



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Spring Edition, 2018

<https://fhs.org.au>



Guy Fawkes night was a highlight of the year for the community and was celebrated in Australia on the 5th November up until the 1970s when the sale of firecrackers were banned due to fear of injury and bush fires. This image captures the sense of community with children from the Hiscock and Ladner families. playing around a bonfire in Samson Street during World War II. There is a guy on top. The houses in the background are in Wood and Edmund Streets. (Fremantle Local History Collection LH004714)

GUY FAWKES DAY IN FREMANTLE - A BIT OF BAH HUMBUG FROM 1874

GUY FAWKES' DAY.

That this is the month of November, and this Thursday the Fifth Day thereof, I am just reminded by five or six little urchins who are going about house to house repeating in their shrill young voices the worn out doggerel,

*“Remember, remember the Fifth of November,
Gunpowder treason and plot,
I see no reason why Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.”*

Concluding with the traditional "Holloa, boys! Holloa boys, God save the Queen!" I need hardly say that the object of the procession is to extract a few half-pence from good natured householders like Your Own, but if all good natured householders treated the young varlets as the juvenile band was treated by Your Own - staunch Protestant though he be--I am afraid their receipts must prove of the nature described by Mr. Bob Sawyer when Mr. Winkle¹ sounded him as to the extent of his professional profits capable of being put into a wine-glass and covered over with a gooseberry leaf. To me the history of Guido Vaux is essentially melancholy and tragic; that dark, grim, half-foreign man, coming from nobody knows where, passing like a meteor across the gloomy November sky, and ending on a gibbet in Old Palace Yard. What comic element can there be in this, that his history should have been made these two hundred and fifty years past a kind of screaming burlesque for the amusement of blackguard little boys? Why can't we let Guy Fawkes alone, at this time of day, too, and at this antipodean distance from the scene of the "plot," and when the grotesque galvanization of his miserable story can only be regarded as an insult and an outrage by our Roman Catholic fellow subjects. Suppose we got up, for a change, a neat little procession representing the principal episodes of the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, and chair Admiral Coligny² for a Guy

The Herald, Fremantle, 7 November 1874, page 3



Following the annual general meeting the following committee members were elected. There are a few spaces still available on the executive and the committee. Anyone interested in joining please contact one of the current committee members noted here.

¹ Characters in *Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Allen Graham (President)	0412 933 360
Pam Harris (Secretary)	0408 092 100
Anne Brake (Treasurer)	0438 445 141

Committee Members:

Fay Campbell	0419 969 678
Cathy Hall	0407 086 300
Prof Bob Reece	9335 7892
Michelle McKeough	0419 043 217
Heather Campbell	0408 175 246
Judith Robison	0434 571 666

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.



MEETING REPORTS

Mission to Seaman

Our August activity was a visit to the Flying Angel Club in Queen Victoria Street. As this was a cold and wintry night our numbers were down but for those that were there we were able to hear from the Reverend Dennis Cloughton, who is the current Chaplain/Manager of the Mission and he gave a very good description of the work that is undertaken by the Mission in Fremantle.

Not knowing much about the history of the Mission to Seamen in Fremantle I did some research on the organization ahead of the visit, which included putting together a small power point presentation showing some old photos of the mission and so I was able to

² A disciplined Huguenot leader in the French Wars of Religion, who lived 1519-1572.

complement Reverend Claughton's talk, with my own potted history of the seafarer support organizations in Fremantle.

That history starts with the Sailors' Rest Mission to Seamen in Fremantle, but to fully understand the history of the Mission to Seamen in Fremantle you first have to look at the origins of the seafaring missions that were first founded in the United Kingdom in the early 19th century and so the history of the Mission to Seamen, or Seafarers, as it is now known.

Allen Graham's fascinating history of the Mission to Seaman will run in next year's newsletters – look out for them.

Being there – Kathleen O'Connor

What a treat it was not only to see the work of this interesting Western Australian artist drawn together from a range of private and public collections but to be given a fascinating insight into the life of the daughter of CY O'Connor a brave woman artist of the 20th century.

Andre Lipscombe, the curator of the exhibition, once again kept all who attended engaged in the details of Kathleen's brave move away from home and family into the difficult life of an artist in Paris leaving Fremantle in 1906 and reluctantly returning home in 1948 at the age of 72.

Members and friends then enjoyed afternoon tea under the trees in the beautiful grounds of the Fremantle Arts Centre. Thanks to Andre and the Arts Centre for hosting us.

Fremantle Studies Day

The latest Studies day held in October at Fremantle Library provided an interesting and emotional program relating to the aftermath at the end of the World War 1. The four speakers provide insight into the personal, social and economic impacts to the history of Fremantle.

In her paper, *The Suffering Begins: Returned Soldiers, families and the aftermath of World War 1 in Western Australia*, Dr Leigh Straw talks about the effects of the war on individuals and families. The statistics in terms of the soldiers who went to war are distressing with close to 60,000 not returning and of the 23,700 soldiers who returned to Western Australia, many struggled to create a semblance of civilian life amidst their ongoing trauma of war. The examples of the after effects on the soldiers and their families was explained using her research through soldiers' war records and Trove to bring to life many of the tragedies and pain which families experienced including an ancestor in Leigh's family. It was very emotional and thought provoking.

Allen Graham's paper, *The Fremantle hotel trade during World War One* was more about the social and economic impact of life in Fremantle during the war. As Australia's only substantial port on the western seaboard it was the last part of Australia that many departing troops saw and the first that many maimed and wounded saw on their return to Australia.

The people of Fremantle were, therefore, greatly impacted by the war, but perhaps no business class suffered as much from the war as Fremantle's publicans, for at the outbreak of war the Commonwealth Government had enacted the War Precautions Act which amongst other things allowed the government to "either prohibit or restrict the sale of liquor in any licensing district" or the "power ...to alter the closing time for hotels." Allen pointed out that Fremantle publicans lost trade due to this legislation being enforced and many travelled on to Perth where the restrictions were less severe. There were many protests from the Fremantle publicans, but it didn't change the situation and they continued to struggle to operate during this period. Allen's paper was interesting and provided insight into an aspect of Fremantle's history during the war which has not been previously revealed.

Baden Pratt's paper, Hell for Leather: North Fremantle Football club and the Great War was also a very emotional presentation. Once again, the statistics relating to one football club are distressing, 43 players and officials, as many if not more than any other sporting club in Australia, walked off the North Fremantle Oval to volunteer to serve Australia - 12 would die, 22 would return limbless, shell-shocked or brain impaired from gas attacks and the remaining eight would all receive bullet wounds. So many enlisted in 1915 the team had to forfeit the final five games of the 1915 league season.

Apart from the devastating effect on the soldiers and their family and friends it also had ramifications on the future of the North Fremantle Football Club in the Western Australian Football League and resulted in them being left out of the competition. Eventually they became part of the Amateur Football League where they still compete today. It was an emotional story about the players and the history of the club which was well received by all who attended.



Baden Pratt, Allen Graham and Dr Leigh Straw
(Pam Harris)

Dr Michelle McKeough's paper, Repatriation: A debt of Gratitude, was read by Allen Graham as unfortunately Michelle was ill on the day. The paper described the return of wounded soldiers from 1915 and brought home to their communities the real impact of their 'first physical and emotional experience of modern warfare'. The repatriation of these men asserted itself as

one of the most important social and civil concerns of the post-war period. The response of governments; local, state and federal to the issue of repatriation was founded on a prevailing sense of gratitude.

Michelle's paper went on to explain in real terms how government departments and community organisations worked together to provide, social, economic and health support for the soldiers and their families. It highlighted issues which faced the Fremantle community for some time after the end of the war.

Thank you to all presenters for providing such an interesting and thought provoking series of papers; it bodes well for another great volume for Fremantle Studies.

Thanks also to the catering team, Fay Campbell, Kristi McNulty, Tania Heyne and committee for assisting on the day to provide such a sumptuous afternoon tea.



NEW MEMBERS

We haven't welcomed new members in our newsletter for years – its very remiss of us so we are instigating the practice again.

We extend a warm welcome to **Lucy Hair**, **Gordon Marshall** and **Anne Wayne** and look forward to seeing you at a meeting in the new year.

Don't forget, your society is only as strong as its members and all new members are welcome. How about giving a FHS membership to a friend as a Christmas present and then you get to share the gift all across the year ...



People around the world have been commemorating the centenary of the cessation of fighting in the Great War. November 11 was marked by moving ceremonies and tens, maybe even hundreds

of thousands of handmade poppies on display from tiny country towns to major cities as communities remembered those who didn't come home or were forever damaged by the war. The History Society's Studies Day and our Christmas Party at the Fremantle Army Museum's World War 1 Gallery have been part of our communities remembering.

Heather Campbell has continued her exploration of Trove and provides us with a glimpse of Fremantle on that first Christmas after the guns fell silent with a range of stories in the local newspapers of the time.

1918 CHRISTMAS IN FREMANTLE – A time of mixed emotions

THE YEAR OF VICTORY.

The year just closed will ever be memorable as the period of Victory. After more than four years of terrific and unexampled fighting the forces of Right prevailed over the strength of unbridled Ambition. To-day we look, forward anxiously but hopefully to a happier era. 1918 opened doubtfully. ... During more than three months all the might of Germany, concentrated to smash, once and for all, opposition to her arms, was thrown against the Allies on the Western front. We need not go over the details. They are fresh in memory ... The Australians held up the foe before the gates of Amiens. Foch struck on the right flank of the enemy salient on the Marne, and, in a moment, the whole, aspect of the war was changed. ... For us, 1918 began at the closing of the second conscription campaign. Bitterness of spirit divided many sections of the people. ... There are boards for this, and boards for that - shipping, wheat, metals, wool, rabbits, butter, every step the citizen takes, every mouthful he eats, is carefully checked by one or another board. ...

The year has passed over the State ... Western Australia has gone on its way supplying men to its battalions: ploughing and sowing, and reaping and mowing. There is so much which might have been done in

the State, so little that has been accomplished. ... Look back on last year and one looks back upon a futility that almost makes us to despair ...

West Australian, 1 Jan 1919, p 4

Mrs E McKenzie, of 67 Cantonment Street, Fremantle, has received an intimation that her husband died on October 12 whilst a prisoner of war in Germany.

Daily News, 21 Dec 1918, p 3

And then it's Christmas...

NEWS AND NOTES.

... The 'Holidays'. -The season specially dedicated to peace and goodwill begins today, Christmas Eve, but it is the first Christmastide since 1913 that has not been overshadowed by great international strife. The fact that it is again a 'peace Christmas' is evident in the faces of the multitudes who have been preparing to make merry. There will be no lack of opportunity, despite the disruption of the tram service, for spending an enjoyable holiday. The shops will remain open until 10 o'clock to-night, and will be closed on Christmas day and Boxing Day, but will reopen on Friday until 6 p.m., and again on Saturday morning. They will close again on New Year's Day. The public service holidays will extend from Christmas Day to the following Saturday inclusive, and on New Year's Day, and the Bank holidays will correspond with these. Services will be conducted in the churches to-morrow, and in the evening there will be a number of theatrical entertainments. On Boxing Day the Christmas racing carnival will open at the Perth course ... On Boxing night the trotting carnival will be continued, when the principal event of the year, the W.A. Trotting Cap, will be run. ... On Thursday and Friday the annual aquatic festival, Venice on the Swan, will be celebrated. There will be special rail, marine, and river trips throughout the holidays, and no lack of indoor entertainments ...

West Australian, 24 Dec 1918, p 6

THE INFLUENZA PERIL

... when the Boonah arrived at Fremantle she had on board 400 cases. Some of these men were taken ashore, but the bulk of them were kept on the ship. It had been suggested that when a vessel had on board a large number of men, they should be put on an island so that the vessel, after being quarantined, might be released. The medical adviser of the Government advised, however, that such a course of action would not be wise. They said could more readily clean up the ship when all the men were kept aboard. As no new cases had occurred, the medical officers expected that within two or three days the vessel would go out of quarantine, and the men should be able to reach their homes by Christmas. Western Argus, 24 Dec 1918, p 12

PHILLIPS. — On the 16th December, at Quarantine Station, Fremantle, of pneumonic influenza, Private Harry Herbert Phillips aged 25 years... Chronicle, 28 December 1918, p 27

IN FREMANTLE

The ushering in of the festive season at the Port last night reminded one of pre-war days, when the people, free from worldly worries, wandered around the main streets wishing one another the compliments of the season. During the war period Christmas Eve was celebrated quietly, too many of the residents having relatives overseas within the shadow of death to permit them giving themselves over to seasonable rejoicing. Last evening, however, the pre-war spirit reappeared - there was the tooting of trumpets and the toy-laden child made his way among the crowds, and the populace generally were a happy look. Hotel and shop keepers, earlier in the day, had decorated their fronts with green foliage. The crowd was thoroughly orderly and well managed. West Australian, 25 Dec 1918, p 4

Soldiers at the Fremantle Base Hospital had their Xmas treat last Thursday. Only the boys and the V.A.D. Workers were there. But they enjoyed the dainty teas and the music and entertainment. Some time ago these V.A.D.'s got up a picnic for the boys at the Base. They had a special train car running to Point Walter and these girls and boys frisked about and had a jolly time playing all sorts-of games. They didn't play "Kiss in the ring." But coming home it was a lovely moon light night.

...

Boan's window was packed with cards that were to mark the greatest victory ever known. There were Victory cards and Liberty cards. Then there were endless designs with flags of the Allies, the British bulldog, and the beautiful little shamrock. Last Christmas people mostly did not feel like sending cards, but this year they gave a whoop and a joyous shout and send them in dozens and hundreds.

Old boys and girls were not forgotten in the midst of all these jollifications. ... In the Women's Home in Fremantle the old and young girls there had their little Xmas fun. An old Irish woman there likes nothing better than some tobacco. When anyone comes along and gives a plug, she stuffs some in her old clay pipe and puffs away as contented as though she owned all the tea in China. Midlands Advertiser, 27 Dec 1918, p 1

ROTTNEST RUMOURS

Christmas week sees the island just wallowing in bliss and joy and other things that generally go hand-in-hand with Rottneest holidaymakers. The bungalows are all grabbed and the popular hostel is, like Johnny W., going as strong as ever.

To get the crowds over, boats have been running every day since Tuesday and will continue to make daily trips until the 1st January. The Westralian, by the way, had rather a rough trip again last Sunday, but

was beautifully handled, as usual, by Skipper Strue.

The campers have just rushed the isle this year, and have established quite a canvas city. Yachtsmen, too have all the week been hard put to find suitable anchorages in Thompson Bay, there are so many of them...

Call and WA Sportsman, 27 Dec 1918, p 3

The evening service at the Methodist Church last Sunday took the form of a gift night, gifts being received for the men in No. 8 Base Hospital, Fremantle. The response was a liberal one, and a fair number of gifts was handed in. The articles received, which have been forwarded to the Hospital, are as follows!-Handed in at church — Bundle " Spheres," piece bacon, dozen eggs, writing pad, tube tooth paste, 4 pkts tobacco, 26 pkts cigarettes, 6 jellies, pudding, pkt chocolate, 2s (expended in smokes), cake. Per Mr F. Curtin—Pudding, 3 jellies, 2 pkts tobacco, 2 pkts cigarettes. Per Mr W. H. Wallace—Box cigarettes, pudding, box goods.

Norseman Times, 28 Dec 1918, p 1

CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE SAILORS' REST

The customary Christmas festivities were observed at the Sailor' Rest, Fremantle, dinner being served to men off all the ships in port. The hall was lavishly draped with flags and platform, windows and tables were beautifully decorated with palms, plants, greenery and flowers. Many of the men present had served all through the war, and some of them had been torpedoed four times. After a bountiful repast, an excellent concert was given by the Sailors' Rest entertainers and others. Cheers and words of appreciation were given by officers and men for the Sailors' Rest workers and the people of Western Australia who had so kindly entertained them.

West Australian, 31 Dec 1918, p 6

But then the best Christmas present of all for many families....

RETURNING SOLDIERS TO ARRIVE TO-DAY.

Notification has been received that the soldiers on list "B" will arrive at Fremantle by train from Albany about 6 a.m. or 7 a.m. today. Soldiers on list "Q" are expected to disembark at Fremantle at 10 am. to-day. ...

TO DISEMBARK TO-MORROW. Soldiers on Lists "O" and "1" are expected to disembark at Fremantle on January 1 at 7 am.

West Australian, 31 Dec 1918

And then **Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Man** until 1939.



CHANGE OF GUARD IN LOCAL HISTORY

Pam Harris

After over eleven years I have decided to hang up my Fremantle History Centre hat. I am retiring on the 12th December 2018. It was hard a decision to make as I have become very attached to Fremantle and its history. I have had an amazing time working with the historical collection and moving it forward to become a 21st century digital archive.



It is not all available online as yet, but my successors, Lucy Hair and Stewart Alger are both well qualified and passionate about history and I am sure it won't be too long before you see new resources online. Lucy and Stewart also have the added benefit and excitement of helping to create an interesting and informative History Centre in the new library which is due to be completed at the end of 2020.



I was lucky to have worked with Kristi McNulty for over 10 years during this time. We had a very cooperative and professional relationship and we have become very close friends. Likewise, I also worked closely with Tania Heyne over this time and we also enjoy a close friendship. I have made so many friends in Fremantle, particularly those associated with the Fremantle History Society, such as those from the beginning in 2007, including Anne Brake, Cathy Hall, Ron and Dianne Davidson, Bob Reece, Fay Campbell and many more.

I will continue to keep my hat on for the History Society as secretary for the time being. However, I have long term plans to spend some time in the UK connecting with my Scottish and English relatives as well as taking the opportunity to visit some places in Europe which I have been on my list of places to see.

In the meantime, I will be taking a quick trip to Singapore to celebrate my retirement.

Best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

INTRODUCING LUCY

Lucy Hair
Local History Engagement Officer



Lucy commenced working at the City of Fremantle at the end of June 2018. She has a BA (Hons) in History from UWA and a Post Graduate Diploma in Public History from Murdoch University. Lucy has

worked for the State Government advising on heritage issues across state government asset portfolios. She has worked as a private consultant undertaking History and Heritage project commissions. Until recently, she was the Research Coordinator at UWA's Centre for Western Australian History. She has extensive experience in managing history and heritage projects.

COMMITTED COMMITTEE

The committee welcomed 2 new members and farewelled three following the recent AGM.

Our fond farewell goes to an absolute stalwart, Diane Davidson, who, along with Jenny Archibald, was the founder of the history society in 1994. A long time fighter for Fremantle she saw the opportunity to complement the Fremantle Society's activism with a group that had a focus on the history of the people of Fremantle. This was strongly influenced by the work of Alice Smith who ran the oral history program for the Fremantle Society at that time.

Over the years Di has been involved on the committee and has been a contributing editor to the newsletter and Fremantle Studies. She will be missed on the committee but still casts an eagle eye over each edition of the newsletter.

Greg Luke also said good-bye to committee work at the AGM. Greg has been one of those people who gets on with it, always there to lend a hand when something needed doing and doing it without fuss. Most recently he has worked with Cathy Hall to oversee the review of the constitution required by law. He brought his customary no nonsense approach to it.

Rob Fittock also had a short stint with us on the committee but his busy life meant it was hard to pin him down. We wish him well with the many community things he is involved in.

In this edition we introduce you to 'newcomer' Heather Campbell. Judith Robison will be formally introduced in the next newsletter.



Heather Campbell is a member of the West Australian Branch of the Professional Historians Association. She has Primary Teaching Diploma and a BA from the University of Western Australia.

From 1978 to 1995 she was secretary and on occasions Acting Coordinator of the Oral History Programme and the Oral History Unit of the Battye Library. Since then Heather has been working as an historical researcher and oral history interviewer and researcher for the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library. This work included interviewing John Curtin's son, John Francis Curtin in 2004 and writing *Diary of a Labor Man 1917-1945*. *Katitjin*, a Guide to the Indigenous Resources in the Battye Library, was researched and written for the Friends of the Battye Library in 2003.

More recently she has been working on the Them project researching aspects of the First has been focussing on oral history interviewing, Shire of Cottesloe, Mosman Park and Peppermint Fremantle City Library and the City of Perth A member of OHAA since its foundation, Heather secretary and on the committee of the WA now an Honorary Life Member.

She is also an avid sailor!



Remembering World War and mainly for Grove, History Centre. served as Branch. She is



The committee of the Fremantle History Society wish you, your family and friends a very happy and safe festive season and we look forward to welcoming you to another year of meetings in 2019.

Please let us know if you have any ideas for meetings or places to visit and don't forget there are still a few positions on the committee if you would like to come on board.

To get you in the Christmas spirit

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

A rebel without a Claus.

What do you get when you cross a duck with Santa?

A Christmas quacker.

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?

One that's deep pan, crisp and even!