



PO Box 200
Black Rock, 3193
Ph. 9589 5763

*AROUND BLACK ROCK
HOUSE
May 2018*

www.blackrockhouse.org.au

DIARY DATES:

May 6 - Open House 1-4pm

May 12, June 9 – Paranormal X-File Tours (Booked Out)

June 3 - Open House 1-4pm

July 1 - Open House 1-4pm

July 7 - Paranormal X-File Tour (Book Trybooking)

July 14- A.G.M. 2-4pm Guest Speaker – Engineer Trevor M. Huggard AM

July 28/29 – “Open Houses” weekend 10-4pm both days. Devonshire Tea served at 11am and 3pm – bookings essential for the Devonshire Tea.

President's Message,

In February, several members of the Committee attended “Target – Bayside Art and Design Exhibition”. It is an annual exhibition at the Gallery – Bayside’s Arts and Cultural Centre Brighton, to celebrate the skills of Bayside’s talented VCE Art and Design students. A short film, made by James Young, “Skies of War” with several scenes in Black Rock House, won first prize in the Mayor’s Encouragement Award section. The Friends of Black House were mentioned in the credits! To view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF4oEtPsVII>

The Tour Guide and Administrator Workshop on Saturday February 10 as very well attended. The participants were divided into small groups and asked to discuss a series of questions. The answers were then discussed, with everyone having a chance to speak. The Committee are thrilled that there are several avenues to follow! Thanks SO much for your contribution!!! We followed up on “Friend” Helen Hook’s suggestion and we have three International Baccalaureate (IB) students from St. Leonards College being trained as Tour Guides.



IB Student Emerson Hurley with Tour Guides Cheryl Threadgold and Carolyn Brown.

We were SO sad to hear of the death of Committee Member Peter Millikin in Mexico on 14th March. He was such a polite well-mannered gentle man who was valued for his constructive ideas and comments. He was also a very informative Tour Guide. Our loving thoughts to wife Lourdes and families.

We were also saddened by the resignation of Helga Anderson and Deirdre Lynch from the Committee. Their portfolios were Catering and Membership and what splendid jobs they did! After nearly ten years on the Committee they are both going to remain a "Friend" but have a rest from Committee Work.

Thank you, Helga and Deirdre from all the "Friends" – don't forget to join us for a cuppa and a chat soon!

Local artist Jennifer Gaskell gifted to the Friends seven of her beautiful water colour on porcelain paintings and pieces of china painting for the Ballroom/Servants Quarters. The paintings have been hung in the area near the kitchen and will certainly add "a touch of class" for us and the groups who rent this room out. The historical prints and paintings have been grouped together at the other end of the room with the display towers, lithograph, BRH Model, Honour Board and Awards.

The Federal Government Grant we received, under the "Stronger Communities Programme" is almost spent on the old kitchen and a stall in the stables representing a "wash house". A "fake" copper, a washing line, baths and baskets have joined the mangle. A pot stand in the old kitchen holds the newly blackened pots, and the stove is glistening with oiled kettles and irons. We managed to purchase, at auction, a miner's coach to be placed in the old kitchen for visitors to sit and watch our yet to be completed audio visual on Charles Hotson Ebdon and BRH.

The Bayside CC refurbishment of the Stable Area is progressing with Heritage Architects being appointed.

We are thrilled to be successful in our bid to participate in the "Open Houses Weekend" July 28/29. BRH will be open from 10-4 both days and Devonshire Tea will be served at 11am and 3pm both days (**bookings essential for Devonshire Tea**)

Thanks to a very generous donation from "Friend" Tina Aldridge, we have had two Ebdon family portraits photographed, put on canvas, painted and framed. They have been placed either side of the fireplace in the Dining Room and the effect is stunning! A must see!

Yours in friendship
Carolyn Brown

COMMITTEE:

Carolyn Brown	President
Sandra Collins	Minutes & Catering
Gudrun Gawantka	Archives
Debbie Gruneklee	Treasurer
Eryl Harris	Rosters
Jayne Richardson	Collection
Tracey Scharenguivel	Publicity

A.G.M. SATURDAY JULY 14, 2-4PM

Guest Speaker Trevor Huggard AM – A structural Engineer who worked on BRH in 1974, ensuring it was not demolished. Friendly atmosphere, afternoon tea provided.
A MUST HEAR!!!!



Paranormal X-File Investigations –

The investigations are SO popular, with all monies going to BRH refurbishments. Dates - May 12, June 9, July 7, August 4, September 15, October 13, November 10. Bookings are essential and through Trybooking \$40 per person 18+ years



"Historic Ghost Tours" - Our Historic Ghost Tours marvellously conducted by "Friend" and actor David Dodd and actor Cheryl Richards start the **Winter Season on Wednesday June 13th, July 11th and August 8th 7.30pm for 8pm start.** Champagne on arrival, coffee/tea/biscuits at the conclusion \$20pp 16years + Book through Trybooking, all monies going to BRH refurbishments.

MOTHERS DAY HIGH TEA AND TOUR –

Saturday 12th May 2-4pm (see flyer attached)
We may have some spots left if you wish to attend. Phone BRH 9589 5763



MONTHLY OPEN DAY AND MINI MARKETS-

Tracey Scharenguivel

The last of the Summer Markets resulted in 43 stalls, a band and mouth-watering food stalls! The word is spreading! The Market reopens after our winter break on September 2nd.



ROSTERS - Eryl Harris

TOUR GUIDES & ADMINISTRATORS -

Because of the growing numbers visiting the House on Open Day, I would like to hear from any Tour Guides willing to do an extra shift.

You can phone me on 9521 0361 or email

erylh@bigpond.net.au



CATERING -

Again, because of the growing number of Mid-Week Tours we REALLY need help in the kitchen. This involves setting up the tables before the Tour and providing tea/coffee before or after a Tour. Tours are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The amount of Tours vary but it averages at about 1-3 a month, so it is not an arduous commitment. Judging by the chatter from the kitchen at times – it's also a happy commitment. If you would like to join the Mid-week tours Refreshments team please leave a message on the House Phone: 9589 5763

DUST AND SWEEP - Jayne Richardson



The next Dust and Sweep working bees will be at BRH - **Friday May 4, June 1 and 29, August 5, between 2-4pm.**



MEMBERSHIP -

We are thrilled to welcome new members –

Dr. Louise Duncan, Sara Jane, Jennifer Gaskell, David and Lyn Greenall, Annette Lotrionte.

Both Louise and Sara have expressed an interest in becoming Tour Guides which is magnificent! They of course will be receiving their Tour Guide Manuals and Training.

It is such a satisfying experience to serve the community by maintaining and promoting our heritage but to work with enthusiastic like-minded people – AND we have fun!

So **WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!!!**

We always keep a stock of Membership Application Forms at the desk in the Reception Area of the House or phone the House 9589 5763



BOOMERANG BAGS BAYSIDE - Tracey Scharenguivel

Boomerang Bags are stocked in local shops for purchase. They are in Black Rock Woolworths Metro, Brighton at the Leaf Market, Char Char Char butchers in Highett and Parkdale and The Green scope in Aspendale. Please feel free to contact us if you'd like to be involved at boomerangbagsbayside@gmail.com or call Tracey 0438 685 220.



CAR CLUB VISITS -

We have had two Car Club Visits this year and another booked for June 17 please feel free to come to the gardens at BRH to see these magnificent cars.

From the Book "At Home" by Bill Bryson Page 534-538

"How long people have been dressing themselves is a question not at all easy to answer. All that can be said is that about forty thousand years ago, after an immensely long period in which humans didn't do much at all except procreate and survive, there stepped from the shadows the big-brained, behaviourally modern people commonly known as Cro-Magnons (after a cave in the Dordogne region in France where they were first found) and that among these new people was some ingenious soul who came up with some of the greatest, most underrated inventions in history – string. String is marvellously elemental. It is simply two pieces of fibre placed side by side and twisted together. That achieves two things: it makes a cord that is strong and it allows long cords to be built up from the short fibres. Imagine where we would be without it. There would be no cloth and clothing, fishing lines, nets, snares, rope, leashes, tethers, slings, the bows in bows and arrows, and a thousand useful things more. Elizabeth Wayland Barber, a textile historian, was hardly exaggerating when she called it the 'weapon that allowed the human race to conquer the earth'.

Historically the two most common fibres were linen and hemp. Linen was made from flax and was popular because flax grows tall – up to a height of four feet – and quickly. Flax can be sown one month and harvested the next. The downside is that flax is tediously demanding in its preparation. Some twenty different actions are required to separate flax fibres from their woody stems and soften them enough for spinning. These actions have arcane names like braking, retting, swingling (or scotching) and hackling or heckling, but essentially, they involve pounding, stripping, soaking and otherwise separating the pliant inner fibre, or bast, from its woodier stem. It is striking to think that when we heckle a speaker today we use a term that recalls the preparation of flax from the early Middle Ages.

The result of all that effort was a sturdy and adaptable fabric: linen. Although we tend to think of linen as snowy white, its natural hue is brown. To make it white, it had to be bleached in sunlight, a slow process that could take months to execute. The poorer stuff was left unbleached and made into canvas or sacking. The principal drawback of linen is that it doesn't take a dye well, so there isn't a great deal you can do with it to make it exciting.

Hemp was roughly similar to flax, but coarser and not so comfortable to wear, so it tended to be used for things like rope and sails. It did, however, have the evidently very considerable compensating advantage that you could smoke it and get high, which Barber believes accounts for its prevalence and rapid spread in antiquity. Not to put too fine a point on it, people throughout the ancient world were very, very fond of hemp, and grew more of it than they needed for ropes and sails.

But the primary clothing material of the Middle Ages was wool. Wool was a lot warmer and more hard-wearing than linen, but wool fibres are short and must have been difficult to work, especially as early sheep were surprisingly unwoolly creatures. Their wool, such as it was, originally was a downy undercoating beneath dreadlocks of tangled hair. To turn sheep into the blocks of fleeciness we know and value today took centuries of devoted breeding. Moreover, wool wasn't sheared originally. It was painfully plucked. It is little wonder that sheep are such skittish animals when humans are around.

Even once medieval people had a pile of wool in front of them, their work was really just beginning. To turn it into cloth required washing, combing, carding, teaseling, warping, sizing and fulling, among many other processes. Fulling consisted of beating and shrinking the cloth; sizing involved the application of a glaze. Combing the fibres flat created a hard-wearing but comparatively stiff fabric: a worsted. For softer wool, carding paddles were used to make the fibres fluffier. The hair of weasels,

stoats and other animals was sometimes blended into the mix to make the finished cloth more lustrous.

The fourth principal fabric was silk. Silk was a rare luxury, literally worth its weight in gold. Accounts of crime in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries nearly always dwell on the way criminals were imprisoned or transported to Australia for the theft of a handkerchief or packet of lace or some other seemingly trifle, but in fact these were often items of great value. A pair of silk stockings could cost £5 and a packet of lace could sell for £20 – enough to live on for a couple of years and exceedingly serious loss to any shopkeeper. A silk cloak would cost £50 – well beyond the means of any but the highest nobility. Most people, if they had silk at all, had it in the form of ribbons and other trim. The Chinese ferociously guarded the secrets of silk production; the punishment for exporting a single mulberry seed was execution. At least as far as northern Europe was concerned they needn't have worried too much because mulberry trees were too sensitive to frost to thrive there. Britain tried hard for a hundred years to produce silk, and sometimes got good results, but ultimately couldn't overcome the drawback of periodic harsh winters.

With these few materials, and some trimmings like feathers and ermine, people managed to make wondrous outfits – so much so that by the fourteenth century rulers felt it necessary to introduce what were known as sumptuary laws, to limit what people wore. Sumptuary laws laid down with fanatical precision what materials and colour of fabric a person could wear. In Shakespeare's day, someone with an income of £20 a year was permitted to wear a satin doublet but not a satin gown, while someone worth £100 a year had no restrictions on satin but could wear velvet only on doublets and then so long as the velvet wasn't crimson or blue – colours reserved for people of still higher status. Restrictions existed too on the amount of fabric one could employ in a particular article of clothing, and whether it might be worn pleated or straight and so on. When Shakespeare and his fellow players were given royal patronage by King James 1 in 1603, one of the perks of the appointment was that they were given, and allowed to wear, four and a half yards of scarlet cloth – a considerable honour for someone in as louche a profession as acting.

Sumptuary laws were enacted partly to keep people within their class, but partly also for the good of domestic industries, since they were often designed to depress the importation of foreign materials. For the same reason for a time there was a Statue of Caps, aimed at helping people to wear caps instead of hats. For obscure reasons, Puritans resented the law and were often fined for flouting it. But on the whole sumptuary laws weren't much enforced. Various clothing restrictions were enshrined in statutes in 1337, 1363, 1463, 1483, 1510, 1533 and 1554, but records show they were never much enforced. They were repealed altogether in 1604”

