



Balwyn Historical Society

OCTOBER 2024

Next Meeting – Visitors very welcome
Thursday OCTOBER 10th 2024 – 7.30 pm
at
Balwyn Evergreen Centre
45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn

Guest Speaker: Geoff Chambers
Topic- The Colours of Jazz in Melbourne

Geoff is a recognised authority on the history of Australian Jazz. He has had an abiding interest in Jazz ever since he heard the Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman bands on radio. He channels his extensive knowledge and sizeable library of recordings into his weekly radio program “Colours of Jazz” on 3MBS Fine Music Melbourne 103.5FM. Geoff began hosting the program in 2016 and over time has developed a unique format focusing on the great American Songbook also including a wide variety of jazz styles. It is Jazz in Australia and particularly in Melbourne of which Geoff will speak. We look forward to Geoff’s highly entertaining talk in every sense of the word!

Upcoming Diary dates

THURSDAY 24th OCTOBER at 1PM
“Balwyn’s Antique Roadshow style event”.
See all details further in newsletter

NOVEMBER Meeting: Thursday 14th November at 7.30 PM
Guest Speaker: Leah Mariani
Topic: Corio Bay Villa 1890, Surrey Hills

Dear Members and Friends

This newsletter brings you up to date with the June visit to Xavier archives, the meeting held at Balwyn Aveo in August, a story behind a door plaque at BEC and a AEHS Conference report attended by our President, Matthew and, Vale Margaret.

You will find the full details of the upcoming Antique event to be held at our Balwyn Evergreen Centre venue. It will be an afternoon of fascinating information, curiosity and education.

**If wishing to submit an item or items, please note the closing date 10th October and payment details. Note: please submit pictures of your item(s) whether you intend to bring them or not especially if fragile or too large!*

The Valuer, Mr Ian Armstrong OAM, JP. is a highly regarded and well-known former president of the Victorian Antique Dealers Guild,

June Meeting: Visit to Xavier College's Archives hosted by Archivist, Catherine Hall.



The South Wing (which faces Barkers Road)

The visit to Xaviers's archives highlighted the depth and skills required in this important area of conserving, preserving, documenting, storing and reference filing of archives. Several members, friends of our society and representatives from Canterbury, Kew and Surrey Hills historical groups attended.

Catherine Hall, Xavier's full-time archivist, welcomed us to her workplace created under the original school building which opened in 1878. The area is the refurbished cellars at the East end of the South Wing.

The strong and thick bluestone walls are ideal to provide a constant temperature for storage. We heard that it took several weeks to create a doorway through these foundation walls.



Catherine outlined the processes of her work, as well as the importance of being in sync and aware of Government Acts relating to the work of archivists. She is also responsible for creating displays of the archival material, writing articles and keeping up with current government regulations and Acts. Catherine's talk generated great interest with a stream of questions emanating from her audience. The afternoon went all too quickly and concluded with afternoon tea provided by 'us' and a tour through the passages of archives.





We marvelled at the extent of the collections and the worked involved in this important aspect of the school's history.

August Meeting: Speaker- Matthew Ety – Leal

Topic: Kew

This meeting took place at Aveo Concierge Balwyn. Matthew has been giving monthly talks to the residents for nearly two years, so Aveo generously hosted our usual August afternoon meeting.

Our thanks are offered to Aveo who also provided a very nice afternoon tea at the conclusion of the afternoon. Thanks, are also extended to staff members, Julie Marika and Melissa.

It was a capacity audience that included 19 BHS members, 5 BHS visitors and many Aveo residents who enjoyed Matthew's talk. It was followed by a Q & A, shared by all those present.

Matthew's topic covered many historical landmarks, people and places in Kew. It was accompanied by an interesting collection of photographs from that wonderful book:

Remembering Melbourne 1850-1860 by Richard Broome with other contributors Richard Barnden, Don Gibb, Don Garden, Elizabeth Jackson and Judith Smart (**Royal Historical society of Victoria**), as well as other archival pictures.

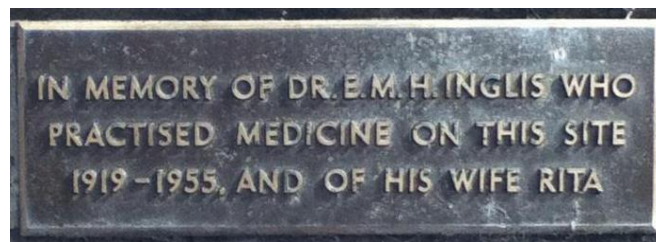
A Plaque on a Door



The following enquiry from Tina Hogarth -Clarke, the CEO of Balwyn Evergreen Centre, to our president , Matthew, “I found this little metal plaque on the door leading from hall 1 into the dining room and wondered if you knew who Dr Inglis was and what his wife donated in his name” , led to further information that is part of the history and development of this “ evergreen “ centre.

An initial google search revealed this information on a plaque at the library-

“The Balwyn Library, situated at 336 Whitehorse Road, was opened in February 1978. It stands on the site of "Ingliston" the family home and surgery of Dr E.M.H. Inglis (1891-1955), Balwyn's first doctor.



“Dr Inglis lived and practised medicine at this address from 1919-1955. His wife continued to live at this address until 1969. In the early 1970s the property was purchased by Camberwell City Council for the purpose of building the Balwyn Library.

“The information continued; ‘This plaque is located on a fountain in front of the Balwyn Library. It marks the location of "Ingliston", the house and surgery of Dr Edgar Montgomery Herbert Inglis, Balwyn's first doctor. Dr Inglis lived and practised medicine at this address from 1919-1955. His wife continued to live at this address until 1969’.

The Inglis home was a block away on the opposite side of Whitehorse Rd from the R L Dear Pharmacy owned by pharmacist Mr Ralph Leslie Dear, on the corner of Yerrin Street. There was a close working relationship between the two professionals as well as a friendship between the families. The Dear family lived in the residence of the Pharmacy and patients who phoned Dr Inglis after hours for an appointment were often then directed to knock on the residential door to have their prescribed medicines filled.

Dr Inglis



The plaque now located at the Whitehorse Rd entrance to the Balwyn Library.



Mrs Gladys Dear MBE, was a tireless community worker who, while volunteering at Eva Tilley aged care saw the need for facilities for elderly people. At a lunch with five other friends, she broached the idea for such a place.

These ladies formed a group, and the first meeting was on July 15th, 1958, at Fintona Girls School in Balwyn Rd. The other members of that group of six were Mrs Pam Pritchard, Mrs Fran Osbourne, Mrs Marie Scott, Mrs Una French and Mrs Peg Hillier. A committee with an array of office bearers established the Balwyn Welfare Association. Gladys was elected President, and the Balwyn RSL Hall was rented as a space for member activities; membership 1/-.

Ralph Dear had been a Camberwell councillor for many years, being Mayor in 1961 and it is possible his support of his wife's vision was helpful as the ladies lobbied Camberwell council for a site. The council gave the club occupancy of land in Talbot Avenue and fund raising began in earnest.

An Op shop was opened (formerly Opp Mac Donald's) staffed by volunteers. It was a very popular and successful enterprise to the point where they eventually owned the shop, a most unusual situation. Gladys was a very persuasive lady driven to achieve this facility for the elderly community, an "Evergreen Club". There is no doubt she was instrumental in getting her friend, Mrs Rita Inglis 'on board'. When the Centre opened in 1965, Mrs Rita Inglis was elected as the Liaison officer.

The connection with the 'donor', Mrs Rita Inglis, on the plaque has been explained. A later edition will expand on the history of 'an evergreen club'.

The Association of Eastern Historical Societies Conference – AEHS

'The Value of Local History- Into the Future 2024'

The President, Matthew Etty -Leal attended this conference on behalf of the members and this is his report.

The speakers and summaries:

1. **John Peterson, an archivist and heritage consultant and his topic was 'Objects in the Mirror are Closer than they appear'**. He wrote a book in 2009 re objects and how they are, their significance and importance which could assist funding applications.

Comment: Using professional archivists would be wonderful however a limit by the cost involved and also there is another consideration to know who contributed or donated archive items.

2. **Christine Barker Byrnes & Chris Byrnes, Malmsbury Historical Society.**

Topic: Foray into the Future. They meet in the Malmsbury Mechanics Institute. Members number 70, some interstate and they rarely have face to face meetings preferring to make monthly videos hat members can watch on You Tube regarding local history through one-to-one interviews with local history buffs. Zoom meetings also feature.

Comment: some people voiced concern re lack of face-to-face meetings.

3. Jackie Fraser- Victorian Collections. Topic: Online Collections, now, never forever; an infinite responsibility with infinite value.

Victorian Collections is a digital archive where one can search thousands of items held by galleries, museums, libraries, archives, historical societies and cultural collections. Commencing in 2012 these items-more than 424,000 records, represent more than 650 organisations' records/archives, with a lot of online sharing.

Comment: Our (BHS) challenge is to upload item images etc and sometimes there could be a need for authority from a donor. There is a word document of some of the archives but more to do.

Further comments: a) A number of other Boroondara Historical Societies have uploaded part of their archives on to Victorian Collections for use by the community.

b) BHS needs to determine what will happen to our archives.

c) I will expend on this issue in a separate communication.

4. Dr Bryan Kalms – Keynote: Surviving Hard Times and Crises

Historical Societies - Roman Catholic Church has operated since AD30

a) Purpose, b) Audience, c) Stories telling & d) Stories should be telling.

Do your histories relate to today's problems? How much does your community know about your HS? Why should your HS survive anyway?

Sources of Crises – external events eg COVID; can be organisational dysfunction – stirrers; lack of relevance; insufficient resources – all interact.

Dimensions of Dysfunction –

Social ←---→ Work; Organisation ←---→ History; Community ←--→ Supporters

Stable inflexible ←---→ Flexible; Independent < --- > Alliances (Aveo for BHS)

Do what I want < --- > Do what's needed; Resilience < --- > Adaptability

Plans – Risk Management Community Engagement Collaboration & Alliances

Disaster Management Crisis management & Recovery Business Continuity

Responses - new management team, hunker down, engage your community, hibernate, update using Zoom, amalgamate ...

Summary – serve your community; the future is with your community

Comment: A lot of interesting thoughts – reality for us is we have few resources – human and financial. What can we do?

5. **Anthony McAleer OAM – Reinvigorating a Community Group** Anthony works with community groups and was asked to work with Mt Evelyn RSL sub-branch, which started in the late 1980s, whose members had dropped to under 20. Several priorities were set including gaining more members.

Comment a) Some similarities RSL & HS but not many!

b) Anthony did not indicate how many new members had been gained.

6. **Patrick Ferry, Assistant State Manager -National Archives of Australia** Local History is family history (& vice versa). Archives has over 45 m items operating under Archive Act 1983. A lot of collaboration takes place on local and family history – personal stories create interest. A lot of work has taken place on the 80th anniversary of the War Memorial in 2025.

Will be looking at local war memorials & names on these – eg Beckett Park which was researched by our late inaugural president Bill Pritchard.

Comment – good speaker and I propose a BHS visit to repository of archives at East Burwood in 2025.

7. **Dr Janice Newton – Responding to Contemporary Challenges: COVID, Climate Change and the Digital World-** Ballarat resident & anthropologist. Local short-term contracts – for e.g., Butcher shop mural Mt Pleasant; Dr Bill Garner’s memoirs; use of volunteers for specific projects – eg tree planting or preserving cultural heritage.

Comments: Use of volunteers: i.e. Balwyn Men’s Probus Photography Group – re Balwyn Shops; U3A Deepdene – any former librarians, BVRC – ask at Volunteer Expo in March

8. **Kitty Owens, Collection Engagement Manager Yarra Ranges Regional Museum** – The power of collaboration, some recent projects from YR Regional Museum

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Experience/The-Arts-and-Our-Creative-Community/Cultural-venues/Yarra-Ranges-Regional-Museum>

Museum has over 13,000 historical items including Dame Nellie’s Giftbook display (I will look at it). “Wild & Ourselves” showcases 90 years of history at Healesville Sanctuary.

Comment: interesting presentation, saw this museum years ago.

9. Dr Rosalie Triolo – A future for all.

Finding the diverse cultural groups in your community and collections. Eg. Chinese History Museum in city; Lizzy Collingham English historian has written book on subject: The Cultural Iceberg. Check RHSV website (?). History News Issue 371 April 2024

Comment: Unsure that new members would be gained through this approach.

10. Professor Richard Broome AM – Keeping History Relevant: RHSV's

Melbourne Lanes History Project – regular BHS speaker ... described work of RHSV & books written – Melbourne 1850 – 1960 (used it, very good); Melbourne's 20 decades 2019 & now the story of Melbourne's Lanes – used Hawthorn U3A Camera Group to take photos of all lanes – 3,000 images plus 6,000 images by Peter Grimm. Partner State Library Vic.

Comment: This reinforces earlier thought of using Balwyn Probus Photography Group.

11. Professor Graeme Davison – Melbourne from the Air

Graeme is a regular BHS speaker. Rose series of postcards “birds' eye” views in meticulous detail. 1858 Balloon flight (George Coppin). In 1909 aerial photographer using planes – commercial business, use of drones.

Comment: possible aerial view of Balwyn shops (?)

12. Valerie Polley OAM, Warrandyte Historical Society – A Most Remarkable School.

This was the story behind Koornong School, Warrandyte – operated 1939 – 1947 with a new approach to education after **Clive & Janet Nield** visited Europe – impressed by Dartington school in Devon. Val based her talk on diary of Tim Ellis (1931 – 2011) who was a student. Nields purchased 16 acres by Yarra River. Temporary buildings “chook sheds” – students from all over Australia. Boarding – “family groups” Mother Father students 4 to 1. Students built tuck shop; Student Government; lot of play & sport; watched films. 5-minute film made about school. Recent examples – Preshil, John Marsden school, Candlebark Romsey, & Village School Primary Croydon started 1982.

Comment – very interesting. We would like to ask Valerie to speak to BHS in 2025.

Notice Board



You are invited to our next *event*

Balwyn's very own 'Antique Roadshow'
style event in October 2024!

with Afternoon Tea and Live Music

Join us for this special event, hosted by well-known antiques collector and former President of the Victorian Antique Dealers Guild, Ian Armstrong OAM JP. Be welcomed with lovely live classical music, enjoy the show as Ian speaks on his interest in antiques and gives context, story and value to items brought in. Enjoy an afternoon tea together as the music starts up again for us. Please register your items to be part of the show!

When

Thursday 24th Oct - Show 1pm
Item Check in 11:30am -12:45pm

Where

Balwyn Evergreen Centre
45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn

Registration essential - closes 10th October 5pm

Bookings - Scan QR code or visit [BalwynShow.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.balwynshow.eventbrite.com.au)

Queries Contact: **Matthew** 0438 079 475 or ettyleal@bigpond.net.au

Entry is ticketed and free, items for valuation must be pre-registered. We ask for a \$10 donation per item for the Balwyn Historical Society payable on the day. You may register multiple items but there may only be time for one to be in the show.



Terms and conditions:

Events are conducted in accordance with the established health and safety practices.



BALWYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE PLACE, THE PEOPLE, THE STORY

Concierge Balwyn
Retirement Living



- Boroondara Grant to BEC: We are pleased to report that Philip Mallis has purchased a new laptop for BHS and is setting it up. The latest software will also be bought. Our thanks to Philip for his efforts and expertise and grateful for the grant from Boroondara Council to benefit our Balwyn Historical Society .
- Hawthorn History Society has recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary – our congratulations to them.

Email: balwynhistory@gmail.com

Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~balwynhs

VALE MARGARET WILLIAMSON (nee ROSS) 1941- July 2024

We will miss Margarets' cheerful presence and her keen interest in our speakers' topics as well as reconnecting with her friends from Balwyn and school days. So often, hardworking community minded people are very humble about their lives, and one only discovers amazing facts when they have died (or in Margarets words, "Indians say expired"). The following are excerpts which we would like to share from the eulogy given by her two daughters.

Margaret had avid interest in history fired by her love and success of it at school in Canterbury. Margaret had been a member of BHS for five years but had previously communicated with us about her Balwyn memories while still living in county Victoria and, a longtime member of the Pyramid Hill Historical Society.

Margaret was the eldest of 4 children and she grew up in Balwyn attending Balwyn State school and Camberwell Girls Secondary School until 1957(Canterbury Girls High School 1961 and then Canterbury Girls Secondary College). Margaret kept up her many school friendships for the rest of her life. She went to St Barnabas Sunday school and church, and, played netball for St Columbus church. She also was a member of the Presbyterian fellowship of Australia and joined in all the activities such as hiking, skating, church dinners, and youth week at Government House. She took elocution lessons from the famous Australian actress, Zoe Caldwell in Balwyn. Margaret was her first student!

After leaving school she trained as a nurse at the Eye and Ear Hospital also completing a Mothercraft nursing course. She then nursed at Footscray Hospital and around that time she met her husband to be, and they married in 1961 and moved first to, Wycheproof, then Yarrowalla and finally Pyramid Hill in 1964. This is where Margaret 'made her mark' in so many aspects of the town and community.

Margaret and Murray were caretakers at the local pool for a time so Margaret organised water aerobics and swimming lessons for "Mums and Bubs". She was a tireless advocate, lobbying for funding for footpaths to schools, aged care, pram and scooter crossings on all streets in the town and a ground level kitchen and ramp for the disabled. Her community organising efforts continued with tourism activities, op shop tours, tours of Pyramid Hill and District, 9 years to Cubs and Scouts going on camps and Jamborees, President of the Ladies Guild and on the pre-school and Pyramid Show committees. She squeezed in Museum duties, hostel sleepover fund raising, was the local reporter for the Northern Times newspaper for 28 years and editor of the senior citizens magazine.

Recognition of her extensive service to her community came as Lions Club Citizen of the Year in 1999 and a recipient of a Centenary Medal in 2001.

Margaret attended many night courses: woodwork, computer class, guitar and sewing lessons. She loved putting together books and booklets, family diaries and history, as well as the history of many organisations. Her family estimates the number is about 60- “she was a walking talking encyclopaedia”! She travelled a great deal to many places around Australia with members of the family as well as to India, Thailand and Canada.

Margaret returned to Melbourne to reside at Blue cross in Box Hill where she continued to produce her books and created a most extensive and flourishing balcony garden. She reconnected with Balwyn and our Historical society and discovered a few members who had attended her schools. She was enormously family oriented and a great cook of delicious cakes for special family events and children’s birthdays. Margeret and Murray had 5 children, 8 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. She had a lovely sense of humour and many sayings. Here are two to share with you to bring a smile in her memory:

If there was a thunderstorm, she would tell her children that “it was God moving his furniture” – they used to think God moved a lot.

“Dust doesn’t rust” (and then she would write in dust) “I know” and do it the next week (the dusting)

