

Box Hill Historical Society Newsletter



Volume 26, Issue 1
February 2020

General meetings of the BHHS
are held on the 3rd Sunday of
each month, in the *Bert Lewis*
Room 1 of 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

The Society's first meeting in the new year will take place in Bert Lewis Meeting Room of the **Box Hill Library**, 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, beginning at 2:00 pm. Details are as follow:

Sunday, 16 February 2020

Guest Speaker— **Ian Wood**, former Box Hill pharmacist

'Panaceas and placebos: a history of pharmacy in Box Hill'

Ian's father established a central Box Hill pharmacy in 1938. Ian joined his father in 1956, and in subsequent years, as a pharmacist in Box Hill, Ian gained a wealth of experience, as well as many stories about professional practice.



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 — February 2020

Welcome to another year of meetings, Newsletters, and other events focusing on Box Hill's history.

With the year only a month old and no meetings having taken place, there is not a lot to report. I should note, however, that our indefatigable Secretary/Archivist has carried on with her indexing projects, over the break.

Our project to digitise copies of the *Reporter* newspaper is proceeding. Over January we ran a twilight walking tour of the Whitehorse Road/Station Street area, and appealed for funds via our *Facebook* page. While we are still short of the final amount necessary to digitize the paper to 1930, the Committee made the decision to take the balance of the funds from our reserves, in the hope that they can be built up again later. The cemetery tour detailed below will be part of the ongoing fundraising. In July we will again run a book stall for Open House Day, and so will be seeking donations of good quality second hand books. They can be dropped off at our rooms on any Tuesday.

Gary Presland
President

Cemetery Tour

10 a.m., Saturday 29 February 2020

Members and friends are invited to take part in a walking tour in Box Hill Cemetery, planned for 29 February 2020. Take advantage of the extra day in 2020 and book in for a two-hour tour of a range of graves in this historical cemetery.



To coincide with the beginning of Women's History Month and International Women's Day in March, our tour on 29 February will focus on women in Box Hill cemetery. We will visit the graves of a variety of women, from nurses, teachers and artists to pioneers of women's organisations. Bookings are essential and can be made via <https://www.trybooking.com/BIDZG>

NB. there is a limit of 20 people.

Cost: \$20 per person, [\$15 for BHHS members]

Further details are available on the BHHS Website.

Enquiries: Telephone — Helen on 0429 833 324.

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.

Contributions?

A newsletter like this one functions best and is of most use and interest to members when it contains a wide range of pertinent information for its readers. To assist this exercise, the Editor is always looking for contributions about the Society, from our own members. If you have something you would like to include in an issue of the Newsletter—a photograph, some information you'd like to share—don't be shy; contact the Editor.

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, Benettswood and the parts of Burwood and Surrey Hills, which fall within the City of Whitehorse.

Forthcoming Society events

Our Syllabus Organiser and Secretary have been busy, putting together a list of speakers for this year's monthly meetings. Members and friends can look forward to some scintillating and informative talks at 2.00 p.m. in the Bert Lewis Meeting Room, on the following dates:

Sunday, 15 March 2020

Guest speaker: former General Manager of Infrastructure at Whitehorse City Council, **Phil Warner** will speak about his 47 years of service, which commenced with the City of Box Hill in 1972.

Sunday, 19 April 2020

Guest speaker: **Bill Sawyer** spent his childhood in Box Hill, where his parents operated a dairy, during the 1930s and '40s. He went on to become an agricultural scientist.

Sunday, 17 May 2020

Guest speaker: **Dr Stephen Poropat** is an internationally-known palaeontologist, and Post-doctoral Researcher at Swinburne University of Technology. He was born and grew up in Box Hill, and will speak about how he turned a life-long interest in dinosaurs into a promising career.

Sunday 21 June 2020

Guest Speaker: Jan Blomfield will speak about the Snellgrove family, early residents of Box Hill North.

Sunday 19 July 2020

Guest Speaker: Rev. Shane Hübner — 'The Anglican Community in Box Hill – 130 years in the making, with plans for the next 130!' Shane will provide an examination of the development of the Anglican Parish of Box Hill from humble beginnings in 1889 to its multi-cultural focus in 2020.

Sunday 16 August 2020

Guest Speaker: Fay Woodhouse— 'The Gita Yoga School and its links to Box Hill'.

BHHS meeting venue

In 2019 the Society's monthly meetings will continue to be held in the upstairs meeting room in Box Hill Library, at 1040 Whitehorse Road. Members will be interested to know, however, that City of Whitehorse Council agreed late last year to honour a former Chief Librarian, Bert Lewis, by naming the meeting room in his memory.

H C (Bert) Lewis, joined Box Hill Library in March 1954 and retired in July 1981. Between those dates he was heavily involved in many cultural and social aspects of the Box Hill community. In brief, he:

- Served as secretary on Box Hill Council Centenary Committee, 1957;
- Developed the Australiana collection at Box Hill Library, 1959;
- Served on the Executive of the Library Association and was President 1961, 1962 (at least);
- Was the Rotary Club Citizen of the Year, 1965;
- Promoted and oversaw the development of a new library on the current site in 1973;
- was the founder of this Society, as well as the Box Hill Philatelic Society, and a co-founder of the Box Hill Rostrum Club;
- served for 23 years on the Box Hill Cemetery Trust;
- was a long time member of the Box Hill Businessmen's Club.

Bert Lewis died in May 2001.

Other forthcoming event

AEHS meeting at Box Hill — Saturday, 22 February 2020

The first meeting of the Association of Eastern Historical Societies for 2020 will be hosted by the Box Hill HS. This will take place in the Boyland Room in Box Hill Town Hall, beginning at **1.30 pm**. The speaker will be our own Secretary, Helen Harris OAM. This year marks a century since the first woman was elected to a local council. Helen will take as her subject 'Some pioneers and local eastern suburbs women councillors'.

Members are encouraged to attend and support the Society, and also discover what other kindred societies in the eastern suburbs are doing.

Archivist's Report

Although we were closed to the public during the Christmas and new year period, I continued to visit the Heritage Centre, when not house bound because of poor air quality. I managed to complete the checking of data entries of four of the rate valuation books and Scrapbook No. 26; commence assembling our Matsudo material for the planned visit of Council's consultant; and delve into old collections.

Items found in the old uncatalogued files continue to surprise me. Most recently I discovered a photocopy of a handwritten list headed 'Members elected on Roads Board from 10th September 1862', which covers the period to 1927. As well as recording those men who became Councillors, the list contains the names of Council employees, not only those in major positions, but also people like A.A. Boyes, who was appointed Abattoir Manager in 1910, Leslie Argoon, who was appointed temporary Ranger in 1922, and Miss M. Jamieson appointed as a 'typiste' in 1925. I have prepared an index of these names and details, and combined it with material that I located in the Council's correspondence files of 1914–1927, held at the Public Record Office. The latter material comprises lists of employees, letters from employees seeking higher salaries or leave of absence, and applications from people seeking employment.

The applications for employment came from all over Victoria, and from both men and women. In one example, Alice E. Anderson wrote from Narbethong in 1916, unsuccessfully seeking a junior clerk position. Her life and career can be read about in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* online at: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/anderson-alice-elizabeth-12772>. Other women to apply for a clerk's position include Eileen Finch from Beechworth; Mary Kerr from Warrnambool; and Daisy Collins, who was working for the Bairnsdale Shire. Charles Steer of Ringwood sought a labourer's job, Algernon Stevenson of Warracknabeal was after a clerk's position, and H. Hampton of Croydon, a returned soldier, applied to become a roller driver.

The combined index will be uploaded to the web site shortly, and as usual, digital images are available—to members at no cost; a small charge for non-members.

Late last year we welcomed a new volunteer, Fiona Malcolm, to our Tuesday activities. Fiona is a former Boroondara librarian, whose expertise is proving most useful. We could always do with more people to do data entry and generally help in the archives.

Till next time,
Helen

Vale Edna Shaw

Long-term member Edna Shaw died on the 31 December 2019. Edna, at 95 years old, was known to many people in Box Hill. The funeral was held at Le Pines Box Hill in January and the Society was represented by Gary Presland, Helen Harris OAM and Ian Broadhead. It impossible to *briefly* summarise Edna's life but the following is perhaps relevant in this context.

Edna was born in Townsville in 1924. Growing up, her first ambition was to become a teacher, but with the advent of war in 1939, her parents would not consent to her travelling south for training. Instead, she undertook a commercial course in Townsville, successfully sat for the Public Service Entrance Exam and worked locally through the war. In 1945 Edna travelled to Melbourne, where she did general training as a nurse, followed by a year as Staff Nurse at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. After further training in Sydney and a year spent in England, Edna returned to Australia to work at the Royal Melbourne.

While working as a nurse, Edna undertook university studies, gaining an BA (Hons) and a teaching certificate. She then joined the Education Department, achieving her long-held ambition of becoming a teacher.

Edna always loved books. Over many years she bought in excess of 5000 volumes, almost all of which were destined for placement in the Shaw Collection of Australian Art and Culture, which is held in James Cook University's Library in Townsville. Edna had established this collection to honour the memory of her father, John Vernon Shaw, a local businessman who died in 1958.

Edna was deeply concerned, as both a researcher and activist, to protect both local and national heritage. In Melbourne, she worked against dubious developments, including some close to her home. She worked in close association with the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, Legacy, RSL groups, the National Trust, and this Society. A prime achievement was her corrective research on the first Lone Pine planted in Victoria at the local Wattle Park, and the restoration and documentation of the Patriotic area there. She also worked to preserve Wattle Park and its historic Chalet.

In short, Edna Shaw was a woman who was passionate about anything she undertook, throughout her long and eventful life.

1920 Health Report

Each year, the Council's Health Officer compiled an annual report on the state of health in the Shire of Nunawading, of which Box Hill was a part. The following is a condensed version of the report of Dr A.P. Vaughan for 1920.

There were two cases of Typhoid Fever during the year, 11 cases of Diphtheria, 31 cases of Scarletina, four cases of Tuberculosis, and two of Measles, within the Shire. The Scarletina and Diphtheria occurred at widely separated localities and did not assume an epidemic character. As usual in this district the outbreaks were confined to the families first affected. There were a number of cases of Influenza but the type was not severe. The vital statistics for the year show a total of 239 births, 130 males, 109 females, and a total of 120 deaths, 74 males, 46 females. Causes of death: 21 from pulmonary disease, of which 11 were of a tubercular nature; 24 from cardiac and circulatory disease; three of infectious diseases; sixteen of infant mortality, three cases of accidental death, 10 deaths from cancer. There were 43 deaths from other causes.

Water supply: O'Shannassy in the central parts and rainwater collected in underground iron and galvanized iron tanks. The reservoir water is still very turbid at times, otherwise the water supply is of good quality. No special analysis of the water has been required.

Drainage of towns: The inner parts are sewered, the outer parts are provided with pitched channels cemented or targouted which lead to creeks.

Cemeteries: Sanitary conditions satisfactory.

Meat supply: Municipal abattoirs in charge of a qualified Inspector. Eight butchers shops, the sanitary condition of which is good. Meat is inspected by the Inspector.

Poultry keeping in towns: No special By-laws regulating the keeping of fowls, the general law regulating cleanliness of premises is enforced. No poultry diseases have been reported.

Swine keeping: 19 registered piggeries, condition good. No record of private pigsties. The Shire has by-laws framed regulating piggeries which are enforced by the Inspector.

Dairies and Dairy Farms: There is no record of the number of dairies, which are supervised by the Department of Agriculture. The Shire Inspector visits occasionally to see that the sanitary condition is satisfactory. No illness has been traced to the milk supply.

Offensive trades: One boiling down works and bone mill

Common lodging houses: None

Accommodation for the sick: No local accommodation of a public nature. Many infectious cases are sent to Fairfield and the Council also contributes to the Heatherton Sanatorium.

Communicable diseases: Dealt with by isolation, fumigation, disinfection and purification by fire wherever practicable. No special local accommodation is provided. Several cases have been removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital during the year – so far the outbreaks have usually been limited to the families first attacked.

Street scavenging: Done by day labour.

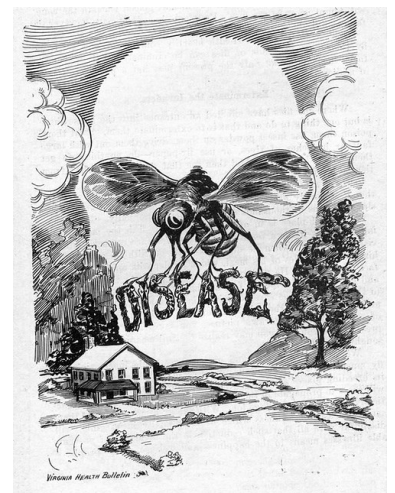
Trade and domestic refuse: Removed three times a week in the townships, and once a week in the outskirts. Receptacles are usually boxes or tins collected by the Council's employees and disposed of at the Council's tip by covering with soil.

Sanitary service: Ordinary sealed pan system, no regulation regarding construction, collected in sealed pans, removed in wagons in the daytime and ploughed in in cultivated land – satisfactorily done. The pans are washed in a strong solution of phenyl or other suitable disinfectant.

Schools: Sanitary condition good but accommodation is inadequate. I have made special examinations of several schools during the year.

Sanitary improvements: Extensions of streets, drains and water supply.

Food supply: Meat is inspected and branded. Samples of food are taken and analysed.



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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WHITEHORSE

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.