



Bayswater Historical Society

PRESERVE - PROTECT - PROMOTE

NEWSLETTER

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BAYSWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. AGM FINANCIAL REPORT

1ST JULY 2022 – 30TH JULY 2023



THE ROAD BOARD MOVED TO THIS NEW BUILDING
IN SLADE ST 1914.
LATER TO BE SHIRE THEN CITY, NOW IT IS
A CHURCH

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.



2023 SUNDOWNER FUNDRAISER MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Join us at Leighton (Halliday House)

114 King William St Bayswater

Sunday 26th Nov ... 4.00pm – 7.00pm

\$25 Entry – Includes, refreshments, canapés, raffle and games

***Get your tickets here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CLYUQ>**

Please RSVP by Wed 22 Nov *A family friendly event



PRESERVE - PROTECT - PROMOTE



King William

Antiques & Collectables

WG (Bill) BOYD

PROPRIETOR

15 King William St Bayswater WA 6053
OPEN 10.30-4.00 Thu-Sun. Other times by appt.
Phone 0409 887 622
 Follow us on *Instagram* @kingwilliamantiques

On Friday 16th June 2023 I met a local Bayswater identity WG (Bill) Boyd the local proprietor of King William Antiques & Collectables at 15 King William Street, Bayswater WA 6053. Born on 17th December 1947, Bill has been a resident of Bayswater for 23 years. During the interview, Bill displayed a delightful sense of humour-ready wit which oozed a wealth of knowledge of antiques and collectables and how the history of his merchandise has a story of creation behind each piece. The first thing you noticed when a person looking for that special antique is you will see a lot of beautiful items in Bill Boyd's shop which contains an enormous collection of vintage merchandise. They are all over the premises hung everywhere I was curious how he finds the space to hang everything in his store. Bill Boyd seems to have everything one could want, from home to personal trinkets.



William (Bill) Boyd
Circa 1965



William (Bill) Boyd
and Mum, Nov 11th,
1970



William (Bill) Boyd
July 24th, 2023

Bill moved to Western Australia from Maryborough Victoria in 1965 to Balingup, working with sheep teams in places like Esperance, Meekatharra and the Wheatbelt region. In 1974 Bill moved to Perth buying a house in Bassendean living there for 12 years. In 1995 Bill's residence was in Maylands and from 2000 lived in Bayswater working at this stage in the building and renovation field. I asked Bill how he came into Antiques and Collectables; he said a friend "lit the fire in me" and said to Bill "You should buy this" as the property had been on the market for a considerable amount of time. Prices are affordable, so no matter where you live from Two Rock to Mandurah it's worth the trip to Bayswater, if you love history, come, and see Bill Boyd, and while you are in the area take a short walk to the Bayswater Historical Society located at Halliday House 114 King William Street, Bayswater WA 6053 According to author Sara Sheridan (1968-) as a lover of historical artifacts, there is very little I like more than spending time sorting through boxes of old letters, diaries, maps, trinkets, and baubles."

[References]

<https://www.instagram.com/kingwilliamantiques/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Waldo_Emerson

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sara_Sheridan



King William Antiques. 15 King William Street BAYSWATER Western Australia Open 10.30 - 4.00 THURS, FRI, SAT, and SUN. Other days by appointment only. Phone +61409887622

Come one come all and see Bill Boyd at his shop at 15A William Street, Bayswater WA 6053, and spend time with Bill and visit a piece of local Bayswater history and remember to visit the Bayswater Historical Society. Visitors to Bill and King William Antiques & Collectables will surely not leave disappointed by quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson (1807-1882) "Our admiration of the antique is not admiration of the old, but of the natural."



A small sample of the treasures waiting for you Inside Bill's Shop



A History of the Avon Descent

Written by Mary Cheng Reference: <https://www.avondescent.com.au/2019/06/09/>



Avon Descent is a full two-day race in a powerboat, kayak, ski or stand-up paddle, as part of a single, double or a relay team. It is one of WA's most iconic and longest running major sporting and community events.

How did the Avon Descent begin?

In 1972, the Northam Tourist Committee evaluated the possibility of a powerboat and canoe race from Northam to Perth along the Avon River. Four men successfully completed a test run, which proved that a race was possible. They were John Izzard, Ron Bairstow, Rob Leslie, and Gerry Post. This catalysed the planning phase for a race that involved powerboats and a wide range of paddling classes. The race was prepared as a two-day event with competitors racing in a time-trialled car rally style.

The inaugural Avon Descent race took place on 21 – 22 July 1973. There were 54 entries and 23 of them finished, covering 134 km of the Avon and Swan Rivers.

The race has a history of advocating hard work, challenging oneself and taking the plunge. In August 2000, UWA News reported a couple of university students, who designed, built and drove a powerboat by the name of *Daytrader HQ*. The powerboat was part of an engineering project with which they attempted to race through the Avon Descent's infamous Extracts Weir. The Extracts Weir was originally 30 feet (914.4cm) deep but because of the silt brought down by the river over the years, it has become shallower, making the rocks protrude through the water a lot more. Through the rough waters, the university racers finished second in the 8 HP standard category and won the novice category as well. This was a remarkable achievement for the first-time racers.

AVON DESCENT

MAP OVERVIEW

EXPLANATION:
Bold Entries - represents a check point / teams changeover point.
Day 1 - cut off times should be added to your grid's starting time. All times marked on this map apply only to paddle craft.
Checkpoint/ Cut off Time • *Teams Changeover* • *Powercraft Fuel*

Padding Distances (km)		Toodyay		Northam	
Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2
15	28	33	37	54	64
13	18	22	29	49	57
9	9	26	36	44	54
4	4	21	31	39	50
17	27	35	46	55	65
10	18	29	38	42	46
11	20	24	28	35	41
9	13	17	24	31	37
4	8	15	22	28	35
7	11	17	24	31	37
13	24	31	41	50	60
10	18	29	38	42	46
50	58	63	67	74	81
68	77	81	85	92	100
83	92	96	100	107	114

Legend
river (day one)
river (day two)
river (not in race)
bridge
level crossing, rail bridge
road, track (public access)
road, track (teams access only)

The Avon Descent has been around for more than four decades, so it has been engrained in WA life for a while now. Kim states that the Avon Descent “has been a part of the fabric of WA life over the past 45 years. It is the only sporting event (Football grand finals and Cricket Test matches included) to be on the front page of all six (then) WA newspapers (1986).” The event largely depends on a number of factors not necessarily within the control of the organisers, such as the amount of rainfall in the season. While the impact of the Avon Descent has faded over the past few years because these factors, Kim believes that it is still an event that inspires awe.

Kim shared a memory from back in the early days: “I recall in 1976 the water level was so low that the race started from Posselts Ford and the Day One Finish was at Walyunga. The overnight stop was at the Ellen Brook Speedway. The Race Starter leaned back into the big dead tree that is still at Posselts and started each of the Grids by firing a shotgun. In 1979, as a result of low water, the section from Katrine to West Toodyay was deleted and craft were transported between these locations by their respective Support Crews. An administrative and logistical nightmare. The Cobbler Pool Campsite at the end of Day One became a mini city with many thousands of people camping there (estimates up to 10,000). With the advent of better cars and improved roads most paddlers choose to go home and then return early in the morning for the race start. However, for power boaters, the overnight camp at the Avon Descent remains one of the highlights of the annual racing calendar.” The course hasn’t changed much over the past four decades, apart from the finish locations, so racers are still able to experience what the course was like back in the day.



City of Bayswater Finish Line Festival 2023: Celebrating the Avon Descent 50th Anniversary

This year the Festival was on Sunday, 13 August at Riverside Gardens, Milne Street, Bayswater. Support crews and hundreds of spectators welcomed competitors over the finish line. There they listened to live commentary and watched the race live on the big screen. It was a sensational day of free entertainment, children's activities, food and informational stalls. The Bayswater Historical Society were pleased to accept an invitation to create a prominent stall space to support its vision of sharing the unique history of Bayswater.

Thank you to our volunteers; Lewis, Julie, Wayne, Greg, Lazar, Branka and Simon for helping to promote our Bayswater history and the work of the Historical Society to display Avon Descent artefacts and memorabilia coveing 50 years since inception. Significantly this event was celebrated on the banks of the natural beauty of the Swan River (Derbal Yerrigan) reminding us of its cultural and spiritual significance to the Noongar people.



Thanks to our dedicated BHS volunteers for managing our Information Stall, L – R: Lazar Radanovich, Wayne Swindells and Greg Smith. The stall had over 100 curious visitors several of whom were past participants interested in result sheets dating back to 1973

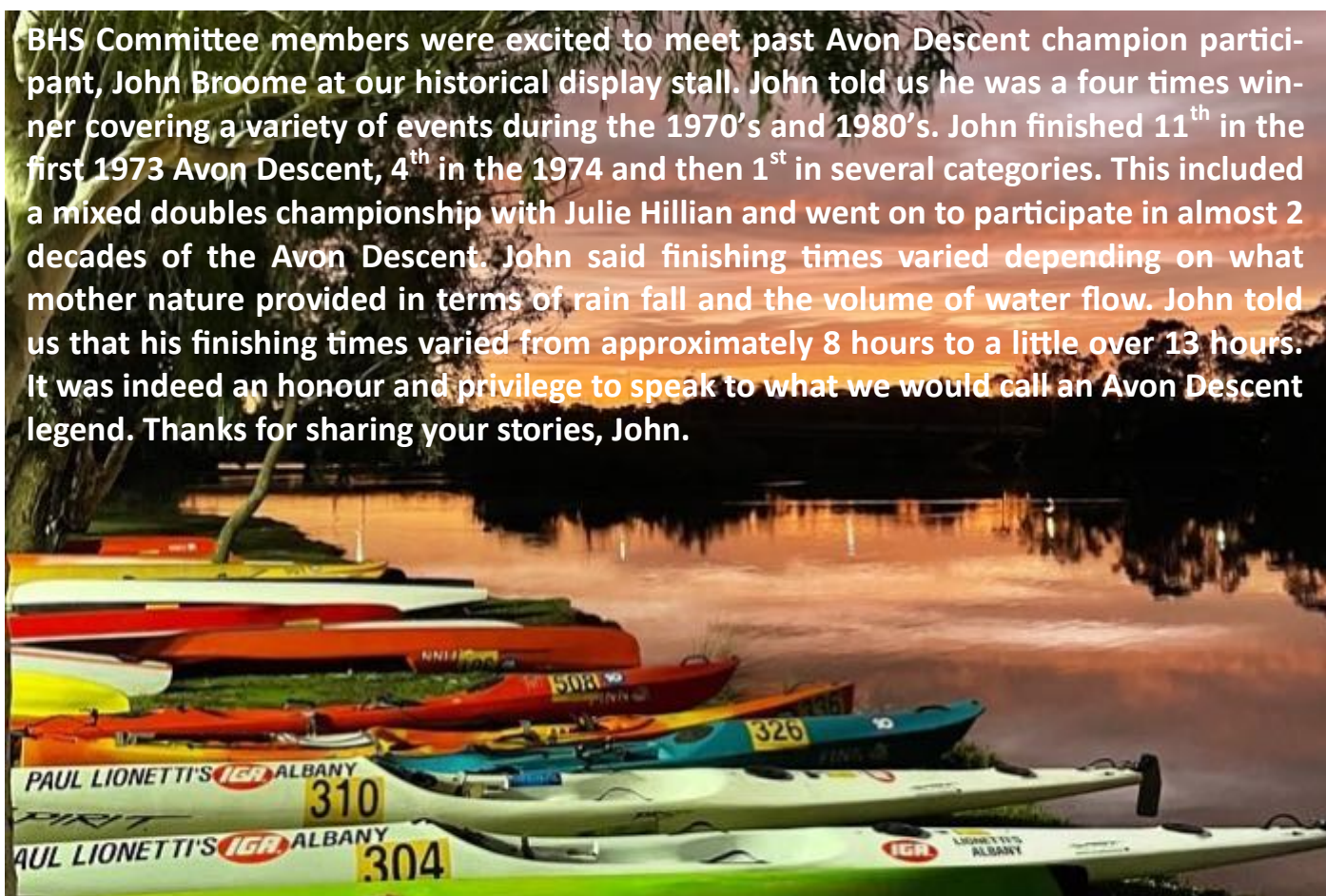


Bond to Bayswater Belter



Photo - L-R: Maggy Wade, John Broome, Glen Cookson and Wayne Swindells

BHS Committee members were excited to meet past Avon Descent champion participant, John Broome at our historical display stall. John told us he was a four times winner covering a variety of events during the 1970's and 1980's. John finished 11th in the first 1973 Avon Descent, 4th in the 1974 and then 1st in several categories. This included a mixed doubles championship with Julie Hillian and went on to participate in almost 2 decades of the Avon Descent. John said finishing times varied depending on what mother nature provided in terms of rain fall and the volume of water flow. John told us that his finishing times varied from approximately 8 hours to a little over 13 hours. It was indeed an honour and privilege to speak to what we would call an Avon Descent legend. Thanks for sharing your stories, John.



Highlights from the 2023 Bayswater Historical Society AGM held on 28 August.

Quorum requirements were confirmed by Secretary Glen Cookson and the meeting opened at 6.10pm at Leighton. The Chairperson was able to report on another productive year of Open Day events and participation in a variety of community events, Historic Bayswater publications, museum and garden improvements as well as local history re-search projects.

The Museum has been open every Friday morning where volunteers engaged in a variety of practical work and re-search projects. The ongoing valued contributions of volunteers and support from the Bayswater City Council were acknowledged.

The Chairperson was advised by the Secretary that all Management Committee positions had been filled as per the prescribed rules of our constitution.

Agenda Item 1: Election of 2023/2024 Management Committee

- Chairperson (Monica Main)
- Deputy Chairperson (Wendy Garstone)
- Secretary (Glen Cookson)
- Treasurer (Lewis Cox)
- Communications/Social Media Coordinator (Wendy Garstone)
- Communications/Newsletter Coordinator (Wayne Swindells)
- General Members (Wayne Swindells, Branka Radanovich, Lazar Radanovich, Julie Murphy, Maggy Wade, and Greg Smith)

Motion: That the Nominations received be accepted.

Moved: Dan Bull **Seconded:** Barbara Swindells **Motion passed unanimously.**



Top Row L-R: Dan Bull, Keith Clements, Greg Smith, Glen Cookson, Branka Radanovich, Lazar Radanovich, Wayne Swindells. Front Row L-R: Lewis Cox, Monica main, Maggy Wade, Barbara Swindells

BAYSWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

AGM FINANCIAL REPORT

1 JULY 2022 – 30 JUNE 2023

TREASURER REPORT

For the fiscal year ended 30th of June 2023, BHS has had an operating result of + \$2,878.00, compared to a loss in 2022 of \$1,152.95. This is made up of \$5,235.00 [2022- \$6,523.00] income and \$2,878.00 [2022 - \$7,675.95] in expenditure. For the fiscal year ending 30th of June 2022, there was an operating loss of \$1,669.69.

It is important to recognise the ongoing presence of COVID-19 and the necessary Health Department recommendations in connection with social distancing, wearing masks, and quality airflow in confined spaces. The work of the Society in terms of fellowship, networking, promotion, social interaction, meetings, and events has developed considerably. On 5th May 2023, the World Health Organisation [WHO] officially declared the pandemic over stating it is no longer classified as a worldwide threat. According to the press release, 'the head of the UN World Health Organisation declared "with great hope" an end to COVID-19 as a public health emergency, stressing it does not mean that the disease is no longer the global threat'.

Also of note is that donations accounted for 77% of revenue and membership 21%. The Society has identified the importance of fundraising and is exploring the possibility of special events to generate revenue especially to cover City of Bayswater lease fixed costs such as Public Liability Insurance [\$1,085.00], which is essentially covered by revenue from membership [\$1,179.00]. As of 30th of June 2022, the Society had cash reserves of \$5,575.49 in the transaction account, and \$5,062.98 in the term deposit.

The Society as discussed and will explore future opportunities for additional fundraising. Contributions and suggestions are welcome from members and others, that support the preservation, protection and promotion of our Bayswater history and heritage.



Acknowledgements:**Reporters:**

- ♦ Glen Cookson
- ♦ Lewis J. Cox
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- ♦ Wendy Garstone

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- ◇ Wayne Swindells

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William (Bill) Boyd, King William Antiques & Collectables

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- Glen Cookson
- Bayswater Historical Society
- State Library of WA
- Lewis J. Cox
- Halliday Family

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Leighton (Halliday) House

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.