

TURRET TALK

The Newsletter of the

Blacktown and District Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 500, Blacktown NSW 2148

President :	John Horne	8847 3042
Secretary :	Sharyn Wicks	9622 8309
Treasurer:	Graham Wicks	9622 8309

EDITION 429 – SEPTEMBER 2018

The next General Meeting of the society will be held on **Monday, 3rd September, 2018** 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.

Unfortunately for BDHS, Council has chosen our meeting night to hold its **Mayoral History Prize Awards** in the Max Webber Library. Our society has three entrants, John Horne, Carol Horne and Pamela Smith. All worthy authors but this means that we won't be having a speaker at our meeting. Pam Smith was to be our speaker so she will be doing her presentation at our November meeting. I couldn't organise a speaker at the last minute so we will be having a **'Show and Tell' night.** I appeal to our members to bring along something interesting in your life that you can speak on for about 5-10 minutes. It could be a family history story or a treasured item that you have collected or even a book review on an interesting book that you have read lately and would recommend to our members to read. There are many other options. Put your thinking caps on and I will look forward to your contributions. Could you please call me or email to let me know how long you would like to talk and/or if you need the projector to show photographs.
wicksgs@ozemail.com.au

Our next bus tour is to Campbelltown on **Sunday, 16th September** with **Judith Dunn OAM FPDHS** as our guide. Judith is well known to our members from tours that we have done with her over the years. She is both a very informative and entertaining guide. Her tour for us is called **Colonial Campbelltown.** We will leave Blacktown at 9am wending our way to Campbelltown, stopping to hear the story of Holly Lea as we go. Morning tea will be taken in Koshigaya Park where there is seating and toilets before viewing the Quondong Centre. This full day tour of colonial Campbell-town includes a gentle stroll along historic Queen Street to view the heritage precinct and hear the

Fisher's Ghost story. Stories of Campbelltown pioneers will entertain as we visit the Cattle Tanks, the last works in NSW to be built by convict labour. St. Johns and St. Peters churches are not available because it is Sunday, but we can view the exteriors and hear the stories. Lunch will be "buy your own" at the Campbelltown Catholic Club. After lunch we will visit '**Glen Alvon**' a fine example of a colonial Georgian home. If time permits and Judith can get permission, we will view the Warby barns as we leave the area to drive home.

Cost \$40pp. includes entry into 'Glen Alvon'. We will be leaving Blacktown City Council carpark **at 9am.**

Our Treasurer, Graham Wicks, will be collecting the **fees for our coach trip to Canberra** on **SATURDAY, 27th October, 2018.** The cost is **\$40pp.** but does not include morning tea and lunch costs. You can pay at our September meeting or post a cheque or money order to PO Box 500, Blacktown, 2148 or bank into the society's account BSB: 012-233

A/c #: 9742641. ANZ Blacktown.

Please ensure identifiable detail is included on the transfer.

The Friends of Bella Vista Farm are holding an **Open Day on Sunday, 2nd September from 9am – 2pm.** Go along and relax and explore or take a family picnic to enjoy. The Friends of Bella Vista Farm will be available to answer any questions on the historic homestead and its history. You could also pick up a treat at the Free Spirit Markets. All enquiries: **0407 461 644.**

You might like to take a trip into Sydney for an **RAHS Day Lecture – Sandgate Cemetery 'Unearthed' on Wednesday, 5th September at 1pm -2pm** at History House in Macquarie Street. Cost: Free (tea, coffee and biscuits served). To coincide with History Week 2018, join Terry St. George as he 'uncovers' some of the well-known and infamous burials in Sandgate Cemetery. Terry will also discuss how the virtual cemetery data can be used to interpret Newcastle's demographics and history in a new light. About the speaker: **Terry St. George** has a degree in Surveying from the University of New South Wales. He worked for the Department of Lands and became involved with Sandgate Cemetery in 1995, and was also a member of the Trust Board in 2010-14.

I have been told that our good friend Sam Learmonth had a heart attack last month and also that Anna hurt her arm. They are both on the way to a good recovery as is Ken Freeman who had a knee replacement. We send our best wishes as always to Paul Keighran who continues to fight his cancer battle.

Sharyn Wicks.
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