



BAYSWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserve - Protect - Promote

NEWSLETTER

Vol 23 Issue 55
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Contents:

Open Day 24th November 2024 - page 1

*Valma Platt, granddaughter of Henry & Edith Halliday visits
Leighton, pages 2-3*

Leighton beginnings, pages 3-4

A chat with Doug Hearle, page 5

My House History by Lewis Cox, page 6

NIMBYSIM, page 7

Ross McCay - The "True" Early History of Bayswater, pages 8-10

AGM Membership positions, page 11

BHS contact page and acknowledgements, page 12



OPEN DAY AT LEIGHTON (HALLIDAY HOUSE)

Sunday 24th November 2024

1pm to 4pm

as advertised on our facebook page

**Come along to Bayswater's unique house museum and gardens!
The house Leighton was built in 1894 for the Halliday family.
The gardens were developed by Kingsley Dixon and Lionel Johnston in the 1990s.**

**A delicious afternoon tea plus a variety of "heritage" games for children and adults
will be available, so come along and relax in the gardens for a while.**



It was a pleasure to welcome Valma Platt, (granddaughter of Henry & Edith Halliday) to Halliday House in July and October 2024



Above left: At Leighton on Friday 26 July 2024 are Valma Platt and her cousin Sarah Moss.



Above right: Another visit to Leighton on Friday 4th October 2024 where Glen (BHS Secretary), Monica (Chairperson) and her dog Sunny welcomed Valma with her nephew Robert.

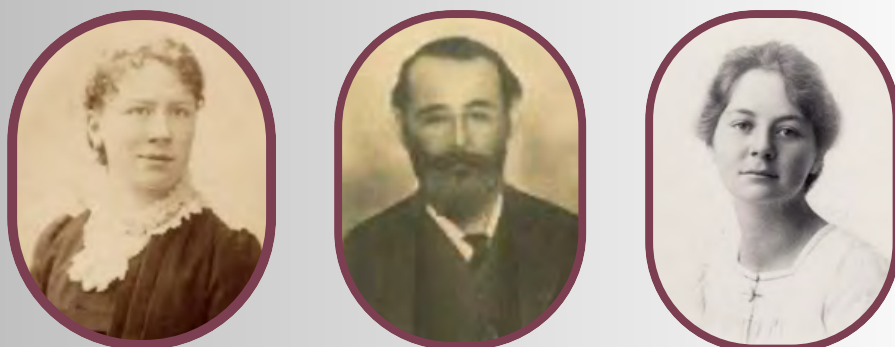
Valma is the granddaughter of Henry and Edith Halliday. Henry and Edith built Heritage listed Leighton (Halliday House) in 1893.

Valma is a sprightly 97-year-old, with a wealth of stories about Leighton, her grandparents, and she remembers who stayed in what room. Her mother Coralie has a number of art works still on display as part of the BHS Museum collection.

When Valma's grandparents built Leighton, the timber was transported by rail from Fremantle to Bayswater, where it was taken by a horse drawn cart to the building site. It is likely the bricks used in the building were from one of the local manufacturers, as brickworks were already established in the area. Most of the buildings built in Bayswater during this period were constructed out of corrugated iron or timber weatherboard, with only a few homes built using brick.



Above: Henry and Edith Halliday's granddaughter, Valma Platt with BHS Secretary Glen Cookson and a rare collection of Valma's family framed photos and assorted precious artefacts. Valma has generously donated all of these items to the BHS. Insert: Valma's 21st photo.



Left to right: Edith Halliday, Henry Halliday, Coralie Halliday (Valma's mother)

Leighton's beginnings

The Bayswater Roads Board was established in 1897 and its first meeting was held in the house. Henry Halliday was the first chairman of the board. After Henry and Edith Halliday died, the house continued to be inhabited by some of their children.



Leighton's beginnings cont'd

In 1984, the house was sold to Lionel Johnson and Kingsley Dixon having left the hands of the Halliday family for the first time since the house was built. The Halliday family offered to sell it to the City of Bayswater for \$110,000, but due to the City delaying organising the purchase, it was sold to Johnson and Dixon. At this time, the garden was overgrown, and the house was deteriorating. Dixon, who is a well-known botanist, restored the garden and house.

In 1992, Leighton (Halliday House) was purchased by the City of Bayswater so that the building could be preserved. The City paid \$299,000. The City opened up expressions of interest from people and community groups for use of Leighton. The Bayswater Historical Society was successful in their application, and they opened Leighton in 1993 as a museum. In 1994, Leighton (Halliday House) was placed on the State Register of Heritage Places.

Halliday House is a single-story brick house. It is built in the Queen Anne Federation architectural style. A verandah was originally made of timber wraps around the house on all four sides. It was replaced with concrete at an unknown date. Three chimneys extend out of the roof. A decorative path leads up to the front door. Most of the plants currently present were planted there by Dixon in the late 1980s and early 1990s.



References:

<https://bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au>

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

A chat with Bayswater Historical Society member Doug Hearle

by Lewis Cox

It was a pleasure to sit down with Doug, a long time member of the BHS, in June 2024. Doug has been my neighbour for six years - I first met Doug when I moved to Bayswater in 2018. I have found Doug to be friendly, easy going and a delightful conversationalist. Doug has lived an interesting and varied working life and he was with the WA police force for 32 years.

Doug has a love of gardening and his garden on his property is a magnificent showcase of Doug's expertise and passion. Doug has many beautiful camellias on his property and he has had open days to celebrate their true beauty with other camellia lovers. Doug was born in September 1936. Now aged 87 he spends his time tending his garden and with family and friends. Doug's residence is located at the corner of Beechboro Road South and Foyle Road Bayswater. His home is a delightful example of the Western Australian architecture style of the 1930s, when Doug and his family moved into their partially built house before the outbreak of World War II.

Doug is one of five children, holding the position of 4th in line of the family. Growing up, Doug lived in Drake Street Morley, where his father ran a poultry farm.



Doug: "Going on 88, nowadays getting to destinations is not on my list of priorities. I am glad I am kicking with a few bumps in the road where longevity is most definitely a state of mind, I like to keep productive."

Happy 88th birthday Doug!



Doug married in 1956. By that year, Doug's career before joining the police force, consisted of holding positions driving bulldozers, being a long haul truck driver, and being a tradie involved in the installation of water bores.

Looking forward to a job change, in 1961 Doug chose a career in law enforcement. His subsequent dedication for over three decades showed his decision to join the Western Australian Police Force was a good one. He joined the force on the 10th April 1961. Doug retired in 1993 after a 32-year career with the WA Police. Doug served as a police officer mostly at the Road Traffic Authority. Reflecting on his 32-year career, Doug commented that he had seen the very best and worst of times and people.

Doug like thousands of residents, believes Bayswater is a great suburb.

My House History

by Lewis J. Cox

BHS Treasurer Lewis Cox shares some of the history of his home at 2 Foyle Road, Bayswater.



April 2015



April 2018



November 2018

In 2017 a developer bought 2 Foyle Road, Bayswater, a 934 sq m block, and constructed a building with 8 apartments. According to realestate.com.au, the house at 2 Foyle Road was in 2009 sold for \$510,000, in 2015 the house was sold for \$700,000. In 2017 apartments were built and in 2018 one apartment was sold for \$465,000. This year one of the apartment's (92 sq m) has been valued at approx. \$800,000.

Doug Hearle, a BHS member and neighbour, commented that most of the changes in Foyle Road and Beechboro Road South have taken place over the past ten years. Doug said that the house in the above 2015 photo, was called a transportable and was built in two sections back in 2015 and that the City of Bayswater allowed their presence for a maximum of two years.

On 10th April 2018, my 59th Birthday, I made one of those decisions we rank as life changing, putting the family home I had lived in for 53 years, up for sale. Later that year, although it was still under construction, I took one look at the roofless, scaffold bound property at 2 Foyle Road, Bayswater, a strata complex of 8 units, and decided to make an "off the plans" offer for Unit 6.

I received the Certificate of Completion on 1st November 2018, and soon after found myself taking a courtesy walk through my new home, with real estate agent Matt Brace. I thought, this was definitely time to establish my own home and join my only sister in in the historic suburb of Bayswater.

My sister said, "it's only a 7 minute and 293 metre walk from my house, and you'll be useful, and can feed my cats when I am away on holiday...". I am grateful to my sister for helping me find my own home. I am happy living in Bayswater, close to family, friends, public transport and in the middle of an environment combining a rich cultural heritage and modern amenities.

On my balcony at 2 Foyle Road, where I have fantastic panoramic views of the Bayswater Train Station, the Perth Hills, Airport, and the newly renovated Bayswater Hotel. I know I made the right decision to live in Bayswater.

It has been over six years since I moved to Bayswater and it has been a good experience. Family members and friends have said the decision to move to Bayswater was the right decision for the rest of my life, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. I believe good vibes where we live are important to the happiness of the individual.



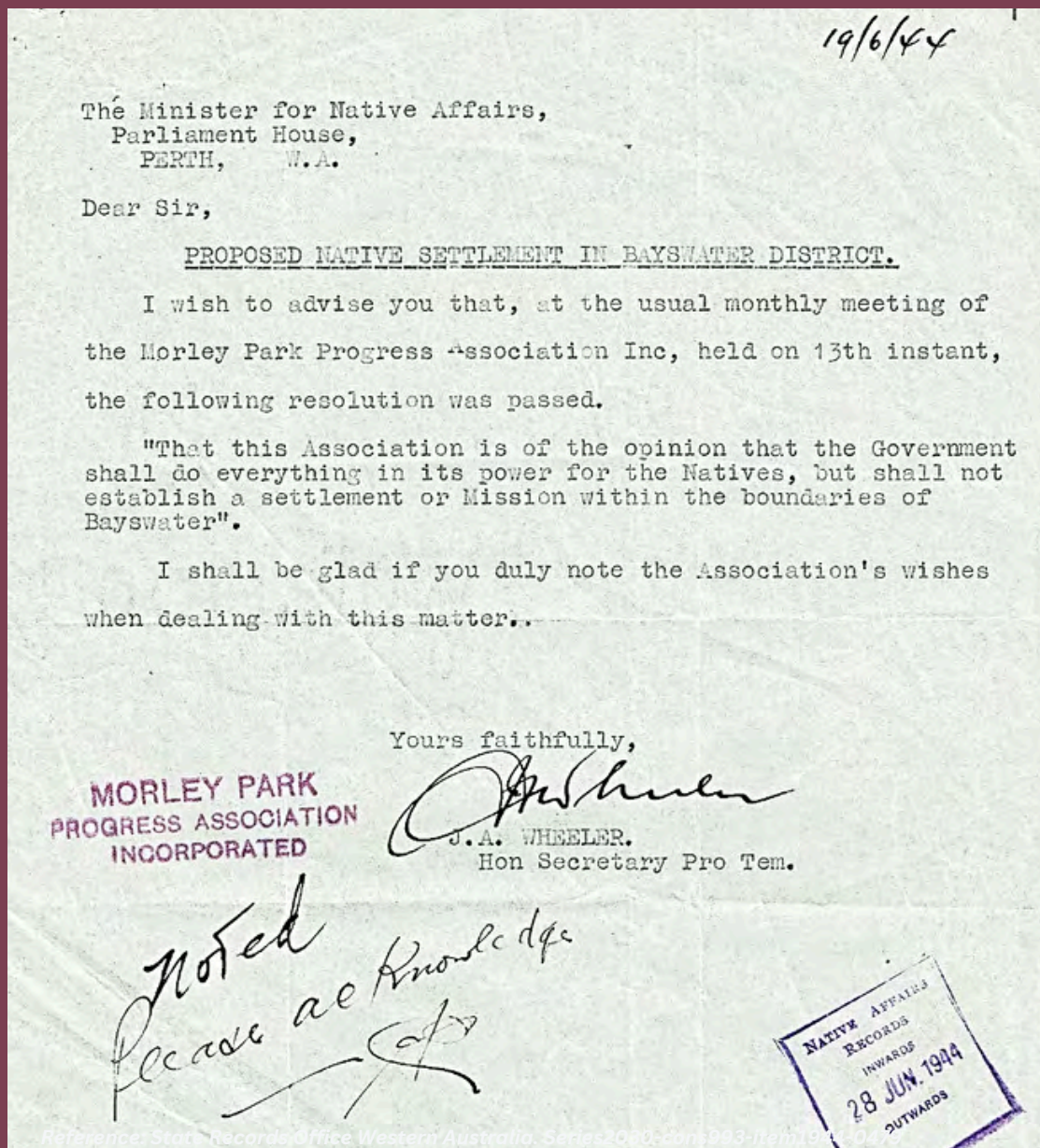
References: Hearle, D. interview 7.6.24., <https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/development/heritage/local-heritage-survey>, Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places. Full copy of research available at BHS Library.

NIMBYISM : “Not in My Backyard” is not new, there is history

by Glen Cookson

An interesting request was made in 1944 by the Morley Park Progress Association. I find original source documents so fascinating. Many lines of inquiry open up, such as: who were the Morley Progress Association? what were their motives? are there minutes of their meetings? and how was the bureaucracy structured in 1944?

It is the anniversary of the 2023 Voice Referendum and it would be interesting to learn members' reflections.



Reference: State Records Office Western Australia. Series2030-cons993-item1944-0479

The “True” History of Very Early Bayswater, Western Australia, 1830–1890 Some Bayswater people – Drake, Olivers, Scrivener, Farmer, Gribble, etc.

by Ross McCay

Extracts from the extensive research carried out by Ross McCay follow . A full copy of this research is available to read at BHS Library.

The first house in Bayswater was built by W H Drake around 1838 on ground near the extant Old Olive Tree in Slade Street. Drake’s first tenant we know of was William Higgins who was soon replaced by the Oliver family. For about 40 years the Olivers operated their refreshment business for travellers using the Perth to Guildford Road. John Scrivener became a tenant of Drake’s in about 1865 until 1882. He built his own house close to the Olivers. The 1885 subdivision of Bayswater Estate saw Thomas Farmer purchase a five acre lot which included both of the aforementioned old houses. Farmer repaired, renovated or added to both houses. He was an associate of the Rev John Brown Gribble his nearby neighbour at Bayswater who built a house intended to become a mission for aborigines. Today the exact location of the Drake house is known but only approximate locations of the nearby old Scrivener and Gribble houses are known.

From very early times of European settlement the Bayswater area in the Swan River Colony had no clear or agreed name. That is one reason why at the time of the 1885 subdivision of Location U, the name of Bayswater was readily accepted to replace the no-name confusion that had prevailed for about 50 years. The largely undeveloped bush at last had a name people could identify as a specific place. Bayswater had been known at various times as Swan, Upper Swan, Lower Swan, Guildford, North Perth, Peninsula, Peninsula – Guildford Road, between Perth and Guildford, etc.

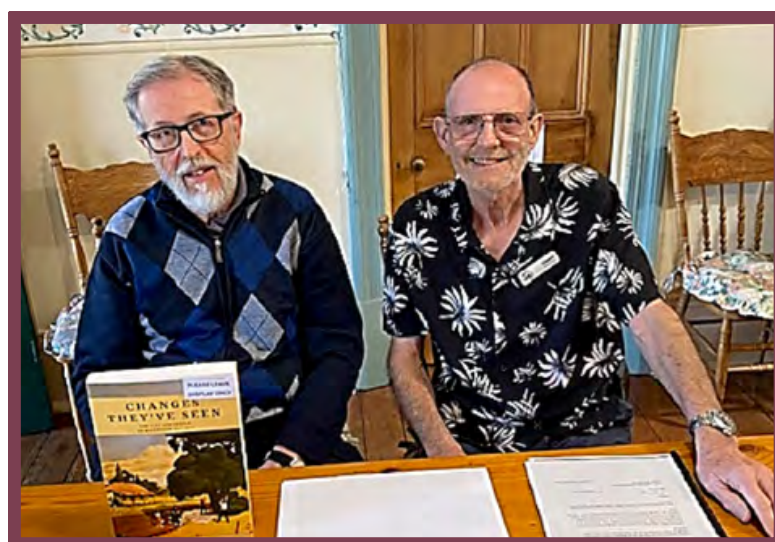


The above painting of the first house in Bayswater, built by W H Drake around 1838, was painted by Henry Harffey (President of the Bayswater Art Society) in 1983.

In April & May 1838 an advertisement appeared in the Perth Gazette and WA Journal: Offered for lease or sale a small farm “on the banks of the Upper Swan, and a short distance from Perth on the Guildford Road.” It comprised a grant of 1000 acres with a brick-built dwelling house, garden etc, which was occupied by William Higgins until the end of May 1838. “There is a spring of excellent water and a brook running through the estate; a considerable portion of alluvial soil, and an excellent flat of grazing land on the river frontage. It will be let on advantageous terms, and is well worth the attention of any industrious man. Particulars of terms & conditions may be had on application to J Purkis, Agent to Mr W H Drake. Notice – Persons depasturing goats, sheep, or cattle, or felling timber on the Estate after this notice, will subject themselves to legal proceedings.”

In 1841 a Government Surveyor named Chauncy conducted a survey of the Swan which clearly documents the first European structures at Location U, now known as Bayswater. The Chauncy map shows the Drake garden and buildings on the alignment of Slade Street while nearby ribbon grants, locations T, V, W and X had only undeveloped bush in 1841

22 September 2024: Ross McCay and Glen Cookson, BHS Secretary, discuss some of Ross’s unique and previously untold historical research of Bayswater. Ross is a relative of W H Drake.



The first long term residents of Bayswater were John and Catherine Oliver who migrated on the ship Shepherd from London, arriving at Fremantle in 1838. They were accompanied by their 5 children and soon became tenants of William Henry Drake at what is today the lower end of Slade Street, Bayswater.

The Old Olive Tree on Slade Street is thought, according to its plaque, to have commenced its growth about 1850. It likely represents a fragment of Drake’s garden of 1841 which stood just beyond his house close to what is now Slade Street. I think that the old olive tree was possibly self-seeded in the 1840’s. Alternatively, it could have been planted by Mrs Drake or perhaps their resident tenant/gardener.

In 1848 the Drake family left the Swan River Colony forever after a residence of 17 years. As a commissary officer, Drake was a global traveller and public servant whose career was dedicated to the best interests of the British Empire and its subjects.

The name of the City of Bayswater WA commemorates the actual founder of that City – Sir William Henry Drake, who died in Bayswater, London, in 1882. William Henry Drake was born in Portugal in 1812 where his father was a commissary officer with Wellington's army. In the Swan River Colony W H Drake became the Colonial Treasurer and the officer in charge of the Commissariat as well as serving on the boards of both the West Australian Bank and the first Perth Town Trust. He also built the first house in Bayswater WA.

Considerable research by Megan Stevens shows that as a Victorian era public servant Drake particularly wanted a successful career so he could become a respectable and independent gentleman. To that end and to care for his growing family he worked hard and invested sensibly.



Special Acknowledgement:

Thanks to Ross McCay, BHS Member and local resident for his painstakingly detailed and thoughtful research on the early history of Bayswater. This is really an excellent piece of research that shines light on the thinking behind both the creation and names of present-day Bayswater spaces and streets.

Ross has kindly donated his research work to the BHS Museum Library. Ross is a relative of the descendants of W H Drake.

The BHS Museum is open Friday mornings 9.30 am - 12.00 pm and the 4th Sunday 1-4pm each month Feb-Nov, or by appointment. BHS Management Committee.

BHS Annual General Meeting held on 26th August 2024

Extract from minutes of meeting:

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

1. Election of 2024/2025 Management Committee:

- *Chairperson (Monica Main)*
- *Deputy Chairperson (Wendy Garstone)*
- *Secretary (Glen Cookson)*
- *Treasurer (Lewis Cox)*
- *Communications/Social Media Coordinator (Wendy Garstone)*
- *Communications/Newsletter Coordinator (Glen Cookson)*
- *General Members (Wayne Swindells, Maggy Wade, and Clare Chamberlain)*

1.1 Motion: That the Nominations received be accepted.

Moved: Penny Lee. Seconded: Lazar Radanovich. Motion passed unanimously.

1.2 Motion: That the BHS Strategic Plan 2021-2031 as sent out and tabled be accepted.

Moved: Wayne Swindells. Seconded: Lazar Radanovich. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: General discussion regarding importance of built form spaces including the natural environment and impact of development. The BHS has and is willing to share valuable history and heritage artefacts. History highlights the ongoing tensions between development and the environment, as well as the impact on people and community.





The Bayswater Historical Society Inc. was formed in 1991. It is a non-profit organisation which aims to preserve the history of the Bayswater district; protect historical records and objects of the area; promote public interest and support for the preservation of historic records, buildings and sites.

Leighton (Halliday) House is a historic home within Bayswater and is used as the Society's base and is a museum open to the public on certain dates. Please check our website and facebook for open dates.

The Bayswater Historical Society welcomes contributions to future newsletters, such as stories and photographs relating to the history of Bayswater. Please forward all enquiries addressed to a member of the Society.

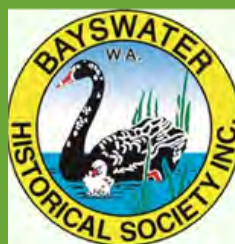
Leighton (Halliday House)

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Facebook & Instagram: [bayswaterhistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/bayswaterhistoricalsociety)



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