



HISTORY WEST

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

Presented to the
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 15 September 2021

Stirling House
49 Broadway
Nedlands
Western Australia

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President's Report

September 10 marked the 95th anniversary of the formation of the Society in 1926, and we entertain hopes that by 2026 the Society will have a new or enlarged building which our collections and members deserve. The History West Community Centre planning committee is making steady progress and a major public appeal will be launched at an opportune time. In the meantime, members have donated over \$250,000 to the building fund.

On 23 November 2020 we had a visit from our Patron, Governor Kim Beazley, who was most impressed with our Art, Photo, Library and Museum collections, and left with a firm conviction that a bigger, safer building was required.

The last twelve months have again been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic with Stirling House closed for a week up to 5 July, masks often required indoors, and events in the meeting room sometimes restricted to twenty people or fifty people. In the biggest blow of all, the State History Conference planned for Denmark in October was cancelled because of these 'social distancing' requirements. More recently, a special lecture planned for 23 September was postponed because of hard border closures.

Our 'off Broadway' entertainment – the History in the City program organised by the Auxiliary was driven into a six-month hiatus but re-emerged stronger than ever, in March.

Despite these annoyances, major Stirling House activities continued as usual: a successful secondhand book sale was held in April with a spectacular follow-up when a 1688 edition of *Paradise Lost* was sold online for \$2400; the newsletter *HistoryWest* appeared like clockwork each month; our Wednesday research talks proceeded on schedule; and *Early Days* number 103 was launched at the annual Christmas party at the Wordsworths; 13 entries were received for the 2020 Williams/Lee Steere Book Prize and the \$1000 cheque was presented at the last AGM.

The Williams/Lee Steere Annual Prize for the best book published on WA history has slowly emerged as an activity of which we should be proud. Tonight's winner was chosen from a field of 18. The Williams/Lee Steere has joined the State Records Office's Margaret Medcalf Award as the two major prizes for history writing.

Our Bookshop is now the most important outlet for books on WA history. Hesperian Press is the major publisher of such books, and has boosted the Bookshop by making all of its titles available to us on consignment.

Other activities which have become a major part of our program are our popular morning 'community talks' and the increasingly popular 'Tuesday Treasures' which highlight items from our various collections.

Your Council is currently in the middle of a 12-month experiment to halve the number of Executive Committee and Council meetings with each body meeting bimonthly in alternate months. It is hoped that this will make it more attractive to busy people to offer their services.

The last five years have seen increased pressure on office-bearers. Until September 2016 a grant from Culture and the Arts enabled us to employ an Executive or Administrative Officer. Honorary officials now share the workload. I would like to see a 'Future Fund' set up to avoid dependence on government grants.

The bulk of the work of the Society is carried by our nine committees and our enthusiastic volunteers. The annual reports of all committees can be read in the printed Annual Report. As a small gesture of thanks to the volunteers I have just had a 'Volunteer' badge made for each of them.

As this my last president's report I would particularly like to thank Secretary Pamela Statham Drew, Treasurer Lorraine Clarke and Assistant Treasurer Nick Drew for their unconditional support over the last two years.

Steve Errington

ANNUAL COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS 2020-21

PATRON

The Honourable Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia

VICE-PATRONS

Hon. Mark McGowan MLA, Premier of Western Australia

Hon. Liza Harvey MLA, Leader of the Opposition (to November), Zac Kirkip (to March), Mia Davies MLA (since April).

OFFICE BEARERS/COUNCILLORS

President and Chairperson: Dr Steve Errington JP

Immediate Past President: Hon. Robert Nicholson AO

Vice Presidents: Sally Anne Hasluck OAM, Lennie McCall AM

Secretary: Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Treasurer and Vice-Chairperson: Lorraine Clarke

Assistant Treasurer: Nick Drew

Councillors: Dr Fiona Bush OAM, Dr Helen Henderson AM, Dr Lenore Layman AM, Wendy Lugg, Jan McCahon Marshall (Minutes Secretary), Michael Nind, Rachel Roe (Auxiliary President, since February), Roger Tomlins (Affiliates representative), Joyce Young (Auxiliary President, until November).

HONORARY ADVISORS

Honorary Architect: Maria Gillman

Honorary Solicitor: Denis McLeod

Honorary Auditor: Nexia Australia

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report for the year July 2020 – June 2021 is available as a separate document, and it will be followed by an auditor's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Much of the work of the Society is carried out by standing committees who report to Council. Their reports follow.

Affiliated Societies Committee

Committee: Nick Drew, Convenor (Representative on RWAHS Council), Fiona Bush, Minute Secretary (Mundaring and Hills), Gillian O'Mara (Wanneroo & Districts), Dianne Pope (Bindoon), Lynn O'Hara (South Perth), Ellen Parrick (Mundaring and Hills), Marilyn Gazeley (Cervantes), Roger Tomlins (Maylands) Ashleigh Murch (Denmark), Malcolm Traill (Denmark), Lindsay Stockdale (Eastern Goldfields), Rosie Stroud (Eastern Goldfields) Steve Errington, ex officio (President RWAHS)

Committee Meetings held:, 18 August 2020, 16 February 2021, 16 March 2021, 20 April 2021

Number of Affiliated Societies : 77

RWAHS 2020 Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies: hosted by Denmark Historical Society

Planning for the 2020 Conference began in 2019, by the Denmark Historical Society.

Conference Convenor Malcolm Traill and President Ashleigh Murch. In August 2020 it was decided due to Covid-19 Capacity limits to postpone the Conference.

The Denmark Conference will now be held 2022, with Bridgetown agreeing to host the Conference in 2023 instead of 2022.

Due the postponement of the Conference and few Annual Reports received it was decided not to issue the Merit award for 2020

RWAHS 2021 Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies: hosted by Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

Planning is going very well for the Conference due to be held 3-5 September with Committee Members Lindsay Stockdale Chair, Rosie Stroud, Ethel Chinnery, Jan Lamont, Bev Quartermaine, Ross Quartermaine & Di Stockdale.

Some delegates have decided to stay on for the Coolgardie Cup being held in Kalgoorlie on Sunday afternoon 4 September, the Racing Club have offered free admission and a tour of the Museum.

Grants: The last instalment of the of the three-year Lotterywest grant to provide assistance to delegates to attend the Annual State History Conference was due to be paid for the 2020 Conference. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Conference Lotterywest have agreed to extend the Grant to 2021 with a final Acquittal date 20 December 2021.

In addition the 2019 grant \$7,500 we claimed \$5,094.00 leaving a balance \$2,406.00 to be deducted from 2021 Grant \$8,000.00, in April Lotterywest offered the balance \$2,406.00 to be kept and added this year's Grant \$8,000.00 due the higher costs in travelling and staying in Kalgoorlie.

Travel to 2021 Annual State History Conference

A Group booking to travel on the Prospector Train was made with TransWA departing East Perth 3 September for 53 delegates, others are joining the train at other stops, some return Sunday 5 September or 6 September after the Coolgardie Cup

Mail Outs: The Mail Out/Newsletter to all Affiliated Societies took place in September 2020, May 2020, December 2020 and April 2021 in addition other Group emails were sent to all Societies with updates and information.

Queries: Emails/telephone Many calls have been received throughout the year requesting information, guidance, notice of events, etc

Nick Drew

Convenor

The RWAHS Auxiliary

Committee Members: Rachel Roe President and Treasurer, Allison Fyfe, Jenny Wildy, Jill Paterson, Shirley Aliaga.

The History in the City program of talks and afternoon tea was cancelled July – December 2020 due to Covid – 19 pandemic.

The Auxiliary's Fundraising Morning Tea held on 5 August 2020 was very different due to Covid-19 restrictions requiring a reduced number of patrons in the room and causing food serving difficulties. The committee increased the number of raffle prizes due to the absence of morning tea. Our guest speaker Richard Offen kindly presented his talk twice to accommodate more guests. There was a morning and afternoon session. His illustrated talk was about *Life at The Perth Town Hall*. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Perth Town hall by Governor Weld 1 June 1870. Richard discussed what life was like in the city at the time.

At this event Lorraine Tholet retired as president and we welcomed Mrs. Joyce Young to the role. Sadly, Joyce passed away the following January. Rachel Roe became President at beginning of 2021.

History in the City program resumed 2021. The speakers and topics were:

March: Joanna Sassoon - *E.L. Mitchell and WA Photography*

April: Peter Worsley - *Whaling in the 19th Century*

May: Chris Holyday - *History of The RSL in WA*

June: Sid Czabotar - *WA Submarine History (Ovens, Oberons and Orions)*

Rachel Roe

Auxiliary president

Disaster Preparedness Committee

Committee members: Adrian Phelps (Chairperson), Dr Steve Errington (president), Maria Gillman (Hon Architect), Val Hutch (Museum representative), Lennie McCall (a vice president), Margaret Medcalf (Archivist).

Number of committee of meetings: 8 (24 August 2020), 8 September 2020 (Special meeting re digitisation of Council Minutes), 24 September 2020, 19 Oct 2020, 14 December 2020, 15 February 2021, 21 April 2021, 14 June 2021.

The Disaster Preparedness Plan has been reviewed and a list of recurring items to be checked at every meeting has been made.

The emergency exit from the meeting room has been made safer by reducing the steps to one, laying paving to the edge of the building and installing a solar-powered sensor light above the door. At the front entrance a handrail has been installed to help people negotiate the steps safely. All steps now have fluorescent tape on them.

Digitisation of Council minutes and other records is continuing by CompStor to ensure they are safe. Once digitised they will be securely stored at CompuStor.

A defibrillator has been installed at the front entrance and a session held to show members how to use it. Our Community Officer will check it monthly.

A CCTV unit has been installed in the meeting room to add to the security of that area.

Recent heavy rain has tested the repairs of the roof to stop water entering the Library and was found to be successful.

Both fire extinguishers have been replaced as it was cheaper than testing, and an additional one has been purchased for the kitchen as we were advised that it would be more effective than a fire blanket.

A 'Reserved' sign was purchased to ensure guest speakers are able to get a parking spot.

A new Occurrence Book has been purchased and it will now be brought to each meeting so that all incidents can be evaluated for action.

Adrian Phelps

Convenor

History West Community Centre Planning Committee

Names of Committees and sub groups

- Planning, Fundraising and Building;
- Strategic Planning;
- Media and Communication;
- Fundraising Events/Functions

Members of the Committees and groups; number of meetings held

HWCC Planning; Fundraising and Building Committee members

Sally Anne Hasluck, Chair (Vice-President)

Steve Errington, President

Lorraine Clarke, Treasurer and Vice-Chair of Council

Nick Drew, assistant treasurer

Ian MacLeod, member

Lennie McCall, Vice-President

Robert Nicholson, Immediate Past President

Richard Offen, member

Kevin Skipworth, member

John Shepherd, member

Members of Strategic Planning

Sally Anne Hasluck, Chair

Susie Jackson, Consultant (Jackson Business Consulting)

Lennie McCall, Vice-President

Richard Offen, member

Members of Media and Communication

Commenced October 2020

Richard Offen, Chair

Kate Ackerman, member

Lesley Burnett, Community Officer

James Cassidy, member

Patrick Cornish, member

Suzanne John, member
Margot Lang, member
Lenore Layman, member

Members of Fundraising Events/Functions

Commenced October 2020
Sally Anne Hasluck (Convenor)
Jill Anderson, member
Lorraine Clarke (until May 2021)
Melissa Drake-Brockman, member
Nick Drew, member
Val Hutch, member
Lennie McCall, Vice-President
Agatha van der Schaaf, member
Pamela Statham-Drew, member

Meetings held in 2020/2021

Meetings were placed on hold at various times during the year
Planning Committee meetings: 7
Strategic Planning: 4
Media and Communication: 3
Fundraising Events/Functions: 7

Business Case by Peter Farr Consultants Australasia Pty Ltd

A group met to support Peter Farr with this *pro bono* undertaking. Two new members Phil Vile and Howard Haselhurst contributed. Owing to COVID disruptions the Business Case is yet to be finalised.

Concept Plans for a new building on our site: 49 Broadway Nedlands

Meetings have been held with Nedlands City Council with respect to the new Local Government LP3 scheme and the process is continuing with their planning department. A thank you to our Hon Architect Maria Gillman of BOS Architects for all her *pro bono* work on the current concept plans.

Strategic Planning

A small sub group to look at strategic planning for fundraising was formed. The Consultant Susie Jackson has been leading these discussions. There are three areas being addressed; membership, corporate and public. Three further sub groups under the main HWCC Planning Committee have been formed: Major Donors and Corporates (which was not able to meet until 16 July 2021); Media and Communications and Fundraising Events/Functions. These groups are concerned with fundraising and raising the public profile of the Society.

Events/Functions

The Society's Patron, The Governor, the Honourable Kim Beasley AC hosted a cocktail party at Government House to launch the Members' Fundraising Campaign in February 2021. This was by invitation as numbers were limited. It was an opportunity to thank members who had made donations and pledges and also gain more support from members. The Governor spoke of his love of history and the importance of the Society. A function that was much enjoyed.

A second event, kindly sponsored by a member, was held at Nedlands Yacht Club in March – a morning tea where all members were welcomed. Richard Offen gave a short talk on 'Why History Matters' with a personal narrative and also made a plea for donations. James Cassidy a younger member, presenter of the Society's Facebook page, also spoke on the same theme. Our Honorary Architect, Maria Gillman was in attendance to present the concept plans and answer queries. The large baskets of donated goodies were

popular with the raffle being drawn by Lady Heseltine. Thank you to all the members who joined this morning of good fellowship.

Special 'thank you for attending' keepsakes which included the ability to donate to the members' campaign were given to attendees at both functions.

Donations

It is pleasing that all the donors who made two year pledges in 2020 have completed their commitment in 2021. The Society is very appreciative of these persons leading the way with donations which ranged from \$1,000 to \$30,000 each year. Other donations from members following from our special events have been most welcome. The pledge of \$500,000 made in 2020 by the Wright sisters through the East India Benevolent Fund is a great encouragement. We are working towards new premises by our centenary in 2026.

To the end of June 2021 the donations account amounts to \$260,000. In the 2020-21 year \$130,000 was received. Thank you to all members who responded to the launch of the Members' Fundraising Campaign. All funds are held safely in trust.

Number of current volunteers

All 20 members of the committee and subcommittees provided volunteer assistance and encouragement towards achieving a new building for the Society. I would like to thank them all for their contribution. The task requires many 'hands on the wheel'.

My thanks also to our Community Officer, Lesley Burnett, with whom I liaise: she is a most willing and supportive person.

Sally Anne Hasluck

Convenor

Library Committee

Committee members:

T. Fallen, B. Harris, J. Honniball, V. Krantz, J. McCarthy, J. Matthews, H. Natt, M. Taylor, P. Thorn, A. Weigold, A Bromhead, J. Twine, E. Beaumont

Number of meetings held: Five

No. of volunteers: 12

Highlights

Events

Many administrative tasks are difficult without a Library Coordinator and we hope that continuing advertising will for someone to fill this position will be successful.

Facilities

Removal of the carpet and WiFi access for the computer has made the Library a much safer workplace. Lack of storage space is still a serious issue.

Statistics of activity

These statistics cover the period of July 2020 to the end of June 2021:

Library users

| | 2020-2021 |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Visitors – Public | 67 |
| Visitors – Members | 35 |

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Total visitors | 102 |
|-----------------------|------------|

Library use

| | 2020-2021 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Enquiries | 152 |
| Photographs provided | 44 |

Library staff

| | 2020-2021 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| No. of new library volunteers | 3 |

Collection development: acquisitions to the Collections

| Item types | 2020-2021 |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Books | 137 |
| Documents | 139 |
| Photographs | 127 |
| Maps | 1 |

Evalyn Beaumont

Volunteer

Museum Committee

Members of Committee - July 2020/June 2021: Tony Bagshaw, Sue Clarke, Ros Currie, Ainslie Edel, Sarah Evans (July 2020 – December 2020). Brixley Gale, Janelle Hauser (joined August 2020) Bruce Hoar, Val Hutch (Convenor), Gabby Inglis (resigned July 2020), Nathan Lewis (discontinued), Fiona Keating (discontinued), Wendy Lugg (Councillor and Hon. Artist in Residence), Kate McGurk (joined August 2020), Zoe Newby, Natalie Richards, Kathryn Swan, Janet Tombleson, Claudia White (until February 2021). Notre Dame Student Vanessa Sawyer completed 40-hour practicum unit (September 2020 – October 2020)

Currently 15 active volunteers. 3 new volunteers were welcomed during the year and 4 resigned

Curator – Vanessa Wiggin appointed September 2020 (part-time one day per week)

Committee met 10 times during the year.

Publicity - History West – 21 museum related articles appeared throughout the year.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| July 2020 | <i>The Development of Woodman Point Quarantine Station</i> – Zoe Newby |
| August | <i>Notice on Education Portal and History in a Suitcase</i> – Tony Bagshaw <i>Story of Cinderella Balls</i> – Sue Clark |
| September | No museum articles |
| October | <i>Return of the Leschenaultia mosaic</i> – Bruce Hoar |
| November | <i>History told on a plate – Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Plate 1887</i> – Zoe Newby |
| December | <i>The Way We Used to Play</i> – Zoe Newby |
| Jan/Feb 2021 | No museum articles |
| March | <i>The roll of the Fashion Doll in Swan River Colony</i> – Jo Pearson |
| April | <i>Ring a Bell</i> – Bruce Hoar |
| May | <i>The Rees Wallet</i> – Bruce Hoar <i>Treatment of the Hartog Plate and bicorn hat</i> - Val Hutch |
| June | <i>The Tea Set</i> – Natalie Richards and Kath Swan |

| | |
|---|---|
| Stories from the Storerooms series – Dorothy Erickson | |
| August 2020 | <i>Passmore embroidery and Chair</i> |
| September | <i>Warwick Armorial ware</i> |
| October | <i>Guilding the Lily – Blanche Habgood's dress</i> |
| November | <i>Ride to Win – The Murchison Cup</i> |
| December | <i>Sisterly love – Louisa Clifton's veil</i> |
| Jan/Feb 2021 | No museum articles |
| March | <i>Souvenirs of the Coolgardie Exhibition 1899</i> |
| April | <i>John Wall Hardey and 'Grove Farm'</i> |
| May | <i>A Lady's accomplishments - Lady Richardson-Bunbury</i> |
| June | <i>Warding off smells – The Vinaigrette</i> |

Projects

Dorothy Erickson's requests and audits

- Art Audit – ongoing. New volunteer Sarah Evans assisting Ros Currie on this project.
- Ceramics Audit – progressing. Audit with additional information delivered to DE in April. Following her review DE requested additional information. Natalie Richards and Kath Swan are continuing with this.

Collective Access

- Photographing of medals and coins collection by Nathan Lewis uploaded onto CA.
- New accession items entered regularly, with photos where available. Movement of locations and other edits made as required - ongoing
- Difficulty in searching for storage locations due to different ways they have been entered into the system.

Collections WA – Training Workshop by AMaGA WA attended by Wendy Lugg, Natalie Richards and Zoe Newby. Agreed this would provide an effective way of promoting RWAHS collection. Password and contact email to be sorted with AMaGA WA. Wendy is looking into this. Zoe preparing articles to be included when certain issues have been sorted.

Reports

Curator's Report – this to become a monthly item on the museum agenda (Vanessa Wiggin)

From October 2020

- recommendation to be more strategic in our collecting activities. Willing to review every proposed donation and conduct basic research and significance assessment prior to monthly museum meeting. Created Acquisitions Proposal Form for determining recommendation.
- Installed sticky pest traps in museum areas and kitchen to be inspected regularly for early warning of insect outbreaks.
- Identify items in collection which pose health and safety concerns – eg asbestos. Items to be tagged and bagged safely.
- Plans to hold regular conservation training sessions for volunteers.
- Recommend placing some of our significant costumes on the Australian Dress Register
- Check on recording of placement locations on CA for easy and accurate search
- Investigate whether funding is available to have access to an additional networked computer.
- Commenced replacing wooden dividers in Tranby Room drawers with archival cardboard material.
- Purchase of gloves and labelling materials to improve the handling and marking of objects.
- Installed two data loggers in Costume Room to allow the temperature and relative humidity to be monitored.
- Participated in webinar in November for AMAGA. Copy of recording placed on Tranby computer.
- Established a Museum volunteers Facebook page for communication with members of the Museum committee only.
- Discovered undocumented pen and ink drawing of an Aboriginal man, revealed the drawing was done by Alexander Collie in Port Leschenault (Bunbury) in 1830. Amongst the very earliest

images of an Aboriginal person in Western Australia. Research on its provenance to be undertaken and quote to have it cleaned and stored in archival materials be obtained from Stephanie Bailey. Found to be 'on loan' from Shire of Collie since early 1930. Vanessa to contact Shire of Collie advising. Later Shire of Collie agreed it be transferred to the RWAHS collection permanently with several conditions which can easily be met.

- Rewritten new photo request and permission form to simplify the application process and pricing structure.
- Working on the procedures for deaccessioning and written new form to make this process an easier decision.
- Reorganising Museum files on the computer under AAA Museum Committee on the 'O' drive.
- Agreed to hold a Conservation Workshop with Dr Ian MacLeod in June 2021.
- Submitted grant application to the National Library for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the collection (other than the costume collection which has been done previously).
- Working on updating new Collections Policy. Draft presented to Museum Committee in May.

Art/Framed Photographs (Ros Currie)

- Paintings section of Dorothy Erickson's audit updated on CA. Continue with drawings section.
- Dorothy's suggested items for de-accessioning from Prints and Drawings section passed on to Vanessa Wiggin. List to be compiled for the committee to assess and pass on to Council for the final decision.
- Recommendation by Ros Currie to hold Weekend workshop to empty, clean and re-stack items and record relocation on CA. Saturday and Sunday 28 and 29 November, 2020. Roster drawn up and attended by several volunteers either part time or all weekend.
- Items earmarked for de-accessioning presented to Museum committee for consideration and review before any recommendations are forwarded to Council.
- Six framed photographs recommended be deframed and transferred to the Library's collection.
- Large wooden framed photograph of the Opening of Federal Parliament to be hung in the foyer.
- Movements from busy bee recorded on CA.
- Wendy Lugg editing images taken at the busy bee and storing on the Tranby computer. Some have been uploaded to CA.
- Not all the Cummings drawings have been photographed so need to be reviewed.

Costume Report (Wendy Lugg/Janet Tombleson/Ainslie Edel)

- Sorting of backlog of items continues with accessioning and movements being recorded on CA.
- Student on practicum from Notre Dame University, Vanessa Sawyer collated spreadsheet from file recorded during the pest inspection period of items in need of re-storing due to overcrowding or longer box required. Assisted with re-packing two of the oldest gowns into one of the new long boxes, and an assortment of 1960s dresses into another.
- Volunteer Natasha Fenner compiled a spreadsheet of costumes needing to be rehoused in longer boxes.
- Boxes made by Westcare last year not proving to be satisfactory as lids and bases are too tight. Need to be examined to see which ones suitable to keep or be returned.
- Costumes donated by Mandy Loton examined and several items selected to keep.

Council Report (Wendy Lugg)

- Approval given for Leschenaultia Mosaic to be hung in meeting room.
- Approval given to hold weekend busy bee for art room cleaning and restacking.
- Repairs to the entire roof and gutter, solving problems for damp in Museum and Library.
- Approval for new laptop computer to be purchased from museum funds.
- Council and Executive to meet alternate months.

Education (Schools Project) (Tony Bagshaw)

- Publicity RWAHS website to include Education portal
- Publicity in History Teachers' bulletin
- Publicity in 'Can you Help' column, the *West Australian*

- Contact made with four teaching universities to advise them of availability of the suitcases for their students to utilise.
- Feedback from societies who also had similar projects reflected lack of interest/participation mainly due to the disruption by COVID-19 and more positive likely next year.
- Tony delivered both suitcases to Prof Veronica Gardiner at Murdoch University who presented them to some 100+ trainee primary school undergraduates.
- In May Year 1-3 suitcases borrowed by Rockingham John Calvin School, Makybe Rise Primary School and Baldivis Primary School.

(Memory Boxes)

- Tony to put together a collection of items for a 'Memory Box' for future aged care visits or group visits to the Society
- Collection for Memory Boxes continues.
- Presented Memory Boxes to two groups who visited the Society in June – Mercy Care, Belmont and Nedlands Community Care Group for Seniors.

Museum Store Room (Sue Clarke/Brixley Gale)

- Commenced checking and sorting boxes in the storeroom, putting 'like materials' objects together. Movement of location recorded on CA.

Tranby Room

- Brixley Gale has completed her audit of the Tranby Room drawers and updated on CA.
- Smaller framed photographs be relocated to Tranby Room shelf above the desk.

Tuesday Treasure Talks (continued since COVID-19 lockdown)

- August - *Timber Tales*, Val Hutch
- September – *Silk Pages for the Stage* – Janet Tombleson
- October – *The Way we Used to Play* – Zoe Newby/Sue Clarke
- November – postponed until December
- December – *Ring A Bell* – Bruce Hoar
- March, 2021 – *Out of the Memory Box* – Tony Bagshaw
- April – *The Tea 'Set'* Kath Swan and Natalie Richards

Visits

- East Perth Probus Club July 2020, 12 visitors
- Ruth Phelps and Patricia Moncrieff to photograph and record all items donated by Ruth Phelps (at Ruth's expense)
- **Conservation/Treatment**
- Rabbit Skin Rug to be conserved by Patricia Moncrieff (Ruth Phelps to pay for conservation)
- Wood Chip hat – conserved and special storage box by Patricia Moncrieff (at Ruth Phelps expense)
- Leschenaultia Mosaic – cleaned, Vanessa Wiggin
- Cleaned and treated braid and button on Sir Luke Leake's bicorn hat – Rinske Car
- Cleaned and treated Dirk Hartog plate to give 'authentic' ancient pewter look – Dr Ian MacLeod
- Murchison cup cleaned – Vanessa Wiggin
- Secured two Seaweed Albums on display in cabinet drawers. Determined one album previously thought to have been collected from Kwinana reads Kiama (NSW) – Vanessa Wiggin

Request for high resolution photographs (Wendy Lugg)

- *The Finding of Harding, Panther and Goldwater* to Peter Bridge for cover of 'Due North'
- *Treasures of WA* Exhibition in Hackett Hall in the new museum research Dr Baige Zylstra
- *'Champion Bay'* request by Jocelyn Ross, Archivist, Anglican Diocese of North West Australia

Request for items for outside loans

- Toni Church, for exhibition at the Old Court House Law Museum for items relating to Edith Cowan. Agreed to lend jacket worn by Julie Bishop be offered. Vanessa updated Outward Loan form.
- Victoria Canova for repeat of Wedding Dresses from the RWAHS collection – repeat of her presentation to the Embroiderers' Guild to be held on 30 April during NT Heritage Month.

Training/workshops

- Numbering and handling objects to committee – Vanessa Wiggin
- Metals Conservation Workshop presented by Dr Ian MacLeod and Vanessa Wiggin attended by 15 participants held 5 June 2021.

Purchase of equipment

Portable light box suitable for photographing small objects – Wendy Lugg

Acid-free tissue both buffered and unbuffered

New laptop computer

New acquisitions - A variety of items were received from donors during the year and a backlog of several items were cleared.

1. Doll circa 1950 – donor Pam Dawe
2. Ephemera – various, donor Ruth Phelps
3. Set of six handpainted china plates featuring Geraldton Wax, donor Suzy Saw
4. Dress, purse and 2 items baby's clothing c.1940, donor Rebecca Jennar
5. Two limited edition Australian Fine China Plates handpainted with birds, donor Wendy Lugg
6. Physiology and Hygiene school book, 1928 period accepted,
7. Loton costumes – fancy dress worn on ocean journey representative of early twentieth century travel, donor Mandy Loton
8. Bristle cup, saucer and plate, Government issue, donor Ben Errington
9. Brown paper bags (2) from local fruit shops c.1960-1970, donor John Lukin
10. Typewriter and scrapbook album belonging to Rebecca 'Billie' Cohen, donor Erica Edelman
11. Sesquicentenary souvenirs, (donated some time ago), donor Megan Barrett-Lennard
12. Bussell family milk, creamer and sugar set, donor Margaret Atkins.
13. Sheet music 'The Narrows Bridge' entered in competition for the 1962 Perth Empire/Commonwealth Games – donor not known.
14. Practical books for botany. 1920 and Practical book for Natural history 1922 – Ainslie Edel
15. Bairds Calendar 1950, discarded from Library.

It has been a most productive year in spite of the restrictions due to the COVID-19.

Thanks to all the museum team but in particular to Wendy Lugg for her expertise as photographer for the museum and at events held throughout the year. Editing the photographs is a time consuming task. She is regularly called on by the editor of *History West* to provide photographs to the standard required for reproduction.

Also special thanks to our Curator Vanessa Wiggin for her invaluable advice, guidance and achievements.

Val Hutch

Convenor

Readings and Publications Committee

1. Membership of the committee; number of meetings held.

There are currently 10 members of this committee namely Ian Berryman, Patrick Cornish, Heather Campbell (Sec), Jennie Carter, Steve Errington, Sally Hincks, Jack Honniball, Lenore Layman, Bob Reece and Pamela Statham Drew in the chair.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month except January - when most are on leave.

Attendance is exemplary, few missing a meeting except Bob Reece due to his illness. It has recently been suggested to Bob that he resign or take leave from the cttee but no reply has come in.

2. Significant grants/donations/projects/awards

Nil. Discussions have been held frequently over the need for sponsorship to cover the cost of *Early Days* but with little success because

- i) our speakers generally have come from backgrounds unsuited for sponsorship eg PhD students or retirees, and talk about historic research.
- ii) most of the members, including myself, are very loathe to go doorknocking for money.

Instead we have occasionally contributed to costs from our own pockets – or in the case of *Early Days* personally delivering them to save postage. We will discuss this matter further but don't hold out much hope of any great success.

3. Highlights -

General Meetings & Speakers Although not strictly a highlight the regular **general meetings** with speakers during the year are highly regarded by members and are the responsibility of this committee. Our members ensure the speakers are met and familiarised with the equipment, and help with the general running of these evenings – such as providing the Speakers Gift, managing the lights and helping with catering.

Choosing speakers occupies much time of the cttee as offers come from all sides and have to be vetted then negotiations for a time of the year to present. While we have little control over their actual presentations, beyond advice, we do have more control over what goes into *Early Days*. Some speakers are advised not to worry about writing up their papers at all and others are so heavily edited that they are almost unrecognisable from the spoken version. We sometimes despair that there just are not the well-researched papers available...and we do keep in touch with tertiary institutions to check for rising stars. History has been so decimated in our Universities that PhD students are a rarity.

Early Days. The Launch of *Early Days* is always a highlight on R&P's agenda and the launch in 2020 at the Christmas Party was no exception. After a very tough year with the pandemic outbreak we did actually produce a reasonable journal. We are incredibly fortunate that our member Jennie Carter has taken on the job of putting individual papers into a publishable format. This has saved us over \$500 a year – more given the improvements she has been able to implement because of her expertise in this area. Thanks are due this year to our editor Patrick Cornish and Proof Reader extraordinaire Ian Berryman for the many hours they have put into the issue- but by far and above the most gratitude goes to Jennie who not only does the formatting and design but also does the index which we used to pay for separately.

History West The production of the monthly History West also comes into R&P's ambit and the committee helps with articles on society events and especially in providing the 20-odd book reviews we produce each year. Lenore must be congratulated for the high standard she consistently maintains in this newsletter which she has now been editing for over five years.

Williams/Lee Steere Prize competition A major undertaking for the committee is the running of the Williams/Lee Steere Prize competition. Hours and hours go into changing the format of the competition which is now a \$1000 prize for the best book published in the last financial year on any topic of Western Australian History. This year we had 18 entries- and a shortlist now of four. A Subcttee will determine the prizewinner ... Awarded at the AGM.

Running **book launches** for members is another highlight of R&P's activities. Mostly these have been before a general meeting but they have also been stand-alone events such as the highly successful launch of Bill and Jenny Bunbury's book *Many Maps* 20th November.

Helping the **Bookshop** has become another R&P activity, formalising what had been done previously by members in taking books to the conference and other outside venues, advising on new titles and strategies for dealing with old stock. We have not, however, been able to deal with the bookshop's major problem - the lack of consistently available staff – though we have helped formulate a plan.

Register of Speakers. We have responded to the many requests that Lesley receives from community clubs and societies for speakers, by starting a register of people who are willing to be called on to speak – such as John Dowson. There are now six names on the list which, with their contact details, we leave with Lesley

All in all, a very busy and productive year.

Pamela Statham Drew

Convenor

Technology Committee

Committee members: Dr Helen Henderson (Convenor), *CollectiveAccess*/Website Administrators, Lorraine Clarke and Jag Atrie. Technical assistance has also been provided by Cherie Strickland and Lorraine Clarke.

- The Society's collections database *CollectiveAccess* (CA) has presented few technical problems this year but there remain some issues to be addressed, including standardisation of donor and author/creator names and the thesaurus entries.
- Amazon Web Services continue to host the Society's website and store the *CollectiveAccess* database on its servers in Sydney and Melbourne. The website is working well. Screens have been updated by Lorraine Clarke and Helen Henderson. James Cassidy and the Community Officer have been diligent in updating events information pages. Thanks is due to them for taking on these tasks.
- James Cassidy and the Community Officer have managed the Society's Facebook site. Thanks is also due to them for frequent interesting items posted. Followers are increasing.
- In July 2020 the Society was connected to the NBN and all the necessary steps were taken to ensure the LAN and the telephone system were working well as a result. So far, no difficulties have been experienced.
- During the year there have been some LAN software issues which required the Society's Service Provider, IQPC Services, to fix. These have included a massive spam infection of the Community Officer's email facility which emanated through the website. As a result software has been installed to detect and block these intrusions.
- A new PC for the Museum was installed on the LAN.
- LAN and website software program licenses have been renewed in a timely fashion.
- It was recognised through the year that the website and e-shop software programs were not meeting the Society's needs. The current website program is unable to cater for online display and verbal presentations and for accommodating History West Community History Centre funding campaign requirements. It has become evident that the e-shop program is very difficult for volunteers to be trained so that they can operate efficiently and confidently. Also, its report facility cannot be used. It was decided to apply for funding for Lotterywest funding to seek professional advice regarding the purchase of more up-to-date software and to employ a contractor to transfer data, install new software programs that meet the Society's needs. This application has not yet been made.
- Through the website there were 10,886 *CollectiveAccess* catalogue searches for the year 1 July 2020- to 30 June 2021 and 415 bookshop orders through the website.
- The local area network has been maintained and all technical problems have been addressed speedily by IQPC Services. Software licenses were renewed.
- The electronic back-up system policy for our NAS on-site server for the administration database continues to be implemented by Community Officer. MYOB with Payroll data are automatically backed-up to the cloud as part of the Society's MS365 license and is available on the internet to authorised users

- The burglar and fire alarm system continues to be monitored and serviced by ADT.
- There have been no problems experienced with the telephone system installed in early 2020 apart from the tardiness on the part of Telstra to make our second phone line operational. This work has now been done.
- The audio system has continued to operate efficiently thanks to Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland. A new overhead projector has been installed. The Society is grateful to Peter Farr who kindly donated this equipment.
- On the recommendation of the Archive Committee, scanning of the Society's minute books stretching back to its founding in 1926, commenced early this year. The work is being undertaken by CompuStor

Helen Henderson

Convenor

Tours and Events Committee

Committee Members: Ronald Bodycoat (Acting Convenor), Ros Currie, Judy Dill-Macky (Secretary), Nick Drew, Ian Maitland, Jenny Twine, Georgina Wigley.

Events

- Burekup/Ferguson Valley tour 24-25 October 2020
- Christmas Party at the Wordsworths 4 December 2020
- Ian Maitland's walking tour of old city buildings, 1 May 2021
- Western Australian Army Museum visit, 9 June 2021

Coming up: Garden tour of Government House 5 November, WA Museum visit 24 November, Christmas Party December.

Judy Dill-Macky

Secretary