



HISTORY WEST™

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March 2023

GENERAL MEETING

The monthly general meeting at Stirling House is on Wednesday 15 March at 6pm when Tom Goode will present a talk on 'Keeping the drama on stage: 90 years of the Garrick Theatre Club. Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.



The Garrick Theatre in the convict-built Commissariat store at Guildford

Drama lurks everywhere in volunteer organisations but nowhere is it more prevalent than in an amateur dramatic society. How then does a dramatic society survive to celebrate its 90th birthday? What social pressures caused the youth of Guildford to agitate for the creation of a theatre club in 1932? How important was the presence of aging buildings in the town? Founded in an age when movies had just started to speak, how does a small theatre remain successful in the face of the fierce competition posed by the electronic media. This paper is an attempt to answer some of these questions while relating the history of the Garrick Theatre Club.

In 2022 the Club celebrated its 90th birthday. Tonight's paper examines the history of the club from its origin as a weekly social activity through its transformation to a successful community theatre providing quality entertainment as part of Perth's art scene, and attempts to peer into the future.



Tom Goode's connection to community theatre dates to the 1950s when social life was dictated by the time the last train departed to Midland. Marrying a fellow thespian and raising a family caused a slight hiatus but by the early 1970s interest rekindled with membership of Garrick. This interest remained as an adjunct to a career in education and technical training and a post-retirement interest in WA history. With performance reviews including 'Hopelessly miscast' and 'Weekender on Stage' suggesting that his future wasn't in acting, Tom turned to backstage activities and is currently the archivist for the Garrick Theatre.

Tuesday Treasures

Embroidery – Why preserve it?

Tuesday 7 March 2023, 10.30am start

Register your interest with Lesley 9386 3841

Don't miss this fascinating trip into the world of embroidery and its value as a record of Western Australia's history of leisure time, costume, household items and cultural heritage. It will feature embroidery from Society's collection and will be presented by Rosie Minchin of the Embroiderers' Guild Collection and supported by RWAHS volunteer Janet Tombleson.



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The lure of the Society's Second Hand Book Sale

Hilaire Natt

'Mum is moving house' the tall man explained as he dumped a few large boxes of books on the counter in the foyer before unloading them with the help of a volunteer. 'This one is set in WA', pointing out a worn paperback of 'controversial comedian' Ben Elton's novel *Stark*. Indeed it is, if not quite WA as we know it. Take the cover description: 'Deep in Western Australia where the Aborigines used to milk the trees, a planet sized plot takes shape'.

Among the diverse and eclectic collection of books arriving at the Society from downsizers and generous donors there's something for everyone. For romantics with a historic bent there is, for example, a glossy copy of illustrated *Love Letters*, chosen by Antonia Fraser, including Henry VIII to Anne Boylen, John Keats to Fanny Brawne, and Heloise to Abelard — from the besotted to and from the pragmatic. For local historians there is an early edition of *Lonely Graves of Western Australia* by Yvonne and Kevin Coate. For the more mature, the anthology *When I am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple* introduces the poem that has become the anthem for the Red Hat Society and those planning to grow old disgracefully.

Donors also bequeath series and sets reflecting their personal enthusiasms, such as the illustrated history of aircraft 'In Australian Service' from the Tiger Moth trainer, to Spitfire fighters and the Hercules transports.

T S Eliot wrote of a life 'measured out in coffee spoons', but some of us measure our lives by the books we have gathered — books that resonate or recall a particular time of our lives, books that sit on our bookshelves and become old friends. The Society's popular book sale is a unique opportunity for members and book lovers to 're-home' old friends. And importantly to make new ones!

Bookshop Audit



Please thank our volunteer team — Tom Goode (Bookshop manager), Linda Bush, Pamela and Nick Drew, Billy Hawes, Jeanette Longwood, Marie-Francoise Scott, Colin Strickland and Michelle Urban — who devoted a recent Saturday morning to a full Bookshop audit. Every book was taken

from the shelves and marked against tally sheets, missing books were kept separate and the titles later listed. The stock was sorted into categories and, once shelf heights were adjusted and shelves cleaned, the books were re-shelved. Everything now in apple-pie order!

Do pay the Society a visit or arrive early for your next talk booking and browse the rich array of history books available for sale. There's something for everyone on the shelves.

Museum visits by the Umbrella Group

Multicultural Community Care Services

Val Hutch



During 2022 Ewa Kiesz, Coordinator Social Support Programs for the Umbrella Group, arranged for a visit our Museum. Multicultural Community Care Services was established in 2000 by a group of dedicated people from diverse ethnic backgrounds who created an independent, community-based organisation to support ethnically diverse seniors in WA. *Umbrella* provides specialised, tailored care by matching bilingual carers and volunteers to diverse clients.

Over four separate visits we entertained and were entertained by the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday groups. In most cases interpreters were needed for us to communicate but it was a most interesting and enjoyable experience for members

of our museum committee and we felt we were able to break the communication barrier. As well as our visitors learning a little about our museum and history, we enjoyed hearing about their background and lives now established in Perth. Many have lived here for approximately 20 years.

One of their members showed me a poem he had written and was willing for me to share it with you.

To all Seniors to tell you about a club for you,
So come along with us and join with all the crew.
It's called the Multicultural Umbrella Club,
They give you transport from your home and it so much fun.
We have many outings and there is no complaints not one,
We have or share meals, morning teas and afternoon teas
All the workers are more than willing to please.
So if you feel alone, come and join with us now,
Enjoy life with other seniors we will always allow.
Bingo is a game we always have lots of fun,
Just ask and ring us up and be happy to become another one.
Loneliness is completely taken away,

Give us a call,
Seniors what do you say?
It's for all Seniors to have a real ball,
It's a bundle of laughs as we always have fun,
Just enquire and call is on 9275 4411.

If you know anyone who might benefit from this organisation, visit the Umbrella Group website for further information. <https://umbrellacommunitycare.com.au>

Exhibition changes are happening!

Exhibition team

Our *Western Land* exhibition, first established in 2016, is taking on a new look as changes to the displays begin. They will continue throughout the year.

The entry cabinet has already been changed and a recent donation of a coffee set consisting of six cups and saucers, coffee pot, creamer and small milk jug is now on display. Hand-painted in autumn tones by artist Kitty Drok, it is an attractive and valuable addition to the collection. Also in this cabinet is some delicate artwork by Annie Louise Andrews that was donated a few years ago but had not previously been accessioned.

The large cabinet in the northwest corner of the meeting room is being transformed. *Caring for our Collection* is the theme and throughout the year changes will be made to limit the exposure to light of exhibited items. Collection care involves ensuring that items are stored in a safe environment and conserved if required. This display will highlight collection items that have received, or require, professional intervention to ensure their preservation.



Lovegrove jacket. C2006.81a-c



Saw wedding dress. C1989.153

The conserved wedding dress and shawl worn by Sophia Harriet Gibbs when she married Thomas Henry Saw in 1865 has been resting for the past few years but is now on display again. A silk taffeta jacket, displayed in its storage box, is from the conserved trousseau ensemble belonging to Elinor Maude Catherine Lovegrove (née Eliot), who married Thomas Henry Lovegrove in c1869. A soft sculpture made from cotton fabric and cotton wadding has been inserted into the jacket for support and to prevent creasing of the garment, which has become too fragile to handle.

Also from the museum is the 1850s chip hat, woven from fine wood shavings in the style of a lady's riding hat, which was exhibited at the opening of Crystal Palace in 1851. This item was recently surfaced cleaned and a support of ethafoam was shaped to the inner dimensions of the hat, then lined with polyester



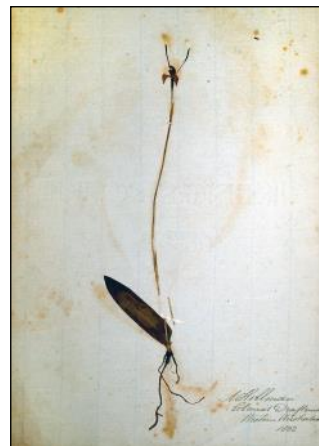
Storage support for Chip hat. C1984.326

wadding and covered with cotton jersey knit fabric. A length of felt was handstitched around the perimeter. The mount was glued and firmly secured to a beech wood plinth. The purpose of the mounting support system is to ensure that the hat is never directly handled. When not on display, it is housed in its hand-made archival quality hatbox.



Conservators at work

The library is in the process of having many of its maps encapsulated in mylar by volunteer conservators Ulli Broeze and Genevieve König and an example of one of the Peet maps will be displayed. One of three illuminated addresses presented to Sir John Forrest, which has recently been restored, cleaned and framed courtesy of the Minderoo Foundation, will also be included.



Hillman donkey orchid. MA2003-44

The museum's significant collection of pressed and mounted wildflowers — botanical specimens gathered around 1832 by colonial draftsman Alfred Hillman — is one of the many items awaiting a conservator's attention. The collection came to us stored in a file but, for long-term protection, each of the approximately thirty specimens needs to be supported within an archival mat to separate it from those above and below.



Illustrated Address to Sir John Forrest from Katanning residents, 1897

Moving around the room, the Forrest displays will focus on the John Forrest Scrapbook recording his 1869, 1870 and 1874 expeditions and The Bungalow, the home of John and Margaret Forrest. The collection includes a number of invoices depicting the period, including one of his purchase of a Ford Open Touring Car in 1915. A selection from the Scrapbook will be available via a Flip Book on our new website next

month. Conservation and digitisation are courtesy of the Minderoo Foundation.

In future most of the table tops and other display areas will be reviewed and reinstalled.

Watch this space!

A significant painting conserved

Dorothy Allen's View of Perth Waters from Barrack Street 1903



A2000.4

This oil on canvas depicts the Swan River in 1903 from the current-day Elizabeth Quay area. The middle ground shows the South Perth shoreline, including the Old Mill, and Kings Park can be seen on the right. Dorothy Allen (1887-1943), painter and woodcarver, whose family arrived in the colony during the goldrushes, was the artist. She studied at Perth Technical School and was a member of the WA Society of Arts.

The painting was donated to the Society after being rolled up and stored in a shed for many years. It has been stabilised by a conservator to ensure its preservation but with such extensive paint loss it is not appropriate to re-create the missing areas. The Society values the painting and has judged it worth preserving because historical paintings are more than simply aesthetically beautiful art objects; they are historical documents which can help us to understand the past more accurately.

So what does this historical document tell us of early 20th century Perth and people's interactions with the river at their door?

The foreground portrays a busy working river with barges, ferries and other watercraft. On the water's edges a jetty aligns with the bottom of William Street. The first building on the right on Mounts Bay Rd (formerly Bazaar Terrace) housed yacht and launch builder T R Hill. This firm operated on the site from 1901 to 1932 and designed and built 'craft of every description — steam launches, motor launches, pearling schooners, sailing yachts, rowing skiffs, dinghies, etc'. The adjacent building is the wharf and offices of the Swan River Shipping Co., formed in 1894 following the takeover of Randell, Knight & Co. They operated cargo and passenger services between Perth and Fremantle. The building on the far right is the Melville Park Estate Co.'s wharf where a ferry service operated between Melville, Applecross, Canning Bridge and Perth from 1897 to 1924.

Jesse Hammond who grew up in central Perth in the late 19th century remembered fishing boats adding to the scene as they pulled up on the beach to sell their catches as well as crabbing parties on the jetties every night in season. He also stressed the importance of sandalwood which was conveyed through Perth on its way to Fremantle for export.

The river was the colony's transport hub from 1829, carrying colonists and their goods between Fremantle, Perth and Guildford. Early roads followed Nyungah tracks that quickly turned to deep sand when used by carts and livestock. They were not maintained or improved and colonists took to the water for travel up and down stream. This was hazardous and there were many drowning deaths in the first years. In an early instance, in 1830 two colonists drowned along with the cow they were attempting to move in a too-small boat from south to north Fremantle.

Nevertheless river trade developed steadily and a town jetty was built in 1842 for Perth at the bottom of William Street. The riverfront from William to Mill Streets along Bazaar Terrace became Perth's port. Boat building and boat sheds, bulk stores, shipping company offices, workshops and customs facilities all established themselves along this riverfront, reclaiming river flats to create land for their businesses. Extensive cutting of channels and dredging of mud flats continued to enable essential transport of freight and people to and from Fremantle and Guildford.

Reliance on the river for conveyance of freight gradually declined as roads began to improve with the formation of local governments after 1870 and railways were built. However the river became increasingly important for its ferry services as urban residents increased in numbers, particularly in the 1890s when the gold rushes saw the CBD boom. It was not until the late 1930s, thirty years after this painting was made, that the warehouses, boat building sheds and warehouses began to disappear as the area was redeveloped to make way for beautification of a Riverside Drive from the Causeway to Mill Street.

Research by Bruce Hoar

What's in a Photograph?

A scene of old Guildford

Julie Taylor



P1999.1761

There is much to see in this peaceful riverside scene of the Swan River at Guildford around 1924. It was taken from the northern bank of the Swan looking towards the town. The timber bridge carries Meadow Street over the river where it becomes West Swan Road.

The bridge is known as Barkers Bridge and takes its name from the Guildford merchant Samuel Barker. Barker's complex of warehouses, store and residence stood nearby on the corner of Swan Street and River Street (later renamed Meadow Street). One of his warehouses still stands. Barker began trading in Guildford in 1851. He died in 1870 and the business carried his name into the 1880s. However the name Barkers Bridge has remained to this day. Today this river crossing sees a constant stream of traffic.

In this photograph the only person using the bridge is a man with some sort of three-wheeled contraption. **What do you think it was?**

It was a very different scene ten years later when, in the winter of 1934, the river flooded. Press photos show the bridge and embankments inundated, with only the top of the railings protruding above the water. The river flooded to similar levels in 1945 and again in 1946. The bridge was severely damaged but repaired sufficiently to continue in service while a new bridge was built to the east. The new and current Barkers Bridge was opened in 1948. If you cross on the foot and cycle path, the remains of the old bridge can be seen in the water along the bank.

The bridge in the photograph is not the original crossing at this point. Completed in 1901, it replaced the original bridge built between 1852 and 1854 by Lieutenant Edmund DuCane RE and a gang of ticket-of-leave men. DuCane's bridge had a single lane and is said to have been based on an American rail bridge design. To commemorate the completion of the project DuCane planted a row of roses along the approaches to the bridge. Some of the bushes are still growing and their pink flowers can be seen in springtime. The position of the bushes on the northern side gives an indication of the alignment of his bridge, which is many metres to the west of the current Barkers Bridge.

The other prominent feature in the photograph is a brick warehouse with a shingle roof built by Abraham Moulton, another prominent Guildford merchant who established his business in River Street in 1842. The cottage where he lived and operated his store is still there and is the oldest remaining private house in Guildford. Moulton built his warehouse right on the riverfront, the ideal location to efficiently trans-ship goods to and from the flats which were the main mode of transport between Guildford, Perth and Fremantle at that time. Flats were a type of shallow-draught barge that could pass the shallows near Perth. As well as receiving goods to sell locally at his store, Moulton received timber, wool and sandalwood from the eastern districts and sent it to markets downriver. These commodities arrived in Guildford by dray as the river quickly became unnavigable upstream from Barkers Bridge.

Sandalwood passed through Guildford *en route* to Fremantle for export to China, Singapore and India. Moulton decided to take greater advantage of this trade and in 1846 he chartered a ship to take a cargo of sandalwood to Hong Kong. On the homeward voyage he was murdered by the crew in unknown circumstances. Moulton's wife, Mary, carried on the business after her husband's death before selling to Henry Saw in 1859.

In the photo we can see that the bottom of the warehouse appears to be damaged – perhaps from having been under water from time to time. Note that the large door is well above ground level! Some of the wooden shutters seem to be missing from the windows. By 1931 Moulton's warehouse was demolished.

This riverside scene includes several small rowing or sailing boats, both in the river and drawn up on the bank. At the front of the warehouse, where the punt is lying, Moulton had a small wharf where the flats tied up. Just as the name Barkers Bridge has persisted, so has the name of this landing – Moulton's Landing.

The opening of the Guildford-Fremantle railway in 1881 and the extension to York by 1885 brought an end to the river trade. By the mid-1890s it had all but finished and Guildford's importance as a trading centre declined. By the time of this photograph in 1924, Moulton's landing had disappeared. The current Moulton's Landing was built in 1984.

Affiliates News

In September last year **Beverley Historical Society** celebrated the 150th anniversary of its Dead Finish museum building as part of the 'Spring Back to Beverley' weekend jointly organised by the Historical Society, Shire and other town organisations. Coordinated by Morag Whitney, the Society researched the history of the Dead Finish hotel, its licensees and owners as well as former residents of the private dwelling. Members found information about the twenty licensees from 1872 to 1919 when the license lapsed and copies of title certificates were obtained to confirm the owners from 1871 to 1977 when the Shire of Beverley purchased the building. Stories from families who resided in the Dead Finish from 1919 to 1977 were collected to show the part it has played in Beverley's life for 150 years. Another display, coordinated by Leonie Taylor, focused on the life and work of former Beverley resident, Verna Cranfield. Verna was an extraordinary dressmaker who made fabulous dresses for weddings and balls. The Dead Finish exhibited examples of her work from its collection as well as photographs obtained from members of the public.

RWAHS vice president Sally-Ann Hasluck unveiled a commemorative plaque by the entrance to the museum and, on Sunday 25 September, the Dead Finish held an 'All Day Cuppa' to which everyone was invited. The chance for old friends to meet, for reminiscences and for renewed connections with Beverley was greatly enjoyed.



One visitor summed up the weekend splendidly — 'excellent exhibition you presented for the Back to Beverley weekend to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Dead Finish. I feel sure that Ruth Mann and other founders of the Beverley Historical Society, many of whom would now be watching from above, would be proud of your progress. The Dead Finish looked fresh, clean and beautiful and so full of interesting artifacts and information'. Congratulations to all Historical Society members and especially to President Joy Smith!

Do you know the fascinating story of the emu war in 1932 centring on Campion in WA's northeastern wheatbelt? Margaret Stevens from **Albany Historical Society** has recounted the tale of ex-service land settlers obtaining military assistance to use machine guns to kill the large numbers of emus decimating wheat crops in the district. The campaign was not a great success! According to naturalist Dom Serventy, the emus adopted 'guerrilla tactics' and most survived! This bizarre story was told as musical theatre in 2019 and apparently is being made into a movie!

Denmark Historical Society records the launch of a new book on group settlement — *The Osbornes Group 41* — written by descendant Ian Osborne who lives on

the family's original farm today. For purchase \$35 plus postage; contact Denmark Museum (08)9848 1781.

Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society is proud of its new publication *Foothills Focus!* which explores the history of the foothills suburbs of Wattle Grove, Maida Vale (later High Wycombe) and Forrestfield, focusing in the period 1900-1950 when new residents set up homes in the district. Fifty residents were interviewed and their stories comprise much of the book compiled by Marcia Maher and Jennifer du Boulay. It costs \$25. Contact — 9293 1371 or kdhs@outlook.com.au

Maylands Historical & Peninsula Association celebrated 30 years of activity in 2022 and created three walks around the Peninsula and the district's heritage buildings. A final version of the self-guided walk cards is being completed to distribute online and in Maylands.

Melville History Society's first newsletter for 2023 contains an interesting summary by Emily Chambers of her Murdoch Lecture delivered last year, titled 'Elite Female Connections and Influence in Mid-Tudor England'. It was a fascinating talk that drew a large crowd and was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

Morawa District Historical Society had a busy 2022, establishing an old washhouse with corrugated iron walls, concrete troughs and copper — complete with original copper stick — in time for the tourist season. Members were also excited to receive a Sunshine horse-drawn header that had been languishing in a farm shed for many years. It is in amazing condition for its age, still with the Sunshine emblem clearly visible. Morawa's tourist season was exceptional in 2022 with a record number of visitors to the Museum.

Congratulations to the entire Ravensthorpe district (including the **Ravensthorpe Historical Society**) for the wonderful spring wildflower show. The show itself was spectacular and the entire town was spruced and sparkling. *History West* recommends a trip to Ravensthorpe/ Hopetoun in spring for anyone who hasn't visited in the weeks of the show.

Wendy Durant of the **Rockingham District Historical Society** has provided members with a lively account of a recent donation of cookery books and pamphlets. Such books must be among the most prolific of publications and are rich sources of family and social history. Wendy describes how she gained 'a picture of meal planning, etiquette, nutrition (while biased to a particular produce) and a window into the values and conventions to the middle of the 20th Century'. They also provide wonderful illustrations of the cooking process and its results. We see pictured the ideal kitchen and the ideal housewife — all selling points for clothing, appliances, utensils and even home renovations.

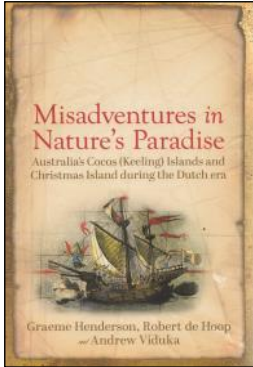
Swan Guildford Historical Society has recommenced tours of the Colonial Gaol and Taylors Cottage with opening times — Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat 10am-2pm. The last tour starts at 1.30pm. Cost: \$5 per adult. \$3 for children aged 5 to 15 years. Children under 5 years free.

Walpole Nornalup & District Historical Society celebrated its thirtieth birthday in 2022. The Society had a successful year and paid special tribute to members Helen & Ian Gallash who assist in fundraising by supplying their homemade jams, pickles and chutneys for sale at the Walpole Community Resource Centre with all proceeds to the Society. The couple was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation at the AGM.

Book Reviews

Graeme Henderson, Robert de Hoop & Andrew Viduka, *Misadventures in Nature's Paradise: Australia's Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island during the Dutch Era*, UWAP, Crawley, 2022. In Library.

Reviewer: Ian Abbott



This is an erudite account of the European discovery of the islands in the eastern Indian Ocean, with emphasis on two of Australia's dependencies there. The authors meld information from marine exploration, cartography, geography, history, and natural history.

Each chapter commences with a helpful timeline (collectively spanning 2000 years) with a brief notification of the significance of each event.

Relevant details from old maps (from 1502) are displayed, as are illustrations of conspicuous fauna (including several species now extinct). How, when, and why Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas Islands were discovered and obtained their names (and current spelling in the case of Cocos/Keeling), together with their settlement, are the subject of four of the eight chapters.

The authors are interested in the fate of three Dutch ships which departed Cape Town for Batavia but never arrived there. These are the *Ridderschap van Holland* (last seen 1674), the *Fortuyn* (1724), and the *Aagtekerke* (1726). It has often been presumed that these ships were wrecked on islands or the mainland coast of what was to be later known as Western Australia. No evidence of this has so far been found.

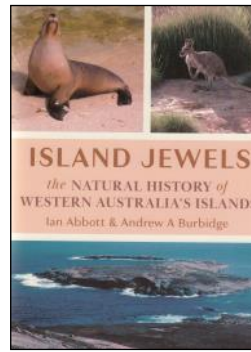
The authors speculate that the *Fortuyn* was wrecked on Christmas Island and the *Aagtekerke* was wrecked on Cocos (Keeling). Members of 'Wreck Check', they have dived these waters and have also used a magnetometer in search of wrecks, but so far without success. Another touch of modernity is the account of attempting to date elephant tusks retrieved from one wreck at Houtman Abrolhos and another at Cocos (Keeling) and thereby establish the likely source in Africa of the tusks.

The scholarly apparatus of the book is impressive, with sources of all 74 maps and illustrations carefully detailed, nearly 300 endnotes, and a select bibliography. All this, and a comprehensive index!

Ian Abbott & Andrew Burbidge, *Island Jewels. The Natural History of Western Australia's Islands*, Book Reality Experience, Leschenault, 2022. In Library. This book is print-on-demand, so to purchase a copy go to <https://bookreality.com/our-books>

Reviewer: Graeme Henderson

This 350-page book provides an account of the more than 3,500 islands belonging to the State of Western Australia. All remain in public ownership, and almost all the islands in the Kimberley region are covered by native title determinations that recognise property rights of Aboriginal people in the islands and the seas.



The authors, who have both studied WA's islands for 50 years, make the salient point that most people living in or visiting WA will never make landfall on any island other than Rottnest, and this book is intended to provide a vicarious experience of visiting them all. It accomplishes this ambitious objective with flair.

The authors have examined the nature of island life by

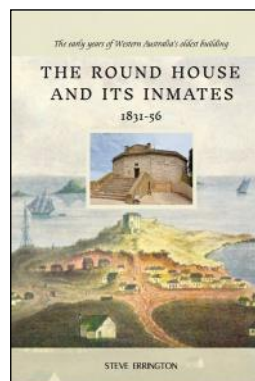
geographical regions, starting with the Tropical Cays and Kimberley in the tropical north, continuing south along the north-west coast's Pilbara, along the west coast including Shark Bay, then east along the south coast to the State border. Chapters are generally structured with an introductory summary of their geography and history, followed by sections on their physical and biological characteristics, factors leading to change in the biota, sources of information, then photographs and maps relevant to that chapter. Highlighted 'boxes' through the text provide biographical details of scientists who have made significant findings about islands. Useful appendices include a comprehensive further reading list, unfamiliar words explained, and list of common and scientific names.

Abbott and Burbidge are forthright in their expression of current risks to the natural heritage, including climate change, introduced species and mining, and noting that it is legitimate to view tourism as a threat to some island species and island values. In 2017 nearly 750,000 people visited Rottnest Island, and the authors comment that it is evident from the current management plan that the island is managed primarily for visitors and not for its biota.

The book should be in the backpacks of island visiting natural scientists, and it is an invaluable reference source for historians, land and sea travellers and the general public alike.

Steve Errington, *The Round House 1831-1856*, Hesperian Press 2022. In Library & Bookshop \$35.00.

Reviewer: Tom Goode



The question about the Roundhouse that intrigues me is not the question of its architecture or the descriptions of life in a gaol, both of which are expertly covered by the author, but the question of location. As the cover image shows, the Roundhouse holds a commanding position dominating the village below. Was this location chosen to impose an image of British Law and order on a new colony or was it because, as the

author's research shows, it was cheaper to build on the hill than in the town? Whatever the reason Fremantle is the winner with a heritage building preserved in a dominant position.

It is an interesting comment on the social life of the Swan River Colony that the earliest public building was a gaol. Steve Errington places the need for a gaol in the context of English society at the time, and then by

detailed research provides a valuable and interesting insight into life as it was for the keepers and the kept. The regulations were very specific as to the amount of bread and meat to which a prisoner was entitled but surprisingly did not mention any other item. Perhaps whoever framed the regulations was unaware of the cause of scurvy. Important in this work is the picture it gives of the justice system before the arrival of convicts. While recording the jailing of a seven-year-old for stealing fruit, and Aboriginal people for sheep-spearing, Errington wisely does not take sides, instead, by providing detailed summary, allows readers to form their own opinion of the justice system operating in pre-convict WA.

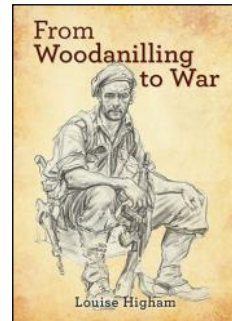
As WA's oldest public building the Round House has been the subject of much public and historical interest and the author relates the important role of the WA Historical Society in saving the building for future generations. One of the current debates around the Round House is in the architectural theory surrounding its design. Mention of the word Opticon in conjunction with the roundhouse has been known to inspire a passionate discourse. The Roundhouse is acknowledged as the first of WA's many public buildings, but it is also rare in the history of public works in that it was completed early and under budget.

Although Errington has '1831 to 1856' as a qualification on the title, his detail and research extend beyond that limit. This is fortunate because in the latter part of the book there is a detailed history of the neglect of the building following its loss of importance as the colony's main gaol, the various attempts to find an appropriate use to justify its preservation, and finally the steps necessary to save and preserve an important part of our heritage. As it approaches its centenary, the Royal WA Historical Society can be proud not only of the part it played in preserving this building but also the example it has set to others to show concern for our built heritage.

With the addition of appendices detailing prison regulations of the time, a comprehensive reading list, endnotes, and index, this book is a valuable addition to the history of WA.

Louise Higham, *From Woodanilling to War*, Vivid Publishing, Fremantle, 2021. In Library.

Reviewer: Patrick Cornish



Louise Higham explores all the men and women who served in one of the world wars and came from the tiny town of Woodanilling, a rural community on the Great Southern Highway a few kilometres north of Katanning. The book details the military service of Woodanilling people and tells their personal stories. Higham, who has compiled similar lists for

Williams and West Arthur on WA's wheatbelt, has done us all a service with this collection of vignettes of those who served. At the going down of the sun, at the going through of the pages, we will remember them.

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Community Officer: Lesley Burnett
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