

PATRON

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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 14 June 2024 BCC Drinkies
5-6.30pm

Notes from the President

All in all, once again, our participation in the Easter Fair was financially rewarding and it certainly put the BHS name out there for the general community. I wish to thank our members for the market stall at the Easter Fair. The cooked goods and the Easter raffle were well supported as were the sale of secondhand books. The profit of over \$1000 will certainly be put to good use.



**Winner of our Easter Fair raffle.
Congratulations Graham Tamblyn**

I thank all our volunteers who worked so tirelessly for the ANZAC week display. The wartime artifacts used in our display were loaned to us by BHS member Helene Cronin and the sub-branch of the Maroochydore RSL Museum. Mannequins were loaned to us from the Woombye Lighthouse, Queensland Air Museum and the Nambour Museum. I thank all the local museums for the partnerships that they formed with us, making this static display possible. Thanks also go the Stitchery group at Greenwood Lifestyle under the direction of Val, one of our regular door guides.

I especially thank Lyn, Gail, Jenny, and Val for providing the skills and enthusiasm to promote and bring to fruition our ANZAC Week.



Greenwood Lifestyle Stitchers with the 228 poppies they knitted. Thank you ladies for your support.

I am pleased to be able to report that the old garden shed has been replaced. I thank Lyn for cobbling together a grant application for the project that also included a mulcher. While Lyn was the “ideas girl” with the project, it was Alan who was the “workhorse” with a few helper “ants”, which brought the project to fruition. I thank Doug and Alan for the construction of the timber trellis which very much complements the replacement garden shed.

I have had discussions with the Heritage Department of the Sunshine Coast Council about engaging a landscape specialist next financial year to develop a masterplan for the gardens.

The BWMCA has been very busy making improvements in the kitchen area of Vise House. The water damaged benchtops were replaced with new gleaming benchtops and the ill-fitting kitchen doors have been repaired and fitted to the existing Cabinets. The cabinets were also painted to match the existing colour scheme in the kitchen area. I thank the BWMCA for the work that they have organized for Vise House.

The BWMCA has received a quote for the cost of a replacement roof. The current quote is being examined and once the final figures are arrived at, if accepted, the BWMCA and BHS can move forward on locating funding sources. Discussions have also commenced with the BWMCA about a new BHS lease over Pioneer Cottage and Vise House, when the current term finishes.

Welcome to our new members Christine Pozzi and Lynda and Brian Gordon – we look forward to getting to know you and exploring how you can most effectively use your time and skills in the work of the BHS.

Interpretation Plan for Pioneer Cottage

Thank you to the BHS members who attended the sessions in March 2024 on the Interpretation Plan for Pioneer Cottage. Responses across the three sessions have been consolidated below.

Guiding Principles

Participants supported the principles of:

- Valuing the House and its heritage status
- Continuing to present the cottage as house museum
- Seeking out/Using objects with Buderim provenance to display in the house, where possible.

The fourth principle generated the most discussion - allocation of space to accommodate temporary displays and exhibitions. Participants generally saw the value of changing displays to attract new audiences and repeat visitors as a way of helping sustain the Cottage into the future.

Themes

Comments on the four proposed themes for the museum were as follows:

- **Showing domestic rural life from the 1880s to 1936 as it evolved**

Participants supported this as a theme for the museum, with discussion around the degree to which accuracy to a particular period could be achieved in each of the house rooms. In the parlour, dining room and bedrooms, this could be addressed through refinement of the furniture and contents included in the display and the provision of accurate information. The rooms considered most challenging are the kitchen and bathroom, which were added after the turn of the century. It would be inaccurate to attempt to portray

these rooms as representing 19th century facilities of this kind. They could be presented in a more general style rather than as representative of rooms of a particular era.

- **The house and its history**

Participants strongly supported the telling of the Cottage's history in one place.

- **The Burnetts who lived here and their place in Buderim's history**

Participants supported the telling of the Burnett story as a theme, particularly that of the two generations that lived in the cottage. However, there was a diversity of ideas about how this might be told.

- **Buderim's history and development**

Participants agreed that an overview of Buderim's history is needed and the absence of it is sometimes commented on by visitors. There was strong support for the display in the Slab Hut to be focussed on Buderim's agricultural history, as a permanent display. There was also support for the enclosed back verandah displays to be revised to house rotating displays of objects and materials linked to community life in early Buderim – recreation, sport, community gatherings and activities.

Moving the main bedroom to the museum room space

The proposal to move the main bedroom to the museum room space generated a lot of discussion. It was noted that some visitors do not know what to expect when going through the rooms and it would be better to re-locate the main bedroom to the museum room space, because this would make it easier for visitors to experience the rooms set up as a house museum first, before entering the room proposed for temporary displays.

Other

There were a number of practical issues identified with changing the museum layout – funding, demands on volunteer time, need for storage space, but it was also noted that BHS has had a number of new members over the past few years with skills and expertise that will be valuable in meeting the challenge.

Updates will continue to be provided through the newsletter and members will be consulted again before the interpretation plan is finalised.

Mother's Day Fundraising Raffle

It's not too late to drop off your raffle ticket stubs to the Front desk at the Cottage between 11.00 am and 3.00pm, or perhaps buy a few more! Tickets are for sale at **\$2 each** or **3 for \$5** until **Thursday 9 May**. There are some lovely prizes to be won.

1st Prize: A beautiful floral painting by Robyn Stynes

2nd Prize: Whisky decanter, tumblers and a bottle of Glenlivet Whisky

3rd Prize: Montana's \$50 Breakfast voucher

The winning tickets will be drawn by our President on **Friday 10 May** in time for Mother's Day.

Donations

Our thanks to Neil McGarvie who has donated his collection of books on the history of Buderim and the Sunshine Coast.

Denise Iscak has donated three family items of significance to Buderim's history:-

- Shell necklace made by a member of Buderim's South Sea Islander community and gifted to her grandmother;
- Silver fob watch reportedly given to her grandfather Mohamet Iscak by Queen Victoria in 1887 or thereabouts, while he was an employee of P & O; and
- A World War 1 commemorative New Testament given to her father Henry by the Bible Society of Queensland to mark the end of the war.



The family's oral history passed down to Denise is that the shell necklace was a gift from a Buderim South Sea Islander to Denise's grandmother Florence, wife of Mohamet Iscak. Denise was told the necklace was made by a Buderim South Sea Islander with shells from one of the Pacific Islands. There is nothing else like it in the BHS collection. There are images in the photographic collection showing Buderim South Sea Islanders wearing shell necklaces, which are likely to have been of similar design.

The silver watch was owned by Denise's grandfather Mohamet Iscak. He is a well-known Buderim figure whose story has been documented, although it is unlikely he arrived in the early 1880s, as a number of publications have stated. According to Denise, the watch was given to Mohamet by Queen Victoria around 1888, when he was working for P & O. The newspaper obituary of Mohamet in 1951 reports that he was a fireman and engine greaser with P & O on ships operating between India and Commonwealth ports and he was one of eight selected to receive a watch from the Queen in recognition of service.

P & O's own description of its history indicates that in 1887, four ships were commissioned to mark the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign, which coincided with the company's own golden jubilee. Of the four ships, the *Victoria* was built to operate between the UK and Bombay and the *Britannia* was built to operate between India and Australia. This is consistent with the information passed on by Denise and also recorded in Mohamet's obituary in 1951, that the watch was a gift from Queen Victoria at the time of her (and also P & O's) golden jubilee in 1887.

The World War 1 commemorative New Testament was given to Denise's father Henry at the end of the war. It is possible this edition of the New Testament was published by the Bible Society of Queensland and given to children throughout the State to mark the end of the war. Henry was born on 15 November 1908, so his 10th birthday occurred just after Armistice Day in 1918. While there are a number of other family Bibles in the BHS collection, there is nothing like this one.

Pioneer Cottage Anzac Display





Postcards

Letters



Mess tin
 A mess tin can be thought of as a portable version of a saucepan, intended for boiling but also useful for frying. In order to save weight, some designs had a single mess tin with a lid, with the lid often having a secondary role as a frying pan.