



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Summer Edition, 2018

Editors: Ron Davidson, Anne Brake, Dianne Davidson

<https://fhs.org.au>



Newman St/High St hall foundations
(Archae-Aus, January 2018)



Excavating the farriers
(Archae-Aus, January 2018)

KINGS SQUARE REVEALED

Fiona Hook from Archae-Aus has been leading the archaeological digs in Kings Square and Newman Court trying to confirm the exact locations of buildings known to be in these areas and evidence of other activity previously not known.

Working off 2 old maps which showed different possibilities, Fiona and the team have been able to confirm the correct location of the 1843 Anglican Church between the old administration building and St John's Church. They have also found evidence of Tyler's blacksmith, farrier and carriage building company amongst other finds in the Newman Court trench.

Find out more about his fascinating project at the March meeting (details p3)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Prof Bob Reece (President)	9335 7892
Allen Graham (V President)	04212933360
Pam Harris (Treasurer)	9432 9739(W)
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Dianne Davidson	94306096
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Rob Fittock	0411 603 983

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 days and times may vary.



COMING EVENTS

February:

Australia Hotel pub lunch

It's back! Last year we missed out on our pub lunch at the Hamilton Hill hotel. To make up for it we are holding this year's early in the more historic Australia Hotel on the corner of Beach and Parry Streets. The lunch will be held on Sunday 25th February commencing at 12 noon.

Sadly, all the rich architectural features of the hotel have been lost over time, so there will not be a tour but Allen Graham, our Vice President, who is well known for his knowledge of Fremantle hotels, will give a talk on the history of the hotel and what the hotel trade was like in Fremantle in the late 1890s.

Meals range from \$14 – \$24 and include fish and chips, Pad Thai and Chicken Schnitzel as well as other options.

We look forward to seeing you there for some Fremantle Pub conviviality. To help the kitchen prepare they'd like to have a sense of how many are coming so can you please let Anne know if you are planning on coming and how many of you there will be by Friday 23 Feb to secretary.fhs@gmail.com.

**Sunday 25 February, 12 midday,
Australia Hotel, 1 Beach St, Fremantle.**

March: Kings Square Revealed

As noted on our cover page, the March meeting will focus on the recent archaeological digs at Kings Square and what was found.

Sometimes archaeological work poses more questions than answers. It can also challenge information found in the written record creating interesting debates between archaeologists and historians. The historical record is always the winner. To learn more about the process and the recent finds join us at our March meeting where Fiona Hook will explain the approach they took to the digs, the evidence they found and give us an analysis of those findings.

Tuesday 27 March, 6.00pm. The event will be held in the theatre in the new library area. Access is through the side gate to the right of main entrance to the Administration offices (it will be open). From there you will see open doors to the building. Pam Harris will be there to show you the way to the theatre. (see map on pg 7)

April: The redevelopment of heritage buildings - Atwell Building

An open forum on the 'redevelopment of heritage buildings in Fremantle' will be held using the Atwell Arcade's redevelopment as

a focus. Fremantle's diverse character has evolved since settlement in response to social, economic and technological changes and more recently, containerisation. It is necessary to identify just what it was that made Fremantle a diverse and viable place in order to successfully plan for the future. Can the heritage values of the city be successfully incorporated into the regeneration process without being compromised or eroded?

Alan Kelsall, Heritage Coordinator for the City of Fremantle, and Gerard O'Brien, owner of Silverleaf Investments, will join the forum. There will be a chance to look through the redevelopment as part of the meeting.

A key element of the Atwell Arcade is the iconic Cully's Tea Rooms. Culleys have agreed to open for the evening for viewing and delicious supper.

Meet at the **High St end of Attwel Arcade on Thursday 26 April at 6.00pm**. Meeting costs include a sumptuous supper at Culleys - **\$15 for members and \$20 for non members**.

This event is part of the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival.



MEETING REPORTS

Christmas at Samson House

Over 40 members and their guests enjoyed the beautiful Fremantle summer weather at the 2017 Christmas Party at Samson House. John Viska from the Garden History Society provided an insight into the grounds and the remnants plantings including the magnificent Norfolk Island pines reportedly planted by Frederick Samson in 1900 when he was eight and the water feature he built for his wife Daphne 41 years later.

Kelly Rippingale from the National Trust provided an overview of the history of the

house, built by Michael Samson, son of Lionel Samson, with his wife Mary. It was designed by the young architect Joseph John Talbot Hobbs.

Fred and Daphne lived in the house from 1935 when they married. After Daphne's death, Fred's widowed sister came back to Fremantle and lived with Fred in the house. Fred left Samson House to the state with the proviso Rita could continue to live there until she died. The WA Museum took over the house on Rita's death and it was transferred to the National Trust in 2010.

The 2 tours were followed by delicious Christmas festivities on the verandah of this beautiful house.



1972, Fremantle Local History Collection, 900A



TREASURES FROM TROVE – FREMANTLE TOWN HALL Heather Campbell

Heather Campbell has been digging into Trove to learn more about the Fremantle Town Hall. Her discoveries will be covered in the next 2 editions.

With the area around the Town Hall undergoing change and investigation it is timely to review the origins of the building.

David Hutchison in his excellent booklet *Fremantle Town Hall 1887-1987*, published by the City of Fremantle, provides the nuts and bolts of the story of the Town Hall,

which readers may find useful to refer to. The Evan Davies Civic Library moved to new library premises at the Town Hall Centre, adjacent to the Town Hall, in 1974 and was subsequently renamed Fremantle City Library. There is an account of the move, and a description of the Town Hall Centre at the time, in an interview with Betty McGeever, conducted in 2010, for the Fremantle Local History Collection.

From Trove:

[*The Western Australian Times* 20 June 1876, p 2]
FREMANTLE TOWN HALL: A deputation of gentlemen from Fremantle, consisting of, Messrs. Lefroy, Marmion, Higham, Wood, and Pearse, waited on His Excellency the Governor to solicit his assistance in the erection of a Town Hall for Fremantle a building which is much required in our principal sea port town. The deputation, which was headed by Mr. Lefroy, chairman of the Fremantle Municipal Council, was very courteously received by the Governor, who expressed his readiness as far as he could, to comply with the request of the deputation.

However:

[*The Western Australian Times* 3 October 1876, p 2]
The vote of £2000 promised by the Government towards the erection ... did not receive the support of the nominee members, as was expected. It would seem the Government members look upon this district as worthy only of rejected lighthouses and experimental jetties, and then only upon condition that their own whims and fancies are strictly carried out. It is rumoured the official who insisted upon the running out of the South Jetty in a direction condemned by the practical men of the port, and which has rendered it useless for landing, is said to be determined to erect a lighthouse in a position equally objectionable as to its inutility with the addition of proving itself most dangerous to shipping.

Time passed. By 1882 the Council had become the owners of a triangular site bounded by High, William and Newman Streets and by September 1884 plans had been drawn up.

[*Daily News* 22 September 1884, p 3]
Through the courtesy of the Mayor, Mr B C Wood, we had the pleasure of inspecting the new plan and design, with working drawings, of the New Town Hall at Fremantle which Messrs. Grainger and D'Ebro, the architects, of Melbourne, have supplied, together with specifications. By having the main hall on the ground floor a great saving in cost would be effected, although such space, originally intended for offices would be lost. The main hall is 80 ft x 48 ft and has a platform 33ft. wide with a depth of 10 ft. It is lighted by three windows facing William-street, and a skylight; provision will also be made for gas lighting. The porch and entrance hall are elaborately designed, and two cloakrooms and an anti-room have been provided. The supper-room is 40ft.6in. x 19 ft and provision has been made for a kitchen. Behind the platform are retiring rooms for performers, or persons requiring an extra room. There are also on the basement two offices 20ft. x 19ft. 6in. and two 14ft. x 13ft. 9 ins. The upper floor contains nine offices which will be devoted to municipal purposes, or be let. There is a Council Chamber, a Mayor's parlour, Alderman's room, and separate offices for the Town Clerk, Treasurer, Supervisor, &c. The caretaker's private quarters are situated a floor above and strike us as being too far removed in case of emergency. The building itself is in the Italian styl; of architecture, and when completed will be the most perfectly designed public building in the Colony.

[*West Australian* 25 June 1885, p 3]
Mr. Keane [the building contractor] is already actively engaged on the new Fremantle Town Hall. He has set up a hoarding round the space in which the building is to be erected, while preparations for the foundation are being pushed forward and bricks carted up in large numbers. The lively appearance of High Street promises

well for the stores in close proximity to the site of the proposed building.

[*West Australian* 12 Sept 1885, p. 3]
**LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF
THE FREMANTLE TOWN HALL**

There was a large gathering of towns-people on Thursday afternoon to witness the laying of the foundation stone of the Fremantle Town Hall. Punctually at four o'clock His Excellency the Governor drove up accompanied by Lady Broome and attended by his Private Secretary and Aide de Camp, and was received by the Mayor and Councillors S. A. Davies, D. K. Congdon, W. F. Samson, J. Herbert, T. Haley, H. Albert, Jas. Pearse, and E. Solomon. The Fremantle Volunteers, who has mustered in large force, formed a guard of honour. The Mayor, addressing the assembly, said that His Excellency and Lady Broome had very kindly consented to be present at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new Town Hall. ... The Mayor added that the bottle he held in his hand contained copies of the West Australian, and Morning Herald newspapers and sundry coins as also a document referring to the building.

His Excellency then proceeding to lay the foundation stone, over a cavity in which the bottle containing the newspapers and coins was deposited, after which His Excellency declared the stone well and truly laid. The following document above alluded to was then read by the Town Clerk: —

"The foundation stone of the new Town Hall was publically laid by year of the reign of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, and the 57th year of the history of the Colony. The estimated cost of the building is £10,000, the contract for the whole being £9917. ..." At the conclusion of the reading of this document the Governor delivered a short speech expressive of his pleasure in having taken part in the ceremony and of his desire to assist in every way the progress of municipal institutions. With cheers for His

Excellency and Lady Broome the proceedings terminated.

Not entirely terminated, as a large banquet followed, at the Oddfellows Hall...:

... the purveyor being Mr. Caesar, of the Emerald Isle Hotel. Including the invited guests, about a hundred gentlemen sat down at table, and the proceedings were graced with the presence of a number of ladies, who were accommodated with seats on the stage, which had been prettily decorated with flowers, foliage, and bunting.
...

In addition to the usual loyal toasts there were numerous other toasts (all drunk with 'great enthusiasm'). In responding to a long address by the Mayor, His Excellency the Governor said he considered:

... that these layings of foundation stones are no mean index to the progress of a colony. In fact, when you see a colonial Governor win a great many silver trowels on his drawing room table, you may be sure that he has reigned over a prosperous and progressive community. The trowel I had the pleasure of receiving to-day is my first acquisition of that description; but I hope I may have many more before I quit the colony, for I think that the more silver trowels I can take away with me, the better it will be for us all. (Hear, hear.)

Finally (and probably to everyone's relief):

Dr. Hope, in a capital little speech, proposed "The Ladies," coupled with the name of Lady Broome (the mere mention of whose name was received with enthusiasm). The Hon. J. G. H. AMHERST briefly responded, and the proceedings shortly afterwards terminated.

(To be continued in the Autumn Edition)

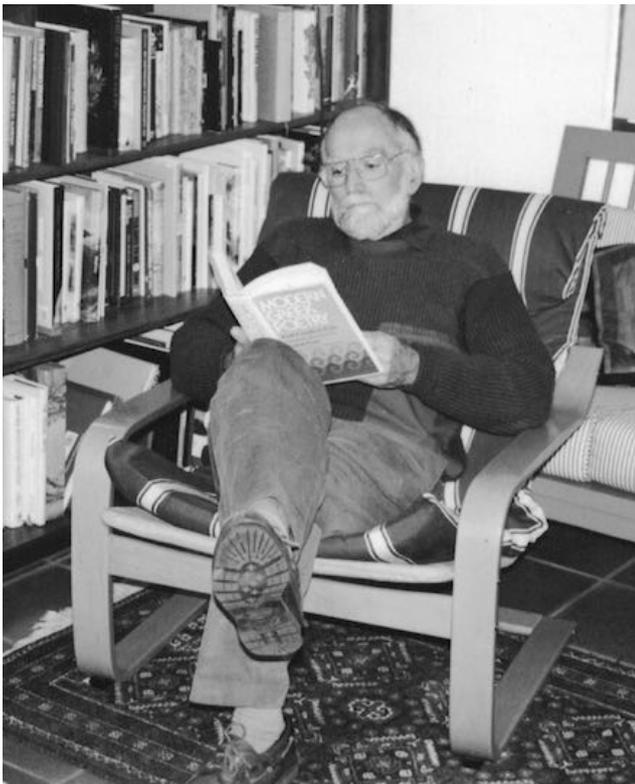


DAVID HUTCHISON

1927 – 2017

Educated in Claremont, David enlisted in the Air Training Corps in 1943. Penn Boucaut, one of the officers, encouraged him to go to university even providing him with funds to finish his matriculation. He enrolled in engineering at UWA the following year.

University life opened a new world of learning, interests and friendships, including Geoffrey Bolton and John Toohey (High Court Judge) who remained life long friends. University was the place where he expanded his horizons and explored a variety of new cultural and academic interests.



David Hutchison (the Hutchison Family)

Writing became a passion and he joined the Fellowship of Australian Writers where he mixed with and was encouraged by the likes of Mary and Elizabeth Durack, Jean and Keith Ewers and Henrietta Drake-Brockman. He also developed skills in painting and drawing; mainly watercolours and botanical drawings. Both interests remained passions through his life.

During a two year stint working in England David enthusiastically grasped opportunities

for new cultural experiences in theatre (Lawrence Olivier was a leading actor then), the visual arts and literature, meeting writers and others involved in the arts.

On his return to Australia he began teaching physics at Christchurch Grammar (1953 – 1967) and began part time tutoring in history (UWA) and history and philosophy of science (WAIT).

The climax of his career was his time as Inaugural Curator of History at the Western Australian Museum (1970-1985) during which time he established the first government social history museum in Fremantle in 1970. He played a leading role in the Local Museum Programme, working with community groups throughout the state. In 1975 he was seconded to Canberra at the request of the Prime Minister to organise an exhibition on Australian history entitled “The Fourth Part of the World”, Australia’s contribution to the celebration of the American Bicentenary which received high commendation from the Smithsonian Institution.

During his time at the museum he was active in a number of internal and external committees concerned with places as diverse as Gwalia and the Cocos Keeling Islands.

Following his retirement he continued heritage and history work through a consultancy including with the New Norcia archives resulting in a book *A town like no other*. His botanical illustrations featured in George Seddon’s book *Sense of place*.

David also studied modern Greek to a point where he was able to translate from Greek into English.

He was active in community groups in Fremantle (Fremantle Society and the Fremantle History Society) and retained his passion for reading, for literature and for his own creative writing. His novel, *Many Years a Thief*, set in early Swan River Colony, was published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press in 2007.

By any measure, David had a long and interesting life that was marked by

significant achievements in a number of fields and by opportunities to pursue his wide interests with satisfying outcomes.

Edited from David's eulogy, prepared by June and Jane Hutchison and read at his memorial service by Verity James, 4 January, 2018

FREMANTLE HISTORY CENTRE Pam Harris

I am sure many of you are aware that the Fremantle Library and City administration has now moved to the Docker's Building at Fremantle Oval. I like to say that I now work at the 'Oval Office'.



As a result of the move the majority of the history collection had to be packed up and put into storage. However, during last year we worked very hard to digitise as much as possible so we could still provide information as required.

Future projects will involve making more information online through a new library management system which will allow researchers to find a much broader range of information through the internet.

I am not located out in the main library but if you need to see me to pay memberships or have a question about Fremantle's fascinating history just ask the friendly staff in the library and they will let me know you are there. For more complicated enquiries it is a good idea to make an appointment. Call me on 94329739 or email me at pamh@fremantle.wa.gov.au.

See a photograph of the new building above as well as a map (below) to help you find your way.

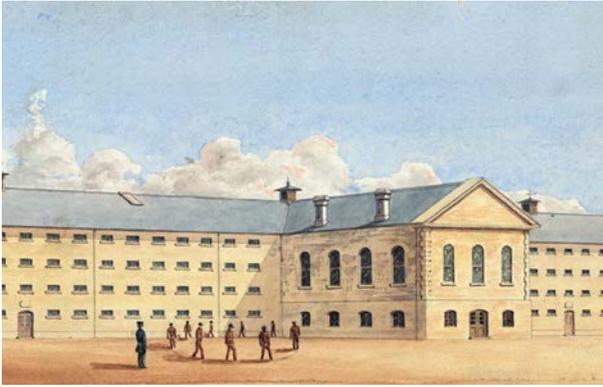
CONVICT THEMED HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

While many well-known convict places such as Fremantle Prison and the Perth Town Hall are already entered in the State Register of Heritage Places, this is an opportunity for you to nominate places associated with the convict system that may not be as well-known.

The Western Australian Heritage Council has recently written to the FHS with regards a call for nominations for a special assessment program focusing on places associated with convicts. The initiation of the thematic assessment program for 2018-19 commemorates the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the last convict transportation ship to Australia, the *Hougoumont*, in Fremantle on 9 January 1868.

Minister for Heritage, the Hon David Templeman MLA, announced the call when he opened the *Transportation* exhibition at the Fremantle Prison on 9 January 2018.

Sites for nomination can include places where convicts lived or worked, or places associated with ex-convicts. It can also include places associated with the guards, officers and administrators who operated the convict system.



Convict Prison, 1859, Henry Wray (detail),
Courtesy NLA

Further information is available on the Heritage Council's website
<http://www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au>.

Members are encouraged to visit the exhibition at the Fremantle Prison.

Transportation presents the stories of men, women and children forcibly sent to convict sites around Australia, exploring the social tragedy of the convict system as a whole as well as individual stories of personal achievement.

Exhibiting convict material from the Mitchell Library (State Library of New South Wales), Western Australian Museum and the Prison's own collection, Transportation demonstrates the impact forced migration had on individual transportees and their families, and on the shaping of modern Australian society. The exhibition displays key historic artefacts such as the 1881 Ticket of Leave of Hougoumont convict William Bartlett, on display to the public for the first time.

Transportation is a free exhibition and will be on display in the Prison Gallery until March 2019.

From <http://fremantleprison.com.au/whats-on/transportation/> 28.01.2018



CHANGES AT THE FREMANTLE HISTORY CENTRE

Many of you will be aware of changes at the City of Fremantle as a result of the demolition of the old administration building for the construction of the new. The City is using it as a time to reconsider a number of their services as they plan for the new building and operations. One of the areas that has been affected has been the Fremantle History Centre. The History Society Committee became aware of the reduction of Centre staff and wrote to the Mayor and Councillors about our concern the impact this reduction would have on services provided in the new building and the opportunity to use the interim to consolidate the backlog of work inevitable with such a collection.

Below is an extract of the letter.

The Fremantle History Centre has an exceptional collection that has been built up over many years under the guidance of some outstanding librarians, their staff and volunteers. It is very well used by locals and by visitors and has set a benchmark which many other local history collections aspire to emulate. The growing diversity of this comprehensive collection, the move to digitise material to make it more accessible and the continued high standard of customer service that has been provided will be compromised by the reduction in staff.

... The temporary move to the oval building will reduce the need to assist users, thus providing a once in a life time opportunity to tackle the backlog of work, to consolidate policies and procedures and to prepare for additional and updated services in the new facility. This is the ideal time to ensure that when the new library opens, the Fremantle History Centre will be better able to answer its customers' needs.

It seems short sighted to lose a staff member with such knowledge of the collection. The Fremantle History Society encourages the City of Fremantle to re-think this regrettable decision and move instead to employ a suitably qualified person to

assist in maintaining and building the strengths of this valuable collection.

The City has replied to our letter. Their reply includes the following:

... The City has recently undertaken a review of the operations of Fremantle Library including the management of the collection and operations of the Fremantle History Centre.

... As a result a number of changes have been made cross our services in response to customer requirements, developments in contemporary library and history collection services provision, and desire to better promote and encourage community participation and interaction with our services.

... Our focus ... is on making the collection more accessible and visible to the community, enhancing our efforts to promote the history of Fremantle and to share the collection with more people than we ever have before.

Despite these assurances, the FHS Committee remains committed to continue to press for resources for the Fremantle History Centre to ensure its extensive and important collection is suitably cared for and adequate and appropriate access is maintained.

Members are encouraged to make their own enquiries and comments should they believe it appropriate.



For Your Diary

February: Australia Hotel pub lunch.
Sunday 25 February, 12 midday,
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Please rsvp to secretary.fhs@gmail.com
with numbers by **Friday 23 February.**

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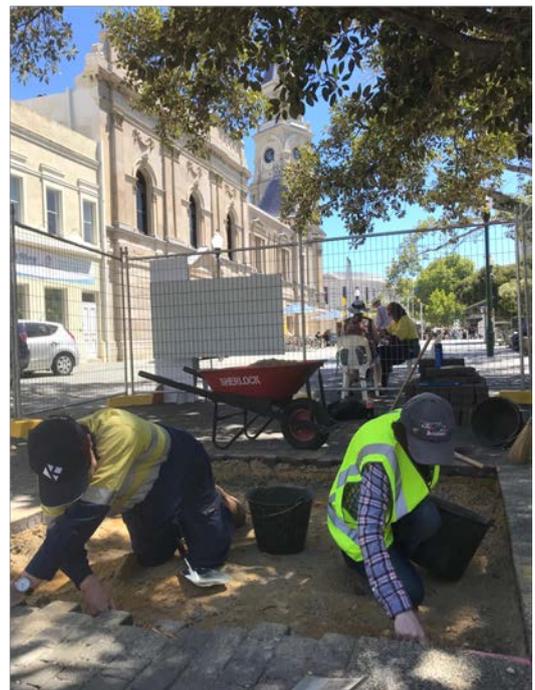
April: The redevelopment of heritage buildings - Atwell Building

Meet at the **High St end of Attwel Arcade** on **Thursday 26 April at 6.00pm.** Meeting costs include a sumptuous supper at Culleys Tea Rooms - **\$15 for members** and **\$20 for non members.**

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology is the study of human activity through the recovery and analysis of material culture. The archaeological record consists of artefacts, architecture, biofacts and cultural landscapes. Archaeology can be considered both a social science and a branch of the humanities..

Wikipedia



Learn more about this fascinating discipline and its contribution to the study and understanding of our historical past at our March meeting.