

[EMAIL US](#)

[PUBLICATIONS](#)

[LYDHAM HALL](#)



ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | **SEPTEMBER 2023**



WELCOME

The volunteer cleaning team (ie. Laurice, Tina, Diana and Ray) now understand why there are so many articles devoted to 'chandelier cleaning' - the task of cleaning the Lydham Hall dining room chandelier (above) took almost 3 hours of dizzy making, neck arching, arm aching work! But the results are spectacular. This week we started the clean-up of Lydham Hall in earnest and by the end of the day we all needed a bath and a scotch!

We are rushing towards a late October opening. But to reach that goal, we need more volunteers on Thursdays! Can you help? No job is too small and any help is gratefully appreciated. In the meantime, click below for some chandelier cleaning tips.

The Editorial Team.

[HOW TO CLEAN A CHANDELIER](#)



WHAT'S ON

"The Shark Arm Case"

Saturday 16 Sept 2023 | 2pm to 4pm |
Rockdale Library, Level 3.

Our guest speaker this month is Phillip Roope, a former high school English & History teacher, & location manager on 45 feature films and TV series, ranging from Blue Murder for TV and Baz Luhrmann's The Great Gatsby.

This intriguing talk is about a shark on display at an aquarium that coughs up a human arm bearing a distinctive tattoo. The investigation uncovered insurance fraud, smuggling on Sydney Harbour and gang violence with connections to Cronulla and Port Hacking.

Open to all members and the general public. Free. Gold coin donation welcome.

[SEE WHAT ELSE IS ON](#)

LYDHAM HALL HISTORIC HOUSE AND MUSEUM | UPDATE

We are delighted to announce that we received a signed copy of the Licence Agreement with Bayside Council on the 5th September 2023. This follows a handover that occurred at the museum in the last week of August, that included keys being issued to the Society.

We can finally begin the task of cleaning the museum in readiness for opening. We have (optimistically!) set a target for a 'soft' opening in late October. However, it is likely only a couple of rooms will be ready for opening at this time. A larger celebration of the re-opening is planned for early 2024.

In the meantime, we have been busy. Cleaning the interior has started; some discussions regarding cataloguing have

commenced; we have submitted some applications for grants; the Council has done some terrific tidying up of the grounds; and The Leader has visited to take some photos. Not bad for a couple of weeks work but the rest of the museum is still topsy turvy and there is a long way to go yet.

See photos below of this weeks massive effort!

And we do need more volunteers to do cleaning, painting, furniture polishing and sewing. Members are welcome to drop in for a tea/coffee and a chat every Thursday from 10am until 1pm to see progress. But be warned - we may hand you a mop!



Ray spent the day sanding and oiling our outdoor seats. They came up beautifully. And, more importantly, no more dirty bums when sitting on the verandah. Thanks Ray!



Barry installing our computer in the new Local History Room. It is in a temporary position until we can install power and lay a floor but at least we can start the task of cataloguing.



The Dining Room is almost done. Ceilings and walls have been cleaned; chandelier washed; cedar windows and doors cleaned and waxed; floors washed; rug scrubbed and vacuumed! Phew! The fireplace and furniture will be next weeks job.



Bayside Council have been doing a great job getting the grounds tidied up. The two overgrown hedges at the front of the house have been trimmed significantly. This has made a huge difference to the visibility of the museum from the street and has brought so much extra light into the house.



One of the next jobs is restoring this piece of furniture (left). Once part of a 'blended' piece (oddly, it had an ornate Victorian fireplace mantle above), it will soon be our reception desk. Can you help? No experience necessary - we can show you how.

The image above shows the entrance in its current state.

PLEASE REACH OUT HERE TO VOLUNTEER



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.

RON RATHBONE LOCAL HISTORY COMPETITION

Congratulations to all those people who entered the 2023 Ron Rathbone Local History Competition. This year it was won by joint open category winners, **Peter Hobbins** for 'Miracle at Mascot? Surviving Sydney's 1971 airliner collision', and **Ian Hoskins** for 'Looking Backward: Daceyville and a time of idealism in public housing'.

And we would especially like to congratulate Society member, **Janette Pelosi**, for her fantastic entry 'Joseph Davis, from Lidham Hill to Lydham Hall'. A timely work which sheds new light on the early inhabitants of Lydham Hall and the construction of the building. Well researched and well written, the new information will require the Society to reconsider how the museum is interpreted to the public going forward. We encourage all members to read Janettes submission (see link below) as it provides an indepth history into Joseph Davis, the original owner of Lydham Hall.

Click [here](#) to see all the entries.

Click [here](#) to read Janette Pelosi's entry on Lydham Hall.

COMMITTEE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

LOCAL HISTORY IMAGES

St George Historical Society Incorporated

PO Box A89 Arncliffe NSW 2205

One of the benefits of becoming a member of the St George Historical Society is receiving information about the Society & the local area. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please unsubscribe below.

Note that once you unsubscribe, we will be unable to add you to our mailing list for newsletters in future.

[I want to unsubscribe](#)

