

# Affiliates Newsletter

2024-03

## February 2024

*Welcome back to all Affiliates, we hope you are geared up for an exciting year of preserving and promoting the history of your area!*

Recently a copy of the Royal W.A. Historical Society Newsletter for March 1964 came across my desk. The presidents report talked about the purchase of Stirling House. The report is shared below -

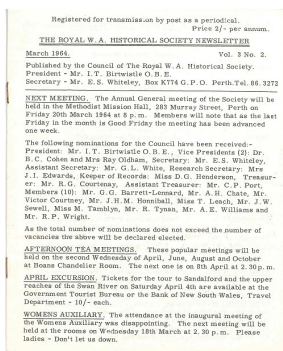
Page 3. The Royal W. A. Historical Society Newsletter March 1964. **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

*The vitality of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society after a 38 year life was plain at the first general meeting in 1964 when the Council was unanimously backed "in its efforts to purchase a property in which to establish a folk museum, library and- general headquarters of the Society independent of a hall for meetings. " The Council was given "full authority to purchase a suitable property and to arrange the necessary finance".*

*Donations to the Stirling House fund which has long been dormant, are growing under this new incentive; they are allowable tax deductions. The background of 19 63 against which this decision was set showed growing public acknowledgement of how energetically the present membership is filling the function visualised for the Society by those who created it in 1926. Admission of 80 new members during the year was accompanied by a review of the roll, which removed some names. Membership now stands at 482 all of whom were financial on 31st December 1963. Branches can add another 300, giving a general total of close on 800.*

**Branches** - Active branches are established at Albany, Busselton, Bunbury, Bolgart, Denmark, Kojonup, Katanning, Eastern Goldfields (Kalgoorlie), Plantagenet, Victoria Districts (Geraldton), Donnybrook and Swan-Guildford. A junior branch operates at Swan View School and it is hoped that this will be the fore runner of many junior branches. These can hold the keys to the future of the Society.

**Royal Recognition** - The title "Royal" was formally added during the year, underlining the status given by Commonwealth and State Government subsidies of £300 each. Some revision and amendment of the Constitution were undertaken with the advice of Mr. Peter Durack, who has succeeded his father Mr. J.P. Durack Q. C. as the Society's honorary solicitor.



Next Affiliates Committee Meeting will be held on the 20th February 2024.

Don't forget to visit the History West webpage for useful information. <https://histwest.org.au/affiliates/>

Friends of the Centre for WA History Newsletter No 1, 2024

The first Newsletter for 2024 will appear on 1 March. Please send me any of the following for inclusion in the Newsletter:  
News of events in the past 3 months (Dec/Jan/Feb) such as publications, book launches, conferences/seminars, awards, exhibitions, new webpages, online initiatives etc. of interest to historians and heritage/museum professionals.

Details of forthcoming events in March, April or May 2024.

Please email Bobbie Oliver on - [bobbie.oliver@uwa.edu.au](mailto:bobbie.oliver@uwa.edu.au)

### Newsletter Contact Details

Phone: 08 9093 3360

Email: [eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au](mailto:eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au)

Website: [www.kalgoorliehistory.org.au](http://www.kalgoorliehistory.org.au)

## Your Committee Members

An Affiliated Societies Committee is elected each year at the Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies. This Committee acts in the interests of Affiliated Societies and is represented on the Society's Council of management. Representatives for 2023-24 are below:

- Nick Drew – **Convenor** (RWAHS- Council Rep) - nickdrew@bigpond.com
- Fiona Bush – Minute Secretary (Mundaring & Hills) - fiona.bush@icloud.com
- Lyn O'Hara (South Perth) - lynn@eon.net.au
- Diane Pope (Bindoon) - popetwo@gmail.com
- Marilyn Gazeley (Cervantes) - cervantes50th@hotmail.com
- Ashleigh Murch (Denmark) - ashleigh.murch@gmail.com
- Bev McGuinness (Denmark) - bev@denmarkwa.com
- Rosie Stroud (Eastern Goldfields) - eo@kagoorliehistory.org.au
- Bruce Baskerville (Irwin & Districts) - baskervilleofdongara@gmail.com
- Keith & Suzanne Cundale (Maylands) - maylandshs@gmail.com
- Ellen Parrick (York Society) - ellen.parrick@gmail.com
- Richard Offen – ex-officio (President RWAHS) - richard.offen@inet.net.au
- Jacqui Huntley (Wanneroo & Districts) - huntleyjacqui@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact anyone on the committee if you have a query or concern.

## Committee Meeting News

The first committee meeting for the year will be held on the 20th February. More details regarding the meeting will follow in the March newsletter. If you have any thing you would like raised please contact one of the members.

## Save the Date !

The RWAHS Giant Second Book Sale 2024 will be held from 4pm - 6pm Friday 5 April, from 9am Saturday 6 April and Sunday 7 April at 49 Broadway, Nedlands, WA 6009

## Affiliates News

**Ravensthorpe Historical Society** - Purchased in 1958, this grader (at the back of the photo), the engine and transmission thereof from an International tractor, has recently found its final resting place at the Ravensthorpe old railway station historical precinct. It originally took three days to drive the grader from Perth to Ravensthorpe.

The machine was instrumental in building roads to the newland farming area of Jerdacuttup in the Ravensthorpe Shire.

Thanks to the help of Shire personnel and local crane hire company, the grader was safely shifted from a derelict paddock to its new place.



Did you know the RWAHS Book Shop have more WA History books for sale, than any other Book Shop.

Open Monday to Friday  
10am to 4pm, situated at 49 Broadway, Nedlands, WA 6010.

[www.histwest.org.au](http://www.histwest.org.au) under services, History West Shop or for any queries please see the contact details below.

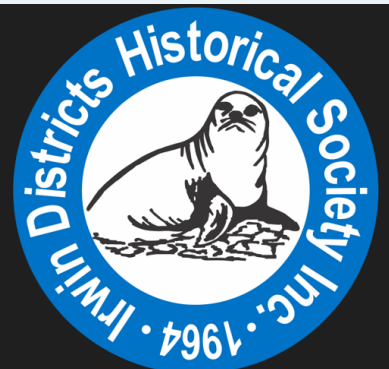
If you have a book or know of a book that you would like the Book Shop to stock please contact the Book Shop - [bookshop@histwest.org.au](mailto:bookshop@histwest.org.au) or 9386 3841.

### Conference 2024

Irwin District Historical Society 6, 7, 8th September 2024.

Irwin Historical Society has made a group booking at the Dongara Hotel and Priory. When booking your accommodating please specify that you are booking for State History Conference.

[office@dongarahotel.com.au](mailto:office@dongarahotel.com.au)



# Affiliates News

**Friends of Donnelly Village Inc** - recently held their AGM and forwarded the Chairs report for inclusion in the newsletter, however, due to the size of the report we have not been able to publish it in its entirety, however if you contact them, I'm sure they would be more than happy to forward you a copy.



Sally Paulin writes, " I realized we have now been FODV Inc for ten years since 2013, plus the few years of the 'History Committee' from 2010, when we were part of a group of people who bought the village and a few of us came together to ensure we collected and conserved the social and industrial history of the place...

"Looking back, all of the above is our achievement as a very small group of people who have earned the trust of the ex-Donnelly Timber community whose stories we seek to record and tell for posterity. We have also developed good relations with nearby historical societies through sharing info and learning together.

Our rewards are demonstrated in the faith the ex-residents have in our endeavours, their willingness to contribute their time, ideas, photos, treasured belongings and stories and to gently let us know when we have made a mistake!

More volunteers/members are always welcome! Thanks to everyone on the committee and the wider support network for continuing to have faith in our projects going forward."



## HISTORY WEST

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

### THE WILLIAMS / LEE STEERE PUBLICATION PRIZE 2024 \$1000

The Society is offering a prize of \$1000 for a non-fiction publication, either in print or electronic (pdf) form, on Western Australian history, published between 1 June 2023 and 31 March 2024.

#### Conditions of Entry:

- \* Entries must be over 20,000 words in length.
- \* Topics to include a biography of a West Australian, family history, local, community of WA history.
- \* Self-published entries are welcome.
- \* Non-fiction entries only. Works of historical fiction and children's books ineligible.
- \* Two copies of each printed book are required, one of which will be retained and placed in the Society's library.
- \* E-books are welcome and require two book copies on two individual USB drives.

The winner will be announced at the Society's Annual General Meeting Wed 16 Oct.

Closing date: Friday, 28 June 2024,

Entries must be submitted to the Society office:

Royal Western Australian Historical Society  
49 Broadway, Nedlands WA 6009  
Tel (08) 9386 3841  
Email: admin@histwest.org.au

#### APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



2024

Friday 5 April – 4pm to 6pm

Saturday 6 April – 9am to 5pm

Sunday 7 April – 9am to 4pm

2pm Sunday – All books **HALF PRICE**

49 Broadway, Nedlands (corner Clark Street)  
Additional Parking at 55 Broadway

*We've saved loads of secondhand books. You, please, save the dates. We're sure to have bargains to suit you: fiction, history, drama, children's, whatever.*

*It's a fund raiser and a fun raiser. We love to see people browsing and buying. Do join us.*

**Our Bookshop is OPEN during this sale**

Cash, Visa, Mastercard and EFTPOS accepted



## HISTORY WEST

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

## Affiliates News

The EGHS is researching the St. Matthews Church in Boulder and trying to ascertain if it is in fact the largest wooden church still in use in Western Australia. Do you have any information of large wooden church buildings from your area. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please email [eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au](mailto:eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au)

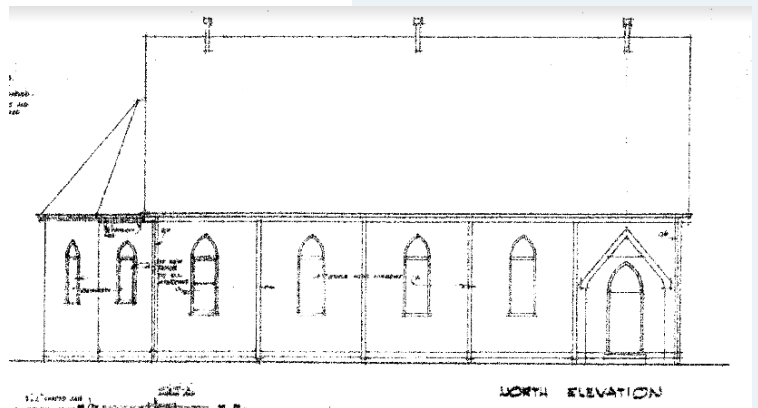
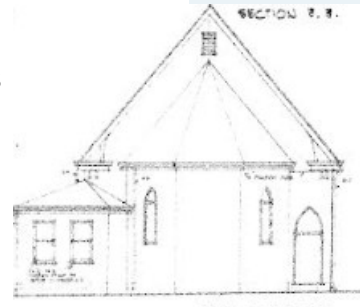
The Kalgoorlie Western Argus, 30 October 1906 reported "NEW CHURCH AT BOULDER, The- vestry of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, have just completed a very handsome new church building on the site of the old church in Moran street. The distinctive feature of the church is that it is built entirely of wood...."

The dimensions of the building are 80 ft. by 35 ft., the height of walls 17 ft., and the height to the collar-tie ceiling 27 ft. The walls are substantially built of jarrah and lined on the outside with, rusticated jarrah weatherboards. The thrust of the roof trusses is received by substantial wood but-tresses, weathered and of neat design. The windows are 10 ft. in height, with Gothic heads, and fitted with hung sashes in box frames: The glazing is done with cathedral glass in two colors. The interior finish is entirely of Californian red pine. The ceiling is divided into bays, formed by the hammer-beam roof trusses, which have Gothic obtuse-arched ribs, and spandrels ornamented with tracery. The seats are of kauri pine. Great attention has been paid to ventilation.

No. 5

powerful extracting ventilators have been fixed in the roof, connected with No. 10 centres in the ceiling.

These, are covered with perforated ornamental centre flowers of handsome design. ..."



### Serpentine Historical Society - Old Bridge School

The Serpentine Historical society volunteers open the school every second Sunday of the month, Feb - Nov. from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm , gold coin donation .

The interior of the building represents an early 1900's schoolroom, we encourage children and adults to write with pen and ink, infants with chalk on slate. We have a display of photos and information relating to the district which includes Serpentine, Keysbrook, Hopeland & Mardella. Also a large wall map of the Shire which includes, mid/late 1800's land allotments and 1920's group settlements.

We also open on request for families, schools and community groups. Phone Trevor 0499977529 or email - [serpentine.hs@outlook.com](mailto:serpentine.hs@outlook.com)



Returning in April and May with the theme **Connections**, the 2024 festival will celebrate the rich and diverse stories of our nation, strengthen cultural and historical ties and encourage the community to forge new bonds. It acknowledges our link to people, places and the past, and the enduring connections that will shape the future of heritage.

## Affiliates News

Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of WA - Please note the below is forwarded on behalf of Jo Wilkie and all queries should be directed to her at [jwilkie@inet.net.au](mailto:jwilkie@inet.net.au) or M: 0419681901

The Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of WA has an opportunity to locate itself within the new Jewish Community Centre in Perth, currently being built where it will have some storage space, a workroom and/office and a digital display space. To make the most of this opportunity, the Society is keen to organise its collection to conform to standards and provide optimal access to the community.

The purpose of this project is:

- To assess the records, documents and materials held by the Society at this time. This can include provision of guidance and support to the Society's passionate volunteers, given that the enormity of the task may make it financially prohibitive. The collection is currently held in members' private homes and stored mainly in boxes.
- To provide guidance and advice on how best to preserve and conserve the "collection"
- To advise on the most effective online system for storing, managing and accessing the collection with a view that it can then be part of larger initiatives such as CollectionsWA or Trove.

To undertake the archiving of the collection – again with the assistance of the Society's volunteers if required.

The Society is seeking a quote for this and any other work that the expert may deem necessary.

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### **Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society - The Bibbulmun Track.**

This world renowned long distance walking trail has its Northern Terminus in Kalamunda. The track had its inception in 1972 and was officially opened in 1979. It is a 1000km trail passing through the south west to its Southern Terminus in Albany.

It passes through the forest country of the ranges, the magnificent forest of the south west as well as coastal areas in the south. It takes roughly 36 days to walk the track.

The name Bibbulmun has been used to 'collectively' describe the Aboriginal tribes who roamed through these areas. The Kalamunda terminus has symbolic representations of the Nyungar culture. The best time to walk the track is the spring or Kambarang season.

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**Bridgetown Historical Society Inc.-** BHS will be conducting our popular Ghost Walks during the Bridgetown Winter Festival. Winter months, when it's cold and foggy are the best time to experience a Ghost Walk. You will meet up with some of the people of long ago who have stories to tell.

The dates are:

Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July

Friday 12th and Saturday 13th July

Bookings can be made on TryBooking. <https://www.trybooking.com/CPFDC>

Adults \$10pp, Children \$5pp, Family (2 adults, 2 children under 16) \$25

The Walks start at the Bridgetown Police Station Museum at 7pm and go on for about an hour, end back at the Museum where hot drinks and biscuits are available.

Numbers are limited to 50 and 2023 Ghost Walks were a sellout. People came from far and wide.

Enquiries: 0487 592 704

## Request for Assistance

A request for assistance has been received from Chris Firman please see letter below. Any comments or queries should be directed to Chris. Email - [chris.firman@research.uwa.edu.au](mailto:chris.firman@research.uwa.edu.au) Mobile: 0478 414 556

Dear fellow WA historian/s

My name is Christopher Firman and I am currently enrolled in the Master of Curatorial Studies in Fine Arts, a post-grad research degree at the University of Western Australia, due for completion in July 2025. I write seeking your assistance with an important project concerning the early history of photography in Western Australia between 1853 and 1914.

While completing an Honours degree in Photomedia at Edith Cowan University between 2018 and 2021, I became aware of a significant gap in the record of Australian photography and photographers, and the Graduate Research School at UWA has given me the opportunity to do something about remedying that situation.

The first recognised volume to survey this topic was Jack Cato's *The Story of the Camera in Australia* (published in 1955), and it has since been followed by at least 12 more claiming to tell the story of Australian photography, with the latest offerings being Melissa Miles' *The Language of Light and Dark: Light and Place in Australian Photography* (2015) and Daniel Palmer & Martyn Jolly's *Installation View: Photography Exhibitions in Australia 1848-2020* (2021). An interesting factor that they all share is the almost deafening silence when it comes to recognising anything significant photographically west of Adelaide before the 1970s. Cato's book set the style, waiting until the last pages to devote a mere ¾ of a page to WA, and this trend has continued in most of the subsequent books and exhibition catalogues.

My project is to research and prepare a potential exhibition and catalogue on this missing part of Australian history and visual culture. I know from my preliminary research through the online Trove collection of early WA newspapers that active and widespread photography was being practised by both professionals and amateurs from the 1850s, including what may have been the first purely photographic exhibition in Australia in September 1858. This activity was not restricted to Perth and Fremantle, but throughout WA.

My project is based around five main research questions:

1. How, when and by whom did photography start in Western Australia?
2. What processes were used by early photographers and how did they learn them?
3. What was done with the images once they were created?
4. What facilities were available for public photographic exhibitions/magic lantern shows between 1850 and 1914?

5. Did WA colonists follow the eastern colonies and form "camera clubs"?

I know that many of the regional historical societies and museums have in their possession collections of photographic negatives and prints from the 1850s up to the First World War and some, like The York Society's marvellous little monograph *The Photographs of Edward Tours Hamersley* (2001), have been collected and published. As time permits, I plan to travel to personally visit as many as I can in the next few months. To assist in my itinerary could you please let me know:

- a. whether your institution maintains a photographic collection that covers the period 1850 to 1914;
- b. what information you may have concerning the identity of your area's earliest photographers; and
- c. whether it is possible for me (in person or online) to examine items in those collections for inclusion (originals or copies) in a future exhibition?

If you would like to know more about the basis of my research, I have attached a copy of the relevant parts of my Research Proposal. My major supervisor is Dr Susanne Meurer, Lecturer in Curatorial Studies in the School of Design, and assistant supervisor Dr Emily Brink, Associate Professor in the School of Design.

# State History Conference 2024

IRWIN DISTRICTS HS (DONGARA) – STATE HISTORY CONFERENCE 2024 – Bruce Baskerville

The 59<sup>th</sup> State History Conference is being hosted by Irwin Districts Historical Society over the weekend of 6-7-8 September 2024 at The Priory Hotel in Dongara, on the sublime Batavia Coast. Mark these dates in your diary or calendar.

The theme of the Conference is 'Waves of Change'. This partly refers to the diverse maritime and fishing heritage of Dongara and Port Denison, and partly to looking at new developments and ways of doing local history. Both strands are woven through the draft program now being developed.

There will be all the usual features of a State History Conference – a Friday evening welcome to the Irwin shire, a sumptuous conference dinner, fascinating talks and presentations in the Saturday and Sunday mornings with tours and other events in the afternoons.

The conference venue is The Priory Hotel in St Dominic's Road, Dongara. The old Dominican Priory and Dominican Ladies College complex was built in phases between 1881 and 1926 and has an atmosphere richly evocative of the period. It was the setting for a movie shot in 1992 and starring a young Hugh Jackman that was set in 1920s Egypt with its Mediterranean ambiance and encircling date palms.

A program and details will be available in March 2024, but meanwhile all intending conference goers are **strongly encouraged to book accommodation as early as possible**. The conference will coincide with the start of the wildflower season and will be just a fortnight before the King's Birthday long weekend and start of the Spring school holidays. Mining activities elsewhere in the shire are also bringing a high demand for local accommodation. It will be possible to stay at The Priory Hotel – bookings can be made through the Dongara Hotel Motel on 08 9927 1023, where rooms are being held for the conference (just mention that you are attending the conference). However, these rooms are likely to go quickly, so don't tarry if that is your first choice.

Irwin Districts Historical Society looks forward to welcoming you to our little piece of paradise in the same year we will be celebrating our Diamond Jubilee. Just **don't leave your accommodation bookings until the last minute** as the demand is sure to be high.



## Nominations are called for the 2024 Margaret Medcalf Award.

The Margaret Medcalf Award recognises excellence in research using the State Archives of Western Australia. The Award honours Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM, Western Australia's second State Archivist, for her valuable contribution to the development of archives in Western Australia.

Works nominated must demonstrate the use and accurate referencing of State Archives. Any work completed or published in 2023 is eligible to be submitted for nomination, and anyone, including the author of the work, may submit a nomination. Nominated works need not be published, may be fiction or non-fiction, and in any media. Submission of electronic versions of publications are encouraged to assist with judging.

For more details including a link to a nomination form please see: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/nominations-are-called-the-2024-margaret-medcalf-award>



Telstra's Connected Communities Grant Program - will boost support for communities across remote, rural and regional Australia to improve resilience, environmental sustainability and liveability through the power of connection.

The program offers grants up to \$10,000 for not-for-profit community organisations that are providing access to information, technology, education and facilities to support their communities to embrace new technologies and ways of working to build social capital and digital capability.

<https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/telstra-connected-communities-program/>

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#### DISCLAIMER

Accuracy of facts or the opinions expressed in any of the articles of this newsletter, are not necessarily those of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and the Society cannot accept responsibility of any action taken as a result of statements contained within.

*The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society acknowledges the support of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.*

## Useful Information



Reminder that the National Library of Australia's Community Heritage Grant applications open on the 05th March 2024.

More information can be found at <https://www.nla.gov.au/about/fellowships-scholarships-and-grants/community-heritage-grants>.

**Strengthening Rural Communities – Rebuilding Regional Communities Grants - The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Rebuilding Regional Communities (RRC) stream** gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities. Open now - closes 26th February 2024. <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/src-rebuilding-regional-communities/>

**Strengthening Rural Communities – Small & Vital Grants** - The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small & Vital stream gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities.



**FRRR**  
Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal

Grants up to \$10,000 are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities that strengthen local people, places and climate solutions, with a preference for smaller communities (populations under 15,000).

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and assessed quarterly.

More information - <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/src-small-vital/>

## The Gallipoli Scholarship Fund



For your younger members. The Gallipoli Scholarship Fund seeks to perpetuate among young Australians an understanding of those enduring traditions of perseverance, courage, self-sacrifice and mateship that were established so indelibly in the cause of world peace at Gallipoli, and thereafter on other battlefields and peace operations. It helps inform and remind Australians of the sacrifices of those who served Australia in conflicts and peace operations, and thereby contributes to the future security of our nation and our national values of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law.

The Scholarship provides financial assistance to the most deserving and meritorious Australian applicants, commencing their first year of tertiary study at a University or TAFE at Degree, Diploma or Advanced Diploma level, in the year of application. In assessing suitability for an award, a 60% weighting applies to necessitous circumstances and a 40% weighting to educational merit. Currently, the Scholarship does not extend beyond one year. More information can be found at <https://gallipolischolarship.com.au/>.