



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Autumn Edition, 2017

<https://fhs.org.au>

FREMANTLE HISTORY CENTRE Can you help?

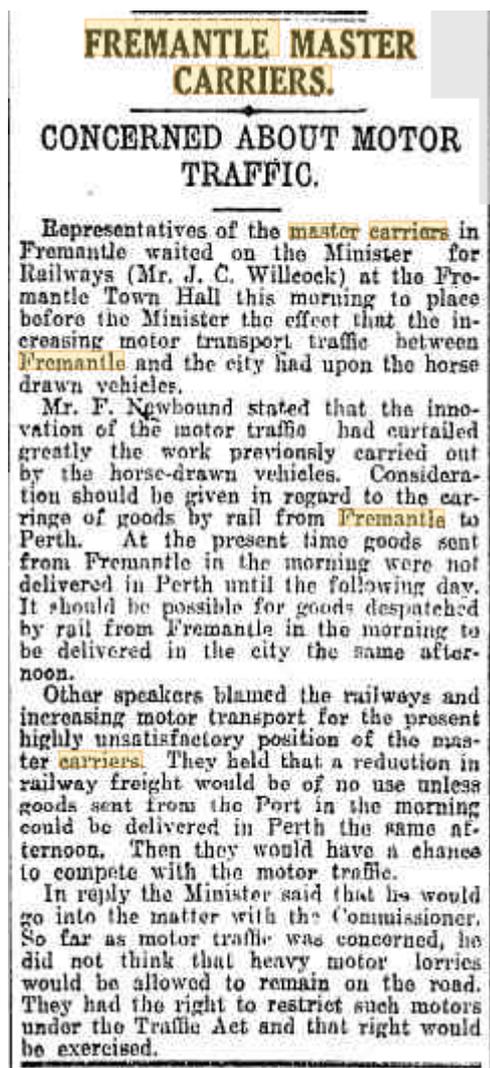
The History Centre recently received a large photograph – see image left - relating to the Fremantle Carriers Association, dated 20 April 1914.

Research on Trove has revealed that the Association was formed in 1912 and later became part of the West Australian Road Transport Association. It appears that the carriers assisted with transport of goods from the Port of Fremantle using horse and carts and later progressed to the use of motorised vehicles.

The article below on Trove reflects their concerns re the danger of motor vehicles to their horses in 1924.

If anyone has any information about the organisation please contact Pam at the History Centre.





1 September 1924, *Daily News*



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Prof Bob Reece (President)	9335 7892
Allen Graham (Vice President)	0412 933 360
Pam Harris (Treasurer)	9432 9739(W)
Anne Brake (Secretary)	9336 5206

Committee Members:

Fay Campbell	9341 4102
Cathy Hall	0407 086 300
Dianne Davidson	9430 6096
Greg Luke	9430 7899
Michelle McKeough	0419 043 217
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

ROBYN MCK CAMPBELL (1934-2017)

Fremantle History Society will mark the opening of the Fremantle Heritage Festival at Fremantle Arts Centre on Friday 25 May at 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm with an exhibition of the work on the Arts Centre by Conservation Architect, Rob McK. Campbell (1934-2017). It will be launched by its curator and Rob's business partner and fellow architect, Ingrid Van Bremen, who will introduce the collection of original drawings and other related material created by Rob Campbell in the course of the Arts Centre's restoration, commencing in 1974.

This will be followed by the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in his honour on the northern wall of Samson Court by Professor Carmen Lawrence.

Drinks will be available at the Arts Centre bar and nibbles will be provided.

Friday 25 May, 5.30pm, Fremantle Arts Centre. RSVP by Monday 21 May to b.reece@murdoch.edu.au.

Princess May School

Our June meeting will be held at historic Princess May school. The school was named after Princess Mary of Tech – it is believed she was called May after her month of birth. Princess Mary visited Fremantle in 1910 but the school didn't take the name until 1935. Come and find out the history of this iconic Fremantle School.

Tuesday 26 June, 6.00pm. Cnr Parry and Adelaide St, Fremantle.

AGM and Kings Square Revealed Revisited

Fiona Hook, who was to present at our March meeting, was laid up in hospital and not able to make it. We have reconvened and she will be giving her talk on the

fascinating Kings Square and Newman Court archaeological digs as part of this year's AGM.

Sometimes archaeological work poses more questions than answers. It can also challenge information documented in the written record creating interesting debates between archaeologists and historians. The historical record isn't always the winner.

To learn more about the process and the recent finds join us at our July meeting where Fiona will explain the approach they took to the digs, the evidence they found and give us an analysis of those findings following the annual general meeting formalities.

Tuesday 24 July, 6.00pm. Meeting Room, City of Fremantle Library Offices, Fremantle Oval.



MEETING REPORTS

Australia Hotel

Vice President Allen Graham gave around 30 members a fascinating overview of the development of the hotel business in Fremantle. Like any port town, Fremantle became well known for its pubs – the number of and their colourful clients, but this roaring trade started in humble premises and battled bureaucracy to cater for the thirsty in early Fremantle.

The committee hoped to support the recently refurbished Australia Hotel, but although we enjoyed a drink during Allen's fascinating talk and had a quick look at the recent works, the kitchen was not available and we adjourned to nearby Clancy's for our lunch.

Kings Square was not visited

Sadly our March speaker was not able to join us. Vice President Allen Graham once again entertained members and guests. Allen runs walking tours of Fremantle (you can find him at www.visitfremantle.com.au/fremantle-history-walking-tour) and he generously

stepped in and gave a fascinating talk on Americans in Fremantle without mention of the America's Cup or the war.

The redevelopment of heritage buildings in Fremantle.

Our recent visit to the Atwell Building off the High Street Mall was very successful. The owner and developer of the building, Gerard O'Brien, opened the doors to the Fremantle History Society and visitors to inspect the recently completed redevelopment work. The meeting took the opportunity to examine the thorny issue of just what is involved in the 'redevelopment of heritage buildings in Fremantle'.

Just over 40 people met on an outdoor deck which sits between the heritage listed section facing the Mall and a new 5 storey office block, which itself joins the heritage listed section along Cantonment Street.

We were lucky to have Alan Kelsall, Heritage Coordinator for the City of Fremantle as our first guest speaker. With the aid of an interesting selection of slides, Alan traced the built history of Fremantle, showing with maps the progression of town plans since first settlement, and how the development of Fremantle was affected by the topography of the area.

Pictures showed the changes over time, as the village developed into a town, then the City we know today. Alan explained how the structure of the town moved from one facing the original harbour where Bather's Beach is today. Over the years town planners deliberately refocused the town from Cliff St the original main thoroughfare to the river port to High St up to the Town Hall as the retail strip. Warehouses and railway yards which dominated the waterfront, where the new inner harbour was developed, slowly diminished.

Alan walked us through the social and economic cycles of Fremantle. The gold rush boom left its imprint with the amazing buildings in the West End. The inner harbour's changes from being the major employer and focus of the town changed completely with containerisation. No longer

were so many people working in and around Fremantle. Inevitably, as people moved away, so did the retail sector and investment in Fremantle.

As Alan explained, the challenge facing us today is how do we redevelop our heritage buildings while making them into usable spaces. He pointed out a couple of very poor examples from the not too distant past and encouraged us to get involved in helping shape the future.

Gerard followed giving give us an insight into his ideas as a property developer. As the owner of quite a significant amount of the CBD in Fremantle, and interestingly in other places like Hobart, Gerard clearly has a liking for heritage buildings. He openly talked about some of the problems faced by developers, meeting ever-changing building regulations and codes, trying to retro fit things which people in the 21st Century regard as essential into old spaces, meeting the expectations of the community at large and of course the costs. It was pretty obvious the Gerard enjoys the challenge of redeveloping heritage buildings. Starting on a green field space is often cheaper and without as many constraints.

Gerard and Alan then answered questions from the floor. As some of the questions revealed not everyone supports the changes that are happening around Fremantle. However both Alan and Gerard openly discussed the issues. It was also clear the while the Council and the developer don't see eye to eye on some issues they have an open respect for each other's place in the world. As we all know Gerard doesn't get all his ideas accepted, as with the Coles / Wool Stores proposal. On the other hand he acknowledged the value of the Alan's contribution into parts of the Atwell redevelopment and how that had improved the outcome.

When asked, Gerard told us that Fremantle was the most difficult place he has had to work in as a developer. However he is not giving up. As he says his challenge is to meet the demands of the Council, the expectations of the community and make his

developments attractive to his customers. He also has a philosophy of making his redevelopments flexible enough to meet the myriad of changes he foresees into the future in terms of shopping, parking and life style.

Following the Q & A session we adjourned to Culley's Tearooms. Owner Michael Culley, whose great grandparents Edward and Alice Culley started the business 90 years ago, gave us an interesting talk on the family history and the changes over time. He talked about the move from one side of the arcade to the other as part of the redevelopment, and while it had been a struggle initially the move was working for their business.

We were also lucky enough to have amongst the group Penny and Jan Sunderland, descendants of Henry and Sarah Atwell who built the arcade and after whom it is named. They showed us a photo of their forebears and gave us a potted history of the family. Henry arrived as a convict but soon gained his ticket of leave and then married. With his wife they constructed the original parts of the building.

We then enjoyed a sumptuous Culley's supper. A typical Culley's Tearooms spread including sausage rolls, party pies, sandwiches and an array of desserts helped fuel the on-going discussions begun earlier in the night

Thank you to all those involved for your open and generous contributions.



YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU.

Like all volunteer run groups the Fremantle History Society needs all the help it can get. The Committee works very hard keeping the place going. Arranging interesting meetings and activities, writing newsletters, catering for functions, keeping track of members, and so on.

It can also be difficult coming up with new ideas. We are always open to suggestions.

If you have time and energy why not consider joining the Committee. Nominate

for election at the AGM. With the resignation for personal reasons of several long time members of the Committee, we are currently short on numbers.

Please give serious thought to joining the Committee.

Alternatively if you don't want to be on the Committee but can help out organising functions, editing, catering, arranging fund raisers, or whatever your particular talent may be, give it a go. We have some people helping in this way but can always use more.

Ask the Committee how you can help. Telephone numbers at the front of the newsletter or bail one up at a meeting. We'd love to have your input.



TREASURES FROM TROVE – FREMANTLE TOWN HALL Heather Campbell

Heather Campbell has been digging into Trove to learn more about the Fremantle Town Hall. In the January edition details on the planning for the Town Hall was presented ending with the celebrations around the laying of the foundation stone. In this edition the Town Hall is opened to great fanfare, speeches and even a parade.

JUBILEE DAY IN FREMANTLE. OPENING OF THE NEW TOWN HALL. SPEECHES OF THE MAYOR AND THE GOVERNOR. [Inquirer and Commercial News 29 June 1887, p 2]

The ceremony of opening the Fremantle Town Hall on Wednesday was an event in which the people took a very lively interest. There is no occurrence in the history of the Port within the memory of its oldest inhabitant that has caused so much stir and has resulted in so much general satisfaction to those who took an active part in the arrangements as well as to the great concourse of people who turned out to witness the spectacle. The Mayor and Corporation are to be congratulated upon the very excellent manner in which the whole ceremony was conducted. Along the

route of the procession there were three evergreen arches. The first, at Cliff street, end of High-street, bore a banner on either side; one with the portrait of Her Majesty in the center and the words, "Peace, Prosperity ;" on the other "God Bless our Queen," the top being decorated with flags. The second arch was similarly decorated, the banners bearing the inscription "Welcome Jubilee," with a black swan at each end, and the side facing the top end of High-street contained the words "Long Live Victoria." The third arch, facing the front of the Town Hall, was profusely hung with flags with a banner on either side; the wording being "Welcome Governor Broome" and "Long Live His Excellency." Besides these the residents displayed a quantity of bunting ... The vessels in port were also decorated with flags from stem to stern. The railway station was tastefully dressed in evergreens with a banner bearing the words "God Save the Queen" in silver letters on a blue ground. Crossing the main line at the Locomotive workshops was erected a triumphal arch that surpassed everything of the kind seen in this colony. It was constructed chiefly of palms and evergreens, the top being decorated with 8 flags and a transparency which at night was illuminated with gas and Chinese lanterns. The transparency contained a portrait of Her Majesty with an inscription of "Our Queen's Jubilee" and two paintings one at each end in medallion form of a locomotive engine and steamboat. On the sides of the arch were written the words "Jubilee Year." The artist was Mr. Carey, carriage painter, belonging to the Locomotive department, and he with others who assisted at the erection of the arch deserve great credit for their excellent taste in displaying in practical form their loyalty to Her Majesty on so auspicious an occasion. The special train with His Excellency, Lady Broome and suite reached Fremantle about 10:30, and were received by the Mayor and Corporation and a guard of honour of the Fremantle Rifle Volunteers under the command of Captain H. Smith, drawn up in front of the railway station. Captain G. B. Humble, who acted as marshall, assisted by Mr. Wriford, secretary to the Health Board,

then arranged the procession in ... order. ... The Hall was filled without leaving any standing room. There must have been fully 2000 persons present. The greatest decorum was observed throughout the whole ceremony, [which] commenced with the singing of God Save the Queen by the school children.

The Mayor (Mr. D. K. Congdon) said:

“... In 1876 the Government set aside a reserve in South Terrace as a site; this at the time was considered fairly central, but as High street came to be built over and the town became extended right and left the Church authorities two years later determined to build a new church, and offered the right of purchase of this block of land on which this Hall now stands. In 1883

the Legislature unanimously voted £2,000 towards the erection of this building. This was a great incentive to the ratepayers, and the result was that in 1885, on June the 18th, Mr. Edward Keane's tender was accepted for the construction of this building for

£9916, and when I tell you that it has been constructed with so small a sum as not to reach 2 ½ per cent. for extras I think everyone will admit economy has been studied (cheers). I think it is only fair to Mr. Keane to say that the manner in which he has turned out this building must reflect credit on him, not only now but in the future as a contractor (cheers). ... I can only now say that I congratulate my fellow townsmen on having building which is a credit to the town —beautiful in exterior — well finished interior — cheap at the price paid for it and a

building which will form a lasting memento of the Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty — a building which will also fill that want I referred to in my opening remarks (cheers).”

He then read a very long address to his Excellency and concluded by saying:

“We specially recognize with pleasure that the ceremony of opening this building by Your Excellency occurs in the Jubilee year of our Gracious Queen Victoria, whose life has been adorned by so many virtues, and during whose reign the British Empire has made such marvellous progress in population, prestige and power. We desire to express our loyal hope that this province may long continue to be a part of that great Empire, the influence of which has been so favourable to the advancement of civilization

in the World. ... We now in conclusion respectfully ask Your Excellency to set apart this building for Public use.”

The newspaper editor, however, had noted an omission in the Mayor's speech:

... which we presume was partly accidental It is well known

that Mr. B. C. Wood was Mayor when the foundation stone of the Hall was laid by His Excellency, and it is also known that the Town Hall loan was obtained entirely through the determined efforts of the late Mayor, who upon succeeding in disposing of the opposition he met with from the ratepayers when he first mooted the question of raising the money for the erection of the edifice, publicly announced that on his first taking office as Mayor he had made up his mind to get the sanction of the ratepayers to build a Town Hall, and he was largely gratified that his efforts had



Courtesy Fremantle History Centre LH000015

been crowned with success. It is to be regretted the present Mayor altogether forgot to refer to the circumstance, which we think is of sufficient importance to draw public attention to.

His Excellency, in reply, said — “Mr. Mayor and gentlemen: It is by a happy and a fortunate coincidence that the municipality and people of Fremantle are able to include among their rejoicings on this national occasion of her Majesty's Jubilee, the dedication to public use of the handsome edifice in which we are now assembled (cheers) ... It is impossible to look around this spacious hall without feeling that it is a fitting and a striking monument of the public zeal and spirit of a municipal body which has to meet many demands from limited resources (cheers). With every good wish for the future of the town of Fremantle to-day, united with the whole Empire in a special manifestation of loyalty and affection to our beloved Queen, I have great pleasure in now declaring this Town and Jubilee Hall open and available for the public purposes for which it has been designed. (Loud and prolonged cheers). “

[Several more speeches and responses followed by the Mayor and by his Excellency the Governor, which in the opinion of this editor, were variations on a theme and have therefore been omitted]

The children then sang the Jubilee verse of the National Anthem. His Excellency announced that the children attending Government schools of Perth and Fremantle would receive an extra week's holiday in honor of the Jubilee. Sir Frederick Broome then retired with the Mayor and Councillors, and partook of refreshments in the dining room. His Excellency returned to Perth by the 12:45 train.

.... Then there is the sad, but related tale, of the death of Mr W J Snook, the Town Supervisor, and the subsequent trial of William Conroy, the first licensee of the National Hotel – but that is a story for another time...



HAVE YOUR SAY IN HOW THE FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY FUNCTIONS

At the next AGM members will be asked to approve a number of changes to the Society's Rules or Constitution. These have been made necessary by changes to the law covering Incorporated Associations in Western Australia. Most of the changes are very straightforward legal requirements. However your Committee has taken the opportunity to review several other sections at the same time; a bit of updating mainly.

At the AGM only financial members will be entitled to vote on the changes. If you had a green dot on the envelope this newsletter came in or received notification through the email if you receive it electronically, then you are financial. If your envelope didn't have a green dot or your email said you aren't financial, then you need to pay up. If you pay your dues now they will see you through until the end of the coming financial year (ie June 2019).

If you have been coming to our activities and would like to join then under our existing Rules you need to have your application endorsed by the Committee and so need to get it in before the Committee meeting on Tuesday 12th June.

We discovered one more thing in the review process. An alteration to our Rules that was to allow us to send notifications to members by email actually lapsed because it was not received by the Department of Commerce within the required time. Therefore we have to mail out all the notices for the AGM including all the things to be discussed about the rule changes. In order to make sure you receive these notices, if you have changed mailing address recently please let Pam know. Pam's number is on page 2 or email her on pamh@fremantle.wa.gov.au.



RELATED ISSUES

Jennifer Dudley found the Atwell Arcade visit stimulating and, as we hope all our meetings do, it got her thinking about related topics. The benefits of encouraging more

people to live in the inner city were discussed on several occasions. High-rise is often seen as the answer to this urban planning issue; but is it? This is a very vexed question in heritage precincts such as Fremantle, but the issues affecting heritage areas are also relevant to other inner city developments

Jennifer has stumbled across an interesting web site for those interested in broader urban issues and forwarded some information for inclusion in the newsletter for those who are also interested in this topic. She writes:

Extremely interesting [meeting] and much food for thought afterwards. For those interested in reviving and repopulating dead areas of a city, I'd like to share the following website I recently discovered. "Assemble Papers" focus was originally Melbourne and many of the articles reviewed various forms of innovatively living above or behind creative small businesses. Picking up on the modular structures mentioned many of the business models themselves were quite multi-faceted, often requiring open floor plans or large open spaces allowing the use of changeable spaces.

The site is called Assemble Papers, and ... references examples of soft footprint living in many other large cities beyond Melbourne.

<http://assemblepapers.com.au/about/>

FREMATLE PRISON MATERIAL

Fremantle Prison is calling for donations of artefacts to grow the Prison's collection and encourage the return of objects removed from the Prison over the years.

The Fremantle Prison Collection is diverse, comprising approximately 12,000 items, including photographs, documents, furnishings, artworks, tools, clothing and textiles, institutional paraphernalia, letters, weapons and archaeological material.

The Collection spans the entirety of the Prison's operational life, from the beginning of construction in 1851 through to 1991

when the Prison was decommissioned and closed.

It includes items of varying significance from ones with international and national heritage value, to others that tell a local story.

Fremantle Prison will be holding two 'donation open days' during which people can bring their items and discuss the donation and care of the items with the Prison's curatorial team.

The first donation day is planned for **Friday 18 May** on International Museum Day, and the second on **Saturday 26 May**, as part of the Fremantle Heritage Festival. The curatorial team will be available from 10am - 3pm.

If you have any items you would like to donate please download a pre-donation form available from the email address below to complete and bring with you on the day.

If you would like any further information regarding donating to the Fremantle Prison Collection you can contact Fremantle Prison's curatorial team directly on (08) 9336 9223 or curatorial@fremantleprison.com.au



For Your Diary

May: Exhibition Launch - Robin McK Campbell's work on the conservation of the Fremantle Asylum and the unveiling of a plaque to honour him by Prof Carmen Lawrence at **the Fremantle Arts Centre**. **Friday 25 May, 5.30pm, RSVP by Monday 21 May to b.reece@murdoch.edu.au.**

June – Princess May, Tuesday 26 June, 6pm. Corner of Parry and Adelaide St, Fremantle

July – AGM and Kings Square Revealed Revisited. Fiona Hook will present a fascinating report on the findings of the recent archaeological digs in Kings Square and Newman Court following this year's AGM. **Fremantle Library, Fremantle Oval. Tuesday 24 July, 6pm.**