



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

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Editors: Dianne Davidson, Ron Davidson ,
Anne Brake

Patron: Dr Brad Pettitt,
Mayor of Fremantle



Society President Anne Brake receives the Certificate of High Commendation from Minister for Heritage, John Castrilli (photo courtesy HCWA)

HISTORY SOCIETY GETS FIRST 'OPEN' AWARD

The Heritage Office of Western Australia awards night on April 17 was a special occasion for the Fremantle History Society. When the Minister for Heritage John Castrilli presented to our president Anne Brake a certificate of high commendation for outstanding contribution to heritage by a community-based organisation it was the first time the Society had had won an award 'in open company' over the 17 years of its existence. It had won City of Fremantle awards but never from the Office of Heritage. We did this in the most competitive category of the night, with ten finalists.

The high commendation certificate stated that our Society had been honoured 'for demonstrating outstanding passion and commitment in educating the public on the diversity of Fremantle's rich cultural heritage'. Anne said afterwards that the Society tried to promote history and heritage in everyday life, which wasn't an easy message to sell particularly with the City in its development mode.

When Anne, Ron and Pam decided to put together an entry they were surprised by the amount of work which the Fremantle History Society had completed. This included 162 monthly

meetings, 62 quarterly newsletters now indexed, 14 annual Studies Days and six academic quality and 'edited' journals, *Fremantle Studies*. *Fremantle Studies* is mainly based on original papers given during Studies Days. There were other contributions, like to Heritage Week and work with the City of Fremantle to develop an interpretive framework for the city including a policy on museums.

Tim and Frances Brien of East Fremantle were also honoured. It took them 10 years to convert the battered Penshurst on Richmond Hill back into a fine Victorian mansion. The World Heritage listed Fremantle Prison won the Judges' Award for consistency over the years and over the network of Heritage Office awards.



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 1551
Ron Davidson	9430 6096
Madison Lloyd-Jones	0433 844 290

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.



MEETING REPORTS

Fremantle Workers' Social Club

This was a highly successful and well attended February meeting. The Workers' Club had closed only last year, seemingly for good – and then Don Whittington decided to revive it. His brilliant efforts have resulted in a newly revitalized club which currently has more than 420 members and is hosting some spectacularly lavish functions.

Ron Davidson, who co-authored 'The Clubs', gave a fascinating talk about the intricate history of the Workers' Club which was much enjoyed by all.

The evening was further enhanced by delicious catering by the club – thanks to everyone concerned!

Focus on Fremantle Port

Our March meeting was a sell-out weeks before the date! It was a visit to John Dowson's home which is now in the turn of the century building which once housed the celebrated Adelaide Steamship Company. We had to limit the crowd to 25 but could have had 50. John told us many things including his discovery that Dixie Willis the world 800 metre record holder had worked for Adelaide Steamship Company. John was a runner who was chuffed when he discovered Dixie had worked in his home. (Dixie became Dixie Ingram and a recent book on her life *A 'Freo' girl*, has been acquired by the Local History Collection.)

He also told us how when he was travelling by ship to Sydney recently he just packed his bag, walked over the railway line and went up the gangway. Then John took us on a tour of the thousands of historic books, many beautifully illustrated and bound, which encircled the front section of the building.

It was a fascinating evening.

Explore the Town Hall

This fascinating talk and tour of the Town Hall by heritage architect Phil Griffiths was not only the Society's April meeting, it was held as part of the National Heritage Festival being co-ordinated by the National Trust. The History Society joined forces with the City of Fremantle and the Fremantle Society for the event which attracted around 50 people.

Phil, who had done the conservation plan and works on the place in the late 1980s, gave us an insight into the level of detail that goes into the conservation of a building as complex as the Town Hall. Of particular interest was the magnificent colour scheme in the main auditorium.

Members were disappointed to note that despite the good work done at the time of the restoration, much of the paint, both internally and externally was peeling which detracts from the presentation of the building. A motion, suggested by John Dowson, to write to the mayor expressing our displeasure in the state of the building and requesting work to be done to maintain the building in good order was unanimously supported by those who attended.



COMING EVENTS

Our meetings for May and June are, as always, caught up in the Fremantle Heritage Festival program. Once again, the Society is holding our own meetings and then teaming up with the Fremantle Society for some joint events. This year's program is absolutely packed with wonderful things to do, certainly dispelling any thoughts that the Heritage Festival could be tacked on to one of the other Fremantle festivals.

Be sure you support as many events as possible (especially ours!) to ensure the Fremantle Heritage Festival remains a viable and important part of the Fremantle annual calendar.

Go to

http://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/festivals/Heritage_Festival and click on program to download a copy if you haven't received one in your letter box. Fremantle History Society events 2012 include:

Some Convict Reminiscences

A group of convicts sit in a Fremantle prison cell in 1856 contemplating being involved in a Shakespeare performance. As they delve into famous Shakespearean characters they discover more about themselves and the trials and tribulations of their transportation and the lives they left behind. This performance by year 10 Gifted and Talented drama students from John Curtin College of The Arts is an original work written and directed by Will O'Mahony. It reflects Australia's cultural heritage our nations first performers of drama were convicts from the Sydney penal settlement in 1789.

Friday 25 May, 5 – 6 pm in the Crown Theatre, Fremantle Prison, The Terrace. Free. No bookings necessary.

Heritage Open Doors

The Fremantle History Society and the Fremantle Society bring back the very popular Heritage Open Doors event which gives festival goers the opportunity to get into heritage places that are not usually open to the public. A talk will begin at each place 10 minutes after the advertised opening times. Each property will be open for 1 hour only.

11.00 *Carpenter's Workshop*, 1957/8, Victoria Quay – western end (Fremantle Ports)

12.30 *Fremantle Courthouse*, 1899, Henderson St (Fremantle Police) – note visitors will be asked to record their names before entering this security area.

2.00 *Old Customs House*, 1908, 8 Phillimore St (Artsource)

3.30 *Fremantle Courthouse*, 1884, Marine Tce (Notre Dame)

5.50 *Sundowner at Captain's Lane*, Round House (Fremantle Society)

Saturday 26 May. Free

Fremantle Club Crawl

Fremantle people have long enjoyed social club life in our great City. Some of the clubs have gone or moved but several remain. Don Whittington and Ron Davidson will lead the Club Crawl again for this fascinating taste of club culture. We'll finish at the Workers' Club where you can enjoy bar snacks with your drinks. You can also stay on for a meal at the Billy Clare Club Cafe and enjoy another festival event 'An Australian Bush Dance and Sing-along' with Greg Hastings from 7 pm at the Workers' Club.

Friday 1 June, 4 -6 pm. Meet on the corner of Pakenham and High Street (Navy Club). The tour also includes the Buffaloes and the Worker's Clubs.
Free - buy your own drinks.

Cantonment Hill Precinct

A wonderful opportunity to explore the Cantonment Hill precinct, including the Signal Station, with afternoon tea at the Army Barracks and a viewing of the Army Museum. This important area remains a significant site for Fremantle. Presented by Fremantle History Society and Cantonment Hill Precinct.

- 1.30** tour of Cantonment Hill and Signal Station (Stephen Anstey)
- 2.30** afternoon tea - Fremantle Army Barracks – Officer's Mess
- 3.00** introduction to the WA Army Museum – Col (Ret) Robert Mitchell
- 3.30** self guided tour of WA Army Museum

Saturday 2 June, 1.30 - 4.30 pm. Parking in the WA Army Museum car park. Access to Cantonment available through the car park (north east corner). Free - gold coin donation for afternoon tea.

Annual General Meeting

A fascinating exhibition of photographs by Christopher Young at the Fremantle Prison will be the main attraction of the 2012 AGM. The exhibition forms part of a project that Christopher has been working for several years on a body of work called *Five*. It has

involved photographing places and spaces that have somehow been disconnected from general society and reactivating or connecting with them.

The exhibition gives visitors the chance to view rarely seen areas of the exhibition and to look at better known areas afresh. Chris will be with us on the night to talk about the project.

As well as the images there is an eclectic mix of material from the prison's collection giving a window onto the Prison's 20th century history.

The meeting begins at 6 pm at the Fremantle Prison, The Terrace, Fremantle on Tuesday 24 July.



From Christopher Young's exhibition *Five* at the Fremantle Prison



MAIL BOX

Over the last month or so, committee member and newsletter editor, Ron Davidson, has received a couple of requests for information. Is anyone out there able to help our correspondents? Please contact them direct if you have any information on

either the Lloyd family or Joan Campbell's tiles.

Hello

I am looking for any information on the Lloyd Family in Fremantle

The story as we know it

-1831 James Lloyd arrived in Fremantle with his wife Hannah on the 28th December 1831 from London on the ship "Egyptian".

-1836 The following information was transcribed from The Perth Gazette and Western Australian. Houses Licensed for the Sale of Spirits : James Lloyd The Hope Fremantle

-Owned the "Star and Garter" Hotel in Fremantle. (Old Toodyay and Newcastle, by Rica Erickson, p. 11)

-Owned "Rose & Crown" Hotel, Fremantle.(Reference "Trove")

-1842 J. Lloyd Store Fremantle

-1844 James returned to England with his wife and family. Sailed on Barque Shepherd

-1845 James Lloyd and 3 of his children, Joseph, Andrew and Alfred, died of Small Pox on their return to England.

-1847 Hannah returned to the colony with three children on the barque Dispatch in December

-1847 Charles 10, Hannah 17 and Joseph Morris Lloyd (whom I am descended from and who was born in 1845 after his father's death). Son James arrived on the Merope ship in June 1850. They also had daughters Mary and Amelia.

-On returning to Fremantle Hannah Lloyd continued to run the Store.

-When old enough sons Joseph and Arthur Lloyd took up farming in Toodyay.

-The family owned the strip of shops along Market St between Cantonment St and the Mall.

-Hannah Lloyd ran the store until her death in 1886.

I hope you can assist in any way with what appears to be a family that played a significant part in Fremantle's very early history.

Thank you in anticipation

Jeff Lloyd
Willetton
0401 992 650
Jlloyd2@optusnet.com.au

Dear Ron

My name is Elaine Bradley, I am a ceramic artist with a special interest in Print On Clay techniques and I have been asked by Corine van Hall Public Art Coordinator for Fremantle Council to look into replicating some tiles in Fremantle. The tiles I refer to are those created by the late Joan Campbell, Potter, whose studio is now Kidogo Art House (the old Kerosene Store) - and are installed on a horizontal beam on the large wooden jetty sculpture on Bather's Beach.

I am writing to you because I am having a problem tracing anyone who assisted Joan in the tile project, or who did the artwork for the text and images on the tiles. The map images are mainly what I am having problems replicating from the tiles as the lines are so fine. I attach some images - to jog your memory and see if could direct me to some answers. If I could find the original artwork or the sources that informed the production of the artwork I could be more certain of a proper replica.



Two of the damaged tiles

I should explain why the tiles need to be replaced, they have been badly vandalised

with cracks and jagged edges - potentially a safety hazard if a member of the public is ill advised enough to rub a finger hard along the edges. It appears that Joan, rather than form the tiles from clay with her own hands and skill, elected to use monocottura floor tiles, with printed china paint silkscreened imagery - depicting the history of the general area. I can see why she made that choice, making tiles from scratch and ensuring they remain truly flat throughout the dry and firings is difficult. It is a series of about ten pieces, some with text and some with hi contrast imagery taken from historical images of the area.

Could I please ask you to direct me towards a resource to help me with this project. Thank you.

Elaine Bradley
lalab@inet.net.au
0411160233 (mobile)



Joan at work in her studio at Bather's Beach.
(Photo courtesy the Fremantle City Library : Local History Collection Print No. 2648)



BYE GEOFF HARCOURT - 'A BEAUT BLOKE'

Ron Davidson

Preservation of Fremantle's working class history took a severe knock recently with the death from cancer of Geoff Harcourt. Early Fremantle History Society members will remember Geoff giving his paper, The Purple Circle, to the second Fremantle Studies Day, in 1996. Geoff's paper traced the distinctive way of life of those working at

the CBH wheat terminal in North Fremantle. It was published in the first volume of Fremantle Studies the following year and largely reflected Geoff's personal beliefs and work experiences. He soon found that drinking and gambling and dedicated work went hand-in-hand with being a grain handler. His paper was based on a considerable amount of oral history.

Geoff was born into a Subiaco family with a strong working class background. He worked as a horticulturalist in Perth and Fremantle before being employed by Co-operative Bulk Handling where he was a delegate to the Maritime Union of Australia. His mother always urged him to seek higher education and he ended up as a history student at Murdoch University. I asked academic and labour historian, Lenore Layman, about Geoff the student. She replied quickly:

I am sad to hear Geoff has died – I did not know and don't know what caused his illness. He was not very old. He did a wonderful honours dissertation with me at Murdoch in 1992: 'Bulk Handling Facilities at the Port of Fremantle and the Development of a Work Culture 1933-1977'. It was part-published in a later issue of Papers in Labour History.

Geoff was a committed labour man, understanding workplace inequities and injustices, and keen to end them. He was active in his union and worked to preserve and tell Fremantle's working class history. He worked so hard to better his education and improve his job prospects, which he found a hard thing to do within CBH (given his union identification. He was a beaut bloke – kind, gentle, funny, passionate and sharp-minded.

After he left Murdoch, Ron, I lost touch with him, only encountering him on one or occasions after that.

That is all I know.

Sad news.



LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Pam Hartree

It has been busy as usual in the Local History Collection in fact from January to March this year we experienced the busiest quarter on record. . Needless to say we have noticed the increase in visitors to the collection, phone and email queries. It is great to see the collection being so well used.

Preparation is well underway for the 2012 Fremantle Heritage Festival and Local History Awards, we have received a good range of entries this year and it is great to have this new research added to the collection. The collection will host two events this year. Kris Bizzaca is presenting her popular *Researching Your House History* and Wendy Brown, a family historian, will talk about her experiences in researching her own family and the publication which resulted from the research. I am sure both events will be interesting and informative.

The collection continues to expand and print copies of a series of 1950s Sewerage Maps have recently been printed from microfiche to allow for easier viewing. Additionally, copies of the *Fremantle Gazette* and *Fremantle Herald* continue to be microfilmed to preserve the information and alleviate the need for storage of the hard copy. Digitisation of photographs and maps continues in house and donations are received from the public which add continually to the history of Fremantle. Recently the Town of East Fremantle loaned their collection of historical photographs to the collection for digitisation and organisation into archival storage.

Oral history interviews are continuing. Currently the interviewers are working on a project to interview long standing staff members and volunteers of community organisations in Fremantle.

New resources added to the collection include:

Cantonment Hill draft master plan : draft report / prepared for the City of Fremantle / CODA, 2011
LH 711.5 COD

Fremantle Port / John Dowson, 2011
LH 387.1 DOW

Fremantle Synagogue precinct : conservation management plan and development guidelines / by Griffiths Architects with Kris Bizzaca, 2011
LH 726.3 GRI

Fremantle townscape revisited 2011 / R. McK. Campbell, 2012
LH 711.409 CAM

A 'Freo' Girl / Dixie Ingram, 2011
LH B/ ING

From butter and bacon to Federal Parliament : the life and times of William Watson 1863-1938 / Patricia R Davey, 2009

The collection has recently acquired over 200 photographs of exterior and interior views of the South Fremantle Power House. They were taken by photographer Andy Outh-Aut of Aaron Photographs. The acquisition was made possible by the generosity of the Fremantle History Society. Thanks to the society we have a wonderful snapshot of the building including the amazing graffiti and its setting.



THE UGLYMEN'S SAFE

Anne Brake

An intriguing exhibition using Coolgardie Safes is being held at the Perth Town Hall as part of the National heritage Festival.

To explore the theme of the festival – Innovation and Invention, Catherine Czerw, exhibition curator, borrowed over 20 safes from museums and individuals across Western Australia and matched them with a

corresponding number of artists to produce the wonderful *Safe Keeping* exhibition.

Artists were asked to respond to their safe, the notion of 'safe keeping or the festival theme. What transpired is a fascinating exhibition of artworks, some whimsical, some quirky, others quite poignant, that wrap themselves in and around these beautiful objects from another time.

One of the artists, Sue Cotton, chose to interpret the history of the Uglymen's Association in her work. Below is her artist statement from the exhibition catalogue.



Sue Cotton's Uglymen's Safe at the Safe Keeping Exhibition.
(Photo courtesy NTWA and Lloyd Margetts)

I would like to remember a band of ordinary men who did extraordinary things for their community. The Uglymen's Association was formed in 1917 in Perth and Fremantle, working on houses for war widows and raising funds for hospitals, X-ray machines, children's clinics and orphanages throughout Western Australia.

I found the faces in old photographs, giving them another life as I sketched. Putting them safely inside I hope to honour [them] in

a small way. If people look at their portraits and read of the work they did, this group of men will be remembered for a moment.

The safe Sue used was from Bassendean Historical Society – Pensioner Guard Cottage. Its original ownership / story is unknown.

If you are quick you can catch the exhibition which will be on at the Perth Town Hall until 18 May It is free and open from 10 am – 4 pm every day.



Friday 25 May, 5 - 6pm – Some Convict Reminiscences – a fascinating play about convicts and performed by students from the John Curtin College of the Arts
Crown Theatre, Fremantle Prison, The Terrace Fremantle. Free

Saturday 26 May, 11 am – 6 pm. Heritage Open Doors. Visits to heritage places at 11 am – Carpenter's Workshop, 12.30 pm Old Courthouse Henderson St, 2 pm – Old Customs House, 3.30 pm Old Courthouse Esplanade and 5.30 Sundowner at Captain's Lane. **Free**

Friday 1 June, meet at 4 pm at the Navy Club at the cnr of Pakenham and High Sts. Club Crawl. Join Ron and Don on a fascinating ramble through three of the Port City's institutions. Are you up t a beer at each? **Free** – but you will have to buy your own drinks.

Saturday 2 June, 1.30 – 4.30 pm. Explore the **Cantonment Hill Precinct** including Signal Station and the Army Museum. Afternoon tea included. Parking in the Army Museum car park. **Free** – gold coin donation for afternoon tea.

