

PATRON

Lorrell Jamieson

PRESIDENT:

Kevin Briggs 0488 021 894

VICE PRESIDENT:

.....[vacant]

SECRETARY:

.....[vacant]

TREASURER:

Margaret Welshe 0414 452 722

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

Lorraine Buhk 5444 1955

Doug Benckendorff 5445 4683

Ruth Ormerod 5326 1740

Geoff Baker 0435 068 241

Lyn Nichols 0402 306 992

CURATORS:

Photographic Collection:

Janet Baker 0432 900 940

House Museum Collection:

Gail MacDonald 0455 040 411

MEMBERSHIP:

Steve Ormerod 0412 392 488

HISTORY TALKS:

Geoff Baker 0435 068 241

NEWSLETTER:

.....[Vacant]

DIARY DATES

History Talk – by Keith Guy

6 August 2023

Vise House, 2:00pm.

AGM – 2 September, 2:00pm

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to two dear friends of BHS and Pioneer Cottage – Robyn Edwards and Grace McLuskie.

VALE

ROBYN EDWARDS

(by Prue Cawley)



Robyn was born in 1943 in Parkes NSW when her father was serving in the forces. They travelled around Australia and ended up in South Australia. There she met and married George Edwards. After they married George, Robyn and their two children, Sue and Robert, moved around southern Australia before settling on the Sunshine Coast, in 1979. George was an electrician and Robyn used to help with the accounts etc. She was a great businesswoman and an excellent worker. She obtained a job with a major Brisbane pharmacy as the leader of female staff and was their perfume and cosmetics buyer. She travelled to Brisbane each day for some years.

She was always very community minded and when she retired, she soon became involved with the “Friends of Buderim” and helped raise funds for the Buderim War Memorial Hall to assist with its renovation. She was their treasurer, co-editor of their very successful 2nd cookbook and one of the many great cooks who set up a food stall at the Buderim Easter and Christmas Fairs. Her display and fundraising skills were very much in evidence there and the stall was always one of the first to sell out. Her involvement extended to the BWMCA where her business skills were again used as their Vice-President and she worked with the Council re the sale of Bart’s Land and Hepburn House, now the site of the Village Park.

In 2012 she agreed to become Treasurer at BHS and she continued in this roll until 2019 when her deteriorating eyesight made it difficult for her to continue. She was a member of our Social Fund-Raising committee and was an excellent raffle ticket seller as she seemed to know everybody in Buderim, and they were unable to go past her without buying a ticket.

Our procedures were reorganised and documented with the help of her and other committee members, and her desk was always as neat as a pin. She was very keen to have a succession and business plan drawn up. She ensured that her position was filled when she finally left the committee. During this time, she asked Dulux Paints if they could supply paint for Pioneer Cottage and they agreed to donate it along with the painters to apply the paint.

Margaret Thursby, her friend from “Friends”, assisted in the production of a new professional flyer for the cottage which is still in use today. Through her connection with the Buderim Foundation, Alex Sweet came on board to help with the graphic design and photos. Alex then was employed to help the committee design our new web site.

Robyn was always very pleasant to everybody, impeccably dressed and her skills were appreciated and missed by all.

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VALE
GRACE MCLUSKIE
(Prue Cawley)

Grace was born in Woombye c. 1925. She married Mervyn James McLuskie in 1949 and they had two children Margaret and Gavin. They started their life together farming small crops and cattle. Mervyn also worked in real estate on Buderim. When Mervyn became an inaugural member of the Buderim War Memorial Community Committee - BWMCC Grace started a long service for that organisation. She attended almost every member’s meeting up until she left Buderim and was a staunch supported and stickler for observation of their constitution.



Through Merv’s involvement with the local Council and his membership of the Buderim Historical Society – BHS, he was closely involved in the donation of Sybil Vise’s house to the BWMCA and its establishment as Pioneer Cottage. Grace was an inaugural member of the BHS. She worked on the committee for several years and worked with them on developing the garden. She donated the four Camellia bushes in front of the cottage and again was a stickler for ensuring things were done correctly.

I first became involved with Grace at the Old Post Office run by the BWMCA where she and I volunteered. She was a very pleasant and enthusiastic worker involved in many volunteer groups and when I said I wanted to do more voluntary work she introduced me to Olive Close at Pioneer Cottage and so began my many happy years there.

Grace was also involved with the local Ambulance Committee and was secretary there working closely with John Culley and in her later years was involved deeply with the resuscitation classes that they established.

She was an avid history collector, and her house was crowded with many newspaper cuttings and photos of our history.

When her health started to deteriorate her family moved her to Yeppoon to be nearer to them.

We were all very saddened to hear of her death.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY 2023

I welcome all members in attendance today and I thank them for finding the time to attend. I thank Bev for sending a card and her kind words to the family of our late member, former Treasurer, and friend Robyn Edwards. A minute's silence was also observed by some twenty odd members who attended our history talk on the 13 May.

A large enthusiastic group attended our last history talk. The talk was titled *The Cunning Family (from 1887) and their education links with the Buderim Mountain School*. Robyn Powell, the presenter, is a direct descendant of the Cunning family who farmed crops and were suppliers of timber to the wider community. Her tales about her father and his siblings attending the Buderim school were enlightening to say the least. Robyn's descriptions of how early family members walked from Tanawah to school using rough bush tracks to make the trek to school and home again each day. Robyn herself attended the much, rural/agricultural natured school. The school and its staff provided Robyn with a love of education and a desire to become a teacher. Robyn's father, Robert or Bob as he was known, was not only a student in the very early days but he went on to be a prominent member on the school's P&C. Robyn went on to attend Maroochydore High School from where she went to train as a teacher working across significant areas of North West Queensland.



As the committee is aware, Bev conveyed to us at our April meeting that she would be resigning due to the pressures of family life and the commitment to preserve her own health and wellbeing. Bev will be retiring from her position as at 31 May. I wrote to Bev to thank her for her unwavering service to BHS and the service that she has provided to the Buderim Community. A thank-you morning tea will be held for Bev at a date to be confirmed.

Our membership database is currently being reviewed and updated by Steve so that we have an adjusted list with current financial status, contact address and telephone numbers for each of our members. I thank Steve for the work that he is doing since taking over this role. The audit that Steve has conducted will provide the committee with an accurate up to date membership spread sheet.

A small working party consisting of Janet, Geoff, Marg, Ruth and myself are working toward a draft of our BHS Strategic Plan for 2023-2028. Geoff and Janet, over the last fortnight, have examined designated role or positions that are needed for our organisation to function effectively. Their work is of an extremely high standard and I thank them for the effort that has been made to this point. There is still a significant journey involved as we work toward the outcome of a fully developed and executed Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2028. I thank all group members of the working party for finding the time and willpower to commit to such a task.

I wish to acknowledge the work that our Social Marketing Group has achieved in recent months which has included the setting up of an extensive contact list with whom we can promote marketing opportunities for Pioneer Cottage and BHS. While Lyn is not our marketing manager, her imitation has proved quite fruitful particularly with the requests for volunteers that she has had published in *My Weekly Preview*. Ruth currently has the prospect of four new volunteer guides with their "L" plates and they are all shaping up as great ambassadors for BHS. Thanks to Ruth for formally interviewing our prospective volunteers.

I attended the BMWCA meeting that was held on 9 May. There was little information for our perusal, however, the President did suggest that many of the affiliates of the BMWCA were not attending their meetings. There are some 42 affiliate groups and only three had representation at the meeting. On behalf of our organisation I suggested that the meeting times, 12:00 noon, were not very user friendly for affiliate groups where young members had work or family commitments at this time of the day. One discussion point

that did arise in general business was that the President raised the point that the buildings owned by BWMCA were under insured when replacement cost is considered. The President said that this needed to be reviewed and I guess that, reading between the lines, this may mean that when lease arrangements come due in 2024 there may be a rental increase imposed on BHS. We will need to employ a tough negotiator when we sit at the round table in 2024 to discuss our new lease.

I thank Doug for his continued work with the completion of the turfing that has been undertaken across both properties and the gardening team who continue to strive to have our gardens perfectly positioned for spring when Pioneer Cottage will be open in the Buderim Garden Club's open homes weekend. Alan is midway through the staining of doors from the house proper to the verandas and I thank him for that. The next project will involve the completion of the garden edging and laying a path to the external toilet. Our remaining Macadamia tree needs some attention. The top of the tree needs removing and perhaps Doug may be able to enlist a quote from the tree company that ground the stump of the last tree.

Our curatorial staff have been busy maintaining our collection both with cleaning and repairs. Gail organized the repair of the leather shaving strap from the bathroom which was done by a commercial leather worker free of charge. Gail and Ruth have been jointly working on the reinstatement of labels on displayed objects in the kitchen and laundry areas. The intent with the new labels is to standardize all labels and give them a professional appearance to visitors to the cottage. Ross is continuing, when time permits, to digitize our photographic collection. The French polisher has been contacted to confirm the cost of repairing the water damaged chiffonier that was quoted in 2022. I am suggesting that, while unsuccessful in obtaining a grant, we should move forward and have at least the chiffonier returned to its former glory by using BHS surplus, donated funds.

The position of Secretary will be vacant at the end of May and, despite scouring the countryside, we are still in the position of needing to entice somebody into this highly rewarding position. As a group, the Management Committee members may be all called upon to help fill the gaps that currently exist without a formal Secretary. Hopefully we will have one of our members fill this position at our September AGM. In the meantime, I urge all members of our executive to continue to encourage possible applicants for this highly sought after position.

Visitor numbers continue to show improvement as do requests for Devonshire teas and school visits. A group from the Hibiscus Retirement Village came for a Devonshire tea last Tuesday and they thoroughly enjoyed their morning tea and the opportunity to explore Pioneer Cottage. Many positive comments came from our visitors both about the Devonshire tea and the objects on display in the cottage. A smaller school group will be visiting Pioneer Cottage next Tuesday.

Kevin Briggs

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SCHOOL VISIT

A group of Year One students from Peregrin Beach College visited Pioneer Cottage on Tuesday 30 May. An interesting and enjoyable time was had by all.

DEVONSHIRE TEAS

Kawana Waters View Club, 14 June and two other groups on 21 June and 26 July.

OPO WINDOW DISPLAY

7 – 14 July an opportunity to advertise Pioneer Cottage and Buderim Historical Society.

HISTORY TALK

Saturday 5 August – KEITH GUY, a descendent from Buderim pioneer William Henry Guy.



SOCIAL ACTIVITY FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS
 held at Vise House – every second month – 5:00pm to 6:30pm
 BYO drinks and nibbles and a jolly good time to be had by all.
 Next get together – 14 July 2023.



BHS Management Committee 2022-2023
 Standing L to R:
 Margaret Welshe, Kevin Briggs, Geoff Baker, Bev Lavarack, Ruth Ormerod.
 Sitting L to R:
 Doug Benckendorff, Lorraine Buhk