara Doull, Richard Jones, Charles & Thomas Chambers and Charles Brown.



### **PATRON**

Lorrell Jamieson

### **PRESIDENT:**

Kevin Briggs 0488 021 894

### **VICE PRESIDENT:**

.....[vacant]

### **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

Ken O'Flaherty 0417 646 759

### **CURATOR:**

.....[vacant]

### **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

.....[vacant]

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Ian Jackson 0429 862 050

### **HISTORY TALKS:**

Bev & Bill Lavarack 5445 1355

### **NEWSLETTER:**

Bev Lavarack 5445 1355

### **DIARY DATES**

#### **HISTORY TALK**

Saturday 2 April

2:00pm – Vise House

#### **EASTER FAIR**

Saturday 16 April

7:00am – 2:00pm – at the Hall

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – February 2022**

I am pleased to be able to report that we were able to open the cottage on 14<sup>th</sup> February and that our guide numbers are sufficient to cover the opening. This has been made possible with an extra effort on the part of members to cover some of the extra vacancies that have needed covering. The high rates of vaccination by staff have not given us the headaches that some other volunteer organisations have had.

We have had some new volunteers join our organisation, Lyn and John Nichols. They have taken out life membership and bring with them a great set of skills that will certainly enrich our existing members and volunteers. Lyn is a retired Social Worker with a great appetite for gardening and she has already made contact with Lorraine. Lyn and John had their pruning shears in hand to help Lorraine with some pruning last Tuesday. John has retired from a military background where he was involved with an engineering group,

hence John's love of building and home renovation. Jenny Powell is in the process of recruiting two mature age woman who have expressed an interest in joining BHS with a view to becoming volunteer guides at Pioneer Cottage. We can always do with the prospect of increasing our membership and increased working volunteers.

I wish to acknowledge the additional load that Lorraine and Doug have been carrying since Lois and David's retirement from BHS. Lorraine has been very busy in the gardens as well as enlisting the help of members to assist with the pruning of shrubs and trees. Lorraine has also continued her relationship with Lois and getting horticultural advice as needed. The gardens continue to showcase the cottage with the gardens being a source of many positive comments from visitors to the cottage. Doug's efforts and work commitment ensuring that the lawn areas are a lush oasis of broad leaf Sir Walter Raleigh turf is appreciated. The grass being used is being sourced as leftovers from jobs being undertaken by the lawn supplier and Doug's outstanding efforts see BHS receiving new lawns at nil cost

The BWMCA's visit to our site and the subsequent WHSO report conducted by an external provider have been completed. The outcome from these visits was a very positive report with recognition of the outstanding work done by Ruth and her assistants in compiling regular audits of our site. The BWMCA WHS report the inspection went well for both in Pioneer Cottage and in Vise House. The one suggestion that the visiting WHSO made was that we should limit the entry to the upstairs section (bedrooms) on warm days due to the poor ventilation and extremely high temperatures. The report suggested that if a visitor happened to faint upstairs then the task of retrieving the person would be very difficult due to the narrow nature of the stairs. The dissemination of Health Department Covid information that has shaped our decision-making regarding the safety of guides and visitors to Pioneer Cottage has been led by our WHSO and I thank Ruth for her work in this area.

I thank the committee and other members who were able to attend last week's strategic meeting organized by Ruth. The discussion was rich and positive regarding the future blueprint for BHS and continuing direction of BHS. While the direction of BHS is framed by the Strategic Plan 2018-2023 it is the Annual Operational Plan that provides us with our day-to-day response to the future of BHS. Ruth will now take the responses from last Thursday's meeting and with the assistance of a small working party the AOP for 2022 will be written and then endorsed by the Management Committee. Thanks to Ruth for Facilitating the Strategic Planning with its coffee and chocolates!

I thank Jess and Gail for their continued efforts in restoration and cleaning that is being undertaken in the cottage. Not forgetting Jenny P who feels right at home with a cleaning cloth in her hands. With the help of Jess and Gail, I have been able to take down the ten selected wall hangings that were earmarked for cleaning and conservation work which is to be undertaken by Art Nuvo. The works are being worked upon as I speak, and this project is being funded by the Sunshine Council's Collection Care Program 2021-22. The start of the program was interrupted by Covid infections at the Art Nuvo galley. We look for the return of these wall hangings so that they may hang on the walls of the cottage with dignity once again. Olivia assures us that the restoration work will be completed in three to four weeks. When they finish, I will be looking for a steady pair of hands to hold the step ladder and assist with the hanging.

Maintenance in and around the cottage and Vise House continues to be undertaken when possible. Doug has been very busy trying to solve the mystery of the leaking windows. The difficulty of the leak is that it is such an intermittent problem that when trades people are called the problem is not evident. The termite traps were inspected this week and I am pleased to report that the pest inspection person gave our buildings a clear bill of health. The large water tank at Vise House has been commercially cleaned and Doug assures me that the contractor did a very good job clearing an incredible amount of silt from the tank which was dispatched to some of the uneven areas of his turfing project. John, our new member, has promised to look at swinging two new doors at Vise House when he returns from his interstate trip in March. Donna, the oil for the doors at Pioneer Cottage has not been forgotten.

I was required to provide a telephone interim report regarding the progress of our Partnership Agreement with the Heritage Department. I spoke to Angela Mardzi (Cultural Heritage Department) regarding our progress and impact of Covid on our guides and the absence of visitors to the cottage. Completion of a telephone interim report conducted by the Heritage Department of the Sunshine Coast Council was signed off by Angela. It appears that interim reports will be done via a phone interview in the future rather than a written progress report. Angela was amazed that, as a volunteer organisation, we were able to open to the public six days a week.

School visits have been put on hold for a short period due to the wild spread of Covid in school communities. The Department of Education has simply put a block on all school excursions until further notice. Hopefully school visits to the cottage will be returning in Term Two.

The date of the next History was to be the 5<sup>th</sup> March, and with Covid still circulating in the community a call had to be made. Due to the fact that many of those who attend the History Talks are in the “at risk group” we have decided to postpone the talk until a future date. We look forward to the prospect of announcing a new date in the not-too-distant future. The health and safety of our valued members is of utmost importance to all of us.

Brent Mickelberg’s office has contacted BHS regarding the sharing of photo images that has taken place and asking if more images could be made available. I have contacted Brett’s office and said that we are more than willing to supply more images. I met with Geoff Baker on Wednesday, and he was able to show me how to open the “Pandora’s Box” of the photographic images that we hold. This type of sharing is a win, win for both Brett’s Web page and for BHS as it is another means of putting our name out there in the public domain. Thank you for your attendance at our meeting. Kevin Briggs

## **GARDEN REPORT – FEBRUARY 2022**

Not so much as a report but looking back going forward for committee to know what the gardeners are up to. Past and current discussions that we hope will happen at some stage this year. Like Lois, new member Lyn has a wealth of knowledge and hands on experience and will feel her way forward with a some changes, having already spent time alongside chatting weeding/snipping and finding the lost rose bushes in among the Pentas and others.

**Buderim Banksia** - ‘Hessie Lindsell’ - off the landing of the ramp with the dedication sign is dead; asked Prue who will be upset if it is disposed of and not replaced. We do have four Banksias about the garden. One by the driveway John has already cut back so no longer damaging vehicles in the drive way.

**Garden against the green fence** - *gate side of the toilet* - I have purchased two new shrubs for this new garden \$36 [we had Hollyhocks there] --but will make a lovely show with some small seedlings for the front of that garden – Hawaiian Snow Flake. Over the last months Doug has edged this garden with bricks to match others.

**The Garden Shed** – I have been having a clearing out there and wondering if we do need to keep the very old outdoor umbrella and stand---if still ok??

We do have some *very old but still useful but heavy* garden tools ---but I bring our own lighter ones.- and wondered if a small battery hedger might be possible- and it would be useful for some of the pruning—Doug has one he uses now on the Plumbago by Vise House wall and some of the larger shrubs. New members John /Lyn will get to the trellises and the Petrea over the gate after 23<sup>rd</sup> March, I believe, when they start their cottage roster duties.

**The other Camellia** --- in *west garden* that has not yet been pruned at all – after it flowers ---- up from the base a bit to let some light into that area. Everything in that west garden has trebled in size and badly needing pruning back but it is all now in flower.

New Alyssums around the flag entry garden are coming along nicely as are the white Vicunas.

One of the other items Lois and I were intending to put to the committee for jobs that we considered should be thought about for this year but would need a budget. The *edging of the Hibiscus garden* with one of the newer edgings available to be costed. It would help stop the turf invading the garden.

Do be prepared for some *ideas to be put forward* for changes about the garden that may only enhance the entrance to the cottage.

I will continue to concentrate on keeping the gardens as free of weeds as I can but Hibiscus garden is a priority and my mower man keeps me in lovely clean dry mulch for the garden along the other green fence down to the road that we do not get to often enough. Here again everything grown a mile high .

Lorraine Buhk on behalf of the Gardeners

### **Buderim's first school teacher**

[Bill Lavarack]

The included photograph has been donated by Dorothy Radford who is the daughter of Joyce Burnett and a niece of Dorothea Burnett. It is a rare image of Robert Grant and I have not seen it before – it would benefit from some restoration. In May 1875 Joseph Dixon advised the Board of Education that if a school was established on Buderim it could be guaranteed that at least 15 students would attend and that the residents were willing to erect a weatherboard building with desks and seating. He also stated that accommodation for a teacher could be provided at 15 shillings a week and that the parents would supplement a teacher's salary by £20 per year. The Board replied that if all that could be provided, the Board would pay a teacher £70 a year and would supply books and other requirements.



A School Committee was formed including J.C. Dixon, C. Ballinger, D. Cogill, J. Lindsay, G.D. Traill and H. Wilson. The Committee requested the appointment of Robert Bruce Grant, 35 and single, educated at Old Aberdeen and with experience teaching in Missouri, USA (shown in the photograph).

The school opened on 5 July 1875 and was known as Buderim Mountain Provisional School. Robert Grant taught there until April 1882 when he was replaced by Elizabeth Jane Wright. The original Provisional School building was on the Mooloolaba Road on or near the present Panorama Crescent.

The Provisional School was replaced by a State School probably in April 1887.

**Read more:** *Buderim Mountain State School Centenary booklet 1975.*

### **EASTER FAIR**

We will be having our usual stall with a range of BHS publications, preserves, cup cakes, second hand books and Jenny Christensen's Mystery objects – Family Pass prizes. Come along and purchase tickets in our raffle – a basket of Easter goodies.



Proudly supported by the Sunshine Coast Council's grants

*Printing courtesy of Brent Mickelberg, State Member for Buderim*