



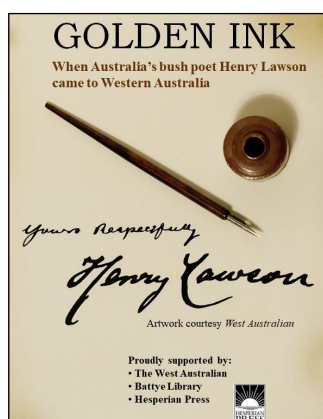
HISTORY WEST

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

September 2022

GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting at Stirling House is on Wed 21 September at 6pm when Chris Holyday will present a talk on 'Henry Lawson's visits to WA, 1890 Albany'. Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.



Henry Lawson's voice, as Australia's bush poet of the people, has been silent now for just over 100 years. On his death on 2 September 1922, Prime Minister Billy Hughes said: 'He knew intimately the real Australia, and was its greatest minstrel'. It is not widely known that Lawson visited Western Australia twice in the roaring 1890s. They were more than just visits – he lived here for months at a time. His first sojourn was to Albany as a 22 year old in 1890 when he was still developing his socialist ideals, and was full of passion and optimism for the future Australia. This contrasts markedly with his changed outlook about WA when he returned in 1896.

Lawson's commentary on WA is insightful today as a first-hand account of the way we were before federation. At the time of his first Albany visit we still looked to England and home rule, and felt keenly the isolation of our situation at the bottom of Oceania. Lawson was to secure his first journalist's role in Albany in 1890 and wrote leaders for the *Albany Observer* over that lonely 1890 winter.

My presentation will convey the history and feelings of the times in 1890s Albany as seen by Lawson in words, images and song.

Chris Holyday recently won the City of Stirling's special recognition award for local history writing. Chris has edited and published nine books with Hesperian Press, researching WA's goldfields history and its goldfields writers and, more recently, local histories. His recent books are: *Top of the River – A history of sailing at Maylands and the Maylands Yacht Club*, *Between Beach and Bush*, *Remember Old North Beach*, *Trigg and Watermans Bay* and *A Century of Service – A History of The Returned & Services League of WA*.



Can You Help?

Two important Volunteer Positions need to be filled urgently

Over the last two decades the Society has developed its technology, including digital, audio, security and telephone systems. The Museum, Library and Bookshop records are digitised and available to members and the public via our website.

We are seeking two volunteers to ensure that these systems are maintained and kept up-to-date so that everyone can work efficiently to deliver the Society's services to members and the community.

The Society invites members to consider volunteering to undertake the **Volunteer Technology Contact Person** and **Website Manager** positions, both of which will require experience in using computers and a commitment to keep systems as up-to-date as resources allow. In addition, volunteers will need to work with others and ensure that the Society's policies and procedures are followed. The tasks do not require a professional background in any of the technology areas listed above as this knowledge will be available through service providers. A full orientation to the operations and technology and any additional training needs will be met by the Society.

For further information please contact the Community Officer, Ms Lesley Burnett, (08)9381 8504 or admin@histwest.org.au

Richard Offen
President

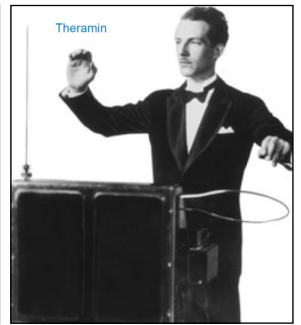
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LeCoultre Swiss cylinder Music Box
c1840s



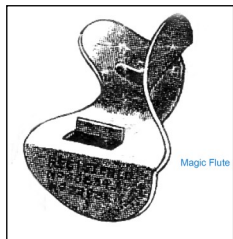
Dulcimer



Theremin



Polyphon Music
Box with discs,
c1905, model 42d



Magic flute c1930



Edison Standard
Phonograph,
Model B c1906

A Musical Evening with a Difference!

Fifty members and visitors enjoyed a combination of history and fun at our musical evening in July, jointly organised by the Tours & Events and Museum committees. The Museum took the opportunity to display some of its rare and historic musical instruments and **Richard Rennie** entertained and informed his audience.

On display from the Museum collection was the LeCoultre Swiss cylinder Music Box c1840s; a Polyphon Music Box with discs c1905; and two Edison Standard Phonographs, Model B c1906 that play cylinder records. Richard had recorded videos of two of our instruments, the hammer dulcimer – a Persian Santur with 57 strings – and the autoharp – Müller's Accordzither – showing how they were played and the sounds they produced. We enjoyed listening to the sounds of all these instruments.

Richard also brought along several instruments from his own collection — a musical saw; a Strohviol, a viol one-string with horn, invented by John Matthias Augustus Stroh c1899; a Jews Harp, also known as Jaws Harp c1920s, played by clamping between the teeth; a Magic Flute, played by blowing through nose, c1930; a Rollmonica, harmonica with paper roll music, 1930; and an Orchestral Organette 1900, with paper strip music — all of which he demonstrated. The Theremin, an electronic musical instrument producing sounds similar to a violin, named after its inventor Leon Theremin is played without hands or the body touching the instrument. With Richard's background in science he was able to explain how these sounds are produced by merely waving the hands, and the audience delighted in experimenting at the conclusion of the program. His light-hearted presentation produced laughter and fun and we all went home a little wiser.

In thanking Richard, Georgina Wigley, a rock-and-roll fan, expressed amazement at the Theremin (the first of the electronic synthesizers as used in today's rock music) and noted that some of these instruments are used in modern music heard today. A glass of wine and some delicious homemade hors d'oeuvres rounded off a happy evening. And our special thanks to Richard who made it all such a great success!

Val Hutch



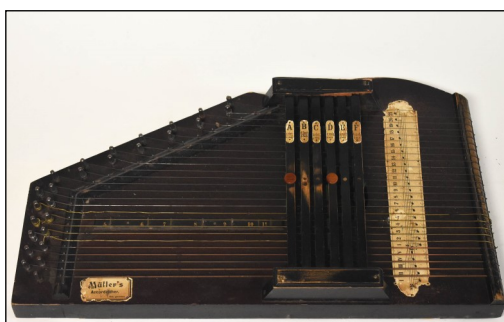
Richard playing his
musical saw



Jews Harp 1920s



Richard playing the
Strohviol



Zither



Rollmonica 1930



Western Australia's first colonial song

John Ralph

Despite the poverty, deprivation and sheer hard work of establishing the Swan River Colony it seems that people still made time for musical entertainment as a relief from the challenges they faced. J M R Cameron in his introduction to the *Millendon Memoirs* suggested:

While they were digging and delving and toiling, on the one hand, on their little patches of ground, and looking after their small flocks of sheep, they were on the other hand dancing and dining, visiting and being visited and extending to one another a generous hospitality, and enjoying the pleasures of social intercourse in a society which at the time comprised of nearly their whole number. The days of the early struggle were by no means days wholly of gloom.

George Fletcher Moore wrote what is seen as the first truly Western Australian song. Entitled *Western Australia for Me* it was performed in 1831 at the first ball given in Perth by Governor Stirling. Moore composed the lyrics and set them to the tune of *Ballinamona Oro*, a well-known folk song from his native Ireland. This song showed a departure from the British-centric lyric that would have been rife in the colony, adapting an old Irish tune but adding words that specifically related to the environment the pioneers were living in. It must be noted however that the majority of settlers at the time were from the rural working class who had a long tradition of aurally disseminated music but did not have the means or time to write their songs down. It is intriguing to think that there may have been

Ballinamona Oro



With my Ballinamona Oro, Ballinamona Oro,
Ballinamona Oro, the girl of sweet Cullen for me.

Western Australia for Me.

From the old western world, we have come to explore,
the wilds of this Western Australian Shore,
In search of a country, we've ventured to roam,
and now we've found it, let's make it our home.
And what though the Colony's new, Sirs,
And inhabitants may be few, Sirs,
We see them increasing here too, Sirs,
So Western Australia for me.

With care and experience, I'm sure 'twill be found,
Two crops in the year we may get from the ground;
There's good wood and good water, good flesh and good fish,
Good soil and good clime, and what more could you wish.
Then let everyone earnestly strive, Sirs,
Do his best, be alert and alive, Sirs,
We'll soon see our colony thrive Sirs,
So Western Australia for me.

No furious south easters no burning simoon,
No harvests to blight and our fruits to consume
No terrible plague nor no pestilent air
Our 'livers' to waste though our lives may be spare
Our skies are all cloudless and bright, sir,
And sweet is our lovely moonlight, sir,

Oh this is the clime of delight, sir,
So Western Australia for me.

No lions or tigers we here dread to meet,
Our innocent quadrupeds hop on two feet,
No tithes and no taxes we now have to pay,
And our Geese are all Swans, as some witty folks say,
Then we live without trouble or stealth, Sirs,
Our currency's all sterling wealth, Sirs,
So here's to our Governor's health, Sirs,
And Western Australia for me.

This positive lyric reflected Moore's outlook on the colony. He worked hard to establish a smallholding in the Swan Valley as well as working as a lawyer. In verse one he seems not to acknowledge the incumbent Indigenous population stating that the 'inhabitants may be few sirs'. The second verse highlights the abundance of natural resources in the fledgling colony and the importance of growing crops for sustenance, a subject that every settler would relate to. Verse 3 is a mystery. In Moore's *Diary of Ten Years* this verse does not exist. However, in the book *Journals of Several Expeditions in Western Australia made by Captain James Stirling during the years 1829 to 1832*, published in 1832, the above song text is printed in full. Did Moore like most composers edit his work when he reflected on it? Or was it added by some other person? The verse itself is at contrast to the rest of the song with its ideas of pestilence air and plague even though it suggests Western Australia was free of all these. In verse 4 he mentions the absence of predatory animals which would have been attractive to potential colonists or ex-servicemen and their families from India and in the last few lines he curries favour with Governor Stirling. Moore at the time was trying to consolidate work as judge in the colony and this might well have helped his cause. He wrote in his diary of 20 September 1832:

Indeed he [Stirling] was as well disposed to me as he could be, and I flatter myself that he will not forget me.... I sent home a copy of a song which I sung at a ball in government house... He was greatly pleased with it.

The musical soundscape of this new colony on the far reaches of the empire would have been full of variety. The upper classes brought their pianos and other instruments to replicate the musical tastes of the drawing room. The Church would have had its spiritual music and the Methodists would have brought their own brand of hymn singing which was much more accessible to the labouring classes. The soldiers would have ordered their day with music from reveille to the last post as well as using their music to work, to march, or for entertainment. The children no doubt would have their own songs. The rural farmworkers would have a rich history of music used for such calendrical rituals such as Harvest home, as well as songs to lighten their work. By exploring how the pioneers of the Swan River Colony used their music we can begin to shed light on how they interacted with their new environment and with each other. Eventually the music would begin to reflect their new home, suggesting that they were looking forward to the future albeit with a nod to the old country.

If anyone has any more information on the music of the early colony, I would be grateful to hear from you. Please email me at — johndralph@hotmail.com.

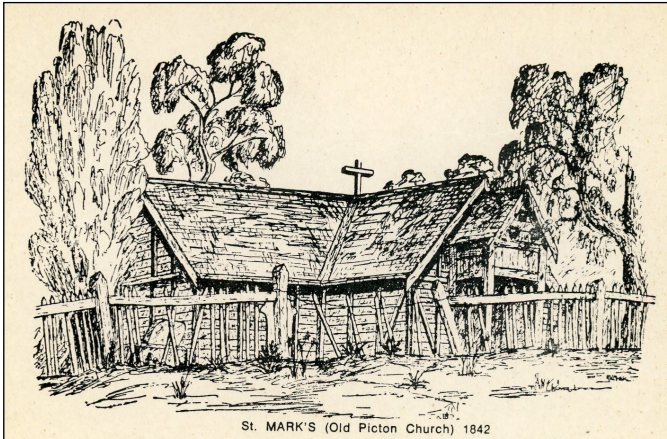
References

J M R Cameron, *The Millendon Memoirs*.
<https://www.folktunefinder.com/tunes/82168>
G F Moore, *Diary of 10 years*, 1884, 1978.

Stories from the Storerooms

Picton Church

Dr Dorothy Erickson



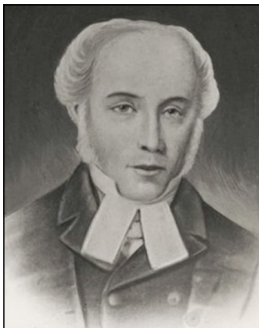
Old Picton Church, St Mark's. P1999.3837.



Interior of Archdeacon Wollaston's church at Picton, 1840s, watercolour, 33.5 x 37.1cm by William Wollaston. A1900.148.

The Society holds some relics from Picton Anglican Church, St Mark the Evangelist, as well as an exterior drawing by Douglas Cummings and one of the interior by the Revd Wollaston's son William. The building has iconic status as the oldest wooden church in the colony and the second oldest church in WA. It is on the State Register of Heritage Places as well as the National Estate register.

The Society's 1840s watercolour painting of the interior by William Wollaston is also historically significant as one of the oldest paintings in the Society's collection. It is the only known image of the interior of the historic church at the time of its opening in 1842 and has significance for its connection to his father Archdeacon John Ramsden Wollaston. We wish we knew who donated the watercolour. It was found in the collection during an audit years ago. Three timber fragments MA2003.68a-b from the church were donated by local historian Ron Richards who visited the church c1969 and deposited them for safekeeping with the Society.



The Revd J R Wollaston

William Wollaston, farmer and sketcher, was the second of seven children of the Revd John Ramsden Wollaston (1791-1856) and his wife Mary. He arrived in the colony with his parents and siblings in 1841 and assisted his father and local farmers to convert a cottage into St Mark the Evangelist in 1842. The American whaler Captain Coffin had built the original cottage from salvaged whaleboats. Local farmers helped to transform it into a church, pit sawing timbers to fashion the pews and other details. William sketched interior and exterior views of the church before moving to South Australia when his parents moved to Albany in 1848. He followed the gold rushes to Victoria, married Fanny Murphy at Sandhurst in 1856 and died in Victoria.

His father, John Ramsden Wollaston, migrated to the Bunbury district to improve his living because he had a large family of five sons and two daughters to support. He had been educated at the Charterhouse School where his father, Revd Edward Wollaston, was a Master and his maternal grandfather, Revd William Ramsden, was Headmaster. After

Charterhouse he won an exhibition to Christ's College Cambridge. Like the majority of the Wollastons and Ramsdens, he took Holy Orders, becoming deacon in 1814 and priest in 1815; he served as curate of Wrotham, Kent (1814-1815) and Vicar of Elenham, Essex (1815-1818). In 1821, he became curate at West Wickham Church where there was neither income nor house and the Wollastons had to manage on their own resources probably helped by his father. After his father's death John decided to emigrate.

Unfortunately in WA the economic situation was not much better. Under Governor Hutt Wollaston's stipend was small, and it and the funds promised for building churches were not paid until after completion. Wollaston's diligence and enterprise however lifted the colony from its apathy as he attempted to revive the organisation of the Church of England while continuing to labour as a parish priest, earning him the name of a 'worthy, laborious, energetic, excellent missionary'. Thankfully a more sympathetic governor, Charles Fitzgerald, transferred him to the parish of St John's, Albany and, when the colony was visited by Bishop Short of the new diocese of Adelaide, he was impressed by Wollaston's qualities and appointed him archdeacon of Western Australia early in 1849, an office which he discharged ably and zealously until his death.

The temporal affairs of the church were regulated by the passing in 1853 of an Act drafted by Wollaston, providing for the management of each church by trustees elected by the parishioners, and assuring each incumbent a dwelling place, garden and glebe. His own home was purchased by Lady Margaret Richardson Bunbury.

The little wooden church in Picton will forever be associated with John Ramsden Wollaston. His name also lives on in Wollaston Theological College and through his diaries that give us a glimpse into his life in WA and his perspective on the colony and his fellow colonists. The Anglican Church in WA declared the Venerable John Ramsden Wollaston to be a Local Saint and Hero of the Province in 1984.

A Memorable Occasion

Busselton Historical Society & the Dawson family bible

Mr Chris Dawson, who has been the State's Commissioner of Police, was sworn in as WA's 34th Governor on 15 July. Mr Dawson is the great great grandson of Elijah Dawson, one of the first colonists to settle in the Busselton district and Mr Dawson requested that he be sworn in using the bible which belonged to his great great grandfather and which is now part of the collection at the Busselton Museum. Busselton Historical Society President Stephanie Piper formally handed the bible over to Mr Dawson and it began its journey to Perth to be part of another historical event. The Dawson family bible was purchased by Elijah Dawson in 1876 and was used by his family to record all family births, weddings and deaths up to 1968.

Elijah Dawson was born 29 September 1797 in Birchington in the County of Kent in England, a son of Richard and Ann Dawson. He joined the army where he rose to the rank of corporal, fighting at the Battle of Waterloo with John Molloy who was his captain in the 95th Rifle Brigade. They later served together in Ireland. When Molloy decided on migration to the Swan River Colony Dawson joined him and took his new wife Ann (née Wakeham) with him. Both were indentured for five years to John Molloy, Elijah to work as a general servant and Ann as Georgiana Molloy's lady's maid.

The *Warrior* arrived in Fremantle in March 1830 and, with Governor Stirling's strong encouragement, many of its passengers decided to travel on to establish a new settlement at Augusta at the mouth of the Blackwood River in the southwest corner of WA. The couple's new life began badly when their first-born George died after only four days' of life. However they subsequently had five children — Mary Ann in 1831, Maria in 1835, George Wakeham in 1837, Elizabeth in 1842 and Elijah in 1845.

Augusta was a hard struggle and it soon became clear to the colonists that they needed to find less heavily forested and more open land for their herds and crops. The Vasse district to the north was the answer and in 1834 Dawson moved there to work for the Bussell brothers, planning to set his family up on his own farm as soon as he had the resources. He was greatly assisted by his former master and friend John Molloy who appointed him first Police Constable to the Vasse in 1835 at a salary of £20 a year.

In October 1836 Dawson paid £3 for three-acre (1.2ha) suburban Lot 7 at the Vasse, and the family started farming potatoes. In 1838, fearing conflict with the Wardandi people, he left this property for land he owned at Wonnerup to be under the protection of the soldiers who were stationed there. However conflict with the Wardandi continued and in 1846 Dawson moved again, this time to 'Westbrook' to the west of Busselton, purchased from Thomas Turner.

Westbrook homestead was built between 1863 and 1866 and the Dawson family lived there until the end of the century. The house is now heritage-listed and a slab cottage constructed in the 1850s still stands at the rear of the house. At Westbrook Dawson mainly grew potatoes and white English oats. He briefly experimented with other grains like wheat but found there was no market and the ground at Westbrook was too wet for rye. He also raised horses and kept a herd of up to 60 cattle that were used for meat and dairy. In 1851 he became the first commercial vineyard owner in the Vasse when he planted three acres of grapevines. From here he supplied wine to local timber workers and the American whalers who plied their trade off the WA coast.

Elijah was an active Anglican, giving many hours of labour to building St Mary's Church in Busselton and, after its completion, he kept the minutes of the services. He died on 12 May 1885 at the age of 88 after a long and well-regarded life.

References

BHS, 'The Elijah Dawson Story'.

Rodger Jennings, *Busselton* in 2 vols - 1830-1850 & 1850-1914, Shire of Busselton, 1983 & 1999.



Mr Chris Dawson and the family bible
Photograph courtesy Kathie Greene



BHS President Stephanie Piper hands the bible over to Mr Chris Dawson
Photograph courtesy Kathie Greene

Community Talk

Portholes and Parties: travel in the golden age of ocean liners



The Society's artist in residence **Wendy Lugg** led us on a happy July morning excursion through the fascinating changes in sea travel to Australia, tracing the changing experiences from early English migrants enduring long, uncomfortable voyages on cramped sailing ships through the passengers on steamships to the

era of the great ocean liners designed not only to carry migrants and mail but also to make the journey itself a pleasure. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and the introduction of steamships halved the travel time between Britain and Australia to 40 days. This was a revolution; however for the audience it was the 20th century era of ocean cruising that entranced them. So many shared memories of their trips, remembering vividly which ships they travelled on, what deck (from upper deck to steerage) their cabins were on, and the streamers, concerts, dances, crossing the line ceremonies and deck games that were part of the experience.

Wendy describes herself as an artist who is interested in the stories of people's lives and she certainly triggered stories from her audience. She told of her English grandmother arriving as a war bride in 1916, her family trips east and her own memorable travel experiences as a young woman.

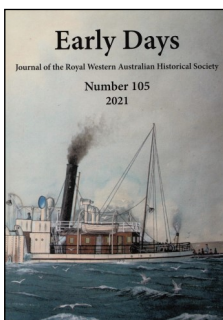
The talk was triggered by a recent donation to the collection of items from Maurice Loton's ten-month tour to Europe with his family in 1927-28. They travelled in luxury in First Class on the *Oronsay* and bought colourful theatrical costumes to wear for on-board fancy dress occasions. The museum display of these items captured a sense of the elegance and fun enjoyed by the family and friends. In the 1950s and 1960s the joy of cruising became more financially accessible and its popularity spread, especially for West Australians on *Gorgon*, *Charon* and *Centaur* with cruises north to Singapore. The competition of air travel finally ended this era of cruising in the early 1980s. However cruising's continuing popularity is evident in today's different circumstances.



Loton family fancy dress, 1927-28



Largs Bay. A1958-4



Launch of *Early Days*, No.105, 2021

Congratulations to two wonderful editors — Heather Campbell & Jennie Carter.

All members should now be enjoying the annual issue of the Society's journal which has something in it to tempt everyone. So there's much happy reading ahead.



Jennie Carter



Heather Campbell

News of the Writers' Group

The group had a productive session in July focused on using historical photographs in calendar format, and many ideas were generated.

There will be no meeting in August and the group will meet next on **Monday 12 September** when a guest speaker will lead a discussion on editing - when to edit; what to edit; who should edit. Bring along questions for this informal session.

Guest speaker Judy has recently retired from a long-term editorial role. She was sub-editor on the local *Post* Newspaper for many years as well as working on a number of large newspapers earlier in her career, both in Australia and the UK.



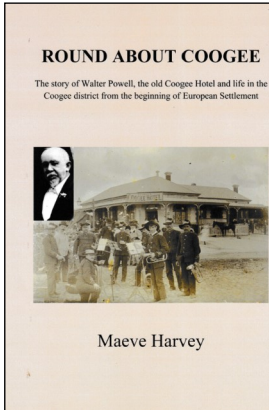
Call for books for the 2023 Giant Second Hand Book Sale - 1/2 April 2023

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

Book Reviews

Maeve Harvey, *Round about Coogee: The story of William Powell, the old Coogee Hotel and life in the Coogee district from the beginning of European Settlement*. Self-published, 2020. In Library & Bookshop \$24.

Reviewer: Heather Campbell



This is a readable book, which provides an interesting account of the heyday of the Coogee area in the early 20th century. It traces the Powell family background in England, arrival in WA and initial activities here. The story of Coogee is then recounted largely through the prism of the old Coogee Hotel and its founder and licensee, Walter Powell. This story includes the spread of roads, Afghan cameleers, early

settlers of the district, building the hotel, its licensing and the development of gardens and market gardens.

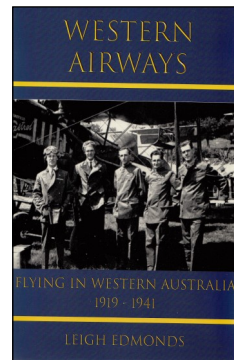
One chapter is devoted to horseracing, which commenced early in the district's history and provided clientele for the hotel. Holidaymakers, travellers, and workers from the Anchorage Meat Works, the lime kilns and skin-drying sheds also frequented the hotel. Walter Powell's family members helped run the premises and, in adulthood, his children also ran a dairy, shop and post office in the district. The hotel thrived until World War I until the Commonwealth Government resumed adjoining land in 1918 and it went into decline.

In 1922, after Walter Powell's 24 years at the hotel, the licence was transferred to his youngest son Frank. The hotel lost its licence in 1927, but gained another *raison d'être* – as a Christmas holiday home for orphan children. However, as it was used only at Christmas, the building deteriorated. In 1946 it became a permanent home for orphans, operating for 22 years. Main Roads then resumed the land and the old hotel intending to demolish it, and it became derelict. Eventually its cultural and historical significance was recognised and in 2001 it was entered on State's Register of Historic Places. Main Roads had a change of heart and sought help to restore it in preparation for sale. In 2017 Nic Trimboli, a restaurateur, and Adrian Fini purchased it for \$2.3 million aiming to restore it as a restaurant and a place of social gatherings, gardens and garden produce. The result – Coogee Common – has ensured that the old Coogee Hotel is once again 'a lively gathering place'.

Leigh Edmonds, *Western Airways Flying in Western Australia 1919–1941*, Ballarat Heritage Services, 2021. In Library. E-book \$33 for purchase from www.ballaratheritage.com.au

Reviewer: Tom Goode

While the First World War was the catalyst for the technical development of the aeroplane, little thought had been given to the role it might play in peacetime. In the public mind in 1919 the aeroplane was the thrilling new weapon wielded by heroes who soared



above the world of the ordinary man. In his book *Western Airways Flying in Western Australia 1919 – 1941*, Leigh Edmonds details the way in which a combination of national interest, military experienced pilots and Western Australian remoteness changed thrill-seeking aerial displays into a reliable service delivering mail, freight and passengers to towns between Perth and Derby.

The pioneer role of Norman Brearly (later Sir Norman Brearly) in creating the first airmail service, is a major theme throughout the book but the additional detail of difficulties with aircraft and the debate over the level of government subsidy provide a balanced view of the way a small company struggled to achieve success. While Brearly's company provides a model of how a combination of government and private enterprise could transform a novel technology in the form of the aeroplane from an entertainment vehicle to a public service, the story also clearly outlines the gradual divergence of aims between the entrepreneur and the government as one sought to maximise returns and the other sought to reduce the level of subsidy provided.

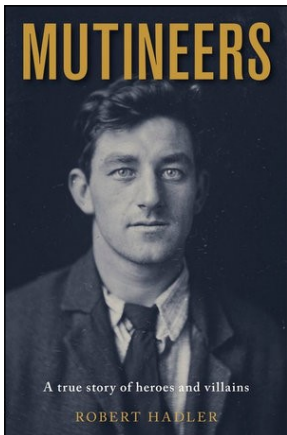
As Brearly was establishing an aerial network linking the Kimberley and Pilbara regions to Perth, the Commonwealth government was grappling with the new responsibilities associated with air transport. Regulation of air transport was not mentioned in the Federal Constitution yet its obvious importance to Defence and the Postmaster General for the carriage of mails meant it was too important not to be addressed. Edmonds' narrative of the way the issues were eventually sorted out and a comprehensive policy established provides an indication of the power of senior civil servants in that period of our democracy. International politics intruded with restrictions on the purchase of aircraft from the USA complicated by the British government's desire to establish an empire-wide airmail system.

Although not quite as exciting as pioneering the first airmail service, the development of the Perth-to-Adelaide service is itself a significant story. By the late 1930s the speed and convenience of flying had outmatched ship or train as the way to cross the continent. While the railways complained of unfair competition, Edmonds identified shipping interests as the force behind the National Airline, which purchased Brearly's company. The industry now entered a new era with the resources needed to purchase the best equipment and, when necessary, maintain unprofitable services until the demand increased. Government subsidies were no longer so important.

In his afterword, Leigh Edmonds states his aim: to write a 'case study into the development of aviation as a whole in the inter-war period'. WA's remote regions provide the background to Edmonds's study which is comprehensive and detailed. Three stories weave their way through the narrative, that of the pioneer initiative, the question of government authority, and the escalation of air transport into a capital-intensive industry. Edmonds has included a wealth of detail to support his narratives adding value to an interesting aspect of Western Australian history.

Robert Hadler, *Mutineers: A true story of heroes and villains*, Wilkinson Publishing, Melbourne, 2021. In Library.

Reviewer: Heather Campbell



In this book Robert Hadler recounts the story of a surprising, but little known episode which took place in Fremantle early in 1919. The battle cruiser *Australia* had spent four years away at the First World War, mainly taking part in arduous patrols in the Arctic conditions of the North Sea. It returned to Australia in 1919, arriving in Fremantle on 28 May and was due to sail for the eastern states on 1 June.

Many of the eastern states crew had been away for the whole period of the war and were naturally keen to get home. However Fremantle provided a generous welcome and many of the crew wished to delay sailing for an extra day to express their appreciation.

Dalmorton Rudd, a member of the crew and central figure in the story, had won a DSM for his part in a British raid on a German submarine base in 1918. His brother Lenny was also part of the ship's complement. They and some of their sailor friends had spent the night drinking with Fremantle lumpers and decided to hold mass protest and request a delay in sailing. If this was refused, their back-up plan was to 'entice the stokers to quit the stokehold' to achieve the same result.

Despite their efforts, Captain Cumerlege RN did not accede to their request and the ship was delayed only

until sufficient crew were rallied to act as stokers. The Rudd brothers and three other crew were seen as the main protagonists and were detained on board. They were subsequently charged with mutiny under British naval law and court martialled. Their subsequent incarceration in Goulburn gaol caused a political furore and they were released short of their full sentences.

This tale is complicated by the close links between the RAN and the RN and by the bureaucracy and protocols of both. It is further complicated by the involvement of politicians and an impending election. Robert Hadler has used an impressive array of sources to research this intricate story and he tells it in a fluent and absorbing manner. His Author's Note explains that 'it is a story that focuses on the individuals who shaped historical events and describes those events from their perspective'. This he has done, filling in biographical detail and family background of each of the five 'mutineers' and gleaning 'memories of descendants ... to provide source material for their feelings and dialogue'. In addition there is coverage of their individual lives after the First World War, including involvement in the war of 1939-1945, thus rounding off the story for the reader in the most satisfying fashion.

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