



FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, PO Box 1305
FREMANTLE WA 6959

Winter Edition, July 2021

<https://fhs.org.au>

SULLIVAN HALL

In 1945 the City of Fremantle acquired land from the Anglican Church, which then owned much of the White Gum Valley area. A local parent group began meeting in April 1958 to call for a community hall to be built. Council allocated the land and the community set about acquiring materials. The main frame is believed by locals to be a reused army shed.

The hall was constructed by the local community and opened in October 1959 as a Guide Hall. It was named after Jim Sullivan, as a thank you to both the Sullivan and Notley families, who had supported the building project. Girl Guides and Brownies met at the hall, and it was also widely used for concerts and dances. In 1962, a second half to the hall was completed. Local community members subscribed ten shillings a piece towards its construction. The place was managed and cleaned by volunteers and all profits went back into its maintenance. The White Gum Valley Square Dance Club was formed, which used the hall from the early 1960s into the 1990s.¹

The Education Department purchased the land from the council in 1970 with the intention to move the buildings and use the land to extend the Kim Beazley School, however, this did not eventuate.² The school closed and was relocated in 2008.³

Sullivan Hall continued to be hired out to community groups. Over the years the hall has been used for weddings, birthdays, engagements, balls, discos, yoga, meditation and karate. The White Gum Valley Dancers have been using the Sullivan Hall since 1961.

There was a community event held 11th August 2019 to celebrate the 60th birthday of the hall. The weather was lovely and the community turned out in droves to come and hear music, dance, listen to storytelling and watch pigeons race.⁴



Sullivan Hall, Kristi McNulty 25.07.2021

¹ Heritage Council of WA, <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/> 2-4 Nannine Avenue

² Fremantle City Council memorandum from Hope MacIntosh to Ken Posney 01.06.1995

³ Heritage Council of WA, <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/> 2-4 Nannine Avenue

⁴ Roel Loopers' Freo's View 12.08.2019. <https://freoview.wordpress.com/>

MEETING REPORTS

Fremantle Pilots – May

Captain Stuart Proctor, Managing Director of Fremantle Pilots, entertained and enlightened a group of Fremantle History Society members at the Fremantle Buffalo Club on Tuesday 25th May, 2021. Pilotage, or to quote Mrs Proctor, 'valet parking for ships', is an integral and often unnoticed part of shipping. Pilots are responsible for the safe passage of vessels entering and departing the port.

Captain Daniel Scott, in his role as Deputy Harbour Master, initiated the first, unofficial pilotage service from Arthur Head in 1829. His was succeeded by an official service which began in 1844 and continues now, 177 years later. Albeit with some changes. For some years the service operated out of Rottnest Island, this involved a lot of rowing and many communication problems. In 1994 the Pilots formed a private operating company and for a time leased operating space at the Port Authority Building. In 2000 the Pilots returned 'home' to one of the Pilot cottages at Arthur Head, an ideal location given the proximity to the pilot boat berth at Corkhill Landing. In 2013 the historical connection between the Pilot service and their location was severed by the City of Fremantle. At that time, they were in one of only two, original purpose built Pilot cottages in Australia. Now, they are located at 1 Quarry Street, Fremantle.

Australian Marine Pilots are somewhat of an endangered species, Marine Pilots are accredited Master Mariners, meaning years have been spent accruing sea time and progressing through their qualifications. With the disappearance of state and national shipping lines, and the gradual decline in employment of Australian Deck Officers there is little to no training happening.

1831 – 27 vessels call at Fremantle

2015 – Over 2000 vessels call at Fremantle

<http://fremantlepilots.com.au/>

North Fremantle's Amalgamation – June

Sadly, our June meeting had to be cancelled due to a COVID lockdown but we are hoping to reschedule it next year.

Annual General Meeting – July

This year's AGM was held at Sullivan's Hall in Stephen's St, White Gum Valley. Following the formalities of the AGM, Pam Harris gave an overview of the Society's long running Deckchair Theatre Archive project, now completed.

Just over 40 block mounted posters, surplus to the collection, were made available via a silent auction prior to the AGM. The posters were displayed around the hall and created quite a bit of interest. A number were sold with the balance to be sold through an online sales app. For more information see Pam's article on the project on page 5.

The inaugural Ron and Dianne Davidson Research Scholarship was also launched. Previously the Fremantle History Society Research Scholarship, the biannual program was renamed after founding members and champions of Fremantle history and heritage, Ron and Dianne Davidson. Fittingly, society members and local individuals and businesses have come together to raise the \$2000 for the scholarship. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

We farewelled and thanked Heather Campbell and Jon Strachan from the committee and welcomed Terry Murphy. There are still spots available on the committee and we would welcome anyone who is interested in joining us as we embark on a new year full of activities to support the research and understanding of the rich history of our port town.



COMING EVENTS

PUB LUNCH - FREMANTLE SAILING CLUB

**151 Marine Terrace, Fremantle
Sunday 22 August 11.30 am**

Our August meeting will be lunch at the Fremantle Sailing Club. We're starting at 11.30 am in the State Room, with a presentation by the Club Archivist, Carolyn Jupp, who will give a short, illustrated talk on the history of the club. The State Room is on the first floor and can be accessed by the stairs, or a lift, which is to the left as you enter. There will be time for questions before we go down to the galley/restaurant (which looks out to the marina) for lunch at approximately 12.15pm.

Items on the bar menu will be available for purchase and drinks may be bought over the bar.

If you would like to come to this event, please rsvp to secretary.fhs@gmail.com by no later than Wednesday 18 August.

HISTORY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS

**Sullivan Hall
2 Nannine Avenue, White Gum Valley
28 September 6.00 pm**

Catherine Baron, the President of the History Teachers' Association of Western Australia will be discussing the place of History in WA schools, with particular reference to Western Australian History and the place of Aboriginal history. This will be an opportunity to discuss the future of history in schools and to perhaps explore how the Fremantle History Society can better engage with young people.

Light refreshments will be served after the talk.

FREMANTLE STUDIES DAY

**Woodman Point Quarantine Station
at the end of O'Kane Court,
Coogee on Woodman Point
Sunday 24 October 1.00pm – 4.00pm**

In the time of COVID, this year's Studies Day will focus on issues associated with migration and quarantine and appropriately will be held at the Woodman Point Quarantine Station within the Recreation Camp facilities.

Papers will include a range of topics as diverse as the response to Chinese migration in the time of the plague to the Commonwealth quarantine regulations and their implementation. There will also be an in depth look at the role of the Woodman Point facility and the impact of pandemics on our way of life and architecture. Speakers include Neil Wilson, Michelle McKeogh, Susanna Iuliano and a representative of the National Archives of Australia.

These fascinating papers will be given more veracity from being presented in the heart of this important historic site. More details to come. Make sure you put the date in your calendar now.



FREMANTLE HISTORY CENTRE

Stewart Alger

Buster the Fun Bus

Buster the Fun Bus: a beloved friend to Fremantle children and parents alike. And thanks to the service being around for an impressive thirty-five years now, it can boast of being multigenerational – kids that went in the eighties and nineties are now taking their kids to meet their old friend and further strengthen those indelible community ties.

For those that have not heard of Buster the Fun Bus, the easiest way to describe it is as a mobile play group. On a set day a colourful van will park near a big expanse of mottled shaded green grass somewhere in Freo, where it is met by eager children with their carers and bright picnic rugs. Slowly but surely, tubs of toys, play equipment, games and books will be plonked out between rugs. Once the lids are removed there is no stopping any kid from getting stuck into some serious play for the next two hours.

We are seeing more and more people sharing the truth that for many the experience of caring for children in those early years can be overwhelming and isolating. Buster the Fun Bus provides a service to support carers to get out of the house into the sunshine without having to pay or enrol. The simplicity of just turning up with the added bonus that parents are surrounded by other parents going through the same life experience is not lost on anyone who joins a session – it is undeniable that invaluable friendships have been forged on the grasses beside Buster.

Buster's humble beginnings were in 1986 – the year of the America's Cup taking place in Fremantle. Due to so much money being pumped into the yacht race, the general feeling was that there needed to be something put back into the local community. Joyce Wilkin, the Fremantle Children Services Manager, seized the day by writing an application on a tight deadline to secure a \$35,000 grant for the community project. Soon after, City of Fremantle Children's Services employee, Marcus Holt, was given the job of coordinating. He was also given a tight deadline of only one month to get it all up and running in conjunction with the start of the America's Cup. While time was short, Mr Holt still took so much pride and care in sourcing the toys and equipment and outfitting the bus to fit it all. Having come from a background of camping with the YMCA in the US, Mr Holt had a good idea of what would work. He fondly remembers the enjoyment he received from being let loose to spend money on new games and sports equipment, as well as novelty items that most of the kids would have never seen before. While the name, which Mr Holt came up with all those thirty-five years ago, has remained the same, Buster the Fun Bus is no longer the same van from the eighties (it has had at least five reincarnations now). There is no doubt, however, that the original was the coolest due to the design and paint job, which were completed by the artist in residence at Fremantle Prison, Steve Culley, and a group of inmates. The art was inspired by different themes and characters from children's picture books with an overall brightly coloured psychedelic style.



Buster. mid '80's. FHC

Buster originally provided a much wider service – travelling to many different locations, such as caravan parks, blocks of flats and open areas in the City of Fremantle, Melville and Cockburn.

During school hours the bus provided fun for pre-school aged kids and then primary school aged kids after school. There were even popular school holiday programs. One of Mr Holt's warmest memories from those early years was inflating recycled garbage bags to become three to four metre giant sausage balloons and then sending them flying into the sky with dozens of kids in hot pursuit. Another popular activity was teaching the kids to make dribble sculptures using water and sand in a sandpit.



Buster the Fun Bus 2010, FHC

While Buster now only stays in the City of Fremantle and concentrates its service for pre-school age toddlers and children, its longevity is a true testament to the spirit of Freo. State government funding cuts have threatened the service all too many times. However, just when the end seems inevitable, the community has come back fighting with petitions, local politicians enlisted to fight it and front pages of local newspapers published. The message is strong and always the same: a free service that values and supports children and their carers within the community should never ever be shut down. Buster the Fun Bus – and that spirit of community care – must never be lost.



DECKCHAIR THEATRE PROJECT COMPLETED

Pam Harris

After nearly 11 years the Deckchair Theatre Archives Project has now been completed. The final leg of the project was to digitise the audio visual materials from analogue to digital format. This work was undertaken by sound and film company EZdigital and was made possible with the help of a generous grant from the WA History Foundation.

The materials have all been accepted by the State Library of Western Australia which will make them accessible to the public for research purposes.

After several years of archiving work by volunteers over 100 boxes including boxes relating to over 100 productions, and the administrative files for the period of operation, which included Annual Reports and Minutes of the Deckchair Theatre Board, were finally delivered to the State Library.

Without the support of the Fremantle History Society, the Fremantle History Centre, Sirona Capital and the City of Fremantle who all assisted in providing storage of the materials during the archiving project, the materials would have been lost. Sincere thanks to all concerned.

Also thanks and bouquets to the hard working volunteers, especially Cathy Hall who ensured a safe place for them and provided valuable insight to the materials with her experience as a member of the Deckchair Theatre Board. This helped to provide context to the materials and assisted with the archiving process.

Thanks also to librarians, Kristi McNulty, Tania Heyne and Pam Harris who used their organisational skills to ensure that the materials were documented and listed. A calculation of the hours worked on the project was estimated at over \$15,000 dollars of in kind support by the volunteers.

This significant archive has now been saved and made accessible to the public and for future researchers.



Posters from various Deck Chair Theatre productions, FHS Website



GWENYTH EWENS

Kristi McNulty

The annual Gwenyth Ewens Art Award for children was held in June. It seemed an appropriate time to find out a little more about this remarkably benevolent, but little-known woman.

Gwenyth Alberta Ewens was born in Claremont in 1912 but her family was born and bred in Fremantle's West End. Her great-grandfather, Henry Albert, arrived in Fremantle on board the Hashemy in 1850. He owned a number of properties in Fremantle including several carriage buildings and a substantial house in Henry Street. His son, Henry William Albert, was a butcher, and he and his wife Sarah, had six children but only three of these lived beyond infancy. Henry William died of pneumonia in 1889 at only 28 years old. Their youngest daughter Ethyl Maud married Arthur Pickett Ewens in 1910 and they had two daughters, Gwenyth Alberta born 1912 and Mavis Sarah born 1916.⁵

In the 1920s-30s Gwenyth's name was often in the social pages of the newspapers, she wrote letters and contributed puzzles, her attendance was reported at various functions, she played piano at musical evenings. Art was more than just an interest for her as she won several drawing competitions.⁶

On leaving school she began training in commercial art but found herself drawn into the more mathematical field of drafting. She was employed by a city firm of shop-fitters to design shop fronts, display cases, general office fittings and lead lights. In order to further her skills and improve her ability as a designer Gwenyth was one of only a handful of women to enrol to study architecture at Perth Technical School.⁷



The Daily News 29 Feb 1936

⁵ Fremantle History Centre, Biographical File: Ewens, Gwenyth

⁶ Trove newspapers: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/category/newspapers?keyword=%22Gwenyth%20Ewens%22>

⁷ Daily News, 8 May 1933.

She went on to study glass in building construction and illumination for a number of years and became an authority in the field of how glass could be used in the modern home for structural, functional and decorative purposes.⁸

She was awarded a Fellowship to the Lighting Engineers of Australia for her significant contributions to the art/science of illumination.⁹

In 1987 Gwenyth contacted the Fremantle City Council wishing to donate \$1,000 to start an art competition for Fremantle children, to help them appreciate the beautiful buildings there. The inaugural Gwenyth Ewens Art Award in 1989 themed “Historic Buildings in Fremantle,” was open to high school students. She was so delighted with the enthusiastic response, over 60 entries from 3 local schools, that she set up a \$4,000 trust fund and the competition became an annual Fremantle event. She had set up a similar trust for young artists in Claremont 6 years before.¹⁰

Gwenyth Ewens died February 15th 1995 aged 83, leaving a \$75,000 bequest to the City of Fremantle to continue to fund the annual art competition for primary school children.¹¹ Each year the Fremantle Library approaches all the primary schools in the area to encourage their year 5 and 6 students to take part. Students submit a piece of art depicting part or whole of an iconic building in the Fremantle area.

This year was the 32nd time the award has been held and over 200 entries were received from 6 schools, the most popular subjects being the classic heritage buildings such as the Prison, Markets, Roundhouse and Arts Centre, and, interestingly, the Power Station and Dingo Flour Mill. The artworks were on display at the Moores Building from June 26th till July 4th.¹²



Artwork from the 2021 exhibition, John Geijsman, Fremantle City Library



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Allen Graham (President) 0412 933 360
Judith Robison (Secretary) 0434 571 666
Anne Brake (Treasurer) 0438 445 141

Committee Members:

Fay Campbell 0419 969 678
Pam Harris 0408 092 100
Tania Heyne 0419 197 116
Alan Kelsall 9336 4573
Terry Murphy 0406 168 794

⁸ *The West Australian*, 25 March 1952.

⁹ FHC Biographical File: Ewens, Gwenyth

¹⁰ *Fremantle Herald*, 21 December 1989.

¹¹ *Fremantle Herald*, 25 March 1995.

¹² John Geijsman, Fremantle City Library, email, 9 July 2021

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.

FOR YOUR DIARY

August Sunday 22nd, 11.30 am

Lunch at Fremantle Sailing Club

151 Marine Terrace, Fremantle

RSVP to secretary.fhs@gmail.com no later than Wednesday 18 August.

September 28th, 6.00 pm

History in Western Australian Schools

Sullivan Hall

2 Nannine Avenue, White Gum Valley, Fremantle

October 24th, 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Fremantle Studies Day

Woodman Point Quarantine Station

O’Kane Crt, Coogee

President’s Report for 2020/2021

This is my third report as the President of the Fremantle History Society and unlike last year where the activities of 2019/2020 had been greatly impacted on by the Corona virus, this year we have just about been able to put on a full 12 months calendar of meetings. I say ‘just’ as we did have to forego one meeting because of Covid and I will make mention of that later. So all things considered, I have to say 2020/2021 has been a successful year.

The Society conducts its activities over the financial year which is from 1 July through unto 30 June of the next year. Thus, we always start the year off by holding our Annual General meeting in July, but due to Covid and the uncertainty of when we might be able to resume our normal program of activities we were not able to hold the AGM in July in 2020.

It was not until August 2020 that we had (along with the rest of the state), the opportunity to resume normal activities and so our first activity post Covid lockdown was our Pub Lunch which was held at the Oceania Trading Company in Arundel Street, Fremantle in August 2020. Normally I would give more detail of that event in this annual report, but as it was our first activity for 2020 and as it was held before our AGM of that year, a report on the lunch was given in last year’s annual report. However, I will take the opportunity to again say it was a lunch ‘enjoyed by all.’

Annual General Meeting – September 2020

It was not until September 2020 that we were able to hold our AGM which was held in the Naval Store at the foot of Cantonment Hill and, stealing a line from our newsletter, ‘It was a great opportunity to get into this hidden gem which we all pass so regularly but very few have been inside.’

The meeting opened with the election of officers and committee members and the committee for 2020/2021 was as follows:

Executive:

President - Allen Graham

Vice President – Jude Robison

Secretary – Pam Harris

Committee members:

Fay Campbell

Heather Campbell

Tania Heyne

Treasurer – Anne Brake

Jon Strachan
Alan Kelsall

Tania, Jon and Alan were new members to the committee and so brought new skills and experience to an already very competent group. Profiles of Tania, Jon and Alan were published in our Summer 2021 newsletter.

Much of the work and decision making of the committee is done via the exchange of emails and if anyone was to review the log of email traffic you would see just how much work is done by our committee members and so I will record my thanks and appreciation for all the work that has been done by them over the past twelve months.

Heather Campbell is not standing for committee this year as her interest in Western Australian history spills over into holding other committee positions in other history societies and community organisations so something had to give. However, Heather will still be helping out with Society activities such as assisting with editing the essays for our Studies Journal and the newsletter. So my thanks to Heather for her work as a committee member over the past few years.

I also have to record another big 'thank you' to Pam Harris, our long-standing secretary. Pam gave me a fright when she told me that she would not be re-nominating for secretary this year. I took that to mean that she was standing down from the committee and I thought that would be such a big loss to the Society. However, my fears were allayed when she advised that it was only from the position of secretary that she was retiring from and not the committee, for as Pam has said, after fifteen years on the executive, 'it is time for a break.' So 'thanks' Pam for those fifteen years and thanks for staying on as a committee member. Your knowledge of the Society is too valuable to lose.

Jon Strachan will also stand down from the committee. With fingers in a number of pies, Jon's commitment to the Fremantle community has been long and extensive and I know he will continue to make important contributions to the work of the Society as well as support it through a number of our activities. Thank you Jon for your input, and especially your work on the Ron and Dianne Davidson Scholarship and the Victoria Quay submission.

After the formalities of the AGM had been concluded Adam Jorien from the Enkel Collective, the current lessees of the Naval Store gave us an insight into the aspirations of this innovative group who are exploring new ways to address the problems of today and tomorrow. By working together, they believe people will be empowered to create better futures. As well as the presentation from Adam, Tom Muller told us about plans for the Fremantle Biennale project to be based from the Naval Store in 2021.

Studies Day – October 2020

There is no doubt that the impact of Covid in the first half of 2020 did impact on some of our program activity and in the early months of 2020 we lost the opportunity to hear of the Fremantle Smelters Camp and also stories of Fremantle and the Boer War.

It also impacted on the planning of Studies Day for before Covid forced us to suspend our activities the theme we were going to have for Studies Day 2020 was *Women and their contribution to the Fremantle Work Force*. However, because of Covid we were not only unsure if we would be able to hold Studies Day, but with such uncertainty, how could we call for papers when we did not know if Studies Day would go ahead or not?

Still, when it became known to us that we would be able to hold Studies Day we were able to pull together a very good program of speakers, and while we had to forego the women at work in Fremantle theme, that is something we can adopt as a theme at another time.

So we were delighted to welcome round 50 people to Studies Day which was held at the North Fremantle Community Centre.

The first paper was presented by Steve Errington, a former committee member of our Society and current President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society who gave a talk on the Round House. Steve has been researching the early years of the Round House and he has been detailing the various offenders who spent time there, exploring the nature and length of sentences and creating a useful database for future reference.

The second paper was a fascinating insight into Thomas Maywood, a Fremantle photographer from the 1890s. This paper was a joint presentation from Lenore Layman, Lorraine Clarke and Judith Robison. Maywood was not a professional photographer but a very keen amateur and he had preserved many of his photographs in four albums, including one almost exclusively on Fremantle where he lived. These albums have been gifted by his family to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and it was the biography of his life and his photographs which were the focus of this paper.

The final paper was presented by myself in a paper titled *Salacious Settlers (or love gone wrong)*, which was a collection of historical cases that showed how colonial women were most often the inferior and poorly treated partner in a marriage, or de facto relationship. I gave examples from the very earliest days of the colony through until the 1890s, but none of them finished with a happy ending as most of them resulted in either a tainted reputation, banishment, or death, usually by suicide.

Christmas Social at Victoria Hall - November 2020

We had a terrific end to the year with a lively meeting at Victoria Hall. Sarah Booth, from Spacemarket, who then held the lease on the building, showed us around including taking us to the little seen basement and rooms at the back. Our tour was followed by hearty Christmas drinks and fare.

Woodman Point Quarantine Station - February 2021

The first meeting for 2021 was held at the old Woodman Point Quarantine Station. Thankfully the day was warm and there was a good turn-out. We were lucky enough to have two dedicated and passionate members of the Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp as our guides for the afternoon, both with deep, personal connections to the Quarantine Station.

Round House - March 2021

Our meeting at the Round House was organised for the beginning of the year so that we could be outside when the weather is mild. However, on the night there was an incredibly cold wind and we were all quite frozen by the end of a fascinating presentation by Gena Binet, the Heritage Coordinator at the City of Fremantle. A crowd of around 25 people attended to hear Gena's presentation about the conservation of the Round House. Later we gathered for supper at the Gunner's Cottage, home for the Fremantle Volunteer Heritage Guides, and here we were able to view the new interpretive displays coordinated by the Heritage Guides.

Fremantle Beerpourium – April/May 2021

This event was planned to be held in April as part of the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival. The theme for the Festival was *Our heritage for the future* and so the Beerpourium, on the upper level of the old Evan Davies Library on South Terrace, was a fitting venue for the occasion demonstrating a very successful example of adaptive reuse of a heritage place. The event had originally been planned for Tuesday, 27 April, but due to a Covid lockdown it was postponed until Tuesday, 4 May and so was the first of two May meetings.

There were three speakers on the night; two of those being our committee members Alan Kelsall and Jon Strachan who showed pictures and talked of the various uses the building had hosted. The third was our host for the night Scott Jones who told of his work and challenges in transforming the space into the Beerpourium and great credit must be given to Scott for what he has done with the building.

Fremantle Pilots - May 2021

Finding space to hold our meetings has been a regular problem for the Society over the past two years and so for our regular May meeting we crowded into a room made available for us at the Fremantle Buffalo Club.

This was a well attended meeting where our guest speaker was Stuart Proctor, the Managing Director of Fremantle Pilots. Stuart gave us a very informative talk on the history and role the pilots have played in Fremantle's rich shipping past. He matched his talk with some great photographs and illustrations which not only highlighted the work the pilots do, but also some of the dangers and risks they face in safely bringing the ships into Fremantle Harbour.

60th anniversary of the merger of North Fremantle Council with the City of Fremantle – June 2021

We nearly made it to the end of our program without being impacted on by Covid restrictions, but unfortunately it wasn't to be and so our June meeting had to be cancelled. The speaker planned for this meeting was to be Ann Forma, a long-standing resident of North Fremantle. The meeting was to be held in the building which abuts the old North Fremantle Town Hall and which today is commercially known as Guild Hall. Despite the disappointment in not being able to hold this meeting, it too will be an event that carries over into the future.

The Ron and Dianne Davidson History Scholarship

In last year's annual report it was with a great deal of regret that I had to record that the Society was not in a position to award the biennial scholarship that year. The scholarship is valued at \$2000 and it was beyond our financial capacity to award the scholarship that year. However, this year there is much more exciting news to tell about the scholarship.

Firstly, is the change of name given to the scholarship in honour of two of our founding members; both life members of the Society. As President, it was my pleasure to sponsor this change in name which was unanimously and enthusiastically agreed to by the Committee.

Secondly, is the success we have had in raising the money to fund the scholarship without the need to draw upon the Society's own resources and here I have to thank our committee member Jon Strachan for his fundraising efforts.

We will launch the scholarship at the AGM and it will be a great pleasure to be able to present the inaugural Ron and Dianne Davidson History Scholarship at our Studies Day in October.

Kings Square Renaming

The Fremantle History Society made a submission to the City of Fremantle in relation to the proposed renaming of Kings Square. The Society supported the retention of the name Kings Square, but encouraged the City of Fremantle to consider a range of interpretive programs in the Square and across the whole Fremantle/Walyalup area, doing this in close consultation with the local Whadjuk Noongar community.

As it prevailed, the City of Fremantle chose to rename the square *Walyalup Koort* which in the Noongar language translates to *Fremantle Heart*. Committee members Alan Kelsall and Anne Brake took responsibility for preparing the Society's submission and I would like to thank them for their work in putting it together.

Victoria Quay – listing upgrade

Jon Strachan, Alan Kelsall and Anne Brake, assisted by other committee members, put together a response to the Western Australian Heritage Council on their documentation associated with the upgrade of listing for this significant site. Victoria Quay had been on the interim list for registration on the State heritage register for some time and this proposal involved a review of the documentation and a recommendation to include it as a permanent entry on the register.

Newsletter

A key activity of the Society is the publication of our newsletter and the Society publishes four of these throughout the year. Anne Brake continues to undertake the onerous role of editor and this year she was ably assisted by our member Kristi McNulty. Committee members Pam Harris and Heather Campbell assist in proof reading. So a big thanks to all for their good work with the newsletter.

Other members have also provided tales of interest to be included in the newsletter and so our thanks are also passed onto those contributors. We encourage submissions at any time so please contact Anne or Kristi with your ideas.

Deckchair Theatre Archives.

In my 2019/20 annual report I wrote that 'The Society applied for and was awarded a WA History Foundation Grant of \$8,712 to digitize the Deckchair Theatre audio visual materials and that digitization work is currently being undertaken by a commercial contractor.' With that said, I can now report that task has been completed and so ends this long running project and so for the final time I will say 'a big thanks to Cathy, Pam, Kristi and Tania and apologies to anyone who I may have missed.'

Thanks

Before concluding there are just a couple more 'thank you's' that I need to make and one of them is to our catering team led by our committee member Fay Campbell who has been ably assisted by Kristi McNulty and Tania Heyne. The after-speaker supper is an important part of our meetings, particularly so when our guest speaker can join us to chat more about their talk.

I would also like to thank all our presenters and those venues where we have held our events this year, for without them we couldn't put on the program that we do.

Indeed, it is fair to say that sometimes the venues are just as impressive as our speakers, as was the case with the Quarantine Station and so we are excited to be going back there for Studies Day in October.

And of course, a final 'thank you' to all our members who have attended our 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.

So in an Olympic year I will adopt an Olympic tradition by declaring that it has been a good year for the Society. We look forward to an even better year in the next twelve months and hopefully we won't experience any more Covid lockdowns.

Allen Graham
President, July 2021



TERRY MURPHY

Terry has recently joined the FHS Committee. You can get to know a bit about him below.

Dr Terence I Murphy (Terry): I was born in Bemidji, Minnesota in 1941, grew up in Washington State, finishing my education there with a BA in history and literature. I worked in tertiary education in San Francisco for more than a decade, then spent several years in Washington DC with an international NGO, which sent me out to manage a program in PNG. There, in 1978, I met Judith O'Keeffe, a native West Australian visiting from Fremantle. Intrigued, I made my way to WA where I found both Judith and Fremantle irresistible, married one and eventually, after we lived for several years in the Pacific, moved to the other in 1983, where we have resided ever since. With Fremantle as my base, I have been involved in international development programs for nearly forty years, primarily in health and population programs in the Asia Pacific region, working with projects funded variously by AusAID, USAID, the World Bank, Ford Foundation, and assorted NGOs.

Although we have spent several years in residence elsewhere, Judith and I have always maintained our permanent home in Fremantle. Why? It's a question I'm frequently asked. The answer is that it's an ineffable construct of place and atmosphere, with many factors shaping its presence: the seashore and salt air, the ships and cranes, the street fronts and traditional residences, the sensibility shared by old hands and newcomers alike that there's a certain underlying toughness to the place, even if the wharfies crowding the pubs on High Street have long since dispersed, and somehow alongside that toughness lives a creative spirit. Fremantle, for me, it just feels right, it feels good.



Fremantle History Society's membership fees are now due - see the form attached. Fees can be deposited directly into our account or forwarded to the Secretary, PO Box 1305, Fremantle 6959.