



HISTORY WEST

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September 2015

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at Stirling House on Wednesday 16 September at 6pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Confirmation of minutes of AGM, 17 September 2014
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Treasurer's Report and presentation of Annual Accounts
5. President's Annual report
6. Chairperson Annual report and PowerPoint photo presentation
7. Declaration of elected members to replace outgoing Council members
8. Confirmation of Patron and Vice-Patrons
9. Approval of Honorary Advisors recommended by Council
10. General Business

Meeting closes



Following the meeting **Val Hutch**, Convenor Museum Committee, will make a short presentation on **Museum Stories: Sentiment and Significance**. Val is closely involved in the Society's collection, and often has to balance sentiment with significance when considering possible donations. Ultimately, it is the stories behind the objects that give them value, offering a window onto people's lives here in Western Australia. She will share the stories behind some of the Museum's more recent acquisitions.

Val is well known to members not only for her current voluntary Museum work, but also in her earlier role as the Society's valuable Executive Officer.

Successful Sale at the Bookshop

The inaugural clearance book sale held in the week commencing 27 July was a winner, thanks to the combined efforts of bookshop volunteers and administration staff. Timed to coincide with the renewal of membership subs and expenditure of tax refunds, the late July date worked well. In addition to the loads of books and wonderful specials, archive products and other bits and pieces were also reduced in price to entice interested members and public alike to partake. And partake they did. More than 170 books were sold throughout the week to 50 customers. The bookshop's average weekly sale of \$483 was busted wide open with a new weekly record of \$3,700, a 750% increase over normal sales. Even better, more than half the sales weren't discounted, and several new members were attracted.



Congratulations Glenda!

Glenda Bye, Bookshop Officer



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Culture and the Arts**



Council News

At its meeting held on 13 August items of business included the following where Council

welcomed new members – Delphine Anderson, Gaye Atkinson, Rose Chaney, Kenneth Harris, Jan Richardson, Linda Williams

- congratulated the Bookshop Officer, Volunteer Glenda Bye, on a successful book and archive products clearance sale;
- received a report from the President on the work in progress of the Planning Committee for the Community History Centre Building Project which highlighted the important pro-bono professional work being done and endorsed the development of a Lotterywest application for building assistance;
- thanked the Vice-Chairperson of Council, Dr Helen Henderson, for her significant work in coordinating and completing the Society's Organisations Investment Program report to the Dept of Culture & the Arts;
- welcomed the Museum Committee Convenor's report on the success of the 'Beyond the Battlefields' exhibition Special Viewing and Open Day when more than 80 people attended exhibition curator and Hon. Artist in Residence Wendy Lugg's talk, and was pleased to hear of numerous donations towards the Flag;
- adopted a procedure to follow when commercial reproduction of items in the Collection is sought;
- finalised a process to ensure safety and security in the Costume Store;
- gave permission for the Western Australian Museum to make a new scan of the Hartog Replica Plate;
- noted the appointment of a Federation of Australian Historical Societies Online Outreach Officer, Dr Jodie Boyd, and welcomed the news that the FAHS President Professor Don Garden will be attending the State History Conference of Affiliated Societies in Geraldton.

Lennie McCall

Mystery Photo

Can you help us identify this photograph from the **Bird Family** album? If you can, please phone and ask for the Library, on 9386 3841, or email library@histwest.org.au



History in the City

On 5 August Sue Hobson gave a very lively and interesting talk on WA's Cast Iron Letter Boxes and the J. & E. Ledger Foundry. The red cast iron letterboxes stood on our street corners and have been an integral part of communication in WA for over a century. Each one showed the year of manufacture, the initials of the reigning monarch and the name of the maker. The oldest still in operation is in Bassendean and dates from 1876. In all, 52 remain and those made between 1891 and 1912 were all manufactured by J. & E. Ledger. Joseph Ledger from Yorkshire arrived in 1863 to complete ten years' penal servitude. He encouraged his family to join him in WA and he and his nephew founded the firm. Sue, a descendant of the Ledger family, has tried to photograph every one of these letterboxes to show the different styles – pillar, lamp and wall. Sue told us of the 1868 pillarbox in Claremont which marks the spot where mail between Perth and Fremantle was exchanged. When the halfway tree was removed, the letterbox was put in its place. Besides the cast iron letterbox, the lamp stands on Barrack Street bridge are a reminder of the work of J. & E. Ledger.

At our meeting on 7 October our guest speaker will be Yvonne Geneve talking about Art Deco Palaces of the Golden West. Join us for 2pm in the conference room at City Community Centre, Perth Railway Concourse, followed by afternoon tea. Donation \$5.

Lorraine Tholet

Heritage Days 2015 Sunday 18 October: John Wittenoom, first Colonial Chaplain

3.15pm – assembly at the entrance of East Perth Cemetery (Brontë St) for:

3.30pm – wreathlaying and talk by the Revd Ted Doncaster at the grave of the Revd John Wittenoom.

20-30min walk from Cemetery to Cathedral. There will also be car drivers offering lifts to the Cathedral, where there is on-site parking.

5pm – Choral Evensong at St George's Cathedral. Bishop Jeremy James will speak on the life of John Wittenoom. The Evensong, attended by members of the Oxford Alumni Society (as Wittenoom was an Oxford graduate), will be sung by the renowned St George's Cathedral Consort, and followed by a reception.

Ellenbrook Guided Tour – Sunday 1 November
Enjoy Philippa O'Brien's sculpture tour and Dorothy Erickson's 'Her Mother's Daughter' exhibition
To secure your place, please register an **expression of interest** - on 9386 3841.

Affiliates News

Albany Historical Society reports on an exciting project in which it was a partner – a poppy flower sculpture displayed at Sydney’s Circular Quay in First Fleet Park for Anzac Day. Gary Grant’s sculpture is 1.5m high and 6.5m wide, and contains vials of sand taken from Princess Royal Harbour and a pine needle from ancestor trees of the original Lone Pine in Gallipoli. Andrew Eyden has had early discussions with the City of Albany about bringing the sculpture to Albany for the centenary of the first dawn service by Padre White in 2018 and potentially of permanently acquiring the work for the City. Our good wishes for Albany’s success. The Autumn newsletter also features Deb Wilson (with Andy) as she exercises her metal detecting skills at the old Esplanade Hotel site to locate an interesting array of historical objects.

Busselton Historical Society proudly reports that it has been awarded a Five Star Rating on TripAdvisor. ‘Great stuff to see’ according to one satisfied customer! Congrats from all of us.

Fremantle History Society looks forward to several exciting months with a long-planned trip to Garden Island and Point Peron scheduled for 27 September and the much-enjoyed annual Studies Day to be held on Sunday 25 October.

Maylands Historical & Peninsula Association has welcomed WA author Linda Bettenay to talk about her latest historical novel *Wishes for Starlight*.

If you would like to learn more about Don Harman’s daily life as a baker in the 1950s or Juliet Ludbrook’s account of the life of the company Gold Estates of Australia (as it moved from gold to real estate), then consult **Melville History Society**’s June/July newsletter.

The Military History Society reports on a wide-ranging series of interesting monthly talks. Speakers so far this year have explored – the Maori Wars, British nuclear defences, aerial reconnaissance at Gallipoli, the Boer War and Field Marshal Lord Birdwood. September’s topic is Colossus (the world’s first electronic computer) and code breaking in World War II.

Naremben Historical Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Friday 16 October with an open day and afternoon tea. As well as local people, the Society welcomes visitors and would love to see former residents come back to view the district’s history through the museums. The Grain Discovery Centre, opened during the last two years, will be one of the centres on display. For details contact the Secretary, Rhonda Hickey; ph 9065 3026; mob 0428 132 454; email pat.hickey@westnet.com.au

South Perth Historical Society’s newsletter highlights the life of Mildred Manning (née Le Souef), Wesley College’s dedicated biology teacher for 40 years. Such a life story reminds us of the influence a

particular teacher can have on students’ lives.

Congratulations to the **York Society** for raising \$2050 to benefit the York Archives. A fund-raising Bush Dance attracted 153 dancers to tunes played by members of the Fiddlestix Bush Band who volunteered their services.



Smokey’s story
July’s *Bulletin* of the **Royal Historical Society of Queensland** recounts the fascinating Pacific War story of Smokey, a 2kg Yorkshire Terrier and ‘native-born

Queenslander’, who was adopted by US Air Force crewman, Bill Wynne. Smokey served with Bill and accompanied him to Australia when he was convalescing. In Brisbane Smokey became a therapy dog, cheering up the wounded. She went home with Bill to the USA, living until 1957. In 2012 a monument was unveiled to Smokey at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital on the site where she served 70 years before. Recognition for Smokey was won by the hard work of Nigel Allsopp, a Senior Constable in the Queensland Police Service assigned to the Police Dog section and historian for the Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association. The story reminds us of the vital service animals have given in war. If you would like to know more about Smokey, you can read Bill Wynne’s *Yorkie Doodle Dandy: A Memoir*.

Council House wins Enduring Architecture Award
Perth’s Council House has won the Australian Institute of Architects WA’s 2015 award for buildings at least 25 years old that remain important pieces of public architecture demonstrating the value of good design. There were three nominees in the category – Council House, Perth Concert Hall and UWA’s Reid Library. According to Institute President Philip Griffiths, ‘each of these buildings has demonstrated its capacity to adapt for contemporary use, while retaining its essential design qualities. In recognising these iconic works of architecture, we are reminded of how our built environment has a longstanding effect on our communities’. Council House, designed by Howlett and Bailey Architects, is recognised for its world-class Modernist civic architecture and its enduring landmark status in the centre of Perth.

Did you know?

According to *Heritage News*, this year is the 120th anniversary of WA’s first bowling club. Greens and a clubhouse were established on the Esplanade a year later. The Perth Bowls Club was formed in 1895 and the Royal Western Australian Bowling Association in 1898.

A top addition to the Museum Collection

An interesting new item has been donated to the Museum – a top hat owned by Mr James Thomas Peet who established Peet & Co. Ltd Estate Agents and Financiers in Perth in 1895.



James Thomas Peet's top hat.

Fashion trends come and go usually with some speed, but occasionally one lingers on capturing the imagination of fashion followers. Top hats are a case in point, popular with men from Georgian times to the present day – still worn on prestigious occasions.

The top hat originated in France but debuted in London in 1797 when hatter John Hetherington wore his 20 cm tall black silk plush topper in public. Its height was said to have incited terror and panic on the streets, 'causing women to faint, children to cry and dogs to bark'. Hetherington was fined £500 for 'disturbing public order'. However, the *London Times* predicted his hat would set a new fashion trend, one that soon all gentlemen would be wearing. And so it followed. The beaver top hat, preferred to silk or felt, was the most desired male hat of the 19th century, more popular than the bowler or boater.

The quality and condition of a gentleman's hat was viewed much like a character reference, a judgment on the social status of the wearer and as such beavers were even worn by gentlemen players on the cricket field. One London hatter reckoned he could tell the standing of a customer by the way he shopped for his hat. A request for a silk one showed suburban respectability; a plain 'top hat' implied the City or Stock Exchange; but a man who asked for a 'topper' indicated he was out of the top drawer.

The Swan River colony's Advocate General George Fletcher Moore desperately needed a new beaver to consolidate his position and to wear for state occasions as his old one had accidentally been cut in half and was bald. The first shipment of beavers had arrived from Launceston in 1833 priced at 30 shillings each but Moore dismissed them as old-fashioned 'villainous looking silk ones'. By 1859, however, Swan Colony

newspapers were advertising 'the finest London gentlemen's beavers, black and white' as well as beaver hats for boys; and, as the local price of an imported London topper soared from 30 shillings to £10, Cornishman William Barrett was transported to Fremantle jail for stealing a beaver. [*Trish Symonds, Fremantle Prison Records.*]

James Thomas Peet acquired his silk plush top hat in Perth in 1901 and left no doubt he was a man of commerce, printing his name, profession and business address inside the hat alongside trademarks of hat maker Christy's of London and retailer E.C. Shenton & Co. Perth.



His well-used tanned hatbox suggests J.T. Peet was a prosperous gentleman who frequently travelled even, reputedly, to attend the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. It has a leather strap handle, is stamped with cabin travel labels and secured with a heavy metal lock indicating that this topper was a coveted asset and therefore prone to theft. Padded and lined with elegant green striped sateen, the hatbox firmly cushions the top hat against rough sea journeys.



Such was the demand for pelts for making beaver toppers during the 19th century the animals came close to extinction, a fate ironically shared by hat makers. Mercury compounds used to treat beaver fur poisoned the hatters, slowly driving them insane and to an early death. Yet the workplace practice continued until the 1940s. The commonly used phrase 'mad as a hatter' is a reminder of their tragedy.

Jo Pearson

Spotlight on Members' Research

Horses on the Western Front

Historian and retired engineer Richard Hartley is a member of both the RWAHS and Engineering Heritage WA, the engineering heritage branch of the Institution of Engineers Australia in WA. Richard and Karen Riddette are researching the distinguished war service of Major Frederick W. Lawson DSO who, in civilian life, was Engineer for Perth's Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage (1913-1924). Horses were an important part of his war.

Lawson enlisted in the AIF at the end of 1915, becoming a Captain in the newly formed Mining Corps in February 1916. He was responsible for recruiting Western Australian miners for the 6th Tunnelling Company which left for Britain on 1 June 1916 and proceeded to France. In March 1917 Lawson was promoted to Major and was seconded for Special Duty with the Chief Engineer of the 1st Anzac Corps working on water supplies in the Ypres area where supplies were scarce and bad. In September he was mentioned in dispatches for repairing mains under fire and in October was awarded the DSO for establishing water supplies during the battles of Menin Road.

From September 1917 to December 1918 Major Lawson was Water Supply Officer for supplying drinking and washing water to the whole of the Australian Corps consisting of five Divisions totalling 110,000 fighting men and no fewer than 80,000 horses – each of the latter requiring a daily water supply ten times that provided to a soldier.

When over 80% of the water provided for the army was required by horses, their use was obviously an important factor in Lawson's work in the location of water supplies. He pointed out that it was almost impossible to obtain water from unpolluted sources, so much of his work involved treating water to make it suitable for human and animal consumption and in preparing temporary water storage tanks. He noted that 'practically every running stream was utilised as a source of drinking water for the troops'.

Lawson had complete control of the construction and maintenance of pipelines, pumping plant, purifying works and reservoirs for the Corps and as many as 1,200 troops were employed on this work at any one time. It was a complicated and demanding task as the troops were changing their positions almost daily and, during the 1918 autumn offensive from Villers-Bretonneux to the Hindenburg Line, the Australian troops advanced 50km in three months, and on occasions 2km per day.

Some interesting questions emerge as to how horses were used on the Western Front and how large supplies of potable water were supplied at short notice. Cavalry was almost useless against machine guns and artillery, and the deep mud. Yet in such conditions mechanised

transport was also ineffective and horses (and mules) became the only means of supplying the front and moving artillery.

Six horses with a rider on each pair and two gunners on the limber pulled the 18-pounder field gun, which was used by the Australian artillery throughout World War I. They frequently got bogged in the mud. On one occasion near Ypres a battery of guns was so badly bogged that it took 26 horses on each gun to pull them out, with mud up to the horses' stomachs.

Horses provided some health hazards for soldiers as horse manure created breeding grounds for disease-carrying insects. Manure was supposed to be buried but, when the battlefield was moving fast, this was often impossible. Unburied horse carcasses also presented a hazard.

In a talk to the Institution of Engineers in 1920 Lawson said that in winter time in France the army usually aimed to provide 1 gallon of water per man per day and 10 gallons per horse. In summer a larger provision was made for men's washing. He added that 'the Australian troops settled this difficulty by swimming in every possible source of water supply that was available which at times made the powers that be rather angry'.

In France, on average, 17% of the original number of British horses died every year, but even in peacetime the figure was 10%. Of the 17%, 25% were war-related deaths and 75% were due to disease and exhaustion. Over the course of the war Britain lost over 484,000 horses, one horse for every two men. Of the 136,000 horses shipped from Australia to fighting fronts in the war, only one (General Bridges' horse) was returned to Australia. At the end of the war there were 13,000 Australian military horses which could not be returned because of quarantine restrictions. Of these, 2,000 were killed and 11,000 were sold, mainly as remounts for the Indian Army.

Richard Hartley

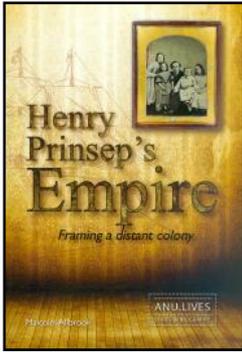


Transporting supplies
A mule team struggling in the mud, Ypres, 19 Oct. 1917.
AWM E00963

BOOK REVIEWS

Malcolm Allbrook, *Henry Prinsep's Empire: Framing a distant colony*, ANU Press, Canberra, 2014. Paperback & e-book. SP \$33 & MP \$31

Reviewer: J.M.R. Cameron



Born in India and educated in England, Henry Prinsep (1844-1922) was twenty-one years old when he arrived in WA in 1866 to manage the family estate near Bunbury. A combination of inexperience, youthful enthusiasm and bad luck conspired to defeat his efforts to restore the estate to profitability and in 1874 he joined the colony's civil service. His

artistic and photographic skills made him a valuable addition to the drafting staff within the Lands and Survey Office. He had risen to the position of chief clerk when the premier, John Forrest, appointed him undersecretary to the newly created Dept of Mines in 1894. A hectic four years followed as Prinsep and his staff grappled with WA's first mining boom. It was probably with some relief that he accepted his transfer to the new sub-department of Native Affairs, a highly contentious area but one in which Prinsep had a long-standing interest. He remained there until his retirement in 1908 which he spent mainly in Busselton where he died in 1922.

Prinsep's education and family background, as well as his attractive personal qualities, ensured that he became an accepted member of the colony's social elite. His position was probably consolidated through his marriage in 1868 to Charlotte Josephine Bussell, the youngest daughter of John Garrett Bussell.

Unlike so many of his contemporaries, Prinsep left a large and organised record of his time in WA, much of it held by the State Library of WA. More significantly perhaps, Prinsep's own collection is matched by an extensive family archive encompassing his grandfather John Prinsep, born in 1746 and directly involved in the country trade of India from 1770, and John's descendants who occupied important positions in the administrative and mercantile life of British India. The existence of these two resources has created opportunities that Malcolm Allbrook has exploited skilfully to set Henry Prinsep's activities in WA in their wider imperial setting.

The result is an impressive, ambitious and multi-layered book which makes a significant contribution to our understanding of WA and its place within the British Empire. It covers an important and insufficiently documented period in Western Australian history, incorporating a major analysis of the development of government policy for Aborigines embodied in the *Aborigines Act of 1905*. As well the book joins a small but growing body of literature which examines the importance of family and personal

connection in the emergence of Empire and, in so doing, throws fresh light on WA's Indian Ocean connections.

Through it all, Prinsep emerges as a gentle, affable and loving family man and husband whose concept of duty was shaped by his past, a past that Allbrook suggests was not wholly in tune with what was required in WA. In singling out Prinsep's *Aborigines Act of 1905*, he observes that this, with all its shortcomings and its potential for future misery and injustice, was consistent with Prinsep's understanding of Britain's imperial role and the rights of British colonists to exercise power over subject peoples. Here is a challenge that demands further research.

Allbrook's particular interest in Prinsep's interactions with Aboriginal people recognises his period as Protector of Aborigines as the culmination of a life of public service, but it leaves major gaps in his contribution to the colony. The twenty years that Prinsep spent with the Dept of Lands and Surveys was a period of great change procedurally and administratively and was marked by a dramatic expansion of pastoral settlement. It is tantalising to speculate on the extent to which Prinsep's knowledge of photography and lithography contributed to the local development of cartographic methodology, including the reproduction of maps. Similarly, we are told little of Prinsep's role as foundation undersecretary for the Dept of Mines in what was arguably the peak period of exploratory activity for the gold industry. Prinsep's contributions in both of these areas indicate that he was a more important figure in the life of WA than Allbrook and his other biographers have indicated.

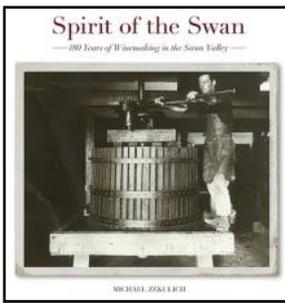
Henry Prinsep's Empire is available as an attractive paperback and online at <http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/anu-lives-series-in-biography/henry-prinseps-empire/>. It is profusely illustrated, many of the images reproduced for the first time. They are an essential element of Allbrook's text and add to its pleasure. Through his footnotes and a comprehensive bibliography Allbrook has established a significant base for future research.

Michael Zekulich, *Spirit of the Swan. 180 years of Winemaking in the Swan Valley, Swan Valley and Regional Winemakers Association*, 2014, 124pp. SP \$45 & MP \$43.

Reviewer: Sally Hincks

If you enjoy history and Western Australian wines, you will love this book by Michael (Mike) Zekulich. It is a splendid history of the wineries in WA's viticultural heartland, the fruitful Swan Valley, with lovely photos accompanying the text.

The Swan Valley story starts in 1834 when, on the banks of the Swan River, Olive Farm founder, botanist Thomas Waters, produced the colony's first



commercial wine. In the 1830s he sold wine for two shillings a gallon or bartered it at stores in exchange for boots and newspapers. He had learnt winemaking from the Boers in South Africa where he had spent six years. With no

insecticides in those days, he protected his vines from insects by spraying them with washing soapsuds. Other early settlers also brought vine-growing material from the famous African Cape vineyards on their voyages to the new colony.

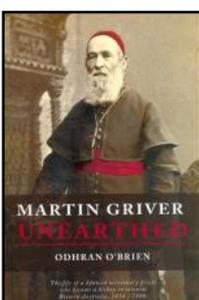
A chapter on the 'Dalmatian Invasion' begins with the Croatians arriving in March 1916. The late Bill Jamieson, a former State viticulturist, told the author: 'I considered them the best migrants we have ever had... these pioneers were outstanding vigneron... they got the best possible result from the land'.

There are chapters on Houghton, Sandalford, Swanville, Evans & Tate, Kosovich Wines and Talinjancich. Icons of the industry are honoured – including Jack Mann, Fred Noack, John Kosovich, Adrien d'Espiesis, Corin Lamont, Vince Yurisich, Dorham Mann, Joze (Joe) Zekulich and Mike himself for his outstanding contribution through his promotion of the wine industry. The book lists the 35 Swan Valley and Regional Winemakers Association members at April 2014.

The conclusion strikes a positive note. Renowned viticultural scientist Dr John Gladstones says: 'the Valley has two major advantages – its proximity to the city and international airport... also its ability to make fortified wine of outstanding quality and style... but it can also make very good table wines with the right grape varieties and vineyard management'. In March 2014, the State Government announced that it would legislate to preserve the character and charm of the area as a wine region. The valley attracts 600,000 visitors a year, contributing \$200 million to the State's economy.

Odhran O'Brien, *Martin Griver Unearthed: The life of a Spanish missionary priest who became a Bishop in colonial Western Australia, 1814-1886*, St Pauls Publications, Strathfield, 2015, 284pp. SP \$35 & MP \$33.

Reviewer: Clement Mulcahy



Commissioned by the Archdiocese of Perth, this is a significant work that places the story of the Spanish missionary within the context of the ecclesiastical tensions and colonial isolation experienced by the pioneer clergy and the laity of the Swan River colony. The study also has an international setting with the overview

from Rome, the recruiting of men and women from Spain, Italy and Ireland, funding from Spain and the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, as well as concern from Sydney's Archbishop Polding whose remit included the western outpost of the continent.

Published by St Paul's Publication – Society of St Paul, Strathfield, NSW, and printed in China, the standards achieved in this 284 page, illustrated volume complete with a comprehensive bibliography, index, list of contents, appendices, tables and maps, reflect well upon both the author and the publisher. The biography will attract international students of church history and missiology, as well as a national readership, while many Western Australians would not be familiar with the intense Spanish and European connections with the church locally.

The title of the book provides a link between the pioneer missionary labouring in the antipodes and a time of social and political change in Europe. At first glance the title might imply that the settlement experienced the benefit of an exceptionally long bishopric, 1814-1886, and the calm that could have been established. Instead Griver was caught up in the maelstrom of schism, canonical injunctions, a divided community and alienated monks and nuns. The arresting photograph of Martin Griver on the dust cover gives a sense of the man's serenity which countered the stress and challenges outlined so well by his biographer. The title also provides a hint of the forensic spirit that seems to have driven much of the sophisticated research that marks this biography which opens, unusually, with the exhumation of the central figure.

Professor Rafferty's foreword gives a strong sense of the main thrust of the research, analysis and interpretation provided by this study of 'a reluctant bishop who nevertheless left a significant imprint in the history of Australian Catholicism'. The author has brought his material together in a compelling narrative which enables the reader to meet both the man and the bishop, the women who were the nuns, the Spanish monks who laboured at Subiaco or New Norcia and those who had been appointed priests or bishops. This has been far preferable to offering the reader an analysis of the canonical disputes and the institutional diocese, convent and parish, without regard for the human frailties, strengths or social attitudes relevant to the times.

The authoritarianism, unacceptable now, that permeated the Catholic hierarchy in both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is placed in context. The pressure for adaptation to better meet the needs of Australian conditions faced by local bishops is well examined by the author. The absorbing narrative loses none of its pace in meeting this test. Archival material is used effectively and research disinterred a number of documents pivotal to a more complete understanding of Martin Griver.

In gratitude to the late June Price

Sadly June Price, a member for 23 years, died in May 2014 at the age of 84. With great generosity, June bequeathed the Society the wonderful sum of \$20,000 in her will, for which we are most grateful. The Society appreciates June's thoughtfulness and particularly values the gift as a sign that she thought we are doing useful community work. The gift will be an early addition to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society Museum and Library Fund Building Project Fund which we have just established.

In June's eulogy her daughter Gina Price and family told of June's loving and active life, reminding everyone that

June was an advocate for local history. On one occasion she was extremely upset because a developer was planning to tear down a home of historical significance. June had attended a council meeting to protest, and felt that she had been brushed aside as a "meddling, gray-haired, old lady". She spent a couple of hours typing a letter to the local paper, stating why and how it was important to look after historical treasures. June sat at the table, intent on expressing her

point of view with just the right words and tone. Words, actions and decisions mattered. Doing the right thing for the sake of principle, and rightness, was June to the core.

All of us at the Society hope that we can live up to June's values and put her gift to good effect to advance the cause of local history – with the aim of enriching the cultural and physical landscape in which we live.



Administrative Officer : Lynn O'Hara
Assistant Admin Officer : Lesley Burnett
Editor *History West*: Dr Lenore Layman

Opinions expressed in *History West* are not necessarily those of the Royal WA Historical Society (Inc.)

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