



Friends of Bankfoot House News

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Bankfoot House, 1998 Old Gympie Road Glass House Mountains

President's Message

The Bankfoot House website www.bankfoothouse.org has been enhanced with a new 'collections' page. The Council's Debbie Angell has been working with the volunteers to produce photos and information on significant Bankfoot House objects for uploading to the website. This will allow 'googlers' around the World to preview the unique collection held in the historic house.

30 members of National Trust Qld visited the house on 11 November (Remembrance Day) and were very appreciative of their guided tour and commentary. Comments in our Visitor's Book underline the community value placed on maintaining the site's historic integrity.



Descendants of John Grigor (1864-1944) were also welcome visitors to the house recently. John Grigor's granddaughter, Doris Jones and her son, Darren, made the trip from Sydney. It was the first time Doris had been back to the house for over 80 years when she came with her father, John Andrew 'Jack' Grigor.

The timber wagon on the property received some rehab this month when Council arranged for steel supports under the timber axles. The wagon has been a concern for some time as rotting timber in the wheels threatened the vehicle's collapse. The new supports make it a safer working environment for the volunteers.

Ron Gillinder

Cultural Heritage Curator

The following message was received from Olivia Robinson, Sunshine Coast Council's Cultural Heritage Curator:

'I have decided to leave Council and my last day will be 16 December 2011. My departure from Council is a little unexpected and unfortunate timing but having been offered a new position as Manager of Research, Advocacy, and Partnerships in Queensland Memory, the heritage collections area of the State Library of Queensland, I am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that it will bring'.

Olivia's replacement has not yet been announced.

Oral History Project

Bill Ferris and Ethel Burgess have been interviewed and filmed as part of the Sunshine Coast Council's '160 Characters Project'. Project Interviewer, Amanda Wilson, had previously interviewed Jack and Mary Ferris in the 1980s so Amanda has a good background to the history of the families who lived at Bankfoot House. We all look forward to seeing the final product – which includes Bill's restored MG vintage car.

Open Day 2012



Tentative plans are proceeding to hold an **Open Day on Sunday 27 May 2011**, although at this stage how it will be funded is unclear. The day will have special historical significance as it will be the 100th anniversary of the epic cycle ride of the Clark sisters from Brisbane and their climb of Tibrogargan and Coonowrin. Recreational cycle clubs will be invited to visit Bankfoot on the day and we hope to have a display of vintage bicycles.

A number of suggestions have been made as to where we might source vintage bicycles – up to 100 years old - and these will be followed up.

Did you know?

That the Bankfoot House property was used by the Australian Army during World War II (1939-1945). It was reported the family complained about the damage caused to the verandah by heavy hobnail boots!

Merry Christmas!

Best wishes to all for the Christmas season and for a safe and prosperous 2012. The volunteers will not be at Bankfoot House from 14 December 2011 and will resume on 18 January 2012.

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1956 Speedwell Ladies Red Bicycle - Owner: Robyn Gillinder