



Founded 1926

HISTORY WEST

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April 2024

GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting at Stirling House is on Wednesday 17 April at 6pm when Michael Nind will present a talk on 'J G Hay: agitator for Western Australian History'. Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.

Hay was an agitator in many fields. This talk will explore his contribution to the writing and development of Western Australian history from the 1890s to his death in 1923, with reference in particular to Kimberly's history, the Swan River Papers and the 1827 visit of Stirling and Fraser. This period saw a considerable expansion of knowledge about WA's history but also controlled access to it by official gatekeepers. Hay was in conflict with them. The period from 1913 to 1923 saw Hay in a long-running public disagreement with Public Librarian J S Battye over the exploration and discovery of Australia. Although the facts were with Hay, his death allowed Battye's erroneous views to be part of the latter's 1924 history of WA.



Michael Nind began researching and writing WA history in 1978. He joined the Society in 1980 and served on the Council. For *Early Days* he wrote about Swan River ferries (1981), the Camfields of Burswood and Albany (1987), and the establishment of the WA State Archives (1997). He has spent nearly all of his working life in WA history, at the Battye Library and State Archives, Lands Dept and Mines Dept. There were two interludes at the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Shire of Roebourne. He rejoined the Society's Council in 2020 and is undertaking more WA research.

Boorloo Perth Heritage Festival RWAHS exhibition

Perth's April festival will feature, among many entertainments, an exhibition curated by the RWAHS museum team led by Wendy Lugg. If you are visiting the CBD in April, do make sure you visit one of the **exhibition sites** — **Perth Town Hall, London Court and Trinity Arcade**. In Trinity Arcade, fashion students from North Metro TAFE will display contemporary garments made in response to hats from the Society's collection.

Going to Town: city life captured by Perth's street photographers



Long before the advent of phone cameras and selfies, commercial street photographers took snapshots of passers-by on Perth's city footpaths, capturing the changing face and fashions from the 1930s to the 1970s. Many of these photographs, now precious mementos in family albums, have been shared for display in this exhibition alongside fashions from the era drawn from the Society's collection.

Together they reflect a time when going to town was an occasion to dress up. The Society has mounted this exhibition with the support of a grant from the City of Perth.

At Stirling House our museum team has also installed an accompanying display of fashions and street photographs from the era.

RWAHS giant second-hand Book Sale

Friday 5 April 4-6pm — Saturday 6 April 9am-5pm — Sunday 7 April 9am-4pm



Make a note in your diary to visit our sale bonanza and pick up some wonderful reading.

There will be choice for everyone, children and adults - history books, including West Australian writings, fiction and non-fiction, paperbacks and hardbacks, serials and reference works.

Thousands of books at give-away prices!

Pay us a visit, nab some bargains and support your Society. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year & you can help.

The Royal WA Historical Society (Inc.) | 49 Broadway | NEDLANDS Western Australia 6009
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Forthcoming Events — Don't forget to book!

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



Stirling House, Nedlands

Saturday 20 April, 8.30 for 9am start

Exploring Perth's expanding Northern Corridor to Yanchep National Park

Join the tour to experience history in the making as we visit the Ocean Reef Marina, ride the train to Butler and discover new suburban areas such as Alkimos. Enjoy a two course lunch at Yanchep Lavender Farm then add a touch of nostalgia as we step back in time to explore Yanchep National Park.

[Click here to book](#)



Stirling House, Nedlands

Friday 10 May, 10am-12.30pm with 30mins morning tea

Wendy Lugg

Safely storing heirloom textiles

Come along to this workshop to learn how to best store and care for your treasured garments and textiles.

[Click here to book](#)



Stirling House, Nedlands

Wednesday 24 April, 10 for 10.30-11.30am

Criena Fitzgerald

The life and times of Faiz Mahomet, 'Afghan' cameleer/businessman and entrepreneur

[Click here to book](#)



Stirling House, Nedlands

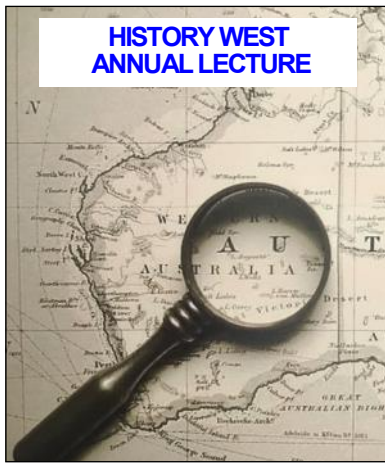
Thursday 30 May, 10 for 10.30am

Dr Harriet Mills

Perth Zoo over 125-years: from the days of the WA Acclimatisation Committee to the current modern zoo, researching and breeding threatened species for release to the wild.

[Click here to book](#)





UWA Club Auditorium

Thursday 6 June, 5.30 for 6pm

People's stories making Australian history

Australia today is shaped by three epic stories - our ancient heritage, British inheritance and multicultural transformation

A panel of three speakers will explore our storied past in Western Australia

Book online at

www.trybooking.com/CPXGB

History in the City

April talk — Wed 3 April, 2pm

Citiplace Conference Room,
Perth Rwy Station Concourse

Lest We Forget

A talk by Eve White, Kings Park volunteer

Kings Park and Botanic Garden in Perth has more honour avenues, memorials and statues than any other park in Australia. These important places of remembrance each has a story that is often not known about.

Eve White was raised in Western Australia and, as she grew up, she developed a strong interest in learning more about the State's history, landscape, and flora and fauna. This passion has led to her training as a volunteer guide in Kings Park and at Rottnest Island.

The King's Park memorials are a special interest and, using the knowledge she has acquired as a volunteer, Eve will tell you about the artists who created some of the memorials and about the school students who come annually from Carine SHS to decorate the Honour Ave trees with poppies and flags for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. Not to be forgotten are the Veterans groups who plan, fundraise and maintain the various memorials scattered throughout the Park.

History in the City A call for volunteers

History in the City takes place on the first Wednesday of each month from March to December in the Citiplace Community Centre, Perth.

The variety of guest speakers and the afternoon tea attract ever-increasing numbers into the audience. It's an enjoyable afternoon that we would like to share with a few more volunteers helping to welcome guests, set up the room, and serve afternoon tea.

If you're available, we'd like to meet you.

Contact Susan Hall, Ph 93047210

History in the City's change of President

2024 has seen the arrival of a new President of the Auxiliary.

Rachel Roe, who has led the Auxiliary so ably and successfully, has stepped back and Susan Hunt has replaced her.

The Society thanks Rachel for her commitment and welcomes Susan.



Enderslea Farm The Boy in the Bush

Five performances only! Book now!
Friday 3 May, 2pm
11am & 2pm Sat & Sun 4 & 5 May
Tickets: \$39

Book online at www.trybooking.com/CKMRQ
or phone Diane Pope: 0448 441 899.

Perth CBD: a heritage walk

to be led by Richard Offen
on Saturday 18 May

POSTPONED

Welcome to new members

Lorin Walker, Wanneroo Community History Centre,
Zara Jones, Diane Lloyd

ADVERTISEMENT

Why History?
It promotes the understanding of societies, events, movements and developments that have shaped humanity from earliest times.

Daniel Ranshaw

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or

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Royal Western Australian Historical Society & Affiliated Societies'

59th State History Conference, 6-8 September



Priory Hotel, 11 St Dominics Road, Dongara

Hosted by Irwin Districts Historical Society in the Irwin Shire on the country of the Wattandee people of the Yamadji nation **Irwin Districts Historical Society** will have the pleasure of hosting the 2024 State History Conference.

We welcome members of RWAHS Affiliated Societies, as well as all local history buffs and supporters. The Conference will be held in the recently conserved and renovated Priory Hotel, which was built in 1881 as the Dongarra Hotel and later served as the Dominican Priory and Ladies' College for 50 years.

The weekend will be a celebration of local history and heritage and will include a Welcome Event at Port Denison, lively presentations on the theme of *Waves of Change*, a range of walking, bus and driving tours to places of historic significance, and a Conference dinner, plus great networking!

Registration for the Conference will open in early May but it is advised that you **book your accommodation as soon as possible**. Dongara is very popular in spring (wildflower season) and places book up quickly.

See our Conference Webpage, [2024 State History Conference](http://www.irwinhistory.org.au) at our website, www.irwinhistory.org.au for a link to all local accommodation options.

For further information, please feel free to contact the IDHS Secretary Trish Parker on admin@irwinhistory.org.au



St Dominic's Priory & Dominican Ladies College, c1930. IRME1341

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Workshop

Transforming family history research into a book

led by **Rhuwina Griffiths**, ghost writer, life story mentor and Society member



The Society's morning programme for 2024 began in excellent fashion on 23 February when 42 keen researchers and budding writers gathered under Rhuwina Griffith's wise guidance for a hands-on workshop to learn how to turn family history research into an appealing book. The enthusiastic group worked their way through Rhuwina's work sheets which explored how to build a chronological framework for a narrative and write engaging stories, particularly how to develop character. The workshop explored the delicate path between fact and creative expression, and how to navigate that path in order to write an interesting and convincing story for readers.

One happy attendee spoke for many when she wrote — 'Just a big thank you for today's excellent workshop, it was more than I expected. I left feeling I had really learnt a lot and had been given the tools to move forward with a family history. The practical examples helped me understand how to be creative in my writing, had no idea before. It was the best workshop as Rhuwina met all requirements, kept to time and no waffle!'

Members of the **RWAHS writers' group**, co-ordinated by Megan Ewing, were enthusiastic attendees. If you are looking for a group to share your writing journey, do contact the Office on 9386 3841 to put you in touch with Megan.

The diaries of Major Logue of Ellendale, 1850-1900

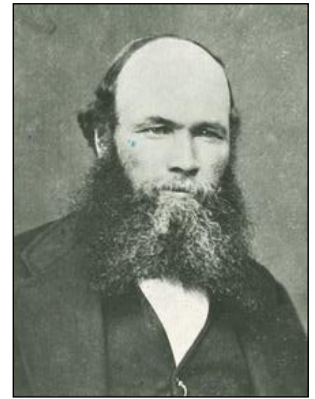
Nan Broad

A farmer's son, Major (his baptismal name) Logue (1825/26-1900) was born in Londonderry, Ireland, and arrived in the colony in 1837, one of nine children in the Logue family. The Logues initially took up land at Northam.

In 1850 the Avon Valley's established pastoralists urgently needed fresh pastures and a concerted move was made to the newly discovered grasslands of the Champion Bay district. Young Major Logue, as one of the stakeholders, drove the cart behind the droved sheep, cattle and horses and he had time to write a lively daily account of the journey. Twelve months later he commenced a daily journal of his activities establishing a property along the Greenough River, which he called 'Glen Osborne' and, after his marriage to Ellen Shaw of 'Belvoir' on the Swan, renamed 'Ellendale'. Logue became a member of the Western Australian Legislative Council, 1870–1874. Although well educated and literate, his diary entries are misspelt and without punctuation.



Sketch of Ellendale homestead by Peter Rohan, 1970s, Greenough, Museum & Gardens



Major Logue. P2013.914

Logue's story mirrors that of other early settlers but it contains the only extant description of property development, unbroken over this period. The daily portrayal is inimitable – carting material, erecting buildings, repairing conveyances with bush timber, searching for stock, handling horses, dressing sheep for scab (for years), tending the garden and harvesting produce as it matured.

The account continues unbroken for fifty years until his death in 1900, presenting in detail the daily work of turning a portion of bushland into a prosperous farm. To do so, he employed ticket of leave convicts, free men jobbing around, contract carters, the occasional woman house-help and, for a brief period, Chinese coolies. Sharpening axes and saws kept him busy. Farm work entailed clearing land and building brush fences to contain milking cows and horses in work and later gathering stone to erect dwellings for men and animals, ploughing land and sowing hay and grain, planting a fruit and vegetable garden, and digging wells for essential water supplies.

5-8-68 Self Green and Andrew went out & cut some timber for the dray & for the wool press got some of it in but one piece was rather too heavy for us to get home Geeke & mclusky thatching walter went to mt pleasant for saddle horses got out of the paddock

Horses were of prime importance for work, travel and export to India, thus a breeding program was in place early. Logue started with cattle and later changed to sheep breeding, necessitating shearing facilities and shearers. All these animals roamed in the dense bushland so that days were spent searching for particular ones, often unsuccessfully. Wire replaced bush for fences but both were subject to weather and animal depredation:

12-1-72 Walter looking for rector all day Jones at home waiting for him ... a tremendous flood in the Irwin which has carried away large quantities of corn and washed down watsons house ...

Major and Ellen had a family of four boys and four girls, all of whom worked on the property as they grew up. One boy remained at home while the girls continued in the work force. One faithful employee, McClusky engaged at Ellendale in the early 1860s, fathered three boys who became stockmen in later years. Other men tended the garden and picked produce for sale to the Bay (Geraldton), the flats (Walkaway) and Dongarra. Workers, however, were unreliable and many men passed through Ellendale over this period.

22-1-1878 Cut some chaff to pack apples Got Lesters man away with 200 doz of apples & 71lb of grapes he paid £7..10 on acct

15-8-1878 Self packed 64 doz oranges for Lester & 8 doz for mrs Gale & sent them to the flats by mclusky also one dozen Lemons for Maley & 6 dozen for Stephens ...

This great collection of diaries, handwritten in foolscap journals called almanacs, has been transcribed and will be published. Unlike the emotional comments in Wollaston's Picton Journal, Logue concentrates on the process and methods of settlement. Nonetheless, his diaries give an expansive account of people, including family, workers, visitors, neighbours, gossip of the colony and the doings of important people – with mention of marriages, births and deaths in the district. The whole is a rich archive of the place and the time in the north Midlands.

References

For some biographical sketches of members of the large Logue family see — Harvey History Online <https://www.harveyhistoryonline.com/?p=3825>

Family connections: a story of historical detection

Gillian Lilleyman

When Gillian reviewed Bernice Barry's new book *A Lady's Pen*, the botanical letters of Georgiana Molloy for History West last year, she became intrigued as to how W G Pickering sourced information for the paper he presented to the Society in 1928 that first brought Georgiana Molloy to members' notice – 'The Letters of Georgiana Molloy', *Early Days*, 1 (4) 1929. This puzzle set Gillian on a complicated research trail that has produced the explanation set out below. It testifies to the importance of exploring family connections in historical research.

Although Pickering misspelt Georgiana's name, his excerpts from her letters to James Mangles are surprisingly close to the transcripts Bernice Barry has meticulously made from Mangles' letter-books. These books were lodged in the Battye Library in 1952. Prior to that they were in England; hence the puzzle. How did Pickering access the letter-books? He acknowledged only that his paper was prepared from material supplied by Mrs J M Drummond.

Firstly, who was W G Pickering? As architectural historian John Taylor writes that William George Pickering practised as an architect in Busselton and in 1917 was elected the Country Party member for Sussex in the Legislative Assembly. Significantly, in 1907 Pickering married Augusta Isabella Bunbury. Isabella was one of Georgiana Molloy's granddaughters. She was also a friend of Caroline (Mrs J M) Drummond. Caroline was a daughter of Margaret and Robert Lockhart of Busselton. Close in age, she and Isabella would have grown up together, sharing an interest in Georgiana Molloy and in local history. Both were members of the Western Australian Historical Society in 1931.

Given James Drummond's affection for his fellow plant collector, Caroline Drummond probably had her grandfather-in-law's papers about Georgiana Molloy, and perhaps some of his correspondence from Mangles. However, given Mangles' strained relationship with Drummond, his family is unlikely to have received Mangles' letter-books. Mangles requested that these two bound volumes of botanical letters be passed on to Georgiana Molloy's daughter, Mary DuCane, whose family donated them to the State Archives in 1952.

This donation, from Mary DuCane's daughter-in-law, Mrs Edmund DuCane, was made through the auspices of Alexandra Hasluck. Inspired by Pickering's paper, Hasluck tracked the letter-books down when researching her ensuing biography of Georgiana Molloy, *Portrait with Background* (1955). Other excerpts in Pickering's paper, which came from Molloy's letters to her friends the Dunlops, were held in England by Mary DuCane's daughter, Wynfreda Pullan. She allowed Hasluck to photocopy them for her research.

Alexandra Hasluck acknowledged Pickering's help in her biography, Isabella and Caroline having both died in the early 1940s. Since Pickering still had an architectural office in Perth, she most likely consulted him in person. Consequently, no correspondence from Pickering has come to light in Lady Hasluck's papers explaining how he sourced his material. Among her papers though is a letter from Wynfreda Pullan's son, Anthony, saying that his mother had made copies of her grandmother's fragile letters. Anthony also stated that on his arrival to Western Australia in 1935 he was met by Mr and Mrs Pickering, suggesting a prior encounter. Pickering probably took his wife to England to see her relatives after losing his seat in parliament in 1924: Isabella was reported in the social pages in 1926 as having a six-month holiday in England visiting her sister. Perhaps Caroline Drummond joined them.

It remains unclear who transcribed the letters in Pickering's 1929 article; what is clear is that Pickering, like many contributors to these first editions of *Early Days*, drew upon family-held documents. Others, like Jesse Hammond, whose paper 'The disaster of the Clarkson brothers 1874' was also read to the Society in 1928, wrote from firsthand experience: Hammond had accompanied his half-brothers on that fateful drive.

In this way family records found their way into public archives and became available to future researchers; leaving us to ponder whether the subsequent biographies of Georgiana Molloy would have been written without Pickering's family connections.

References

J Taylor, 'William George Pickering (1869-1953)', *Western Australian Architect Biographies*, <http://www.architecture.com.au/>
Letter to Alexandra Hasluck from Anthony Pullan 1957, courtesy Sally Anne Hasluck.

Awards of Distinction for long and outstanding service

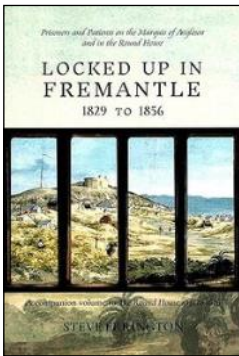
The Society has been very keen to honour two recently retired leaders of Council and, at the first general meeting of 2024, we did so. Our wonderful long-standing chair of Council Lennie McCall and former president Robert (Bob) Nicholson were recognised for their outstanding service to the Society with Awards of Distinction.



Members will remember that another long-standing invaluable member of Council, Helen Henderson, also retired last year. We recognised Helen's service and thanked her at the Christmas party. All members will join with *History West* in expressing our gratitude, and thank all three for the crucial contributions they have made.

Celebrating a book release

Steve Errington's *Locked up in Fremantle*
(in Bookshop \$70)



A happy group of thirty or so members and friends gathered at Stirling House recently to celebrate the release of Steve Errington's new book, *Locked up in Fremantle 1829-1856*, a companion piece to *The Round House 1831-1856*. Hesperian Press published both books, adding two more valuable publications to their splendid catalogue!

Our President introduced Steve and symbolically launched the book, while Steve kept us all amused as he thanked all who had helped during the rather tortuous preparation of this volume.

Locked up in Fremantle is a dictionary of all those who were imprisoned in the Round House – men and women, most commonly for drunkenness, which meant a night in the cells.

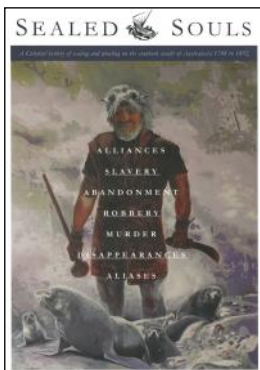
Nyungahs, indentured labourers, Lascars, Parkhurst boys, soldiers, sailors, shopkeepers and convicts are all there. On the sample page displayed at the event one Samuel Scattergood was highlighted – he had arrived on the *Scindian* as convict no. 1, and is a prime candidate for a story.

Congratulations to Steve from us all.

Book Reviews

John Robertson, *Sealed Souls. A Colonial history of sealing and whaling on the southern coasts of Australasia, 1798 to 1852, self published, 2022. In Library & Bookshop \$80. For further information see — <https://www.sealedsouls.com>*

Reviewer: Pamela Statham Drew



On the cover, and overlaying the figure of a sealer, the author has a list reading 'Alliances, Slavery, Abandonment, Robbery, Murder, Disappearances, Aliases' and they are all present in this highly researched book about sealing along the southern coasts and islands of Australia. Just ten years after foundation of the colony of NSW survivors from the wrecked *Sydney Cove* had

told of unlimited birdlife, sea lions and fur seals on islands just to the south of New Holland. Captain Bishop of the *Nautilus* acted on this news and collected 5,200 seal pelts and 300 gallons of seal oil in an eight-week period. When he set sail to return, he left behind

fourteen crewmen and two officers with two months' provisions to continue sealing among the islands in Bass Strait. This began a practice which harboured deserting sailors and run-away convicts for many years. American ships entered the field by the end of the 1790s, bartering spirits for seal pelts. This was deeply resented by the British owners who were provisioning the parties of sealers. It forced Governor King to take action to enforce sovereignty over southern territories but that did not keep the Americans away from the increasingly valuable trade.

Harsh guard hairs protect the soft under-fur of fur seals and had reduced the value of these seal skins until 1796, when Thomas Chapman discovered a process for removing the coarse hairs from the fur. This together with the discovery that furs could be stored in salt water rather than completely dried, revolutionised the industry. Pelts were used for hats and wet-weather clothing, and demand and prices sky-rocketed.

In the early 1800s the seal colonies on the islands in Bass Strait were ruthlessly exploited and, as seal numbers became exhausted, sealing parties moved further afield. The famous ex-convict Joseph Murrell and his gang took over Kangaroo Island from 1804, and bartered kangaroo skins with visiting sealers. He and others raided the mainland for Aboriginal women, whom they treated like slaves – sometimes kindly but often brutally. George Robinson attempted to liberate Aboriginal women held on islands by sealing gangs with only limited success.

A 'man of colour' who was reported in various sightings of sealing gangs caught the author's attention and he argues convincingly that Black Jack (John Antonio), George Meredith and John Baker or Anderson were one and the same — a very large black man, not a negro. The marauding sealing gangs moved west from Preservation Island, Kangaroo Island, Middle Island, and Mondrain Island in the Recherche Peninsula and from there into King George's Sound by 1826. Their activities were curtailed there by Major Lockyer and his men.

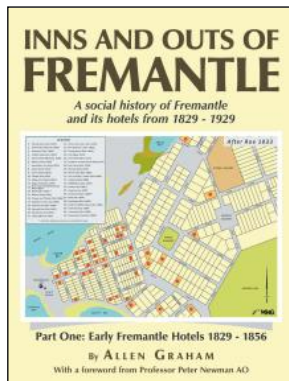
This summary ignores the detailed, chronological descriptions of ships and men involved in the sealing trade along the south coast, each backed by quotations from reliable sources.

An Appendix called a *People Glossary* gives more detail about characters mentioned in the text – invaluable dictionary entries filling 79 pages. This is followed by an equally valuable *Ships' Glossary*, which first identifies the five types of ships in the area. Before continuing with his detailed ships' listing Robertson comments that Rod Dickson had already done a good job describing *Whalers on the South Coast of New Holland 1800-1888*, so he was simply naming these with an asterisk to indicate they had been described by Dickson. Ships are named in alpha order by chapter and take up 106 pages of detailed information. Appendix 3 provides an account of the prey that attracted the sealers and whalers, and the animals that provided subsistence, such as the mutton bird and the dwarf Kangaroo Island emu.

The final appendix contains fifteen clearly laid-out maps of the sealers' haunts – which would have been a great help in reading the text if readers had been informed of their existence at an earlier stage. That is the only criticism I can find for this fascinating book which will be an ongoing boon for researchers.

Allen Graham, *Inns and Outs of Fremantle: a social history of Fremantle and its hotels from 1829-1929, Part One—Early Fremantle Hotels 1829-1856*, Xlibris, 2023. In Library.

Reviewer: Heather Campbell



This is an attractive and comprehensive volume of 230 pages. It has ten chapters in chronological order from 1829 to 1856, sensibly titled to indicate their content. The titles show the breadth of what is covered at a glance – for example Chapter 2 ‘Hard times and duelling colonists 1830-1834’ and Chapter 7 ‘New Governors and old prejudices 1846-

1848’. Included also is a useful map showing key hotels in Fremantle, listed in order of opening; Surveyor General Roe’s 1833 map of Fremantle; a comprehensive contents list, a listing of illustrations (which includes full citations for each), and an imperial to metric conversion table. There is an introduction, full and numerous endnotes, bibliography, and detailed index. A wide range of good quality images appear regularly throughout the volume, in both in black and white and colour, and include paintings by Mary Ann Friend and other artists, as well as maps and etchings.

This book is a delight to read, its readability enhanced by the author’s meticulous research and attention to detail. The text is generously interspersed with direct quotes adding not only colour and interest, but also humour to the story, while maintaining accuracy. For

example, an extract from the *London Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* of 17 April 1830 is used to illustrate the ‘unreasonable expectations’ of some of the settlers coming to Swan River. A ‘London toff’, who ‘as soon as the ship dropped anchor ... decked himself in the latest fashion ... and was landed on the beach at Fremantle. He held in his left hand a small, very neat Russia leather portmanteau ... containing his perfumes, snuff boxes, hair, tooth and clothes brushes, tongue scrape & c. & c. and a very beautiful ivory Chinese worked handled parasol over his head in the other hand’. The ‘toff’ asked Captain Fremantle the way the nearest hotel and was not a little dismayed to find there was not one.

Graham planned a coffee-table book on hotels of Fremantle when he started research in 1980. He quickly ‘gathered more information than was necessary for one book’ and he is to be congratulated for turning the coffee-table book into a valuable and interesting trilogy on the subject. We look forward to the next two volumes.



Royal Agricultural Society of WA - Seeking Display Cabinets

Do you know of any display cabinets looking for a new temporary or permanent home? We would love to borrow or accept donation of any such items for a small history exhibition to be held at the Perth Royal Show later this year.

Contact Cate Pattison:

cate.pattison@raswa.org.au - 0401525960

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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