



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

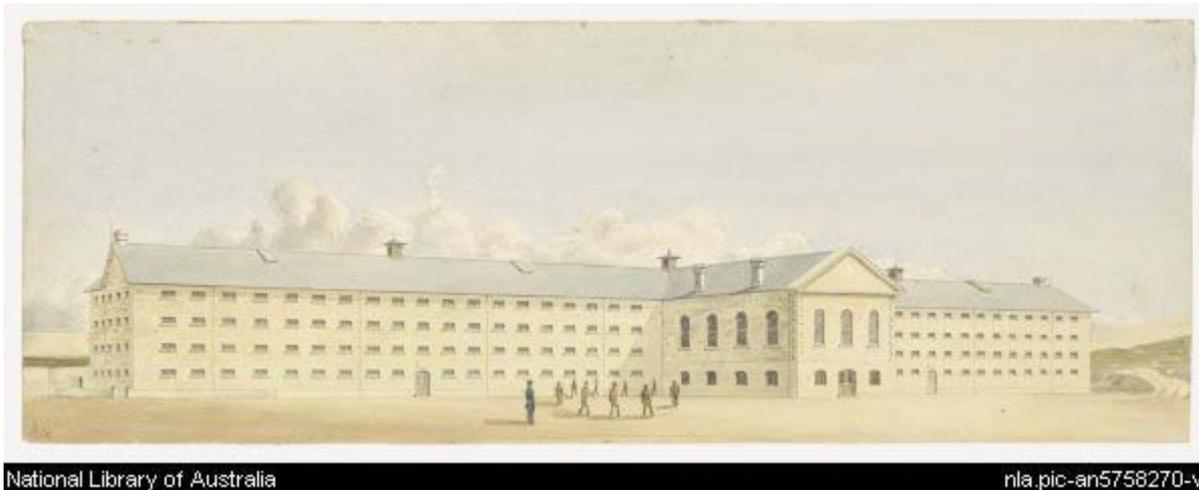
Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Winter Edition, 2010

Editors: Dianne Davidson, Anne Brake

**Patron: Dr Brad Pettitt,
Mayor of Fremantle**



Watercolour of Fremantle Prison by Henry Wray, 1859

Fremantle Prison inscribed on the World Heritage List

As a means of making men outwardly honest, of converting vagabonds, most useless in one country, into active citizens of another, and thus giving birth to a new and splendid country, it has succeeded to a degree perhaps unparalleled in history.

Charles Darwin, 1836

The World heritage Committee met from 25 July to 3 August in Brasilia, Brazil. A range of issues to do with world heritage sites was discussed including the consideration of the Australian submission for a serial listing of convict sites.

The move to list these sites began back in the 1990s when an initial survey was undertaken of potential sites across Australia. The Australian convict sites are a series of heritage places which collectively are representative of the global phenomenon of convictism and its association with global developments in the punishment of crime in the modern era. The sites that were nominated include: Kingston and Arthur's Vale (Norfolk Island); Old Government House and Domain (NSW); Hyde Park Barracks (NSW); Brickendon-Woolmers Estate (Tasmania); Darlington Probation Station (Tasmania); Old Great North Road (NSW); Cascades Female Factory (Tasmania); Port Arthur Historic Site (Tasmania); Coal Mines Historic site (Tasmania); Cockatoo Island Convict Site (NSW); and Fremantle Prison (WA). As well as these key sites

there are over 3000 further convict sites around Australia representing different aspects of the story of convictism. The inscription brings the number of Australian properties on the World Heritage List to 18; making Australia the 12th most represented country.

Deliberations by the committee included modifications and changes to a number of sites. By the end of the session the total number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List stands at 911.

(From a report by Greg Terrill, Assistant Secretary, WH Commissioner (Australia), Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and *Australian Convict Sites* produced as part of the nomination documentation)



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Anne Brake (President)	9336 5206
Prof Bob Reece (Vice – President)	9335 7892
Pam Hartree (Treasurer)	9432 9739(W)
Dianne Davidson (Secretary)	9430 6096

Committee Members:

Bob Woollett	9335 7451
Fay Campbell	9341 4102
Jenny Patterson	9438 3711
Cathy Hall	0407 086 300
Peter Conole	9319 2191
Ron Davidson	9430 6096

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.

The Fremantle History Society committee consists of a **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer** and no less than 2 and no more than 8 **committee members**. This hard working team organise all the meetings for the year, Fremantle Studies Day and the production of the Fremantle Studies Journal. The committee also respond to a number of requests and lobby on behalf of the Society on a range of topics. And its fun!

If you would like to be a member of the executive of a committee member, we would love to have you. Complete the nomination form attached to this newsletter and return it to the Secretary at the address on the front page by **Tuesday 29 June**.



COMING EVENTS

August Pub Lunch

This year we are giving a new twist to our Pub Lunch – it will be held in September rather than August, and in a restaurant rather than a pub! A relatively new eatery has been opened next door to the old Newmarket Hotel, and has been receiving rave reviews. The Iron Pot offers a range of Asian/Australian dishes with emphasis on home-grown fresh produce. The prices are very reasonable, and we thought our members might like to sample some culinary delights.

Sunday 5 September, 12.30pm, The Iron Pot, 2 Cockburn Road, South Fremantle. RSVP essential before 29 August: Fay 9341 4102; 0419 969 678



Fremantle Volunteer Guides Association

Following from last month, our September meeting will be held in October – Sunday the 3rd to be precise. This allows those of our members who find it difficult to get out at night, especially in the cold winter months, to socialize with fellow Society members and friends.

The Fremantle Guides operate out of one of the houses just below the Round House. The guides operate tours to the Round House and Arthur Head and maintain the one o'clock canon which was originally synchronised with the time ball on the top of the observatory in West Perth and was used to set the chronometers of the ships in the harbour as well as the locals' time pieces.

Our meeting will give a glimpse of this important heritage precinct and we will learn a little about this important group of people keeping Fremantle's history and heritage alive and accessible. There will also be a tour of the artist's studio next door.

Sunday 3 October, 1.30pm, at Fremantle Volunteer Heritage Guides, 14 Mrs Trivett Place, Arthur Head (near the Round House)



Fremantle Studies Day

Now an institution, the Fremantle Studies Day once again gives members and friends an opportunity to delve into Fremantle's history in a more comprehensive way than our monthly meetings allows. Papers this year draw from a range of topics. Dr Martin Drum from Notre Dame Australia will talk on 'The State and Federal seats of Fremantle: past, present and future'; former curator of archaeology at the WA Museum, Charles Dortch, will present a paper on 'Archaeological evidence for the earliest known Aboriginal presence in the Greater Fremantle area'; former head of Curtin

University's department of chemistry and football fanatic extraordinaire Dr Steve Errington will enlighten us on 'Football in Fremantle in colonial times' and Notre Dame Australia PhD student Madison Lloyd-Jones will share some of her research in 'Homefront heroines & Hollywood heroes? Fremantle women and the impact of the American servicemen that passed through Fremantle 1942-1945.'

Fremantle Studies Day will be held in the Reception Room at the City of Fremantle (upstairs – enter from St John's Square) xx for a xx start. The afternoon will include a sumptuous afternoon tea and the launch of the latest volume of *Fremantle Studies Journal*.

A great program – make a note in your diary **NOW!**

Sunday 31 October, 12.30pm, Reception Room, Fremantle City Council (up stairs at the side of the Town Hall). \$12 members, \$15 non-members (join on day for member's price). RSVP essential by 24 October, Dianne 9430 6096 0403 026 096 or email dianne.davidson@gmail.com



MEETING REPORTS

Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM was held on 27 July in the Function Room of the Fremantle Arts Centre. The formal proceedings saw Anne Brake elected president, Bob Reece vice president and Dianne Davidson secretary. Pam Hartree continues as treasurer, and former committee members Bob Woollett, Cathy Hall, Peter Conole, Jenny Patterson, Fay Campbell and Ron Davidson will continue to serve. A heartfelt appeal to those present to nominate for the committee was unsuccessful, and there are currently two vacancies. **Please volunteer to be coopted!**

When the formalities were over our Patron, Mayor Brad Pettitt, gave a talk on 'Heritage, history and community: Fremantle and the interconnections that made a unique city.' This was a very entertaining and informative personal take on what makes Fremantle different and special, and was very much enjoyed by all those present, several of whom remarked that Brad had given them a new way of looking at Fremantle. Thank you, Brad!

The usual scrumptious refreshments followed.

President's Report 2009-2010 Dianne Davidson

As some of you may know, this will be my last president's report; my permitted time expires this year and someone else has to take over.

It's been another eventful year, which didn't start out too well. Soon after our last AGM we learned that the Fremantle Social History Museum, the last functioning social history museum in the metropolitan area, was to be closed, which shocked everyone interested in promoting history. We took part in a forum organised by the History Council of WA and wrote to the minister, but to no avail.

However, there was much better news about Fremantle Prison, which we've had a long-standing interest in. This interest was acknowledged when we were invited last October to a function at the prison at which Peter Garrett announced a \$1.8 million grant for the restoration and conservation of the main cell block. More recently we were invited back to have a look at what has been achieved so far, and it's most impressive.

We have continued to participate in the Victoria Quay Task Force, which has been discussing with Fremantle Ports possible future developments on Victoria Quay, and has recently been taking an interest in the plans of Dr Nonja Peters to establish an

immigration resource centre, possibly on the Quay.

As a Society we took another step forward when we were lucky enough to persuade the Mayor of Fremantle, Dr Brad Pettitt, to become our patron.

And then, of course, we have had our usual array of monthly meetings, one of the highlights of which was our joint celebration with Clancy's Fish Pub of their 21st birthday.

We participated as usual in the City of Fremantle Heritage Week and managed to persuade Rob Campbell to give a talk about the bad old days when it was easy to pull down everything and a hard battle to preserve anything in Fremantle.

As usual, our major function of the year was the annual Fremantle Studies Day with Andrew Pittaway, Bob Reece, Andrew Smith, Kris Bizzaca and Gina Binet presenting four very varied and interesting papers on different aspects of Fremantle.

Our lavish traditional Christmas feast at Quinlan's restaurant at Challenger TAFE's Beaconsfield campus was memorable, as was a more recent talk by Bob Reece on cultural activities in Fremantle in the 19th century, which Bob enlivened by bursting into song – a first at our meetings, I believe!

Thanks as usual to the City of Fremantle for providing our committee meeting venue and other spaces like the function room at the town hall and this venue here tonight – the City's support is invaluable. Thanks also to our wonderful catering sub-committee and to my co-editors of the newsletter, Anne Brake and Ron Davidson.

I have enjoyed my time as president, and I would like to thank everyone who has served on the committee over the past five years, and especially of course our members, without whose support the Society could not function.

Thank you all.



CAN'T BE TOO HIGHLY COMMENDED

Anne Brake

The City of Fremantle, with assistance from the Fremantle Society and the Fremantle History Society, nominated Ron and Dianne Davidson in the recent Western Australian Heritage Awards in the category of *Outstanding contribution to heritage by an individual in the community*.

Since their move to Fremantle in the mid 1970s, Ron and Dianne have been active participants in the struggle to save Fremantle's heritage ranging from achieving the registration of their own house and their street as a heritage precinct to saving the Fremantle Prison.

Both have been very active members of the Fremantle Society from the 1970s and were credited with saving the Society when it went into the doldrums in the late 1980s.

Amongst a number of campaigns they have been involved with, the saving of the Fremantle Prison has been one of the most significant, vindicated by its recent inclusion on the World Heritage List as part of a serial listing of convict sights for Australia. Not content to let things lie, Rona and Di remained involved with the various community groups established to consider future developments at the Prison to ensure new uses were appropriate and respected the history of this significant site.

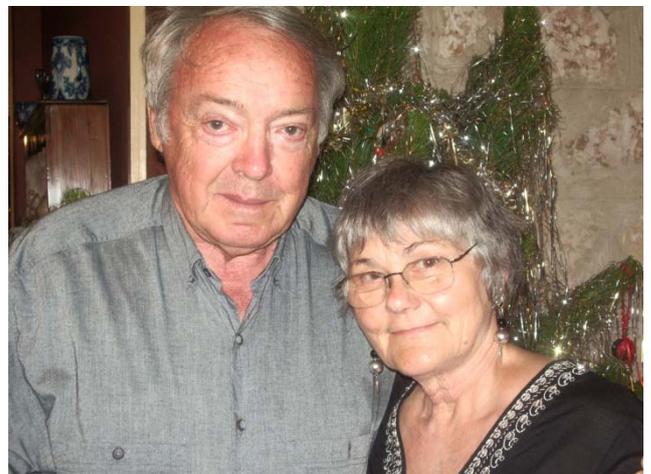
Dianne was the driving force behind the establishment of the Fremantle History Society in 1994 and both have been heavily involved with the Society's activities since then. Di and more recently Ron have been part of the editorial team for the newsletter and both have served in some capacity on almost every committee. Di has just completed five years as President. She has also been involved with the editorial

committee for the *Fremantle Studies Journal*, now in its 6th volume.

Both have a strong research and publications background with their most recent work being a collaboration on the research and writing of the history of the Fremantle Society, due for launch on 19th November and being published in conjunction with the Fremantle Press. In true Ron and Dianne spirit, much of their time on this extensive project has been voluntary.

Since 1976 Ron and Dianne Davidson have been actively involved in ensuring that Fremantle's history and heritage are preserved. They have conscientiously lobbied on numerous issues particularly in terms of inappropriate development in Fremantle. Through their work with the Fremantle History Society they have also ensured that Fremantle's history continues to be documented and disseminated. Fremantle's heritage and history is certainly much richer because of their commitment to Fremantle, both architecturally and culturally, and they are to be commended for their unending contribution.

Ron and Dianne were awarded High Commendation in the award category. They deserve every congratulations for their inspiring and continuing passion and drive for Fremantle's heritage and history campaigns.



Ron and Dianne Davidson



THE FREMANTLE POLICE AND THE CONVICT ESTABLISHMENT

Peter Conole

As 2010 marks the 160th year since the beginning of the convict era in Western Australia, it is perhaps timely to discuss the role of a forgotten element in the saga. The collective contributions of convicts, pensioner guards and warders alike in the creation of our State receive considerable community recognition and are commemorated each year. Police officers who served in Fremantle during the time of the Establishment get little attention.

When law enforcement has been discussed, it is usually in the context of examining public dramas or high crimes and misdemeanours. In truth, the mundane, day to day routines of crime prevention and detection were always more important to Fremantle folk and they are worth examining. In general the Establishment enhanced the importance of the colonial police. More were recruited to look after the port and the first Fremantle police station, barracks, stables and lock-up were built just under the eastern side of the Round House in the early 1850s.

The overwhelming majority of convicts who arrived in WA between 1850 to 1868 were of English origin. Only about 10% were Irish and it is rather wry and poignant to note that, given the lamentable state of parts of Ireland at the time, a third or more of the police who patrolled the streets of Fremantle were from the Emerald Isle or the sons of Irishmen. Furthermore, at any given time up to one half of the pensioner guards who arrived with the convicts were also Irish. Many pensioner guards of all types became warders after their arrival, or members of the Police Force.

To understand the more usual aspects of policing work at the time, consider surviving

Fremantle occurrence books (*held in our State Records Office in Accession 419, AN 5/Fremantle*) covering two ordinary weeks of an ordinary month in 1861. No big dramas, crimes or dramatic escape bids at the time, but the police made about 55 arrests in all, mostly for petty civil offences or breaches of the rules of the Convict Establishment. Of those arrested, about two in every five were ticket of leave or conditional pardon men, or expirers.

Most of the offences, about 65% in all, were drink related and often included violence or foul language directed at constables trying to get people back to a lock-up to sleep the grog off. In the case of men who arrived as convicts, one fairly common issue was failure to report to a police station each week.

The demon drink seems to have been the biggest problem, and in that regard guests of Her Majesty were not orphans. Pensioner guards, warders and police officers as well sometimes hit the bottle hard and as often as they could, which is really saying something. Ales, wines and spirits often had a quite a 'kick' and medical practitioners stated bluntly that excessive drinking was the main cause of metabolic disease in the colony.

Members of the WA Police of the day could depend on a couple of in-built defence mechanisms. They were religious ones. The Anglican and Catholic clergy spoke out strongly against drunken behaviour, while some officers of various ranks were members of teetotaler groups such as the Rechabites or even the Plymouth Brethren. Sir Alexander Cockburn-Campbell, Chief of Police in the colony from 1858-1860, was himself a founding member of the Brethren. Regardless of that, all policemen knew a reputation for sobriety boosted promotional chances.

I will now fast forward fifteen years to an ordinary week in another ordinary month of 1876. The population of Fremantle had

increased, so it was an even busier time for law enforcement men. The police made about 45 arrests in that week, about 55% being drink related, for example, being 'drunk and disorderly', or 'drunk and incapable'. The latter was police code for collapsing unconscious in the street or a gutter and then being carried back to the police station. Some sad wretches were still drunk and aggressive when they had to face a magistrate the very next morning. Scenes in court could at times be rather torrid...

Other offences tended to involve petty theft, domestic quarrels, trespassing, vagrancy and the like. The good news is that former convicts now constituted only about one third of those arrested. We know this because ex-convicts or ticket of leave men were now almost always mentioned separately from free men. In addition, there were more female offenders than in the early 1860s.

One incident was an ominous sign in regard to policing work. The Fremantle constables devoted a lot of time and trouble to an ex-convict named William Sparkes. This former convict collapsed in Geraldton and was declared to be an invalid and pauper. The local police provided medical care and a safe passage south to Fremantle. Their brother officers in the port town in turn arranged a horse and dray and stretcher for Sparkes and took him to the Poor House. The man received long term care after he arrived.

Not a happy episode, but typical of hundreds of tragedies which were played out over the next few years. A large number of convicts turned out to be local success stories in WA, as did many of the gallant, hard drinking old warriors of the Enrolled Pensioner Force who had brought them here.

Some did not make it in our brave new world and ended up, like William Sparkes, in desperate circumstances. Members of the Police Force were their first point of contact

when the dark days came and a reliable source of help. In his Annual Report of 1880, Police Commissioner Matthew Skinner Smith stated the brutal truth to the colonial authorities. Some 10,000 convicts had been despatched to WA by 1868 and officialdom assumed they assimilated nicely. Not so according to Smith, for about 1400 damaged or ruined men were "*simply a burden to the colony, needing constant police supervision from year's end to year's end*". They were responsible for a lot of petty crime and drunken or disorderly behaviour.

Regardless of legal issues, out of common humanity police officers could not simply leave them to starve in the streets or die of exposure. As the Commissioner said, many of these broken individuals were destined only for Fremantle Prison, the Poor House or the Lunatic Asylum. Some ended up in the same place as destitute members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force – the Old Men's Home on the site of the former Mount Eliza Depot.

Commissioner Smith considered the heavy drinking at the heart of various problems to be a health issue rather than a law enforcement one – a remarkably advanced attitude for the times. He begged the Government to build an Inebriates Asylum to provide care and relief, but to no avail. In a time of financial cut backs, there was no money to spare. So this bitter side of the convict system's legacy was left to play itself out. The end for many unfortunates was a lonely death and burial in an unmarked grave.

The Fremantle police, backed by senior colonial officers, attempted to both alleviate such distress and preserve the public peace in those difficult times. These humane aspects of their role in the convict era are worthy of a degree of recognition and respect.



Eating and Drinking in Early Swan River Colony (cont'd)

Bob Reece

One of the great problems facing the settlers was how to preserve fresh meat in a hot climate where flies and other insects were legion. Alfred Stone wrote in November 1829:

It is no uncommon thing, if you are out all day and have birds in your pocket, to find on getting home, when you go to pick [pluck] them, that they are full of maggots; we are obliged to bury everything in the shape of meat; it is a bad place for butchers, they dare not expose anything for an hour after it is killed.

A likely consequence of this was that people sometimes ate far too much game, knowing that by the next day it would have 'gone off'. In all likelihood, some efforts were made to salt down or 'jerk' game meat such as kangaroo, but there is no record of this to be found. Salting or corning was certainly practised as soon as domesticated animals became more plentiful. Beer was being brewed within a few years of settlement, the *Perth Gazette* providing a recipe in January 1834 which stipulated the use of barley or oats, hops and treacle.

There was some experimentation with native vegetables while waiting for the results of the first sowing of European varieties, but most of the settlers looked askance at these unfamiliar plants whose qualities were unknown. One exception was Marshall McDermott, a Dubliner, who wrote of what he called 'parsnips, celery, onions, potato, sow thistle, spinach, hottentot fig etc. etc. as being 'very wholesome until your garden produces'.

Another person to express interest in edible native plants was Anne Whately who recorded in her diary that

there is a small leaved plant which we boil and call spinach and a sort of sow thistle which we eat as lettuce or more properly endive. I once found a sort of wood sorrel with tiny leaves of which I made a pie which we choose to think an excellent substitute for gooseberry pie.

And in Fremantle it was reported that some people were making jam from the fleshy fruit of a local tree, probably the quondong (*Santalum acuminatum*).

There was a natural unwillingness to try out native plants for fear of being poisoned, but Irwin, who possessed more botanical knowledge than most people, testified that

There is the eringo or wild parsnip, a most profitable and wholesome species of spinage [sic], a small leaved species of samphire, which is almost universally liked, and the mesembryanthemum, or Hottentot fig [*Carpobrotus viscens*, or coastal pigface], which, when boiled, much resembles scarlet runners, and several kinds of roots which are dug out by the natives, who appear fond of them.

It was these last-mentioned yams or tubers which had traditionally provided the bulk of the diet of the indigenous inhabitants of the Swan River, being known to them as *woyang* or *wyang*, but the settlers were never disposed to give them a trial. Nor did they appear to have tried flagroot (*yandyheet*) or zamia palm nuts (possibly because of the unfortunate experience of Captain Fremantle's crew who inadvisedly ate them untreated in May 1829). In his discussion of this question in a paper published twenty years ago, Douglas Markey characterized the settlers as being too culturally bound to British dietary ways to adapt to the new environment and its resources. I think that I have already shown that while this may have been true for their attitude to native plants, it was far from true in relation to native fauna.

While the sandy soil of the coastal plain seemed highly unlikely to grow European

vegetables, the first efforts were surprisingly successful. John Wilson, a builder living in Fremantle, wrote in February 1832 that he had 'seen vegetables growing to an amazing size in the pure white sand, like an English sea-beach'. A visiting surveyor marvelled that vegetables could be grown without manure, 'especially cabbages, turnips, potatoes and radishes. There is a radish growing in Perth in a shoemaker's garden (preserved for seed) as thick as a man's thigh, and from 10 to 11 feet high'. John Morrell at Fremantle also wrote in November 1831 of 'an abundance of radishes, cabbages, peas, turnips, lettuce, etc, grown here on our land ... I have seen radishes larger than a quart pot'. Cucumbers and melons also did very well, Dr William Pitt Muston reporting in February 1832 that he was 'cutting them at the rate of 20 of the former and 10 of the latter a day, which will be sufficient for us for vegetables and fruit, and will last until the end of the summer' The Hobart merchant William Thomas Stocker who visited Fremantle in mid-1832 was much astonished that

the ... sand will produce vegetables such as cabbages, carrots, turnips, onions, potatoes and peas – than which nothing can be finer. The radishes are superior to any I have ever seen, cucumbers, melons and pumpkins are growing to the greatest perfection, and I am of opinion, that the orange, lemon, and vine would flourish ...



Clancy's Fish Pub and Surrounds (Part 4) Joe Fisher

Finally to the delight of pub goers in Fremantle as part of the OVERALL redevelopment of the park the Household Management Centre was converted into a tavern, the first such license in WA as distinct from a hotel license. And Clancys Tavern was born.

In the course of this development further walls were knocked out and others inserted, so that very little remained of the earliest

plans for the building . Before the tavern was created the building consisted of the main room where the bar is, the cloak room near Cantonment street, and the maids' kitchen at the park end. The other room was essentially two rooms with various equipment and a double sided fireplace; you can still see the fire hearth in the floor today. The wall dividing the room went across the middle of the room.

When the tavern was created a kitchen was inserted. A wall was built to enclose the kitchen, and toilets were added where the maids' kitchen stood . A central coolroom was put in where the old cloakroom was, and two bars were wrapped around this central coolroom. A small snug bar with plenty of wood sat next to the double sided fireplace recreated an English pub feel. The removal of this snug bar with the most recent renovation still rankles with some customers who remind me of our folly regularly. It is rumoured that on several occasions the actual bar was used as a dance floor at the end of certain evenings as the strains of 'New York New York' belted out over the primitive PA sytem in operation in those days. I can neither confirm nor deny such antics ever took place.

In those days the entrances were from the park side into both rooms. By all accounts the business was a very successful venture, with crowds of people flocking to the tavern. It won a Golden Spoon, the precursor to the Golden Plate.

The two final major developments of the pub were undertaken under the ownership of the Fisher family, when in 1988 two doors allowed access on the Cantonment street side and landscaping outside gave the pub a Cantonment Street frontage for the first time in its history.

Finally in 1996 the inside of the building was opened up with the coolroom being moved outside, the central bar was created (with it of course the removal of the snug) and the landscaping out the back was more oriented

to the park. Clancys Fish Pub was formally born.

We have been here now for 21 years and in that time we have seen these three remaining buildings, so brilliantly saved from possible demolition in the early 1970s continue to be used to benefit the Fremantle community. What is apparent to the stakeholders in the park is the lack of a coordinating body that will take responsibility for the future direction of the park. All the buildings require much money to be spent on them to get the actual structures into sound shape, with many issues such as rising damp, deterioration of the limestone and leaking roofs needing immediate attention. Funding for these ventures is available and has been available in the past, but seems to be applied in an ad hoc manner which is not conducive to the best use of these funds. What is more apparent is that once these funds have been applied, there is no plan for regular maintenance and upkeep of the buildings and surrounding walls. As I have mentioned before, the FBS is one of just a few buildings in Australia from the 1850s that has been in nearly continuous use, and for this history to be kept for the future it is vital that the park be in the hands of an authority that will take responsibility for its future direction. Use the funding to get the buildings up to a modern standard that will fulfill current standards such as heating, air conditioning, electrical, OHS and disability access issues as well as the fixing of inherent structural problems, and then have a plan to use any income derived from the buildings on a recurrent maintenance and upgrades into the future. The current shuffling of responsibility for the park between the various state departments who have a say *must* be sorted out quickly, and then whoever has control *must* take responsibility and allow for a solid accountable plan to be developed that will take the park well into the 21st century.

In my time as a publican I have seen many changes culturally and historically in the way food and beverages have been dispensed in

pubs in WA. When I first started in 1980 the pub was a pretty basic affair. We served Swan Lager in either ponies, Shetlands, butchers glasses or middies. The food on offer was a pie or sausage roll from the warmer, with or without tomato sauce, and the wine, red and white, was from a flagon that was kept in the fridge. Coke bottles were delivered in wooden crates, and the beer dispenser system had only just changed from a contraption like a bike pump to gas. Spearing the kegs was a daily highlight with many accidents only narrowly being avoided as the empty kegs were de-speared. That great Australian institution, the shout, was the central plank on which pub behaviour and custom was formed. Woe betide you if you were not aware of the arcane rules involved in the shout. It was egalitarian to the extreme, every body would drink the same beer out of the same size glass. If you wanted to leave the shout or round for a convenience stop you had to make sure you were back in time for the next buy. To enter the shout you had to buy your way in. If there were six people drinking you bought yourself one and the other six as well. If you wanted to leave early you had to buy the last round to leave the group. If you drank your drink too fast you would be looked on with disfavour, and if you drank too slowly you were given the word to hurry up.

As a barman you had to remember whose glass was whose, whose buy it was, and when to start the next round. Black looks and a shake of the head greeted any grave error such as being too slow or too fast, or getting the change wrong. It was also a sign of the times that pubs were very territorial; if you walked into a strange bar the conversation would stop and you would be given a good once over before things returned to normal.

It was a microcosm of Fremantle at large. One of my favourite characters was Bluey Hammond, who was a wharfie and had been drinking at this pub for many, many years. We happened to be talking about the

merits of Fremantle versus Perth when Bluey pronounced that he was not particularly enamoured with Perth, or words to that effect. I asked him when he had last been to Perth. He gave this some thought and said , 'Arrgh, it must have been back in 1962.' That was before the Narrows Bridge was built.



Clancy's Fish Pub

Since those times we have seen the disappearance of, amongst other things, the live band culture in pubs, the ladies' bar, smoking, pie warmers, drip trays with running water, skimpies have all but disappeared, as has the 6 o'clock swill and other such refinements. We have seen however the rise of good pub food, a vast array of wine, families in pubs, and of course a great range of beers, which I find a particularly important innovation. As publicans our responsibilities are far greater than they ever have been; we only wish that the individual was encouraged to be as responsible as we have to be.



LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION NEWS

Pam Hartree

Life is busy as usual at the Local History Collection. Digitisation of the collection is

continuing and the postcard collection was digitized and is now ready to be indexed and catalogued and will be made available online in the near future. Over 380 postcards are now available in digital format. In addition further copies of the Fremantle Gazette were microfilmed and are now also available in PDF format to allow for easier viewing and printing.

In 2006 the Minute Books of the Town of East Fremantle 1927-1975 were transferred from the basement of the Town of East Fremantle offices to the Local History archive room for safe-keeping. The minute books have recently been microfilmed with funding from the Town of East Fremantle. In this format access will be easier and it will also protect the originals. They contain a great deal of valuable information about the Town of East Fremantle.

The oral history project at Lance Holt School has now been completed. The ten year seven students gave delightful interviews, responding to questions about their thoughts on Fremantle with individuality and at times, surprising maturity. Both the school and parents were very supportive and were pleased with the outcome. It is expected that the project will be formally presented to the school in October when interviewer Lorraine Stevens returns from leave.

Titles added include:

Early architecture in Western Australia.
King, Adelphe (197?), LH 720.994 KIN

Early days of Fremantle: J.K. Hitchcock /
edited and introduced by Bob Reece (2010).
LH 994.11 HIT

*Fremantle 2,000 ton South Slipway No. 1 :
1942 – 1998.* Farrington, Bruce (2010). LH
627.3 FAR

A history of St Paul's Community / compiled
by St Paul's Archival Group. (2010). LH 283
SAI

Northbank Foreshore management plan :
July 1997 / produced by Monteath
Properties (1997) LH 712.5 NOR

New resources added to the collection include a further donation of photographs of ships and the port by Bruce Farrington. The total of his collection is now totals over 2000 photographs. Bruce is to be commended on his contribution to this important part of Fremantle's history. Of interest in his latest donation are photographs of the wheat silos on north wharf which were demolished in 2000. The photographs below show the silos in 1995 and then during demolition in 2000.



Silos in 1995 (Bruce Farrington)



Silos in 2000 (Bruce Farrington)

FOR YOUR DIARY

August Pub Lunch (in September). Join members and friends for this annual convivial event.

Sunday 5 September, 12.30pm, The Iron Pot, 2 Cockburn Road, South Fremantle. RSVP essential before 29 August: Fay 9341 4102; 0419 969 678

Fremantle Volunteer Guides . A great opportunity to learn more about the work of the guides and explore this significant historic precinct.

Sunday 3 October, 1.30pm, at Fremantle Volunteer Heritage Guides, 14 Mrs Trivett Place, Arthur Head (near the Round House)

The annual Fremantle Studies Day is not to be missed. Be sure to put this date in your diary NOW.

Sunday 31 October, 12.30pm, Reception Room, Fremantle City Council (up stairs at the side of the Town Hall). \$12 members, \$15 non-members (join on day for member's price). RSVP essential by 24 October, Dianne 9430 6096 0403 026 096 or email dianne.davidson@gmail.com