

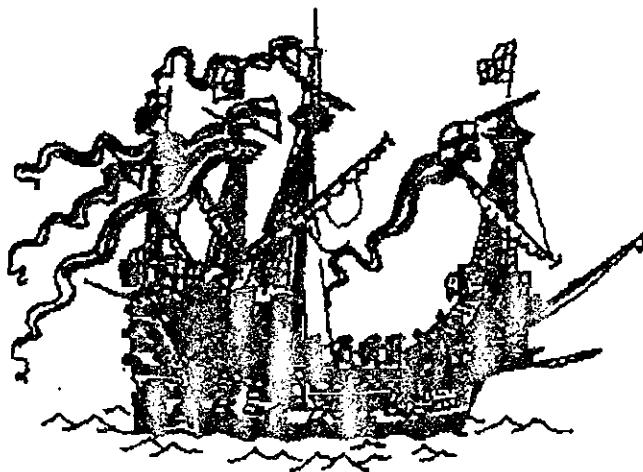
⊗ Fremantle History Society Inc ⊗

Established 1994

The Secretary

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

Winter Edition, 1995



***Mary Rose* - Life and death on Henry VIII's lost warship at the Fremantle Maritime Museum.**

A magnificent collection of 200 16th century artefacts are currently on display at the Fremantle Maritime Museum. The objects, which range from weapons of war to more domestic kitchen utensils and board games for recreational pursuits, help to throw light on life in Tudor England.

The objects belong to Henry VIII's warship *Mary Rose*, which has lain on the seabed to the south of England for over 400 years. On 19 July 1545, with 700 soldiers and sailors aboard, the *Mary Rose*, along with other vessels in the fleet, sailed from Portsmouth to do battle with the French. But what relevance can they have to Fremantle History?

As Dr Margaret Rule, Director of Research and Interpretation for the *Mary Rose* Trust, pointed out at the opening of this magnificent exhibition, the history of one maritime community must be of relevance and interest to another maritime community, especially as this exhibition gives us a snapshot of life in England only 70 years before Hartog sailed the *Eendracht* along the shores of Western Australia. And could even be contemporaneous with earlier explorers we are still to discover.

Had life changed much in that 70 years? How on earth did they manage to survive long enough with such primitive navigation instruments and living conditions to discover anything? Without the evidence provided by the wreck of the *Mary Rose* it would be even more difficult to understand the times in which Australia was discovered by the Europeans.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE. SEE LAST PAGE

On that fateful day in 1545, Henry watched aghast from the shore as his favourite warship heeled and started to take water almost immediately after setting out. Within minutes the great ship and all aboard were lost.

It is not certain why the *Mary Rose* sank - perhaps it was overloaded (reportedly carrying almost double its normal complement), were the gun ports mistakenly left open, or was it, as the French claimed, holed by the enemy.

Ironically, the King's loss has been our gain. With its 'rescue' in the 1980s - an archaeological triumph in which the hull was winched up and divers recovered literally thousands of objects and pieces of timber - we have a much better understanding of lifestyles in the Tudor era.

Visitors to the exhibition will have the chance to view a wide range of objects from an oak backgammon board inlaid with spruce and yew complete with counters to the great English longbows fashioned from a single piece of yew, through to an early steering compass and a reconstruction of the barber-surgeon's quarters complete with a massive mallet, razors and three syringes.

The exhibition will be on view at the Fremantle Maritime Museum from 9 August to 29 October. The museum is open daily from 10.30 am to 5 pm.

SPECIAL OFFER

Fremantle History Society members who produce the coupon in the back of this newsletter will receive a discount of \$2 off adult & family tickets and \$1 off childrens tickets. \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children and \$18.00 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dianne Davidson - Chair, 430 6096
Elaine Berry - Vice Chair, 336 1906
Anne Brake - Secretary, 335 9473
Margaret McPherson - Treasurer, 377 2668
Lorraine Stevens, 430 2339
Deb Tout Smith, 427 2725
Milton Jones, 337 2331
Ron Davidson, 430 6096
Suzan Miles, 339 7625
Sally Rodgers, 339 7922
Michael Seats, 335 2890
Bob Reece, 360 2392

The committee of the Fremantle History Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month. General meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Committee members can be contacted at the numbers above for those who want to discuss any of the Society's activities or to bring something to the committee. Details of the General meetings can be found in this newsletter and reminders are placed in the local press.



NEW MEMBERS

J Hedges
M Farrant
J Duperouzel
J Green
L Major
J Dowson
B Ryan
D Tarrant
J&E Lamb
D Tout Smith
K Christensen
A Smith



COMING EVENTS

The Researcher's best Friend - Fremantle Local History Collection

The Fremantle Local History Library is the venue for our August meeting. Local History Librarian Lorraine Stevens will give members and their friends an overview of what the Local History collection collects and preserves and how to gain access to it. For almost 20 years, the collection has gathered books, newspaper cuttings, pamphlets, ephemera, oral history recordings and photographs of Fremantle and its environs. As much of the material is irreplaceable, the collection is only made available under supervision.

The collection has a long established reputation and knowledge on its mysteries is a must for any budding historian. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 August at 7.00 pm in the Local History section of the Fremantle Public Library, Town Hall Centre.

"His Brains Were In His Fingertips"

Our September meeting will feature Ernest "Shiner" Ryan, the first Australian to use a car in an armed hold-up and later one of Fremantle's favourite citizens.

Ron Davidson, author of *High Jinks at the Hot Pool* (based on the *Mirror*, Perth's naughty newspaper) will introduce Shiner. He often featured in the *Mirror* as he made the transition from armed robber to the man everyone in Fremantle loved.

Come along if you remember Shiner, his famous painting The Black Sheep, his wedding to Sydney underworld Queen Kate Leigh in St John's Church, his

home in South Terrace, his skills with locks and battery whips, and his work with children. Or if you want to find out.

This meeting will be held at the Old Prison Museum in The Terrace at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 26 September.

Who Was Who in Fremantle?

Many families lived here for generations, forming a stable community over a long time. Who were they, and where have they gone?

In our popular forum format our October meeting will bring together representatives of some of these families and tap their memories of who lived here and what Fremantle was like before it was discovered by history buffs and trendies. Come and share their stories and contribute your own!

The meeting will be held at 7.00 pm at The Door Exhibition Space, 20 High St, Fremantle on Tuesday 24 October. Light refreshments will be provided.



FOR YOUR DIARY

22 August - *The researcher's best friend - Fremantle Local History Collection* - a tour of the treasures for all historians in the Fremantle Library's collection, Fremantle Local History Library, Fremantle Library, 7.00 pm.

26 September - *His brains were in his fingertips* - the story of Shiner Ryan, the old Museum, Fremantle Prison, 7.00 pm

24 October - *Who were they and where have they gone?* Fremantle families remembered, The Door Exhibition Space, 20 High St, Fremantle 7.00 pm

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed

Fremantle Inner City Agriculture (FINCA) is currently undertaking a project in King William St, South Fremantle. The project involves the community and includes building a permaculture garden, dune regeneration and artwork which reflects the history of the area. The latter is where you could possibly help us.

If any of your members have any yarns, memories, photos, family history etc relating to this area we would be interested in talking to them, perhaps over a cup of tea or just over the phone. The information we collect will be creatively recorded in artworks such as ceramic tiles, pottery in pathways, benches and wall arches.

Any one who would like to be involved can call Cate Cosi or Amanda Cattalini on 335 3630 9-5 weekdays, or 319 1381 (Amanda) after hours.

Amanda Cattalini

Dear Ed

We are very interested in details about the Alma Street and Skinner Street Cemeteries in Fremantle, and also the East Rockingham Cemetery.

If any Fremantle History Society members have information about any of these cemeteries, could they please contact:

Friends of East Rockingham
Cemetery
P O Box 750
ROCKINGHAM 6168

Dear Ed

The City of Melville in conjunction with Australia Remembers is undertaking an oral history project - Melville Remembers. The aim of the project is to collect stories from people who lived and worked within the City of Melville region during World War II.

For this project we require people familiar with collecting oral histories, and people who lived, worked or trained in this region during the war.

We would like to gather a team of oral historians to collect stories. These people will be paid a fee based on an hourly rate for their work on this project.

If you or your members would like to be involved or know anybody that can help, please contact me on 364.0695.

Michelle Mackenzie
Community Arts Officer, City of Melville

Dear Ed

The P&C of the South St Primary School would like to invite the Fremantle History Society to participate in a Community Day being organised at the school on Sunday 5 November from 10.00 am - 5.00 pm. For further information on the day please call Liz Kurnot on 335 9654.

Liz Kurnot

The FHS committee will be organising a stall for the day to promote the Society's activities. As well as general information on the Society, it is hoped to develop a small information brochure, perhaps in conjunction with one of the classes from the school, on the Alma St cemetery which was situated on land next to the school. Anyone interested should contact Elaine Berry on 336 1906.

FREMANTLE STUDIES DAY - NOTICE

The Fremantle Studies Day which was planned for later this year will now be held early in 1996. A committee of people interested in working on the planning of the day has been formed and news on the day will be reported as soon as it is available.



FROM THE LOCAL HISTORY DESK

The following is a selection of interesting news items gleaned from old newspapers:

"J & W Bateman have a splendid sample of guano, lately arrived from Shark Bay. Sandalwood will be taken in exchange." (*The Herald*, 16.3.1867)

"Cabbies in Fremantle consider 1/- (10 cents) a miserable sum for driving a "drunk" and a constable to the local lock-up. Cabs have often to be washed out after the job. Cab drivers consider service charge should be 5/- (50 cents). *The Umpire* considers the job is worth at least 2/6 (25 cents)." (*The Umpire*, 13.1.1900)

"Proclamation Day Sports: Fremantle Oval. "Catching the Greasy Pig". A specially good running pig was emptied out of the bag, and gave the 8 or 9 competitors an excellent scamper from the start, beating the best of them. The grunter however, in its wisdom, doubled back on to the asphalt track where G Phillimore found the tail, and the squealing porker was led off by his captor." (*The Mail*, 25.10.1904)

"A double-horse lorry, hopelessly stuck in the loose sand, in the middle of Phillimore Street. Twenty minutes

fruitless endeavour; then a rope, a tram and motorman Heinrich of the Fremantle Municipal Tramways enabled the obstruction to be removed." (*Evening Mail*, 2.7.1906)



FREMANTLE HERE WE COME!

The Army Museum of Western Australia is coming to Fremantle - to be relocated in the Burt Street Artillery Barracks. The official opening will take place on 15 August, commemorating the surrender of the Japanese; Victory in the Pacific Day. The Premier, Richard Court, will do the honours.

From 19 August the Museum will be open to the public every Saturday and Sunday between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm at a cost of \$1.00. This will be a wonderful addition to Fremantle, incorporating as it does the history of our servicemen and women of two world wars, within a well-preserved historical landmark relating to early military history in this State.

For a time the Museum will only occupy two-thirds of the bottom floor, as the UWA Regiment, the present occupiers, anticipate staying on as co-tenants until other arrangements can be made. Eventually the Museum display will occupy four galleries which will hold:

- A State Education electronic diorama of Western Australia
- Memorabilia of West Australian Victoria Cross winners (fourteen in all, including Air Force pilot Sir Hugh Edwards) and a reproduction of an artillery piece used at El Alamein
- Collection of World War II articles displayed in eight cabinets

- History of service personnel who were prisoners of war, including women's services

There will also be a replica of the Perth Barracks, home to the Enrolled Guards, made from 180,000 matches by a member of the Army Museum volunteers.

To quote the Army Museum Newsletter of June 1995: "Within two years we will be the second biggest military museum in the country behind only the War Memorial in Canberra." This would be a wonderful achievement, and we wish them well.

The aim of the Army Museum is to collect, preserve and display anything relative to the armed forces of this State. They would welcome any mementoes that the public would like to donate. Contact person for donations: Mick Malone, Tel. 383 2184 (Fax 385 0280), P O Box 695, Claremont 6010.



MEETING REPORTS

Nurses - you can't live without them.

The May meeting held at Fremantle Hospital, was memorable for two reasons. Firstly, we were given a personally conducted tour of the Knowle (the original home of Captain Henderson, Comptroller General of the Fremantle Prison) by Sister Judith Lancaster, Public Relations Officer and historian for the hospital. Secondly, a fascinating mini exhibition of nursing memorabilia from the hospital's collection, including photographs documents and costumes, was set up in the lecture room for members to browse through before the meeting began.

The Knowle is hidden away behind the extensions to Fremantle Hospital for the present, however the hospital administration intends to restore the Knowle to its original state. The wide corridors and curved staircase leading to what was the ballroom allowed us to see and feel a little part of the buildings past glory.

On entering the lecture room where the meeting was held, members and their friends discovered a tableau of history. Judith Lancaster had placed photographs of nurses from the 30s - 70s on boards around the room and had nursing paraphernalia, used during those times, placed on tables for us to view. She had gone to a lot of trouble and we thanked her personally as well as sending flowers the next day.

Our guests for the evening, nurses from the 1930s to the present, added to an interesting evening by relating their nursing experiences and difficulties. "Lou" Allen, for many years a charge sister at Fremantle, started the evening with stories of her time as a Junior nurse during World War II. Stories of staff shortages, long hours with very little equipment to help in the nursing of patients were interspersed with humorous anecdotes from other nurses present. The sessions, chaired by Bob Reece, was taped and should prove a valuable addition to our new Oral History section. Our thanks go to all the nurses past and present who attended the evening and made it such a success.

Who Kept the Home Fires Burning?

Our June meeting introduced a new format - a panel of Fremantle personalities were interviewed by *Fremantle Herald* editor Andrew Smith

about their experiences on the home front during the war.

Larry Foley shared with us his childhood memories of the impact of the war on Fremantle, Eileen Sampey provided a perspective from behind the bar of a hotel during wartime and Mick Donnes contributed his invaluable memories of his time as skipper of the pilot boat; while Annie Fitzgerald saw yet another aspect of the home front from the services canteen in Fremantle. The panel was expertly encouraged by Andrew to expand on various themes, and many of those attending made valuable contributions of their own. There were lively and informative exchanges as one memory triggered off another, and wartime Fremantle came to life for those of us who had not experienced it.

This was a very successful and worthwhile exercise, which was preserved on tape and will be lodged in the Fremantle Local History Archives, where it can be accessed by future researchers.

Many thanks to the Maritime Museum for making their meeting room available to us, to Lorraine Stevens for providing taping equipment and to Andrew Smith for chairing the night.

Annual General Meeting

A significant milestone for the Society was reached with the holding of its first AGM on the 25 July in the Reception Room of the Fremantle City Council. The formalities of the evening included a report on the activities of the Society over the past 10 months as well as a report on the healthy state of our finances. Most importantly, however, the results of the first elections for the Committee were announced. The list of

committee members and contact numbers can be found on the second page of the newsletter. Up until now the Society has kept ticking over through the efforts of a small number of dedicated souls, most of who offered themselves for renomination. They have welcomed six new members to their ranks.

Following the formal part of the meeting, members were given an interesting and informative account of the Fremantle Heritage Assets Management project which is currently being undertaken by the Fremantle City Council. Agnieszka Kiera, City Architect for Fremantle, provided a comprehensive background to the project and its roots in changes to State Government legislation. Much work has already been done over the past twenty years to record the extensive heritage portfolio held in Fremantle. This project will develop a framework around which policies and processes can be implemented to ensure these assets are maintained for the future.

David Hutchison explained the development and role of the historic framework that he and Michal Bosworth were contracted to undertake as part of the project. Their work sets out the major points of significance in Fremantle's history and is used to ensure that buildings and sites that represent these times are identified. This approach should avoid a bias toward one particular type of 'heritage' creating a much more holistic approach to the choice of significant buildings.

The draft strategy document has just been released for public comment. Comments are requested by 15 August in preparation for a workshop on 29 August. For further details contact the Council on 430 2222.



TRIP TO NEW NORCIA

The Melville Historical Society has kindly extended an invitation to members of our Society to join them on a historical tour of New Norcia.

The bus will leave Miller's Bakehouse (corner of Baal and Hammad Streets in Palmyra) at 8.30 am on Monday 18 September. The cost of the tour will be \$26.00.

The price includes the cost of the journey, a conducted tour by a member of the Benedictine community, and entrance to the village, church and Monastery. It does not include lunch: You may bring your own or eat at the roadhouse or restaurant in the village. A grassed area within the village has been set aside for members to relax and enjoy while eating their picnic lunches.

The bus is scheduled to arrive at New Norcia by 11.00 am, with a comfort stop provided on the way. The tour, including the lunch break, will finish by 3.00 pm and the bus will return to Miller's Bakehouse by 6.30 pm.

Members of the Melville Historical Society came along to the Nurses Forum at the Fremantle Hospital and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It would be nice if some of our members could return the favour. Interaction between historical societies can be of mutual benefit, for we all have something we can share in our endeavour to retain the significance of the past.

If you are interested in going on the New Norcia trip please contact Alice Smith on 339.4486 as soon as possible.

JIGSAW CORNER

This is a new column we are introducing for members who have partial memories of pieces of Fremantle history, and would like to know more. Write down your recollections and send them to us for publication in Jigsaw Corner - someone else can probably add to your memories. Anything about the history of Fremantle is worth collecting, however small! Here is a piece to get people started.

The Cabin Tea Rooms (Margaret McPherson)

Did you know that the original ovens used by the Cabin Tea Rooms are still in situ and that located in the original building there is a secret room which was used by a local bookmaker in the 1920s and 1930s?

This piece of trivia may not be of great concern to those who have not heard of the Cabin Tea Rooms and Bakery, but if you had ever tasted their superb Coffee Cake, you would never forget this establishment. Some of us, who have reached the wonderful young age of 60+, have fond memories of the cakes and other delicacies that were baked on the premises and sold daily to shoppers and workers in Fremantle.

Situated in High Street, in the buildings now occupied by Bousfields and Beta Electrics (which were originally one building), were the Cabin Tea Rooms. On the ground floor tables and chairs were provided for casual meals; upstairs, however, hot meals were served at tables covered with white tablecloths, and table settings included serviettes in polished silver serviette rings. Mrs Evans was in charge, and her son Reg Evans was foreman of the



Cabin Bakehouse at the corner of Point and Parry Streets.

The entrance to the Tea Rooms in 1928 consisted of check terrazzo tiles which were scrubbed daily, as were the front shop windows which displayed goodies offered for sale. A mirror at the back of the display reflected more than the cakes; when girls bent down to clean the windows they provided a display of their own which delighted some of the young men who were watching. However, a gallant gentleman told the girls why they were the centre of such interest and the mirror was instantly removed.

In the entrance to the shop were two counters, one on each side (in 1928 they were the sweet counter on the right and the cake counter on the left). Did you know that the first Leggo Tomato Tureen in Fremantle was in the Cabin Tea Rooms? For a small fee of 1/- (one shilling) you could buy a cup of Tomato Soup and a slice of toast.

In 1938 the counters contained bread, milk and cakes on the one side and cooked meats, stuffed rabbits and stuffed legs of pork and lamb on the other. At the back of the shop beyond the tables was a Milk Bar, with three electric mixers and numerous milk shake flavours.

If you can add to this piece of the history of the Cabin Tea Rooms, or if you know of anyone who can, please contact Lorraine Stevens on 430.2239.



Incorporation at last!

The Fremantle History Society has finally been granted a certificate of Incorporation under the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 Section 9 (1). Our registered number is 1004792.


This newsletter is produced 4 times a year. Everyone is invited to contribute articles, letters or other items of interest. Submissions for the spring edition should be directed to the Secretary, c/ Fremantle Prison by 30 September, and by 31 December for the summer edition.

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SPECIAL OFFER - FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Production of this coupon at the Fremantle Maritime Museum entitles Fremantle History Society Inc members entrance to the *Mary Rose* exhibition for the special price of

\$ 6.00	adult	
\$ 3.00	child	
\$ 18.00	family	



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE NOW

Members are reminded that, if they paid their membership fees before May this year, their next year's subscription is now due. Please fill in the form below and send to Margaret McPherson, 25 Clara Rd, Hamilton Hill before the end of August.

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

Name/s:.....

.....

Put address on back **ONLY** if changed

Circle Category:

Ordinary	\$10	Family	\$15
Concession	\$ 5	Organisation	\$20

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

