

Affiliates Newsletter

2024-11

October 2024

A CRAFTSWOMAN BEFORE HER TIME -The Busselton Historical Society

are pleased to become the new custodians of some important local wood carvings thanks to the cooperation of Woolworths Busselton.

Previously displayed in the store, the carvings are the works of Marion St Clair Layman (affectionately known as Clair) who was an extraordinarily gifted and talented woman who was believed to be the first Western Australian woman to work creatively using local timbers.

Born at Wonnerup House in 1869 as the fifth child of George Layman II and his wife Amelia, Clair was educated at Wonnerup school and later attended Bishop's Girls' College in Perth.

After her graduation, she became acquainted with Mr and Mrs H.C. Prinsep. Henry Prinsep was at this time Under Secretary for the Department of Mines, and he and his wife Josephine entertained many well connected and well-known members of West Australian colonial society. Prinsep was a competent artist and photographer who, with his artistic connections, would have influenced the young Clair Layman.

Clair travelled to Hawaii in 1903 where she learnt chip carving. Some years later, when spending time with relatives in Bridgetown, Clair took lessons in woodcarving and in later years studied woodcarving in Perth with William Howitt.

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Pictured - BHS members Anne McTaminey and Elizabeth Craigie receive the carvings from Woolworths Store Manager Rhiannon Jones (centre)

Next Affiliates Committee Meeting will be held on the
15 October 2024

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 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 or 9386 3841.

Please send all queries and submissions relating to the newsletter to

Rosie Stroud at the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society.

eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au or phone 9093 3360.



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 2024-25 are below:

- Nick Drew – **Convenor** (RWAHS- Council Rep) - nickdrew@bigpond.com
- Fiona Bush – Minute Secretary (Mundaring & Hills) - fiona.bush@icloud.com
- Ashleigh Murch (Denmark) - ashleigh.murch@gmail.com
- Bruce Baskerville (Irwin & Districts) - mrbaskerville@gmail.com
- Keith & Suzanne Cundale (Maylands) - maylandshs@gmail.com
- Marilyn Gazeley (Cervantes) - cervantes50th@hotmail.com
- Lyn O'Hara (South Perth) - lynn@eon.net.au
- Ellen Parrick (York Society) - ellen.parrick@gmail.com
- Rosie Stroud (Eastern Goldfields) - eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au
- Richard Offen – ex-officio (President RWAHS) - richard.offen@inet.net.au
- Jacqui Huntley (Wanneroo & Districts) - huntleyjacqui@gmail.com
- Denise Cook (City of Cockburn) - dcook@cockburn.wa.gov.au
- Natalie Evans (Collections WA) - natalie.evans@amaga.org.au
- Tony Bird (City of Cockburn) - tbird@cockburn.wa.gov.au

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

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.



Affiliates News

Bayswater Historical Society - Friday 4 Oct Special Visitors to Leighton (Halliday House).



Committee members Glen, Monica and Sunny welcomed 95-year young BHS member, Valma Platt and her interstate nephew Robert. Valma is the granddaughter of Henry and Edith Halliday. Henry and Edith built Heritage listed Leighton (Halliday House) in 1893. The timber used was transported by rail from Fremantle to Bayswater, where it was taken by a horse drawn cart to the building site. It is likely the bricks used in the building were from one of the local manufacturers, as brickworks were already established in the area. Most of the buildings built in Bayswater during this period were constructed out of corrugated iron or timber weatherboard, with only a few

homes built using brick.

On 29 September 1992, the City of Bayswater purchased Leighton in order to preserve the site due to its significance to the history and heritage of our community. Later, the City called for expressions of interest from individuals and community groups interested in using Leighton. The successful applicant was the Bayswater Historical Society. The BHS opened Leighton as a museum to the public in 1993. Leighton (Halliday House) is included on the City's Municipal Heritage list and is a Category 1 Heritage Location. <https://bayswaterhistoricalsociety.org.au/halliday-house/>



A CRAFTSWOMAN BEFORE HER TIME *continued* ...She created a collection of works, the majority held by the National Trust, including the over-mantle at Wonnerup House for the occasion of her parents' Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1909 and a tray showing distinctive chip carving which was made as a wedding present in 1910 for a relative, Helen Rose Lodge.

Clair built a house at 70 Duchess Street, Busselton and moved there in 1931. The house contained many pieces of her work, including a matching pair of carvings which formed part of the mantle overhead shelf, an overhead cupboard front and a carving above her front door with the words inscribed in Latin: DEUS HAEC OTIA FECIT which translates to "This pleasant place was provided by God."

Following Clair's passing in 1949, the house had several owners including the St. Vincent de Paul Society from 1991 who maintained the facade of the building, before the building was demolished to make way for the Woolworths supermarket in 2012.

Along with a carved timber tray which survived the 2018 Busselton Museum fire, the Society plans to proudly place these additional carvings on permanent display to acknowledge a craftswoman way before her time.

Midland and Districts Historical Society Inc. - MIDLAND TOWN HALL TOURS PROVING POPULAR .

Midland and Districts Historical Society in conjunction with the City of Swan kicked off their monthly tours of the Midland Town Hall on Saturday September 28, 2024 .

The Midland Town Hall is the jewel in the crown for Midland. The tours will provide an opportunity for people to learn about its history in the heart of Midland and also see behind the scenes areas such as inside the clock tower and the Mayor's Office.



Both tours in September and October 2024, booked out very fast. The next tour takes place on Saturday November 23, 2024 from 10am and free. You need to book via: bit.ly/midlandtownhall as places on each tour are limited.

The tours will take a recess in December 2024 and January 2025 and return monthly from February 2025.

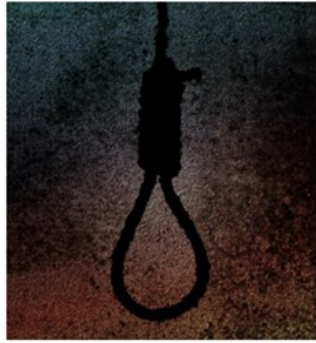
Serpentine Historical Society - Old Bridge School . The Serpentine Historical society volunteers open the school every second Sunday of the month, Feb - Nov. from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm , gold coin donation .



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





Fremantle Studies Day 2024

**City of Fremantle History Centre
Walyalup Civic Centre
151 High Street, Fremantle 6160
Sunday 20th October 2024
12.45 pm for a 1.00 pm start**

Cost: Members \$20.00, non-members \$25.00

Payment can be made online

Account Name: Fremantle History Society

BSB: 036-306

Account No: 604012

Bookings: ESSENTIAL

Email: secretary.fhs@gmail.com

Program:

Simon Meath and Anne Smith - The Boys Reformatory, Rottnest Island Prison: Forgotten genocide site of the Frontier Wars

The need to house European children away from the adult prison system prompted the building of a Reformatory for boys at Rottnest in 1881. Once there, however, boys as young as 10 were exposed to the gruesome realities of the Aboriginal prison system. Over 3700 Indigenous men and boys were incarcerated at the Rottnest prison and at least 370 died. The most infamous of the penal settlement buildings is the octagonal-shaped Quad. The history of the associated Boys Reformatory and its role also as the prison hospital is lesser known. The years of service the Reformatory gave as the hospital and the exact number of deaths in custody fell into obscurity. At least 37 Indigenous men died there in the winter of 1883. One European boy, George Webb, died at the age of 11 in 1893, making him one of the youngest child deaths in custody in Australia.

Anne has always been enchanted by the natural beauty of Wadjemup/ Rottnest Island, becoming interested in its history later in life, reading published works, then turning to the archives held in the State Records Office for in-depth answers to niggling questions and missing research on the island. Anne is deeply moved by Indigenous history, believing that to move forward as a people we must confront our past.

Simon completed an undergraduate degree in Communications at ECU, a BA at UWA and a post graduate Diploma of Education at Notre Dame (Fremantle). He has accumulated twenty years of experience in diverse academic and professional roles, including work in both the film and music industries, and taken part in over twenty archaeological digs, predominantly sites associated with WA's very early colonial settlement.

Caroline Ingram - Dead in the water: The life and trial of Margaret Cody

In 1871, the body of a naked man was found floating in the water of the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River), near Fremantle. Margaret Cody, the wife of Pensioner Guard James Cody, and her partner William Davis were consequently tried for the murder of James Holditch. Both defendants were convicted after Margaret refused to turn “Queen’s evidence” and she became the second woman to be executed in Western Australia. Decades later, Margaret was remembered in newspapers as a “dissolute woman” and one of the “arch-fiends of the cold-blooded Fremantle murder.” This significant, but often overlooked, case in Fremantle’s history, illustrates the challenges for working class women during the 19th century, and the way in which women who were perceived not to conform to middle class values could be vilified in the press and marginalised in the courtroom.

Caroline, recipient of the 2023 Ron and Dianne Davidson Scholarship, is an early career historian who is interested in the experiences of women in the criminal justice system. Her recent thesis examined the trials of women in the upper courts of 19th century WA to determine how the outcomes of the trials were impacted by legal rules and institutions and how this was mediated by the gender, class and race of defendants, witnesses, judges, lawyers and jury members.

Nick Everett - Wobblies on the waterfront: The Industrial Workers of the World in Fremantle

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) nicknamed ‘Wobblies,’ originated in the US. An international labor union, they argued that workers should amalgamate into One Big Union in order to resist capitalism and abolish the profits system. In 1914 they established a branch in Fremantle. Nick will discuss the part played by Fremantle IWW members in the conscription debate and the subsequent industrial upheaval on the waterfront in 1917 and again in 1919.

Nick has a keen interest in Aboriginal and labour history. In 2021, he worked alongside members of the ‘Remembering the 1946 Pilbara Strike’ committee to organise commemorative events in Perth and Fremantle to mark the 75th anniversary of the 1946 walk off by Pilbara Aboriginal pastoral workers. He authored a chapter in the book ‘Radical Perth, Militant Fremantle’ on the labour movement’s solidarity with the Pilbara Strike. Based in Fremantle, Nick works with remote and town-based Aboriginal communities to address their housing needs.

Kiara Gormlie - The founding women of Soroptimist International Fremantle: Early intentions and lasting legacies

Soroptimist International has over 100 years’ worth of a worldwide legacy, and its Fremantle chapter nearly 75, yet you hear little mention of them. A worldwide service organisation boasting almost 70,000 members committed to justice, equity, and the empowerment of women and girls, the organisation has a tradition of working in the shadows, supporting their communities and sisters through the harshest times with little recognition. The Fremantle chapter, founded in 1953, was host to three notable women: founding President Dorothea Parker, Vice President Gladys Locke, and member Sadie Stone, each contributing to an impressive legacy of Soroptimism that guides the Fremantle club today. This paper highlights this historic legacy and draws the link between the three Fremantle members as Soroptimists and their dedication to their community.

History student and human rights activist Kiara Gormlie is currently undertaking her Honours at the University of Notre Dame, conducting research in literary resistance and anti-colonialism. Winner of the 2023 ‘The Floor is Yours’ public speaking competition, Kiara promotes the imperative for women to support the generations of young women to come. As a member of Soroptimist International, she is a staunch advocate for the empowerment of women and girls, and recognises the change enabled by the unity of women.

Affiliates News

[Vietnam Peace Commemoration Committee](#)

Some of you may be interested in registering for this discussion featuring myself and several Vietnam war resisters and anti-conscriptionists:

<https://vnpeacecomm.blogspot.com/2024/10/antiwar-internationalism-asia.html>

Please note that the time is Eastern US time and Perth is 12 hours ahead of that time, so it will take place at 8am on Thursday, 24th October here. If you're in Eastern Australia, it will be 11am on Thursday.

Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society - Walliston Joey Scouts Explore Kalamunda History Village

On Saturday, August 30th, the Walliston Joey Scouts had an exciting visit at the Kalamunda History Village as part of a weekend camp where the Joeys and their leaders slept overnight at the Walliston Scout Hall. Joey Scouts are the youngest members of the scouting movement covering ages 5-8 year old boys and girls. On the day they caught a Transperth bus at Walliston and travelled to the Kalamunda Bus Station and then walked to the Village. For many of the Joeys this was their very first experience riding a bus.

Hosted by Jeff (Scout name Jedi) and Indie the young Scouts enjoyed a variety of activities, beginning with a flag break held outside the school, and then Jeff and Indie took them through the fun of the old fashioned school using the slates. The fun continued at the fruit sorting machine in the Orchard Shed, where the Joeys engaged with the local agricultural history in a hands-on way.

The highlight was when Pat Hallahan treated them to a seat on his bus, sharing fascinating stories about the history of Kalamunda's buses and giving each Joey an old bus ticket to keep as a memento of their visit. The Joeys sang "Mr Bus Driver Man" and Pat then entertained the group with a song dedicated to the Kalamunda buses, which the Joeys loved so much that they asked him to provide the lyrics to them to add their song book, which Pat has very graciously done.

The day was made even more special by Pat's decision to wear his old Scout shirt and Kalamunda Scout Group scarf, symbolizing the enduring spirit of scouting. The Walliston Joey Scouts then headed back to the Bus Station and caught a bus back to the hall with cherished memories and a deeper appreciation for their local history.





HISTORY WEST

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Fundraiser Event



Vintage Textile sale

**Sat 16th November, 9.30am – 3pm
at the Society, 49 Broadway, Nedlands**

Due to a very large donation of one family's textile treasures we are having a rare vintage textile sale. We have an eye-watering range of vintage hand-made items on offer for those looking for an early Christmas gift. Many items are pristine and unused. Some of these were lovingly hand-made by the donor's mother and others are commercial hand-made household linen purchased but never used. There is also a range of used vintage items in good condition. The creatively inclined, however, will love the voluminous collection of tatty timeworn pre-loved hand-work just begging to be repurposed.

Forage through an eye-watering range of vintage and hand-made textiles, carefully curated by our museum team.

We have an abundance of unused hand crocheted doilies, Battenburg lace pillowcases, linen and lace duchess sets, cutwork guest towels, vintage embroidered doilies, mid and late 20th century dress patterns, haberdashery, babies' clothes, dolls, babies' blankets, aprons, crocheted cushion covers, vintage knitting and crochet pattern books, craft books, We also have a collection of crocheted shawls that would make a perfect gift for an elderly relative or friend. All funds raised will go towards our planned move to a new premises. Come along, grab a bargain and support the Society's future.

