



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



The Swan River at East Fremantle, date unknown but possibly the 1890s
(Fremantle Local History Collection)

RIVER OF EMOTION

Known to Noongar people as Derbarl Yerrigan, the Swan River has played a central place in the lives of people who have lived in the area we now know as Fremantle for thousands of years. It has been a place where people experienced their first kiss, where families picnicked, a place of contemplation and reverence, a place to fish and throw stones, to kayak and just sit beside. It has also been a place of great sadness for those who have lost their lives in its murky depths. Our experiences with the river create an emotional connection to it - maybe many emotional connections - and it is these connections that are being captured in a new and innovative website. The University of Western Australia and the National Trust have worked together to build the Rivers of Emotion portal and you are invited to contribute your stories, photos, soundscapes and movies.

I learnt to sail on the confluence of the Swan and Canning Rivers. I was 15 and with my best mate

Les Brooker, we careered around in an old Cherub dinghy spending as much time upside-down as right side up. In the brisk seabreezes of summer we would shiver around the course wearing cotton stubbie shorts and wool football Guernseys.

<http://www.riversofemotion.org.au/riverstories>

The river meant so much to William Hamilton that his last wish was to be reunited with it.

Because the most vivid memories of his youth were of boating and fishing on the Swan River, NSW service man William Hamilton (64), of Bondi, who died at Sydney Repatriation Hospital on June 1, asked that his ashes be scattered on the Swan after his death. The NSW and WA RSL branches co-operated to bring Gunner Hamilton's ashes to Perth and at 2.15 p.m. today his last wish was granted.

The Daily News, 26 August 1950

<http://www.riversofemotion.org.au/riverstories>

Time to dust off your memories and bring them to our first meeting of the year.



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
Steve Errington	9367 5504

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

Christmas Repast

The Fremantle History Society Christmas lunch took place on 2 December and provided a change of taste for the thirty-odd members attending. It was held at The Taste of Greek in East Fremantle, complete with spectacular river views and piles of delicious buffet food. The society's 'resident Greek' David Hutchison approved the vast range of Greek dishes, particularly the seafood.

A feature of the celebration was Bob Reece's Fremantle History quiz. And the winner was the founding president of the history society, Dianne Davidson. For those who did not attend we have re-published the complete quiz on page 3/4 with the answers on page 8. Our president, Anne Brake, welcomed the guests and made particular mention of Jenny Patterson's efforts to get the Christmas show on the road.



Fay Campbell, Joan Donaldson and Dianne Davidson with others at the Christmas lunch at Eat Greek.
(Pam Hartree)



COMING EVENTS

RIVER OF EMOTION

Gina Pickering will introduce us to this fascinating website developed as part of a joint project with UWA. Gina has been involved with researching the importance of the river for a number of years and has been responsible for developing a statement of significance for it. She is now embarking on a major project to develop an interpretation plan for the river so people can better understand and enjoy this beautiful place.

Gina will speak on **Tuesday 26 February** at the **Reception Room** at the City of Fremantle (enter via the stairs off Kings Square). The meeting begins at **6.30 pm** and will be followed by the usual delicious refreshments.

WHY IS ARCHAEOLOGY SO FASCINATING?

Scott Chisolm, Director of Terra Rosa, a firm of archaeologists working in Fremantle, will attempt to answer that question at our March meeting. Scott will also explore the opportunities archaeology brings to the research and analysis of our past which may challenge our notions that the historians work place is the archives.

The Terra Rosa team have invited us to their offices for this very interesting evening. **Tuesday 26 March**, Terra Rosa, **364 South Terrace, South Fremantle**. Meet at **6.30pm**.

SOUTH FREMANTLE POWER STATION: A PHOTOGRAPHERS DREAM

The Fremantle History Society has long been interested in the preservation and use of the South Fremantle Power Station and has worked to get it permanently on the Heritage Council of WA listing, against considerable odds. Last year the History Society organised the purchase, for a very reasonable price, of 200 slides taken by Andy Outh-Aut of Aaron Photographics from South Fremantle.

This is an amazing collection of views framed by steel girders, rich artistic graffiti and exterior shots of the impressive 'industrial cathedral' with its towering art deco windows. The slides have become an important resource of the Fremantle Local History collection.

Local History Librarian, Pam Hartree will present a selection of the images using a digital projector to ensure we can all see the majesty of these important images. We are hoping to have Andy with us to give us a talk about his work and these images in particular.

Fremantle City Council **Reception Room** (enter via the stairs of Kings Square), **Tuesday 23 April at 6.30 pm**.



CHRISTMAS QUIZZ

Try the quiz before you check the answers – no peeking now. See if you can beat our inaugural President, Dianne Davidson who got a score of 13.

1. What was Captain Charles Fremantle's second name? (Clue: he was named after the famous English admiral who defeated the French in 1794)
2. 94 Marine Terrace (pictured) was famous before WW2 as refreshment rooms and factory. What did it sell and who made it?



94 Marine Terrace

3. Who was the second President of the Fremantle History Society?
4. Hughie Edwards won a VC and became equerry to the Queen. Where did he work before training as a pilot at Point Cook, Victoria?
5. Who was the famous Fremantle auctioneer who stuttered?
6. Who was Fremantle's first historian?
7. What was the name of the electrical goods and repairs shop in Market St. until recent times?
8. Who said: "My football career is like Joseph's coat"? Clue: he had been a premiership winning coach of West Perth, East Fremantle and South Fremantle, and incidentally Speaker of the Legislative Assembly?
9. What was the family name of the two Irish brothers from County Tipperary who owned the National and George hotels in Fremantle and East Fremantle?
10. Who was Fremantle's first Government Resident in 1831?
11. The Victoria Hall was originally owned by which church?
12. Who drew up the famous (or infamous) 1960s town plan intended to 'modernise' Fremantle?
13. Where was Fremantle's first observatory?
14. Who was the Congregational minister and temperance advocate 'Johnston Court' was named after?
15. How old is Ronald Davidson?
16. What was the name of the private girls' school at the top of the High St?

17. When was Fremantle's first regular newspaper, *The Herald*, first published? 1878? 1867? 1922?

18. In which year did Fremantle lose its last trams?

19. In which year was the Fremantle-Perth railway service restored by the Burke Labor government?

20. Where was Dianne Davidson born? Iceland? Tasmania? Latvia? Poland?



A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME ...

A number of readers of the last newsletter asked how Frank Jenkins came to be known as 'Scranno'. It is still a frequently-asked question. Frank 'Scranno' Jenkins won the 1937 Sandover medal in his first year of WA league football. Playing with South Fremantle, he was known as one of 'iron men' in the local competition but he could also run like the wind and hold high marks. He played from 1937 to 1949 but it was as a kid at Beaconsfield Primary School that he acquired his lasting nickname. His mother wanted him to eat a 'decent lunch' and demanded he come home at lunchtime. Frank wanted only to play footie and scrounged sandwiches from his class mates. *Scrano* is Australian slang for food; origin uncertain.



Frank 'Scranno' Jenkins

Scranno was one of a number of Fremantle footballers who worked on the wharf and carried nicknames. Another was 'Hobart

Harry' Carbon the immediate post-war star whose nickname followed a set of great games at the 1947 football carnival in Tasmania. Another was Jack 'Corp' Reilly who was said to be built like a crayfish – with his bones on the outside and impossible to hurt. It is thought he became Corp, short for Corpse, because of his cadaverous facial features.



YOUR SOCIETY AT WORK

Anne Brake

The history society has been contacted, along with other interested parties, by the State Heritage office on several occasions of late. In general these communications relate to the process of registration of places or the review of documentation of existing registrations if new information comes to light.

One of these has been the Christian Brothers College in Fremantle. The committee was pleased to support the proposed registration and believed the documentation adequately covered the heritage values of the place. We have just received notification that the College has been entered onto the State Register of heritage places on an interim basis. This allows for public comment before being taken back to the Register Committee for consideration for permanent registration.

The statement of significance for the place identifies Edmund Hall as 'a fine late 19th century Victorian Georgian school hall ... [with] exceptional craftsmanship internally'. It also recognizes the places close association with the Catholic Churches education campaign in the late 19th century and in particular the role of the Christian Brothers Order.

We were a little more proactive, however, with the request for comment with regards the inclusion of Hollis Park in the South Beach registration. The committee strongly supported the review of the registration to include Hollis Park, but was disappointed

with the lack of supporting evidence in the attached documentation. A request was made to update the documentation to uphold the proposed changes to ensure they would not be questioned in the future. Hollis Park served as an important link between the stables and the beach where horses were exercised. Most importantly horses were 'cooled down' in Hollis Park after their exertions on the beach and before they were re-stabled.

The committee has also been proactive about the review of the Victoria Quay entry on the state register. The original registration was dismissive of the very significant amenity building built under the instruction of John Curtin during his Prime Ministership. This led to it erroneously being called the CY O'Connor Building and identified as having little significance. Members of the committee, Ron Davidson in particular, prepared a five-page submission to the Heritage Council of WA pointing to weaknesses in the original assessment (including failing to recognise Curtin's central role in the project, that this is one of the few buildings still standing in WA and the only n Fremantle, with direct connections to Curtin and the building's role in labour history).

The need for immediate action was exacerbated by the discussions relating to the Precinct Planning work (see page 7) currently being undertaken on behalf of Fremantle Ports. The review of the registration is still underway.

For further information on tor to view the State Register of Heritage Places go to www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au



THE IMPERIAL WATER POLICE IN FREMANTLE (Part One)

Peter Conole

The arrival of the first waves of convicts in WA in 1850 and 1851 caused perturbation among colonists, including alarm about a potential collapse in public order which had

already been aired at public meetings and in the Perth Gazette in previous years. Folk were right to expect trouble and the first major incident began on January 7, 1851. The place: the limestone outcrops on the river at the end of Harvest Terrace, North Fremantle. The area was known as Rocky Bay. Ironically, the present operational centre of the WA Water Police is located on the same spot.

A working party of convicts travelling downriver on a whaleboat towards Fremantle overpowered the warder and dumped him and a disabled man ashore at Rocky Bay. The escapees then headed for the river mouth and put out to sea, leaving the authorities in some confusion. After one false start the Fremantle Harbour Master chartered a ship and headed north towards Shark Bay on January 10 - with four Pensioner Guards to assist him in the expected tussle with the fleeing convicts.

The names of the convicts are worth recording – John Morris, Thomas Corry-Adams, William Hales and Henry Perkins, guests of Her Majesty by way of a fair range of offences. They had arrived in WA on the 'Hashemy' in October 1850, along with 32 Pensioner Guards and their families. The escapees had grand plans, namely a voyage to Batavia (modern Jakarta) and possible freedom. Shortage of water caused them a lot of grief but they did very well and actually reached Shark Bay. Their luck ran out when they went ashore to rest in the bay – only to run into a party from their old ship, the 'Hashemy', which had paused briefly on a trip back to England. The exhausted convicts gave up and were taken back to Fremantle to serve out their time – which included an extra three years for the escape attempt.

The whole business caused a boil over among local officials. The Perth Gazette followed the twists and turns quite closely, calling for the formation of a 'Water Guard' to look after Fremantle harbour. The Enquirer may have had insider knowledge – the paper correctly surmised who the Governor would appoint to head the new

formation. Behind the scenes, the Governor wrote to London on January 15 announcing his decision to make George Clifton 'Chief Officer' of the Water Police to be formed at Fremantle. Salaries, barrack accommodation and rations were mentioned, plus provision of a boat and five men to serve in the new outfit. A few days later the press outlined that state of play, commenting that the Water Police would be able to deal firmly with ship's masters, mariners and the general public – not to mention convicts.

George Clifton (1823-1913) was only 27 when appointed, but he had good credentials and had served with distinction as a midshipman in the Royal Navy until being invalided out because of an injury in 1842. He was the son of Marshall Waller Clifton - Chief Commissioner of the Western Australian Company, Member of the Legislative Council and a founding father of Bunbury. The Cliftons were a power in colonial WA and had notable linkages back in Britain; they were, after all, descended from the premier baronial family of the realm. Of George Clifton it can safely be said he got his position by merit and he became an effective administrator.

However, much of 1851 was a tiresome 'growing pains' period and it took months for the new Water Police establishment to stabilise. The Enquirer noted on February 12 that wheels were already spinning in regard to infrastructure. It published an advertisement that day asking for a room to be made available for the Water Police. Also, tenders were called at the same time for the building of a barracks underneath the Roundhouse Gaol, one that had to be the same size as the existing court house.

The Perth Gazette announced on March 7 that a bill would soon be placed before the Council to formally create the body and expressed concern that it might restrict "the liberty of free colonists". The Governor pointed out that public calls for action had been a motivating factor while the intent was simply to secure the harbours and to limit the activities of lawbreakers and potential

escapees. In addition, the Water Police was to be a civil rather than a military organisation and members would not even wear uniforms.

The Ordinance formally authorising the establishment of the Water Police was published in the Government Gazette on August 26. It ratified arrangements already partly in place. As a real boon, the full cost of the Water Police was to be paid by the Imperial Treasury and that implied more money was now available for salaries.

Clifton had been given the rank of Inspector on June 22 and he and five other men were sworn in as Water Police constables on the same day. The title was upgraded to Superintendent on July 17, 1851 with the express purpose of lifting the pay and prestige of the position and getting more respect from various ship's masters and rough and ready mariners operating in Fremantle. As will be seen in the next issue, Clifton and his successors had to earn public standing and grudging respect the hard way, but it really helped from day one that the most senior Water Police officer was of definite gentry status.



CURTIN BUILDING FIGHTS BACK

Ron Davidson

Your Fremantle History Society has been playing an important role in the planning for Fremantle Ports commercial development on Victoria Quay. Heritage has been recognised as one of several key drivers in the project which also focuses on commercial, environmental, tourism, transport, cultural issues and public amenity.

There have been public workshops to assist in the development of options for the site which includes sections of Victoria Quay, Pioneer Park and the railway station and adjacent land, A major question for Society members attending the meetings and workshops has been what happens to the CY O'Connor Building, which should be known as the John Curtin Amenities

Building (see earlier story p5). When the public consultation began in November the amenities building was presented as of secondary heritage importance. The society then launched a campaign to get the Heritage Council to recognise accurately the heritage importance of the amenities building as the symbol of wartime Australia's preparation for peace.

We have not heard how the document was received by the Heritage Council but it has been noticed by members that sessions since our submission there has been a change in the design options on display apparently on the basis of a new Heritage Council assessment. This is a battle we need to win.

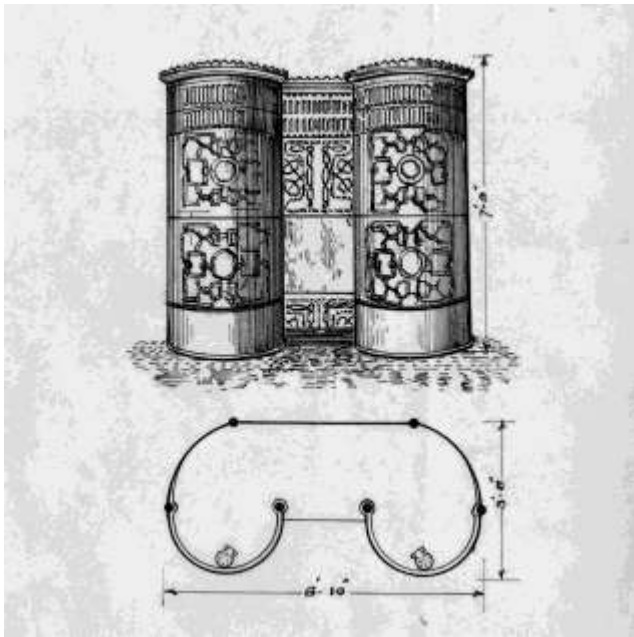


LOCAL HISTORY (SAD) NEWS

Pam Hartree

We were all saddened at the end of last year when Lorraine Stevens decided to retire. Lorraine has worked part time in the collection for over ten years and prior to that dedicated over twenty years to the collection in a full time capacity. Lorraine's contribution to the collection has been invaluable and we would not have the collection we have today without her dedication to the collection of Fremantle's history. Thank you Lorraine, your colleagues and visitors to the collection will all miss you.

One of Lorraine's last projects prior to her retirement was to organise and index Council health correspondence from 1876 to 1959. The project unearthed some interesting information about health conditions during this period. Subjects include rat infestations, the condition of public toilets, watering down of milk and health problems in Canvas Town. Call in sometime and have a look at what was uncovered. The image below was part of the collection. Can anyone identify what it is a plan for? We will let you know at the next general meeting in February.



For Your Diary:

Tuesday 26 February: River of Emotion.

An opportunity to share stories of the mighty Swan River. **Reception Room, City of Fremantle** (enter via stairs off Kings Square). **6.30 pm**

Tuesday 26 March: Why is archaeology so fascinating?

Learn more about how archaeology informs our knowledge of history. **Terra Rosa offices, 346 South Terrace, South Fremantle. 6.30 pm**

Tuesday 23 April, South Fremantle Power Station photographs. Your chance to see some of these spectacular images donated to the Local History Collection. Reception Room, City of Fremantle (enter via stairs off Kings Square). **6.30 pm**



HOW DO OTHERS SEE US?

This report is on Fremantle is on the *Sydney Morning Herald* website on the Traveller page under their Explore Australia tab.

Fremantle: Attractive and sophisticated historic port.

It is hard to capture the spirit of Fremantle. On one hand it is simply Perth's port with all the elements which are contained in such a bald description - there is a large industrial area around the docks, grain silos (no Western Australian port could be without them), views out to Rottnest Island, stacks of containers piled high on the wharves, old bond stores and new buildings vying for prominence.

Yet to describe Fremantle as a 'port' is to do it an injustice. It is a remarkable area. In the past decade it has become the great tourist attraction in the Perth area with seeming row upon row of interesting historic buildings, gracious modern hotels, extensive seaside parks and enough tourist attractions to make it the ideal (and easily accessible) day out destination for tens of thousands of Perth locals and visitors. It is the ideal Sunday outing. Have a meal in one of the dozens of restaurants in the area, have a picnic, wander along the shoreline, visit the museums, gaze at the conspicuous wealth at the yacht club, wander the old streets, visit the historic buildings.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/travel/travel-factsheet/fremantle--fast-facts-20081113-5zzk.html#ixzz2JjH5xslq>



CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Howe
2. Ginger beer, made by Jack ('Tinny') Thomas
3. Elaine Berry
4. Burt Street Artillery Barracks
5. Tom Newbold
6. J.K. Hitchcock
7. Urquhart's
8. Ross Hutchinson
9. Mulcahy
10. Richard McBride Browne (Broun)
11. Church of England
12. Professor Gordon Stephenson (or: Stephenson-Hepburn)
13. Manning Hall ('Manning's Folly'), Pakenham St./Short St.
14. The Revd George Johnston
15. a youthful 76
16. Girton College
17. 1867
18. 1952
19. 1983
20. Latvia