

FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305  
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Winter Edition, 2016

Editors: Ron Davidson, Anne Brake, Dianne Davidson



The Federal Hotel was often the centre of things in Fremantle. It was in the right hand corner as the crowd in 1919 gathered to watch the return of World War I soldiers. (Fremantle History Centre 2058)

## THE FEDERAL HOTEL

Ron Davidson

*For convenience, comfort and an up to date Hotel the Federal cannot be surpassed. That is how the Morning Herald in 1907 described the Federal. That is how the Federal advertised itself in 1907. It had the finest wines, a special brand of double malt whisky, fine dining, and the best billiard table in town.*

It is to the reinstated Federal that the Fremantle History Society will go on August 28 for our traditional Pub Lunch. The Federal has a rich provenance in both architectural and social terms. It was born in 1889 in local limestone and in the Victorian free classical style, popular in goldrush days. Graceful arches and delicate glass were other physical features still there. Soon after opening day the ALP held its first meeting in WA there. In the early 1900s the owners were conservatives, the brothers Alexander and John Forrest.

Time passed. In the 1980s Mick Vodanovich takes over. He was known as Fremantle's Michael Edgely because of theatrical touches added to his hotels. These included green beer for Saint Patrick's Day, The Barmaid's Picnic and a reading from James Joyce's Finnigan's Wake. The Federal flourished. Then the rent went up and Mick spent the rest of his life in Spearwood waiting to return to his beloved Fremantle. He never did.

There was a spell as Rosie O'Grady's then Marc Townshend took over in 2015 with ambitious plans to recapture the 1900s glory. With such a rich history a pub lunch at the Federal is not to be missed. Details of the pub lunch in COMING EVENTS.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee remained pretty well as is following the recent elections except for the welcome return of Dianne Davidson to our ranks. There are still places on the committee and we encourage members to join us. Contact Bob Reece, President, if you are interested.

#### Executive:

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Prof Bob Reece (President)       | 9335 7892    |
| Steve Errington (Vice President) | 9367 5504    |
| Pam Harris (Treasurer)           | 9432 9739(W) |
| Anne Brake (Secretary)           | 9336 5206    |

#### Committee Members:

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Fay Campbell    | 9341 4102    |
| Cathy Hall      | 0407 086 300 |
| Peter Conole    | 9319 2191    |
| Ron Davidson    | 9430 6096    |
| Jennifer Dudley |              |
| Dianne Davidson | 9430 6096    |

Ordinary 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 often 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 topics to learn about.



### COMING EVENTS

#### ANNUAL PUB LUNCH

In order to celebrate the return of the Federal, our 2016 Pub Lunch will be held in this historic site. The Federal Hotel is a modern style Australian pub set in a stunning heritage site. The building first opened its doors as a licensed premises in 1887 and is still to this day one of the grandest establishments in Fremantle.

Join members and friends at this grand hotel for our Pub Lunch. Meals and drinks from their extensive selection based on traditional Australian pub food, with inspiration taken from the tastes of Asia. There is a well thought out share section, burgers, mains and salads and daily specials.

**Sunday 28 August at 12 midday.** The Federal is at 23 William St, Fremantle.

#### PRINCESS MAY

At our September meeting we will explore the fascinating history of one of Fremantle's landmark buildings – Princess May's Girl's School. The school was opened in 1900, although the area was reserved for a school in 1894. It was called Princess May in 1901 when the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later the King and Queen) visited Fremantle. The Duchess was to become Queen Mary, consort of George V. She was actually Princess Mary of Teck but was known in the family as May, possibly because she was born in that month.

A tour of the beautiful building and a range of historic photographs will be used to give members and friends an overview of the school's past. Meet at the front of the school on the corner of Parry and Adelaide Streets

at 6PM on Tuesday 27 September. A delicious supper will end the evening.

## STUDIES DAY 2016

Another fascinating set of papers will be delivered at this year's Fremantle Studies Day. Diane Oldman will provide an international angle by exploring Fremantle soldiers in the Crimean War. A national perspective on Fremantle's heritage will be given by Prof Carmen Lawrence. Pam Harris and Andre Lipscombe will bring a local focus as they explore two very significant collections – the Fremantle Library and the Fremantle local art collection respectively.

Fremantle Studies will be held on Sunday 30 October. The afternoon's activities will be held at the Fremantle Army Barracks Theaterette. Registrations will open at 1PM for a 1.30PM start. Bookings are essential. More information will be available on the Studies Day flier to be distributed in early September.

Put the date in your diary NOW.



## MEETING REPORTS

### FREMANTLE PUBS

It is a common saying among Fremantle History Society members: the worse the weather prospects the bigger the monthly meeting crowd. And so it happened on May 24 when Allen Graham spoke on Fremantle pubs. The weather was terrible yet fifty attended at the Orient: not a vacant seat in the house. Allen's talk covered the period ending with Governor Kennedy's decision to reduce the number of hotels in Fremantle to five.

Allen's work began in 1982 and he has built up a vast amount of information not just about Freo pubs but a wider social history. Members came away eager to know more in book form.

## WHEN TOO MUCH FOOTBALL IS NEVER ENOUGH

Although the numbers were low, they were appreciative for our June meeting presented by Vice President Steve Errington on the early days of football in WA.

Some times riotous but always entertaining, Steve's passion for football led him to write *Disorderly Proceedings in the Park*. Peter Conole has written a review of Steve's book. Find it on page 8.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bob Reece's comprehensive President's report provides members with an understanding of the hard work of your committee to meet the Society's objectives and maintain a happy and healthy membership and bank balance. The committee is very proud to announce the second of what is hopes will become a biennial scholarship which promotes new areas of research into Fremantle's history and heritage.

The meeting was held at the former North Fremantle Primary School and we were thrilled to have an ex teacher from the school with us on the evening. Members visited the school two years ago prior to conservation and redevelopment works to transform it into a very successful and professionally run early childhood education centre run by the Schools of Early Learning. Fittingly, the recently appointed CEO of the National Trust which manages the site on behalf of the Western Australian Government. Julian Donaldson was previously CEO the Perth International Arts Festival and took over the Trust in January this year. He took the opportunity to give members and friends an overview of the various programs the Trust runs across natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage places in conjunction with Government and the Western Australian community. He used the redevelopment of the North Fremantle site as an example of one of the ways the Trust is able to undertake the adaptive

reuse of heritage places. The significant program was only possible through a joint funding program between the leasees and the Trust. And it delivered not only the retention of significant heritage values it resulted in tangible benefits to the community through the creation of jobs – over 2500 days of employment during the works and ongoing full time employment for over 20 people as well as 4 casuals. Over 100 families use the facility every week.

While not all projects are this extensive or successful, Julian is currently working with Trust staff and Council to develop a five year strategic plan to continue the stirring work of the organisation with a move toward more activation of properties and engagement with the public at places and through programs.



## 2015-16 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bob Reece

Last year's Annual General Meeting, held at Fremantle City Council's Reception Room on 28 July, saw a changing of the guard when I took over from Anne Brake as President, being replaced myself as Vice-President by ex-Curtin University chemist-turned-historian, Dr Steve Errington. At the same time, Anne took over as Treasurer from Pam Harris, who had inherited Madison Lloyd-Jones' role as Secretary after Madison's sudden and unexpected health problem laid her low for a time. I am happy to report that she has fully recovered from her operation as well as getting married and taking up a job at University Notre Dame. We hope to see her once again at Society functions over the coming year. Her book, written with Dr Deborah Gare of Notre Dame University, and entitled *Fremantle At War*, was published appropriately enough by Fremantle Press, and was runner up in the recent Fremantle Local History Awards. While we are talking about awards, long-time Society member and FCC Heritage Adviser, Alan Kelsall,

was honoured for his work by a Heritage Week award.

Sadly, both Jenny Patterson and Irene Burrough had to resign for health reasons. This left the Committee's membership as myself (President), Steve Errington (Vice-President, Pam Harris (Secretary), Anne Brake (Treasurer) and members Peter Conole, Ron Davidson, Fay Campbell and Jennifer Dudley. Cathy Hall continued to be a member but was unable to attend meetings for several months due to other commitments. Monthly committee meetings, held at the Fremantle History Centre by kind courtesy of Fremantle City Council and Local History Librarian, Pam Harris, were well attended and constructive. At the same time, it became clear that co-opting additional members would be necessary to expand our capacity. I would like to thank the Committee for their co-operative and good-natured efforts over the past year. The one small problem is that their enthusiasm often caused them all to talk at once!

A sad loss to the membership of the Society during the year was Thelma Limpus, who loved to talk about the Majestic Theatre in High Street and the thrill of climbing its white marble stairs as a ten year old. Wendy Markmann, who has been such a hard worker for history and heritage, was hospitalised recently after a stroke, followed by a broken arm, and we wish her a speedy recovery. The exemplary restoration of the old Skinner St. cemetery's crumbling limestone wall on Finnerty St., financed by a Lotterywest grant, is a great tribute to her energy and perseverance.

At its May meeting, the Committee decided that it was time we acknowledged members who had made particularly significant contributions and that the conferring of life membership of the Society was the most appropriate honour that we could award in order to express our appreciation. Three founding members were chosen as the first recipients, whose names I will reveal shortly.

### **General Meetings**

The Society's monthly general meetings – consisting of talks as well as excursions and tours – proved to be as popular as ever with members. The two bridges over the Swan River, one of them dating back to the convict era, were the subject of an on the spot briefing by retired engineers Peter Palmer and Don Young, both of the Heritage Panel of Engineers Australia. Our thanks go to Fay Campbell, Pam Harris and Jennifer Dudley for their efforts in organising the visit to Garden Island and Point Peron in September when we were regaled with its rich history by Notre Dame archaeologist, Shane Burke, Able Seaman Ian Strike and Bryan O'Hara. In February this year, Fremantle Port Authority's External Affairs Officer, Ainslie de Vos, took us on an interesting tour of the Port Authority building, culminating in a fine view of the working port and the city from the observation deck on its roof. Then in March, Vice- President Steve Errington talked about early churches in Fremantle and their associated personalities. In late April, I gave an account of gentleman convict Lionel Holdsworth, whose involvement in a ship-scuttling insurance swindle earned him a sentence of fourteen years' hard labour in Western Australia in 1866. Given a ticket of leave ten years later, he succeeded once again in the shipping business, dying a property millionaire in 1901. Fremantle Arts Centre generously allowed us to use the Matthew Pavlich Room for the occasion of the talk. In May, Allen Graham delighted a large and appreciative audience at the Orient Hotel on a stormy night with a feast of detail about Freo's early pubs. We strongly encourage him to get this massive 300,000 words *opus* into print before too long. And most recently on 28 June, Steve Errington spoke engagingly about his new history of early Australian Rules football in Western Australia, *Disorderly Proceedings in the Park*.

### **Fremantle Heritage Festival**

Our contribution this year was a display at the Fremantle History Centre of 1860s photographs of Fremantle taken by ex-

convict schoolmaster and journalist, Stephen Stout, in the 1860s. These were supplied by Australind historian, Irma Walter, whose fascinating book *Stout - Hearted* has been published by Hesperian Press.

### **Fremantle Studies Day**

Fremantle Studies Day, always the high point of the Society's programme of events, was held on the afternoon of Sunday 28 October at the Hilton Progress Association Hall, Paget St, Hilton, and featured four interesting papers of which three looked at issues involving heritage. Appropriately enough, Mary Goodlich talked about 'Houses of Hilton', reflecting Hilton's urban design as a post-war Garden Suburb. Jillian Barteaux, first winner of the Society's biennial research scholarship, talked entertainingly, in her brisk North American style, about South Beach and its changing character over time in 'Bright, Breezy, Bracing South Beach: The History of a Seaside Playground'. After the usual sumptuous afternoon tea, overseen by Fay Campbell, Jenny Patterson and Joan Donaldson, we heard from Fremantle's senior most heritage architect, Rob Campbell, on 'The Prehistory of Conservation in Fremantle'. And finally Kristy Bizzaca told us about her work on the archive of the late and lamented Deckchair Theatre which was commissioned by the Society with a National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant. It remains to be seen how this unique collection will be housed and curated for public access.

These papers will be published in due course in the tenth issue of *Fremantle Studies*. The ninth issue will be launched at this year's Studies Day to be held on 30 October at the Artillery Barracks, Burt St, where there is a fine lecture theatre and plenty of parking. Arrangements for the day are now being finalised and there is an impressive line-up of speakers and topics, led off by our own Dr. Carmen Lawrence who will provide a national perspective on what has been happening locally in heritage. The publication of No. 9 of *Studies* has been

generously assisted by a grant of \$4,500 from the WA History Foundation. We are now looking for a sponsor or sponsors for No. 10 and would welcome any suggestions or offers

### **Newsletter**

The Society's quarterly *Newsletter* continues to be its public face. Written, edited and printed by Dianne and Ron Davidson and Anne Brake, it supplies a heady mix of Society news, historical snippets and more serious longer articles for the enjoyment of members and their families. Remember, the *Newsletter* can only be as good as the contributions that you supply.

### **FHS Scholarship**

As already mentioned, our first Society Scholarship winner, Jillian Barteaux, submitted her research report on South Fremantle as a paper on Studies Day. We are happy to announce tonight that the Port Authority has agreed to act sponsor for the next scholarship offer, maintaining the momentum of what we think is a highly appropriate initiative by the Society. The second scholarship will now be advertised and its recipient announced at the upcoming Fremantle Studies Day. Dr. Lenore Layman and Heather Campbell have both once again agreed to act as judges of the applications.

### **Public Role**

The Fremantle History Society took an active public role in a number of important heritage issues during the year, supporting its sister organisation, the Fremantle Society, in opposing the establishment by Sunset Events of a live-music tavern-cum-brewery at J Shed, Bathers Beach, as a totally inappropriate use of a unique heritage site and A Class Reserve that incorporates Western Australia's oldest building, the iconic Round House. It also expressed disappointment in the proposed new arcade-like design for King's Square, which threatens to diminish its historical role as *public place* and *social space*. Thankfully, due no doubt to the Council's belated recognition of strong public opposition to the

project, of which the Society was part, the 1,500 patron capacity Bathers Beach tavern seems unlikely now to go ahead. On the other hand, the King's Square 'development', as it is euphemistically called, seems almost certain to go ahead. The Society protested vigorously against the All Souls Night 'scary' extravaganza proposed for Fremantle Prison, arguing that this kind of event was hardly in keeping with the Prison's World Heritage status. The proposal once again highlighted the need for proper community representation on the Prison Trust, an issue that the Society has been pressing with the responsible minister for years but to no effect.

Most recently, the Society expressed its support for the heritage listing of the West End precinct proposed by the Western Australia Heritage Office, emphasising that this would give the buildings of the area an added level of protection. At the same time, it regretted that the boundaries as defined by the Heritage Office and supported by the Fremantle City Council excluded the whole of Arthur's Head, reflecting what we regard as the wrong-headed belief that the West End should be seen primarily as the product of the gold rush era of the early 1890s.

Finally, we gave our support to the Round House Guides' successful application to Lotterywest for a grant to re-work its interpretative historical displays.

### **FCC Integration and Co-ordinated Promotion of Fremantle's History and Heritage**

On 21 August last year, Pam Harris and I attended the first meeting of Fremantle History stakeholders called by the Mayor to discuss the sharing of information and ideas, greater co-ordination of efforts and greater consideration of shared projects and marketing.

A further meeting was held on 7 December and another is due soon. The basic idea is to harness history as a way of enhancing tourist interest in Fremantle by co-ordinating the dissemination of historical information.

## Social Functions

The Society's social activities consisted of a fine pub lunch at the Esplanade Hotel's Ball and Chain bar on 23 August and the Christmas lunch on 22 November at the George Street Bistro. Members' visual knowledge of Fremantle's historical buildings and personalities was tested by a set of photographs drawn from the Fremantle History Centre collection by Pam Harris. The Committee had its own little party on 1 December at Jenny Patterson's house in East Fremantle. I was unable to attend, but I arranged for my spicy Indian curry to take my place. You might like to note that the next pub lunch will be at the refurbished Federal Hotel (aka Rosie O'Grady's) on 28 August from midday.

## Subscriptions

The prospect of paying a hefty premium for apparently unavoidable public liability insurance to cover Society events, together with generally increased costs, has obliged your Committee to raise ordinary subscriptions to \$25, family \$35, concessional \$15 and organisations to \$50, as from the beginning of the new financial year. A number of members have not paid up for the last financial year and we urge them to take this opportunity now to settle their account with our Treasurer, Anne Brake. Remember, your subscriptions provide our only income.

## Life Memberships

The last item on our agenda is to announce our first life memberships and to read out their respective citations. Appropriately, I am sure you will agree, the first recipients are Dianne Davidson, Anne Brake and Ron Davidson.

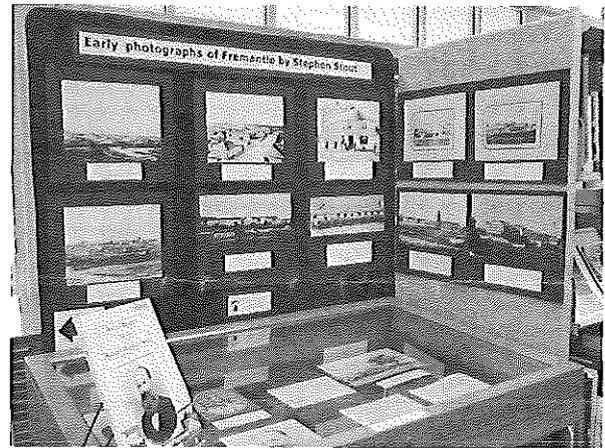


## FREMANTLE HISTORY CENTRE

Pam Harris

The 2016 Heritage Festival, which was held from 27th May to the 6th of June, was very successful and enjoyable to all those who attended the events organised by the

History Centre. The photograph display in the History Centre sponsored by the Fremantle History Society of early photographs of Fremantle by photographer Stephen Montague Stout also created quite a strong interest from the public.



The Local History Awards with over twenty entries proved to be a challenge for the judges, but finally the following winners were decided. Andrew Pittaway won first prize in the published category for "Fremantle voices of the great war : a history of Fremantle people who served in the Great War of 1914-1919". Second prize was shared between Michael Sturma for his work "Fremantle's Submarines: How Allied Submariners and Western Australians Helped to Win the War in the Pacific" and Deborah Gare and Madison Lloyd-Jones for their work "When war came to Fremantle, 1899 to 1945". The unpublished category was won by Nandi Chinna for her work "Clontarf Hill History" and second prize went to Victor Paino for his biographical work about his father called "Salvatore Paino". In the final category Peter Vinci won first prize for Fremantle's Family Cook Book and Tania Wimmer took second prize for her photographic work of the South Fremantle power station called "The Ballroom photography book". Many thanks to our hard working judges, Pamela Statham-Drew, Heather Campbell and Celia Tait.

Work is continuing on a project to digitise the archives of the Fremantle Rotary Club, to date three of their photograph albums

have been completed and club members are assisting with the identification and description of the photographs. Also a collection of over 100 photographs of ships relating to Fremantle have been digitised and added to the online photograph database.

Fremantle residents who use Trove, the National Library's database, to research Fremantle's history will be pleased to know that the following Fremantle papers are now available on Trove. Papers are the *Fremantle Mercury* (1932-1933); *The Empire* (1907-1908); *The Fremantle Mail* (1903-1904); *The Golden Gate* (1911-1912); *The Mail* (1904-1905); and *The Messenger* (1895). Find them on Trove at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/?q>. They were made available with funding through Fremantle City Library and the State Library of WA Foundation. Trove is an amazing database which aggregates collections from all around Australia. As well as the historical newspapers the History Centre's photographs are also available on this database.

Next month the History Centre will provide another 15 one on one training sessions to help individuals with family history research. The training has proven to be very popular so the training has been increased to weekly on Tuesday afternoons for the month of August.

Recently some early Fremantle Municipality Records from 1885 – 1901 were indexed. Records include Fremantle Municipality pay sheets and receipts of payments to businesses. The records had remained folded in an archive box for many years and have required careful handling to maintain their integrity. Any future analysis of the content will provide a valuable snap shot of the history of the administration of the Fremantle Municipal Council's operation during the period.

If you are in Fremantle have a look at the banner surrounding the town hall conservation works. The photographs were provided by the History Centre.



## ESTABLISHING AUSSIE RULES FOOTBALL IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Peter Conole

West Australian historian Dr Steve Errington, the author of this well-written and thoroughly researched book, has an abiding interest in WA history that covers colonial, scientific and sporting matters. Many readers will have already discovered one of his earlier works - *Southerners Forever More* (South Fremantle Football Club, 2013), a study of the turbulent and eventually glorious first sixty years of that fine team. The South Fremantle club did not emerge as a distinct entity until 1900, so this latest book is a kind of broad prequel.

*Disorderly Proceedings* offers more than the early history of a new sporting code. It also sheds light on the social development of colonial Western Australia during the late Victorian Era. Key factors in the history of the sport, as the author reveals, were the interactions with incomers from South Australia and later Victoria. The collapse of the local economy in Victoria from about



Expensive Victorian recruit Tom O'Dea kicks his first goal for Fremantle in 1896. The photograph of Fremantle oval may be the oldest surviving image of a West Australian football match.  
(Photograph Ron Davidson)

1894 led many folk to move west and some. Among the immigrants were some excellent footballers who raised the standards and stature of the game in the far west.

Dr Errington reveals that there is little or no archival material to draw on when examining the early years of the game. WA Football Association minutes were only preserved from 1902 onwards. Amazingly, no copies of playing rules for the game printed in 1885 and 1892 survived the vagaries of time. Neither have any of the West Australian Football Guides published annually in the 1890s. Therefore, as is more or less the case when researching tennis history in WA, the author had to rely to a very large degree on local newspaper articles and reports.

Despite such difficulties *Disorderly Proceedings* offers the reader a coherent and entertaining narrative, one full of drama, larger than life characters and episodes that attracted much press attention for both good and ill. Some events were quite startling and outrageous, as readers will discover in Chapter 8: a biased umpire, an enraged crowd, out of control players, a riotous attack on the unfortunate official, police intervention and the gaoling of the Fremantle Football Club vice-president. In the 1890s allegations of cheating and match-fixing also did the rounds, along with an array of changes to rules and scoring systems.

However, the new code gradually prevailed over rugby and soccer and the West Australia Football League (founded in 1885) is still with us. Broad acceptance of the game as our most popular winter sport followed. Dr Errington offers us many charming vignettes, such as the sporting afternoon and 'lightning football carnival' held in June 1897 when, as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations for Queen Victoria, the Governor laid the foundation stone of the Victoria Pavilion at Fremantle.

One remarkable theme of the book is the dominance of Fremantle teams in the early years. In 1900 only four teams contended

for the premiership; that would change dramatically in the new century.

*Disorderly Proceedings in the Park – Western Australian Football in Colonial Times*, by Steve Errington. Published by Hesperian Press, 2016. Softcover, A4. 194 pages with numerous photographs, appendices, bibliography, match results, lists of premiers and office-bearers. Cost:\$40. The book can be purchased over the counter at New Edition Bookshop, 41 High Street, Fremantle (Tel. 93352383). It can also be easily ordered online (with assured prompt delivery) from Hesperian Press, email [www.hesperianpress.com](http://www.hesperianpress.com)



*Sabrina Bednarski stepped into Kristy McNulty's shoes while she took time out to spend with family. Sabrina has contributed to the newsletter and assisted countless members on their historical forays. We wish her well in her future career. She sends us a farewell.*

**ANNO HISTORIA: A YEAR OF HISTORY**  
Sabrina L. Bednarski

Fremantle is a special place. Did you know that it is actually a *city* in its own right and not a *suburb of Perth*? I didn't until I moved here from Melbourne in 2013. Many people that I speak to from 'over east' don't know that either. Does it really matter what outsiders think? Fremantle is for Fremantle. It reminds me of Ballarat in Victoria, or Newcastle in New South Wales – despite Fremantle not being the state capital, its unique position in the history of the state makes it stand a close second. The people of Fremantle feel its unique character, even if they are not fully aware of it.

Local history has always had a particular attraction to me – the micro-histories of groups and individuals can illuminate a particular place and time quite differently to grand histories of nation-states. Fremantle has a strong international history that has been shaped by events far beyond its

boundaries – from the British invasion in 1829 to the destruction of Europe in World War II.

I have always been drawn to the stories of immigrant communities when examining Australian history. This port city has been a gateway for immigrants that have gone on to form the basis of the Australian community; this legacy is integral to Fremantle's character and nature. I spent two years working on SBS's *Who Do You Think You Are?* series where I focused almost exclusively on Australian history. At Fremantle History Centre, this knowledge gave me the wider context to be able to hone in on the local history of Fremantle and its places and people.

In my year as Assistant Librarian Local History at Fremantle History Centre, I have been impressed by Fremantle's past, content with its present, and optimistic for its future. I have studied how its streets, demographics, industries, and governance have transformed over time. Change is natural, we adapt to it, and it is important for growth. After all, change is history happening around us.

The people of Fremantle have an incredibly valuable resource in the Fremantle History Centre. It is rare to find an institution dedicated to local history that is open to public access and welcomes it. Its relationship to the people of this city needs to be actively fostered; it needs to be a part of the discourse of Fremantle. This will not happen by accident, but through the concerted efforts of the History Centre, the council, the History Society, and the wider community. Connecting the past with the present can be tricky, but it can be done. I am optimistic for the future of this port city, and for my own.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to Pamela Harris, Fremantle City Library, and the Fremantle History Society, for their cooperation and guidance throughout my *anno historia*.

#### FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sunday 28 August** at 12 midday. Join us at The Federal for this year's Pub Lunch. The Fed is at 23 William St, Fremantle.

**Tuesday 27 September** – Princess May Girls School. Learn more about learning at this landmark Fremantle heritage place. Meet at the corner of Parry and Adelaide Streets at 6PM

**Sunday 30 October** – Fremantle Studies Day. The program includes an interesting range of speakers. Fremantle Army Barracks Theaterette. Registrations open at 1PM for a 1.30PM start.

#### MURDOCH LECTURE 2016

The Melville Historical society invites Fremantle History Society members to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Murdoch Lecture. This year is being dedicated to the late Professor Geoffrey Bolton who was responsible for the first talk which has now become an annual event.

This year's guest speaker is Dean Aszkielowicz, Lecturer, Murdoch University. Dean's paper is entitled 'The Trial and Execution of Katayama Hideo'. Since his death Katayama's trial has generated public interest in both Japan and Australia and even became the subject of a 1990 feature film.

The lecture will be held on Monday 19 September in the Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Melville Civic Centre, 10 Almondbury Rd, Booragoon. There will be light refreshments from 6.30pm. The lecture begins at 7.15pm. RSVP: [carol@opes.com](mailto:carol@opes.com) or 9454 6378 by Friday 9 September.

Annual subscriptions are now due. As noted in the President's report, fees have risen. This is to help cover costs associated with the production and distribution of the newsletter and the need to take on public liability insurance to cover our general meetings. This is the first rise in many years and we hope there won't be another for some time.

You can assist with keeping costs down by ticking the box on the attached renewal to receive the newsletter electronically if you wish.