



HISTORY WEST

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

April 2019

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are invited to attend this meeting to be held at 5pm before the General Meeting on Wednesday 15 May for the purpose of considering amendments to the Society's constitution. The President will chair the meeting. See flyer in this issue for further details.

GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting at Stirling House is on Wednesday 17 April at 6pm when Dr Geoff Clarke will present a paper on 'Country solo general medical practice in 1966'. Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.



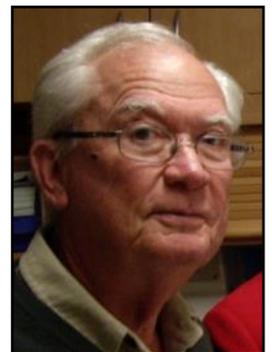
2012.8 Cunderdin Hospital - Normah Fox collection, Cunderdin Museum

What was it like to work in a solo country general medical practice in 1966? I was two years post-graduation, as keen as mustard and about to find out. Being the only doctor in the town meant professional isolation. The compensations were superb: experienced country nurses and a community where members supported each other to an extent I had not previously experienced.

In 1966 there was not the emphasis on preventive medicine that forms such a large part of general medical practice today. Virtually every patient who presented to me in Cunderdin and Meckering had a real medical problem that needed to be diagnosed and treated. This contrasted markedly with my experience back then undertaking locums in Perth's suburbs. In Cunderdin serious emergencies had to be dealt with on the moment

and on the spot. The majority of cases were far from life threatening, though many were quite testing. However, there were some light-hearted moments and some situations which arose, I would never have anticipated.

Geoff Clarke AM; MBBS (WA); DA, RCP, RCS; FFARCS; FANZCA; FCICM was born in Midland in 1940. His secondary education included six years at Scotch College and undergraduate medical training at UWA, winning the surgical prize in his final year. Postgraduate anaesthetic training included three years in the UK, the last as Research Fellow, Dept Surgery, University of Glasgow. As a 29 year old he was appointed Head of the Intensive Care Unit Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) and held this post for 33 years until his retirement. Geoff was first and foremost a clinician though also an educationalist. He was among the Australian pioneers of multidisciplinary intensive care medicine and was the first Australian President of the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society. He has received many awards and has numerous medical publications, including *A History of the Intensive Care Unit within the Family of Royal Perth Hospital*.



RWAHS giant second hand Book Sale

Visit the Society this coming weekend - Saturday 6 (starting at 8.30am) and Sunday 7 April - and pick up some wonderful reading.

There is so much choice for everyone, children and adults - history books galore, including many West Australian writings, fiction and non-fiction, paperbacks and hardbacks, serials, reference works, maps, pamphlets.

Thousands of books at give-away prices!

Pay us a visit, nab some bargains and support your Society.

Council News

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

• welcomed new members – Helen Cox, Jane Muir, Ellen Parrick, Rosemary Ritorto, Graham Smith, Maggie Speak

- supported the attendance of President Bob Nicholson and Councillors Lorraine Clarke and Helen Henderson to represent the Society at the WA State Heritage & History Conference on 29 & 30 April
- agreed to a workshop facilitated by Dr Lynn Allen to advance the process of succession planning
- endorsed in principle the proposed changes to the RWAHS Constitution to bring it into line with the 2015 Associations Incorporation Act
- thanked the Constitutional Sub-committee – Bob Nicholson, Helen Henderson and the Executive – for their work
- welcomed the report of the second hand book sale co-ordinators Pamela and Nick Drew about the generous donations of books for the 6 and 7 April sale, and recently the collection from the family of the late Judith Swain of Albany
- welcomed members' contribution of approximately 1100 hours of voluntary work in February
- ended its meeting early to facilitate a gathering of past presidents to re-acquaint them with the Society's ongoing activities.

Lennie McCall Chairperson

History in the City

Our 2019 programme began with a talk by **Roy Stall** on **The replica ship *Duyfken* – a story of exploration and discovery, wars and spices**. The original *Duyfken* belonged to the Age of Discovery, from the 14th century to the 17th century, when ships from the Dutch East India Company (VOC) sailed the seas searching for new trade routes and valuable spices. In 1606 the Dutch East India Company sent the *Duyfken*, captained by Willem Janszoon, in search of 'south and east lands' beyond the furthest reaches of their known world. Leaving from Banda (Indonesia), *Duyfken* reached Cape York Peninsula and charted 300 km of the coast. This is the first historically recorded voyage to Australia. The *Duyfken* now anchored in WA is a replica of the original *Duyfken*. Life on these ships was very primitive. Roy told us of the beginnings of many of our current day expressions, such as 'a loose cannon', 'learn the ropes', 'doesn't have a clue'.

History in the City is held on the first Wednesday of each month. Join us at 2pm at the Citiplace Community Centre on Perth Railway Concourse. Donation \$5 entry with afternoon tea. All Welcome. Our speaker on 3 April will be **Lee Tate – Amazing facts about WA**, and on 1 May, **David Whiteford – Interesting facts from the State Records Office**.

Lorraine Tholet

Secondhand book sale - thank you to members

This year the Society's book sale has been fortunate to receive the best part of the late Dr Geoffrey Lilburne's large library. Dr Lilburne was an obstetrician and gynaecologist who delivered many of the present inhabitants of the western suburbs, and was also an avid book lover. Indeed his son David grew up to make a career of buying and selling books and old maps. Dr Lilburne was President of our Society from 1995 to 1997 and at one stage Chairman of the UWA Press Board. His deep interest in history, of Australia and elsewhere, in birds and in art, is evident in the many beautiful books that have been donated. Some of his books have little Western Australian material, and these, together with a few books that relate purely to Victoria or NSW, will be offered for sale online to give us the widest possible market. This will be in addition to the usual auction we hold at the secondhand book sale itself.

We cannot thank Mrs Mary Lilburne and David enough for their very kind gesture in donating so many fine books to the Society for the sale.

Other downsizing and de-cluttering donors have also given us beautiful books. David McIntyre, for example, has donated numbers of pristine folio reprints. Martin Turner delivered a generous donation of books from June and Geoff Turner's house, and Val Hutch gave us many of her books on gardening – especially on raising orchids – as well as boxes of novels. Our intrepid editor and councillor, Lenore Layman, has donated many boxes of books including a considerable number of hefty biographies of Australian politicians and prime ministers. Councillor Fiona Bush has handed us a set of Harry Potter books that will delight young teenagers.

So please make sure you have **the 6th and 7th of April** marked in your diaries as 2019 is shaping up to be a bumper booksale year.

Past President Dr G Neil Cumpston - In Remembrance

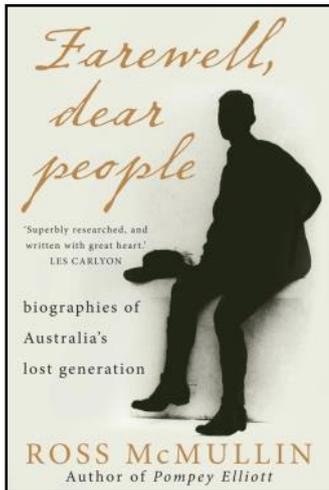
Dr Cumpston MB BS FRACP (1935-2019) is remembered with appreciation by the Society as a Councillor in the 1970s and President (1974-1975). He was a busy cardiologist, former head of the Department of Cardiology at Royal Perth Hospital and a leader of the introduction of interventional coronary cardiology in Western Australia.

We are grateful that the Royal WA Historical Society was among his other interests. He also played veterans' hockey and enjoyed sailing, at which he represented Australia. He was a keen cyclist to his last days.

We greatly valued his interest in history and in the work of the Society, and remember his support with gratitude.

Community Talk

Farewell Dear People by Dr Ross McMullin



Over from the east for the Writers' Festival, Ross McMullin was keen to make the most of his visit with community talks and we were keen to hear about his World War I research. Thus it was that his audience was introduced to some of the forgotten Australians who volunteered in the 1st AIF and died in that terrible war.

These were sad and moving personal stories telling of a small number of talented young men who died before they could realise their potential - for instance, Sydneysider and brilliant soldier Tom Elliott whose death at Fromelles impacted so heavily on his mother Mary and girlfriend Alice; and Victorian Clunes Mathison, a medical scientist of great promise who was killed at Helles on Gallipoli. And there were others. All these stories interested the audience.

Then attention turned to three West Australians - the brothers Wilfred and Gresley Harper, and Phipps Turnbull. The Harper boys are still present in the public mind because the Harper family's residence at Woodbridge in Guildford is a prominent National Trust house open to the public where their family stories are told. Phipps Turnbull, on the other hand, has I think disappeared completely from public memory.

Phipps' family ran Lilburn station east of Esperance and he came to Perth to Hale School for his education. He excelled academically and became WA's fourth Rhodes Scholar, then gaining 1st class honours in jurisprudence at Oxford. He was called to the London bar before returning to Perth to join the legal firm of Parker & Parker. The promise of a stellar legal career was ended when he volunteered in the 10th Light Horse at war's outbreak, as did Wilf and Gres Harper. Phipps died in the Nek offensive on Gallipoli in 1915. We were all moved by these particular stories of young men who died so young - as we are always affected by reminders of the dreadful toll of death and injury exacted by this terrible war.

Many of the audience stayed to talk to Ross about his stories and his research, and about their own ancestors who had also fought in that war. Our volunteers did a splendid job in dispensing tea, coffee and biscuits - altogether the Society's Community Talks program was off to an excellent start.

Members' research projects - part 2

Gena Culley: I am researching 'Innerhadden' which was my family home in Mosman Park from 1946 to 1960. Before that it was the home of my grandfather, Robert Bunning and his family of seven children. The original size of the block was 4-6 acres. Built in 1895 and purchased by my grandfather in 1908, a second storey was added sometime later. On the death of Robert's second wife, my parents bought the house and that is where I grew up until they sold it to St Hilda's in 1960. Regrettably, St Hilda's demolished the house for more school buildings in 1982. I have been studying Titles and Transfer of Land documents and trying to make sense of the facts and figures, not my strong point. Hopefully, I will complete the work shortly.

Hilaire Natt: I am working on a biography of my great grandfather, Isidro Oriol, who came from Barcelona in 1853 with Bishop Salvado. He remained with the Benedictine community as a postulant, carpenter and cabinetmaker for over three years before leaving in 1857 to become a cabinet maker and property owner in Perth. My research includes some background information on the family in Spain, information on the activities of Salvado's group of Benedictine recruits during the six months before their departure from Cadiz on the ship *John Panter*, and Isidro's life and work during his time with the Benedictines, drawing on correspondence from the New Norcia archives. For details of his family life and working career in Perth up to the time of his death in 1912 I have drawn on family memories and the amazing resources of Trove and the NLA newspapers. Although there are some gaps it is coming together as an interesting slice of WA history.

Jan Richardson: I am writing a biography of Don McLeod and hope to answer the many questions about his motivation and his actions. Don McLeod was a controversial man involved in the Pilbara Aboriginal pastoral workers' strike of 1946-1949. I undertook a doctorate at Monash University and graduated in 2016 before relocating to Darwin where I am now preparing to write. I'm drawing on my research and the contributions of many generous people in Perth who knew or had something to do with McLeod.

Rachel Roe: I am currently researching Thomas Martin Dann and his wife Elizabeth Grace Dann who arrived on the *Oriana* with ten children at Fremantle in 1886 from Kent. One of these children was my grandmother. I am thoroughly enjoying researching these people in the context of the social fabric and time period, learning heaps as I progress. Three of the sons were in World War 1 (one was also in the Boer War). My intention is to publish as a book.

Museum News Bishop Hale — memorabilia



A plank of wood: First time visitors to our Western Land exhibition at Stirling House will be curious about the provenance of a large plank of wood displayed in the introductory case. The inscription on the wood, carved in a distinctive copperplate script, indicates that it was sent to The Right Rev Bishop of Perth, Swan River, Western Australia. The timber is thought to have been part of a packing crate or trunk and was found beneath Bishop’s House in St George’s Terrace during excavations carried out in 1965. The then Archbishop of Perth presented it to the Society in 1969.

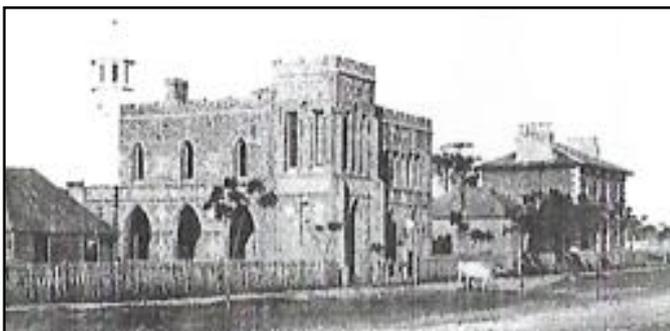
Although there is no date visible on the plank it has been suggested that the nails used to assemble the trunk are typical of those used at the time of Bishop Matthew Blagden Hale’s residency from 1857 to 1875, and that therefore the crate or trunk probably contained items of the Bishop’s household or personal effects or were intended for the Bishop’s use, and shipped to him.

A photograph: A small framed photograph of Bishop Hale, dated 1891, has recently been restored and is also on display.



Bishop Hale

Sabina Hale



The Cloisters

Still Hale and Hearty: Bishop Hale - Father Ted Doncaster’s Community Talk

Fr Ted drew a large crowd to his morning talk — he commented that he wasn’t used to having people in the front pews! Everyone enjoyed the journey he took us on through the life of ‘the good bishop’.

The Revd Mathew Bragden Hale (1811-1895) first came to Australia in 1850 as a missionary to Aboriginal people in South Australia, establishing a mission at Poonindie on the tip of the Eyre Peninsula at the invitation of Bishop Short of Adelaide. At that point the Adelaide diocese included WA where there were only six Anglican priests and nine churches. A trip to the west by Short and Hale led to Hale meeting his second wife Sabina Molloy. As well as three children from his first marriage, Hale had ten more children with Sabina although sadly four died in infancy. He built Bishop House in St Georges Terrace for them at his own expense after he became the first bishop of Western Australia in 1857.

Hale was a popular and successful bishop who doubled the number of clergy in the colony and consecrated 24 new churches. At a time when travel was by horseback he moved around his diocese, including seven trips all the way to Geraldton. He was keen to introduce secondary education to the colony and purchased the Cloisters for a boys' college known as 'the Bishop's School' but it lasted only until 1872. He also attempted to establish a girls' boarding school. In both cases, however, he found almost no support among colonists. Unhappy at colonists’ ‘indifference’ to the sufferings of Aboriginal people, he pursued his commitment to missionary efforts and strongly supported the work of Anne and Henry Camfield in their Albany mission to educate Aboriginal children; in fact he planned to take over from them but was dissuaded. He became bishop of Brisbane in 1875 before retiring to England in 1885. There he continued to promote the Church's mission to Aboriginal people in his writings.

He seems to have truly been ‘the good bishop’.

Our thanks to Richard Offen for presiding and entertaining us. Thanks also to Nick Drew for a masterly handling of the Powerpoint presentation, to Pamela Statham Drew for formatting the 38 photographs which Fr Ted used, and to the hard-working volunteers who staffed the tea and coffee urn.



morning tea

A Library query

When the Kookaburra laughs...

'Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree, Merry, merry king of the bush is he, Laugh kookaburra laugh kookaburra, Gay his life must be'. So goes the popular Aussie nursery song but, as a 't'othersider', the merry bird has always had a mixed reception in Western Australia.

'Were Kookaburras introduced into WA by the government?' This query sent the library team hunting for the truth.

The *Daily News* of 6 May 1898 reported:

There are no laughing jackasses in Western Australia but the value of the typical Australian bird has been recognised by the Acclimatisation Society which has imported 30 from Victoria for breeding purposes. They arrived in good order in the *Rockton* yesterday and residents near the zoo in South Perth have already been considerably astonished at the unusual laughter in that neighbourhood. The jackass is a great insectivorous bird and now that cultivation is extending it would be valuable in farming districts. He is also a mortal enemy of snakes...



The Acclimatisation Society (or Animal and Bird Acclimatisation Committee of WA) was one of many voluntary associations in the 19th and early 20th centuries that encouraged the introduction of non-native species in the hope they would multiply and enrich the flora and fauna of the region. As well as introducing the kookaburra, the Association began stocking the rivers of the southwest with cod and perch.

Founded in July 1896, the Committee took up the idea of establishing a Zoological Garden in Perth and in February 1897 the President J W Hackett invited Albert Le Souef, Director of the Melbourne Zoological Gardens, to select a site. Subsequently the Committee successfully requested land and funding from the government and Mr Le Souef's son Ernest, a veterinarian who had worked with his father in Melbourne, was appointed Director. He was also Secretary of the Assimilation Association and an enthusiastic supporter of the kookaburra.

However it soon became evident that the new arrival, while popular, was a mixed blessing as its diet included not only snakes but also lizards and small, insect-eating native birds as well as the settlers' chickens and ducks. Le Souef admitted he had released many from the

South Perth zoo, including 50 during a royal visit by the Duke of York in 1900, released at the Duke's request.

Ludwig Glauert, Curator at the WA Museum, was concerned that the kookaburra was upsetting the balance of nature in the State. With the disappearance of native, insect-eating birds, he argued, insects could proliferate and become an agricultural problem. He concluded it is 'an act of supreme folly to liberate a strange bird or other creature in our State until we are sure it will do no harm' (*The Naturalist, Western Mail, 29 August 1929*).



Le Soeuf defended the kookaburra and so the debate continued, fuelled by Glauert's assertion that the bird was 'not worthy of protection'. While agreeing that 'no true Australian... does not appreciate the contagious laughter of the bird', nature columnist 'Senex' pointed out in the *Sunday Times* in May 1933, that 'it is more proficient as a destroyer of small birds' than snakes. Other critics included Government Entomologist C F H Jenkins who deplored the kookaburras' attacks on native fauna.

So the answer to the question 'Were kookaburras introduced into WA by the government?' seems to be 'Indirectly yes'. While the Acclimatisation Society was a voluntary organisation with influential members, it was intimately linked to the South Perth Zoo, a government-funded body which imported numerous kookaburras from Victoria.

Hilaire Natt and Jill Maughan

Mystery Photo

Councillor Lorraine Clarke bought this photograph at an Antique Fair and she is now on the hunt to learn more about it. If you have any information at all, please email Lorraine at - lorraine@swangenealogy.com.au



Affiliates & other news

Irwin Districts Historical Society is working to save the district's former Bond Store (dating from 1894) and subsequently converted to community use as the Denison Hall. The Society has passed a resolution supporting its retention for public use and, in particular, its conversion to a fishing museum, which would be a unique attraction on the west coast.

Maritime Heritage Association's journal contains a variety of stories - an amusing one about the history of pedal-powered water craft, a dramatic account of the loss of the *SS Georgette* in 1873, and a colourful history of C B Norton (1886-1968), a marine artist.

Maylands Historical & Peninsula Association reports that research is currently underway on one of Maylands early manufactories - Mills Pottery. Before World War I this pottery was the largest in Perth, employing 60 men and producing all the sewerage pipes which began the deep sewerage system in the city. MHPA's John McLennan is undertaking the work, so if you have any information please contact him. There is also a fascinating account of the life and work of Edgar Steitz, Maylands artist and sculptor.

Melville History Society reports a successful excursion late last year to Burswood Park. There, members were taken on a guided tour along the heritage trail where life-sized bronze sculptures and tableaux told parts of WA's history. It sounds like an interesting excursion close to the CBD.

Rockingham District Historical Society has two major birthdays this year - Rockingham Museum's 40th birthday and the 50th birthday of the Society itself. Preparations are under way.

Walpole Nornalup and District Historical Society reminds us of the days of manual telephone exchanges. The last manual exchange in the district was situated at Jarrah Glen and manned by Charlie Underhill. It lasted until 1982 when it was replaced by the STD network. Charlie was fond of his switchboard and so Telecom left it with him. It is now an item in the Historical Society's collection.

Congratulations to **Family History WA** on turning 40. The Society was formed as the WA Genealogical Society in January 1979 and had its first headquarters in West Perth. It is now located at 6/48 May St, Bayswater, and welcomes anyone with an interest in - or who needs help with - genealogy.

The **Friends of Battye Library** reports some interesting recent additions to the SLWA's collection - early records of the Chung Wah Association which have been digitised, and photographs relating to Poseidon Nickel. It is pleasing to seeing that the collection of historical records continues.

Those with an interest in oral history should think about attending the **2019 Biennial Oral History Australia Conference** at the State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, from 10 - 13 October this year. The conference theme is: *Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories*. These conferences are always exciting events!

The **Federation of Australian Historical Society's** January newsletter contains an extended article on the rejuvenation of **Katanning's Premier Roller Flour Mill** and its new life as a boutique hotel. It is pleasing to see this good news and advertising spreading Australia-wide! And the site's history is to the fore and central to its marketing. The mill was the creation of Frederick Henry Piesse - farmer, businessman and politician who drove much of the development of the Katanning district. The mill ceased production in 1970 and the premises were acquired by the Shire of Katanning in 1980 and converted into a museum through the efforts of Ainslie Evans and the Katanning Historical Society. The building was recently offered for sale for \$1 with the proviso that it be restored by the purchaser. This offer was taken up in 2016 by Nigel Oakey, CEO of the Dome Café group, with the intention of turning it into a boutique hotel. Mr Oakey decided to retain as much of the original machinery as possible. Using a professional historian, the company researched the history of the mill and its founder Frederick Piesse to help retain its character and stay true to the original construction. The construction team sourced timber of a similar period and located locally made bricks produced by Piesse's brickworks when the mill was originally constructed. The ground floor is occupied by a Dome café while the basement has been converted into the Cordial Wine Bar. The Premier Mill Hotel occupies the top two floors, with 22 rooms for guests. Once again, the Mill is an important part of Katanning's economy. For more information and to make a reservation, visit the Premier Mill Hotel website at <http://premiermillhotel.com/> and visit Lost Katanning & Katanning Historical Society at <https://lostkatanning.com/>

Good news from Canberra: As of 1 January this year millions of items from Australia's history and heritage collections fell out of copyright for the first time, finally becoming free for all to use. This wealth of new material is a result of changes to copyright law introduced by the *Copyright Amendment (Disability Access and other Measures) Act 2017*. An aberration of Australian law had meant that unpublished materials - letters, diaries, shipping manifests, and such like - remained in copyright in perpetuity. The new law reverses that, giving unpublished materials the same copyright term as their published counterparts. This means most of Australia's national collection will now have a copyright term of 70 years after the author's death. The changes also create a new term of 70 years for materials with unknown authors, known as orphan works.

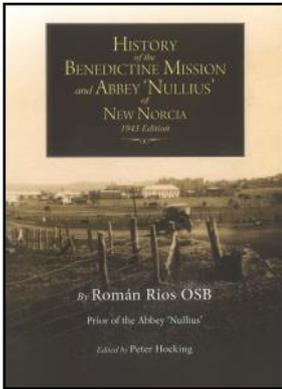
Collecting the West: Talks at the City of Perth Library at 6.30pm

- Dr Denise Cook, 'The Swan River Mechanics' Institute and Perth's First Museum' on 9 April. Book now at trybooking.com/475803
- Professor Andrea Witcomb, 'The Private Museum of Captain Matthew McVicker-Smyth' on 7 May. Book now at trybooking.com/475825
- Professor Alistair Patterson, 'The Black Swan and Other Highlights in the Natural History Collections of Western Australia' on 11 June. Book now at trybooking.com/475831

Book Reviews

Roman Rios OSB, Prior of the Abbey 'Nullius', *History of the Benedictine Mission and Abbey 'Nullius' of New Norcia, 1943 edition, edited by Peter Hocking, Abbey Archivist since 2007, Morning Star Publishing for Abbey Press, 1917. In Library.*

Reviewer: Clement Mulcahy, Past President RWAHS



Dom Rios' history was intended to meet a long-standing need for an accessible overview of the colonial church generally and that of New Norcia particularly. It places the story of the Benedictine monks, lay helpers and Aboriginal people within the confines of the Swan River Colony and ecclesiastical tensions, also detailing the missionary role of the monks and the positive interaction with Aboriginals.

The study has an international setting too with reference to the significant European connections utilised by Bishop Salvado especially, and the role of the Roman curia in its oversight of the colonial church. By 1926 however, Rios had been appointed Prior of the Benedictine community of El Pueyo outside of Barbastro, Spain, and the impetus to publish his manuscript was lost locally. Dom William Gimenez revised the manuscript in 1943, virtually twenty years after it was first penned by Rios (1891-1955).

The Archives Research and Publications Committee of New Norcia has supported Peter Hocking's perceptive and appropriate editing of a sensitive and elegant account of two major phases of New Norcia's story: from the mid nineteenth century to 1901; and the opening decades of the twentieth century which essentially established the architectural and cultural landscape of New Norcia.

Released under the banner of Abbey Press, the standards achieved in this illustrated paperback of 388 pages, reflect well upon the original author, current editor and printer. It has a comprehensive bibliography, index, list of contents, additional explanatory footnotes, a summary of the two parts of the monastery's history, and is presented in a clear font. The photographs give added context to the pioneering contribution of the monks, while even many contemporary Western Australians would not be aware of the singular contribution made by the Benedictines in Perth, Subiaco and Fremantle, as well as scattered outposts in Western Australia, ranging from Albany to the Drysdale River in the Kimberley.

The scholarly Rios draws on Salvado's published Memoirs and his formal Reports to Propaganda Fide (or Secretariat for the Promotion of the Faith) in Rome in 1883 and 1900 (both now available as translated by Stefano Girola and printed by Abbey Press in 2015 and 2016 respectively); Fr James Flood's 1908 book *New Norcia: The remarkable Aborigines Institute of the Australian Commonwealth situated in the State of Western Australia*; and monastic diaries and journals. He gives the reader a sense of the mission as exercised

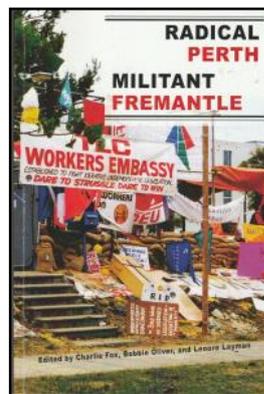
by the monks whether sharing skills as builders, artisans or farming with the Yuet people of the Victoria Plains, as shepherds on pastoral leases, or through parish work in the newly emerging wheat belt created by land settlement after the gold boom of the 1890s. Rios has brought his material together in an impressive narrative. The reader does not find cardboard cut outs but meets the men and women he discusses as real people. Nor is the reader subjected to an analysis of the institutional church without regard for the personal idiosyncrasies, strengths or social attitudes relevant to the time, and the constraints of communication locally let alone internationally.

The inclusion of a biographical summary of the erudite Abbot Rios by Abbot Dom Adrian Taylor of Ramsgate, is apt. Printed in England, in *Pax*, Summer 1955, Vol XLV, No 274, after Rios' untimely death in 1955, the eulogy sets both the literary tone of the ensuing pages and introduces the personality and exceptional capacity of Rios as author, monk and later abbot.

As a European author, Dom Rios offers an alternative awareness to the challenges faced by monks, their work with the Aboriginal people and the leadership role exercised by several of the Spanish, Italian and Irish clergy recruited by the Benedictines. This newly edited account should appeal widely to those interested in Western Australian history.

Charlie Fox, Bobbie Oliver and Lenore Layman (eds), *Radical Perth Militant Fremantle, Black Swan Press, Curtin University, 2017. 302 pp. In Library.*

Reviewer: Heather Campbell



Charlie Fox's informative introduction ably sets the scene for the following chapters, each of which stands as a story in its own right. Not surprisingly many deal with familiar issues – May Day in both cities, 'Fremantle's Bloody Sunday', 'John Curtin at the *Worker*' and the 'Treasury Riot of 1931', but room is also made for more unusual radicals such as the 'Chung Wah Association and the Chinese Community' and

'their quietly radical history with much suffering and many defeats, but eventual victory'. Some of us who considered Premier Court's infamous section 54B of the Police Act 'a denial of the democratic right to peaceful assembly' may well have protested at Forrest Place, joining a whole host who, over the years, 'expressed things that mattered most' there. It is comforting in this digital age to read that author Lenore Layman, in her chapter on Forrest Place, considers that 'Democracy continues to depend on the availability of physical, public space, even in a digital world' – the green cactus may just have to move over!

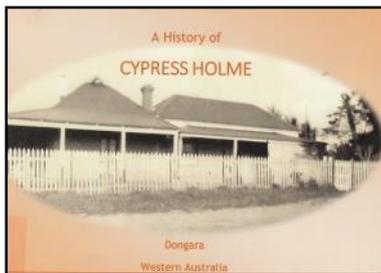
Relatively unknown radicals are not forgotten and provide a surprising and interesting learning experience for the reader. The Workers Art Guild who early in 1939, 'exchanged its theatres for the backs of trucks, to stage "street dramatisations" on topics like the housing

problem and unemployment'. Though many of us will have heard of the Midland Government Railway Workshops and will remember its closure, we may not have known about 'Red Square' and the Flagpole'. Author Bobbie Oliver tells us the flagpole, which was installed as a memorial for employees who died in World War I, soon became a focus for 'workers' gatherings when there were grievances to be aired'. In the 1950s, 3 500 workers gathered around the flagpole made an 'impressive sight', at a time when anyone wanting a meeting required the permission of the Works Manager. Management did however, provide a loudspeaker and allowed the equipment to be set up in work time. There are many, many more treasures in this book – 'The Red Dean, the Sixties and the Rock Masses', 'Hope in the Wasteland: East Perth City Farm' and for the feminists 'Wimmin Writing', to name just a few.

'Nothing replaces people taking to the streets' and this book might just inspire a few more of us to do so, as many others have done in the past.

Shelf Help

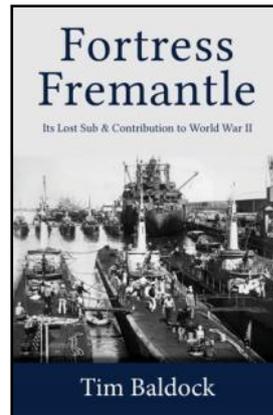
Graham Grundy, *A History of Cypress Holme, Dongara, Western Australia*, 2017. In Library.



This booklet tells the story of *Cypress Holme*, a homestead situated on one of the earliest Crown Grants in Dongara, and its succession of owners, currently this history's author Graham Grundy.

Thank you, Graham, for donating a copy to the library. Notable among the generations who lived in the house was Kate Clarkson, wife of Foster and a pillar of the regional CWA and Red Cross. During World War I the house was a centre for sewing circles to provide soldiers' comforts, and a social centre for the district in the interwar decades. By the early 1980s, however, it had deteriorated to a point where it was declared unfit for human habitation. Then John Rowland inherited it and together with Graham Grundy restored it and its attractive garden. A job well done!

Tim Baldock, *Fortress Fremantle, Its lost sub & contribution to World War II*, Tim Baldock, 2018. In Library.



This book donated to the library describes how, after the attack on Pearl Harbour and the fall of Singapore, Fremantle Harbour became the second most important Allied submarine base in the world and illustrates how the port was defended. The account is set against the battle for control of the Pacific, describing important Naval, Army and Air actions from 8 December 1941 to 2 September 1945 when the Japanese Empire

unconditionally surrendered to the Allied forces. It incorporates the story of *USS Bullhead* which sailed from Fremantle on 31 July 1945 and is presumed to have been sunk by air action on 6 August 1945 with loss of 84 lives. *Bullhead* was the last ship of the USN to be sunk in World War II.

Community Officer:	Lesley Burnett
Editor <i>History West</i>:	Dr Lenore Layman
Copy editor:	Heather Campbell
Opinions expressed in <i>History West</i> are not necessarily those of the Royal WA Historical Society (Inc.)	

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