

Willoughby District Historical Society Inc.

Background

The Willoughby District Historical Society (WDHS) was established in February 1974, when some 130 people gathered in the Bailey Hall of the Chatswood Civic Centre. Their purpose was to establish a society to foster the interest of history in the Municipality of Willoughby (now the City of Willoughby).

The Society also developed an active program of tours to sites of historical interest and regular meetings featured guest speakers on a range of topics. These activities continue today.

The Museum

The Society's dream of establishing a museum was realised in April 1988 a member, Sonya Kirkham, bequeathed her 1912 Federation house, *Boronia*, at 58 Johnson Street to the Society. The Willoughby Museum opened at *Boronia* in 1993 and over the years our volunteers have toiled to expand its collection and present attractive displays.

The core items in our collection currently focus on domestic life in Willoughby and our industrial past, particularly our iconic industries such as Mashman and Eaton pottery, Hallstrom refrigerators, Speedo swimwear, Buzz Builder sets and Tarzan's Grip. We are diversifying our collection to cover the factors that shaped our residential, commercial and industrial development, the role of migrants in our community and its ethnic diversity.

The current display, *Tales of Flat Rock Creek: Rugged, Ruined and Reclaimed*, was awarded the 2011 IMAGinE Award for the best exhibition and public engagement by a voluntary run organisation in the NSW and the ACT.

Membership

The WDHS is a not-for-profit incorporated association that is dependent on the contributions of its members for its survival. Membership is open to all individuals with an interest in the history of Willoughby City.

Membership is a very modest \$20 per year for individuals and \$30 for a family. We hold monthly members' meetings on a wide range of historical subjects and we schedule regular tours to places of historical interest. Our newsletter, *Willoughby History Chatters*, has been upgraded and provides members with updates on WDHS activities and short articles.

Volunteering

We encourage our members to become actively involved in the Society by volunteering to help with a wide range of tasks. These include:

- undertaking historical research;
- assisting as a guide at the museum during open days;
- documenting the history of items in our collection;
- conservation work on items in the collection;
- maintenance work on the building and in the garden;
- updating our website;
- preparing promotional material on the WDHS and its museum; and
- basic office administration.

Guidance and skills development is provided in fields of interest to volunteers. We urge you to fill out the Membership Application Form on the reverse side of this page. We are sure you will find engaging in Willoughby's history an interesting and rewarding experience.



WILLOUGHBY DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

ABN 60 927 748 466

Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society

Patron: The Mayor of Willoughby, Cr. Patrick Reilly

Application for Membership

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: INDIVIDUAL \$20 FAMILY \$30

SURNAME: Mr / Mrs / Ms

GIVEN NAMES:

ADDRESS:

.....

PHONE No. **MOBILE:**

EMAIL: **DATE:**

The Willoughby District Historical Society encourages the study and appreciation of the history of Willoughby City by the community within the context of the key themes shaping Australia's history. We are a volunteer-based not-for-profit association and accordingly the interests of and active participation by our members is important to our well-being. Your response to the following will assist us in these endeavours.

What are your areas of interest regarding our history?

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Would you be prepared to volunteer to help us with our work? **Yes / No / Later**

Our activities cover office administration, research, helping as a guide at the museum, accessioning items for the collection, publicity and similar tasks. **What areas of expertise would you be able to provide?**

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PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR FEE TO: or

The Treasurer, WDHS
58 Johnson Street
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067
Phone: 9410 3203

Electronic payment

BSB: 032-090
A/c No: 973362
A/c Name: Willoughby District HS
Reference: (your name)