



THE PIONEER

THE BUDERIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

January – March 2025

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:

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

BCC Drinkies for volunteers

Friday 14 February 2025

Notes from the President

I welcome BHS members to the challenges that 2025 will bring us. Our volunteers will continue with their outstanding service in providing guide services to our visitors six days a week, caring for our historic collection and providing maintenance for the cottage and its much cared for cottage gardens. I thank our volunteers in anticipation of the work that they will commit to in 2025. I wish to acknowledge the difficult time that Doug is having with the illness of his wife, Leika, who is currently in Brisbane. Doug, our thoughts are with you during this time.

I thank our Social Marketing Group for planning and organizing our annual Christmas Soiree which saw an increased number of members in attendance. The beautiful evening saw members gathering on the verandahs and lawned areas in front of Pioneer Cottage engaged in conversation and laughter. The Christmas Raffle was drawn on the night and the prize winners were notified by phone. A very pleasant evening was had by all in attendance, and I thank the committee and the workers on the night for making this event possible.

Our garden beds and shrubs continue to look resplendent, and I thank the gardening team for their continued efforts. The warm spell that we have had over the Christmas break has certainly added stress to the growing conditions of our plants. I thank Lyn and Lorraine for the leadership that they provide for their team. I appreciate the effort that is required to keep the summer growth under control. If you stand still

in the lawned areas, you can almost see the grass growing before your eyes and our current contractor does a great job at keeping the lawns under control in this fast-growing period. The mulcher has come into its own in the last week with vegetation being mulched and put into the mulch bins which will ultimately be returned to our gardens to act as a fertilizer.

I wish to thank our maintenance team for the work that they have done since our last meeting. Doug and Alan have attended to a number of odd jobs, such as adjusting sticking doors and uncooperative hinges and locks. Alan replaced the lock on our front door visitor desk which had come to grief with a part of the key stuck in the lock. Alan replaced the entire locking system and made the necessary adjustments to the desk drawer. How lucky we are to have such talented members of our maintenance team.

Our curatorial team have been doing some amazing work with the provision of temporary displays and reinvigorating the museum room's glass cases. The circulation of the new displays of objects brings a breath of fresh air into our Museum House. None of the changes would be possible without the tireless work of our curators.

Our National Library Grant is being put to great use as we learn about and carry out the caring for and conservation of items in our collection. Melanie Fihelly, a professional conservator, has been employed with grant funds to assist with the training of our volunteers and to establish a prioritized list of conservation and preservation actions for significant items in our collection. Her introduction to conservation principles and practice was informative and engaging for the volunteers in attendance and we very much look forward to interacting with Melanie over the life of our grant.

In 2025 we will endeavour continue to keep the doors open for visitors to Pioneer Cottage, six days a week. We will continue to participate in Buderim events such as Australia Day and ANZAC Day and operate fundraising stalls at the annual Buderim Christmas and Easter fairs. Our curators of History and Photography will continue to offer personalised support to individuals and community groups who are seeking information and resources about historical events within the Buderim area.

Ruth has written to the Old Post Office Admin Officer (Roxxie) inviting all O.P.O. volunteers to a social get together, so that they are familiar with Pioneer Cottage and the services that are offered by BHS and its volunteers. We look forward to welcoming them and giving them a first-hand experience of Pioneer Cottage.

The last point I wish to mention is the “elephant in the room”, that is the replacement of the roof on Pioneer Cottage. BWMCA President Steve Budden is aware of the urgent action needed regarding our roof replacement and has taken an active interest in the task at hand, as there are no simple solutions in finding the income needed to carry out the work. My last refusal came from Hancock Prospecting (Gina Rhinehart).

Interpretation Plan for Pioneer Cottage

Work continues to utilise the funding BHS has received from the Sunshine Coast Council to implement Project 1 of the Interpretation Plan for Pioneer Cottage.

The implementation working group has been meeting regularly to sort out the detail of the new interpretative material for the museum, grappling with font types and sizes, paper colour and finalising the specifications for the display furniture.

The State Government’s heritage unit has advised that we can use split battens and picture hooks to hang the new display material on the walls, but we will need to seek approval to install some of the items proposed for Project 2, such as the hanging system and the light tracking system proposed for the new temporary exhibition space.

The interim interpretation plan for the museum room and the rear verandah is being progressively developed. So far, the new temporary displays in the Museum Room cabinets have been documented as part of this process. New BHS member Belinda Mayall, who is a recent history graduate, has commenced research to support a temporary display about Dorothea Burnett’s War Story later this year. She will make use of Dorothea’s own photographs, diaries and letters, as well as more broadly available information about WW2 nurses.

National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant

Work has begun to utilise the cultural heritage grant from the National Library of Australia to assist with implementation of the Preservation Needs Assessment for the BHS collection. Melanie Fihelly, the Conservator engaged with this grant, had an initial meeting on 19 December 2024. It was an opportunity for Melanie to hear how our processes and arrangements had progressed since she did the 2018 Preservation Needs Assessment Report. The meeting also provided an opportunity to identify some of the

key issues in conservation and preservation of the BHS collection, which could be addressed by Melanie during the project.

Aside from mentoring volunteers in conservation methods, a key deliverable for the project is to assist BHS to develop a prioritised list of significant collection items that require professional conservation, to guide us in seeking funds to undertake the work.

14 BHS volunteers attended a workshop on conservation principles and practice, held on 30 January 2025. Melanie will make monthly visits over the life of the project to help assess collection objects for conservation work and develop detailed plans for preventative care for significant objects. The next workshop is planned for Thursday 27 February 2025.



Proudly supported by the Sunshine Coast Council's grants