



BAYSWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserve - Protect - Promote

NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Events

Sun 28 Sept	Open Day
Sun 26 Oct	Official launch of the "Stories of a Bayswater working class family during the Great Depression" Special Guest: Dan Bull MLA
Sun 25 Nov	"Goodbye to 25 Sundowner" Fund Raiser. Tickets only \$30 including entertainment, canapes and drinks

City of Bayswater Library donation



Bayswater Library staff member Melanie presenting the Atlas of Indigenous Australia to BHS Secretary, Glen Cookson. The reference will be available to BHS members while the new 2nd edition of the Atlas is available for loan from the library at 25 King William St



Thanks to the City of Bayswater Library for their thoughtful donation to the BHS Library, of the Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia. 93 years young Kate was one of the first BHS members to enjoy reading this informative text. Kate worked as a consultant with the WA Education Department Aboriginal Education Branch Manager, May O'Brien, during the 1970's and 80's. The Atlas is available to members for loan.

Community engagement: BHS Stall at Noranda Shopping Centre Pop-up Day

BHS were invited to set up an information display at Noranda Shopping Centre on Saturday 17 May. Thanks to our volunteer and historical researcher, Wendy, we were able to create a special display featuring the history and development of Noranda as a suburb.



The suburb of Noranda in the City of Bayswater, Western Australia, has an interesting historical context. Noranda was originally part of the suburb of Morley and was known as Morley North. It was primarily rural land used for farming and orchards until the mid-20th century.

The development of Noranda as a separate suburb began in the 1960s when the State Housing Commission of Western Australia started building homes in the area to accommodate the growing population. The suburb saw early development in the 1970s through a resumptive scheme where the shire acted as developer, carefully planning the area before land release.

The development of Noranda, and later the Carramar Estate, was achieved through the resumptive scheme, where the shire acted as the developer on behalf of multiple landowners. Noranda was carefully planned for years before the land was released for sale, indicating a deliberate and structured approach to its development.

The suburb was officially named Noranda in 1977, after Noranda Park, a town in the USA state of Florida.



Did you know that Noranda is the home of significant Swamp Banksia trees which 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.

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'. Tree number 3, on the Register is a Banksia littoralis swamp banksia, it's located next to the playground at the intersection of McGilvray Avenue and Wylde Road.



Noranda is home to the magnificent Lightning Swamp Bushland reserve.

Reference: <https://www.outandaboutfnc.com/post/lightning-swamp-bushland-noranda>

There were lots of visitors to our display, all interested in the history of their local community. Several visitors had lived in the City of Bayswater for over 50 years and were eager to share their stories. Thanks to our volunteers on the day, Monica, Lewis, Penny and Glen, all of whom had a wonderful day promoting the significance of Noranda's history.

May 27 Open Day: Presentation: "Discovering Your House History"

As part of our ongoing events, we were delighted to present a special session on "Discovering Your House History," featuring BHS member Prue Griffin as our guest speaker. With a Master of Applied Cultural Heritage Studies from Curtin and deep roots in the local area, Prue captivated the audience with insights into researching the origins, stories, and transformations of their homes. Her engaging talk and the lively discussion that followed offered members valuable tools and inspiration to delve into the fascinating pasts of their own residences, highlighting the importance of personal and community heritage. Copies of Prue's resource sheet are available to members via the contact page on our website.



Check out some of the excellent work Prue has done via her website - www.hockingha.com.au

22 June Open Day: A special documentary screening of "The Tunnel"

The Bayswater Historical Society was proud to host a special screening of "The Tunnel," an acclaimed documentary that has garnered awards for its powerful storytelling and keen insight into the preservation of local heritage. Written, directed and produced by BHS member Shireen Narayanan. This film delves deep into the heart of a Perth community shaped—and in many ways, scarred—by the construction of the Northbridge Tunnel. Through personal accounts and evocative archival footage, "The Tunnel" gives voice to residents whose lives and homes were irrevocably altered, placing a human face on the intangible cost of urban progress. The screening proved very popular and will be shown again in 2026 at a larger venue.



INAVISION FILMS PRESENTS

THE TUNNEL

In 1996 Liberal Premier Richard Court resurrected a 30-year-old freeway plan linking the eastern and western suburbs of Perth, Western Australia. The most contentious aspect of the freeway was a 1.6 km long tunnel through the centre of Northbridge, an inner-city heritage suburb of Perth. The Tunnel erased 10 city blocks of irreplaceable heritage and damaged century old homes.

This documentary is a compelling, modern-day David and Goliath tale that follows a small group of inner-city residents who took on the combined might of corporate and government interests. What begins as a simple case of residents fighting for compensation for the damage to their homes turns into an epic struggle for justice.

The documentary reminds us that when corporate and government interests marry there is a very real danger that accountability will be undermined; as well as environmental principles and individual rights sacrificed. It is a story of lies, missing files, delaying tactics and intimidation. A personal and inspirational story that still resonates today.

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"When you embark on any undertaking where you are journeying into the unknown, and the chances of success are minimal you become a warrior."
Shireen Narayanan
Writer Director Producer

"When many Australians have given up believing that they can influence politicians and business for the public good, THE TUNNEL shows us that a group of well-informed and determined citizens and a committed journalist can reveal the facts and effect change. Shireen Narayanan has a gift for storytelling and her engrossing documentary has great contemporary relevance." Sue Murray, Executive Producer Ten Canoes, MySilly, Charles Country.



"This film is a true and inspiring story for today...a blueprint for others who have their own battles to fight against injustice... It should be required viewing for all who are concerned about such issues – and all who are party to them. And for anyone who loves to see, for once, the people have a win; to see government made accountable; and anyone who rejoices when justice and hope and belief conquer adversity."

John Gordon, Barrister Past-President Australian Lawyers Alliance

inavisionfilms

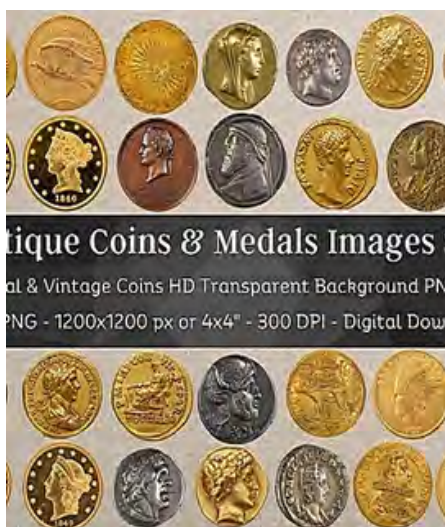
27 July Open Day: Community Workshop “Why is Knowing our History Important”

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all local BHS members and our guests from the Mundaring Historical Society for their active participation in our July Community Workshop on the importance of knowing our own and our community's history. The thoughtful discussions and shared stories made it a truly engaging event, highlighting how understanding our roots not only enriches our own lives but also strengthens the broader community. The enthusiasm and openness made this workshop a memorable experience for everyone involved.



25 August Open Day: Presentation: Collecting and buying antique coins and medals.

Bayswater Historical Society was pleased to welcome member Rob Russell as a guest speaker, sharing his expertise on the fascinating world of collecting and buying antique coins and medals. With years of experience as both a passionate collector and knowledgeable historian, Rob guided attendees through the rich stories and unique characteristics of numismatic treasures. His talk offered practical advice on identifying authentic pieces, understanding market value, and navigating the joys and challenges of building a collection. Rob's engaging presentation inspired both newcomers and seasoned collectors alike to appreciate the historical significance and enduring allure of coins and medals from the past, especially if gold was involved.



25 August AGM Report

Agenda Items

Election of 2025/2026 Management Committee. Approved nominations as received by Secretary.

- Chairperson (Monica Main)
- Secretary (Glen Cookson)
- Treasurer (Lewis Cox)
- General Member x 4 (Clare Chamberlain, Cleo Robins, Wendy Garstone and Maggy Wade)

Motion: That the Nominations received be accepted.

Moved: J. Robertson Seconded: B. Radanovich Motion passed unanimously.

General Business

- Strategic Plan. General discussion, work to be done on achieving greater practical support from the City of Bayswater. Prioritising the digitisation of BHS artefacts and records continues to be a challenge. The expert advice and work of Cleo and Wendy is acknowledged and appreciated.
- BHS/MHPA Steering Committee. Both organisations have similar challenges, and greater collaboration has already seen worthwhile benefits. Still work to be done with a commitment to continue meetings to explore ways forward. Presently working on a survey to go to all CoB 2025 Councillor candidates re attitudes and commitments to Heritage policy.
- Special acknowledgments. Special thanks and appreciation of contributions made to Maggy Wade, Monica Main, Branka Radanovich, Lewis Cox, Lazar Radanovich, Cleo Robins, Wendy Garstone, Wayne Swindells, Marion Garstone, Clare Chamberlain, Penny Lee, Wendy Garstone.
- Other. General discussion, CoB support and Tree Canopy issues. Issue of surplus collection donations - explore possibility of a "Garage Sale" by combining with Enviro House.
- Hospitality. Thanks to Branka and Lazar for the quality snacks and refreshments.



VISITORS TO LEIGHTON

Some of these visitors have become regular over 2025



BHS were pleased to host two visiting groups and staff from AWA. They were a delight to host on a special morning tour of our Heritage House and BHS Museum.

The groups were attentive and engaged in respectful, thoughtful questions and comments. A highlight was the concluding heritage game - that staff and visitors enthusiastically and skilfully participated in. We were impressed with the professionalism of staff who deserve praise for their diligent and caring work.



In August, Victorian visitors to Leighton, Frank and Robyn, went on to visit members Guiseppe and Maria's Cobden Street Heritage Garden. Guiseppe and Maria have been developing their must-see unique backyard garden for 65 years.



25 August : Chung Wah Community Care visitors

Holly, Group organiser wrote, "Thank you so much for your excellent preparation and support during both group visits. The tours were enjoyable and highly educational, and both groups truly appreciated the experience. They spoke very positively about their time with you."



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



On 29 September 1992, the City of Bayswater purchased Leighton in order to preserve the site due to its significance to the history and heritage of our community. Later, the City called for expressions of interest from individuals and community groups interested in using Leighton. The successful applicant was the Bayswater Historical Society. The BHS opened Leighton as a museum to the public in 1993.

Leighton (Halliday House) is included on the City's Municipal Heritage list and is a Category 1 Heritage Location. <https://bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au/halliday-house/>

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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*Our thanks to all the volunteers and BHS members who contributed to this newsletter.
Special thanks to Dan Bull MLA, Member for Maylands for printing this newsletter.*