



HISTORY WEST Y

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Officers for 2022-2023

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Mrs Wendy Lugg (Honorary Artist in Resident)

Mr John Lukin

Mrs Jan McCahon Marshall (Minute Secretary)

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Mr Michael Nind

Mrs Ellen Parrick, Affiliated Societies Committee Representative

Mrs Rachel Roe, President of the RWAHS Auxiliary

Ms Georgina Wigley



HISTORY WEST

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

President's Report July 2022 – June 2023

I count it a great privilege to have been entrusted with the Presidency of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society for a second year thoroughly enjoyed my time in the role. Working with such an amazing group of people, whose passion for the history of Western Australia is unquenchable, has been a complete joy.

Following two years of uncertainty and disruption due to the COVID pandemic we seem to have resumed 'normal service' and every aspect of the Society's programme is running once more.

Last year I reported that the annual second-hand book sale, held in April as usual, suffered from not ideal weather. Little did I know the weather last year was simply its warm-up for this year's grand finale, when two nights before the sale a freak storm soaked a huge number of books and completely demolished one of our gazebo shelters. Thankfully, with much hard work, we were able to open as planned and made a grand total of around \$19,000. Our thanks go to the very hardworking team, under the leadership of Pamela and Nick, who once again enabled the Society to swell its coffers by a significant amount.

Of the other events the Society runs, the Williams/Lee Steere Annual Prize for the best book published on WA history has become a major prize for history writing. Tonight's winner was chosen from a large field of entries.

Communication with our members is a vital component of the Society's work and I thank Lenore Layman, who puts together and edits our monthly newsletter so skilfully. This is no small undertaking as is demonstrated by the amount of information contained in every edition. To those who contribute to this monthly digest, please keep the articles and news items coming; this makes the editor's job so much easier.

One of the jewels in the Society's crown is our annual journal, 'Early Days'. The first edition was published in 1927 and the publication has been published annually ever since. As with previous editions, this year's edition is a high-quality publication, both in terms of its content and its reproduction. High praise goes to the Readings and Publications Committee, who oversee its publication, with special mention going to Heather Campbell and Jennie Carter, the joint editors, who's hard work has produced yet another stellar edition.

The Society's Council and Executive Committee have continued to meet in alternate months to manage our affairs. Foremost amongst these has been the Treasurer's continued work to streamline and update our accounting system, making it more efficient and compliant with modern accounting standards. The result of this work is that fully audited accounts for the 2022-2023 financial year, can be presented at the AGM – something that has often not been possible in the past.

Other Council and Executive work has included the revision of several of the Society's policies, a major grant application to Lotterywest to fund a much needed update to our website. We have also started the process of reviewing our governance to ensure that the organisation is run as efficiently as possible and conforms to all of the requirements of our incorporated association status. This is particularly necessary as the employment of an

executive officer is still beyond our financial means – a problem that is actively being pursued by Council.

Last year I was able to report that the Society had received a generous donation from the Minderoo Foundation for the conservation and digitisation of items from the John Forrest archive held by the Society. This work has been completed and the digitised John Forrest Scrapbook is now available on our website.

A major achievement during this year has been the launch of our new 'all singing, all dancing' website. This was made possible by a generous grant from Lotterywest, enabling us to develop a 'state of the art' website which now includes an online bookshop and many other new features. Our thanks go to Klara Hazelhurst, Sally Anne Hasluck and Helen Henderson for the hard work in seeing this project through to completion.

During the year, Tom Goode became the volunteer Bookshop Manager. His experience in the book trade was invaluable in updating the management of the shop and also setting up the new online bookshop. Sadly, Tom has now had to step down from the role due to ill health. We thank Tom for the incredible amount of work he did to set up a new management system for the bookshop and hope his health improves in the future.

The bulk of the work of the Society is carried out by our nine committees and our enthusiastic volunteers. The annual reports of all committees can be read in the reports appended below. I am sure their work to ensure a lively and active Society is very much appreciated by our membership.

It never ceases to amaze me how much time our loyal, and very hardworking, group of volunteers gives to the Society. The recorded volunteer hours averages over 1,000 per month, but this is actually only the tip of the iceberg as many people also spend a good deal of time at home working on Society business, which is very rarely recorded. What is also wonderful is that our volunteer force is one of the most-cheery group of people I know, which make it a pleasure to be amongst them at Stirling House. A heartfelt 'thank you' to you all: the Society would not survive without your loyalty and support.

I would also like to pay tribute to our Community Officer, Lesley Burnett. She is the public face of the Society; a role she carries out with great aplomb. More than that, Lesley frequently goes above and beyond the call of duty to make sure our daily affairs run as smoothly as possible. Thank you, Lesley.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of the following members during the reporting period: Margaret Brinsden, Kerry Cross, Pat De Haer, Peter Hardie, Barbara Hurst, Darrell McGuinness, Patsy Roche, R. Russell, Marion Tapper

Please let me know if there are others you know of whom we have not acknowledged above.

Thank you to everyone who helps us to achieve our mission of ensuring present and future generations have access to the history of Western Australia.

Richard Offen
President and Chair of Council
September, 2023

**Affiliated Societies Committee
Annual Report for Council 1 July 2022- 30 June 2023**

Committee: Nick Drew, Convenor (Representative on RWAHS Council), Fiona Bush, Minute Secretary (Mundaring and Hills), Dianne Pope (Chittering & Districts), Lynn O'Hara (South Perth), Ellen Parrick (Mundaring and Hills), Marilyn Gazeley (Cervantes), Bev McGuinness (Denmark), Ashleigh Murch (Denmark), Rosie Stroud (Eastern Goldfields) Ian Wilson (Manjimup), Mary Elgar (Bridgetown), Richard Offen, ex officio (President RWAHS)

Committee Meetings held: 19 July 2022, 16 August 2022, 18 October 2022, 21 February 2023, , 18 April 2023.

Number of Affiliated Societies : 75

RWAHS 2022 Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies:

In 2022 the Denmark Historical Society, hosted the 57th Conference which was held from 9 to 11 September. The Welcome Reception on Friday evening was hosted by the Shire of Denmark at their administration building.

The Conference opened on Saturday in the Denmark Riverside Club with the Welcome to Denmark from Jane Kelsbie, MLA, Member for Warren-Blackwood . Five talks were given during the morning and after lunch, a number of excursions had been organised: Museum tours or a Film & Panel discussion. This was the first year that the talks were held over the two days, and Saturday afternoon devoted to excursions. It was felt that this trial was most successful.

The Conference Dinner was also held in the Denmark Riverside Club and was created by Silas Masih of Pepper & Salt Restaurant, it was considered to be the best State History Conference dinner ever, and it could prove difficult for another Society to match.

The Affiliated Societies Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday morning and the recipient for the 2022 Merit Award was announced. It was awarded in absentia to Margaret River Historical Society. A further four papers were presented on Sunday morning following the AGM.

Many thanks must go to Ashleigh Murch, Malcolm Traill, and their band of volunteers for organising the Conference.

Grants

The Lotterywest grant that provided assistance to delegates to attend the 2022 conference for either travel, accommodation, or registration costs for one or two members from each Society was paid to 29 delegates, a total of \$11,600.00.

In May this year Lotterywest approved our application for a further \$11,600 grant for delegates to attend the 2023 State History Conference being hosted by the Bridgetown Historical Society.

RWAHS 2023 Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies.

Planning for the 2023 Conference, to be held between 1 and 3 September is going very well with progress reports being received from Mary Elgar, Chair of the Bridgetown Historical Society

RWAHS 2024 Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies.

The 2024 Conference will be hosted by Irwin Districts Historical Society and planning is already well underway. The dates for this conference are 6 to 8 September.

Mail Outs: The Mail Out/Newsletter to all Affiliated Societies took place in July 2022, December 2022 and May 2022. In addition, other Group emails were sent to all Societies with updates and information.

Queries: Numerous emails and phone calls have been received throughout the year with requests for assistance, guidance, notice of events, etc.

Nick Drew,
Convenor,
Affiliated Societies Committee

Annual Report - Auxiliary Committee July 2022 – June 2023

Committee members: Rachel Roe (President/Treasurer), Jenny Wildy, Allison Fyfe, Shirley Aliaga, Susan Hall (new volunteer).

The Auxiliary's Annual Fundraising Morning Tea: - History and Subjectivity: An Early Depiction of Hardy's Inlet, Augusta, by Thomas Turner – Artist, Architect and Surveyor. The presenter was Emeritus Professor Richard Read, held on 10 August 2022 and well attended. For the second time we included luncheon platters *following* the talk as it provides an opportunity to stay and socialize. The traditional gourmet hamper raffle prize was also provided.

History in the City Talks: Our HITC talks were suspended 2022 due to the Covid pandemic, however we still presented the annual fundraiser mentioned above at Stirling House Headquarters. History in the City talks recommenced March 2023:-

March: Max Hipkins – Achievements of Tree Society WA

April: Chris Holyday – Margaret Forrest (nee Hamersley) – Wife of first WA Premier.

May: Trish Woodman – WA's Involvement in the Boer War (1899-1902)

June: John Viska – Hyde Park WA – The Park's History and Conservation

Grants from City of Perth: Rachel applied for two grants from City of Perth which were successful. The first Venue Support Grant enabled free rent at Citiplace Community Centre for the March – June talks. The second grant provides free rent until June 2024.

Donation from Auxiliary to History West: No donation made Dec. 2022 - as no HITC talks.

Finance Report: Our committee personally finances the operational costs of running History in the City by supplying homemade sandwiches, cakes, slices, biscuits, serviettes, paper plates, raffle ticket booklets, door prizes, guest speaker gifts and our parking costs. We pay Citiplace C.C. \$2 per cuppa from our takings. We also personally finance morning tea and lunch for the annual Auxiliary fundraiser - plus all the goodies that go into the raffle hamper.

Increasing the entry fee price to \$10 (previously \$5), from March 2023, in addition to the City of Perth Venue Support Grant, plus excellent attendance enabled us to bolster our revenue raising. The opening balance of our Auxiliary Account July 2022 was \$1,030. The closing balance June 30, 2023 was \$3,692.

Thanks to Allison Fyfe - the introduction of 'SQUARE' enabled attendees to pay by card from March 2023.

Rachel Roe

**The Royal Western Australian Historical Society Inc.
Book Sale Report for 2023 AGM**

RWAHS Book Sale 2023 Financial Results

Income

Book Sale 31 March, 1-2 April	\$18,147.10	Cash	\$4,601.10
		Square	\$13,546.00

Income before Book Sale

From 1 July 2021	\$841.00
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Total Income **\$18,988.10**

Expenses

Perth Party Hire	-\$764.64
WA Temporary Fencing	-\$400.00
Perth Marquees	-\$600.00
Skip Bin hire	-\$290.91

Total Expenses **-\$2,055.55**

Net Proceeds **\$16,932.55**

**Many thanks to the Book Sale Team
plus about 50 volunteers**

**Notes from Debrief Meeting held 17
April 2023**

1. Donations and Collection of books, received into Stirling House, collected from all over Perth metro area by Nick (Colin Strickland the northern suburbs, Richard has offered to help and others sometimes), also books mainly large donations are received directly to the Drew's home in Claremont.
Lenore places notices in History West in the months before the Sale

2. The books when received into Stirling House are given a first check by Nick, Pamela or Jack, any text books, damaged torn, unsellable books are binned as well as surplus cardboard (we should **only use the red bin for hard cover books**. All WA books received are checked by Jack against Library holdings as maybe they require a copy . The sets and series received are also kept by Jack to store and record, any donations of music (CD'S, DVD'S etc) are stored in the container.
3. All the books in Stirling House are then taken to the Drew's for Pamela to sort into categories and boxed into wine cartons and clearly marked with the category name, wine boxes are used due to the weight, most of the wine boxes are supplied by the Grosvenor Hotel, East Perth with Nick's cousin Richard Moody the owner. Many large books are also received, these being too big to store in wine boxes are stored in the flat banana boxes, that supermarkets give away, the large books are not sorted into subject categories and are not separately priced. They are stored at Drews & HH's.
4. All the books stored at the Drew's are on pallets, as we were advised to keep them off the floor for dampness, white ants, etc The WA books are kept on a separate pallet and stored till the Book Sale with pricing done in the weeks before the Book Sale. The other categories are stored on a couple of pallets, except for the large books and Australian books @ HH's. Once we have received and stored 2 pallets of mixed books, we contact Steve Drake Brockman, he then collects the boxes using his ute and trailer and takes them to store in his Beaconsfield Warehouse. Large numbers of large books and Australian boxes, are delivered to Helen Henderson who kindly stores in her garage, in Shenton Park, a convenient 10 minutes from Stirling House
5. In January we ask Jo Cornish to update her original Jumbo flyer with correct dates, to be included in HW, anywhere else. We carefully look at dates to move in and out of Stirling House (avoiding booked meetings like Council) and then we can ascertain dates for bringing in the Marquees Fence and tables.
6. In February a few weeks before the Sale, we book the large marquee 12m x 6m from Perth Marquees – 50% deposit required, the temporary fence, this year from WA Temporary Fencing with the best price for a non profit organisation -full payment is required before installation, also book the tables from Perth Party Hire, we estimate number from last year, they only require the actual number a few days before sale and payment is made after the Sale.
7. The other smaller Marquees and umbrellas are owned and stored at the Drew's, Lorraine Clarke also delivers 3 Marquees to use if needed.
8. About a month before the Sale the charities from other years are asked to take leftovers, also the Affiliated Societies.
9. A full Publicity Report has been prepared by Lesley.

10. Volunteer request roster lists are put up in Stirling House, Val Hutch organises this.
11. 2/3 weeks before the Sale banners are erected outside Stirling advertising the Sale with dates, the Banners are stored at the Drew's and need date changing each year
12. About ten days before the Sale, the Meeting Room is cleared and marked into subject areas, guided by box counts. The big move of the boxes into Stirling House by SDB with a volunteer team from his Warehouse plus the Drew's, Ian BP, Colin S and others and another transport brings the books from H H's.
13. Next the pricing of the books begins. A roster is worked out with markers allocated for each subject area, governed by past choices., and arranged to keep 3 tables fully occupied in morning and afternoon shifts. Each working area is supplied with pencils a rubber, black and red texta's and a rubbish,- bin so boxes can be marked P, in red, for Priced . **Most prices \$2,\$4,\$6,\$ 8- average price was \$2 must be higher.**
14. During the pricing time all the signs are checked for Subjects, parking/, EFTPOS Terminals, and cash float organised .Using Square this year, for the first time- far quicker results. Also book the skip bin,
15. Next setting up for the sale, this year we started on the Thursday before the Sale. As soon as the tables were put up under Marquees, boxes were moved from the Meeting room to the car park etc.to positions marked on the PLAN (put up on each door out of SH) Then boxes were covered with plastic to prevent damage from over night dew (Little did we know about the STORM!
- 16 Friday morning USUALLY volunteers arrive to unpack the boxes and tidy up to look good for he sale- This year to peel off wet cardboard and check books for water damage.

Nick Drew & Pamela Statham Drew
Joint Convenors
Second Hand Book

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2022-2023

Members: Adrian Phelps (Convenor), Steve Errington (Council representative - resigned April 2022), Val Hutch (Museum), Jeanette Longwood (Library), Maria Gillman (Hon Architect), Lennie McCall, Vanessa Roth (Museum curator, adviser).

Claire Rowson, Conservational Manager, International Services, appointed November 2022 to review and rewrite the Disaster Preparedness Plan)

Eight meetings were held throughout the year.

Digitisation of non current Council minutes and other Minute Books - Margaret Medcalf continued to oversee this project until all were checked and corrected. The hardcopy Council minute books 1926-2008 have been transferred to Compu-Stor for permanent storage. The digitised copies are now installed on the 'O drive'.

Periodic checks monthly against items listed in orange folder and items listed in Incident book noted.

Fire Extinguishers and blankets - advice received from Wormolds on their recommendations on fire extinguishers and blankets. Fire Extinguishers considered satisfactory and checked by Wormolds. Three new larger fire blankets purchased and installed near the Emergency Exit doors and the kitchen.

Fire alarms - wired smoke alarms that alert ADT who alert the Dalglish Fire Station are in place.

Fire drills for DPP, Museum, Library and Affiliated Societies committees held and recorded in Incident book. It was agreed that all key holders be appointed Fire Wardens for after hours or when Community Officer is not present. Updated Fire Drill instructions issued to all Wardens. Fire Wardens hi-viz coat and helmet have been placed next to the two Emergency exit doors and are to be worn by the Warden in case of disaster. 'First Response Emergency Instructions' charts have been placed throughout the building.

New Disaster Plan. A successful Community Heritage Grant submitted by Vanessa enabled the employment of a contractor to write a new Disaster Plan. In November 2022 Claire Rowson, Conservation Manager, International Conservation Services was appointed. Claire was given a copy of the Disaster Preparedness Plan ratified by Council 24 February 2022 and attended her first meeting in December 2022. Claire's reformatted and revised plan was reviewed by all DPP Committee members and final plan circulated to Council in March who endorsed the Plan on 27 April 2023.

Disaster Bin. A larger red bin was purchased and is placed between the Archives store room and the men's toilets. Contents updated and placed in bin.

Building Maintenance. West Coast Gutter Clean, James Hill (Handy Hill) and Halogen Electrical Services attended to items requiring annual maintenance along with other maintenance issues attended to throughout the year.

Engineering Design Consultancy (EDC) Following receipt of EDC report received in September 2022 and circulated to Council, Maria obtained a quote from Forte Builders to obtain a quote for the urgent maintenance items. The upgrade to the stormwater system is a major work and DPP recommended the formation of a Building Committee as it was considered outside the scope of the present DPP Committee. In principal this was approved by Council. Further investigation to the stormwater system to be referred to the Building Maintenance Committee.

Adrian Phelps - Convenor.

RWAHS: History West Community Centre Planning Committees

Annual Report 2022/2023 for AGM

Names of Committees and sub groups

- Planning, Fundraising and Building
- Major Donors and Corporates
- Fundraising Functions

Members of the Committees and groups; number of meetings held

HWCC Planning; Fundraising and Building Committee members

Sally Anne Hasluck, Chair (Vice-President)
 Richard Offen, President
 Lennie McCall, member
 Robert Nicholson, Council member
 Klara Haselhurst, Treasurer
 Nick Drew, assistant treasurer
 Ian MacLeod, member
 Kevin Skipworth, member
 John Shepherd, member
 Phil Vile, member
 Peter Farr, member

Members Major Donors and Corporates

Discontinued

Members of Fundraising Functions

Sally Anne Hasluck (Convenor)
 Jill Anderson, member
 Nick Drew, member Assistant Treasurer
 Val Hutch, member
 Lennie McCall, Vice-President
 Linley Buchanan, marketing
 Carole Grant, member

Meetings in the 2022/2023

Meetings were placed on hold at various times during the year
 Planning Committee meetings: 3 + email updates with action plans
 Fundraising Events/Functions: 6

Planning Committee

The committee continued to seek funds from corporates, foundations and well-known individuals. A successful approach was made to the Lycopodium Foundation. Donations were also received from two family foundations.

The Committee continued to look for an alternative building to 49 Broadway. Two properties were considered by Council one in East Subiaco and another in West Perth. Both proved to be outside our

price range with the extra costs of refurbishment. The work of our honorary architect Maria Gillman with drawings and Peter Farr for business plans is recognised and appreciated.

Meetings have taken place with City of Perth, Minister David Templeman and Lotterywest re the need for new premises and funding. There is an ongoing conversation with the latter two.

We are working towards new premises by our centenary in 2026.

Fundraising Functions

The Mark Creasy Collection visit was finally cancelled owing to ongoing COVID restrictions followed by the intention of moving the collection.

Sunday Supper at Samson Cellars on 26 March was a sell out with the restriction of 50 persons. With the sponsorship support of the Samson family, Plantagenet Wines and D'Orsogna nearly \$7,000 was raised. We ran articles in the History West Newsletter on the history of the businesses and the function. The latter two businesses are recognised as supporters on our new website.

The History West Annual Lecture was moved from June to July to suit the speaker Dr Ayers, Director General National Library of Australia.

Building Fund Donations

Donations from members have continued throughout the year. A plea was made in February for donations to reach the target of \$500,000 by 30 June. This would match the pledge made in 2020 by the Wright sisters through the East India Benevolent Fund. Thank you to all donors who rose to the challenge from the \$5 to the \$25,000 contributions so that by mid-July we did meet the target. This level of support is a great encouragement and is very important when approaching corporates. Members contribute with monetary donations but also by attending the fundraising functions. Fundraising continues.

Number of current volunteers

All 15 members of the committee and subcommittees provided volunteer assistance and encouragement towards achieving a new building for the Society. I would like to thank them all for their contribution. The task requires many 'hands on the wheel'. My thanks also to our Community Officer, Lesley Burnett, with whom I liaise: she is a most willing and supportive person.

Sally Anne Hasluck

15 August 2023

ANNUAL REPORT - AGM 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

MUSEUM COMMITTEE July 2022 - June 2023

The Museum Committee currently consists of 12 committee members, plus 1 part time curator.

Members: Vanessa Roth (curator), Val Hutch (convenor), Wendy Lugg (Hon. Artist in Residence plus member of Council), Committee: Jacquie Brisbout, Judy Campbell (re-joined June 2023), Ainslie Edel, Brixley Gale, Janelle Hauser, Bruce Hoar, Kate McGurk, Natalie Richards, Kathryn Swan, Janet Tombleson.

Resignations during year - Tony Bagshaw, Sue Clarke, Ros Currie.

Monthly meetings: Ten meetings were held during the year.

Visit and activities: Visits by outside organisations or groups included four separate visits by the Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services; KEMH Alumni, Quilters and Textile Sewing Group and the American Women's Club. The Museum committee in conjunction with the Tours and Events Committee hosted a musical evening with Richard Rennie demonstrating our musical collection as well as his own unique collection. The committee visited the WA Museum storage facilities in Welshpool.

Education: The 'History in a Suitcase' project, suitable for Years 1-3 and Years 4-6, was borrowed by 6 primary schools during the year (some to multiple classes) This project with photographs of the contents and teacher's notes is now uploaded on our website so schools from remote areas can have access to it.

Tuesday Treasure Talks: Eight talks were presented during the year and were later summarised in *History West*. Reluctantly these talks have been discontinued due to limited number of presenters and although some were well attended, others only attracted a smaller audience. It is anticipated a new approach to promote the museum collection using social media and through our new website will hopefully reach a wider audience.

History West: Seventeen articles relating to the Museum were published throughout the year.

New donations: Initially these are assessed by our Curator, Vanessa Roth and her recommendations via an Acquisitions Proposal Form are taken to the committee meetings for either accepting for our primary collection, our secondary education collection, offered to our Affiliates or if they do not fit in with our Collection Policy are declined and returned to the donor.

During this past 12 months items were accepted from 12 donors, some with multiple items.

Collective Access issues are being handled by Janelle Hauser and Janet Tombleson, both appointed at Administrator levels who have been working towards resolving various problems. This is ongoing.

Grant Applications: A successful grant application by Vanessa Roth to the National Library, for a Community Heritage Grant enabled the Society to employ Claire Rowson of International Conservation Services to review and rewrite the Disaster Preparedness Plan for the DPP committee. An application for a Community Heritage Grant to purchase two specifically designed Edwardian mannequins has been submitted and we are currently awaiting the outcome.

Exhibition Displays: Changes to several small displays have taken space with one major exhibition space being devoted to 'Caring for our Collection'. This has resulted in a generous donation by current members of the Hillman family to enable the museum to improve the storage of the botanical specimens collected in 1832 by colonial draftsman Alfred Hillman.

Curator's Achievements: In September 2022, Vanessa Roth's contract was extended for a further 12 months. We are very grateful for the knowledge she shares with us and all she has achieved in her 6 hours per week part time role. In particular revising our Collections Policy and more recently updating our Procedures Policy, will be invaluable guides for the future. Vanessa was recently appointed Curator to the Army Museum's collection in Duntroon, Canberra. This is a great opportunity for her to accept a full time position in her home city. We will miss her but she leaves with our very best wishes for her future.

Thanks: Special thanks to Wendy Lugg who spends many hours taking and editing photographs for the museum committee, at community events and assisting the editor of *History West*. To all the committee for their various contributions, a big thank you - it's a great Team Effort.

Val Hutch (Convenor)
10 September, 2023.

ANNUAL REPORT R&P for the financial year July 2022 – June 2023

1. Name of committee:

Readings and Publications Committee

2. Membership of the committee; number of meetings held.

There are currently ten members of this committee - namely Ian Berryman, Patrick Cornish, Heather Campbell (Sec), Jennie Carter, Steve Errington, Jack Honniball, Lenore Layman, Ed Jaggard, Michael Nind and Pamela Statham Drew in the chair.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month except January - when most people are on leave. Attendance is exemplary, very few have missed a meeting – partly due to refreshments afterwards.

3. Significant grants/donations/projects/awards

Nil. Discussions were held frequently over the need for sponsorship to cover the cost of *Early Days* but with little success because:

- i) our speakers generally have come from backgrounds and have interests unsuited for sponsorship e.g. historic research on Colonial WA.
- ii) most of the members, including myself, are very loath to go doorknocking for money..

Instead we have occasionally contributed to costs from our own pockets – or in the case of *Early Days* personally delivering them to save postage. We will discuss this matter further but don't hold out much hope of any great success..

4. Highlights -

General Meetings & Speakers Although not strictly a highlight the regular **general meetings** with speakers during the year are highly regarded by the general membership and are the responsibility of this committee. Our members ensure the speakers are greeted and familiarised with the equipment, and help with the general running of these evenings – such as providing the speakers gift, managing the lights and helping with catering.

Choosing speakers occupies much time of the committee as offers come from all sides. These have to be assessed and then negotiations for a time of the year to present undertaken. While we have little control over actual presentations, beyond advice, we do have some control over what goes into *Early Days*. Some speakers are advised not to worry about writing up their papers at all; others are so heavily edited that they are almost unrecognisable from the spoken version, or the first written draft presented. On occasions we despair that there are just not enough well-researched papers available, however we do maintain contact with tertiary institutions to check for possible presenters. History has been so decimated in our Universities that PhD students have become a rarity.

Early Days. The launch of **Early Days** is always a highlight on R&P's agenda and the launch in 2022 at the Society before the July General meeting was no exception. We are incredibly fortunate that our joint editors and committee members, Jennie Carter and Heather Campbell, have taken on the job of putting individual papers into a publishable format. This has saved over \$500 a year. Sincere thanks are due this year to our two joint editors and proof reader extraordinaire Ian Berryman, for the many hours they put into this publication. Extra thanks is also extended to Jennie who, in addition to the formatting and design also prepares the index – an item that used to incur an extra cost.

History West The production of the monthly *History West* also comes into R&P's gambit and the committee not only helps with articles on society events, but provides approximately twenty book

reviews that appear in the publication. Lenore must be congratulated on the high standard she consistently maintains in this newsletter, which she has now been editing for over six years.

Williams/Lee Steere Prize competition A major undertaking for the committee is the running of the Williams/Lee Steere Prize competition. Hours and hours go into reading the entries for this competition which is now a \$1000 prize for the best book published in the last year on any topic of Western Australian History. This year there were nineteen entries - and seven were shortlisted. We are actually finding it increasingly difficult to find readers/assessors for the prize. The competition is attracting more substantial volumes taking longer to read. The Prize will be awarded at the AGM.

Running **book launches** for members is another highlight of R&P's activities. Mostly these have been held just prior to a general meeting, but they have also been stand-alone events - such as the highly successful launches of Steve Errington's book on the Round House and Bernice Barry's book on Georgina Molloy. We have another booked for October 12 - Barry Leithhead's, *A vision for Australia's Health: Dr Cecil Cook at Work*.

Helping the **Bookshop** has become another R&P activity, formalising what has been done previously by members who took books to conference and other outside venues. Members also advise on new titles and strategies for dealing with old stock.

Register of Speakers. We responded to the many requests that Lesley receives from community clubs and societies for speakers, by starting a register of people who are willing to be called on to speak – such as John Dowson. There are now six names on the list which, with their contact details. An updated copy is provided to Admin when necessary..

Pamela Statham Drew
Convenor



TOURS AND EVENTS ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023

Committee members

Georgina Wigley (convenor - October 22 to present)

Ronald Bodycoat (acting convenor - July to September 22, then member)

Barbara Johnson (secretary)

Trish Bodycoat

Judy Dill-Macky

Nick Drew

Jenny Twine

Meetings

Eight meetings held during reporting period

Tours & Events conducted

8 October - York day tour, including a special visit to the Bushland Garden (45 participants)

14 December - Christmas function for members held at the Mosman Bowling Club for the first time (catered for 90+ participants)

15 April - Slater Homestead day tour to Goomalling (45 participants)

10 May - High Street Fremantle walk with Ronald Bodycoat (20 participants)

Each tour/event was fully subscribed with Lesley Burnett often working on a waiting list basis to cater for demand.

Highlights for 2022/2023

- Success of the Christmas party held at a new venue. Overwhelming support for the revised format and the Christmas raffle.
- The two day trips to regional areas. Very positive feedback received. For example after the York trip a couple wrote, 'a most enjoyable day-so well organised! Very interesting, varied talks, good food arrangements. Thank you very much indeed.' The Slater Homestead elicited comments including 'a fun day with history thrown in' and 'It's been a wonderful day.It exceeded my expectations. Thanks to all involved in organising this outing. A day to remember.'