

RESEARCH CENTRE

Jean Campbell (Coordinator)

In September 2022, we opened the Research Centre on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10am to 4pm. The Centre was still closed on Saturdays. At the end of September 2022, we held the NSW & ACT State Conference in our Centre, via Zoom. Over 30 members attended and it was a great success.



In November 2022, we opened the Research Centre on Saturdays; just from 10am to 1pm. Extra Volunteers were needed for this time. We closed down half way through December and opened again half way through January 2023.

Covid is still out in the community, so we've kept up cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces, have hand sanitiser available and open all doors for ventilation, except the veranda doors on very cold days in Winter!

In April 2023, we decided to only open on two Saturdays a month, as very few researchers were going in at the weekend. We also decided to open the three days a week until 2pm, as by then the researchers had gone home, leaving only the Volunteers on duty. We asked members to ring the Centre if they wanted to go in and research after midday. Bookings weren't needed.

Since March, the key and lock on the outer door to the building was changed, the alarm system was changed and our doors onto the veranda were declared "Fire Doors". Eventually there will be a coded entry (just for BBFHS), to the main door to the building.

Under a new initiative, new members are booked into an Orientation in the Centre with an assigned Volunteer. This has proved to be a great idea. Thanks all.

Since the Covid lockdowns, over 20 Volunteers were unable to continue with their duty in the Centre. Some have moved away, some have family issues and many have been on duty for over 15 years! BUT, there have been members who have volunteered during that time, so we can keep the Centre open for everyone. Thank you so much to those who have "come onboard" in the past year.

There are still over 30 Research Centre Volunteers who do a duty in the Centre every month. Thank you sincerely all these kind members who give their time and expertise to help other members. We have a great many resources in the Centre and new members are often surprised at all that we have. It is very pleasing to see the numbers of researchers increasing in the past months.

... and as I say every year, if YOU would like to be a Research Centre Assistant, you'd be welcomed by all of us. Just email botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au to offer a day and time. Once a month is fine!