



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, 24 Fothergill Street,
FREMANTLE WA 6160

Winter Edition
2002

Editors: Ron Davidson, Anne Brake



Bob Woollett and Dianne Davidson accepting the Fremantle Heritage Award from Mayor Peter Tagliferri

WE ARE THE STARS!

And the winner is - the Fremantle History Society. There was considerable applause when Councillor David Johnson announced this at a special function at the old Maritime Museum to declare the winners of the Heritage Awards for 2002. The History Society took the Award for 'Significant contribution by an individual or group to Fremantle's social, cultural, built or natural heritage'. *Fremantle Studies* Volume 2, which came out the previous evening, was an important factor in our success. The result meant a number of photo appearances in the press by Society worthies Bob Woollett, Dianne Davidson and David Hutchison. Our new vice president Kris Bizzaca also featured in the press. Guy Weguelin, who was retiring after a career working on heritage projects, shared the award.

The award for the 'Conservation of residential, commercial and/or mixed use heritage places' went to the Whalers Tunnel at Arthur Head. The facade of the Sundance Backpackers was highly commended in this section. The new balcony at the Metropolis nightclub (in 1904 the Dalkeith Opera House) won section 2, for 'harmonious adaptation of heritage places to new uses'. The creative treatment of a wooden cottage at 83 Hope Street, White Gum Valley, owned by Joan Hendry and Shadia Scheel, received a high commendation. Builder /Owner Tom Campbell's work at the rear of 23a Paget Street won the award for 'harmonious infill development in heritage precincts'.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Bob Woollett (President)	9335 7451
Kristy Bizzaca (Vice President)	9328 5316
Beres Coley (Treasurer)	9335 9473
Ron Davidson (Secretary)	9430 6096
Ken Hoskins (Minutes Secretary)	9339 1865

Committee:

Elaine Berry	9336 1906
Anne Brake	9336 5206
Jean Cecil	9335 2352
David Hutchison	9335 1594
Alan Kelsall	9336 4573
Alison Gregg	9432 9739

Fremantle History Society's committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

If you have something you would like discussed at a meeting, please contact one of the members at the numbers shown above.

General meetings of the Society are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Details of these meetings can be found in your newsletter and reminders are placed in the local press. As we have started to have Sunday afternoon meetings occasionally, please be sure to check details.



COMING EVENTS

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME ...

The annual Fremantle History Society pub lunch will cross the river this year. The Rose Hotel in North Fremantle will host the event with a very affordable Sunday roast lunch. The pub has recently undergone some renovations and members and their friends will have the opportunity to have a look around the historic place. The Rose was close to a number of factories and other industrial sites and would have provided many a cold ale to tired and thirsty locals and workers. North Fremantle, as you might imagine, is well serviced with hotels and bottle shops. Three of the original hotels still operate and as well as the pubs there are

three bottle shops not attached to watering holes!

This year's pub lunch extends a warm invitation to members and friends of the Fremantle Society as well. It is hoped to hold a few functions each year with our fellow Fremantle-ites in the spirit of learning and sharing our knowledge and ideas on the future of Fremantle's history and heritage. Reminiscing about Nth Fremantle and the Rose Hotel will be the subject of the talk for the day.

Join us on Sunday 25 August at 12 midday for a Sunday roast. A choice of 2 roasts will be available for the very reasonable cost of \$7.95 (drinks extra). Members are encouraged to bring friends and family along to make a day of it. Please call Bob Woollett (9335 7451) with numbers to make sure there are enough roast potatoes to go around. If you signed up at the AGM only contact Bob if you can't make it or if you want to change your numbers.

The Rose Hotel is at 76 Stirling Highway, North Fremantle. Plenty of parking is available beside and behind the pub.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF FREMANTLE

September's meeting will be one for people to share stories about their first impressions or earliest memories of our port city. This is not restricted to just those who have lived here for many years, but also those who have recently arrived. What is your earliest or most lasting memory of Fremantle - was it the troop ships of the second world war, seeing Fremantle for the first time from a passenger liner as it came into Victoria Quay, those first glimpses of sea, sand and oil tanks coming over Leighton Hill or maybe it was lazy days playing on the river.

A panel of members will start the ball rolling but all those that attend will be encouraged to join in.

The meeting will be held at the **Maritime Museum Meeting Room, Cliff St,**

Fremantle at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 24 September. Bring your memories.



FREMANTLE STUDIES DAY No 6

Now well and truly an institution in the Fremantle History Society's calendar, this year's Fremantle Studies Day will continue the tradition of bringing well researched and interesting papers into the public arena. Although the port city has a wonderfully rich history there still remain woefully few studies done that are available for anyone interested in Fremantle's past. The Studies Journal, comprising mainly of papers from the Studies Day, has helped address that gap. This year's papers will focus on public works around Fremantle.

Fremantle Studies Day will be held at the Cliff St meeting room of the Maritime Museum on Sunday 27 October. Registrations open at 12.30 pm and the day finishes at 5.30 pm. Bookings are essential. A flyer will be distributed in late September with registration details or you could call Ron Davidson on 9430 6096. **Put it in your diary now!**

For those interested in copies of volumes 1 & 2 of *Fremantle Studies*, see the attached flyer.



MEETING REPORTS

ST PAUL'S IN MAY

There was a good roll-up of Society members to hear about and examine the history of renovation, conservation and change at the heritage precinct of St Paul's on Hampton Road, Beaconsfield. We heard how a former Rector, the Rev Alban Luxmore Marshall, set up a group called the Talent Club to add a church to the existing precinct of a church hall and house in 1903. The prominent architect J Herbert Eales drew up plans; money ran out before they could be completed but the basic aims of the elegant design have been achieved. Members looked at evidence in the fabric

which told of the many uses of the buildings over the last century. Thank you St Paul's.



CATALPA REVISITED

Wit and scholarship were appreciated by the large audience at the June general meeting when Sir William Heseltine provided a new look at the Fenians' escape from Fremantle. He told of the impact of the escape on the prison guards. For instance the assistant superintendent, James Doonan, made an unsuccessful attempt on his life, using a bread knife to cut his throat at the breakfast table. The considerable number of inquiries and their findings were examined in terms of whether scapegoats were being sought. Sir William's great grandfather, George Canham Payne, was one of those peripherally caught up in these commissions of inquiry. Sir William noted that before the rescue a number of the American rescuers were taken on the tour of inspection of the prison.

In his introductory remarks Sir William noted that he had studied history before taking up 'less respectable enterprises'. He didn't say it but these included acting as principal private secretary to the Queen. In thanking the speaker, David Hutchison who went to school with him said that Sir William's comment about 'studying history' meant first class honours at the University of WA.



HERITAGE IN OUR DOORSTEPS - AGM

Michal Lewi has long been an advocate for Western Australian heritage. Whether it is from behind his lens, photographing heritage places across the state (and the world) or on one of the many committees he has been a member of, including the Heritage Council of WA and twice as the Chair of the national Trust, Michal's knowledge and understanding of issues relating to heritage is formidable.

During his presentation following our AGM, Michal provided a very thorough and comprehensive picture of the state of

heritage in WA and the various local organisations and their roles in the industry. The Heritage Council is the only body that has any legal standing in its registration of places. Bodies such as the National Trust and even the National Estate are community based listing and while they can provide better understanding and support for the retention of heritage sites they can not offer any real protection.

His paper also explored the issues of "significance"; an important word in the heritage industry and a notion that is central to identifying and protecting heritage places. We have moved away from a strong emphasis on only determining heritage buildings through their aesthetic values. Buildings and / or sites can now be identified as having heritage significance due to historic, scientific, social or aesthetic values.

Michal's talk followed the Society's AGM. An abridged version of President Bob Woollett's report is included in this newsletter. It highlights the unstinting work of your committee and a few dedicated members. Much work goes into keeping the Society afloat and to provide a steady stream of interesting speakers and events for our members. It's your Society, so keep it alive and well by paying your membership – now due (see attached form) and supporting our various activities.



GOODBYE, BILL

Ron Davidson

Fremantle history lost a champion and the Fremantle History Society a good friend when Bill Latter died recently after a long illness. Bill was a unionist, deputy mayor, worker for a better world, and researcher on the anti-German demonstrations in Fremantle during WW II. He was also an inaugural member of the Society and a wise advisor to members. Not long before he died I sent Bill an email seeking the name of an obscure socialist with a foreign name who was in Perth in 1904. There was no response for a fortnight. Then he came back on line. 'Apologies for the delay. I've been in

hospital. The name you want could be William Siebenhaar'. He could do it every time. Our sympathy in June who is also one of our members.

So long Bill. We will miss you and your rich stories about Fremantle.



For Your Diary

Sunday 25 August: Pub lunch in North Fremantle. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a traditional Sunday lunch in true Fremantle style. Bring your friends and family to enjoy the event. **The Rose Hotel, 76 Stirling Highway Nth Fremantle, 12 midday**

Tuesday 24 September: First Impressions of Fremantle. Bring your stories along to share with other Fremantle folk. It should be a great night of reminiscing. **Maritime Museum meeting room, Cliff St, 7.00 pm.**

Sunday 25 October: Fremantle Studies Day No 6. A feast of papers awaits you at this year's Fremantle Studies Day. **Maritime Museum meeting room, Cliff St, 12.30 - 5.30 pm.**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2001-2002

It has been another year of enjoyable activity and considerable achievement for the Society. Our monthly General Meetings featured talks on a variety of topics including fresh insights into the Catalpa episode and the life of C Y O'Connor, and five visits to places of historical interest; the Princess May building, St John's church, Monument Hill, the Rockingham Museum and the St Paul's Precinct. We have also played a modest but hopefully useful part in a number of areas of community life, participating with particular success in several events during Fremantle Heritage Week in April.

Probably the Studies Day, held in the Education Centre of the Maritime Museum on 28 October and attended by almost fifty people, was again the highlight of the year and its reputation for making a significant contribution to the research and writing of Fremantle history was fully sustained. Three formal papers were presented by Coralie Solomon, Gerard McCann and Dr Norman Megahey; the fourth item in the programme took a novel form when Les Lauder, founder and former President of the Fremantle Society, participated with our own Ron Davidson, author and local historian in a 'conversation piece' which focused on early days of the conservation movement in the 1970s and the ensuing battles to save many of the city's historic buildings. We are indebted to our four guests for their major contribution to the proceedings, and to committee member David Hutchison for his painstaking coordination of their endeavours and his efficient supervision of the arrangements for the day. Our thanks also go to Graham Henderson, the Director of the Maritime Museum, for providing the excellent venue for the occasion and to staff member Mike Brevenholt for his invaluable technical assistance.

Our contribution to Fremantle Heritage Week commenced with involvement in tours of the West End and Monument Hill, the first led by David Hutchison and the other by Kristy Bizzaca. Unfortunately the bad weather restricted the itineraries, but both events aroused considerable interest and were enjoyed by those who attended. On the evening of 5 June members and a pleasing number of visitors gathered in the Atrium of the Town Hall for the official launch of the second volume of *Fremantle Studies* by the Mayor, Mr Peter Tagliaferri, who congratulated the Society on its production and praised it for the additional and valuable insights it provided into the history of the port city. Anne Brake spoke on behalf of the editors and thanked the contributors for their endeavours, and the City Council for its assistance with the printing and publication of the journal. Then, on the following evening, several members of the committee attended the 2002

Heritage Awards Ceremony at the Maritime Museum to hear the Society declared joint winner in the Category IV Award – a significant contribution by an individual or group to the preservation of Fremantle's heritage. The award is a satisfying one for all of us, and one in which we can take justifiable pride, but it is particularly gratifying for those stalwart members in our ranks who had the vision and courage to found the Society in 1994.

Turning to our involvement in the life of the wider community, two delegates from the Society attended the Annual Conference of the Affiliated Societies of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society in September, and in the following month we were represented at a meeting of various organisations connected with history research and teaching which formed a working party with a view to establishing a History Council of Western Australia. We await a report on the progress of this important project with interest. David Hutchison contributed an article on Fremantle heritage to the Independent Retirees Association which will appear in the spring edition of their quarterly magazine and, together with Ron Davidson, assisted the Fremantle Cemetery Board with the selection of forty graves of historical interest which will form the basis of a series of self-guided walks for visitors to the cemetery. And, in what is hoped will be an important development, discussions have taken place with the Fremantle Society with the aim of encouraging members to support each other's activities and undertaking some joint ventures of a social nature, starting with the Winter Pub Lunch planned for August.

As the report indicates, it has been a busy and demanding year for members of the committee, and I thank them for their enthusiastic cooperation and dedicated endeavours. I would like to pay particular tribute to Dianne Davidson, who sadly had to resign from her position as Secretary during the year after eight years of devoted service on the committee, including a term as President. Her wise counsel and wide-ranging knowledge of local affairs are sadly

missed. Our thanks go to husband Ron for stepping gallantly into the breach and to Ken Hopkins who readily volunteered his services and was gratefully coopted on to the committee to assist Ron as Minutes Secretary. We are indebted to Anne Brake for the major part she played in editing the *Fremantle Studies* journal, and for her continued good work, together with Dianne and Ron, in producing the newsletter. We also thank Alan Kelsall, who is standing down from the position of Treasurer. Alan carried out his responsibilities with goodwill and unobtrusive efficiency, and is to be commended for persuading at one stage the Home Building Society's computer to increase, albeit briefly, our credit balance by \$3000. The industrious Kristy Bizzaca continues to make a valuable contribution in a number of areas, and her informative and engaging talks at no less than three of our General Meetings were much appreciated.

And finally, I thank you, the members, for your encouragement and support during the past twelve months, and I look forward to enjoying with you a programme of interesting and rewarding activities in the year ahead.



SINS OF HIS YOUTH REVEALED

In keeping with the current fashion for public confessions, our President told those gathered at the Society's Annual General Meeting about an entry in a diary which he kept in 1950 while a student in the History Department of King's College, London. He was living in digs in South London and travelled daily by train into Charing Cross, a journey which took him past the Festival of Britain site on the South bank of the Thames. The 'futuristic' Exhibition buildings were under construction at the time and, after describing the Concert Hall and Dome of Discovery in glowing terms, the diary entry for 4 May continues as follows:

'As I see it the 16th Century Shot Tower, which is being left in the middle of the site as an historic monument of interest, is going

to be an abominable eyesore. The original intention was to install a lift inside it to convey sightseers to the top but it is now discovered that the tower wouldn't stand up to such a scheme. In that case it seems to me it would be far better out of the way as it will only be of interest to gun-shot specialists and will in my opinion be a terrible blot on the landscape of the exhibition.'!!

The speaker hastened to add that less philistine views happily prevailed, notably that of architect Sir Hugh Casson, and as far as he was aware, the Shot Tower was still standing today in a state of splendid isolation on South Bank, as a reminder to passers-by of the previous life and use of the area – rather like the chimney at Robb Jetty does for us here in Western Australia.

Even so, as was pointed out by one perceptive member of the audience, it was just as well the President had not made this alarming disclosure at the start of the meeting but had done so after he had been elected for another term in office.



IT'S OUT AT LAST!

It was an enthusiastic Mayor, Peter Tagliaferri, who launched the Fremantle History Society's journal *Fremantle Studies* Volume 2 at the Town Hall atrium during Fremantle Heritage Week. The weather was terrible but nearly fifty people turned up, including a number from the Fremantle Society. The Mayor, who had read the book from cover to cover, said it was an extremely important publication. It provided much needed glimpses of the real Fremantle, a Fremantle that he readily recognised.

It was appropriate that the launch was in Heritage Week as a number of the articles in this volume concerned heritage. These included Kris Bizzaca's look at the heritage movement in Fremantle 1955-1982, David Hutchison's 'The Loyalty of a Habit' which considers world trends in heritage conservation, and an interview with the

founder of the Fremantle Society, Les Lauder, on the saving of Fremantle's heritage in the seventies. The other articles are wide-ranging: the importance of the Fremantle South Slipway; the Bateman houses around Fremantle; the social significance of St Patrick's Basilica; and the making of a Merchant Prince, William Dalgety Moore, as indicated by his diaries. There are two other articles. Phyl Brown writes of the ideology underpinning the imprisonment of women in the period 1845-1875, while Ron Davidson's 'Fremantle Snapshots' is a lively account of his personal encounters with Fremantle's history and its personalities.

Fremantle Studies Volume 2 can be purchased from the WA Maritime Museum, the Fremantle Prison, Fremantle Council Customer Service Desk, Fremantle Museum, or the State Library of WA bookshop. It can also be ordered from the Society at 24 Fothergill Street, Fremantle. The price for both volumes is \$12 for members, and \$15 for non-members.



HUBBLE ST MYSTERY

Ken Hopkins

During the centenary celebration of East Fremantle [Plympton] Primary School, which I was attending as an interested former student, I came across a display the children had prepared on the origin of the local street names. As a sometime resident of Hubble Street, I looked under its flap to discover that it was named *Probably after a member of the Pearse family*. That was interesting, but not very informative. Consulting Jack Lee's authoritative work on the area *This is East Fremantle* was no help either. This started a search to discover more about the naming of Hubble Street, and below is the result.

In the late nineteenth century, the Pearse brothers, mainly William Silas and particularly George, owned the Plympton area of what later became East Fremantle, from East to Allen Streets (not yet built). Their property included cattle yards with a

noxious slaughterhouse right in the centre. They subdivided this area for workers' cottages, and built many of the streets, some of which were named after members of the family. The water supply for the area came from their reservoir in East Street. In 1898, the second year of the new East Fremantle council, the Pearses requested that the council take over control of their streets and it did so later that year. George subsequently sold the area to the Government and also donated five acres to the council for recreation grounds.

Hubble Street was named after William Silas's son-in-law George Yorke Hubble, who was born on 28 November 1858 at Specimen Hill, Sandhurst, Bendigo, Victoria. He was the second son of Alfred, a miner, his mother being Harriet Sophia.



George Yorke Hubble

Hubble spent four months in the Vasse area when he was 28, and later in 1890 was a merchant in Fremantle. On 19 February of that year, at the age of 31, he married Amelia Pearse, who was then 26, in Johnston Memorial Congregational Church, Fremantle. Amelia, who was known as Minnie, was the daughter of William Silas Pearse and his first wife. Pearse was a prominent merchant, ship owner and owner and part owner of three northern cattle stations. He was a member of the Fremantle Town Trust, and member and for a while

chairman of the Fremantle Council, when this took over from the Trust.

On the Sunday before the marriage, at the North Fremantle Congregational Sunday School a presentation was made to Miss Amelia Pearse by Rev. J. Johnston on behalf of the teachers and scholars. It was an inscribed handsome silver butter cooler, which recognised her service there as a teacher.

The wedding ceremony was a huge occasion in Fremantle, the principal businesses in the town and shipping displaying a profusion of bunting. Five bridesmaids took part, all Misses Pearse who were the bride's cousins. A dense crowd of spectators made it difficult for the procession to leave the church, and enter the carriages that took them to the wedding breakfast. The guest list for this breakfast included many of the colonial elite. Many members of the associated families were there, including the Pearses, the Glydes (Amelia's mother's family), the Hubbles over by steamer from Adelaide for the event, and other business associates and seafaring families. The bride's present from the bridegroom was a massive gold locket with a diamond, and a gold necklace. The couple went to Albany for their honeymoon.

In 1893 Pearse married his second wife Alice Higham, the widow of Edward Higham, who was in fact his first cousin, coming from the Glyde family, again in Johnston Memorial Church. George Hubble was his father-in-law's best man, and two of the Misses Pearse were again bridesmaids. The Premier Sir John and Lady Forrest attended, as well as the principal merchant families of the city and port. The Highams were highly respected Fremantle property and store owners and Edward, with Pearse, raised funds for the erection of Johnston Memorial Church, so this was a very prominent group that Hubble married into. As well as being a prominent Fremantle businessman, Pearse was an MLC and JP. Edward Higham was a member of the Fremantle Town Council and its chairman at times. He was also an MLC

replacing Pearse, who resumed the place when Higham did not stand again.

Amelia and George Hubble had one son, but Amelia died just over two years after their marriage, and was buried at the Skinner St. cemetery.

By the time he was 35, Hubble was in partnership with David Symon, also a sometime member of the WA parliament. They were general furniture merchants and builder's ironmongers in Fremantle, with premises firstly on the corner of Marine Terrace and Collie Street, and later when Hammond joined the firm around the middle of Essex Street. Symon and Hubble were agents for the Brighton Estate, located between Coolgardie Avenue and Woodhouse Road in the Richmond area of what became East Fremantle. In one well-reported case this firm sued the Government Wharfier for the destruction of several fire grates which were run over by a railway truck whilst being unloaded on the jetty at Fremantle. The Hall of Commerce, a building this firm used, was later incorporated into the original Esplanade Hotel designed by Herbert J. Eales. He remodelled the exterior of the Hall of Commerce building and added a billiard room, kitchen and sanitary block to the interior. The ownership of the hotel changed in 1905 from Symon [and] Hubble to the Swan Brewery Co, but the atmosphere did not.

By his thirty-sixth year, Hubble had become a general storekeeper in Carnarvon. He was elected MLA for Gascoyne the year after that, remaining in that position for four years. During his term, he was forced to resign on a technicality but was re-elected two weeks later. He was declared bankrupt during the time he was in the Legislative Assembly. In his years in the Assembly he was the second Government whip.

Two years later he was a merchant, commission and insurance agent in Perth again in association with David Symon, then a member of the Perth Stock Exchange. On 12 December 1903 Hubble married his

second wife Blanche Harrison at St. John's Church, but they had no children.

He was found dead between the river and the end of the Hay Street tramway, near the tramcar barn, in East Perth just after noon on 22nd March 1906. He had cut his own throat that morning, and still had a blood-stained razor tightly clasped in his right hand. The *West Australian* described him as a determined suicide and reported that his friends said he had been worried for some years about his insolvency. He was buried in the Church of England section of Karrakatta Cemetery the next day.

An inquest into his death started on Friday 23rd March but was adjourned until Tuesday 27th March. Evidence was given of a 13cm incised wound on the left side of his neck, and that he died from loss of blood. The jury of three returned a verdict of suicide while temporarily insane.

At the inquest a letter was opened addressed to his wife and found in his pocket by the constable who removed the body to the morgue. Full of pathos, it read:

*United Service Hotel, Perth,
21st March, 1906.*

*My dearest wife, – I cannot stand this strain any longer. May God forgive me for doing this rash act. It is too bad the way people wronged me. Be a dear, good girl. Give my best love to Ruth and all the other relations. I think I'm mad with worry. God help me on this, my last appeal to Him, and I'm sure He will pardon me for all my sins. Good-bye, my dear wife, and may God have mercy on my soul. I'm done here, and know it.
Good-bye, love. – Your loving husband,
Geo. Y. Hubble.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Black, David & Bolton, Geoffrey (1990) *Biographical register of members of the Parliament of western Australia Volume 1 1870-1930* Western Australian Parliamentary History Project
Fremantle Local History Collection print 1137A
Symon & Hubble lot 150 Corner Marine Terrace and Collie St c1890
The Inquirer and Commercial News, Wednesday 28 October 1885, Provincial Telegrams

The Inquirer and Commercial News, 8 October 1885, General News

James, Elizabeth (1997) 'Herald Heritage' in *Fremantle Herald*. 14 June 1997

[After comparison with contemporary sources, this article appears to contain several factual errors.]

The West Australian, Tuesday 9 October 1888

The West Australian, 21 February 1890

The West Australian, 26 February 1890

The West Australian, 23 March 1906

The West Australian, 24 March 1906

The West Australian, 28 March 1906

(Ken Hopkins has been, on and off, a resident of Hubble Street, East Fremantle for nearly half a century, as was his father Bill for almost twice as long. A generation earlier William Francis Hopkins, well known as a sergeant of the water police had lived there too. Now less occupied than formerly with teaching in secondary schools and universities, Ken has developed a fascination with some aspects of the rich, colourful, and convoluted history of Fremantle.)



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

If you missed out on attending one of the four workshops recently held at Fremantle Prison as part of the public consultation phase of the development of a Master Plan for the site, you still have the opportunity to have your say. The consortium who have been contracted to undertake the study are keen to get input from locals and others who have an interest in the future of this incredibly significant site. Thousands of postcards have been distributed to households throughout Fremantle asking people to comment on the future of the Prison. There will also be an extensive public comment period once the draft master plan is produced later this year.

Love it or hate it, Fremantle Prison is one of Western Australia's premier heritage sites. It is a key Australian convict site and has had minimal changes to the original fabric. Visitors to the site can clearly see how convicts lived over 150 years ago. The fact that the buildings offered little opportunity for change because of the building material (locally quarried limestone) and the prison's design was one of the main reasons it finally closed in 1990. It was almost impossible to institute late 20th century prison

management regimes within this 19th century complex.

Since 1991 the site has been run as a 'conservation and future use' site. As well as the tourist operation, a number of other activities have been run on the site. These have varied from the TAFE School of Art to artist's workshops. However the continuous upkeep of the site is becoming a major issue and the government wants to ensure that the Prison has a future. Minister for Works, Tom Stephens has said that the aim of the project is to set realistic priorities for the future use and development for the precinct. He has also stated that any new developments need to ensure that the Prison's cultural heritage values are maintained. Let's hope it also means that resources will be available to ensure this is the case.

Have your say. Send in a post card (they are available from the Fremantle Library if you did not receive one), write to the Prison (The Terrace, Fremantle) or send your thoughts in an email to info@fremantleprison.com.au.



WE HAVE A HISTORY COUNCIL

After a series of meetings of representatives of all the various bodies in Western Australia interested in history, a working party was set up last October to draw up a proposed charter for the establishment of a History Council of Western Australia.

The working party submitted its draft charter at a meeting held in the Constitutional Centre on Thursday 2 May and it was unanimously endorsed in principle, with a Steering Committee being set up to work out details.

The WA History Foundation will initially fund the employment of a part-time Administrative Officer to work on the establishment of the Council, and for the time being the Council's headquarters will be at the Constitutional Centre in Perth.

The Premier has been notified of the establishment of this new body which will aim to promote the status of history as a discipline and act as an advocate for historical research funding.

It is planned tentatively for the Steering Committee to present the Charter and Constitution of the WA History Council to a general meeting to be called in September/October this year.



ROUGEMONT THE ROMANCER

(From J K Hitchcock: *The History of Fremantle* (1929))

During 1874 Fremantle sheltered for a time that prince of romancers, the notorious Louis de Rougemont. His real name was Louis Grin, and he arrived in the colony as a valet to Governor Robinson. A Swiss by birth, but able to speak English fluently, he was a suave and voluble individual and by his oily tongue succeeded in duping several Fremantle trades people, from whom he obtained advances to prosecute a pearling venture, which advances he never repaid. Among his victims were Pearse and Owston and John McCleery, but the person whose generosity he worked most was a reputedly old gentleman named Coulson, who was staying at the same hostel. He cajoled that old gentleman into financing him in the purchase and outfitting of the cutter *Ada*. In that vessel he sailed from Fremantle and his creditors saw no more of him or his lugger. In the course of time it was reported that he and his crew had been killed by natives in the far North-West, but it was afterwards learned he had found his way around to the Torres Straits and finally landed in England.

This extract from J K Hitchcock indicates why the time of the pearl shell boom was known as the 'roaring seventies'.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

TELEPHONE (Home).....(Work).....

EMAIL:.....

OCCUPATION.....

SIGNATURE/S.....

DATE.....RECEIPT: Yes No

Please circle the appropriate category:

Ordinary membership	\$14	Organisational membership	\$30
Family membership	\$20	Student/pensioner/unemployed	\$8

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

TELEPHONE (Home).....(Work).....

EMAIL:.....

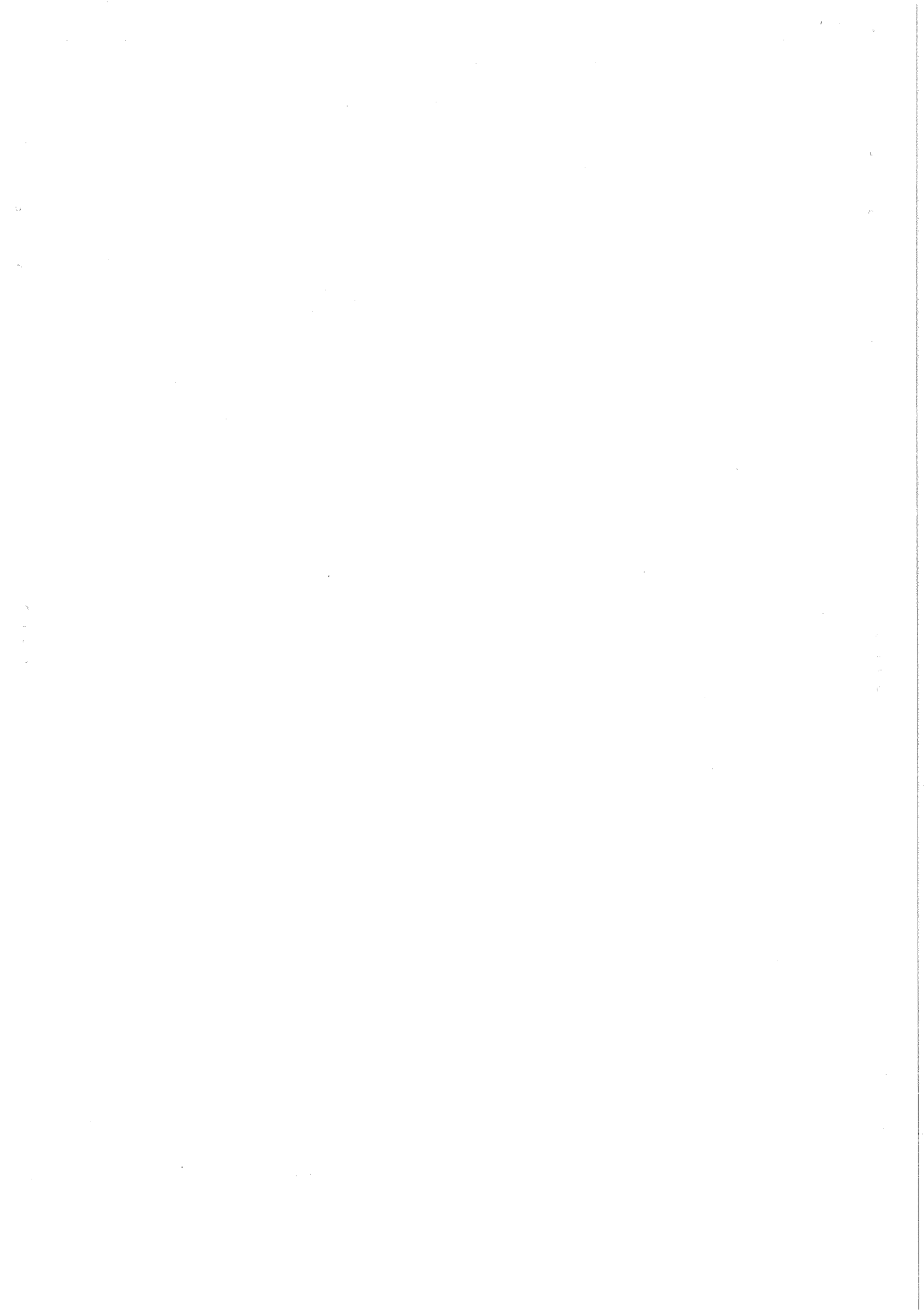
OCCUPATION.....

SIGNATURE/S.....

DATE.....RECEIPT: Yes No

Please circle the appropriate category:

Ordinary membership	\$14	Organisational membership	\$30
Family membership	\$20	Student/pensioner/unemployed	\$8





WHAT ?

Drinks and a Traditional Sunday Roast (beef or chicken with vegetables, plus apple crumble for afters).

WHEN ?

Sunday, August 25th at 12 noon.

WHERE ?

Rose Hotel, Stirling Highway, North Fremantle
(ample parking at rear).

HOW MUCH ?

\$7.95 per person (pay on the day), beer and wine at pub prices.



VISITORS AND FRIENDS WELCOME!!



For bookings, please contact Bob Woollett on 9335 7451
or Jean Cecil on 9335 2352 by Monday, August 19th
(If you signed the list at the AGM, you only need to ring if unable to come
or would like to change numbers attending).



