



Special points of interest:

- My piece of Baysie history
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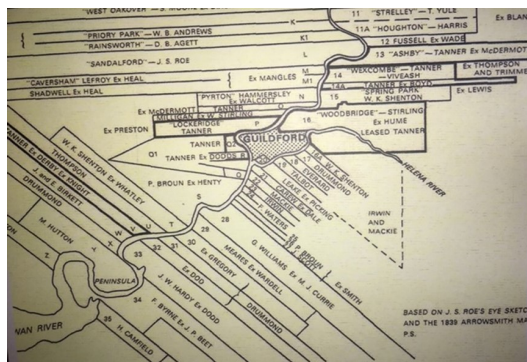
June 2020

My Piece of Baysie History: 60 Slade Street

by Glen Cookson



Mid 2005 - it was love at first sight when my wife and I visited the heritage timber and iron property at 60 Slade Street. Our quest for a character home with a garden to accommodate our family, golden retriever and rabbit had taken over 6 months. We are still grateful to our 9-year-old daughter who had become adept at combing the for-sale columns and insisted on inspecting the property. It immediately felt like home. The renovations complimented the historical features. The garden with its huge trees, winding garden paths created a wonderful sense of sanctuary. However, only recently did we begin to appreciate the historical significance of our property and surrounding community.



The first record I was able to verify was an eye sketch map made by Surveyor -General Roe showing the original grants along the Swan River based on the 1839 Arrowsmith Map insert. Through Landgate I obtained copies of the first Certificate of Title issued under the Transfer of Land Act in 1885 (CT

15-251) through to the last paper Certificate of Title (sketch) issued in 1986 and active until 2001 when digitisation of the register occurred.

The first grant (EC125) was given to Robert Thompson in 1842, and for reasons unknown a subsequent Country Enrolment grant (EC374) was issued to Henry Drake later that same year. The land transacted under the Deeds Registration Act which operated until 1885.



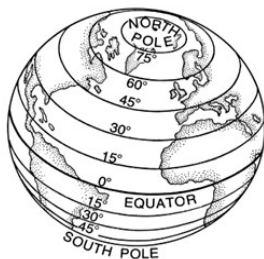
Originally 60 Slade Street was part of the land allocation of 1000 acres which was covered by the earliest grants and described as "Swan Location U". The first Certificate of Title (15-251) included a sketch of the land that could assist in determining where those boundaries might exist today and issued in the names of Stephen and George Parker from Perth. Sketches on subsequent Certificate of Title records were used to see how lands became smaller over time.

Almost immediately the title was subdivided into land parcels of various sizes. 60 Slade Street became one of 48 house blocks on a 10 acre title bounded by Slade, Short, Hamilton and Station Streets, issued to John Elliott in 1897. Our property was issued its own title in 1904 to Ernst Parker until November 1945 and then transferred to Gladys Finde.

Thanks to Landgate Senior Customer Service Officer Cher for her patience and support with my initial research and enquiries.

The Hidden History of Bayswater: Part 2

Dr Hessen, second assistant at the Berlin Observatory, commenced his night-time observations of the stars on 6 January 1906. Dr Hessen lived close to the Bayswater observatory and would no doubt walk, or perhaps cycle, there each evening to conduct his work. He was well known in the Perth scientific community and, obligingly, also conducted latitude observations for the Department of Lands and Surveys when required. At that time, the Department established temporary latitude stations in places such as Wanneroo, Laverton and Onslow to conduct nocturnal calculations but for local survey/chart related purposes, rather than as part of the broader international project. One Departmental file



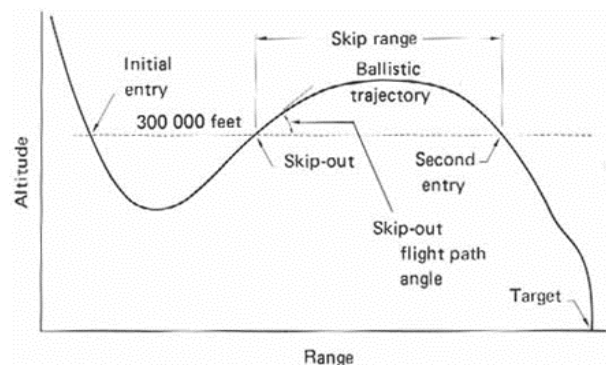
notes the observations Dr Hessen provided to the State government "found that positions given in the (commonly used) nautical almanac were not good".

The data compiled by Dr Hessen as part of the international project was provided to the International Geodetic Society in Berlin which received information in a similar form from other Latitude Stations across the world. As well as being immediate practical benefit (eg. to



navigators), the data collected by these stations remain of use to scientists today, including for research into polar motion and climatology, and for satellite tracking. NASA continues to use this data for helping to calculate the re-entry of space vehicles.

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Above: Possible skip trajectory of Apollo 11

Botany Bay's 250th Anniversary: Conclusion

by Glen Cookson

The landing, celebrated as a seminal event in the history of our country by the settler communities for centuries, were met with hostility by the indigenous occupants. On this occasion the first contact was marred by resistance, bloodshed and violence. It is likely at least one Aboriginal, a Dharawal man of the Gweagle clan, died in the April 28 encounter.

This makes a mockery of the legal fiction of "terra nullius", the false assertion Australia had not been occupied when Cook claimed it for the British Crown, finally overturned by the Mabo decision. It wasn't only occupied; it was actively defended, a fact Sir Joseph Banks, the eminent botanist, noted in his journal:

"Two of the men came down, each armed with a lance of about 10 feet (three metres) long and a short stick, which he seemed to handle as if it was a machine to throw the lance," Banks wrote. "Shaking their lances and menacing, [they] in all appearances resolved to dispute our landing to the utmost though they were two and we were 30 or 40 at least. They remained resolute so a musket was fired over them... a musket loaded with small shot was now fired at the eldest of the two. It struck him on the legs, but he minded it very little so another was immediately fired."



Above: Captain Cook's first journey

My Neighbourhood Project - Vanessa Bradley

There are many stories of how people adapted in their approaches to keep connected and sharing with their communities during the COVID-19 and declaration of state emergency. Bayswater was particularly proactive in its initiatives. One of those that caught our attention was a home school project by local creative, Vanessa Bradley and her family. Here is Vanessa's account of their venture:

'We've created a project called My Neighbourhood. It started when the kids started their home school journey due to school closures. We started a daily walk around the neighbourhood where we had lots of conversations with neighbours who were sitting out on their porches or pottering in their gardens. We realised how in this slower pace there is more time to notice, to stop and connect with people. We also realised that we know a lot of people in our neighbourhood although not very well. Many of the people we were talking to live alone and were feeling particularly isolated. And so the Neighbourhood project was born. It started with walking and drawing to come up with a map. We then turned the map into a 3D creation (using Lego and a lightbox). Next we downloaded a map and created our own personalised symbols and codes. From there it has moved



into writing a letter to neighbours to explain the project and ask them to write a story about living in our community. We've given them a blank postcard and asked them to write their story, draw a picture and return it to us. This will then be turned into an artwork (or series of artworks) about the place where we live and the stories connected to it. While we wait for the postcards to come back the children have worked on their own paintings and written a story about a memory from where we live. They then turned their personal stories in automata installations. Next we will be incorporating learning about circuits so we will create a diorama and make elements that light up and include movement with motors and battery packs. And so the project is growing. We'd also like to feed the stories back to the community so I starting to think up ways to do that.'

Vanessa first came in contact with BHS when researching women in local history for a painting series she was working on. Her artwork based on the story of Ann Whatley was featured in the Baysie Art & Street Festival last year. Thank you to Vanessa for sharing this wonderful family project with us.

As told to Geraldine Pillinger.



Do you have a piece of Baysie History?

You might be living in a worker's cottage or a Federation-era house. You might call a renovated Cal-bung house your home or the more traditional Queen Anne abode. Perhaps the modern aesthetics of an art deco building or a post-war brick houses?

These are all a part of Bayswater history and we would love to hear about your own piece of Baysie History!

Please forward your submissions and photographs for consideration and all other enquiries addressed to the Secretary via email bayswaterhs@gmail.com or via post GPO Box 76 Bayswater.



Stock photo

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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



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WA Day - 1 June 2020

WA Day is a day to celebrate all things Western Australia. It is a day to recognise our Aboriginal history and commemorate the founding of the colony by early European settlers.

Before 2012, WA day was known as Foundation Day to commemorate the day Captain James Stirling arrived and founded the Swan River Colony in 1829. Thereafter, ships carrying civilian settlers began arriving. Land along the river was divided into narrow strips called ribbon grants and this included a section of the Bayswater town centre along King William Street and all the way up to Drake Street. In 1832, Captain Stirling decided that an annual celebration was needed to unite the colony's inhabitants, including both settlers and the indigenous people.

Today, we celebrate WA Day as a day of reflection and celebration of all things great about our people, our lifestyle and our culture, and certainly our diverse community called Bayswater.



Above: Willem de Vlamingh's ships, with black swans, at the entrance to the Swan River, Western Australia