

## July 2024

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Monday 15 July

Our speaker for the July meeting is Bill Prior the President of the SA Police Historical Society. Bill's topic is *The History of the SA Police Historical Society* which will also include the history of the SA Police Force and the forced move of the Police History Museum from the Thebarton Police Barracks due to their impending demolition to make way for the new Women's and Children's Hospital. Bill will have the latest information on this very topical situation. Brave the winter chill and join us for what promises to be another excellent meeting. Remember your car is warm and the hall is quite cosy!



Full details of the speaker and the topic can be found in the attached meeting flyer

### CUMMINS HOUSE VISIT: TUESDAY 9 JULY

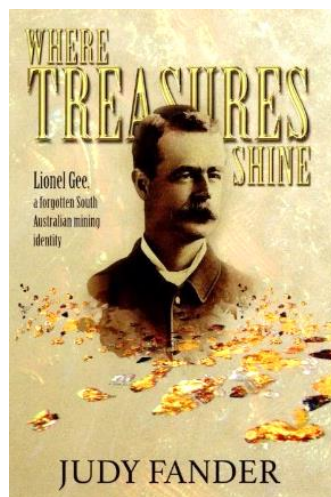


Welcome to Cummins House

There has been a good response from members (and their friends) booking for the visit to Cummins House. Twenty three have booked for the guided tour and Devonshire morning tea which will be followed by lunch at the nearby Highway Hotel on the Anzac Highway. Bookings are now closed. At this stage, all participants have organised their transport to Cummins House so there is no need to meet at Hazelwood Park before proceeding to Cummins House, which is located at 23 Sheoak Ave, Novar Gardens. Please arrive by 10.15am so that we can have a punctual start to the visit at 10.30am. It could take up to 40 minutes by car from Burnside to the House.

The Cummins House volunteers run a gift shop and plant sale at reasonable prices so please bring CASH if you want to purchase. If you have any questions or need to make a last-minute apology, then please phone the BHS number 0422 705 916.

### CONGRATULATIONS JUDY FANDER



BHS member Judy Fander has recently received the prestigious Keain Medal 2023 by the Historical Society of South Australia. The Medal is awarded annually to a non-fiction publication on South Australian history that is deemed to be the most significant in the previous calendar year. Judy's award was in recognition of her recently published book *Where Treasures Shine, Lionel Gee, a forgotten South Australian mining identity*. Lionel Gee and his wife Laura, an artist, were both long term residents of Burnside.



Judy receiving her award

## THE ZOO: MUCH MORE THAN PANDAS



**Elaine Bensted with BHS President Roger Bills**

It could not have been better timing. The day after the Chinese Premier's visit to the Adelaide Zoo with news about the replacement of the Zoo's two pandas Wang Wang and Fu Ni, Zoos SA's Chief Executive, Elaine Bensted was the guest speaker at our June meeting. After dealing with the elephant in the room about panda politics and the huge security arrangements at the Zoo for the Premier's visit, Elaine went on to show that Zoos SA is much more than a pair of Pandas.



Firstly, Elaine gave a brief history of the Zoo which was established in 1883 and is the second oldest in Australia, and we reminisced about our favourite animals George the orangutan and Samorn the elephant. Monarto Safari Park was first open to the public in 1983 and is now the largest safari experience outside of Africa spanning more than 1,500 hectares and home to more than fifty species of exotic and native mammals, birds, and reptiles. We were surprised to learn that you can fit every major zoo in Australia inside the Park and still have land left over! Another surprise was to learn that Zoos SA is not formally funded by the State Government which is in contrast to the other States.

Elaine very proudly outlined the future plans for the Zoo including the redevelopment of the Adelaide Zoo along its boundary with the River Torrens, and the exciting developments at Monarto which are already underway with a new elephant park and onsite safari accommodation being added.



We have had some very good speakers over the years, but Elaine's presentation was up there with the best.

## MISTRESSES OF BEAUMONT HOUSE: Monday 19 August

Sandy Whitelaw will be our speaker at the August meeting and her intriguing topic will be "Mistresses of Beaumont House". Sandy has been the curator of the Costume Collection for the National Trust of South Australia for the past seven years. She is responsible for over four and a half thousand items within the collection which is thought to be the largest collection of Costume in Australia.

Sandy's talk will cover the period 1851-1967 when four women held the position of chatelaine of Beaumont House. [Go ahead ... look up the meaning of "chatelaine"! -Ed] History has generally been written by men in three-piece suits, but these four women stood beside their husbands and were interesting in their own right. Millicent Short was the woman behind a man of the cloth, Lady Davenport was a philanthropist, Emily Vincent a socialite and finally Lillian Brock nee Bennett who ultimately donated Beaumont House to the National Trust.



**Beaumont House c. 1880**  
SLSA [PRG 5/32/24]

## PLANNING FOR THE 2025 BHS Programme



The BHS Programme Subcommittee has already started putting ideas together for next year's programme of speakers and events/outings. Thank you to those who completed the Programming Survey at the recent June meeting; your suggestions will be considered by the subcommittee when it next meets. If you have suggestions for the 2025 Programme, then please send them ASAP via the Society's email at: [burnsidehistorysoc@gmail.com](mailto:burnsidehistorysoc@gmail.com)

Please mark your email: **ATTENTION PROGRAMME SUBCOMMITTEE**

## NEW BHS MEETING WARDENS TRAINED

Four new emergency evacuation wardens have been trained to undertake these responsibilities at our monthly meetings. The new wardens are Judy Fander, Liz Silz, Roger Bills and Helen Bills. They replace Dave Monceaux, Sharan Northcott and Ally Preiss who have given many years of service in this volunteer role – thanks.



We thank Stephen Smith of the City of Burnside for conducting the training session.

## BHS MEMBERSHIP from the President Roger Bills

Membership to the BHS becomes due at the AGM each year. It's pleasing to note that currently we have **95 financial members**.

The BHS Committee recently discussed ways to market and promote the society as each year numbers decline due to an aging membership. Some excellent ideas were suggested, and plans are already in hand.



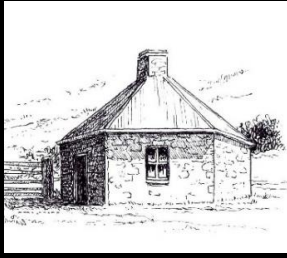
BHS has a strong group of volunteers who run the society and advocate for historical issues however there are significant fixed costs that need to be met every year. These include

- hire of the hall for meetings
- public liability insurance
- dedicated BHS mobile phone
- PO Box
- IT support for website management
- stationery, postage
- website hosting (charge to make the files on our BHS website available for viewing online)

Your membership not only supports the ongoing work of BHS but includes a complimentary copy of the annual BHS JOURNAL, an emailed copy of the monthly Bulletin (or delivered/posted to members without an email address) and an invitation to attend all BHS outings and events.

If you have not renewed, please consider doing so – single \$30, or family \$45 (two people at the same address). If you are no longer able to attend meetings, then perhaps consider making a donation.

- in CASH to the Treasurer Dave Monceaux at a monthly meeting OR
- by posting a cheque to Burnside Historical Society, PO Box 152, Glenside SA 5065 OR
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Burnside Historical Society, BSB 105086, AC No. 330298840.  
**Please add your full name to the Reference**



# Burnside Historical Society

Active in the Burnside Community for 44 years

## JULY Meeting

### *The History of the South Australian Police Historical Society*

Bill Prior, President of the SA Police Historical Society

**Monday 15 July @ 7.30pm**

**Burnside Community Centre Hall, (adjacent to Burnside Library)  
401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore, enter off Fisher Street**



#### **The Topic:**

Bill's topic will include the history of the South Australia Police and the role of the South Australian Police Historical Society. The talk will be quite topical as he will cover the planning and development of a new Museum which is now required because of the demolition of the Thebarton Barracks to facilitate construction of the new Women's and Children's Hospital.



#### **Bill Prior**

Bill joined the SA Police as a cadet in 1965 and retired in 2011 at the rank of Detective Chief Inspector.

He was appointed to the Executive Committee of the SA Police Historical Society in 2002 and served an initial term as President from 2010 to 2018 and again from 2020 through to the current time.

**Non-members - a \$2 donation is appreciated**

#### **Further information**



WEBSITE: [www.burnsidehistory.org.au](http://www.burnsidehistory.org.au)

PHONE: 0422 705 916

FACEBOOK: Burnside Historical Society, South Australia