



HISTORY WEST

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

September 2020

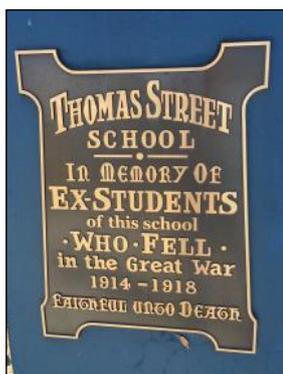
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at Stirling House on Wednesday 16 September at 6pm.
Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies.
 2. Confirmation of minutes of AGM, 18 September 2019.
 3. Business arising from the minutes.
 4. Treasurer's Report and presentation of Annual Accounts.
 5. President/Council's Annual Report.
 6. Election of office-bearers and Councillors.
 7. Confirmation of Patron and Vice-Patrons.
 8. Approval of Honorary Advisors.
 9. Announcement: winner of Williams/Lee Steere Publication Prize.
 10. General Business.
- Meeting closes.

Following the meeting, **Patrick Cornish** will speak on — **The Mod Squad**



Perth Modern School made history when established in 1911. Over the last eleven decades it has been a beacon for educational excellence. I am not an Old Modernian, but I know class when I see it and will give a snapshot to Society members and guests. I have recently visited the school, walked the corridors, listened to its leaders, admired the pieces of art that adorn the grounds and speak of enduring creativity. I have also visited the old metalwork room that is now the History Centre, a base for the Perth Modernian Society. In this place, built in 1922 and formerly the scene of much use of tools for manual arts, volunteers are now hammering out history. This is the school's Heritage Central.

There will be time for a few questions and comments from the floor. Most of us have at least driven past Mod. Here's the chance to stop for few moments and press the pause button. We can consider how Mod helps knit past, present and future together.

Patrick Cornish is a keen member of the Society with a particular interest in drawing young people into the business of respecting our yesterdays. He has been a journalist for half a century and has a current passion for writing obituaries, taking the opportunity to honour men and women from all backgrounds. 'I aim to pay tribute not only to household names but also to people known mainly in their own households'.



Some of the team packing and wrapping raffle baskets for the Auxiliary's annual fundraiser and giant raffle. Left to Right: Jill Paterson, Jennifer Wildy, Shirley Aliaga, Lorraine Tholet, Rachel Roe.

Tuesday Treasures

Enjoy **Silk Pages for the Stage**
on Tuesday 1 September, 10.30am start

Cancellation of RWAHS Affiliates State History Conference 2020

The organising committee and the Denmark Historical Society deeply regret to advise that the conference in Denmark will not take place because of the continuing restrictions relating to Covid-19.

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History West Community Centre Planning Update

Our membership across the State is most important in the Society's planning for a new building. Although the COVID-19 restrictions have not assisted fundraising plans in this uncertain economic environment, the wonderful news of support with a pledge from the Dutch East India Benevolent Fund (Wright family) announced in the June newsletter did resonate with members. Thank you to those of you who responded with donations. There will be a Members' Pledge Appeal and recognition of our donors. We are presently holding strategic planning meetings led by Susie Jackson (Jackson Business Consulting) that focus on raising our public profile with a media communication plan plus separate events for the membership, corporates and the public when restrictions allow in 2021.

The Society aims to provide new premises for the care and presentation of its significant collection while promoting Western Australian history told through the lives of people and families. We need to advocate our history to the younger generation. New premises will also be a place in which like-minded history organisations will be welcomed.

Last year we had an important Feasibility Study undertaken by Peter Farr Consultants Australasia Pty Ltd that researched our two options of selling and purchasing an existing building elsewhere or developing our present site based on the City of Nedlands Local Planning Scheme No 3. These are parallel options while fundraising takes place. Our rigorous and detailed space planning enables us to look at opportunities as they arise. Our Honorary Architect Maria Gillman has been very supportive in this journey.

Volunteers have been busy identifying the treasures of the museum and library collection to identify sponsorship opportunities.

I should like to thank all the professionals who have given *pro bono* time and commitment to this work in progress. The Planning Committee consists of RWAHS Executive members plus HWCC Planning Committee members Dr Ian MacLeod, Hon. Robert Nicholson, Richard Offen, The Very Rev Dr John Shepherd, and Kevin Skipworth – their contributions are much appreciated.

We are focusing on our Society's centenary in 2026 to achieve our objective.

Please watch this space — We need your commitment too.

Sally Anne Hasluck
Vice-President; Chair HWCC Planning Committee

Auxiliary Fundraiser and Morning Raffle

Members and friends enjoyed the Auxiliary's annual fundraiser and raffle at Stirling House on Wednesday 5 August. Richard Offen entertained his capacity audiences, both morning and afternoon, with some fascinating stories of life at Perth Town Hall over the century. Did you know that:

The day the foundation stone was to be laid was intended to be one of pomp and ceremony, but the weather had other plans and torrential rain dampened the spirits of even the most hardy.

Five days after the Town Hall was officially opened in 1870, a 'monster tea party' was organised for the people of Perth to celebrate. 900 people squeezed into the upstairs hall for this event. (The maximum capacity of the hall these days is 350 people!)

In 1875, the explorer Ernest Giles and his men visited Perth and were given a civic reception in the Town Hall. Whilst everyone was partying in the hall, Giles' 17 camels were stabled in the Town Hall Undercroft.



Speaker Richard Offen



Bev Charleston



Cate Paterson



Ildé Veras with Janet McCallum



Yvonne Doncaster with Fr Ted

Community Talk Tingledale Tales

On the morning of Thursday 23 July the Society held its first — and long-delayed — Community Talk for 2020. To an audience of 45 (a full house in these times of social distancing), Malcolm Traill recounted the story of group settlement with particular focus on Tingledale and the wonderful photographs taken by local resident Bert Saw on glass negatives. Many thanks to the Denmark Historical Society for sharing the photographic images.

North of Nornalup and the Valley of the Giants, tucked away behind virgin forest, is a cleared farming area known as Tingledale. Of course, it is named after the giant Tingle trees that grow nowhere else in the world, but it has an intriguing back-story.

Tingledale emerged in the 1920s from an ambitious but ill-fated scheme known as Group Settlement. Conceived to populate uncleared areas of the south of the State with farmers, it proved unworkable and, of the 6000 British migrants who were attracted by the promises, only a small proportion remained on the land.

The scheme was the brainchild of Premier Sir James Mitchell, in the years following World War I. Mitchell, during his earlier tenure as Minister for Lands and Agriculture, was frustrated by WA's reliance on imported food, particularly milk. His scheme targeted migrants from war-torn Britain and was enthusiastically marketed by agents and the media in England, with promises of open spaces, equable climate and financial independence, all of which appealed to depressed city-dwellers in the aftermath of a bitter war.

Specifically, the migrants were promised the opportunity to purchase about 160 acres of land, which they could repay over 20 years. They would have to clear their land but they would be provided with equipment and advice, and they would do so as teams. Single men were discouraged. Mitchell wanted young British families to establish communities in these remote areas.

Altogether 127 Groups were established in four distinct areas, south of Perth. One was based around Rockingham, another south of Margaret River, the third between Manjimup and Northcliffe, and the furthest south was in the forests behind Walpole and Denmark. The first groups arrived in 1921 and they were immediately shocked at the primitive conditions.

The group that became Tingledale arrived in Albany by ship, took the train to Denmark, and then were trucked along unmade roads to their location, which was labelled Group 116. There they found almost no infrastructure. They were provided with rudimentary tools — an axe, saw and shovel — and their houses were initially shacks or tents. Beatrice Whitfield remembered the scene:

Well, we all went up then and found our shack. And we got there with a mud floor, no doors, no windows. And our cup of tea was made of brackish water. Shocking!

No wonder the adults were depressed. George Brenton recalls his parents' reactions:

I can remember Mum going to bed crying because she wouldn't know where the next meal was coming from. And I can remember, as a young boy, getting toed up the seat with Dad's boot. And we reckoned he was a bad-tempered man, but looking back on it now, I think a lot of it was brought on by anxiety and worry.

Many of the migrants had no farming experience and often the Groups were randomly selected so there was no cohesion between the families. At least Group 116 all came from the same region of southwest England so it became known as the Devon and Cornwall Group.

The men worked to clear the land in teams. Once a block had been cleared, a ballot was held to allocate the new block to a family to farm for themselves. However, the men were still expected to work in the team, so farming only took place at the weekends or it became the wife's responsibility.

Schooling and medical facilities were provided but they were rudimentary, while other essentials were delivered intermittently by truck. People made their own amusements — music, dances and sports were popular diversions from the daily slog.

In most of the areas, including Tingledale, the size of the trees and the impenetrable bush made clearance near impossible. The large trees were ringbarked and you can still see evidence in the hills above Denmark of this approach — the dead trees stark against the skyline.

In addition, much of the land was deficient in nutrients so crops failed and the cattle died of what became known as the Denmark Wasting Disease. Not surprisingly, many of the families walked off the land as they found it impossible to make a living. At Tingledale, some of the blocks were reallocated so that the remaining group settlers at least had a chance to own a bigger farm that might then be viable. Two Royal Commissions in the 1920s confirmed that the scheme was flawed, but this was little compensation for those families who had tried and failed. At least the government waived unpaid debt!

Almost a century later, better clearing and farming methods have resulted in successful agriculture in most of these Group Settlement areas but the toll that it took on those wide-eyed British migrants was considerable. There are still many descendants of 'Groupies' in WA who wear their tough origins as a badge of honour.

Malcolm Traill



Tingledale Group at Hall



Group Settlers' house



Family outside settlers' house

Isabella Waldeck 1859-1905

History West is pleased to bring readers this story of a colonial woman who has featured in the 'Famous Irwinish Women Series' in The Sea Lion (Summer 2019-20), journal of Irwin Districts Historical Society. Our thanks to the Society and author Nan Broad for permission to publish this edited account. We also acknowledge Shirley Scotter who provided much of the information.

Women are unsung heroes in history, invisible inside their homes. In colonial times women forfeited their property and possessions to their husbands, could not write cheques or vote. Nevertheless they often took over the family business amid enormous odds, both physical and psychological. Some surely went 'under' but the few we know of succeeded, for history always remembers the victors.

One such amazing woman was Isabella Brand who emigrated from Scotland in 1859 with her mother and brothers. Her father arrived in 1855, convict no. 3354 who was given his ticket of leave in 1856. After his family joined him they lived on a small tillage lease at Greenough called *Ironbarks*.

Frederick and Fredericka Waldeck, originally from Germany, also arrived at Greenough in 1859. They had come to the colony as catechists to the WA Missionary Society but, when the project foundered, they married and converted to Methodism under the guidance of friends who saw a better method of expressing their religious beliefs through the teachings of John Wesley: believing in the Bible, free will and a moral form of social justice. Frederick became a lay preacher and ministered to his fellow colonists, in religious practices, neighbourly actions and as medical practitioner. The Waldecks settled at Greenough as farmers 23 years after their arrival, calling their property *Mt Pleasant*. Fredericka had by then given birth to eleven children, one of whom was Henry Fletcher who became Isabella's husband.

Isabella had strong ideals and abhorred alcohol. She is credited with opening the taps of several hogsheads of whisky in the house of a wealthy settler and locking herself in her room until the uproar subsided. While a passenger in a boat she discovered several bottles of whisky which she quietly dropped over the side. On the loss being discovered men dived to retrieve the bottles while Isabella described this as one of her 'most trying times of bravery'.



Wedding of Isabella Brand and Henry Fletcher Waldeck, with maid of honour to left, and bridesmaids to the right, 15 December 1867 at 'Ironbarks', Greenough. IRME2262

Henry Fletcher and Isabella were married at Greenough in 1867. Both were strictly teetotal and practising Methodists like their parents. They lived on and ran *Bonniefield*, a property just north of Dongara where Fletcher, as he was known, after farming duties engaged with most of the public offices in the district - Irwin Road Board, school board, Mechanics Institute,

Society of Good Templars and Methodist Church Steward. He also ran the pound and auctions to sell unmarked stray stock.

Isabella was engaged with household duties and giving birth to eight children, one of whom died aged three. Nothing is written or known of her activities during those 16 years. However, she was thrown into the forefront of history the day before her last child was born because, in 1883, her husband died prematurely. One can only imagine the trauma of the death-bed and the drama of the premature birth. The only thing to do was continue with life, taking solace from her faith and friends, but now she had to run both household and farm. The burden of responsibility could have broken her, but it did not. In 1884 she faced the further loss of her son, Clarke Laurance.

Apart from her father in law, Frederick, the Elders of the Wesley Church helped where they could while two Irwin businessmen became her closest advisors. Francis Pearse prevailed on her to buy *Nhargo*, an adjoining property to the north of *Bonniefield* while he and Edward Clarkson followed the progress of the railway line being constructed from Champion Bay to meet the line coming up from Guildford. The northern line was to pass down through *Bonniefield* and Pearse and Clarkson suggested that Isabella plant acres of crop for hay and tender to the railway to supply fodder for the working horses. This she did, winning the tender and then buying Lot 442 on Brands Flat, reorganising all properties to maximise the crops. The detail of this is mindboggling as grain, further men, horses and machinery had to be purchased and organised, harvest completed and the hay sheaved and stoked before supplying it to the railway gangs.

As well the household and growing family had to be cared for. As if this were not enough Isabella sent her older sons to *Nhargo* and provided accommodation at *Bonniefield* for the supervisor and foreman while she supplied meals for the workers - 60 men three times a day. As the line progressed south, she still sent hay and food down on the train. A daughter later wrote of the action:

The kitchen rafters hung with hams and bacon and there were barrels of pickled pork. *Bonniefield* had everything needed and she engaged a cook and a waiter from Criddle's hotel. After many weeks she was able to buy her binder and a two-horsepower chaff cutter. The railways bought all her chaff at £12 per ton and she supplied the railways all the way to Mingenew, the train picking up at the farm all their needs.

Isabella made a financial 'killing' and was able to build a substantial house. We presume she continued to farm the properties with the help of her children. In 1904 the girls were given cash, and Fred and George took over *Bonniefield*. Isabella purchased Cohen's Store at the East End for her son Henry. Mother and daughter Fletcherina moved to live at Francis Pearse's *The Bungalow*. In the following year, however, Isabella contracted influenza and passed away on 15 July 1905. She was interred in the Dongara Cemetery beside her beloved Henry Fletcher, at a service attended by over 200 mourners, who sang her favourite hymn 'The Sweet Bye and Bye' at the church and at the graveside.

So much is not known of Isabella's thoughts and actions but her record of achievement stands out clearly - an indomitable woman prospering in a man's world. And the Waldeck name endures in Waldeck's Nursery and street names in Dongara, Geraldton, Caversham and Mosman Park.

Dr Nan Broad

Spotlight on Members' Research

The Naleys

Those people who follow Australian Rules football will have noted the recent death of Mark Naley, 59, a champion rover who played in Carlton's 1987 VFL premiership side and then won a Magarey Medal in his home state of South Australia.

Few, however, would have been aware until the obituaries were published that he was also the grandson of an Aboriginal Anzac, and – not noted in the obituaries – that through his grandfather he had a link with Western Australia.

Gordon Charles Naley was born on Mundrabilla station on the Western Australian side of the Nullarbor Plain in the 1880s, but lived much of his life in South Australia, where Mark Naley was born and grew up. The young Mark was told his grandfather had Afghan antecedents. What Mark didn't learn until his playing days were over was that his great grandmother was a Mirning woman of the full Aboriginal descent. This might have been where his unusual surname came from – Gordon had a burn on his stomach and the Mirning name for burns on that part of the body was *narralea*.

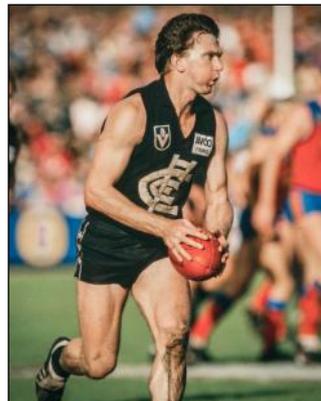
All that is certain however is that the Mirning woman bore a male child, probably to the co-proprietor of Mundrabilla, a white man named William Stuart McGill, and that initially the boy grew up with his mother's people. Gordon was taken from his mother by McGill, but she took him back several times until he was 'adopted' by McGill's second wife, Ellen Fairweather. When the McGills retired to Melbourne in 1903, to a house still called Mundrabilla in suburban Heidelberg, the young man – now aged about 19 – remained working around the Nullarbor on both sides of the state border before going to the Murray River region in South Australia. Gordon was shearing, droving, horse breaking and farm labouring when war broke out in 1914.

His adoptive mother Ellen's influence – he listed her as his next of kin – may have assisted him in enlisting. Despite his Aboriginal background, which for racist reasons the army deemed undesirable, he joined the First AIF at Morphettville, in Adelaide, and was posted to the 16th Battalion, made up mostly of Western and South Australians.

Mark's cousin Michael Laing, like him a South Australian, has conducted considerable research into their background for native title and other purposes. I met him as a result of my own Nullarbor research into the life story of Arthur Dimer. All I could tell Michael, however, was that Arthur – whose own Aboriginal background was Ngadjju and Mirning – had heard about a young 'half caste' boy being adopted by Mrs McGill and taken with her to Melbourne. Arthur didn't



Gordon Naley



Mark Naley

know his name or any more about him.

Army records obtained by Michael show that his grandfather served at Gallipoli, going ashore there on 25 April 1915, and then in France with the 16th Battalion, doing considerable frontline duty on the Somme and elsewhere, and being incapacitated for a time by poison gas before returning in time for the disastrous first Battle of Bullecourt, in which incompetent British staff work resulted in huge casualties for the 16th Battalion, including one of the AIF's bravest and most renowned soldiers, Major Percy Black, DSO DCM, who was killed while trying to break through uncut barbed wire. Gordon Naley was wounded in action and then captured. He was one of 2,339 men from the 4th Brigade killed, wounded or captured during what was the costliest engagement of any Australian brigade during the war, and spent the rest of the war in a POW camp in Germany.

While in England in 1919 after his release, he married an English girl, Cecilia Karsh, who accompanied him to South Australia. In Adelaide, he was discharged from the AIF as a corporal, then applied successfully for a soldier settlement block near Winkie in the Riverland irrigation area. Ellen McGill's influence may again have been at least partly responsible for his becoming one of very few Aboriginal ex-servicemen so rewarded. The effects of typhoid fever on Gallipoli and then being gassed in France, however, shortened his life. He died at the age of 44, and his family moved down to Adelaide, where grandsons Mark and Michael grew up. By Michael's account, however, his grandfather always maintained his links with Mundrabilla, partly through a friend and neighbour who came from Bookabie, on the SA side of the Nullarbor.

Mark Naley played for SANFL side South Adelaide for several years before being recruited by Carlton, along with other topline SA players Stephen Kernahan, Craig Bradley and Peter Motley, and Jon Dorotich from South Fremantle in the WAFL. They boosted an already formidable side which accounted for Hawthorn in the 1987 VFL grand final.

Here's how the doyen of Victorian football writers, Greg Baum, saw Naley's football career in those pre-AFL days:

After a hesitant beginning, Naley won the Tassie Medal as best player in the mid-season [1987] interstate carnival ... and his Carlton form flowed from there. A rover at a time when that was a distinctive position, rather than one of an amorphous mass of midfielders, he was and would remain a superb state of origin player.

After Naley was cut down by injury in his fourth season with the Blues, he returned to South Adelaide and won the 1991 Magarey Medal before retiring two years later. He was made a life member of South Adelaide and an inaugural member of the SANFL Hall of Fame, but he maintained his links with and affection for Carlton.

Growing up, Naley was told that his paternal grandfather was an Afghan. Later in life, he discovered that Gordon Naley was an Indigenous Australian who fought and was injured at Gallipoli. He prized that discovery like another trophy.

The discovery was actually made through Michael Laing, who acknowledges the truth of Baum's statement, saying that all Gordon Naley's known descendants feel the same way. Mark Naley, the best publicly known of them, became ill in 2016 with brain cancer, which he fought bravely until succumbing in Adelaide on 6 July this year.

Dr Peter Gifford

Stories from the Storerooms

Warwick Armorial ware

Armorial or heraldic ware is ceramic ware decorated with a coat of arms or other heraldic devices — representing a family or place or institution. It marks ownership and a public presence and announces the importance and prestige of owner.

The Society holds a plate and cup and saucer marked with a white, gold and red coat of arms with the inscription 'Supliement'. This china was donated to the collection by Brenda Patricia Warwick Wittenoom née Bostock (1917-2012), great granddaughter of Professor Guy Edwin Hughes Warthwyke (Warwick) She also donated the two portraits.

Professor Guy Warthwyke (1823-1904), 'late of the Royal Italian Opera, London', taught singing, violin, viola and harmony at Cantonment Street, Fremantle, in the last decade of the 19th century with his wife teaching singing, piano, French and German. Born Guy Warwick he developed a passion for things historic in common with many people of the time. After his marriage to Helen Slee he adopted the spelling Warthwyke, which he considered to be the original Anglo-Saxon spelling for a family mentioned in the Domesday Book. He also had a coat of arms – a variant of Warwick with three red lions rampant on a chequered ground within a shield – emblazoned on his china. The assistant to the Windsor Herald at the College of Arms in England informs us that the arms 'more or less accord with the entry in Burke's General Armoury for Warwick of Warwick co Cumberland, but the tinctures of the design differ. Burke gives white lions on a blue background'. We have not been able to link Guy's family to the Warwicks of Warwick Hall at Warwick-on-Eden to whom the blue arms belong and to trace a red version would be a costly exercise, so why they used this coat of arms will remain a mystery.

Helen Warthwyke (1826-1898) was a proficient artist as attested by a delightful miniature of her brother painted on porcelain now in the State Library WA and she probably painted the armorial service. Daughter Viola – born in 1852 – was a talented graduate of the South Kensington Art School and exhibited at the Royal Institute of Painters in watercolour and at Howell & James' annual ceramic exhibitions in Regent Street where they opened a gallery to sell art pottery. Lambeth Art School, where Viola also studied, had developed close links with nearby Doulton potteries to train staff for their design and decorating departments and so Viola might have been the painter of the armorial dinner service.

Viola's brothers, Harold who had served in the navy, and Wilfred, a Cambridge-educated accountant, set off to seek their fortune in Australia, arriving in Fremantle on the *Minero* during the gold rushes of 1887/8. Harold, who soon farmed at Jandakot, married Margaret McKay in 1890. Meanwhile in England Helen was often ill and by the mid 1890s the parents decided to join 'the boys'. Unmarried Viola who at the time worked for jeweller John Howell in his Hatton Garden workshops opted to come too. Wilfred, known as Guy, married Aimee Manning in 1896. Sadly Helen died in 1898, Viola in 1900 and Guy senior in 1904. The china went with 'the boys' to pioneer King River near Albany. Harold's daughter Stella married Frederick Bostock in 1915 producing Brenda who married station owner John Edward Burdett Wittenoom in 1942. They had no children and the china was donated to the Society and seems destined to remain a tantalising mystery.

Dorothy Erickson



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A2006.149 Guy's father Guy Warwick

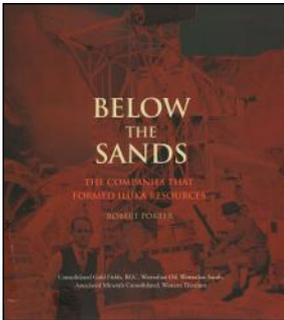


MA2006.148 Guy's mother Elizabeth Slee

Book Reviews

Robert Porter, *Below the Sands. The companies that formed Iluka Resources.* UWA Publishing, Crawley, 2018. In Library.

Reviewer: John McIlwraith



Western Australia is one of the world's leading producers of minerals but some of the most important ones are hardly recognised. The prosaically named mineral sands industry is one of these. Smears of dark sand on local beaches are a sign that these minerals are plentiful in the southwest corner of the continent.

At one time the region was one of the leading sources of such minerals (which have many roles in arcane corners of industry) and the miners were described by its customers as 'the Saudi Arabia of the industry', so powerful were they in world markets. The demand for some mineral sands was so attuned to the world economy that its price was regarded as an indicator of future global trade. Despite this, it was hardly known in Australia.

Now a longtime executive of Iluka has written a comprehensive account of its history, embracing as it does a fistful of companies working in the industry, which formed Iluka as an over-arching group. Robert Porter is certainly thorough – the book is bulky, lavishly illustrated and meticulous. It describes not only the industry's Western Australian origins, but carefully records its expansion into other states and the USA.

In the early years the industry's growth had a racketsy background – families participated in collecting samples that ultimately led to the establishment of new mines. Gathering capital for expansion had a folksy atmosphere. There were unexpected problems in extracting sands – with a new mine in Virginia, for example. The company had its triumphs – it developed a process to upgrade sands to create synthetic rutile – a world first, and a means of selling low-value material. There were early traumas, but it ultimately found a sound market. The book recognises the unusual setting for the original projects around Capel. The sleepy agricultural setting was enlivened by chimney stacks and processing plants.

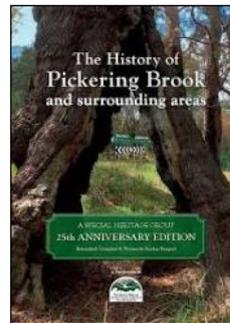
For reasons hard to understand the industry was never given the recognition of later comers, like iron ore and natural gas. It provided a rare and welcome symbiosis to the State's rural landscape, properly recognised in this generous record.

Gordon Freegard (ed.), *The History of Pickering Brook and surrounding areas.* Pickering Brook Heritage Group, 2019. In Library.

Reviewer: Heather Campbell

This attractive book traces the history of the timber industry in the Darling Ranges, including the development of mill sites and little towns and their progress or otherwise thereafter. The chapters have useful subheadings and a generous index which enable

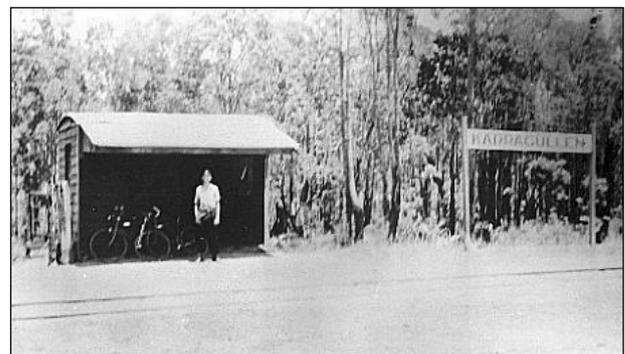
the reader to navigate the crowded history of the area, or focus on a particular area of interest, which for this reviewer was Carmel, having once lived there for twenty years.



Gordon Freegard is to be congratulated on the huge amount of research he has carried out and for the wide variety of sources he has used, including maps he has drawn himself. He recognises that the people – the families and communities – are central to the story, all contributing in their own ways. The early entrepreneurial families who took risks to set

things going are detailed but it is the ordinary people that provide colour and human interest to the story – including mill workers, their wives and children, those who collected and transported timber, the schoolteachers, and those who strived to get the orchard industry going when the timber industry declined.

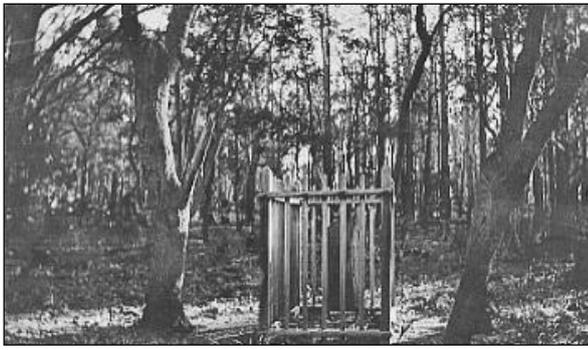
There are delightful anecdotes. Who could not be amused by the story of Mrs Littley, busy knitting on the train on the way home to Karragullen. For technical reasons the passenger carriage had to be reconnected to the goods carriages at Pickering Brook; however on this occasion while uncoupled, the brakes failed and passenger carriage and Mrs Littley, went on their way, 'gathering speed on the downhill run'. The locomotive driver pursued the carriage and, giving it a 'gentle nudge', recoupled it. It is doubtful whether Mrs Littley even dropped a stitch, because when alighting, her only comment was, 'It was a very quick trip tonight, Driver!'



Karragullen Railway Station, undated. Taken from https://pickeringbrookheritagegroup.com/townsites5_1.html

Richard Weston, a wheelwright carpenter and his wife Mary, settled in Carmel close to Mason and Bird's Mill in 1875. Their first son Francis, born 17 January 1876, died two days later and was buried in the bush on a nearby hillside. Inscribed by his father on the wooden headpiece is a record of his short life and the grave is surrounded by a picket fence. Richard and Mary went on to have ten more children, and the little grave is still there in the bush, surviving encroaching power lines, and still cared for by descendants of the family.

Of concern to the historian, however, is the lack of acknowledgement of sources and referencing in this publication. In the small print with the publishing details is a listing of institutions where material was sourced and a general comment regarding photograph



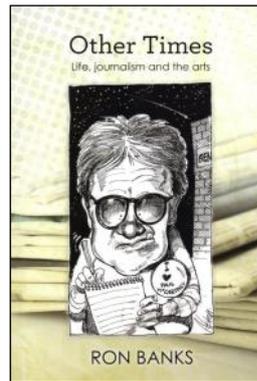
Francis Weston's grave at Carmel in its original state, c. 1876
Taken from <https://pickeringbrookheritagegroup.com/family10.html>

and article credits. Throughout, however, there is only minimal referencing within the text - no footnotes, endnotes or citations. There is also no list of references or a bibliography and many of the captions on the pictorial material do not include dates. This vital information would be invaluable to current and future researchers and hopefully consideration could be given to including it in any future print runs of this otherwise excellent book.

Ron Banks, *Other times: life journalism and the arts*, Vivid Publishing, Fremantle, 2017. In Library.

Reviewer: Patrick Cornish

'Grandpa ... what's a newspaper ... it says here on my phone that they were printed **every day**? On, like, paper?' Thus can we imagine such a question a little later in this madcap century of daily change. Thanks, then, to Ron Banks, long-time arts editor and arts writer at the *West Australian*, for recording a little history of what has been Perth's only daily since the *Daily News* closed thirty years ago.



'Hold the front page' has been the shout in myriad movies about newspapers – and in real life, I can attest – for decades. Banks has been a dedicated holder of the arts pages, so in *Other Times* there is necessarily an emphasis on matters that we journalists sometimes shovel into a furnace called 'culture'. He covers many things from Yehudi Menuhin to *Bran Nue Dae*, which the author describes

as 'the first indigenous musical to come out of WA', as well as the installation in 2002 of the wonderful humanoid sculptures by Antony Gormley at Lake Ballard, just north of Kalgoorlie.

The Banks' brush spreads across a wide canvas. In the book's first and third segments there is general material on the Australian newspaper scene, with its elements of lazy, crazy and oops-a-daisy. Other segments cover many of his reviews. On pages 144-147 we can read, poignantly because of Clive James' recent death, about the poetically comical man's appearance at Perth Concert Hall in 1994. He's described here as a 'literary celebrity', which surely sits well in his legacy. Few celebrities of any stripe have been so skilled at self-effacement.

For two reasons, *Other Times* is welcome to me as a journalist, a little world-weary but not completely grumpy. First, the arts are a salve. I quote George Bernard Shaw in *Back to Methuselah*: 'Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable'. Second, in a world full of rotten words, the written word is often worth veneration.

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