Kenneth Brown’s family were early settlers in York and Champion Bay. The eldest child, Kenneth was brought up to be a highly skilled and experienced frontiers’ man, agriculturist, explorer, horse breeder, horse racer and turf club steward. A leading settler in terms of social and commercial standing, his life ended as a failure at the end of a rope for the murder of his second wife Mary-Ann Tindall.

His reputation and inglorious end appear to have obscured the details and historical significance of his life. He was notable in numerous ways: as Edith Cowan’s father, for collecting the type specimen of the night parrot, as the first Western Australian thoroughbred owner to race a horse in the Melbourne Cup and as the first settler of high-standing to be hanged in WA for murder.

Based on recent research, Aidan Kelly has assembled an extensive portrait of Kenneth Brown that explores his character and life story. Aidan is a conservation and development lawyer who has an ongoing interest in the history of the settlement and development of colonial Western Australia amongst other things.

An interesting morning promised!!

The Auxiliary’s Morning Tea, Tuesday 18 August at Stirling House at 10am

Come and hear Stephen Anstey, Curator of History at the Western Australian Museum, speak about – Telling their story: Researching and telling the stories of servicemen and women in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in World War I

Some 330,000 Australians served overseas in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during the First World War. The stories of some of them, such as John Monash, John Simpson Kirkpatrick and Hugo Throssell, are well known. Indeed there is a heightened public interest in the War and in individual stories during this Centenary period. Despite this, the wartime stories and experiences of most servicemen and women are completely unknown, even among descendants.

Stephen will outline a simple step-by-step method of researching the wartime experiences of AIF servicemen and women and provide suggestions about telling their stories with colour, interest and gravitas. He will draw on exhibitions about the First World War that he has recently curated where the stories of previously unknown soldiers were researched and presented in an emotional and compelling manner. These include the recently opened National Anzac Centre in Albany, the One Hundred Postcards travelling exhibition and the Defence Gallery exhibit in the Western Australian Museum’s Albany Branch.
Council News

At its meeting held on 9 July items of business included the following where Council

welcomed new members – Richard Baker, John and Diane Broad, Michael Duggan, Dr Damayanthie Eluwawalage, Dr Peter Gifford, Ann Hammond, Geoffrey Hogbin, Betty McGeever, Graeme Napier, May Steenson, Fiona White

- recorded with pleasure the success of the Society’s grant application to the Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy, Canberra, for the publication of a small book entitled *The Life and Times of Dirk Hartog* to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Hartog’s encounter with the Western Australian coast in 1616;
- noted with gratitude that volunteer hours for June totalled 1,153;
- endorsed the Society’s Strategic Plan 2016-19 and thanked Vice-Chairperson of Council Helen Henderson for her extensive work on the document;
- welcomed the President’s progress report that new members have joined the Planning Committee for the Community History Centre Building Project;
- endorsed the selection of the Read, Barnard, E. Stirling and related families as the focus of the 2016 Pioneers Memorial Service and was pleased to hear that Anne and Rod Read had accepted the Society’s invitation to prepare the citation;
- noted with thanks that Members Lorraine Clarke and Cherrie Strickland from Swan Genealogy have kindly agreed to assist with research for future Pioneers Memorial Service citations;
- responded to the National Archives of Australia’s request for feedback on its draft policy on Disposal of Records in the Archives following digitisation with a detailed submission prepared by Chris Coggin, former Director State Records;
- noted the success to date of the Remembering Them -Centenary of Service project with exhibition openings in partnership with Museums Australia WA, the WA Museum and Affiliated Societies in the regions;
- resolved to endorse the Swan-Guildford Historical Society’s commendation to Minister Day of the City of Swan’s handling of development issues at the iconic Guildford Hotel;
- agreed to act on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies’ request to encourage all Affiliated Societies to contact local and state members to support the newly formed National Parliamentary Friends of History & Heritage Group.

Lennie McCall

History in the City

July’s talk was given by Barbara Hellriegel assisted by two of her colleagues from the City of Joondalup library. The topic was – Picture Our Past: celebrating Joondalup’s past together.

Barbara traced the history of a small 19th century hamlet becoming today’s city landscape through photographs, clippings and oral history. Many years of research have produced a beautifully illustrated book on the changes in the district. In the early days of the colony, and later following the two world wars, settlement has extended northwards. It commenced with small farms – for poultry, dairy, vineyards and market gardening. Schools were needed and one of the earliest was the Wanneroo Church School which commenced in 1874 with 17 students and was also used for Anglican church services. By 1888, the number of students had fallen below the required 12 and the school was closed.

When the government saw the potential for this area to become the extension of the northern corridor, Joondalup became a city based on a vision for a self-sustaining community. It has continued to grow.

At our meeting on 2 September our guest speaker will be John Bissett talking about Western Australia and the Boer War. Join us for 2pm in the conference room at City Community Centre, Perth Railway Concourse, followed by afternoon tea. Donation $5.

Lorraine Tholet

Activities at New Norcia

Visit newnorcia.wa.edu.au to learn of the interesting program of events which New Norcia has planned for the second half of the year. One highlight will occur on Saturday 12 September with a Writers’ Festival highlighting books, music, dance, history, food and conversation. Guests include Liz Byrski, Stephen Scourfield, Floeur Alder, Deb Fitzpatrick and Abbot Emeritus Bernard Rooney. An all-day ticket costs $70 and includes five sessions, monastery tour and morning & afternoon teas. For bookings, contact Lucy Nicholson on 9654 8018 or email communications@newnorcia.wa.edu.au. Places are limited.

The 2015 Fred Alexander lecture will be given by Professor Joy Damousi on Monday 17 August, 6pm at Webb Lecture Theatre, UWA. The lecture is titled – Hell Sounds, Birdsongs and Zeppelins. Emotions, Memory and the Soundscape of the Great War.

* * * * * * * * *
Behind the scenes at the National Archives of Australia

Many thanks to Kerry Smith for organising for the RWAHS a behind-the-scenes visit to the National Archives which a group of us (all volunteers from the Rockingham Historical Society) found fascinating. We were impressed with the quality of the presentation and the attention to detail that went into planning it.

Gary Billingham was an informative and interesting guide, interspersing his narrative with amusing anecdotes. In addition to Commonwealth government records relevant to Western Australia such as immigration and defence documents, the National Archives also has items like passenger lists, lighthouse records, alien registration documents, and plans and drawings of government buildings. Gary showed us how to navigate the National Archives’ website and brought up passenger lists of special interest to audience members.

After his talk Gary took us on a tour of the archives where the temperature and humidity are strictly controlled and he explained how the collection was catalogued and stored. We were also shown some manuscripts from the records which I suspect were carefully chosen for their relevance to the attendees. Of particular interest to me was a photo of the Light Horse travelling on the ferry Zephyr to their training camp in Rockingham. Altogether it was a valuable tour, to be recommended.

Pat Humphries, Rockingham Historical Society

The survey sheets completed at the end of the tour show that many other attendees found the visit equally interesting and enjoyable. Thank you NAA.

Museum News

Cadoux and the Red Cross flag

Whilst there are many streets scattered around the State bearing the names of local men who lost their lives in World War I, it is more unusual to find a whole locality named in this way. The small wheat belt town of Cadoux, around 200 km north-east of Perth, is named in honour of a member of WA’s 3rd Field Ambulance C Section.

English-born engineer Donald Neville Cadoux came to Western Australia in 1909 and headed north to farm land in an undeveloped area near Wongan Hills. When war broke out in 1914, he packed up his camp, left his belongings with a mate and headed to Perth to enlist. Sadly, soon after the Gallipoli landing, he died on a hospital ship from wounds received.

When a small railway siding was built near Mr Cadoux’s former selection, his friend successfully campaigned to have it named Cadoux siding, which in turn became Cadoux township.

I recently had a call from the registrar of Cadoux primary school, seeking more information about the 3rd Field Ambulance Red Cross flag in the Society’s Beyond the Battlefields exhibition. She had heard about the need to raise funds to keep the flag in WA and offered to arrange some fundraising through the school.

Last week she reported that ‘the senior room students (all five of them) and their teacher organised a Spelling Bee Fundraiser with a Sausage Sizzle for Mr Cadoux’s flag…’ To date, collections and donations total $751.60 with more to come in – not a bad effort for a small school of 10 families and 19 students. The community have been very supportive’. This is a heart-warming effort.

However, there is still a long way to go. Donations can be made at the exhibition or online at


Wendy Lugg
**Affiliates News**

**Beverley Historical Society** reports the popularity of its *Remembering Them* exhibition which is due to close in September.

**Darlington History Group** has launched its website and asks us all to visit it at – http://www.darlingtonhistorygroup.com

The 100th issue of *Koorabup, Denmark Historical Society*’s journal, records Bev McGuinness’ report of the Society’s active year. Like the rest of us, the Society is calling for more volunteers to carry on the good work. A feature on ‘Steam … the forgotten power’ focuses on Millars’ local timber operations. Preserving and better displaying the district’s outside artefacts is the Society’s next project.

**Katanning Historical Society** is busy with its World War I commemorations, and Pioneer Day this year featured 100 years of Carrolup/Marrribank memories.

**Mandurah Historical Society** has hosted 1,600 students at Halls Cottage in the last 12 months. That’s a large number! The students see inside this oldest building in Mandurah (circa 1832) and are shown old-fashioned housekeeping – hand-churning to make butter and clothes-washing with tub and wash-board.

**Margaret River & Districts Historical Society** invites you to visit ‘The Old Settlement’, a precinct commemorating Group Settlement in the district. The Society has worked for three years on the project and is now tackling a further challenge to reclaim the dairy, cowshed and machinery sheds and to restore the degraded machinery.

**Melville History Society** reports members’ delight that its museum, the Miller Bakehouse, will remain within the City of Melville as a result of the abandonment of proposed Council amalgamations.

**Moora Historical Society** is planning its new museum and gathering items for it. April’s Heritage Day attracted a large crowd and, with Rotary and Lions Club assistance, there were many entertainments – stalls, refreshments, displays, competitions and singers.

**Mundaring & Hills Historical Society** has been busy supporting World War I commemorations. The Society has carried out in-depth research to help local projects, assisting the Shire of Mundaring with content for new signage at Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site, producing a booklet on the Mundaring War Memorial, helping the KSP Writers’ Centre with the publication *Blackboy Hill is Calling* and holding an exhibition on Mundaring and the Great War.

**Narembeen Historical Society** is planning its 50th anniversary in October. As well, with Lotterywest funding, an historic precinct is being developed at South Kumminin, 17km south of Narembeen. A gazebo will house signs telling of the siding town in its heyday.

**Northam & Districts Historical Society** has been active with numerous projects, including the rescue of an historic baker’s oven, a locomotive restoration and work on the Northam Shire Primary History Project.

The highlight of *Ravensthorpe Historical Society*’s year has been the dedication in May of the Kukenarup Memorial (15km west of Ravensthorpe), the culmination of eight years’ collaboration of the Society with Noongar descendants. It is a memorial of reconciliation where the Dunn brothers established the district’s original pastoral station in the 1860s and where a massacre of Noongar people took place 135 years ago. Two 2.8m steel eagle wings at the approach to the memorial symbolise wedge-tailed eagles flying overhead traditionally looking after departed spirits. It is a site not to be missed when you are next in the district. For more information go to – http://www.ravensthorpehistory.org.au/documents/kuke.html

**South Perth Historical Society** is continuing to develop the May & Herbert Gibbs collection, making it more accessible to us all. In March the ‘Mamie’ exhibition was opened. Mamie was May Gibbs’ childhood name, and the exhibition explored her development, both artistic and social, during her early years in South Perth before she left for Sydney at the age of 36.

**Toodyay Historical Society** has recently launched the book *Life and Times of Wally Chitty* written by Society archivist, Jenny Edgecombe, and featuring some of the late Wally’s stories about life in and out of Toodyay set in context by Jenny’s excellent research. Contact the Toodyay Historical Society if you would like to purchase a copy.

You will enjoy the lively tale of cattle stealing in the southwest recounted in the **WA Police Historical Society**’s June newsletter (*Peelers Gazette*) by editor Peter Skehan. Frank Hall’s crimes, arrest, conviction and eventual pardon are a fascinating episode in 1860s colonial history. Free settler Hall’s life serves as a warning against thinking that it was only convicts who broke the law in the second half of the 19th century.

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Western Australia’s Dressage History

Geographer Marion Hercock has presented papers to the Society on a variety of topics. Her latest research endeavour is a continuation from ‘A History of Hunting With Hounds in Western Australia’, which was published in Early Days, Vol. 11, Pt 6, 2000. She is working with local dressage judge and instructor Zoë Harrison. Together, Marion and Zoë cover a wide range of writing, teaching and riding experience. Their research commenced late last year, and is on-going.

The modern competitive equestrian discipline of dressage came to the attention of Western Australians after World War II. Because that period is within living memory much information can be recorded from conversations with people, as well as their memorabilia. In contrast, dressage as the art of horse training and even entertainment (rather than competition), has had a much longer history in Europe. Some mention of dressage first appeared in Western Australia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The record of that activity can be found in old newspapers and other material.

The most important impetus for dressage occurred when Australia was awarded the 1956 Olympic Games, which encouraged riders to look at the dressage phase of the horse trials (eventing). Progress was made in the 1970s and 1980s with the importation of horses bred specifically for, and better suited to, dressage than the types generally used by Western Australian riders. These breeds included the German Holsteiner and Trakehner, and the Spanish Andalusian. When Georgina Beard imported the Lipizzaner stallion Pluto Nima XII (see picture), people saw what could be done in the dressage arena with the appropriate breed of horse, a high degree of training and a professional rider.

Dressage also involves horse trainers, rider coaches, event organisers, spectators, event sponsors and volunteers with a wider circle of support which spans clubs and societies, horse breeders, horse and rider outfitters, farriers and veterinarians. There is also harness-driving dressage and, more recently, para-equestrian dressage to consider. Thus, there are many organisations and people who have been associated with the development of dressage in this state. Progress in dressage has been facilitated by education, training and competition. In this advance, we can thank a number of European and British instructors, whose work in Western Australia laid a foundation. Australian coaches from other states and local instructors have also played a part, and have prepared handbooks and manuals. Prior to 1946 Western Australians were accustomed to the use of horses for work on stations and farms. Horse-racing, polo, hunting and competitions at Agricultural Shows of show-jumping and hacking events encouraged the development of recreational riding. The hacking and rider classes hosted by the Agricultural Societies provided a transition to dressage competition.

We are keen to record memories of dressage, riding and horse-related matters, and we are looking for unpublished photographs. If readers of History West would like to provide information or share their photographs, we welcome your interest. This material will contribute towards an illustrated and indexed book about the origins of dressage in Western Australia.

If you or someone close to you would like to be involved, you can contact Marion Hercock for a questionnaire, or download the form from: www.zoeharrison.com.au

Contact Marion Hercock email majoe10@bigpond.com or telephone 9361 0940, or mobile 0404 036 109.
BOOK REVIEWS

Bernice Barry, Georgiana Molloy: the mind that shines, Redgate Consultants, Witchcliffe, Western Australia, 373 pp (includes index), SP $30 MP $28.

Reviewer: Gillian Lilleyman

It is now sixty years since the first biography of Georgiana Molloy, Portrait with Background, was published. In this earlier book author Alexandra Hasluck, whose interest in Georgiana was kindled by the publication of Georgiana’s letters in the journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society twenty-five years before, set out to give Georgiana her due recognition as a pioneer botanist. Hasluck’s portrayal, against a background of the first European settlement of Augusta and Busselton, established Georgiana as one of Western Australia’s most endearing and enduring heroines.

Forty years later William J. Lines broadened this canvas to address further the impact of European settlement on the region’s environment and its Aboriginal inhabitants. He also researched archival material held at Carlisle, Georgiana’s birthplace in Cumbria, for further insight into Georgiana’s religiosity.

The title of Lines’ book, An All Consuming Passion, might aptly describe what Georgiana’s story has become for Bernice Barry, the author of this latest biography. Readers familiar with Georgiana’s place in the history of the South West will find Barry has covered it all here: the voyage aboard the Warrior; the Bussells; the Turners; their struggles at Augusta and the settlement’s virtual disbandment in favour of the Vasse; the letter from a stranger giving purpose to Georgiana’s love of plants; her pain at leaving behind her garden on the Blackwood with its two little graves; and her life at her new home, ‘Fairlawn’, cut poignantly short by her death after childbirth at the age of thirty-seven years.

Probing more deeply into British records and accessing newly available material, such as the Hale family papers and a journal belonging to Captain John Molloy, which was thought to have been kept by one of the Bussells when it was purchased by the Battye Library in 2007, Barry has produced an even closer study of Georgiana, especially of her life in England. The dynamics of the relationships within the Kennedy family are disclosed, and previous speculation about Molloy’s origins and how he and Georgiana met is resolved.

Barry, who lives near Margaret River, shares with her readers the challenges and rewards of what became a very personal quest to find out all she could about her subject, much of which is documented online as part of an interactive website and media project as well. Anyone who researches family and social history will relate to her excitement at chance discoveries, the fragmented pieces of information that suddenly fit together. They will also appreciate the sequentially numbered endnotes that make checking sources easier. Although the author maintains a presence she has a light touch. Her elegant prose is very readable. Particularly eloquent are her descriptions of the gardens and landscapes of Georgiana’s past which, accompanied by Georgiana’s own words, convey a greater appreciation of how, along with her strong religious faith, Georgiana’s love of nature gave her the fortitude to adapt to pioneer life. Presented with a striking cover designed by Lauren Wilhelm, coloured illustrations and associated websites, Barry’s sensitive reappraisal will assure this fascinating pioneer heroine a new generation of devotees.


Reviewer: Margaret Medcalf

This book is a double biography of George Grey and his wife Eliza (née Spencer). It also introduces the reader to areas of nineteenth century British colonial history in South Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and gives an insight into life and attitudes in the Victorian age.

When Sir Richard Spencer, Government Resident in Albany, died in 1839 George Grey, who had recently undertaken two explorations of North Western Australia, replaced him. Though Grey’s reports were of value the expeditions were disastrous and the author concludes that this experience made George a ‘single minded, determined and ruthless individual’.

In Albany it seemed inevitable that the beautiful fifteen-year-old Eliza Spencer and the ambitious Army officer, eleven years her senior, should be attracted to one another and in November 1839 they were married. Three months after returning to England he was appointed Governor of South Australia. Eliza gave birth to their son George on 16 February 1841 on the voyage out. The child died five months later, however, and George blamed his wife for neglecting the baby. To quote the book, ‘from the moment of the little baby’s death there was an estrangement between them that was never to be fully overcome. There were no more children’.

History West, August 2015
Grey’s administrative success in South Australia led to his posting to New Zealand where he is said to have ‘ruled as a despot’. In 1854 the Greys went to Cape Town where George took up his appointment as Governor of the Cape Colony. He was popular in South Africa but not in the Colonial Office and was recalled only to be reinstated due to a change in government in England. The Greys travelled back to the Cape in the Forte, the flagship of the recently appointed naval Commander in Chief of the Cape Station, Admiral Henry Keppel. On the voyage George spent most of his time talking and playing cards with other male passengers. Eliza, the only female on board, was looked after by the Admiral and his officers, and spent many evenings with Keppel. George intercepted intimate notes between them and, in hysterical anger, insisted that the ship be turned back to Rio and Eliza dispatched home to England. George then continued his passage to the Cape and his appointment there but maintained a vendetta against Keppel.

In England George’s family offered Eliza their total support and George made her an allowance. Her former position in society was much reduced but she appears to have lived comfortably, helped by family and friends. She converted to the Roman Catholic faith and carried out charitable works with the Order of Servites.

After another term as Governor of New Zealand George retired there, finally returning to England in 1894. He and Eliza came together after 36 years but, to quote the author, ‘the reconciliation raft drifted into stormy waters and it was not long before the old couple had renewed their animosity’. They both died in September 1898.

This book is well written with historical information meticulously researched from a large number of sources meticulously referenced and it is a fascinating story. It gives an interesting insight into life and administration in the colonies, human nature and the influence of circumstance, personality and politics.

Margaret Medcalf

Deborah Gare & Madison Lloyd-Jones, When War Came to Fremantle 1899 to 1945, Fremantle Press, 2014, 144 pp; with illustrations and index. SP $40 MP $38 Reviewer: Pamela Statham Drew

From images of West Australians leaving Fremantle in 1899-1900 to fight in the Boer War to photographs of some of the women who married American servicemen leaving Fremantle after the Second World War, this book is a microcosm of Australia’s war experience. The two authors, both from Notre Dame University, know Fremantle’s history well. They are also familiar with the local studies section of their city library and this knowledge shows in their selection of photographs. Each one tells a story which is amplified in the accompanying text and captions.

Chapters covering direct links between Fremantle and the horrors of war are very moving. For example, the arrival of the first wounded Gallipoli soldiers on the hospital ship Kyara in July 1915 shocked Fremantle – journalists reporting ‘beds of disabled, feverish, bandaged and shell-shocked survivors stacked from floor to ceiling’. The majority of those on board were bound for the eastern states, but thirty-one ‘sick, shell-shocked and bullet-pierced Western Australians disembarked to meet the Governor’. The contrast between this motley and dishevelled group and those who had paraded joyfully through the streets just eight months earlier could not have been greater.

Not only the war periods themselves but the remembrance periods afterwards are addressed, with some wonderful photographs taken at the unveiling of memorials. There are surprises too, such as the evacuation of Fremantle in January 1945 when the merchant vessel Panamanian caught fire while loading flour, showering its surroundings with sparks that threatened nearby ammunition supplies. The destruction of the port and nearby town was averted by a provident change in the wind direction! Readers are sure to find many other little-known facts in this well written book.

August is Family History Month at the State Library


A website of interest

The Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of WA has launched its new website at http://jhsoga.org.au The Society focuses on WA Jewish history and can help with advice on genealogy and heritage worldwide. In this centennial ANZAC year the Society has provided information on its website of Western Australia’s Jewish servicemen and women in both World Wars. Speak to Michelle Urban or John Urban if you would like any advice.

The RWAHS received a complimentary copy of Lloyd Nelson & Jim West’s booklet entitled The Galloping Ground Scout: Don Cronin, 10th Light Horse. An Outstanding Horseman. Jim West, a Wagin farmer and Cronin descendant, with Lloyd Nelson, a one-time neighbour of Don Cronin, have published the booklet to commemorate the ANZAC centenary and to tell the story of the Cronins of Glen Cove and their famous son Don. Visit the RWAHS Library to dip into this booklet which contains the records they have collected.
The Library has a large photograph album from the **Bird Family**, but some of the photos are not identified. Over the next few months we will include some in *History West*. We hope you will be able to help us to identify them.

If you can help please phone and ask for the Library, on 9386 3841, or email library@histwest.org.au

With many thanks to this month’s mail-out team

L to R: Barbara Melvin, Sean Garvey (Yr 10 student at Bunbury Catholic College on work experience), Val Boast, Jack Honniball, Cynthia Munday and Dave Melvin.

On leave were Diana Williamson, Pamela Statham Drew and Nick Drew. Special thanks to Val and Diana who have been keen members of the mail out team for 12 years or so.

If you’re a member who receives this newsletter in hard copy by post, and you’re happy to receive it by email, please contact us (9386 3841 or admin@histwest.org.au with your email address, and save money and trees by receiving it online!

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