



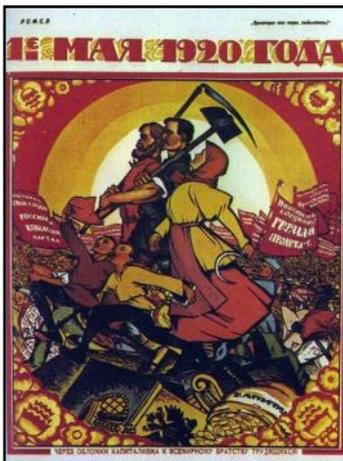
# HISTORY WEST

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

October 2017

## GENERAL MEETING

**The next meeting at Stirling House is on Wednesday 18 October at 6pm when Andrew Gill will present a paper on ‘Follow the Russians? Responding to the Russian Revolution in Western Australia 1917-1921’. Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.**



*“Follow Russia!” The gods forbid. Why in Russia St Paul’s dictum, “He that doth not work neither shall he eat” [2 Thessalonians 3:10] is followed to the letter...In Russia the despoilers of the people have been disinherited, and the workers who all through the ages have with sweat and tears produced all the wealth have at last come into their own. Surely this is no example to follow.’*

Thus did one West Australian, Florence Stuart, a committed socialist, welcome the events known collectively as the Russian Revolution. She was not alone. Katharine Susannah Prichard, a future founding member of the Communist Party branch in WA, welcomed the upheaval as the start of a “New Order”. But this was only one possible reaction. Many more were guided by the screaming headlines of the *Sunday Times* [‘Red Ruin in Russia Bolshevik Butcheries’] or the hostile cartoons of Ben Strange in the *Western Mail*. Some conservatives gladly followed the hostile reports of Harold Williams writing for the London *Morning Chronicle*, while others chose the left liberalism of correspondents for the *Manchester Guardian*, Arthur Ransome and William Thomas Goode.

In his talk, Andrew will review the meanings of the revolutions of March and October 1917, both for contemporary observers in Russia and their counterparts in Western Australia between the revolution which overthrew the Czar and the crushing of the Kronstadt revolt in March 1921.

**Andrew Gill** is a retired research assistant who has written two books on Parkhurst convicts as well as articles on the Orange Order, petitions to Parliament, and the Single Tax League of Western Australia. The current paper contributes to a forthcoming book on the socialism of Florence Stuart.



## History in the City

Our September talk was given by Dr Danielle Brady on Reimagining Perth’s Lost Wetlands. Danielle used old maps of the early settlement, and Jeff Murray also attended and illustrated the changes over time to the old landscape. The talk encompassed many aspects of land change since colonial settlement, from a chain of swamps to the lakes and parks of today. It also gave us an understanding of the importance of the Aboriginal land and the cultural values of the wetlands. We heard how an Aboriginal woman periodically visited a site on Government House land because her grandmother was buried where Government House stands.

These wetlands have brought problems for the spread of population in Perth and surrounding areas. Many of the lakes have now disappeared or been partly drained. As early as 1848, many people were against draining Lake Kingswood in Perth and there has been other reclamation work, notably in Claisebrook and Northbridge. Lake Monger is now reduced in size. It was used for many years for the dumping of rubbish. A more recent example within 20 km of central Perth is the Beeliar Wetlands which were the subject of a protest in recent years. Some of this area was lost, but public opinion saved much of it.

History in the City is held on the first Wednesday of each month from March to December. Our talk on 1 November will be given by David Brown on ‘Perth Tramway Part 2: after 1914 under government control’.

**Lorraine Tholet**



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Culture and the Arts



At its meeting held on 14 September business included the following where Council

• welcomed new members – Julia Ashton, Mary Bell, Kerrie Brown, Professor Darrell Fisher & Gail Fisher, Graham Grundy, Lady Heseltine, Naomi Lynch, Donna May, June Rolfe;

- warmly congratulated Ally Drake-Brockman (Tours committee) for the fascinating tour of the eastern wheat belt;
- thanked Bill Marwick (Affiliated Societies representative) for his work in organising the 2017 successful State History Conference of Affiliated Societies at Wanneroo;
- thanked Dr Steve Errington and Reading & Publications Committee for their success in winning a \$5000 grant from Rio Tinto to assist in the publication of the Society's 100<sup>th</sup> issue of *Early Days*;
- resolved to award a Certificate of Appreciation to the team which implemented the integration of *Collections Mosaic* into *Collective Access* to give the Society a greatly enhanced website;
- resolved to elect Dr Fiona Bush OAM as an Honorary Life Member for her work in leading the Affiliates Committee and her contribution to the organisation of successive State History Conferences of Affiliated Societies at the AGM;
- resolved that the conferring of a Fellowship be recommended for distinguished research in the field of Western Australian historiography upon Dr Lenore Layman by special resolution at the AGM;
- warmly welcomed the approximately 1550 volunteer hours provided to the Society in July;
- supported the proposal to place Sandstone's Camel Station on the Heritage Register;
- welcomed a new brochure 'A New Future, A New Home, A Community History Centre', created in preparation for fund raising for the new building.
- congratulated the RWAHS Auxiliary President Lorraine Tholet, committee and guest speaker, Jo Pearson, on a successful and well-attended fundraising day in August;
- received the final report for a bequest strategy submitted by the team of managers from Leadership WA's Rising Leadership Grant project recommending the establishment of a committee for its implementation.

Lennie McCall

## RWAHS Refresh Project

Regular meetings have been held with Danielle Dinse, Principal Consultant of START Consulting Pty Ltd to consider the proposed layout plans for the Foyer. The plans have been kindly designed by workspace designers MKDC following ideas and contributions from the regular volunteers who work in the entrance space. The opportunity to source replacements for old desks with new workstations, and shelving through the goodwill of MKDC and Start Consulting has been welcomed. A community grant application to Bunnings, Claremont, for a painting refresh for the kitchen was completed.

## Auxiliary's annual morning tea

The Auxiliary's annual morning tea talk for 2017 was given by Jo Pearson – 'Tying the Knot – courtship marriage and wedding dresses in the Swan River Colony'. Such was the enthusiastic response that we extended the talk to an afternoon session as well.

Women brought fashions from their home country to the Swan River Colony, which was a very different world, but it was important to the early settlers to keep to the dress code and social standards of their former homeland. Jo took us through many decades of Western Australian history and the customs and fashions of those days. A woman's standing in society was defined by her clothes, their styles and fabrics, and these were chosen with care.

It was interesting to see three of the dresses displayed on model stands. The style of the dresses altered the appearance of women's bodies – one with a bustle made bending over virtually impossible as it would push the body forward at the top front because of the weight. The beetle-wing gown of fine muslin embroidered with beetle wings was another beautiful gown. The Gigot sleeves amused the audience; they were huge and balloon-shaped and at the time of the Swan River Colony's foundation were worn with very decorated hats.



Jo illustrated her talk with slides depicting the evolving fashions and changes. One wonders how amidst the heat, dust, insects and lack of facilities in the new settlement, men and women were able to keep these social standards. In the early days, the general attitude was one of adhering to earlier ways, rather than adapting to their new environment.

Jo's talk was a wonderful insight into not only fashion of that day but how the early settlers adjusted to life in the new colony.

Lorraine Tholet

## Diary Dates

**Mon 16 Oct:** 'History Out & About' Coach Tour to Fairbridge Farm

**Wed 25 Oct:** Philippa O'Brien *Edmund DuCane - documenting life in the Swan River Colony in the 1860's through art, a personal diary*

October Members' Discount code for eShop: Huttai9

## Affiliates and Other News

**Fremantle History Society** reminds us that its annual studies day is scheduled for Sunday 22 October for 1.30pm start at the Fremantle Army Barracks. Papers will explore the institutions that have shaped Fremantle's cultural and arts communities.

The **Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society** reports on an informative talk concerning the preservation and conservation of photographs given by Bindy Wilson, a senior conservator at the State Library of WA. Bindy left her audience with a number of valuable tips on keeping valuable old photographs safe.

**Melville History Society's** newsletter contains an interesting history of farming in Melville by Research Secretary Val Sutherland, written for use at the Palmyra Farmers' Market. It tells of the rise and demise of vegetable gardens, vineyards, orchards, dairies and poultry runs as the district developed into a 20th century suburb.

Have you visited the Mundaring District Museum located at the Old Mundaring School to see the **Mundaring & Hills Historical Society's** exhibition 'Hoofprints in the Hills'? It is well worth a visit.

**Ravensthorpe Historical Society** has been very successful in winning grants to expand its work this year and had just contributed a lively entry to the Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show and Spring Festival Street Parade. The display consisted of a 120-year-old spring cart with a settler and his dog on board, drawn by an improvised tin horse and all towed by a ute.

**Rockingham District Historical Society** reports that its idea to run Share Your Memories sessions at its general meetings where people are invited to share their memories has led to some valuable discussions. They fill gaps in the district's social history and encourage people to document their history and become involved in the Society's activities.

*Peelers Gazette*, **WA Police Society** newsletter, contains an extended article on a memorable police officer, Sergeant Edward Morrow. After war service Morrow joined the police force in 1920. He was sent to the Kimberley and, after service in Broome, took charge of the tiny remote Tableland Police Station, 160km south-east of Roebourne. Then, after a short time in Bunbury, he was transferred to Peak Hill. He was a regular contributor to the *Western Mail* and wrote a book, *Iron in the Fire*, on his war service. Transfer to Bruce Rock provided the environment for completion of another book – *The Law Provides*. On return to Perth he began to write radio plays. He died at the age of 57 in 1953.

The **VOC Historical Society's** August newsletter contains an article by a retired cartographer George Antonijevic concerning a report in the *Leeds Mercury* in April 1834 of T.J. Maslen's exploration of central Australia and discovery of a lost tribe of Dutchmen.

After several years of hard work the **Yilgarn History Museum Southern Cross** has now completed its

Carla Della Bosca mining pavilion display with mounted mining tools, a prospector's camp and a five-head stamper.

\* \* \* \* \*

Don't forget that the **Oral History Association (WA)** runs introductory workshops on oral interviewing as well as workshops on the use of digital recorders. If you are interested in finding out more, contact President Doug Ayre at [history@westnet.com.au](mailto:history@westnet.com.au) or 0430 405 633.

**The General Sir Harry Chauvel Foundation** encourages descendants of Light Horsemen and other interested writers to research and write about their Light Horse ancestor or hero for possible inclusion in an online anthology. Submissions may include articles, fiction and non-fiction and poetry and can be illustrated with drawings, photographs and maps. Closing date for submissions is to be announced. For more information, visit the General Sir Harry Chauvel Foundation at [www.chauvelfoundation.com](http://www.chauvelfoundation.com)

The **Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.** is adopting the name FamilyHistoryWA for marketing purposes and will have that as the Society's public persona. This comes from a review held early 2017 to improve the image of WAGS and to reflect that, as well as doing genealogy, many members further their research into family history.

### Benefits of Copyright Amendment Bill

On 15 June this year, Parliament passed the Copyright Amendment (Disability Access and Other Measures) Bill. The main benefit for historical societies is the end to antiquated provisions in the Australian Copyright Act which meant that unpublished materials were in perpetual copyright. As a result, millions of vintage manuscripts including letters and diaries held by museums, libraries, archives and historical societies, and thousands of theses at universities, where the creator of copyright material cannot be identified, will be simultaneously freed into the public domain on 1 January 2019.

If you hold these types of materials, created 70 years ago or more by an unidentifiable creator (ie before 1 January 1949), at the beginning of 2019 they will be out of copyright. As just one of the uses, you will be free to digitise the documents or images and put them up on your website. Then, on 1 January 2020, such materials created before 1 January 1950 will come out of copyright and so on, year after year.

If the author of the published materials is known, then the material will come out of copyright after the life of the author plus 70 years (similar to published material). However, if the material is made public (ie made available to the public) within 50 years of its making, copyright subsist from the date the material was first made public plus 70 years.

See: [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Bills\\_Legislation/Bills\\_Search\\_Results/Result?bId=r5832](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=r5832)

## Eastern Wheatbelt Tour, August 2017

They may be small in size those Eastern Wheatbelt towns .... but everything else about them is BIG – big ideas...big hearts...big country-style hospitality.

To get there, first enjoy a comfortable train ride. Gliding along in the Prospector as it followed the swiftly flowing Avon river, foam-crested rapids sparkling in the winter sunshine, was a very pleasant start to our journey. Added to that, just to provide background music, on board were two choirs on their way to a Kalgoorlie festival.

We were off on the four-day tour of the Eastern Wheatbelt. Using Merredin as a base, our tour leader and planner Alison Drake-Brockman had arranged to bus us to some of the nearby towns and there was much to see. There were carefully restored, old-fashioned shopping areas, the gold mine at Westonia, the biggest wind farm in the southern hemisphere – and each little town was proudly sponsoring a museum in whatever existing building could be re-invented for the purpose.



Westonia offers good clean beds for 5/-

Koorda's museum, for example, after many such re-inventions, was in the town's old hospital. Its collection of medical instruments, some made by the doctor in charge – for example for extracting teeth – made you glad times have changed. On a more cheery note we loved the corn dollies each of us was given as a memento of our visit.



Hood Penn Museum – which is the wax model?

The Hood-Penn Museum in Westonia is set out in thematic rooms with remarkably realistic mannequins going about their work. A grocer waits to weigh up your flour and tea, a small boy and his mum are having breakfast at their kitchen table, a young woman staffs the garage's front counter, and an explosive is set off with bone-rattling intensity 'underground' – just a few of the memory-boosting displays. You felt you could ask a question or two of the lady in charge of the garage and she would reply.

But then came the biggest surprise of our visit. Just out of Merredin is a training college for Chinese pilots. There is an airfield complete with housing for the Australian-born instructors and accommodation for up to 120 students. These young men spend an intensive six months learning to fly small sophisticated planes then return to China able to pilot the biggest international passenger flights. It's called – wait for it – the China Southern West Australian Flying School (CSWAFS for short). It's been set up by China's biggest airline Chinese Southern Aviation which has poured money into the project. Now that's something we hadn't known about.

Though the terrain is well suited to airports, there are many smooth-topped granite outcrops with gnamma holes and good runoff – life-saving water catchments in this dry country. One of the biggest, the Merredin Peak, was first considered the site for the township and that required a visit. So at dusk we took along some bottles of champers and a few climbed the monolith while others dodged golfers out for a late-afternoon round. There was a stunning sunset and the big rock looked magnificent, bathed in a golden light. But Merredin's fauna has few manners. Right in front of us, two galahs perched on a branch and proceeded to act in quite an embarrassing manner. We forgot the rock. We were voyeurs.



Merredin Peak

The guides and drivers who bussed us around could turn a hand to anything and were always there to tell us about their town. Mick Hayden from the Njaki Njaki clan, told us stories about living on the Aboriginal Reserve near Merredin until he was five with about twenty other families. He described those years as

some of the best times of his life, learning from his grandmother and great-grandmother to be proud of his Nyoongar heritage. Edible berry bushes, spotted yams, all kinds of delicious possibilities such as bobtails and kangaroos provided a perfect larder and he showed us where they were to be found.



Mick shows us bush tucker

Later we discovered that Mick was a fine artist with paintings exhibited at the local school.

Historic and lovingly restored Mangowine homestead (the name refers to the Aboriginal name for 'place of a nest' where mallee fowl are found, not an alcoholic beverage) is definitely worth a visit. It gave us a vivid feel for just how tough life was for the pioneers. About 1875, Charles and Jane Adams with three youngsters trekked there and built the home of mud bricks with a thatched roof.



Mangowine Homestead

Mangowine was close to a track leading to the goldfields and the family provided food, water and lodging for the hopeful miners walking to Kalgoorlie. Eight more children were born: one was to die in action in World War I; another aged 14, was killed when a horse rolled onto him and 19-years-old Amy succumbed to typhoid. Jane was 46 when Charles himself had a heart attack and left her with nine children at home, the youngest only four. Tough times, but she was a resourceful woman and she survived.

Life can be tough for farmers and small country towns when the crops are failing from drought or commodity prices are down. They just get on with it. And everywhere we went we were impressed with what Royalties for Regions and the WA Lotteries Commission have done to revitalise the towns. They are all proud of their restored theatres, new recreation areas including nature and heritage trails, museums, revitalised schools and projects which are drawing everyone together and bringing a new pride into the area.



Merredin's much-loved Cummins Theatre

The Eastern Wheatbelt has much to offer and our group loved experiencing some of its history. Much too soon it was time to go home.



Written by happy participants, Gillian Flecker & Valerie Krantz  
Photographs, David Krantz

## State History Conference Wanneroo 2017

The weekend conference began with a reception on Friday night held in the Gallery of the Wanneroo Museum and Library, the same large and pleasant venue used for Saturday's conference. President of the Wanneroo Historical Society, Bill Marwick and his wife Bernice, welcomed us as did Wanneroo's young and enthusiastic Mayor, Tracey Roberts. Her staff were on hand to assist with the set-up and running of the conference and could not have been more helpful, especially Sooz Dalglish, the community history librarian, and Bryce Kershaw, the cultural development officer. We were entertained by piano-accordionist Lucy D'Olimpio, whose melodies just penetrated the constant buzz of noise as old friends met and new ones were introduced.

The conference opened on Saturday morning with more than a hundred people seated at round tables. Host Bill Marwick reported that this was the third History Conference hosted by Wanneroo – 1994, 2002 and now 2017 – proving that history played an important role in Wanneroo. Mayor Roberts then told us that this was Yellagonga territory – where two language groups met on either side of the large freshwater Lake Joondalup. Nick Drew read the names of the 28 Affiliated Societies and 6 other organisations present, followed by a list of members sadly deceased since our last conference. Bob Nicholson then took over and was a splendid Chair for the day.



Mayor Roberts recounted Wanneroo's beginnings when John Butler entered the area in 1834 looking for his missing cattle. Impressed with the land, he had to wait until it was surveyed in 1838 to take up a grant. In 1842 the first road linked Wanneroo to Perth – though it was just a sandy track. In 1852 the Cockman family settled – and have contributed enormously to the district ever since. Then the market gardeners came, attracted first by the freshwater lake. Irrigation in the 1920s turned Wanneroo into the 'food-bowl of the West' and we saw the following day how true this still is with some of the finest and most efficient food producers still operating near the lake. The district, of 684 square miles and 32 miles of coastline, has grown

at an unprecedented rate to its current 207,000 inhabitants with another 100,000 expected by 2050.

Another speaker, Dan Susac, represented an old Wanneroo industry – producing lime for building purposes. His was a fascinating talk as the Susac Lime Kilns are the only ones left in Australia producing lime without modern technology. The kilns are stacked in arches, using carefully graded limestone rocks (which are cracked to the required size with sledge hammers on site) then packed with wood and burned for 14-15 hours. In that time the wood has to be replenished and Dan maintained that the waves of heat as the wood burned down gave a better quality end product. Once sufficiently burned, the kiln was emptied by hand and the lime bagged so that the kiln could be re-set to fire again the following day. When wet, lime sizzles and burns, so men working in 40° heat could be burned when floating lime powder met sweat! The workers, mostly of Southern European origin, were a close-knit and loyal group who took great pride in their work. Susac Kilns is in the process of being heritage-listed.

After an ample morning tea, vigneron and wine-maker Paul Conti told us about his family's start with a small vineyard in Wanneroo in the late 1920s and the growth of the family business which is flourishing in the present. Then Carol Leigh, who has just retired as Wanneroo's community history librarian, spoke about building up the library collections – books and periodicals, archives, ephemera, photographs and digitised material (including 330 audio tapes) and formulating collection policies for each type. Fortunately will be the historical society who in the future has her advice on digitising records for public access! Bryce Kershaw was next, outlining the four main museums supported by Council: Cockman House (1860); Buckingham House (c1885); Old Wanneroo Schoolhouse (1899); and the regional museum situated under the Gallery in which we were sitting. All four buildings are used in education programs with activities designed to fit the school curriculum.



After lunch we settled down to the business session. Lennie McCall reported on the year's activities of the Royal WA Historical Society and told us that the State has approximately 2500 members of historical societies

### **Congratulations to Murray Districts Historical Society, winners of the 2017 Merit Award**

Murray Districts is a comparatively young society, formed in 2009. By 2012 it had found a permanent home in the Old Schoolmaster's House at Pinjarra. The Society has a high membership, with quite a few members active in volunteering for their local studies library, research, accessioning images, assisting with family histories and developing an oral history program. Activities provided for members include outings to historic sites, guest speakers at monthly meetings and other social activities. The Society has a successful outreach program into the wider community via a webpage and facebook page. Well done Murray Districts!

– a volunteer workforce indeed! We also heard of the current projects of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

The last session of the day consisted of three fascinating reminiscences of local life and enthusiasms – first Bill and Bernice Marwick told their story about founding and running community newspapers under the name Community Newspapers Pty Ltd; then Derek Donegan recalled the joys and dangers of being a telegraph boy in Perth in the 1950s. His vivid memories had the whole room entranced as he described the uniform he wore (including flat cap and cape), the different types of telegrams (greetings, ordinary and deaths!) he delivered, the difficulty of riding a bike around the city with all the tram lines, and his experiences with the madams in Roe Street. The final speaker was Eric Coates who migrated in 2005 aged 62 to join his son and daughter and brought with him a 40-foot container of his passion – his hand-made wooden toys. He showed an enchanted audience how they worked, holding up toy after toy that could wiggle, nod and move levers to work simple machines. He even pulled out a little box containing a judge with his moveable gavel which he then gave as a present to the Chair, retired judge Bob Nicholson.

In summing up the day Bob Nicholson thanked all the speakers for humanising history – showing us the heart behind the facts. As well, we all thanked Fiona Bush who has chaired the Affiliates Committee for a decade and is now stepping down for a well-earned rest. Well, perhaps not, as the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society will keep her busy! Thank you Fiona!

An enjoyable conference dinner was held at Bridgeleigh Reception Centre where we were entertained between courses by Bill Marwick's daughter Donna and grand-daughter Bethany. They sang beautifully and we could see Bill swelling with pride. After a mixed selection of wonderful deserts we left to prepare for the following day when we met at the Wanneroo Showgrounds for bus tours of the area.

Although cloudy the rain held off as we were shown Buckingham house and the old schoolroom. We

travelled along the shores of the Lake to see the recreational areas set aside by Council and were impressed with the swing Rotary had put up that could take wheelchair-bound children so that they too could experience the joys of swinging.

The highlight of the tour was our visit to the Trandos market gardens headquarters. Nick Trandos spoke of how he had built up his large vegetable growing enterprise from an initial 100 acres at Wanneroo run by his family. Nick put in another 200 acres at Gingin and 2000 acres outside Broome! He has changed his products over time, moving out of carrots and cabbages as competition increased into beans and his most successful choice – sweet corn. He is the largest producer of sweet corn in Australia. His empire is shared with his sons and grandsons and now employs the latest technology.



Our last stop was to Cockman House, a visit made more memorable because we had with us a lady who had lived there as a child. At our final lunch stop at the Showgrounds, in the Margaret Cockman Pavilion, Margaret's life story was told. It made a fitting finale to the conference.

Finally the baton was passed from Bill Marwick (nicknamed William of Wanneroo), to the President of the Cervantes Historical Society, Marilyn Gazeley, who will be our host for the 2018 conference.

Thank you Wanneroo for a wonderful conference!

**Pamela Statham Drew**

## Bishop's Palace tour triggers family memories



Isidro and Mary's wedding photo, 1861

Tracking ancestors can be a rewarding or frustrating pastime. The recent tour of the Bishop's Palace and first Catholic Cathedral in Victoria Square, which covered territory familiar to my mother's family, was a bit of each.

Great grandfather Isidro Oriol, a carpenter, joiner and cabinetmaker, came from Catalonia, Spain as a Benedictine artisan with Dom Rosendo Salvado in

1853 to join the mission at New Norcia. Times were hard there and he left the mission and walked to Perth in 1857, to make a living as a church carpenter and furniture maker.

The Benedictine Bishop Serra had just begun work on the Catholic Centre (or Bishop's Palace), to be built by monks and artisans walking daily from the monastery at Subiaco. Isidro may have worked on this project, he certainly visited it as a friend of Father Martin Griver (later Bishop Griver), who also came from Catalonia. Completed in 1860 it was for some years the largest building in Perth. The present imposing building is the

result of various major reconstructions and unfortunately no traces of the original building remain, although the vast dining room, ca 1885 with its gallery of Bishops' portraits, is an impressive sight.

The visit to the original St Mary's Cathedral, now the church of St. John the Evangelist in Victoria Square, was more rewarding. Isidro was married there to Irishwoman Mary Leahy by Father Griver in June 1861. Isidro bought a block nearby – Town Lot Q16, between Goderich Street and Hay Street, which included the family home, Casa Oriol, his workshop, five cottages and two shops and was later part of Bon Marche department store.

Not surprisingly his daughter Mary, who 'told the time by the town hall clock', was married in the new St Mary's Cathedral in 1898. So was my mother Doreen O'Hara in 1933 – it was still their parish church, though now it had a tower and transept, and Mary and family had moved to Forrest Avenue, East Perth.

As children they walked to the local Catholic schools in Victoria Square – grandmother Mary to St Joseph's Convent of Mercy, followed by daughter Doreen, who later moved to Loreto Convent in Adelaide Terrace. Mary's brother Daniel attended St Patricks School, since demolished. 'Uncle Dan', a bachelor and businessman with a passion for boats, was sometimes a boarder at our other stop, the historic Grosvenor Hotel.

We thoroughly enjoyed the lunch there and the talk by Ron Bodycoat on the hotel's history. Alas, the rooms upstairs where Uncle Dan would have stayed had been destroyed by fire a few years ago! Well you can't have everything and altogether it was a rewarding few hours.

**Hilaire Natt**

**Community Officer:** Lesley Burnett  
**Editor *History West*:** Dr Lenore Layman

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