



The Monthly BHS Bulletin

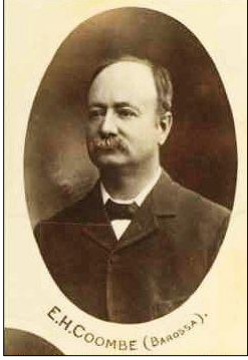
May 2025

NEXT BHS MEETING

The next meeting of the Burnside Historical Society will be held on **Monday 19 May at 7.30pm** in the Burnside Community Centre Hall, 401 Greenhill Rd., Tasmore. The meeting will feature Helen Henessy and Patricia Booth (BHS member) as our guest speakers on the topic:

The defiant anti-conscriptionist, the curious life of Ephraim Henry Coombe

Full details of this talk can be found in the flyer on page 4 of the BHS April Bulletin.



E.H. Coombe, SLSA [B 6691/32]



AGM OF THE BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Agenda and Reports

The BHS AGM will follow immediately after the May General Meeting has concluded. The agenda for the AGM will feature reports on the Society's 2024/25 year including the President's Annual Report and the audited Financial Statement for the year. The election of the Committee and its Office Bearers will also take place. **The agenda, along with associated documents, will be emailed to all members shortly.**

Constitutional Change

As previously advised, one item on the AGM agenda will feature a number of proposed changes to our Constitution. These changes are required so that we conform with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985, SA. We are not alone in needing to amend our Constitution as the Department of Consumer and Business Services SA is conducting a "blitz" in this regard on many volunteer organisations like ours. Full details of the proposed (and required) changes will be emailed to all members in good time before the AGM. Please familiarise yourself with these proposed changes before the meeting so that this item can be dealt with as smoothly as possible.

Please support this important AGM with your attendance. Apologies can be forwarded on the BHS phone: 0422 705 916 OR email burnsidehistorysoc@gmail.com

BHS MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE



The Committee has recommended that the annual subscription fees for 2025-26 remain the same as previous years at **\$30 for an individual membership and \$45 for family membership**. These fees will become due once passed by membership at the forthcoming AGM. Personal invoices will be distributed at the May meeting and can be paid in cash on the night or by Electronic Funds Transfer to Burnside Historical Society, BSB 105086, AC No. 330298840.

Please add your full name/s to the Reference.

We have a great record of prompt payments, so keep up the good work and keep our Treasurer Dave Monceaux busy and happy!

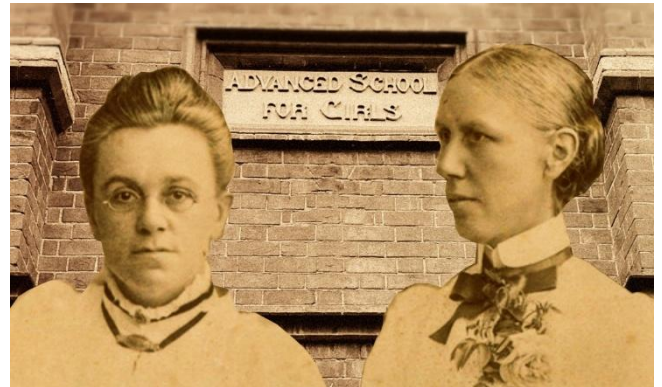
A FILM AT OUR JUNE MEETING



Our June meeting will feature something different when our “speaker” Rob George will present his much-acclaimed short film “**Madge and Bibs and the Advancing Girls**”

Moving between re-enactments and interviews with leading historians and centered on the Advanced School for Girls in Adelaide in the latter part of the 19th century, this film paints an entertaining, engaging and extraordinary picture of a radical colony that uses education to transform the status of women in society, politics and their own hearts and minds.

Our Programming Committee encourages you to reserve this event in your diary now. It is a night not to be missed!



HISTORY FESTIVAL UNDERWAY

The State’s History Festival has already commenced. Print copies of the Programme have been available from Drake’s Supermarkets and local libraries, and you can also find the programme online at:

[South Australia's History Festival - Decisions](#)

Bookings are still available for some events, but you will need to be quick!



BHS Events

Our two guided walks in Dulwich with Polly Dundon are both booked out with the first one already completed on Saturday 3 May.

There are still vacancies on our two Eastwood Walks with Ally Preiss on **Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 May**. See the Festival Programme on page 34 for details. Bookings on the BHS number: 0422 705 916.

The two guided ground tours of the Wheal Watkins Mine on **Sunday afternoon 11 May** still have vacancies. Details are again on page 34 of the Programme, and you can still book on the BHS phone number (see above)



Judy Fander to present in the “House of History”

BHS member Judy Fander will be part of a series of presentations at Ayers House during the Festival entitled “The House of History.” (see the Festival Programme page 24) Judy will be speaking at Ayers House on **Wednesday 14 May at 6.30pm** on the topic “Lionel Gee, a Government Gold Warden 1886-1910”

Why not make an outing of it? Arrive at Ayers House for a drink at Henry’s Bar from 5.30pm, attend Judy’s talk at 6.30pm which will be followed at 7.15pm by historian Patricia Sumerling presenting “Wowser Adelaide at the time of the First World War” For further information and ticketing arrangements click on the link below:

<https://www.history.sa.gov.au/events/the-house-of-history-judy-fander/>

South Australia's Pioneering Women: A poster display in the Burnside Library

When you visit the Burnside Library during the History Festival check out the Poster Display of pioneering woman which is presented by the Pioneers Association of South Australia (Pioneers SA)

These posters capture the stories of the “ordinary” pioneer women of the early 1840s who became heads of households after they were left alone with their children due to the death of their husband, abandonment, or decisions made for the husband to find work elsewhere.

Romalo House Barns rejected by the SA Heritage Council



Front Barn, Romalo House
Photo: Kerry Hallett

Members will be aware that the developer who owns Romalo House has applied to have the two stone barns on the property demolished. The two barns are not heritage listed but our concern is that they form part of the history of the wine industry in Burnside and South Australia and should be protected. Councillor Kerry Hallett has been very active in pursuing this protection and she has been well supported by City of Burnside (CoB) staff. Hosking Wills Architecture was employed to assess the barns and recommended that the barns be local heritage listed, and that an application be made to

the Department for Environment and Water for State Heritage listing and protection.

The CoB then submitted this application for State Heritage Listing in March 2025, and this was considered by the South Australian Heritage Council on 10 April 2025. The CoB has recently been advised that the SA Heritage Council had determined not to list Romalo House as a State Heritage Place, finding that it does not satisfy the criteria in the Heritage Places Act 1993. The CoB's application for interim demolition control was also rejected by the State Heritage Council. The CoB are continuing to prepare documentation for local heritage listing via a Local Heritage Place Code Amendment. It is expected that a Report will be presented to Council this month seeking endorsement to undertake this Code Amendment.

In spite of the efforts of the CoB, the Romalo House barns still remain unprotected from demolition. But the fight goes on.

TRAINS AND PLANES AT PORT ADELAIDE



Twenty-Five members and friends of the BHS visited Port Adelaide on 9 April for morning tours of the SA Aviation Museum and the National Railway Museum. Members were able to make a choice of which museum to visit, and this seemed to heighten the enjoyment of all participants .



After a helpful introduction from the museum volunteers, those visiting the Aviation Museum explored the museum marvelling at aircraft they recognised but had never seen up close. And they were big!. We were able to climb into a range of planes, helicopters and cockpits, watch old film footage, and view historic photos and memorabilia.

Those visiting the Railway Museum enjoyed their ride around the exterior of the museum on the miniature train. Michelle Toft's young daughter Chiara enjoyed the ride so much that she insisted on doing it three times! (at right)



Inside we marvelled at the display of powerful SA and Commonwealth Rail steam engines. We climbed aboard heritage dining cars, sleepers and lounge cars which reminded some of us of trips on the Overland and across the Nullabor in the 1960's.



Following the tours of the two museums we all moved to the Birkenhead Tavern for a very enjoyable lunch. Our view from the Tavern's deck was across the Port River to the historic light house and docks where, during the second half of the nineteenth century, hundreds of sailing ships had berthed bringing passengers and supplies to Adelaide and South Australia.



Our trip to Port Adelaide brought back many memories of days gone by and was yet another enjoyable outing for the BHS. Thanks to Neville Lawrence for his organisation of this successful event.

Bulletin Editor: Bob Stace, Editorial Support: Helen Bills, Email Distribution: Roger Bills