



# Bayswater Historical Society

## PRESERVE - PROTECT - PROMOTE

# NEWSLETTER

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



This view was opposite the Bayswater train Station.  
The facades are fantastic!

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Note: Our Membership Year goes from 1 September - 31 August each year. A Membership Renewal notice is also attached for your convenience. If paying by EFT, please note member sub and your name. Thank you to all those members that have recently renewed their subscription. The Society is run by volunteers and depends on membership fees and donations. Contact the Secretary if you can support our aims by contributing in any way you are able.

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## 2023 BHS Sundowner Highlights

Our final event for 2023 was held on Sunday 26 November and was a great highlight and a most enjoyable event. A special thank you to our BHS Management Committee; Monica Main (Chairperson), Wendy Garstone (Vice Chair) Glen Cookson (Secretary), Lewis Cox (Treasurer), Julie Murphy, Greg Smith, Branka Radanovich (Master Chef Catering Services), Lazar Radanovich (Event Set-Up Services) and Wayne Swindells. While not on our original duty list Tony and Kay from MITE Radio, supported as with their sound system, photography, and talent – so pleased that Kay won the Bunnings voucher – perhaps karma! Marion stepped in as photographer at large – Shannon seamlessly provided quality service with a smile – Barbara sales outreach - all supporting an engaging evening of fun and friendship. Thanks, and appreciation to all.

There were many highlights – our Chairperson's leadership and hilarious commentary, Penny becoming the centre of attention and being appropriately cared for. Unbelievable top-quality catering and service, dedicated bar service team, ticket collection, security, banking, electrical faults and repair, problem solving, kids' entertainment, new membership recruitment, and the list goes on.

















## Gary Warne's Memories of Bayswater

Reporter: Lewis J. Cox



**Gary Warne has worked in Bayswater for 42 years and is the Licensee/Principal of Ray White Carters Real Estate, 3A King William Street Bayswater.**

I first met Gary Warne in person to conduct an interview on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 1:00 PM. First impressions, Gary Warne seems to be the consummate professional in how you should own and run a business. Over the past 42 years, Gary Warne has handled the sale of all types of properties, you name it, Gary has seen countless sales of apartments, blocks, commercial, flats, homes, houses, industrial townhouses, and villas. Creating a huge personal and professional database of knowledge.

This is evident in his commitment and dedication which comes easily to Gary as his connection is both personal and professional. His personality demonstrates honesty and care about people. His knowledge develops trust and reassures his clients. During our interview I immediately found Gary to be a walking smorgasbord of information and knowledge delivered confidently and articulately.

Gary Warne was born in the Perth Suburb of Mount Hawthorn in 1957. He attended Osborne Park Primary School (1963-1969). He went to Kalamunda High School (1970-1975). The following is a description of the era Gary Warne and other students grew up in, and how we interpret this when we look back now, well it is up to the individuals themselves how they see the baby boomer generation. It covers those born from 1946-1964 referred to in Webster's Dictionary and Wikipedia as the post-war generation where the world's population increased to 2.3 billion, to when baby boomers came of age in 1964, to 3.3 billion. In 2023 the world's population was recorded as 8,045,000,000.

Gary like this writer faced an era where technology was being introduced into the classroom. The technology (for teachers - blackboard and chalk, and for students – ink-well, pen with steel nib and blotting paper) is prehistoric compared to today's schools. Blackboards were in every classroom, chalk was the implement used, totally different to the internet-connected high-tech visual screens we have with multi-adaptive functionality. Textbooks were all the rage, and now research material is mostly online.



It is easy to forget the simple wooden desks and manual school bells that students of the '60s know so well, so here are a few reminders of the best parts of class from the good old days. Remember lunchtime, buying your lunch was a treat, most days students brought a homemade lunch and played games. I am sure everyone remembers the school milk ration. However, who could forget the National Anthem music which was provided by a windblown often off-key recorder. This was a standard event, and a task we endured on a regular basis, back in the 1960s and 1970s. Changing the National Anthem from 'God Save The Queen' to 'Advance Australia Fair', was memorable. The National Anthem was inflicted on all students at all school assembly days, sporting events and parades and so on. Even though 'God Save the Queen', it is no longer used, the lyrics are most likely still fresh in the minds of Baby Boomers like Gary Warne. Though not heard or sung for decades the lyrics are still etched in my mind.

Gary Warne moved on and attended Kalamunda High from (1970-1975), like most baby boomers we all were faced with many political and social-cultural challenges and changes. Everyone reflects on their high school experience differently. I am sure Gary Warne is no different. For some students in the 1970s, it was like being trapped living in a movie version of *Lord of the Flies*. With a touch of irony, this was a standard text for students aged 12 in Year 7. Corporal punishment was still allowed and depending on the teacher was implemented regularly. In 1975 teachers could still smoke, as students did too provided, they did not get caught smoking on school premises.

In summer, there was no air conditioning, and classrooms became hot boxes especially those that were prefabricated, and transportable as they are more commonly known today. In winter, with no heating, students joked about freezing to death...so in summer, we cooked and sweated. In winter, we had very inefficient un-flued gas heaters that slowly poisoned us with carbon monoxide, while we froze to death. Amazingly, we Baby Boomers got out of there alive, ha-ha.

Now aged 21, in 1978, Gary Warne married his wife of 45 years, Virginia. In 1981, Gary and his family moved to Bayswater, and the same year commenced a career in real estate. Both his wife Virginia and son, Daniel are in the Real Estate business. In 1989 Gary Warne became Ray White Carters Real Estate Licensee/Principal. The same year he joined the business, he bought in as a partner before owning the business outright. In the 1990s the property boom occurred where values skyrocketed. By 1992 Gary Warne commenced his connection with the Bayswater Historical Society holding the positions and titles of President and Treasurer. His involvement was influenced by a Life Member at the time, Grace Hardie (1926-1998) lobbying him to join the Society and tap his expertise and experience in the historical matters of Bayswater. "How did Grace Hardie influence you?", I asked.

To quote Gary Warne directly.

*"Grace lived in Burnside Street and would drop into the office fairly regularly. This I believe sparked my interest in Bayswater's history. We spent many delightful hours in the State Library researching the early settler's ownership through postal rolls. It was when she loaned me a copy of a small booklet put together in 1948 by students at Bayswater Primary School on the history of Bayswater which was fascinating. I took over as chair shortly after." (Warne, 2023).*



Grace Hardie was a prominent Bayswater Community leader for decades. Grace was a proud community member with a deep understanding of its history and selfless contributor to improve Bayswater amenities for all. Grace was acknowledged as the City of Bayswater 1996 Citizen of the Year for her community work. Grace was also the Founding and Life Member of the Bayswater Historical Society.

Gary Warne is a member of the Retail Traders Association and played key roles in the establishment of the committee. He supported the creation of the Bendigo Bank and served as Chairperson and Director of the bank. The birth of Bendigo Bank mainly came about due to the closure of the CBA branch compounded by the removal of ATMs of the "Big Four" (ANZ, Commonwealth Bank, National Australia Bank, and Westpac). Gary Warne believes that history does play a role, in a suburb when it is necessary and needed. The role of history to preserve, promote, and protect, is relevant, but "for protection not for payer protection's sake."

Bayswater and the city are hilly areas with a range of prices, and styles that have real heritage, not a "plastic suburb," but one that has a real feel of life to it, Gary Warne believes Bayswater has in spades. Bayswater to Gary Warne, represents the lifeblood of the suburb has not changed much since the 1960s and in 2023 still underpins a feeling of peace and tranquillity. This teaches us that history has value about the city of Bayswater which connects to local business, family, and friends. The history of a particular subject and topic is not created and is not there for you to like or dislike. History is for everyone either groups or individuals to learn.

Knowing our own local history, apart from being good for business helps us appreciate, enjoy and understand our local community. Knowing and having a real connection with our community enables us to help others and make a difference by positive contributions like Grace Hardie (1926-1998).





**Ray White Carters Real Estate, 3A King William Street Bayswater**

Given, that the new Bayswater Train Station opened on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023, I asked Gary if the urban sprawl and being an inner suburb 6 km from the Perth Central District, is there a chance Bayswater will become a high destiny residential suburb. Gary replied, "No, Bayswater is a great suburb, it has been his experience...Most people who move to Bayswater never move out again once they moved in...Such is the charm and quality of life in the suburb of Bayswater."

In conclusion, I leave you with the following quotations:

"History is not a burden on the memory but an illumination of the soul." Lord Acton (1834-1902)

"Without words, without writing and without books there would be no history, there could be no concept of humanity."  
Herman Hesse (1877-1962)

These quotes confirm the value of historical preservation past and present for future generations. Therefore, people who come to live and visit from far and wide are welcome to spend the time and You are welcome to visit our museum, located at Leighton (Halliday House) 114 King William Street, Bayswater. It's a great place to meet local historians and an excellent resource to learn more about the heritage and history of Bayswater.

**Open days are on the fourth Sunday 1-4pm of each month, Feb-Nov. Visit our website for more information.**

## References

<https://bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Dalberg-Acton,\\_1st\\_Baron\\_Acton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dalberg-Acton,_1st_Baron_Acton)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann\\_Hesse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Hesse)

<https://www.naa.gov.au/>

<https://raywhitecarters.com.au/>

<https://starts60.com/media/opinion/nostalgia/saved-by-the-bell-remembering-school-in-the-60s>





**INTERESTING PEOPLE INTERESTING TIMES**  
**ON MITE RADIO** [MITERADIO.COM.AU](http://MITERADIO.COM.AU)

Did you miss the interview with Lewis Cox on MITE Radio? Catch the replay at 10am Monday 23rd October as we chat with about Bayswater Historical Society and Carers.



Is a not-for-profit station offering easy listening music PLUS lots of IT tips, and it is aimed towards the seniors in our community, We are mighty pleased to let you know that MITE radio will soon be running regular workshops at Leighton (Halliday) House.

Radio is another valuable way to promote and preserve history through telling stories of the past, so of course we're very much looking forward to MITE radio becoming part of the BHS community. Maybe check out MITE radio for yourself - [miteradio.com.au](http://miteradio.com.au) and download the app.



**AUSTRALIAN**  
**ONLINE RADIO**

**SPECIAL GUESTS**  
**MUSIC FROM THE 1940S TO 1980S**

**FEATURING**  
**TECH TIPS & TRICKS**

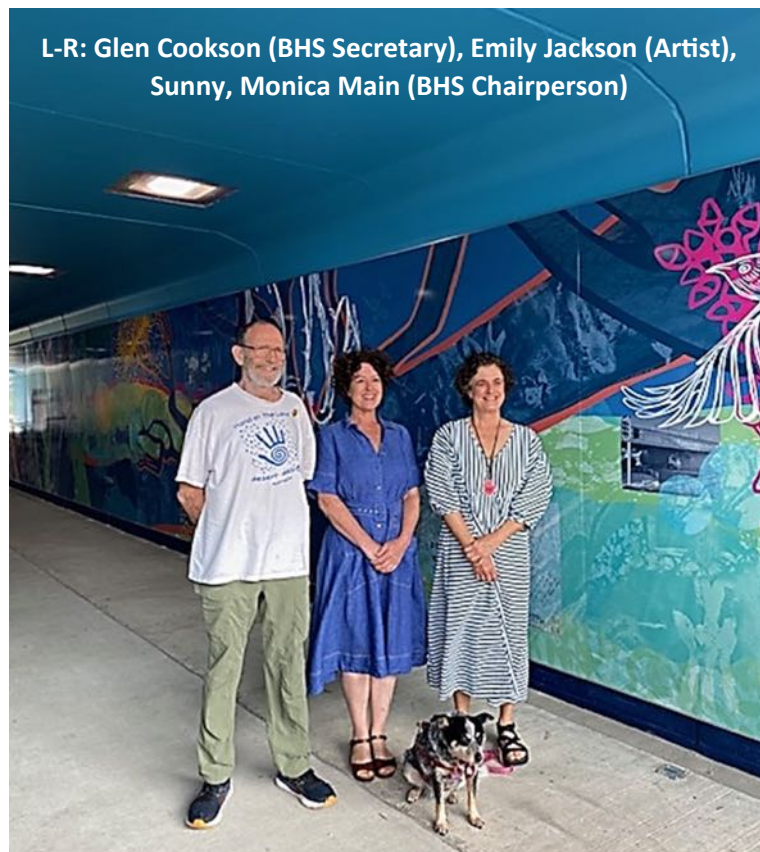
BHS members Tony & Kay



## Photo Shoot to celebrate the completion of the public art in the Leake St underpass.

The Bayswater Railway Station development has promised the local community engaging and quality public artwork and landscaping. Commissioned artist, Emily Jackson invited Bayswater Historical Society representatives to a special photo shoot to celebrate the completion of the Leake Street underpass public art work. This is a wonderful public artwork and certainly sets the standard in terms of matching PR promises to real outcomes. Artist, Emily Jackson has done a masterful job.

Employing best practice strategies, Emily researched thoroughly and engaged the local community including the BHS and Bayswater Primary School. The BHS were able to supply a range of historical source documents via the State Records Office and its own archival records. These all related to the history and heritage associated with the Bayswater Railway Station and surrounding land development from 1829. Emily engaged with the local BPS students via art workshops and has skilfully integrated their work into her final design. I am sure this public art work will be something many locals young and old will be proud of for many decades to come.



L-R: Glen Cookson (BHS Secretary), Emily Jackson (Artist), Sunny, Monica Main (BHS Chairperson)



### Recommendation to METRONET:

Use the Leake Street Underpass public art as a model to design the other wall spaces. There are many unpainted walls that could be turned into engaging , beautiful art that our community would be proud of.



# WHAT'S IN A NAME Project

## Introduction

We're very pleased to announce a new project that we've been working on over the past few months! It's called 'What's In a Name' because we think that behind every place name there is a story that's worth remembering!

The project has two objectives, firstly to uncover the origin of the names of ALL places in the City of Bayswater. That's parks, streets, community centres, lakes, etc. The City of Bayswater generously provided us with a list of all the names in this council area, and some basic information on these names, but there are a good few gaps that we are endeavouring to fill.

The second aspect of the project has been to look at WHO and WHAT has been honoured by having a place named after them/it. We were inspired by the Engage Bayswater survey earlier this year where residents were invited by council to put forward possible names for future places.

There are a lot of existing places named after white males and English towns, so to improve inclusivity and help address the imbalance our research so far has found stories of several women who made a significant contribution to the Bayswater community and, we think deserve to be honoured.

Further expanding the diversity of place names is important, for example, in time we'd like to find out more about early Chinese market gardeners who lived in the City, and we have been told the Reconciliation Advisory Committee is putting forward some First Nations individuals and important indigenous flora and fauna names.

We will share the stories we find as we go. If you find researching fun, you are very welcome to join us. If you have any further information or even better, photos, to complement stories to share, please feel free to get in touch!

## What's in a Name project – Story number 1 - BENARA ROAD

The first place name we are looking at is Benara Rd. Running east-west across the north of the City of Bayswater, its first section was simply a sandy track built in the Swan Road Board (now the City of Swan) in 1894.

The City of Bayswater's records show the origin of the name as: 'Name first appeared on LTO Plan 903 did confirm that there was a sheep station called Benara Station near Mt Gambier, SA, in the late 19th century. Perhaps someone associated with this station moved to WA and proposed the name Benara in memory of their previous home.

Delving into the newspaper archives, we've found some more information around Benara Rd.

*In 1895 at a Swans Road Board meeting, the road's maintenance was discussed: 'A petition from Mr. John Oaten and others, with reference to repairs required to a road known as Benara Road, leading in the direction of Wanneroo, was received, and it was decided that this will also stand over till the next meeting, when a full attendance may be expected.'*

*In 1905, the condition of the road was again a problem, this time the complaint was from the Beechboro Progress Association:*

**At the Swan** Road Board meeting on Jan 4th, a letter was read from Jas Smith, secretary of the Beechboro Progress Association, stating that the following resolutions had been passed at a largely attended meeting on the Jan 4th :*'That the Swan Roads Board be urged to proceed with the hardening of the Benara Road, as also the clearing of a 15ft track to its junction with the Bayswater-Beechboro Road. The present season is an appropriate time to give attention to that portion of Beechboro Road, opposite the Rev Bray's property. '*





### A BAYSWATER ROAD BOARD CEREMONY.

Yesterday week the Minister for Works (Mr. W. J. George) officially opened the latest portion of Benara-road, which junctions with Beechboro-road, at Bayswater. He was accompanied by Dr. A. J. H. Saw, M.L.C., and Mr. J. T. Davies, M.L.A. The picture shows the assembly just as the official car was about to sever the tape.

(Photo by H. Hart. Maylands).

Image source: Trove

In the 1930s, Benara Rd serviced scattered farms. The nearest centre for the Benara Rd farmers and their families was the rural community of Morley Park. Morley Park was the original name for Morley. The Morley Park Progress Association was a community group that organised many social events as well as actively lobbying the Road Board to improve services.



Image: Testing four wheel drive truck use for Benara Rd works, 1936. Source: Trove.



In 1933 Benara Rd was centre stage around a proposal to extend it all the way to the beach! The Morley Park Progress Assoc had many concerns about this idea, as per this news article:

**HIGHWAY TO THE OCEAN Benara-Road Route Opposed.** *At a meeting of the Bassendean Road Board on Friday night, a letter was received from the Morley Park Progress Association stating that it viewed with considerable alarm the effort being made to have Benara-road constructed as a pleasure highway from Midland Junction to the coast. The result of the construction of this road would be prejudicial to the completion of Government-road, the letter stated, and would tend to render useless the money already spent for the very- definite purpose of assisting primary producers.'* [Note: Government Rd was later renamed as Walter Rd].

This article from 1936 shows that, as early residents well know, the area north of Bayswater and in Morley Park and the as yet unnamed Noranda had much remnant bush and swamp.

HUNTING. Meet at Bayswater. (By "John Peel")

*In good hunting weather members of the West Australian Hunt Club met at the Bayswater Hotel on Saturday afternoon. The field moved off along Beechboro-road, turned westward at the tannery corner, and headed for the swamps bounding Morley Park. The country on the fringes was bare and the huntsman veered northward going deeper into the park. Working up towards Benara-road, hounds began to scamper ahead and presently they gave tongue in chorus. The brush varied its course like a veteran, first heading for Benara-road, and then swinging sharply round the hillside and striking-a good rate for Morley swamp.* [Note: the term 'brush' is assumed to mean a kangaroo or wallaby that the hunters gave chase too.]

**Seems the West Australian had a slow news day, 22 Aug 1949!**

### BUMP CAUSES INJURY

While playing with his children at his home at Benara-road, Morley Park, yesterday afternoon, William Risdon (35), bumped his head heavily. He felt dazed and last night reported to the Royal Perth Hospital; He was found to have concussion and was admitted for treatment



SOURCE: CHANGES THEY'VE SEEN

Lovegrove's poultry farm in the corner of Russell Street and Walter Road, Morley Park.



**This advertisement from the 1950s shows the land use along Benara Rd at this time****BAYSWATER, BENARA-ROAD. 20 ACRES, HOUSE**

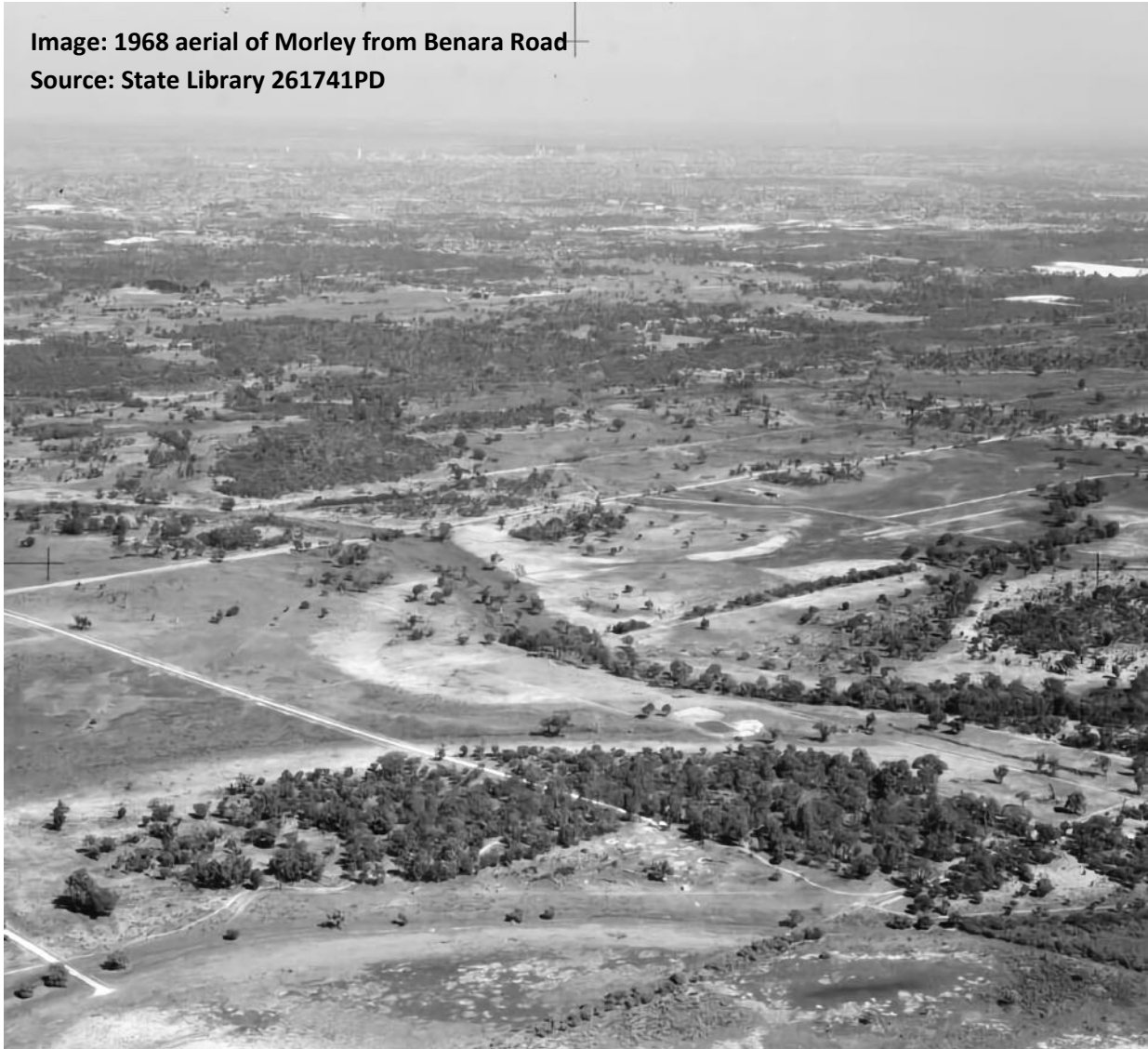
Four-roomed house, bath, washhouse, sheds, divided yards, some good summer land, e. light, scheme water, well, w. mill, horse, cart. , 2 cows, plant, tools, some furniture, all in very good condition, £1.950.

**BENARA-ROAD. MORLEY PARK HOUSE 10 ACRES.**

In her book on the history of the City of Bayswater, 'Changes They've Seen' Cathie May describes land use at the western end of Benara Road:

*In 1951, there were five families with young children living beyond the end of the gravel part of Benara Road and in 1954 there were nine, including several Dutch families*

**Image: 1968 aerial of Morley from Benara Road**  
**Source: State Library 261741PD**

**1960s**

'By the 1960s, Benara Road was the last stronghold of poultry farms, eventually being overtaken by the settlement of Noranda.' (BHS Local heritage Survey)

**1963**

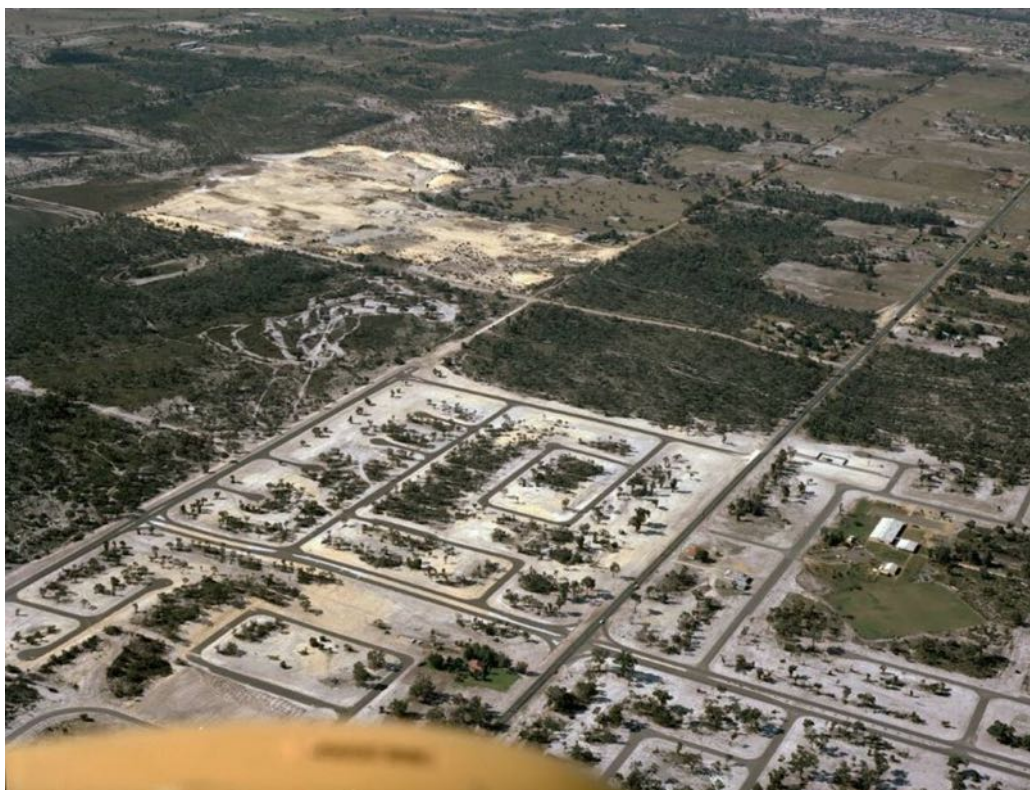
The name Benara is well known around WA because Benara Nurseries was located on and named after Benara Road when the business was established in Morley in 1963. Many people have memories as this being their go-to nursery.

**In the 1970s** the poultry farms along Benara Road were replaced with housing through the implementation of a new planning scheme, described as 'the largest residential development challenge the Shire Council would ever undertake'. Cathie May in her book on the history of the City of Bayswater described the scheme further:



The idea was conceived in 1970 and, from the outset, was innovatory. It was based on the provision of scheme sewerage, so that stormwater drainage, groundwater drainage and sewerage were integrated. Underground power was included in the design. Major roads were kept out of the settled area to create a quiet, secluded environment, with groups of forty or fifty houses positioned around small parks. It was to be 9 kilometres from north to south and 3.7 kilometres from east to west, producing 1934 lots. This made it the largest 'total resumption' scheme undertaken by a local body in Australia at that time.

The scheme was approved in 1976. First auction of lots took place in 1978. Benara Road was on its way to its current function: a fully suburban arterial road, flanked by businesses and medium density housing.



**Image:** Street view 2023.

If you have any stories or photos that add to Benara Road's story, we'd love to hear from you!

**Credits:** BHS Local Heritage Survey, 'Changes They've Seen, State Library, Trove, Wikipedia



## Farewell to 2023: Message from the Chair

Dear Members and Friends

2023 has been a busy and productive year. The BHS has run a full program of Open Days, regular Friday morning workshops and has initiated several historical research projects. While we receive donations and membership fees, these fall well short of what is required to cover costs including our costly insurance.

We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers, generous members, and support from the City of Bayswater to look after building maintenance costs and general grounds and garden upkeep. Our hard-working volunteers regularly monitor and report on building and grounds security and maintenance needs.

Special events have been held, not only to raise funds but to promote and preserve the unique history of Bayswater. This has required 100's of volunteer hours requiring an understanding of the importance of heritage and a professional approach in caring and recording our history, including some interesting inconvenient truths. We believe that understanding our history is fundamental to improved planning and a better future community development.

Being part of an understanding and committed team makes it possible and worthwhile. It feels amazing to be part of a team full of individuals with their own unique talents and expertise who are happy to work together on our shared vision. Everyone made a valued contribution to pull off what I believe to be another successful year of regular engagements and special events.

A huge thanks to all those that attended the wonderful 2023 Sundowner in the beautiful Leighton gardens. Everyone generously contributed towards raising funds that will cover most of our fixed costs for 2024. We have an exciting program taking shape for 2024 and welcome new members and volunteers to our team of dedicated Bayswater historians.

A special thank you to our BHS Management Committee; Wendy Garstone (Vice Chair) Glen Cookson (Secretary), Lewis Cox (Treasurer), Julie Murphy, Greg Smith, Branka Radanovich, Lazar Radanovich, Maggy Wade, and Wayne Swindells. Generous support from the following members: Alex Ellis, Marion Garstone, Bill Boyd, the Halliday and Robertson families over the year is much appreciated.

Wishing all our members and friends all the best for the festive season and coming New Year.

Leighton (Halliday House) will re-open on Sunday 25 February 2024.

## Monica Main

Monica Main BHS Chairperson



(PS) When out and about this season please drive safely !!!



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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. Leighton (Halliday) House is Bayswater's historic home and is used as the Society's base and museum.

*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.*