

## *President's Report January 2023*

### **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

John Nichols 0411 662 784

Geoff Baker 0435 068 241

### **CURATOR:**

.....[vacant]

Assistant Curator Photos

Janet Baker

Assistant Curator Collection

Gail MacDonald

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Ian Jackson 0429 862 050

### **HISTORY TALKS:**

Bev & Bill Lavarack 5445 1355

### **NEWSLETTER:**

Bev & Bill Lavarack 5445 1355

### **DIARY DATES**

**History Talk** – 11 March 2023

Vise House, 2:00pm.

I welcome all committee members and volunteers back to BHS and Pioneer Cottage for the year 2023 hoping that we further develop the quality of the experience for those visitors that come to Pioneer Cottage and the gardens surrounding the cottage. While only open for a few weeks, on the shifts that I have worked we have had a steady flow of visitors in 2023.

Joan Harmer



I wish to thank Ruth, Lorraine and the SFG for the wonderful social atmosphere that was created at our Christmas Soiree and our annual raffle draw. The gathering of our members is always a delightful event and an opportunity to thank our volunteers for the outstanding work that is done in the name of BHS. The evening is also an opportunity for our new members to meet the long-standing members that have made

the organization what it is today. Joan Harmer won the first prize in our raffle, which was Prue's cake and bottle of champagne. Janet and Martin won 2nd prize, and Jean Kozak the bottle of scotch.

I also thank Ruth for entering Pioneer Cottage in the Heritage Department's Christmas Contest. Ruth's excellent photograph of the Christmas Stockings hanging from the mantelpiece in the dining room won second prize and has earned BHS a \$100 voucher from Archival Survival. This voucher will be put to good use by Gail and other curatorial staff in the restoration, cleaning and care of our collection.

*[See Ruth's prize winning photograph on page four.]*

Our grounds look an absolute picture and thanks to the intermittent rain that we have had plus the additional watering done by Lorraine and her team of volunteers. Lyn has planted some pots of colour on the stairs to the cottage and I would ask that if you are able, during your shift, to give them a sprinkle it will be most appreciated.

A huge acknowledgement for the work that Doug organized with the assistance of Alan and his ute, and John and Lyn with the removal of our diseased tree. The tree, one of the two macadamias on the western side of Vise House, was badly affected with wood borers and, as a result, we were advised to remove the tree and have the stump ground to avoid the possibility of termites building a colony on the site. The tree and stump were successfully cleared and the lawn area was cleared. Thanks to all involved in this important project.

Ruth and Marg have done an excellent job in sorting and clearing the unwanted items from the cupboards and boxes that were stored in the Curator's and admin area of the back offices. The admin desk was moved and sited in the space formally occupied by the Buderim Foundation. The cupboards in this space were reorganized by Ruth's nephew who is a cabinet maker and volunteered his services and, as a result, the office has been transformed. Ruth and Marg have tirelessly established a clear and highly useable filing system which allows admin and members to put their hands on documents that are needed from time to time in an orderly and efficient manner. The duplicate keys have also moved down the hallway to the new admin office area on the wall beside the smart filing cabinet. The former admin desk next to the curator's desk is now set aside as a research area with its own computer and printer. An additional handset for the telephone was purchased and installed by Steve Ormerod. Unfortunately, during our closure, the internet router died a very sad death, however I am pleased to report that by remaining with Optus for two years, Steve was able to negotiate a new router for our communication hub.

Steve has expended the grant money that we received from the Buderim Foundation in setting up our new research centre and some improved office hardware for the admin office in its new area. I wish to thank Steve for all that he has done by installing and maintaining our computer systems which are so essential for the wellbeing and functioning of a modern museum. The additional telephone handset means that all our workspaces are connected to the outside community and that volunteers can move around and work knowing that they can communicate within the cottage and to the historical world.

Bill Lavarack has published yet another of his well sort after Occasional Papers. His latest paper is titled *Buderim Shops - Central Business Area 1870 – 1970* which was written by Bill and Helene Cronin. The publication views the development of the Buderim retail and central business area with a wonderful montage of historical photographs depicting the stores and many of the family members responsible for the running of the businesses in the retail and commercial precinct. The information on which this paper is based came from two major sources: (1) Helene Cronin's extensive data base on Buderim and its residents and (2) research for Bill Lavarack's book *Stories of Old Buderim* published in 2014. I thank Bill and Helene for making the Occasional Paper available to the membership.

Group visits have returned to Pioneer Cottage, thanks to the efforts of Ruth and the SFG group. On 10 February a group of approximately 29 retirees from the Halcyon Village at Buderim/Maroochydore will visit. The group will be visiting Pioneer Cottage and then partake in a delicious Devonshire tea on the verandas of the cottage.



Left: Lorraine and Ruth serving coffee to the retirees from Halcyon Village.

Right: Kevin addressing the group.

The SFG group will prepare the morning tea and serve it to our guests. We hope that this will be the re-birthing of such activities since the advent of Covid. We are also hoping that we may be able to attract some future members and possible volunteers to BHS as we are always on the search for new local members to strengthen our ranks.

A professional development opportunity has become available to BHS through the Sector Development Department and thanks to Elspeth McEachern for offering the event to local groups. This specialized workshop is tailored to meet the needs of community museums like ours when applying for grants from various sources. The workshop will direct us to sources of income, pitfalls in the application process and planning, staging and communicating our project's needs. At this point Ruth and I have indicated a desire that we would like to attend the workshop on the 21 February.

It was decided at the last SFG meeting that a Social platform needed to be established so that volunteers had an opportunity to meet together as guide duties can be socially isolating as often the only meeting that takes place is at the change of shift. The concept of a social get together over a cool beverage and a shared snack or two has been suggested as the way of bringing together our active membership. It was agreed that Friday was the best day to have such an activity and to run the social gathering between the hours of 5:00-6:30pm. The first of these events is going to be held on 10 March in the Vise House meeting room. It was decided that the meeting would be titled the *Buderim Cottage Crew* (BCC). We hope that the new gathering is a success and enables our active members to social mix with one another.

In closing I wish to say how I look forward to working in 2023 with Management Committee, Curatorial staff and the volunteers who keep the grounds and buildings in such great condition and finally those members who keep the doors of the cottage open for the ever expanding numbers who visit our cottage and its collection.

Regards  
Kevin.



**Australia Day Picnic in the Park**

**Left:** Bev, Lorraine and Kevin

Pioneer Cottage/Buderim Historical Society display at the Park. We were pleased with the interest shown and are hoping some people will visit the cottage, become members or volunteers.

**HISTORY TALK**

The first History Talk for the year will be given by **Keith Guy**, a descendant of William Henry Guy who was the second person (after Joseph Dixon) to take up land on Buderim when it was opened for selection in 1870.

His subject: **The Guy Family in the early days on Buderim.**

Come along, bring your friends, should be a very interesting talk and stay for afternoon tea.



Ruth's photo of Pioneer Cottage's prize winning entry in the Heritage Department's Christmas Contest. It shows the dining room set up for Christmas. Note the stockings hung on the mantelpiece.