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## ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | **AUGUST 2023**



### **WELCOME**

It seems that in every issue we report that we have good news to share regarding Lydham Hall, only to have to report to the contrary at our meetings weeks later. But we may be back on track again after our latest meeting with Council & the Lydham Hall Advisory Committee. Whilst the Licence Agreement is reviewed prior to signing, we have finally been granted 'early access' prior to the Council meeting at the end of August.

We are always on the lookout for interesting articles or stories to include in our mail outs. Feel free to send us an email with something we can include - no editing or fancy formatting needed as we can do that for you.

*The Editorial Team.*



### **WHAT'S ON**

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**19 August 2023** | 2pm to 4pm |  
Rockdale Library, Level 3.

#### **"Extraordinary Places on Sydney Harbour"**

This month's talk will be given by Julie Evans who will transport us to some magical places and some fascinating buildings on our harbour. Owing to their natural beauty, heritage buildings and layered histories, the Harbour Trust's visitor destinations are a rich source of exploration and discovery.

The talk will be followed by a meeting of the St George Historical Society. Open to all members and the general public. Free. Gold coin donation welcome.

[VOLUNTEER AT LYDHAM HALL](#)

[SEE WHAT ELSE IS ON](#)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

We are delighted to announce the results of this year's St George Historical Society Committee elections.

Firstly, our heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Committee for your efforts throughout 2022-23: Laurice Bondfield, Wesley Fairhall, Anne Field, Barry Johnson, Robert McGarn, Geoff Rankin, and Tina Workman. It has been a difficult year and the team has worked extremely well together to resolve some difficult situations.

Sincere congratulations to our new Committee for 2023-24. We're excited for the year ahead with this team and we thank you for volunteering your time and for volunteering your expertise.

The SGHS Executive Committee meets quarterly, and additionally as the need arises, for review and planning. The schedule for meetings will be noted in the next issue of our news letter. Members are welcome to request minutes of our meetings from our Secretary. The General Committee members are welcome to join all SGHS Executive Committee meetings.

The Lydham Hall Advisory Committee (LHAC) also meets quarterly at the instigation of the Chair of the Committee (Councillor Liz Barlow). Next meeting should be in October. Meeting minutes are made available on the Bayside Council website and members will be kept informed via updates at the monthly meetings. Link below for minutes of the first meeting held in April 2023 (page 148).

Role	Office Bearer
President	Wesley Fairhall
Vice President	Robert McGarn
Secretary	Laurice Bondfield
Treasurer	Barry Johnson
Curator	Tina Workman
Librarian	Tina Workman
Lydham Hall Advisory Committee	Laurice Bondfield , Wesley Fairhall, Anne Field Alternate: Geoff Rankin
Newsletter Coordinator	Tina Workman Laurice Bondfield
Public Officer	Robert McGarn
Publicity Officer	Anne Field
Research Officer	Barry Johnson
General Committee	Bob Jansen, Janette Pelosi, Diana Smith, Ross Stell

[Click here to view LHAC Meeting Minutes, 11 April 2023](#)

## LYDHAM HALL HISTORIC HOUSE AND MUSEUM | UPDATE

On 25 July 2023, the Society met with the Councillors on the Lydham Hall Advisory Committee and Bayside Council Staff to discuss the issues outstanding, including the Notice of Motion (relating to maintenance) raised by the Chair at the last General Council meeting which resulted in the current standstill. There were 4 items on the agenda:

1. Acceptance of the meetings of the LHAC from April.
2. Acceptance of the Terms of Reference and the Code of Conduct for the LHAC.
3. Recommendation to approve a Bayside Council grant for a Local History and Research Room at Lydham Hall.
4. Recommendation to proceed with the Licence based on the committee agreeing with procedures, maintenance obligations and the adoption of a revised (Spring/Autumn) schedule of maintenance.

The former two items were accepted unanimously. The latter two were accepted after vigorous discussion.

In light of the outcome of the meeting,

the Society is hopeful that Bayside Council is now in the process of ratifying the Licence Agreement.

The good news is that we have recently been advised that access has been approved and that the Society will be issued with keys. This is excellent news and, once we collect our keys, it will allow us to get on with the tasks needed to care for our collection and re-open to the public.

At this stage we have missed our deadline to open in October but the SGHS Committee is currently reviewing it's planning to determine when the museum can be reopened and what tasks need to be prioritised in order to achieve this.

In the meantime, some work has been undertaken. The Fix It Sisters have been painting on site for some weeks and have completed some parts of the exterior of the site, which is much appreciated by the Society. And Laurice Bondfield and Tina Workman have began cleaning up the interior, starting with the volunteer amenities - the kitchen and the bathroom.

A more detailed update will be provided at the meeting in August.



[Read about the Fix It Sisters here](#)



## RENEWAL FOR 2023-2024

Have you renewed your membership yet? To continue supporting us, please renew your membership today.

\$15 for singles or \$20 for households.

Deposit your membership to the SGHS bank account. Include your name in the payment description:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank

Account name: St George Historical Society Inc.

BSB: 062 119

Account No: 0090 3599

Or you can pay our Treasurer in person by coming along to our next meeting.

## Some trivia: WHAT IS A DRAWING ROOM?

First mentioned in the 16th Century, the Drawing Room was the formal room for receiving guests in well to do households and was found at the front of a house. It was located adjacent to the Dining Room and was the room in which the ladies 'withdrew' to seek more feminine pursuits, leaving the men behind in the Dining Room to indulge in more masculine activities such as drinking, smoking and talking politics or business. It was later also called the Parlour in more modest homes.

The term lost favour after WW1 when it was often referred to as the 'death room', as it became the room where a deceased person would be laid out for viewing by friends and relatives for the final time. By the 1920s, we had coined a new term, called the Living Room, which was located as far away as possible from the 'death room' and hence, we generally find the Living Room situated at the back of a house.



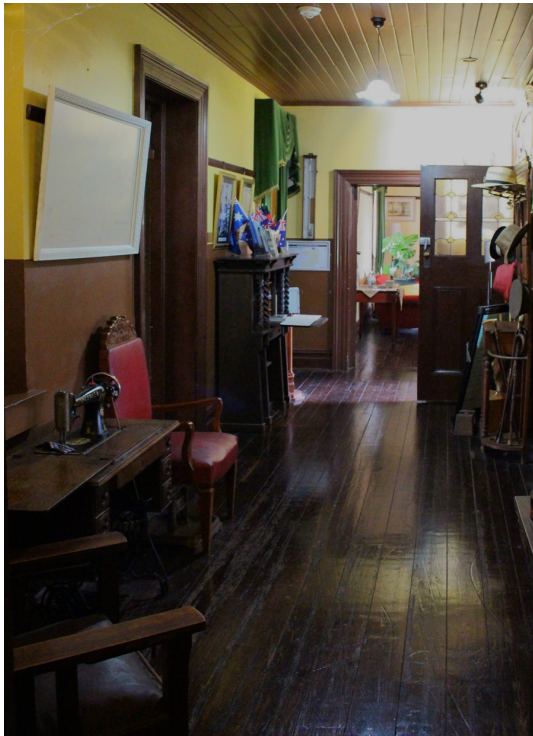
The drawing room at *Dappeto*,  
Wollongong Road Arncliffe, in 1885.  
(image: SGHS Collection)



The drawing room at *Villa Maria*,  
Woniora Road, Hurstville, c. 1920.  
(image: Hurstville Museum & Gallery).

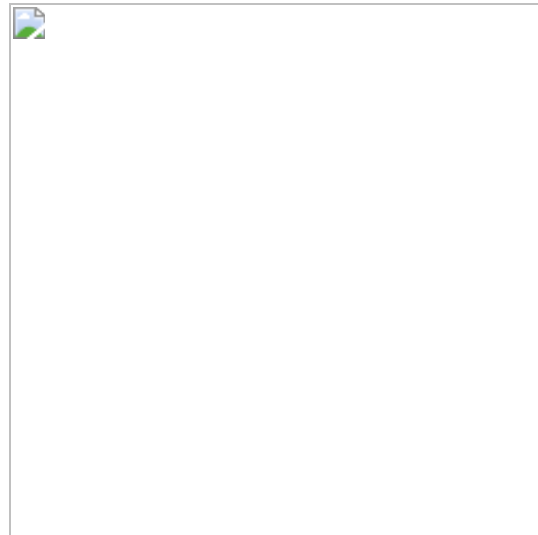


**ALTONA HOMESTEAD, VICTORIA**



Altona is a lovely bluestone cottage on the waters edge of Port Phillip Bay in Victoria. Owned by Altona Council, it is the home of the Altona Laverton Historical Society. Inside this immaculately kept house, the volunteers showed me through their collection, their local history room and their library. We were served delicious scones which we ate, surprisingly, in the dining room of the house. Although they have a lovely courtyard, the Melbourne winter means that visitors can be catered for amongst the collection. It's always interesting to see how differently historic houses approach their activities.

[For more information, click here](#)



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**St George Historical Society Incorporated**

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[www.stgeorgehistsoc.org.au](http://www.stgeorgehistsoc.org.au)

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