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PUBLICATIONS

LYDHAM HALL



ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | **SEPT|OCT 2024**

WELCOME



Welcome to Spring! The Society has just delivered a wonderful talk - Stuart Read from Heritage NSW talked about the history of Federation Gardens in Australia. A perfect introduction to Spring and of course, Spring is the best time to visit Lydham Hall.

We have had much activity in the last couple of months including the Annual General Meeting (more on that later) and a very successful fundraiser (more on that later also).

Our September 1st opening at Lydham Hall co-incided with Fathers Day and all fathers were given free entry as long as they provided their best 'dad joke'. Surprisingly (or perhaps not), Fathers Day is an American invention. In 1909, a young girl by the name of Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington proposed the idea of a 'father's day' in order to honour her father, William Smart. And the event spread all across the world.

We would like to warmly welcome our new members - Di Cato (Brighton-Le-Sands), Nick Kotevski & family (Bexley), Kate Minnett (Marrickville), and Nelson Velazquez (Mortdale). We encourage all our new members join us at our monthly meeting and talks. These talks are free and you are welcome to bring friends and family along. As a member you also receive unlimited free entry to Lydham Hall and we encourage you to become involved as a volunteer. If you haven't made it to a talk or the museum as yet, please come along. For those new members who have volunteered to help at Lydham Hall, a special thank you. Membership is the key to keeping organisations such as ours alive and we are very grateful to all our members for their support.

Your Editorial Team

WHAT'S ON

[LINK TO WEBSITE](#)



Sunday 8th September 2024 | 12pm until 4pm | 80 Carwar Avenue Carss Park

MUSEUM OPEN DAY: Carss Cottage

Visit the latest exhibition, "School Ways, School Days". How did we learn and play a century ago?

Relax with afternoon tea in the courtyard. Browse for bargains at the Bring and Buy bonanza.

More about Carss Park Cottage [here](#).



Saturday 14th September 2024 | 10am until 4pm | 3rd Floor 1 Princes Highway, Wolli Creek

CELEBRATE HISTORY WEEK: Tempe House Opening

This gracious home, designed along the lines of a Grecian villa by the celebrated Colonial architect John Verge, has been delightfully restored and sits proudly in its Discovery Point surrounds with grounds extending to Cooks River.

The Society will be hosting free guided tours of the house, museum, chapel and extensive grounds.



Saturday 21st September 2024 | 2pm until 4pm | 3rd Floor Rockdale Library | 444 Princes Highway Rockdale

LOCAL HISTORY TALK: Miracle at Mascot: Surviving Sydney's 1971 Airliner Collision.

Our guest speaker this month is Dr Peter Hobbins who will give his fascinating talk which explores the technology, politics and personal stories of a catastrophic near miss that occurred on 29 January 1971 at Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport

Entry is free but gold coin donations gratefully accepted. Refreshments (tea, coffee, snacks) provided. Bring a friend!



Sunday 6 October 2024 | 10am to 4pm |
18 Lydham Avenue Rockdale

LYDHAM HALL OPEN DAY: October Fun Day

The next opening of Lydham Hall will be on 6th October. With old fashioned games on the back lawn for kids and a fun 'clip board quiz' for the indoors.

Relax on the verandah with our delicious, freshly baked scones and try our delicious pumpkin soup. Entry is free for members and we encourage all members to bring along friends and family.



Saturday 19th October 2024 | 2pm until 4pm | 3rd Floor Rockdale Library | 444 Princes Highway Rockdale

LOCAL HISTORY TALK: Idealism in public housing.

Our October guest speaker is dr Ian Hoskins who will be giving a talk about the suburb of Daceyville, a government-funded 'garden suburb' planned and built over a decade from 1911 to serve as a model of sound urban development.

Entry is free but gold coin donations gratefully accepted. Refreshments (tea, coffee, snacks) provided. Bring a friend!

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

[MORE WHAT'S ON HERE](#)

ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2024

(an excerpt from the Presidents Report tabled at the 2024 AGM)

Without doubt, this past year has proven to be the most logistically challenging yet reinvigorating year in the life of the St. George Historical Society Inc. for many, many years. The historical 'jewel in Bayside Council's 'crown' and the home of our society,

Lydham Hall has like the proverbial phoenix, risen from the ashes. The exterior is resplendent under a superbly restored slate roof, with all veranda trimmings repainted and the surrounding gardens looking neat, well cared for and becoming for the gracious sandstone house set in their midst. Meanwhile, the interior is while still a work in progress, nonetheless tastefully set-up, being both clean and welcoming. The throngs of visitors, which average 90+ on the monthly Open Days are quite effusive in their praise of the house and its grounds.

The proof as they say is in the pudding....Or rather, the Devonshire teas, pumpkin soup and beverages served on the rear verandah with its delightful view over the garden. It is wonderful to see young and the 'young at heart' relaxed and partaking in fellowship, food and fun. The Open Days are only possible due to the untiring enthusiasm and unstinting labours of the Society's volunteers. The charismatic Tina and her willing team of fellow volunteers, whose 'sleeves rolled-up, get the job done attitude' keep the doors open and the kettle boiling. I take this opportunity to thank Tina for her dogged determination to persevere notwithstanding a very challenging year with ailing parents, house renovations, property sale and retirement, to name but a few matters. To mention specific volunteers would be imprudent, as I would invariably miss others of equal merit. Suffice to say, thank you to those volunteers who take tours and interact with visitors, prepare and serve food, sell merchandise, take admissions and sales, plus keep the house and grounds in a very presentable state. Many thanks all!

I would like to thank Robert McGarn for his quiet and efficient undertaking of his Public Officer and Vice Presidential tasks, Anne Field for her very determined and proficient efforts to raise the Society's profile as Publicity Officer and her dedication to the upcoming Christmas in July dinner, which is the Society's inaugural fund raising event this season. Barry Johnson aside from capturing and recording the lion's share of funds generated at Lydham Hall, or at meetings and other events, is also working assiduously behind the scenes to maintain the Society's website and Facebook pages, plus ensure proper accounting records are kept including provision of Annual Financial statements. Laurice Bondfield could well be said to be a 'trooper', the last six months in particular have not been kind to her as regards her health. Nevertheless, she has soldiered on and has expertly recorded minutes, drafted correspondence, worked on the Society's newsletter, coordinated speakers and afternoon teas as well as 'keeping me on track', which is no mean feat!

Finally, thank you to all members who assist with ideas, logistical support, an encouraging word here and there, plus honour the Society with your presence. I cast my eyes around recent meetings and see members from of old, but increasingly, 'new blood', almost all stemming from the Lydham Hall Open Days. I am confident the balance of 2024 will prove to be a most excellent and fulfilling year for the Society and all fellow members. Onwards and upwards!

Madam Secretary kindly provided me with a summary of the last 12 months' speakers. The monthly meetings have seen nautical themed topics such as the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, The Shark Arm Case, Anne Field's 'Message in a Bottle' and a History of St George Sailing Club. Other themes explored local areas such as talks on World War 2 in Arncliffe, Growing up in Dolls Point, Janette Pelosi's Joseph Davis: From Lidham Hill to

Lydham Hall and finally the more broad brushed Reluctant Pioneers which provided a fascinating account of life in the early days of the Colony.

Especial mention must be made of the February Grand Reopening of the Lydham Hall museum. This event was well patronised by Bayside and Georges River Councillors including Bayside Mayor, Bill Saravinovski who fittingly launched the reopening, Local History librarians for Bayside and other councils, office bearers and members of other historical societies, members of other community groups, members and friends. The day was warm (as 'hot as Hades' in the 1970s kitchen), but the goodwill and enthusiasm of all present were an excellent counterfoil.

This event made up for all of the days, weeks, months and years of a house in disrepair and a collection in moth balls and desperately in need of some tender loving care.

Whilst we have gained many new members, we also need to acknowledge the sad passing of Mr. Peter Orlovich, who had originally joined the Society in the 1960s and whose research and first hand acquaintanceship with early members of the Society, as well as the late authoress Christina Stead, provided others with a wealth of knowledge, which is still being investigated.

It is necessary to look to the past, but even more important to consider the future. The Christmas in July fund raising dinner which is being held at the Bexley RSL Club is scheduled for next Tuesday night. Anne Field has been the mastermind behind this excellent initiative. We have about 60 confirmed bookings and the evening should be replete with fine fellowship, food, friendliness and fun. Thank you to Laurel Horton for assisting with organising the trivia and local artist, Pamela Griffith, who has most generously donated a painting for which raffle tickets are now on sale. Pamela will speak about the painting at the dinner. Other events are being planned for the Society in the general area and at Lydham Hall, so stay tuned!

With all good wishes,

Wesley Fairhall. President - St George Historical Society Inc

ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE

The St George Historical Society is led by a Committee, which is chaired by the President. The role of the Committee is to manage the Society's business as per the Constitution.

Nominations for all Committee positions were called prior to the Annual General Meeting and elected at the meeting in July 2024. Congratulations to all members who graciously volunteered and were elected to the committee.

The new Executive Committee:

President - Wesley Fairhall

Vice President - Laurel Horton

The new General Committee:

Michael Drew, Bob Jansen, Diana Smith,
Garry Stokes

Secretary - Laurice Bondfield
Treasurer - Barry Johnson
Public Officer - Robert McGarn
Curator/Librarian - Tina Workman
Research Officer - Barry Johnson
Publicity Officer - Anne Field
Newsletter Editor - Tina Workman

The Lydham Hall Advisory Committee:

Laurice Bondfield, Wesley Fairhall, Tina Workman with Anne Field as supplementary.

ABOUT US

COMMITTEE

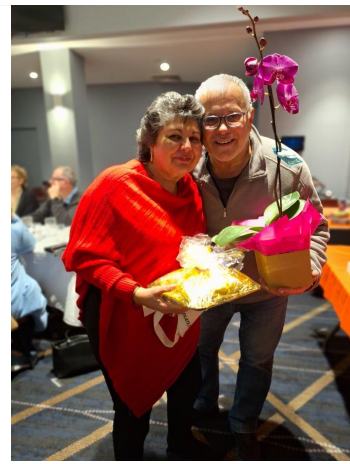
FUNDRAISING

This year and next is going to be a big year for fundraising for the Society. Our fundraising falls into two categories:

1. Fundraising for the collection, which includes restoration of important objects and also the purchase of objects we need to better interpret life living in the St George District in Victorian times.
2. Fundraising for the continued care and maintenance of Lydham Hall which includes repairs, painting, gardening and material and equipment to keep the house clean and safe.

The Society held its inaugural Fund Raiser on Tuesday evening July 23rd, 2024 at the Bexley RSL Club with just over 60 members and guests, seated in a private room, who enjoyed fellowship, food and fun over the course of a few hours. The event generated about \$1,500 which will be used for new floor coverings in the Orientation Room and the preservation of objects within Lydham Hall.

Below are some photos taken from the night:



Formalities were kept to a minimum, as the evening's Guest of Honour and acclaimed artist and local resident Pamela Griffith, provided a fascinating account of her artistic journey and particularly the inspiration behind her evocative painting of 'Coalcliff'. Pamela had earlier graciously donated the painting to be raffled as part of the fundraising appeal.

Amidst the 'hum' of background conversations, Laurel Horton read out about 25 trivia questions on subjects ranging from the Olympics, local history to Australian geography and culture. There was some good-natured rivalry and competition was fierce in some quarters. Aside from the trivia prizes which were kindly donated by the Hortons, some other members donated quality raffle prizes. A doubtlessly delicious homemade fruit cake emanated from the kitchen of the Society's resident gourmet chef, Garry Stokes. Not to be outdone, Anne Field provided a delightfully generous and giftwrapped selection from the Junee Chocolate Factory, bought during a recent road trip. Standing tall and stately, was a piercing pink flowered Phalaenopsis orchid, which will prove to be a lovely addition to any indoor setting.

The evening concluded with the presentation of a floral arrangement to Anne Field, who was the 'driving force' behind the occasion. All present enjoyed the event and look forward to future opportunities to socialize and of course...fundraise! Special thanks also to Barry Johnson, Laurel and Bob Horton plus Fred Scott for their respective efforts in making the night the success it was. Until the next time!

The Society Executive Committee is currently working on a calendar of events for 2024 and this will include additional fundraising activities.

BUY YOUR TICKETS!

Local artist, Pamela Griffiths has generously donated a magnificent painting of Coalcliff Harbour (just north of Wollongong, and part of the scenic coastal Grand Pacific Drive) to help us with fundraising. Valued at \$1,500, the Society is thrilled to have this stunning painting to offer. Size: 33 x 33 cm. Framed.

To enter the raffle, click [here](#). For more information about Pamela Griffith, click [here](#).



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RAFFLE WINNERS!

As part of our fundraising drive this year, we have a prize to raffle at every Open Day at Lydham Hall. We had two terrific hampers on Mothers Day which went to some special mothers - Judy from Padstow won the delicious fruitcake made by our very own Garry Stokes, member and baker extraordinaire! Janin from Rockdale won our Vintage Tea Hamper with delicious teas and edibles and some vintage tea time ephemera.



We had an amazing chocolate basket give away in August won by new member Nick from Bexley (below), and a Fathers Day raffle in September won by a visitor.



DONATIONS TO MUSEUMS - A WORTHWHILE GIFT

Do you have anything at home (or in the garage!) that belongs in a museum?

We are currently searching for every day objects for our kitchen. These are the things that might be hiding in back of cupboards, sheds and garages because they are worth so little to you but tell great stories when placed in a museum. Jars, tins, potions, medicines, soaps, flour sacks etc.

If you have something with a history that you would like to donate, please get in touch.



St George Historical Society Incorporated

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www.stgeorgehistsoc.org.au

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

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