



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Spring Edition, November 2022

<https://fhs.org.au>

HISTORY COUNCIL of WESTERN AUSTRALIA AWARD

Pam Harris

The Fremantle History Society has won the 2022 History Council of WA Award for:

A significant contribution to the understanding or impact of, or advocacy for, local history in Western Australia.

The award was presented to Allen Graham at the Awards Ceremony at the State Library of WA on Tuesday the 25th October 2022.



Presentation of the Award to Society President Allen Graham, with Pam Harris and Alan Kelsall

The award recognises the work of the Society including:

Fremantle Studies Day and Fremantle Studies Journal

The Fremantle History Society (FHS) has published eleven volumes of Fremantle Studies Journal, 1999 – 2022. Volume 12 is currently being edited. Each volume of Studies contains papers from two of its annual Fremantle Studies Days and, on occasion, a particularly good paper from one of its general meetings. The journal is well illustrated, includes academic referencing and is fully indexed.

Websites and Facebook

The FHS has a website at <https://fhs.org.au/> which provides members and others with news, and upcoming society activities, and access to online versions of our newsletter and journals via the website Fremantle Stuff: <https://fremantlestuff.info/fhs/index.html>. The FHS also has an active Facebook page at <http://www.fhs.org.au/>

Quarterly Newsletter

The FHS newsletter has been published since October 1994. In April 2013 the Society produced its 75th edition; recognition for this effort was gratefully received through a Fremantle Spirit of Heritage Award for the newsletter in October of 2014.

General Meetings

The FHS organises 10 general meetings for members from February through to November each year and this was only interrupted in 2020 due to COVID.

Deck Chair Theatre Archives

In 2012 the theatre was forced to close due to a lack of funding. At the time Cathy Hall, a FHS committee member and past board member of Deck Chair, took on the task of ensuring the history of this important group was not lost. With assistance from staff at the History Centre at the City of Fremantle, a sub committee was formed from FHS committee members and volunteers and an application for a National Library Community Heritage Grant for a Significance Assessment was sought and awarded in the amount of \$4000. The final statement of significance indicated that the archives were not only of State but of National Significance.

The sub committee set to work to organise the dispersed and haphazard records over a period of seven years including the digitisation of analogue materials which was funded by a grant from the WA History Foundation. The archive was eventually donated to the State Library of WA in 2020 ensuring the history of this important company is retained and made accessible for future researchers and scholars.

Support for oral history program at the Fremantle History Centre

Over the years the FHS has had a very strong relationship with the Fremantle History Centre providing funding for recording equipment for staff and volunteers to conduct oral histories of individuals and organisations in Fremantle. In 2011 the FHS provided a grant of \$1500 to employ an oral historian to work on a project to interview refugees from places such as Afghanistan and East Africa.

Ron and Dianne Davidson Scholarship

In 2014 the FHS decided to provide a biennial scholarship to further support the writing of new research of Fremantle's history and to encourage and support historians. Since that time four scholarships for \$2000 each have been awarded.

Advocacy

The activities noted above are tangible outcomes of the History Society's work which it is very proud of, but there are also the less tangible aspects of our endeavour. The FHS has taken a strong stance on some important local issues, scoring some significant wins and, of course, some defeats. As well as reviewing several proposals and draft registrations for the Western Australian Heritage Council, in more recent times the FHS has taken a strong public stand on issues such as the Esplanade skate park, heritage classification of the amenities building at Victoria Quay, master planning for Victoria Quay, the naming of Kings Square / Walyalup Koort and the recently proposed tavern at Arthur Head's J Shed. This activism has not endeared it to Fremantle City Council, but the Society is not beholden to it or any other body when decisions are made that affect the whole Fremantle community and impact on its significant heritage.

When listed in this way the Society and its members can truly be proud of what it has achieved over the last 28 years, there will be a big celebration for the 30th Anniversary in 2024.

Thanks to Anne Brake and Pam Harris who jointly wrote the application for the Award.

Congratulations to all past all past and present members as well as the dedicated committee members over the last 28 years.

MEETING REPORTS

Pub Lunch at the Old Courthouse – Sunday 28th August

Situated conveniently close to the prison, the Fremantle Courthouse was the centre of law and order in Fremantle, from when it was opened in 1899 until it closed in 2001 with the completion of the new Fremantle Justice Complex. The building was left to fall into a state of disrepair over the next two decades before being taken on by Karl and Janine Bullers who had just restored the National Hotel in High Street. Three years and a few Covid delays later the Old Courthouse has been fully redeveloped and is now open for business. The Fremantle History Society decided it would be the perfect venue at which to hold the annual pub lunch!

The two main courtroom areas are quite grand with soaring six-metre ceilings and many of the original features have been retained and incorporated into the modern restoration. The magistrate's bench presides over the civil court which is now the dining room, and in the main bar the defendants' dock sits beneath a sign that says 'don't judge me,' providing an amusing photo moment. Large pictures of past judges adorn the walls of both courtrooms while mugshots of unfortunate defendants are displayed in a gallery alongside.



Photographs of the main bar and adjacent dining room

K. McNulty

A good crowd of around thirty members and friends gathered in the dining room to listen to Karl Bullers talk about the trials and tribulations of restoring his second heritage listed building in Fremantle. He had some entertaining stories. A newspaper was discovered beneath the floorboards during the restoration, a copy of the *West Australian* dated 7th February 1899, probably left there by the builders during construction as it opened 15th June that same year. There was another newspaper article dated 1956, describing one Alan Bond, aged 18, who was summoned to front the court charged with attempted burglary! Both articles have been put on display in the venue.

After Karl's talk we all enjoyed lunch ordered from the pub menu, many people choosing the Sunday roast which was obviously a very good choice; it looked delicious. A very impressive range of drinks was available over the bar, including an 1899 vintage port at \$1899 per 30ml nip!



Police photographs of convicted criminals on gallery wall

K. McNulty

The Foundations of Fremantle and the Marshalling of Maritime Labour – 27th September

Daniel Elias

This paper was taken from Chapter 1, of Daniel's PhD which he is completing at UWA.

Daniel's talk began by acknowledging the Whadjuk Noongar people and discussing the invasion of their land by Captain Charles Fremantle and the subsequent settlement of the land led by Governor James Stirling. The reason for this settlement was the need for the British to establish a safe *white* harbour on the West coast of Australia, thereby excluding the possibility of the French or the Dutch from extending their interests.

From a European perspective, the first half-century of the colony was a failure. Agriculture using European methods failed to thrive and meanwhile the Whadjuk Noongar people were driven from their traditional lands.

In an attempt to sustain the colony, the Fremantle Whaling Company (FWC) was formed in 1837, along with the Northern Whaling Company. The FWC station was built on Bathers' Beach, adjacent to Arthur Head. Whaling was taken up in the colonial south west both to capitalise on the export of whale oil and to secure the colony's position in the Indian Ocean.

Daniel explained that this history was the catalyst for his research – asking the question of where Australia was placed within Britain's, and then America's, global imperial network and more specifically, examining the dynamics of maritime labour in the history of Australia's political economy.

Whaling off the coast of WA would lead to the beginning of a legally-sanctioned racialised labour hierarchy and an early instance of the government in WA handing over control to employers to marshal their workers.

The lack of skilled mariners often led colonial whalers to entice American, and other sailors of varying ethnicities, to break their contracts and set sail with the British colonials. Another result of this scarcity of labour was the kidnapping of First Nations men in remote regions to work as boat hands. Some of these indigenous men were to become highly skilled and valued – but these examples tended to be exceptional.

The poor working conditions on board led to various instances of seafarers refusing to work. These acts of resistance led to the passing of 'punitive labour ordinances', a series of laws that extended the reach of the British Master and Servant Act. It allowed whaleship owners to punish disobedience with three months' imprisonment and hard labour. Abuses of this power abounded and the relative isolation of whaling stations also acted as a method of controlling the labour force.

The new labour laws stretched across the seas and between colonies creating a disciplinary hierarchy for seafarers. This assertion of the Master Servant Act led ultimately to the Dispute of 1899 and its resolution helped create compulsory Arbitration and Conciliation courts between unions and employers to set wages and conditions.



Fremantle Studies Day 2022 – Sunday 30th October

The highlight of the year's events, Fremantle Studies Day, was held this year at the popular community facility Sullivan Hall in White Gum Valley. What would an event be without a few hiccups, but eventually the issues with the hot water and the microphone were sorted and the 26th Studies Day was underway, the speakers and their topics diverse and thought-provoking.

The first paper of the day was: What Is The Fremantle Sound? Bob Gordon has worked in the local music industry for three decades as a journalist for publications such as *The Guardian*, *Rolling Stone*, *West Australian*, *X-Press*, writing countless reviews, press releases and articles. He has worked in publicity and PR for events such as the Perth International Arts Festival,



Hidden Treasures Fremantle, Blues at Bridgetown, and hosted many live music events and interviews. He is well-placed to discuss and define the Fremantle Sound.

What qualifies as a Freo band? Bob and some of his friends in the music industry pondered this over. One name kept cropping up as an essentially Fremantle band: Cinema Prague, but they defied category, didn't have one sound, they had many – jazz, rock, punk, speed metal, pop, funk, blues, reggae, hip hop. Too diverse to harbour a single essence and this can be said about much of the music that comes out of Fremantle.

Bob suggests that there is no such thing as a 'Fremantle sound', that the people who propose that there are scenes or sounds in a certain region, aren't from that locality. He quotes from Nicholas Allbrook from Fremantle band Pond:

"The experience of a city or community varies so much that it can never be defined while it is still occurring. When it's actually happening, a 'scene' is not really a 'scene' – it's completely intangible and only coagulates into a definitive and convenient ball when history puts it in a cage, when someone from the outside looks in and decides there's something shared between a bunch of vaguely artistic fools."

And the late Paul McCarthy: "And the musos go from one thing to another ignoring the genres...but the community they play to remains fairly constant."

Bob wound up his paper rejecting the notion that Fremantle can be typecast as either a sound or a scene. Scenes come and go...it's about community and in Fremantle that is about open hearts, open minds, and communicativeness.

The second paper: Fremantle through Artists' Eyes and Artefacts, was presented by Dr Dorothy Erickson, a West Australian artist-jeweller who has exhibited her work internationally since 1979. Dorothy has authored five books on art, design and history and is the first recipient of the Ron and Dianne Davidson Scholarship.

Her paper examined pictorial representations of Fremantle from the 17th Century Dutch explorers to the beginning of the 20th century. Works by recognised artists sat alongside impressions sketched in personal diaries to illustrate the dramatic changes to the landscape over that period, from sand and swamp to a busy port city.

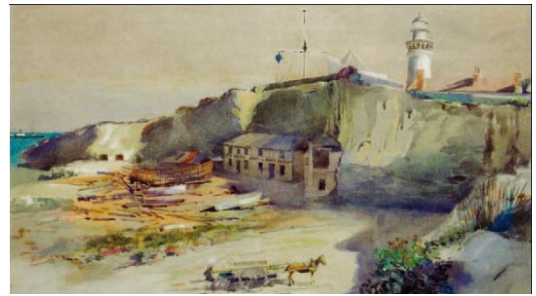
Dorothy's research explored such collections as the Art Gallery of WA, the WA Museum, and the Mitchell Library in NSW among others, unearthing all sorts of previously unknown treasures. Many of the works she presented have rarely been seen.



Paintings were by artists such as watercolourist and architect Thomas 'Satan' Browne, watercolourist and businessman John de Mansfield Absolon, Harbour Master Commander Charles Russell, artist and civil servant Herbert Gibbs, artist and graphic designer Miguel McKinlay and illustrator and art teacher Julian Ashton.

But also included were works by women, art being a suitable and respectable occupation at the time for the wives of gentlemen.

After an enjoyable afternoon tea those attending settled to hear the next two presentations. The first was presented by Jan Rodda a long-term resident of Fremantle and she shared her memories of growing up and living in Fremantle.



Fremantle Lighthouse Aug. 18 1887 by Julian Rossi Ashton (1851-1942)
Courtesy private collection



Jan lived in various places as she grew up but particularly enjoyed the time spent in Yilgarn Street in White Gum Valley where her dad had a bakery. Jan talked about going to the pictures at the Oriana Theatre and holidays in the family's beach shack at Coogee Beach. She recalled various jobs she had as a teenager including at Pellews and Culleys.

Perhaps the most important part of her presentation was a discussion on the changes which have occurred so rapidly since the 1950s and 1960s. Jan talked about the demolition of the Fremantle Silos and the scope of development occurring in Fremantle at the moment and how it is disproportional with the existing buildings. Jan discussed this in the context of the proposed hotel on the Spicer site in William Street. She also talked about the ever-growing stacks of containers on the north wharf which dominate the landscape. Jan argued that we lived in an age of consumerism with resultant waste and need for ever larger landfill sites.

Jan's talk certainly gave the audience much to think about in terms of the future of Fremantle and the planet, as well as rekindling fond memories of Fremantle in earlier days.

The final paper: WA Fishers Lost at Sea by James Paratore looked at the loss of fisher people in Fremantle right back to the early days of white settlement in Fremantle. James also indicated that Aboriginal people fished the area prior to white settlement and probably also lost their lives whilst fishing in the area. He provided a long list of stories of the storms and accidents which took people's lives. Often the bodies were never found which must have been very difficult for the families of the lost souls.



It is obvious that James is passionate about researching and preserving the story of the WA Fishing Industry and he currently leads a small team of dedicated volunteers to research, document and collate the lives of all WA Fishers' lost at sea. Their ultimate aim is to build a memorial to recognise these tragedies as a final resting place for those who died. He holds hope that through storytelling, the Fishing Industry and its importance for the wider community can be celebrated and cherished for future generations. See his request for help on page 13.

Though it was sad to listen to it is worthy research which will help families who have lost loved ones whilst fishing for a living in times which were much more dangerous than today.

It was a wonderful day and thank you to all speakers and attendees for supporting our 2022 Studies Day.

COMING EVENTS

**2022 Christmas Party – Fremantle Then and Now:
Historical Panoramas
WA Maritime Museum
Victoria Quay Road, Fremantle 6160
Sunday 27th November 1.00 pm**

Entrance to the Museum will be at the concession rate of \$10.00 per person



Through seven different vantage points across the port city spanning 155 years, *Fremantle Then & Now: Historical Panoramas* showcases the changing face of Fremantle, from the 1800s to today. We will be given a guided tour of the panoramas via an immersive, in-gallery installation using a large, curved screen.

Around this central experience, visitors will explore connected themes including local photographers and photography studios, pre-colonial history, convict influence, the development and significance of the port, goldrush buildings and legacy, and street life.

**Following the exhibition we will walk to the Fremantle Volunteer Heritage Guides
Gunners' Cottage near the Round House for afternoon tea.
14 Mrs Trivett Place, Fremantle 6160**

The Guides invite us to enjoy their current photographic display: "Royal Visits to Fremantle".

RWAHS ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Denmark 9-11 September 2022

Heather Campbell

Heather represented the Fremantle History Society at this year's state history conference. Below is a summary of the sessions she attended.

Minang and Bibbulmen: The Importance of Wilson Inlet to Indigenous Society - Vernice Gillies and Malcolm Traill.

A map of the Noongar nations was shown to identify the place of the Minang people of around Denmark, highlighting the importance of the Wilson Inlet or Nullaki – narrow place of seaweed. Photographs were used, one of which showed ancient fish traps, ingeniously designed to allow the smaller, younger fish to escape, thus ensuring continuity of supply. Aboriginal life style was described and included housing, food eaten, spiritual life, and the impact of disease brought in by early European settlers. It was noted that a change in the constitution would be timely.

No, Not Copenhagen! Origins of Denmark after European Settlement - Malcolm Traill.

Other places named Copenhagen all over the world were identified, before focussing on the naming of Denmark, WA. Thomas Braidwood Wilson (1792-1843) came to King George Sound and while repairs were being carried out on his ship, took the opportunity to explore the countryside, with the aid of an indigenous guide Mokare. He kept a diary which was subsequently published, titled *Narrative of a Voyage around the World*. Braidwood named quite a few places on his visit, including Mt Barker, Mt Lindesay and the Hay River. He also named Denmark, not after the Scandinavian country, but after a friend of his called Dr Denmark, an RN surgeon. The town was named in 1895 and proclaimed in 1911. Denmark Historical Society have traced descendants of Dr Denmark in Canada and the US and are now in regular contact with them.

'Emilliah' The Utopian Suffragist Settlement Scheme proposed for

Denmark – Miriam Crandall. Emily Crawford (born Aldridge) was widowed in 1903 and was attracted to the women's voting rights movement. WA had instituted votes for women very early, Emily thought it might be a suitable place for women to be independent landowners in their own right. An attempt was made through the Householder League, who would let land to women and was then set up as an immigration agency to send women to the colonies. Emily came for a visit and the Wilson Inlet area was recommended



by the Dept of Lands and Surveys. Emily was the only one of the group who arrived. She proposed that the locality be named 'Emilliah' however this did not take place. The scheme ran into trouble when it transpired that the land had to be occupied by the owners – in this case the Householders League owned the land and only wanted to settle people on it, not live on it themselves, which would result in most of the group withdrawing. So the scheme fell through, but not before Emily had had a period in a mental institution, diagnosed with 'acute mania', confirming the suspicions of some that women were ruled by their emotions. This study showed that the Land Act did not treat men and women on equal terms, and disillusioned Emily died in 1919, aged 75.

Group Settlement: A Denmark Perspective – Dale Fewings

Following a sumptuous morning tea Dale talked about the Group Settlement scheme in Denmark 1922-1931. She described

the composition of each group and the rules they worked by, the end plan being to make a farm for each member of the group, all working together until 25 acres of each block of land was cleared and some form of living accommodation in place. The idea was to relieve the unemployment situation in England and to increase the population in Australia. 160 acres of virgin land was to be given for nothing on the proviso that the land was brought into production. Dale used one family as an example. The



men came first, without training, having to purchase their own tools and equipment, or be billed for it by the government, many could not afford to go on and in many cases the land was not suitable. They were soon followed by their wives and children, who had a dreadful shock when they realised the conditions they were expected to live in. Of the 440 families that came between 1922 and 1930 only 60 remained by 1936 and by 1947 only 40 remained. It was noted that it was the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the settlers in 2022. This presentation was very well-illustrated using numerous contemporary photographs.

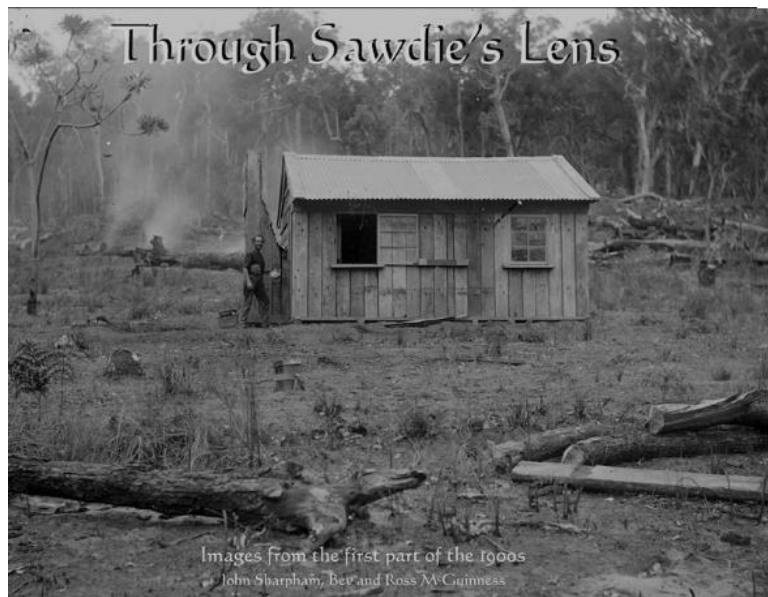
Elleker, Denmark, Nornalup: The Railway Extended west but never Met - Ross McGuiness

Ross talked of the railways and the timber industry and its use of rail, including extracting timber and getting it to and from the mills. He talked of the part millers played in this and of their return to the area to provide timber for the construction boom. Ross showed some interesting maps, indicating the position of the mills and the railway lines and also areas where permission was given to cut timber. He showed some pictorial material illustrating working conditions and

construction. Timber was also taken out by sea, for example via Migo Island. In closing he touched on the next phase – the dream of running a coastal railway.

Through Sawdie's Lens: Perspectives on Pioneer Photographer Bert Saw - Bev McGuinness

Bev presented a series of photographs by Bert Saw. These were originally glass plates, the



detail and quality of reproduction were breathtaking, showing a wide range of activities, family occasions and personalities of the time in Denmark and the wider locality, ranging from Albany to Walpole and beyond. Together with John Sharpham and Ross McGuinness, Bev has recently had published a superb book of Saw's photographs titled *Through Sawdie's Lens*. This is a large, substantial hard copy book, which covers Saw's life as well. Each photograph is minimally captioned, as there is additional information on most at the end of the book. A treat!

The papers were presented throughout both mornings and a number of excursions and workshops were organised for attendees to choose from during the afternoons. Sharing experiences later, it was evident that every activity was very well received and acclaimed.

Fremantle's Road Bridge History

Kristi McNulty

Work is due to start on the Swan River Crossings Project later this year, the 6th traffic bridge to cross the Swan from Fremantle to North Fremantle. Bridges are strong symbols of connection and overcoming obstacles, not to mention representative of the engineering and architecture of the time and I thought it would be timely to revisit what had been before.

The first bridge in the Swan River colony was built at the Perth Causeway in 1843. The first bridge built across the much wider part of the river at Fremantle was the North Fremantle Bridge, commenced May 1863, opened for traffic November 1866 and finally completed October 1867. An engineering feat, the bridge was constructed by convicts from 23,800m of



North Fremantle Bridge c1890

FHC 2629

hand sawn timber and an additional 342 timber piles. The middle section rose to an extraordinary 14m to allow the passage of barges up and down the river. Because of its very distinctive appearance it was often referred to as the Stick Bridge or the Hump Backed Bridge.

Late 1891 concerns were raised as to the structural safety of the North Fremantle Bridge. A report recording actual traffic numbers recommended the bridge be replaced. The discovery of gold in the state had caused a sharp increase in commercial activity in Fremantle and the Government opted for a temporary solution: a lower, wider bridge directly west of the old bridge utilising existing infrastructure, until such a time when a new and permanent bridge could be built.

The Fremantle Low Level Bridge was opened September 1898, the old North Fremantle Bridge was kept open for pedestrian and cycle traffic only, and was thereafter known as the High Level Bridge.

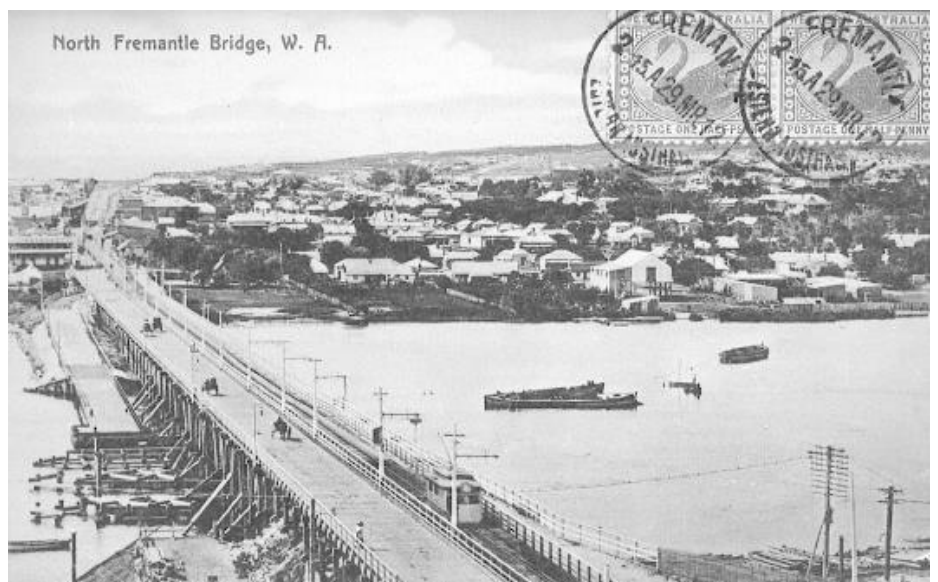


Low Level and High Level Bridges 1898

FHC 4667

Nothing further happened until 1908 when the Fremantle and North Fremantle Councils wanted to extend the Fremantle tramway system through to North Fremantle. The Low Level Bridge was not suitable for trams and a proposal to reconsider the old High Level Bridge was put forward. An inspection revealed that almost all the supporting piles were in remarkably good condition, only 13 having slight defects, so the Government made the decision to renovate the High Level Bridge, adapting it for heavier traffic use. The timber structure was cut down and levelled out to remove the hump. Additional piles were driven into the riverbed so the bridge could be widened to carry both road traffic and tramlines. The decking was replaced. The renovations undertaken were of such a scale that, to all intents and purposes, this was

considered a new bridge. On 18th June 1909 the High Level Bridge officially opened as the Low Level Bridge was closed and was demolished over the following months. Some of the material, well



1909 Postcard showing the Renovated High Level Bridge with the tramway on the right, the Low Level Bridge partly demolished on the left.

FHC 2193

weathered after 11 years, was immediately used to build a jetty on the north side of the river to provide a landing place for steamers, launches, barges and other rivercraft.

Alas, by the 1930s the piles had suffered serious deterioration from a marine borer and the decking constantly needed maintenance; a new bridge was needed. A concrete bridge could be built for £650,000 but design and construction would take years; another timber bridge could be built for £75,000. There were plans to extend the harbour upstream so the bridge was only expected to be used for 3-5 years, but it would still be built to last 40.



Work began May 1937 and the new Fremantle-North Fremantle Traffic Bridge was officially opened 15th December 1939, although Australia's involvement in the war held up completion until the following year. Due to concern about possible bomb attacks the old bridge was left standing as an emergency backup and was not demolished until 1947. Remnants of the piles are still visible on the north side upstream of the existing bridge today.

The new Fremantle Traffic Bridge (1939), the old Traffic Bridge still in position (at right) before being demolished in 1947 FHC 2195

In addition to regular maintenance, major repair programs and refurbishments were carried out on the Traffic Bridge in 1973, 1985 and 1991, however Main Roads has a number of ongoing concerns with the safety of a bridge that has stood more than twice as long as it was intended to last, with a far greater traffic load than was ever imagined in 1939, and in 2022 a replacement bridge is being planned.

In 1974 Fremantle did finally get a new bridge, the Stirling Bridge made of prestressed concrete, was built as part of the proposed Fremantle Eastern Bypass to keep through traffic out of the residential and commercial areas of Fremantle. There had been a second stage on the drawing board, a further three lanes on the upstream side, but this did not eventuate.



2022 Stirling Bridge

K. McNulty

References:

- Heritage Council of WA, InHerit database: Fremantle Traffic Bridge (1939)
- Palmer, Peter 2007, 'Fremantle's Bridge Heritage', paper presented at 14th National Engineering Heritage Conference Crawley WA 18-21 November. 2007
- Palmer, Peter 2012, Fremantle Bridges, Engineering Heritage WA Booklet
- Garry Gillard's Fremantle Stuff: Fremantle Road Bridges
- Fremantle History Centre Miscellany File 624.2 Fremantle Traffic Bridge
- West Australian*, 31.08.1880
- Evening Mail*, 13.10.1909

Vale Nicholas Gurr

Sadly, Nicolas passed away on the 17th September 2022. Nicolas had a very strong sense of civic responsibility and was never afraid to speak out in support of causes he believed in. A passionate advocate for local history, he was a long-standing member of the Fremantle History Society and the Fremantle Society, serving on the committees of both organisations, Vice President of the latter for a time. He was President of the South Ward Community Association during the 1990s, co-convenor of the Beaconsfield Precinct during the early 2000s, and a committee member of the Fremantle Men's Shed.



Nicholas Gurr

Photograph Credit: Martin Kennealey 14 June 2017, Cockburn Gazette

But his sense of generosity went well above and beyond serving the community, in his personal campaign to save lives through blood donation. He began giving blood from the time he was 18 and had since donated close to 500 times, helping to save thousands of lives over a 50-year span.

We will miss seeing Nicolas at our meetings. Our thoughts are with his partner Helen and their families and friends.

Introduction to our new committee member:



Mattie Turnbull, full name Martha Diamond Turnbull and I have a little mix of heritage - one of which is my Jewish complex background and I am 'getting there' in my research.

If you have heard me speak, and I do a bit of that - you will know I hail from Glasgow, i.e. 'The Dear Green Place' which is actually true and evidenced, but I always had a desire to travel and indeed when I was 19, three of us decided to go to the fleshpots of Toronto and it was a ten pound deal. This was 1963 and the cliché of 'in those days you could leave one job and get another across the road in a day or two' was true of our time. The three of us spent a wonderful couple of years in North America but alas we could not manage another accent! Before we left Glasgow my relationship with Jackie Boy, to whom I've been married for 56 years, was established when we both were employed by British Rail and he did his adventures in Southern Europe. We got together again on my return from Canada and in 1966 we tied the knot in the most amazing of times in secular Glasgow where he was a wee 'Presbie' and I was a wee 'Pape.' (Glasgow vernacular). This was the beginning of the end of the incredible secular period. Indeed, most of our pals had 'mixed marriages' too!

Jack's travel imperatives were akin to mine and given that The 'Med' was overwhelming for European economies, this also gave birth to a 'different' UK. Talking of the UK, we then spent a couple of years in Essex where our daughter was born which adds to our multicultural 'mob'. Our daughter is married to Peda Paichanse from Woekkawei (my best Australian accent), our

grandson number one is married to Elise from Singapore, our grandson number two will soon marry the lovely Maha from Sri Lanka and Singapore! We have recently been blessed with a great grandson!

In 1975 we spent five years in Johannesburg, then five years in Canada and voila! in 1984 we were welcomed to AUSTRALIA and in due course South Freo and could not imagine voluntarily ever leaving this magic place and never stop enjoying our good luck to live in a place of multiculturalism writ large, as well as within walking distance to the Indian Ocean and our suburb is also populated with eccentrics like ourselves!

I have been so lucky to have found gainful employment all the way through and indeed my good fortune was when I got a job at Curtin University in 1987, the year it became a yooni. At that stage I had been a scribe all over the place and this was my first job at Curtin and I took the opportunity to study to a Master's degree level when I wrote a book and had it published - '*Days of Apprehension and Adventure: Experiences of Scottish Child Evacuees during WWII*' and have sold a few. In due course I was 'trilled' in teaching and have enjoyed this outcome so much and am so appreciative since I left school at 15 years of age as so many of my vintage did and I had always wanted to teach no matter what! And I am still teaching...

I feel so privileged to have enjoyed so much in my life and our family never stop conceding how lucky we are to be here in Oz and I am so looking forward to contributing to the wonderful achievements of the Society and I am so happy to have this wonderful opportunity to learn more and more and more of my beloved Fremantle!

Thanks to all of you for accepting me in this role!

Request for Help

WA Fishers' Lost at Sea Memorial – the FlatSea Memorial Project

Who we are

We are a small group of passionate volunteers who formed a committee late 2021, dedicated to the recognition of the many fisher men and women who have lost their lives in the development and operation of commercial fishing in WA since early settlement. We are in the process of incorporating an Association that details our objectives and will call for membership shortly.

Seafood caught in the waters of WA has always been an important and integral food source as the colony developed, grew and prospered. Today, thanks to these fishing pioneers, we have excellent and well-managed world class fisheries supplying the population of WA and beyond.

But it has come at a price and continues to do so. Throughout the pioneering and development of WA's fisheries, hundreds have lost their lives and we believe it is high time a memorial is erected to recognise those who have paid the ultimate price and that their stories can be told.

What inspired us

In 1916 two fishing vessels left Port Denison to fish, as this was their livelihood. Harold, the father and young son Francis, in one boat, with elder sons Theodore and Albert in the other. By mid-afternoon the breeze freshening, Harold and young Francis returned to port, leaving brothers Theodore and Albert to do one more drift before heading home. They never returned.

For many years after, their grieving mother Elizabeth, would walk to Port Denison Point each evening and as the sun went down over the horizon, she would light her hurricane lamp in the hope that this would one day guide her boys' home.

What we are hoping to achieve

The Project will be in two stages. Firstly, every catastrophe will be researched in detail and the story written describing the circumstances, then listed on a website so others can learn from the tragedies – This will form part of a “virtual” or digital memorial experience.

Secondly, a suitable memorial will be erected somewhere on WA’s coastline for people to visit. This memorial, in conjunction with the web site, will preserve the history and tell the stories. We seek to create a heritage memorial trail to recognise the individual lives lost and also to link existing memorials and create ties amongst the coastal communities of WA.

We need help

We need help in so many areas. Undertaking the research and writing the stories is an onerous task and we are appreciative of any help and information we can get. Maybe there are society members who have some local knowledge within the fishing communities or can assist us in gathering the information we need to help fulfil this worthy project.

If you can help in any way, we would like to hear from you.

Contact email: Jamie.para@gmail.com

or: fishermemorial@wafic.org.au

James Paratore 0472 786 492 Project Leader

Some highlights of the year



So here we are in November, another year almost over before you know it! But we’ve had some fun – great visits to places like the Azelia Ley Homestead, Fremantle Hospital Museum, North Fremantle Town Hall, St. Patrick’s Basilica, the Old Courthouse and so many interesting talks.

The committee would like to wish all our members a very merry Christmas and a festive summer break. We look forward to organising the next series of exciting events and places to visit for 2023 and hope to see you all again in February.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday November 27th 1.00 pm

Christmas celebrations

Fremantle Then and Now: Historical Panoramas

1.00 pm tour of panoramas at:

WA Maritime Museum

Victoria Quay Road, Fremantle 6160

Entrance to the Museum will be at the concession rate of \$10.00

**Then 2.30-3.00 pm afternoon tea at the Fremantle Volunteer Heritage Guides
Gunnery's Cottage near the Round House**

14 Mrs Trivett Place, Fremantle, 6160



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

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

Committee Members:

Fay Campbell 0419 969 678
Tania Heyne 0419 197 116
Alan Kelsall 9336 4573
Mattie Turnbull 0409 200 157

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.

