



Balwyn Historical Society Newsletter

August 2018

Meetings

Thursday 9 August 2018 – 8 pm

Speaker: Richard Peterson

Topic: Bungalows in Balwyn

Richard Peterson is an architect and conservation consultant. During his long career he has published 6 books and many articles and papers. He will speak about Balwyn's rapidly disappearing Californian bungalows.

Thursday 13 September – 8 pm

Speaker: Tony Tibballs

Topic: Back to the Flicks

Tony Tibballs of the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society of Australia will take you on a step back in time when a night out at the 'flicks' was a special occasion. Hear about the development of the picture palaces of yesteryear in Balwyn and nearby suburbs.

Thursday 11 October 2018 – 8 pm

Speaker: Gerry Robinson

Topic: Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson

Gerry Robinson will discuss the lives of Paterson and Lawson and bring to life some of their much loved poetry and prose. Gerry Robinson is the convener of the Heathmont History Group which has produced a large number of local history publications.

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

Email: balwynhistory@gmail.com website: www.vicnet.net.au/~balwynhs

BHS Membership 2018-2019

Many thanks to those members who have renewed their membership

Membership fees were due on July 1. The fee remains the same for the 2018-2019 financial year.

\$25 - single membership

\$35 - joint membership i.e. 2 adults at the same address.

You may renew your membership at the August meeting. Payment can be made by cash or cheque (payable to *Balwyn Historical Society*). It would be helpful if you could place your payment in an envelope marked with your name(s).

Alternatively please send the completed renewal form together with a cheque to **The BHS Treasurer, Balwyn Evergreen Centre, 45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn 3103.**

For membership enquires contact Barbara Russell – 9857-6416

Recent Speaker – Helen Page

Helen Page spoke with great enthusiasm about the Boroondara Cemetery. The cemetery, established in 1859, is one of the oldest in Australia and it was the country's first garden cemetery. Helen showed us photographs of a number of beautifully maintained garden cemeteries from around the world including those in the Los Angeles, London and Rome. The Boroondara Cemetery has a number of notable trees in its grounds, among them two bungabunga pines and a magnificent golden cypress.

Helen became a trustee of the cemetery in 2011 and in her years as a trustee she has put her landscaping and horticultural skills and training to great use. The cemetery's wonderful collection of roses near the front entrance has been rejuvenated. Working with the cemetery's garden staff, the Friends of Boroondara Cemetery and their enthusiastic volunteer working bee groups, Helen has also seen a large number of graves and pathways cleared of weeds and overgrown vegetation. With the very selective, rather than indiscriminate, use of herbicides native plants are now returning to some of the grave sites. Other graves have been replanted with more appropriate plants or ground cover. However, graves remain the property of families who are responsible for repairing any damage to the site itself.

The cemetery has a Conservation Management Plan and a general Landscape Master Plan to assist with the restoration of further sections of the garden.

Balwyn Historical Society - Contact details

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

President	Marilyn Poole	9857 7565
Secretary	Pat O'Dwyer	9836-3652
Treasurer/	Barbara Russell	
Membership	Judith Cleary	
Archivist	Pam Herrington	

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Taranto's Balwyn Fruit Supply – 419 Whitehorse Road – 1953-2018

419 Whitehorse Road was a green-grocer's shop run by the Yacomo family during the 1940s and early 1950s.



Lena, Joe and Mary Yacomo 1949 Photo: Courtesy Taranto family



Thomas Cavallaro, Amelia and Vincent Yacomo, Bob Mirabito, 1949 Photo: Courtesy Taranto family

In 1953 Giovanni and Sarina Taranto took over this shop and thus began a new family business which would span the next 65 years. During these years several generations of the Taranto family would supply Balwyn residents with fresh fruit and vegetables. Giovanni and Sarina were both from Salina one of a group of seven small islands known as the Aeolian Islands situated off the coast of Sicily. Giovanni arrived in Australia in 1948 and after several years working and saving he was eventually able to bring Sarina and their three boys to join him. A fourth boy was born after their arrival in Australia. Giovanni, Sarina and their four boys lived for many years in the residence above the shop.

As the years passed and Balwyn grew the small shop was modernized and enlarged. The front windows of the original shop were removed and the entrance opened up. Extensions to the back of the shop provided room for additional produce and in recent years a cool room ensured the quality of fruit and vegetables remained at its highest. While Giovanni and Sarina's boys grew up and three moved on, the oldest, John, stayed on to take over the business.



Photo: Courtesy Taranto family. The last market-run of the old truck c. 1987



John Jun. and John Sen c.1994. Photo: Courtesy Taranto family



Rose Taranto 1987 – Photo: Courtesy Taranto family.

In 1961 John married Rose who was from Alicudi another of the Aeolian Islands. Their children Anna, Lynda and John Jnr have become familiar faces to Balwyn shoppers. The children attended All Hallows School in Brenbeal Street and while growing up often helped their parents in the shop after school and on weekends. Anna moved on to work at Australia Post for 16 years before returning to fulltime work in the shop along with Lynda. When it came time to leave school John Jnr also decided that he wanted to work in the business full-time. It was in the shop that the then 17 year old John met “the love of his life and later wife, Tommasina”

While the shop hours were long 6.00 am – 6.00 pm, the working day started even earlier for the one who has to go to the market to purchase produce. Over the years John Sen. rose at 2.00am 5 days a week to get firstly to Victoria Market, then in later years to the Footscray Market and more recently the market at Epping.



Anna Taranto and niece Ashley Schembri
Photo Pat O’Dwyer 2018



Lynda (Taranto) Schembri – Photo: Pat O’Dwyer 2018

The Balwyn Fruit Supply business was recently sold. Customers will sadly miss the Taranto family :Rose presiding over the cash register with her gentle smile and words of welcome to all the customers, most of whom were known by name, John Snr. carefully arranging displays of quality produce, Anna with her energy, enthusiasm and love of the Richmond Football Club, John with his good humour and “Hello dear, can I help you?” and Lynda and her daughters, Samantha & Ashley, who have been working part-time in the shop these last few years. – always with a cheerful greeting and ready to help.



Corner Whitehorse Rd and Yerrin Street – Dear & Williams’ chemist shop next to Taranto’s shop. Photo: Courtesy Taranto family.

(Patricia O’Dwyer July 2018. This is based on information gratefully supplied by the Taranto family.)