

# THE PIONEER

THE BUDERIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

January/February 2024

## **PATRON**

Lorrell Jamieson

## **PRESIDENT:**

Kevin Briggs 0488 021 894

## **VICE PRESIDENT:**

Doug Benckendorff 5445 4683

## **SECRETARY:**

Margaret Thursby 0421 832 855

## **TREASURER:**

Margaret Welshe 0414 452 722

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Lorraine Buhk 5444 1955

Ruth Ormerod 5326 1740

Lyn Nichols 0402 306 992

Geoff Baker 0435 068 241

## **CURATORS:**

Photographic Collection:

Janet Baker 0432 900 940

House Museum Collection:

Gail MacDonald 0455 040 411

History Resources Collection:

Geoff Baker 0435 068 241

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Steve Ormerod 0412 392 488

## **DIARY DATES**

Friday 26 January 2024

BHS stall at Australia Day

Picnic in the Park, Buderim

Village Park 4.30 – 9.00pm

Friday 9 February 2024

5.00 – 6.30pm

Bi-monthly BHS Volunteers

drinks gathering at Pioneer

Cottage (BYO and bring a plate

to share)

Welcome to our first Buderim Historical Society (BHS) newsletter for 2024. We are looking forward to sharing Buderim's history with visitors to Pioneer Cottage in 2024 and hope they have a memorable experience in exploring the Cottage and gardens. A big effort has been put in behind the scenes while the Cottage was closed over the Christmas break, to prepare for the year ahead, so we hope you enjoy hearing the news of what has been happening, beginning with some notes from our President, Kevin Briggs, to get the ball rolling!

## **Notes from the President**

Thank you to our maintenance team for the work that they did over the Christmas break. Doug and Alan put a clean flake coating on the floor of the public toilet area. The work was not made easy with the constant wet weather, as drying periods were necessary between the coats. I thank Doug and Alan for the time that has been put into the project and their great patience shown in dealing with the weather during the laying of the floor.

Our garden beds and grounds are looking very good thanks to the efforts of our garden volunteers, who commit so many unsolicited hours. I know that it takes a tremendous effort due to the high growth time, what with the high rainfall and the very warm conditions. Prunings from our shrubs and plants have kept our green bins overflowing so we will look forward to the day when the new mulcher, which will be provided by a Sunshine Coast Council grant, is purchased and put into action. The mulch will also be put to good use on our garden beds.



Our curatorial group has been very busy with the task of checking and auditing the objects being held in our storage area. Gail and Janet lead the operation with the underlying purpose of the exercise to ensure our records of objects in our collection corresponded with those held in storage and the condition of the objects is evaluated and where necessary maintenance and cleaning. A big thank you to Jenny Christensen and Val Coles for working with Gail and Janet on this project.

Welcome to Trevor Bayliss and Liz Kenny as new members and we look forward to your participation in the work of BHS.

In closing I would just like to make mention of the enthusiastic participation of many of our new members. Attendances at both the recent Social Marketing Group and the Volunteer Update Session were outstanding to say the least. A positive feature of the group was their demonstrated willingness to participate in discussions and to put their hands in the air, giving us a commitment to help out where needed.

I thank all members for the contribution that they make through their work and attendance at meetings. I would ask that all members be treated with respect and dignity which promotes a harmonious, hardworking organisation.

### Upcoming Events

BHS will have a stall at the Australia Day Picnic in the Park at Buderim Village Park on Friday 26 January, commencing at 4.30pm. The focus of the stall is to interest people in becoming BHS members.

The next bi-monthly social drinks evening for volunteers will be held on Friday 9 February from 5.00 – 6.30pm.

### 2023 Christmas Events

Santa's elves (Stacey Morris, her daughters Mai & Abby and friend Rosa) assisted Ruth Ormerod to decorate the Cottage, with a photo of the Dining Room Christmas decorations sent to Sunshine Coast Council for its Christmas at Museums competition. Our participation has resulted in a \$100 voucher from the Council for the purchase of conservation supplies. Great news!



The BHS fundraising stall at the annual Lions Christmas Fair was highly successful, raising about \$950. Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the stall.



*Janet Baker ready for the Fair*



*Lyn Nichols & Barb Dennien*

It was wonderful to welcome members to our annual Christmas Soiree held on Friday 1 December 2023. The weather was kind to us, and it was an enjoyable evening on the front verandah of Pioneer Cottage.

The Christmas Soiree raffle was a fund-raising success, and the raffle prize winners were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Prue Cawley's home-made Christmas cake was won by Sue Gilcrist
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Goodies Hamper was won by Janet Baker
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Bottle of Scotch was won by Sue Leahy
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize – Christmas hamper donated by Brent Mickelberg MP was won by Christina.



## **Pioneer Cottage Attendance in 2023**

Ruth Ormerod has compiled statistics on the number of visitors to Pioneer Cottage. In all, there were 1,521 visitors to the Cottage, including group visits (eg, from Retirement Villages) and school excursions. This indicates that visitation is recovering after the Covid pandemic, but there is still a way to go to reach the attendance level of about 3,000 in 2019.

## **Sunshine Coast Council Grants**

Sunshine Coast Council has notified BHS of the success of the application for funds to purchase and install a replacement garden shed and mulcher, to help with maintenance of the Pioneer Cottage's Garden.

The Council has also transferred funds to purchase a touch screen and hard drive for the museum room at Pioneer Cottage. The touch screen will provide a means of giving museum visitors the chance to look through the significant historical photos in BHS' photographic collection. BHS member Ross Eason with assistance from other BHS members is currently re-digitising these photos for display through the touch screen. The touch screen will also provide a means of making other historical material in the BHS collection available for public viewing.

BHS is undertaking further investigations requested by the Council, in order to obtain funding approval under the Council's Collection Care program to conserve and restore selected artwork and photos.

## **Interpretation Plan for Pioneer Cottage**

As reported in our last newsletter, the Sunshine Coast Council has selected the BHS to obtain expert assistance to develop an interpretation plan to guide the museum layout in Pioneer Cottage. BHS will get four sessions with Josh Tarrant from the Queensland Museum.

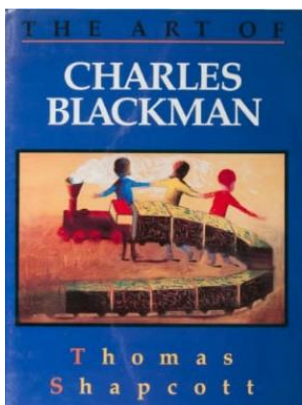
At the first session in December 2023, Josh provided an overview of the process of Interpretation planning before the group discussed what had changed since the Stage 1 Interpretation Plan report was completed in 2018. Josh indicated the scope of this exercise is better suited to planning a single exhibition rather than attempting to address all the issues identified in the 2018 report. The process of developing an interpretation plan for a single exhibition can then be used by BHS after the project to address the issues in the 2018 report.

Options for semi-permanent or short-term displays will enable more of the collection currently in permanent storage to be viewed by members and visitors. Once a topic is agreed with Josh, he will help us with the detailed interpretation planning for a display using relevant objects, photographs and historical records in the BHS collection.

## **Buderim history enquiry about Charles Blackman in Buderim**

At our Volunteer Update session held on Monday 15 January 2024, Geoff Baker provided an example of the benefit of door guides passing on requests from visitors seeking more information on aspects of Buderim's history. In late 2023, Diana Danielson had an enquiry from a Pioneer Cottage visitor about whether the Australian artist Charles Blackman lived in Buderim in the early 1980s. The visitor was a local resident who was keen to find documentation about his time in Buderim. Diana recorded the enquiry and Ruth passed it on to Geoff for investigation.

Art historian Joanna Mendelssohn has written on Charles Blackman's life and indicated he lived in Buderim in the late 1970s and early 1980s, during the time of his second marriage. According to Joanna, it was during this period that he began to introduce tropical themes into his art, no doubt influenced by the Sunshine Coast environment.



Buried away in the BHS archives was a photocopy of two book extracts about Charles Blackman's time in Buderim. The first is from a 1989 book called *The Art of Charles Blackman* by Thomas Shapcott, published by Deutsch, London. The second is from a 1993 publication called *Charles Blackman: Schoolgirls and Angels: a retrospective exhibition of paintings and drawings by Charles Blackman*, by Felicity St. John Moore and published by the National Gallery of Victoria as part of a Charles Blackman art exhibition.



In the 1993 publication, there is a reference to Charles Blackman renting a house in Buderim in 1979 and then in 1980 buying a Buderim parcel of about three acres with a small shack, which he converted into a studio. He then built a house on the site and the book has a photograph of the house in 1984, taken by his wife at the time, Genevieve de Couvreur.



Thomas Shapcott's 1989 book includes Charles Blackman's own recollections of his time in Buderim, in which he refers to his series *The Canecutter's Dream* as having been painted while in Buderim. According to the 1993 publication, his drawing *The Tea Ceremony*, inspired by a visit to Japan, was completed in Buderim, along with the painting *Celestial Bouquet* and a series of rainforest paintings.

The Sunshine Coast Council library has a digital memoir by Charles' daughter to Genevieve de Couvreur, the singer Bertie Blackman, called *Bohemian Negligence*. Bertie was born in 1982, during the family's time in Buderim. In 2020 Bertie also published a children's picture book called *Micah the Star Sailor*, for 3-6 year-olds.

Jenny Christensen in particular was delighted to hear about this enquiry – she enjoyed a Charles Blackman painting in her workplace when she worked in the Vice-Chancellor's office at UQ!

### **Buderim Historical Society Management Committee**

Finally, we were able to get this year's Committee members together for a photograph! Here they are at the Christmas Soiree in December. Of course, Kevin is talking!



Back row: Kevin Briggs (President), Geoff Baker, Marg Thursby (Secretary)  
Middle row: Ruth Ormerod, Doug Benckendorff  
Front row: Marg Welshe (Treasurer), Lorraine Buhk.