



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Winter Edition, 2012

Editors: Dianne Davidson, Ron Davidson ,
Anne Brake

Patron: Dr Brad Pettitt,
Mayor of Fremantle



Fremantle Town Hall in 1971.
(Fremantle Local History Collection 486)

A LETTER FROM THE SOCIETY & THINGS START MOVING

The Fremantle History Society scored a major triumph with its protests over the state of the Fremantle Town Hall. You will remember conservation architect Phil Griffiths taking a big crowd on a tour of the Town Hall. The Society's April meeting was coordinated with the National Heritage Festival and involved members of the Fremantle Society, the City of Fremantle and the National Trust as well as our own members. However those attending were shocked to find that the fine restoration sponsored by the Commonwealth in the 1980s had been allowed to deteriorate with crumbling plaster and chipped paintwork and a leaking roof.

The audience, on the suggestion of John Dowson, immediately and unanimously passed a motion that our president write to the mayor stating we were worried by the state of

the building and requesting that something be done about it. The mayor replied that the matter would be included in the next budget.

We heard recently that that \$2million had been allocated for this task. Great news. The roof could not wait however. The first winter storm blew off a number of roof tiles so the roof had to be done urgently.

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE NOW

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
Nicolas Gurr	9430 8987

We welcome Nic Gurr to our committee. Nic has long been an active member of the Fremantle Society and brings with him a passion for Fremantle's history and heritage.

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 Heritage Festival

Some Convict Reminiscences

A small but appreciative crowd gathered at the Fremantle Prison for one of the first events of the Festival. Vice President, Bob Reece worked with teachers and students from the John Curtin Senior High School to tease out issues associated with convictism from a very personal and individual angle. Written and presented by the staff and

students this was an interesting piece of drama and an opportunity for the students to explore a part of their city's history.

Cantonment Hill

Over 80 people joined Stephen Anstey on his tour of the Cantonment Hill Precinct. Stephen gave an overview of the history of this strategic position from its days well before settlement through its use during the second world war and construction of the wonderful Signal Station that had a useful working life of around six years! Many, like me, were doing a supposed makeover of the place and determining which room would be the lounge, which would be the bedroom. The views from this spectacular site were worth it even without Stephen's wonderful information.

Access to the Signal Station was followed by a delightful afternoon tea at the Army Barrack's Officer's Mess and a tour of the new exhibition space for the Army Museum. This was an illuminating tour through a work in progress by the curator, Robert Mitchell, who gave people an idea of the behind the scenes work of a museum.

Open Heritage Doors

Around 80 people visited the four sites open as part of the joint program by the Fremantle Society and the Fremantle History Society. The two historic courthouses (Henderson St and the Esplanade), the Carpenter's Workshop (Victoria Quay) and the Old Customs House (Phillimore St), places usually not available, were opened to the public for viewing.

Club Crawl

The Club Crawl was again a big success, being organised by Ron Davidson and Don Whittington. There were at least eighty attending. The crawl started at the Navy Club where attendees took in a brilliant view over the roof tops while polishing off a beer. Then on to the Buffalo Club and further stories by Leo Amaranti who has been a member for more than 50 years. Finally the

crowd went to the revived Workers Club. A feature of this year's crawl was that, unlike 2011, this year there were a lot more women than men.

Our thanks go to all who organised, participated in or spoke at the various FHS Heritage Festival Events.



COMING EVENTS

Workers Club Pub Lunch

Join members and friends at one of the friendliest places in town – the Fremantle Workers Club – on **Saturday 25 August** from **12.30 pm** for the annual Pub Lunch. A lamb roast with all the trimmings (or vegetarian lasagne) followed by sticky date pudding is on offer for \$20 and there are cheap drinks at the bar. The Workers Club is at **5-9 Henry St, Fremantle**.

RSVP necessary. Call Dianne on 9430 6096 or email dianne.davidson@gmail.com to book your tickets by Wednesday 22nd.

Thirty years on: Fremantle and the America's Cup

Can you believe it's been 30 years since Australia 11 won the America's Cup and ended the New York Yacht Club's winning streak of 132 years. Well its not quite – but next year it will be. John Longley will talk about this momentous sporting triumph and its legacy on Fremantle at the September meeting. Peter Newman compared the win with the economic impact of the arrival of convicts in 1850. **Royal Perth Yacht Club, Fremantle Annexe, at Mews Road, Fremantle** (Opposite Kailis Brothers), on Tuesday **25 September** at **7 pm**. Drinks from the bar but supper provided.

STUDIES DAY

A lively program is once more being prepared for this year's Fremantle Studies Day. This year it will be held at the

Fremantle Army Barracks, Burt St, Fremantle.

Volume 7 of Fremantle Studies will be launched at afternoon tea which will be held in the Officer's Mess.

Sunday 28 October from **12.30 pm**. Put it in your diary now. Further details to come.



THE HENDERSON STREET POLICE COMPLEX Peter Conole

Judicial and law enforcement arrangements were in Captain Stirling's mind when he founded the Swan River Colony in 1829. The first sittings of the Court of Petty Sessions were held in Fremantle, Perth and Guildford during 1830. Government Residents and JPS operated in each place and they were also the centres of our earliest police districts, each under a Head Constable. Readers might be interested to know that Perth and Fremantle are two of the oldest continuing police districts in the world.

Justices of the Peace presided over the Petty Sessions Court, dealing largely with pilfering and unruly servants. The Court of Quarter Sessions went into action in the same year. Again JPs were the early presiding magistrates, but sittings involved the use of juries and often dealt with more serious crimes.

The Quarter Sessions Court was based in Fremantle until a Courthouse was built in Perth in 1837. Before the opening of the Henderson Street Courthouse and police complex, four buildings were put to use as court rooms in Old Freo: the office of the Deputy Harbour Master under Arthur Head (1830); a room in another building, possibly south of the Round House (1835); a building north of the Round House (1851); an actual Courthouse in Marine Terrace (1884), built by the Harwood family firm. They were probably descendants of Thomas Harwood, a Fremantle constable in the early days

The convict era, sharp rises in the number of ships in harbour and simple population increase meant more crime. There were also security issues in the earlier court buildings and general discomfort in some. The Marine Terrace Courthouse, for example, was badly lit and subject to crowding and ventilation problems.

The Henderson street location turned out to be better when the big move came. In 1857 the Convict Establishment used the site as barracks for the Royal Sappers and Miners and warders. In 1886 it was partly converted into an Immigrant Depot. Then the police arrived. The first real police station and quarters had been built as late as 1852, in High Street just under the Round House. Working and living conditions were poor and - as with the Courthouse - Henderson Street was deemed more suitable.

In August 1888 the police station opened in what had been No 2 barracks of the Royal Sappers and Miners, on the corner of Henderson and Queen Streets. The Fremantle police used a house and store room as a station and offices for the senior police. Smaller cottages on site housed the constables. A new block of police quarters appeared in 1897.

In June 1898 contractor Thomas Bates got to work on the Henderson Street Courthouse. It lay within a large law enforcement locality. This is all still part of a fully functioning Fremantle Police Complex; the court rooms now serve as gymnasiums for the officers. There were two courts. Firstly, a Civil Court, which dealt largely with legal suits between people and tried to settle them in an equitable way. The other was the Police Court, which is really another name for a Court of Petty Sessions.

The police had their powers and duties spelled out for them in the Police Ordinance of 1849. The statute provided for the general maintenance of public peace and good order and listed various offences police could deal with in a summary way without use of a full judge and jury system.

Examples included vandalism, cruelty to animals, reckless riding of horses in streets (colonial era 'hooning'), insulting conduct towards women and drunk and disorderly behaviour. The latter became a big issue with the crews of some ships. A few quaint things were on the books, such as a ban on boys flying kites on Sundays.

So the two courts, in separate rooms, operated alongside one another in dealing with matters which were usually not high crimes and misdemeanours suitable for the Supreme Court. Magistrates, including JPs at times, presided over both. Policemen could act as prosecutors, as they did in the Beaufort Street Court of Petty Sessions in Perth.

Besides the two court rooms the building had rooms for judges, a jury room, offices for solicitors, two general offices, a couple of lock-up cells and a charge room. There was also an attached exercise yard.

Minor modifications and additions to the buildings were made from time to time, such as extensions to the police quarters and stables in 1903. A new and very fine looking red-brick police station was built north of the lock-up in 1916. In 1974 the Courthouse and police station were classified as worthy buildings, but only the Courthouse made it on to the Register of the National Estate in 1978. The old police station was demolished and replaced by a new station (more roomy, but a concrete horror to look at) and a cottage for the lock-up keeper in 1980. A conservation plan came out in 1995 and the complex received a positive assessment from the Heritage Council of WA in 1999.



THE NEW LOOK ST PAUL'S

Kath Jordan

Many Beaconsfield folk and others driving along Hampton Road have been intrigued by all the building activity on the site of St Paul's Anglican Church which fronts Hampton Road, just south of South Street. There have indeed been many large and radical changes to the original buildings and

the overall heritage precinct in the last few years.

Originally St Paul's was attached to the mother church of St John's in Fremantle which had its own Mission Hall on Hampton Road. This is the older building, set back further from the street, on the left of the main church as you look from the road. The foundation stone for this hall was laid on 24 August 1891. In 1894 the land adjoining the mission hall was purchased for \$120 to be the site of a new church building and in 1897 St Paul's, Beaconsfield became a parish in its own right.

A start on the present building was made in 1905 and the foundation stone was laid by the Governor of the State, Admiral Sir Frederick Bedford, on August 23, 1905 but the church was not completed. The parish flourished and in 1910 a building fund was established to raise funds for the completion of the church, including the sanctuary and entrance porches.

Then World War I broke out and all activity on the church was suspended. Many men from the parish fought in this war and many lost their lives. Their names are recorded on the "Honor Board" mounted on the south wall of the church.

For almost one hundred years the church remained in its unfinished state and the east end, where the sanctuary had been planned, remained a wooden structure, crudely connected to the stone of the south and north walls. Gaps appeared in the makeshift joins and daylight and dust entered the church. It became evident that the structure was in desperate need of rescue.

Rescue came under the inspiration and guidance of the Reverend Peter Humphris who began his term as curate of St Paul's in 1995 when the church was still part of the parish of St John's Fremantle. Movement was afoot, however, to make St Paul's an independent parish when the church had temporarily become part of the parish of St John's, Fremantle. This was achieved and a

plaque dated 30 June 1998 commemorates the inauguration of the parish of St Paul the Apostle at Beaconsfield.

The centenary of St Paul's was celebrated on 23 August 2005 and in 2007 the East End project, a proposed restoration of the heritage site, was launched. This very expensive building development involved an enormous investment of time and money. The architect Graham Kershaw designed the sanctuary and chapel area which replaced and extended the early 20th century timber framed east wall. A new eastern window above the altar flooded the church with new light and glass doors lead from the back of the church into the new sanctuary or chapel. An outdoor auditorium leads from the chapel and provides a communal space for outdoor services and for social occasions under the stars. Our 'midnight' mass was held there for the second time on 24 December 2011 and the setting provides an inspirational space.

All this development required unstinting dedication by our parish priest, the Rev. Peter Humphris, the church wardens, particularly Chris Jamieson who oversaw the building arrangements and also by the whole community of St Paul's who contributed generously of time and money. Altogether the parish donated in excess of \$250 000 which left a debt of approximately \$200 000 which we are still paying off.

The new Chapel and amphitheatre were dedicated by the Most Reverend Roger Herft, Archbishop of Perth, on 22 May 2010. The order of service was prefaced by this declaration:

The community of St Paul's creates and sustains a sacred space in the heart of the Beaconsfield community. We open our hearts in the hospitality of Giving...and we open our 'home' to create a community in Love.

Other building projects have extended the 'family' of St Paul's to include living space for a further twenty people to live in the grounds of St Paul's which now extend to include the heritage property facing

McCleery Street, originally purchased in 2002, and the two properties next to the church on Hampton Road purchased in 2010. A community kitchen and meeting room to serve the original Hall and the restoration of this Hall is the most recent project.

The lovely gardens of St Paul's continue to be developed to incorporate the new building works and include a memorial garden, consecrated in 2005, an olive grove, a rose garden and many tranquil and quiet places for contemplation.



FREMANTLE AND WAR EXHIBITION **Madison Lloyd-Jones**

On Tuesday 29 May 2012 the University of Notre Dame Australia and the City of Fremantle, with the partnership of the State Library of Western Australia, the Australian War Memorial and the Fremantle Herald newspaper proudly launched their online exhibition of photographs and stories at www.fremantlehistory.com.au The 'Fremantle and War' exhibition is the first in what is intended to be a series of permanent exhibitions regarding important elements of Fremantle's history.

The exhibition stems from an assessment given to Notre Dame students enrolled in HY3018 Australia and the World Wars. It features their work as well as special contributions from Associate Professor Deborah Gare (the unit coordinator of the unit and the producer of the website), Professor Geoffrey Bolton, Professor David Black and Steve Howell. The project gave students the opportunity to engage in a professional research project and, at the same time, add meaningfully to the heritage records of our town.

After one glance at the assembled images—there were, at first, nearly one hundred of them—it became clear that there must be few towns which have fully shared Fremantle's experiences in Australia's history of war during the Twentieth Century.

The images and stories in the exhibition cover a broad range of events and themes including (to name only a few) the departure of troops to the Boer War; the return of the first wounded soldiers from Gallipoli; the imprisonment of Australians in German and Japanese prisoner of war camps; voluntary participation in the Spanish Civil War; the revolving role of women in war; Vietnam War protests; and the jubilant celebrations at the end of war.

I had the privilege of being the tutor in Australia and the World Wars and of contributing to this exhibition. It is with this theme of jubilant celebration that I will share with you the story behind one of my favourite images in the collection:



People dancing in the street in celebration of the end of the war, High Street Fremantle, August 1945. John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library. Records of Owen Marks. JCPML01138/2

After six years of warfare and 39,653 deaths, the Australian people finally heard their Prime Minister Ben Chifley on 15 August 1945 announce the precious phrase 'the war is over'. In Fremantle, Chifley's announcement elicited a chorus of hoots and sirens from all of the vessels in port, followed shortly after by an eerie stillness in the port that had not been experienced since 1939.

With Australian pubs closed as they had been on 'VE Day' (Victory in Europe), it was in the streets that the relief and joy of the community was seen; in one celebration, captured in the image above, a spontaneous conga line bounced its way along High Street, Fremantle. According to the *West*

Australian, the city on 15 August experienced joyful chaos.

All semblance of organised traffic ceased. Flags of all the Allied Nations were displayed on buildings, motor cars, bicycles and in fact anything movable carried some flags or bunting. Noise permeated the morning air. The most popular noise was created by boys and girls on bicycles trailing tin cans of various sizes and descriptions behind their bicycles. Even buses, if they happened to stop to led down passengers before they entered Fremantle, would move away to the rattle of kerosene tins attached to the rear bumper.

In an article published on 23 August 1945 titled 'The Task Ahead', Leadette meaningfully draws the reader back to Curtin's efforts to rally the population into a total war posture. It is significant to consider that after four years in which 'every thought and action seems to have been consciously or unconsciously influenced by the fact that our nation was engaged in the greatest struggle which the world has witnessed' it was difficult to readjust to a 'life in which this grim struggle no longer looms largely.'

The moment captured in this photograph (previous page) is striking to me; finally it is the joyful calls of the Fremantle community that fill the air and not the relentless sounds of traffic in and around the harbour. It would take time to readjust to a 'life in which this grim struggle no longer looms largely' but war was finally over and the community could begin to heal and move forward.

For an extended (and fully referenced) version of this story, and to enjoy our exhibition in full, please visit www.fremantlehistory.com.au



VOICES FROM THE WEST END
Paul Arthur Longley & Geoffrey Bolton
(Ed)
Dianne Davidson

There have been so few history books about Fremantle that every new volume must be welcome. There is much to appreciate in

Voices from the West End, particularly Bob Reece's comprehensive 'Glimpses of Fremantle 1829-1929', Malcolm Tull's 'Fremantle: from commercial port to recreational centre' which brings the port's story up to the present day, and Nonja Peters' study of immigration in 'Victoria Quay: arrivals and departures 1906-1980'.

There are also studies of religion in Fremantle (Rowan Strong), capital punishment (Simon Adams), the bubonic plague in 1900 (Michelle McKeogh), the fishing industry (Sally Rita May), an extremely detailed look at Bloody Sunday (David Hutchison) and a look at tourism (Barbara Kearns, John Macbeth and John Selwood). *Voices* is lavishly illustrated and beautifully produced by WA Museum Publications.



An image from the richly illustrated book - the funeral of Irish hotelier Daniel Mulcahy in 1908. (LHC 1326)

What is conspicuously lacking is any study of sport, which has been a very important part of the Fremantle story. Nor do *Voices* have much to say about Fremantle politics or the growth of community activism which played such a major role in ensuring that Fremantle's heritage was preserved at a time when the Fremantle City Council was determined to modernise Fremantle at all costs.

This is not so much a history of Fremantle as a collection of essays on topics of interest to particular people, which do not necessarily form a cohesive whole. We still await a comprehensive history of our port city – which it thoroughly deserves.



JOHN DOWSON ON SHORT LIST

Fremantle History Society member John Dowson is back on the Premier's book prize short list. He won the non-fiction prize in 2004 for his landmark work *Old Fremantle*.

Now his lovely tribute to Fremantle Harbour and the ships that sailed there, *Fremantle Port*, has been short listed. The latest book has a Foreward written by another FHS member Ron Davidson.



CURTINS IN COTTESLOE

As part of its on-going program for the Curtin Family Home, the National Trust invites you to help create a Cottesloe / Fremantle heritage trail exploring the lives of the Curtin family in Cottesloe and Fremantle.

During the project's first stage, CROW Media will run an online survey as well as one-on-one consultations at The Grove Library in Mosman Park to identify

- iconic Cottesloe landmarks
- anecdotes about the Curtin family in Cottesloe and in and around Fremantle, and
- John Curtin as the member for Fremantle.

If you'd like to be part of this exciting project you can contact CROW Media on curtintrail@gmail.com or phone 0407 161 045 to arrange an appointment.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anne Brake

It has been a busy year with our efforts over the last 18 years being recognized at the Western Australian Heritage Awards with a high commendation in the outstanding

contribution to heritage by a community based organisation category.

Activities for this year have, as usual, included advocacy, meetings, events and projects.

On the advocacy front: A second submission to the City of Fremantle with regards the partial change of use to tourist accommodation for the Women's Prison at the Fremantle Prison was submitted. A letter was sent to the mayor requesting he vote against the first proposal following a unanimous motion at last year's AGM. Mayor Pettit indicated his support for our motion in his reply. Since then a much reduced proposal which has removed many of the items the Fremantle History Society and others objected to, but not all, has been lodged. A further submission has been made by the FHS regarding this new proposal but there has been no response to date.

The Mayor also received a letter from the committee regarding the approach proposed by the City for the management of Arthur Head. The History Society has already lobbied the Council with regards the lack of conservation and maintenance of the historic site. In our recent correspondence we expressed concern, amongst other things, with regard the treatment of a number of the tenants in the precinct, including the artists in J Shed. Greg James has worked out of this space for many years and has made significant contributions to the cultural landscape of Fremantle. Members will also be well aware that Greg has been generous in his willingness to open his studio and provide detailed insights into his work practices, particularly his pieces with historic themes.

The committee has continued to keep an eye on the operations at the Fremantle Prison. Much good work is being done at the world heritage listed site with new material and areas of the Prison being explored. The committee however remains concerned that the Fremantle Prison Trust Committee has all but faded. This once vibrant and

important part of the Prison's governance is all but invisible, particularly as there is no active community representative. The committee is concerned that the only remaining community position, which should have remained with the Mayor, or his or her representative, was usurped by Peter Tagliaferri when he left the Mayoral role. Not only was it not his position to take with him, he has never given any feedback or asked for input from the community he is supposed to represent. A letter was sent to Jennifer McGrath, Executive Director of Building Management and Works over a month ago asking for information on the activities of the Trust Committee and the community representative's position but there has been no reply to date.

A letter was received from Graeme Gammie, Director of the State Office of Heritage, acknowledging the inadequacies of the history recorded in the Conservation Plan for Victoria Quay with regards the CY O'Connor Building (the proper title of which should be recorded as the John Curtin Amenities Building). This lack of information about the building has subsequently flowed through to the State Register of Heritage Sites documentation for this site. This was pointed out to the Heritage Council in a letter which also expressed the committee's concern that there would be ramification on the protection, or not, of the building because of these inadequacies. Mr Gammie indicated that moves to correct the misinformation would be made when the Victoria Quay registration was reassessed in the near future.

The committee was concerned about the inadequacy of a proposed Museum Policy for the City and intervened before it was released for public comment. Following several meetings with the Mayor and City planning and heritage staff it has been proposed that a heritage or thematic framework that will identify key themes and storylines for Fremantle and explore appropriate ways to present these across the City be developed. This would give guidance to the Council as well as local

community groups and developers working within Fremantle.

Concern was raised recently regarding the fate of the 19th century timber worker's cottage at 1 Walker St, South Fremantle. The house was lived in by the Lewington family since the 1920s and was sold recently following Len Lewington's death. Len had been 5 when the family moved in. The small compact house had witnessed many changes in the port city. The family were involved in many sporting groups and Len's father was a staunch Labour Party member, as was Len, who was also very active in the union movement. Long before he was Prime Minister, John Curtin would visit the house and 'chew the fat' with Len's father around the old kitchen table which had been in the house until recently.

The house is listed on the Fremantle Municipal inventory and although it was not possible to get inside, a thorough photographic record of the outside, including sheds, backyard dunny and ancient grape vines was made and will be lodged with the local history collection as well as included in the city's municipal inventory files.

Ron Davidson negotiated the sale of a series of photos taken by Andy Outh-Aut of the interior and exterior of the South Fremantle Power Station for the Local History Collection. Although some money changed hands, it wasn't anything like what the images would be worth on the commercial market. We thank Ron and Andy for ensuring this important record has been lodged with a public collection. Those interested in the photos can view them at the Fremantle History Collection and it is hoped that something can be done to make them more accessible next year.

As usual there has been a robust round of meetings and the committee would like to thank our members for their continued support. We followed last year's AGM at the FTI with our annual pub lunch held in Rockingham. A visit to the extremely good Rockingham Museum included a presentation by Wendy Durant on the

history of the venue of the Pub Lunch, the Rockingham Hotel. Sadly none of the original structure remains but this did not stop members enjoying the Sunday buffet.

A small but enthusiastic group braved shocking weather for our September meeting at the recently renovated and award winning Trades Hall. Dawn Quackenbush was our very generous host and she and her son made us extremely welcome. Architect Gerard McCann gave us an overview of the history of the building, including its days as an old time music hall, restaurant for the Orange People and base for the Aga Khan during the America's Cup Challenge. The recent work to the building has kept the old upstairs hall in tact and with subtle alterations has made a residence and office space within the building.

Our Fremantle Studies Day was a great success despite the competition at times with noise from a youth festival in Kings Square. Four fantastic papers were presented focusing on women and Fremantle under the banner of Port City Sheilas! Assoc Prof Deborah Gare from Notre Dame set the scene in a paper that explored the migration experience for some of Fremantle's first European arrivals. Dr Bobbie Oliver gave an insight into the life of Elsie Curtin, wife of wartime Prime Minister John Curtin. Bobbie was followed by Prof Carmen Lawrence's presentation on the first Australian woman elected to the Senate, Dorothy Tagney. And the day was rounded off by a paper on the indomitable Joan Campbell by Lindsay Lovering. This year's Studies Day is shaping up to be just as interesting. It will be held at the Fremantle Army Museum on Sunday 28 October when the next volume of Studies Journal will be launched.

Christmas was celebrated at the Swan Yacht Club. The highlight of the day was the Fremantle History Quiz which was collated by Vice President Prof Bob Reece. It was a tough set of questions with the winner (Alison Gregg) getting 11 out of a possible 20. There were some challenges and the

judge's decision was required in a couple of instances.

A feed and a talk were the order of the day (or night as it was) at the February meeting which was held at the Fremantle Workers Club. The hard work of several people, most particularly Don Wittington, has seen the Club remain afloat and going from strength to strength. I encourage you to support it.

Our March meeting was very special. Once again, the society was warmly welcomed into a private residence, in this instance, John Dowson's. John's house is rich in history, being the original Adelaide Steam Ship Company building and is now filled with an antiquarian's eye for the historic, the quirky and the rare. Being museum trained, I was doubly grateful to John's generosity knowing the frailty and value of many of the pieces in his collection. One of our members remembered visiting the building in her first job as a shipping clerk.

Heritage Architect, Phil Griffiths gave us an insightful presentation on the history and conservation of the iconic Fremantle Town Hall at our April meeting with some of the brave attendees making it all the way to the top of the building to the old caretaker's flat. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Fremantle Society and the City of Fremantle and was registered as part of the National Heritage Festival.

The partnership with the Fremantle Society continued into the Fremantle Heritage Festival. Joint events including the ever popular Club Crawl with Don Wittington and Ron Davidson, and the Open Heritage Doors program. This year the 2 historic courthouses, the Old Customs House and the Carpenter's Workshops on Victoria Quay were opened.

Fremantle History Society events also included Some Convict Reminiscences, an innovative theatre project in conjunction with the John Curtin Senior High School, and the a visit to Cantonment Hill precinct with Stephen Anstey and including afternoon tea and a tour at the Army Barracks.

The society donated \$1500 to the Local History Collection for an oral history project to interview recent migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who have settled in Fremantle. The interviews ranged from support workers and community members who have assisted with their settlement and individuals from South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan. The interviewers, Lorraine Stevens and Heather Campbell, found it was a privilege to learn about and record the lives of these inspirational people. Their stories are now available in the Library's Local History Collection and add another dimension to the history of Fremantle.

It now leaves me with the very important task of saying thanks.

Firstly to the City of Fremantle for their on-going support of the work of the history society and the Mayor's willingness to open his doors or respond to emails and letters. The wonderful Local History Librarian and Society Treasurer, Pam Hartree, warmly hosts our committee's monthly meeting and the reception rooms were made available to us for last year's Studies Day.

I would like to thank all our meeting speakers, including the Studies Day presenters, who gave so freely and generously of their time to prepare and present the high quality papers we have come to enjoy.

To those who have contributed to our newsletter, I say thank you and I encourage any of you who haven't to pick up pen or put fingers to keyboard. We welcome contributions from you all. A special thanks goes to Ron and Dianne Davidson for their stalwart contributions to the editorial team and for much folding and sticking on of labels and stamps to get it out to you.

To all those who have opened their venues to us for meetings including the Fremantle Prison for tonight's meeting I say thank you. In advance, I would like to thank Chris Young who will be coming to talk to us about his photographic project and to Bevan

Beaver and Isa Menzies for making the exhibitions available to us for tonight.

To the hard working committee – Vice President Bob Reece, Secretary Dianne Davidson, Treasurer Pam Hartree and committee members Bob Woolett, Madison Lloyd Jones, Cathy Hall, Ron Davidson, Jenny Patterson, Fay Campbell and Peter Conole. All have their various roles but I would like to make special mention of Jenny and Fay who keep us well sated at every meeting. I would like to make special mention of Joan Donaldson who has helped Jenny and Fay at every meeting and function we have had for several years now. Thank you Joan.

And finally to you, our members for your on-going support and encouragement. Without you there wouldn't be a Fremantle History Society so don't forget to renew your membership and encourage friends and family to join if they haven't.



For Your Diary:

Saturday 25 August: Pub Lunch. The Workers Club, 5-9 Henry St, Fremantle. 12.30 pm. RSVP to Dianne on 9430 6096 or dianne.davidson@gmail.com by Wednesday 22 August.

Tuesday 25 September: 30 years on: Fremantle and the America's Cup. Fremantle Annexe of the Royal Perth yacht Club, Mews Rd, Fremantle. 7 pm.

Sunday 28 October: Fremantle Studies Day. The Fremantle Army Barracks, Burt St, Fremantle. From 12.30 pm.

Volume 7 of *Fremantle Studies* will be launched during the afternoon.

**Don't forget to pay your membership fees – now due.
Include an email address, if you have one, to keep up with announcements and reminders between newsletters.**