



BAYSWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserve - Protect - Promote

NEWSLETTER

Issue 56
April 2025

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Glen visits the Maylands Historical and Peninsular Association

BHS Secretary Glen Cookson recently visited the Maylands Historical and Peninsular Association. He was pleased to be gifted the Minutes Book of the Whatley Park Progress Association. The Whatley Park area was located south of Guildford Rd, and split by the Tonkin Freeway in the 1980s. Up to this time the association represented the community by seeking improved local amenities such as sealed roads and a hall. The hall, at 110 Hardy Rd, still stands, it is now the MG Car Club of WA Clubrooms. Pictured at right are Glen Cookson (BHS) and John McLennan (MHPA).



Upcoming Events

16 April to 17 May	Community Arts Network 'CAN' Art Exhibition at The Rise, Maylands (page 6)
27 April	Open Day at Halliday House 1 to 4pm
17 May	BHS will be at a Pop-Up Day: Hawaiian Noranda Shopping Centre, 10am-2pm
25 May	Open Day at Halliday House 1pm to 4pm: At 1pm-2pm Prue Griffin will talk on 'Discovering your house history'
22 June	Open Day at Halliday House 1pm to 4pm
27 July	Open Day at Halliday House 1pm to 4pm
24 August	Open Day at Halliday House 1pm to 4pm. Talk 1pm to 2pm by Rob Russell: Collecting Antiques: Buying Coins, Medals' followed by our own Antiques Roadshow - Bayswater session
25 August	BHS Annual General Meeting 6pm Venue TBA
BHS memberships are available online at: bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au/membership	

Chairperson's Message - Monica Main

With the end of the Noongar season of Bunuru I hope we are seeing the last of the really hot weather. The garden at Halliday House/Leighton has survived the Perth summer thanks to the care of our volunteers – especially Maggy who continued to hand water throughout the ongoing heat. Though she did need some supervision from this cockatoo who was whispering tips about pruning in her ear...Maggy tried to persuade him to volunteer with some archiving but he refused, saying he wasn't a flaming galah!

Fun fact - Male galahs have brown eyes and females have red eyes. The more wrinkles around their eyes the older they are – yes, galahs, like people, have crow's feet!

BHS has been in consultation with the City of Bayswater CEO and Garden Maintenance team discussing the garden renovation and upgrades – we have upgraded reticulation (hurrah!) and we look forward to seeing the new landscape plans the City is currently drafting.

And in other exciting news, the Council has adopted the City of Bayswater Name Register to provide options for the future naming of parks, reserves, streets, right-of-ways and other infrastructure across the City. The Name Register is an open list, and therefore the City is encouraging the community to continue submitting names they would like considered for the Name Register. Have a closer look here <https://engage.bayswater.wa.gov.au/naming-register>

And don't be a Galah - volunteer with us! We have a range of roles for you to choose from including archiving photos and documents and setting up exhibits. We currently have no volunteers from Morley or Noranda – and we would love to hear from you if you have any stories about these locales as they're an important part of the collective story that is the City of Bayswater.

Or perhaps you'd just like to drop by for a friendly chat, cuppa and cake and view our museum – we welcome everyone on Friday mornings and our monthly Sunday open days – I hope to see you at Leighton (Halliday House) soon.



What and where is this building - see page 11 for the answer!



What's in a Name Project

You might remember that BHS commenced our 'What's in a Name' project in 2023 with our submission to the City of Bayswater regarding the naming of a lane in Maylands. We searched for people who are not usually recognised, for example women and Chinese market gardeners, and provided names and stories to the City of Bayswater to consider adding to the City's Naming Register. This register is used by the council when a new name is needed for a street or a park.

Hu Che-Em was a Chinese Market Gardener and his story was featured in our September 2024 newsletter. We are pleased to announce that Landgate has accepted the submission and research undertaken by BHS and that Hu Che-Em has been added to the City of Bayswater's Naming Register.

Oblong Turtle Lane is located between Frinton and Williamson Streets. This name has been applied recently to what was for 80 years an unnamed laneway.



If you would like to see a real Oblong Turtle you can see them in the main drain (aka Bayswater Brook) that runs alongside the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary. Look closely, as they swim under the surface feeding, only popping up now and again. The Oblong Turtle is native to WA and lives in local wetlands e.g. Lightening Swamp, Baigup Wetlands and Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary.

Milly Fitts was a florist who ran a floral studio in Hay St, Perth in the 1900s. She also owned and ran a nursery located on King William St, Bayswater. After a visit to the State Library and much research we learnt a lot about Milly's story and this was enough to justify her inclusion in the Naming Register. Landgate has recently approved the use of her name for a street or a park. We will include Milly's story in a future newsletter.

Name origin story: Strutt Way & Strutt Reserve, Noranda

Strutt Way and Strutt Reserve were named in the 1970s when Noranda was being developed, and they were most likely named after William Albert James Strutt who was a member of the Bayswater Road Board from 1924 to 1927.

It seems that William was born in Melbourne, lived in Moora for a time and spent his last 30 years or so in Bayswater working as a builder and spending 3 years as a councillor. He and his family lived variously in Leake, Burgess (now Hamilton), Murray, King William and Milne streets.

We can get a sense of his family life through the many letters his children Annie, Arthur, Albert and Reggie wrote to the Daily News' Our Childrens Page section. William's wife Harriet died when their children were still young, and the Childrens Page network was clearly a support to the young Strutt children.



Name origin story: Strutt Way & Strutt Reserve, Noranda cont'd

from the Daily News Jan 1908:

Dear Uncle Tom, I am writing you an account of how I spent my Christmas and New Year holidays. On Tuesday morning my two brothers and myself gathered some Christmas flowers, and also garden flowers to take to the Old Women's Home to decorate the table. On Boxing Day father took us down to the river at Bayswater. On Friday morning we got our work done. Then father and mother got the things ready while I got the children ready to go to Cottesloe Beach for the day. Wasn't the Cott nice, uncle? Albert and I also went to the Orphans' Christmas tree, which was very nice, too. On New Year's Day we went to the river again. Your affectionate niece, ANNIE C. C. STRUTT, aged 12 King William Street, Bayswater.

from the Daily News July 1908:

Dear Uncle Tom,— I again take the pleasure in writing to you. Arthur received his postcard all right on Saturday week, which was very nice. One of your Cottesloe nieces sent me such a beautiful postcard expressing sympathy with us in the loss of our mother, which was very nice. We have got some good friends around Bayswater. Our brother Reggie is going out to Victoria Park to one of our aunties for a while.— Your loving niece, ANNIE C. C. STRUTT, aged 13, King William St, Bayswater

William died fairly young also. At the age of 57 he was found collapsed near his home. He had suffered a stroke and died the next day. We assume that after he had raised his children as a single parent that he was then able to contribute to public life by serving on the council. Sadly this was cut short.

One of Williams's sons, Albert (b 1897) wrote the following story in 1948 for the West Australian. It seems his many letters to 'Uncle Tom' at the Daily News were good writing practice.

Paradise Lost

by A.J. Strutt

(article that appeared in The West Australian newspaper in 1948)

There were happy days on the Swan at Bayswater 40 years ago before the advent of the omnibus, and before the Burswood filter beds drove people from a picnickers and fishermen's paradise. Many old-timers will look back on the Saturday afternoons and holidays spent on the flats extending from the Belmont railway bridge to beyond Leake Street as some of their most enjoyable experiences.

The flats was a favourite for Sunday school and Lodge picnics, the picnickers usually seeing the gallops being transported by horse lorries (there were no buses and very few cars in those days).

The food, a barrel or two of ginger beer, watermelons, etc., were brought along in someone's spring cart. Though none of the members of the Sunday school picnic parties would admit it, the gallops, on the opposite side of the river, were a great attraction and immediately the warning bell was heard the more agile of the adult males swarmed up the trees which overhung the river bank while we smaller fry swam across, and made our way to the starting barrier.

A couple of brickyards operated at the foot of Slade Street, the bricks being run on a light railway down to a jetty near the Belmont bridge, where they were loaded into barges for transport up to Perth. The jetty was dismantled in 1916 or 1917 as being unsafe, but in its day it provided an ideal diving platform as well as a likely spot for a kingfish or two, black bream or pike. Bait was no problem. A few prawns were required or, if they were scarce there were always gilgies to be found in the swamps along King William Street; these, when half cooked, made a bait which took some removing. Garfish, yellow-tail, black bream and flathead were fairly plentiful, and in the evenings cobblers were always assured.

Name origin story: Strutt Way & Strutt Reserve, Noranda cont'd

By about 7 or 7.30 there would be up to 20 adults and younger lads gathered at the river, though perhaps only half a dozen would be actually fishing. The others came down to pass a pleasant evening in congenial company, smoking and swap yarns till about 9 o'clock.

The river banks are deserted and almost treeless now, and it is unusual to hear of any fishing being done. To suggest a picnic would probably be to invite ridicule, but it is possible that if the foreshore is reclaimed, the river dredged and the channel widened and deepened, the upper reaches of the Swan may recapture some of the charm which they enjoyed some years ago.



Notes:

- The Belmont Bridge carried a train line to Ascot Racecourse.
- The brickworks were located near Gobba Lake.
- The Burswood filter beds function was to process sewage, thus affecting water quality upstream

Sources: *Changes They've Seen*, Catherine May; City of Bayswater Street Names Origins Database and various articles sourced from the National Archives website (Trove).

Community Arts Network (CAN) and Place Names Bayswater

Last year we learnt that the Community Arts Network (CAN) has an arts project where Noongar language and knowledge is being celebrated through focusing on Noongar place names in Bayswater. This work is very exciting considering the work we have been doing on place names and the large gap in local knowledge on Noongar place names.

The Birralyn Kaartadjin / Bayswater Knowledge Exhibition

The Birralyn Kaartadjin | Bayswater Knowledge Exhibition will open on 16 April and run until 17 May at The Rise, Maylands. We encourage everyone to attend. If the Exhibition inspires ideas on how we can include Noongar stories into the local historical narrative please be in touch.

Source: <https://www.canwa.com.au/community/place-names/>

Indigenous public artwork created in 2004 at Bardon Park, Maylands



From the collection: Steve Perkins' donated album

We were recently fortunate enough to receive a donated photo album from Steve Perkins. Steve was a professional photographer who has worked locally for many years and is now retired.

His photos tell the story of the construction in 1987 of the dual use sealed pathway between Garratt Road Bridge in Bayswater and Kelvin Street in Maylands. This path was built over a rough limestone track that had been laid down through the wetlands in 1986 to provide access for the installation of the gas pipeline that still runs through Baigup Wetlands on an alignment that in the 1970s the State Government had set aside for a highway (Swan River Drive) from the eastern suburbs into Perth City. That idea was not abandoned until 1988. Graham Farmer Freeway now fulfils the same function.

At the time the path was constructed, the wetlands were known as 'the swamp', or sometimes 'The Garratt Road Wetlands'. The name 'Baigup Wetlands' was suggested in a 1994 management plan and formally recognised by what is now Landgate in 2003. Settler colonial use of the land included pasture from the 1800s and horticulture until possibly as late as the early 1970s at the east end. This meant that only the structure of the original vegetation complex remained by the 1980s, mainly in the form of endemic trees and the beautiful sedge plain along the river. The sedge plain is now nationally listed as an increasingly rare example of Sub-tropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Threatened Ecological Community (TEC).

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By the early 2000s, very extensive weed complexes dominated, with sporadic attempts to eradicate them and replace them with native plants from the late 1980s. Today, the City of Bayswater and Department of Planning, Land, and Heritage, together maintain a more consistent approach to management with the help of volunteers from Baigup Wetland Interest Group.

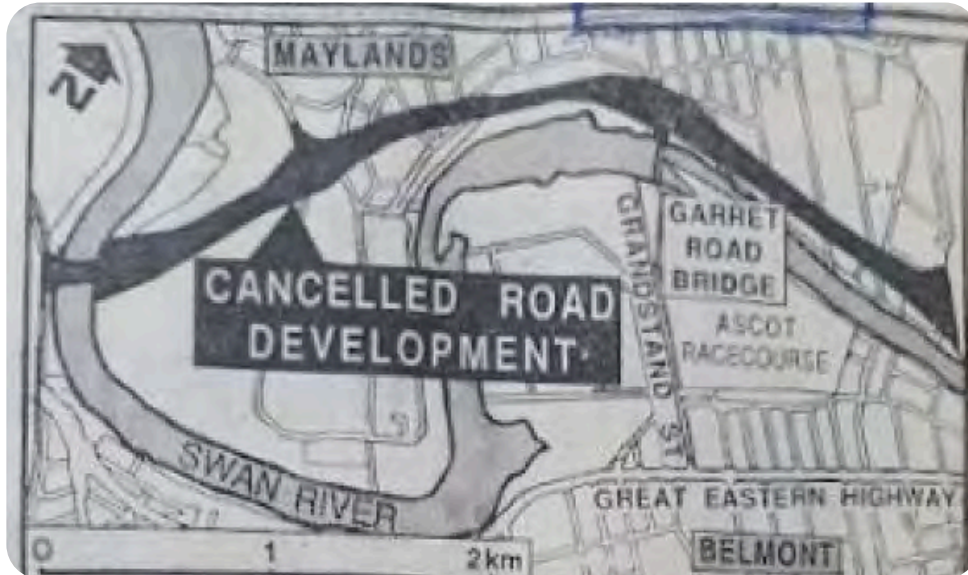


Steve Perkins' valuable contribution brings to light information about the history of the dual-purpose path that had been largely lost. It seems that the work was done over a nine-month period by a group of unemployed young people (basically through a 'work for the dole scheme'). The City of Bayswater seems to have initiated the project, interviewing the applicants and subsequently employing one of them.

From the collection: Steve Perkins' donated album cont'd

Steve (now in his early 70s) recalls that although the work was hard, they enjoyed it, learning some useful skills along the way. Limestone dumped from trucks was pushed in wheelbarrows for spreading along the track. Participants also dug holes for bollards alongside the path. They learned how to fit rails between the bollards. Their brick paving and cementing in the area between the gas facility enclosure and the bridge is still in good condition today.

The plan for Swan River Drive is axed, The West Australian Newspaper, February 24 1988:



Sources: Steve Perkins, Penny Lee, Baigup Wetlands Interest Group website, City of Bayswater website.

Natural History - Council's significant tree register

Did you know that the City of Bayswater has a register where trees that are uniquely significant can be registered? The intent is to 'showcase and value trees that are outstanding specimens'. There are currently 26 trees registered. Tree number 3 is a *Banksia littoralis* swamp banksia, it's located next to the playground at the intersection of McGilvray Avenue and Wylde Road.

Swamp Banksia is a locally native tree that grows near wetlands and next to rivers. It is one of the tree species found in the Lightning Swamp Bushland just 1km away.

The Swamp Banksia is the smaller tree at the front of the photo. Behind the Swamp banksia is the much larger Marri tree *Corymbia calophylla*.

The park has many more Marri trees - along its edges, in the car park and in and around the playground. The Marri tree is also a locally native species and plays an important role in the Noranda environment. Many would pre-date colonial times. Aerial images show that many were saved when Noranda was subdivided, and there are still some left on private land today.



The suburb of Noranda - the early days

The suburb of Noranda was developed in the 1970s by the Shire of Bayswater. It is the youngest suburb in the City of Bayswater and its history is perhaps less well known than the history of the older suburbs. As Noranda's development milestones are already reaching fifty years, we think it's time to start collecting some of Noranda's stories. We will begin with the years leading up to the creation of 'Noranda.'

Prior to settlement the area comprised several swamps with bushland in between. The bush featured a mix of large trees including the Marri, many of these were saved during development and remain today in Noranda's parks. In the 1860s the area was unfenced and farmers located in the Swan Valley would use the area for cattle grazing in summer.

The Lightning Swamp Bushland Management Plan includes the following quote: *'Further evidence that the land remained essentially unused by early white settlers was the ongoing use of the area by Aboriginal people'*. The use mentioned likely refers to camps, however further research by BHS using the sources provided would help us understand how Aboriginal people used this area before it was sub-divided.

Morley was developed in the 1890s as a farming area, and named Morley Park. Hence some of the area to become Noranda was then known as North Morley with the eastern parts known as Beechboro. From the 1890s the Perth Hunt Club would run their weekend events on the outskirts of Perth, often starting at a hotel in North Perth, Bayswater or Maylands, and ride out to 'the area north of Morley Park' where their dogs would flush out a kangaroo and give chase. (Hunting as a sport has declined over the years for clear reasons.)

In the 1900s Bayswater's growing population saw increased complaints to the Health Board about local pig and chook farmers. This resulted in farmers needing to relocate and some moved out to Morley Park and North Morley. In 1933 a four hectare area centrally located within Lightning Swamp was purchased by the Luderman family to establish a poultry farm. The image to the left is of an information board at Lightning Swamp that is about the Luderman family and their farm at Lightning Swamp

In the 1950s the Town Planning Board's Hepburn Stephenson Plan determined that the area would be classed as 'urban deferred' meaning that in time, when the economy demanded extra housing and development plans and investors were ready, the land would be developed into residential lots.

In Town Planning terms North Morley was known as 'Area 17'. This excerpt from the Hepburn Stephenson Plan 1955 discusses the drainage issues due to the many swamps and low lying areas.

The older areas have had many drainage troubles in the past and, although they are now largely sewered and drained, there are still problems in certain parts. In North Bayswater and Morley Park the same difficulties are in evidence. There are areas of relatively high land, and others with high subsoil water and swampy conditions. In spite of this, the proximity of these districts to the City and to industry create a heavy demand for land. The Morley Park area, and particularly District 17 to the North, requires comprehensive drainage before general subdivision and building permitted.

The Luderman farm closed when it was reclaimed by the state in 1969 and the area has since been restored as part of the Lightning Swamp restoration works.

The suburb of Noranda - the early days cont'd

The City of Bayswater's website includes the following about the development of Noranda, and how it was a council led project.

The development of the suburb of Noranda. occurred during the 1970s by the Shire. This was achieved through a resumptive scheme, where the shire acted as developer on behalf of a number of land owners. Noranda was carefully planned for years before the land was finally released for sale.

Cr Pat O'Hara was one of the councillors involved in the development of Noranda and this excerpt from an interview with the Cr O'Hara (ref *Changes They've Seen*), provides some local insight into the early days of Noranda's development.

Though the Noranda scheme was the nemesis of the former council, it was a major success as a development. The first stage was occupied during 1979 and, as further stages opened during the early 80s, settlement continued in an easterly direction. Some early residents were Morley people who no longer needed a large block and wanted units in Noranda. Pat O'Hara recalled that there was some emphasis on Italian residents including owner-builders with experience in the building industry. Sporting teams were quick to establish themselves, and soon there were eight junior football teams based in Noranda. There was also a large number of young children, as expected. The council took an interesting initiative in the building of new playgrounds, by encouraging groups of parents to choose and erect the playground equipment with council resources and under the supervision of a foreman. By the early 80s these working bees had become social occasions with a BBQ to finish ...

Where did the name Noranda come from?

The origin of the name isn't clear. As this article from the Shire of Bayswater's Community Newsletter in 1975 states, the name was chosen by the council and the name chosen was Noranda Hills. Even though the paper misspelled it as Norenda Hills!

Meanwhile, Landgate's records state that the name chosen was Noranda Park, after a town in Florida. But a search on both Google maps and Google found no towns by this name in Florida!

However there is a copper mine and a town built to service the mine named Noranda in Canada, the name being a contraction of North and Canada.

Noranda the mine and town were built in the 1920s and Noranda Mines grew to become one of the largest mining companies in the world with mines across the world including Australia.

An excerpt from the Hamersley Mines newsletter in 1969 : "Visitors on site in the past month have included the following: The President and executives of Noranda Mines Ltd, Canada." It would seem that Noranda as a name was well known in mining and investment circles in WA in the 1970s.



Noranda's community

There are many aspects of Noranda that make it a special place: power is underground north of Deschamp Road and this means that verge trees can grow to their full mature height; the housing lots are large by today's standards; Hawaiian's Noranda Shopping Centre and the nearby sporting complex provide a central meeting area for the community, plus the Lightning Swamp Regional Conservation Area and parks provide numerous choices for outdoor experiences.



Aerial image of Noranda in 1981. Source: State Library; Aerial Surveys Australia BA1475/C1034-1038

However, this story is missing stories from the residents of Noranda!

What was it like to live in North Morley and then Noranda?

How did land owners feel about their land being resumed to create residential lots, parks and shopping centres?

Now is the time to capture the stories from the people who have lived in Noranda! Please be in touch if you can help.

Sources:

'Changes They've Seen' by Catherine May
 Lightning Swamp Management Plan
 Lightning Swamp Information Board on the Luderman family
 National Library of Australia: Trove: various
 Plan For the Metropolitan Region Perth and Fremantle 1955 Report
 State Library of WA

Article by Wendy Garstone

Public accessible heritage buildings in Bayswater:

1. Bayswater Hotel, 1899
2. Halliday House, Bayswater, 1892
3. Ellis House, Bayswater, 1900
4. Police Station, Maylands, 1908
5. Peninsular Farm, Maylands, 1839
6. Maylands Brickworks, 1927



We have the following for sale - to purchase visit Halliday House Fridays 9am to 12 noon

Book: 'Changes They've Seen' by Catherine May. The history of the City of Bayswater's suburbs \$25/\$35

Book: 'Ringing True' by Elisabeth Bunny. The history of Bayswater Primary School \$25/\$35

China plates featuring heritage buildings - Centenary of Bayswater Council 1897-1997 \$20/\$30

Tea towel featuring the Bayswater Estate sales advertisement of 1885 \$20

Carry bag with Historic Heart design \$3/\$5

Badges with BHS logo \$5

BHS Memberships – available online at:
<https://bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au/membership/>

100 years ago:

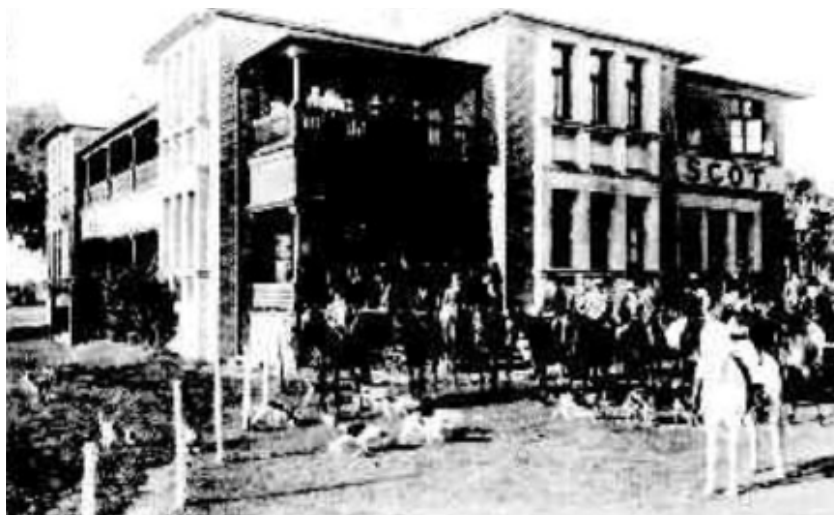
The West Australian, 25 May 1925

Perth Road Board meeting

With reference to a request from the Morley Park Progress Association for repairs to the North Maylands plank road, it was resolved that the necessary work should be carried out.

Note: The North Maylands Road was later renamed Walter Road. It was once a boggy sandy track difficult to traverse, then a plank road, still difficult to traverse.

What is this building? - see page 1



It is the Swan River Hotel, Belmont

Previously known as the Ascot Hotel, Hotel Belmont, and Ascot Inn, the hotel was built in 1897. It was made of brick and featured basement cellars, a large timber windmill in the rear courtyard, and a huge spiral staircase that was rumoured to have been taken from an old steamship.

In the 1980s there was a beer garden and lawn area between the hotel and the river, this area is now a fenced car park. While the hotel is still standing it has been altered considerably and unfortunately there are very few original features that can be seen.

While it's located on the Belmont side of the river, the hotel was used by Bayswater residents for several decades. Anyone in the need of a drink simply crossed the river by foot using the railway bridge. Sadly some hotel visitors were worse for wear on the way home and the occasional drowning occurred.

Source: City of Belmont Heritage Inventory, Image: Western Mail, 1903

The Bayswater Historical Society Museum is open Friday mornings 9.30 am - 12.00 pm and on the 4th Sunday 1-4pm each month February to November, or by appointment.



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)



Our thanks to the volunteers at BHS who contributed to this newsletter: Wendy, Glen, Marion, Monica, Penny and Lewis. Special thanks to Dan Bull MLA, Member for Maylands for printing this newsletter.