

President's Report

2023 BBFHS Annual General Meeting

I would like to thank the members of Botany Bay FHS for once again supporting me to act as president of our wonderful society throughout the past year. I am proud of the fact that our Society is held in high esteem for our progressive outlook and continual commitment to its members.

Your committee continues to meet each month via Zoom with a couple of meetings held in person where we can thrash out ideas and options for the better good of BBFHS.

Highlights of the year include:

- the very successful Open Day in August during Family History Month
- our rewarding continuation with U3A
- and our celebrated Heritage Festival in April

And while we unfortunately had to increase our membership fees this year, we have also spent money wisely for the benefit of the Society on updated and new software for the Administration computer, the addition of an annual subscription to the John Grenham website, Irish Ancestors, new office chairs which are height and back adjustable, an affiliate library subscription to the Society of Australian Genealogists enabling BBFHS members to attend seminars and webinars at reduced prices and the introduction of an annual writing competition with monetary prizes.

In the past year I have also been looking at new genealogical subscriptions for the Society. One the Committee seriously considered was MyHeritage but sadly, the price quoted of US\$2550 (AU\$3923) was, the Committee felt, too expensive to take up. However, it was a small price compared to another site looked at – that of newspapers.com who quoted us AU\$12,508!

Of major significance to the Society, has been the changeover in hiring of the room for our Research Centre to a permanent lease with Sutherland Shire Council. As was expected, the changeover required many hours of discussion between myself, treasurer Brenda Connors, our honorary solicitor, Glen O'Connor and SSC to formalise the documentation which has now been executed. In short, our Utility Surcharge has increased significantly having been worked out on a per square metre costing, but our actual rent decreased giving us, overall, a small decrease in rental. Additionally, any maintenance work required will now have to be paid for by BBFHS. However, the security lock for the PHCC entrance is still a contentious issue and we continue to wait for final instruction.

This past month has seen me begin work on new regulations in force with the Australian Taxation Office following the Australian Government announcing reforms to the administration of not-for-profit (NFP) entities that self-assess as income tax exempt. From 1 July 2023, non-charitable NFPs with an active Australian business number (ABN) are required to lodge an annual self-review return in order to access an income tax exemption.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow committee members and the many volunteers who are always willing to offer a helping hand throughout the year. Without the constant support of the Society's volunteers, no matter how small or large their contribution, all make a positive contribution to BBFHS.

Jennie Fairs
President