

**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**

**Buderim Garden Club Annual  
Garden Festival**

Pioneer Cottage Open Garden  
display

Saturday 14 October 9am – 4pm  
and Sunday 15 October 9am –  
3pm

**Sunshine Coast Open House –**

Pioneer Cottage display

Saturday 21 October  
10am – 3pm

**2023 AGM**

The election of the Management Committee took place at the AGM on 2 September and the people elected are listed in the box on the left. Kevin Briggs thanked those who accepted nomination to the Management Committee for the next year and welcomed Margaret Thursby as the new Secretary.

Attached to this newsletter is a summary of the President's report delivered to the AGM. It outlines the highlights and achievements of the past 12 months and Kevin has also taken the opportunity to extend his thanks on behalf of the BHS for all the wonderful contributions by our members, donors and the Sunshine Coast Council.

**What is happening in our Pioneer Cottage Garden**

Welcome to our spring newsletter where we bring new and exciting happenings to our members in relation to the garden. We invite everyone to view the garden during the Buderim Garden Club's annual Festival on 14 & 15 October. Tickets will be required for entry during the festival.

With the help of photos below, see where our volunteer gardeners all but cleared the front entry garden then set to work to replenish, rebuild and re-plant. With guidance and assistance from Manawee Nursery, volunteers set to planting the chosen plants on a showery July day.



**18 June**



**28 September**

The recently installed watering system has saved much hand watering while nurturing our new plantings. Two new Coffee trees joined the ones along the back fence, to remind everyone about those earlier orchards, processing machinery and the framed certificate in the Slab Hut.

A number of our new guides have been volunteering their time when no visitors are about, to help keep those pesky weeds at bay. The small hand trimmer has also tempted one or two to learn a new skill. Bricks and pavers appeared from somewhere, and our men folk began a huge job of edging along gardens and fence lines. New path ways were laid for easier access for Cottage visitors. We also now see a kindly donated vintage garden seat set in front of the now flowering Cymbidium orchids along the side veranda.

Don't forget the Hibiscus Garden along the bottom road behind Vise House, each hibiscus is named for Pioneer Cottage women. The ground cover there creates a colourful showing and helps keep the weeds at bay. The Clivia might possibly be in bloom down there by the time of the Garden Festival and have been thinned out so some bulbs will also be on sale.

We trialled some Geraniums in the west entry garden by the Sugar Pan during last year and they seem to like it there; one is now trailing through the Banksia at the back fence.

Looking to the future upkeep of the garden, approval for a compost station soon resulted in one being installed at the back of the toilet, with much time and effort and donations from our volunteer workers.

Looking further into next year, the Social Marketing Group is looking into the possible purchase of a mulcher through sponsorship or a similar form of support, to be more self-sufficient and less dependent on volunteer time.

On the Garden Festival weekend, our garden will be one of the Open Gardens. Members/volunteers (in their most colourful floral shirts) will set up a marquee where donations of potted plants, cuttings, cakes, slices and good 2<sup>nd</sup> hand books will be on sale.

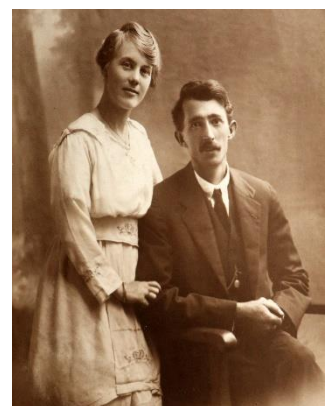
We will be most appreciative of donations of any of the above from members wishing to help and could be delivered to the Cottage on Thursday/Friday for packaging and pricing.

Doug, our long-time member, stands out among us all for the time and effort during these past two years in the work done in sourcing, collecting and re-turfing the entire lawns and footpaths of Pioneer Cottage as well as the many trailer loads of bricks and pavers that just appear in his trusty trailer. Thank you.

BHS works closely with the Sunshine Coast Council Cultural Heritage staff, who assist us in all manner of ways when asked and request statistics when we apply for Grant assistance. One such request is how many hours volunteers work in their many and varied roles. Because our gardeners/workers come when their time permits before, after and during opening hours, they have now started their own sign in book, enabling us demonstrate the huge effort that goes into maintaining the garden.

### **The Story of Jim and Connie Guy**

A good crowd turned up on 5 August to hear Jim Guy share the story of his parents, Jim and Connie Guy. Keith was well supported by his wife Olive and other members of the extended Guy family. Jim was the son of William and Susan Guy, William having been in the 1869 group to survey Buderim and then in the first group of farmers to move to Buderim in 1870 to take up selections. Connie was the daughter of Thomas and Hannah Kidd from Ilkley and came to Buderim to work in Ernie Middleton's store after training as a dressmaker and milliner in Brisbane. She later worked as a freelance dressmaker and milliner in Buderim, before marrying Jim in 1921. Keith displayed a lovely, framed wedding photo of Jim and Connie, still in excellent condition after over 100 years.



Apart from earning a living in horticulture and timber, Jim was very active in sporting and community life in Buderim and the surrounding district. Keith said that Jim was an accomplished button accordion player and he showed a photo of Jim's launch, the "Doreen", which he used to take people on recreational trips to Dunethin Rock.

Jim and Connie's lives were marked by their generosity and willingness to pitch in, for the benefit of all. Keith finished with a display of wonderful photos of Jim and Connie Guy and family over the years, finishing with a photo of local people gathered around the lunch table at the Buderim centenary in 1962.

## **New BHS Members**

We welcome the 13 new members who have joined the BHS in the past few months –

Lynn McLaren	Stacey Morris
Karon Hanbridge	Brian Holliday
Ros Byrne	Diana Danielson
Barb Dennien	Gerard Nugent
David and Fiona Nebauer	Gary Flanigan
Madeline Roche	Val Coles

We hope you find the opportunities you are looking for to contribute to the work of Pioneer Cottage and to preserving Buderim's history.

## **Buderim Tavern Anniversary**

BHS was invited to contribute to the Buderim Tavern Anniversary dinner on 24 August 2023, to mark the opening of the Tavern in 1985. Bill Lavarack's recent occasional paper on the development of the tavern was timely and copies of the paper were made available to people attending the dinner.

Kevin gave an outline of the history of the Tavern site and the story of liquor licences on Buderim, based on research undertaken by Bill Lavarack and Geoff Baker. Kevin also acknowledged the important role of the Tavern in hosting regular gatherings of a number of local community organisations. This was followed by a digital display of photos of Buderim's past from the BHS collection, selected by Janet Baker. As is often the case, the photos were a big hit with the audience! Special thanks to Ruth and Steve Ormerod for helping with the display setup on the night.

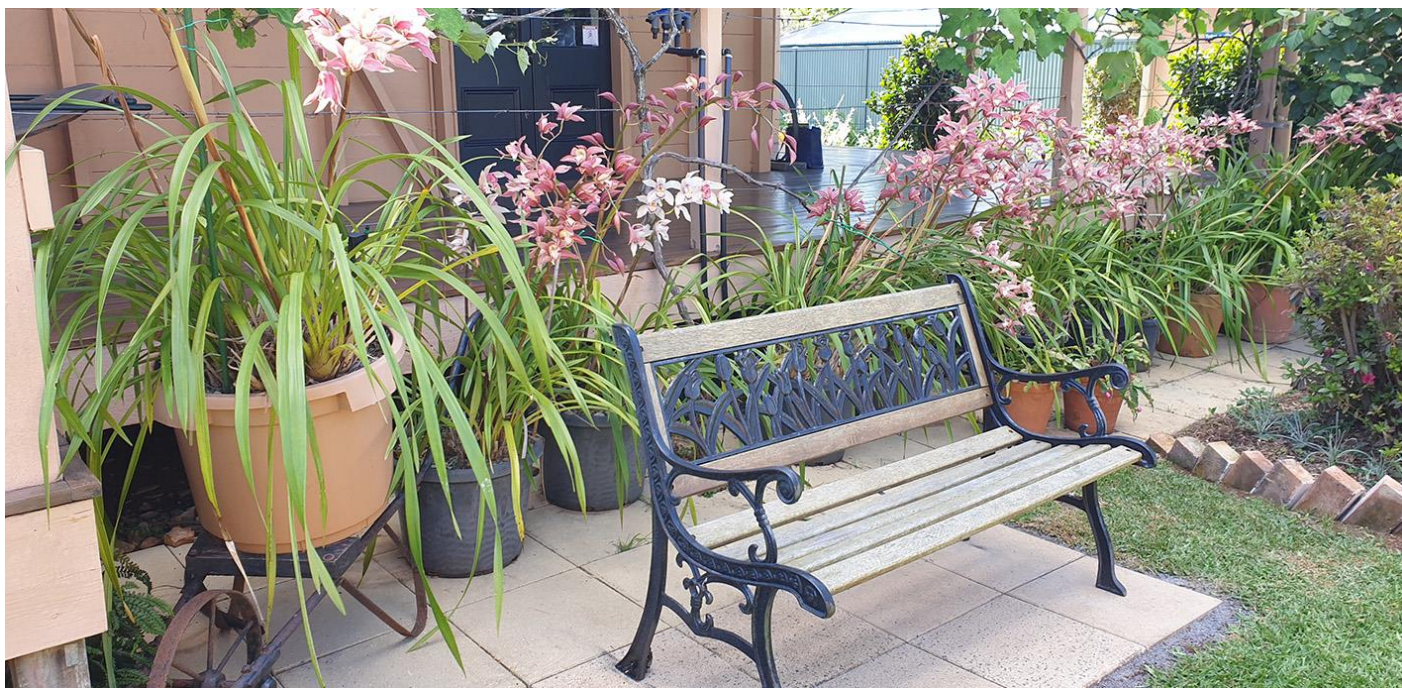


## **Award to Helene Cronin**

Congratulations to BHS member Helene Cronin for receiving the Sunshine Coast Council's Museum and Heritage Achievement Award 2023, for her contribution as President of the Buderim-Palmwoods Heritage Tramway Inc.

## **Interpretation Plan for Pioneer Cottage**

News has just been received from the Sunshine Coast Council Cultural Heritage that BHS has been selected to obtain expert assistance to develop an interpretation plan to guide the museum layout in Pioneer Cottage. The Council has arranged with the Queensland Museum for its development officer, Josh Tarrant, to work with a team of BHS volunteers over the next twelve months to put the plan together. This builds on work done by Josh in 2017, who identified the need for an interpretation plan for Pioneer Cottage when assessing the significance of the BHS collection. Initial work began in 2018, with Council funding to put together a framework for what the interpretation plan needs to cover. Access to Josh's expertise will enable BHS to complete the development of the interpretation plan. There will be regular updates on this work as it occurs, because it has important implications for how the story of Buderim and the house are presented in the museum.



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**Attachment**

## **President's Report AGM 2023**

**Below is a summary of Kevin's report to the Annual General Meeting on the highlights of the past year at the Buderim Historical Society and Pioneer Cottage.**

### **Special General Meeting**

A special General Meeting was held on Saturday, 15 April 2023 to amend the BHS Constitution in line with the requirements of the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission), so BHS can re-apply for registration with ACNC. All amendments were adopted unanimously by those present and I thank Bev Lavarack for organising the Special General Meeting.

### **Staffing**

Bev Lavarack departed from the secretary's role on 31 May 2023, after 13 years in the position. I wrote to Bev to thank her for her unwavering service to BHS as the secretary, the organiser of history talks, the editor of "The Pioneer" our much-loved newsletter and a general font of information about early Buderim families. A fellow committee member (Geoff Baker) offered to cover the role of secretary until the position is filled at the AGM.

Our new Membership Officer, Steve Ormerod, has taken over from our former long term officer Ian Jackson. I have written to thank Ian for the committed service that he had given us over the years. Steve has been very busy in his role, first auditing our membership for correct contact details and the entry of the large group of new members who have joined our ranks. Our current database has 123 members, with 12 of these members being new to our organisation.

The committee endorsed the name change for what was once titled our Social Fundraising Group with their new title being the Social Marketing Group. This group has turned its attention to promoting public awareness of the BHS and Pioneer Cottage, which is being marketed as the 142-year-old Museum House. Much of this improved focus is a result of the leadership provided by Lyn Nichols who claims she is not a leader, but can I assure you that she does a great imitation of a leader.

I am pleased to report that we have had many new members who have volunteered their time to act as Guides or alternatively help with our glorious gardens. The increase in guides has meant that we have been able to continue opening the cottage from Monday to Saturday. These volunteer members have been trained and received orientation under the watchful eye of Ruth Ormerod, who organises our guide rosters and looks after the welfare of our members for the cottage.

Another innovative initiative, implemented by Ruth and the Social Marketing Group, has been the move to host a bi-monthly drinks evening. These events give volunteers from the work roster an opportunity to mix and converse with one another, which is not possible with the isolated shifts that are worked by our volunteers. The social gatherings have proven successful, with some 18- 20 volunteers and spouses attending quite regularly.

### **Interest in Buderim History**

If visitor numbers are any indication, there has been a major increase in the thirst for knowledge regarding the history of Buderim. In the 2022 calendar year we had 947 visitors for the entire year, while the figures for 2023 from January to June have exceeded over 700. The leaflet drops, media releases and quality additions to our web page have certainly swelled the visitor numbers to Pioneer Cottage. Coupled with this our organisation has reintroduced Devonshire teas for visiting groups, which have proven popular with retirement villages, Probus clubs, View Clubs and groups brought to us from Commlink.

There has been an increased number of enquiries from individuals and organisations about Buderim's history, including requests for copies of historical photographs.

Bill and Bev Lavarack and Geoff and Janet Baker are excellent human resources to help answer the more difficult questions directed to us. Coupled with this, the BHS has had several speaking invitations to the likes of Buderim Tavern, Bellflower Retirement Village and the local Rotary Club.

### **BHS Strategic Plan for 2023-2028**

A small working party led by Ruth has been developing our new five-year plan. A Strategic Plan is essential to guide the future direction of BHS. We strive in this plan to conserve and preserve Buderim's pioneer history, artefacts and photographs, for utilisation by our community and visitors.

Our Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 and Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024 were adopted at the August meeting of the Management Committee. Well done by all those who were involved in this important task.

### **BHS Curatorial staff**

Due to the absence of a single curator following Jess Harris' departure in 2022, the committee took the decision to use the skills of staff working in the curatorial area and create a curatorial group made up of Janet Baker (Photographic Collection), Gail MacDonald (House Museum Collection) and Geoff Baker (History Resources Collection). This clear clarification of roles has proven to be an excellent way to ensure the growth and care of the collections held by BHS.

Repairs have been carried out on the water damaged chifonier from the dining room and the damaged water colour painting by Neville Cayley. While we were unsuccessful with a Heritage Grant Application, the committee agreed that residual donation money sitting in our donation account should be used so that the objects could be returned to the displayed collection.

Gail MacDonald and her helpers have been systematically working through the rooms in Pioneer Cottage and giving them a deep clean and replacing worn and aged labels attached to the objects on display.

### **Maintenance**

I thank Doug Benckendorff and Alan Butcher for leading and organising members to help with working bees when needed. It would be remiss of me if I did not mention Ruth Ormerod who invariably turns up to provide morning tea for the volunteer workers. I am pleased to report that two very important paved pathways were constructed, one at the rear of Pioneer Cottage and one on the eastern side of the cottage. Both pathways have made access much easier for the mature (old) age visitors whose mobility is dependent on "Walker Wheelies".

In consultation with Lorraine Buhk and Lyn Nichols, our maintenance volunteers set about providing clay brick garden edging which used bricks donated from old building sites in the Buderim area. The turf was donated to BHS with thanks to the Glenview Turf Farm and Bunnings Maroochydore and a special thanks to Doug for the many trips he made with his trusty trailer.

The staining of all external doors on the cottage has been necessary in recent months. Thanks to Alan Butcher and his ability to work flexible early morning hours, this process has not interrupted the flow of visitors to the cottage museum.

Thanks to the alert nature of one of our volunteers, a fault was detected with two malfunctioning security cameras. Our support technician attended the site and restored power to the malfunctioning cameras and our IT specialist volunteer, Steve Ormerod, was able to ensure that the cameras functions were being able to be retrieved from hub. These volunteer actions saved BHS considerable funds and ensured that our seven-year-old system was working for us once again.

Redleaf Environmental consultants, after many interactions between all parties, finally submitted our application for an exemption certificate to replace the cottage roof. Our patient waiting is over as we now have in our possession the Section 74 Exemption Certificate from the Cultural Heritage Officer at the Department of Environment and Science. I will be convening a meeting with BHS members, a group from the BWMCA and a Heritage Officer from the Sunshine Coast Council to map out the way forward for a new roof. The certificate that we have provides approval for work which must commence in the next four years.

### **Gardens**

Lorraine and Lyn and the newly expanded list of gardening volunteers have been particularly busy with the maintenance and refurbishment of gardens surrounding Pioneer Cottage and Vise House. Our gardens are such a talking point for those who visit our cottage museum as well as those who pass and come in to view the gardens.

A major project that was carried out in June and July was the preparation of the large garden bed on the eastern side of the cottage. These actions saw much use made of Alan's utility to take the green waste away and return with compost to form the basis of the new garden. Some \$700 of plants were ordered thanks to a Buderim Garden Club donation, Manawee discount and BHS funds. The planting was done by Lorraine, Lyn and Janet. The healthy plants will form a beautiful back drop when we open our gardens to the public in October as part of the Buderim Garden Club Festival weekend.

A general tidy up of the newly edged gardens on the southern side of Vise house saw the necessary replacement of two of the hibiscus plants that were planted representing ten of the significant early years Buderim families.

The final addition to the garden has been the placement of a bench seat between Pioneer Cottage and Vise house. The seat will allow visitors and our very tired volunteer workers to sit and draw breath amongst our beautiful gardens.

### **History Talks**

I thank Bev Lavarack and Geoff Baker for organising the history talks over the last year. Illness has restricted the number of talks that we have had but those talks that we have had have been exciting and given from the heart by the presenters. I thank Steve Ormerod who prepares and supports the audio-visual needs of our presenters. At the completion of the presentations Steve audits the recordings saving the talk as a permanent record on DVD and then uploading the recording to the Buderim Historical Society web site which means members and the general public can access the talks that have been given. Talks given since last September include the following:

**New Photos of Old Buderim – Geoff Baker**

**The Cunning Family from 1887 and their links with education in Buderim - Robyn Powell**

**The Story of Jim and Connie Guy – Keith Guy**

## **Occasional Papers**

Bill Lavarack's Occasional Papers continue to be sought after and well received within our membership and the wider Buderim community. Bill's topics since our last AGM have covered a broad scope of the history of Buderim. We thank Bill for his willingness to share these publications and look forward to Bill's future endeavours.

## **Grants**

BHS continues to be assisted with the provision of a heritage grant from the Sunshine Coast Council which expires in June 2024. This grant assists with rental payments to the BWMCA, insurance costs, utility costs and general running costs of opening the museum six days a week.

Last year we successfully applied to the Buderim Foundation for a grant of \$2,478 which helped provide the computer system for our newly established research centre which was developed after the Buderim Foundation transferred its operations to the Old Post Office.

Two applications have been applied for in the current round of Sunshine Council heritage grants. The first application is for collection and care of objects in our museum. Five framed works have been identified as requiring conservation work, comprising one drawing, three paintings and one photograph.

The second grant application is related to the funding program that supports best practice for exhibitions and public programs. This project will see the public gaining access to the large photographic collection held by BHS which is currently being re-digitised by Ross Eason with the support of fellow BHS members. The outcome of this project would be the establishment of a resource that would allow members of the Buderim community and visitors to our area, to view selected historical photographs on a touch screen, thus enhancing and enriching their understanding of Buderim's history.

## **Closing**

In closing I wish to thank the Management committee for the unwavering support they provide for the BHS. Their effort provides us with a clear direction and purpose in preserving the history of Buderim. I thank our Curatorial staff for the excellent work that they do in preserving and caring for the objects in our collection and the way in which our museum is opened for the visiting public. I also thank our Gardening team and our Maintenance team for the long hours that they work which ensures that Pioneer Cottage is in an excellent state of repair surrounded by gardens and grounds that would put some botanic gardens to shame. Finally, I acknowledge rostered guides who ensure that visitors have access to Pioneer Cottage and its wonderful collection of objects displayed in a life like setting.

I also thank the generous members of our community who have donated funds this last year that have made it possible to maintain the standard of our collection.

I also thank the Sunshine Coast Council who provide us with an annual grant which keeps the "wolf from the door" by helping pay for the rent, insurances and the general cost of utilities needed so that we can open for the public.

The most endearing feature about working with the volunteer team at BHS is that the environment is so supportive, and it makes it such a pleasure to be working with such wonderful, likeminded people.