



HISTORY WEST™

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October 2023

GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting at Stirling House is on Wednesday 18 October at 6pm when Bob Nicholson will present a talk on 'Captain Robert Laurie and the development of maritime Fremantle'.

Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.



Captain Laurie. Courtesy of Mr Jock Laurie.

Captain Robert Laurie was born in Glasgow where he attended school. Around the age of 14 he made the decision to come to Australia, specifically to Adelaide. That was where the Adelaide Steamship Company was located and where he was welcomed by Robert and Jessie Frew, the former being the chair of the company. He gained knowledge and experience in sailing vessels and was appointed to captain one of its major interstate steamships. Soon after it was suggested that he transfer to Fremantle to establish a company office there. At the age of 27 he married Margaret in the Adelaide Anglican Cathedral and they then established a Fremantle home. Three daughters were born to them there. Robert also established a proprietary company engaged in stevedoring. Sadly Margaret died in January 1941 and in July he married Mary. They had three sons. In 1899 Robert became a member of the Fremantle Municipal Council and in 1902 was elected to the State Parliament as one of the members for Fremantle West. In Parliament he was regarded as an expert on maritime matters. In 1903 he took up an appointment as the first chair of the new Fremantle Harbour Trust, retiring from that role after five years. His parliamentary term continued until May 1912 when he retired from that office. His life was then taken up with stevedoring work. In 1926 the company

went public and continued as such until his death in 1941. An admirer of a business approach to commercial problems, he was always a strong force in campaigning for Fremantle to have the best maritime facilities.

Our speaker, **R D (Bob) Nicholson**, was a member of the Supreme Court of Western Australia and then the Federal Court of Australia, and a member of the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal. He was President of this Society (2007-2010 and 2016-2019) and has recently been appointed one of the Society's Fellows. This is the third historical research paper Bob has presented to the Society.



Call for books for the 2024 Giant Second Hand Book Sale



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.

New Premises Information Sessions

The Council of the Society is considering a property
in East Subiaco as our future premises.

There will be two information and presentation
sessions for members and donors.

The dates are as follows:

Friday 29 September 2 – 3 pm at the Society

Wednesday 4 October 6 - 7 pm at the Society

**Special General Meeting on this matter:
Wednesday 11 October at 6pm** at the Society

We look forward to your attendance.

Richard Offen
President
& Chair of Council

Sally Ann Hasluck OAM
Vice-President & Chair
HWCC Planning Committee

Welcome to new members!

James & June Barnes, Linda Edwards, Barbara
Hooker, Glen Morgan, Lynette King, Annette Sellers,
Andrina Treadgold

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Forthcoming Events — Don't forget to book!

Or ring the office 9386 3841 admin@histwest.org.au



'Orange Grove' Afternoon Tea

in the McLeods' splendid Mundaring gardens
with sculptures plus an outstanding gallery
— a private collection of WA art

Sunday 22 October 2-5pm

A unique function to fundraise for new premises

Tickets: \$90 per person Numbers limited.



[Click here to book](#)



The President & Councillors
invite New Members to a
morning tea and a tour of the building
including Reference Library, Museum,
Bookshop and Archival products range

Stirling House, 49 Broadway Nedlands

Tuesday 7 November 11am-12noon

RSVP Wednesday 1 November 2023
Contact Lesley Burnett Community Officer
Phone: 9386 3841
Email: admin@histwest.org.au



Sugar cane in the garden of Strawberry Hill,
residence of AP Burt, Adelaide Tce, Perth.

**Citiplace Conference Room, Perth Rwy
Station Concourse**

Wed 4 October – 2pm

**Professor Jane Lydon — Our Slavery
Legacy, including WA.**

Although we celebrate the abolition of slavery,
it is often forgotten that many of those who
benefitted from that human trade had ties
to other parts of the British Empire.



**A Vision for Australia's Health:
Dr Cecil Cook at Work**

Barry Leithhead

Thursday 12 October, 4.30-7pm

launch by Nicholas Hasluck

Dr Cook was an Australian physician
specialising in tropical diseases
and public health, especially leprosy.

Thank You To Vanessa!

Val Hutch, Museum convenor



The museum has been very fortunate to have **Vanessa Roth** as our part-time curator for the past three years. During her time with us she has made great contributions to the Society, including two successful Commonwealth Heritage Grants that have led to a Preservation Needs Assessment for most of our collection by Stephanie Baily, and a new Disaster Preparedness Plan by Claire Rowson. We currently have a CHG submission for new costume mannequins, which we will find out about later in the year. In her role as curator Vanessa has revised and updated our Collection Policy and Procedures Manual, both of which will be an essential guide for current and new volunteers to the museum. On a weekly basis, Vanessa has answered email enquiries and assessed new donations for acquisition according to the Collection Policy before the Museum committee discusses the items. She has organised conservation treatments, presented training workshops, improved preventative conservation and has provided advice on our exhibitions and the museum's new website.

Her organisational skills and knowledge and care of the collection have greatly benefitted our museum and we will miss her guidance and support. However, exciting times are ahead as Vanessa has been appointed Curator for the Army Museum Duntroon's significant heritage collection. Originally from Canberra, she will no doubt be welcomed home by her family who will be delighted to have her back in the ACT!

Following our August museum meeting a morning tea was held to thank Vanessa, and from all the volunteers and myself we wish you and your family all the very best for what lies ahead!

Mystery Photo

Five Nor'West gentlemen — mystery part-solved



Kylie Jennings, Administrator of the Broome Historical Society and Museum, recognised a similar photograph donated to the Broome Historical Society. On checking other photographs from Album 39 Kylie identified it as belonging to Thomas Alfred Maywood who worked for Robison and Norman in Broome in 1909-1910. He also lived in

Kalgoorlie for a time (1912-1916), which corresponds to other photographs in the album. His daughter Dorothy Maywood married Michael Tognini in 1916 and she donated the album to the Society in the 1980s. However the Nor'West gentlemen could not be identified. Many thanks to Kylie and the Broome Historical Society.

Welcome to new Volunteers

We are delighted to welcome two new volunteers who have stepped into important tasks in the Society's life — **Linda Bush** is our new Bookshop manager and **Linda Edwards** has joined the team of Library volunteers. Many thanks to both of them and we look forward their continuing contributions!

On a sadder note we say farewell to our former Bookshop manager **Tom Goode**. Tom took up the role at the commencement of 2023 and made a valuable contribution in leading an audit of the stock and its rearrangement on the shelves. We sincerely thank him and regret that ill health has led to his withdrawal from this active volunteering.



Dr Linda Bush,
new Bookshop manager



Tom Goode, former Bookshop
manager



Linda Edwards, library volunteer,
working on unpublished private papers

ADVERTISEMENT

Sold-15 Bulimba Rd, Nedlands -117 years in the family
Sold-30 Neville Rd, Dalkeith -51 years in the family
Sold-4/1 Webster St, Nedlands - 26 years in the family
Downsizer available Off-Market - Waroonga Rd, Nedlands

I enjoy helping people make complex tasks,
as simple as possible.

Daniel Ranshaw

0415 181 664

or

dranshaw@realmark.com.au



Realmark

Auxiliary's Morning Tea Fundraiser

Bringing Modernism Home: The Life of Geoffrey E Summerhayes

Rachel Roe



Geoff Summerhayes

Andrina Threadgold shared with us the story of her father's architectural life, audience members being familiar with the name but knowing little about the man. Three generations of architectural legacy began with the arrival to Melbourne in 1884 of accomplished builder George Summerhayes, accompanied by his wife Sarah and children Edwin and Lucy. Edwin studied architecture before the gold rushes of the West beckoned. In partnership with Moline, Hawkins and Ford, Edwin's architectural practice included the successful building of Coolgardie Turkish Baths, a synagogue, a Presbyterian church, a mechanics institute and the Coolgardie Exhibition Building.

Edwin moved to Perth, married Florence Camm and lived in Claremont. They had two children, Reginald (1897) and Dorothy (1906). Following the initial toil of building his architectural practice, it was the patronage of the renowned Piesse family that brought great fortune. His designs for farmer and politician Frederick Henry Piesse at Katanning included shops and offices (1901), the Kobeelya residence (1902), market store and offices (1903), two houses (1905), shops/offices at Wagin, and a home at Broomehill (1910). Andrina's mention of the Kobeelya residence resonated with many of the attendees who had personal memories of this magnificent building.

Andrina's grandfather Reginald's achievements also made a significant impact on the architectural fabric of WA. Reginald was a diligent student who was Dux of Scotch College in 1913. He studied engineering at UWA as there weren't any architectural courses available at the time. World War 1 interrupted his studies and he joined the Royal Engineers in 1916. After working in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, he returned to Perth, joining his father's architectural firm. He married Sheila Kathleen Durack and twins Eve and Geoffrey were born 1928. Reginald's designs include 'Georgian' residence in Dalkeith, Interlaken House in Mosman Park, buildings at UWA, Claremont Council Chambers, Wagin's Town Hall, Lake Karrinyup Country Club, Church buildings at Loreto College and multiple hotels, including the Civic Hotel in Inglewood.

Young Geoffrey was keen to follow in his father's footsteps as an architect. Exposure to his father's drawings and extensive library gave him an early start. He was naturally curious about the history of building styles. Having graduated from Aquinas College in 1945 he began his architectural career aged 17 when he enrolled in the newly-founded five-year course at Perth Tech College, St. George's Tce. After graduating and working with his father he applied to American Colleges for postgraduate study to expand his architectural education and immerse himself in something more modern than existing pre-war styles. While awaiting a reply, Geoffrey travelled abroad to explore design ideas in London, Scandinavia and throughout Europe. Following this exciting trip, he travelled to the USA having accepted a generous scholarship from Princeton University. Geoffrey was soon in the presence of great masters such as Frank Lloyd Wright who was in his eighties at the time. He frequently liked to recall his greeting – 'My name is Frank Lloyd Wright. Don't bother telling me yours; I will never remember it!' Summerhayes found employment with a Californian company that had an excellent reputation for school design. They designed all their buildings on a four-foot grid, an aspect that Geoffrey found suited his disciplined way of thinking and began a habit he adopted for the rest of his life.

Back in Perth in 1952, Geoffrey embarked on a productive career. One of his first residential projects was for Michael Ahern, owner of the Aherns department stores. This was an extension to a residence formerly owned by architect Harold Boas. Commercial projects were also extensive. Andrina shared a brief snapshot of his portfolio commissions, such as Toodyay Catholic Church, Derby, Broome and Three Springs Hospitals, Pioneer Women's Memorial Fountain, City Arcade Perth, Chelsea Village Nedlands, Art Gallery of WA (plus winding staircase), Forrest Place Redevelopment, Guildford Grammar Prep School, Norfolk Hotel Fremantle, Voyager Estate Winery (Margaret River), and Heytesbury Stud and homestead.

Andrina's book is a wonderful way of honouring her family's remarkable architectural legacy in WA and is available at our bookshop. Many thanks to the Auxiliary committee team who provided a magnificent array of culinary delights for both morning tea and lunch. Congratulations to Margaret Medcalf on winning the raffle prize.



Coombe House



Auxiliary Committee – Shirley Aliaga, Rachel Roe, Allison Fyfe, Jenny Wildy – with Andrina Treadgold



Del Michael, Sharon Rowell, Ruth Phelps, Lauris Grose



Rachel Roe (President), Ally Drake Brockman, Anne Harse, Marlene Rigby



Simon Watson, Georgina Pearce, Ruth Marchant James, Rob O'Connor



Bill Marmion, Gay Hayes, Suzanne John

58th State History Conference of Affiliated Societies — at Bridgetown

Heather Campbell & Pamela Statham Drew

Proceedings began in earnest with a welcome from conference convenor, Mary Elgar, who introduced Elder Sandra Hill who gave an eloquent and informative Welcome to Country. The Hon. David Templeman, Minister for Culture and the Arts, spoke enthusiastically of the importance of heritage and of the essential work carried out by volunteers. Jane Kelsbie MLA for Warren-Blackwood, then spoke of the Bridgetown's history. And finally Nick Drew conducted a roll call of delegates, and remembered members who have recently died.

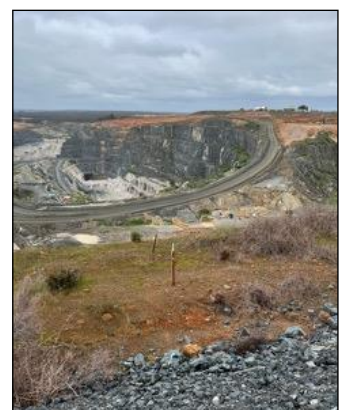
Elder Sandra Hill gave the first presentation of the morning, speaking of sharing our story and of the journey from exclusiveness to inclusiveness in Bridgetown and Balingup. She described the surrounding country as a bountiful gathering place, a place of plenty, and talked of the different language groups inhabiting the Bibbulmun country. In stressing the importance of truth to reconciliation, Sandra urged historical societies to seek out the Elders of their districts because 'If you don't understand what we as a people have experienced, how can we walk side by side into the future'.

Peter Hall then spoke of orcharding in Bridgetown, drawing on family stories and resources and his own experience growing up on an orchard in the district. His comprehensive talk told the story of orcharding from its beginnings and the many changes, including in transport and technology, to modern cool stores. The railway history of Bridgetown was ably covered by Philippa Rogers, from the period when transport was reliant on horsepower to the growth of the WA Government Railway network from 1879 and the part played by timber concessions granted to railway companies. Steam locomotives were powered by wood rather than coal, as timber offcuts were readily available. Philippa then provided a broader view of the railway system before focusing on expansion to Busselton, Donnybrook and Bridgetown. She knew the names of all the engines used on the various lines.

After morning tea Pat Scallen discussed mining in Greenbushes, from tin to lithium. Tin was discovered in 1886, mining commencing in 1888 and over the years changing to mining for tantalum. In 1970 a spodumene (lithium) ore body was discovered and this has become the focus of the current mining operations. Lithium is a strong and non-abrasive product, used in nuclear fusion, in Pyrex, glass and in batteries for smart phones. There is an increasing demand for lithium and the mine provides a large percentage of the world's lithium. Tim Clyne, recently retired Council CEO, followed to discuss 'The evolution of Bridgetown – growing a rural town', highlighting the growth of the town as a rural centre. He talked of the impact of the closure of the railway depot in 1954, but also of a bright future with the area's attractive lifestyle and a growth in jobs. Dr Sally Paulin then discussed the Donnelly Mill Project — the recycling of a mill town. The post-World War II housing boom put pressure on timber supplies; in 1948 Bunnings built the mill and, in 1950, the State Housing Commission built houses in the town. The mill, which was sawdust steam-powered, milled mainly karri, with some jarrah and marri. It closed in 1978 and in 1980 the town was vested in the WA Dept of Tourism, which leased it to Tony and Sally Fitzpatrick. In 1996 it was entered on the State Register as a heritage place and in 2007 the 'village' and Wheatley Forest site became freehold. In 2010 a group of 35 families purchased Donnelly River Village. Each shares a 20-year lease over a cottage that they maintain and make available as a holiday cottage or for use as Donnelly accommodation for Bibbulmun Track walkers.

In the afternoon delegates were offered a choice of activities — Bevan and Jennie Carter presented a genealogy workshop on how to discover your ancestry; and there was a Greenbushes Talison Lithium Mine Tour, a flora/fauna walk through Dorothy Scott Reserve, and a Bridgetown History walk.

The conference dinner at the Junior Farmers Hall was catered for and sponsored by Bridgetown Pottery Restaurant, with the wine sponsored by Sunnyhurst Winery. Young volunteers served a delicious roast dinner with apple crumble and cream for dessert, altogether making a happy and friendly occasion to conclude the day's rich program.



Community Talk

Sikh History of Dongara

Tarun Preet Singh & Bruce Baskerville

A joint presentation of the Sikh Association of WA and the Irwin Districts Historical Society

In this joint presentation we were interested to hear about both the Sikhs' wider history in India as well as the Sikhs of Dongara. Tarun spoke first of the Sikhs' place in Indian history where they represent approximately two percent of the population. The Sikh Empire, which occupied the Punjab region, was the last of the Indian empires to fall to the British in a prolonged and bloody campaign lasting from 1845 to 1849.

Sikhs from India began moving to Australia and to Dongara towards the end of 19th century. Most of them came from a military background, which might have paved their way. But they were not allowed to bring their families and therefore the community remained small and almost entirely male. However Australia's Sikh population has been underestimated from the start because they were incorrectly categorised in official records as 'Afghans' and, even today, reference libraries are slow to correct this misinformation.

Sikhs mainly ventured into two occupations – hawking (but they were not allowed hawking licences in the metropolitan area so were forced to move to the countryside) and transport (as cameleers, mainly in outback districts). Some of the hawkers eventually opened stores; Dongara, Geraldton, Bejoording, Yarloop and Cranbrook all had Sikh stores. Do you know of any others? At Dongara Sojan and Pola Singh ran a store from 1901 and it grew into a large general store with groceries and drapery, including Indian silks. Pola Singh continued to use his hawker's cart to sell goods widely around the district. Sojan Singh married and he and his wife had nine children. He became a leader of the Dongara community and a number of his descendants attended the talk. It was wonderful to welcome them. Altogether about twenty Sikh men settled in Dongara and a Sikh quarter developed in the town.

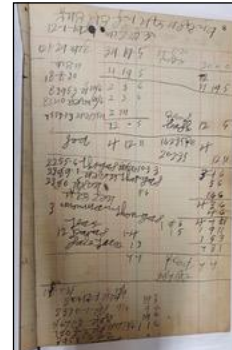
The WA State Cremation Act 1929 is a historical landmark associated with Sikh community, specifically with the cremation of Pola Singh in 1922, though he had died in 1920. This cremation was one of the major reasons for the 1929 Act. The first Sikh cremation in Dongara took place in 1909 on the beach there.

Tarun concluded a fascinating session by describing the Sikh tradition of hospitality, including cooking food for hundreds of guests every Sunday at the Sikh Temple and Community Centre at Canning Vale. He issued a warm invitation for all members to visit and enjoy Sikh hospitality, and then perhaps explore the Sikh Canning River Heritage Park.

* * * * *



L to R: Tarun Preet Singh, Harmeeek Singh, Jasdeep Singh, Bruce Baskerville and Bhupinder Singh standing at the grave of Sojan Singh who died & was buried at Dongara in 1920. His body was exhumed in 1922 and cremated according to Sikh tradition by local Sikh men, beside the gravesite.



Left: Stores Ledger in Sikh language Gurmukhi



History in the City

Rachel Roe



Dr Fiona Bush's talk about the history of stained glass windows was as illuminating as the windows themselves. Fiona traced the evolution of artistic skills, exploring the glassmaking changes which influenced different styles of stained glass. We delighted in the beautiful visual images. Audience member Fr Ted Doncaster, being an ecclesiastical font of knowledge, was called upon to verify information about a particular stained glass window in an Anglican country church. We felt grateful to Fiona for shedding light on this unique art form.

Please join us for our talks at Citiplace Community Centre at 2pm — \$10 entry includes afternoon tea; bookings *not* required.

4 Oct: Prof. Jane Lydon – Our Slavery Legacy, including WA legacies.

1 Nov: Bill Cutler – C Y O'Connor and the pipeline.

6 Dec: Richard Offen – WA, An Historical Boast – from Pilbara fossils to early Swan River buildings.

Vacant Position: an appeal to members — I have immensely enjoyed my time as Auxiliary Committee President and running the *History in the City* talks; however I need to retire from this position at the end of the year. We appeal for expressions of interest in running our monthly gatherings. Training will be provided. It is a wonderfully rewarding experience and I feel most grateful for the opportunity to share aspects of WA history with a delightful, friendly audience. Many thanks for your patronage and my committee members' support.

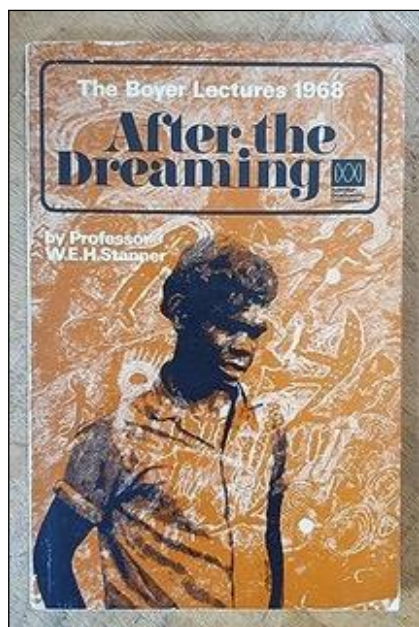
Rachel Roe

Please let Lesley Burnett (Community Officer) know asap — 9386 3841 or admin@histwest.org.au

After the Dreaming: Black And White Australians – An Anthropologist's View

Peter Gifford

Peter has donated this small but significant book, published in 1968 by the ABC, to the Society's library collection. Here he tells us why.



W E H (Bill) Stanner (1905-1981) is one of the great figures of Australian anthropology – and history too – as far as I am concerned. I never met him, but he was a game changer for me as a young man, when I first began to think seriously about the historical interplay of Europeans and Aboriginal Australians since the 17th century. I didn't hear Stanner's broadcasts of ABC Boyer lectures on the subject in 1968, but I was told about them soon after by the senior newspaper journalist – the cadet journalists' counsellor – responsible for the continuing education of callow youths like myself who had come direct from school into the world of journalism. Stanner, we were told, had been a journalist – and a good one – as well as a world-renowned anthropologist and leader of an Aboriginal guerrilla force in northern Australia during the Second World War.

His Boyer lectures were entitled *After the Dreaming: Black And White Australians – An Anthropologist's View*. I obtained a copy in about 1970 and still have it; for me, it is irreplaceable. In short, what these lectures did for me was make me consider what Stanner famously called the Great Australian Silence regarding Aboriginal people generally, their history and that of 'whitefeller' policy toward them. Having looked at a selection of Australian historical writing as then published by 'some of our most perceptive thinkers' Stanner concluded that even a partial survey was

... enough to let me make the point that inattention [to matters Aboriginal] on such a scale cannot possibly be explained by absent-mindedness. It is a structural matter, a view from a window which has been carefully placed to exclude a whole quadrant of the landscape. What may well have begun as a simple forgetting of other possible views turned under habit and over time into something like a cult of forgetfulness practised on a national scale. We have been able for so long to disremember the aborigines that we are now hard put to keep them in mind even when we most want to do so.

It is a situation that has still has overtones. Yet Stanner has been dead for 42 years, and what happened during his lifetime needs to be considered in that context rather than applying current values. By any standards, however, he was a remarkable man, as his academic colleague, the pioneer archaeologist John Mulvaney, has acknowledged in his entry on Stanner published online by the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* in 2012. Referring to the 1968 Boyer lectures, Mulvaney described them as 'a clarion call, proclaiming the humanity, forlorn history and research needs of Aboriginal Australians'. Stanner had said all this in a 1958 Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science lecture, but few then listened. The Boyer lectures elevated him as a public figure and mentor.

Mulvaney's entry should be read by anyone wanting a more complete appreciation of Stanner's life and achievements than can be published here. To summarise briefly, however, Stanner became an anthropologist the hard way, studying part-time at university after leaving school early for financial reasons and becoming a journalist in Sydney. (At a personal level, that was and remains an inspiration for anyone like myself who has had to study part-time while working in a stressful and demanding occupation such as journalism).

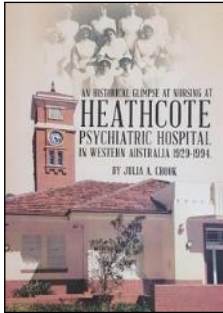
Stanner continued to work as a front-rank journalist – for newspapers and in government – for much of his career, in between stints of anthropological fieldwork in northern Australia which became the basis of his professional reputation in that discipline. Having gained a master's degree with first class honours under the supervision of Professor A P Elkin at Sydney University, he went on to a PhD (1938) at the London School of Economics while also working as a leader writer and sub-editor at *The Times*. He used both his journalistic and scholastic outlets to criticise Australian government policies (or lack of them) toward its Indigenous people – always urging 'white' Australians to overcome their racial prejudices and accept Indigenous people.

That was a constant throughout his later life, after he returned to Australia, becoming Professor of Anthropology at the Australian National University in 1964 and one of the founders of what became the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra. One of his achievements, as recounted by Professor Mulvaney, was as 'one of the first non-Indigenous persons to stimulate Aboriginal artistic expression and explicate it to the general public. His final Port Keats [Wadeye, NT] visit was in 1978, by which time "doctor Stanner" had been transformed into a venerated elder of the Murrinh-patha'. Stanner's final, posthumous achievement was to be named in the Bicentennial 'Heritage 200' list of significant Australians.

Book Reviews

Julia A Crook, *A Historical Glimpse at Nursing at Heathcote Psychiatric Hospital in Western Australia 1929-1994*, Willagee, Drakencrook, 2022. Second Edition available on Amazon Kindle. In Library.

Reviewer: Heather Campbell



Julia Crook explains that her book 'focuses on nursing stories told by nurses in different ways over a number of decades... If I reflect on my own contributions to this book, I feel they sit tempered between the memories of a seventeen-year-old novice [in 1972] and those of a registered nurse with over fifty years experience'. This book has clearly been a labour of love to which

much time, research and thought has been devoted. Some of the paraphernalia accompanying the core history reflects the author's eventually abandoned struggle to turn her text into a thesis.

The result is an extensively researched history of nursing at Heathcote Hospital, ordered chronologically to tell the story as it unfolds with the decades. The author was in a unique position to tune into the nurses' 'grapevine' and to include oral history interviews in her research. She has an engaging writing style – for example on page 41, the first decade of Heathcote Hospital's life is described as 'a patchwork quilt of issues, interconnected and complex, each drowning out the other in its significance and importance'. And this description of the Hospital in the 1970s-1990s:

The beautiful art deco style building, enshrined in the stunning vista of the Swan River, and decked with gardens of rich green lawn, whispering ghost

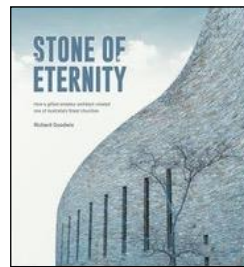
gums and trees just shy of a century in age. A place of soul food. A place of asylum for the mentally anguished and emotionally distressed.

There are 21 black and white images in the book, including photographs of staff, both individually, in groups and with patients, the buildings themselves and the equipment used.

This is a history to be recommended.

Richard Goodwin, *Stone of Eternity: How a gifted amateur architect created one of Australia's finest churches*, Richard Goodwin, Doubleview, 2023. In Library.

Reviewer: Jack Honniball



Just as Monsignor Hawes had shown the steady outspreading of the diocese of Geraldton in the early 20th century, the Catholic Church next recorded even more clearly its progress in fast-growing northerly suburbia of the post-1945 years and that thanks mostly to Father Bonaventure Leahy, OP (1920-1990).

The Irish-born Dominican cleric devoted his architectural and supervisory skills to the construction of the stunningly ultra-modern Our Lady of the Rosary Church at the heart of the large parish of Doubleview, which itself was further noteworthy for its admirable use of the readily available Toodyay stone and local builders.

Hence there emerged *Stone of Eternity*, commissioned from the prominent journalist/ parishioner Goodwin, a solid booklet of 72 pages containing a wealth of illustrations as well as a well-referenced text. Although a trim volume, it covers its chosen field well.

Community Officer: Lesley Burnett
Editor *History West*: Dr Lenore Layman

Opinions expressed in *History West* are not necessarily those of the Royal WA Historical Society (Inc.).

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