



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Autumn Edition, 2015

Editors: Dianne Davidson, Anne Brake, Ron Davidson

The First Fremantle Eight Hours Demonstration Committee 1899.



Nixon & Merrilese,

Fremantle.

S. Hill. C. Strassers (Trustee). W. A. Vance (Trustee). H. Evans. W. Bell. J. J. Cooker.
D. McNeenan. J. J. O'Farrell (Trustee). E. Drake (President). J. P. Rasmussen (Secretary). W. Davidson (Vice-President).

A PHOTOGRAPHIC TREASURE FROM ACROSS THE WORLD

This fascinating photograph was donated to the Fremantle History Centre by Jonna Green a resident of Denmark, the country. Joanna is a descendant of James Rasmussen who is in the photograph (front row) second from the right. James was involved in several labour organisations including secretary of the Lumper's Union and secretary for the First Fremantle

Eight Hours Demonstration Committee in 1899. He lived in East Fremantle for around 10 years but left and returned to Denmark when his wife died in 1899. The donation also included several booklets which indicated his involvement in the Order of Buffaloes and the Order of Rechabites. It was very kind of Jonna to take the trouble to post the large photograph which adds some new information about James Rasmussen and Fremantle's labour history.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Fremantle's Fallen 1914-1918

Over 3000 men and women from the greater Fremantle area served in World War 1. 849 of them were dead by the war's end – a great loss for a small, close-knit community. Society member and local historian Andrew Pittaway and our own History Society secretary, Madison Lloyd-Jones will share

some of the moving stories unearthed and shared by their descendants.

City of Fremantle Reception Room, entry via the staircase across from MANY6160 (the old Myer building).

Sunday 17 May, 3.30 – 5.00PM



This event is part of the Fremantle Heritage Festival and the National Trust Heritage Festival. The Fremantle History Society is pleased to support both

Details for our June meeting are still being finalised. A separate flier will be distributed. Stay tuned

The Dockers Come of Age +AGM

Since the formation of the West Australian Football Association in 1885, Fremantle has become synonymous with Australian Rules football.

For generations, fierce rivalries between East, South and North Fremantle would draw record crowds and produce champion players, with many inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame.

In 1994, when the AFL was to launch a second West Australian AFL team, the rich football history and culture of Fremantle made it the perfect fit.

Since entering the competition as decided underdogs in 1995, Fremantle's hunger for success and never-say-die attitude has seen it develop into a strong, competitive club with one of the AFL's most passionate supporter bases.

Sports historian and Society committee member, Dr Steve Errington, will explore the history of the local team which turns 21 this year.

Steve's talk will follow the formal business of the Society's Annual General Meeting.

City of Fremantle Reception Room, entry via the staircase across from MANY6160 (the old Myer building).

Tuesday 28 July, 6 PM. Enjoy a delicious supper after the talk.



MEETING REPORTS

FREMANTLE BRIDGES

It was the kind of evening that makes you glad you live in Fremantle. It was a beautiful sunset. We met right beside the river under the magical criss-cross of timbers that make the sub-structure of the old traffic bridge. The temperature was balmy and there was a light breeze playing.

Retired engineers Peter Palmer and Don Young, both of the Heritage Panel of Engineers Australia, gave eager listeners just the right kind of information and technical detail. Simple, well illustrated handouts, reinforced their talks and are available on the History Society's website (www.fhs.org.au) for those who would like to refresh their memories or who were unable to join us on the night.

Long-time advocate of the conservation of the heritage values and retention of Cantonment Hill for public use, Stephen Anstey, spoke briefly at the end of the meeting about the future of the hill and the uncertainty surrounding the City of Fremantle's plans for the place. A unanimous vote by those at the meeting requested President, Anne Brake, write to the City of Fremantle supporting moves to enhance rather than detract from future access to Cantonment Hill and the signal station. A copy of the letter is also on the Society's website. Sadly, there has been no response from the City to date.

Members then slaked their thirst at the Left Bank, several staying on to enjoy the atmosphere and some dinner.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Don Reid, a keen and devoted parishioner, took members and their friends on a wonderful journey, both physically and historically, through Kings/St John Square, from the earliest times of settlement through to the vibrant church of today.

The original St John's was in the centre of the square but was demolished when the town council wanted to extend High St through the middle of it and the square. The church still owns a large section of the square and is once again negotiating with the City with regards the new Kings Square Development.

Don's enthusiasm and passion for the history of the church and its precinct was impressive and infectious.

The Rev Dr David Wood was disappointed he was not able to join us on the day but was pleased Don had been such a worthy ambassador for the Church. Thank you to both of them for access to this important site.

FOR THE TOUCH OF A VANISHED HAND – ST PAUL'S CHURCH

On Tuesday 21 April, we had the pleasure of welcoming Alan Pearson who had come all the way from Queensland to deliver a talk on the honour boards at St Paul's Church, Beaconsfield.

The audience was a mix of St Paul's and Fremantle History Society members (many affiliated with both) including Alan Pearson's own mother who has been a lifelong member of the Church and was the one to introduce Alan to the investigation into the honour boards – now his great passion.

Alan was able to tell us a lot about the history of the Church especially as it related

to World War One and the post-war period and details of the honour board itself – including pointing out typos, one so extensive that the soldier doesn't exist, although Alan has worked out what the surname should have been.

Surprisingly, not all of the men on the board were members of St Pauls Church. Rather it was an opportunity for members to honour their loved ones which included family members across the state and as far as nephews across the world in the British Forces.

The company was lovely with most of the audience first remaining for a long question and answer session after the talk and then staying on for drinks, nibbles, and lively discussion in the beautiful amphitheatre at the back of the Church.

Many thanks to the St Paul's community for allowing us such open access to their Church and facilities.



HOMER NODS ...

Ron Davidson

When the War Came To Fremantle, by Deborah Gare and Madison Lloyd-Jones, has won considerable praise for its intelligent use of photographs taken over almost 50 years to tell a Fremantle story. The photographs are researched with care.



A well known face – but what's his name
(original photo WAN.WAR 1187,
When war came to Fremantle, p 127)

However, on page 127, Homer nods. Titled 'a father meet his son, possibly for the first time' the picture fails to identify the RAAF officer featured. It is one of the best known faces in Fremantle: that of Ross Hutchinson.

The service ribbons being examined by his son include the distinctive diagonal stripes of the Distinguished Flying Cross. Hutchinson won this rare medal for coaxing the tatters of a Lancaster bomber across Europe and back to Britain during WW2. His relieved crew cheered their skipper on landing.

Ross Hutchinson coached East Fremantle and West Perth to football premierships and, post war, he captained and coached South Fremantle in its glory years. Later he entered politics for the Liberal Party, which was rare for Fremantle. He became Minister for Health and Chief Secretary, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly - and Sir Ross. I got to know him while I worked as a journalist and did political rounds.



CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE AWARDS 2015

The History Society is proud to have nominated long time member Wendy Markmann for the category to recognise a person contributing to the social heritage of Fremantle/East Fremantle. Like many, Wendy is a quiet achiever and has a strong attachment to and care for the history and heritage of Fremantle.

Fremantle is known for its heritage champions, and there is none more tireless or dedicated than Wendy Shaw Markmann. When young, she and her family lived in one of the huts the Army had built at Gun Park during the war, now the playing field at John Curtin College of the Arts. This early association resulted in a life-long attachment to and interest in the area. She has been the driving force behind valuable restoration work and historic interpretation carried out at

the park, ensuring that its origins as Skinner Street Cemetery would not be forgotten.

Along with a group of dedicated volunteers, Wendy embarked on a project to mark the area so people would recognise its significance. This resulted in a limestone memorial designed by architect and local resident, Alan Ross. An opening ceremony was held in June 2005 with Mayor Peter Tagliaferri, cutting the ribbon. She later wrote to the Mayor requesting signage; the lookout attracted interest but people driving past were unsure what it represented.



Historical researcher Wendy Markham by the new limestone wall. Picture: Bruce Hunt
Fremantle Gazette, 28 June 2005

The last remaining section of the old cemetery wall stood along Vale Street. The wall was constructed in 1852 by convict labour using locally quarried stone and is therefore of considerable cultural heritage significance. It is also the only visible evidence remaining of Skinner Street Cemetery. Having been allowed to deteriorate over the years the wall was in a very poor state and was in desperate need of careful and appropriate conservation work. Wendy found an Italian stone mason, Piero Casellati, who specialised in conservation work. He was very admiring of the convicts' stonework and was keen to take on the job of repairing it. Wendy took on the difficult task of applying for grant funding from Lotterywest to assist with the costs. The conservation work was completed in 2014 ensuring that this highly significant wall is retained as an integral part of Fremantle's heritage for future generations.

Since the early 2000's Wendy and the Friends of the Eastern Gates Lookout have continued to plant native seedlings, weed, prune and generally maintain the area.

But Wendy's passion for history extends well beyond the physical features of Fremantle. In 2009 she nominated her favourite Fremantle restaurant, Culley's Tea Rooms, for the Spirit of Heritage Award. She has been visiting Culley's with her family since she was a small child; her mother, Floris, frequented Culley's as a teenager. This establishment is firmly lodged in people's memories as a true Fremantle icon, the source of much fond memories, and it is still as popular today as it was when Wendy was a child. Her loyalty and glowing nomination won the Spirit of Heritage Award for Culley's in 2009.

Wendy Markmann is a tireless advocate for those less fortunate than herself and those who, for one reason or another, have no voice. In 2004 the mutilated body of 17-year-old Danish sailor, Jens Braendgaard, was found in the east end of Fremantle Christmas Day 1963. He had been ashore just 12 hours, and while there were several leads the horrific crime was never solved.

By his family's account he was a gentle, peace-loving young person, passionate about music. Wendy was particularly touched by the story of this unfortunate young man, just seventeen and ashore such a short time. She made contact and corresponded with his family in Denmark and, enlisting the support of the Flying Angel Club, Shacks Holden and Fremantle City Council, organised a bronze plaque to be mounted at the site where his body was found. A service of remembrance was conducted in a memorial garden planted at the site on 30th November 2004. Wendy emailed the family in Denmark and sent them photos of the service, which they had published by their local newspaper.

Wendy has been a member of the Fremantle History Society for over a decade and is a regular at Society meetings and

events. She has also contributed to the Society's newsletter and made representation to the committee regarding issues she feels are important in the preservation of Fremantle's history and heritage.

(compiled by Kristi McNulty,
Fremantle History Centre)

The Heritage Awards will be held at The National Hotel on Tuesday 12 May.



BYE MARG - WE'LL MISS YOU

Ron Davidson

Margaret McPherson was a foundation member of the Fremantle History Society and its first treasurer but she wondered whether such a body was needed in Fremantle. She would say: "I'm a Fremantle girl and everyone in Fremantle knows everyone else - and their business". Despite such doubts Margaret was one of our keenest members although when she moved to Mandurah she had problems getting to meetings. Margaret died in August and many history society members were present at her funeral service. It was a sad but rousing occasion.

Margaret was born in 1931, a "Fremantle girl with a South Fremantle father (Wilfred) and a North Fremantle mother (Margaret)". She always wanted to be a nurse and, having completed her Junior Certificate, started training at Fremantle Hospital in 1951, under the legendary Matron Olive Jones. One of her early memories was how, when some beds were empty over Christmas, some of those who lived rough near the Smelters came for a little TLC from the nurses.

Margaret became a specialist clinical nurse. She married Doug, who was then a sailor, in 1958. She nursed for 36 years then took up history with typical enthusiasm and determination. She took out a Murdoch BA in 1992 followed by a Masters in public history. When she joined the History Society in 1994 she became friendly with Anne Brake who was then curator at the

Fremantle Prison. For 11 years she devoted a day a week as a volunteer, working on the prison photo collection. She also added a strong voice when she saw inappropriate things happening at the prison like a cafe at the entrance. She died still striving to get her manuscript on the Lunatic Asylum published. She also carried a strong belief that current Fremantle was not the place she remembered from the thirties and forties. And not as good.



Marg in her nursing days
(Fremantle History Centre, 4451)

Marg said what she thought. We loved her for it - and so much else.



NEW LIFE FOR FREMANTLE SOCIETY

Ron Davidson

The Fremantle Society called a special general meeting on April 21 with the society's future in real doubt. However, nearly 80 members and supporters attended at the Fremantle Tennis Club and the mood was decidedly optimistic. Two motions were on the agenda. One referred to the need to fill executive positions and have an effective committee. The second motion was that the Fremantle Society be dissolved and its assets be distributed according to the Constitution. This would have required the support of 75 percent of members present. This motion lapsed for want of any support.

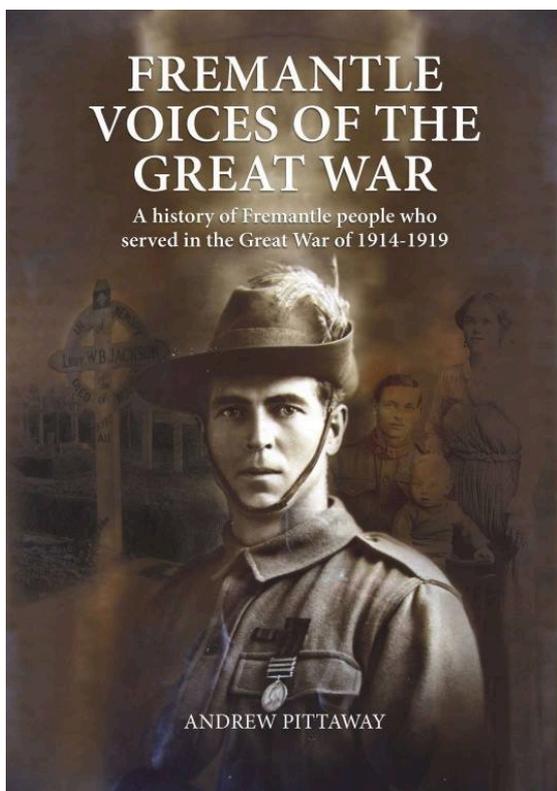
The meeting closed with an effective committee and good prospects of filling the executive positions. One of those seconded to the committee was Don Whittington who has had a long record of service with the Fremantle Society. He came forward when a motion was last put to disband the Society in 1988-9. At the 1989 annual general meeting two hundred attended and when the dissolution motion was put it lapsed for want of any supporters. Don was elected president unopposed. The Society then went from strength to strength.

The History Society sent a letter of support to the Fremantle Society encouraging them to continue their important work. Its very pleasing the Society has rallied and we look forward to future meetings and projects once again.



FREMANTLE VOICES OF THE GREAT WAR by Andrew Pittaway

After a decade of meticulous research and tireless efforts, Andrew Pittaway launched his book of Fremantle soldier stories on



Saturday 18 April. *Fremantle Voices of the Great War: History of Fremantle people who served in the Great War of 1914-1919* tells the story of the war service of over 3000 men and women from the Fremantle region who served in World War One. Andrew has drawn on and shared diary entries, letters, oral histories and over two hundred photos, many never before published.

The reception to Andrew's book was overwhelmingly positive with the Army Museum function room overflowing with people (some had to stand on the balcony outside!) and a host of VIP speakers shared glowing accounts of the book and Andrew's efforts including Mayor Brad Pettitt, and Senator Linda Reynolds CSC (ex Brigadier in the Australian Army). The Hon Melissa Parke MP officially launched the book and reported that "this work succeeds in transporting us into turn-of-the-century Fremantle, and allows us to keep company with the likes of Private William Renton and Sergeant Ted Mofflin as they navigate the tasks and experiences of that terrible period of our history."



Andrew with Melissa Parke MP and Senator Linda Reynolds at the launch

Fremantle Voices is selling for \$50 and copies can be obtained from Andrew Pittaway directly – 0417 296 009 or fremantleww1@hotmail.com .

Congratulations, Andrew!



FORGOTTEN HEROES of WW1 CONCERT

Jennifer Warren's uncle was awarded a posthumous VC in 1917. In the 3rd Battle of Gaza, he continually went out under fire to save the wounded and decades later was written about as a "Forgotten Hero of Military Medicine".

As part of the Fremantle Heritage Festival, Jennifer will present a programme of classical music and poetry, honouring the composers of that period, many of whom were also *Forgotten Heroes*, but who, despite the violent times, left a legacy of beautiful music.

The concert will feature popular tenor Jay Weston and will include members of St Paul's church reading poetry of the period. Janice Miller-Eves and Jay Weston will sing the ever popular "We'll Gather Lilacs" by Ivor Novello and Art songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams. A Highlight of the concert will be Debussy's Trio for Harp (Bronwyn Wallis), Viola and Flute, and Bishop David Murray will conclude the concert with a Lament played on the bagpipes.

Tickets available at the door from Janice, Jenny and Joan and through Ticketbooth.com.au

Concession: \$20 ... Adult \$25 ... School children \$15 and a special for St Paul's Seniors: 6 tickets for \$90

Fremantle Town Hall
Sunday, 10 May ... 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Part proceeds to LEGACY



FREMANTLE HISTORY CENTRE

We are really pleased to announce the Fremantle City Library's History Centre has added its online historic photograph collection to the National Library's Trove database. Fremantle City Library is the first Western Australian public library to do so.

The new image management system we are using, ContentDM, has solved previous problems of software incompatibility and Fremantle's images went live in February. Having this data accessible through Trove not only increases the exposure of materials held by the History Centre, but enhances the National Library's collaborative online discovery services. Images can be viewed on Trove at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/picture?q>

Microfilming of the local newspapers progresses. A further eight months of the Fremantle Gazette takes us up to January 2008, and four months of the Fremantle Herald, up to August 2007. Thirteen volumes of East Fremantle Water Rate Books, listing owners and occupants of East Fremantle properties from 1934 to 1948, have also been sent off for microfilming. Searching property history for the East Fremantle area has always been difficult because the rate books were inadvertently destroyed, and it will be helpful to now have this small collection more accessible.

All the History Centre librarians attended the 2015 WA Public Librarians Conference March 12/13. This is held biennially and is a terrific opportunity to catch up with latest innovations in the library world. The speakers were excellent this year, without exception, and we all left feeling much inspired. Pam Harris represented Fremantle City Library at the satellite event on the Thursday, discussing collaboration in services for seniors.

Staff have been busy collecting together material to make up a display recognising the local contribution to the Anzac war effort. We have had some interesting pieces loaned, such as a saddle from the 10th Light Horse Brigade, a brass handle from a message satchel, and a military trunk owned by a soldier who died in Gallipoli. It will be on show in the History Centre and was combined with the Council Anzac display in the Town Hall on the 25th.

Additions to the collection since January include:

2014 *Stout-hearted: the story of Stephen Montague Stout* / Irma Walter LH B/STO

2015 *The cinemas of Fremantle* / adapted from the website of Garry Gillard LH 725.822 CIN

2015 *Rusty Christensen: memoirs and Fremantle* / Rusty Christensen LH 994.11 CHR

And several volumes from the Studies of Western Australian History series:

1982 *Bosses, workers and unemployed* / edited by Lenore Layman LH 994.11 WES

1999 *Women and citizenship: suffrage centenary* / edited by Patricia Crawford and Judy Skene LH 994.11 WES

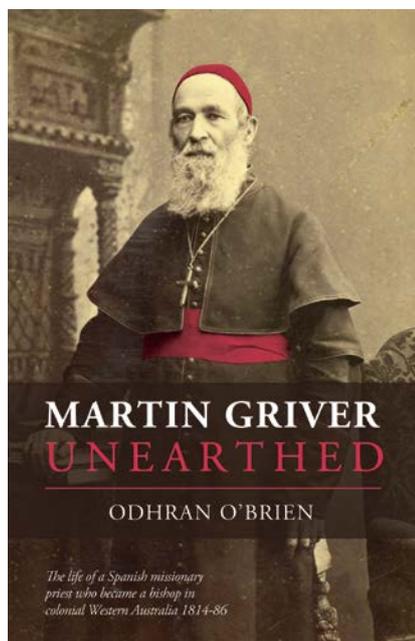
2003 *History and native title* / edited by Christine Choo and Shawn Hollbach LH 994.11 WES

2010 *Ethics and the practice of history* / edited by Cathie Clement LH 994.11 WES

2013 *Western Australia in the Indian Ocean World* / edited by Ruth Morgan, Cecilia Leong-Salobir and Jeremy Martens LH 994.11 WES

BISHOP MARTIN GRIVER UNEARTHED

Fremantle History Society member Odhran O'Brien has recently completed a biography of Bishop Martin Griver. The book, along with a biography of Archbishop Patrick Clune CSsR (by Fr



Christopher Dowd OP), were commissioned by the Perth Archdiocesan Historical Committee and launched on 18 April.

A friend of Bishop Rosendo Salvado, the founder of New Norcia, Griver was a priest and a surgeon. He had a particular concern for the underprivileged, the convicts and the Aboriginal people, travelling on horseback many times throughout his vast diocese to serve his community. Griver also commissioned the building of many schools and churches in the diocese including the first cathedral built on the Victoria Square site.

Griver spent time during the 1850s as chaplain to Fremantle and Perth and he regularly visited Fremantle Prison. As Vicar General (assistant to the bishop) of the diocese, Griver also helped fund and dedicated the first Catholic church in Fremantle - St Patrick's. It was in part due to his success in funding churches, such as St Patrick's, that Rome placed him in charge of the Diocese of Perth in 1865.

For further information or to purchase a copy contact booklaunch@outlook.com or phone 9201 1014.



FIRST FAMILY OF FREMANTLE – THE SAMSONS

The National Trust Heritage Festival and the Fremantle Heritage Festival give you a double opportunity to explore the history of one of Fremantle's best known families. The Fanny Samson Cottage Museum is housed in an 1830s building and contains artefacts from the Samson family – WA's oldest family run business. There will be a short presentation in the theaterette at **10.30AM** on **Friday 8 May**, followed by a visit to the museum and the adjacent cellar.

On the following **Friday, 15 May, from 2-4PM** Samson House will be open for viewing. Tours are every half hour. The

property was built by Michael, son of Lionel Samson who came to WA with his brother William on the first merchant ship to arrive in the colony. Its most famous resident, though, was Sir Fred Samson.



Freddie Samson's rose garden (Anne Brake)

FOR YOUR DIARY

May – Fremantle's Fallen – 1914 – 18

Madison Lloyd-Jones and Andrew Pittaway share stories of Fremantle's fallen

Sunday 17 May, 3.30 – 5PM, City of Fremantle Reception Rooms. Enter via the stairs across from MANY 6010 (the old Myer building)

June – details still being confirmed

July AGM – Dockers Come of Age

Celebrate the Port cities national football team as they turn 21. Steve Errington will entertain us with their rocky road to adulthood.

Tuesday 28 July, 6PM, City of Fremantle Reception Rooms. Enter via the stairs across from MANY 6010 (the old Myer building)



N DEAR DEE

The History Society has lost another of its stalwarts. Born in the UK, Dee and Ruth Shelley came to Fremantle in the early 2000s where they made a life. He made lasting friendships and significant contributions to Men of the Trees, the Roundhouse Guides, cubs, scouts and St Paul's Church as well as being a regular at Fremantle History Society events for many years, not letting his confinement to a wheel chair stop him from participating as much as his health would allow.

A descendant of novelist Mary Shelley and poet Percy Shelley, Dee was proud of English heritage (another of his antecedents was beheaded in the Tower of London). His positive and generous nature will be sadly missed by many including members of the Society.



Dee at home (with thanks to David Hawks and St Paul's Parish newsletter)



YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up in July and nominations for the committee will be called soon.

It is important to refresh our committee with new blood and to bring new ideas into the work of the Society.

Please think about putting your hand up for the committee or for other tasks as they arise. Contact President, Anne Brake, for more details on 0438 445 141.