

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.)

57th Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies

hosted by

Denmark Historical Society (Inc)

Denmark 2022

Conference Minutes

Saturday 10 September – Riverside Club, 3 Morgan Road

Minute Taker: Fiona Bush, Mundaring & Hills Historical Society

Opening Conference: 9:00am Welcome to *57th Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies* - Chairman: Ashleigh Murch, President of Denmark Historical Society.

Welcome to Country provided by Vernice Gillies

9.10am: Jane Kelsbie, MLA, Member for Warren-Blackwood opened the conference

9.20am: Nick Drew, RWAHS Councillor and their representative on the Affiliated Societies Committee gave the Roll, Call, Apologies and Remembrances.

Roll Call, Apologies and Remembrances

30 Affiliated Societies, together with 5 other organisations:

Attendance:

Society

Army Museum of WA
Bassendean Historical Society
Bayswater Historical Society
Bridgetown Historical Society
Busselton Historical Society
Cervantes Historical Society
Chittering & Districts Historical Society
City of South Perth Historical Society
Denmark Historical Society
Donnybrook Historical Society
Eastern Goldfields Historical Society
Fremantle Historical Society
Harvey Historical Society
Historical Society of Cockburn
Jarrahdale Heritage Society
Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society
Margaret River & Districts Historical Society
Maylands Historical & Peninsula Association
Midland & Districts Historical Society
Mundaring & Hills Historical Society
Northam & Districts Historical Society

Royal Western Australian Historical Society Oral
History Society of WA
Scout Heritage Centre of WA
Serpentine Historical Society
Swan Guildford Historical Society
Toodyay Historical Society
Walpole Nornalup & District Historical Society
Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society
York Society

Other Organisations

Great Beyond Visitor Centre (Laverton)
Motoring Past Vintage Publishing
WA Multicultural Association

Apologies

Birdwood Military Museum Society
Geraldton Historical Society
Irwin Historical Society
Manjimup Historical Society
Melville Historical Society

Remembrances

Mr Drew asked those present to share a moment of silence in respect for the following members of The Royal Western Australian Historical Society and Affiliated Societies who passed away in 2019-2022:

Albany

Heather Adams
Loise Eileen Brown
Heather Scott

City of South Perth

Peter Palmer

Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society

Carol Mansfield

Mandurah Historical Society

Linda Bowron
Neville Cavanagh
Walter Homewood
Shirley Kyne
Shirley Wilde

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society

Janet Entwistle
Val Martin
Bob Smith
Keith Wilkinson
Anne Winfield

RWAHS

Laurie Beardmore, Hon Life Member
Win Cann, Hon Life Member
David Crann
Prof Darrell Fisher
Bernard Hart
B.C. Hastie
Howard Hazelhurst
Christopher Lane
Harold Loton
C.L. Pidd
Robin Reid

Serpentine Historical Society

Gillian Wigg

Toodyay

Veronica Dymond
Graham Ferguson

York Society

Betty Fox
Colleen McAdam
Frank Parker

Nick Drew - Convenor of Affiliates Societies Committee called for nominations for the 2022/23 Affiliated Societies Committee. Current members:

Marilyn Gazeley
Diane Pope
Lynn O'Hara
Malcolm Traill
Ashleigh Murch
Rosie Stroud
Ian Wilson
Fiona Bush
Ellen Parrick
Nick Drew
Gillian O'Mara

Cervantes Historical Society
Chittering & Districts Historical Society
City of South Perth Historical Society
Denmark Historical Society
Denmark Historical Society
Eastern Goldfields Historical Society
Manjimup Historical Society
Mundaring & Hills Historical Society
Mundaring & Hills Historical Society
Royal Western Australian Historical Society
Wanneroo Historical Society

Session 1 Chaired by Ashleigh Murch President Denmark Historical Society

9.30am: Speakers: Vernice Gillies and Malcolm Traill - *Menang and Bibbulmun: The importance of Wilson Inlet to Indigenous Society*

10.00am: Malcom Traill – *No, Not Copenhagen!: Origins of Denmark after European Settlement*

10.30am: Miriam Crandell – *‘Emilliah: The Utopian Suffragist Settlement Scheme proposed for Denmark*

Morning Tea: 11.00 – 11.30am

Session 2 Chaired by Malcolm Traill, Denmark Historical Society

11.30am: Ross McGuinness – *Elleker, Denmark, Nornalup: The Railway Extended West but Never met*

12.15pm: Dale Fewings – *Group Settlement: Denmark Perspective*

12.30pm: Bev McGuinness – due to technical difficulties this talk was rescheduled to Sunday

Lunch: 1.00 – 2.00pm

Afternoon Excursions

Sunday 11 September

Session 3 Chaired by Richard Offen, President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society – Annual Meeting, Reports, Awards and Open Forum

9.00am: Minutes of 2022 conference ratified with no changes required. Mr Offen provided a brief report on the activities of the RWAHS since the last conference. Like many other organisations many of the usual activities at the beginning of the year were hampered by COVID related problems. Thanked Nick Drew and Pamela Statham Drew, together with their team of helpers, for their efforts in making the annual 2022 Booksale a success. He also noted with regret that longstanding councillors, Helen Henderson and Lennie McCall had decided to stand down from Council this year.

Reported that the Society is the lucky recipient of a grant from the Mindaroo Foundation for the purpose of digitising the John Forrest Diaries.

He thanked people for supporting not only the RWAHS but also their own historical societies.

9.06am: Hon Robert (Bob) Nicholson presented the Federation of Australian Historical Societies report. Meetings through the year held via Zoom and the annual meeting cancelled due to COVID. Reminded attendees that the Federation’s members are drawn from all states and territories and that it is the peak body to represent members’ interests in the Federal sphere, although there is a decided lack of Federal interest in heritage. Federal funding for the Federation has been considerably reduced over the past few years and it is therefore chasing a variety of grants to fund its various projects. The Federation is constantly trying to persuade government that history is a part of culture and pointing out that tourism is hugely benefitted by historical and heritage related issues and places. Currently waiting to see whether this new government is better at recognising the value of heritage.

One of its members has recently developed a webinar to assist local historical societies to write up local histories. This is being rolled out to the various states and territories this year and next year.

The Federation has written a new handbook on the subject of sustainability.

Bob reiterated that the Foundation may seem to be remote but does not wish to be. Membership is \$33 per year. It provides a newsletter and a monthly eBulletin. All historical societies affiliated with the RWAHS automatically receive copies of the eBulletin and access to its services

9.20am: Richard Offen announced that Margaret River and Districts Historical Soc. (MRDHS) was this year’s recipient of the Merit Award. As MRDHD did not have a delegate attending the conference the award will be mailed to the Society.

9.23am: Richard invited Mary Elgar, President of Bridgetown Historical Society to provide a presentation for the 2023 Conference which Bridgetown will be hosting.

Conference dates: 1 – 3 September 2023. As with Denmark, the talks will spread over Saturday and Sunday. Does have Shire support. Recommended booking accommodation early as this time of year is also popular for wildflower enthusiasts.

9.37am: Richard Offen called for offers for future conferences. Noted that Wanneroo had offered to host 2025, but this would need to be confirmed by Wanneroo's committee.

Definite offer from Irwin and Districts Historical Society (IDHS) for the 2024 Conference. Pamela Statham Drew read a letter from Bruce Baskerfield, president of IDHS, formerly indicating Irwin's bid to host this conference.

Motion: To accept the invitation from Irwin and Districts Historical Society to host the 2024 Conference **RESOLVED**

9.42am: Nick Drew announced the results from the election for members of the 2022/23 Affiliated Societies Committee: Mary Elgar (Bridgetown), Marily Gazeley (Cervantes), Diane Pope (Chittering & Districts), Bev McGuinness (Denmark), Ashleigh Murch (Denmark), Rosie Stroud (Eastern Goldfields), Ian Wilson (Manjimup), Fiona Bush (Mundaring & Hills), Ellen Parrick (Mundaring & Hills), Lynn O'Hara (South Perth), Nick Drew (RWAHS), Jacqui Huntley (Wanneroo). He welcomed newcomers to the committee Mary Elgar and Jacqui Huntley.

9.45am: Business completed

10.00am: Bev McGuinness - *Through Sawdie's Lens: Perspectives on Pioneer Photographer Bert Saw*

10.50am: Bill Bunbury – *'They said you'd own your own farm' – Group Settlement in Denmark – an ABC radio documentary*

11.20am: Patricia and Andrew Gill – *There's Still Life in the Local Rag: Newspapers in regional Australia Today*

11.55am: A/Prof. Andrea Gaynor – *Can Denmark's Fire History Help us Prepare for Denmark's Fire Future?*

12.30pm: Richard provided closing comments: thanked caterers and DHS volunteers who did a wonderful job keeping delegates fed. Remarked that Friday's reception was notable for the absence of Shire support, all of the food and drinks provided and prepared by DHS.

Richard presented Ashleigh Murch with the Host Shield.

Ashleigh Murch provided a few closing comments. He thanked all the people who spent time 'in the background' ensuring that the food was prepared and appeared on time, the IT and all the DHS volunteers who had helped to organise the conference.

12.35pm: Close