



# HISTORY WEST™

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November 2022

## GENERAL MEETING

**The next general meeting at Stirling House is on Wed 16 November at 6pm when Lenore Layman will present a talk on 'The Wonnerup Frontier 1801-1842'. Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.**



This presentation will focus on Wonnerup's frontier time — from initial contact between Wonnerup's Wardandi Nyungars and Europeans in 1801 through its colonisation by English families (Laymans, Chapmans, Guerins, Dawsons, Heppingstones, Knights) to the Wardandi's loss of control of their land by 1842 and the beginnings of the place's transformation into the Busselton district of today. Although Wonnerup's history in these years was intimately intertwined with

that of the wider Vasse colonial settlement and separation is not entirely possible, nevertheless it is a place with a distinct history that deserves recognition. The geography of the place is crucial to its history as frontier action spread from Wonnerup across the Vasse plain to the south and north to Mallokup/ Coolingup/ Capel River.

In these years colonial authority over the entire area resided in the two largest Vasse colonists and key decision-makers, John Molloy and the Bussell brothers. Governors Stirling followed by Hutt presided from afar, severely impeded by limited resources and slow and intermittent communications.

These were years of profound (and mostly painful) change for Wonnerup's people. Tensions and fears on both sides of the frontier were high with violent death an ever-present threat. For most colonists lives were hard – physically highly demanding for both men and women, with starvation frequently close at hand. For the Wardandi these years were even more catastrophic as they struggled to hold onto their ancestral lands and way of life.

Many histories have already been written about the wider Vasse district. My account acknowledges this prior work while exploring the historical insights to be obtained by making Wonnerup and its people the central focus.

**Lenore Layman** is a retired historian, currently a Society Councillor and editor of *History West*.



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## A New Fellow: The Hon. Robert (Bob) Nicholson



*History West* is delighted to report that the Hon. Robert (Bob) Nicholson has been made a Fellow of the Society at our recent AGM. A past president of the Royal WA Historical Society and retired judge of the WA Supreme Court and the Federal Court, Bob has been made a Fellow in recognition of both his scholarship and his contribution to the life and leadership of the Society. His first research paper on 'Seats of Justice: Courthouses, places of history' was presented in 1994. This was followed by 'The use of History in Proving Native Title: a Judge's Perspective' (2003), 'Judicial Pioneer: William Henry Mackie' (2013), and 'Immigrant Scot: John Nicholson, lawyer, legislator' (2015). He extended his research on the last paper into his 2019 book *Shaping Australia's West. The Life of John Nicholson*. Bob's research continues.

He is currently working on the life of Captain Robert Laurie, a Fremantle stevedore, member of the Legislative Council and first Chairman of the Fremantle Harbour Trust.

Bob has also served for two terms as Society president and is currently midway through a second two-year term as elected Councillor. By September 2022, Council will have enjoyed the benefits of his wise counsel for fifteen years. We greatly value the contribution Bob continues to make to the Society's life.

*Many thanks to Steve Errington who wrote the full citation. Above is an abridged version.*

The Royal WA Historical Society (Inc.) | 49 Broadway | NEDLANDS Western Australia 6009  
TELEPHONE: (08) 9386 3841 | FACSIMILE: (08) 9386 3309 | EMAIL: [admin@histwest.org.au](mailto:admin@histwest.org.au)  
FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/histwest](https://www.facebook.com/histwest) | WEB: [www.histwest.org.au](http://www.histwest.org.au) | ABN: 43 607 110 473  
LIBRARY EMAIL: [library@histwest.org.au](mailto:library@histwest.org.au) | MUSEUM EMAIL: [museum@histwest.org.au](mailto:museum@histwest.org.au)

# 57th Annual State History Conference

## Georgina Wigley

Congratulations to the Denmark Historical Society! The 2022 conference was a great success with wonderful hospitality, interesting talks, many opportunities to mix and mingle, and a splendid conference dinner by Silas and his team from Pepper and Salt. We were welcomed to Menang/Bibbulmun Country by Vernice Gillies, to the district by Jane Kelsbie MLA, and to the conference by Denmark Historical Society President Ashleigh Murch. RWAHS President Richard Offen led us in a minute's silent tribute to Queen Elizabeth II, recalling 'her fortitude and commitment'.

The talks program traced Denmark's history through time beginning with Vernice Gillies speaking on the importance of Wilson Inlet to Indigenous people. This body of water, known as Nullaki, means place of sea grass/weed to the Menang and was an important source of food. Archeological evidence shows the use of fish traps made from rocks with small rocks at base and larger rocks at top; tidal changes then captured the fish.

Malcolm Traill explained the origin of Denmark's colonial name. Naval surgeon Thomas Braidwood Wilson (1792-1843) named the place when the ship he was on ran aground in King George Sound in November 1829 and, during a delay whilst the ship was re-caulked, he explored the local area. He was helped by Aboriginal guide Mokare together with two people from the ship's crew, one of whom carried a goodly supply of gin, rum and brandy, and two convicts. Over a period of eleven days he named many geographical features, usually after his friends or notable people of the era. Wilson re-named the river, called Koorabup by the Menang, after Dr Alexander Denmark, also a naval surgeon and friend. Wilson's laudatory description of the Denmark area noted that it was well watered, 'fit for rural purposes' and had 'trees of enormous girth and altitude'. The townsite was established as a timber mill town in 1895.

Miriam Crandell followed with a fascinating account of a utopian suffragist settlement scheme, Emilliah, proposed for the Denmark area by British suffragist Emily Crawford. She promoted the idea of women emigrating to countries that allowed women to vote to set up farming settlements. Denmark around Wilson Inlet was seen as suitable for such a settlement. Crawford also envisaged a health resort on the inlet. Unfortunately her idea of land being available for women under the same terms as for men didn't eventuate and the dream was crushed in 1911. She was viewed as 'ruled by her emotions' and, after a stay in a Hospital for the Insane, it was deemed that 'her scheme is too chimerical'.

Dale Fewings traced the history of Denmark's interwar Group Settlement scheme which comprised fifteen groups. Each group consisted of twenty young families working together to clear the 160 acres allocated free to the group, in 25 acre lots. The aim was to build a dairy industry. In Britain it sounded like paradise to people facing unemployment after World War I. No mention was made of the lack of housing, domestic water supply, sanitation, transport routes or schools. Also overlooked were the flies, mosquitoes, hard-to-clear timber, spiders, snakes, inadequate tools, rugged terrain and need of farming experience. The list could go on. One can imagine the shock of arriving at the allocated area. Eileen Croxford, member of Group 113, recalled that 'Mum sat on her luggage and looked around, then said to Dad, "Do we have to live here? They wouldn't put a cow in a byre like this at home".' Each settler was paid £3 a week until the farm marketed its produce. This was a debt that grew and grew. Together with the lack of facilities and poor quality land, settlers faced a hopeless future and many left the scheme, often with nothing to show for years of hard work and deprivation. Over half of Denmark's group settlers had left the scheme by 1930.



Ash and his team



Conference dinner by Silas of Pepper and Salt



Nick Drew reading roll call of remembrance.



'Bloody Hippies' documentary film



Mary Edgar, Bridgetown



## 2022 Merit Award

### Congratulations to Margaret River & Districts Historical Society

Margaret River & Districts has had a busy year culminating in March with the celebration of 100 years of Group Settlement in the district. The Society worked closely with community groups to help create an event that included community stalls, wood cutting displays, WA Dairy Farmers and nine schools. The logistics of working with so many schools was a triumph in itself! Each school took part in one of the more imaginative activities: decorating banners supplied by the Society. The banners were painted with the names of the various Groups that had settled in the Margaret River area. The final banner count came to 30, which the children and adults proudly carried down Margaret River's main street to the Old Settlement. The event attracted group settler descendants who provided family stories of their ancestors' experiences. The Society receives numerous enquiries relating to group settlements, and the information collected was added to the records. The Society also hosts morning teas for people who once lived in the district. This treat not only enabled those who had moved away to catch up with old friends, but also provided an opportunity to gather additional information. An important outcome of the Centenary celebration was the compilation of a professional film that the Society can now present to visitors.

Another important project completed by the Society was the production of an historic walk trail along Margaret River's main street linked to the trail pamphlet via QR codes. Visitors can download the pamphlet from the Society's web page and click on the links to obtain information about the places. The trail includes 67 sites. The information provided in the link is fully referenced, allowing visitors to obtain further information if they wish.

Ross McGuinness presented an interesting account of rail development in the Denmark region. It was a story of timber transportation, profit making and political intervention, culminating in a railway network which never fully connected.

Bill Bunbury gave voice and life to Denmark's group settlers with his oral history which created the 'setting and atmosphere experienced by the group settlers'. Bill's use of their voices gave the story a history-from-below perspective, adding richness to Dale Fewings' talk. There were some wonderful accounts. 'I remember mum crying as we went to bed as she didn't know where the next meal was coming from'. The land was cleared and farmed, by 'man power, saw power, horse power and children power'.

Bert Saw's photographic legacy was explored by Bev McGuinness. He produced hundreds of glass plates providing us with a rich visual history of life in the Denmark area in the early part of the 20th century.

Patricia and Andrew Gill told us about newspapers in regional Australia today. The *Denmark Bulletin*, started in March 1980, produced its 1000th edition in January 2020. Despite thirty years of the internet the local 'rag' still appeals to a wide audience with its emphasis on local stories, events and governmental manoeuvring at the shire and state level. The speakers also cited an amazing list of regional papers that have come and gone over the years.

Finally Andrea Gaynor explored the question — Can Denmark's fire history help prepare us for Denmark's fire future? She pointed out the wisdom of Aboriginal burning practices which created open grassy landscapes, keeping areas virtually free of undergrowth. European explorers noted the country looked like 'a gentleman's park' while unburnt areas were 'bad walking'. Colonists did not use fire so wisely or precisely. After the devastating 1961 fire a Royal Commission recommended increased prescribed burning. In recent times this method has come under close scrutiny because of its impact on species, the effect of particles from the smoke being breathed and its impact on Aboriginal heritage. Andrea argued that 'We can take a cue from careful, locally appropriate and strategic Noongar burning' but 'we can't replicate the Noongar system of burning — though cultural burning by Noongar people should be supported for cultural reasons'. And we must respond to the challenge of climate change which threatens more frequent and fiercer fires.

Together, these presentations enriched our understanding of Denmark's past and present, and, combined with the organised visits and splendid dinner, made our conference stay a pleasure.

Next year's conference, entitled 'Moving forward looking back', will be in Bridgetown, 1- 3 September, and President Mary Elgar extended an invitation for all to come. She also invited us to explore [www.bridgetownhistory.org.au](http://www.bridgetownhistory.org.au)

The conference also resolved that the 2024 conference will be held in Dongara and the 2025 conference in Wanneroo.



# Tuesday Treasures

## Intricate Threads

This fascinating talk by **Janet Tomleson** gave us a peep into the history and mystery of lace and a close look at a tiny fraction of our fabulous lace collection.

Lace is ornamental openwork formed by the looping, plaiting, twisting or knotting of threads. This includes embroidered, needlepoint, bobbin and machine techniques. Our first knowledge of this skill is from the Bronze Age.

The first Western Australian examples are from the *Batavia* wreck and are held by the Fremantle Maritime Museum.

At the Society we have a huge collection of handmade lace (some items pictured) and it was a delight to see a fraction of it at Janet's wonderful talk. Janet is a member of our Society and a lacemaker with the Embroiderers Guild of WA.

*Many thanks to Janet for helping us understand better our lace holdings.*



### Call for books for the 2023 Giant Second Hand Book Sale 1/2 April 2023

Donate any books you no longer want to a good cause.

Bring them to Stirling House  
or call 9386 3841 to arrange a pick up.

All books, except textbooks  
and encyclopedias, are wanted.

Many thanks from us all.



### Be a Container Saver for RWAHS

Please save your containers  
and assist the Society's fundraising

Quote History West Scheme ID when recycling  
containers at designated drop-off locations.

**History West Scheme ID C10623851**

If you need more information on the  
State-wide scheme go to —

<https://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa/>



# The City of Light 1962

*The library contains a great number of personal accounts of West Australian life including one by **Griff Richards**, editor-in-chief of the influential West Australian newspaper from 1956 to 1972. Below is another of Griff's recollections. His entire history is available from the RWAHS library.*

THE oddest story of 1962 was when Sir Harry Howard, Lord Mayor of Perth, took credit for lighting up Perth to encourage the American astronaut John Glenn. He flatly rejected the idea in the first place, but then stepped into the spotlight of its success and basked in the glory of American gratitude in a ticker-tape parade down Broadway. The lights were the brainchild of Bill King, city roundsman of the *West Australian*.

Glenn was the first man to orbit the earth more than once. He made a triple orbit on 20 February 1962, and his flight path crossed the space above Perth. Project Mercury, it was called, and an observation post was established at Muchea. An American astronaut, Gordon Cooper, was stationed there with a press corps of 25 reporters and photographers. Bill King was one of them.

Cooper told the press that one of Glenn's duties would be air-to-ground observation. King asked him privately whether it would help if people left their lights on during the space flight. Cooper said this would be a great help. King then asked Howard if he would agree to the Council's street lights being left on. Howard said he would think about it. After the *West* published the story on 24 January, King came to see me, disappointed that Howard had rejected the idea on the score of cost and doubtful benefit. I asked King to see the Premier, David Brand.

Brand immediately approved, saying the government would meet the extra cost for street lighting. The gesture turned out to be a great success. It caught the public's imagination and the whole of the metropolitan area was lit up. Glenn called Perth the City of Light. The story snowballed. The American public responded warmly to the demonstration of friendship. The Mayor of New York, Robert Wagner, got Howard out of bed at 5am on 24 February to invite him to go to New York as the guest of the city at celebrations being arranged to honour John Glenn.

King received a bonus of £55 from the *West*, and Howard received a lot of telephone calls from people who condemned him as a phoney. Howard, who was 74, was so upset by the abuse that when he and his wife arrived in Sydney on their way to New York he found that he had forgotten his passports and tickets. He told reporters he had been so 'tormented and persecuted and worried to death' by anonymous telephone callers protesting that he had refused to turn on the lights of Perth that he could 'hardly remember anything'. He said —

All I wanted to find out was if Perth's lights would be of any value or even visible to the astronaut. I wasn't opposed to the idea. The report of my alleged "outburst" by a certain

newspaper [the *Daily News*] was completely without basis. It was one of the foulest tricks anyone could have played. When I discovered the Premier had agreed to the lighting plan, I recommended the City Council's unanimous and enthusiastic support. Over the past few days I have been persecuted and my wife has been nearly a nervous wreck. One woman rang my wife 23 times and then hung up in her ear.

When a telex message with this interview came to Perth, Stuart Joynt, the *Daily News* editor, sent a copy to the managing director, Jim Macartney, with the comment: 'His loss of his passport, plus the fact that he could not find his vaccination certificate when leaving Perth Airport today suggests he may be mentally ill. But as he progresses, his statements against us become worse in trying to justify himself'. Macartney had the following telex message sent to eastern states papers:

On January 25 a statement by Sir Harry Howard, Lord Mayor of Perth, criticising the proposal to light up Perth for astronaut John Glenn was published in the *Daily News*. Sir Harry described the plan as wasteful and said: "I think I can speak for Perth City councillors generally when I say that the idea is morally wrong". Until today Sir Harry had not denied the authenticity of this report. There is no evidence other than his assertion in Sydney that it was anything but fair and accurate. The editor of the *Daily News* sympathises with the Lord Mayor in his embarrassment but cannot accept his denial which is, to say the least, belated.

Compensation came for Howard in the overwhelming generosity of New York's welcome. He was moved to send to us, gratuitously, his own report of it: 'Four million people attended a ticker-tape parade down Broadway'. Howard was in the procession in his Lord Mayoral robes — 'Everywhere I saw children and people pointing fingers and calling "The Lord Mayor of Perth" and immediately cheers rang to the heavens — a most moving spectacle'.

The procession led to a dais in a square before the City Hall, where the Mayor and Colonel Glenn 'made eulogistic reference to Perth'. This was followed by a banquet at the Waldorf Astoria. For the next two days Howard was 'rushing from station to station' appearing on TV and was holding press conferences in his room, answering telephone calls and meeting people from organisations wanting him to address them.

Howard was an Englishman who ran a radio retail shop in Perth. He came back refreshed, with unshakable faith in the gospel according to Sir Harry. Macartney, however, was fed up with him. He sent a memo to the editors of the *West* and the *Daily News*: 'From now on none of our reporters will call on the Lord Mayor, ever, or ask him for information or comment. If he wants anything in the paper he will have to send it to us in writing. If we want any information from him that we can't get from anybody else, we will write and ask for it'.

**Griff Richards, as abridged by Margot Lang**

# Questioning oft-told stories: St Ronan's Well

Dr Fiona Bush, archeologist & RWAHS Councillor

This little tale is about how an archaeologist was asked to investigate what was thought to be an archaeological site, with limited documentation. Ironically, the primary documents, if they had been consulted, held all the clues!

Australian colonial history is full of home-grown histories based on stories told to the authors by maybe their grandparents, which often end up being wrong. But once printed, it is amazing how rapidly these stories become fact. An example of this relates to a rather idyllic spot to the east of Perth known as St Ronan's Well, which is located on the Great Southern Highway 18km from York. In an article presented to the WA Historical Society in 1928, Mrs Pelloe reported that the ruins of a mud prison and police station could still be seen at this place. In addition, an old pioneer had told her that Bishop Salvado had named the well. In 1975, the information from this talk was then incorporated into a little book about the Old York Road.

In 1830 survey parties had headed over the Darling Range to find better land. The important find was the Avon River, and York was established on its banks. Specific springs are not mentioned but, in November 1830, 1,280 acres was set aside for a town near St Ronan's Spring. Bishop Salvado didn't arrive in the colony until 1846, and any further evidence of the origin of the name has unfortunately been lost. Prior to 1850, 640 acres around the spring had been removed from the public lands and were reserved for travellers. By late 1835, a stone well had probably been constructed. Convicts arrived in the colony in 1850 and convict depots and road stations were constructed. By 1858, there are references to convicts cleaning out St Ronan's Well and by 1862 there was an additional brick well. A dilapidated brick kiln was noted at the well in 1864.

A police station was established along the York Road in 1864 at a place called The Lakes where a wayside inn had been constructed in 1854. The Lakes lies approximately 28km to the west of St Ronan's Well. There was no need for another police station at St Ronan's with York only 18kms to the east. The *Police Gazette* makes no mention of a police station at this location. Nor is there any mention of a convict depot being constructed at this site. So, what are these 'ruins'?

I carried out an archaeological survey of the site in 2010. The 'ruins' that were thought to represent the remains of walls were ephemeral. Only one rough 'wall' could be found, and it did turn a corner. But the almost complete lack of evidence indicated that the scattered remains of a few stones did not make a small police cell, let alone a station. The most likely scenario is that the remains represent a low wall onto which a canvas tent could be placed to form a rudimentary hut. It was probably used by the overseer of the convict road parties that stopped there to clean out the well or maintain the York Road. There was a substantial Convict Depot in York and a small convict road station at Greenmount (52km to the west of St Ronan's Well). The construction of Greenmount Road Station is well documented.



There is no documentary evidence for either a police or convict road station at St Ronan's Well. So, although the archaeological survey debunked Mrs Pelloe's story, it revealed that the place has an excellent source of primary documents, brought to light through archaeological research which enhanced its heritage value.

## References

Mrs T Pelloe, 'The York Road', *WA Historical Society Journal & Proceedings*, Vol. 1, part VI, 1929.  
Mrs Edward Millett, *An Australian Parsonage or, the Settler and the Savage*.

*History West acknowledges the Federation of Australian Historical Societies newsletter, June 2022, where this article was first featured.*

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## Welcome to new members

Brian Shepherd, Mary Blight, John Lyon

## DON'T MISS THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY - POPULAR IN OTHER STATES ONLINE WRITING LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP DAY

Saturday 26 November 2022, 10.00am – 4.00pm  
Presented by Dr Rosalie Triolo,  
Monash University on behalf of FAHS

### Cost:

\$35 for Supporters of FAHS <https://www.history.org.au/support-us/>  
\$35 for members of WA historical societies  
\$50 for others

**For further information**, including day's program, see flyer in *History West* Oct 2022 or contact Nick Drew: 0409 290 895; [nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com)

**For registration** contact the FAHS Treasurer, Nick Drew - [nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com)

## Williams/Lee Steere Publication Prize 2022

### For the best publication in Western Australian history



Some of the award entries



Prizewinner Chris Berry receives his prize from Society President Richard Offen.



Highly commended author Ciena Fitzgerald's award is presented to her daughter Harriet.

Congratulations to the prizewinner Christopher Berry for his excellent book titled — *To Dwell in Unity, Commemorating the 150th anniversary of local government in WA*.

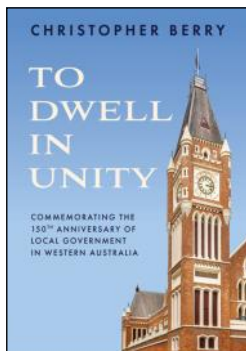
And congratulations also to Ciena Fitzgerald for her highly commended entry titled — *For A Better Life: Yugoslavs on the Goldfields of Western Australia 1890-1970*.

## Book Reviews

### PRIZEWINNER

**Christopher Berry, *To Dwell in Unity, Commemorating the 150th anniversary of local government in WA*, WA Local Govt Assn, Leederville, 2021. In Library & Bookshop \$45.**

**Reviewer: Michael Nind**



This book has high value. It contains an excellent account of the development of local government in WA up to the big legislative change in 1960 and describes very well the necessary background information in which most existing local histories are deficient. Up to 1996 the book covers the subject in good depth; after 1996 it provides an overview of events to meet the

2020 link to 150 years of local government in the State. The interesting topics of recent amalgamations and the Royalties for Regions program are two that call for more extended treatment by other authors. The book is strong on the issues of organisational and legislative development, which will give it ongoing reference value both for historians and for those in the local government sector. There is not a lot of social content or politicking in the text; (however it is good to see the forceful Goldfields personalities of Digger Daws and Ray Finlayson making it in).

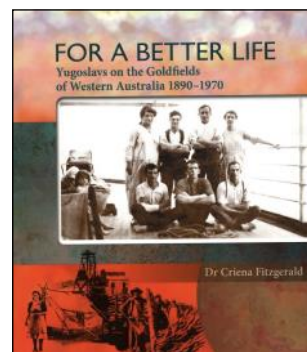
The text is well written. Even during passages of 'technical' explanation the text flows smoothly and is readily comprehensible. While not a book to be read at a sitting, it is authoritative throughout, and will be a quality addition to library and personal collections. There is a good selection of black and white

illustrations. The sanitary pan on page 197 was the first the reviewer had seen, and the garbo on page 373 shows how quickly our present slips into the past. The 1898 Road Board map was a good choice, as there were not many changes for six decades afterwards. The map was difficult to read in places and would have been better value as a colour fold-out insert. The handy guide to the extensive use of abbreviations is very useful for the reader while it is extensively, and effectively, footnoted with a good index.

### HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Ciena Fitzgerald, *For A Better Life: Yugoslavs on the Goldfields of Western Australia 1890-1970*, self-published, 2021. In Library & Bookshop \$80.**

**Reviewer: Tom Goode**



Ciena Fitzgerald has chosen well from her sources to provide valuable insight into the trials and endurance of Yugoslav immigrants. The first part of the book describes the experiences of the immigrants as they found employment in the mines or as woodcutters on the woodlines. The second part explores the difficulty of

immigrants when war breaks out between their birth country and their new home. The temporary nature of many people's citizenship was brought into sharp focus by the outbreak of World War I. As nominal citizens of the Austrian Empire they were required to register as enemy aliens. Internment, deportation, and difficulty obtaining citizenship were common until after World War II. The second part concludes with the race riots of



1934. The story of the riot is well-told adding valuable detail, especially the map and aerial photos. Had the foreigners with their hard-working ethic been too successful? The memories of those who were the victims are recorded. Interestingly, far less space is devoted to the 1942 bombing which killed fifteen men and injured a further seventeen.

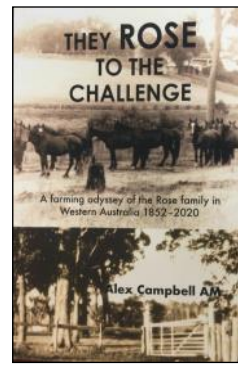
The third part begins with a focus on the role of women as wives and homemakers. One is in awe of the courage and fortitude of these women. Migration and marriage in a new country was a big step and there were many difficulties. Often overlooked in histories is the way the work of women builds family and community.

Issues of naturalisation and citizenship continue to the end of the book highlighted by the experiences of those who returned to Yugoslavia in 1948 to help rebuild that country only to find that WA had become their real home. By focussing on the collective individual histories of one of the subsets of the waves of European immigrants to WA, Dr Fitzgerald provides some penetrating insights into the State's history, particularly that of the eastern goldfields.

Reviewer's note: Between 1950 and 1957 I was a teenager at school in Kalgoorlie and regrettably impervious to the issues facing new immigrants and the problems of previous generations. In 1954 there were nine boys in the class at Christian Brothers College, Kalgoorlie. There was a Braysich, Omodei, Oser, Tampolini, Ardagh, Bain, Cray, Goode and Papadimitriou — confirming the cosmopolitan character of Kalgoorlie society.

**Alex Campbell, *They Rose to the Challenge: A farming odyssey of the Rose family in Western Australia 1852-2020*, self-published, 2021. In Library & Bookshop \$30.**

**Reviewer: Ian Berryman**



Alex Campbell, now aged 81, has been a prominent figure in agriculture in Western Australia. He spent some of his childhood on a sheep station near Wiluna, and later farmed at Kulin, Borden and Narrikup. He is a past president of the WA Farmers Federation, and has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Agriculture by UWA for services to agriculture and the environment.

His book is a history of the Rose family, which arrived in the colony in 1852. The family initially settled on 'Parkfield', a farm situated on the banks of the Leschenault estuary. Robert Henry Rose (1833-1909), patriarch of the family, has left an immense number of descendants — his two marriages produced 19 children, and there were 59 grandchildren and 158 great-grandchildren. From their base of Parkfield Farm, the family spread to the rest of WA, from the Kimberley to Esperance, and have made a notable contribution to the development of agriculture in the State.

The initial version of the book was produced for circulation among descendants, who provided a few corrections and additions, and this published copy is the revised version. The book of 274 pages is well-written, and there are numerous photographs. There is a family tree and indexes of persons and places. It is well-produced, and the typography is excellent.

This is a successful memoir of an interesting family, based on family records, which must be substantial, plus the author's personal knowledge of his family, and of the development of agriculture in WA.

<b>Community Officer:</b>	Lesley Burnett	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 9386 3841 or <a href="mailto:admin@histwest.org.au">admin@histwest.org.au</a> with your email address, and save money and trees by receiving it online!
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