BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

The Monthly BHS Bulletin

December 2025

As President Roger Bills points out in his article below, we have finished the Society's year on a real "high". Our thanks go to all those members who have contributed in so many ways to help us achieve what has been a very successful and enjoyable year.

Best Wishes to all members and readers of this Bulletin for a Merry Christmas. May it bring you and your family Happiness and Joy.

There will be a Bulletin in early January to keep you connected with your Society and informed of upcoming events.

CRIKEY—WHAT A MONTH IT'S BEEN!

We've just enjoyed an absolute flurry of history-themed celebrations, and what a pleasure it was to be part of them all.

Cathy and Derek Bransbury in costume at the Regal Theatre Celebration

First, a big thankyou to the City of Burnside for hosting the 100th Birthday Party for the much-loved Regal Theatre. Many of us still remember it as the Marryatville Ozone—though she began life as the Princess a century ago! It was wonderful to see those who arrived in period costume, adding an extra splash of charm and nostalgia to the day.

Hot on the heels of that celebration came another milestone: the 150th birthday of Kensington Oval. What a legacy—transforming what was once Shipster's Paddock into an oval for the community and seeing it still thriving 150 years later. A genuine master stroke, and one certainly worth celebrating.

Helen and Roger Bills at the Kensington Oval 150th Celebration

To all our members who joined in one or both of these historic birthday parties—thank you for your enthusiasm and support.

And then, to round out the month beautifully, we enjoyed a truly memorable final BHS meeting for the year. A highlight was the launch of the 2025 Journal. Having watched the journal team—Helen Bills, Judy Fander and Bob Stace—pour countless hours into its creation, I am in awe of their unwavering dedication. The result is a polished, insightful publication that makes a significant contribution to the preservation of Burnside's history. A heartfelt thankyou to all three.

So, in keeping with our mantra of **Preserving, Promoting, Protecting and Celebrating** Burnside's history, I want to extend my appreciation once more:

- To the City of Burnside for recognising and celebrating two important milestones.
- To our members who give so freely of their time, energy, and passion to keep Burnside's history alive through our activities and meetings.

In many ways, it feels fair to say: **we are Burnside**—its memory, its storytellers, and its community spirit.

Roger Bills, BHS President

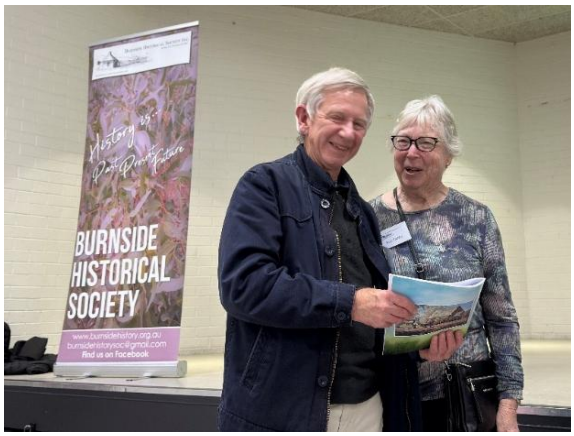
A MOST ENJOYABLE NOVEMBER MEETING

Eighty eight members and visitors enjoyed a highly successful meeting to round off our 2025 programme. Our speaker Julie Collins gave us a well prepared and thoroughly interesting presentation on ***Going to Town, the history of South Australia's Department Store Buildings***. For many of us who grew up in South Australia, Julie's talk evoked colourful childhood and family memories of our experiences shopping in Adelaide's department stores. In their heyday, there were as many as seven department stores in the Hindley and Rundle street strip along with Charles Moore and Peoplestores in the Victoria Square precinct. Now there are just two. The stores were much more than buildings offering a wide range of stock, fixed pricing, and an opportunity to browse. They had facilities for dining, fancy restrooms, exhibitions, entertainment (like Cox Foys roof-top ferris wheel and Myer's Dazzleland).Then there was the fun of riding the escalators and the lifts, the fashion parades and the excitement of window shopping and the brightly illuminated buildings on special occasions. The City was a much more vibrant place when the Department stores were at their height, and we wore our best clothes to go to Town.

Rundle Street, 1958. Cox Foys on right with Foy Gibson at back.

Escalator in John Martins in 1930s

The next highlight of the night was the **Launch of the 2025 BHS Journal** which was led by the members of the Journal Subcommittee. Helen Bills introduced the Journal, its various sections and importantly its impressive front cover. Judy Fander and Bob Stace then presented Journals to all those who had contributed articles. BHS members present were then invited to collect their Journal during supper.

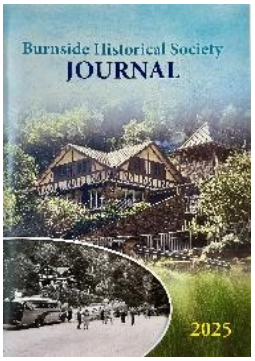


At Left: Colin Harris receiving his Journal from Judy

At Right: Burnside Councillor Mike Daws receiving his Journal from Bob

President Roger Bills then took the opportunity to thank all those members who had regularly helped with the running and organisation of meetings and outings throughout what had been a highly successful year. A **celebratory supper** followed to conclude a most enjoyable meeting.

2025 BHS JOURNAL



If members could not be at the November Meeting to collect a copy of the 2025 Journal, then rest assured one has been set aside for you. The cost of postage prohibits mailing, so please collect your copy from the registration desk at the February Meeting or ask a friend to collect on your behalf.

Back copies of the 2021, 2022 and 2024 Journals are available for $5 each, cash only

JANUARY LUNCH AT THE REPUBLIC

We are commencing the BHS 2026 Programme with the traditional **Pub Lunch** which will be held at the **Republic Hotel**, 120 Magill Rd, Norwood. (on the corner of Magill Rd and Osmond Tce) on **Wednesday 14 January at 12 noon**. New members are particularly welcome; it is an opportunity to make new friendships during what is always a convivial lunch. A Seniors Menu is available, or you can choose from the Main Menu. We have arranged for a private room so that we don't disturb others! Bookings are necessary and can be made by phoning the **BHS number 0422 705 916**. Make that phone call now as spaces are limited and filling fast.

FIRST BHS MEETING FOR 2026

Our first meeting for next year will be on **Monday 16 February** when BHS member Ray Dundon will tell the intriguing story of his great-great grandfather Friedrich Schultze, who amongst many deeds, accompanied George Goyder as the naturalist on his 1869 expedition to survey Darwin. Please put this date in your 2026 diary now for what promises to be a great start to our speaker programme for next year.

EASTERN REGION HISTORY SEMINAR

All members will be well aware by now that BHS is hosting the Eastern Region History Seminar in the Burnside Town Hall on **Saturday 28 February from 10am until 3.00 pm**. At least eight other history groups in the region have accepted our invitation to attend. Full details of the Seminar Programme and the Registration details have been included in previous Bulletins and are also available on our website.
https://www.burnsidehistory.org.au/

As hosts, it is important that we are well represented at the seminar and you are **ALL INVITED**. So please book **now** by completing the Registration Form (page 4 of this Bulletin) and paying the $30 which covers full attendance at the Seminar, morning tea, and lunch. Payment details are on the Registration Form.

If you are attending the Republic Lunch in January, you can register then and pay in cash.

[Roger and Helen Bills and Bob Stace, Seminar convenors]

PAST AND PRESENT BHS PRESIDENTS

Couldn't resist photographing Isabel Williams OAM, aged 100 years and 7 months, at a recent meeting of the Probus Club - Burnside Ladies where she is an honorary life member. Helen Bills gave a presentation to the group, whose average age is 92, about the Green and Gold Cookery Book which was the item she exhibited at the BHS July Meeting, Show and Tell with a Bell.

Isabel was President of BHS from 2003 - 2009 and was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 2012.

Mayor Anne Monceaux and Bragg MP Jack Batty cutting the Celebration Cake with representatives from the Kensington Cricket Club and the Adelaide City Football Club at the Kensington Oval 150 Celebration on Sunday 23 November.

Bulletin Editor: Bob Stace, Editorial Support: Helen Bills, Email Distribution: Roger Bills

THE EASTERN REGION HISTORY SEMINAR

Date: **Saturday 28 February 2026**
Time: 10.00am Registration & Morning Tea for a 10.30am start
Location: Burnside Town Hall, 401, Greenhill Road, Tusmore SA 5065
(access friendly - ramp to the building, lift up to the Town Hall)

REGISTRATION FORM

I wish to book to attend the 17th Eastern Regional History Seminar .

Name: .....

Email Address .....

Mobile Number: .....

Historical Society Group (if applicable): .

Any special dietary requirements (please specify): .....

Cost: $30 per person
Registration Fee *covers morning tea, seminar, lunch, and tour of Local History Room*

Payment via direct debit to:
Burnside Historical Society
BSB: 105-086
Account: 330 298 840
Reference: (*Your full name and ERHS)*

Return your completed form with confirmation of payment
EMAIL: burnsidehistorysoc@gmail.com
POST: PO Box 1759, Burnside SA 5066

Registration deadline: **Friday, 6 February 2026**

Enquiries please contact:
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