

*St. George Historical  
Society Inc. Bulletin*

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL

MAY - DECEMBER 2010 EDITION

*Merry Xmas*



*Happy New Year*

PRESIDENT	Mr. Wesley Fairhall	(02) 9546 - 1165
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Bernard Sharah	(02) 9567 - 8989
SECRETARY	Miss Laurice Bondfield	(02) 9599 - 4274
TREASURER	Mr. Wesley Fairhall	(02) 9546 - 1165
BULLETIN EDITORS	The Henke Family	(02) 9587 - 8307
LYDHAM HALL COMMITTEE	Mrs. Gloria Henke	(02) 9587 - 8307
	Mrs. Joan Rankin	(02) 9567 - 8641
	Mr. Bernard Sharah	(02) 9567 - 8989
PUBLIC OFFICER	Mr. Robert McGarn	(02) 9588 - 1097
REFRESHMENTS OFFICER	Mr. Allan Stahl	(02) 9556 - 2805
LYDHAM HALL ROSTER	Mr. Bernard Sharah	(02) 9567 - 8989
AUDITOR	Mrs. Joan Rankin	(02) 9567 - 8641

**Meetings are held 2:00 PM the third Saturday of the month (except January) in the Meeting Room 1st Floor, Rockdale Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale. Members, please bring a plate. Visitors are welcome.**

### EVENTS AGENDA

**Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Gathering 1:30PM**

This event will be held at Sizzlers Restaurant, 1st Floor, 124 Princes Highway, and Corner Princes Highway & Jubilee Avenue Carlton.

We shall all meet in front of the restaurant at 1:30pm. Hope to see you all there.

For Enquiries please contact Gloria Henke on (02) 9587 – 8307

**Apr 16-17<sup>th</sup> 2011 – National Trust Week**

Tempe house will be open to the public for inspection between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm



We would like to thank those who gave their time throughout the year for the Lydham Hall Roster, and other events held at Lydham Hall.

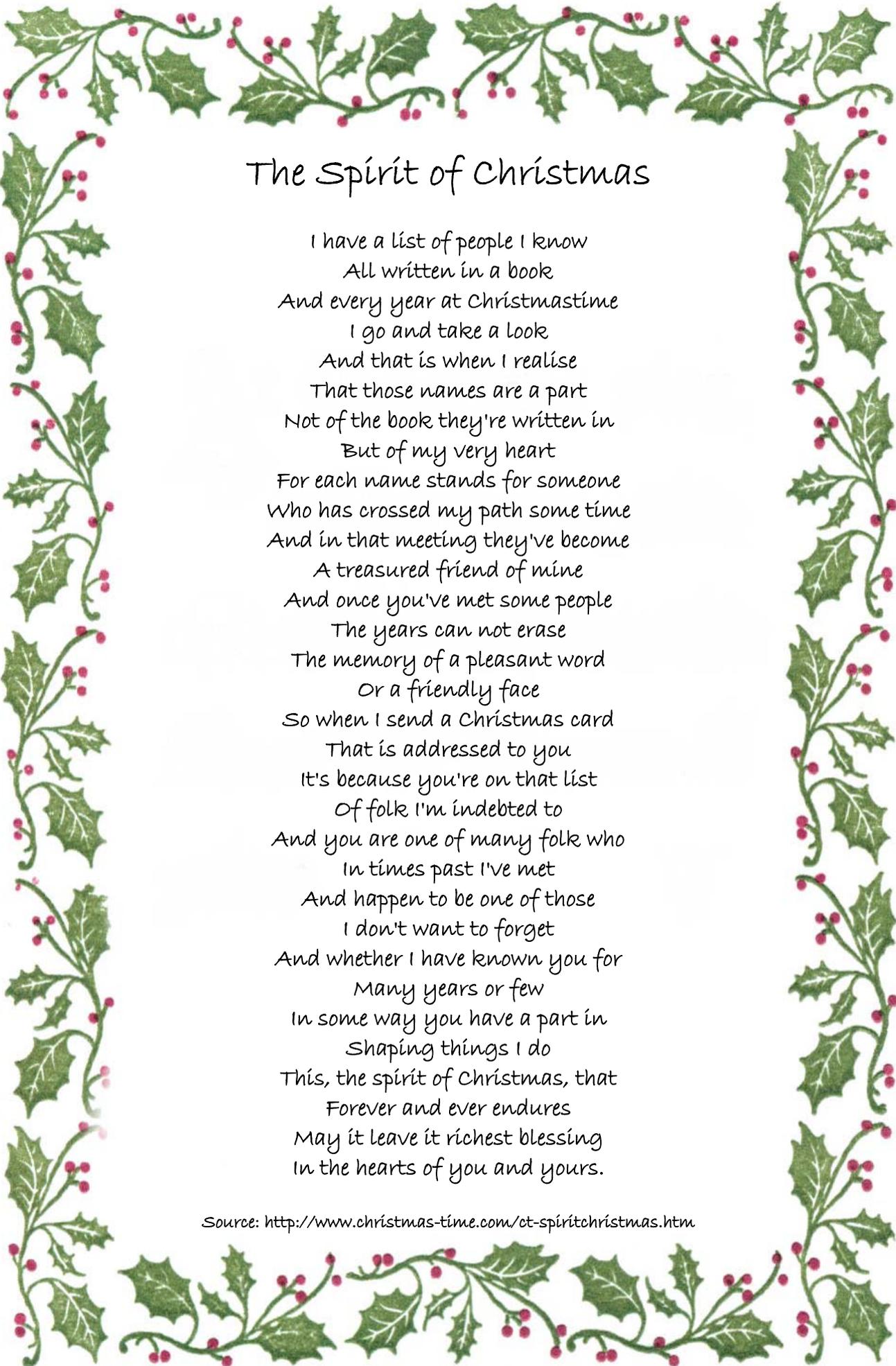


### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Membership Fees fell due at the end of June for the financial year July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 to June 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Cost for Individuals \$10  
 Cost for Households \$15

Please find enclosed a Membership Renewal form for those who are currently un-financial members.



## The Spirit of Christmas

I have a list of people I know  
All written in a book  
And every year at Christmastime  
I go and take a look  
And that is when I realise  
That those names are a part  
Not of the book they're written in  
But of my very heart  
For each name stands for someone  
Who has crossed my path some time  
And in that meeting they've become  
A treasured friend of mine  
And once you've met some people  
The years can not erase  
The memory of a pleasant word  
Or a friendly face  
So when I send a Christmas card  
That is addressed to you  
It's because you're on that list  
Of folk I'm indebted to  
And you are one of many folk who  
In times past I've met  
And happen to be one of those  
I don't want to forget  
And whether I have known you for  
Many years or few  
In some way you have a part in  
Shaping things I do  
This, the spirit of Christmas, that  
Forever and ever endures  
May it leave it richest blessing  
In the hearts of you and yours.

Source: <http://www.christmas-time.com/ct-spiritchristmas.htm>

## 2010 Ron Rathbone Junior Local History Prize

Bill Eftimoski	Christina Stead
Catriona & Amelia Calantzis	Brighton-Le-Sands Public School
Eleanor Kerwick,	Kelvedon
Eloise Cooper	Rockdale on the map!
James Howard	Mr John Bowmer
Jasmine Xian	Rockdale Uniting Church
Jessica Xian	Rockdale Public School
Jonny Gao	Rockdale is just like family
Maria Ghaly	Ronald William Rathbone
Mike Xi	Rockdale Uniting Church
Nandini Kaushik	Rockdale, a history of residents
Neil Amaral	History of James Cook Boys Technology High School
Nicole & Scarlet Ng	A history of the political career of the former councillor Anne Field
Qing Yu Vivian Zhang	The Wheels of Sans Souci
Sarah Purvis	Kyeemagh's Chinese Market Gardens
<b>Encouragement Awards:</b>	<b>Catriona &amp; Amelia Calantzis and Eleanor Kerwick</b>
<b>Highly Commended Awards:</b>	<b>Neil Amaral and Qing Yu Vivian Zhang</b>
<b>Winner:</b>	<b>Maria Ghaly</b>

## 2010 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize

Graeme Albertson	"The murky, dirty road": save Rockdale Police Station
Helena Fernandez	How Rockdale Library has provided education to people of all ages & backgrounds throughout history
Jean Jehan OAM	An intolerable burden: the intriguing story of Rev James Clarke
Judith Hassila & Michael Roberts	Brighton Baths Athletic Club: a short history of the club's first 100 years
Nicole & Scarlet Ng	A history of the political career of the former councillor Anne Field
Peter Lin	Sir Charles Kingsford Smith
Tan Nan Chen	King Street – 30 years of change
William Batley	Ramsgate Life Saving: 75 Years of Life Saving Ramsgate Life Saving Club: 50 Years in Life Saving
<b>Commendation Award:</b>	<b>Jean Jehan OAM</b>
<b>Winner:</b>	<b>Judith Hassila &amp; Michael Roberts</b>

We are extremely pleased to see the junior awards have returned to the Ron Rathbone Local History Prize.

It was also good to see so many entries this year.

Our thanks go to Rockdale City Council, and the many people involved in the preparation of this event.



**Big farewell:** (From left) Beverley and Fred Scott with staff members, Cherie Reynolds, Irene Spanos and Norma Gill.  
**Picture:** Lisa McMahon

# Prescription for a happy retirement

By Murray Trembath

PHARMACIST Beverley Scott will fill her last prescription this week after selling the Bexley chemist she has owned for 51 years.

Mrs Scott was fresh out of university and newly married when she and her husband Fred established Scott's Pharmacy in 1959.

She was stepping into a male-dominated world but Bexley residents welcomed her and she repaid them with half a century of service, including 20 years as president of the suburb's chamber of commerce.

Mrs Scott, 76, will finish on Saturday after selling the Forest Road business to Ahmad Fleitini.

"I will miss all the wonderful friendships I have made over the years, both with customers and also other business people in Bexley," she said.

"It has been such a pleasure to watch generations of people grow up, marry and have children and it has been wonderful to share all their joys and achievements while tending to their health requirements."

The Scotts, who have three sons and 13

**'It has been such a pleasure to watch generations of people grow up, marry and have children and it has been wonderful to share all their joys and achievements while tending to their health requirements.'**

—Beverley Scott

grandchildren, plan to travel more. Mrs Scott said it was difficult to take time off when running a small business and she intended to make up for lost time.

"My first priority is to watch my granddaughter make her debut in Albury, and then I intend to enjoy some long-anticipated holidays," she said.

Mrs Scott, who attended Bexley Public School and St George Girls' High School before enrolling in the University of Sydney, was particularly proud of keeping the chamber of commerce alive and active, even when large shopping complexes opened nearby and traffic was horrendous.

St George and Sutherland Shire Leader, Thursday, August 19, 2010 -11

Source: Many thanks to Fred Scott.

## **Anastasia Elisa Cuddy (nee Macinante)**

5-8-1916 – 25-8-2010

Anastasia Cuddy came to live in Hurstville in 1924, and only moved as far as Bexley, at that time she was known as Annie Macinante, who lived in the Tuck Shop, 51 Forest Road, opposite the Hurstville Schools. Primary Girls, Primary Boys, Domestic Science and later Hurstville High, then known as Junior Technical.

The local paper was "The Propeller" published by Whennholm Bros. (two pence a copy) at their office in Forest Road, next to the Wallington's White Horse Hotel, which has become "The Roundabout", and The Propeller Office, a retail shop. The newspaper itself was replaced by "The Express", to be later swallowed up by "Murdoch Press".

In the 'good old days' of "The Propeller" (and "The St. George Call" dedicated to sport) Mr Will Carter was the Editor, and established "The Propeller Young Writers League" with Steele Rudd and Miles Franklin, as patrons, and A. L. Blackshaw, a leading solicitor, and Guy E. Moore's Bookshop, among those who donated prizes.

Anastasia was an original member and secretary for some time, collecting sixpence at the monthly meetings (to pay for postage) which were held at various places, the final one being at The Methodist Church (Now Uniting Church) in The Avenue.

The Reverend Albert Morris was the minister there at the time, unconventional and very popular, and especially cared for his younger flock.

When Annie was 14 her mother took her to meet Mary Gilmour, in her Darlinghurst flat, to renew her acquaintance and show her some of "The Propeller" pieces which had been published, she was impressed and encouraging. Mary Gilmour herself had received great help and encouragement from John Farrell, poet and journalist, Annie's Grandfather, who was considered one of her true educators.

Annie went on to write verse for the "S. M. Herald Saturday Magazine" page, and received 5 shillings for "snippets" of four lines.

At this time she was writing verse and short stories for "The Catholic Fireside", a monthly magazine published by the original "Catholic Club". D'Arcy Nyland, husband of Ruth Park, was a regular contributor. She had some success with Short Stories in the then "Daily Mirror" a magazine published by Mr Smith entitled "Australian National Journal" and "Australian Weekend Book" in collaboration with Gwen Moreton Spencer,

When Annie Macinante married Rowe Cuddy in 1946, there was no time for writing, in between raising 5 children in a happy marriage of almost 60 years.

However, coming across a small group of writers associated with the "Fellowship of Australian Writers" (F.A.W), meeting at the home of George

Thompson in Kingsgrove, where I met Jean Francis of Penshurst and Paula McKay, who have both successfully, published books of verse, I was inspired to put pen to paper again.

For a few years now I have had verse and articles published in "True Expressions" and "Writers' Voice" official journal of the F.A.W., 2001 A Poets Journey (anon. 2001 Poetry Awards)

"Voices of the Past" edited by Beverly Earnshaw, Trevor Langlands and Ron Stevens.

"Metverse Muse" (an Indian Magazine) edited by Msy Do H. Tulsi. ( Founder, Leader "World Renaissance for Classical Poetry")

Story Published in the Hurstville Council Publication "The Stories I Could Tell"

A large share in "A Welcome on the Mat" (Father John McSweeney) The Story of Father Tom Dunlea and Boys Town

A similar contribution to "The Faith Of The Forest" by Eroll Lea-Scarlett

Currently when the muse is aroused I send a poem or article to "The Annals" A journal of Catholic culture published by Chevalier Press from "The Sacred Heart Monastery" in Kensington, and hope it finds a spot – it often does.

Source: Anastasia Cuddy

### *SMOKE SIGNALS*

*BRIGHT CANDLE burning by the font,  
Enhance the smell of chrism,  
Traced on the forehead of the babe  
Anointed in baptism.*

*SHINE CROOKED CANDLE in the cave,  
Light up the Holy Scene,  
Mother and child upon the hay,  
An ox and ass between.*

*TALL EASTER CANDLE make it known  
That Christ rose from the dead,  
Triumphantly, no crown of thorns,  
An aura round his head.*

*FLICKERING CANDLE by the grave  
Where grieving mourners pray  
Hopefully to let God know  
That Anastasias' on her way.*

*Anastasia Cuddy*

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Anastasia Cuddy, our dear friend and neighbour.

The Editors

## *Journeys with our Guest Speakers*

Our guest speakers this year have taken us on some entertaining journeys through time and place! Here's just a taste of our trips!

The year began with Beverley Earnshaw, President of Kogarah Historical Society, who took us on a rollicking ride with "Princess Charlotte, Rebel of the Ribald Royals". The life of Queen Victoria's aunt and godmother and her efforts to marry the man she loved was turbulent indeed!

March saw us touring some of the lost gardens of St George with Colleen Morris, National Trust curator and author of "Lost Gardens of Sydney". The gardens of Tempe House, "Withycomb" at Hurstville, "Alwyn" at Arncliffe all showed how the idea of the garden developed and changed in our area.

In May, Betty Goodger of Kogarah Historical Society took us sailing with Lord Nelson, revealing how many connections he had to the colony of Sydney. From then Lieutenant Bligh, superb navigator, who guided the fleet to Copenhagen and victory, to local settlers on the Hawkesbury, to a Hurstville local C. T. Ritchie, whose grandfather had fought at Copenhagen, the links were many.

With Janette Pelosi, Senior Archivist, State Records and runner up in Ron Rathbone, Local History Prize 2009, we followed the efforts of local citizens to establish a Fire Brigade Service at Rockdale after the devastating 1889 fire which burned down Rockdale Masonic Hall and some nearby shops and offices. The first fire engine (christened "Myee" by Lady Carrington, wife of the Governor of NSW) had to be purchased with funds raised from local residents!

In July Chrys Meader, Marrickville Librarian and historian took us on a wonderfully nostalgic shopping trip down Marrickville Road. There were many reminiscences of "going to the shops"! On a sadder note Chrys pointed out that in 1914, 90% of the shops along the road were owned by men but by 1919, 86% were owned by women, an indicator of the dreadful loss of life during World War 1.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Marrickville local citizens were the first to found an Anzac Memorial Club, which also began the tradition of the Dawn Service. Our next journey was with Gregory Blaxell, Historian and author of "People of the Parramatta River". Originally home to the Burrumatigal clan of the Eora people, site of the earliest (1798) settlement outside Sydney Cove, at one time "fruit bowl" of Sydney, afterwards industrial heartland and lately home to Olympic Park and its new suburbs, it was a fascinating journey.

The river was home also to some early pioneers: D'arcy Wentworth whose extensive holdings were to host the first meeting of the Australian Jockey Club and brothers John and Gregory Blaxland. Gregory (better known as an explorer) established a vineyard, his brother John built a fine house "Newington" and set up a successful business harvesting salt from the river.

In September, Janine Kitson, member of the National Trust, shared some interesting insights into the life of David Stead of Lydham Hall. In 1909, he was one of the founding members of the Wildlife Preservation Society, which celebrated its centenary last year. A largely self-educated marine biologist, some of whose scientific papers are still relevant, he also fought against the killing of koalas and birds for the export trade in fur and feathers. His third wife Thistle Harris was a notable botanist, who published one of the first popular books on Australian Wildflowers in 1938. After David Stead's death she established The David Stead Memorial Wildlife Trust at Wirrimbirra, Bargo to carry on his scientific work and to educate the public, particularly children, about conserving Australian flora and fauna.

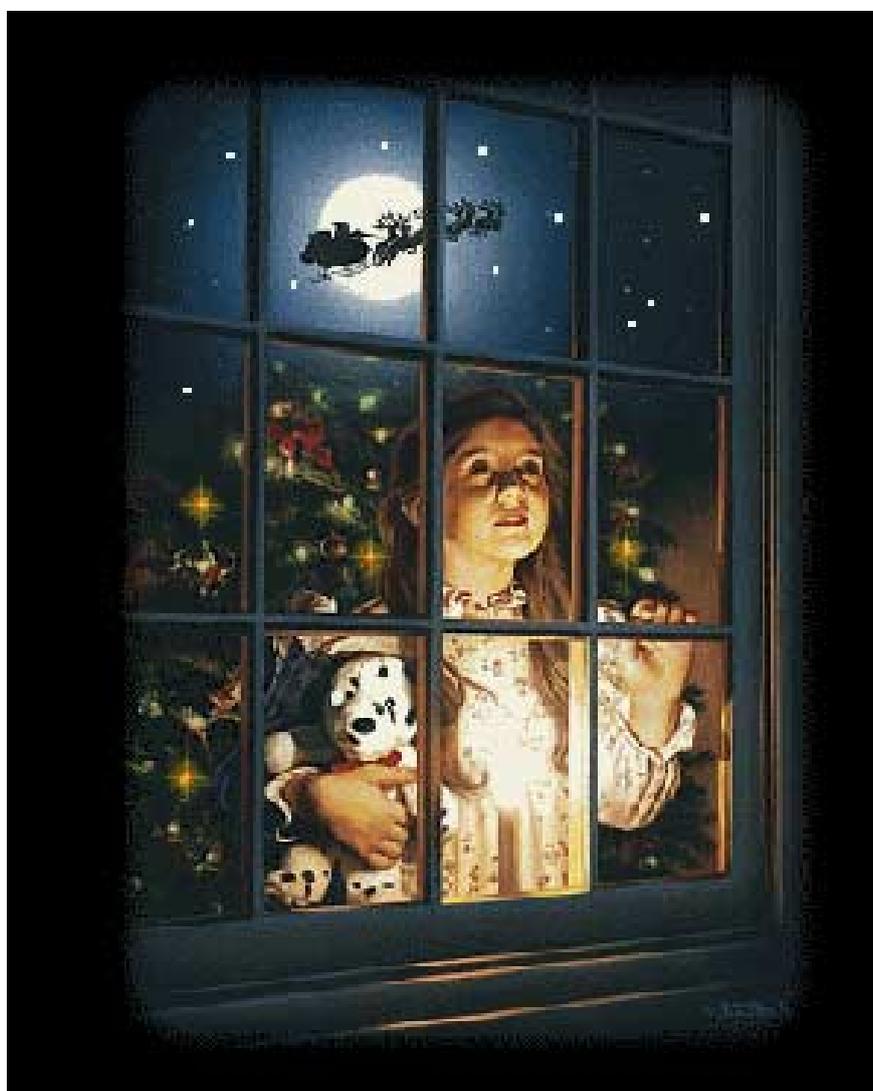
Lastly, Dan Macaloon took us on a nostalgic trip to Ramsgate's Pemberton Baths. Dan's work on the history of the baths won the 2009 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize 2009. His talk revealed the difficulties and detective work required to write a history when many of the sources have been destroyed or lost. Members and visitors shared reminiscences of "penny scrambles", treasure hunts, and a menagerie with chimpanzees!

You can see we have had some wonderful speakers during the year and planning for next year's talks has already begun. Why not come along? Members and guests are welcome at all our meetings. The meetings and speakers are advertised in the Leader's "What's On" column every month.

Remember-if climbing two flights of stairs to the meeting room above the Library at Town Hall is too difficult for you, just ring our kind caretaker Francois on 0402 089 012 and he will meet you at the Council Administration building in Bryant St so you can use the lift and walk across to the meeting room that way.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2011!

Laurice Bondfield



Wishing everyone a safe Christmas  
and Prosperous New Year

**ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2010.**

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Cash at Bank 30/6/2009	\$10,035.45		
Membership Subscriptions	\$ 400.00	Bulk Postage	\$ 185.40
Donations-General	\$ 10.00	R.A.H.S. Conference	\$ 0.00
Sale of Books	\$ 69.50	R.A.H.S. Subscription	\$ 100.00
Tours/Walks	\$ 192.90	R.A.H.S. Insurance	\$ 528.00
Bank Interest	\$ 3.20	Bexley Street Stall	\$ 12.50
		Office of Fair Trading	\$ 47.00
		Xmas Gifts-Caretaker	
		Printer	\$ 55.23
		Stationery	\$ 21.40
		Refreshments	\$ 40.90
		Cash at Bank 30/6/2010	\$9,720.62

**TOTAL INCOME:                    \$10,711.05 *cr*    TOTAL EXPENDITURE    \$10,711.05 *cr***

*I have examined the books presented by  
 Mr. Wesley Fairhall (hon. Treasurer) & am  
 satisfied the figures present a true & accurate  
 account of the financial affairs of St George Historical Society  
 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010*

*J Rankin*