

Box Hill Historical Society Newsletter



Volume 26, Issue 5

December 2020

(In the usual course of events)
General meetings of the BHHS are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month, in the *Bert Lewis* Room in Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road, beginning at 2 pm. Enquiries are welcome, on:
03 9285 4808

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

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

Heritage Centre re-opening

It was decided by the Committee recently that the Society's premises would not be re-opened for public research purposes **before 1 February 2021**, at least. This has been done in the interests of our volunteers, all of whom are in the vulnerable category regarding COVID infection. We cannot be too careful.

However, BHHS members wishing to carry out research can meet with the Archivist, **by prior arrangement**. If you wish to arrange a meeting for such purposes, please contact Helen by email (boxhillhistory@gmail.com), or telephone 9890 9288.

The President and Committee are glad to wish members of the Society all the very best for a safe and happy Christmas/New Year period.



It's that time of the year, when gift giving can become a problem. Why not purchase something from your Historical Society, such as one of our variety of books, or a gift voucher for a future cemetery or walking tour? Not only would you solve your gift problem, you would also benefit the Society at the same time. Books can be purchased online and posted, or if easier, paid for by cash when collected from our premises at the Town Hall at a mutually convenient time. Vouchers can be personalised and sent electronically.

To see our collection of books go to
<https://www.boxhillhistoricalsociety.com.au/shop-02/>
– remember, the online price includes postage and packaging.

And to find out about our vouchers, go to
<https://www.boxhillhistoricalsociety.com.au/our-tours/>

Please direct any orders for cash sales and vouchers to boxhillhistory@gmail.com

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**

Report of 2019/20 AGM

The 56th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Sunday, 15 November 2020, making use of the on-line conferencing program Zoom. The meeting was somewhat later in the calendar year than usual, but societies such as this one had been granted an extension in the reporting period, because of the restrictions in physical meetings, due to the COVID pandemic.

Following acceptance of the Minutes of the 2018/19 AGM, and the presentation of annual reports and financial Statements, the election of office bearers and committee members took place. Betty Walters had kindly agreed to conduct the election, which resulted in the following members of the Society being elected to the nominated positions, 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

There was no nomination for a member representative on the Audit Committee, and it was decided that this position will be filled at a later date. Garry Plumridge was elected as the public representative on the Audit Committee. The Society's Treasurer, John Barnao, is an ex-officio member of the Committee.

Drawing of Society's Raffle

The drawing of the Society's raffle of a hamper kindly supplied by Ryman Healthcare, took place in a suitably remote fashion. The range of numbers and colours of the sold tickets was supplied to the Member for Box Hill, Paul Hamer MLA. Using a random number generator, Paul subsequently provided details of the winning ticket.



And the winner was ... Society member Cr Raylene Carr.



The Society was pleased to raise \$280 as a result of ticket sales, and offer its thanks to Ryman Healthcare for their support. We also thank Paul Hamer MLA for his willing participation in the process of drawing a winner.



Cr Raylene Carr, pictured with the hamper.

Guest Speaker

Following the AGM, members were treated to a presentation by Committee member and current Vicar of St Peter's Box Hill, Rev'd Shane Hübner. The subject of Shane's talk was 'The Anglican Community in Box Hill – 130 years in the making, with plans for the next 130!' With thanks to Society Vice-President William Orange, a summary of this interesting presentation can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

Medallions on offer

The Society has recently been given a number of two small commemorative medallions. These medallions (pictured below) were minted, firstly, to mark the bi-centenary of James Cook's charting of the east coast of Australia in HMS *Endeavour* in 1770; and secondly, on the occasion of the centenary of local government in Box Hill, in 1957.

Each of these medallions had been acquired in substantial numbers by Box Hill Council, for distribution as part of local celebrations of the respective events.

It is now the Committee's pleasure to offer an example of each medallion, free of charge, to members of this society.

If you are interested in receiving one or both of these pieces, please contact the Society, by email or telephone.



Captain Cook commemorative medallion



Box Hill Centenary medallion

Lighter Footprints

The following notice has been received from Brenda Tait, Convenor Speakers Group, asking that we publicise the activities of this environmental group.

Lighter Footprints. is based in Boroondara and has existed for over 10 years. It holds regular events related to the environment, and our monthly newsletters are distributed to more than 2000 people.

One of the aims of the organisation is to raise awareness and share information about how to lower emissions and reduce energy costs. Lighter Footprints hosts monthly forums with experts across a range of topics talking about the opportunities for change. These talks are all available online for free viewing on our website at <<https://lighterfootprints.org/past-events/>>.

We can also organise a Lighter Footprints speaker if your group is interested in a personalised address on a particular topic. We are exploring how to set up on-line meetings using Zoom as an alternative to face-to-face meetings. These talks are free.

Examples of the topics offered include:

- Electric cars — a personal story;
- Solar panels and batteries — a personal story;
- What is the point of declaring a Climate Emergency?;
- Personal accounts about the importance of acting on climate change.

If you have other topics related to the environment and climate, please let us know, at brenda.tait@doubleiq.com.au or 0430277123.

Archivist's Report

Following on the installation of a new dehumidifier in our archival storage room, I was unable to use the archives for a few weeks as the system was being tested. All is now working in good order, so accessing of records can resume. I've undertaken several email research requests and answered Council staff queries, and continued on with checking the data entries for the later rate valuation books for East Ward. While the entries from streets A-L are online, I had hoped to have the M-Z entries uploaded by the end of the year, but because of COVID, this won't happen. We have compiled over 9000 entries in this section so far, so it too will be quite a large index once finished. Otherwise, the main activity since the last Newsletter was the recording of a video for the Professional Historians Association (PHA) for Children's Week. Several Society photos were used, which has generated \$120 in income. The video is available for viewing on our Facebook page.

Newsletters from other historical societies

The Society regularly receives email updates from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) and email editions of Newsletters from a number of other historical societies. These are forwarded to the committee, but can also be forwarded to members if they wish. If you would like to go on the Miscellaneous Societies Newsletters group email list, please email the Society on boxhillhistory@gmail.com and this will be done.

The Societies from which we currently receive newsletters are:

Balwyn; Camberwell; Eltham; Kew; Knox; Lilydale; Maldon; Malvern; Queenscliffe; Richmond & Burnley; Surrey Hills; Warrandyte; Waverley; and Whitehorse.

Our new computer

Readers may recall mention made by the President in his October report that the Society was awarded a grant of \$1000 by Whitehorse Council, to purchase a computer and printer/scanner. It can now be reported that said equipment has been purchased and delivered to the Heritage Centre (see picture below). As yet, the programs of greatest use to us, e.g. MS Word, Access and Excel, have not been installed. Moreover, given present circumstances it will be into the new year before the equipment will be put to sustained use.

Thanks go to the Secretary for doing both the legwork and the paperwork, and making the purchase. Thanks also to Committee member Ian Broadhead who kindly collected the equipment from the retailers and delivered it to the Society's premises.



100 years ago

From *The Reporter* 17 Dec 1920, p. 2

OBITUARY — Mr H.W.S. BLACK

By the death of Mr Harold W.S. Black, son of Mr and Mrs Black of Watt Street Box Hill, one of the most popular young men of the district has passed away. The sad event, which was not unexpected, occurred at Lakes Entrance on Friday night, December 10th, culminating on a long and lingering illness, at the early age of 29 years. The deceased served in the Army Medical Corps of the A.I.F., and it was whilst abroad that he developed diabetes, from which he never afterwards recovered. Upon his return home he was after a short convalescence able to resume his usual occupation of a clerk in the warehouse of Alex Cowan and Sons Melbourne, but subsequently had to relinquish his position altogether. Then followed intermittent spells of bad turns, and on many occasions his life was despaired of. He however, bore his sufferings with great fortitude, and outwardly concealed his serious state of health to many. Only a few days prior to his death he decided to take a trip to the Gippsland Lakes, and was accompanied by his mother. On the Wednesday his condition became very grave and he lapsed into unconsciousness on the following day, the death occurring as above stated. Harold, as he was popularly known by his numerous companions and friends, was up til about a year ago, one of the most prominent figures in local sporting circles in which he manifested a keen interest. Whether it be cricket or football, and he had acted as secretary of both clubs at different times, he always evinced the same

enthusiasm. For several years he acted as a delegate on both the 'Reporter' District Football and Cricket Associations, and in his various spheres of activity will be much missed. Many long and lasting comradeships have been broken by his early demise which is to be deplored, the only consolation being that it was relief to his long suffering. The utmost sympathy goes to the parents and family in their sad bereavement.

His remains were brought to Melbourne on Saturday night, and the funeral took place to the Box Hill cemetery on Monday afternoon, being attended by a very large gathering of mourners. A striking feature was the particularly numerous assemblage of young men of the district, who had known the deceased so well, and gathered around the graveside to pay their last tribute of respect and admiration. Included among these was a big sprinkling of returned soldiers who had served with him on the other side and many of those present were visibly affected. The burial service was conducted by the Rev W.R. Cooling assisted by the Rev Bert Hollow [Hallam?] Some beautiful floral tokens were placed upon the coffin, including wreaths sent by his mates, the local branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A. and the Box Hill Football and Cricket Clubs.

[*Ed.* The Black family lived at *Tyneside*, 6 Watt Street Box Hill]

Ed's notes:

1. Harold Wallace Santilla Black was born at Traralgon in 1891, and enlisted in the A.I.F. on 17 June 1915. His occupation was given as clerk, and he was described as being 5ft 9 inches in height, with a weight of 11 stone, and of a sallow complexion, with grey eyes and dark brown hair. He embarked in November 1915, as a member of the 2nd Austn Casualty Clearing Station, and arrived in Egypt on Christmas Eve. He subsequently served in France, then took leave in London in December 1916. While there, he was admitted to hospital suffering from influenza. Upon recovering, he re-joined his Unit in January 1917, but was shortly afterwards diagnosed with severe diabetes and returned to England, where he was treated at Fensham Military Hospital. He was returned to Australia on 16 July 1917.

Although seriously ill, Harold had not made a Will, and on his death his mother Jane applied for, and was granted Letters of Administration. His estate was valued at £310 and consisted of money in both the State Savings and Commonwealth Bank, and a Life Assurance policy. Expenditure included attendance by three doctors, the cost of conveying the body back to Melbourne, and funeral, stonemasonry and cemetery costs—leaving a final balance of £175. His father died in 1936, his mother in 1943. They are all buried together in the Church of England section of the cemetery.

2. Disease treatments that we take for granted nowadays, were non-existent 100 years ago, as this sad story reveals. Prior to the discovery of insulin by Canadians Frederick Banting and John R.J. McLeod, for which they won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1923, treatment of diabetes consisted of a restricted-calorie diet that provided mainly fat and protein, with the minimum amount of carbohydrates needed to sustain life.

Recent Speaker

William R. Orange

After a gap of eight months due to the exigencies of the coronavirus pandemic, a general meeting of the Society was held on 15 November via remote access. **The Rev'd Shane Hübner, Society committee member and Vicar of St Peter's Anglican Parish Box Hill** since 2016, gave an illustrated talk about the **history of the Anglican Church** in this area. Although St Peter's Box Hill marked their 130th anniversary in 2019, the first regular Anglican service in this district was held over 160 years ago in the home of Charles and Mary Bedford.

The Bedfords had purchased Crown Allotment 23B, of about 31 acres fronting present day Canterbury Road, in 1854; it is likely that Charles had built a dwelling on the site some years earlier. Their daughters recalled their father setting off in his dray one Saturday morning in 1857 heading towards Melbourne, and later that day bringing back Dean (Hussey) Macartney from St James pro-Cathedral (where the Bedfords had married some years before.) On the Sunday morning the Anglican neighbours assembled in the Bedfords' living room, where the Dean conducted the first regular Anglican service in the district of Nunawading. After the Church of England School was built nearby in 1861, services were held there, followed from 1883 by services in a new brick church – St Peter's Nunawading, located in Whitehorse Road near Frankcom Street. When the Blackburn Anglicans obtained land for a church in Queen Street, Blackburn, the present site in Box Hill was purchased: the Trustees of the Box Hill congregation also purchased the 'old' church and had it dismantled and rebuilt to the rear of the Box Hill site, with the foundation stone laid in 1889. The Rev'd William Green was the first incumbent.

A wooden church was built in 1908, closer to Whitehorse Road. It survived one fire in 1943 but not the second in 1949. During the early decades of the 20th century the parish thrived, with a choir (a musical tradition that continues), Sunday School and monthly Parish Paper, along with regular services, weddings and baptisms. Hitching posts were a necessity in 1911 and an envelope system introduced to aid giving in the 1920s.

A new church was proposed in 1935 and prominent church architect Louis Williams provided a sketch design. Williams was known for his designs that suited the Australian climate. The interruption of World War II stalled progress. The post-war period was an active one for the parish, with sporting groups and clubs for young people and adults, in addition to regular parish activities. Early post-war also saw the establishment of a daughter church — St Phillip's in Box Hill North. A congregation in Box Hill South that became St Aidan's had met since the mid-1920s. Soon after the December 1949 fire, in 1950, St Peter's Project Phoenix was commenced and a new, but incomplete church to Williams' design was dedicated in 1953. When the original brick St Peter's church was destroyed by fire in 1967 the insurance enabled the completion of the new church to Williams' design, including the chancel and sanctuary, but not the tower. A mosaic mural was installed on the sanctuary 'east' wall in 1978 and a well-appointed pipe organ replaced the Conn electronic in 1991. An extension of the church towards the street, to provide some office and small meeting space, was added in the mid-2000s and in 2007 the parish became host to a Sudanese congregation, with outreach including the Saturday morning school and the Dream Stitches sewing programme for migrant and refugee women. A Mandarin congregation relocated to St Peter's in 2014 and holds regular Sunday services.



St Peter's Box Hill, pictured before the addition of an extension to the north, in the mid-2000s.

During the exigencies of the coronavirus pandemic, services have been streamed on YouTube and made available on the internet. Plans for the future include a renovation of the Parish Hall to include education and social justice centres and a commercial-standard kitchen. There is an active Whitehorse Pastors' association of about 45 members, and the relocation of the Salvation Army on the western side of the Town Hall, will provide an opportunity to collaborate on new projects.

2020 Christmas Trivia Quiz

With the advent of the festive season upon us, the Editor offers the following list of questions for members and friends to puzzle over, and/or display their superior knowledge of local history.

Answers will be provided in the next issue of this *Newsletter*.

1. Where, and in what year, did A.V. Jennings open a new home improvements display centre
2. Who was the architect who designed the Dorking Road hostel in 1984?
3. In what year was the Box Hill branch of the Australian Natives Association (ANA) established?
4. What was opened at 693 Canterbury Road in 1983?
5. In what year was the Box Hill branch of the Bendigo Bank opened?
6. What famous Australian entertainer lived in a flat in Thames Street in 1973?
7. Who was the architect who designed Strabane Chapel
8. In what year were computers introduced to Box Hill library?
9. Where was the short-lived Venus Adult Book Shop?
10. What is the name of the sculpture in Box Hill Mall?
11. When was the Box Hill branch of the Country Women's Association established?
12. What event was held in Eram Park in 1983?
13. Who stood as Australian Democrat candidate for the Federal seat of Deakin in 1981?
14. What was the name of the restaurant that opened at the top of Whitehorse Plaza in 1981?
15. Can you name two well-known authors who lived in Box Hill?
16. In what year did the Kitchener Street Neighbourhood House open?
17. Who was elected the Federal member for Chisholm in 1983?
18. Who was the founder of the Oxford Children's Theatre?
19. Who was the first female principal of Kingswood College?
20. In what year was the Tudor Motel opened?





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A couple of advertisements
from *Box Hill Gazette*, 23
September 1970, p. 16.



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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

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Society
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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.