BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The Monthly BHS Bulletin

January 2025

The Committee of the Burnside Historical Society wishes all members and friends a Happy New Year.

May you enjoy good health and have a satisfying and fulfilling 2025.

We look forward to your company at our meetings, outings, and events during the year.

CHANGE TO JANUARY PUB LUNCH VENUE - now at the Marryatville Hotel

Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances our first event for 2025, the January Pub Lunch, will not be held at the previously advised Kent Town Hotel but has been transferred to the **Marryatville Hotel,** 239 Kensington Rd, Marryatville. The date and time of **12noon on Wednesday 15 January** remain the same.

Twenty-eight members and guests have booked for the luncheon and bookings are now closed. If you have booked, and your circumstances have changed, please contact the BHS number 0422 705 916

FIRST MONTHLY MEETING FOR 2025 – Monday 17 February

The first BHS meeting for 2025 will be held on Monday 17 February at 7.30pm in the Burnside Community Centre Hall. The meeting will feature Dr Jenny Tilby-Stock who will speak on the topic ***The passionate and principled career of Jennifer Cashmore MHA.***

Jennifer Lilian Cashmore AM was SA's 5th female State MP. Her 15 years in the House of Assembly, from 1977 to 1993, goes some way to explaining why, until relatively recently, few women aspired to, or succeeded, in forging a career in politics. This talk will delve beyond the eulogies to honour this exceptional woman.

A brief Special General Meeting will be held immediately after this General Meeting. Further details below on page 2.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BHS – Monday 17 February

Immediately after the February General Meeting

All members of the Burnside Historical Society are formally advised that the Committee has called a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Society on Monday 17 February. The purpose of this SGM is to amend our constitution to allow greater flexibility in the timing of our Annual General Meeting (AGM).
Our present Constitution in Item 5.1 requires us to hold our AGM "no later than April each year".

The motion to be put to members at the SGM for their approval is that Item 5.1 be simply amended to:

The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than June each year

This one word change to our Constitution was unanimously agreed to by our Committee at its meeting last November but requires formal agreement from membership for the change to be effected. A 60% approval vote from those members attending the SGM must be achieved for this motion to be successful.
The reasons for this proposed change are as follows:

1. Under our Constitution the BHS financial and reporting year does not end until 31 March. With our meetings scheduled for the 3rd Monday of the month this gives very little time to prepare the annual financial statements and have them audited in time for an April meeting. In the past this requirement has placed considerable pressure on your volunteer Treasurer and Committee.
2. Without the proposed change, this year's AGM would have clashed directly with Easter Monday. Key members of the Committee also found that due to preexisting Easter, Anzac and School holiday commitments clashing with the second half of April any alternative April date would not be appropriate.

Hence the recommendation by the Committee that our Constitution be changed to allow greater flexibility for the date of the AGM. If this amendment is approved, the Committee intends to hold our 2025 AGM on Monday 19 May to immediately follow our May meeting. The timing of each future AGM can be decided by the Committee well in time for appropriate notification to members. Please note that the Associations and Incorporation Act 1985 upon which our constitution is necessarily based, requires that an AGM be held within 90 days of the end of a Society's' year; hence our proposed change to "June".
This Special General Meeting should be quite brief as there is but one simple amendment to consider. Firstly, the motion to amend the Constitution will be put, next opportunities will be given for members to speak briefly for and against the motion, and then the vote will take place. Under our Constitution a 60% vote in favour of the motion by those members attending must be achieved for the proposed change to our Constitution to be effected.

A CENTURY OF REMEMBRANCE:

On Saturday morning, 14 December, The City of Burnside held a special ceremony to mark the **centenary of the Burnside District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial statue** in Toorak Gardens. This memorial was opened on 14 December 1924 by Governor Lieutenant General Sir Tom Bridges, commemorating local servicemen who gave their lives in World War I.

In addition to the Helping Hand statue sculpted by Charles Web Gilbert, this significant site is also home to the Avenues of Honour, with 109 fallen remembered on individual plaques found along Alexandra Avenue and Prescott Terrace. Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC Governor of South Australia and the Mayor of Burnside, Anne Monceaux, unveiled a commemorative plaque that will be installed to mark 100 years of this poignant memorial. BHS members attended this special occasion.

(Information and photo courtesy of the City of Burnside Facebook page)

President's Report January 2025: Roger Bills

Wow, January already! Named after the two-faced Janus who could look back to see where he had been as well as forward to see where he wanted to go! And the questions posed each year are, *where have we been, and where do we want to go?*

For me, reviewing 2024 brought to mind a song from Lerner and Lowe's Brigadoon "*What a year this has been, what a rare mood we're in, why it's almost like being in love*".

Why? Because what has been accomplished by our little society has been a succession of rare, sweet treats, and all on a very limited budget. We must surely be doing it out of love "*'coz it ain't for the money!"*

So, where has love taken us in '24? Let's take a look:

- **Vibrant meetings** where speakers have taken us around the world and through different time zones. Our meeting attendances, peaked at 75 and 88 in the last 2 months.
- **Interesting outings** to *The Kensi*, to *Cummins House*, to *The Cedars* in Hahndorf, and to historic Strathalbyn, which all concluded with a social lunch.
- **Contributions to the May History Festival,** with 5 members offering sessions.
- **Burnside Library Local History Room volunteering:** Volunteers are rostered every Monday afternoon to assist the Burnside Historical and Cultural Officers, Michelle and Hannah, to respond to enquiries submitted from the community. 5 of the 6 volunteers are BHS members.
- **Providing Funding** to repair the adits of Wheal Watkins: The BHS allocated $10,000 from the bequest of John Clark which attracted a matching grant from Heritage SA. Sadly, an initially budgeted $10,000 from the Council was cut.
- **Cheering for the preservation of the historic Romalo Barns**.
  In December 14 BHS members attended the Community Assessment Panel (CAP) meeting where we (perhaps embarrassingly) cheered in support of preserving what is quite likely the first site of "Champagne" (as it was then called) being made in SA by the Méthode Champenoise process. How historic could you get in the wine capital state of Australia? The development application was rejected. Now, a few councillors are proposing that the barns should be local heritage listed. This would preserve them. Romalo House itself is local heritage listed. As a society we too need to stand up for what we love and believe in.

Where to in '25?

- One thing is sure, we must continue to **preserve, protect, promote, and celebrate** the history of Burnside. If this means attending, even cheering, at meetings then so be it.
- I am reminded that history funding was severely cut in the 2024 Burnside Council budget. It must not become a dreadful precedent. I would love to see the Council financially contribute to the brilliantly informative BHS website that is costly for us to maintain.
- As a parting shot, and looking forward, I quote the previous Burnside CEO Chris Cowley, "*The culture at the City of Burnside is incredible and something we should all be proud of playing a part in creating and sustaining*."

Yes, creating and sustaining our history is *"almost like being in love!"*

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