



# Balwyn Historical Society Newsletter

*Nov-Dec 2019*

## Meetings

**Thursday 14 November 2019 8.00 pm**

**Speaker: Pete Smith OAM**

**Topic: “From vaudeville to radio, TV and beyond”**

Pete Smith has had a long and illustrious career on radio and television. He is well known for his many years of work on Channel 9 as announcer, compere, quiz program host and comedian. He worked on numerous shows such as *New Faces*, *Sale of the Century* and Bert Newton’s *Tonight* program.



**Please stay and join us for a special Christmas supper at  
the end of this meeting**

**Thursday 13 February 2020 – 8pm**

**Speaker: Robin Kelly**

**Topic: From Brass Bands to Brass Beds**

Robin will speak about growing up in Deepdene, her early career as a singer with such groups such as the BeeGees, Johnny O’Keefe and Helen Reddy, and her later career as an antique dealer in Deepdene and Canterbury.

**Meetings are held at the Balwyn Evergreen Centre,  
45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn**

**Email: [balwynhistory@gmail.com](mailto:balwynhistory@gmail.com) website: [www.vicnet.net.au/~balwynhs](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~balwynhs)**

## Recent Speaker: Dr Ros Otzen

Ros chairs The Hester Hornbrook Academy Board. She was Principal of Korowa Anglican Girls' School from 1991–2003, establishing the Alliance of Girls Schools of Australia. Ros was the inaugural President of the Alumni Council of the University of Melbourne and is the former Deputy Chair of the Melbourne City Mission Board. Ros is also an historian and author: *“To Make the World Anew: how particular nobodies made Australia”*.

### **Topic: From Ragged School to Modern Academy: Melbourne City Mission's “Hester Hornbrook Academy”**

Dr Ros Otzen spoke about Hester Hornbrook, born in Jamaica in 1785. Her father, who married Mary Forbes, was an ensign in a British regiment. Hester married Thomas Hornbrook in 1800 having a daughter in 1802. Thomas may have died fighting the French. Hester visited the London City Mission in 1836.

Hester arrived in Melbourne in 1850 when Victoria's gold rush was abuzz, giving the promise of quick fortunes to dreamers near and far. Most who sought their fortune never found it and families — especially women and children — suffered. Overcrowding led to poverty and, as the population grew, social order ebbed.

Hester was friendly with Dr John Singleton, and his wife Isabel, who agreed with her that a Mission, similar to the London City Mission, needed to be established in Melbourne. They lobbied the Protestant churches, and at a public meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 1854, a proposal to accept a Mission was accepted. Hester managed the Mission from 1856 to 1862. She also founded nine Ragged Schools for the children of the poor in Melbourne between 1859 and her death in 1862.

Matthew Etty-Leal

### **News and Notes**

Pamela Herrington, our archivist for many years, has recently decided not to continue in this role. Pam has been a BHS committee member for many years and she was also a founding member of BHS. We are grateful for all the work and support she has given to BHS. Pam has always had a great interest in history and not only volunteered for BHS but also at the RHSV. Thank you Pam, and best wishes for the future.

At the AGM last month, it was decided that we would hold two afternoon meetings one of these being in June and the other in August. These will replace our evening meetings in those months. As usual we will not hold a July meeting. The committee is aware that many BHS members do not wish to drive to an evening meeting during the winter months. We will let you know in good time when and where these afternoon meetings will be held.

We have been notified that Emily Grant has been appointed as the Local and Family History Lead for Boroondara Libraries. Emily will continue to be located at Camberwell Library. She may be contacted at [Emily.Grant@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Grant@boroondara.vic.gov.au) or 9278 4992.

## Market Garden – Belmore Road, Deepdene

In the 1920s and 1930s market gardens and orchards could still be found in the area between Belmore Road and Gordon Street. These photos of the Husquin family's market garden were taken not far from the intersection of Belmore and Burke Road. Photos are courtesy of Yvette White nee Trinder.





Looking west across Burke Road towards Kew.



### **Balwyn Historical Society - Contact details**

**Balwyn Historical Society is a program of the Balwyn Evergreen Centre. Phone – 9836 9681**

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