



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

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Editors: Dianne Davidson, Anne Brake, Ron Davidson



Jillian Barteaux, Scholarship recipient (centre) with Prof Lenore layman, Anne Brake, Pam Harris and Heather Campbell at the announcement of the 20th Anniversary Research Scholarship (Jo Darbyshire)

20TH ANNIVERSARY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

Jillian Barteaux was chosen from a high class field as the recipient of the Fremantle History Society's 20th Anniversary Research Scholarship. Her proposal was chosen from a strong field and was of particular note because of its ability to provide new research in to Fremantle, in particular South Fremantle.

Over the next 12 months Jillian will use the suburb of South Fremantle as a *case study with which to profile the community and identify moments of cultural and social change in its development. Standing architecture, combined with documentary evidence will be used to explore the evolution of community and to discover the propel who made up their neighborhood, their living conditions and the social and cultural developments that have shaped the character of the urban residential landscape..*

Themes such as the changing use and division of domestic space, household demographics, and perceptions of public, builder intent and occupant use, private space, sanitation and quality of life will be considered, as it is thought these elements reflect the sociocultural forces at work, which characterised the societies that built, used and altered these domestic spaces.

In announcing the winner of the scholarship, Prof Layman praised the Fremantle History Society for its initiative and wondered why no other organisations offered scholarships. She even went so far as to suggest the FHS was a role model for other similar organisations. The committee will look into securing partners to offer the scholarship on a biennial basis.

The committee congratulates Jillian on her win and thanks the other applicants for their interest in Fremantle history and the work of the Society. Thanks also to Lenore, Pam Harris and Heather Campbell who made up the assessment panel.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We welcome two new committee members to our ranks Jennifer Dudley and Irene Burrough.

Executive:

Anne Brake (President)	9336 5206
Prof Bob Reece (Vice – President)	9335 7892
Pam Harris (Treasurer)	9432 9739(W)
Madison Lloyd Jones (Secretary)	0433844290

Committee Members:

Steve Errington	9367 5504
Fay Campbell	9341 4102
Jenny Patterson	9438 3711
Cathy Hall	0407 086 300
Peter Conole	9319 2191
Ron Davidson	9430 6096
Irene Burrough	9364 6527
Jennifer Dudley	

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



COMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

This year's Christmas dinner will be a very festive occasion. We will be combining the usual festivities with our 20th birthday celebrations. As well as the obligatory cake (something special planned), Larry Foley, born and bred in Fremantle and known to many of you, will be our after dinner speaker.

The dinner will be held at Villa Roma on Tuesday 25 November from 6.30PM. The 3 course meal (choice of 3 mains and 3 desserts with antipasto entree and vegetarian options) will be \$50 a head. And there will be a glass of champagne on arrival. Bookings are essential to secretary.fhs@gmail.com or by phoning Madison on 0433 844 290 by Friday 21 November.



MEETING REPORTS

AUGUST PUB LUNCH

We were blessed with a splendidly sunny Sunday for our August Pub Lunch, and seated on the first floor balcony we were able to soak it in!

The National Hotel was extremely accommodating to our group both in terms of food service and our tour. Karl Bullers, CEO of Carnegies Group, came in especially to take us on our tour—and we

were so grateful that he did because he had a wealth of knowledge about the Nash of the past as well as its more recent history. We learnt that the Nash has had a very fiery past – literally and figuratively. A number of infamous incidents occurred at the Nash including in 1944 when two Kiwi servicemen died from stab wounds after a fight with American servicemen that started at the National Hotel; but the most shocking stories were those that involved fire – there were just so many!

The National Hotel as we know it today has definitely risen from the ashes and is simply beautiful and captures so much of its own history – some of the surviving stained glass has been restored and some has been recreated to look like it once did; the bar countertop has been crafted out of railway sleepers from the Fremantle Railway; and a number of historical photographs have been framed and hung on the walls of the Hotel including those that capture the recent fire damage.



Members on tour at the Nash
(Madison Lloyd-Jones)

The *piece de resistance* of the tour was the spectacular view that we were able to see when we were allowed on the rooftop of the hotel. It was breathtaking! This space is likely to be used as recreation space for hotel guests (11 rooms are currently under construction) but there is potential for the rooftop to be used as restaurant space in the future. If you have the chance to visit the rooftop, definitely take it, as it offers a

beautiful view of our city - the promise of a delicious lunch could barely pull us away! But we were soon rewarded with tasty meals that were delivered in a timely manner with bright smiles.

RACEHORSE HISTORY SO CLOSE TO THE MAIN ROAD

About 30 history society members and friends roamed Randwick Stables on Sunday September 28: that is Randwick Stables, Hamilton Hill, not Royal Randwick, Sydney. The visitors loved the rustic charm of the area. It has a well but no scheme water. Ted Miller, cousin of JJ Miller the Melbourne Cup winning jockey on Galilee, took us around the many paddocks and stables which are now heritage listed as is the intriguing house.

Randwick Stable was built in 1923-4 for trainer Jack Marks; then Sol Marks, then in 1950 Jimmy Banks. Banks trained the 1950 Perth Cup winner Beau Vasse there. In the first 50 years of the twentieth century the racehorse industry prospered in the South Fremantle area.

Kim the blacksmith was also there and he gave a lively commentary on how blacksmiths had influenced the language with many colourful phrases based on their trade. For instance Kim told us how the tiny particles which flew from the smith's anvil were called smithereens: as in blown to ...

Another protector of our horse heritage, Terry Patterson, visited Ted while we were at Randwick. Terry owns heritage listed racing stables in Daly Street previously operated by the Collinson family. We then inspected what had been a vast market garden and is now a training track and a community garden. Randwick Stables is now owned the Main Roads for the Roe Highway project. We came away hoping the permanent heritage listing will protect this little gem.

Afterwards, we had a sumptuous afternoon tea at Cathy Hall's place in Daly Street

where the horse theme continued. Cathy's place had been the successful Cockel stable in the 1920s.

FREMANTLE STUDIES DAY

The History Society celebrated its nineteenth Fremantle Studies Day on Sunday 19 October at Victoria Hall, Fremantle, with over sixty members attending. The day kicked off with Dr Leigh Straw's presentation on *Outcast Women: Offending the Good Order in Fremantle 1900-1939*, a fascinating study of various (non-indigenous) women who, although they were sometimes married with children, were streetwalkers who were often drunk and disorderly and spent time in Fremantle Prison as a result. She noted that public drunkenness was only decriminalised in the 1980s, and before that was subject to a prison sentence.

This presentation was followed by Michelle McKeogh's *Fremantle During the Great War*, and especially the response of the Fremantle Municipal Council (as it then was) to wartime in Fremantle. While the ALP Perth Trades Hall passed a resolution urging workers to ignore the war, the Fremantle Trades Hall disagreed, affirming its loyalty to the British Empire. An important aspect of this was the work done to welcome returning soldiers and help those who had been disabled in the war. The final paper was presented by Emeritus Professor Bob Reece, who traced the history of the Fremantle History Society from the reasons and circumstances of its creation to its various milestones and achievements.

With the formal part of the afternoon over it was time for a few celebrations. This started with the indexing of the Fremantle Studies newsletter, the first half of which has now been completed by Pam Harris, the launch of *Fremantle Studies No 8* by Simone McGurk MLA, and the announcement of the first recipient of the Fremantle History Society Research Scholarship by Jillian Barteaux.

The Society then finished off the afternoon with sumptuous nibbles and wine, organised as usual by the indefatigable Fay Campbell and Joan Donaldson – much thanks to them both.



Simone McGurk MLA (3rd from left) with Ian Chambers (designer), Alexandra Ludwig, Bobbie Oliver and Lindsay Lovering (authors) and Society President Anne Brake



OFFICIALDOM AND CONVICTISM (Pt 1) Peter Conole

Despite copious discussion of the WA convict system, any claim there is a 'consensus view' or 'dominant paradigm' about the subject should be rejected. The focus in this brief series is on certain controversies about convictism as they evolved in colonial times. Discussion is worthwhile because the creation of the Convict Establishment soon reshaped and re-directed Fremantle forever. In January 1846 a petition organised by W.S. Stockley, manager of a local firm, pleaded for the introduction of convict labour into Western Australia. It reached the Secretary of State for the Colonies in London via the Governor. The memorial included various arguments in favour of such a system, but the key elements focussed on the need to develop public works and related infrastructure to achieve long term benefits.

The petition was published in the Perth Gazette of January 2, 1847, possibly to test local opinion. The most senior representatives of the Crown came to fairly

firm positions and stated them bluntly. Governor Andrew Clarke wrote and forwarded a despatch to London on the same day stating his belief that most colonists were opposed to the request for convicts.

Clarke's successor Acting Governor Frederick Irwin, unfairly labelled as a martinet of a man in assorted works, was even more vehement in presenting the negative case. The Perth Gazette of June 5, 1847 reported his hostility as expressed in an opening address to the Legislative Council. He was to a large degree influenced by the efforts other colonies were making to end their own convict systems. He asked WA folk to remember their eastern brethren were 'struggling to free themselves from this system as from a pestilence'. Furthermore Irwin believed that if convicts were introduced the free settlers would find 'they have obtained their object at a dreadful sacrifice.'

In truth the idea of a Convict Establishment had fairly early roots in WA, but the concept was neither loved nor nourished till much later. J.S.Battye in his carefully documented history of Western Australia (published 1924) traced lobbying for the introduction of convict labour back to the year 1831. One astounding letter by an eccentric and frequently untruthful settler named R.M.Lyon claimed that 'settlers to a man have changed their opinion since they encamped within the shores of Australia' and would readily support a petition to introduce convict labour.

Another rather shady character - the politician and coloniser Edward Gibbon Wakefield - also entered the fray on behalf of convictism in the early to mid-1830s, while Henry Labouchere claimed in the House of Commons (Hansard: Third series, Volume 10, p507) that WA colonists had made a successful application for convict labour in 1833. That was false and involved confusion in regard to a petition for the introduction of some by a handful of Albany people in 1834, a request that was gently

pushed to one side by Governor Stirling in a letter to Thomas Spring Rice, Secretary of State for War and the Colonies. Stirling is worth quoting: 'the Petitioners cannot with propriety be complied with ...because in founding the colony of Swan River...it was an engagement that no convicts be sent here' (P.Statham-Drew, James Stirling, UWA Press 2003, p273).

Frederick Irwin seems to have been miffed by some of the agitation and he took certain advocates of convictism to task in his book *The State and Position of Western Australia* (London, 1835). The work is worthy of solid examination, as it was the first large-scale published description and account of the colony. Irwin dismissed Labouchere's misguided comments out of hand. He also supported Stirling by pointing out that the Albany petition received no support from settlers in other parts of the colony. The importation of convict labour then remained off the agenda for years.

However, the Inquirer reported that the York Agricultural Society raised the subject on April 17, 1844. The Governor of the day expressed reservations and a fresh petition never got off the ground. Press coverage remained hostile (see the Inquirer, July 23, 1845 and the Perth Gazette, July 26, 1845). From there we can safely move forward to 1847 and the aftermath of Frederick Irwin's rejection of the idea of convict importation.

To cut a long story short, there was actually a perceptible groundswell of opinion for 'trying out' a limited type of convictism. A serious economic recession and associated labour shortages were the key issues. Charles Fitzgerald, the incoming Governor of WA, was asked by the Secretary of State to inquire whether colonists would accept the importation of offenders convicted of minor offences, along with their wives and families. The men would receive tickets of leave when they arrived, enabling them to obtain varied employment. A proportion of them were expected to be artisans.

There is no point in blaming Fitzgerald for what followed, as when he asked for the importation of 100 ticket-of-leave men in October 1848 he made no mention of an expansive Convict Establishment. However, in February 1849 (Perth Gazette, February 24, 1849) a well-attended public meeting resulted in a formal request to convert 'this colony into a regular penal settlement'. Fitzgerald was obliged to send the petition to Earl Grey (Secretary of State for the Colonies) in London. He disliked the idea himself and wrote frankly that few people 'would from choice select a convict settlement as a residence for themselves and their families'.

Many locals opposed the idea of convicts completely or believed that the London authorities would send out first offenders as part of an apprentice-style scheme. Instead an Order in Council of May 1849 converted WA into a full penal settlement obliged to receive felons of any sort. The document was not published in WA until much later (Government Gazette, November 6, 1849) and shook up many people, including officials. An assurance was given that convicts would be matched by the recruitment of equal numbers of free settlers. That particular issue became problematic later. In passing, it is worth noting that the Perth Gazette (November 9, 1849) believed the Secretary of State in London had taken advantage of Fitzgerald to the colony's detriment.

The first three convict ships arrived in 1850. Under Fitzgerald's stewardship about half of the convicts already had or soon received 'tickets of leave' and many were eventually allowed to seek private employment for wages. The early days of the convictism were more difficult, especially in terms of accommodation of the prisoners. The Fremantle Harbour Master, Daniel Scott, generously allowed the Comptroller General of Convicts to rent a warehouse of his own – along with a well – as premises to shelter them. The arrival of pensioner soldiers as guards (that is, the Enrolled Pensioner

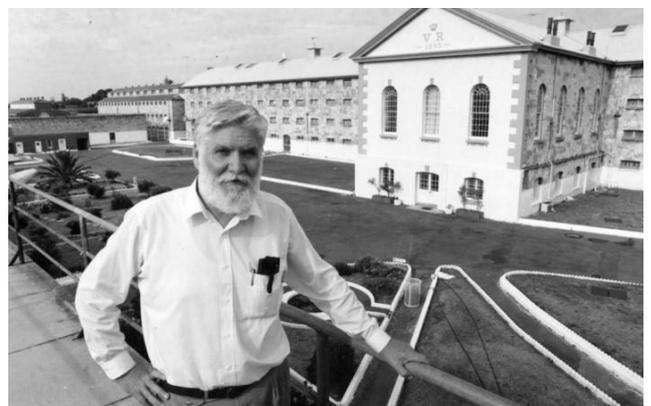
Force) helped create a necessary degree of security in the minds of colonists.

In terms of convict labour infrastructure projects were the key elements on the agenda. Perhaps the most important was old Fremantle Prison. Fitzgerald planned to put convicts to work on the project as soon as sufficient numbers of convicts arrived. Construction began as early as May 1851 (not 1852 – see Battye, p212). Vital building operations on that formidable stronghold ended on June 1, 1855 – exactly one month before the Governor and his wife left the colony. Additional sections were finalised in 1859. The Governor deserves a lot of personal credit for mobilising all available resources to begin and finalise assorted infrastructure tasks in the colony – and for creating a relatively humane convict system. His most important subordinate official Captain Edmund Henderson (Royal engineers), the very competent Comptroller General of Convicts, deserves equal credit and recognition.

We have solid evidence that the gentlemen had good reason to be unhappy about several developments in WA. Both men were in London during 1856 and at the centre of some stormy deliberations about the convict system in the colony.



VALE JAMES SEMPLE KERR



James Semple (Jim) Kerr views the Fremantle Prison on his last visit (Fremantle Herald/Michael Wearne). His death was

announced on October 15 and left many Fremantle History Society and Fremantle Society members sad. He was that sort of man. His conservation plan for the Fremantle Prison paved the way for it to be World Heritage listed.

Jim Kerr died at age 82. He had worked at Qantas management until 1972 then did a diploma on conservation and Ph.D. at York University. His beloved wife Joan took her doctorate at the same institution and the same time. They were an interesting pair: Jim towering, Joan tiny. Jim soon established a reputation for his word-economical conservation reports on colonial prisons. When Dianne Davidson first rang him in 1987 she was immediately impressed by his scholarship - and wit. "Sounds like bringing coal to Newcastle" he responded to her invitation. He was referring to the presence of Rob McKenzie Campbell and his work in Fremantle Prison.

None the less, he came and his work laid the grounds for the redevelopment of the Prison into a sustainable heritage and future use precinct creating the often tricky balance between integrity and significance and commercial imperatives.

And he returned to do a review of the conservation plan 6 years later. A chance to iron out a few of the wrinkles in the first edition and to build on the work that had occurred in the meantime.

His influence was far reaching including a central role in the drafting of the original Burra Charter. He will be sadly missed by the heritage movement across Australia.



FREMANTLE HISTORY CENTRE

Staff in the history collection and in the Library generally was deeply saddened in August when long term volunteer, Margaret Rear passed away. Margaret worked for nearly 14 years in the collection and her

contribution to the collection cannot be under estimated, she is sadly missed.

This quarter of the year is always busy as the new budget is available to commence projects to reformat material in the coming financial year. So in the quarter copies of the Fremantle Gazette have been microfilmed from 31st January 2006 to 15th May 2007. Additionally, approximately 41 hours of oral history interviews have been digitised.

It has been the quarter of large donations to the collection. Local photographer Roger Garwood has donated a large collection of his photographs in various formats including negatives, prints and slides. The photographs relate mainly to water activities in Fremantle including ocean racing such as the Americas Cup. We also received a large collection of papers and photographs from Les lauder a local businessmen, former City of Fremantle Councillor and long term member of the Fremantle Society. The papers include documentation relating to his time working on the committee of the Fremantle Society as well as a large collection of black and white images of many of the heritage building in Fremantle taken in the 1970s. They will add significantly to the photographic record of heritage buildings in Fremantle during this period.

The collection has been working with the Fremantle History Society to create an index for the society's newsletters and Part 1 of the index will be launched at Fremantle Studies day on the 19th October at Victoria Hall. The Society was also successful in winning a grant application for a significance assessment for the Deckchair Theatre archives from the National Library's Community Heritage Grants Program. The significance assessment will be conducted shortly after which a decision will be made about where the records will be held.

Staff continue to add data to the new digital content management software and at this time a total of 773 images have been

entered on the database. Staff is also working towards the migration of over 5000 the images from the original database to this software, hopefully the images will soon appear in one database which will significantly enhance search capabilities for researchers.

A brief selection of items recently added to the collection are listed below:

Atwell buildings and Atwell Arcade : heritage assessment, 2014, Town Planning Urban Design and Heritage
725.21 TOW

The military establishment in Western Australia 1829-1863, 2010, Whitely, Erskine Shackson.
LH 355.009941 WHI

Report on property known as 115 and 115A Hampton Road, South Fremantle Lot 303 P., 1994
LH 728.3 SWA

Swanning around Perth : an exploration of the black swan in our city / Alex George & Charmaine Cave. 2014-10-13
LH 704.946 GEO



MYSTERY MAN AT SOUTH FREMANTLE POST OFFICE

Ron Davidson received this email recently from Fremantle Press.

Please pass on this inquiry for author Ron Davidson -

Dear Ron

I recently acquired a copy of your beautiful book - *Fremantle Impressions* - published 2007 by Fremantle Arts Centre Press. On p 253 is a photo that I would like to know more about. The caption reads, *Mail men outside South Fremantle Post Office c1896*.

My husband's grandfather was Harry Cooper (1864-1930). He did the mail run from South Fremantle to Rockingham in a horse and cart, so I am trying to discover if the figure on the right hand side, hiding behind the horse, is indeed Harry. We know little about him except he was extremely camera shy - no known photos - and as a result of a childhood accident he was crippled in one leg.

I know this is a long shot expecting that you may have additional information. I have contacted the WA Genealogy Society and the Fremantle Library so I could be lucky at some point in this quest.

Congratulations on the book again.

Denise Miller, Canberra ACT.
(Denise married into the Miller family, Palmyra, so was thrilled to see the Miller - Duggan family pictured on p 121 of *Fremantle Impressions*.)



This is the photo Denise hopes includes a picture of her husband's grandfather (Fremantle History Centre, 1410)

Neither Ron nor the Fremantle History Centre is able to help Denise. If anyone has any information about our mystery man, please contact either Ron on 9430 6096 or ronaldi@iprimus.com.au or the Fremantle Press.



Over the last year or so we have had some new blood on the committee. Over the next few newsletters we will introduce you to them.



(DR) JENNIFER DUDLEY

I came to live in Fremantle in 1998 to commence my Masters in Philosophy in Asian Studies and Media Communications and Culture at Murdoch University after a working life spent mainly in South Australia.

My early life included study in and ongoing connections with Indonesia, teaching and project work elsewhere in Australia and arts administration for Errabella Arts including exhibition development and curation. I was also given the chance for some retraining in digital media thanks to a grant from the Australian Film Commission.

Shortly after commencing my studies at Murdoch I was offered the chance to upgrade to a PhD, which I accepted with sessional teaching in Media, Communications and Information at Curtin University. This was my personal 'new future' although I did occasionally reflect on my previous patchwork academic career teaching textile Crafts & Design for TAFE and Visual Arts and Art History at the Salisbury Campus of the University of SA. Due to emerging problems with my lungs, this change of location and direction did eventually seem to be a very good idea.

Like most mature age PhD students many challenges arose in the years between commencement and completion but I had decided that if I was still living in Fremantle and physically able to do so, I would return to finding out more about this particular part of the world. I joined FHS last year, reprising my initial involvement in groups, organisations and events in Fremantle. Right now I am enjoying my time on the committee and am productively engaged with several special FHS activities like Studies Day and an exhibition for the Fremantle Festival.



FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas AND birthday celebrations – Villa Roma, High St, Fremantle. 6.30 PM, Tuesday 25 November. \$50 a head including champagne on arrival. Bookings essential by Fri 21 November. Secretary.fhs@gmail.com or phone Madison Lloyd-Jones on 0433 844 290.

The committee wish members, friends and supporters a very happy and safe festive season and we look forward to welcoming you to a Fremantle History Society event in 2015.

