

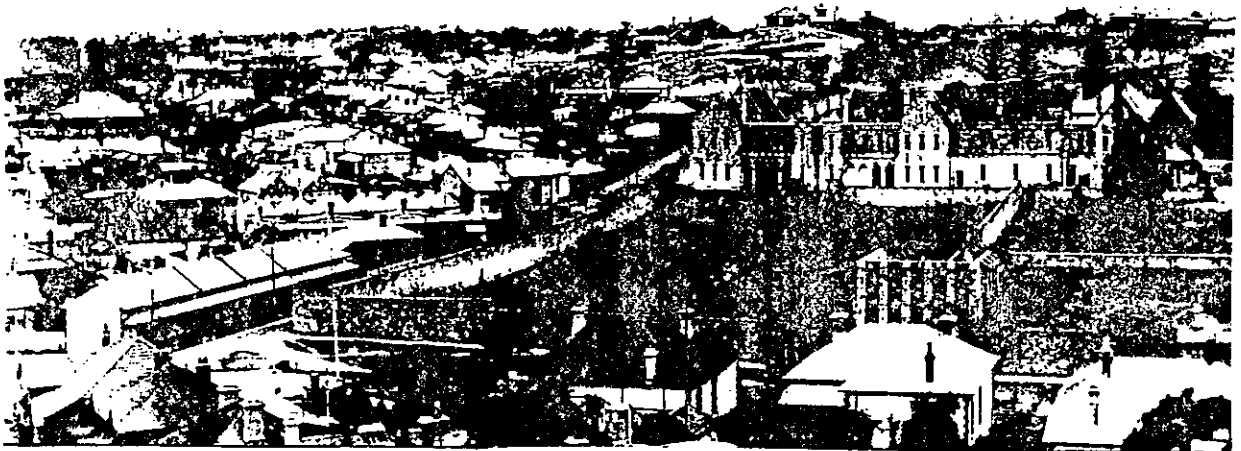
# ☸ Fremantle History Society ☸

Established 1994

The Secretary

Fremantle Prison, The Terrace, Fremantle 6160, Ph: 335 9473

Autumn Edition, 1995



View of grounds of Lunatic Asylum, c1940, Fremantle Library Local History Collection (Print # 1723),

## MEMORIES REVISITED

After 50 years Dan Krusenklous, an ex-American submariner, returned to Fremantle in March 1995, hoping to find some of his memories had stood the test of time. He brought his wife Barbara (Buzz) with him so she could see the places that he had talked about since 1945. Dan had a list of 27 memories he wanted to find - he was able to find 23. Not bad after so long a time.

The memories embraced hotels he had stopped at, such as the Wentworth, and the Victoria in Perth; the Esplanade in Fremantle, still in the same area but changed quite a bit; while the Ocean Beach Hotel at Cottesloe still had the same wonderful view of the ocean. The Fremantle Harbour lacked the amount of shipping that he remembered, but he was able to point out where certain sheds had been and where the submarines tied up to the tenders. Kings Park, Jacobs Ladder and Bernies also figured high on Dan's list. A visit to South Perth resulted in finding a home that he knew very well. Dan was often the guest of the family who lived there, more like a family member than a visitor.

The most important memory on Dan's list was revisiting the Old Women's Home in Finnerty Street Fremantle. He spent several months in the home, known as Naval Receiving Barracks 137 - the centre-point of United States Naval Administration during World War II. As he moved around the building, Dan's face became alive with memories

flooding back of his time there, and he could recall with great clarity where the Captain's office, the Armoury, and the Sick Bay were located, as well as the pub and the Chief's quarters. Also where the poker games were held, for high stakes - he won a motor car at one game!

Dan praised West Australians for the way they had saved their old buildings, and kept the trees in the gardens and streets, and for our beautiful clear skies. Also for the fact that our friendliness and warmth had not changed. Dan remembers coming in from patrols to find fresh milk and apples waiting for the submariners - donated by West Aussies; in his view a most wonderful and welcome sight. He kept telling his wife that we also had the best bread in the world - it must be our sunshine that gave the wheat a special taste.

It was a wonderful experience to be present when Dan located his memories, giving great joy to a man in his seventies, and to share in that joy. It also evoked a pride in being a West Aussie, while quietly thanking those who had the foresight to protect our heritage.

Memories are important - not only to those of us who live them, but to others who may be privileged to share them.

Margaret McPherson



### Committee Members

The following are members of the interim committee of the FHS

Dianne Davidson	430 6096
Anne Brake	(wk) 335 9473
Suzan Miles	339 3145
Bob Reece	(wk) 360 2392
	335 7892
Margaret McPherson	337 2668
Margaret Anderson	(wk) 427 2726
Lorraine Stevens	(wk) 430 2266

Fremantle History Society's committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you have something you would like discussed at a meeting, please contact one of the members on the numbers indicated.

General meetings of the Society are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Details of these meetings are found in your newsletter and reminders are placed in the local press.



### New members

Elizabeth Rummins  
 Elaine Berry  
 WA Trades & Labour Council  
 Tony Fletcher  
 Joan & Vic Williams  
 Kathleen Sweeting  
 Robin & Anne Reed  
 Mike & Joy Lefroy  
 Estelle Jayne Lavender,  
 Paul Holmes  
 Elizabeth & Hulusi Atahan  
 R Woollett  
 L Batterham  
 A Kenny  
 Courtney Thomson  
 Bill Latter  
 A Dawson  
 Milton Jones  
 W McDonnell



## **Coming Events:**

### **Nurses - You can't live without them!**

Our May meeting explores the changes in nursing in the Fremantle district from the 1930s to the 1960s. In an innovative format, this meeting will assemble a panel of women who will give short presentations about their training and the techniques of patient care that were practised, interlaced with an anecdote or two. The audience will then be encouraged to participate with stories and questions about their experiences with the Florence Nightingales of Fremantle (or anywhere else). This interesting and lively meeting will be held in the F Block lecture theatre of the Fremantle Hospital on Tuesday 23 May starting at 6.00pm. As the hospital is a bit of a rabbit warren, we suggest everyone meets at the kiosk in the Princess of Wales' building (Block B) on the corner of Alma St and South Tce at 6.00pm and we will all move in together. Don't forget to come with your own stories to tell!

### **Who kept the home fires burning?**

What was happening back home during the years of World War 11? Children still went to school, crops were still grown and harvested, factories still produced goods, people still went out for a drink or two to drown their sorrows. This month a group of Fremantle personalities will share their memories of the war as seen from the home front. They will

be interviewed by Fremantle Herald editor Andrew Smith and audience participation will again be encouraged.

The meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Maritime Museum, Cliff St on Tuesday 27 June. Proceedings will start at 6.00pm and a light supper will be served after the discussions.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The first Annual General Meeting of the Fremantle History Society will be held on Tuesday 25 July at the City of Fremantle Reception Room at 6.00pm. At this meeting elections will be held for :-

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
up to 8 committee members.

Attached to this month's newsletter is a nomination form. Nominations can only be made and/or seconded by a member of the Society and must be signed by the nominee. Nomination forms must be received by the interim secretary by 27 June 1995. Forms can be posted to Fremantle Prison, The Terrace, Fremantle or handed in at the June meeting.

We encourage all members to participate in the Society and particularly in the committee. Nominations are sought from you, the membership. ACT NOW.



## For Your Diary

**Tuesday, 30 May** - *Nurses - we can't live without them!* A lively discussion on the changing face of nursing with a particular focus on Fremantle from the 30s to the 60s. Meet at the kiosk in the Princess of Wales building (Block B) at 6.00pm. A light supper will follow.

**Tuesday, 27 June** - *Who kept the home fires burning?* Join the FHS and the Fremantle Herald editor Andrew Smith to hear how people in Fremantle coped during the war years - share their stories and memories at the meeting room, Maritime Museum, Cliff St. The night begins at 6.00pm

**Tuesday, 25 July** - *Annual General Meeting* - Fremantle History Society's first AGM and elections. Come and have a say in the future of your Society - 6.00pm, Reception Room, City of Fremantle Administration building. (enter from St John's Square)



### Update on FHS Australia Remembers activities

The response from members has been disappointing so far. Without the support of its members the Society can not hope to continue with the plans it has for this year. The oral history team seems to be coming together. They are still in the planning stages, however and anyone interested in joining them should contact Lorraine Stevens at the Local History desk at the Fremantle Library (430 2239)

There has been some interest in the Heritage Walk, but unfortunately, David Tessler, who was co-ordinating the research and preparation of this activity has had to pull out. In order for this to go ahead a new co-ordinator will have to be found. If anyone is interested in taking this on, either by themselves or in conjunction with someone else, please contact Anne Brake NOW.

Similarly, anyone prepared to work with Dianne Davidson to identify and research photographs of day to day life in Fremantle during the war, contact Dianne on 430 6096.

Discussions have been held with David Hutchison of the Fremantle History Group regarding the holding of a Fremantle Studies Day. We have already had expressions of interest from people who wish to present papers and more are expected. If you wish to participate in any way in the Fremantle Studies Day, contact David Hutchison on 335 1594.

The Studies Day will be held on 23 September 1995. Venue yet to be confirmed.



### Letters to the editor

Dear Ed

The City of Fremantle has commissioned Meredith Walker and Penelope Pike to undertake a study to examine heritage management issues within the city. As part of this several workshops will be held to

- gather information about historic themes and other issues regarding heritage
- gather provide a forum for group discussion and comment on heritage and conservation issues
- consider ways and means of integrating historical research into heritage planning and development
- provide input into preparation of a strategy for heritage conservation.

Two workshops will be held to discuss heritage conservation issues on Friday 12 May and Wednesday 17 May, both starting at 2.00pm. On Saturday 13 May a workshop will be held that will focus on historical themes on the history of Fremantle, starting at ~~4.00pm~~ <sup>10.00am</sup>. All three workshops will be held in the Reception Room of the Town Hall Administration Building.

If any of your members would like to participate in any of these workshops could they please contact Ann Bracone of the Architecture and Heritage Division of Council on 430 2243 before 5 May to allow for adequate catering.

Members of the History Society would be most welcome as the City would like to capitalise on their knowledge of, and involvement in the history, heritage and conservation aspects of Fremantle.

Your faithfully  
Agnieshka Kiera  
City Architect



## Meeting Report:

### The Long Jetty - Jon Carpenter

Jon's presentation to the Society's February meeting started out at the site of the Long Jetty. After a brief presentation we all moved over to the meeting room at the WA Maritime Museum via a display of material 'excavated' from the Long Jetty site, where Jon continued his talk. Using slides Jon gave a history of the role of the Long Jetty from the time it was built by the Fremantle Whaling Company in 1837, through to its use as popular place to promenade and fish just before its demolition in 1921.

As part of his work at the WA Maritime Museum, Jon and other staff members have undertaken several archaeological' digs on the site of the Long Jetty. Many of the slides Jon showed provided illustrations of the wide variety of material that was recovered.

To finish off his fascinating presentation, Jon outlined a proposal he has developed to create an exhibition space under the grassed area to the south of the Roundhouse. The exhibitions would draw on the material excavated as part of the Long Bay Jetty excavation as well as from a dig on the land at Bather's Bay. The exhibition room would be accessed via a short tunnel leading off the current one that leads from Bather's Bay to the High Street.

## Customs in WA - Alex Shaw

Alex Shaw, Honorary Curator of the WA Customs Museum, Fremantle presented an interesting talk on the history of the Department of Customs in Australia with a particular focus on WA at our March general meeting. Tax as we know it today did not commence until the second decade of this century so customs and excise activities were the main means of raising revenue for the young colony. Alex explained how the duty on alcohol - rum in particular - led to much smuggling and many of the early 19th century Customs people had extremely difficult responsibilities with limited reliable staff available.

Much of the early customs and excise laws practised in Australia were based on the British model which Alex gave a brief outline of. He then provided some detail on the development of customs and excise in WA, especially the imbalance between states at the time of Federation. Throughout the talk, Alex used colourful and amusing anecdotes to illustrate the history of this fascinating industry.

A history of the Customs Department is being written by Dr David Day who has the Chair of Australian History at the University in Dublin. Volume 1 *Smugglers and Sailors* was published in 1993. Volume 2 will be published toward the end of this year.

The Fremantle History Society committee would like to thank the WA Maritime Museum for generously

making their meeting room available to the Society for these two meetings.

## Fremantle Prison's Convict Past - Anne Brake

Our April meeting was held at the Fremantle Prison. The talk, presented by Anne Brake, Curator at the Prison, focused on the convict history of the prison. After giving a brief account of the background to WA becoming a penal colony, Anne outlined the problems encountered by Captain Henderson when he arrived on the 1 June 1850 with 75 convicts aboard the *Scindian*. With no accommodation for them or their keepers, Henderson implemented a rigorous building program the results of which can still be seen in the streets of Fremantle today.

The highlight of the evening for most was the tour to the basements at the northern end of the Main Cell Block. From the first decade of this century, light wells that surrounded the basements were gradually filled in and covered over and restricted access to the area limited its use. As part of the recent developments on the site, the light wells have been excavated revealing a wide range of objects relating to the site which will be used in future exhibitions to help tell the story of life within this notorious precinct.

During her talk, Anne gave a brief description of probably the most famous escape from the prison, that of the Fenians. Michael Seats has provided information on a book that deals with John Boyle O'Rielly whose

escape 7 years earlier provided the catalyst for the Fenians escape. The publication also provides information about the prison and life for a convict at the time. The details are - Paul Buddee, *Escape of John O'Rielly*, Longman Australia, Camberwell, 1973. ISBN 0582714184

Thank you to the Fremantle Prison Guardians for making space available to the Society and allowing access to the basement area for the meeting.



### **Fremantle International Submarine Convention 1995**

From the 20th March to the 24th March, Fremantle played host to men representing those American, Dutch, British and Australian ex-submariners who were stationed here during World War II. The convention, suggested by Sally May, as Head of the History Department at the Maritime Museum, to the Ex-submariners Associations in West Australia, was a very successful venture. Over 175 ex-submariners from America, England, Holland and Australia registered, most of them bringing their wives. What was unexpected was the extra 100-150 people that turned up on the first day, that had not registered. Some were local people who had a personal interest in the convention, others were friends of the overseas visitors. A little frustrating at first for the organisers, but when sorted out, the influx added to the atmosphere of comradeship and wonderful memories.

The commemoration ceremony at Monument Hill to open the proceedings was very moving - elderly men renewing friendships with shipmates they may not have seen for years; some stayed in Australia, others moved around in America and lost contact. They formed up in ranks to place carnations in a specially designed stand to honour the ships they had served in. There was a quiet, yet moving feeling when the name of a submarine was called and the statement "Still on patrol" followed to designate those ships that were lost at sea. The tolling of a bell added to the poignancy of the moment - the memory of which will remain long with the onlookers.

The buffet dinner on the wharf outside B Shed was a complete contrast - Fremantle turned on a lovely balmy evening, Kailis Bros the supper, and the Navy Band gave a wonderful display of talent and music. Lynne Cairns, also from the Maritime Museum, launched her book "Fremantle's Secret Fleets" a history of the Allied Submarines stationed in Fremantle during World War II

The Maritime Museum was the venue for the discussion sessions, all of which were very interesting. The Museum staff and volunteers did a marvellous job supplying morning and afternoon teas and organising various trips to Rottnest and Garden Island; while the bus tour of old haunts brought back many memories to the participants. One of the most remembered and cherished memories was the wonderful hospitality of the West Australian people to young

sailors away from home. Being accepted unconditionally into virtual strangers homes and made part of the family was a special gift to these lads, most of whom were away from home for the first time. They are still grateful for that gift. They are also still grateful for the girls they met and the beer they drunk.

The Convention Dinner at the Esplanade was an appropriate ending to the week's activities - the food, wine and conversation flowed freely.

To Sally May, and Lynne Cairns, from the Maritime Museum, Claude Elder, and Kath Polaris from the US ex-submariner Assoc, Mike Pearson, Peter Shields, Steve Dyer, and Max Shean from the British and Australian Sub-mariners Assoc. as well as the many other workers who put in such a lot of hard work to make this convention the success it was, I extend my heartiest congratulations.

As part of the team making the TV documentary of the occasion, I experienced a special occasion - meeting men who volunteered to serve in a very dangerous part of Naval Service, in a sense giving up their youth to fight a silent war, fathoms below sea level. They described their experiences; depth charge attacks, lack of fresh food and water, cramped conditions as an aspect of life at that time; the future was too fragile to think about. They prefer to recall the humorous things that happened during 1943-45.

**This is the last verse of a poem written by a British submariner during the war.**

*The Airman has always his  
parachutes  
When bullets are spitting and  
hitting  
The soldier has always his pair of  
boots  
But the submarine man, he's just  
missing*



**From the Local History desk**

Fremantle City Library  
Lorraine Stevens

### **North Fremantle**

This year marks the centenary of the foundation of North Fremantle Council. For sixty-six years North Fremantle operated as an independent municipality, only re-incorporating with the City of Fremantle on 1st November, 1961.

With so many of its public and private buildings disappearing over the years due to industrial development, road widening and diversions, it is interesting to examine and reflect on those buildings that still remain.

The first of these to be featured is the North Fremantle Town Hall:-  
When North Fremantle was declared a municipality in September 1895, Council met for a short time in Mason's Hall, in John St. One year later in September 1896, a move was made to new municipal offices on the corner of John and Bruce Streets. The grey sandstone building (21' x



18') proved inadequate and later became the first fire station.

The foundation stone for the North Fremantle Town Hall was laid by the Premier, the Honorable WH James, on 3 September 1902. A bottle containing coins of the day was placed behind the stone, only to be stolen a day later by an 'enterprising thief'. According to *The Evening Courier* 11 September 1902, the thief made off with a haul worth one pound and 17 shillings.

Designed by GC Clark, the building was completed by Garrick and Ford in 1903. It then became the focal point of a busy township and was used for Masonic Lodge meetings, Roman Catholic balls, ratepayers meeting and a cinema. In May 1925, Mrs William White celebrated her 62nd birthday there and was presented with a comfortable armchair by the Mayor and Councillors. This was to recognise her efforts in helping the less fortunate in the community. She was also handed a posy of 62 pink carnations by one of her grandsons.

Adjoining the hall was a Literary Institute (later known as the North Fremantle Public Library) which operated from at least 1907 to 1962. In 1907 it was said to be 'commodious and well ventilated, with a capital selection of books, newspapers and magazines'. Mrs Florence Hill of Hevron St was employed as a librarian from 1947 until the library's closure in 1962.

Early photographs show horse-drawn vehicles travelling along Queen

Victoria St. In fact the pace of life was so slow that a dog could scratch itself in the middle of the road without being knocked down. The photographs also show the original domes on the roof of the hall which have since disappeared.

When North Fremantle amalgamated with Fremantle in November 1961, the Town Hall became redundant to the needs of Fremantle City Council and the building was sold at public auction in April 1966. It was then used as a Post Office (1966-1969) and by various commercial concerns.

For many years the building served as the headquarters for the WA Ballet School. In September 1980 the Fremantle Community School began holding classes in the hall. Staff, pupils and volunteers began renovating the old building (roof and fascia). Its grey walls were painted white and a colourful mural was added to the south wall in 1982. Due to financial difficulties the school went into recess, and in 1983 the building was sold to antique dealers Chris and John Blinco.

Sources: *The Evening Courier* 5 & 11 September 1902; *The Morning Herald* 17 December 1907; other newspaper clippings held by Fremantle City Library.

This newsletter will be produced four times a year. **Everyone** is invited to contribute articles, letters or other items of interest. Submissions for the winter edition should reach Fremantle Prison by **30 June**, and for the spring edition, by **30 September**.



✿ FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY ✿

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE.

The Fremantle History Society is seeking nominations from its members for the following positions

- President
- Secretary
- Committee members (not less than 2 or more than 8)
- Vice President
- Treasurer

Nominations are to reach the interim secretary by Tuesday 27 June 1995. They can be posted to The Secretary, Fremantle History Society, c/- Fremantle Prison, The Terrace, Fremantle 6160 or by hand to the Secretary at the Prison or the June general meeting.



I hereby nominate .....
for the position of .....
Nominated by .....
<i>Name in block letters</i>
.....
<i>Signature</i>
Seconded by .....
<i>Name in block letters</i>
.....
<i>Signature</i>
I accept nomination for this position .....
<i>Signature</i>



✿ FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY ✿

The Secretary  
Fremantle Prison, The Terrace,  
Fremantle WA 6160

The Fremantle History Society aims to

- encourage community involvement in the study of Fremantle history and cultural diversity through research oral history, and writing.
- disseminate information about Fremantle in a variety of ways in particular through public forums and liaison with other history and heritage groups and schools in the area
- promote the identification and preservation of historical evidence relating to Fremantle
- encourage the commemoration of important events, places and people in appropriate ways
- arrange social gatherings for its members

Membership fee of \$..... paid to the Fremantle History Society on ...../...../.....

NOTE: The Association's financial year begins on 1 July each year.

PLEASE RETAIN THIS SECTION AS A RECEIPT AND FOR YOUR OWN RECORD

✕.....

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....POSTCODE.....

TELEPHONE: (BH)..... (AH).....

OCCUPATION:.....

SIGNATURE/S.....

DATE : .....

Please circle the appropriate category:

Ordinary membership	\$10	Organisational membership	\$20
Family membership	\$15	Student/pensioner/unemployed	\$5

