



Founded 1926

HISTORY WEST

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

September 2019

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting is to be held at Stirling House on Wednesday 18 September at 6pm.
Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.**

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies.
 2. Confirmation of minutes of AGM, 19 September 2018.
 3. Business arising from the minutes.
 4. Treasurer's Report and presentation of Annual Accounts.
 5. President's Annual Report.
 6. Chairperson's Annual Report.
 7. Declaration of elected members to replace outgoing Council members.
 8. Confirmation of Patron and Vice-Patrons.
 9. Approval of Honorary Advisors recommended by Council.
 10. General Business.
- Meeting closes.

Following the meeting, Lenore Layman will speak on - Who was 'Mrs Taylor' aka 'the pocket Venus'?



In 1929 and again in 1933 the *Western Mail* published a page of photographs of 'Women of Mark' - colonial women, 24 in all. Almost all were the daughters, wives and mothers of important men, leaders of the colony, officials, large landowners and settler pioneers of rural districts. They went by their husband's name, rendering them virtually invisible, significant only for their family connections to powerful men. Only one on the list looks oddly placed - 'Mrs Taylor, known among her English admirers as "the pocket Venus"'. She married her music teacher against the wishes of her parents and was the first woman music teacher in the State.' No first name, apparently no important family and a surprising epithet. We are unlikely ever to know how she found a place on this list but what can we learn about her life and who she actually was? Join me in this process of detection.



UP COMING EVENT

14-15-16-17 November
4 days - 3 nights

PEMBERTON coach tour

Including
Lithium super pit Greenbushes,
Pemberton trout hatchery,
130 year old new growth forest,
4WD trip through old growth forest
to Yeagarup amazing sand dunes,
Northcliffe Settlers' Museum,
Pemberton town historic features

Please contact 9380 3841
or admin@histwest.org.au
to lodge an expression of interest

Diary Dates

- 55th Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies hosted by City of South Perth Historical Society – Fri 6-Sun 8 September
- AGM – Wednesday 18 September, 6pm
- Lilburne Print Sale all weekend – Friday 20 September (from 5pm) to Sunday 22 September (to 5pm)
- New Members' morning tea and tour of Stirling House – Wednesday 2 October, 11-12 noon

Early Days now available for collection from
Stirling House

Council News

At its meeting held on 8 August business included the following where Council

- welcomed new members – Robert Atkins, Lindsay Dorman, Barry Ireland, David Moore, Mathew Pavlinovich (Midland & Districts Historical Society)
- noted the sadness the death of former Treasurer and Honorary Life member Julia Hedley
- resolved that President Bob Nicholson and Councillor Helen Henderson will represent the Society at a stakeholders' meeting on the proposed legislative changes to the structure of the State Library and resolved on the Society's opposition to any re-amalgamation of the SLWA, AGWA and WAM
- welcomed the success of the Lilburne Australiana book and print sale which raised \$4200 and thanked all concerned
- noted the ongoing work towards the Lilburne print sale to be held on 20-22 September
- welcomed the success of the *History West Community Talk* – The origins of the Berndt Museum by Dr John Stanton
- resolved to trial the use of Eventbrite to record planned attendance at one of the Society's events
- congratulated the Tours & Events committee, particularly Judy Dill-Macky and Kerry Eivers, on the great success of the Mundaring day tour
- warmly thanked volunteer archivist Carol Leigh for her work in cataloguing the newly-donated Forrest/ North papers
- welcomed the 1462 volunteer hours expended on the Society's behalf in July
- supported the Society's inquiries into having a presence at the upcoming Antiques & Collectables Fair at the Showgrounds
- appointed a sub-committee led by Lorraine Clarke to plan for the Society's commemoration of the bicentenary of colonial settlement 1829-2029
- thanked Wendy Lugg for her introduction to the Society's receipt of AMaGA's First Peoples booklet.

Lennie McCall Chairperson

History in the City

At our talk for August, Scott Whitaker gave a lively account of the early Railway Hotels of Australia. His father was a railway man, so the railways and the hotels which sprang up in the railway towns were part of his early life. What has interested him, however, are not so much the buildings, but the railway workers, townfolk and social importance of the railways. The number of railway hotels in Western Australia reached 657 and they became a hub of social life in many towns.

History in the City is held on the first Wednesday of each month from March to December. Our next talk will be on Wednesday 2 October when Roger Underwood will discuss 'Railway Pies' – the story of a culinary icon, their evolution, the recipes, bakers and railway people who distributed and cooked them, and the travellers who ate them.

Lorraine Tholet

Affiliates News

Bassendean Historical Society and Bassendean's local studies library have embarked on some excellent research — transcribing the hand-written minutes of the West Guildford Road Board (from 1901) so that they can be searched on the library's database. This work opens up an important source of local information to future researchers of all kinds.

Margaret River & Districts Historical Society celebrated its 20th anniversary in June, opening a newly constructed wash-house and farming artifact display as well as a new 'dunny' made from the original jarrah to tell more of the group settlement story for its many visitors, who include numerous school and tour groups. But most important on the anniversary day was the dedication of a plaque to Mavis (Mae) Wise who died recently, aged 90. Mae was a long-standing member who did outstanding work collecting, researching and recording historical information about the local community. For instance, she transcribed many of the Wallcliffe House documents by hand. What a valuable historical legacy to leave behind.

Morawa District Historical Society is busy working to acquit a grant obtained from the Shire for maintenance work on the Old Police Station building and the laying of a concrete slab in the Machinery Shed which will be set up as a work area for machinery restoration. The tourist season is in full swing with wildflowers in abundance. It is a bumper season with record numbers visiting the town and museum.

Murray Districts Historical Society has an active program of listing its considerable photographic collection onto the Mosaic database. There are so many historical photographs that remain inaccessible because their listing is either non-existent or incomplete. It's really important work to be doing and let's hope that sufficient information exists to name, date and explain the photograph. Too often photographs end up with no provenance and therefore no meaning.

Naremben Historical Society obtained a Shire Community Grant for uniform re-framing through the local museums and is busy re-framing as well as restoring old machinery. Have you ever heard of Billericay? The Society has obtained Shire permission to erect history signage on the township site on the Kondinin-Naremben road. So we all shortly be better informed if we are up that way.

The **WA Police Society** has recently purchased a dog and horse for its museum displays and is planning short books on the use of dogs by the police and the establishment of the Canine Section, and the story of horses in the WA Police Mounted Section.

Don't forget: Melville History Society's annual Murdoch Lecture is scheduled for 6.30pm on Monday 16 September at Melville's A H Bracks Library where Paul Taucher will speak on 'The Dilemmas of Responsibility: Command and Control on Ambon Island', concerning the postwar allocation of responsibility for the ill-treatment and deaths that occurred during World War II at the Tan Toey POW camp on the island.

Mundaring Muster - a day tour in July

We all thought we knew the hills area of Mundaring and Kalamunda quite well. Watching Mundaring Weir spill over in winter (a sight no longer to be seen) was a childhood must for many of us, but it was surprising to find lots more of interest — and all on a perfect sunny day.

The Zig Zag

There was the track of the iconic old Zig Zag railway built in 1891 to bring timber down from the Darling Scarp. This was the famous hard wood known as Australian mahogany or jarrah, which was exported to Britain and the USA for railway sleepers and bridge building. Engineer Edward Keane and his brother-in-law Lionel White constructed the line to Canning Mills where they built a sawmill. Of course there are no rails on the Zig Zag now but our tour bus inched its way around the hairpin bends of the track while we looked (somewhat alarmed) at the beautiful valley below. The presence of the timber railway stimulated the early settlement of the Kalamunda district.

Spooky Tunnel



East face of tunnel under construction 1895-96 P1999.4206



The tunnel in operation P1999.4217

We then enjoyed the long walk (with stunning bush views, including kangaroos) to the mouth of the dark, brooding railway tunnel. Built by the famous Chief Engineer C Y O'Connor, the 340 metre tunnel was carved out of sheer granite cliffs using dynamite, picks and shovels, and horse-drawn carts. The workmanship of the curved brick tunnel roof is very fine. Some ghostly stories swirl around the records of the tunnel with accounts of the deaths of train drivers, a fireman with facial burns, as well as

passengers collapsing after passing through the tunnel. Turns out they had carbon monoxide poisoning from the coal fires fuelling the steam engines and sucking up the oxygen. Sorry, no ghost

Goldfields Water Pipeline

We saw the silver-coloured pipeline snaking along the sides of the hills as it makes its way to the goldfields 500km away. Work began on the pipeline in 1896 and was completed in 1903, and when first built it was the longest fresh water pipeline in the world. Many had thought it was an impossible task. It needed eight separate pumping stations to move the water uphill and across country to Coolgardie-Kalgoorlie. So No. 1 Pumping Station is situated beside the Weir, a handsome building with wide Georgian-style windows to let in natural light. Inside is the huge, colourfully painted machinery, still pumping away. National Trust historian Bill Colver explained how the machines worked and the sad end to C Y O'Connor's life. O'Connor knew the pipeline would work but he was faced with continuing criticism, indeed vitriol and psychological cruelty, from those who did not believe the pipeline was feasible. While the causes of suicide are complex, it seems that in the end he had had enough.



Mundaring Weir overflowing

Mundaring Weir Hotel

Lunch was provided at the historic Mundaring Hotel (or Goldfields Weir Hotel), beautifully restored to its original state with stately rooms and stained-glass windows. Because the hotel is built in a deep valley, the train bringing the alcohol supplies used to stop at the top of the hill and let the beer barrels roll down to the hotel below. It had its taste of royalty when the Prince of Wales, Prince Edward, George V's son, stayed there in 1920 while touring Western Australia. Indeed O'Connor had stayed on the site while overseeing the building of the pipeline. Nowadays the hotel is a flourishing venue with a picturesque amphitheatre for holding big concert gatherings.



Goldfields Weir Hotel, probably during World War I P1910.438

Blackboy Hill Military Camp

On our way back to Perth we paused at the site of the famous camp where more than 30,000 West Australians were trained to fight in World War I. It is now a grassy paddock with a small memorial sculpture; however the local council is planning to make much more of the historic site in the future.



Many thanks from everyone to **Judy Dill-Macky** and **Kerry Eivers** who planned and organised the happy day of historical and heritage sightseeing. We all had a wonderful time!

Gillian Flecker

Lilburne Australiana book and bird print sale

Congratulations and thanks to Pamela and Nick Drew who organised and led this successful sale. The special weekend event raised approximately \$4200, which is excellent news for the budget. Many thanks indeed to everyone who worked hard to make the sale a success and to the many customers who provided their support as well!

'I enjoyed my shopping', one satisfied customer said. 'I have just returned with a lovely set of owl sketches and a Gould print of wild budgies. I enjoyed looking at it all,' said another. 'I bought the Gould blue-winged kookaburra and heaps of the \$2 and \$3 prints and a book on birds. Very happy!'

A great deal of work has delivered a welcome boost to the finances!



Announcing the sale



Pamela amid the books



And prints as well



Ready to go

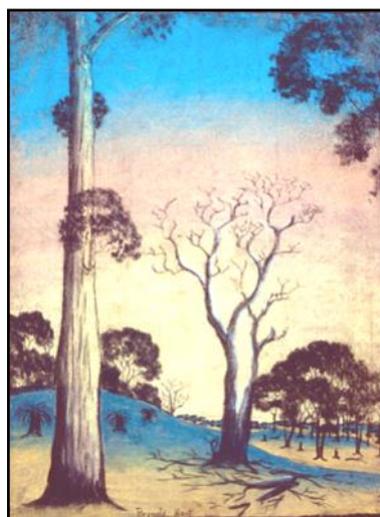


In progress

Community Talk - The story of the Berndt Museum of Anthropology

Our speaker John Stanton was curator of this museum from 1978 until 2013; so who better to explain its significant history for us. The museum was established at the University of WA in 1976 to house collections from the Department of Anthropology. Today it holds extensive ethnographic art collections, spanning Aboriginal Australia, Papua New Guinea and Asia, large collections of photographs, sound and video recordings, and important archival holdings.

Fieldwork was essential for anthropological research when the museum was founded and researchers purchased items from Aboriginal people to add to the collections while they were working in the field, the items purchased being contemporary not historical. Our speaker explained that anthropology throughout Australia at this time followed a collecting tradition and so the museum's collections grew rapidly. All items were thoroughly documented because, unless the provenance of any object is known, it has no meaning — as every



Landscape, by Reynold Hart, Carrolup 1949

museum person will tell you. Professor Berndt insisted that 'an object, however beautiful, is dead absolutely and irrevocably dead' without its own history.

The museum purchased contemporary Aboriginal art in the 1970s and 1980s before it became popular on the art market. Only contemporary art less than one year old was collected and preferably from emerging artists. In 1978 the museum held 1600 objects and 180 photographic collections; by 2013 there were 12,000 objects and over 40,000 photographic prints.

We all learnt a good deal not only about the museum's evolution but also how different anthropological and museum policies and practices were fifty years ago. Today the emphasis is

on engagement and consultation with Aboriginal communities, and establishing links between museum collections and the peoples who created them. Like other museums around Australia, this is today's primary task.

Library News

Brothers in law, brothers at war - part 2

Gilbert Audinwood Orchard

Gilbert was a private in the 11th Infantry Battalion when he embarked at Fremantle, leaving on the same voyage as Alvard Clifton. There is none of Gilbert's personal correspondence in the collection, but we do have the formal letter to his sister Trixie, from the Commonwealth Military Forces, dated 23 August 1915, stating:

It is with deep regret that I have to confirm my message informing you of the death of your brother, No. 813, Private, G A Orchard, 11th Battalion (previously reported missing), who died on 29th April 1915, from wounds received in action at the Dardanelles.

Gilbert was always 'Bertie' in his sister's reminiscences and she recounted that he insisted on waiting under fire on the beach at Gallipoli to see if his brother had landed safely. He was mortally wounded.

Geoffrey Duncan Orchard



Geoffrey Orchard
P2012.1137

Geoffrey enlisted in September 1914 as a member of the 16th Infantry Battalion and sailed on HMAAT *Ceramic A40*, arriving in Alexandria in Egypt in February 1915.

The many letters from Geoffrey to and from his sisters show their close and loving relationship. He addresses his letters to 'Dearest of sisters', 'Dearest Trixie' and often refers to her by the pet name 'Possum dear'. From March 1915 to

October 1918 the correspondence between Geoff and Trixie and his other sisters allows us to follow his war.

His letter in February 1915 tells of his interest in the Egyptians he met and the sights he saw in Cairo and the country:

There are a few things I can't get used to in this country as yet & they are the natives and the donkeys. You will see a huge load of grass moving apparently by itself until you get close & then from one end of the grass appears the head of a donkey.

His references to family must have been comforting to his loved ones. He writes: 'I went out to the Pyramid Camp on the Sunday after we arrived to see Bert [his brother Gilbert]. Just my luck, he had to go on duty 10 minutes after' and later in the letter 'ran into Alvy Clifton & he is like the rest, looking A1, has grown his moustache'.

The next letter is from Ghizarek Hospital, following his landing at Gallipoli. He has been wounded and reports that the 'Doctor says it will be quite 3 months before I rejoin my regiment & has marked me down for

England.' He views this prospect with pleasure as he will be glad 'to see the girls again'. His sisters were living in England. His next letter to Trixie and another to a friend describe the Gallipoli landing.

We landed in the evening of the 25 April & did so without any casualties, but we were lucky as the shrapnel fire was very consistent & well placed; there is no doubt that the Turks or Germans have been putting in some very fine shooting with their artillery. It was quite dark when we left the beach & raining but the flack from the bursting shells & the great flashes from the "Queen Lizzies" guns helped a little, there was one very scared person in our battalion (myself) for a while but it soon passed, as with blundering about in the mud, sometimes falling over rocks etc & others falling over me when I was wallowing about in the mud put me in a rotten temper, & soon drove all scare from me, but just the same it was quite an exciting time getting to our position which is called Pope's Hill now & from the top which we had some machine guns placed one could get a very fine view of the country.

After his dramatic account of the landing, he describes the death of a friend and his own near burial in a landslide. 'The night of May 2nd was our worst time, we attacked a Turkish position between Popes Hill and Quinns Post, we attacked 641 strong, & roll call next was 234 strong.'

We take up his story in England and France in 1917. Messages written in pencil were sent from somewhere in France, while more elegant missives come from Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was undergoing officer training. From France in June 1917 he wrote: 'I have no news honey that I am allowed to send, except that I am well but as you see am longing to see the West again. Lumps of love to you, Possum dear'. In October 1917 from France: 'Many thanks for your letter of 2 August & the Boronia it really made the tent smell like WA again. It was good of you to send it me'. He also expresses his sorrow over the death of George Clifton.

Sister Babs writes of Geoff's final return to France that he went 'very cheerfully and full of interest to what he was going back to and to seeing old friends again'. She says that 'the whole business seems so senseless when you come to think about it, why should they have to go out there to be killed, perhaps, it makes one's heart ache.' Bab's letter presages the dreadful news that Geoffrey has been dangerously wounded and has died in Rouen on 15 October 1918.

Among the many letters of sympathy sent to Trixie is a long account from her sister Babs of the final days before Geoffrey's death, his funeral and burial 'among his comrades' with a bit of wattle 'so that he should have a bit of his beloved Australia with him'.

When Edmund Clifton married Trixie Orchard they and their families were united in happiness but also by great sorrow. The Clifton and the Orchard families paid a heavy price in the Great War.

Jill Maughan

Museum News

Stories from the Storeroom

Belleek fine china: a prized possession



MA1949.11 a-h

This tea service is shell-shaped and made of fine, lustrous china picked out in gold with feet, knobs and handles shaped and coloured as bright red coral. It is thought to be early Belleek from Fermanagh in Northern Ireland and was donated by Agnes Annette Hope née Ford (1861-1955) whose mother Sarah Agnes Ford brought it with her to the colony in 1862.

If you think that Belleek china looks, sounds and feels unique, you are right. There is a back-story to this extraordinarily fine Irish eggshell porcelain, which has an unusually high amount of 'frit' and therefore is thinner and finer than any other china.

Pottery making in Belleek in the area of Fermanagh in Ireland started in 1849 when John Caldwell Bloomfield inherited his family property during the Irish potato famine. Agriculture had become impossible due to diseases in the crops that caused millions to starve and more millions to leave. The wealthy landowner realised that unless he would find a way for his tenants to make a profit from the land, they would starve. As an amateur mineralogist, he discovered that his land included the right clay for porcelain so he partnered with a Dublin merchant and a London architect to form a company. After some years of research and the construction of a railway to transport the coal required for the process, a factory was built in 1858 to make the pottery. Bloomfield employed local people who made domestic wares at first but were soon producing the translucent ivory porcelain for which it became known.

What had started as a way to fend off famine among the local tenants became a story of incredible success as Queen Victoria fell in love with the china and its many homely, slightly bizarre designs based on nature – using sea shells, froth, kelp, tree roots, bark and corals. The earliest work seems to be the most bizarre. The surface of most pieces is usually fluted like the waves of the sea with the froth of the surf foaming around the shoulders of the teapots while the handles resemble coral. After it became popular in the 1880s a number of firms copied the style.

In 1863 to identify its maker the firm commenced marking the wares with a maker's mark on the underside of the china. This causes a problem for us as our tea service came to Australia in 1862 and therefore has no mark. However we know many potteries did not apply back stamps when starting up and that all similar work is of a much later date so can hypothesise that this set is an early example, perhaps the firm's first market foray sold in London in 1862 at the time of the Great Exhibition before the stamp was employed.

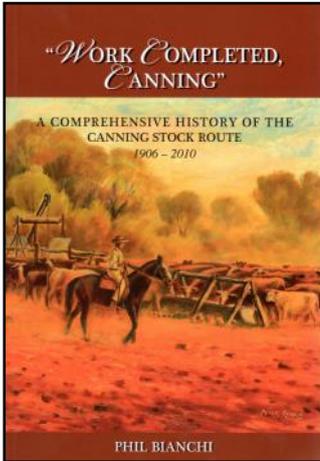
We can imagine Sarah Agnes Ford setting off for Australia with her husband William and baby daughter perhaps purchasing such an eye-catching 'treasure' to take with her; or maybe it was a special going-away gift for her or a wedding present. It was probably kept for best in her home in Guildford where her husband was a carpenter/miller. There can be little doubt that it was admired by her friends and used on very special occasions.

Dr Dorothy Erickson

Does any reader know anything more of our donor Agnes Annette Hope née Ford (1861-1955) or her mother Sarah Agnes Ford whose tea set it was? If so, could they please contact the Office. We would love to know more about this donor family.

Spotlight on members' research

A dispute in WA history — Can we be sure about the past?



Member **Phil Bianchi**, bush historian and four-wheel drive travel writer, is an expert on the history of Alfred Wernam Canning, surveyor and explorer, and of the Canning Stock Route. Hesperian Press published his definitive work on the subject – **Work Completed, Canning. A Comprehensive History of the Canning Stock Route 1906-2010** – in

2013. At 724 pages with 274 photographs and 38 maps, you might think that the last word has been written on the subject, [particularly given that Hubert Stanslake Trotman, Canning's deputy, dictated his version of events to Eleanor Smith, who first published them as **The Beckoning West** back in 1966]. But the last word is never written or spoken in history! There remain differences of opinion on Canning's treatment of Aboriginal people. Phil believes that, after his years of detailed research, he can be as sure as is possible of his conclusions. Given that the question of frontier violence is now a central issue in Australian history, Phil's reflections are important.

The matter of A W Canning's treatment of the Aboriginal people he encountered in his surveying work comes up time and again, and there is a view that Canning mistreated them. You will find this view well represented online; for instance, the National Museum of Australia maintains that Canning fed salt beef to chained Aboriginal people to promote thirst so they would direct him to water sources. Recently history revisionists endeavoured to have the names of the Canning River, Canning Highway and Canning Dam changed. I pointed out that the Canning after whom they were named was George Canning (1770-1827), an English Prime Minister, and not A W Canning (1860-1936).

A W Canning was an experienced bushman and Lands Department surveyor in 1906 when he was given the job of determining the feasibility of a stock route to bring cattle from the Kimberley to Wiluna to supply meat to the goldfields. He successfully surveyed a suitable route. Upon arrival back in Perth, Canning and his party were feted for their success in finding a stock route.

Edward Blake, the expedition's cook, wanted to be in the well-sinking party which followed the initial expedition, but was refused. He then made claims against Canning and his second-in-command Trotman. Press reporting and the concerns of members of parliament resulted in a royal commission on the possible mistreatment of Aborigines during the exploration leg. Numerous people were called to give

evidence. By the time Blake finished his evidence, he said that Canning wasn't to blame; it was others in the group. His legal representative didn't push the matter of Canning not being guilty. Neither Canning nor his men fed salt beef, salt water or anything else to promote thirst to Aboriginal people. If they had done so Blake would have had no hesitation in raising it in his testimony. He did not.

The royal commission's findings were that Blake's accusations were 'the result of his own imagination, perhaps built upon some slight foundation', as in the allegation of immoral behaviour with Aboriginal women. In that case however, as in others, the commissioners judged his motivation to be the 'desire of injuring Mr Trotman'. After the royal commission Canning was selected to head the construction phase of the stock route (1908-1910) and in 1930 was asked to lead the well reconstruction team to get the stock route functional again.

Was the royal commission a whitewash? Possibly. However, when coming to an opinion about it, we need to ensure we are not looking back on 1906 with 2019 eyes and ideas. We need to remember that in that period people of all colours and creeds were hanged, and not too far before that convicts were sent to WA for what we today see as trivial offences. Three drovers, Thompson, Shoemith and Chinaman were killed at Well 37 in 1910. In response, the government sent a punitive expedition led by police sergeant Pilmer. He reported to his superiors: 'we dispersed 14 natives in the vicinity of the murder, all of whom were alleged to have been implicated.' At that time 'dispersed' meant shooting to kill. Such was the thinking then.

Did Blake have an axe to grind against Canning and his party because they would not take him on the construction phase of the stock route? Canning and Trotman said Blake was a most disagreeable person and caused disharmony in the 1906-07 exploration party, hence they denied him any subsequent role. If they had allowed him to be a member of the construction party would there have been a royal commission? I suspect not.

Was Blake being bloody-minded or was there a whitewash? It seems clear that Blake was intent on causing Canning and Trotman damage. Whether there was any truth at all in his claims remains unclear; perhaps, as the royal commissioners concluded, there might have been 'some slight foundation'.

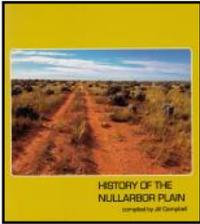
I want people to understand our history and, although we may find it abhorrent, that's how things were back then. We shouldn't seek to diminish it, to hide the truth; likewise we shouldn't manipulate and interpret it to suit our agendas. I want history to be told accurately, no matter how distasteful we may find it or that it doesn't suit current thinking.

Phil Bianchi

Everyone at the Society congratulates Phil on his OAM awarded in this year's Australia Day Honours List. It is well deserved!

Shelf Help

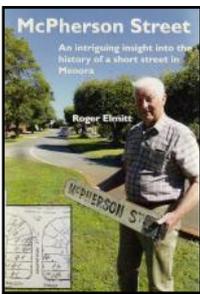
Jill Campbell compiler, *History of the Nullarbor Plain, 2018. In Library.*



This donation records the many pastoral leases taken up on the Nullarbor from the 1870s to 2010 with short reports on each station written by leaseholders. Photographs accompany the summaries. The compiler of this small but useful publication, Jill Campbell, arrived on the Nullarbor

as a child in 1957, grew up there, married and raised her children on Kybo Station.

Roger Elmitt, *McPherson Street. The story of a short street in Menora and the people who have lived there since the first house was occupied in 1926, 2017. In Library.*



This donated book is testament to homeowners' interest in the heritage of their homes and in the former occupiers who have tended these houses in the past. Suburban heritage and residents' organisations established to protect and improve the amenity of neighbourhoods are now widespread in metropolitan areas around Australia. The author, Roger Elmitt, has been a member of

the Mt Lawley Society for many years and has written a book documenting the history of the twelve houses in McPherson Street as well as most of the sixty families who have lived there since its creation. It is a work of detailed documentary research and is enlivened by contributions from the various families and neighbours. This is a much-loved street.

A farewell to our former Treasurer, Julia Hedley CPA

We regret to inform you that Life member, Julia Hedley, has died. We remember Julia with respect and affection, and greatly appreciate the major contribution she made as a volunteer over many years. Julia was Treasurer 2003-2017 and was made an Honorary Life Member in 2014. Her work on committees and Council was invaluable to the Society's good financial health and successful functioning. Thank you Julia.



Julia is made an Honorary Life member

Many thanks to volunteer Anne Harse



Helen Henderson, Margaret Medcalf, Anne Harse – former Councillors together

Anne has decided that it's time to retire from active volunteering, a decision we regret but understand. Anne and Bill Harse joined the Society in 1992, and Anne was elected to Council for 1995-1996 when Dr Geoffrey Lilburne was president. During those years Anne also convened the Tours Committee. Subsequently she

has been a cheerful and helpful presence at Stirling House, and we will miss her.

Community Officer: Lesley Burnett
Editor *History West*: Dr Lenore Layman
Copy editor: Heather Campbell

Opinions expressed in *History West* 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