

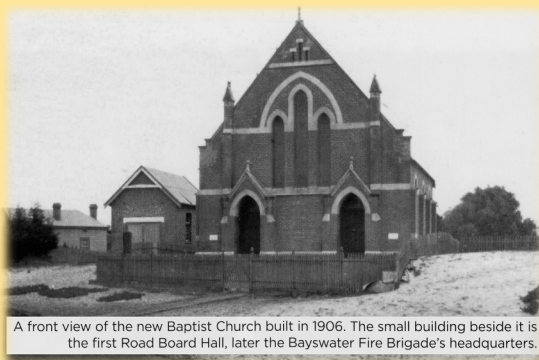
# Bayswater Historical Society Inc.

# NEWSLETTER



## ARTICLE 1

CAN PLANTING TREES  
BE HISTORIC?



A front view of the new Baptist Church built in 1906. The small building beside it is the first Road Board Hall, later the Bayswater Fire Brigade's headquarters.

**NAIDOC  
Week 2022**

3-10 JULY

**GET UP!  
STAND UP!  
SHOW UP!**



## ARTICLE 2

Reflecting on NAIDOC Week (3-10 July 2022)

### July 2022 Newsletter Notices

#### Coming Events:

- Sunday 24 July 2022 Museum Open Day 1-4pm - 114 King William Street Bayswater
- Sunday 28 August 2022 Museum Open Day 1-4pm - 114 King William Street Bayswater
- Monday 29 August 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) 6pm Venue and Agenda TBA.
- Sunday 25 September 2022 Museum Open Day 1-4pm - 114 King William Street Bayswater
- Sunday 23 October 2022 Museum Open Day 1-4pm - 114 King William Street Bayswater
- Sunday 27 November 2022 Museum Open Day 1-4pm - 114 King William Street Bayswater
- Note: By appointment the Museum is opened every Friday 9:30am – 12:00pm to members and volunteers for research and viewing. Limited numbers and masks are required.

#### Acknowledgements:

- Editor - Wayne Swindells, Copy Editor – Glen Cookson
- Lisa Baker MLA, Member for Maylands for printing this newsletter.



# *Historical Bayswater*

## NEWSLETTER

PRESERVE - PROTECT - PROMOTE

### **1. CAN PLANTING TREES BE HISTORIC ?**

*Slade Street olive tree 180 years young and still going strong.*



Photograph: Glen Cookson

Still growing strong in 2022, the renowned Slade Street olive tree which now constitutes the City of Bayswater logo, was reputed to have been planted by Mrs Whalan of Guildford in the 1840's. In 1896 it became the first meeting place of the Bayswater Baptist Church congregation. 'Leighton' (Halliday) House was the first indoor meeting place.

Facing food scarcity, early settlers planted olive and other fruit trees to help sustain a small community struggling with an unfamiliar and harsh environment. The Slade Street Olive Tree is probably the only tree that has survived from those early days. That it has survived is a miracle and perhaps deserving of a detailed study as to the reasons why.

It has been reported that the first Bayswater Baptist Church congregation was most likely held under the now heritage listed Slade Street olive tree in 1896. At that stage the tree would have been a substantial 50 year old tree. Amongst the first settlers to Bayswater were a small and dedicated first congregation consisting of Henry and Edith Halliday, William and Ada Law -Davis, Mr

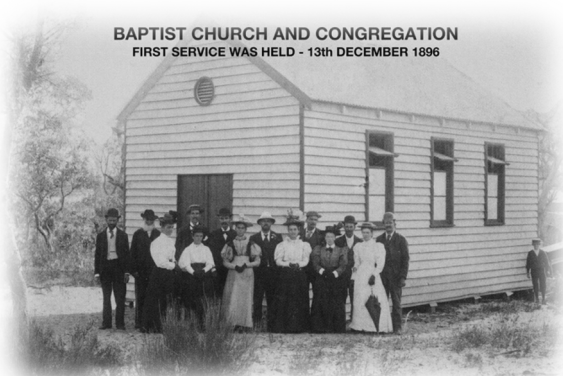
DeSouza and Mrs Stone quickly set about building a small wooden structure. In 1896, this was the first church in Bayswater and the first Baptist church building in WA. In 1906 a more substantial building was erected and in 1963 the old wooden structure was removed. In 2022, this impressive building remains and is the home of the Romanian Baptist church.



Henry Thomas Halliday and his wife Edith Halliday nee Stone



William and Ada Law-Davis



### *The first Baptist Church*

*(Notice the cheeky young boy, rear corner)*

It could be argued that there was strong community support, spiritual connection and at the very least, respect, for the Slade Street olive tree. Certainly there was a strong connection with some of the most prominent and significant early settlers. Henry Halliday was a Master Builder and first Roads Board Chairperson, while the Law-Davis and Stone families were other influential community members. It is of interest to note the number of these family names attached to Bayswater roads, reserves and streets, e.g., Halliday Reserve, Halliday Street, Stone Street.



This olive tree is considered “famous” and it “is the oldest remnant of European habitation in the district.” (May 2006 p. 34) It is thought to have been planted in the early 1840’s by Mrs Whalan of Guildford.

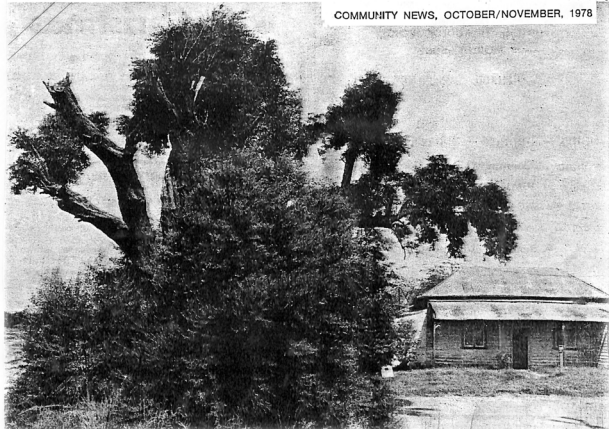
In the 1930’s, with the first pioneer Italian families arriving, the olive tree “gained a new following as Italian people gathered there for the communal olive harvest.” (May 2013 p.187). May (2013) writes that the current City of Bayswater emblem is based on this olive tree. The City of Bayswater writes

that the emblem features a stylised olive tree and the colours and features of the logo also hold significance. The central cog of the emblem represents industry and commerce; the roots, trunk and leaves identify the past, continuing strength and future growth. The colours of the logo include green and yellow, depicting the natural environment, and red represents the arteries of transport and other vital services provided by the City to its ratepayers.



## National Trust gives nod to our olive

COMMUNITY NEWS, OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1978



One hundred and twenty eight years ago one of Bayswater's earliest settlers planted an Olive tree seedling near his home. Today it is a giant, not only in size but in reputation as probably the biggest Olive tree in W.A. and

one of the biggest in the country. Its renown has prompted the National Trust of Australia (W.A.) to name it as part of the heritage of Australia, and register it as 'an important area'.

The Tree has been a local 'identity' for the past fifty years or so and was the centre of a mild public outcry many years ago when it was lopped to give passage to overhead power lines. It is on the verge of Slade Street on the river side of Guildford Road, Bayswater.

ABOVE LEFT:

Highlighted in yellow is the word "mild".

It could be questioned if the outcry was indeed accurately reported



ABOVE:

The olive tree before being damaged to make way for overhead power lines

So, this olive tree offers history and heritage value to numerous sections of the community and was recognised with a plaque and placed on the Swan River heritage trail as part of Australia's bicentennial project. You are encouraged to go and visit this magnificent tree in Slade Street just 100 metres riverside of the Guildford Road intersection. Let us know what you think. Have those responsible given our history and heritage the respect it deserves. Are there educational and tourism opportunities that could be developed?





**LEFT:**

Dedicated members of the Baptist Church quickly moved from meeting under the Slade Street olive tree to an elevated site along Guildford Road.

In 1896 a small wooden structure was built. It was the first church in Bayswater and the first Baptist church building in WA. Henry and Edith Halliday, William and Ada Law -Davis, Mr DeSouza and Mrs Stone are listed as the builders.

In 1909, a more striking and substantial building was erected and in 1963 the old wooden structure was removed.

**RIGHT:**

Stands an impressive building and is today the home of the Romanian Baptist church. (Photograph: Glen Cookson)

**References:**

May, C (2013), 'CHANGES THEY'VE SEEN The City and People of Bayswater 1827-2013', City of Bayswater, Morley.  
Bayswater Historical Society Inc. Files  
Open Sourced computer imagery  
[www.bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au)  
<https://chriscornish.info/the-most-historic-tree-in-bayswater/>

## 2. Reflecting on NAIDOC Week (3-10 July 2022)

NAIDOC Week is a chance to come together and celebrate the histories, cultures and achievements of First Nations people here in Australia.

Each year NAIDOC will choose a theme to build the celebrations around. In 2022 that theme is Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! It's focused on supporting and securing institutional, structural, collaborative and cooperative reforms.

NAIDOC Week is a chance to celebrate and learn about First Nations Peoples — their histories, cultures and achievements. It can be a great opportunity to bring First Nations perspectives into our local community in a way that's respectful, informative and celebratory.

**The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation to the Australian people from First Nations Australians. It asks Australians to walk together to build a better future by establishing a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution, and the establishment of a Makarrata Commission for the purpose of treaty making and truth-telling.**

**Why not research our local First Nations people, the Wadjuk Noongar people, their history in Bayswater? More information can be found at:**

[www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/city-and-council/history-and-heritage/local-history](http://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/city-and-council/history-and-heritage/local-history)

<https://australianstogether.org.au/resources-2/naidocweek2022/>

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

<https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/>

## **BAYSWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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<https://bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au>



*Photograph by C Middleton*

## **PRESERVE • PROTECT • PROMOTE**

The Bayswater Historical Society Inc. was formed in 1991. It is a non-profit organization 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.

Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram @bayswaterhistoricalsociety