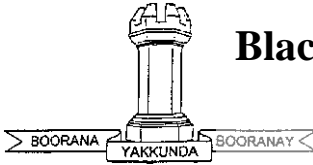


TURRET TALK

The Newsletter of the

Blacktown and District Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 500, Blacktown NSW 2148



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

EDITION 335 – MARCH 2010

The next General Meeting of the Society will be held on **Monday, 1st March, 2010** at **7.30pm.** in the **Community Room, 4th Floor, Westpoint Shopping Centre,** Blacktown. Entry to the meeting room is easiest from the roundabout on Alpha Street, up the ramp to the Hoyts Movies and restaurants level and then to follow the MYER signs down along the larger parking area to the smaller parking lot next to the Community Room. Our guest speaker for the night is popular local historian and author, **Jack Brook.** Jack is a Fellow and Life member of this Society and we are very pleased that he has agreed to speak to the members. Jack's talk is entitled *Lachlan Macquarie: his life before Australia.*

2010 is the year of the **Macquarie Bicentenary Commemoration** of the arrival of Lachlan Macquarie to the colony in 1810. This is a great time to learn about Macquarie, 'the man' and the heritage that he left behind. It is said that Governor Macquarie was the man who transformed a struggling penal colony into a flourishing state. As well as establishing some 'respectability' in the colony, he constructed many bridges, roads and public buildings; many that we still admire today. Long standing BDHS Patron, John Aquilina MP, Leader of the House and Member for Riverstone, is the chair of the organising committee for these state-wide celebrations. For lots more information on the bicentenary programme, just type in 'Lachlan Macquarie' on Google.

The first members' excursion for this year is a bus trip to '**Tulkiyan' Heritage House,** on **Sunday, 21st March.** This is a Federation Arts and Crafts style House Museum built in 1813 and located at Ku-ring-gai. After viewing 'Tulkiyan' and its gardens, we will take a lunch break before meeting with a guide from Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, who will then escort us around the area on the bus. Some places of interest are St. John's Church (a Blackett design), the Pioneer Cemetery, the Railway Station, Annie Wyatt Park and the 1876 Public School, which is the home of the Historical Society. BDHS members can BYO lunch to eat on the verandah at 'Tulkiyan' or take the option of buying a meal at Roseville RSL Club. **Cost - \$20pp.** includes the house entry fee & morning tea, local tour cost and bus fare. Please pay on the day or at the March meeting. Excursion participants should meet in the Blacktown City Council car park at **9.30am. sharp** to enable us to reach 'Tulkiyan' by 10.30am. and take a comfort stop. Entry into the parking lot is via Campbell Street, your cars can be left there at no charge on Sundays. If you are running late or unable to attend at the last minute, please call **Graham on 0427 857 475** so as not to hold up your fellow members. I still have two seats available if anyone would like to join us.

Other excursions being planned by your committee members for this year:

1. **Woolloomooloo Walking Tour** - Sunday, 2 May, co-ordinator, Neil Smith
2. **Bonnyrigg Buddhist Temple** – Sunday, 27 June, co-ordinator, Neil Smith.
3. **Thirlmere Railway Museum** – date TBA, co-ordinator, Deborah Baker.
4. **Goat Island** – Sunday, 10 October, co-ordinator, Brian French.
5. **Brisbane Waters** – Saturday, 20 November, co-ordinator, Jan French.

Final details for these tours will be announced in upcoming newsletters. Bookings can be taken at any meeting or by telephoning the Secretary.

Descendants of **George LEABON** are being asked to contact organisers of a family reunion which is being planned for late 2011 at St. Bartholomew's Church, Prospect. George arrived in the colony in 1828 on the *Royal George*. He married Elizabeth Burnham, from Prospect in 1837. Associated names: POND, MANNING, LEADBEATER, VICK, LALOR, DAVIS, NEEVES and MEPPON. Contacts - Barbara Leabon at bleabon@tpg.com.au or Margret Curry at margret.curry@gmail.com

The Blacktown City Council International Women's Day Breakfast will be held on **Monday, 8th March, 2010 from 7.30am.- 9.30am.** in the Nirimba Room, Fifth Floor, Civic Centre, Blacktown (Enter from Campbell Street) The morning will include a free breakfast, speakers, entertainment and an award presentation to recognise local women's achievements. Bookings essential. **RSVP. Dayna Coyle, 9839 6203** by 24th Feb.2010.

Parramatta Heritage Centre exhibitions

- 1] An ongoing exhibition *Parramatta: people & place*. Did you know that Parramatta comes from the Aboriginal word meaning "place where the eels lie down" and that Parramatta was Australia's second colonial settlement? Enjoy the Parramatta story and share the layers of history that have made Parramatta what it is today.
- 2] *Treasured* 13 February – 13 June 2010. To collect is a basic human urge. A great deal can be discovered about someone by what they collect. *Treasured* will share the objects, hidden treasures and untold stories found in the homes and businesses of Parramatta. Free admission. **346A Church Street, Parramatta. For information 8839 3311.**

ATTENTION: Neil Smith, **BDHS Library** Custodian, is reminding members who borrowed books late last year, that some have not been returned. Please check if you have any at home and bring them along to the next meeting.

The committee and members send our warmest **congratulations** to member, **Gwen Zahra and her husband, Frank**, who recently celebrated their **50th Wedding Anniversary**. I read in the local newspaper that they have also lived in the same house in Blacktown for 50 years. I am sure that Gwen would have stories that would fill the Society Journal on the changes that she and Frank have witnessed in Blacktown over those years. Are there any other members who have celebrated some happy times? Let me know and we can share the good news with everyone.

Sharyn Wicks

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www.blacktownhistory.org.au