

February 2024



OUR FIRST MEETING FOR 2024, Monday 19 February at 7.30pm

You are invited to attend our first meeting for 2024. Full details of this meeting can be found in the Flyer on page 3 of this Bulletin.

Our speaker will be **Carolyn Spooner** and her topic **“The extraordinary life of Sir Hubert Wilkins”**

MARCH MEETING



The speaker for the March meeting on Monday 18th will be Joelle Hancock who will speak on the topic **“A web of stories from South Australia’s Institutes: from Adelaide to Yongala via Campbelltown and Magill.”**



Magill Institute building opened 1902

LUNCH AT THE KENSI and the story of a pub robbery in 1841



Twenty eight members and friends made a most enjoyable start to their BHS year by attending the lunch at the Kensington Hotel on Wednesday 17 January. It was a very sociable lunch as we got back together for the first time since the November meeting. There was much chat, and new friendships were formed. We were well looked after by the staff of the “Kensi” with the food and service being excellent.

Bob Stace added to our knowledge of the history of the village of Kensington and the “Kensi” itself. We learnt that the Kensi was the earliest hotel established in this area in 1840 and that there have been three incarnations of the hotel on this site since 1840. It hasn’t always been known as the Kensington Hotel as initially in 1840 it was known as the Kensington Arms. In 1846 it became the Robin Hood until 1849, when it became the Globe until 1958, and finally the Kensington Hotel; so, the current name is comparatively new.

Bob also recounted the story from 1841 when the Licensee and his wife were held up, assaulted, tied up and robbed by four masked men, who after shouting themselves to a beer in the bar, headed for the sanctuary of the Tiers (the Adelaide Hills). That intrepid policeman Alexander Tolmer (later of the Gold Escort fame) and his troopers followed in pursuit, tracked them down and with drawn sword, arrested the “rough cut-throat looking rascals”.

The January lunch looks like establishing itself as a permanent fixture on the BHS annual programme.

The BHS 2024 Programme

The full programme of all meetings and events will be available to those attending the February meeting and will be emailed to all members with the March Bulletin. The Programme subcommittee had hoped to have this finalised and distributed at this time but there have been a few last minute “hitches” which have delayed the process.

The 2024 BHS Journal

The editorial team for the Journal has already met to discuss and plan for the 2024 edition. If you have ideas about an article you would like to write for this year’s Journal, then please speak to either Bob Stace or Liz Silz at the February meeting. After 3 years being a highly valued member of the team, Anne Both has announced her “retirement”. Thank you, Anne, for your contribution of time, energy, and creativeness in helping to establish our Journal as a much admired record of each BHS year.



Members are advised that our **Annual General Meeting** will be held at our meeting on 15 April. This is an important meeting for the Society where we will elect our Committee and Office bearers for 2024/25. The President’s Annual Report along with the audited Annual Financial Report will also be presented. Some members shy away from these meetings because they are concerned they might be “shot gunned” into taking a position on the night. However, this is not possible under our Constitution as all office bearers and committee members must be formally nominated at least 7 days before the AGM.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the BHS Committee or nominating for President, Secretary or Treasurer, then please speak to one of the current committee members at our February meeting. Nomination forms for all positions will be available at the February and March meetings.

News from the BHS Committee

The BHS Committee had a busy and productive January meeting with the main item on the agenda being issues relating to the Mines Project. After a well informed discussion on the Project, the Committee voted unanimously to inform the City of Burnside of its *in-principle support to the staged approach to rehabilitate and conserve Wheal Watkins and ... to initially provide a funding commitment of up to \$20,000 to match an application on a dollar for dollar basis for a Heritage SA Grant which, if successful, will allow the first stage of the work to proceed.* The money for this financial commitment will come from funds held in the BHS Mines Account which currently stand at close to \$35,000. Further information about the Mines Project appears below and there will be a more detailed report given at the February meeting

Latest News from the Mines Subcommittee



The portal to the lower adit at Wheal Watkins

- ❖ A documentary video of Wheal Watkins has been produced by the City of Burnside to help tell the Wheal Watkins story.
- ❖ Following a recent engineering report on the Mine’s condition, the City of Burnside has reconfirmed that entry into the two adits will not be possible. This means that we will not be able to produce a virtual reality video of the interior of the mine.
- ❖ After many years of active involvement with the Mine, Ross Both has recently resigned from the subcommittee.

BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You are invited to our meeting on
Monday 19 February at 7.30pm

Speaker: Carolyn Spooner

Topic: The Extraordinary Life of Sir Hubert Wilkins



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. His abiding interest was in researching the climate, especially at the Poles, to improve forecasting for farmers. His expeditions took him to the Arctic, Antarctic, Eastern Europe, and tropical Australia. Carolyn will lead us to understand why Sir Hubert was ahead of his time, was once a household name , especially in the USA where he spent most of his life and why his was indeed such an “extraordinary life”.

Carolyn Spooner has recently retired as Engagement Librarian at the State Library of South Australia where she worked for some 40 years. She enjoyed the mix of working with heritage collections, information technologies and South Australian researchers. In her role she gave presentations on the Library’s collections, wrote stories for the website, took Library tours, and assisted the community in their research requests.



**Venue: the Burnside Community Centre Hall, (adjacent to Burnside Library)
401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore. Enter car park from Fisher Street off Portrush Road.
Non- members - a Gold Coin donation is appreciated.**

The Burnside Historical Society has been an active and enthusiastic participant in the Burnside community for the past 44 years. We have monthly meetings which feature interesting presentations covering the history of the City of Burnside and South Australia. Further information may be found on our website www.burnsidehistory.org.au and on our Facebook page [@burnsidehistory](https://www.facebook.com/burnsidehistory) or by telephoning [0422 705 916](tel:0422705916)