



## FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305  
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Winter Edition, 2019

<https://fhs.org.au>



Spanish flu nurses,  
Pneumonic Influenza Hospital, 1919.  
Fremantle Local History Collection 2714

### **PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA**

Dr Michelle McKeough

Between June and August one hundred years ago, Fremantle was in the grip of an influenza epidemic. The virulent 'Spanish flu', was already causing widespread devastation in Europe, and by June 1919, the number of cases in Western Australia began to increase, rising to figures of nine and thirteen at a time.

Initially, the old military camp at Blackboy Hill was used as a hospital for influenza patients, and part of Fremantle Hospital was also put aside. However, the disease became wide-spread very quickly, so much so that on 13 June, the

Premier received notification from the Prime Minister that 'action will now be taken under Quarantine Act to declare State of Western Australia infected with influenza'. On 30 July, the Health Inspector's report revealed that in Fremantle, 'during the past fortnight 48 cases have been reported. 36 houses have been quarantined and the majority of these premises have been visited twice daily'. By 2 August the situation had become so grave that a special meeting of Council was called by the mayor 'to consider and deal with the problem of the large increase in the number of cases suffering from influenza in Fremantle'. At the conclusion of the meeting it was resolved to create a fund for the relief of necessitous cases and for voluntary workers to do domestic work.

By 18 August, 75 cases of pneumonic influenza had been reported in Fremantle; '63 new premises quarantined, 253 patients in 50 premises have been supplied with food. Cases have been removed in the ambulances from Rockingham, North Fremantle, Cottesloe, and Cottesloe Beach to the Fremantle Hospital and Blackboy Hill'. As the burden on Fremantle Hospital already exceeded its capacity, and for the safety of the patients there, the Alma St School in



the heart of town was established as a Pneumonic Influenza Hospital. Fortunately for the Fremantle Council there would be no concern over funding, as 'the whole cost of the carrying on of the hospital was defrayed by the Public Health Department'.

On 1 September 1919, the Health Inspector revealed that 'the disease has now been raging for 11 weeks and during that period 223 cases have been reported'. Birmingham also reported that there had been 58 cases reported during the previous fortnight with 14 deaths, and that 'Alma St Pneumonic Influenza Hospital is now full'.

Fremantle had been through the worst of it, however, and by 24 September the Alma Street hospital had closed down.

Ian Darroch's fascinating talk at this year's AGM looked at the devastating effect this epidemic had at its worst on the lives of those living, working and visiting Fremantle.



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Allen Graham (President)	0412 933 360
Pam Harris (Secretary)	0408092100
Anne Brake (Treasurer)	0438 445 141

Committee Members:

Fay Campbell	0419 969 678
Cathy Hall	0407 086 300
Heather Campbell	0408 175 246
Judith Robison	0434 571 666
Stewart Alger (ex officio)	9432 9592

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

### ESPLANADE PARK

25 May

Dr Michelle McKeough opened our eyes to the role the Esplanade Park has played in key events in the history of Fremantle during her fascinating presentation for our May meeting aptly held adjacent to the Park at the Fremantle Italian Club.

The bubonic plague was the impetus to create the park in 1902 and it has been the location of a myriad of political and community activities ever since.

This newsletter continues the theme as Heather Campbell, inspired by Michelle's talk, follows the trials and tribulations of the park in the local press in Treasures from Trove starting on pg 8.

### FREMANTLE BOYS SCHOOL

25 June

The meeting hosted by Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts (DADAA) was a great opportunity to hear an informative presentation by heritage architect Phil Griffiths who talked about the history and preservation of the building which was completed in 1855. Phil explained the changes which had occurred to the building over the years within the context of difficulties of the cost and complexities of restoring and maintaining the original fabric of heritage buildings in line with the requirements of the Burra Charter.

Phil's presentation was followed by a presentation by Ricky Arnold, Director of Development of DADAA at the Fremantle Hub. Ricky outlined the ways in which the building was being adapted within the guidelines discussed by Phil to ensure access for people with disabilities. Ricky then gave the group a tour of the building showing the extensive renovations which will include a café, music and visual arts

studios as well as a gallery which will be open to the public. It is an amazing example of adaptive reuse of a heritage building. Thanks to Phil Griffiths and Ricky Arnold for providing an enjoyable and informative evening.

The group also enjoyed the usual delicious supper and some wonderful music from one of the musical groups who practice and perform in the building.

For further information see <https://www.dadaa.org.au>



Members enjoyed learning about the great plans ahead for DADAA and the Old Boy's School. (Pam Harris)

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

23 July

The President's Report from this year's AGM is included in this newsletter and outlines what an active Society we are. It's your support that encourages the committee to continue its hard work. Thank you.

Membership fees are an important component as is the active meetings program and we are encouraged by the healthy turn out at most meetings. That said, if we haven't seen you for a while why not come along to one of the upcoming meetings.

We are also looking for additional members of the committee. It's not an onerous burden when the load is shared so if you would like to be part of the team we would love to hear from you. Contact Allen or one of the other members of the committee.

This year's AGM was followed by a fascinating talk by Ian Darroch on the Pneumonic Influenza, also known as the Spanish Flu, epidemic of the early 1900s. Ian's thorough research provided a very detailed examination of the cause and effect of the epidemic and created a context for what happened here in Fremantle and the role of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station and those that worked there.



## **COMING EVENTS**

### **PUB LUNCH – THE LOCAL**

Sunday, 25 August

Join members and friends at our ever popular August Pub Lunch.

This year we are heading down South Terrace to The Local – some of you will know it as the Seaview. Built in 1897, it is one of WA's oldest hotels and was typical of the suburban corner pub. While there has been work done to modernise the back of the hotel, the façade and the corner bar, with its cathedral like windows, maintain the feel of the old pub.

And for Dockers fans (and who isn't?), the place is now owned by Matthew Pavlich and Paul Hasleby!

As well as some great pub grub there will be a talk about the history of this fine example of the golden age of hotels.

Sunday 25 August from 12 midday at 282 South Terrace. It would be good to give the pub an idea of numbers so please RSVP to [secretary.fhs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.fhs@gmail.com) by Thursday 22 August.

## **FREMANTLE PRISON PROTEST AND UNREST EXHIBITION**

Tuesday, 24 September

Join the Fremantle History Society for our September general meeting at Fremantle Prison.

Olimpia Cullity, Curator at Fremantle Prison, will present a talk on the development of the exhibition and the history behind protests and unrest at the prison over the years culminating in the riot and fire in 1988 which led to the prison's closure in 1991.

The event will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 6 pm at Fremantle Prison.

## **FREMANTLE STUDIES DAY**

Sunday, 27 October

The focus of this year's Studies Day will be Labour History. Industrial strife is not new to Fremantle and makes fascinating listening.

Four papers are scheduled for presentation including a paper on Industrial history presented by Cate Pattison, the Society's most recent scholarship recipient. Bobbie Oliver will present on the Patrick Strike 1998, Charlie Fox will speak on Chinese Seamen in Fremantle and Paul Reilly will speak on Activism in 1930s Fremantle.

The venue for the Studies Day will, most appropriately, be the Maritime Union headquarters in North Fremantle.

As well as our fabulous papers, Volume 10 of Fremantle Studies will also be launched. It's going to be a great afternoon. Don't forget to put it in your diary now.

More details will be circulated soon.



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This is my first report as the President of the Fremantle History Society, having assumed

the position at our 2018 Annual General Meeting, albeit, I was in Switzerland at the time of that meeting. 'No', I wasn't hoodwinked into taking on the position as I had been Vice President the previous year and knowing that Bob Reece, our long standing member and immediate past President was standing down from the position, I was very pleased to accept the nomination as President for 2018/19.

Consequently, I am not able to give a first hand account of that AGM, but it was reported in the Winter Newsletter of 2018 that the meeting was attended by 20 members and guests at which "the formalities were followed by a fascinating talk by Fiona Hook whose company, Archae-Aus, undertook the archaeological digs in Kings Square and Newman Court associated with the redevelopment of the Council buildings."

The most important item of business for our AGM is always the election of the new Committee and so the Committee for 2018/2019 was:

### **Executive:**

President - Allen Graham  
Vice President – unfilled  
Secretary – Pam Harris  
Treasurer – Anne Brake

### **Committee members:**

Fay Campbell  
Bob Reece – resigned mid term from Committee  
Cathy Hall  
Michelle McKeough  
Jennifer Dudley – resigned mid term from Committee

With only eight people appointed to the Committee, and with the mid term resignations, the Committee throughout the year always had a couple of vacancies and so it was a pleasure to later welcome Heather Campbell and Judith Robison to the Committee. And more recently Stewart Alger of the Fremantle History Collection has joined the Committee in his role as the

City of Fremantle's Local History Engagement Officer. Stewart was appointed to this position to take over a job share opportunity with Lucy Hair on the retirement of Pam Harris, our respected member who worked professionally as the City of Fremantle's Local History Librarian. Lucy has since resigned and Stewart is now working in a full time capacity so it is timely to thank Pam, Lucy and Stewart and the City of Fremantle library staff for the assistance and support they have provided to the Society over the past twelve months and we look forward to that continuing support over the next twelve months.

Our current Committee is a mix of both long serving and newly appointed committee members, so as a new President it has been my pleasure to work with those experienced members, as well as appreciating the contribution of our new Committee members, so a big 'thank you' to all of those who have served on the Committee throughout 2018/2019.

### **Committee Meetings**

The Committee meets once a month and while they had usually been held a fortnight preceding the Society's General Meeting, it was not such a hard and fast rule in 2018-2019 due to the changes in committee membership. Thus, meetings were held at various times in the month and the monthly meeting calendar for 2019/20 is something that will have to be set by the incoming Committee. Our meetings throughout 2018/19 were held in the Amenities Room of the Temporary Library Building, aka The Dockers Building. We appreciate the City of Fremantle's goodwill in allowing us to use that room and we hope that we can continue to use it over the next twelve months.

### **General Meetings**

The Committee continued to find interesting places and or/events for their general meetings as the following list shows:

August – Held at the Flying Angel Club and hosted by Reverend Claughton who told of the history and role of the Flying Angel Club.

The Society later made a contribution of \$50.00 to the Flying Angel Club for hosting us that night.

September – This event was a Sunday afternoon event at the Fremantle Art Centre where our members had the opportunity to view the *Being There – Kathleen O'Connor in Paris* art exhibition, as well as hearing from Andre Lipscombe, the collection's curator, tell of both the history of Kathleen and the collection itself.

October – Fremantle Studies Day. This is the premier event on our calendar and this year it was held on Sunday, 28 October at the City of Fremantle Library Theatre. The theme for the papers was *Fremantle during World War 1* and Fremantle Oval was chosen as the venue because that is where the first troops were welcomed back on return from the War. As President, I believe the day was a great success with a good number of people in attendance and supported by a quality program of papers and presenters. The program was as follows:

Dr Leigh Straw: *The Suffering Begins: Returned Soldiers, families and the aftermath of World War 1 in Western Australia*

Allen Graham: *The Fremantle hotel trade during World War One*

Baden Pratt: *Hell for Leather: North Fremantle Football club and the Great War*

Dr Michelle McKeough: *Repatriation: A debt of Gratitude*

November – Our November meeting always doubles up as our Christmas wind up so a very convivial afternoon was held at the Fremantle Army Museum. Firstly, to view their exhibits, followed by some Christmas cheer in the Officer's Mess. Again, another very successful afternoon.

February – Our 2019 program started with an outdoor twilight event at the Fremantle War Memorial. This was a presentation given by Carmelo Amalfi the publisher of *Freo Streetwise*. In 2018 Carmelo had

produced a moving commemorative booklet to coincide with the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of Monument Hill and the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 and so this was an opportunity to learn more about this iconic Fremantle memorial. The Society being one of the sponsors who had supported the publication of the commemorative booklet.

March – The March meeting was back on 'home ground' at the Library when Linda Bettaney was our guest speaker. This was not a history lecture in the conventional sense as Linda, a Western Australian writer, is a fiction writer who uses the history of the state as a backdrop to her stories.

April – This meeting was a premier event on our calendar at which the Mayor, Dr Brad Petit was our guest speaker. His talk was promoted as *Planning for the future; remembering the past* and it was an opportunity for the Mayor to outline his vision for the City of Fremantle and the place of heritage within it. This event was the Society's contribution to Fremantle's and the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival. The event was well supported and the lecture well appreciated by everybody who attended.

May – This was a Saturday afternoon meeting held at the Italian Club at which the guest speaker was our own member, Michelle Morrison, who using her extensive knowledge of the Esplanade Reserve, gave a lecture titled *The Esplanade Park; A Community creation*. Today, the Esplanade Reserve is one of Fremantle's major tourist attractions but in its formative years it wasn't always attractive and as healthy as it is today, so it was great to learn more of the history of the reserve during those first three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

June – Another meeting that was held on location, this time at the old Fremantle Boys' School. This meeting opportunity was provided to us by Ricky Arnold, the Director of DADDA, (Disability in the Arts Disadvantages in the Arts), who are the

current tenants of the old school. On the night there were two speakers with Phil Griffiths being the first speaker. Phil is a heritage architect who has extensive experience working on the old building and he detailed the history and how the old building evolved when it was being used as a school. Ricky, was our second speaker who outlined what DADAA's plans were for the building over the next twenty years of its lease. Ricky then showed us through the building, allowing us to see some of the renovations that are being made to it. These are very exciting changes and when completed the sensitively transformed building will be a big fillip to that part of Fremantle.

So you can see that we had a very successful program throughout 2018/2019 and we look forward to matching that program in 2019/20. These events don't happen without the hard work of our committee and other members who help with catering, cleaning up, following up with suggested venues and speakers, etc, so once again, a big 'thank you' to all those members who helped with those events throughout the year. However, I have to pay a special thanks to the catering team of Fay Campbell, Kristy McNulty and Tania Heyne who have done an exceptional job at our functions this year.

And of course, a 'thank you' to all our members who have attended these meetings as there is nothing that gives the Committee more satisfaction than to see a good roll up of members and guests at these events.

### **Fremantle History Society Scholarship**

Since 2015 the Society has offered a scholarship to the value of \$2,000.00 to any amateur historian to research and write an essay on some aspect of Fremantle's history. Since its inception three scholarships have been awarded and this year the scholarship was presented to Cate Pattison who is undertaking research on the old State Engineering Works in North Fremantle. Cate was announced as the

recipient of the Scholarship at our last Studies day and she will present her paper at this year's Studies Day and her essay will be published in a later edition of the Society's journal *Fremantle Studies*.

### **Fremantle Studies Journal**

The Society published its first journal in 1999 and it is now a mainstream activity of the Society. It is a biennial publication and we expect to launch what will be our 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the journal at this year's studies day. It is quite costly to publish this Journal and so it is with pleasure that I can announce that we have been awarded a City of Fremantle Community grant of \$3,825 to go towards the publication of the journal.

### **Newsletter**

Another key activity of the Society is the publication of our newsletter. The Society is committed to publishing four newsletters a year and the key person responsible for this task over the past twelve months has been our stalwart member Anne Brake. The newsletter is always a good read with a good mix of society news and articles on Fremantle's history so a 'big thanks' to Anne and to Heather Campbell, Michelle Morrison and Pam Harris for the assistance they have given to Anne in getting the newsletter out.

### **Deckchair Theatre Archives.**

Since 2016 the Society has worked in conjunction with the State Library to archive the trove of material that was retained as memorabilia when the theatre group wound up in October 2012. This project has been a labour of love for some of our members, notably Pam Harris and Cathy Hall while Kristy McNulty and Tania Heyne have also provided invaluable assistance and I am told that the finish line is in sight.

### **Final thanks**

During the course of this report I have recorded where we met and who were the presenters at our general meetings, so it would be remiss of me if I didn't record my thanks to all those people who found the time to tell us more of Fremantle's history. I

won't list their names again, but they have all been acknowledged in this report. And a similar 'thanks' is also passed on to the Flying Angel Club, the Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle Army Museum, Fremantle War Memorial, Fremantle Italian Club and DADAA for playing host to us during the year. With my final thanks going to the City of Fremantle for providing us with a regular committee meeting room and for the use of the library lecture theatre when needed.

So I bring this report to an end and I look forward to an equally successful 2019/20.

Allen Graham  
President



### **LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

Stewart Alger

The City of Fremantle was delighted to be invited to be part of the celebration for the upcoming 60th anniversary of Sullivan Hall this August. The Sullivan Hall is a community hall situated on Nannine Street in White Gum Valley. It was built by the local community in October 1959, for the community and has largely been maintained by community volunteers for the entirety of its 60-year existence.

The Hall is named after local man Jim Sullivan as a thank you for the part he and his family played in its construction - it is believed that the main frame was reused from the parts of an army shed. In its history it has been predominantly used by a local square-dancing group, the Girl Guides and Brownies, however it has also been the venue for fancy dress balls and a community game of "Beetles".

The building has had its existence threatened a few times - for example it sustained some damage after an out of control 21st birthday party that turned out to be an open house heavy metal party -

however the community has stood strong in its protection and restoration of it.

If you are interested in learning of the Sullivan Hall history, come to its 60th Anniversary celebration on Sunday August 11th, where there will be a telling of its history and photographs of it over time. Or if you have any memories or photos of the Hall that you would like to share, please contact Brian Smith by Friday August 2nd on 0419 191 432 or [penbrian@multiline.com.au](mailto:penbrian@multiline.com.au)

If you have any historical enquiries about Fremantle's heritage please feel welcome to contact the Fremantle History Centre. Our email address is: [LHC@fremantle.wa.gov.au](mailto:LHC@fremantle.wa.gov.au) or phone: 08 9432 9592.



## TREASURES FROM TROVE

Heather Campbell continues her romp through the National Library's online resource, Trove.

### **THE ESPLANADE – the formative years – trees, picket fences, bandstands and free speech**

Fremantle Esplanade was created from land reclaimed from South Bay, opposite the Esplanade Hotel, in the early 1900s. It features regularly in newspapers thereafter:

*The Inquirer and Commercial News*, 8 May 1896, p 1

Tenders for the construction of the much talked of Fremantle Esplanade were received yesterday, that of Mr. W. J. Innes being the lowest received for the reclamation works. ...

*Daily News*, 14 July 1902, p 3 -  
FREMANTLE ESPLANADE

A sum of £4,500 was provided [by the State Government] some time ago for extending

the Fremantle Esplanade, and the work is now in hand ...

*Daily News*, 24 Sept 1903, p.3 –  
FREMANTLE ESPLANADE

... a big public meeting is to be held in the Fremantle Town Hall on Friday next, under the presidency of his Workshop the Mayor ... to discuss the present disgusting and unhealthy state of the Esplanade, owing to its unfinished state. The meeting will be addressed by a number of prominent citizens, and a resolution urging upon the Government the urgency of at once attending to the matter, will be moved. ... Instead of bright, healthy, pleasure resort, there is but a mile or two of ugly and unsavoury rubbish tips. The work that has so far been accomplished, has been performed in a half-hearted manner, and because of the fact that the Esplanade is unfit to stroll along, Fremantleites have to content themselves with stumbling along the quay. ...

*Fremantle Mail*, 7 Jan 1904, p 3 –  
FREMANTLE ESPLANADE: DANGERS OF  
RAILWAY TRAFFIC

When the reclamation works on the Fremantle Esplanade are finished, and the pool is filled with sand, what then? Will the Government consider their task is ended, and that the parade can be left to take care of itself? .... The laying down of the innocent looking railway line to Robb's Jetty marred the Esplanade as a beauty spot, but not too many trains per diem at present traverse it. When, however, the line is carried to Jandakot, and later on, connected with the south-western line, then the volume of traffic passing along the Esplanade will grow appreciably, and become more or less a source of public danger. ...

*The Mail*, 26 Oct 1904, p4 –  
FREMANTLE  
ESPLANADE: ARE THE WORKERS  
MARRIED

It does not, on the face of it, strike one as necessary that a man engaged in to plant

couch grass on the Esplanade should be married. It was, however, decided by the Fremantle Council some time since that men engaged in municipal work should, as far as possible, be ratepayers and married. At the meeting of the council last night, Cr. Fearn inquired whether all the men engaged were getting 8s per day. He referred to the decision of the council just mentioned and asserted that he had seen youths working alongside men, while married men were walking the streets doing nothing. After some discussion, it was decided not to pass any formal resolution on the subject, but to impress upon the officers the necessity of acting in compliance with the desire of the council.

West Australian, 28 Feb 1906, p 6 –  
FREMANTLE ESPLANADE

Improvements. The work of erecting the bandstand on the reclaimed portion of the Fremantle Esplanade, entrusted to Mr. J. McNeece, architect, is nearing completion. The Commissioner of Railways (Mr. George) has already let a contract for the erection of a standard picket fence, to separate the Jandakot Railway and the reserve. When the fence is finished, the Council will proceed with the formation of the necessary footpaths in the reserve, the planting of trees, the erection of turnstiles, etc. It is the intention of the Council to make the Esplanade a favourite resort during the summer months.

West Australian, 7 June 1906, p 2

Parks and Ovals. On the recommendation of the parks and ovals committee, a new by-law was adopted, providing (1) No person shall climb upon or over any portion of the fences, pillars, gates, or walls of the bandstand on the Fremantle Esplanade Reserve. (2) No person shall go upon or remain upon any portion of the bandstand on the Fremantle Esplanade Reserve when the said bandstand is closed; and the said bandstand shall be deemed to be closed

when the gates at the entrance to the same are shut. (3) No person shall play any games on the Fremantle Esplanade Reserve without the written consent of the Town Clerk. (4) Every person committing an offence against the provisions of this by-law shall, on conviction, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding £10.

West Australian, 4 Aug 1906, p 11

... Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Despeissis, of the Agricultural Department, had a conference at Fremantle with the members of the local Municipal Council, on the subject of tree planting. The reclaimed land of the Esplanade is about to be converted into a beauty spot, which will doubtless become a popular resort in the summer months. The Council have already planted the area with couch grass, and erected an ornate bandstand, and it is now proposed to



Strolling crowds at the Esplanade Fremantle with the bandstand in the background, 1906  
Fremantle Local History Collection 698

expend a sum of £300 in tree-planting and providing seats. The trees which Mr. Despeissis yesterday advised the Council to plant were the Norfolk Island pine, Aleppo pine, Maritime pine, tamarisks (in clumps), robinia, New Zealand pyramid trees, Moreton Bay figs, and pampas grass (in clumps) ... and also ... Pinus Marocapa for hedge purposes. Some 50 garden seats will be distributed about the gardens, in the laying out of which the advice of Mr. D. Feakes, Curator of the Government Gardens, is to be sought. It is proposed to make an immediate start with the work.

*West Australian*, 22 Oct 1906, p 5

The Fremantle Trades Hall Band rendered a programme, of music on the Fremantle Esplanade yesterday afternoon. These concerts are becoming very popular, and the attendances are increasing considerably. The band has made great progress during the past few months.

*West Australian*, 15 May 1909, p 12

The Fremantle City Band will play sacred music on the Fremantle Esplanade tomorrow afternoon, commencing at half-past 3.

*Sunday Times*, 28 June 1914, p 15 –  
CAUSTIC COMMENTS - ON AFFAIRS AT  
FREMANTLE

In most parts of the world fences surrounding public reserves have been abolished. In Fremantle however, the main spot of recreation and relaxation, known as the Esplanade, is still hidden from the view of the street by a big picket fence that is neither ornamental nor useful. The idea of fenceless parks is the best one, affording as it does a greater opportunity to the authorities for keeping the reserve under control and free from pests that are a nuisance and a menace. ... The writer discussed the matter with Inspector Sellenger, the head of the Port police, and



View of Esplanade Hotel and the Esplanade's picket fence, c. 1905. Fremantle Library Image No. 4497

that officer said he would welcome the abolition of the fence. Will the council please note?

*Sunday Times*, 13 Feb 1916, p 15 - PORT  
PARAGRAPHS

Following on the plan adopted in Perth some time ago, the local council is having the greater part of the fence removed from our Esplanade. Of late this pretty little resort has been an all too popular resort of loafers and "sleeping-it-off drunks," who used to repose undisturbed in the shelter of the pickets, and it is felt that the removal of the fence where it faces the street, while making the reserve more picturesque and uncramped, will afford less shelter for the undesirables who used to make a sort of retreat of the place. The reserve is also to be properly lighted up, I understand, and these summer evenings it should be a pleasant resort for Portonians desirous of enjoying the evening air by the water. ...

*Daily News*, 22 April 1916, p 11 –  
FREMANTLE ESPLANADE – (To the  
Editor)

Sir, - I must harp again about that horrid fence around the Fremantle Esplanade. Last Sunday afternoon a Scouts boy guarded twenty-eight (28) large empty beer bottles, another heap ay nearby, while yet two other boys went around collecting more. ... This is not hearsay, but what I saw. The gag that is in circulation about straying cattle is absurd, as the council have by-laws to deal with these nuisances. What I want to ask is, when can respectable residents have the use of the lovely little park? ... Can any of your readers imagine what glorious opportunities the Fremantle Council is providing to those who are evil and evilly-inclined by their present attitude about the fence? Empty beer bottles may speak of other vices than strong drink. Surely I need not add more to this. ... Wake up Town Councillors! – Yours, etc., NORTH POLE

*Albany Advertiser*, 13 Sept 1919, p 3 – THE  
FREMANTLE ESPLANADE  
UNAUTHRISED SPEECH

Fremantle, Thursday. Walter Leonard Jones, the member for Fremantle in the Legislative Assembly, was today fined £5 for speaking on the Esplanade without the sanction of the Municipal Council. *Westralian Worker*, 10 Oct 1919, p 5 – Fremantle Fragments (By Militant)

ESPLANADE MEETINGS ALLOWABLE

The fight for freedom of speech, which has been carried on in Fremantle for the past seven or eight months, has culminated in a victory so far as the A.L.P. is concerned. On Monday an application was made to the municipal council for the permission to speak, and peculiarly enough, nearly the whole of the councillors turned a complete somersault and voted for permission being granted. It is a notable fact that on a previous occasion when an application was made, there was only Cr Daly who voted for permission being granted. However, we are pleased at the decision, and it only goes to demonstrate that when members of the rank and file of the Labor Movement make a just demand, they expect it to be conceded. It is only necessary to show a united front to the authorities to eventually win out. The result of the Council's decisions on Monday night makes the Fremantle Esplanade free for public meetings and Free Speech, and this decision brings Fremantle into line with all other parts of the Commonwealth where freedom of speech is enjoyed in the public parks. ... No drastic reform leading to the goal of Democracy has ever been won without a great deal of sacrifice having been made. ... The Fremantle Esplanade, now it is free for all public meetings, will prove a very useful place where the ideals of the Labor Movement can be preached, and the seed sown; for a sure and certain harvest. ...

*Sunday Times*, 24 Oct 1926, p 7 CAUSTIC  
COMMENTS: On Affairs at Fremantle

The white elephant on the Fremantle Esplanade, formerly used as a bandstand, is to have its life prolonged by renovation. To remove the structure to the oval would cost more than it is worth; so it will remain where it stands, more ornamental than useful. ...

*Fremantle Advocate*, 10 June 1927, p 1

The tender of J. Bassett for the removal of the bandstand at the Esplanade was accepted. ... A letter was received from ex-Councillor Keegan protesting against the demolition of the stand ... alleging that it would not cost anything like what the engineer estimated to repair it. The Council, however, refused to be impressed and the bandstand goes.

The stage was set for the Esplanade we know so well today.



**RWAHS NEWS**

Many of you may not be aware the Society is an affiliated member of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. T

Every year they have an Affiliated Societies conference. This year it is to be hosted by the City of South Perth Historical Society with the theme Between Two Rivers. It will be held from 6 – 8 September.

For more information go to  
[www.histwest.org.au](http://www.histwest.org.au)



**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Sunday 25 August, 12 midday.** Pub lunch at The Local (the Seaview). 282 South Terrace.

**Tuesday 24 September, 6.00pm.** *Protest and Unrest Exhibition.* Fremantle Prison

**Sunday 27 October, 1.00pm.** *Fremantle Studies Day,* Maritime Union headquarters, Nth Fremantle.