



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Winter Edition, July 2023

<https://fhs.org.au>

August Pub Lunch



1932 Byrne's Beaconsfield Hotel

Fremantle History Centre 3328

This year we will be having our annual pub lunch at the Wray Hotel although many of us will still remember it as the 'Beacy'. The Beaconsfield Hotel was constructed in 1894. The *West Australian* 19th March 1894 advertised: 'This new and finely-built hotel...commands a splendid sea view...a healthy locality...the most complete accommodation for boarders, good stabling, and fifteen minutes from the town hall.' The first Licensee was William James Davey.

Michael Byrne was Licensee from 1926 until the mid-1940s. The 1932 photograph above shows the hotel with original limestone walls and brick quoins unpainted, the timber verandas with decorative ironwork still in place. The main entrance faces Hampton Road but this was later bricked up. In the 1960s architects Allen & Nicholas prepared plans for the removal of the verandas and balconies and a new awning to be installed in their place.

The building has suffered many unsympathetic upgrades over the years and while an assessment by the City of Fremantle in 1998 noted that the building bore little resemblance to the original form, the bare bones are still most definitely there. The latest change of ownership early this year, has come with a name change: the Wray Hotel, and it will be interesting to see what will become of this classic old Fremantle hotel.

See 'Coming Events' on page 6 for details about the annual pub lunch, which will be held this year at the Wray Hotel. Hope to see you there.

MEETING REPORTS

The Orange People – 2nd May

Despite its relatively short lifespan, the Sannyasin movement, better known as the Orange People for the colour they wore, made a significant and lasting impact on the local community, and a good crowd of us turned up to listen to Joseph London's talk and learn more about this intriguing period in Fremantle's history.

The movement was inspired by the teachings of the Indian mystic, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh who originally established an ashram in Pune, India in the 1970s. A professor of philosophy, the Bhagwan was an intelligent, articulate and charismatic man, revered as a living Buddha. His blend of eastern mysticism coupled with a good, healthy dose of capitalism seemed to strike a chord particularly with well-educated westerners in their thirties, searching for more meaning in their lives. They were encouraged to search for spiritual enlightenment and super-consciousness through dynamic meditation and wild, free love. Rajneesh ashrams started popping up all over the world, the first commune in Fremantle appeared in the early 1980s.



Images from Joseph London's 2020 film about Rajneesh and the Sannyasins: 'The Beloved'

Rajneesh never came to Australia but bought 26,000 hectares of land in Oregon, USA upon which he had a large ranch built, and moved there from Pune in 1981 along with 2000 of his disciples, establishing a huge commune with houses, shops, restaurants, a farm to grow food, even an airfield.

His secretary, Ma Anand Sheela, came to visit Fremantle in 1985. Followers here were honoured by her presence and accommodated her every wish, however, she made some big changes and within a short time the whole feel and tone of the Sannyasin community here began to change. Having children in the commune was discouraged and Ma Sheela established a boarding school at Karri Valley near Pemberton where children could be sent, some as young as two. She coerced Sannyasins into making large donations to the cause, and her interactions with the media were deliberately provocative and arrogant. Sannyasins began to turn against each other and public attitude began to turn against them.

By now the subject of much controversy Sheela left Fremantle, but was then denounced by Rajneesh who accused her of stealing money from the organisation and committing a number of very serious crimes, including poisonings, terrorism, harassment and wiretapping. However, knowing Rajneesh's awareness of everything that took place on each one of his communes, many people doubted these accusations and began to question their commitment.

The authorities began to look very closely at the ranch. Rajneesh was charged in 1985 with conspiracy to evade immigration laws, lying on his visa application and arranging sham marriages to allow foreign-born followers to live in the United States. He entered into a deal with the authorities, paid a fine of US\$400,000 and was deported from the US. In 1986 Ma Sheela was sentenced to 20 years jail after pleading guilty to charges of attempted murder, assault, arson, electronic eavesdropping, immigration fraud and conspiracy. She was fined US\$470,000 and paroled after 4 years. The ranch collapsed; the Fremantle commune at the Trades Hall, Collie Street was also disbanded.

In 1986 the Trades Hall was leased to the Aga Khan in preparation for the Americas Cup the next year. He reportedly spent \$1.5 million on the building, setting up headquarters for the sponsors of the Italian yacht *Azzurra*, and created an elegant Italian restaurant downstairs called Le Maschere, winning an architecture design award in 1987.

The Sannyasins went underground, blending back into the town, but the community endured. Flamboyant entrepreneur, Jay Harman, at the time a wealthy devotee of the Rajneesh, bought the grand Dalkeith House on the corner of High and Parry Streets to form a new ashram. Members continued to hold celebrations, get-togethers and meditations amongst themselves.

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh eventually returned to the Pune ashram in 1987, having been refused entry to Greece, Switzerland, Sweden, London and Canada. He resumed public speaking and devised new meditation therapies but began to suffer from ill health. In 1989 he announced that he no longer wished to be referred to as Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh but would thenceforth be known as Osho. He died on 19th January 1990, aged 58 at the in Pune, India.

A Fremantle Family-Love, Loss and Locality – 30th May

On 30 May Dr Deborah Hindley gave a talk about her father, Keith Burrell, and his family's connection to Fremantle. Originally from Victoria, Deborah's great grandparents, William Humphrey Hicks and Margaret Littledale Hicks moved to the Goldfields where William worked with CY O'Connor on the pipeline and Maggie ran a boarding house.

They left the Goldfields and settled in Fremantle where William worked on the harbour and Maggie had a store on the corner of Barnett and Quarry Streets.

Their son, Bill Hicks, went to school in Fremantle and worked at the State Implement Works in Rocky Bay before enlisting for service in WW1. After several periods on the battlefield serving with the 28th Australian Infantry Battalion Bill was killed in Passchendaele in 1917, age 20.

Maggie continued to run the shop after William died in 1921, and helped waterside workers and their families with food and financial support during strikes and the Depression. Maggie also held a unique liquor licence to be able to sell alcohol by the glass as well as bottle.

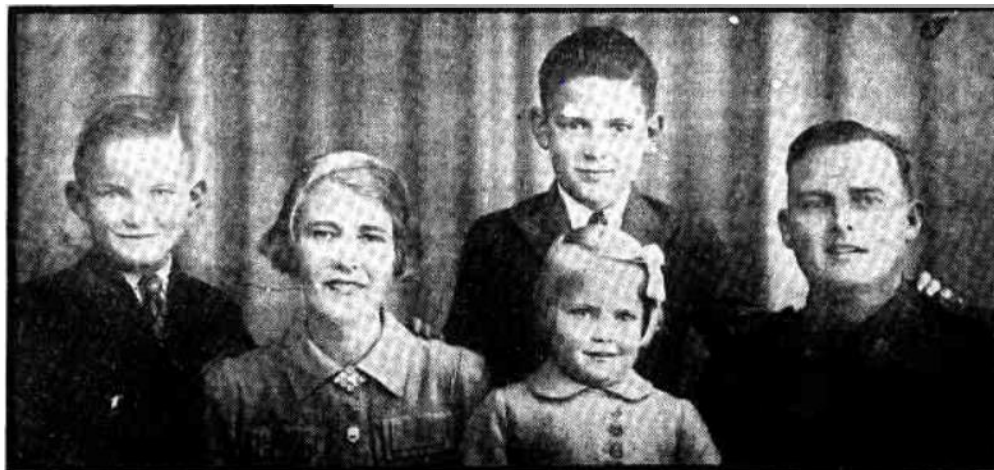


23 Quarry Street

Photo: K. McNulty

Maggie's daughter, Elibby and three grandchildren Keith, Rex and Margaret, lived with her at the Quarry Street shop while their father, Erwin James 'Bill' Burrell worked on the Goldfields as a mechanic, fitter and engineer. Elibby and family went to live with Bill on the Goldfields for a while, then all returned to Fremantle where Bill worked on the cranes at the harbour, often being told "Bill Hicks fixed that".

Although being considered essential personnel in wartime and having three children Bill Burrell enlisted in 1940 declaring "No single man shall fight for my kids". It is Deborah's belief that his decision to enlist was influenced from his adolescence when he saw a WW1 propaganda poster where a little girl asks: "Daddy what did YOU do in the Great War?" Sapper Bill Burrell was the first West Australian to be killed in WW2 on Christmas Eve, 1940 at Sollum, Egypt.



Photograph at left appeared in the *Daily News* 18/01/1941 after Bill's death.

Sapper Bill Burrell with wife, Elibby and three children, at left: Rex (8), Keith (11) and Margaret (4) front.

Son Keith and his family also lived and worked in Fremantle when he was at the Artillery Barracks in Burt Street, living in the Gunners' Cottages on Queen Victoria Street.

South Fremantle Heritage – 27th June

Fremantle Heritage Projects Officer, Annabel Wills came to talk to us about the review of the South Fremantle heritage area that is currently being undertaken. The overarching objective of the review is to ensure that future development in South Fremantle is informed by an understanding of the area's specific heritage characteristics and how they interrelate to express the area's sense of identity.

Its purpose, therefore, is to clearly define and record the special characteristics that justify South Fremantle's designation as a heritage area. This information will reduce uncertainty and should provide the basis for developing and implementing local planning policies that will help to streamline approval of planning applications and preparation of proposals for the conservation and enhancement of the area's character.

South Fremantle has evolved over many decades in response to a diverse range of factors which have shaped the distinctive urban characteristics that now reflect and embody the area's heritage. The review and related assessment are seen as the means of recognising the importance of this diverse range of factors.

The assessment includes an overview of the area's historic development and evidence of the impact that different periods of history have had on the townscape and the buildings, and on social life. Among other things, it includes building types resulting from past uses or important phases of development, and the integrity or group value of buildings that have come to make a significant contribution to the area's present identity.

The review acknowledges that the heritage value of places tends to grow in strength and complexity, not only in the light of new information but also as a result of changes to them and evolving perceptions of their value. For this reason, the heritage value of places and the identity of sub-areas and their boundaries are being re-evaluated as part of the review process.

A further aim of the review process is to raise the community's awareness and understanding of their heritage in ways that will help them to refine and articulate their views, including the varied ways in which values are perceived by different generations and communities.

As part of active participation in making decisions about its future, the review process will encourage the local community to explore and express what it values about South Fremantle.

Annual General Meeting – 25th July

St. John's Anglican Church was the venue for the Fremantle History Society's 2023 AGM. It was a pretty miserable night, cold and raining which we should be getting used to, but around 40 of us braved the elements to attend.

Marian Agombar works at St. John's as a Church Warden and she kindly delivered a very interesting and informative talk. This year marks the 180th anniversary of the presence of the parish here in Fremantle, the original church being built at a slightly different location (now outlined in the square behind the church) and completed in August 1843.



Allen Graham addressing the AGM at St. John's
K. McNulty

The growing congregation soon became too large for the simple Georgian church, and its location prevented the extension of High Street as a main thoroughfare. These difficulties led to plans for a new building on the northern side of the square and the Gothic Revival building still present on the site was consecrated in 1882.

Drawn up by an architect in London the plans needed to be adapted for local conditions and this was done by inmates at Fremantle Prison. Stone was quarried from Cantonment Hill and jarrah beams for the roof came from the Pinjarra area.

It is an attractive building adorned with numerous beautiful stained glass windows, many of which are memorials to early colonial figures. The pioneer window on the north nave wall (pictured at right) tells the story of the first settlers who established the church.

Following Marian's talk, outgoing President, Allen Graham, delivered his final report for the 2022/2023 period, which you will find at the end of this newsletter, Treasurer Pam Harris delivered her report. Jenny Archibald submitted the nominations to the AGM and the following new committee was elected.

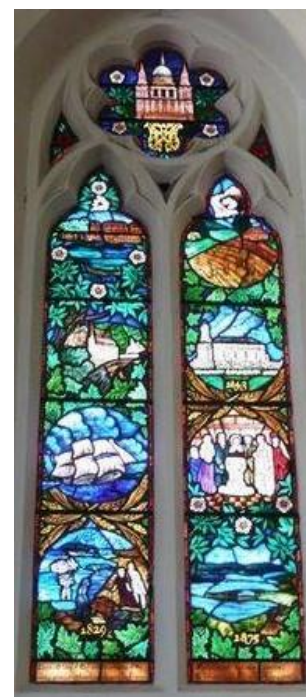


Image from:
Monument Australia

Fremantle History Society Committee 2023/2024

President: Jude Robison
Vice President: Allen Graham
Secretary: Kristi McNulty
Treasurer: Pam Harris
Committee Members: Alan Kelsall, Tania Heyne, Fay Campbell, Mattie Turnbull,
Beth Powell, Maeve Harvey, Stewart Alger
All positions were confirmed by the Members

COMING EVENTS

PUB LUNCH – WRAY HOTEL (FORMERLY BEACONSFIELD HOTEL)

73 Wray Avenue, Fremantle 6160
Sunday 27 August, 12.00 pm

The annual FHS pub lunch never fails to be a good event and this year promises to be no different as we will be dining at the newly named Wray Hotel on Hampton Road. It's a classic Fremantle pub with a traditional sort of ambience and décor, if we're really lucky there might even be an open fire. It is a popular venue - the karaoke on a Thursday night attracts quite an enthusiastic crowd!

Allen Graham, our Vice President, will give us a talk about the history of the hotel. Allen has been researching Fremantle's hotels for over 40 years and is quite an authority on the subject. He actually has a book about to be published which is called *The Inns and Outs of Fremantle: A Social History of Fremantle and its Hotels: 1829–1856*. This is the first in a trilogy of books which will cover the period from 1829–1929 and it should be available by the end of October. I'm sure he will be able to entertain us with some stories while we decide what to have for lunch.

The menu is nicely varied and reasonably priced with some very good specials and significant discounts for Seniors' Card holders. Old fashioned classics feature such as fish and chips, pasta dishes and burgers with a number of Irish specialties such as steak and stout pot pie, bangers and mash and the Dublin Lawyer.

<https://thewrayhotel.com.au/> if you would like to check out the menu beforehand.

We need to let them know numbers so please RSVP to me at: secretary.fhs@gmail.com no later than 23rd August if you'd like to come along.

THE HISTORY OF HEATHCOTE HOSPITAL AND THE CULTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH NURSING IN WA

Walyalup Civic Centre – Mardoo Room
151 High Street, Fremantle, 6160

Tuesday 26 September, 5.00 pm for drinks and nibbles before the talk at 6.00 pm.

Julia Crook, a retired health professional, has recently published a book *Heathcote psychiatric hospital in Western Australia: An historical glimpse at nursing* Julia has worked both as a nurse and an educator at many hospitals and training centres around Western Australia and the

United Kingdom, however, the time she spent at Heathcote was the happiest in her working life. Nurses genuinely cared about their colleagues and certainly genuinely cared about their patients, and it was this period, and how much mental health nursing has changed since then, that inspired her to record memories of the workplace and profession.

Her book was drawn from interviews with staff and patients of Heathcote Hospital, however, she has delved much further back researching the early records of the Swan River Colony and the Lunatic Asylum and has put together a much broader picture, examining mental health care in the 1800s and its development from that time.

Julia's history does much to further our understanding of mental health in WA, reflecting significant changes in attitudes and reforms in treatments for people suffering mental illness.

FREMANTLE STUDIES DAY 2023

Ground Floor Local History Display Area

Walyalup Civic Centre

Sunday 29 October, 12.45 pm for a 1.00 pm start

Another engaging lineup of presentations is being put together for this year's program. There will be four speakers to enlighten and entertain us on a diverse range of topics.

Wobblies on the waterfront: The industrial workers of the world in Fremantle during WW1

Nick Everette

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) nicknamed 'Wobblies,' originated in the US. An international labor union, they argued that workers should amalgamate into One Big Union in order to resist capitalism and abolish the profits system. In 1914 they established a branch in Fremantle. Nick will discuss the part played by Fremantle IWW members in the conscription debate and the subsequent industrial upheaval on the waterfront in 1917 and again in 1919.

Whirlpool – In and out of a spiritual washing machine

Bruce Menzies

Why would a thirty-something, football-playing, cricket-loving, agnostic lawyer abandon a comfortable suburban existence in favour of an Indian ashram? How would he, his wife and two small boys manage that radical transition and what would be the reaction from family and friends? Following on from Joseph London's fascinating presentation on the Rajneeshees, Bruce relates his personal experience living as a member of that community.

The Perth Mint Scandal – WW1 Gold Reserve

Grant Donnes.

Grant Donnes worked in the mining industry in WA, but looking into his family history, discovered there was more to his grandfather, Mick Donnes', story than had at first appeared. He took five years off work to research Mick's story further and this is still ongoing.

Mick Donnes (Snr.) was a gold miner from Boulder. In 1915 he volunteered to join the army and fought with the ANZAC soldiers at Gallipoli, was injured at the Western Front in France. He returned to Fremantle in 1917.

Apparently, soon after WW1 had ended, the entire contents of the Perth Mint were cleared out by persons unknown to whereabouts unknown. Grant claims that his grandfather stumbled across the information that Australian wheat was unknowingly on-sold to Germany, leading to

the 1919 Fremantle Wharf riots. He asks: How did Australia get its gold reserve in 1918 and how did the Imperial Japanese Army empty out the Perth Mint in May 1919?

The *Fremantle Herald*: working for a community newspaper

Steve Grant

Chief of Staff and Production Editor, Steve Grant, has been with our local *Fremantle Herald* for 18 years. He will be joining us to share some of his experiences and talk about the future of newspapers and journalism.

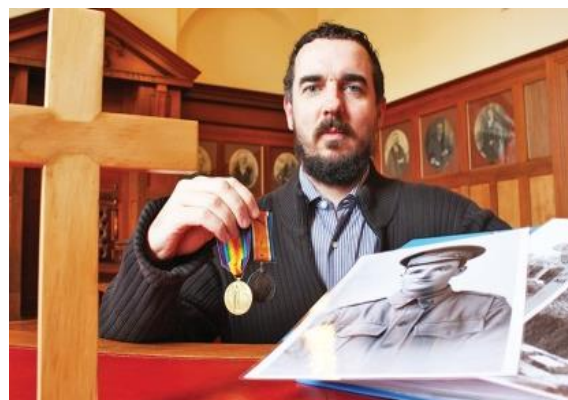
Vale Judy Carter 17.02.1942 – 27.06.2023

A few kind words from one of our members:

When thinking of Judy the words: cool, calm and collected come to mind. She was reliable, caring and mindful of the needs of others. A loyal friend who will be sadly missed but remembered with love and affection. Judy was also a member of the Melville History Society and served a time as Treasurer.

CONGRATULATIONS! Andrew Pittaway, OAM

Andrew Pittaway is an archivist and historian with a passionate interest in Australian military history and a deep love of Fremantle. He went to school at CBC Fremantle and is currently employed by the City of Fremantle as archivist, a position he has held for many years.



He was visiting Ari Burnu Cemetery while holidaying in Turkey in 2002 and came across the headstone of a William Bateman, 28th Battalion, killed in action 8th December 1915. Knowing there had been a prominent family of Batemans in the 1800s in Fremantle, on his return he looked to see if there was a connection. Indeed William Bateman had grown up in East Fremantle and his brother, Herbert, was killed a year after William at Pozieres.

Andrew found there had not been a lot written about Fremantle people and their involvement in the war, and so began his journey to track down and identify the local men and women who served: just over 3000, with 853 losing their lives. He returned to Gallipoli and the Western Front in 2007 to search the battlefields and graves for further missing details. His hard work culminated in the publication of several articles in national and international journals, and then in 2015, an extensive and authoritative book: *Fremantle Voices of the Great War*.

This work has just been recognised in the awarding of a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List last June. Congratulations Andrew, well done!

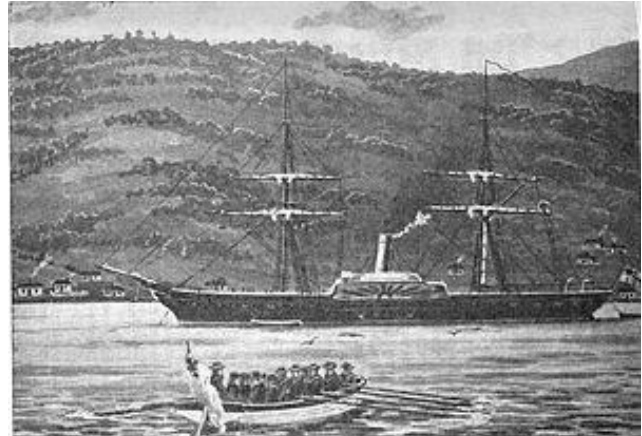
TREASURE FROM TROVE

A wonder of modern science in 1845

Heather Campbell

The arrival of the first steamer in Fremantle was reported in the *Inquirer*, 10 December 1845, p.2, and caused quite a commotion in a port city that was used to sailing boats:

Since our last, our port has been visited by H.M. steam-sloop *Driver*, Captain Courtenay O. Hayes, which put in principally to obtain a supply of coals, and to effect some repairs to her boilers. The *Driver* is from the Chinese station, and is now under orders for New Zealand, whither she has been sent to assist in quelling the late outbreak at the Bay of Islands. Her arrival forms quite an event in our little annals. She is the first steamer that has ever been seen here, and has thus become a matter of great curiosity, especially among the juveniles, to whom a steamer of any sort is a perfectly novel sight. She has been visited by several parties of curious colonists, all of whom have been most kindly received on board, and instructed in the mysteries of steam machinery.



HMS Driver entering Waitemata in NZ in 1846.

Image: A H Messenger, from a sketch by Capt M Clayton.

[Steam comes to the Waitematā - Mahurangi Magazine](#)

Her first appearance off Fremantle caused no small consternation to the worthy people of that town; the man on the look-out having given the alarm that there was a ship on fire in the roads! For the moment, the supposition was general that the *Unicorn* had by some accident taken fire, and everybody was rushing down to the beach in order to lend their assistance. A very few minutes sufficed, however, to explain the real nature of the case, and the alarm having subsided, every kind of curious conjecture was afloat as to the cause of so large a steamer coming here, and the nature of her errand. Some predicted a war with France, others with the United States, and the most moderate fully anticipated that she had been despatched from India with our new Governor. We need hardly now say that none of these things are true, the *Driver* having put in merely for the purposes we have mentioned above; and now that one has found her way, we hope that we shall see many visitants of the same sort, for although coals are not as yet obtainable here, steamers can be abundantly, and cheaply, supplied with wood, of an excellent quality for fuel. We believe that the *Driver* takes 150 cords of wood, at 15s., delivered on board.

We are indebted to the kindness of some of the officers on board for a few English papers, which bring our home news down to the 8th of September. The principal topics are Her Majesty's visit to Germany, and the threatened rupture between Mexico and the United States, which, together with other points of general interest, will be found treated of in the extracts we have given in another part of our paper. ...

The stay of the *Driver* is at present uncertain, depending in a great measure upon the celerity with which her supplies of fuel are obtained. It is not, however, expected that she will be delayed longer than Thursday or Friday.

HMS Driver, a wooden paddle sloop, was launched in 1840 and was the first steam vessel to circumnavigate the world, the voyage commencing from Portsmouth in 1842 and taking five years. [<https://navyhistory.au/hms-driver-first-paddlewheel-ship-to-circumnavigate-the-world/> accessed 30/5/2023] Conditions on board may have been less than ideal – while in Fremantle two deserters were reported and a reward of three pounds was offered for the apprehension of each of them and a description circulated - James Ball, Carpenter's Crew, age 24, born Liverpool, Lancashire; 5ft. 6in., hair, dark brown; eyes, hazel; complexion, dark. William McDonald, A.B. ; age 25 ; born at Devonport, Devon; 5ft. 3½in.; hair, dark brown; eyes, hazel; complexion, fresh. [[HMS Driver \(rootsweb.com\)](https://www.rootsweb.com/~hmsdriver/) accessed 30/5/2023]

After a varied and extensive naval career *Driver* was wrecked on Mayaguana Island, the most easterly in the Bahamas, in the West Indies, in August 1861, while on a voyage from Bermuda to Jamaica.

Centre for Western Australian History Newsletter

In May the Centre for Western Australian History released the first issue of a quarterly newsletter. The content includes information about coming events, details and dates for upcoming symposiums and conferences, and book reviews of academic and historic publications.

As is the case with all newsletters, its success depends upon contributions made. Director, Bobby Oliver, hopes to have the second issue out early September and asks to be kept aware of forthcoming events and reports of past events, photographs and any other items that would be of interest to historical interest groups.



Her contact details are as follows:

Associate Professor Bobbie Oliver
Director: Centre for Western Australian History, School of Humanities, UWA.
Email address: bobbie.oliver@uwa.edu.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023-2024

Executive:

Judith Robison (President) 0434 571 666
Allen Graham (Vice President) 0412 933 360
Pam Harris (Treasurer) 0408 092 100
Kristi McNulty (Secretary) 0412 786 843

Committee Members:

Fay Campbell 0419 969 678
Alan Kelsall 9336 4573
Tania Heyne 0419 197 116
Mattie Turnbull 0409 200 157
Beth Powell
Maeve Harvey 0417 324 461
Stewart Alger 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.

Introductions to new committee members:

Maeve Harvey



Originally from Ireland I moved to Western Australia in 1988. Fresh career challenges and an interest in scuba diving were the reasons behind the move. I worked for many years at the Department of Agriculture in the biochemistry department.

Since retiring ten years ago I developed an interest in local history. I was curious about the old Coogee Hotel which is close to where I live. The story of the family who built the hotel at the end of the 19th century was very much tied up in the development of the port of Fremantle, Coogee and surrounding area. The knowledge I gained through this research sparked an interest in local history and increased my sense of belonging in my new home.

I live in Coogee with my husband Steve Wells who is also a member of the FHS. We share the house with a very active and naughty dog. My interests still centre on the ocean. I enjoy cooking and I read a lot, usually something of a historical nature. I'm looking forward to being part of the FHS Committee. With the skills I have accumulated over the years I hope I can make a contribution to the Society and the promotion of our interesting local history.

Kristi McNulty

I emigrated from NZ to Melbourne in 1980, travelled around Australia in a caravan for 2 years with my young family 1996-7 before settling here in WA. With our youngest child safely off to school I set out to gain a degree in Librarianship, quite a challenge at 40! A practicum placement at Fremantle Library led to a stint at Fre-Info, then the History Centre and there I stayed.

I'm not exactly a new face as I've been doing the newsletter for a while now, but never actually been on the committee. I very much enjoyed the 12 years I worked in the Fremantle History Centre and hope that that experience might help me contribute something worthwhile to the History Society.



FOR YOUR DIARY

August Sunday 27th, 12.00 noon RSVP secretary.fhs@gmail.com by 23rd August
Pub Lunch
Wray Hotel
73 Wray Avenue, Fremantle 6160

September Tuesday 26th, 5.00-7.00 pm
History of Heathcote Hospital and the culture of mental health in WA
Walyalup Civic Centre – Mardoo Room
151 High Street, Fremantle, 6160

October Sunday 29th, 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm. (Arrive at 12.45 pm)
Fremantle Studies Day
Walyalup Civic Centre - Ground Floor Local History display area
151 High Street, Fremantle 6160

President's Annual Report 2022 - 2023

This is the fifth annual report that I have presented as the President of the Fremantle History Society and unless history repeats itself, it will most likely be my last. While that may sound a bit solemn, it is because if you have served five successive years as President, then the Society's Constitution requires you to stand down from the presidency, so it is not as solemn as it sounds. Therefore, to be more uplifting I have to say while those five years have gone very quickly, I can also say that I have really enjoyed my time as president, and it hasn't turned me off from continuing on the Committee. With those introductory words, I will now continue with my report.

Like this meeting, our year always starts with the Annual General Meeting and last year our AGM was held on 26 July in Moodjah Room of Walyalup Koort. The weather was not very good that day, so we only had twenty-four of our members attend the meeting, with fifteen apologies.

Hannah Fitzhardinge, the Mayor of Fremantle was our guest of honour as she launched Volume 11 of our journal *Fremantle Studies*, and here I can record that we will be launching Volume 12 at this year's Studies Day in October. The production of the journal is one of the key activities of the Fremantle History Society and here I need to thank the editorial committee of Anne Brake, Pam Harris, Jude Robison and Heather Campbell for their work which never seems to end. No sooner than we have published one journal, then work starts on the next.

Committee Membership for 2022/23.

Executive:

President – Allen Graham
Vice President – vacant
Secretary – Jude Robison
Treasurer – Pam Harris

Committee members:

Fay Campbell
Tania Heyne
Alan Kelsall
Mattie Turnbull
Stewart Alger (Ex officio)

As the outgoing president I would like to record my thanks for the support that I have had from those committee members that I have just named, as well as from other members who have served on the committee over the past five years. I am always telling people that we, as a small history society continually punch above our weight for what we do and accomplish, and that is only possible because of the work that is undertaken by our committee members, and I am confident that our incoming president will enjoy the same level of support that I have had over the past five years.

Activities of the past twelve months: July 2022 – June 2023

26 July 2022 – Annual General Meeting

28 August – Pub lunch at the Old Court House. A very pleasant Sunday lunch which was attended by 30 of our members.

27 September – Talk by Daniel Elias titled *The foundations of Fremantle and the marshalling of maritime labour*.

30 October – **Studies Day** at Sullivan Hall, White Gum Valley. There were a few glitches along the way, but nothing that distracted from the success of the day.

Speakers were:

Dorothy Erickson – Dorothy was the winner of the 2021 Ron and Dianne Davidson Scholarship, and she presented her paper titled *Fremantle through artists' eyes and artifacts*.

Bob Gordon – *What is the Fremantle sound?*

James Paratore – Tales of lost souls. – *Fremantle's fishing industry through the lens of tragedy*.

Jan Rodda – *Growing up in Freo*.

27 November – Xmas wind up and social drink at the Roundhouse Heritage Guides Cottage preceded by a visit to the WA Maritime Museum to view the exhibition Fremantle Then and Now: Historical Panoramas.

21 February – A morning visit and tour through the Fremantle Passenger Terminal courtesy of Fremantle Ports.

28 March – Talk by Elly Spillekom, curator of the Dutch Australian Foundation on *The History of wooden boat building in Western Australia*.

April (Held on 2 May because of clash with Anzac Day) – Talk by Joseph London on the *Orange People (aka Rajneeshees) of Fremantle*.

30 May – Talk by Dr Debbie Hindley on *A Fremantle Family; Love, loss, and locality*.

27 June – Talk by Annabel Wills, Fremantle Heritage Projects Officer, on the South Fremantle Heritage Precinct

This summary shows the extent and the diversity of the subjects that the Fremantle History Society offers to its members, and I record our appreciation to all the speakers who contributed to this year's program. To read more about these events, or topics, please go to our website, the Fremantle History Society (fhs.org.au), and then to our quarterly newsletters.

Newsletter

The Society publishes four of these annually and it is the principal source of news for our members. Over the last two years the newsletter has been edited and produced by our member Kristi McNulty who has been ably assisted by Pam Harris and Heather Campbell, Heather being responsible for many of the old news stories of Fremantle that appear under the heading *Treasures from Trove*. So a big thanks to Kristi, Pam and Heather for such a polished production.

Award from the WA History Council

Each year the History Council presents a number of awards, either to an individual or an organisation for their contribution to Western Australian History, and in October 2022 it was with great pride that as President of the Fremantle History Society, I was able to accept one of these awards. To be eligible for an award you had to make a submission to the History Council which in turn was assessed by a panel of judges convened by the History Council. The category for which we were successful was 'A significant contribution to the understanding or impact of, or advocacy for, local history in Western Australia.' On being presented with the award I was joined by committee members Alan Kelsall and Pam Harris and it was a very satisfying

occasion for Pam, who along with our (now long distance) member Anne Brake had been responsible for preparing what was a very detailed submission. Photographs of the Award and the submission that we made to the History Council can be seen in the Spring 2022 edition of the newsletter.

Local History Centre

With the opening of the new Fremantle Library, the Fremantle community was deprived of a dedicated Local History Centre and so throughout 2023 Stewart Alger, the Local History Coordinator has been making submissions to the Council to have this centre reopened within the library. The Fremantle History Society strongly supports this proposal and as President of the FHS I have written to the Mayor and Councillors endorsing the proposal. Similarly, other members of FHS have also written in support of the centre. At the time of writing the matter is still being considered by the council, but in the meantime, we will continue to be strong advocates for a Fremantle Local History Centre.

Thank you to the City of Fremantle

Over the past twelve months, the FHS has been able to use the meeting rooms and committee rooms located in and around the library for many of its monthly guest speaker meetings and its monthly committee meetings and so I have to record a big 'thank you' to the city for allowing us to use those rooms and we hope that they will be available to us again in 2023/24.

The Voice referendum

At our April meeting, the committee unanimously endorsed supporting the 'Yes' vote in the forthcoming referendum and we encourage all of our members to vote 'Yes' in the referendum. After all, we are a history society and we believe that we want to be on the right side of history when it comes to such an important change in the country's constitution.

Vale

Over the past twelve months, we have lost three long-standing and respected members of the FHS. In August 2022 long-standing member Pat de Haer passed away followed in September 2022 by Nick Gurr and very recently we said goodbye to Judy Carter. May they rest in peace, other than for telling stories of Fremantle, wherever they may be.

On that solemn note, I will close this report, but before doing so I will thank all our members for your support of all the lectures and events that we organised throughout the year. There is nothing that gives the committee more satisfaction than at the end of each event to be able to say, 'Well that went well and that was a very good roll up of our members.' May it long continue.

With best wishes to you all, from your immediate past president, Allen Graham.