

Box Hill Historical Society News-



Volume 25, Issue 5
October 2019

General meetings of the BHHS are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month, in the *Bert Lewis Room*, 1st floor, Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road, beginning at 2 pm.

Members and friends are always welcome to attend.

Enquiries are welcome, on:
03 9285 4808

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For your diary

Please note: there will be no general meeting of the Society in October. The day for our regular monthly lecture meetings—the third Sunday—is also the date of the **Whitehorse Spring Festival**. We will have a stall at that event, instead of the usual meeting.

For details regarding our stall at the Festival, see page 3.

Details of the next lecture meeting of the Society are as follows:

Sunday, 17 November 2019, 2pm

Speaker: **Mary Sheehan:** 'The 1919 influenza outbreak in Whitehorse, then known as the Shire of Nunawading.'

In the latter half of 1918, Australian health authorities became aware of the worldwide spread of what was termed Spanish Influenza and began to prepare. Mary Sheehan is a professional historian currently researching the 1919 Spanish Flu pandemic, as part of a PhD at the University of Melbourne.

Council correspondence, held at the Public Record Office, contains details of 372 local people who were infected, and digital copies have been made, and an alphabetical list compiled. From the list it can be seen that 23 boys and two staff from the Salvation Army Home came down with the disease, and that a returned soldier, Private Sloan, infected five members of his family when he visited the family home in Mersey Street, Box Hill. The worst affected family seems to have been that of Fankhauser, whose seven members were diagnosed with influenza.

At the end of the year, the Health Officer, Dr Alfred Vaughan, completed his usual annual report and stated: 'In common with the rest of the State, the epidemic of Influenza occurred in a severe form throughout the year and 14 deaths were recorded in the Shire from this cause'.

Frank Bamford, later to become a foundation member of the BH Historical Society, was one of those infected with Influenza in the Municipality of Nunawading.

Founded in 1963, the Box Hill Historical Society is affiliated with the

- Royal Historical Society of Victoria;
- Association of Eastern Historical Societies.

The Society can be found on the 'net at: www.boxhillhistoricalsociety.com.au (or use a search engine)

You can email us at: boxhillhistory@gmail.com

and follow us on *Facebook* at: www.facebook.com/boxhillhistoricalsociety

President's report – October 2019

Since my most recent report, the Society has continued to be actively involved in collecting, collating, archiving and displaying aspects of Box Hill's history. As well as the regular lecture meetings, we have been successfully engaged in Heritage Week, undertaking a range of activities. Details of these events can be found in this Newsletter. Also of note, and detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter, are a couple of occurrences involving the Society — the renaming of Meeting Room 1 in the Box Hill Library; and the visit of a couple from South Africa with a long-standing connection to Box Hill.

The monthly meetings of both August and September were well attended. In August we were enthralled by Ian Broadhead telling the story of more than a century of his family's involvement in local affairs. In September, as part of the Society's contribution to the theme of this year's Whitehorse Heritage Week, Dr Ed Brentnall related his experiences of setting up Australia's first Emergency Department, at Box Hill Hospital.

Gary Presland
President

BHHS office-bearers for 2019/20

At the Annual General Meeting, held on 18 August 2019, the following members of the Society were elected to the nominated positions on Committee, as listed.

President: Dr Gary Presland
Vice-President: William Orange
Secretary: Helen Harris OAM
Treasurer: John Barnao
Committee members: Ian Broadhead
Judith Eadon
Rev Shane Hübner
Ric Pawsey
Grace Swiney

Heritage Week Raffle winners

The Society congratulates the following lucky prize winners in its fundraising raffle, drawn after the meeting on Sunday 15 September.

1st (\$50 Bunnings Gift Card)	Tony De Fazio
2nd (Copy of <i>The Place for a village</i> ; RRP \$40)	Emma Stirk
3rd (\$30 Coles-Myer gift card)	Judith Eadon
4th (Bottle of wine, \$20)	Michelle Mountain

Suggestions?

The Committee welcomes suggestions from members for events to be held by the Box Hill Historical Society.

If you have any ideas for topics for talks or speakers, tours, or exhibition topics, please contact a member of the Committee.

Mission Statement

The Box Hill Historical Society seeks to collect, preserve, facilitate access, research and communicate items that reflect life in and the development of Box Hill and district.

Geographical area of interest

The Collection is relevant to the suburbs of Box Hill, Box Hill North, Box Hill South, Mont Albert, Mont Albert North, Bennettswood and the parts of Burwood and Surrey Hills, which fall within the City of Whitehorse.

New members

The Committee is pleased to welcome the following individuals who have joined the Society in recent months (With apologies for the delay.) We hope their association with the Society is a long and beneficial one.

Kevin Earl;
Yvonne Fitzmaurice;
Ruth Hoskin;
Paul Jackson;
Dianne O'Leary;
Lesley and Kevin Peowrie;
Glenda Ruggeri;
Betty and Ken Walters;



Box Hill Historical Society is pleased to thank its sponsors, Bunnings Warehouse, Box Hill South, and Coles, Box Hill.



Other forthcoming events

Whitehorse Spring Festival, 20 October 2019

As we catch our collective breaths following the heightened activity of Heritage Week, we are gearing up for this year's Spring Festival. The Society will be conducting its usual stall, at which we will present to the public some aspects of our work. The theme of the Festival this year is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

Volunteers are needed to staff the Society's stall, as well as the second-hand book table. The operating hours for the festival are 10 am to 4 pm, and we need to have three people on hand in each of the three shifts: 10-12; 12-2; and 2-4. If you can spare a couple of hours in the afternoon, please contact Helen on **0429 833 324**, or Gary on **0416 316 419**.

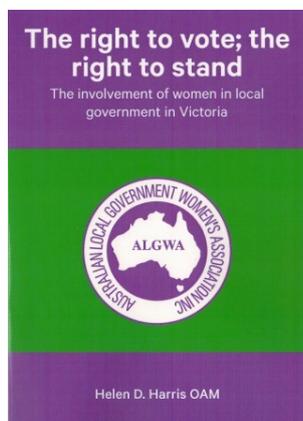
Anglican Parish of Box Hill celebrates 130 years

The weekend of 26/27 October 2019 will be a special one of celebrations for the community at St Peter's Box Hill, as they celebrate 130 years! The hall will be open on the Saturday from 9am to 2pm and filled with historic displays of the parish and the local area. The church will be open and guided tours available, explaining the meaning and history behind many of the interior decorations and fittings of St Peter's Anglican Church. Morning tea will be available for a small charge and there will be an opportunity to have a ride in a vintage car. For further details please ring the parish office on 9890 5122 or the vicar on 0432 681177.

BHHS to host February 2020 AEHS meeting

The Association of Eastern Historical Societies has accepted BHHS Committee's offer to host the first meeting in 2020 of fellow members of the Association. This event will take place on Saturday, 22 February 2020. The host Society provides a guest speaker, and in this case it will be our secretary Helen Harris OAM, who will speak on the history of women in local government. This will be a timely topic, as next year marks the centenary of election of the first woman Councillor, in November 1920. Helen, a former Councillor herself, is well qualified to speak on the subject, having extensively researched it, and as the author of *The right to vote; the right to stand*.

Further details of the event will be forthcoming nearer the date.

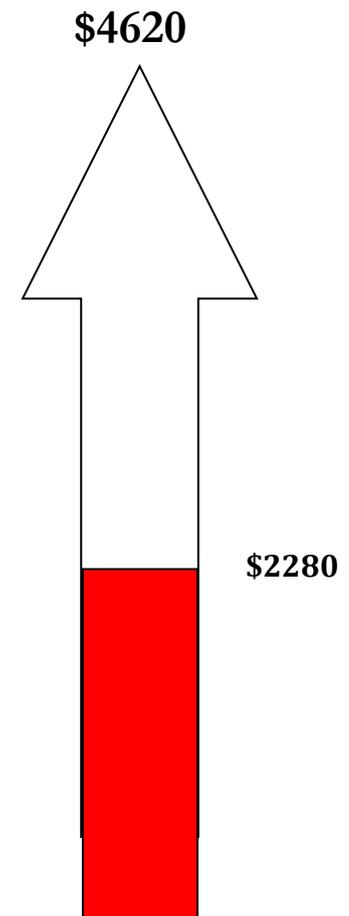


BHHS digitising project

Thanks to the Trivia Night and raffle and a number of personal donations made recently, the Society's efforts to raise the sum required for this project have received a significant fillip. The Committee is pleased to acknowledge the following contributions made to the Society's project to digitise issues of the *Box Hill Reporter*, and to thank the individuals, as listed below, for their donation.

	\$
Trivia Night & Raffle	1024
2nd hand book sales	60
Name withheld by request	500
Janet Galley	15
Lorraine Taylor	20
Martin Trainor	100
Margaret Wood	50

Progress will be reported in successive newsletters, in the graphic form as presented here:



(Not to scale)

Recent speakers

William R. Orange

Local resident and Society member Ian Broadhead's talk to the **August general meeting** marked a **Century of the Broadhead family in Box Hill**. The audience included family and friends of the Broadheads, among them former councillor Dennis Trehwella. Ian Broadhead's grandfather Percy Broadhead emigrated with his family to Australia from the U.K. in 1911. The family settled in Ascot Vale when George, Percy's father found work with the Victorian Railways. Percy obtained a full time job with a milk company and undertook part time accountancy studies. He was also a member of the YMCA and church groups.

Percy enlisted in the army in 1916 and married in 1917. After Percy returned from two years' war service they moved to Mersey Street in Box Hill and he resumed work at the Bacchus Marsh Milk Company. An application for a job with the shire council was unsuccessful but in 1921 he obtained a position with Hudson and Keen, initially as a ledger clerk, then as manager of their electrical store at 974 Whitehorse Road. He was a founding member of Box Hill RSL (their first clubrooms was an octagonal brick building in the centre median plantation opposite Box Hill Town Hall); he also served on the committee to construct the Shire War Memorial in Station Street. Percy and his wife Everina were on the Box Hill State School parents' committee working with the Kingsley family and other local traders to provide food for the undernourished children attending the school.

In 1936 the Broadheads purchased and moved to 1 Elland Avenue. A couple of years later Percy left Hudson & Keen and established P. Broadhead & Son at 31 Carrington Road as a facilitator and supplier to the building trades. The early war year of 1939 was a financially challenging one for the family and they survived with the support of elder daughter Eve. Their son (and Ian's father) Alan attended Box Hill State School and Box Hill High School before obtaining job as a draughtsman for the MMBW. Next came a position at the Bank of Australasia's Brunswick branch, followed by a transfer to Leongatha where he met and married his wife Sheila. 1942 saw Alan enlisting in the army: after initial training he attended Officer Training School in Albury then Woodville, South Australia before jungle training at Canungra in Queensland. After service in Bougainville and the Pacific he returned to Australia in 1946, resuming employment with the bank (now part of ANZ) and playing football with Box Hill, who were Premiers that year. When Percy's health began declining in 1947/48 Alan resigned from the ANZ and joined the business. A cousin, Arthur Broadhead, Henry Yeomans (from Birds' Timber Yard) and Perc Newton (Myer's) followed, as P. Broadhead & Son expanded during the early 50s. Prior to his death in 1952 Percy had acquired the corner block opposite Box Hill Baptist Church. A new store was built in 1955 and in 1956 the business relocated there from 31 Carrington Road: all the family and friends helped with the move. The business became supplier to many Box Hill tradesmen, including the builders of the Latter Day Saints' Church in Blackburn.

Post-war, Alan and Sheila's transport was a BSA motorcycle and sidecar. They also enjoyed playing tennis with Box Hill Tennis Club in Shipley Street. In 1948 they purchased a block of land at 17 Watts Street and built a house, into which the family moved in mid-1950. They were adjacent to world-renowned rosarian T.A. Stewart at 19-23 Watts Street (now a block of flats). By 1951 Alan had upgraded his transport to a Ford Customline utility and the Lawn Bowls Club rooms to the south in Watts Street were relocated to a new green in Poplar Street on the corner of Whitehorse Road.

As Box Hill developed, Traders' Associations were formed; in the 1930s an earlier group attempted to have the railway crossing at Box Hill lowered. During the 1950s a Chamber of Commerce was formed: all the businesses were owner-operated (Hoath, McLaughlin, Weston, Cleghorn *et al.*) and worked together to run the Whitehorse Festival. It included a parade of floats and performing groups—and on one occasion 'Lady Godiva' on a white horse—that progressed from Carrington Road to the White Horse monument, with the horse and rider continuing on and into the Box Hill Town Hall to participate in an episode of Channel 7's 'Sunny Side Up'.

The 1950s saw school populations rising, youth clubs evolving, Scout and Guide groups thriving (Alan was District Commissioner for a period) and service clubs emerging. Alan joined Rotary in 1956 and was chairman of a fundraising committee for the 1960 Olympics. He stood for and was elected to Council with Ron Cleghorn in 1964, was Mayor in 1967/68 and a regular participant in school investitures and community events. Retail business was changing with chain stores and regional shopping centres.

Recent speakers, continued

William R. Orange

Other changes included decimal currency, metric conversion, credit cards and extended trading hours (1971). The tram extension to Box Hill consolidated Box Hill as a transport hub with even more development of larger enterprises, and an Asian food centre. One suggestion for the influx of Hong Kong money has been that a location on a hill is seen by these entrepreneurs as prestigious, and Box Hill is 'on a hill'.

In 1974 Broadheads' hardware amalgamated with Frank Jeffrey's timber business to form J.M. Broadhead Hardware and Timber and relocate to Jeffrey's Thames Street corner site. Frank Jeffrey later sold out to Arthur who then became Alan's partner. In 1987 they sold the business to Graeme Dernelly: by the early 2000s the business was closed and the site sold for the construction of apartments.

Retired physician and former local resident Ed Brentnall OAM spoke to the **September general meeting** about **the History of Emergency Medicine at Box Hill Hospital** and beyond. The audience included family and his nurse colleague **Noelle Pink** who was his original Triage nurse.

Ed Brentnall graduated in Medicine in the U.K. in 1952. After two six-month hospital placements in Paediatrics and Geriatrics he went on to do three years National Service in the RAMC as a medical officer to British troops based mainly in Singapore. On return to the U.K. he did some obstetrics work, followed by general practice in Kent from 1958 until he and his family emigrated to Australia in 1965. In 1966 Brentnall took up a position with the Whitehorse Medical Group in Box Hill where Harry Judkins was the senior partner and a promoter for the construction of Box Hill Hospital, which had opened in 1956. By 1966 hospital beds, in particular those for obstetric patients, were in short supply so some births took place at Bethesda in Richmond.

Peter Bush, a Blackburn GP recruited him to join St. John Ambulance in 1967; initially he was surgeon to the Waverley St. John's Cadets, and later a Commissioner. Bush became Director of Emergency at RMH in 1973. After nearly 10 years Brentnall became unsettled working in general practice. Through Alan Davis at Box Hill Hospital he heard that the position of Director of Casualty at the Hospital was available – no special training required. After consulting with his wife he applied, was successful and took up the position in July 1975.

Medicare had not long been implemented and Emergency, for which there had been a means-tested charge became free. The staffing was lamentable and attendance had tripled in 10 years to about 40,000 per year. Basic staffing was five 1st year interns to cover 24 hours per day with two residents on call; two sessional GPs; and five sessional surgeons. They were a mixed bunch and the surgeons were really only interested in major trauma or illness.

He took the long service leave owing to him from the medical practice in 1976 and travelled to the U.K. and Europe, including visits to five English Accident and Emergency Departments. Leeds was remarkable, especially for its orthopaedic surgeon who was highly skilled in hand surgery, and an excellent follow-up program that included physiotherapy and rehabilitation. On return home he prepared a report for the hospital board, recommending a new expanded accident and emergency department and noting that the hospital was too small and had too few staff to carry out its existing workload. The proposal to concentrate on the A & E department was declined.

In March 1976 a triage system was introduced (it had been first come, first seen). Some patients required immediate attention; others who were 'fairly urgent' could be left in the queue. Priority was given to the urgent rather than the important. Triage was used at the Battle of Waterloo where the fixable were retrieved and the walking wounded evacuated themselves. At Box Hill, an experienced nurse was placed at admission to classify patients initially into three categories – Yellow (clearly urgent), Blue (definite injuries) and White (others). This evolved into five categories – Signal one (most urgent) Orange, then Yellow, Blue, Green and White. Box Hill Hospital was the first hospital in Australia to introduce a formal triage system, followed by Ipswich five years later. It changed the way hospital emergency departments worked, has spread widely and is accepted internationally.

A study of patients arriving at Emergency at the time and the catchment area from where they came found that Box Hill Hospital was serving a population of 630,000 (23% of Melbourne) and had 206 beds (5.5% of

(concluded on page 6)

Recent speakers, concluded

Melbourne public hospital beds). At the time there was no hospitals at Maroondah or Monash and the Austin was difficult to access. The new Box Hill Hospital has 600 beds and an excellent emergency department. Box Hill has become a major recruiter for interns, moving from general to emergency medicine, with many becoming outstanding emergency physicians. Ed Brentnall initially restructured the department to engage experienced third-year doctors, then other keen and enthusiastic staff, and had sessional staff phased out.

In 1979 he travelled to the USA on sabbatical leave and visited the trauma centre at Maryland, Baltimore. They had developed a team approach to major trauma, comprising a senior doctor and nurse and several others with designated roles including a 'recording angel' to document all procedures. This system was formally adopted in 1983 at Box Hill for major trauma. Box Hill by then had become a major trauma centre – in 1980, 800 samples for blood analysis were taken from motor vehicle accident patients.

The Victorian Emergency Department Association was formed to assist the sharing of skill and information amongst nurses and doctors. In 1983 the Australian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM) was formed and in 1993 Emergency Medicine was recognised as a specialty. Box Hill Hospital has been a major contributor to the development of emergency medicine, informing academic structure, teaching and recognition of the specialty. (Simon Judkins, grandson of Harry is the current president of the ACEM.)

Heritage Week Report

The theme of this year's Whitehorse Heritage Week (12–19 September) was *Health & Wellbeing*. This was in keeping with 2019 being the centenary of the outbreak of the Spanish flu pandemic. In preparation for the week, the Archivist and her volunteers investigated surviving records, and compiled a listing of every local person who became infected. She also located details of people who caught other infectious diseases, and compiled an index of these people, covering the period 1914 to 1926. Eventually, both of these indexes will be uploaded to our website, but in the meantime will be on display at our stall at the Spring Festival



Some of the participants in the bus tour, pictured at Hethersett House, (L–R) Helen Harris OAM; Jane Dyer; William Orange; Margaret Wood; Ian Wood; Alison Dews. Photograph courtesy of Sue Barnett.

In addition, a range of activities were conducted by the Society during Heritage Week, all based on the theme of health. These events included a bus tour of significant sites in the story of health management in the Box Hill area; a walking tour of Box Hill cemetery, titled *Medicos and misadventures* (both undertaken in conjunction with Surrey Hills Historical Society); a two-day display in the lower town hall, which included several talks on relevant topics; and a Trivia Night on the theme 'What's up, Doc?'. Our round of activities concluded with our regular meeting, on Sunday 15 September, at which Dr Ed Brentnall MBE OAM spoke on the history of emergency medicine at Box Hill Hospital.

Official opening of the Bert Lewis Room

The Society was well represented at the official opening of the Bert Lewis room on September 4.



Pictured at the opening of the Bert Lewis Room are (L–R): BHHS President Dr Gary Presland; Cr Tina Liu; author Stuart Kells; and Whitehorse Manningham Chief Librarian Sally Both. Photograph courtesy of Whitehorse Library staff.

The change in name of our usual meeting venue in Box Hill Library was an initiative of this Society, suggested as a way of acknowledging and commemorating the work of former Head Librarian and community activist, Herbert Lewis. The Bert Lewis Room was officially opened by Councillor Tina Liu. A presentation was made by the President in which he briefly detailed the activism of Mr Lewis. This was followed by a short but very interesting talk by Stuart Kells, in which he spoke about his worldwide travels visiting libraries. Stuart is the author of a recently published book titled *The Library: a Catalogue of Wonders*.

Visit by Martyn Trainor



L–R: Dr Paul Fox; Martyn Trainor; Yolande Trainor; Whitehorse Mayor Cr Bill Bennett; BHHS Secretary Helen Harris OAM; BHHS President Dr Gary Presland, pictured in front of the eponymous white horse.

On 8 August, the BHHS Committee was pleased to host a visit to our premises by Martyn Trainor and his wife Yolande, from South Africa. Martyn is a descendant of Patrick Trainor, first owner of the Whitehorse Hotel. In Box Hill they were accompanied by Paul Fox, a local resident and noted historian, and a Trainor descendant also. They were welcomed at a small ceremony in the Whitehorse Art Space, by BHHS President Gary Presland, and had a tour of the Heritage Centre and Town Hall.

Martyn expressed their pleasure at being in the area and commended the good work of the Society in helping to maintain the memory of his ancestor. Martyn and Yolande later kindly made a donation towards the digitisation project.

Box Hill Historical Society Inc.
No. A15258V ABN 613 34916140

Heritage Centre - 03 9285 4808
Suite 7, 27 Bank Street, Box Hill.
(Town Hall Hub, rear Box Hill Town Hall)
Hours: 11-4, Tuesdays; otherwise, by appointment

President: Dr Gary Presland
Vice-President: William Orange
Secretary: Helen Harris OAM
Treasurer: John Barnao
Committee: Ian Broadhead, Judith Eadon,
Rev. Shane Hübner, Ric Pawsey, Grace Swiney



Phone: 03 9890 9288

Box Hill Historical
Society
Newsletter



PO Box 268 Box Hill 3128

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Box Hill Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the City of Whitehorse for its support with grants, discounts on hall hire, concessional use of premises in the Box Hill Town Hall and its willing assistance with our exhibitions in the Box Hill Town Hall Art Space.