

TURRET TALK

The Newsletter of the

Blacktown and District Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 500, Blacktown NSW 2148



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EDITION 417– AUGUST 2017

The next General Meeting of the society will be held on **Monday, 7th August, 2017** at **7.30pm** in the Craft Room at **The Bungarribee Hub**. For those of you who may not know, the Bungarribee Hub is located off Steeltrap Drive, in the Bungarribee Estate off Doonside Road. There are traffic lights at the entrance roughly opposite Douglas Road and there is some public art in the landscaped gardens. ie tall red posts which represent the old post and rail fences around the original property and three dark horses which may be hard to see at night. All the streets in this section of Bungarribee are named after race horses bred when the Bungarribee Farm property was a horse stud in the nineteenth century. To reach The Hub, follow Steeltrap Drive around until you see a bridge with tall red lit up poles. Do not cross the bridge but turn sharply right onto Sir Hercules Parade. Keep going down this street until you see The Hub building in front of you to your left. There is plenty of parking and a walking ramp for those who need it.

Our guest speaker on the night will be one of our own, **Carol Horne**. Prior to retirement Carol's working life was in Personnel and Human Resources. She has lived in Blacktown since 1973. In her own words: "Although a member of Blacktown Historical Society since 2005, I have only been involved in local history research since 2014, after a fractured arm put a stop to other more physical activities. After working full time on the soldiers in the Diggers book and the timbermen in the sawmills of our district, my interest expanded to their lives, families and activities. This led to my current research into the electors named in the 1913 Electoral Roll for the twenty odd polling places spread around the old Shire of Blacktown... and some interesting pieces of information have emerged... more on the night!" This will be a very interesting presentation and will give us all a window into the past of Blacktown City where we live.

Our next excursion will be a trip to **Annandale** with professional guide, Marghanita da Cruz, on **Sunday, 17th September**. Annandale is a suburb in the inner west of Sydney. Located 5km from the Sydney CBD it is an urbane hub with a rebel past that offers a trove of treasures worth discovering. It is a town that encapsulates Sydney's history being a classic mix of the old and the new. We will arrive 10.30am. to view the State Heritage Listed 1889 Sandstone Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church at the corner of Collins and Johnston Streets, Annandale, where we will meet Marghanita, a local historian and tour guide who will give us a history of the church and Annandale. Morning tea will be taken at 11am in the Arts and Crafts Hall and provided by the Presbyterian Woman's Association. At 11.30 we board our bus for the tour of the Annandale

Conservation Area including Heritage Listed Johnstone Street, Electricity Substation, Sewerage Aqueduct (the first reinforced concrete structure in Australia), Freight Rail Viaduct (now used for the Light Rail) Police Station, Post Office, Churches and Pubs. All are still in use! We will enjoy lunch at 1pm in a local pub. Great atmosphere! This will be a good tour so please book and pay for your seats at the August meeting or call me ASAP. And you can sleep in a bit because we will be leaving Blacktown City car-park at **9.30am.**

The State Archives and Records Authority of NSW will be holding an Open Day, ***It's all about you!*** on **Friday, 8th September** at its Western Sydney Records Centre at Kingswood for History Week. Learn about your history – your house history, your family history and your local history. There is a full day of lectures on Ancestry, Royal Australian Historical Society, Preservation Australia, Society of Australian Genealogists, International Conservation Services, National Archives, City of Sydney Archives and more! Bookings are now open so **REGISTER NOW**. The new exhibition, *Capture: Portraits of Crime 1870-1930*, that I told you about in the July *Turret Talk* will be open. Website: www.records.nsw.gov.au

Graham and I attended the **50yr Anniversary celebration of the Hills District Historical Society** at Bella Vista farm last week. Congratulations to The Hills.

VALE Pat O'BRIEN

Sadly last week, we attended the funeral of Patricia Ann (Pat) O'Brien 7.6.1944 – 16.7.2017 from Holroyd Local History Research. Her name was synonymous with Mays Hill Cemetery and she was an active member of several historical societies. She will be greatly missed. Our members might remember Pat when she and Dorothy Warwick gave us a presentation on Dorothy's collection of post cards when we were meeting upstairs at Grantham Heritage Park.

Welcome to our new members, **Kerri Hillsdon** and **Ian Abbotrsmith**. Kerri is already working in our rooms on Tuesdays while Ian is a long distance member who lives at Manly. We met him on our annual Heritage Week bus tour.

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Committee Member, **John Horne** who recently had an operation. Our thoughts and prayers are with **June Perkins** who is seriously ill and **Don Scott** who continues to fight his battle.

It was with much sadness that I learnt recently of the passing of past members, Marie Stralow and Marie Jenik.

On a happier note, Graham and I recently celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It made me think. Who in our membership has been married 50 years and longer? Please let me know. No prizes! Just sharing good information.

Sharyn Wicks.
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