



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Autumn Edition, 2017

Editors: Ron Davidson, Anne Brake, Dianne Davidson



Then and now - George Alfred's 1880s house in South Street, for many years the Grosvenor private hospital, now a yoga centre.

THE DAVIES OF FREMANTLE: NOT JUST A TOKEN PRESENCE

Steve Errington

George Davies (1776-1853), a cooper by trade, arrived in Fremantle from England in April 1834 bringing with him two sons, Alfred Alexander (1811-75) and his much younger brother Thomas (1825-1902). In adulthood Thomas found his way to the Avon Valley and became one of the most prominent settlers of Beverley. But Alfred remained in Fremantle where he and his family were major players in business and local government circles for the next 75 years.

At first, Alfred followed his father's trade and secured government cooperating contracts. Then he became a tidewaiter (customs official), reporting to Government Resident Richard Brown.

Alfred had married a widow, Christiana They, in 1837 but she died in 1843 and a few months later he married Hannah Williams. Hannah had been sent out from England by the Children's Friend Society in 1834 and in 1843 she was working for Richard Brown. Alfred and Hannah had seven children, two of whom became Mayors of Fremantle while a third was chairman of the Fremantle Roads Board, now the City of Cockburn council. Alfred led the way into civic affairs, being elected to the committee of the Fremantle Town Trust when it was formed in January 1848. To qualify he would have owned an allotment in fee simple, and he went on acquiring properties.

By 1865 he was a pawnbroker in High Street. In the nineteenth century, scores of Australian businesses had tokens minted which advertised their businesses and helped meet a general coin shortage. In the Colony of Western Australia only two businesses are known to have had such tokens made, both in Fremantle, both pawnbrokers. The first was Alfred Davies who issued a 'penny' token in 1865

In the 1860s Alfred also took an interest in winemaking, and appears to have formed a partnership with Philip Webster, his son-in-law. In 1870 Webster, who had married Alfred's eldest daughter Emma the year before, opened Grosvenor Cellars in High Street to sell 'Swan River Natural Wines', including an 1865 vintage for 9s a gallon or 1s 6d a bottle.

By 1870 Alfred's son George Alfred (1846-97) had joined him in the pawn shop. Pawnbroking received little publicity: any newspaper report typically involved the

pawnbroker given evidence in court about stolen goods pledged against loans. In January 1870 Alfred gave evidence about a stolen ring; in April George was questioned about some chisels.

Alfred died in March 1875 but by then George had had taken over the business. That year, he paid out on some stolen timber, in 1878 he paid out five shillings on a stolen table cloth. He kept the business going until at least 1879. In 1884 he took over Grosvenor Cellars from his brother-in-law, and in 1887 he had the Oddfellows (now Norfolk) Hotel built with his younger brother Alfred Alexander (1853-1934) as licensee.

In 1871 George had followed his father on to the Town Trust Committee and, in 1887, after sixteen years on the Trust committee, the Town Council,

then the Municipal Council, George stepped down.

But in December 1894 he was recalled to serve a one-year term as Mayor of Fremantle. He declined a request to run for a second term: he said that the honour should be shared around, but he might also have been worried about his health. He died, aged only 50, at home at the Grosvenor Vineyard in South Street, Beaconsfield in January 1897.

The following year his house was sold to Sister Scott and became the Grosvenor private hospital. After changing hands several times it became a yoga centre in 1976 and still stands, high on a limestone ridge facing South Street at the corner of Field Street.

George's younger brother Edward William Davies (1855-1904), a money lender and real estate agent, had served on the



Alfred Davies' token from 1865, penny—sized but not marked 'one penny' (At the time of writing one was available on eBay for \$275.)

Fremantle Municipal Council since 1894. He had also represented West Province in the Legislative Council: elected in July 1894, he had resigned due to pressure of private business in June 1896. When sitting Mayor Elias Solomon resigned in April 1901 to take his seat in the Federal Parliament as Fremantle's first MP, Edward Davies was his obvious replacement. He was elected unopposed and sworn in at a public ceremony in the Town Hall on 26 April.

His first council meeting in the mayoral chair was a disaster: he spoke at length on every topic, repeated himself, and had an embarrassing confrontation with Councillor Lawrence Alexander. Worse followed at a meeting of the Board of Health and, on 20 May, Councillors caucused and asked him to resign. Davies' peculiar behaviour at the football and at a boxing match was the final straw.

On 28 May he was declared insane. Two doctors issued certificates of insanity, and the Resident Magistrate ordered that the mayor be removed to a lunatic asylum. Two policemen took him to the familiar Grosvenor Hospital, which was temporarily transformed into a private lunatic asylum. He was released on 11 June by a Supreme Court judge who took evidence from four medical men then interviewed him personally.

The council, meanwhile, had accepted advice that the mayoral office was vacant as 'No person of unsound mind shall be capable of continuing as a mayor of any municipality.' On 7 June, after several muddled meetings, the council had appointed a returning officer to conduct the election of Edward's replacement and his public life came to an end.

George, Edward and Alfred had another brother, Arthur Elvin Davies (1867-1918), who also made a mark on the Fremantle landscape. After leaving school Arthur completed a cabinet-making apprenticeship and, in 1888, opened a Cabinet Maker and Undertaker business in Collie Street

(making coffins was often a prelude to becoming a funeral director). In 1898 he was elected to the Fremantle Roads Board and served as chairman 1905-10. In 1904 he sold out of the funeral business but the business continued for decades in his name. In 1905 he followed his brothers on to the Fremantle Municipal Council, and from 1906-11 he held the South Fremantle seat in the Legislative Assembly.

Arthur Road in Hamilton Hill and Davies Street in Beaconsfield commemorate two of the brothers in Alfred Alexander's remarkable family.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We have recently welcomed Greg Luke onto the committee. It's great to get some fresh blood and we are looking forward to his energy and enthusiasm.

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
Ron Davidson	9430 6096
Jennifer Dudley	9314 7765
Dianne Davidson	9430 6096
Greg Luke	9430 7899

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.



COMING EVENTS

Fremantle Panoramas

The History Society is trying something completely different a mid week, day time event. This is a wonderful opportunity to see spectacular panoramas of Fremantle at super size. The quality and detail of these images is mesmerising.

The panoramas presentation will be made by Andrew Woods. The wonderful series of panoramas, which he collated in 2016 will be presented on special screens at the Hive, in the John Curtin Art Gallery building, Curtin University, (Bldg. 200) on **Tuesday, 23 May from 3 - 4pm.**

Aroma Café, opposite the John Curtin Art Gallery will be open until 5pm for those wanting refreshments.

Andrew created the panoramas of Fremantle in 2016, wishing to convey a wonderful view of the past, providing a new insight into how the city has developed and changed over a 100 year period.

He writes "The most remarkable aspect of the Fremantle panoramas in my opinion are all the tall ships in Fremantle Harbour in 1899. I also like the way these panoramas provide an insight into the layout of the city, for example, I've read about Manning's Folly, but wondered where it was. The 1899 panorama from Fremantle Town Hall makes that very clear."

The event is free but bookings are essential. A map of the Curtin University showing the location of the Hive will be forwarded once you have booked. Please let Jennifer Dudley know if you are attending (and how many) by Monday 22 May on 9314 7765 or email jendu@iinet.net.au.

Newmarket Hotel

The 103-year-old Newmarket Hotel, on the

corner of Rockingham and Cockburn roads is now a studio for Swan River Ballet.

After running a successful dance studio in Karratha, owner Michele Cleaver-Wilkinson said the building offered the perfect setting for a new metro-based studio on the coast. "It's been here for 100 years and you feel like it could be here for another 100 years," she said.

Join members for a viewing of the two-storey Federation Filigree style building, popular with the local horse racing industry from the early 1900s to the 1970s.

Newmarket Hotel, 6pm, Tuesday 27 June, cnr Rockingham and Cockburn Roads.

Annual General Meeting – Art Deco in Fremantle

The History Society is thrilled to have Yvonne Geneve speak at our 2017 AGM. Yvonne is the founder of the Art Deco Society of Western Australia and believes her group has saved more than 300 buildings from demolition in Perth during its three decades.

Picture Palaces of the Golden West, by Yvonne Geneve and the late Ron Facius was published by The National Trust of Western Australia in 2016 and includes several Fremantle sites.

Yvonne will provide an insight into the Art Deco movement in Fremantle in her talk. A suitable venue is still be negotiated so stay tuned. Put **25 July** in your diaries now.

The AGM will also include the launch of Fremantle Studies vol 9.



MEETING REPORTS

Fremantle Prison Art Tour

Members were given a very special opportunity to view a range of different art

works at the world heritage listed Fremantle Prison. Works from the convict era through to the last months of the Prison's working life – a span of 140 years - were included in our tour.

For most of the Prison's life graffiti was not condoned and so very little remains from the earliest eras although the beautiful drawings on convict James Walsh's cells, thankfully have.

Rules were relaxed in the last years of the Prison's life and a rich array of imagery remains. Sadly, however, due to the nature of the limestone, the use of poor quality paint and the ravages of time many are disappearing. Thankfully work has been done to carefully document these important images, cartoons and poems for future researchers and visitors to the Prison.

Town Hall Conservation Works

An enormous thanks goes to Gena Binet and Alan Kelsall of the City of Fremantle and the contract team working on the conservation of this important site. Members and friends were given extraordinary access to the top of the administration building to look over the works including to the roof and the clock tower, as well as small groups climbing the scaffolding to the very top of the tower; coming face to face with the swans which keep guard over the pedestrians below and stand on the very top next to the flag pole.

The fascinating tours were followed by a comprehensive presentation by Gena of the works providing a glimpse into the level of research and commitment to detail a job like this entails.

Noongar camps in and around Fremantle – Australia Heritage Festival

Nearly forty people attended this event to listen to Denise Cook, Doris and Doreen talk about Noongar camps in Fremantle. Denise provided an overview of the protocols and permissions required to engage, interview

and record Aboriginal people and emphasised the need to really get to know the interviewees before recording commenced.

The audience then enjoyed listening to Doreen Nelson and Dorothy Jetta talk about the wonderful summer holidays they had at South Beach at what was called the Smelters Camp. They lived in Doodlakine and came down on the steam train in the summer to visit their grandmother at the Smelters Camp. A wonderful tale was told about collecting objects from the South Fremantle rubbish tip, mostly heavy items like the flat irons used before electricity.



Dr Denise Cook (right) with Doreen Nelson and Dorothy Jetta (P Harris)

When returning to Doodlakine on the train there was an incident when the guard at the railway station wouldn't allow the box of heavy items on the train because it was too heavy. After some discussion they argued that they lived near the railway line in Doodlakine and they often saw trains going by loaded with cars so surely they would be able to take one small box. Needless to say the box went on the train! That was one of many tales related on the night.

The group then enjoyed the usual delicious drinks and food, thanks to committee member Fay and to Tania Heyne for assisting on the night.

The talk was one of the first events in the Australian Heritage Festival which runs from 18 April – 21 May.



Members enjoying post meeting refreshments.
P Harris



FREMANTLE HISTORY CENTRE

Fremantle on this day in June across the years – from the FHC archive.

1 June 1850

On this day, the first convicts arrived at Fremantle aboard the *Scindian*.

2 June 1829

On this day, Captain James Stirling arrived in what was to be called Fremantle on the *Parmelia* with Surveyor-General Roe and the first contingent of immigrants to set up the Swan River Colony.

3 June 1929

On this day, a luncheon was held in the Town Hall for pioneers to celebrate Fremantle becoming a City. The Governor,

Sir William Champion, attended with 300 pioneers.

5 June 2006

On this day, a statue was erected at the front of Fremantle Oval. It depicts John Gerovich's famous mark over Ray French at the 1956 AFL preliminary final.

6 June 1868

On this day, Owen Francis was buried at Fremantle Cemetery. His cause of death was Mauritius Fever, which is known also known as Chikungunya – a mosquito spread virus.

8 June 1920

On this day, the Fremantle Quartette Party held a concert at the Fremantle Town Hall.

10 June 1829

On this day, Joseph Mitchell was born in Fremantle to parents John and Jane Mitchell. Joseph was the first British child born in the new colony.

12 June 1940

On this day, Italian-born Tommaso D'Orsogna was arrested in Wiluna and spent three months in Fremantle Prison. His crime? Being an enemy alien during war time. Read more about this era of our history in this article from the *Fremantle Gazette*.

11 June 1897

On this day, it was reported in the Western Mail that the Fremantle Ladies' Cycling Club held a successful social dance the week before. The music was supplied by Mr. Clough and party. The Fremantle Ladies' Cycling Club was founded earlier in the same year and was the first club of its kind in Western Australia.

14 June 1916

On this day, 24 year old Fremantle resident Reginald Frederick James Freeman enlisted as a private in the 43rd Battalion AIF. On the 28th of October 1916 he embarked for war on board the *Somali*.

15 June 1915

On this day, William Henry Walter enlisted as a private in the 28th Battalion AIF. After the war, he served as Mayor of North Fremantle and worked with the Fremantle Harbour Trust. In 1962, Walter and his wife were presented with the Keys to the City of Fremantle. Walter Place in North Fremantle is named in his honour.

17 June 1829

On this day, at Rous Head in North Fremantle, Lieutenant-Governor James Stirling's proclamation establishing the British 'settlement' of Western Australia was read to the 63rd Regiment. This photograph was taken during the 1979 bicentennial of Stirling's journey up the Swan River.

21 June 1869

On this day, the first telegraph line from Fremantle to Perth became operational. This was a revolutionary step in communication between the two cities.

22 June 1887

On this day, Fremantle Town Hall opened. This image was taken very soon afterwards.

23 June 1911

On this day, the C.Y. O'Connor Memorial, designed and executed by Pietro Porcelli, was unveiled.

24 June 1915

On this day, Leonard Easton was born. The Fremantle-based Easton family posed for this photograph in 1920, when Leonard was 5 years old. He is on the left hand side of the photograph in the sailor's costume.



Easton family portrait, FHC Image E000046-04

26 June 1900

On this day, it was announced in London that steamers of the Orient line will shortly call at Fremantle. This 1904 photograph shows an Orient mail steamer berthed in Fremantle Harbour.

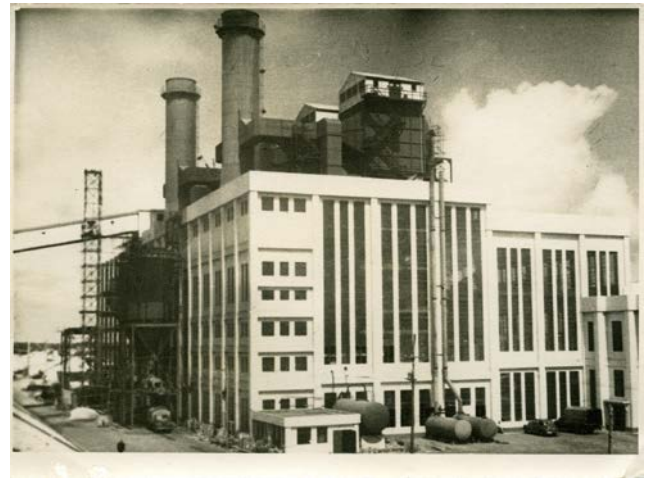
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article87132405>



Fremantle Harbour, FHC Image 1667

27 June 1951

On this day, the South Fremantle Power Station was officially opened by the Hon. David Brand, Minister for Electricity.



South Fremantle Power Station, FHC Image E000076-01

30 June 1995

On this day, Fremantle Prison was permanently entered onto the Western Australian Register of Historic Places. It would later go on to become the first building in Western Australia to be listed on the Australian National Heritage List, in 2005.

(Compiled by Sabrina Bednarski)

SOMETIMES MAGICAL BEACH AND DECAYING ARCHITECTURAL ICON ON TRACK FOR MASSIVE MAKEOVER PROJECT.

Jennifer Dudley

This article is the first in a possible ongoing series of "Watching Briefs" about O'Connor Beach and the South Fremantle Power Station and the slow progress towards its rebirth as a "high density urban centre containing a mix of commercial, residential, public purpose cultural and tourism related uses" across a fifteen to twenty year timespan¹. It is not a complete short history of this fascinating area as many abound already, ranging from scholarly to populist and even mythic accounts of past events and personages associated occurring there from time immemorial to the present day. Instead, the article measures recent developments against stated intentional aspects of the Master Plan, prepared by

Hassell and commissioned by Land Corp on behalf of Synergy in 2014, then accepted and strategically actioned by Cockburn and Fremantle City Councils thereafter. These aspects specifically demonstrate respect for key heritage factors and environmental, cultural and social dimensions in the development of the surrounding areas initiated since 2014 as a consequence of prior and continuing research².

It touches on perceptions of place and local fears that the best aspects of the area's wild beach charm so close to a major port with its decommissioned Power Station as major built structure, might be lost, despite so much else being gained. This adaptive re-use project, possible because the Western Australian Planning Commission lifted the Urban Deferred status of the site, is

¹ South Fremantle Power Station Master Plan, Hassell, 2014, specifically pps. 1 - 20.

² *ibid.* pps. 1 - 5.

emerging as a genuine attempt to balance environmental and intangible cultural heritage values with hard-nosed financial realities and the results will be stunning³.

People who have been long term visitors to the section of coastline from South Beach Fremantle to Port Coogee and inland as far as Hampton Road on the Fremantle side, may have notice some changes lately in the vicinity of the Power Station. Those who have contributed in the past fifteen years to conversations, lobbies, submissions and commentaries with Western Power, Verge,



View from the south (Port Coogee) showing Cathedral like structure of this façade, 2017 (J Dudley)

Synergy, Cockburn City Council and Fremantle City Council, involving the fate of this iconic 'cathedral style' building may wonder what if anything is happening?⁴.

As a regular beach goer to this area over the past 18 years, I have noticed this slow progress which is actually proceeding according to the frameworks proposed in the South Fremantle Power Station Master Plan. Interested readers can read the plan online at <http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/majorprojects> and other related coastal assessments and

³ *ibid.* pps. 13 - 18, Artist's impressions of future Power Station complex, plus architectural plans from above.

⁴ Bodycoat, R., *South Fremantle Power Station: A heritage dilemma*, 2004, Fremantle Studies, Vol. 3., pps., 65 - 74.

projects easily found by directly searching Cockburn City Council website and following specified links. Fremantle City Council also has specific links on their website.

To date, much of this visible progress concerns the areas adjacent to the building and implementation of the Coastal Management Plans of both Councils rather than the building itself, although in 2015, after Cockburn City Council's Local Structure plan was engaged, the steel and concrete structure was publicly pronounced strong and safe, there was a concerted attempt at testing various forms of graffiti removal on its exterior walls and window glass was replaced within the mullion structure in one of the smaller back rooms. Testing of other necessary problem areas like soil, sand and water quality around the basin and in the surrounding ocean with shifting current directions and large tidal movements continues given the legacy of earlier industries like the Port Coogee tannery and a nearby sewerage treatment plant.

Commencing in the second half of 2016, the most obvious change has involved the Switchyard abutting the Northern facade of the Power Station building. When discussing key design elements of the project, the Master Plan listed the Relocation of the Switchyard as an important first step, and it's technological upgrading essential until then⁵. The Switchyard is still functioning but way more efficiently since the removal of much of its old infrastructure and the installation of technologically new and physically much more condensed equipment. It is also newly fenced and clearly separated from the Power Station building which is now enclosed by a renewed high fence with padlocked gates and building entrances and an immediate perimeter area constantly patrolled by Cockburn Council Security. (Photos 1 & 2). Encouraged by a conservatorial intention to preserve some of their work within the

⁵ South Fremantle Power Station Master Plan, *ibid.*, p. 2.

Power Station restoration, graffitiists have continued to spray and stencil the remnant concrete blocks and what's left of the breakwater structure opposite the water basin which, despite its disgusting dry weather appearance, houses the occasional hardy water bird and a few brave frogs⁶. (6)



View from the north, showing current activity, 2017
(J Dudley)

Currently, the new transportable buildings which I thought were site offices for the Power Station conversion project and the large car park area between the Switchyard infrastructure and the sea, now full of reclining power poles, trucks and other vehicles, has become a Western Power works depot servicing an area as far south as Bunbury. The workers I spoke to, both from Bunbury, asked me not to photograph the Switchyard but told me they were pleased with this roomy, well organised depot and happy to be replacing all the power poles in Fremantle, a job which would continue for some time. They expect the depot will remain there for at least the next 10 years, but not to quote them on this one.

Further developments on that part of the Master Plan immediately adjoining the intersection with Fremantle include site assessments of heritage structures like the old Robb Street Jetty remains, dry dock, shipwreck, brickworks chimney and old Moreton Bay Fig trees, proposed artworks, speciality shops and preparations for a new suburb with housing, a primary school,

⁶ Outh-Aut, Andy, Aaron Photographics, Heritage Festival Paper presented for the Fremantle History Society, May. 2013, Fremantle History Society Newsletter, Autumn, 2013, p.11. (More images included, mostly Aaron Photographics).

sports oval and sound shell between the railway line and Hampton Road have moved

transformative work on the Power Station building itself seems to have moved further into the future than we expected.



EARLY IMAGES OF NEW NORCIA – A FREMANTLE CONNECTION

Bob Reece

Last year, Bob Reece was awarded a Placid Spearritt OSB Scholarship to work on the early photographs of New Norcia. This follows on from his work at New Norcia's archives on Daisy Bates' connection with

the Benedictine monastery and William Monop, her principal informant on the Yued people of the Victoria Plains, published in the monastery's journal, *New Norcia Studies*. Monop was a member of the celebrated New Norcia cricket team of 1881, the subject of Bob's 2014 book, *The Invincibles*. He also provided the introduction to Peter Gilet's translation of *La Nouvelle-Nursie* (1879) by Théophile Bérengier, Bishop Rosendo Salvado's loyal friend and fund-raiser in Marseilles, using their correspondence as his main source. Most recently he has written for *New Norcia Studies* about Salvado's use of images, initially paintings and then photographs, to illustrate fliers seeking vital financial support for New Norcia from French, Spanish and Italian supporters.

New Norcia's archives holds ninety-two photographic images for the period 1867-1879, comprising the work of itinerant Adelaide-based photographer, WW Thwaites, and of Bishop Salvado's elder brother, Fr Santos Salvado. Bob's task is to identify their respective work and establish the identities of their subjects. The images at New Norcia are *carte de visite* size (3 ½"



South Fremantle Power Station, 2017 (J Dudley)

into top gear, an area which housed an aboriginal meeting ground in the past, then a town camp and has long been a favourite spot for swimmers, divers, dog walkers, shell collectors and fishing enthusiasts and turning point for the few remaining early morning horse riders⁷. The sand cover over the jagged edges of the wreck is now regularly checked and while it is signposted as dangerous, the signs are often washed out or knocked over. Unlike before, they are now restored relatively promptly. And sometimes, the old magic of this long white sand bay with its sea grass sand dunes and sparkling summertime water is still palpable on those days when surprisingly few people are there.

We regular visitors wonder if that will survive the population increase contingent with developing the entire area even though we mostly think the plans for a revitalised Power Station precinct and their implementation process are quite visionary and the commencement of visibly

⁷ South Fremantle Power Station Master Plan, *ibid.*, p. 38.

by 2 ½”) contact prints made from the original collodion glass plates now held by the Battye Library of Western Australian History under a conservation agreement reached by the two institutions in 1983 by which New Norcia retained all reproduction rights. Until recently it was believed that all ninety-two images were Santos’ work.

William Walter Thwaites and his two sons arrived in Fremantle in January 1867 to further their Adelaide-based photography business. While the sons remained in Perth to run a studio, Thwaites himself toured the countryside in a spring cart offering property-owners cut-price photographs of family members and homesteads. His forays from Toodyay took him to New Norcia where then Prior Venantius Garrido commissioned him to photograph the Mission’s Aborigines. The resulting thirty-two photographs taken over six days, remarkable for their clarity, provide a unique ‘snapshot’ of the Mission’s inhabitants at the height of its success. Thankfully, Garrido provided careful, dated annotations for most of the images, which are complemented by the rich store of biographical information on the Mission’s Aborigines recorded by the monks from the time of its 1847 origins. Most of the images were intended to demonstrate to the world the Mission’s success in training Aboriginal boys in practical skills such as leatherwork and carpentry. Two or three portray the Yued people in their customary attire, emphasising the Mission’s success in converting what Salvado’s European supporters liked to call ‘*sauvages*’.

The remaining sixty images, almost certainly made by Santos Salvado, bear tribute to his being formally trained in photography during the time he was in residence at the Escorial Palace in Madrid as chaplain to the ill-fated Queen Isabella. Among the no less than forty-seven tons of baggage that Santos brought with him to New Norcia in May 1869, was a state-of-the-art camera and tripod and a store of photographic chemicals and albumenised (egg white sensitised) printing paper. One of the rooms in the monastery building was commandeered to

provide him with working space. Indications are that most of his work was photographing the small community of mostly Spanish monks, producing fine, characterful portraits including ones of Garrido and Rosendo Salvado himself. Santos also produced unique portraits of most of the Aboriginal men who were to make up New Norcia’s cricket team whose sensational first matches at Perth and Fremantle in February 1879 he was able to witness before leaving for Spain to seek treatment for the cataracts which were by then threatening him with blindness. Unfortunately he did not leave captions for most of these images, providing a nice challenge to the visual historian. What happened to his camera remains a mystery, although the New Norcia Art Gallery and Museum holds the red lamp used by him in his photographic processing.

[With acknowledgement to *History West*, newsletter of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.]

For Your Diary

Tues 23 May, 3- 4pm, Fremantle Panoramas at The Hive, Curtin University. Bookings essential by Monday 22 May on 9314 7765 or email jendu@iinet.net.au. Map provided on booking.

Tues 27 June, 6pm, Newmarket Hotel, corner Rockingham and Cockburn Roads

Tues 25 July, 6pm, AGM and Art Deco in Fremantle. Venue to be confirmed. Meeting will also include the launch of Fremantle Studies vol 9.

The Fremantle History Society received a letter from John Mann in Torquay recently. He was going through some old boxes with things from his father and discovered a number of photographs from Rottneest Island and Fremantle.

The society does not have a collection and has passed these images onto the Fremantle History Centre. Many thanks for your kind thoughts John.