



The Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.)

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL
2017-18

**Presented to the
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 19 September 2018**

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RWAHS
ANNUAL REPORT
Chairperson of Council 2017-18

PATRON

Her Excellency The Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC Governor of Western Australia(until 1 May 2018);
His Excellency The Honourable Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia (1 May 2018 -)

VICE-PATRONS

Hon Mark McGowan MLA Premier
Hon Dr Michael Nahan MLA Leader of the Opposition

OFFICE BEARERS

COUNCIL

President Hon Robert Nicholson AO
Immediate Past President Sally Anne Hasluck OAM
Vice-Presidents Dr Steve Errington and Lennie McCall AM (Chairperson of Council)
Treasurer Alan Abraham CPA, Assistant Treasurer Nick Drew
Councillors: Dr Fiona Bush OAM, Lorraine Clarke (Vice-Chairperson of Council), Nick Drew, Neil Foley, Dr Helen Henderson AM, Jack Honniball, Val Hutch (until April), Dr Lenore Layman, Wendy Lugg (April-), Jan McCahon Marshall, Jill Maughan, Dr Pamela Statham Drew.
Affiliated Societies Representatives: Bill Marwick (Wanneroo & Districts) until October), Graham Grundy (Irwin Districts) November - March) Ann-Marie Meredith (Swan-Guildford) (November-)
President RWAHS Auxiliary Lorraine Tholet
Federation of Australian Historical Societies Delegates:
Hon Robert Nicholson and Dr Helen Henderson.

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS

Hon Architect: Alice Steedman (until December), Maria Gillman (January 2018-)
Hon Auditor: Michael Collins Flinders Financial
Hon Legal Adviser: Denis McLeod
Hon Librarian: Jill Maughan
Hon Artist in Residence: Wendy Lugg

INTRODUCTION

This has been an active and interesting year.

The main problem facing the Society is lack of space. Stirling House has no more room and the Museum and Library are in dire need of storage areas. Investigations have been under way in an effort to locate possible off-site storage, preferably with an associated working space but so far we have not been successful. This highlights the great need for a new building which I will speak of later.

In the meantime the Society's normal activities have continued. During the year the President and Councillors have met on 12 occasions including one special meeting about fundraising ideas.

Each Councillor has participated either as a Convenor or member of a working committee.

Members and the community supported our Annual Second hand Book sale which raised over \$25,000 – a record! The Council is most appreciative of the team work contributed and of this achievement coordinated by Pamela and Nick Drew.

It has been a busy year, working with reduced hours of opening and working time but helped greatly by our part-time staff Community Officer Lesley Burnett and Bookkeeper Glenis Giblett.

There has been an increase in membership, both in the individual category to 774 voting members and the state-wide Affiliated Societies which currently number 77.

We have received positive support from our members generally and talented volunteers on a regular basis.

There has been support from generous donors and assistance from members as volunteers contributed almost 13,000 volunteer hours towards every aspect of the Society's activities, for the year. Of interest has been new younger volunteers updating stock holdings on line for the Bookshop and stock of Archival Products. These stock catalogues are listed on our website.

SERVICES TO MEMBERS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Museum

Committee: Val Hutch (Convenor), Kate Arnautovic (joined September 2017, resigned December 2017), Sue Clarke (March 2018-, previously on Schools' project team) Ros Currie, Audrey Dyer (April 2018-), Ainslie Edel (February 2018-), Snorre Enevoldsen (July 2017-December 2017), Brixley Gale (June 2018-), Graham Grundy (resigned March 2018), Susan Lu (resigned July 2017), Wendy Lugg (Hon. Artist in Residence), Leah McVeigh, Heather Mernick (April, 2018-), Jenny Scott (August 2017-December 2017), Evgenia Tsigel (December 2017-), June Shenton Turner, Lorraine Tholet.

The Committee contributed their expertise and time to assist with the following activities:

'Botanical Wonderland' exhibition at the State Library of WA in conjunction with the WA Museum, the State Library WA and the RWAHS took place from 10th August for 6 weeks until 24 September. RWAHS provided items for 2 display cabinets, our seaweed albums in one and a wildflower display including embroidery and Silver Chain buttons along with photographs of Flower Day. Colourful and informative panels accompanied all the displays

Remembrance Day – 11.11.2017 Open Day - The External exhibition team Kerry Eivers and Wendy Lugg mounted a display of WW1 and WW2 memorabilia and photographic display.

The Happy Museum program. The Society ran a weekend workshop in February 2018 'Spring Clean Your Collection' conducted by Natalie Evans. The workshop mainly centred on Managing your Collection and Policy Development, was well attended by participants from regional museums throughout Western Australia.

Western Land exhibition. Planning began in August for the 'refresh' of the exhibition *Western Land – a Journey of Discovery and Rediscovery* with the necessity to return several items on loan, and fragile items to be replaced.

An Open Day was held in May promoting the new exhibition *Western Land - Stories from our Collection*.

Jennifer Wright Costume Preservation Project: In June 2017 the Society received a generous bequest from the estate of Jennifer Wright a former Museum Volunteer. It was agreed that the Museum costume collection should benefit from this bequest particularly with providing extra storage space for rehousing and photographing the collection. The proposal to lease premises in close proximity to the Society has not been successful to date and is ongoing.

Community Heritage Grant – an application submitted to the National Library of Australia (NLA) in May 2017 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Society's significant costume collection was successful allowing funding of \$4,500. Dr Ian MacLeod and conservationist Rinske Car, with the assistance of Wendy and Ian Lugg and Val Hutch assessed 100 costume items in the collection and the report was completed and submitted to the NLA in March 2018. As the assessment had included several issues discovered during the pest infestation examination in 2016/2017, the items which had been held in quarantine were examined and as no further evidence of larvae or damage was found, these were returned to the collection. Ian MacLeod contacted a specialist dry cleaner, John Doropolous, who successfully cleaned the mould affected items, mainly ecclesiastical robes, pro bono, and together they also examined the fur collection, reporting no pest infestation was evident.

Schools Program School's Project Team was formed as a sub-committee of the Museum committee and met independently, members Natasha Meston (Convenor) Jocelyn Basterfield, Evie Jarman, Sue Clarke and Val Hutch. Freshwater Bay Museum donated quite a supply of objects suitable for outside exhibitions or school visits. The School's Project team continued to meet until December when convenor Natasha Meston moved to Canberra and it has since gone into recess.

Conservation of Framed Photographs A quote was obtained from Preservation Servicesto clean, replace mat and glass, restore the frames and make digital copies for 11 of our framed photographs. Initially five of these have been conserved with funding available from money raised by the RWAHS Auxiliary over the past three years.

Storage. Bill Marwick Member Wanneroo Historical Society kindly offered space at his storage units in Wanneroo, and in December a team transferred the larger items to his units. Special thanks to Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland and their families for assisting with transport and the move.

Publicity/Group Visits

Throughout the year 10 Museum related articles appeared in *History West*

Six group visits were welcomed to the museum. These groups are usually entertained with morning tea.

Two family visits by descendants of Sgt. Anthony Bishop came to view his uniforms which resulted in an interesting article in *History West* submitted by family member, Annette O'Grady.

Research enquiries

Several research enquiries were successful and one resulted in Professor Walter Bloom, President Perth Numismatic Society offering to assist in identifying and recording the medallions, badges and coins in the museum collection.

New donations accepted

A variety of around 20 items including a framed photograph, two artworks, several souvenir or commemorative items, items of clothing including a 1934 wedding dress and acceptance of Professor Martyn Jack Webb's robes to the Order of St John of Jerusalem, plus several interesting general artefacts are among the items accepted and accessioned throughout the year.

Reference Library

Committee: Jill Maughan (Hon Librarian, Convenor), Elise Allcorn, Marlene. Anderson, Evalyn Beaumont, Christine Curry, Trish Fallen, Barbara Harris, Jack Honniball, Val Krantz, Judy McCarthy, Hiliare Natt, Mike Taylor, Pat Thorn, Pamela Whitham

The Library Volunteers work continuously to provide service by attending to visits from members and the wider community for research and supplying copies of images from the collection. Uploading the catalogued stock and collection details to the society's website has continued. An ongoing and urgent priority is storage space, the lack of which is an ever increasing problem As reported in last year's report there is no shelf space left for new books and journals. They are stacked on the Reading Room table which limits the work and space area for researchers, readers and Library Volunteers.

The cataloguing system, *CollectiveAccess* (CA) continues to be difficult to use to access information and input records and data making work very difficult for volunteers and reduces the capacity to deliver timely service.

A set of adjustable steel shelves was installed in the Photographs Room to house Documents (Box Collection records) as existing shelves were full.

A number of groups visited the Society during the year to look at the collections. These included Seniors Groups, a Special Collections Interest Group, representatives of the Denmark Historical Group, a Local History Practitioners Group and a Jewish Archival Group.

The following table shows the number of records in the catalogue at the end of June 2018

Collection (by form)	No. of records in CA at end of June 2018
Books	5576
Journal titles	273
Box collection	3320
Maps	1483
Photographs	20,787
Journal articles	4416

Repair and conservation of material continues. This process has considerably reduced the number of items needing attention.

Use of the library has been promoted by:

- The publication of the "Mystery Photo" competition in *History West*
- Library tours by individuals and groups from the country.
- Publication of Lists of Books added to the Library on the website.
- Publication of articles in *History West* which highlight Library resources
- Contribution to various displays and formal & informal tours of the Society.

Records of almost all of the retrospective collections of library material, except Photographs, have been added to the electronic database. Current acquisitions are added as they are received.

Statistics of library use

Usage	2016-17	2017-18
Visitors - Members	42	33
Visitors – Non-members	106	72
Total visitors	148	105
Enquiries		179
Ready reference enquiries		147
Total enquiries	487	326
Photographs copied	73	112

Summary table of activity for the calendar years 2011 +

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Enquiries	713	845	895		825	823	487	326
Visitors	179	226	269		150	141	148	105
Photographs copied	138	136	340		150	218	73	112
Books added (acquisitions not cataloguing)	196	193	250		192	336		151
Documents added	65	71	54		85	74		12
Maps added	53	48	36		40	66		2
Photographs a	1,397	1,904	2,433		1028	439	475	148

PROMOTING HISTORY

Readings and Publications

Committee: Dr Pamela Statham Drew (Convenor); Ian Berryman, Heather Campbell, Jennie Carter, Patrick Cornish, Dr Steve Errington, Sally Hincks, Jack Honniball, Dr Lenore Layman, and Dr Bob Reece. Ruth Marchant James, (an honorary member).

Items discussed at each meeting include **Bookshop** matters;

History West where we comment briefly on the past issue and the editor Lenore Layman outlines plans for the next couple of issues and goes through our lists for reviews - many of which are done by members of our committee.

Early Days where the editor comments on the papers received. We now have an editorial team rather than one specific editor, Ian Berryman does most copy editing, Pamela is the master cutter and Jennie is the layout designer – who also deals with illustrations- quite a job. It must be recalled that not all speakers go on to produce a paper for *Early Days* and there are times when the Committee has the job of capturing other talks given to the society for inclusion - this year two of the Exhibition talks fall into this category.

Speakers Possible future speakers are discussed including those we might invite and those who have written to the Society offering talks.

Prize matters come up biennially and have been changed from an Essay base to a publication base. This is the first year of the Publication prize.

Our committee supports the soliciting of grants to assist the publication of the Society's journal. We were most grateful when Steve Errington initiated the Rio Tinto grant of \$5000 for our 100th issue.

There are numbers of volunteers who help with *History West*. Articles and reviews are written for the newsletter by volunteers and most of the members of the committee give their time to write on topics assigned by the editor, Lenore Layman. It is worth noting that *History West* could not appear without the regular skilled contributions of volunteer formatter Barry Sullivan and Lesley Burnett.

Activities

The launch of our 100th Issue by the Hon. Bill Marmion MLA on Friday 17 November 2017.

Present at the launch were two representatives from Rio Tinto. Some 50 copies were presented for staff to Alan Smith (Rio Tinto's Director of Strategic Partnerships who was the guest speaker).

Production of our Style Guide by new committee member and layout designer Jennie Carter - Jennie replaces Ian Cameron and so has saved the Society the \$500 a year payment to Ian.

An innovation was the inclusion of a speaker on historical fiction. This was planned as a Special Event and not for a General meeting where speakers are selected for their research. Andrew Hill had offered to speak to us about his new novel and despite disquiet re the focus on fiction, the talk went very well and was much appreciated by those attending.

Worked up the conditions and wording for our new History Lee-Steere /AE Williams Publication Prize. This is a new venture, and by making it open to the wider community will give a greater visibility to the Society.

The RWAHS Auxiliary

Committee: Lorraine Tholet (President and Treasurer), Shirley Aliaga, Kerrie Brown, Allison Fyfe, Jill Paterson, Jennifer Wildy.

The Committee has fostered interest and enjoyment of Western Australian history, with a program of guest speakers who delivered a series of 10 talks on WA's diverse cultural histories. These talks have been well attended and presented at the Citiplace Community Centre, Perth Railway Station with generous support from the City of Perth.

History in the City Program

Speakers and topics were:

July	Graham Seal. These few lines - the lost lives of Myra and William Sykes
August	John Viska. Lost Grottos of Queen's Gardens
Sept	Dr Danielle Brady - Reimagining Perth's Lost Wetlands
Oct	Harjit Singh. Australia's Sikh Heritage - WA's past and present
Nov	David Brown. Perth Tramway Part 2 - after 1914
Dec	Trevor Tough, Outback Graves
March	James de Leo. WA's Military Sites
April	Steve Howell. Emma Mould, Thomas Sweetman and the Bussells
May	Tammy-Rae Schaper and Janet McCallum. Young Australia League
June	Roy Stall. The WA Navy - HMAS Diamantina

RWAHS Auxiliary Fundraiser

A popular Morning Tea presentation by guest speaker, Mrs Jo Pearson, Honorary Life Member and past Honorary Curator of Costume entitled *Tying the Knot. Courtship, marriage and wedding dresses in the Swan River Colony* was so successful it was repeated again in the afternoon with a total of 116 members and visitors attending. The annual fundraising donation to the Society for the year was presented to the President at the Christmas meeting for the Museum Convenor and committee for costs towards the preservation of the collection.

Council is most appreciative of the support it receives from the Auxiliary President and Committee members, the program speakers and office staff for the assistance with promotion and publicity achieved on a regular basis.

Tours, Events, Promotions & Marketing

Committee: Dr Kerry Smith AM (Convenor), Ron Bodycoat AM, Evelyn Botman (until July 2017), Ros Currie (March 18 -), Judy Dill-Macky, Ally Drake-Brockman, Nick Drew, Kerry Eivers.

With the aim to promote the enjoyment of WA history through an annual program of ongoing activities and events, the following program was popular and well attended.

Date	History Out and About Program
17 July 2017	Catholic Cathedral and Bishop's Palace Visit
28 July 2017	Ron Bodycoat -Talk on <i>Old buildings - those forgotten and those never built</i>
18-21 August 2017	Merredin and Koorda by the train. Koorda Historical Society anniversary 2017
8-10 Sept 2017	Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies. Host Wanneroo
17 Sept 2017 - Sunday	Walk with Ron Bodycoat Heritage Architect; Cathedral Square, Treasury Building and the new Perth City Library;
23-30 Sept 2017	Perth Royal Show Exhibition of historical photographs and a Bookshop selection
15 October 2017	Government House Open Day. Information Desk.
16 October 2017	Fairbridge Farm: Day bus tour with Elite Tours –
22 October 2017	Mt Claremont Primary School Centenary: exhibition
11 November 2017	Remembrance Day: Exhibition and speaker Melford Roe
8 December 2017	Members Christmas Party hosted by The Hon David and Mrs Marie-Louise Wordsworth
2 February 2018	Volunteers Thank you event
16 March 2018	Gallop House presentation
6 May 2018	RWAHS Open Day
14 May 2018	Guildford: Day tour
22 May 2018	Volunteering WA community event Dalkeith Hall
9 June 2018	West Perth Walking Tour

Fundraising Events The major fundraiser was the Annual Giant Secondhand Book Sale and an Auction kindly conducted by Peter Holmes of Celebrity Auctions was popular and well supported by members and the wider community.

An experienced and knowledgeable team of volunteers, lead by Pamela and Nick Drew, and a good promotion campaign all helped to achieve a fundraising record of more than \$25,000.

Bookshop of WA history titles and Archival Products Volunteer Bookshop Manager, Glenda Bye played a significant role in promoting and building the stock variety and it was with regret that Council accepted her resignation in March. Appreciation is expressed to Bookshop volunteers during the year, namely; John Burgess Archival Products Officer, Sue Clarke, Anne Harse, Marie-Francoise Scott, Michelle Urban. For their special help with off site sales appreciation is recorded to Pamela and Nick Drew and Kerry Eivers.

While there has been a decline in personal sales from the community and members during the year there has been a growth in online sales. The two *Booked in for a Cuppa* events had high sales on the day. Other events included the external exhibitions, the State Heritage and History Conference and the Royal Show.

Archival Products. Volunteer Officer John Burgess completed an inventory stocktake at the start of the 2017/8 financial year and established a simple sales and inventory management system. It was in February that a workable compromise was up and running. While there has been a decline in activity again as in the previous financial year, the aim is to sustain and grow a valuable Archival Products supply service for our members and the wider community. There is potential to build this service as the Society is in the enviable position of being the sole supplier of archival products located in WA. There is potential to rationalise our product catalogue and promote our products on line and through information sessions to ensure that the ordering processes better align with the integration with the Bookshop.

STRATEGIC NETWORKS

Affiliated Societies Committee: Convenor Dr Fiona Bush OAM (Mundaring & Hills)(July –September); Convenor, Ann-Marie Meredith (Swan–Guildford) September-; Nick Drew (RWAHS Council Representative); Jenny Edgecombe (Toodyay); Marilyn Gazeley (Cervantes); Graham Grundy (Irwin Districts); Susan Hall (Armadale Local Studies Library); Logan Howlett (Cockburn); Bill Marwick (Wanneroo & Districts) until October), Lynne O'Hara (South Perth) September; Gillian O'Mara (Wanneroo); Ellen Parrick(Brookton); Diane Pope (Bindoon). Ian Wilson (Manjimup) until November; Chairperson of Council

Council and the membership record its gratitude to Fiona Bush and elected her as a Honorary Life Member for her significant contribution to the work of the Council and as Convenor of the Affiliated Societies committee for the past 10 years.

The committee's key achievements included an updated conference guidelines and objectives; placed the model Rules on our website to assist historical societies to comply with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 and currently is developing an Affiliated Societies Collections Code of Standards of Conduct document.

The 2017 RWAHS Affiliated Societies' State History Conference was hosted by Wanneroo and Districts Historical Society.

The winner of the 2017 Merit Award was Murray Districts Historical Society. Murray Districts, formed in 2009 and by 2012 had a permanent home in the Old Schoolmaster's House at Pinjarra. The Murray Districts has a high membership, with members active in volunteering in local studies library, research, accessioning images, assisting with family histories and developing an oral history program. Activities are provided for members, such as outings to historic sites, guest speakers at their monthly meetings and other social activities. They have a good outreach program into the wider community via their webpage and Facebook page.

Activities included assistance with the planning of the 2017 Conference in Wanneroo and the 2018 Cervantes Conference. Planning of the 2019 Conference to be hosted by South Perth Historical Society commenced. The clarification of the process for societies wishing to host future State History conferences was achieved..

The committee supported the submission of concern over funding cuts for the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, with a successful outcome.

A grant was applied for and obtained from Lotterywest for Conference Delegates to attend the Annual State History Conferences of Affiliated Societies at Cervantes 2018, South Perth 2020 and Denmark in 2021.

STRATEGIC NETWORKS

The Society networks with the following organisations

- Art Gallery of Western Australia

- Australian-Irish Heritage Association of Western Australia (Inc)

- Embroiderers' Guild of Western Australia (Inc)

- Federation of Australian Historical Societies (Inc)

The Society's delegates to the Federation of Australian Historical Societies Hon. Robert Nicholson and Dr Helen Henderson, who is also Hon Secretary, have continued to play an important role in its activities as did Nick Drew, the Hon. Treasurer. They participated regularly in teleconferences and attended the Annual General Meeting for 2016-2017 in Brisbane.

- Friends of Battye Library (Inc)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew and Treasurer Nick Drew

- History Council of Western Australia (Inc)

Dr Pamela Statham Drew and Nick Drew were elected to the committee. Nick Drew as Treasurer reporting regularly to the Society's Council. Councillor Neil Foley joined the committee.

- Museums Australia WA (MAWA)

Membership was maintained with Museums Australia. The Society's 4 year partnership with MAWA and the WA Museum in Lotterywest's grant of \$519,000 to the *Remembering Them- a Centenary of Service* project continued. Its aim is to enable 32 museums and historical societies in regional areas to hold exhibitions during 2014-18. As a group participant the RWAHS is working with regional partners and to date has provided research assistance for enquiries and reviews with a total of now 32 regional centres across the State.

- National Archives of Australia (Perth)

Dr Kerry Smith, Convenor Tours, Events, Marketing and Promotion, committee, represented the Society's Council as a member of the NAA (Perth) Consultative Forum

- The National Trust of Australia (WA)

Dr Steve Errington continued his role as the Council's representative on the Council of the National Trust of Australia (WA) and provided regular reports.

In partnership with the National Trust WA and the City of Perth the Annual Pioneers Memorial Service was held in St Bartholomew's Church East Perth Cemeteries on Sunday 3 June commemorating the Carr and Guilfoyle families

- Nedlands City Council & Volunteering WA

Services, including a waiving of rates from the City were appreciated. Partnership with the City of Nedlands' Volunteer Coordinator Robyn Forrest has resulted in several placements at the Society during the year.

The Society supported the incorporation of the City's municipal inventory listings as well as the National Trust WA classifications into the City of Nedlands draft Local Planning Scheme no 3; welcomed an invitation to their Volunteering Expo at Dalkeith Hall in May. The Society maintained its subscription to Volunteering WA. The Society's Community Officer, Lesley Burnett, has managed the liaison with VWA and trained the front of office staff.

- Royal Agricultural Society of WA (Inc)

sponsorship of display space in the Centenary Pavilion for our heritage photographic display at the Royal Show in 2017 attracted an interested crowd.

- State Heritage Office

State register recommendations are submitted and considered on a regular basis by Councillors at the monthly Council meetings

- State Library of Western Australia

Sponsorship through a WA Department of Culture and the Arts, Memorandum of Understanding, together with the WA Museum and this Society held a successful exhibition *Botanical Wonderland* 10 August until 24 September

- Western Australian Genealogical Society (Inc)

Reciprocal arrangements continued for exchanges of regular publications. A series of joint talks organised by the Council and the WA Genealogical Society to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the last convict transport, the *Hougoumont*, were well attended.

ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Membership

At the end of the financial year the membership in various categories increased to a total of 774 voting members (754 in 2016/17)

Volunteer hours this year were 12,913, an increase of a 1,000 on last years 11,937 recorded hours.

New Members' Liaison, Christine Foulkes Taylor conducted a number of New Members' Tours and Morning Tea at Stirling House which included an introduction to the Reference Library, Museum, Commercial Book Shop and Archival Products range.

Management & Governance

We utilised advice from the company EmploySURE to offer updated staff employment contracts;

Over 20 people from across the State attended a *Skills Development Program* held by the RWAHS;

The Special Collections Interest Groups' Librarians and Archivists visited the Society's Museum and Library in early February

Staff: Community Officer, Lesley Burnett is employed; Monday - Thursday 10.00am to 4pm (total of 24 hours per week).

Bookkeeper, Glenis Giblett is employed Thursday and Friday 10.00am to 4pm total of 12 hours per week.

Accommodation

RWAHS History West Community Centre Planning committee

Committee: Chair Sally Anne Hasluck (Immediate Past President) Planning Committee Members: Robert Nicholson, President, Nick Drew, Assistant Treasurer

Lorraine Clarke, Vice- Chairperson of Council

Neil Foley, member (attended upon request with respect to planning and Nedlands City Council) Dr Ian MacLeod, Lennie McCall, Chairperson of Council; Richard Offen, Dr John Shepherd, Kevin Skipworth

During the year following the registration of *History West* as the business name of the Society the proposed Community History Centre was renamed to be the 'History West Community Centre' or HWCC

Committees: Planning; sub-committee Building and Finance; sub-committee Fundraising events

During 2017/18 following the completion of key tasks the above sub-committees merged into the overall Planning Committee.

External meetings

A meeting was held with Lotterywest re planning for the future and the grant procedures. The recent changes to the grants system mean that we are able to apply for a grant for a Feasibility Study and Business Plan based on the concept drawings. We are also able to apply for assistance with the management of a Fundraising Campaign.

Talks were held with the University of WA with respect to our planning process and accommodation needs.

There have been no substantial costs during the year.

Donations to HWCC Building Fund \$40,000 from members

A future Pledge Campaign within the membership is planned.

The committee has continued to deliberate on both the planning of a new building and the raising of sufficient funds (\$6m) before having a public campaign to raise \$10m. This has required us to give briefings and presentations to high level individuals. These talks continue. Foundations have been researched and many letters sent. A brochure illustrating a conceptual design for the new building was provided pro-bono by Chaney Architecture and has been most useful with the initial contacts we have pursued. Policy papers on 'Naming Recognition Opportunities' have been written and passed by Council. There is a list of potential donors awaiting a fundraising campaign once a Chair and members of such a committee is formed. A public campaign requires administrative support and this is not yet in place. We have had meetings with many individuals who have been generous with their advice. A *Survey Monkey* was conducted with our Affiliate members to comment on their needs with respect to our future. The Chair of Committee attended a Creative Partnerships Australia Master Fundraising Class that will enable the committee to review our present fundraising strategy and the messages in our donor briefing documents. We have to know 'who we are' and 'what we mean to Western Australia'.

Disaster Preparedness Planning

COMMITTEE: Margaret Medcalf (Convenor) Val Hutch, Jill Maughan, Lennie McCall, Hon Architect Alice Steedman (until Feb 2018); Hon Architect Maria Gillman (from May 2018), John Urban.

The committee continued to monitor the building and the safety of its contents. There has been a change in the position of Honorary Architect. For the past six years we have been grateful for the input of Alice Steedman in this office but she has now moved to Sydney and her position has been taken by Maria Gillman who has made a considerable input since joining the Committee in May. Unfortunately the deteriorating building requires constant monitoring to maintain it to the current building standard. In this regard the main switchboard and fire alarms have been upgraded and fire doors installed at the main exits.

Technology

Committee: Dr Helen Henderson (Convenor), Jag Atrie (appointed May 2018), Evalyn Beaumont, *CollectiveAccess/Website* Administrators, Lorraine Clarke, Graham Grundy (resigned March 2018), Jill Maughan (Hon. Librarian).

The GAIA Resources' Website Project contract was completed in September 2016 but due to persistent problems with some aspects of the operation of *CollectiveAccess*, Dr Henderson, in consultation with the Library and Museum users, compiled a list of the difficulties being experienced and were discussed with Piers Higgs, Managing Director, GAIA Resources. The website has been updated by Lorraine Clarke when required. Over 2017/2018 there has been an average of 124 people visiting the website per day. This gives an average of 3,720 visits per month which is significantly higher than the average of 968 visits per month for 1 January 2017 when automatic recording began to 30 June 2017. The local area network has been maintained and all technical problems have been addressed speedily by IQ PC Services. Software licenses were renewed. The electronic back-up system policy for our on-site server for administration databases is being properly implemented by Community Officer, Lesley Burnett. The Society's collections databases are being stored on Amazon Internet Services servers to increase the protection of our very valuable historical records and to enable relevant record data to be accessed by the public and by authorised Society users via the website.

The audio system and the overhead projector systems have continued to operate efficiently thanks to Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland who organised the purchase of a new overhead projector

Community Officer, Lesley Burnett and Volunteer, James Cassidy have worked together to maintain and update the Society's Facebook page. Their much appreciated work continues to increase the Society's media 'footprint' within the community.

DONATIONS/GRANTS/SPONSORSHIP

Donations

Council and the Museum and Library committees record their appreciation to all donors including donations to the Society's tax deductible *RWAHS Museum & Library Fund* and the *RWAHS Museum & Library Fund Building Project Fund*.

Forrest papers donation. A collection of papers of the Forrest and North families has been given to the Society by The Hon Justice Nicholas Paul Hasluck AM QC from the Estate of his late father Sir Paul Hasluck.

Grants

- WA Department of Culture and the Arts : The Botanical Wonderland Exhibition was held at the State Library in August –September , assisted by the Department of Culture and a Arts Memorandum of Understanding program signed between the RWAHS , the WA Museum and the State Library of WA.
- The National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Costume Collection was acquitted in April 2018.
- Lotterywest RWAHS Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies: a grant program for delegates outside the metro area to apply for assistance to attend each of the next three year conferences of the *RWAHS State History conference of Affiliated Societies*, 2018 Cervantes, 2019 South Perth, 2020 Denmark.
- In June a Galleries Libraries and Museums Peak Technology Grant for a digital Access to Collections program was submitted to Museums Australia.

Sponsorship

The City of Nedlands: A range of Council services

The City of Perth Pioneers Memorial Service 2018 .The 64th Annual Pioneers Memorial Service held in St Bartholomew's Church East Perth

The City of Perth RWAHS Auxiliary 's *History in the City* program venue CitiPlace

iPrint Plus Osborne Park: for special flyers, base stock and colour cover for *History West* newsletter, including a selection of production cost reductions for *Early Days* Journal.

Appreciation

On behalf of Councillors and Convenors of Committee , I wish to acknowledge with gratitude

- the dedication and efficiency of the staff, Lesley Burnett Community Officer and Glenis Giblett Accounts Officer /Bookkeeper

- the generous work of all Volunteers and Honorary Advisers- contributions by and financial support from members with their subscriptions , donations and participation in the Society's activities.

In conclusion

My personal thanks to the President Robert Nicholson whose leadership, knowledge and wise advice has been invaluable to this Council and history organisation both in this State and nationally; to The Immediate Past President Sally Anne Hasluck for her leadership in the development and planning of the proposed new History West Community Centre; to the Executive Committee and to all my Council colleagues for their leadership and fellowship. Their continued support in implementing policies, managing the finances and advancing the goals of the Society was valued greatly.

On behalf of Council, to everyone who has guided, implemented and promoted the Society's policies and activities during the year please accept our sincere gratitude.

Lennie McCall Chairperson of Council

19 September 2018