

December 2023

Seasons Greetings

The Burnside Historical Society wishes all members a happy and joyous Christmas with your loved ones, and a healthy and fulfilling 2024.

Next event: Lunch at the “Kensi” in January

We are “kicking off” the 2024 BHS Programme with a lunch at the Kensington Hotel on **Wednesday 17 January** commencing at 12 noon. This event was advertised at our November meeting, and we already have 20+ bookings. All members and their guests are welcome to attend. Bookings by phone to the BHS number 0422 705 916 are necessary by 10 January. The discount deal for Seniors for our lunch is \$10 off the price of all main course meals on the menu.



Why not start the BHS Year with an enjoyable and sociable lunch at the Kensi?

November Meeting: A fitting end to 2023



Our November meeting was one of the highlight meetings of the year.

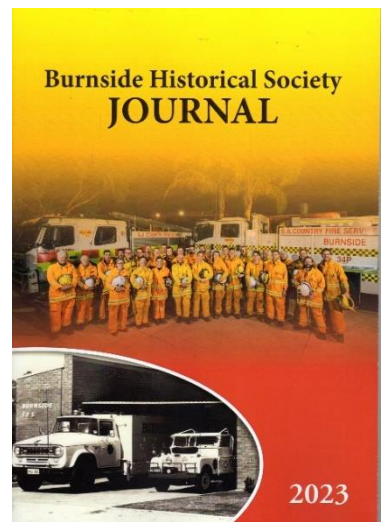
Our speakers, Anne Daniell, longstanding archivist at St Peters Girls School and Dr Geoffrey Bishop, well-known local historian, regaled us with the story of *Chiverton*, the stately 1880s home at Stonyfell which is now the centre piece of St Peters Girls School. Geoffrey gave us the comprehensive story of Thomas Nankivell, merchant, who had the house built in 1880 and Anne followed this with details of the Ferguson family who lived there from 1896-1949. We were reminded that historic buildings like *Chiverton* are more than stone and mortar but contain the intriguing stories of the families who lived there. The *Chiverton* segment ended with a video of the

St Peters Girls School choir singing a beautiful rendition of “I can only imagine”.

This was followed by the launch of the BHS Journal for 2023 which was led so well by Helen Bills who built the sense of anticipation in the room until a drum roll revealed the startling front cover featuring the Burnside CFS. Copies of the Journal were then given to the main contributors and then distributed to BHS members.

The evening concluded with a very convivial supper to celebrate the Journal Launch and the completion of another successful and enjoyable year in the life of the Burnside Historical Society

Thanks to the many members whose help was key to the success of this meeting. It was truly a team effort.



News of our Acting President Margaret Ford.

Members who attended the November meeting will know that our Acting President Margaret Ford has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Margaret has been in and out of hospital over the past 6 weeks undergoing tests, medical procedures, and treatment. This is likely to continue for some months to come. When she can, Margaret is maintaining her keen interest in our activities and particularly enjoyed hearing details of the November meeting. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

Programming News for 2024

BHS February Meeting



Our first monthly meeting for 2024 will be held on **Monday 19 February** when Carolyn Spooner is our speaker with her topic being *The extraordinary life of Sir Hubert Wilkins*. Some of you will recall that Caroline was scheduled to be our speaker on this topic earlier this year but a power failure in the Community Hall caused a last minute cancellation of the meeting.

George Hubert Wilkins ((1888-1958) was born and raised at Mount Bryan East in South Australia at the fringe of viable agricultural land and beyond the Goyder Line. He went on to become a cinematographer, naturalist, explorer, aviator and submariner and his expeditions took him to the Arctic, Antarctic, Eastern Europe, and tropical Australia. Indeed, an “EXTRAORDINARY LIFE”

March Meeting Our speaker for the March meeting on Monday 18th will be Joeline Hancock who will speak about South Australia’s Institutes. Joeline became curious about all the Institute buildings dotted around our State and how vital these buildings were for local communities. She has documented them all and has interesting stories to tell.



The Magill Institute established 1858

The Programme for 2024

The Programming Subcommittee of Liz Silz, Dianne Wilson, Neville Lawrence, Judy Fander and Bob Stace has been meeting for several months now to prepare the BHS Programme for 2024. The programme will cover the speakers for the 10 monthly meetings, several group outings for members, and up to five BHS events for the May History Festival. More details will be available at the Kensi Lunch and in the Bulletins of January and February.

News from the BHS Committee

1. Ongoing Absence of Acting President.

The BHS Committee has developed plans to cover the ongoing absence of our Acting President Margaret Ford. Members of the Committee (and others) will share the “load” previously undertaken by Margaret possibly until our AGM in April where BHS will have the opportunity to elect a new President. A good example of this “cover” was the highly successful November meeting where many members did that little bit “extra” to ensure that all went smoothly.

2. Meeting Stats

At a recent meeting the Committee was presented with some **interesting attendance figures** for our meetings since April.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker & Topic</u>	<u>Attendance numbers</u>
18 th May	Polly Dundon, The Secrets of Dulwich: [This was a History Festival event, hence the high number of visitors]	39 members + 33 visitors = 72 total attendances.
19 th June	Victoriana Society costumes parade:	36 members + 44 visitors = 80
17 th July	Alison Hicks, Early Adelaide Schools:	34 members + 12 visitors = 46
21 st Aug	Grant Morgan, The life of Henry Ayres:	42 members + 11 visitors = 53
18 th Sept	Peter Foster, Horse drawn vehicles:	34 members + 4 visitors = 38
16 th Oct	Anne McCutcheon: William Wyatt:	40 members + 5 visitors = 45
20 th Nov	Anne Daniell & Dr Geoffrey Bishop: <i>Chiverton & Journal Launch</i>	46 members + 13 visitors = 59



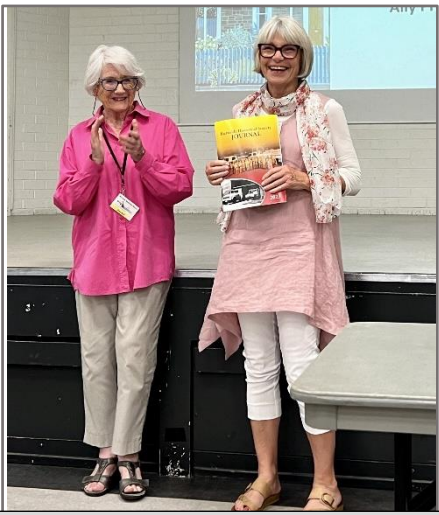
Our current financial membership (as of 24 November) is 111.

3. The next meeting of the BHS Committee will be held on Friday 19 January from 10.30 -12.30pm.

Pics from the Journal Launch



Burnside CFS members with their copies of the Journal



Ally Preiss receiving her Journal from Anne Both