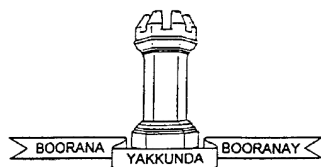


TURRET TALK

The Newsletter of the

Blacktown and District Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 500, Blacktown NSW 2148



President : Jan French ~9674 9745
Secretary : Sharyn Wicks ~9622 8309
Treasurer: Graham Wicks ~9622 8309

EDITION 349 – JUNE 2011

The next General Meeting of the Society will be held on **Monday, 6th June, 2011, at 7.30pm.** in the Function Room at Grantham Heritage Park, 71 Seven Hills Road South, Seven Hills. Enter Grantham through the middle gate and then park in front of the Admin. Block near the entrance steps. **Our guest speakers will be Dorothy Warwick and Pat O'Brien.** Dorothy and Pat are known to BDHS members as the organisers of The Friends of Mays Hills Cemetery, the Holroyd Local History Research Group and the Holroyd Family History Groups and Historical Societies Forum. Their topic for the meeting on Monday is entitled *Reminiscing – Postcards & Photographs of Days Gone By*. Dorothy has been collecting the cards for a few years now. They include a variety of images, mainly from Sydney and Parramatta in the 1900s, but these are not just pretty pictures. Through the correspondence on the back of the cards they do reveal a lot of the social history, manners and customs of their time. Invite a friend along for the evening to enjoy that little bit of nostalgia that I know we all enjoy.

The next Society excursion is being planned by our Vice President, Neil Smith. He has named it *Down the Cowpastures Road into historic Camden*. During the journey, Neil will be giving a commentary on how the passing suburbs' names relate to the original land grants and owners. Please BYO morning tea to enjoy at Mt. Annan Botanic Gardens at about 10am. Lunch can be bought at Camden or BYO in a park around 12.30pm. (if the weather permits). Neil will then take us on a mystery trip around the town of Camden to see places that he tells me are not usually seen by the public. He has also promised to reveal a few secrets that we have not heard before. So, book your seats early for this tour, **Sunday, 10th July. Cost \$15pp.** The bus will leave Blacktown Council car park at **9am**. Payments should be made at the June General Meeting.

Your Management Committee had decided that there will be no excursion in August because the Society will be celebrating its **35th Anniversary on Saturday, 10th September, 2011.** There will be more information regarding the birthday celebration in the next *Turret Talk*. Because her Brisbane Waters Tour was so popular last November, our President, Jeanette French, is organising a Morning Tea & Lunch Cruise on the Hawkesbury Paddlewheeler, for **Sunday, 13th November, 2011.**

Two Historic Houses Trust tours that you might find interesting:

Archaeology in the Rocks – On this guided tour explore archaeological sites in The Rocks and Millers Point, including the 'Big Dig' at Sydney Harbour YHA, where the

foundations of 40 buildings have been incorporated into a modern development, and Parbury ruins, the underground remains of an 1820s cottage. Meet at Susannah Place Museum, **Saturday, 11th June**, [or 9th July or 13th August], **10am-12pm**. Admission General \$30, Concession \$25, HHT members \$25. **Bookings essential**. Call Historic Houses Trust **8239 2211** or email tickets.hht.net.au.

Public art walk: lower Macquarie Street – Public art not only enriches and enlivens our city, it also reflects changing social and political attitudes. On this walk, take a closer look at the public works of 19th and 20th century artists and discover elements of classical and modern design in lower Macquarie Street. Speaker: Dr. Nicholas Hardwick, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. The meeting point will be advised at the time of booking the tour.

Sunday, 26th June, 2pm-4pm. Costs - General \$35, Concession \$30, HHT Members \$30. **Bookings essential. 8239 2211** or email tickets.hht.net.au

A Royal Australian Historical Society event:

The History of the Swimsuit – There are swimsuits and swimsuits: some cover much of the swimmer's body – some cover very little of it. Bondi Beach was where many of the so called "bikini wars" were fought and it also saw early battles to overcome bans on daylight bathing and mixed bathing. Kimberley O'Sullivan, Waverley Council's Local Studies Librarian and Historian will show that swimsuit history is far from a story of fashion. When: **Sunday, 10th July**. Time: **12noon to approx. 4.30pm**. Cost: \$27 members, **\$31 non-members**. Venue: History House for a soup and damper lunch before the talk. Numbers are limited. [NB. BDHS members are **non-members of the RAHS**] Call **9247 8001** or history@rahs.org.au

The Friends of St. Bartholomew's Cemetery Working Group is looking for volunteers to do simple conservation work in the Old Prospect Cemetery. The workshops are held on the **third Saturday of each month** from **9.30am – 2.30pm**. It is not hard work; weeding, pruning, wire brushing and oiling the metal grave surrounds, washing headstones with sponges and soft brushes, topping up subsidence with soil and laying down weed matting before covering with marble chips. It is a fun way of learning the history of St. Bartholomew's Church, about the historic monuments and also the histories of those interred in the cemetery. The company is very friendly and everyone is welcome. BYO lunch - morning tea and water are provided. Please wear sensible shoes, gardening gloves and a hat. Call **Jill 9621 8225** or **Sharyn 9622 8309** for more information.

Welcome to new BDHS members, **Pam Fynan** and **Lynette & Lyndsay Williams**. The committee and members look forward to you joining us at our meetings and for our excursions. We send our condolences to the family of **Dawn McLaren** who passed away earlier this month and on behalf of the committee and members, I send our kindest regards to those members whom I have heard are not well: **Merv Pretsel** and **Val Rebikov**.

Sharyn Wicks

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