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Historical Bayswater

Message from the BHS Management Committee

The year 2020 has been unprecedented as the effects of COVID-19 in our community took hold but we all worked together and pulled through. We were able to host the AGM in August and subsequently opened up Halliday House to the public in September October and November, whilst upholding our COVID-19 safety measures.



We saw many changes to the BHS and in our Management Committee: we'd like to extend our sincere thanks to Keith Clements and to Terry Devereux for taking on the role of Chairperson, both for short albeit very

productive periods. Under our Management Committee casual vacancy rules, Christina Middleton was unanimously appointed Chairperson and Miriam Fawcett Vice Chairperson until the 2021 AGM. Thank you to our Treasurer Ian Rathbone, Secretary Glen Cookson and General Committee members Maggie Wade, Keith Clements and Jill Duke-Smith and our army of volunteers for the countless hours put in ensuring the smooth running of the Society.

In 2021, we in the Management Committee will continue to work together with our volunteers to see through all the plans we put in place, plus more! Our first Halliday House Open Day for the year will kick things off with the Society's 30th anniversary, on Sunday 28th March 2021!

Halliday House will hold Open Days on every 3rd Fridays and every 4th Sundays of the month. Open Days are vital, as it is the time where we welcome members and the commu-

nity to visit Halliday House, and enjoy home-made refreshments. Plans are also in place to hold a series of talks and presentations during the Open Days, a perfect time to learn and share experiences!



Our volunteers will continue work with ongoing projects: researching and sourcing contributions for our newsletters; cleaning and preparation of Halliday House exhibits for open days; the ongoing digitisation and photographing of the BHS collection as well as continuous work on our new website, www.bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au. Also, one of the major, and ongoing projects undertaken by our Secretary Glen Cookson is the discussion around the proposed memorial for the International Latitude Station on Hamilton Reserve. This will be continuing this year to recognise this area as a historically significant site.

For all members new and old, thank you for your continuing support and we hope to see you again this year at our Open Days. The Society is a non-profit organisation and your membership subscriptions are important for underpinning essential funding of projects and the publication of our newsletter.

Christina Middleton
Chairperson and
Editor, *Historical Bayswater*

The Beginnings of the BHS

by Shirley Babis, founding Treasurer and BHS Member

I was appointed as the inaugural Treasurer of the BHS in 1991 and served in that position until my resignation at the 2017 AGM. I served for a total 26 years!

I was born in Guildford in 1936 and grew up in Bassendean. I mainly lived in Embleton from 1961, and until more recently in Dianella where I still reside. My interest in genealogy and family history led me to become a member of the WA Genealogical Society. My ongoing research required a knowledge of local history which also led to my memberships of various historical societies such as the Swan-Guildford in 1987, Bayswater in 1991 and Bassendean in 1992.



Above: Shirley Babis, outside Halliday House recently with history in hands and mind

I was one of the founding members of the Bayswater Historical Society and at the 1990 City of

Bayswater Annual Electors' Meeting, a need was voiced regarding the history of Bayswater and its pioneer residents (early settlers). A working party was called together on 3 December 1990 at which Marlene Robinson from the Bayswater Ratepayers Association (BRA) put forward an initiative to establish a historical society in Bayswater.

A subsequent meeting in January 1991 resulted in a *Steering Committee* which had no shortage of volunteers for positions. All but one of the steering committee carried on, and thus the Bayswater Historical Society was born, in February 1991.

The inaugural meeting of the Bayswater Historical Society took place on 2 April 1991, at the Bayswater Senior

Citizens Hall and was well attended by local Members of Parliament, The Mayor and councillors of the City of Bayswater and with about 90 members of the public.

I was elected treasurer of the inaugural Management Committee, which also consisted of Paul Jaman, Chairperson; Les Lawrence, Vice Chairperson; Grace Hardie, Secretary; and general members Lorna Lawrence, Len Craddock, Monica Everatt, Michael Sabatino, Pat O'Hara, Marlene Robinson. Nadine Gibbons was subsequently co-opted as a Minute Secretary.

The monthly General Meetings were held at the Senior Citizens Hall during the first two or three years. Committee Meetings were held in private homes for the first year or so. During those first meetings members did like to yarn over old photographs. We also had guest speakers as often as possible, with topics that included the Methodist Church, WW2, family histories and many more.



Above: Shirley Babis, Dr Judy Edwards, MLA and BHS Patron, and Grace Hardie, BHS Founding Secretary and member

Marketing and advertising played an important part in getting people to the meetings as well as to join the Society. Secretary Grace Hardie eventually caught the attention of the local community newspapers right from the start and did not let the momentum flag. Our monthly meeting notice was in the paper routinely as was the Sunday "Open House" notices. Articles on local history would appear regularly, and "Letters to the Editor" were published frequently, especially during our formative days.

We would meet on Wednesdays then Tuesdays and then late mornings on the fourth Sunday of the month, with

the “House” being kept open for the public during the afternoon. The Committee would meet on the second Tuesday of the month and some of the “Ladies Workshops” one per week.

In 1991, the then owners of Leighton House (now Halliday House), Kingsley Dixon and Lionel Johnston offered the BHS the opportunity to open their house to the public on the Australia Day holiday weekend in January and again on Foundation Day in June. The 100-year-old house had been restored by these two young men, and the interest shown by the public was overwhelming.



Above: Shirley Babis greeting visitors to Halliday House during the Australia Day weekend Open Day in 1993.

The house was opened again in 1993, and subsequently purchased by the City of Bayswater when it went on sale. Sometime later Bell House (now Ellis House) was also purchased by the City of Bayswater. This house was restored by work programmes. Both houses are now maintained by the City of Bayswater.

In 1990's membership stood at 210. Some of the elderly members have passed on, and a few others have resigned for various reasons. The Society is affiliated with the Royal WA Historical Society and developed a good working relationship with Swan-Guildford, Bassendean and Maylands Historical Societies. Bayswater, together with Maylands and Swan-Guildford are all on the Perth-Midland Railway Line and are also on the Swan River.

The City of Bayswater as a local government area is surrounded by Stirling, Swan and Bassendean. The City of Bayswater includes the suburbs of Bedford, Embleton, Noranda, Morley and Bayswater. Many new residents and indeed a lot of the younger people relate to Bayswater as a suburb, and then to their own particular area, e.g. Morley. They were disappointed to find that there were no separate historical societies or histories of the other suburbs. However as we delve further into records and detail the history of the locality, we hope to bring the wider picture to them, and that they would respond accordingly.

The Society set up displays at Halliday House, Bayswater

Hotel and the various fairs in the area, including at John Forrest SHS, City of Bayswater garden, Galleria Shopping Centre and at the Early Settlers Luncheons. On these occasions, we could sell all our various items and hold raffles for fundraising.

The displays aroused considerable curiosity from members of the public and gave people the chance to identify individuals and places from the many photos we have acquired and an opportunity for local community members to reminisce. Sub-committees have been formed for the purpose of collecting, collating and recording the history of Bayswater. An oral history group has produced about 50 tape recorded interviews. There was also a research group, heritage group, cataloguing and index group and a group of ladies who regularly held workshops on textiles, i.e. restoring clothing and linen from a much earlier period.

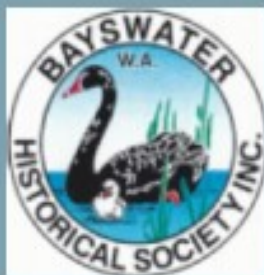


Above: BHS member Renee Hayward and Founding Secretary Grace Hardie serving tea in the Halliday House kitchen.

The City of Bayswater celebrated 100 years in 1997. Local Historian, Dr Catherine May was commissioned to write the history of Bayswater, “Changes They’ve Seen”. During the time of her writing the City of Bayswater Municipal Heritage Inventory was also drafted. The City celebrated in many ways with the Society contributing and being part of the celebration. Grace Hardie worked so hard for the Society and gave considerable help to Dr May by way of information and photographs. Grace was awarded the “Freedom of the City” by the City of Bayswater to acknowledge her enormous contribution. Sadly, Grace died suddenly in 1998 and was further acknowledged with a tribute rose garden in Halliday Park named after her.

The Society carries on. On Sunday, 28 March 2021 the Society are celebrating their 30th Anniversary during the Halliday House Open Day. I hope to be there and I invite you all to come. We hope to see you all there.

**** The full version of the BHS story can be read at Halliday House.**



Bayswater Historical Society OPEN DAY

**Celebrate our 30th Anniversary
1991 - 2021**

**Sunday 28th March
12pm - 3pm**

**Displays of Local History* Entertainment*
Birthday Cake* Light Refreshments*
Meet Past & Present members***

Halliday House

114 King William St. Bayswater

RSVP 9271 3741 Email: bayswaterhs@gmail.com

BHS PRESENTS HIDDEN HISTORIES OF BAYSWATER

Local history from Hamilton Street with Marlene and Emilio Ameduri: The tough times and the good times.

In this first story, as part of our Hidden Histories series, BHS Secretary Glen Cookson brings you the story of Marlene and Emilio Ameduri, residents of Hamilton Street since 1965.

Marlene and Emilio Ameduri have lived at Hamilton Street since 1965. They first met at the local Perth dance hot spot for young people, "The Hop" in Irwin Street in 1958. It was love at first sight as soon after they became boyfriend girlfriend. In 1963, Emilio and Marlene were married at the St Peter's Mt Lawley Church. They first



Above: The newlyweds on their wedding day

lived in a unit which was part of the Bayswater Hotel. On 19 March 1965 they purchased their present home in Hamilton Street for £2850 pound (\$5700), a weatherboard and iron structure originally built around 1910.

The newly married couple had four children in four years; Natalie, Warren, Louis

and Tracey. Marlene would regularly push her pram with her children down and up the steep hill that was Hamilton Street for food and supplies from the local shops in Whatley Crescent. The children attended St Columba's School Bayswater, which opened in 1935 as a Convent School in Roberts Street. Marlene recalls that raising four young children was a tough job, especially as Emilio worked long hours and was often working away in the country. Domestic chores were very different and demanding back in the 1960's. There was no automatic washing machines, or even hot water. A separate back shed housed a large copper container that had to be heated by wood and the hot water carried by hand to the main house for baths for the children. To wash clothes, the copper was also used to boil water ensuring cleanliness clothes before hanging them out to dry. With a family of six there was certainly a lot of never-ending domestic work.

Emilio grew up Yarloop where his parents, as Italian migrants made their first home. Emilio's dad had migrated to Australia before WW2 and had sent for his wife and three children to join him in 1940, just after WW2 started. The family were lucky to have stopped at Fremantle and were able to disembark and join their father. Emilio's family travelled to Yarloop to live and work. Emilio was born soon after in 1941 and lived there until he was 14. Emilio's father worked hard on various farms especially when it came to potato harvest time. Interestingly, as Italian born migrants Emilio's parents could not own property. However as Emilio was born in Australia, he was made the legal owner of his parent's house and land.

Emilio worked hard, first as a tiler which involved a lot of time working away from Perth. From 1968-1998 he worked as a Wharfie at the Fremantle Ports and was a proud member of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA). Eventually after 30 years working on the wharfs, Emilio was offered a redundancy which he accepted. He



Above: Emilio and Marlene, nearly 60 years later and still smiling.

remains in contact with the MUA today and will always be appreciative of their support.

Marlene and Emilio had thought of moving to Safety Bay, near friends and good fishing spots however they opted to stay in Bayswater. As Marlene commented "we really

like it here, its central to everything, Galleria, local shops, Morley, Noranda and the airport."

We all agree that Bayswater is a good place to live, a friendly community with terrific neighbours.

**** This is an edited version of the Ameduri's story. The full version can be read at Halliday House.**

BAYSWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Photography by C Middleton

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. Halliday House has re-opened to the public in 2020. COVID-19 safety measures and mandatory contact registration must be adhered to by all visitors during Open Days.

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.

Acknowledgements: We wish to thank the Hon. Lisa Baker MLA, Member for Maylands for printing this newsletter. We also would like to thank 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.

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Copy Editor: Glen Cookson

Membership Renewal for year 2020-2021



Just a reminder that membership renewals are due for the remainder of the 20-21 year. Our current membership run from 1 September 2020 until 31 August 2021.

The Bayswater Historical Society is a not-for-profit organisation. Your membership subscription is important to the society and underpins essential funding of priority projects undertaken by the society, the operating costs of the Halliday House Open Days and the publication of the society's newsletter *Historical Bayswater*.

Membership fees are \$30.00 for family, \$20.00 adult and \$13.00 concession. You can pay the society via bank deposit or cash in person at our next Open Day. Please contact the Secretary via email bayswaterhs@gmail.com or PO Box 76, Bayswater WA 6933.