



TURRET TALK

The Newsletter of the

Blacktown and District Historical Society Inc.

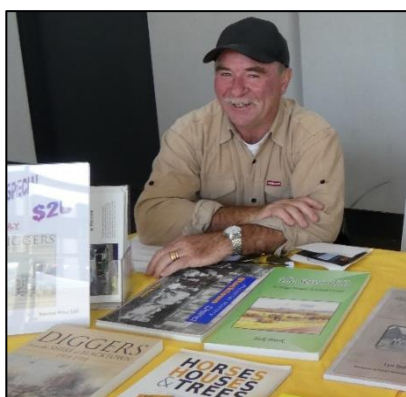
PO Box 500, Blacktown NSW 2148

President: John Horne 8847 3042

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Graham Wicks 9622 8309

EDITION 459 – MARCH 2023



Our meeting in March will take place at the Bungarrabee Hub on Monday, 6 March 2023 at 7.30 pm.

The Guest speaker is our Vice President, Neil Smith, whose talk “AXES AND ARTIFACTS” will be a real hands-on experience. Neil is an expert on many things old and ancient and will bring some of his collection of authentic ancient and modern tools and weapons.

Neil has many and varied historical interests ranging from ancient Roman military equipment to the American Civil War as well as Australia’s connections with Indonesia. Many of our members and guests will remember his interesting local history tours which he does so well.

HOW TO FIND THE BUNGARRIBEE HUB

The Hub is located off Steeltrap Drive, in the Bungarrabee Estate off Doonside Road at 20 Sir Hercules Parade. There are traffic lights at the entrance roughly opposite Douglas Road and the public art in the landscaped gardens opposite consists of tall red posts representing the old post and rail fences around the original property and three rusty coloured racehorse sculptures. To reach the Hub, follow Steeltrap Drive around until you see a bridge with tall red lit poles. Do not cross the bridge but turn right into Sir Hercules Parade and keep going down the street until you see the Hub building in front of you on the left-hand side.

COVID 19

Please remember, if you are feeling unwell, please stay home and get better. Please use the hand sanitiser on the sign-in table when you arrive, and the hand sanitiser on the kitchen bench before you prepare your cuppa.

REQUEST FOR STORIES

Prior to the first ever journal of BDHS, back in 1979, the president, Kevin Moore, wrote a letter to members: “The Society is inviting all members to write short articles on some item of local history that interests them; about 400 words, say about as long as this page will be. You might like writing some reminiscences, either from your own experience, or your family’s, or some old resident you know. These could be on some particular topic, such as sport, cooking, recipes, home remedies, Church life, schooldays, etc. Or they could be on a general theme, life in the district during WWII, the depression, WWI, entertainment before radio and TV, etc... How do I write it? The way you would a letter, ordinary words, ordinary sentences... We hope to publish them in a regular little magazine to answer all those people and children who are continually asking for something written on Blacktown district history. Kevin Moore.” The request for articles is the same in 2023. Please send your articles to jhornex@live.com.au or hand them to John at the next meeting.

2023 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 6 March Meeting	Axes and Other Artifacts Neil Smith	7.30 pm Bungarribee Hub
Saturday 11 March	Blacktown Show Stall from 10 am	Blacktown Showground
Sunday 12 March	History Bus Tour to St Marys Norma Thorburn and Neil Smith	Meet Blacktown Council Car Park
Saturday 18 March	Seven Hills Festival Stall	Grantham Reserve
Monday 3 April Meeting	Jenolan Caves History Talk Scott Melton	7.30 pm Bungarribee Hub
Sunday 23 April	Mountain View Adventist School Fete Stall 4-9pm	Doonside
Thursday 27 April	Local History Tour. Guardian Bus Pauline Edgar and Peter, the driver	Blacktown City Historical Sites
Monday 1 May Meeting	Fancy Dress Nostalgia and Quiz Night John Horne, Pauline Edgar and many others	7.30 pm Bungarribee Hub
May Dates to be Confirmed	3 Blacktown City Council Local History Tours Neil Smith	Blacktown City Historical Sites
Saturday 27 May	Blacktown City Festival Stall and Streets Alive Parade	Blacktown CBD
Monday 5 June Meeting	Growing up in Doonside in 1960s Helen Cassidy	7.30 pm Bungarribee Hub
Monday 3 July Meeting	History of the Dharug Language Jasmine Seymour and Corina Marino	7.30 pm Bungarribee Hub
Wednesday 19 July	State Archives Tour Helen Cassidy	Kingswood Car Pool/Public Transport
Saturday 22 July	Doonside Festival Stall	Hillend Road Doonside
Monday 7 August Meeting	Convict Women of Western Sydney Dr Carol Liston	7.30 pm Bungarribee Hub
August Date to be confirmed	Walking Tour of Woolloomooloo Neil Smith	Woolloomooloo Public Transport
Monday 4 September	Bird Watching and Western Sydney Akos Lumnitzer	7.30 pm Bungarribee Hub
Thursday 21 September	Dams and Tulips Bus Tour Guardian Bus John Horne	Nepean Dam and Bowral
Saturday 23 September	Woodcroft Festival Stall	Woodcroft Lake
Monday 2 October	Annual General Meeting and Committee Election	7.30 pm Bungarribee Hub
Saturday 22 October	Kings Langley Festival Stall	Kings Langley Shops
October TBC	Quakers Hill Festival Stall	Quakers Hill
Monday 6 November Meeting	Bunkers, Bombers and Bangs: Defending Sydney in the 20th Century. Dr Peter Hobbins	7.30 pm Bungarribee Hub
Monday 4 December	Christmas Party	7.30 pm Bungarribee Hub

Songs of the Female Convicts of Parramatta: In 2019, Rosie McDonald and Cliona Molins were commissioned to write a suite of 4 songs to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Parramatta Female Factory building. By “Female Factory” we don’t mean ‘factory’ in the normal sense of the word. The Greenway-designed building in the early Colony of Sydney was the blueprint for 13 similar buildings in Australia; a prison and marriage bureau; a place of hardship and loss for over 9,000 female convicts. When compared to the male population, many of these women were guilty of crimes of survival or first offenders and over 60% of them were transported from Ireland. The Parramatta Female Factory is the earliest female convict site in Australia. The stories of the women and children go to the heart of the Australian Identity. They are stories of separation and loss and yet stories of hope, resilience and remarkable survival. These songs hope to reveal some of the many hidden and often untold stories of the female convicts from whom an estimated 1 in 7 Australians are descended. Mothers of the Nation Digital EP Parramatta Female Factory songs was released in February 2021 and can be accessed with this QR Code.

Mothers of the Nation Digital EP Bandcamp
Parramatta Female Factory songs

