

Box Hill Historical Society Newsletter



Volume 26, Issue 4
October 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 1 of Box Hill Library, 1040
Whitehorse Road, beginning at 2
pm. However, in the present
circumstances, all meetings are
CANCELLED.

Enquiries are welcome, on:
03 9285 4808

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2020 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Box Hill Historical Society Inc. will be held on **Sunday, 15 November 2020**, beginning at 2 p.m..

This meeting will be conducted on-line by ZOOM. Members will need to join the meeting via a link, which will be provided beforehand.

NB. All members are welcome to participate in the meeting, but if you wish to do so, to please RSVP to the Secretary by email at boxhillhistory@gmail.com, by **13 November 2020**, to ensure that you are sent the link.

AGM Business will include –

- Acceptance of Minutes of 2019 AGM;
- Annual Reports 2019-20;
- Financial Statements;
- Election of office bearers, committee members, and the Audit Committee;
- Any other business of which written notice has been received;
- Drawing of the Society's Raffle.

Helen Harris OAM
Hon. Secretary

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

In the present locked-down situation, there is little I can report in regard to what the Society has done in the period since my previous report. What I *can* report, however—and have pleasure in doing—is a couple of things that have been done not by us, but for us.

Firstly, thanks largely to the secretary's efforts, the Society has been awarded a grant of \$1000 from Whitehorse Council for the purchase of a new computer and printer/scanner, to be used in the Heritage Centre. This will allow us to replace a 15-year-old computer with the latest model

Secondly, we have recently received a generous donation of a large number (somewhere between 100 and 200) of used archival-standard photo albums, plus a large number of various sized acid-free inserts, all in very good condition. This offer (which we were pleased to accept) came out of the blue from the Focolare Foundation, based in Box Hill North. Focolare is Italian for 'hearth' and the Foundation (which is global in reach) promotes the ideals of unity and universal brotherhood. The gift of these acid-free photo albums represents in excess of \$1000, so is most appreciated.

Forthcoming Society events

Guest speaker

At the conclusion of the AGM, on **Sunday 15 November**, the Committee will be pleased to welcome fellow Committee member, Rev. Shane Hübner, to present to the meeting, on the subject **'The Anglican Community in Box Hill – 130 years in the making, with plans for the next 130!'** Shane, who is the current Vicar of the Box Hill Anglican Parish, will provide an examination of the development of the Parish, from humble beginnings in 1889 to its multi-cultural focus in 2020.

Drawing of the hamper raffle

Early in the year the Society was donated a hamper by Ryman Healthcare, which we could raffle as a means of raising funds for the digitization project. The selling of tickets has proceeded but, of course, no opportunity to draw the winning ticket has presented itself.

The Committee has decided, therefore, that the draw will be made at the AGM. The range of ticket numbers sold has been provided to an individual who is not a Society member—and whose identity is a closely-guarded secret to prevent any undue lobbying—who will randomly nominate the winning number. If the lucky winner is not on-line at the meeting, s/he will be notified, after the event.



AGM Nomination Form

Separately enclosed with this newsletter there is a form to be used for nominating for a position on the Committee of the Society. The President and Committee will be pleased to have members consider helping in the operation of the Society.

Nominations must be received by 5th November, to ascertain whether a returning officer will need to be appointed to conduct an election, and a postal vote organised. Nominations may be posted to:

The Secretary, Box Hill Historical Society, PO Box 268 Box Hill 3128

Or alternatively, emailed to the Secretary at boxhillhistory@gmail.com

Archivist's report

In 2019, in preparation for Heritage Week, I spent many hours at the Public Record Office looking at Council correspondence files for the period 1913 to January 1927 and taking over 1000 digital images. Initially, I planned to record the reports of infectious diseases, including the 1919 influenza outbreak, [indexes to these are on our website] but quickly discovered that there was other interesting material too, including letters from residents on a wide range of subjects. Something of the variety of topics covered in these letters can be appreciated from the following examples.

The residents of Bank Street wrote in 1914 regarding the 'totally inadequate provision of proper drainage for sewage and stormwater' while James Simpson of Beatrice Ave wrote in 1916 that 'gardening with me is a hobby' and complained about a wandering cow destroying his plants. In the following year, Blanche Cornell of Lorne Parade complained of her neighbour, artist Theo Brooke Hansen's chook sheds, while James McDonald of 6 St James Avenue reported an 'abominable stink' from a dead fowl in his neighbour's rubbish bin, and the abusive behavior of said [unnamed] neighbour. In 1921 the 'women of Carrington Road' complained about the state of that road, and in 1922 the 'ladies of Brougham Street' petitioned the Council for an additional street light, writing that 'for some weeks past women have been accosted by a man who emerges from the embankment'. Also in 1922, Clarence Weber of 2 Victoria Crescent complained about leaking sanitary pans being delivered, and in the following year, still unsatisfied, reported the matter to the Health Department. Interspersed with these letters were business registration forms; applications for Council employment; and, in the period 1916–1918, lists of members of sporting clubs. In 1924 there was even a petition from primary school children; and in 1913, a swimmer's complaint.

For details of these last two, see elsewhere in this Newsletter.

During lockdown I have been working through the Society's collection of images, labelling and indexing them. This new index of nearly 1,500 entries, is now available on our website, www.boxhillhistoricalsociety.com.au

Shire of Nunawading correspondence files

[This letter was found at the Public Record Office in VPRS 9548, inwards correspondence files of the Shire of Nunawading. It is presumed a Councillor was on the swimming club committee.]

Charles H. DAWSON
530 Collins Street Melbourne
Woollen Merchant

Oct 21 1913
Committee Box Hill Swimming Club

Secretary & Committee
Gentlemen,

On Sunday October 19th, having been for a swim in the Dive & on entering the Pavilion again I found my Dressing bag had been opened & my clean towel extracted & some one had used it & after having used it had wiped their feet on it.

Now as Vice President of the Club I think the Committee should hear about such treatment according to one of its members. I could not find out who had done it for there is about 3 or 4 who was in it & I for one think the committee should take action & I take it in this manner it is no good in the interests of the club to have one or more members who do dirty low tricks of this description in the interests of the Club the club would be better without them [.] I can name 3 or 4 who had a hand in it & if any member cannot have an enjoyable swim & at the same time be certain of a clean towel which is his own property it is time to have different members. Moreover the damage done last year the Committee can look to its own Club members for the doing of that damage & I for one certainly think two or three irresponsible members want expelling as one in particular is the Ring leader of a certain sect, also the language on a Sunday morning is enough to make the air blue.

In conclusion gentlemen I should feel more satisfied to place my resignation in the hands of the Committee if they think fit and have nothing further to do with the Dive seemingly in the future paying subscription will only be for the benefit of being insulted.

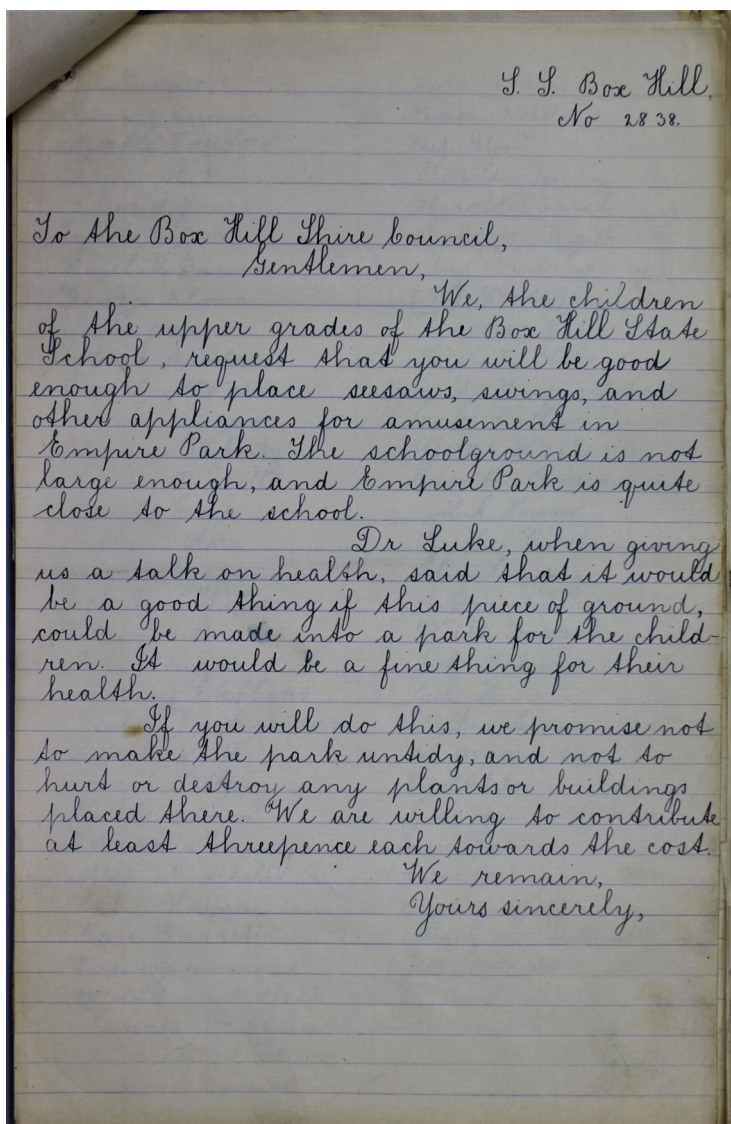
Charles H. Dawson

[The offenders were subsequently reprimanded but their names were not revealed in the correspondence.]

Box Hill Primary School 1924 petition

This petition, in the form of a letter, with 291 signatures attached, was given by the headmaster to Mr. A. H. Serpell, the acting correspondent of the school committee. He forwarded it to the Council, with an accompanying letter that supported the children's request. When the Council met they agreed that the Engineer and the local Ward Councillors, would investigate. Did the children get their playground? Not straight away. While the Council did set aside an area in the park for a playground, there was a need to put an open drain underground first, and that cost money that the Council didn't have. Four years after the children's letter, with the drain undergrounded, Dr Luke in his annual report again urged the Council to install play equipment there, but instead a tennis court was built. It would appear to be some time after 1930 before play equipment was finally installed. Empire Park, as it was called, was subsequently known as Box Hill Gardens. The majority of the land had been purchased by Council in 1920 from the Rodgerson family.

The following is a list of the children who signed this petition to Council. An asterisk (*) after a child's name indicates that the student was in Grade 5.



ANDERSON, Blanche *	BLAIR, Joseph	BUCKMASTER, Laura *	COLLINS, Willie
ANSCOMBE, Beryl	BLAIR, Rita *	BULLER, Ethel	COLVILLE, Elsie
ARMSTRONG, Isabella	BLOOM, Fred	BULLER, Fred	COMPTON, Evelyn
ARMSTRONG, Mary	BLOOM, Mavis	BUTLER, Florence	CONDIFFE, Alf
ARMSTRONG, Ruby	BOE, Constance *	CARSE, Alma	COOKE, Violet
ARMSTRONG, Ruth *	BOVILL, Walter	CHALMERS, Fred	COOPER, Eric
ATKINS, Mary *	BOWRING, Max	CHALMERS, George	COOPER, Keith
AUMANN, Albert	BOWRING, Sara	CHALMERS, Lorna	COOPER, Lena
BAIL, James	BRAY, Ida	CHALMERS, Norman	COOPER, Morris
BALE, Alma	BREALEY, Olive E.	CHAPMAN, Elma	CORAL, Harold
BARELLI, Gwen	BROOK, Raymond	CLARE, Cyril	COTT, Elsie*
BARRETT, Muriel	BROOKS, Albert	CLARK, Melva	COTT, Ruby
BEAL, Margot	BROWN, Roy	CLARKE, Fred	COUSINS, Eric
BENNETTS, Charles	BROWN, Una	CLARKE, Hilda	COUSINS, Val
BENNETTS, Millie *	BROWN, W.	COCHMAN, Clifford	COUTIE, Elsie *
BENNETTS, Nellie	BROWN, William	COCHRANE, Harold	CUNNINGTON, Violet
BINNS, Doris	BUCHANAN, Reg	Frederick	CUTHILL, David
BINNS, Hazel M.	BUCKMASTER, Jack	COLEMAN, Willie	CUTHILL, Edna *

CUTHILL, Jean
 DAVEY, Rita A. *
 DICKSON, Fred
 DICKSON, L.
 DOD, Sylvia L.
 DOE, Hetty *
 DOE, Peggy
 DOHERTY, James
 DOHERTY, Queenie
 DUNN, Frank
 EASTWOOD, B.
 EDIS, Charles William
 Henry
 ELDER, Lily
 ELLIS, Thomas
 EVANS, Andrew
 EVANS, Jean
 EVANS, Joan
 EVANS, Merle
 EVANS, Nita
 FERRIS, Elsie
 FINDLATER, Willie
 FLETCHER, C.
 FORSTER, Gordon
 FOX, Linda
 FREEMAN, Viva
 FULTON, Jack
 GALE, Allan
 GALES, Hilda *
 GANNAN, Hugh
 GARRETT, Eric
 GARRETT, Grace
 GARRETT, Hazel
 GILES, Ilma *
 GILL, Clare
 GILL, William
 GORSUCH, Harry
 GRAYDON, Alan
 GREENING, Jack
 GRIGG, Viola *
 GROSE, Leslie
 HAESLER, Fred
 HARDY, Ethel
 HARDY, Willie
 HARVEY, Ethel *
 HAYES, Lilian
 HAYES, William
 HENDERSON, Ada
 HENRY, Beryl *
 HERBERT, Ira
 HICKS, Audrey
 HICKS, Mervyn
 HODGSON, Arthur
 HOWARD, Alick
 HOWIE, Ailsa
 HOWIE, Kelvin A.

HUNTER, Jack
 INGAMELLS, Gordon H.
 JABOOR, Hazel
 JACKSON, Myrtle *
 JAMES, Bruce
 JAMES, Maurice
 JENSEN, Leslie
 JEW, Rita *
 JOHNSTON, Molly *
 JONES, Elvie S.
 JONES, Martin
 JONES, Mavis
 KERR, Alan
 KERR, Muriel
 KILNER, Alice
 KING, Alan
 KING, George
 KING, Jean *
 LAITY, Alice *
 LANGHAM, Katherine *
 LANYON, Corrie
 LANYON, Lorna
 LARSEN, Adelaide
 LAURENCE, Alice
 LAWFORD, Charles
 LAWFORD, Myrtle
 LEIGH, Alan
 LEIGH, Joyce *
 LESLIE, Ken A.
 LITTLEWOOD, Mavis O.
 LIVINGSTONE, Jean
 LIVINGSTONE, Jessie
 LIVINGSTONE, Marjorie
 LOGAN, James
 LONGMORE, A.
 LUCKHURST, D.
 MacPHERSON, Alan
 MacPHERSON, Elsie *
 MacPHERSON, Jean *
 McDONALD, Albert
 McINTOSH, Jack
 McKENZIE, Clyde
 McKIBBIN, Ken
 McNAIR, Irene
 McNAIR, Jean
 McNAIR, Ralph
 McPHEE, Jean *
 McPHEE, Robert G.
 MASSEY, Norman
 MIECHEL, Eileen
 MIECHEL, Harry
 MIHAN, Rose
 MILES, Cliff
 MILLSTEAD, Jim
 MITCHELL, Alan
 MITCHELL, Allan

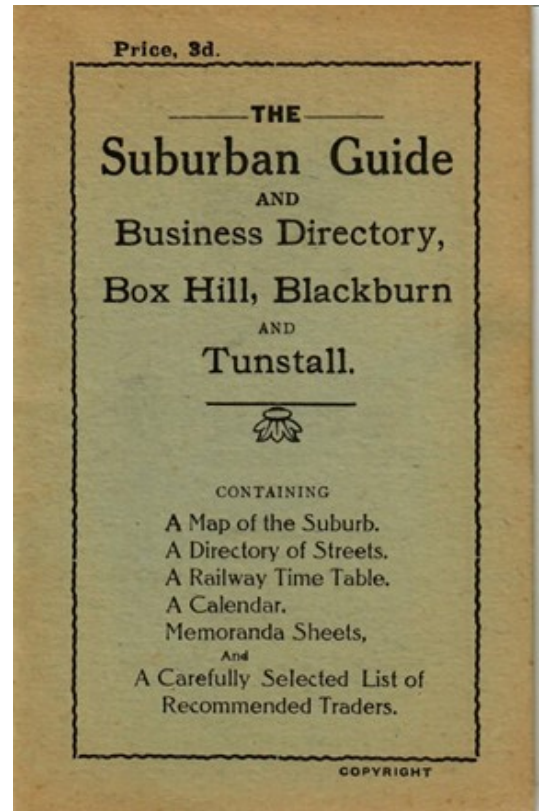
MITCHELL, Bob
 MITCHELL, Maisie
 MOAR, George
 MORRIS, Keith
 MULLENS, Lennie
 MULLER, Rilda *
 MURCUTT, Merle
 NICHOLAS, Dava *
 NICHOLAS, Norman
 NICHOLSON, Allan
 NICKSEN, Frank
 O'GRADY, Norman
 OLNEY, Lottie
 OSBORNE, Mervyn
 OWEN, Evan
 PALLISER, Henry
 PARKER, Jean
 PAYNE, Eddie
 PAYNE, Mac
 PEARSON, Joyce
 PEARSON, Lizzie *
 PERMAN, Agnes *
 PERMAN, May
 PETERS, Ronald
 PETERS, Thelma
 PETTIFER, Jean *
 PINDER, Delcie
 PINSENT, Ray
 PLAISTED, Mary
 POPE, Evaline *
 POPE, Wilbur
 POUSTIE, George
 PULLEN, Arthur
 RANCIE, Mavis *
 RATTRAY, Edith
 REDFERN, Harold
 REDFERN, Olive
 REDMAN, Jack
 REES, Jean
 REYNOLDS, Evie
 REYNOLDS, Frank
 REYNOLDS, Myrtle *
 RICHARDS, Marjorie
 RICHMOND, Florrie M.
 ROBERTSON, Ruby
 ROBINSON, George
 ROBINSON, Josie *
 RONALDSON, Alix
 ROSE, Ruth
 RUSSELL, Arthur
 RUSSELL, Edna *
 RUSSELL, Frank
 SCOTT, Jack
 SCOTT, Laurence
 SEDGMAN, Richie
 SELLERS, Ivy

SELLERS, Nancy
 SERVICE, Bob
 SERVICE, Lucy *
 SHARPE, Dorothy *
 SHARPE, Mary
 SIMMONS, Edna [?]
 SLEETH, Charles A.
 SLEETH, Marjorie
 SLOAN, George
 SMART, Beryl
 SMITH, Mabel
 SODERBERG, Olaf
 SODERBERG, Thura
 STARLING, Harold
 STARLING, Joseph
 STEPHENS, Murray
 STURDY, Edna
 TAYLOR, Edna *
 TAYLOR, Harry
 TAYLOR, Lilla
 TAYLOR, Mavis
 TAYLOR, Willie
 TEAGUE, Hugh
 TEVLIN, Lorna
 TEVLIN, Ronald
 THIELE, Flora *
 THOMAS, Phyllis
 THORNTON, Ida
 TILLEY, Avis
 TILLEY, Keith
 TREMEWEN, Gwen
 TREVASKIS, Will
 TREWIN, Jean
 TUCKER, Frank
 TUCKER, Winnie *
 VOCKENSON, Leslie
 WADE, Betty *
 WAGHORN, Ken
 WAGNER, Hal
 WATT, Norman
 WELLINGS, Albert
 WHITCHURCH, Elsie *
 WILLIAMS, Edith
 WILLIAMS, Gwenda
 WILLIAMSON, D.
 WILSON, Jack R.
 WRIGHT, Lillian K.
 WRIGHT, Reg
 WYATT, Ethel *
 WYATT, Reginald
 YOUENS, Gladys
 YOUENS, Hazel *

Local businesses, 1921

An interesting source of local information I found recently on one of my infrequent visits to the town hall, is a small booklet titled *The Suburban Guide and Business Directory*. Published in 1921 and costing 3d., it provides a snapshot of the district, some small business adverts, and a fascinating street map. The latter shows some street names that do not exist today, including George Street, now Glenmore Street; Albert Road, now Arnold Street; and Clifford Street, now Victoria Street. The adverts, a couple of which are reproduced here, were for a range of businesses, including:

Allan's Melbourne, Sonora phonograph
 P.G. Bennett, carrier
 P. Bird, timber merchant
 P Crawford, painter
 W. Crosbie, smallgoods store
 L. Crouch, fruiterer
 Henry Dennis & Co, estate agents
 J.E. Doherty, electrician
 J.R. Ellingworth, estate, finance and insurance agent
 Widge Emerton, tailor
 W. Field & Son, baker and pastrycook
 Gerrand & Mills, furniture
 W.R. Hawkins & Sons, plant and seed merchants
 Horton Girls Grammar school
 Hudson & Keen, plumbers
 F.R. Imray, watchmaker, jeweller
 P.R. Kingsley, boot store
 E. Lloyd, butcher
 Mills & Bennetts, fuel merchants
 S.E. Needes, Eglinton dairy



A.W. Padbury, undertaker
 Perrin, chemist
 Phillips & Co, monumental mason
 A. Robertson, confectioners
 Serpell's clothing
 Tait, draper
 W. Unsworth, toy depot
 Sister Webster, private hospital
 Wilkins, grocers

DAIRY.

Box Hill Pure Milk Depot.

Under Government Supervision. Under Distinguished Medical Patronage.

S. E. NEEDES,
Licensed Dairyman,
 EGLINTON DAIRY,
WHITEHORSE ROAD, BOX HILL

Sole Agent for the District for the Lady Talbot Milk Institute
 Pure Milk Delivered Daily from our Own Cows within 20 minutes from time of Milking.

CONFECTIONERY.

A. ROBERTSON
 (Late THORNTON).

**Confectionery and Soft Drinks,
 Ice Cream.**

16 Main Street — BOX HILL
 (Opposite Station).

Fancy Boxes a Specialty.

Famous furnishing firm sets up in Box Hill



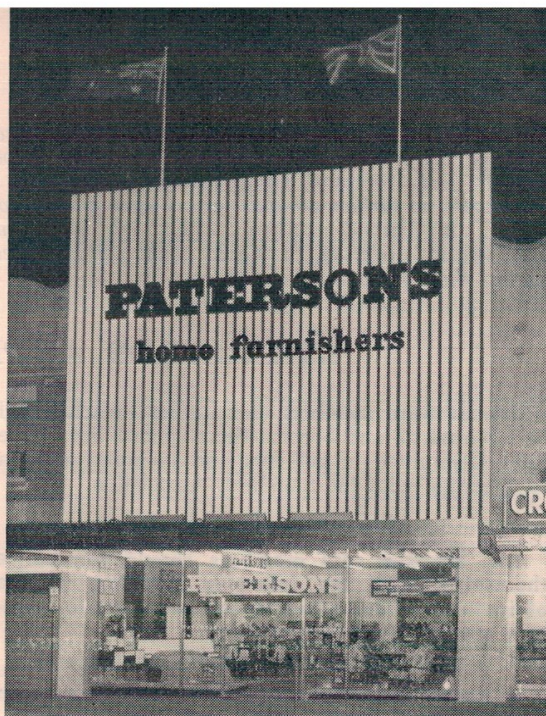
Mr. George Reid, M.L.A., with Cr. Maurice Nathan, O.B.E.

PATERSONS, OPEN IN BOX HILL

THE NEW STORE IN STATION STREET, BOX HILL



The manager of the new store, Mr. Bert Wright, with the Mayor of Box Hill (Cr. Padgham).



Members of the Box Hill Council, representatives of the Box Hill Chamber of Commerce, and local businessmen attended the official opening by Mr. George Reid, M.L.A., this month of the new P.P.L. store in Station Street, Box Hill.

The store, which was formerly occupied by D. & W. Chandler, has been completely remodelled and is an important addition to the Box Hill shopping centre.

Cr. Maurice Nathan, O.B.E., who outlined the history of P.P.L., said he and his directors were very happy to come to such a progressive area as Box Hill.

As a member of the Melbourne City Council he appreciated the problems facing the Box Hill City Council, particularly with relation to trees, parking, etc., but his organisation would be only too happy to help in any way possible.

In officially opening the new branch Mr. Reid traced the history of the company from its start as the Richmond Furnishing Co. He paid tribute to Cr. Nathan for the wonderful work done by him in regard to the Olympic Games and in boosting Victoria as THE State in Australia.

The Mayor of Box Hill (Cr. Padgham) supported Mr. Reid. Cr. Nathan presented an 8-day clock to Mr. Reid to mark the occasion.



To mark the occasion Cr. Maurice Nathan presented Mr. Reid with an 8-day clock. In this picture are from left to right: Messrs. D. W. Greig, Cr. Nathan, Mr. Reid, M.L.A., Mr. Graham Nathan, the Mayor of Box Hill (Cr. Padgham) and Mr. E. C. Gilbert.

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

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.