



Founded 1926

HISTORY WEST

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

October 2018

GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting at Stirling House is on Wednesday 17 October at 6pm when Steve Howell will present a paper on 'The Gilbert Brothers, Charles and Augustus'. Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.

In 2005, thanks to funding by long-time Battye Library supporter Lindsay Peet, the State Library acquired the diary of Augustus Hearn Gilbert. Gilbert had come to the Swan River in the *Sulphur*, arriving a few days after Stirling in June 1829. The diary covers the voyage out and Gilbert's first few months in the fledgling colony. He stayed in Western Australia for three years as a clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office before returning to England with the *Sulphur* in 1832. However, Gilbert has been credited with an even earlier visit to Western Australia, with Stirling in 1827. An account of this visit was published by J G Hay in 1906 in his work on the visit of Charles Fraser in 1827. However, it is now thought that this earlier voyage was undertaken by Augustus Hearn Gilbert's brother, William Charles Gilbert. The Gilbert brothers then were in the unique position of commenting on the Swan River prior to, and at, British settlement. This talk looks at the Gilberts' experiences in the Swan River Colony and tries to trace what happened to them after they left.

Steve Howell was born in Grimsby, England, and emigrated to Australia with his parents aged four. He lived in Sydney and Port Lincoln before coming to Western Australia, aged twelve. Educated at Hamilton Hill and John Curtin High Schools he completed a History degree at the University of Western Australia and a librarianship qualification at WAIT. He worked in the Battye Library for 41 years, retiring in January 2018 as Senior Subject Specialist. He is the author of *Dead reckoning: how to find your way through the genealogical jungle of Western Australia* and various articles on aspects of Western Australia's history. In retirement he plans to play a lot more golf and travel often.



Have you booked for the **Greenhills/York Day Tour** on Saturday 27 October 2018?

Join members of the Society to travel to Mundaring for morning tea, continuing on towards York to have a tour of town, and then up to Mt Brown for a spectacular view of the whole district.

From here we head back to Greenhills Inn for a roast dinner, dessert, tea or coffee; after lunch a tour of the Inn with one of the owners before departing for Perth.

Departs: 9.00am from Stirling House, Nedlands. Returns: 3.30pm

Includes: Morning Tea, Lunch, Entries & Luxury Coach Travel.

Registration Cost: \$75.00 members and \$80.00 for non-members. The registration flyer was included with the September issue of History West. To secure your place, return the form to the Society by **Friday 19 October 2018**. Please contact the RWHS Office: Phone: 9386 3841 admin@histwest.org.au if you cannot locate the flyer and wish to come.

Invitation to all members to join a writers' group

Are you researching and writing a history— perhaps of yourself or family or local community or...?

Are you interested in joining a writers' group to meet under the guidance of member Dr John Hall to discuss research and drafting and editing and any other matters which crop up along the way?

To find out more, please leave your name and contact with Lesley at the Office and we will arrange an initial meeting of prospective group members.

Council News

At its meeting held on 13 September business included the following where Council

- welcomed new members - Clive Annear, Brian Bayham, John Bessell-Brown, Jennifer Cogan, Julia Crawley, Jenny Davies, Mary Manford, Elizabeth McGlew, David Powys Legg, Kathryn Swan, Valerie Vicich, Aurelie Yeo, Robert White, Kirsha White;

- congratulated Sally Anne Hasluck on the success of the John Forrest Centenary Commemoration project—both the commemorative event on 3 September and the temporary exhibition which drew approximately 90 visitors a day;
- thanked Dave Melvin for his electronic exhibition of Forrest photographs which accompanied the temporary exhibition;
- welcomed a response from Minister Templeman (after referral to the Minister for Lands) to advise that Landgate will discuss with the State Archivist opportunities to facilitate access to historical land information;
- congratulated Cervantes Historical Society and all concerned with the success of the 2018 State History Conference of Affiliated Societies, and welcomed Nick Drew's advice that the Lotterywest grant for regional travel for 2018 had been fully acquitted;
- confirmed that the Society's annual journal *Early Days* No. 101 2017 will be launched on 21 November before the General Meeting;
- resolved that members should be advised of an opportunity to form a writers' group facilitated by Dr John Hall, a call for expressions of interest to be inserted in *History West*.

Lennie McCall Chairperson

History in the City

At our September meeting, Annie Medley told us about the history of the Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia. In 1846 Sister Ursula Frayne led a group of six Sisters to the Swan River Colony and set about the building a school. The Sisters had a great influence not only on education but also on the social and cultural life of the colony. Annie closed her talk with an interesting display of photographs of the life and clothes of colonial times, including photographs. History in the City is held on the first Wednesday of each month from March to December. Our talk on 7 November will be given by Kayleen Poon on the History of the Chinese in Western Australia.

Lorraine Tholet

Auxiliary morning tea - Pinjarra's past



On Tuesday 21 August **Vince Taylor**, a keen historian, entertained his audience with an illustrated talk on Pinjarra's history. He began with Dr Preston and Dr Alexander Collie who were the first

colonists to explore the area around the Murray River in 1829. In the following year Thomas Peel established a settlement. However Aboriginal people already occupied the land and they found that their sources of food and water – and therefore their chances of survival – were threatened. The white settlers' lives then became fraught with danger; and their cattle were speared. This conflict led to the Battle of Pinjarra in October 1834.

By 1838, a townsite had been laid out and roads built. Pinjarra gradually became the social and economic centre of the Murray River area. More buildings followed – St John's Church, a schoolhouse and Cooper's Mill. Vince told of the struggles of the settlers intent upon surviving in the new settlement. Gradually Pinjarra became the social and economic centre of the farming community. In 1840 the settlers wanted a church in the district. Services were held and a minister of religion came from Fremantle to give the services. Settlers requested a block of land, which was granted, and they erected a church with local money and a grant from the government. A school was established in 1860 but was unfortunately washed away by flood two years later. It was another four years before it was replaced.



In his talk, Vince paid tribute to the settlers who pioneered this area. It is a history rich with many famous pioneer names (McLarty, Fawcett, Scott, Bussell, Patterson) and shows the struggles of people intent upon surviving in a strange land, one where they had to carve out a living in a very different world from that they had previously experienced.

Lorraine Tholet

Copper for Archive Preservation

The Society has a new range of preservation products for sale. Based on a technology called Corrosion Intercept®, products, include films, bags and foams. They are available for purchase at the Bookshop.

Read more at <https://shop.histwest.org.au/copper-for-archive-preservation>

Cervantes—Bush to Beach **2018 State History Conference of Affiliated Societies**



The Cervantes conference kicked off brilliantly at the Lobster Shack, an icon in a town known for its lobster fishing fleet and processing plant. Members were given their conference bags and drinks while seafood platters kept coming all evening. Each bag contained Saturday's programme together with information from the Tourist Authority about the 'Turquoise coast'. As well, in each bag there was a lovely timber box, made by the local newsagent. We were to find out over the weekend that almost the whole town contributed in some way to this conference! Shane Love, MLA for Moore, gave an address of welcome, which was answered by our President Bob Nicholson.

On Saturday morning we all mustered in the large civic centre. Marilyn Gazeley, organiser of the conference and President of the Cervantes Historical Society, welcomed everyone and handed over to our president Bob Nicholson who chaired proceedings. First on the Agenda was the Roll Call, Apologies and Remembrance, ably conducted by Nick Drew. Delegates from each Society stood as their name was called and everyone clapped – pleased to see friends from previous years.

The first speaker for the day was Jan Beissel who told of her experiences as a nurse at Cervantes in the 1960s. She worked in this small fishing town because her husband was one of the fishermen, and treated all sorts of wounds including rope burns and jellyfish stings. To avoid a reef infection in one year the men had to have a thick penicillin injection in their buttocks – which had many of the men in the room laughing ruefully. In cases of serious wounds, the nearest doctor was at Moore River many miles away so ambulance drivers were very important people. By the late 1970s the town had a proper health centre with a doctor visiting three times a week. Judy left during the America's Cup fever but never forgot her friends in Cervantes.

Ann-Marie Meredith was the second speaker, revealing a side of herself none of us had suspected. She is passionate about all things to do with caving having spent her childhood at Jurien, just up the track from Cervantes, where she explored all the caves in that area, caves which are now off limits to the general

public. Ann-Marie gave us a brief history of the caves. The Aboriginal people knew of them and revered them as part of the dreamtime but their legends would not let them go far into the caves, except when gathering ochre. The first European to discover the caves is not known; it could have been one of the survivors of Dutch wrecks along the coast. The first recorded explorer was George Grey in his 1839 expedition. During the 1850s push to take cattle up to Champion Bay many stockmen used the caves, as seen in scratched names, and one poor man, James Cook, perished in one of the caves. In 1908 the search for guano – superphosphate – saw people scour the caves for bat-droppings until guano was replaced in 1910 and the trade died. During both wars the caves were used as coast-watch sites. Everyone who has seen one particular cave – called 'pretty cave' – has been stunned by its beauty. It had so many visitors taking souvenirs away with them it was closed to the public and can be accessed only with special passes. Unfortunately urban development is encroaching on the cave area so their future is uncertain.

Jo Ottaway then spoke about the Old North Road, paying tribute first to her father Bill de Burgh who wrote a book of the same name. Jo has always been intrigued with the history of the road from the great drives of the 1850s taking stock from York and Toodyay up into the Murchison, to the gold years when camels took much-needed water up to diggers prospecting in the Murchison. More recently the three Shires involved along the stock route are co-operating to make the track a heritage-protected site.

Morning tea was served with scones, jam and cream as well as raisin buns and cakes – quite a treat. The Drews and Lorraine Clarke staffed the bookshop and although trade was slow – there was far too much talking going on – we made over \$500, a very fair return on our labours.

Anthea Harris (Nedlands Library) and Sandy Haywood then talked about Pinnacles and Stromatolites – very appropriate as Cervantes practically sits on the Pinnacles area. Anthea first showed us that, although concentrated in this area, pinnacles could be found right down the coast, even in Nedlands near the old hot water baths. The Pinnacles are relatively young compared with the stromatolites which are billions of years old. Stromatolites evolved in very salty warm water from blue-green algae – the most ancient specimens now look like rocks; living ones can be up to 3,500 years old. They are the oldest life form on the planet. Stromatolites can be seen at Lake Thetis, Lake Clifton, Lake Richmond and the Government House Lake at Rottneest. While their salt-water habitat protects them from predators, humans have done enormous damage over time and, when damaged or destroyed, they will not come back.

The next speaker, Ian Warne, told us how the town got its name. The ship *Cervantes* was wrecked on the shore in 1844. Built in 1836 in the USA this ship spent its maiden voyage of two years catching whales and returned to Nantucket with 1000 barrels of oil. *Cervantes* was then sold and turned into a three-masted brig which could travel further – American whalers were then roving all over the Pacific and Indian Oceans. This second voyage was not as

successful as the first — the ship had only three barrels of oil when wrecked which probably explains why she was in these waters. A sudden fierce gale drove the ship onto a sandbar at Wreck Point, now known as Thirsty Point. The crew scrambled ashore and all but one reached Perth. Six later returned to the boat but its keel had been broken. Lionel Samson auctioned the wreck and contents. In 1847 Gregory reported seeing the wreck above water but by 1969 a searcher found only timbers and bits of copper underwater. In 1988 a serious search of the wreck found 30 feet of timber, some bricks and, underneath everything, some pearlshell which raises many questions. Were the whalers diving for pearls or were they trading with the Aborigines? Ian called for a database of wrecked ships, over 300 of them, along our coast.

Bob Sheppard, a military historian, gave the next paper on military sites in the mid-west. This was a fascinating talk as Bob revealed in maps and stories the extent of fortification that was built in the mid-west during the Second World War – he had identified 250 such sites. Coastwatch points along the coast had lines of communication to the major centre at Moora and Mingenew. The man who organised the evacuation of Gallipoli, Colonel Houghton Nicholson, had initiated the Voluntary Defence Force which by 1942 had some 20,000 troops based from Geraldton to Gingin. The peak activity was in 1942 when Japanese submarines were seen off Jurien Bay. There was talk that the Japanese planned to land at Jurien and march south to Perth. Lighthouses were painted with camouflage, aircraft identification forms were handed out and small tanks were hidden under timber at Moora and Mingenew.

Lunch followed and then the business session which went well with Lennie McCall and Helen Henderson each reporting on the past year at the RWAHS and the FAHS respectively. Then came South Perth's invitation to the 2019 conference. *Between Two Rivers* is their logo and they are trying to establish more of Noongar history before the conference.

Nominations were then called for future conferences and an invitation from Denmark for 2020 was read. The Eastern Goldfields seized 2021 as it will be their 75th anniversary. There was some concern that this listing ignored the usual city/regions pattern but the Goldfields claimed they are a City anyway. Then Maylands accepted the 2022 spot. So the way forward was set. Nominations for the 2019 Affiliates Committee were read out and all were duly elected.

2018 Merit Award

Congratulations to the winner **Toodyay Historical Society**. Everyone recognised members' enthusiasm and the Society's professionalism—in its involvement with the development of a convict database, preparation of various history booklets, publications in the *Toodyay Herald* and the compilation of a Toodyay family database. Members have also worked hard to promote history through the completion of research enquiries and in their involvement at community events.

Well done Toodyay!

Three papers followed – a little shorter than their predecessors. First Bill Passey talked on the fishing industry. Bill is a major snapper producer and has been inducted into the National Fishing Industry Hall of Fame. He came to Cervantes in 1962 aged 14 and stayed for 22 years. He reminisced about the occupants of the shacks built on the sand dunes. At first there were only men but gradually wives and children came too. He left for the Northern Territory where he established his fishing company but has treasured memories of Cervantes. Peter Scharf then spoke of Bees and Honey, beginning with the importance of bees and their place in history and following with much fascinating information on the life and work of bees.

Last speaker was Susan Hall on the Birtwistle Wiki. Her group of local historians have recently launched a website using the Wikipedia format that has been enormously successful, so she wanted to show other Societies how it worked. The material used has been the research on Armadale men who served in the 1914-18 War. All the collected information was put online under headings – Monuments, Hospitals and Service and under these headings were dozens more covering religion, indigenous recruits, prisoners of war, nurses, sailors etc. The format allows interlinking and has proved an enormous help to family researchers so she urged other Societies to think about using it for their own purposes.

Bob Nicholson then wound up the day by thanking Marilyn and her team for a quite exceptional conference. They received thunderous applause before delegates retired to dress up for the dinner. It was perhaps fortunate that the planned after-dinner speaker was tied up in traffic and could not attend because everyone had so much to talk about! The final conference event was breakfast the next morning in the hall. A large team of women and a few men served up a huge country breakfast and bid us all safe travelling.



Exhibition extension talk Life at The Bungalow

Richard Offen entertained his capacity audience with an interesting talk on the history of The Bungalow and the growth of central Perth in the 1890s. His series of historic images were fascinating while his lively stories had people chuckling. The Society's newly acquired Forrest Collection featured prominently, with items from the collection illustrating the talk.



The Bungalow was the name given to the house at 858 Hay St which occupied a site between Hay and Murray St, near King St. From 1876 to 1917 it was the home of John and Margaret Forrest and therefore a centre of colonial politics and grand entertaining as well as family life. Richard's talk focused on these decades when so many changes came to Perth – potable running water, gas lighting, electricity, telephone and tram service. These services transformed urban life and life at The Bungalow.

The first colonists to own the one-acre site were John Chipper and William Baker. Chipper built the first settler house on the block, which was occupied by members of the Wittenoom family. Henry Ashton bought it in 1867 followed by Edward Hamersley in 1874. Edward's daughter Margaret inherited the property and she and her husband John Forrest moved into the house on their marriage in 1876.

The original house was enlarged to such an extent that the original structure disappeared in the renovations of which there were several. The largest occurred in 1908 and was designed by architect Edwin Summerhayes. Summerhayes had designed the impressive Forrest Chambers in St Georges Terrace for Sir John Forrest in 1904 before enlarging and modernising The Bungalow four years later.

It was a stylish and elegant house where the couple, who had no children, could live and entertain in spacious landscaped surroundings. The property stretched from its frontage on Hay St to a back

entrance on Murray St, and its gardens were extensive with vines, fruit trees, roses and many species of trees, including at least one wattle. Lawned areas were sweeping and must have required the attention of several gardeners to keep them alive in a time before reticulation. The gardens were a splendid setting for the couple's garden and tennis parties.

The Forrest Collection contains a great many invoices and receipts for household goods and services which Richard used to sketch the Forrests' life at home. Wilson & Johns, Nurserymen Seedsmen and Florists of Barrack St, invoiced for fruit trees and roses to add to the already large gardens. Shamrock Dairy of North Perth's invoices show a healthy milk consumption by the household of over three litres per day. In 1915 Forrest paid Grave & Dwyer Motor Co. of Hay St £115 to become the owner of a Ford Touring car. Altogether the invoices and receipts paint a picture of household life.

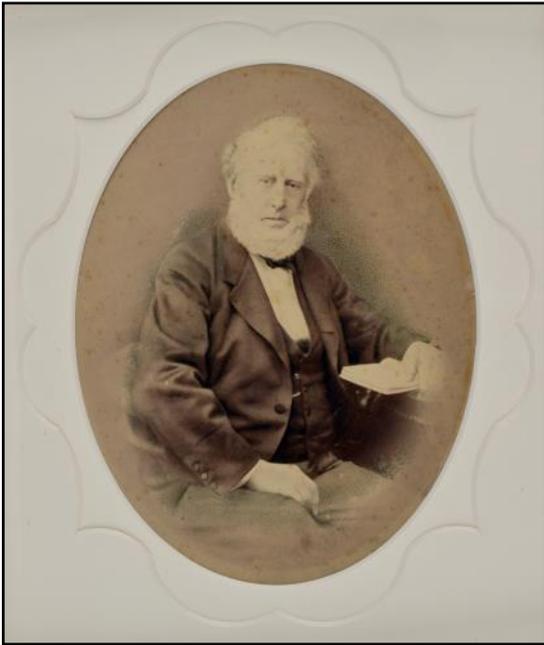
Also in the Forrest Collection are some of the pictures that adorned the walls of The Bungalow. One of the most striking is an enlarged photograph of *SS Sultan* taken on 4 May 1897 at the official opening of the new Fremantle Harbour. She was the first large ocean going steamer to enter the new inner harbour. Premier Forrest and his Engineer in Chief C Y O'Connor who was responsible for the project were both present and, according to the caption on the photograph, Margaret Forrest steered the ship. It was clearly a proud moment for the couple and one they chose to commemorate at home by mounting a reminder in regular view.



The Society was delighted to host Richard Offen whose most recent book *Lost Perth* is proving a popular buy. Members enjoyed his talk and also the morning tea and opportunity to chat that the occasion provided.

Museum News

Framed photographs restoration project Who was Jonah Smith Wells Parker?



This newly restored portrait photograph of a fine gentleman was donated to the Society by his great grand nieces Misses F L and M Parker. He is Jonah Smith Wells Parker, farmer, inventor and entrepreneur of Dangin, an innovative and interesting Western Australian.

Jonah was the grandson of Stephen Parker who arrived in the colony in 1830 on the *Rockingham* with Thomas Peel's group. Stephen took up a pastoral selection at Dangin Springs, 160 kms east of Perth near what is now Quairading, in 1836. Stephen's son, Edward Read Parker, settled on the selection in 1859 and his son, Jonah Smith Wells Parker, was born there in 1863.

As a young man Jonah hoped to make his fortune on the newly discovered Kimberley goldfields, travelling with friends to Halls Creek. However, like so many others, they were unsuccessful at striking it rich and returned south.

In 1888 Jonah bought the farm at Dangin from his parents and began a program of development, starting with a new homestead to replace the burnt-down original. He was intent on establishing a model farm with the aid of share farmers and products such as wool, wheat and sandalwood.

Jonah was an entrepreneur and launched several new projects. One of the first was his triple-distilled eucalyptus oil made from the salmon gum leaves. Parker's Treble Distilled Eucalyptus Oil won First Prize in the Melbourne Exhibition in 1892.

Jonah Parker married Jane Elizabeth Mercy Bailey in 1889, but Jane died in 1891 after giving birth to two children. Jonah then married Clara Lillian Morris in 1892 and they had seven children.

Jonah continued the steady expansion of the farm. By 1908 a railway was built from York through Dangin to Quairading, which had become a surveyed and gazetted town; indeed Quairading was soon to eclipse Dangin as a rural centre.

Jonah had promised his mother that he would never touch alcohol. When the railway came to Dangin, a hotel was required in the town. Jonah built a two-storey Temperance Hotel, with a septic system! However Quairading could boast a hotel with alcohol on tap. To service the town of Dangin, and in keeping with his temperance principles, Jonah built an aerated water plant producing soft drinks – yet another of his pioneering works. Dangin boasted two general stores, a drapery, bank, post office, hospital, Methodist church, and Agricultural Hall. Another excellent project was realised in the form of a reticulated water supply for the town and the railway. This water system included the Toapin Weir which was built by Jonah on his own land – the system cost him £5,000, a considerable amount of money at the time.

He did not ignore the social side of life and, in 1913, organised a huge picnic for all the share farmers; it was a memorable success. By now Jonah had taken on the duties of a Justice of the Peace; he was a member of the Beverley Road Board and the Agricultural Society and the Farmers and Settlers' Association.

Jonah Smith Wells Parker died in his beloved Dangin on 28 September 1914. He had lived there all his life and was proud of his district and its splendid development. To a large degree that development was due to his own restless energy, his example and his projects. His Temperance Hotel survived until 1950 but was never a success.

On 13 September 1993, Jonah's youngest daughter Evaline, aged 84, was presented with a framed copy of a certificate for a Bronze Medal for his eucalyptus oil from the 1900 World Trade Fair in Paris, which had never been presented to her father. It was a further honour for an impressive man.

Ainslie Edel

How observant were you last month? Happy Days at Cottesloe - a mistake

Was the scene photographed on Christmas Day or Boxing Day? The original photograph was captioned Boxing Day, 25-12-1930. It must be one or the other but can't be both! When restoring the photograph our conservator Paul Malone copied the caption as it was in the originally framed photograph. So which was it?

A search on Trove found an article from the *West Australian* dated Saturday 27 December 1930, headed 'The Holidays - How they were Spent' which reports that: 'thousands found it possible fully to enjoy themselves within striking distance of the city on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The weather – particularly on Boxing Day – was itself an invitation to bathe, and on both days the beaches were crowded until late in the evening.'

Boxing Day forecast was Warm to Hot – 'Minimum 69.6°F [21°C] and Maximum 101°F [38.3°C], So I conclude that, while it could have been either day, it is more likely that the photograph was taken on Boxing Day, 26-12-1930.

Val Hutch

Library News

‘A hard nut to crack’: Celebrating Edith Cowan



When Edith Cowan entered the Western Australian Parliament in 1921 as MLA for West Perth, she became the first woman member of an Australian Parliament. She had a gumnut brooch made to symbolise that the entry was a ‘hard nut to crack’ for women. The brooch, a microprint of her maiden speech and King Edward Memorial Hospital, the women’s and maternity hospital she helped establish, are among the images on the new \$50 bank note celebrating her contribution to Australian society.



To be issued in October, the new bank note also illustrates in a tangible and economic form the value of research by Library volunteers. Aware of Edith Cowan’s and her daughter Dircksey’s involvement in founding the Society in 1926, the project officer from the banknote section of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) contacted the Library in July 2016, for information and photographs. The images could be of Edith Cowan herself, parliamentary letters she has written, promotional posters or tickets for her campaign, or any other image related to her. Hon. Librarian Jill Maughan and volunteer Val Krantz organised a bibliography and selected five photographs for the Bank.

Although Edith Cowan and South Australian Aboriginal writer, speaker and inventor, David Unaipon are already represented on the existing \$50 bank note, the new technology, which aims to improve security, quality and ease of recognition, also allows for more details. It has a new ‘tactile’ feature to help

the vision-impaired distinguish between different note denominations.

Changes to prevent counterfeiting include a top-to-bottom clear window with constant dynamic features such as a reversing number and flying bird, as in the \$5 and \$10 notes. As well as a rotating image, there are images of a wattle and a Black Swan – the bird of Edith Cowan’s home state and David Unaipon’s totem.

And Edith Cowan’s maiden speech?

I stand before you today in the unique position of being the first woman in an Australian Parliament. I know many people think that it was not the wisest thing to do to send a woman into Parliament, and perhaps I should remind hon. members that one of the reasons why women and men also considered it advisable to do so, was because it was felt that men need a reminder sometimes from women beside them that will make them realise all that can be done for the race and for the home...

It is a great responsibility to be the only woman here, and I want to emphasise the necessity which exists for other women being here...

If men and women can work for the State side by side and represent all the different sections of the community and if the male members of the House would be satisfied to allow women to help them and would accept their suggestions when they are offered, I cannot doubt that we should do very much better work in the community than was ever done before.

Inaugural Speech, Parliament of Western Australia, Thursday 28 July 1921, Hansard

For more information see the RBA website and you can check out the new bank note in October. Perhaps we could christen it an ‘Edith’ in WA — and members may be moved to donate an ‘Edith’ or two towards the Society’s fundraising?

Hilaire Natt

Lyall Hunt MA Dip Ed FRWAHS (1933-2018)

The Society regrets the passing of an esteemed Fellow—teacher, oral historian, researcher, editor and author. A student of Professor Frank Crowley, Lyall strove to follow in his footsteps as an historian, working to pass his enthusiasm for history on to his students. He was active in the formation and early years of the Oral History Association and was a well-published author. His most significant books are *Yilgarn: good country for hardy people: the landscape and people of the Yilgarn Shire, Western Australia* (1988), and *Towards Federation: why Western Australia joined the Australian Federation in 1901* (2000). As well, he wrote a number of entries for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, and edited *Westralian Portraits* in the series marking WA’s sesquicentenary.

Lyall joined the RWAHS in 1976 and became a Councillor (1992-93), a member of Readings & Publications Committee, an editor of *Early Days*, and a judge of the Lee Steere and A E Williams Awards. We greatly appreciate the work Lyall undertook for the Society and, even more importantly, his lifetime’s contribution to the study of Western Australian history and its dissemination throughout the education system.

John Forrest centenary exhibition

The Society marked Monday 3 September, the centenary of the death of John Forrest, with the opening of a special temporary display of his personal scrapbooks and other recently donated materials. Our member Don Forrest did the honours of cutting the ribbon following a speech by president Robert Nicholson on the significance of this centenary event and the recent donation of materials. Don's wife Marie attended together with his sons David and Andrew with wife Nicola. The invitees included a number of Forrest descendants because although John and Margaret Forrest had no children, six of his brothers and a sister did have offspring who have filled the family tree. Many new connections were made, and Forrest family members and guests expressed their delight at being part of the occasion.



Two articles in the *Weekend West Australian* on 1 September brought many visitors over the next four days. Our volunteers played an essential role in welcoming, guiding and answering queries. The visitors also appreciated the photographic slide show that Dave Melvin had created to accompany the special display. They also enjoyed conversations with fellow visitors on common interests in history. The exhibition room was full to capacity over all four days. There were many people with a connection to John Forrest, including a relative of William Osborne who was the farrier on the 1870 expedition and from a later period the great grandson of his footman. There are now many queries to answer and information to be recorded.

The Council thanks all those involved in making this temporary display such a success for both visitors and the Society.

Sally Anne Hasluck



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

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

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