

THE PIONEER

BUDERIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

September/October 2021

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

Ken O'Flaherty 0417 646 759

CURATOR:

David Wood

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Kevin Briggs 0488 021 894

David Wood 5477 0102

MEMBERSHIP:

Ian Jackson 0429 862 050

HISTORY TALKS:

Bev & Bill Lavarack 5445 1355

NEWSLETTER:

Bev Lavarack 5445 1355

DIARY DATES

HISTORY TALKS

2 October 2021, Vise House

2:00 pm

20 November 2021, Vise House

MUSEUM MYSTERY

MADNESS

Month of September

OPEN HOUSE

23/24 October

CHRISTMAS SOIREE

Friday, 3 December

HISTORY TALK

The next History Talk will be on 2 October at Vise House at 2:00 pm. On that date we will again be favoured with a talk by Neil McGarvie OAM. His topic will be:

'Memories of work in remote Aboriginal communities, 1964-1975.'

Pioneer Cottage School Visit

What a delight to once again hear the excited chatter of small children echo through Pioneer Cottage. On the 6th, 8th and 9th of September, 136 Sunshine Beach State School Year 2 students, accompanied by some of their teachers and parents, spent 3 mornings at the Cottage learning about life as it was in the late 1800s and playing 'old fashioned' games on the lawn.



Here you see Kevin, our President, doing his 'school master' welcome to one of the groups.

Many thanks go to our volunteers, especially Kevin, who enthusiastically gave their time and shared information about how the Burnett family lived and played. Feedback from the teacher indicated that the students 'thoroughly enjoyed it and would love to go again. They enjoyed seeing things from the past that they hadn't seen before.'

Ruth Ormerod

AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 11 September with the existing committee re-elected and an additional member, Ken O'Flaherty, appointed – welcome Ken.

President's Report for 2021 AGM

Welcome

A warm welcome is extended to all members who have been able to attend today's AGM of the Buderim Historical Society. This report centres around a year that has been a year like no other.

I wish to personally thank David for acting as Chairman at this meeting due to my absence. An important family matter created the need to be away from the coast this weekend.

The Covid 19 Challenge

As the current year draws to a close it is important to acknowledge the impact that Covid had upon the operation of BHS and Pioneer Cottage. The forced closure of the cottage and the resultant changes needed to create a safe environment for all our volunteers and the public when reopening occurred. Fortunately, we had a volunteer member, Ruth Ormerod, who continues to lead the way with the experience she had gained working for many years in the public health sector. The effect on our organisation has been to see visitor numbers decline, particularly overseas visitors, interstate visitors and school students. Fortunately, the work done by our volunteers kept the upkeep of our buildings and grounds moving forward.

Prue's Departure

It was with much sadness that we saw Prue Cawley depart from our committee. We thank Prue for the long and distinguished service that she provided to the Buderim Historical Society. As well as being an excellent leader she had formed some formidable friendships with likeminded fellow members. Prue was generous and very giving of her time. She was very much at home whether interacting with the local council heritage committee, the Queensland Museum or the casual visitors who presented themselves to the front door of the cottage. In her many roles in this association, Prue had always presented as an energetic member who significantly lifted the historical intellect of fellow members of BHS. Thank you, Prue.

Strategic Plan for BHS

Essential in this modern era is the need to have a blueprint (Strategic Plan) to guide the direction of BHS. We strive to conserve and preserve Buderim pioneer history, artefacts and data, for utilisation by our community and visitors as a background resource to modern regional development and lifestyle.

Ruth has continued to lead our Strategic Planning and the consultative work (SWOT) with our members has provided us with a working document (AOP) which underpins the Regional Heritage Strategic Plan. Our Annual Operational plan has set achievable milestones providing immediate direction for our committee.

Milestones from the 2021 AOP:

- Developing and undertaking a maintenance program consistent with our Conservation Management Plan.
- Reviewing our Collection Policy and our Cleaning and House Keeping Policy.
- Developing themes for interpretation of displays. (eg, Indigenous and South Sea Islander stories, Agriculture, Burnett family stories and other Pioneer families.)
- Recruiting of staff for volunteer roles and visitor guides.
- Developing of a Volunteer Management Policy including the training and support of our volunteers.
- Providing all volunteers with access to our Work Place Health & Safety protocols and undertaking relevant Fire & Emergency Training for our active volunteers.
- Continuing with the digitizing process that allows external historians and interested parties to access our historical collections.
- Using current media opportunities to promote BHS and the Pioneer Cottage.
- Revising and developing an appropriate Year 2/3 educational program.

I am pleased to report that we can clearly say “achieved” or “working toward” for all the milestones in our AOP

Photographic Project

One of the major projects undertaken this year was our photographic project which was led by BHS members Geoff and Janet Baker who are both highly experienced in project management and research. BHS has a significant collection of photographic images which total some 2000 plus images. The photographic team suggested a collection of 25 photographs be considered for the digitizing process. The management committee supported the action and David liaised with Ross Eason, a professional photographer, who was employed to repair and reduce damage of the select collection of photographs. I thank David for the many hours of liaising that he has done with Ross Eason and for his foresight in proposing the grant application that made the project possible. BHS is now the proud recipient of 25 restored images held in print form and electronically stored print data.

Restoration of Paintings and Photographs

Jess and Gail have embarked on a journey restoring and maintaining the hung photographs and paintings. The results of the work undertaken demonstrated what restoration could do for some of our collection. Both volunteers, as skilled

as they are, recognized that we needed some professional help because of the deteriorated state of some the hung items. A local art dealer was called for advice. Art Nuvo is currently forwarding a quote for work to be done which hopefully will be financed by a Council Heritage Grant. The photographs and paintings that Jess and Gail have put forward include:

Ernest & Wife Burnett from the Main Bedroom
John and Jane Burnett from the Dining Room
Queen Victoria??? In the Dining Room
Dorothea and Joyce in the Dining Room
Painting of Dorothea and Joyce in the Parlour.

Maintenance

The cottage continues to require an ongoing program of repairs. Leaking windows provided us with a continued water problem when gusty wind driven rain hits against the roof. David, “Master timber merchant”, has gone to great lengths in matching timbers in the upstairs areas where repairs needed doing. While having a roofer on site it has been brought to our attention that the existing chimney and lead flashing requires attention. The work is currently awaiting quotes, which are difficult to obtain at present.

The cottage has required attention to various electrical issues, and this was highlighted during a potential heavy rain period. The safety switch kept tripping and, on the advice of Keith Atkinson Electrical, the junction box was replaced together with the installation of an all-weather light fitting in the slab hut. Rectification of a noncompliant light fitting and the removal of the light fitting downstairs has brought Pioneer Cottage and Vise House up to required industry standard.

Lawns and Gardens

The grounds and flower beds continue to look amazing and feedback from our visitors highlight the way in which our gardens compliment Pioneer Cottage. The flower beds are flourishing thanks to all our “green fingered” volunteers (led by Lois and Lorraine). The lawned areas are also a sight to be seen thanks to the turfing efforts of Doug. The watering by our Volunteer Guides when they are on duty helps support and maintain our gardens and lawned areas. Thanks to Doug’s efforts by installing a watering system the gardens and lawns are ensured a source of regular water.

Occasional Papers

Bill Lavarack’s concept of the BHS publishing occasional papers has been well received by our history minded community and the wider community. The general community can access these publications via our web site. Bill’s first Occasional Paper titled *The Murder of William Stephens in 1866 at Mooloolah* was well received and the second paper was titled *The Sugar Industry on Buderim*. These papers are very informative and enjoyed by their readers.

History Talks

Thanks to Bev for her great efforts in re-establishing BHS history talks. After the interesting presentation by the Guy cousins, Susan and Jeanine, who unpacked their family’s role in the area and the role that women had played in supporting these endeavour, Neil McGarvie presented a talk about the Buderim-Palmwoods Tramway Project, Buderim Historical Timeline and the history of Aborigines in the Buderim area. The talks have been well attended by members, however, Covid restrictions can make the numbers attending difficult.

New Volunteer Door Guides and Others

I am pleased to report that we have had several new members who have volunteered their time to act as guides. The increase in guides has meant that we have been able to open the cottage from Monday to Saturday which restores our days to their former glory. These guides have been trained and received orientation under the watchful eye of Ruth who organises our guide rosters for the cottage.

School Visits

I am pleased to report that school visits have commenced following Covid19 lockdowns. Schools have been quite reticent to leave the safety of the school confines. Peregrin Springs College and Sunshine Beach State School have blessed us with their presence. Sunshine Beach S.S. brought 170 visitors to our site over three days this week. I am most grateful to our team of volunteer guides who made this visit possible. The first hand experience that the students received allowed them to understand the historical concept of “now and then”.

To assist any new guides and to refresh experienced hands, following our Covid shut down, the Education Group has prepared a resource book. The resource document provides descriptions of key items on display in each of the areas of Pioneer Cottage. The feedback from Sunshine Beach S.S. was outstanding saying that the organisation and the quality of the guides was excellent.

Christmas in July

A social gathering was held in July to compensate for the loss of last year's Christmas Soiree. An enjoyable afternoon was had by those members who were able to attend our Christmas in July function. The SFG (Social Fundraising Group) did a wonderful job in organizing the event. The event provided an opportunity for all members to get together and socialize. The shared refreshments made for a good time where people felt comfortable interacting in a very socially, friendly charged atmosphere. Thank you to Steve Ormerod who organized the Christmas music and to Lorraine who organized the lucky door prize draw. As the light started to fade and the dew settled on the ground it was time to draw our event to a close.

Closing

In closing I wish to thank all office bearers and committee members for the contribution that they have made to BHS. These members ensure the daily operations of the Pioneer Cottage as well preserving the history of the Buderim Community.

I thank our volunteers who record and preserve the various items in our collection. I also thank those volunteer guides who enable visiting community members local, national and international to enjoy and take away knowledge and understanding about the Buderim pioneers and their families.

I thank the staff at the Sunshine Coast Council's Cultural and Heritage Dept. These officers provide support and expert knowledge to the Management Committee. The support can often be of a technical nature regarding storage and care of items in our collection. They are a font of knowledge when it comes to in service opportunities and direction for Cultural Heritage Grant applications.

We are also grateful for the support that we receive from the BWMCA and all levels of government. Ted O'Brien Member for Fairfax, Brent Mickelberg Member for Buderim and Councillor Ted Hungerford who all demonstrate an eagerness to support BHS and the Pioneer Cottage when they are needed. Thank you one and all.

Kevin Briggs

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Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Report for 2021 AGM

Treasurer Margaret Welshe advised that the accounts have been audited and copies of the reports were available at the meeting. She felt the auditor's description of Income was short on detail so provided the following:

Total grants received from the Council for the year was \$24329.

The Council Partnership Grant has been approved for another three years (\$14000 per annum) and we have received the first of these grants.

\$2773 Donations were received - all appreciated;

\$364 Door admissions which is pretty good considering Covid.

\$612 Fundraising despite no events.

\$550 Interest. \$70326 Term Deposit. \$580 Membership.

\$1615 Rent received. Buderim Foundation have an office in Vise House and Probus hold meetings there.

\$6385 Surplus for the year.

Margaret said we are financially in a very good position.

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Curator's Report for 2021 AGM

Our team of curators has been strengthened by the arrival of several new members with excellent skills. The best demonstration of this work has been the completion of the first phase of the photo restoration project which involved Prue, Jess, Janet and Geoff Baker and Marie Hand. We were fortunate to get a grant from Sunshine Coast Council to engage Ross Eason to digitally restore 26 significant images, selected by our team of volunteers. Examples of these restored photos are available for you to inspect here today.

Jess and Gail have spent nearly the whole year working through the cottage, cleaning objects and checking the contents of each room against our collections database. Quite a few items were not in the database, and they have also added more information into the database about the objects already entered. Recently they have been assisted in this work by Jenny Christensen, who has had experience doing similar data entry for a cottage museum at Alstonville. Gail has been getting advice on cleaning and restoration of artwork from Olivia Banks at Art Nuvo, doing some repair and restoration work on some wall hangings. We have identified ten items though which need specialist treatment and Andrew Banks has carried out an appraisal of these and a cost estimate, which formed the basis of a grant application to Sunshine Coast Council under the Collections Care Program. The proposal was discussed beforehand with members of the Council's Cultural Heritage Service team, who gave very favourable feedback.

With Prue's retirement the management committee members have all taken on a number of tasks, previously carried out by Prue. I have agreed to continue the work of Curator, working closely with Jess. I have cleaned and catalogued a number of carpentry tools donated from Jack Holliday's collection, however they are yet to be entered into eHive. They will be displayed in the southern cabinet in the slab hut, with explanations of what they were used for.

A project for the coming year will be to have a closer look at the slab hut and determine what work needs to be done to maintain its structural integrity. There appears to be an increasing problem with shingles blowing off in strong wind, due to the nails holding them in place being rusted off. Recommendations were made in the Preservation Needs Assessment about applying chemicals to the timber to preserve it, but some of the timber in ground contact has decayed to the point where it may need replacement. The challenge will be to find an expert on conservation of buildings like this who can give practical and realistic advice on materials and techniques, without detracting from the character of the building.

Following agreement by the BHS management committee and the executive of the Foote Sanctuary Association a ceramic poppy which formed part of a commemorative display at the Tower of London to pay tribute to 888,246 soldiers from the British Empire who were killed in World War 1, is now on display in Pioneer Cottage. The poppy and explanatory text was displayed in the rotunda in the Foote Sanctuary picnic area, however it was hard to see and exposed to the elements and predation by insect pests. The sanctuary association were successful in getting a grant to construct a display board in the picnic area to tell the story. With assistance from a local graphic artist, a very informative display was created, however plans to display the ceramic poppy did not come to fruition due to problems with security. There were concerns expressed that the poppy and its story should be exposed to the public, rather than locked up in a cupboard. The poppy and explanatory text are now displayed in the Museum Room, held in trust for Foote Sanctuary Association in a similar fashion to the painting of George Eggescombe.

I would like to acknowledge the work done by Prue as Curator before her retirement. She is a hard act to follow, but we have had excellent support from the Cultural Heritage Services team from Sunshine Coast Council to build on our limited skills. We have had several visits by Peter Connell and James Abernathy who have advised us on conservation techniques and where to get additional information on caring for our collection. Subject to Covid limitations the group also have a number of interesting training sessions for volunteers on all aspects of museum management planned for the coming year.

David Wood

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Social Fundraising Group –Report for 2021 AGM

Due to the many stops and starts thrown up by Covid 19, 2021 has again not been a very productive time for our group in the fundraising department. This has not stopped the group try for a light hearted Xmas In July to lift everyone's spirits. A pleasant, cool, breezy evening was enjoyed by some 40 members .

While not a fundraising effort The Buderim Pioneer Cottage, along with many other notable buildings in the shire, will be open to welcome visitors the weekend of 23/24 October in conjunction with Sunshine Coast Council's Open House 2021.

Our popular Christmas Raffle information and tickets will be included in the October Newsletter for members to assist our fundraising effort. Along with sale of jams, pickles ,books, 'Bibs/Bobs' it will be on show for all to view and purchase further tickets at the Buderim Xmas Fair in the hall 27 November where your winning ticket will be drawn.

'Covid willing' Invitations will be in the newsletter as well for our popular Xmas Evening Soiree on our Cottage lawn Friday evening 3 December with all welcome.

Lorraine Buhk

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Membership Report for 2021 AGM

Our paid-up membership stands at 123, as of 10 September. (6 have not renewed from last year – to my knowledge). We have 86 Life Members and 37 current members.

I looked at members' addresses to determine where our members live:

82 live in Buderim; 20 live elsewhere on the Sunshine Coast;

7 live in Brisbane; 7 live in regional Queensland;

6 are of whereabouts unknown!

Ian Jackson

Garden Report for 2021 AGM

The past 12 months have seen many changes made in the gardens, although not all are visible. The irrigation system in the garden beds has been extended and made more flexible by fitting timers to both town water and to tank rain water supply taps. Implementation of this system has removed the need for a weekly watering roster and saved hours of work involved in hand watering and shifting hoses around, previously undertaken by both Cottage and Garden staff. Most of this work was undertaken by David and Doug who continue to oversee maintenance of the system.

More obvious changes have occurred through the removal of some of the larger woody shrubs within garden beds. This has allowed more light into plant canopies and in many places contributed to emergence of plants not seen for years. This occurred in the garden behind the evaporation pan where a tiny plant trebled in size and produced a mass of blue flowers, enabling it to be identified by the Qld Herbarium as *Eranthemum pulchellum* or Blue Sage. Plant removal is only undertaken when the same species exists elsewhere in the grounds. Conversely, where only one specimen of a species of plant exists, where possible it is propagated and planted in another garden. For example, Blue Sage can also now be found by the steps into Vise House (green fence end). This reinforces our ability to retain the gene pool existing in the gardens.

New plant introductions to the gardens usually come from donations (money, plants, cuttings, seed) made by BHS members and from interested members of the public. For example, Lorraine is responsible for the geranium collection evolving near the evaporation pan, most of the *Coleus* plants growing in front of the green fence by the bird bath, the potted zygo cactus plants on the steps at the entrance to the Cottage and much more. Some time ago, Laurel Asimus made a donation for the purchase of a white flowered form of *Hardenbergia violacea*, to be planted next to the purple flowered form growing on the post and rail fence near the coffee plants. After much searching we finally found a specimen of this fairly rare form, which can now be seen growing in its ascribed place.

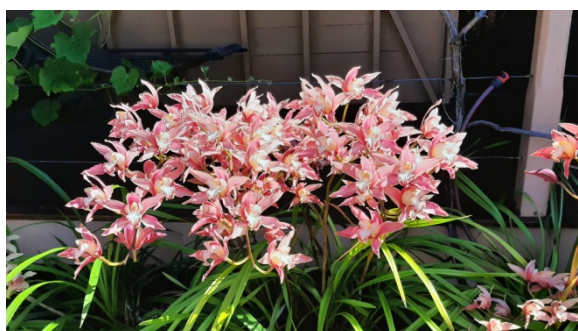
Verification of plant identity via the Qld Herbarium is undertaken where possible and entered, along with a photo (taken by Lorraine) in our record album. However, we don't always get a complete answer from the Herbarium. For some plants (like salvias) there are so many species (and cultivated varieties within species) that the Herbarium will provide a name for the genus only (eg *Salvia*) but not a species name. This happened recently when a sample sent in, locally thought to be Pineapple Sage (*Salvia elegans*) was identified only as '*Salvia cultivar*'. The record album will be available for the public to peruse at the Open Day in October. Relabeling of many plants will commence this month, showing their botanical name (Genus and species) as provided by the Qld Herbarium) and a common name.

Continued use of grass clipping mulch (made from the Cottage lawns and copious amounts provided by Lorraine) has been successful in diminishing weed numbers. Having to spend less time on weeding has allowed a greater focus to be made on regular pruning of perennial plants in the gardens. This should remove future need to remove oversize plants and improve both flowering and plant form. David has started on a much needed pruning restoration of the Hibiscus collection in the garden behind Vise House, which has been somewhat neglected in recent years.

Ongoing challenges include completing the brick borders around the Cottage gardens and replacing the rotten timber border along the Hibiscus garden (hopefully) with synthetic, rot and termite proof edging strips as used in the local Botanic Gardens at Tanawha.

It is a joy to work in the Cottage gardens, a bit like being on an archaeology site, you never know what you will find. Then there is a challenge in determining whether or not the 'find' can be propagated? Finding a space suitable for new plants often requires changes to be made in a garden. However, having such a willing group of people to work with (with a large range of skills) means that problems are easily solved. So a big 'thankyou' to Lorraine, David, Doug and Viv for all your input, making the gardens what they are and to Bev for advice and support in all things secretarial.

Lois Turnbull





Isn't this a great photo of Ruth – advertising September Museum Mystery Madness. Pioneer Cottage was one of three local museums participating in this museum promotion event. Thanks to Ruth, David and Kevin for all the time spent developing the quiz for Pioneer Cottage and liaising with Cultural Heritage.

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Joyce Simper passed away aged 97 in July 2021. Joyce and her husband Tom were involved in the early days of Pioneer Cottage, BWMCA and Foote Sanctuary. She is sadly missed by her many friends in the Buderim

Joan Hogan passed away in May 2021 aged 89. She was the author of *Pioneer Cottage the House that Buderim Saved* and *Buderim Ginger, an Export Success Story*.

Printing courtesy of Brent Mickelberg State Member for Buderim