

EMAIL US

PUBLICATIONS

LYDHAM HALL



ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | MAR -APR 2025

## WELCOME



*Don't these ladies in the above photograph look amazing? Lydham Hall was lucky enough to get a visit from the **Sydney Regency Weekends Group** at our last Open Day. As they gracefully stepped into the house, all heads turned! If you would like to know more about their group, see [link below](#).*

**This** issue is dedicated to all the wonderful things we have planned for the first half of the 2025 year. We started with a bang - **Opera in the Gardens** accompanied by **A Victorian High Tea** and will finish with our **Annual Society Dinner** in June. We will keep you up to date as things come up and as more events keep getting added to our calendar. We have

also included other things to do in the St George Area if you are out and about.

We would like to warmly welcome our new members - Matt Beveridge (from Horsley), Mariee Durkin-Beech and Eddy Wiech (from Wollongong), Ted Evenden (from Orange), Alexander Gorelik (from Penshurst), Meglyn Lawther (from Peakhurst), and Jill Richardson (Tempe). We are so pleased to see our membership growing. A reminder to all members that entry to the museum is free.

We also welcome our two new Corporate Members. They are: **CasCat Consulting**, a corporate caterer and events consultancy company who have helped us tremendously at Lydham Hall; and **F.C. Bryant Solicitors** of Rockdale, a great local business with a long history in the St George area and a name that many locals are familiar with.

Do you have a local business? We invite you to join us. Align your brand with the SGHS and connect with a network of residents who share a passion for St George's history. Visit our [Corporate Membership](#) page to discover the benefits and apply.

*Your Editorial Team*

[SYDNEY REGENCY WEEKENDS GROUP](#)

[CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP](#)

## WHAT'S ON

[LINK TO WEBSITE](#)

**Sunday 2nd March 2025** | 10am to 4pm | 18 Lydham Avenue Rockdale

### **LYDHAM HALL OPEN DAY: With the St George Sutherland Scottish Pipe Band**

Since 1946, the St George-Sutherland Scottish Pipe Band has played for marches, dances, tattoos and general entertainment. We are so excited to have them at Lydham Hall from 12pm in full Scottish regalia and in their MacGregor Tartan.

We will have our usual Devonshire Teas but we've added some Scottish fare so join us for a culinary journey through Scotland with our delightful selection of traditional dishes available throughout the day. Start your experience with our BBQ'd Scottish square sausage, expertly grilled and served on a fresh roll, capturing the essence of classic Scottish food. Indulge in our Tattie Scones, a beloved staple, topped with rich smoked salmon, and sour cream, creating a perfect balance of flavors that pay homage to Scottish culinary heritage. Don't miss out on our Scottish Pies, a savoury treat filled with a hearty mixture that's sure to satisfy your appetite. And, of course, no Scottish event would be complete without the iconic Traditional Haggis, a dish that embodies the spirit of Scotland with its robust flavours and rich history. We also have a selection of delectable Shortbreads that melt in your mouth and gluten-free muffins for those with dietary preferences. All of this prepared by our amazing volunteer and chef extraordinaire, Garry Stokes. Never-to-be-repeated deliciousness!

Entry is **FREE** for members and we encourage all members to bring along friends and family to enjoy this day.



**Saturday 1st & 2nd March 2025 |**  
Rockdale Town Hall | 448 Princes Highway  
Rockdale

### **OPERA ON THE ROC'S!**

Rockdale Opera Company presents a fun and relaxing cabaret with talented principals and ensemble dazzling with opera favourites. Complimentary sparkling wine/soft drink and savoury snacks included in price \$65. Bookings essential. **[Book here.](#)**



**Saturday 8th March 2025** | 10am until 2pm  
| Lydham Hall

### **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION DAY**

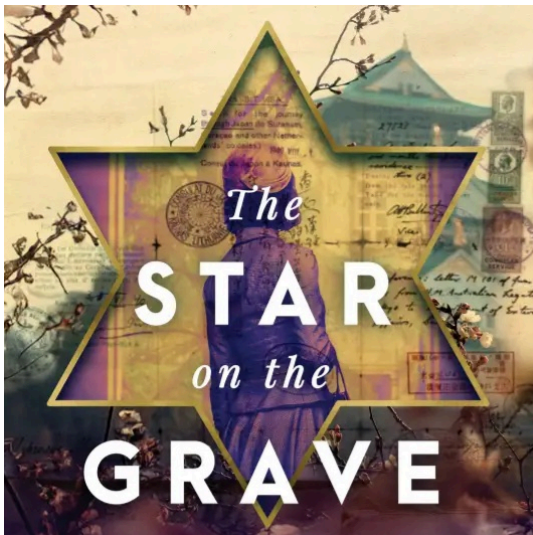
Society members interested in becoming house guides are invited to a special presentation to discover what is involved in being a guide. No previous guiding experience or knowledge required. There will be a tour of the museum and current guides will be in attendance to talk about their roles. Morning Tea provided. **FREE.**



**CLOSING 9th March 2025** | Hurstville  
Museum & Gallery | 14 MacMahon St  
Hurstville

### **EXHIBITION: THE LAST PICTURE SHOW**

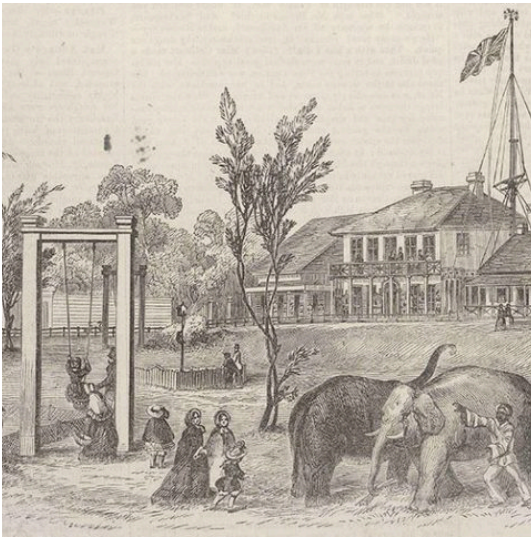
Tells the stories (through historic photographs) of the many cinemas, picture shows, and theatres that entertained the St George region during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the social and technological changes that transformed them. **FREE.**



**Saturday 15th March 2025** | 10am until  
11am | Mascot Library | 2 Hatfield Street  
Mascot

### **LOCAL HISTORY TALK: AUTHOR TALK**

Linda Margolin Royal debuts her historical novel, a beautifully written book inspired by the incredible true story of the Japanese diplomat who defied his government to save thousands of Jews from Lithuania, including Linda's own family. Presented by Bayside Council. **FREE.**



**Saturday 15th March 2025** | 2pm until 4pm  
| 3rd Floor Rockdale Library | 444 Princes  
Highway Rockdale

**LOCAL HISTORY TALK: SYDNEY'S  
FIRST SIGNIFICANT PLEASURE  
RESORT**

Dr Mark St Leon, author of *Circus: The Australian Story*, presents a talk on the development & demise of Beaumont & Waller's Zoological and Botanical Gardens. Entry is **FREE** but donations gratefully accepted. Refreshments provided. Bring a friend!



**Saturday 22nd March 2025** | 10am until  
12pm | Lydham Hall | 18 Lydham Avenue  
Rockdale.

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

Society members are invited to attend a meeting to review & vote for an updated Society Constitution. A copy of the amended Constitution, based on updates issued by NSW Fair Trading in mid 2024, will be sent via email. Note this is a Members Only meeting. Refreshments after. Enquiries to [stgeorgehistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgehistsoc@gmail.com)



**CLOSING 27th March 2025** | The Chapel  
Gallery | St George Christian School | 70  
Bellevue Parade, Hurstville

**EXHIBITION: KANGAROO UNBOUND**

A poetry-art exhibition featuring etchings and collagraphs from Garry Shead's iconic D.H. Lawrence series, as well as recent poems written in response to those works by Wollongong writer and academic Dr. Luke Johnson. For more information: [\*\*The Chapel Gallery\*\*](#)

**Sunday 6th April 2025** | 10am until 4pm | 18 Lydham Avenue Rockdale.

## LYDHAM HALL OPEN DAY: HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE

Reknown chef, Adam Moore, will give a special presentation on chocolate. Discover the intriguing evolution of chocolate and the inventive chocolatiers, delightful products, and unique trends in Australia. We'll take a nostalgic look at the "Rocky Road" story, the history of Darrell Lea and its legacy in the St George Area. And, YES!, our kitchen will be serving and selling a chocolate feast.



**Sunday 4th May 2025** | 10am to 4pm | 18  
Lydham Avenue Rockdale

## LYDHAM HALL OPEN DAY: HERITAGE MONTH

As well as our Open Day, we will be open other days to celebrate the Australian Heritage Festival with the National Trust of Australia. To find out what extra days we are open, [\*\*click here\*\*](#). Note that our famous Devonshire Teas will only be available on Sunday 4th May.



**Sunday, 11 May 2025** 11am - 3pm at  
Lydham Hall, 18 Lydham Avenue, Rockdale

### **MOTHERS DAY HIGH TEA**

Bring your mum along for a wonderful High Tea Celebration at Lydham Hall. A delectable array of sweet and savoury treats served on the verandah overlooking the gardens. This is a booked event - keep an eye on our website for **details**.



**Saturday 17 May 2025** | 2pm until 4pm |  
3rd Floor Rockdale Library | 444 Princes  
Highway Rockdale

### **LOCAL HISTORY TALK: MYSTERY OF THE FIRST FLEET PIANO**

SGHS Member, Elaine Phillips will examine the mystery of the First Fleet piano which arrived in 1788 and then disappeared in 1793. Today there are two people claiming they have it! Entry is **FREE** but donations gratefully accepted. Refreshments provided. Bring a friend!



**Saturday 14th June 2025 | 6.30pm | Arncliffe Scots Sports and Social Club**

**SAVE THE DATE: ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER**

Join us for a night to remember - the St. George Historical Society invites you to our Annual Dinner, an enchanting evening of community, history, and celebration!

Whilst indulging in a delicious two-course dinner, we will have light entertainment to keep the spirit alive throughout the night and guests will be given the chance to win lots of exciting prizes.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow history enthusiasts and celebrate the vibrant past of our community. Let's come together to honour our history and create new memories. We can't wait to see you there!

More information to follow in our newsletter, at our monthly meetings, and on our website.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

[MORE WHAT'S ON HERE](#)

**OPERA IN THE GARDENS & HIGH TEA**



After a short hiatus over Christmas and New Year, Lydham Hall threw open its doors on the first Sunday in February, treating visitors to a double delight—Opera in the Gardens and a Victorian High Tea. And oh, what an incredible day it turned out to be!

Our enchanting mezzo-soprano, Yasmin Arkininstall, serenaded guests with a sublime repertoire that left everyone spellbound. Whilst visitors enjoyed the High Tea, Yasmin's enchanting voice wove a mesmerizing spell over the garden.

The Victorian High Tea was a sellout hit, with visitors raving about the exquisite fare and Yasmin's performance and praising the impeccable quality of both the food and the music.

The day's triumph was owed to the incredible volunteers who worked tirelessly to prepare, assist during the event, and clean up after all the guests had left. A heartfelt shoutout to Society member Garry Stokes, whose brilliant idea brought the day to life. Garry didn't stop there—he also baked most of the mouthwatering sweet and savory treats that everyone enjoyed.

Some photos of the day below:







## **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. The Executive and General Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday night of every month.

### **The Executive Committee:**

President - Wesley Fairhall  
Vice President - Laurel Horton  
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 General Committee:**

Michael Drew, Brendan Giles, Diana Smith, Garry Stokes

### **The Lydham Hall Advisory Committee:**

Laurice Bondfield, Wesley Fairhall, Tina Workman with Anne Field as supplementary. This Committee meets with Council staff and Councillors every 3 months.

ABOUT US

COMMITTEE

## **COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT GUEST SPEAKER?**

Have you researched your family history or entered the Ron Rathbone Local History Competition? If you enjoy sharing stories from our past and raising awareness about the local history of the St George District, you can present to a local community group. You'll choose the topic. It could be genealogy, railways, churches, or Victorian-era homes in your suburb.

Reply to this newsletter to join our [Guest Speaker program](#). We'll help prepare your talk and support you with all the details.

## **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.



RESTORATION FUND DONATIONS

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

## St George Historical Society Incorporated

PO Box A89 Arncliffe NSW 2205

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

*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](#)

SENT BY  
mailer **lite**