



Special points of interest:

- President's Message
- ANZAC Day Reflections
- The Hidden History of Bayswater
- BHS Management Committee Members

Volume 20 issue 34

April 2020

President's Message

Whilst we are unable to open Halliday House and run activities as per normal, we continue to look at initiatives to keep our history live.

As the effects of the COVID-19 on Australian communities grow we are all having to make changes to how we are going about our lives. Here at Bayswater Historical Society, we are interested in your stories and how you and your house fit in to the history of Bayswater. As part of this, we are starting an ongoing column in our newsletter of the

story of your piece of Bayswater History.

We extend our gratitude for the incredible stewardship and endless hours of work poured into the Society of Lynn Deering. After four productive years at the BHS, Lynn has stepped back from the role as President. We bid her farewell but not goodbye as we envision she will remain a great font of historical knowledge for the society into the future. A thank you also to her family and support crew: Simon, Zoe and Tanami.

Many thanks also to Dr Neil Ferguson who steps aside from his various roles as executive committee member, Secretary, communications and organiser in a very busy phase of the Society's activities.

I would also like to mention the great work of Wayne Swindells and Bill Ragan who are busy taking photos of the collection for our website and archives.

We also welcome on board our new Communications Coordinator, Christina Middleton – her first job, to put this newsletter together!

The past was once the present and I consider that the BHS, along with members and community support can continue to preserve, protect and promote the past and the special place we call Bayswater.

Yours sincerely,
Keith Clements



Keith Clements and Geraldine Pillinger in front of their historic Bayswater home

RSLWA: ANZAC Day Driveway Dawn Service



The City of Bayswater together with RSLWA encourages all residents to honour Australia's service men and women on ANZAC Day by stepping out onto our driveways or balconies for this year's Dawn Service.

While traditional ANZAC services have been cancelled to stop the spread of COVID-19, RSLWA is encouraging us to still pay tribute and celebrate the spirit of mateship.

Step outside at 5:55am on Saturday 25 April and tune in to ABC radio, 6PR or 96FM to hear the service.



ANZAC Day 2020: Reflections

by Glen Cookson

The year 2020 will see very different ANZAC ceremonial services across Australia due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This shouldn't stop families and individuals remembering and reflecting on the significance of ANZAC Day in their own unique way. It is important that we, as Australians, do this and RSLWA is encouraging everyone to get creative in a show of mateship – by standing in quiet contemplation at the end of our driveways, or on our balconies, on ANZAC Day, April 25 at 6am.

For the past 15 years I've attended the Dawn Service at Halliday Park and proudly worn my grandfather Benjamin Hearn's three service medals. He was amongst the first Australian troops to serve in France, during the Battle of Mouquet Farm, near Pozieres. There were nine unsuccessful assaults and over 11,000 casualties in a battle over a dairy farm on a strategic hillside. On 24 August 1916 my grandfather was severely injured and suffered wounds to both his legs and right foot. He was not in any condition to be patched up and sent back into battle. Fortunately he was dispatched via ship to

recuperate in England. After a miraculous seven month recovery, he returned to Australia on 14 March 1917.

While my grandfather was fortunate to return, he never fully recovered from his injuries and for much of his life exhibited what we now know as PTSD. He never spoke of or recounted any of his wartime experiences, apart from saying, "*War is for bloody idiots, there are no winners.*"



Right: A photograph of Benjamin Hearn and his three service medals

Turkish Gallipoli memorials, since 1985, have displayed words that Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is alleged to have said or written in 1934 or thereabouts. These words are also on the Atatürk Memorial in Canberra and in many other places around the world.

*Those heroes that shed their blood
And lost their lives...
You are now lying in the soil of a friendly Country.
Therefore rest in peace.
There is no difference between the Johnnies
And the Mehmet's to us where they lie side by side
Here in this country of ours...
You, the mothers,
Who sent their sons from far away countries
Wipe away your tears,
Your sons are now lying in our bosom
And are in peace
After having lost their lives on this land
They have become our sons as well*



Greg Smith, Bayswater Historical Society member next to the Bayswater War Memorial at Halliday Park



**They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age should not weary them,
no the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them**

Bayswater War Memorial — Halliday Park

The Bayswater Memorial was originally erected to commemorate those from the district who died in service or were killed in action during World War One.



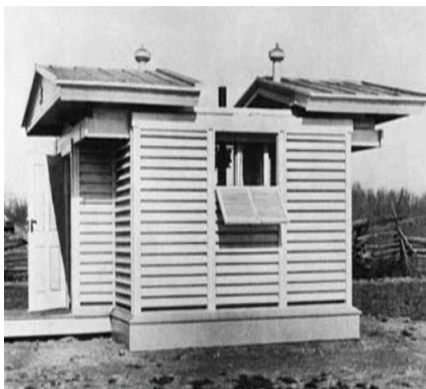
Photographs supplied by Bill Ragan, April 2020



The celebration of ANZAC Day 1925 was marked at Bayswater by the unveiling of a handsome memorial to the soldiers who had enlisted from the district and had not returned. The unveiling ceremony was performed by Major General Sir Talbot Hobbs, who complimented the residents of the district upon the memorial, which was a full warranty for the sincerity of their remembrance of the ANZAC heroes.

The West Australian (Perth), 27th April 1925

The Hidden History of Bayswater: Part 1



In November 1905, a young scientist, Dr Kurt Hessen, travelled from Bremen, Germany to Perth, Western Australia on the vessel "Scharnhorst" to conduct research of international importance over several years in suburban Bayswater. What was this work? Was this German national in fact a spy? And what tragedy was to befall Dr Hessen while he was still in WA? One of the files held in the State archives collection holds the clues to this

gripping story. As the earth rotates on its axis, it actually wobbles. This small deviation was documented in 1891 by American astronomer Seth Chandler and has since become known as the "Chandler wobble". An international program to measure the degree of wobble was established in the late 1800s. Although Wikipedia would have you think the USA established such a program, observatories were erected across Germany for measuring the Chandler wobble prior to the commencement of American observations. These observatories were known as International Latitude Stations and

were progressively set up across the northern hemisphere. Only two such stations were established below the Equator: one in Argentina, the other here in Bayswater.

Why Bayswater was chosen for such a station is not fully known, other than being at the required latitude. The availability of land, its proximity to the Perth Observatory and its good elevation are likely to have been factors. The observation site was at the corner of Hamilton and Station Streets. Currently the site remains a small public reserve although largely unused as a children's playground with no recognition of its historical significance. The scientific research carried out on this site appears to be a bit of overlooked history.



Reprinted with permission from Damien Hassan, Senior Archivist, State Records Office of WA

Committee Members With Their Piece Of Baysie History



Left: Lin Inglis and his daughter Pip standing in front of Keith and Geraldine's house. Lin Inglis was the pharmacist at the King William Street store that is now Pharmacy 777. Right: Keith and Geraldine's house when it originally stood in Veitch Street, as the Inglis' family home



Secretary Glen Cookson & his wife Shireen Narayanan on the front verandah of their 1904 Federation home in Slade Street



Committee member Maggie Wade



Treasurer Ian Rathbone at his home in Doubleview



Communications Coordinator Christina Middleton and her Cal-Bung home built in 1930



Outside his Maylands home, passionate Cats supporter Wayne Swindells has served as Management Committee member for over four years



Committee member Terry Devereux



Committee member Miriam Fawcett

Botany Bay's 250th Anniversary - 29 April 2020: Part 1

by Glen Cookson

In 1770, Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook landed at Botany Bay's Inscription Point. He and his Endeavour crew stayed in the area for eight days and had a dramatic impact on Australian history. Located near Silver Beach on the Kurnell Peninsula headland, Cook's landing place is a popular Sydney attraction.

Thus, in his journal he recorded his landing at Botany Bay on the afternoon of Sunday 29 April 1770. In civil time that was the afternoon of 28 April and that is the time inscribed on the Captain Cook monument at Kurnell, October 20, 2011.



Botany Bay landing: can you spot the fake insert?

Cook's exploration of the Pacific Ocean has left a profound legacy of scientific investigation, including the first large-scale hydrographic surveys and a significant contribution to the measurement of longitude. He is also revered for his superior seamanship and disciplined leadership.

The arrival of Cook in 1770 marks the start of a process of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage being removed overseas. With support from the Australian Government, the Return of Cultural Heritage Project seeks to secure the return of culturally significant heritage materials, including but not limited to artefacts, documentary records and artwork from overseas collecting institutions back to Australian Indigenous communities.

A range of events and activities will mark the anniversary across the country. We are providing support for voyaging activities by the ANMM's HMB Endeavour replica and communications associated with the government funded initiatives.



Captain Cook's Landing Place, present day Kurnell, Sydney, NSW

The first voyage of James Cook was a combined Royal Navy and Royal Society expedition to the south Pacific Ocean aboard HMS *Endeavour*, from 1768 to 1771. It was the first of three Pacific voyages of which Cook was the commander. The aims of this first expedition were to observe the 1769 transit of Venus across the Sun (3–4 of June that year), and to seek evidence of the postulated *Terra Australis Incognita* or "undiscovered southern land".

For more information on the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's voyage to Australia, visit www.arts.gov.au and go to *Cultural Heritage* under *What we do*.

Halliday House Refresh

The City of Bayswater commissioned to have the exterior and some interior parts of Halliday House to be painted. The work was completed in February this year in preparation of what was to be the 2020 opening of the house and garden.

This comes 12 months after the path leading up to the verandah was also completed by the City.

The Bayswater Historical Society would like to acknowledge the excellent work by all staff and contractors of the City of Bayswater.



Photographs supplied by Bayswater Historical Society members

BAYSWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Halliday House
114 King William Street
BAYSWATER

Phone: 08 9271 3741
Email: bayswaterhs@gmail.com
Postal Address: GPO Box 76 Bayswater 6053

PRESERVE • PROTECT • PROMOTE



Photography by Terry Devereux

The Bayswater Historical Society Inc. was formed in 1991. It is a non-profit organisation which aims to preserve the history of Bayswater district; protect the records and objects relating to the area; promote public interest in and support for the preservation of historic records, buildings and sites.

Halliday House is Bayswater's historic home and is used as the Society's base and museum. Currently Halliday House is temporary closed to the public until further notice due to the current State Government recommendations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Historical Bayswater is the society's newsletter and welcomes contributions such as stories and photographs relating to the history of Bayswater to be included in future issues. Please forward all enquiries addressed to the Secretary. *Historical Bayswater* wishes to acknowledge our contributors for their items included in this issue.

Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram @bayswaterhistoricalsociety

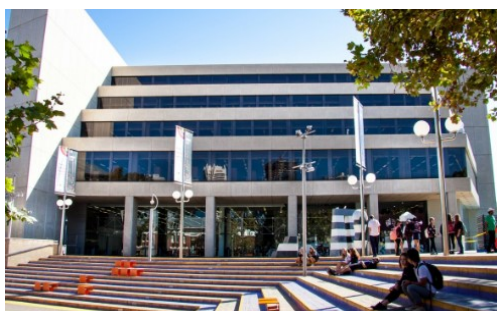


Opinions expressed in *Historical Bayswater* are not necessarily those of the Bayswater Historical Society Inc. This issue is published by the society's Communications Sub-Committee.

Editor: Christina Middleton

Copy Editor: Glen Cookson

Digitisation on Demand by SLWA



The State Library of WA has rolled out a new service called *Digitisation on Demand*. It is a service that SLWA members can access free of charge during the library's temporary closure due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Members can now request an item from the library's collection to be digitised and made available through their catalogue or be sent a digital copy. This service covers photographs, ephemera, documents, maps and other library materials subject to copyright.

Digitisation on Demand is a great service for researchers, family historians, students and history buffs alike.

For more information on how to take advantage of this free service go to SLWA's website on slwa.wa.gov.au. You can also show your support by becoming a member or follow their Facebook page.

