

Meetings of the Surrey Hills Historical Society are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (February to November) at 8pm.

Venue: Chandler Room of the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre at 157 Union Road, Surrey Hills.

Supper follows the presentation.
Visitors welcome - \$5.00 donation.

Members of the Society and others are committed to documenting the history of the area of Mont Albert and Surrey Hills. The local history collection is in the process of being formally handed over to the Surrey Hills Historical Society by the Board of Management of the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre. It is anticipated that in October 2023 the collection will be moved to the new Heritage Centre in the Canterbury Gardens, which will be shared by SHHS and the Canterbury History Group. Volunteers continue to work on the collection and meet most Mondays, 10am-3pm.

Items and stories from the collection appear on the Surrey Hills History Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Surrey-Hills-History-887879524593056/> and on Victorian Collections at <https://victoriancollections.net.au>

Surrey Hills Historical Society committee:

President: Sue Barnett

Vice-President: Euan Walmsley

Secretary: Max Beaton

Treasurer: Alison Dews

General committee: Yvonne Bowyer

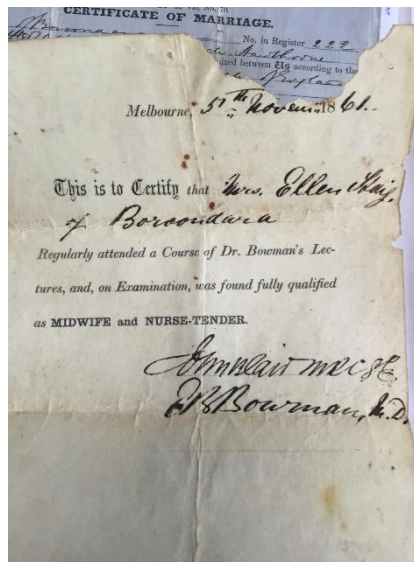
Archivist & Newsletter editor: Sue Barnett

Address for postage: C/o Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre
157 Union Road, Surrey Hills, 3127

Forthcoming meetings

Tuesday 17 October: Madonna Grehan, OAM - Maternity Attendance in the County of Bourke, Melbourne, Victoria, 1848-1880

Madonna Grehan OAM is an independent historian. A Registered Nurse and Midwife, she has a PhD in history (Melb.) and is Honorary Fellow in the Melbourne School of Health Sciences. Madonna's research interests centre on the history of women and society in Australia since its occupation by Europeans, particularly maternity care. Madonna is an interviewer for the National Library's Oral History and Folklore Collection. She is a Past President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine, Immediate Past President of the Medical History Society of Victoria, and in her 16th year of volunteer, social-history tour-guiding at Melbourne's Abbotsford Convent.



Madonna has researched widely in the area of 19th century midwifery / maternity attendance and her ultimate aim is to produce a history of maternal death; as she admits, this is not a small subject; nature wasn't all rosy, death in dreadful circumstances was natural, and the past wasn't always so picturesque for everyone.

For members who keep their newsletters, look back to the October 2021 newsletter for local context and information about local midwife, Ellen Staig. Photo of her midwifery certificate courtesy of Elizabeth Bren.

Tuesday 21 November: Kevin Boyd - Twentieth century Australian potters

Kevin Boyd is a long-time resident of Surrey Hills. He was born in Wangaratta and graduated from the Bendigo College

of Advanced Education with a Diploma of Art (Ceramics) in 1977. Teacher training led to a rewarding career in TAFE and secondary teaching, alongside a personal ceramic practice working in stoneware, earthenware and raku.



Kevin has participated in over 30 solo and group exhibitions, conducted workshops all over Australia, sharing his knowledge of making, finishing, decorating, kiln building and glaze development. He is represented in public collections including Bendigo Art Gallery; City of Whitehorse Collection; Ceramics Victoria Collection; Rockhampton Art Gallery; Darwin Art Gallery, as well as being represented in corporate and private collections.

A very recent piece of Kevin's work, seen here, features colour with Surrey Hills clay acquired from the recent Rail Crossing project.

In speaking about 20th century Australian pottery, Kevin will refer to local potters and invites attendees to bring along examples of Australian potters' work that they may have collected.

Surrey Hills people –Philippa James (nee Bridges)

When Ken James compiled his history of 'Surrey Hills' Non-Government Schools' in 2016 it included a 5-page entry for Campden Ladies College, 1887-1901 and the photo below [SHP0868], taken in front of the school in Windsor Crescent.

Campden Ladies College was located at 16 Windsor Crescent from 1887-1898 and then at 44 Windsor Crescent from 1899-1901¹. Both these properties are still extant. The photo at right was taken at 16 Windsor Crescent with its distinctive brick pattern; 44 Windsor Crescent is of timber construction. It is also interesting to note that the school also appears to have male students. One of the students is Edith Dorothy Dunn who became a talented photographer before her marriage to John Albert Freeman in 1919.



Ken's research includes many clues to Philippa James (nee Bridges)' life - her obituary published in the Box Hill Reporter on 5 May 1911 being an excellent starting point. However, as with all historical research, often additional information comes to light. In this case, it has come with the donation from Jennifer Elder in 2020 of a folder containing copies of correspondence, an article written by Philippa James' great-granddaughter, Joan Grinlaw, and a tribute to her by her son-in-law, Henry Folliot Sandford of Riddell's Creek, written in 1937. They document her life in greater detail and reveal her to be a remarkable woman for whom education was a driving force in her life, as was her Christian belief and compassion for her fellow man. The following account draws heavily upon these documents. Philippa had a long and rich life,

¹ Both the entry in the Surrey Hills - In Celebration of the Centennial, 1883-1983 and the one in Ken's book mistakenly record the later address as 42 Windsor Crescent.

the penultimate chapter of which was living and teaching in Surrey Hills. She was born on 9 April 1820 at home at King's Row Islington, London and christened at St James Pentonville a month later, along with her older brother William, born in 1818. Her father William Bridges and mother Philippa (nee Hardwidge) went on to have 3 more children, a second son and 2 more daughters. The family had a comfortable life and were well-connected through the aristocratic families of Buckingham and Chandos. William was employed as head cashier at the Bank of England, but in 1820 is described in the parish register of St James Pentonville with occupation 'Gentleman'. His connections meant that he had 'expectations' of a large family inheritance from his uncle John Crabb(e), married to Frances Bridges and by c1837 the family were living at No 1 Portland Place, a fine address of terraces that was laid out by the brothers Robert and James Adam for the Duke of Portland in the 1770's.



Above left: St James Pentonville,

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2665500/st.-james-chapel-churchyard>

Above right: Portland Place, 1815

<https://ctgpublishing.com/streets-of-london-portland-place-london-1815/>

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------|---|-----------|
| No 560. | Elizabeth | Said to be born 7 th April 1820 | Kings Row |
| May 7 | William Charles | Hymnatt Writing | Master |
| No 561. | Elger and Ann Spencers | Street | Master |
| | Maria | Said to be born 3 rd April 1820. | |
| May 10 | William | Kings Row | Gentleman |
| No 562. | William and Philippa | Bridges Row | Gentleman |
| | Philippa | Said to be born 13 th Dec ^r 1818. | |
| May 10 | William | Kings Row | Gentleman |
| No 563. | Philippa and Philippa | Bridges Row | Gentleman |
| | Philippa | Said to be born 9 th April 1820. | |

Above: Philippa Bridges' christening record, St James Pentonville parish register

Philippa was said to have been William Bridges' favorite child and, unusual for a girl at that time, she was educated at a large London Seminary known as 'Campden'.² Quite obviously, this had a significant

² Efforts to better document this institution have so far been unsuccessful, but it was said to be presided over by one Miss Gordon.

influence on her as the name travelled with her during her long life. Her education was said to have been broad and she was apparently a fluent speaker of several European languages and, displaying musical talent, she was encouraged and became proficient on the pipe-organ.

As is often the case in 'period dramas', William Bridges' expectation of inheritance did not eventuate. In 1838, when John Crabb(e) died, his fortune was left to the Church of England, the parsonage and schools at Braintree, Essex and William merely inherited a farm known as 'Gubbis'. He died shortly afterwards, at just age 61 years, and was buried in the family vault in Kennington churchyard.

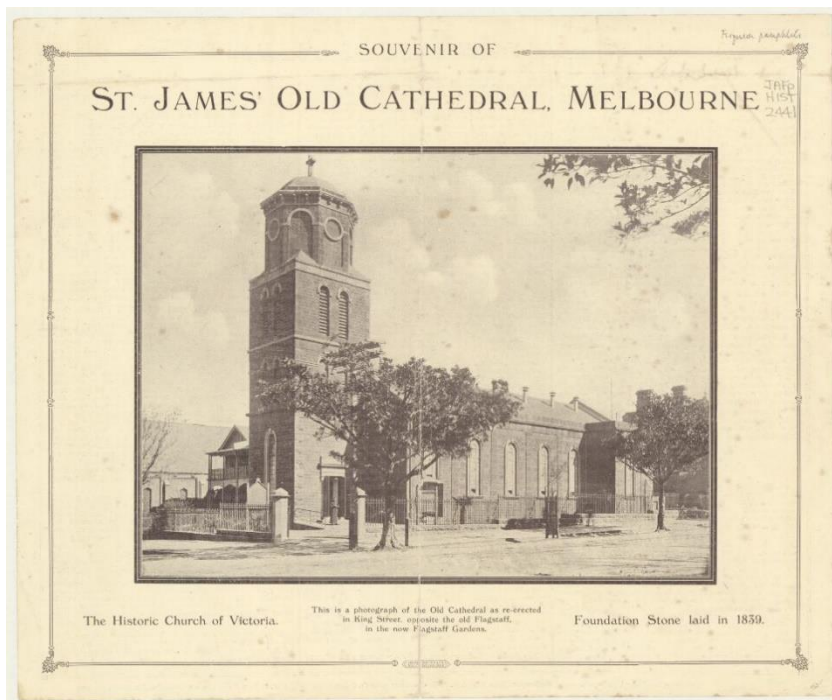
The change in family prospects resulted in Philippa separating from her family and becoming a resident governess with at least 2 families before, missing her family, she returned to London with the intention of establishing her own school - a dream that was not looked upon favorably by some relatives. In fact, it was so strenuously opposed, as being slight to the reputation of the family, that she declared that she would depart for Australia in order to pursue it.

In January 1848 Philippa, her mother, her brothers and her sisters sailed for Melbourne on the 'Garland Grove'. The ship had been built in 1820 at the Isle of Wight and is one of the ships used to transport convicts to Van Dieman's Land. Philippa was appalled at the conditions on board. Not surprisingly, fever did break out and she took it upon herself to nurse the ill.

The family arrived in Melbourne in May 1848 to a settlement still in its infancy and a vast contrast to what they had known. There was no wharf on the Yarra and newly arrived migrants landed on what was little more than a mud bank. Many of them settled in 'canvas town' on its south bank. To the north, settlement did not extend much further north than Lonsdale Street and Collins and Bourke were macadamized for only about 20 feet in the centre.³

The Bridges family had some means and settled in Latrobe Street, not far from what was then the Russell Street Barracks. They became close friends with Melbourne's first

Bishop, Dr Charles Perry, who had arrived just 4 months before them. Philippa was able to present an organ to the St James Church in Little Collins Street and was appointed as the honorary organist.⁴ The churchwardens insisted on paying her a salary which she divided equally between the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum and the Melbourne Orphanage, both of which she helped to establish. Apart from all this, Philippa was able to fulfill her dream and established a school in Collins Street, located approximately

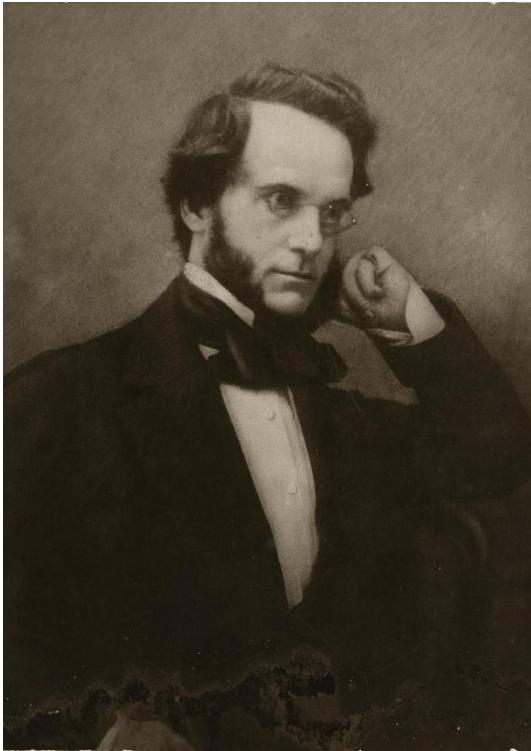


³From recollections of Rev Francis Hales who accompanied Dr Charles Perry to Melbourne.

⁴ St James' Old Cathedral is regarded as the oldest building (foundation stone date) in Melbourne. The building relocated from Collins and William Streets Melbourne to King Street Melbourne in 1914. St James' Anglican Church was originally built on a crown grant site on the corner of William and Little Collins Streets. The foundation stone was laid by Charles La Trobe on 9 November 1839. The new church replaced an original interdenominational timber church.

[Ref: <https://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/st-james-old-cathedral>]

where the Regent theatre would later be built. Just how many students attended the school is not clear, but there is mention of it having 40 boarders.⁵



John Frederic James, Registrar, 1856-1864

[Source: University of Melbourne Archives Image Catalogue, UMA-I-1229]

Prior to leaving London Philippa had become engaged to John Frederic James, slightly her junior having been born in 1821. He arrived in Melbourne in 1853 on the 'Agnes Blakie' and they were married in St Paul's pro-Cathedral on 18 February 1854.

Following her marriage Philippa gave up her school but continued as organist at St Paul's and later at St Mary's, North Melbourne. The couple had 5 children – Mary (1855-1937), John Frederic Chase (1857-1913)⁶, Philippa Sophia (1859-1900), Sarah Hardwidge (1861-1861) and Elizabeth / Bessie (1862-1941) - born during the 10 years of their marriage.

John Frederic James was the second Registrar of the University of Melbourne and his term (1856-1864) saw the workload increase enormously as the university expanded. His correspondence files in the University of Melbourne Archives cover governance, finance, buildings and grounds, staff and students and adherence to statutory regulations. They represent a rich source of information and history of university life and more generally reflective of the life of the Victorian community.

John collapsed unexpectedly after returning home on 25 August 1864 and was buried in Melbourne General Section O, Grave Number 3A with 2 of his daughters. He was only 43 and left Philippa with 4 children under the age of ten. She again took up the mantle of establishing a school, this time located in Nicholson Street, Fitzroy. She named it 'Campden' and soon needed to move into larger premises. The 3-storied building was opposite the main gate of the Exhibition Building. Known as Grantown House located at 82 Nicholson Street, she leased it from owner William Ross⁷ This too required expansion with 2 wings built at the rear.

Right: Grantown House - Image held by Fitzroy Library; commissioned by the Fitzroy Photographic Committee in 1986.



By 1878 Melbourne's suburban expansion prompted Philippa to move her school to Balaclava where it was known as 'Westbourne' and as was a familiar pattern in her life, she became organist at St Mary's Church in Caulfield. Her last move came in September 1887 when she and her daughter Philippa moved to Windsor Crescent, Surrey Hills. The Campden Ladies College was the last of her schools. Given the size of the 2 properties from which it operated, the enrolment was probably not large.

⁵ Image: St James Old Cathedral from a souvenir booklet – NLA Collection.

⁶ John Frederic Chase James followed in his father's footsteps. In c1875 he became Assistant Registrar at the University of Melbourne, a position held until his death in 1913. He lived at 'St Helena', Norfolk Road, Surrey Hills.

⁷ Built as a two-storey house prior to 1858, it was extended by architect George Browne in 1871, 1876 and 1877. It is listed on the Register of the National Estate – see <http://images.heritage.vic.gov.au/attachment/41592>

The tribute to Philippa James, written by her son-in-law in 1937, contains an interesting description of Surrey Hills in 1887 and some insight into the school demographic:

“Surrey Hills was but sparsely built upon, and Mont Albert railway-station did not even exist. Canterbury and Union Roads were macadamized, but other roads were not even formed, and, in most cases, could only be found by survey-pegs. Windsor Crescent had only three houses – Mrs Morton’s (at the corner of Union Road), Mrs Dyer’s, and Mrs James’ school (at the corner of what is now known as Lorne Parade, which bounded the railway-station ground on the east). A deep gully crossed Windsor Crescent, opposite Alexandra Avenue, where a gate in the post-and-rail fence gave access on that side to the station. Paddocks extended from the school to St Georges Church of England Leopold Crescent and Louise Avenue were undefined except by pegs. Travel on wet and dark nights was a very hazardous proceeding – there were no street lamps. Many of Mrs James’ pupils followed her (mostly boarders) when the school was removed to Surrey Hills. There were not, at that time, very many local pupils, but the district progressed very rapidly, and the number of day-pupils increased.” She advertised in the local paper, The Box Hill Reporter (BHR) and the example below is typical.

Campden College,
WINDSOR-CRESCENT, SURREY HILLS.
PRINCIPALS :
MRS. and MISS JAMES
(Late of Grantown House, Fitaroy), assisted
by Resident and Visiting Matriculated and
Certificated Teachers. The Matriculation
Class is conducted by a first-class Honor-
man, Melbourne University, and the other
Classes are under the personal superinten-
dence of Mrs. and Miss JAMES.
Special attention is paid to Music.

REF: Trove - BHR: Friday 30 September 1892



Left: 16 Windsor Crescent, 2014

Right: 44 Windsor Crescent, 2014

Photographer: John Cook as part of the 'Streets where you live' project.



Left: Mrs James, aged 60 in 1880

Right: Family group taken in c1892. (NB/ The date may be wrong as the background appears to be 44 Windsor Crescent.) Adults pictured are L to R – Edward Sandford (father-in-law of her daughter Elizabeth), her daughter Elizabeth (Mrs Henry Folliot Sandford), Mrs James, Miss Philippa James and Mrs Eliza Sandford.

Seated in the front are 2 of her daughter Mary's daughters - Gladys Neighbour and Aileen Neighbour; both attended Campden College.

These images are reproduced from photocopies in Henry Sandford's tribute written in 1937.

The death of Philippa James' daughter Philippa in 1900 forced the closure of Campden College. Philippa James retired aged 80. She lived another 11 years and died in her sleep at the home of her daughter Mary in Beaumaris. She was one of Melbourne's pioneer women, a dedicated educationalist who influenced the lives of many women. Churches and charities also benefited from her work and generosity. In Surrey Hills her annual school bazaars held in the Surrey Hall benefited St Georges Church and the Children's Hospital. Campden Ladies College passed from the capable hands of Mrs and Miss James to those of the Misses Anna and Elizabeth Singleton of Ormiston and at 44 Windsor Crescent another teacher, Miss Jessie McCleverty took up residence.

THE MISSES SINGLETON,
Of Ormiston College, E. Melbourne,
Having decided to remove further from the city,
have bought the goodwill of Mrs. James's School,
Campden College, Surrey Hills, ten minutes from
station.
The college will RE-OPEN Friday, April 27, at
"Fairholme," Mont Albert road.
Vacancies for increased number of boarders.
Prospectuses on application to principals, or
Mullen's.

The Argus, Saturday 28 April 1900.

References:

Ken James – Surrey Hills' Non-Government Schools; 2016

Joan Grinlaw – The life of a pioneer Australian; The Genealogist, March 2000

Henry Folliot Sandford – the Life-story of a Pioneer, 1848-1911; 1937

A Surrey Hills business – H E Brehaut Pty Ltd (HEBCO)

For three generations members of the Brehaut family operated a very successful manufacturing business at 791 Whitehorse Road, Mont Albert. Many readers will have driven passed the Brehaut factory unaware of its importance. The factory is no more, having been replaced by a block of apartments, but the company still operates as Hebco Industrial Pty Ltd from new premises at 19-25 Trade Place, Vermont.

The business was established on 4 July 1933 and registered at 48 Lynch Street, Hawthorn by Herbert Edward Brehaut, born 8 September 1901 in Stawell, where his father George Dillon Brehaut was a blacksmith. George must have been a successful blacksmith as by 1918 he was resident at 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn and by 1922, whilst still co-owning farm acreage at Great Western with his brother John Dillon Brehaut, he was residing in Kew at 301 Barkers Road. George Dillon Brehaut was listed as a director of the company when it was registered, but died in 1949.

**H. E. Brehaut Pty., Ltd.—Engineers,
iron and brass founders, etc. Capital,
£8,000. Directors: Herbert Edward
Brehaut, and George Dillon Brehaut.
(48 Lynch Street, Hawthorn, 15/7/33)**

During WW2 Brehaut's became a key supplier to the Australian Army and Air Force manufacturing items including ammunition boxes, bomb tails, and lead detonation caps for bombs.

Despite what must have been a very busy time for the company, Herbert Brehaut found time for civic duties. He was Mayor of Kew in 1942-43. His mayoral portrait at right was taken in 1942 by C Stuart Tompkins ARPS and is held in the Kew Historical Collection.

Following the armistice, the company adapted and expanded into producing electric motors. At one stage they proudly claimed to be the largest manufacturer of electric motors in the Southern Hemisphere. The motors were manufactured as foot mount motors as well as being integrated into a range of products sold under the company's "Hebco" brand name. They included bench

top and pedestal grinding machines, polishing machines, finishing machines, and a range of vertical hollow shaft motors for driving deep bore turbine pumps. The design stood the test of time and with reliable manufacture, even second-hand "Hebco" machines still remain sought after.



Herbert Brehaut died at Flinders in 1986, having retired there in the mid-1970's. His son John Brehaut took over the running of the business in 1972 until 2010 when he stepped aside and his son Rodger Brehaut took on the challenge of managing the business, having worked in it for more than 10 years. He still heads it up.

In the early 1980's, the company developed a close business relationship with Amarillo Gear Company of Texas, USA. Amarillo's range of Right Angle Gearboxes for pumps and cooling tower use allowed the company to augment its product offerings to farmers and irrigators and giving them a choice between electric, or diesel drive for their pumps. Around the same time, H.E Brehaut Pty Ltd began manufacturing mudguards for box trailers as a side business using equipment and knowledge left over from, of all things, the manufacture of ammunition boxes for the Australian Army.

REF: <https://www.hebco.com.au/>; electoral rolls and Trove. With thanks to Kew Historical Society for permission to publish the portrait of Cr H E Brehaut by C Stuart Tompkins.

Architect David Wormal and Windsor Park Estate – information sought

David Stray has contacted us regarding the work of architect David Wormal (1850-1903) who was born in Lincolnshire and died in Sydney. He is keen to better document his work in Melbourne, including from 1884 for the Freehold Investment and Banking Company of Australia Ltd. He believes that Wormal may have been responsible for designing sample houses in the Windsor Park Estate. Can anyone help?

Corio Bay Open House – 42 Newton Street, Surrey Hills - Sunday 29 October from 2 – 4pm.



Some members will recall the very interesting presentation that Leah Mariani gave to our meeting on 19 February 2023. In presenting aspects of her research into her home, Corio Bay Villa, she flagged that an open day would be held. She has invited members of the Society to attend. The date is Sunday 29 October when the house will be open and Leah will be giving a short talk on its history, focusing mainly on the artists who have lived there.

A practising artist herself, some examples of Leah's work will also be on display.

Auburn Tower open again

The tower of the Auburn Uniting Church in Hawthorn will be open again to climb and enjoy the view on Sunday 12 November 2023.

Location - Oxley Rd (corner of Hepburn Street), Hawthorn. Bookings can be made through:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CMJLA>

End-of year picnic - Sunday 26 November, 2-4pm

To round off the year, members and friends are invited to a Picnic in the Canterbury Gardens. This is a chance to view the new heritage facility, at least from the outside. The committee will provide some refreshments and will set up tables but asks that those attending bring a plate to share and a folding chair.

Update on our move

At the last meeting with Council, the Project Manager advised that they are still hoping for a completion date for the retrofit before Christmas, after which Council will need to instal the new moveable furniture and fittings. We are not anticipating that the building will be ready for us before the end of January 2024,

but have undertaken to have the collection packed and moved from the Cerini Room so that the Neighbourhood Centre can access the room and prepare it for Term 1.

As a result we will be scheduling some working bees over the Christmas break. Boxes etc will be provided by the Council's removalists and should there be a delay in us accessing the new building, the collection will be temporarily stored by them.

If you are able to assist with packing up the collection, please contact Sue on 0417 368990.

Members are also advised that there will be some items of the existing furniture which will be excess to requirements. These items will be offered at reasonable prices, first to financial Society members and then to other historical societies. An email listing these items will be sent to members at the end of November.

Vale Janet Grace Galley, OAM – 7 September 1938 – 25 September 2023

Janet was a great contributor – well informed and erudite. She was a formidable advocate for causes she believed in. Her contribution to the National Council of Women Victoria and the National Council of Women Australia in many roles, including archivist, was recognised when she was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in June 1991, for service to the community, particularly through women's organisations.

In the area of local history, Janet was a member of the Box Hill Historical Society, joining in 1995 along with her late husband Peter. She soon found herself as the Minutes Secretary (1997) and was formally elected to the committee in 2002 and then as President in 2004. She generously stayed in this role for 13 years, a record for the Society. Janet was practical and forthright, adopting a no-nonsense approach to problem solving – perhaps a product of her education at MLC. Janet and Peter were both regulars on a Tuesday at the Society's rooms, where one of Peter's legacies was his work cataloguing the map collection. They also jointly represented the Society at the quarterly meetings of the umbrella body, the Association of Eastern Historical Societies and both were elected as Life Members of BHHS in 2017. Janet and Peter's interest in heritage extended to larger objects than found in the BHHS collection – they were also members and for a time joint secretaries of Classic & Historic Automobile Club of Australia.