



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305  
FREMANTLE WA 6959

**Summer Edition  
2009**

Editors: Ron Davidson, Dianne Davidson, Anne Brake



**Happy Hour at The National 1991 painted by Marcus Beilby  
(Courtesy Marcus Beilby)**

**AT LAST – ‘THE NASH’  
WILL RISE FROM THE  
ASHES!  
Ron and Dianne Davidson**

When we held the wake for the National Hotel after it burned down in 2007 many people said they hoped that the National would eventually be restored, but the damage was so extensive it was hard to see that happening. Well, it IS happening!

In January the Fremantle City Council approved plans for extensive restoration work, and judging from the drawings presented by Oldfield Knott Architects the hotel will look pretty much as it did in its heyday during the gold rush period, including its unusual three-level

lacework. It will again operate as a hotel, with rooms upstairs and a bar and restaurant area on the ground floor. It is important that the National should again take up its position ‘as the centre of Fremantle’ with so many interesting businesses developing in High and Market streets. Those who were at the wake will remember Milton Baxter’s description of his time as a newspaper boy in the 1940s when the National corner was the most sought-after selling point. Milton described how he admired an old grandfather clock on occasions when he managed to sneak into the bars to sell the *Daily News* there. Chris Mills, whose mother owned the National in the sixties, said she still had the clock and other original furniture. We hope that both find their way back for the hotel reopening.

**Footnote.** We were sad to see the Fremantle Club which provided such an evocative home for the wake and was the site of memorable society Christmas Dinners has closed. More on this next edition.



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Dianne Davidson (President)	9430 6096
Anne Brake (Vice – President)	9335 5206
Alison Bauer (Treasurer)	9432 9739
Ron Davidson (Minute Secretary)	9430 6096

Committee Members:

Bob Woollett	9335 7451
Fay Campbell	9341 4102
Jenny Patterson	9438 3711
Cathy Hall	0407 086 300
Pam Hartree	9432 9739(W)
David Hutchison	9335 1594
Rusty Christensen	9364 4491

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 at the numbers shown above.

General meetings of the Society are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Details of these meetings can be found in your newsletter and reminders are placed in the local press. Be sure to check details as meeting dates may differ from this.



## COMING EVENTS

### Miller Bakehouse

Ted Miller, grandson of the original H Miller who owned and operated the place as the Sunlight Bakery, will give us some

background on the history of his family, the bakery and the huge collection of bread and bun-making implements in the small museum the making of bread before industry became so high tech. The place is run by the Melville Historical Society and a gold coin donation is appreciated for entry to the museum.

As usual, refreshments will be provided after the talk.

**Tuesday 24 February, 7 pm. Miller Bakehouse is located at the corner of Hammad & Baal Sts, Palmyra**

### Peel Town?

Dr Shane Burke will show us the amazing archaeological dig that is currently being undertaken in Beeliar Park. A graveyard has been discovered using ground probing radar but other discoveries have been unearthed through more traditional archaeological techniques. This is possibly one of the most significant and potentially controversial finds relating to the history of the early settlement. Not to be missed. Bring a hat and walking shoes.

There will be cool drinks and nibbles to refresh us after the walk!

**Meet at 10 am on Sunday 22 March at the Mount Brown car park opposite the fishermen's shacks on Cockburn Rd approx 1 km before the intersection with Rockingham Rd in Henderson / Naval Base. Anyone needing transport contact Fay on 9341 4102**

### A centenary of submarines

Between 1942 and 1945 Fremantle accommodated the second largest submarine base in the world. Submarines have a much longer history than this in our state. Peter Horoban, Vice President of the Submarine Institute, will give us some background on this fascinating but little known history and outline preparations for

the celebrations of a century of submarines in Australia in 2014. This will include the viewing of an interview with Max Shean, 'one of a small band of gallant young men who, volunteering for "special and hazardous service", manned X-craft and Chariots and by their coolly audacious attacks on shipping and installations in harbours and inshore areas carried the sea war into the enemy's closely guarded waters.' ('Our Submariners' n *Up Periscope*) This interview is the first of a number of oral histories to be done with old submariners.

**Tuesday 28 April at 7 pm. Venue to be notified.**



## MEETING REPORTS

### Fremantle Studies Day

A large crowd crammed into the atmospheric classroom of Kidogo Arthouse on 23 November for our now celebrated Fremantle Studies Day. It was a superb spring day, and members enjoyed the spectacular ocean views from the classroom windows.

The day kicked off with Stephen Culley proving a natural crowd pleaser with his talk *Five years without a suicide*. Stephen talked without a note and detailed his time teaching art at Fremantle Prison to many of its toughest criminals between 1979 and 1985. Stephen told us of the early and intense dislike the Purple Circle (leaders of the prison officers) had for this slender, long-aired young art teacher. He only just survived, then thrived in this hostile environment because of the importance of the Culley name; also because of the interest of his former employer at the Prison, Andrew Smith, who was present for Stephen's talk. Many of Stephen's tough pupils showed great artistic sensitivity, none more so than murderer Jimmy Pike. A combination of Jimmy's artistic skills and Stephen's promotion resulted in the creation

of the successful fashion label Desert Designs, which achieved considerable notice overseas. And Stephen's topic? While doing research for the talk Stephen discovered some intriguing social implications of the introduction of art to the main cell block. There were no suicides in the five years when Stephen was teaching in this emotional pressure cooker. Cries of 'More, more' arose when Stephen's time was up. Many wanted a repeat performance – but longer and with more pictures.



Stephen Cully, Fremantle Studies Day 2008  
(Dianne Davidson)

Gaye Nayton's paper, 'Under the sand: the archaeology of Bathers Beach', looks under the sand and finds a different beach to the busy entertainment area we have now. Gaye's excavations provide evidence of the days of a busy port and accompanying cargo-handling area around what is now Kidogo Arthouse. She told a story of railway terminals, warehouses, and the cargo itself; plus more than a little drinking.

Mike Lefroy, a fifth general Western Australian, introduced us to some of his ancestors in his talk, 'Hard Landings'. His relatives were not always successful after arriving near Bathers Beach, hence the title. But there were noted citizens among them



including Henry Lefroy who served as a superintendent of the Prison. A most interesting section of the talk may have been Mike's sensitive memories of his meetings with his great aunt Kate O'Connor, the noted artist and daughter of C Y O'Connor, after she had returned from Paris in the 1960s.

Ron Davidson spoke of 'The Galatis: 50 years in Fremantle', during which time a modified house-deli became the centre of life around Wray Avenue. Antonino Galati arrived in 1950 to work with his aunts and uncles on a market garden outside Fremantle. In 1958 his aunts opened a shop in South Terrace with Antonino travelling around collecting and delivering orders. On one trip he met then married Vincenzina Giuffre – Mrs Galati – and they moved to nearby Wray Avenue.

This was an Italian migrant story but it is also the story of the changing population of Fremantle and the new interest in European foods and ingredients.

As usual we enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea, and were delighted by the enthusiastic hospitality extended to us by the doyenne of Kidogo Arthouse, Joanna Robertson. Thank you Joanna!

### **Christmas – a Fabulous Feast!**

And it was indeed. A large number of members availed themselves of the superb traditional Christmas dinner offered by the Swan Yacht Club on Sunday 7 December, pulled Christmas crackers apart and donned the traditional paper crowns and settled in for a lengthy and very enjoyable lunch. Wine flowed, conversation sparkled and we all had a great time.

There were some great prizes for the Christmas raffle – a couple of superb Christmas cakes were particularly coveted by many of those who bought tickets. Many thanks to Fay Campbell for making these,

and to Bob Woollett for (as usual) efficiently organising the raffle.



### **PRISON HERITAGE UNDER THREAT** **Dianne Davidson**

Towards the end of last year I was contacted by a concerned member asking if I knew what was happening to Fremantle Prison. I went and had a look, and was horrified to see a large, intrusive outdoor café structure being built on the north side of the entryway between the main entrance and the Wray Gates.

This completely changed the feel of the entrance, which had always been sombre and somewhat forbidding – as indeed a prison should be. This was clearly an attempt to turn the Prison into a cheery tourist experience, ignoring the essential historic character and purpose of the place. To add insult to injury the menu features crass items like 'burglar burgers' and 'Moondyne milkshakes'.

At the request of the Fremantle History Society Committee, to whom I reported this breach of heritage etiquette, I wrote to the Minister responsible for the Prison, Troy Buswell, protesting at such inappropriate construction on such a site. The National Trust has also written to the Heritage Council and various ministers similarly protesting at the lack of respect shown to Burra Charter principles and the Fremantle

Prison Masterplan, which sets out quite specifically where any cafes should go.

The only action which has resulted (there has been no reply from the Minister) is that the Heritage Council Development Committee has met to consider the new structure, which it had apparently approved before construction commenced, and the whole Heritage Council is to also consider it again in early February.

The Prison management cannot understand what all the fuss is about. They claim that providing facilities for tourists is paramount. One shudders to think what might happen if they were placed in charge of, say, Auschwitz. Would we be served 'crematorium crumble' in a chic outdoor café at the entrance to the gas chambers? While the comparison is extreme, people *suffered* in Fremantle Prison. They were hanged, flogged and often ill-treated. It was not a place of fun and games and frivolity.



## CAN YOU HELP?

The Local History Collection recently received a donation of a finely-drawn ink sketch of Fremantle Harbour entitled *Shipping Bulk Wheat Fremantle WA 1946*. It has been signed "Alois Zirngast" and seems to have been drawn from East Fremantle, over the Traffic and old Railway bridges, to the North Fremantle silos, and down the harbour. Does anyone have any information about the artist which would help us with the history of the sketch which incidentally measures 100x14 cms. It is likely he worked for the WA Government Railways which would explain the topic.

An interesting element here is that Alois Zirngast is a German name, and 1946 is immediately after the war. It seems strange to have a German sketching details of Fremantle just at that time. Can anyone offer any information about this?



## THAT DINGO AGAIN!

Western Australia (Batty Library Ephemera collection, number PR14514/Nash) I have given up correcting *The West Australian* newspaper!!

Here's a lovely thank you letter from Mona Rankin, the daughter of the dingo's true creator:

'It was a real pleasant surprise to have a friend phone me recently and tell me about your report in the Fremantle *Herald* (Dingo Bingo, 8/11/08) re my Dad and the Dingo on the Flour Mill. *Thank you so much* for correcting the previous article in *The West Australian* (25/10/08) which mentioned Alan Bond and named Ted Pulham as the original painter of the Dingo on the Mill. Bondy was in town that week for the anniversary of winning the America's Cup and over the years we've noticed the *West* always 'digs the dingo up' when Bondy is in the news! It hurts me to read these wrong versions but since the correct history of the Dingo on the Flour Mill has been proved and accepted and lodged with the State Library of

So it really was a lovely surprise to read your 'Dingo Bingo' article and *especially* to have your support. I was very nervous back in January 2007 when the ABC unexpectedly rang and persuaded me to tell the story on talk back radio but revelled in all the following phone calls and letters –it was a nice feeling to find out there are a lot of folk 'out there' who have always known the true story. The ABC sent me a CD of that interview and I enclose a copy for your Society.

As the Dingo is in your territory, I thank you again for helping me to 'look after that Dingo for my Dad!'

Best wishes  
Mona Rankin'



## **MEMORIES OF THE ROYAL GEORGE AND OTHER PUBS**

**Rusty Christensen**

The Royal George, the George or just the plan 'RG' was built in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a few years after the town of East Fremantle was established in 1897 and was the second hotel, public house or pub built in the area after the Plympton (now the Tradewinds). The Plympton was the watering hole for travellers on Canning Road, as Canning Highway was called at the time, the river users and the locals living in the new town site of East Fremantle. It had a sweeping view of the river from its upper storey and when the trams were introduced a passing-loop was in front. The original tram line finished at Allen Street.

The two hotels were apparently designed by the same architect, as they both had a distinguishing dome on the roof over the entrance to the main bar. The RG had none of the attractions of the Plympton other than it was at the end of George Street which was the main street of the new town and had a catchment area of patrons living south of George Street and also Marmion Street, which was the battlers living in The Blocks, an area subdivided in the early 1900s to house the overflow from the burgeoning town of Fremantle, plus the rapidly expanding areas east to Petra Street.

Most of the shops and businesses were on or around George Street. Robinson's shop was on the opposite corner, across from it was a butcher shop run by the Casley family of which the well known Prince Leonard of Hutt River Principality fame is a member. On

the south corner was the Swan Brush Factory where my elder sister had her first job in the 1930s. Alongside it was Jack Craig's farrier and blacksmithing shed; we kids would spend time watching him turn the shoes in the almost white hot forge and fit them to the tradesmen's horses. Jack was an occasional visitor to the George, and when he was he made a good job of it. I well recall the old boy riding his bike up past our house on his way home in a very unsteady manner. When the horses were phased out and replaced by motor vehicles, Jack retired and closed the forge down. It was opened some time later by Bruce Flindell, a motor mechanic who kept the trucks of Bennett and Harper on the road as well as doing work for various locals including myself.

Back in the early days the tram ran along Canning Road and the locals needed transport into Fremantle. The law of supply and demand took over and a hansom cab service was created with its terminus outside the Royal George. The life of the new town progressed, never making huge strides and always in the shadow of the larger Fremantle, which from time to time made veiled threats to take over the town. The threats are occasionally aired even today.

Through all this time and two world wars the RG stood as a beacon of hope, comfort and security for the burghers of the town. It was a drop in spot for my father, who had grown up in The Blocks and like many other locals knew the George well. He commuted by bicycle from our family home in Marmion Street to the Fremantle wharf and would often drop in to the Royal for a couple of drinks or as a top up after having slaked his thirst at the Bridge Hotel or the Plympton before arriving at the George, sometimes with disastrous results. The hotel was situated on the top of a steep hill sloping down toward Silas Street; my Dad would leave his trusty bicycle leaning against the wall of the pub while he was inside having a few, and when deciding to leave in a moment of bad judgement occasionally he

would mount his bike with the intent of riding it down the hill but like Peterson's Mulga Bill when he mounted for the fray before he went a dozen yards it threw him arse over head onto the road resulting in the removal of much skin from his hands and in more excessive times from his face. I recall my Dad being brought home the worse for wear in a vehicle by a Samaritan.

To be continued



## **A HOT-AIR BALLOON OVER FREMANTLE**

**David Hutchison**

I am engaged in researching the history of Fremantle Park. While scanning through early issues of *The West Australian* — now available online at the Local History Collection — I came across an advertisement that a Miss Millie Viola, on 22 July 1891, would ascend by balloon from Fremantle Park and descend by parachute. I could not find a description of the event in any subsequent issue. However, I was able to find this in *The Inquirer and Commercial News* for 24 July 1891. Miss Viola did not ascend from the Park, but from 'grounds adjacent to the Federal Hotel'. I was disappointed not to be able to include this adventurous feat in the history of the Park, but thought that others would enjoy the story.

The newspaper reported the event in detail:

On July 22 at Fremantle, two separate attempts of Miss Millie Viola to ascend by her balloon for the purpose of making a parachute descent proved abortive, owing to conditions over which the aeronaut had no control. At 4.30 pm, when the balloon had become sufficiently inflated, and Miss Viola was preparing to ascend in the presence of about 100 persons inside the enclosure, the balloon caught alight from the flames leaping up through the funnel used for the passage of hot air. For a few seconds it appeared as if the balloon was doomed, but after some difficulty in dragging down the sphere, the fire

was extinguished leaving a hole about 8 ins in diameter. It was then announced that the damage would be repaired and that Miss Viola would ascend at 8 O'clock. At 8.45, another ascent was made, in clear moonlight, but the balloon failed to rise sufficiently to clear the adjacent building, grazing the roof of the Federal Hotel, the gear of the parachute caught in the chimney of the Oddfellows Hall and held the balloon fast. Miss Viola succeeded in keeping her hold on the roof until a ladder was brought and she was with considerable difficulty, rescued from her perilous position. Having reached the ground in safety, she was greeted with hearty cheers from the large crowd gathered in William Street. Miss Viola then addressed the crowd, and expressed her regret that both attempts had proved a fiasco, but said that she thought she had shown plenty of pluck. She would give an ascent at Guildford on Saturday, and hoped many of them would visit that town. At that time, Oddfellows Hall was on part of the site now occupied by the Queensgate Buildings and the car park.

Miss Viola had also 'shown pluck' about ten days earlier when she attempted ascending from a site in Irwin Street, North Perth. *The West Australian* of 13 July 1891, reported that a large new balloon had been constructed under Miss Viola's superintendence, and when it was inflated it, presented a remarkably pretty appearance ... Miss Viola was attired in a very becoming light silk heliotrope dress, profusely trimmed with white lace ... The inflation was commenced to time but proceeded very slowly, there appearing to be some defect in the heating apparatus, and before the balloon was much more than half full, a portion of the roof of the furnace caved in, owing to the persistent manner with which many of the spectators walked over it, notwithstanding repeated requests that they would refrain from doing so ... the balloon was not ready until a considerable time had elapsed ... Mr Parker — delivered a short speech, in the course of which he congratulated Miss Viola upon having constructed what he believed to be the first balloon of its size ever made in the colony ... at the conclusion of his speech he named the balloon "Westralia" and the fair aeronaut's health was drunk in champagne. ... the ropes were cast off and the balloon

commenced to ascend amid loud cheers. It did not attain any height, however, owing probably to the cooling of the air within. Miss Viola was greatly affected by the failure, and cried bitterly for some time ... [a second trial was to be made in the evening] ... The inflation in the evening was performed more rapidly, but the trial was not much more successful than that of the afternoon. It occupied a considerable time, but there was a good deal of humidity in the atmosphere, and the result was that although the balloon attained a greater height than it did in the afternoon, it descended within a few seconds ... it made its descent right over Mr P. A. Guger's stables, Miss Viola alighting via the back of a horse in the yard. The horses in the yard were naturally greatly frightened by the balloon and kicked in a terrific manner.

**Added comment from the editors:**

We discovered on surfing the internet (lightly) that Miss Viola was quite famous. This extract comes from 'A draft history of parachuting in Australia up to the foundation of sport parachuting in 1958' by Frank Mines:

Most of the parachuting in Australia in the early 1890s appears to have been done by four women, Valerie and Gladys Van Tassell (Freitas) and Millie and Elsie Viola.

Millie Viola held the public stage in Perth and other parts of south-western Western Australia during 1891. She would think nothing of making three descents a week and survived unscathed a number of incidents such as landing on the edge of roofs and having her canopy collapse in a whirlwind, when she was saved by landing in a tree. She went on to make descents in eastern Australia.

In the Albany History Collection online catalogue contains an Advance notice of balloon ascent by Miss Millie Viola on 23 September 1891, while the Te Ara Encyclopaedia of New Zealand under 'Ballooning' mentions displays by 'touring American balloonists' including Millie Viola.

She was not in fact American. The *Daily Nevada State Journal*, Friday, 13 December 1895, tells us:

Miss Millie Viola, formerly an actress, but now an aeronaut, says she has travelled from Australia to the United States for the purpose of going over Niagara Falls in a barrel. To make the feat more difficult she says she will have the barrel dropped from a BALLOON. Miss Viola arrived on the last steamer at San Francisco, but as she cannot go over the falls until the ice melts, she will complete her journey to Niagara by easy stages.

We wonder how that one turned out. Clearly an adventurous woman!



**FREMANTLE LIBRARY : LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

Pam Hartree

As always we have been busy with visitors to the collection and managing the ever growing collection. The Local History Collection has recently subscribed to Ancestry.com. This online database is for the keen genealogist and provides access to numerous Australian and international databases to assist with family research. Also now available online are digital copies of historical newspapers. The database has been developed by the National Library includes some of Western Australia's early newspapers up to 1900 with new issues being added all the time. The website is <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

Recent additions to the collection are listed below:

Australia II: the official record / Bruce Stannard, 1984 (LH 797.14 AUS)  
*Early Days* index volumes 10 and 11: 1989-2000 / Royal Western Australian Historical Society, 2007 (LH 994.105 EAR)

*Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc) : Volume*



13, Part 1 / Royal Western Australian Historical Society, 2007 (994.105 EAR)

*Early Western Australia*, Brian De Garis, (ed.), 1978 (LH 994.105 EAR)

*The excavation of an 1840s cottage complex in Pioneer Park, Fremantle: an addendum to the Phillimore Street Precinct archaeological conservation plan*, Jack McIlroy, 2008 (LH 363.69 MCI)

*Fertile soil: fifty years of the City of Fremantle art collection*, [Andre Lipscombe ... [et al.]], 2008 (LH 708.995 LIP)

*Fremantle 600 ton South Slipway No. 2: 1959 – 1998*, Bruce Farrington, 2008 (LH 627.3 FAR)

From "Pong Alley" to the winged keel: 150 years of industrial work in North Fremantle, Richard Hartley, 2008 (LH 331.761 HAR)

Hell for leather: the forgotten footballers of North Fremantle, Baden Pratt, 2008 (LH 796.336 PRA)

Historical Refractions, Charlie Fox (ed.), 1993 (LH 994.105 HIS)

*Legal executions in Western Australia*, Brian Purdue, 1993 (LH 364.66 PUR)

*Phillimore Street Precinct, Fremantle, Western Australia : archaeological conservation plan*, a report prepared by Jack Mc Ilroy and Samantha Bolton, 2008 (LH 363.69 MCI)

*Social policy in Western Australia*, edited by Charlie Fox, 2007 (LH 994.105 SOC)

*Studies in Western Australian History: Volume 1* / Andrew Gill (ed.), 1977 (LH 994.1 STU)

*Vikings, Normans and Lancashire Lords*, Ward Curedale, 2008 (B / CUR)

*Voices from the tomb: a biographical dictionary of the 62 Fenians transported to Western Australia*, Liam Barry, 2006 (LH 365.45 BAR)

*Western Australian Criminal Court record book No. 1: October 1830 - October 1840, 1840* (LH 929.3 WES)

*Women and insanity: the Fremantle Asylum in Western Australia, 1858 - 1908* [in *Sexuality and Gender in History*], Bronwyn Harman, 1993 (LH 362.2 HAR)

The Heritage Festival and associated Local History Awards and Heritage Awards will be happening again in May with the closing date for the awards being the 5 May. Details will be available soon so keep an eye on local newspapers and brochures should be available early in February.



#### **GLEANINGS FROM THE *HERALD* 10** David Hutchison

The issue of 1 January 1870 spoke of entertainments, including 'Mr Charles Taylor's Roasted Bullock demonstration' which was 'a complete success'. Another item shows that amateur theatre was flourishing:

The Fremantle Amateur Dramatic Company gave an entertainment at the Odd Fellows' Hall, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings last. On the first night there was a very fair attendance in the Dress Circle, but the Pit was thin. The performance opened with the Comic Drama of ONLY A CLOUD, a piece somewhat similar in construction to 'Still Waters Run Deep'. The piece was put on the stage in a very creditable manner indeed, and the acting throughout was excellent. The piece was not perhaps exactly suited to the tastes of playgoers here, who like something either full of sensational incident or outrageously funny.

There were signs of the colony's economy stalling with the removal of the Imperial

Convict Establishment. The paper commented:

Much present pecuniary distress prevails but it does not affect the real resources of the Colony, nor will it eventually lead to any continued diminution of our revenue. The evil though damaging will cure itself, and a better system of trading established. What is wanted are consumers, and what will induce them to come is the prospect of remunerative employment. That population cannot be induced to come from Europe. Out of 12,000 emigrants who left the Mersey in September, 11,000 went to Canada and the United States, and but 167 to the Australian colonies.

In the next issue, the paper carried on a campaign for more effective government, claiming in its editorial:

In our outgoing Summary we expressed the very general opinion prevailing amongst thoughtful observers "that the administration of Governor Weld has proved a failure. We founded that opinion upon the grounds, first that His Excellency had latterly been reticent of expressing his sympathy with the aspirations of the colonists for a Representative form of Government, and secondly from the rumoured interest of filling up recent vacancies – in accordance with the chronic usage of his predecessors – with the connexions of Officials, who have hitherto monopolised every Situation, without regard to the fitness of the parties for the appointment... The die is cast. Are we to have Representative Government or not? On the answer to this question either in the affirmative or negative depends, in our opinion the future destiny of the colony.

In an editorial of 5 February 1870 it continued its strong attack on the government:

Let men sophisticate the history of Western Australia as they may, it is impossible for any impartial mind not to see that many of the evils inflicted upon the Colony have sprung from the incompetency of those appointed to rule over it. None of the Administrators who have essayed their skill in providing

regulations for the government of this country, have [sic] possessed the necessary previous political experience, nor were they endowed with the personal qualifications essential to a skilful and beneficent [sic] exercise of the gubernatorial functions while on the other hand, their responsible advisers – the members of the Executive Council possessing no sympathies with the people or having these sympathies overpowered by the paramount feeling of self enrichment, have ever ignored the general interests of the community to secure themselves their own advancement and well-doing.

On 19 February, the paper commented again on the state of the economy:

The daily accounts of beggary and bankruptcies arising from the severe visitations of Providence, over-trading and the contraction of the Imperial expenditure, paralysed [sic] public and private credit, and leading to depression in all branches of our colonial industries precipitates the necessity for an immediate remedy. On all sides the remedy is admitted to be the outlay of capital on reproductive works, and on a scale that will arrest the *exodus* of home, and induce the *influx* of foreign labour.

#### FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 24 February** – Miller Bakehouse Museum - talk and museum viewing (gold coin donation). **7 pm, Miller Bakehouse Museum cnr Hammad & Baal Sts, Palmyra.**

**Sunday 22 March** – A wonderful opportunity to learn about the fascinating world of archaeology and to view one of the oldest sites of the Swan River Colony **10 am, Mount Brown car park, Cockburn Rd approx 1 km north of the intersection with Rockingham Rd.**

**Tuesday 28 April** – Submariners do it deep – come and learn more about this fascinating part of the port city's history. **Venue to be confirmed.**