



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Winter Edition, 2017

Editors: Ron Davidson, Anne Brake, Dianne Davidson



Dr Lenore Layman (front left) with authors from back left Michelle McKeough, Steve Errington and Bob Reece. Alan Pearson is front right. Anne Brake & Pam Harris, of the editorial team, round out the group. (Jon Strachan)

LAUNCH OF FREMANTLE STUDIES JOURNAL VOL 9

This year's annual general meeting was followed by the launch of vol 9 of Fremantle Studies. Dr Lenore Layman officially launched the journal on behalf of the WA History Foundation whose generous support made the publication possible.

Nine volumes of our journal is a pretty good record and Lenore provided a fascinating overview of the history of community based historical organisations and the role they play in maintaining a sense of place for municipalities.

While not all authors were able to make it on the night, we were thrilled Alan Pearson made the trip from Queensland to be there. He had other business in the west and kept it at bay until he could combine it with the launch.

President Bob Reece talks with vol 9 author Alan Pearson (Anne Brake)



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

This year's AGM saw Steve Errington's departure after 6 years on the committee – thank you for your contributions to the committee Steve. We look forward to you continuing to contribute to the newsletter and seeing you at events.

Three new people were also nominated – Michelle McKeough, Rob Fitock and Allen Graham. We warmly welcome them (see pg 10 for more information on Allen. We'll put Rob and Michelle into later editions). This brings our committee up to its full contingent.

Executive:

Prof Bob Reece (President)	9335 7892
Allen Graham (Vice President)	
Pam Harris (Treasurer)	9432 9739(W)
Anne Brake (Secretary)	9336 5206

Committee Members:

Fay Campbell	9341 4102
Cathy Hall	0407 086 300
Ron Davidson	94306096
Jennifer Dudley	
Dianne Davidson	9430 6096
Greg Luke	
Michelle McKeough	
Rob Fittock	

Ordinary meetings are generally held on the 4th Tuesday (or Sunday) of the month. Details of these meetings can be found in your newsletter.

Be sure to check details as meeting dates may differ from this.



COMING EVENTS

Pub Lunch

The 2017 annual pub lunch will be held at the Hamilton Tavern.

Sunday 27 August, 12 midday, 330 Carrington Rd, Hamilton Hill.

Dalgety Building

The Fremantle History Society has negotiated special access to this magnificent, recently conserved and redeveloped building.

Also known as Wilhelmsen House the building has looked out over Fremantle Harbour since 1902, when Dalgety & Co built the imposing offices to support its shipping and pastoral trading business in Western Australia.

In 1927 the building was sold to agricultural supply company Elder Smith & Co and became known as the Elders building.

During World War II it was occupied by the Australian Navy as an intelligence and administration headquarters. In 1971 it was subdivided and used for a variety of commercial purposes. The building was used by the Wallenius Wilhelmsen shipping line for 25 years and became known as Wilhelmsen House.

The current owners are opening the doors especially for History Society members. In order to provide reasonable access and not to disturb the staff, the meeting will be held on **Saturday 16th September at 10.30am**. Meet on the corner of Phillimore and Cliff Sts. **Please note this change in our regular meeting day and time.**

Studies Day

This year's Studies Day focuses on some of the institutions which have shaped the cultural life of Fremantle. Many people think of Fremantle's artistic credentials arriving in the 1970s, but these papers may open your eyes to the longevity of some of these pursuits in the melting pot of Fremantle.

Join members, friends and guests at another fascinating Fremantle Studies Day on Sunday 22 October at the Fremantle Army Museum, Burt St, Fremantle. Registrations open at 1 pm and papers begin at 1.30pm. A delicious afternoon tea

will give you the chance to refuel and catch up with others.

RSVP: secretary.fhs@gmail.com by **Friday 25 October** with names and numbers of those attending. Payment at the door.
Members: \$20
Non-members: \$25

Copies of the recently released volume 9 of Fremantle Studies will be on sale. Back issues of earlier volumes will also be available.



MEETING REPORTS

Fremantle Panoramas

A small but enthusiastic crowd were mesmerised by Dr Alan Wood's gigantic panoramas at the HIVE, a multi media presentation suite tucked in behind the art gallery at Curtin University.

This new take on an old well loved genre of photos provides viewers with an extraordinary opportunity to see detail otherwise lost to the naked eye when looking at traditional sized images.

Dr Wood continues to build his collection and presentation of images including upgrades to the website. He has also located several additional historical panoramas taken from the Fremantle Town Hall and the old Arthur Head Lighthouse which allow a finer analysis of the change in the built landscape over time.

Newmarket Hotel

An enthusiastic crowd made their way to the June meeting held at the Newmarket Hotel. Many people commented they had wanted to get into the building for years, and thanks to the hard work and generous nature of the new owners the place has not only been saved but a fantastic new use has been found for it and FHS members and friends were warmly welcomed inside.

Michelle and Ian Cleaver-Wilson have a history of renovations but I am sure they were blissfully unaware of just what they had taken on when they made the decision to turn the old watering hole into the Swan Ballet School. Ian gave members an overview of the process with photos to illustrate the sad condition the place was in when they took it over. We were then given a tour of the building and got the chance to see the labour of love, particularly the magnificent outcomes Michelle achieved on the refurbishment of the stained glass windows.

Many thanks to Michelle and Ian for allowing the FHS to take a look inside.

Member and historian Heather Campbell was so intrigued she spent some time digging around on Trove the next day to learn more about the Newmarket Hotel. See page 7 to find out what she discovered.



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 2017

Bob Reece

Last year's Annual General Meeting of Fremantle History Society was held on 26 July at the North Fremantle School of Early Learning and was attended by about twenty Society members who appreciated the ambience of this beautifully restored heritage building that has now been given a splendid new lease of life. The National Trust CEO, Julian Donaldson, gave members an update on the work to bring this new and vibrant use to the building. Many members had attended an earlier meeting when the site was poised for conservation works. It was heartening to see such a successful compatible and adaptive re-use project come to fruition.

To mark its appreciation for their dedicated efforts over many years, the meeting as its final act conferred Life Memberships on founding Society members Dianne and Ron Davidson and Anne Brake. It was made clear that similar honours will be conferred

on other members who have made significant personal contributions.

The membership of the Committee changed during the year with the regrettable resignation of veteran member, Peter Conole, and the election of Greg Luke. There was another change when Anne Brake and Pam Harris exchanged responsibilities to make them respectively Secretary and Treasurer. Membership of the Committee then consisted of Bob Reece (President), Steve Errington (Vice President), Anne Brake (Secretary), Pam Harris (Treasurer), Fay Campbell, Cathy Hall, Jennifer Dudley, Greg Luke and of course Dianne and Ron Davidson who continued to make a valued contribution.

Steve Errington has recently announced his intention of standing down as Vice-President and will need to be replaced. Monthly committee meetings were held every second Tuesday of the month at the Fremantle History Centre by courtesy of Fremantle City Council and Local History Librarian, Pam Harris. I would like to thank the Committee for their work during the last year which produced such a good outcome.

In view of the FCC's building plans, there is now a pressing need for the committee to find another place for its meetings. If any members can assist with this, it would be greatly appreciated.

General Meetings

The monthly General Meetings for members organised by the Committee were as varied and interesting as ever. Sadly, the September meeting had to be cancelled due to a logistics issue beyond our control. The new year began on 28 February with a guided tour of mostly Aboriginal prisoners' art at the old Prison. Then on 28 March there was an inspection of work carried out during the restoration of Fremantle Town Hall to its former grandeur. Special thanks go to project manager, Gena Binet, and to Council Heritage Adviser, Alan Kelsall, who were in attendance to point out the main features of the work. This was followed on

18 April by an illustrated talk by Dr Denise Cook (my former Murdoch student) on Nyoongah town camps around Fremantle in the 1950s and 1960s. Two Noongar sisters from that era who helped Denise with her research, Dorothy Jetta and Doreen Nelson, talked to us about their mostly happy experiences of holidays on the beach near the old South Fremantle smelter. The 23 May meeting was held at Curtin University where Andrew Woods showed us historical panoramic views of Perth and Fremantle projected on to a special curved screen in the HIVE gallery. This was a true eye-opener for those of us who were familiar with at least some of the images and we were overwhelmed by the detailed visual information now made possible.

Most recently, on 20 June we were given a guided tour of the until recently derelict Newmarket Hotel on the corner of South Terrace and Rockingham Road, South Fremantle, by one of its new owners, Ian Cleaver-Wilkinson. Now lovingly restored, this former watering hole for local workmen has been converted into the Swan Ballet School through the dedicated work of its new owners. Particularly impressive were the fine stained glass windows which have been restored by Ian's partner, Michelle Cleaver-Wilkinson. Jennifer Dudley and Fay Campbell were most helpful in arranging these outings.

Fremantle Studies Day

This red-letter event in the Society's calendar was held at the Fremantle Army Museum Auditorium in Burt St. on 30 October 2016. Papers were given on a variety of interesting subjects, including Diane Oldman who provided a novel international perspective by exploring the participation of Fremantle soldiers in the Crimean War. Professor Carmen Lawrence, former head of the Australian Heritage Council, gave a national perspective on Fremantle's heritage while Pam Harris and Andre Lipscombe provided a local focus as they explored two very significant collections – the Fremantle Library and the FCC local art collection.

The next Studies Day, to be held at the same location on Sunday 22 October, has Fremantle's early cultural institutions as its theme and will feature papers by Bob Reece (Mechanics Institute and Working Man's Association), Jane Fraser (Fremantle Press), Natasha Meston (Fremantle Symphony Orchestra) and Sheridan Coleman (Fremantle Arts Centre).

Newsletter

During the past year, the veteran editorial team consisting of Ron Davison, Anne Brake and Dianne Davidson brought out four issues of the *Newsletter*, the Society's most tangible expression. Contributions from members of historical/biographical tidbits were very much encouraged and it was decided to continue sending the *Newsletter* out in the post to those who prefer a hard copy, although more and more people are receiving it electronically.

Fremantle Studies

The 9th volume of *Fremantle Studies* has at last appeared in all its glory and will be launched later this evening by Dr Lenore Layman. It contains the papers given at Fremantle Studies Day in 2015 and 2016, expertly edited by Pam Harris, Heather Campbell, Madison Lloyd-Jones and Anne Brake.

FHS Scholarship

The Society has once again offered a Fremantle History Research Scholarship. of \$2000, proudly sponsored by Fremantle Ports, to encourage new, high-quality research which will contribute to the understanding of the history and heritage of Fremantle.

The 2016 recipient of the scholarship is Natasha Meston who will deliver the results of her work at this year's Fremantle Studies Day.

Our thanks go to all those who submitted proposals and to Professor Lenore Layman, Heather Campbell and Pam Harris who had the difficult task of assessing the

submissions and making a recommendation to the Committee for their endorsement.

Deck Chair Theatre Archive

The History Society has made a commitment to the retention of the Deckchair Theatre Archive, an incredibly important collection relating to a nationally significant theatre company, which might have been lost if the Society had not stepped in. Working from an assessment of its significance prepared by Kris Bizacca, Pam Harris, Anne Brake and Cathy Hall have found a temporary but secure storage space and have been culling and collating, digitising and documenting as they implement the recommendations of Kris's report. The eventual aim is to prepare the archive for acquisition by a suitable collecting institution.

Public Role

The Society continued to take a public stand on issues relating to history and heritage in Fremantle, notably the persistent efforts by Sunset Events to develop a tavern-cum-restaurant at J Shed, Bathers' Beach, within the Arthur Head A Class Reserve. I contributed a 'Thinking Allowed' commentary to *The Herald* after attending Sunset Events' public presentation at the former Fly By Night venue. The Society also expressed its positive views to Fremantle City Council on the proposed heritage registration of the West End while regretting the changes that had been made to limit its boundaries as defined in earlier reports.

Social Functions

The annual pub lunch was held at the newly-refurbished Federal Hotel (formerly Rosie O'Grady's) on 28 August and a jolly time was had by all who attended. Our unforgettable Christmas event on 22 November was a tour of the Fremantle Arts Centre's Frank Norton exhibition conducted by FCC Art Collection Curator, Andre Lipscombe. A delicious supper for the forty or so members attending was served in the Arts Centre grounds.

In Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the various organisations that have hosted Society events over the year and the individuals who have given so generously of their time and expertise.

The City of Fremantle continues to be supportive of the Society, not least in its provision of tonight's venue, and I would to thank Local History Librarian, Pam Harris, for her unfailing and good-natured assistance.

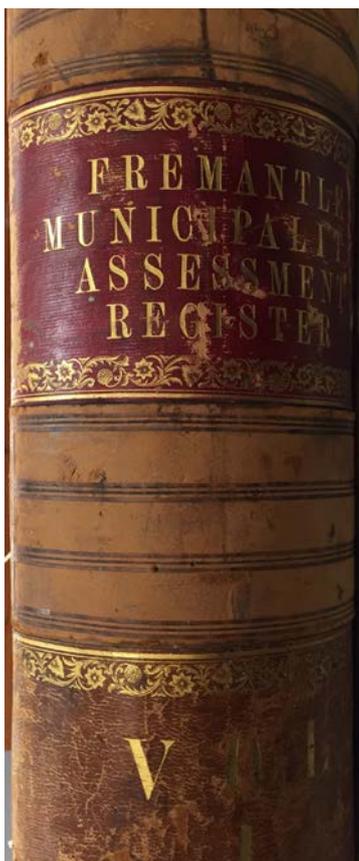
Thank you to the hard working committee and to you, the loyal members of the Society, who continue to support our efforts.



FREMANTLE HISTORY CENTRE

1870s Rate Book

A rate book was unearthed recently as part of the planning for the History Centre's move to temporary premises at the end of this year.



The rate book records the owners of lots in lot order number as opposed to how they were recorded from 1880 which was by ward and street. It was only used for four years from 1876 to 1879. It illustrates the way records were collected and maintained in the 19th century and as we have discovered you would need to be very strong to move it as it is incredibly heavy. If you are in

Fremantle call in to the History Centre to have a look. You will see the detail, care and style of book publishing in this era with the decorative binding and marbled decoration commonly used in the inside covers of books.



FREMANTLE STUDIES JOURNAL VOL 9



Helen Birch snaps up volume 9 at the recent launch (Anne Brake)

As already noted, vol 9 of Fremantle Studies Journal has recently been launched. The journal contains papers from 2013 and 2014 Fremantle Studies Days and a paper from a general meeting in 2014. Work on editing the papers from 2015 and 2016 is about to get under way.

Volume 9 was made possible through the generous support of a grant from the WA History Foundation. Without this support it wouldn't be possible for the Society to publish such a handsome volume. We thank the Foundation most sincerely.

Ian Chambers once again took on the layout for the journal, and Robert Besford, retired assistant curator from the Fremantle Prison, put his years of reading and that Librarians' course he did years ago into practice by undertaking the comprehensive index.

Most importantly however, is the recognition of the work the authors put into the delivery of their papers. We thank them most heartily – John Dowson, Steve Errington, Simon

Meath, Irma Water, Michelle Morrison, Bob Reece, Leigh Straw and Alan Pearson.

Copies of the journal are available at

- the Fremantle History Centre
- Fremantle History Society meetings (including the upcoming Studies Day)
- The Royal Western Australian Historical Society
- WA Maritime Museum shop



THE JOYS OF TROVE and THE NEWMARKET HOTEL

Heather Campbell

The National Library's Trove website is a true treasure trove for anyone who loves history. It contains a myriad of online sources including, books, images, maps, music and archives, but it is the historic newspapers that lure me, and many others, to the site.

Our recent visit to the Newmarket Hotel prompted me to search the West Australian newspapers for references to that building. The efficient advanced search allowed me to stipulate Western Australian newspapers only and the years I wished to cover. It also very conveniently allowed me to differentiate between the Newmarket Hotel at Fremantle and the one in Perth (on the corner of Moore and Pier Streets). It was a feast of riches and I only had time to nibble at the edges. Here is a small selection of what I found:

Daily News, Saturday 29 April 1905, p. 1
(Advertisement)
NEWMARKET HOTEL, ROCKINGHAM ROAD, FREMANTLE
TENDERS are invited for the LEASE of above Hotel for a term of 7 years. Particulars re conditions of lease and tender forms are to be obtained at the Federal Hotel, Fremantle. Tenders close Friday, May 12, 1905. Tenders to be addressed 'Newmarket Hotel,' care of Federal Hotel, Fremantle. The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

West Australian, Friday 4 May 1906, p. 8.
(Advertisement)
YARDMAN. able to milk and used to horses. Newmarket Hotel. S. Fremantle.

Sunday Times, 21 Feb 1954, p. 27
Eddie Browne's Turf Talk
At the races yesterday was successful businessman George Thompson who, a number of years ago, held the heavyweight boxing championship of Australia for 4 years, and at no time during that period did he weigh more than 12 stone. Great men that he stood toe-to-toe with were Young Stribling, Ted Monson, and "Sunny" Williams. George, who has been playing the horses for more than 30 years, is the proprietor of the Newmarket Hotel, Fremantle.

Then I found a great piece about the area around the Newmarket Hotel which gives a lovely picture of the area in 1908. (... indicate where I have cut out bits to preserve the sanity of the Newsletter editors)

The Empire (Fremantle WA 1907-1908)
Saturday 1 August 1908, p. 7
**SPEARWOOD AND COOGEE.
BOWLING ALONG HAMILTON HILL ROAD.
PICTURESQUE AND PRODUCTIVE COUNTRY.**
Almost any afternoon Mr. Frank Easton may be seen bowling along the Rockingham-road behind that grey horse which for eight years has been trotting around Bibra Lake, Hamilton Hill, Spearwood, and Coogee. Horse! That horse knows pretty well every stone in the many miles of made road in the Fremantle Roads Board district almost as well as his master.

On Tuesday, Mr. Easton had a representative of THE EMPIRE beside him.

It happened this way. Members of the board at a recent meeting were quietly boasting of the excellent state of their roads. Now THE EMPIRE man has travelled over the old Roman roads in Britain, over the granite

paved roads of London, and cobblestone country roads, over quartz, and bluestone and limestone roads in Australia, over roads of corduroy timber and planks, concrete, asphalte, and wood-blocked roads, and others, many of them, which were roads but in name, where the floundering teams get down to their knees in mud and sand, and the shovel has to be called into requisition to dig the waggon out. Finally he has travelled through Jandakot — an experience in itself. Expressing his surprise at the alleged good condition of the board's roads, Mr. Easton extended the invitation — "Come and see."

The roads board has 68 miles of roads in its territory, of which 27 miles 39 chains have been constructed, and a considerable proportion of the latter were traversed on Tuesday. Nearly the whole were found to be in fine condition, hard, smooth, and well maintained. Portions of Yangabup-road was different, worn down to its foundations, mainly by the flow of storm water, but this was the exception which proved the rule. ...

So much for the roads, which, however, proved remarkably easy to negotiate. There were other things to see — principally green peas, for Spearwood supplies the bulk of those to the State.

At the Newmarket Hotel, kept by Mr. George Newman at the corner of the Rockingham and Hamilton roads, the boundary of the roads board district commences, and opposite the hotel is a brick hay, and corn store, both marking what will bye and bye be the suburb of Newmarket with a tramway extension in the not distant future. Driving up Hamilton-road it was noticed that the steep pinch from Chamberlain's had been done away with, a cutting recently made having wonderfully eased the grades. Mr. Chamberlain's orchard and vineyard — the largest in the district is just at the end of the cutting, with the post office and the "village smithy" Mr. King's beyond. Passing by the Forrest-road the State school, now in charge of Mr. Harmer, a young but very capable teacher with an average attendance of 88 "young ideas," to train, and the Olivet Hall

one gets into the country of the green peas, which are to be seen on every hand in all stages of growth, Mr. Cook's extensive holdings presenting a very fine appearance. The Pine Grove nursery lies to the left, and here it may be remarked that the settlers are finding the sandy soil very productive, though it needs to be stimulated with added manure. All around Spearwood, where eight years since there was not a house, the land is now dotted over with good, neat, and substantial habitations with an air of progress and comfort around them. Mr. Jennings particularly makes a fine display of peas, the old Spearwood poultry farm is now largely devoted to gardening purposes, and among other holdings those of Messrs. Dyson & Ballington attract attention, all clustering near by the railway line. So one passes on to country still overgrown with blackboy waiting for the axe and the plough, country only half an hour distant from town by road, but by rail—heaven and the railway commissioner only knows.

We had made a detour round by Spearwood-road and now get back to the Hamilton-road, where, at the beginning of the new construction, the holding of Mr. J. Brindal invited inspection. Two and a half years ago it was virgin country, now five acres are under cultivation, and the holding presents a particularly neat appearance. Peas, of course, are the principal crop, a number of varieties being grown, though Yorkshire Heroes hold the pride of place. Some are almost ready for the market, others will still be sown for the next fortnight. Half an acre is given up to swede, turnips, lettuce, onions, etc., some of which require the stimulus of a few showers, though the land is irrigable by means of pipes from a tank and windmill. The warm sunshine, the breath of country air, the attractions of growing crops, make one almost wish that office work might be exchanged for gardening and fruit growing in this picturesque district, but those are vain wishes, and the white ribbon of the new road are again to be followed. ...

Lake Coogee (or Koogee, as it used to be spelt) shines in the distance, and alongside of it is Mr. Trebey's orchard, whence the prize show fruit comes. Thence the neat Coogee school is passed, the grounds partly laid out in ornamental flower beds, with the Woodman's Point lighthouse straight ahead, and turning round into the Rockingham-road on the home journey one gets a picturesque view of the ocean on the one hand and Fremantle straight ahead. Past the explosives magazines, past Briggs and Rowland's limekilns, past the comfortable Coogee Hotel, where there is a water trough of upwards of a quarter of a century's standing, made out of a hollow tree and filled with beautiful water, past Hutton's bacon factory, and the idle Smelters, and Fremantle is gained once more.

(<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> or just Google 'Trove' for endless hours of fun



MARIANNE NORTH IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dr Leslie Dowe

The English botanical painter Marianne North (1830-1890) visited Western Australia from 18 November 1880 until 6 January 1881. During that time she produced 23 paintings of the local flora, all of which now hang permanently in the purpose-built *Marianne North Gallery* in the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew to the west of London. North was a wealthy and independent unmarried woman, and moved among the social and political elite during her travels in Australia. In Western Australia, she was the guest of John and Margaret Forrest in Fremantle, and Governor William Robinson and Lady Robinson in Perth. She was also capable of 'roughing it', especially when a rare species was to be found and painted. She regarded her painting as 'work' and, despite of her notable social connections she preferred to travel alone in the bush mingling with the flora.

The present research attempts to

reconstruct North's travels in Australia and New Zealand, primarily from a botanical perspective. Fortunately, an autobiographical account of her travels and botanising was presented in her book *Recollections of a Happy Life*, which was published in 1892, two years after her death. North was a plain and truthful writer, and she recounted her destinations and activities with clarity and orderliness. Despite this, she only occasionally included dates of her itinerary. To reconstruct her daily itinerary required additional research. This primarily involved searches of relevant newspapers (mainly through those digitised at Trove) and the diaries, letters and notes kept by people whom she met on her travels.

To this end, I recently requested assistance from the Fremantle History Society, with regards identifying one of the views that she painted of Fremantle (see image). Members



may be able to assist in helping to determine from where she painted this scene. The scene appears to include Rottneest Island in the distance.

Any other information about Marianne

North's time in Western Australia would be welcome. Please contact Dr John Leslie Dowe, James Cook University, Cairns, Qld. email: john.dowe@jcu.edu.au

For Your Diary

Sunday 27 August, Pub Lunch – Hamilton Tavern, 330 Carrington St, Hamilton Hill. From 12 midday.

Saturday 16 September, 10.30am. Visit the Dalgety Building cnr Phillimore and Cliff Sts, Fremantle. Meet on the corner.

Sunday 22 October, 1pm for a 1.30pm start. Fremantle Studies Day at the Fremantle Army Barracks. Four fabulous papers will explore the institutions that have shaped Fremantle's cultural and arts communities. RSVP secretary.fhs@gmail.com by Friday xx October.



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

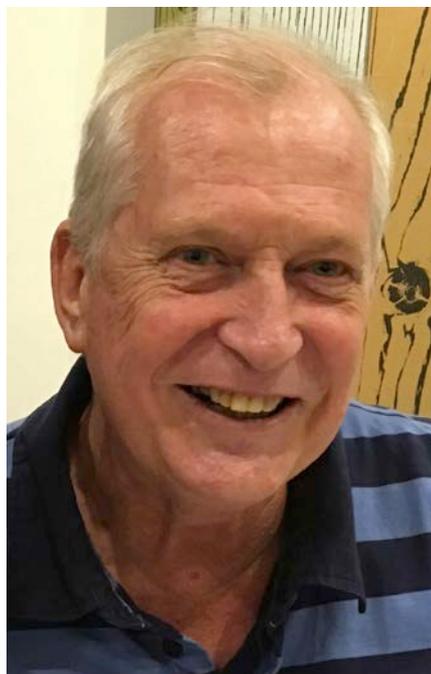
Over the next few editions of the newsletter we will introduce you to our new committee members.

Firstly Allen Graham who joined us at this year's annual general meeting.

Allen is a long standing member of the History Society and a lifelong resident of Fremantle, having been born and raised in Beaconsfield. He was a Councillor with the City of Fremantle during the heady days of the America's Cup, serving on Council between 1985 and 1990.

Allen has been researching and writing about Fremantle's history for over thirty years with a particular focus on Fremantle's hotels. He has won the City of Fremantle's unpublished history award on three occasions and two of those essays have been published in Fremantle Studies as follows.

- Early Duels of Fremantle, Fremantle Studies 4, 2005.
- Patrick Moloney: The story of a Fremantle publican and his connection to the Fenian Fright of 1881, Fremantle Studies 5, 2007.
- The Fremantle hotel trade during World War One (Unpublished, but held In Fremantle History Collection.)



DUES NOW DUE

Please find attached to this newsletter a copy of your membership renewal form for 2017/18.

We encourage you to consider ticking the box to agree to receiving your newsletter on line (via email) rather than as a hard copy. This saves us printing and postage costs.

However, if you would prefer to receive a hard copy we are very happy to forward your copies in the mail.

See you at a meeting soon. We have already begun planning for 2018! Any suggestions for meetings gratefully received.