



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

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High St, Fremantle, c. 1905
Fremantle History Centre, LH000903

WEST END REGISTRATION – FHS RESPONSE

Bob Reece, President

As noted in the last newsletter, the State Office of Heritage is working with the city of Fremantle to determine the boundary or curtilage of and the statement of significance for the West End of Fremantle which is to be inscribed in the State Register of Heritage Places. The State Heritage Office has called for public comment on the draft registration documentation. Further details, including a map of the proposed registration is at <http://www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/state-heritage-register/fremantle-west-end>. Members of the Fremantle History Society committee drafted a response which was discussed at the March committee meeting. The following has been submitted on behalf of the Fremantle History Society.

The Fremantle History Society welcomes the initiative taken by Fremantle City Council and the State Heritage Office to list Fremantle's West End as a precinct in the register of heritage places. This listing recognises the historical importance and unique architectural integrity of the West End and hopefully adds another level of heritage protection for buildings that are already

listed individually for their heritage value by putting them into their broader streetscape and planning context

The Society is nevertheless troubled by the significant omission of the Arthur Head A Class Reserve from the area demarcated in the draft listing and its accompanying maps as the West End, and by the rationale provided in the Heritage Office's explanatory statement that the West End precinct is determined by the town as it was modified by the goldrush era of the 1890s. This seems to us to be a far too narrow definition of what should formally constitute the West End, which reflects a longer and more varied historical evolution and experience than is comprised in the overly narrow focus on the short-lived goldrush era.

The West End of Fremantle remains very much a reflection of the original town plan devised by JS Roe to fit the geographical restraints of the narrow Fremantle peninsula, the Round House lock-up and (long since demolished) court houses and maritime buildings on Arthur Head constituting a law-and-order and maritime administration sub-precinct serving the needs of the adjacent commercial and residential area of the original town and its Cliff St and High St hubs. The strong visual connection between the two has been there from the outset. We strongly support the incorporation of the Arthur Head Reserve in the West end precinct as an integral part of the old town that is commonly called the West End.

At the same time, we support the listing of King's Square, as noted in the Rosario/Willis document, as a precinct in its own right, featuring as it does a public space bordered by local government buildings and the city's original (and continuing) centre of worship. The FHS will forward further detail relating to this.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Prof Bob Reece (President) 9335 7892
Steve Errington (Vice President) 9367 5504

Pam Harris (Secretary)	9432 9739(W)
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Committee Members:	
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Cathy Hall	0407 086 300
Peter Conole	9319 2191
Ron Davidson	9430 6096
Jennifer Dudley	

General meetings are generally 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.**

We are always looking for ideas for meetings and encourage you to contact committee members with suggestions for places to visit or learn about.



COMING EVENTS

FREMANTLE PUBS

In 1982 Allen Graham began a study of Fremantle hotels. He has amassed an enormous amount of information over that time and will give us a glimpse of it at our May meeting.

Allen's talk will cover the period ending in 1856 when Governor Kennedy reduced the number of hotels at the colony to just five! While the focus is on hotels, Allen's work covers considerable and wider social history as one would expect given their place in the community in port towns like Fremantle.

In some cases the early hotels reappeared under different or the same names. The Orient, where we will be meeting, appears in Allen's talk as the Emerald Isle where much of the planning for the escape of the Fenians took place.

Allen has already made a presentation to the society on early duels in Fremantle which evolved from his early

hotel research. He was born and bred in Fremantle and he and two brothers were Fremantle City Councillors.

Join Allen and members and guests in the back room at the Orient Hotel on **Tuesday 24 May at 6pm**. Drinks from the bar after the talk as well as tea and coffee. Pub snacks will be the fare for the evening. The Orient Hotel is at 39 High St.

"WHEN TOO MUCH FOOTBALL IS NEVER ENOUGH"

The title of Steve Errington's new book *Disorderly Proceedings in the Park: Western Australian Football in Colonial Times*, says it all. Football games in the 1890s could be violent affairs. The title of Steve Errington's monthly talk reflects one newspaper headline after a riotous game at Fremantle Park when the umpire was attacked and had to be escorted to the train.

Following the formation of the WA Football League in 1885 some great football has been played and some long standing and bitter rivalries established. All these make for a rollicking tale. Join members and friends at the **City of Fremantle Reception Rooms (off Kings Square) at 6PM Tuesday 28 June**.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – NORTH FREMANTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL REDEVELOPED

A number of us gathered for our 2014 annual general meeting at the soon to be developed North Fremantle Primary School – known as Stirling House. Owned by the National Trust, the building was to be transformed into a childcare centre with significant funding assistance from the Schools of Early Learning which also have centres in Nedlands and West Leederville.

The new North Fremantle Schools of Early Learning has now been operating for 18 months or so and is a terrific example of adaptive reuse of a heritage building. Its regeneration into an education facility for the 21st century means the place remains a key

part of the community while operating in a way very similar to what it was designed for.

We plan to revisit the school not just to see what happens there now, but to give members a chance to meet the new National Trust CEO, Julian Donaldson. Julian began at the Trust in January this year, taking over from Tom Perrigo who had been in the position for over 25 years.

Given the role of the Trust in heritage and community across WA, it will be a good opportunity for members to hear what Julian has to say about his vision for the Trust over the next 5 years and where Fremantle fits into it.

The AGM will begin at 6 pm on Tuesday 26 July. Julian's presentation will follow and we will end with the usual supper.

Stirling House (the old North Fremantle Primary School), 101 Stirling Highway North Fremantle (parking on site). 6PM.



MEETING REPORTS

PORT AUTHORITY

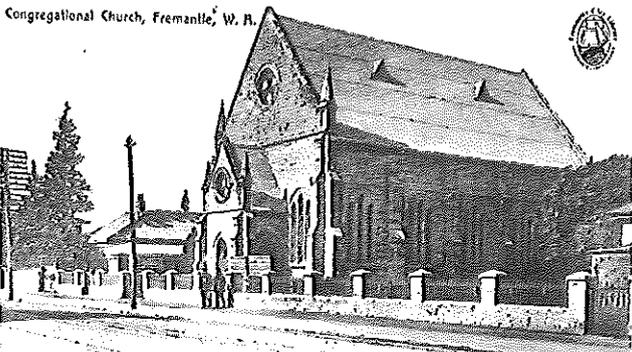
The Fremantle History Society's monthly meeting for February was full of surprises. External Affairs Officer, Ainslie De Vos, took thirty plus members and visitors on a trip through the Fremantle Port Authority building. She started in the foyer with a look at a Howard Taylor mosaic, named after the Roman god of rivers and ports, Portunus. Howard Taylor, the celebrated Western Australian artist, created his mosaic to tell the story of a Roman boy who rode a dolphin to guide ships safely into port. It was a story with a rich resonance at the Fremantle port. The crowd loved it and other Taylor works we encountered on our travels along with photographs and art pieces.

It was dusk when we moved to the roof of this fine example of a fifties building and looked across into the port operation sector.

Fish and chips followed at the fishing harbour. However, the usually reliable dolphins failed to show.

EARLY PLACES OF WORSHIP IN FREMANTLE

The March meeting was well attended and everyone enjoyed the informative talk by Steve Errington about early places of worship in Fremantle. It was particularly interesting to see photographs of churches and associated buildings which have since been demolished. These include the Johnston Memorial Church in Adelaide Street, the original St John's Church in Kings Square, the Baptist Church in South Terrace and the original Wesley Church and Hall located in Cantonment Street.



Johnston Memorial Church
Fremantle History Centre LH001227B

It was also interesting to hear about the early ministers and pastors who helped to establish the churches. Also a discussion of the statistics Steve provided was interesting demonstrated the different religions in the early colony and how the numbers grew over the 19th century.



St John's Church, 1845
Fremantle History Centre LH000032

Thanks to Steve for a very interesting talk. Look out for the next issue of Studies in WA History which will include a more detailed article by Steve about Fremantle's early churches.



Baptist Church
Fremantle History Centre E000898-04



Wesley Church and Hall
Fremantle History Centre LH001635

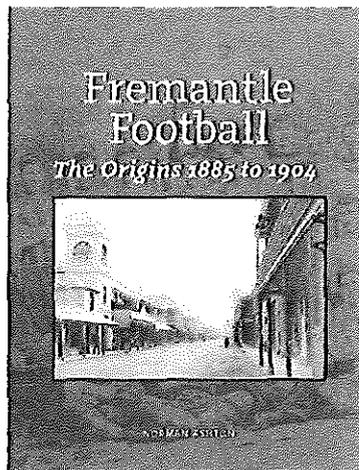


TWO NEW BOOKS ON EARLY WA FOOTY

Steve Errington

The early years in sporting history are usually glossed over in the rush to celebrate glamorous events of more recent times. But in April two new books appeared, both focused on the early seasons of WA football; both written by retired academics. With the Dockers struggling, footy fans might like to check out happier times for Fremantle football.

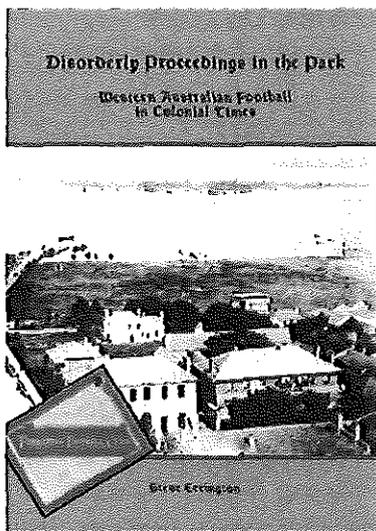
Fremantle is often called 'the cradle of West Australian football', and Norm Ashton's book *Fremantle Football: The Origins 1885 to 1904* covers the twenty seasons following the formation of the West Australian



Football League (now WAFL) by Hugh Dixson in May 1885. This was a period dominated by two different Fremantle Football Clubs (blue and white, red and white) and East Fremantle, with Imperials, South Fremantle and now-forgotten North Fremantle also competitive at times.

site of Uglieland. Fred was unaware of the existence of the place, so Blue is filling him in ...

"Boxing under the Marquis of Queensbury Rules and to a lesser extent, wrestling were popular sports back in the 1920s and 30s. Most pubs had a gymnasium attached to them with a well-known pugilist running it. One that springs to mind was the Newmarket in South Fremantle where George Thompson, a former heavyweight champion of Australia was mine host. This plethora of gyms meant there was a ready stream of contenders available to fight for a small purse when they got the opportunity at Uglieland. Their names have slipped into obscurity with the passing of time," Blue explained and then continued, "I still have a few running around in my memory bank – 'Arty' Tanner and his brother were well known locals who fought there – I went to school with their younger brother, Ken, at East Fremantle. 'Bull' McCoy was another as was Cyril Brine. A young Fremantle Italian, Nick Rotondella, fought there before creating another Fremantle institution, the Fremantle Fish Supply. Nick fought among the lightweights as he was a little bloke with a face of many battles as evidenced by his flattened nose and cauliflower ears. He had a great personality and in fact everybody thought that he owned the business which was not so; it was owned by the Paino family and ultimately became Sealanes.



Steve Errington's book *Disorderly Proceedings in the Park: Western Australian Football in Colonial Times* is mostly concerned with Australian Rules football in Fremantle and Perth, but finds room for country and goldfields football, and rugby and soccer. It

begins with our first football match in 1868 and neatly concludes with the 1900 season - the end of the century, WA on the brink of Statehood and the WAFL season contested by West Perth, East Fremantle, Perth and South Fremantle. Hear more about it at our June meeting.



DID YOU KNOW?

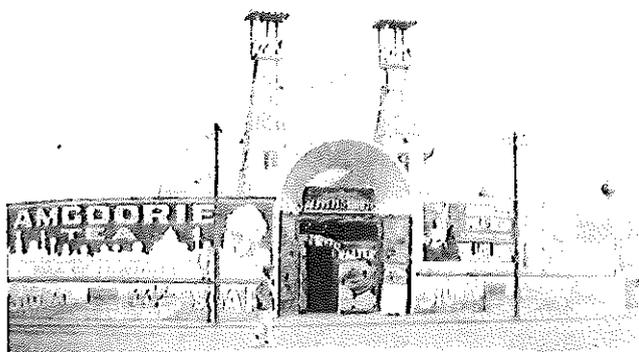
Rusty Christensen

Rusty (AKA Blue) Christensen's reminiscences of Uglieland and continue from the last edition. You will remember two chaps were standing at Pioneer Park, the

The Ugly Men's Association also had a band based at Ugly Land. It was called the Fu- Fu Band. They made their own instruments on site here, except for the drum. They were excellent imitations of wind instruments but not at all musical. They were fitted with a gazoooca which was a kind of a tin whistle which when blown made a droning sound. The members of the band wore a braided tunic and peaked caps; they looked the part even though they droned the same sound.

I had the good fortune to see them marching up Market St past Nick's Fish Shop one Friday afternoon. I was with my mother and the other Catholics who were purchasing

their Friday fish, as was the custom. The memory of the Fu-Fu Band has stayed with me ever since."



Fremantle History Centre LH001276

"We started this discussion with 'did you know?', and we have covered parts of Fremantle history that even the Fremantle mob don't know," explained Blue before continuing, "But then you wouldn't expect them to know which way is up, half of them have just come in on the train, the rest are 'arty fartys' and academics and wouldn't want to know about Uglieland."

Fred's laconic reply was, "Yeah Blue, you're right."



FREMANTLE HISTORY CENTRE NEWS

Pam Hartree

The Fremantle History Society recently received a request from the WA Police to assist in the cold case review of the murder of Danish seaman Jens Braendgaard in 1963. The request was forwarded to the History Centre and Staff were able to assist with aerial photographs over different periods of time which were useful to the investigation. In 2004 Wendy Markmann, local historian and Fremantle History Society member, organised a memorial for the 17 year old young man who was murdered near the intersection of James and Beach Streets after having been ashore less than 12 hours. His killer was never found. Many requests come through the society for information which are usually handled by the History Centre.

In March the centre began conducting one on one training sessions in family history research using Ancestry.com, resources available online and resources available in the collection. The appointments for the first three days of training filled rapidly and we are still receiving interest from the public. We will continue the service as there is an obvious need for specialised assistance in this area. The centre has also been assisting university students in building research and TAFE students in tourism and heritage.

The Les Lauder collection of photographs is now being digitised and many of them will be added to the online database by the end of May. Microfilming of the local newspapers has continued and to date the Fremantle Gazette has been microfilmed up to 28 October 2008 and the Fremantle Herald to 26 December 2009.

Preparations for the 2016 Heritage Festival, which will be held between the 27th May to the 6th of June, have been completed. The History Centre will coordinate three events which include a Vintage and Antique Discovery Day with Laurie Forsyth and Lorraine Coates, Manufacturing Factories : a talk by Lorraine Coates and Researching your family history using Ancestry.com. The History Centre will also host a photographic display sponsored by the Fremantle History Society of early photographs of Fremantle by photographer Stephen Montague Stout. The Local History Awards will be held this year as it is now a biennial event. The call for entries closed on 1st April 2016 and over twenty entries have been received.

The centre has also assisted the City in the development of a walking trail to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's visit to Fremantle in 1954. Areas of interest have been identified and documented for the trail. Assistance has also been provided to community members who are working on the "Return Project" The project aims to commemorate the return of World War One soldiers to Fremantle in 1919. Various

options were offered for dates and types of events which would be suitable for the project. Further updates regarding the project will be advised as they come to hand.

Stop Press:

Donation of a work by Jimmy Pike

We have been lucky enough to receive a donation by Pat Lowe of an original Jimmy Pike artwork to the History Centre. It is currently on display. Please call in and see it. It was created during the 1990s and it is felt pen on cartouche paper. The illustration is an aerial view of the Round House dated 1831 and depicts the incarceration of indigenous people in the Round House at this time. It is certainly worth taking to the time to call in and have a look.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FREQ?



Who slept here?



Where is this former hotel?

The quiz at last year's Christmas Party involved recognizing people, places and through photographs in the Fremantle History Centre collection. Try your luck over the next few newsletters as we test your knowledge, and your memory. (answers pg 8)



WORKING LIFE AT THE BASE HOSPITAL, FREMANTLE

Peter Conole

The first port of call for thousands of soldiers returning to Australia was Fremantle and the No.8 Australian General Hospital on the port town's South Terrace. It was commonly referred to as the Base Hospital. Ceil Rice was an orderly there. His sweetheart, who he was still courting, was Geraldine (Gell) Howlett. They had worked together, along with a number of other admiring beaux, at Boans'. We left him in the last newsletter in August 1915. Ceil's adventures continue ...

The young orderly witnessed his first operation the following month, the patient being a soldier with an infected elbow wound. Ceil wrote: "the fellow was laid on a wooden table. He was chloroformed. Well, I won't describe the operation only I know the smell nearly sent me off" (letter of September 2, 1915). He eventually noticed another nasty trend among the injured and spelled it out quite plainly: "There are a terrible lot blind in one eye and a lot with one arm, some terrible wounds also from shrapnel" (letter of September 24, 1915).

It is a small world indeed. One of Ceil's eye-wound patients may well have been this writer's great-grand uncle, Private John Anderson of the 10th Battalion of Infantry. He received a painless but severe concussion injury from a shell explosion at Gallipoli and lost the sight of one eye. Back in Australia he spent months at the Fremantle Base Hospital before being pensioned off in late 1915.

Things were even more frenetic on September 25: "There is to be another

operation today. Doug Row the swimmer is going under with his foot. I just had a talk with Clifton, that's the poor fellow who is blind in both eyes and he told me a lot of terrible things". And so it continued, day after day.

Be that as it may, things soon changed for orderly Ceil Rice. He was medically examined on October 20, 1915 and given a clean bill of health. The information links in to his letter of November 9, 1915, in which he told Gell that all hospital work was being passed on to nurses: : "they are going to give the nurses the positions as orderlies, so we can all get to the front". After that no letters from Ceil to Gell are on record for several months, possibly because he was spending a bit more time in Perth.

Ceil Rice was sworn in as a private (Number 16268, Australian Army Medical Corps) at Fremantle on May 4, 1916. His height was six feet, his complexion dark with blue eyes and dark brown hair. He was a Roman Catholic by faith and his next of kin, mother Jennie (Jane) Rice, lived at 186 Walcott Street, North Perth. Ceil had entered a military unit requiring both routine and specialised training. He wrote to Gell from Blackboy Hill Training Camp on May 16, 1916 as toil began "reveille at 6.30, then parade (physical exercise) 7 o'clock till a quarter to eight, then breakfast from 8 till 9 and at 9 we have marching and drill till 12, three solid hours , not bad, eh?"

The army took great pains with the training of AAMC men and Ceil's last missive from Blackboy Hill is dated November, 1916. Instruction and preparation had been rigorous and included exercises with live ammunition: "the high explosives kicked up

an awful row and I now have an idea of what it must be like at the Front...bits of tin flew all around us as close as 2 feet from us at times."(letter of July 26, 1916). As of December 29, 1916 spending scarce and precious leave time with Gell became a thing of the past. Ceil Rice and a contingent of fellow AAMC men left Fremantle on the troop ship *Persic* for active service on the Western Front.



Much could be said of his ordeals and achievements in Flanders fields, but the details are not to the point for present purposes. Geraldine's teenage gentleman Ceil Rice just barely survived the war. He was gassed in one battle and suffered so severely from trench feet that periodic stays in a repatriation hospital were necessary after he returned to WA. Shell shock and general

poor health were also issues for some years.

Despite all that, Ceil had survived and soon emerged victorious on another front. He and his Gell got engaged on September 7, 1919 and married in 1923. They made a home for themselves in Mount Lawley and lived there for decades as respected and admired members of the local community.



FOR YOUR DIARY

24 May, Fremantle Pubs, The Orient at 6PM

28 June, Fremantle + Footy, Reception Rooms, 6PM

26 July, AGM, North Fremantle Primary School, 6PM

Photo Quiz Answers:

- 1 Sailor's Rest, 28 Marine Tce
- 2 Oceanic, 8 Collie Street