



Swan Guildford Historical Society (Inc.)

founded 1962

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Patrons: Ken Wyatt AM | Donna Faragher MLC | Michelle Roberts MLA

Newsletter

March - April 2025

UPCOMING EVENT: HISTORY MATTERS

PROFESSOR JANE LYDON, OUR SLAVERY HERITAGE

The 2025 History Matter Speaking Series talk will be held on Monday, 10 March 2025. Entry: Gold Coin Donation. We look forward to hearing from guest speaker, Professor Jane Lydon on the topic of our colonial past and its legacies. Doors open 7pm, 7:30pm start. Venue: St Matthews Anglican Church Hall, Stirling Street, Guildford.



Professor Lydon is the Wesfarmers Chair of Australian History at the University of Western Australia and is a published author, academic and enthusiastic researcher. Her two books *“Imperial emotions: the politics of empathy across the British Empire”* (2019) and *“Anti-slavery and Australia: no slavery in a free land?”* (2021) both trace the movement of capital, people and culture from slave owning Britain to new settler colonies.

Jane’s research interests are wide ranging and include revisiting conventional interpretations of Australian colonial history, Indigenous history, indentured labour, and the historical background to some of the cultural and racial tensions facing us today.

Her research has included the Prinsep, Mangles and Stirling families. Each has a connection to the East India Company (EIC) and a history of investment in slavery and trade in products dependent on slave labour such as in the Caribbean. Other families such as John Ewen Davidson, James Walcott and Archibald Burt were among the thousands of claimants to compensation for their ‘property’ of slaves following the British government’s formal abolition of slavery in 1833.

All are welcome to join us for a light supper at the conclusion of the presentation.

We hope you are able to join us for what will be a fascinating evening and stay for the light supper and drinks that follow.

Membership and volunteering enquiries are welcome on the night.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

The start of 2025 is proving a busy time and presenting many exciting opportunities for the Swan Guildford Historical Society. In summarising key matters that occurred during January and February I would like to share the following information in order to update members and interested parties:

- **Key Objectives:** We have progressed our discussions with the City of Swan regarding the potential appointment of a Curator and Education Officer and have now submitted a formal proposal to the City of Swan for its consideration.

As you would imagine, these two positions will play a pivotal role in the Society's ongoing achievement of its objectives and will also enable us the opportunity to further promote educational services.

- **Calling for Volunteers:**

- We will be looking for interested parties to work closely with the Curator in the areas of Artefacts and Costumes and Textiles.
- We will also be seeking interested parties to work closely with the Education Officer and Keeper of the Gaol providing guided tours and "back of house" administrative support.

This will be a busy and exciting time for the Society so we would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved.

- **Recognition:** I would also like to take the opportunity, which I consider both timely and appropriate, to recognise the significant contributions made by both The Hon Donna Faragher MLC and The Hon Michelle Roberts MLA, to Western Australia, its constituents, and the Society as its Patrons over many years. Their support and patronage cannot be underestimated. We will be seeking to arrange a suitable form of recognition and opportunity to recognise their contributions and express our thanks at the appropriate juncture.

- **Future Events:**

- We hope to see you at the next History Matters Presentation that will be held on Monday, 14 April 2025 at 7:30pm. The guest speaker will be Celia Miller, and the topic will be "Mayors of Guildford in Peace and War".
- We also hope that you are able to join us at the Guildford War Memorial in Stirling Square on Friday, 25 April 2025 for the ANZAC Day service which commences at 9am. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Society will be hosting a morning tea at St Matthews Parrish Hall in honour of the service and sacrifice of all members of the armed forces – past, present and future.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

We would like to showcase an interesting artefact that is currently on display in our Colonial Gaol. It is a **Chamberland-Pasteur water filter**, and it was developed in 1884 by Charles Chamberlain (1851-1908), working in conjunction with Louis Pasteur (1822-1895).



What made these filters special? Chamberland, had originally invented the filters to produce water that was free of bacteria for use in Pasteur's experiments rather than for public consumption. Soon after, however, news reports of the bacterial causes of tuberculosis, anthrax, cholera, and other diseases drove wider interest in the lab's filters. Chamberland and Pasteur then patented the filters, which were then produced for commercial sale. The Chamberland-Pasteur filter and others like it saved many lives. But the device's intellectual contributions to science have been much longer lasting. We hope you take the opportunity to visit us and to see this amazing artefact whilst it is on display. ***Thank you to Rod Brinkworth and Fay Stockdale, who selected this particular artefact and shared insights into its origins.***

UPCOMING EVENTS | HISTORY MATTERS SPEAKERS' SERIES

Heritage Presentation, St Matthews Parrish Hall, Stirling Square, Guildford, 7:30pm
Followed by Light Supper & Drinks, All Welcome | Entry: Gold Coin Donation

14 April 2025: Guest Speaker: Celia Miller, Topic: Mayors of Guildford in Peace & War

12 May 2025: Guest Speaker: James Cassidy, Topic: The Many and the Few

9 June 2025: Guest Speaker: Janet Osborne, Topic: Noongar Landowners Perth, Guildford & York

14 July 2025: The Swan Guildford Historical Society Inc. Annual General Meeting

11 August 2025: Guest Speaker: Robert Hyde, Topic: The Hydes & their Buildings

8 September 2025: Guest Speaker: Lauren Tomlinson, Topic: The Archaeology of Magic Symbols in Australia

13 October 2025: Guest Speaker: Richard Rennie, Topic: Jack Flannigan & Phonographs in Perth

10 November 2025: Guest Speaker: Ross McDonald, Topic: The McDonald Stamp in West Guildford

7 December 2025: The Swan Guildford Historical Society Inc. Annual Christmas Party

MEMBERSHIP @ SGHS

A warm welcome to our most recent new members, Rashelle Predovnic, Bob Langlands, Natasha Langlands, Natalie Peters and Peter Ristau. We thank you for your support. A further thank you to all who renewed their membership at last month's History Matters evening. Your ongoing support is appreciated.

New Members

If you are interested in becoming a new member, an application form is on request, on the website and at the following link: [Membership Form](#).

Renewing Membership – Annual Renewals Due Now

We kindly remind you that membership fees are due and payable annually. Your continued support is paramount to the success of the Society's mission, and we genuinely appreciate your ongoing commitment.

Options for payment of your \$20 membership fee include:

- Direct bank transfer.
- By Mail to PO Box 33, Guildford WA 6935.
- In person - Monday night History Matters Event or @ Guildford Colonial Gaol.

Direct bank transfer details:

Name: Swan Guildford Historical Society

BSB: 066109

Account Number: 1001 1313

Please include your last name & the word 'member' in the subject line.

For any assistance or queries please contact us.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sghistsoc>

Website: www.swanquildfordhistoricalsociety.org.au



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