



Special points of interest:

- BHS 30th Anniversary Celebration
- Official Opening of the Nellie Tant Reserve
- Bayswater Foreshore Play Trail

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Historical Bayswater

Official Opening of the Nellie Tant Reserve

During the 2021 International Women's Day on Monday 8th March, the City of Bayswater held a special acknowledgement ceremony marking 100 years since prominent Bayswater resident Nellie Fawdrey Tant (1880-1949) was elected to the Belmont-Bayswater Roads Board.



Mrs Tant's descendants Lorraine Reithmuller, Margaret Douglas and Ian Douglas with Mayor Dan Bull

Mrs Tant was the first female elected to the Board on 9th April 1921. She was a suffragette and migrated from England in 1913. An active feminist, Mrs Tant was an advocate for women and a role model for others. With sup-



BHS Committee members Maggie Wade (left) and Miriam Fawcett (right) with councilors Sally Parker and Lorna Clarke

port from the BHS, local community and the City of Bayswater, the park formerly known as The Strand Reserve has been transformed into a beautiful landscaped reserve complete with a children's playground, seating areas and mature trees. The reserve has been renamed Nellie Tant Reserve in honour of the contribution Mrs Tant made to Bayswater.

Nellie Tant Reserve is located in Essex Street Bayswater.

Embleton Primary School 60th Anniversary



In 2021 Embleton Primary School will be commemorating its 60th year of operation since commencing in 1961 as a two-teacher school with Mr Clarence Whiteman as the Headmaster on a grand salary of 1700 pounds per year and Ms Patricia McKinney as the Mistress (Year 1 Teacher). We need to do a little more research, however I'm sure female teachers were disadvantaged compared to their male counterparts. If they married, in most cases, their employment was immediately terminated. Thank goodness we have come a long way since then.

To celebrate this event our school will be holding a school fete on Saturday 30th October 2021. It is envisaged that the day will include displays, open classrooms, games and activities and the viewing of student memorabilia going back to the foundation of the school including student films created in the early 1970s. Food and drink will be available for purchase on the day.

We invite former students, staff and community members to join us on this day to celebrate our school's birthday. Our planning committee will be meeting regularly throughout the year and we would love to hear from people who would like to be involved with the event and/or have memorabilia to share. We can be contacted by phone: 9338 9700 or email: Embleton.PS@education.wa.edu.au

BHS 30th Anniversary Celebrations and Open House

by Christina Middleton

Our first Open House for 2021, on a lovely autumn Sunday on 28th March, was a very special day for the Bayswater Historical Society as we also celebrated our 30th anniversary.

Back in 1991, it was an auspicious beginning when the society was established as there was clearly a need to preserve and protect the pioneering history of Bayswater. We, as I'm sure also the people of Bayswater are indebted to the society's founding management committee and members.

On this day, 30 years later we welcomed everyone to Halliday House and celebrated our anniversary. It was well attended, we had a great local band KazinKo that entertained on the day and plenty of food and cake to be had. City of Bayswater Mayor Cr. Dan Bull started off the celebrations with his opening speech, as did Cr.

Lorna Clarke and Cr. Giorgia Johnson before the cutting the special BHS birthday cake. Plenty of BHS members and people from the community came along, as did special guest Mr Ian Halliday, who is the son of Rudel Halliday and grandson of Henry Thomas Halliday, and his granddaughter Vicki and her family.

We thank all our volunteers - Bill Ragan, our photographer on the day; Lazar Radanovich for his assistance in getting our library shelves up in time for the house opening; and Wayne Swindells for all the prep work on the day. We, in the BHS Management Committee also thank everyone who attended and for their ongoing support, in order to allow us to continue our work in preserving, protecting and promoting the history of this wonderful place we call Bayswater.



Photos from the 30th Anniversary Celebrations



Photos courtesy of Bill Ragan, Glen Cookson and Christina Middleton

What does history mean to me?

by Cr. Lorna Clarke, West Ward Councillor, City of Bayswater

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land, the Wadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Fellow Councillors, Chair of the Bayswater Historical Society, thank you for inviting me to speak at the Historical Society's 30th Anniversary celebration.

I've always been fascinated by history. In my final year of high school, I studied historiography, the study of the writing of history and I went on to study art history at University.



History is fascinating because of its stories – the way it brings alive the economics, sociology, geography, social history and politics of by-

gone eras. But it is also incredibly valuable because it teaches us about our past, helps to explain our present and guides our future. And local history does this in a way that connects us to our current local communities.

For example, I live with my husband and a Labrador, in a heritage house on Copley Street. The original house was built by a former Roads Board member (the precursor to the Council) Mr Benjamin Copley, in 1901. He owned the slaughterhouse on Hillcrest, where the primary school is now, and reportedly used his Road Boards connections to

avoid complying with health regulations!

At school, my history teacher, Mr Hennes trained as a journalist, and he taught me that history is written by the winners, so you always have to ask: whose history is not being told here?

Therefore, there is a role for all of us, and a Historical Society, to ask this question and to constantly reconsider our histories and who held the pen.

It's one of the reasons that I'm so proud that the City of Bayswater recently named a park in honour of Bayswater's first female Roads Board member, Mrs Nellie Tant. A bold suffragette and nurse, elected in West Ward in 1921. And yet it has taken 100 years for her to be recognised in this way.

I'm also proud that I've been working with the Historical Society to recognise the importance of Bayswater's observatory station in the early 1900s in Hamilton Reserve, on Station Street and the work of German scientist Dr Kurt Hessen. I'm hoping that we can install a plaque, and in the longer term, perhaps rebuild a replica of the station and have the playground reflect the history and contribution to space science.

I would like to conclude by congratulating the Bayswater Historical Society on 30 years – 30 years of bringing the community together and investigating, telling and recording local histories. I wish you well for the next 30 years. Thank you to all of the members, past and present Committee members and all of the volunteers at Halliday House.

The BHS wishes to acknowledge Cr. Lorna Clarke for this article and photograph.

A Special Visitor to Halliday House

It was a short walk down memory lane for Ian Halliday who was one of BHS special guests during the 30th Year Anniversary Celebration and Open



House at Halliday House. Halliday House, formerly called Leighton, was the childhood home of Mr Halliday who is one of Grace and Rudel Halliday's children. Rudel Halliday, being the son of Henry Thomas Halliday, the original owner of Halliday House.

Mr Halliday, who now resides in Beechboro, visited with this granddaughter Vicki Barrett (née Halliday), her husband Marty and her two children Lulu and Gerry. "We really enjoyed our visit to Halliday House," Mrs Barrett said. "Pa, especially enjoyed his trip down memory lane."



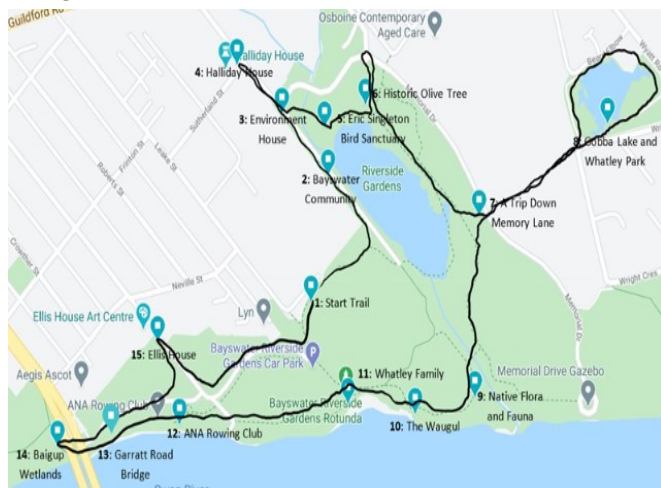
Photos courtesy of Vicki Barrett

Have you been on the Bayswater Foreshore Play Trail?

The BHS wishes to acknowledge BHS member Alex Ellis for her outstanding work and contribution to the Bayswater community.

The Bayswater Foreshore Play Trail app has recently been developed and has proven a great success. Bayswater local Alex Ellis, who worked with the City to develop the app, said she was excited to finally share the many fabulous local stories and activities with the community. "Bayswater is such a special place. It has been a privilege to work with many dedicated Baysie community members to make this trail. They encompass what this trail is all about - appreciation and protection of our natural gems, a strong sense of community, reflection on our history, and a want to learn about Noongar culture," said Ms Ellis.

The purpose of the Trail is to showcase the history, attractions, and native wonders the Bayswater foreshore has to offer, in a fun way. Accompanying the interactive trail is a treasure hunt, where little ones can take a check off list with them to find nine special items along the trail.



Stops include:

Stop 1: Start Trail - Acknowledgement of Country. Respectfully acknowledging the traditional owners of the land this trail is on.

Stop 2: Bayswater Community - Bayswater has a strong sense of community who help protect and upkeep its natural spaces.

Stop 3: Enviro House - aiming to 'walk the talk' and 'talk the walk' on climate protection, river & wetland care and other sustainability issues.

Stop 4: Halliday House - this landmark building's importance continues today through its use by the Bayswater Historical Society.

Stop 5: Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary - an urban wetland and rehabilitation success story.

Stop 6: Historic Olive Tree - the olive tree has special significance for the district, having been planted by the early settlers in the 1800s.



Stop 7: A trip down Memory Lane - Bayswater has had an influential role in many of the wars and conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

Stop 8: Gobba Lake and Whatley Park - a man-made lake with historic significance to the City; and a forgotten railway station.

Stop 9: Native Flora and Fauna - find out a bit more about plants and critters which are native to Bayswater.

Stop 10: The Waugal - the giver of life who maintains all fresh water sources.

Stop 11: Whatley Family - Anne Whatley's diary provides a rare insight into the early European settlement of Bayswater.

Stop 12: ANA Rowing Club - from Barrack Street to Bayswater: a centenary of rowing

Stop 13: Garratt Road Bridge - connecting North to South: the longest remaining timber bridge in WA.

Stop 14: Baigup Wetlands - a very interesting, varied and complex site in its history, current state and potential.

Stop 15: Ellis House - a beautiful historic home dedicated to fine art activities.



For more information about the Bayswater Foreshore Play Trail, visit www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/city-and-council/history-and-heritage

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. COVID-19 safety measures and mandatory contact registration using the SafeWA app must be adhered to by all visitors during the Open House.

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 to 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.

Website www.bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au

Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram @bayswaterhistoricalsociety



Opinions expressed in *Historical Bayswater* are not necessarily those of the Bayswater Historical Society Inc.

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Extra! Extra! BHS News



It has been a busy month after the 30th year celebrations. The BHS Management Committee members continued working on projects in the background.

First up was finalising the content to the long-awaited BHS website before its launched. We're happy to announce that the website is now live.

Check it out on: www.bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au

Some of our committee members attended the Community Upskillers workshops conducted by the City of Bayswater. Stemming from the latest workshop, we are pleased to announce that the BHS is in the process of developing our Strategic Plan for 2021-2024. This would be ready by the next Annual General Meeting in August.

Recently, our Chairperson Christina Middleton and Secretary Glen Cookson attended the 2-day South West Heritage Conference held in the beautiful town of Busselton. It was a productive two days with informative lectures and workshops. We will share more exciting news soon, resulting from the conference.



Photo courtesy of Collections WA

Finally, with the WA government COVID-19 restrictions and the 3-day snap lockdown during the ANZAC Day weekend, the April Halliday House Open House has been cancelled. The next Open House will be on Sunday, 23rd May 12:00 noon to 3:00pm.