

Affiliates Newsletter

2024-13

December 2024

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society - Kanowna Heritage Trail Opening.

Friday, 13 December, marked a milestone 18 years in the making with the official launch of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society's Kanowna Heritage Trail and Trail guidebook.



"...Its a human hive! A throbbing aggregation of men whose very blood is pulsating with the gold fever". Western Argus. 1898.

Gold was found at Kanowna in September 1893 by Jerry McAuliffe, Percy Larkins, and Tassie O'Connor, accompanied by a young Aboriginal man, 'Jeddawarra'. On 12 October 1893, the finders jointly registered a lease, later known as McAuliffe's Reward. This news caused a rush to the location. The area was rich in easily won nuggets, and the early arrivals made handsome profits.

Soon, many valuable gold mining leases were pegged, extending both north and south from McAuliffe's, with leases stretching from the North White Feather mine down the eastern side of the town to the Lily Australis mine. This 3.5 km 'line of reef' became known as the Main Reef.



Another group of rich leases was also pegged on the north side of town: Larkin's, Golden Crown, Red Hill, Last Chance, Robinson's, and the Kanowna, which later gave its name to White Feather when the new townsite was laid out.

The townsite was officially declared on 14 December 1894, and the name Kanowna was adopted. Many of the town folk had grown fond of the name White Feather, but despite petitions being made, the new name eventually stuck. Kanowna was first recorded a year earlier as the name given to Gold Mining Lease 247.



Next Affiliates Committee Meeting will be held on the 18 February 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.

Such Was Life: Season 2. Written by Paul Barron - The brand new season of Such Was Life is out now, focusing on unearthing stories and tales from the locals and past times in the Goldfields and the South West regions. Watch the five minute documentaries at <https://visitwonderland.com.au/journal/such-was-life-season-2>



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@iinet.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

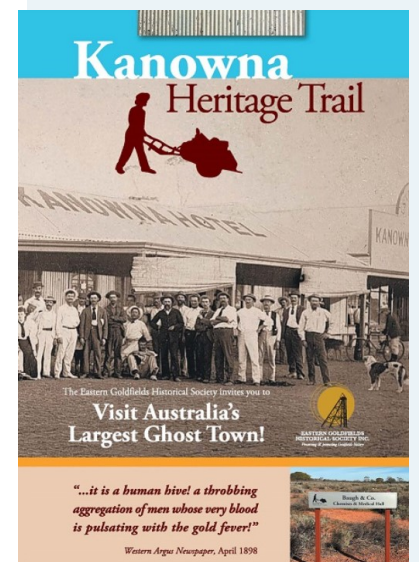


To commemorate Kanowna's Centenary in 1993, The Heritage Council of Western Australia and Delta Gold NL decided to conserve Kanowna's history by establishing a Heritage Trail. The original trail included three large signboards, one at each of the cemeteries and the third located at the ghost town's railway siding. Forty-nine additional signs identified

significant locations around the town. This trail was popular and informative for many years, but time and the elements took a toll.

The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society, with the support of the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission, the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder, and Lotterywest, have collaborated to rejuvenate the trail and continue the story of **'Australia's largest Ghost Town!'**

The guidebook can be purchased on the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society webpage (www.kalgoorliehistory.org.au/publications/publication.php?id=508) or by phoning 09 9093 3360.



Affiliates News

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society

The Mundaring & Hills Historical Society wish to inform the Affiliated Members of the sudden passing of their Office Manager - Trish Beaman.

Trish's role has been temporarily filled by President Jeff Murray.

Our thoughts and wish are extended to the Trish's Family and the Committee, Volunteers and Members of the MHHS.

RIP Trish

Mount Lawley - The MLS has launched the website of the first 150 soldiers and nurses. It covers Alma Rd, Almondbury Rd, Alvan St, Barlee St, Beaufort St, Broome St, Cattle St, Cecil St, Central Ave, Chapman Rd, Chatsworth Rd, Chelmsford Rd, Clarence St, Clifton Cres, Clive Rd, Clotilde St, Coode St, East Pde, Ebsworth St and Ellesmere Rd. Some of these soldiers came from the country to enlist.

The link to the website is ; [Home - Mount Lawley ANZACs](#)

We will launch the others in due course once they are researched as there are over 480 members who lived in Mt Lawley between 1914 and 1918.

We have looked at the soldier or nurse's war history, their family, and the house in which they lived as well as what happened to them in the aftermath of the Great War.

In 1914 the suburb of Mount Lawley covered the present council shires of Perth, Vincent, Bayswater and Stirling, hence the large numbers of soldiers and nurses who enlisted in the Army.

Phill Maston - President.

Melville History Society - On 1st December the Melville History Society held their last open day for 2024 at the Miller Bakehouse Museum. There was a good turnout of people to see through the museum.

As always, the old oven was a highlight of the museum tour and many memories of bread being delivered by the horse and cart were shared. To add to the festivities *Jenni and the Sourdoughs* provided a background musical treat for us all sharing some carols and some well-known songs of yesteryear. It was a lot of fun.

Photo Left - Jenni and the Sourdoughs was taken in front of the old oven. Ted Miller, grandson of the original Mr Miller (master baker), is also in the photo.

The museum is now closed until February as the building is undergoing some maintenance.

Chris Soutar, President.

The Littler Bottler from the **Colonial Bottle & Collector Club** adds to its series of articles on the many aerated water manufacturers in WA in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with an account of the Eureka Aerated Water & Cordial Works in Leonora, originally owned by an early Leonora identity, Christian Alfred Andresen.



Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association - MHPA round up of 2024.

In November MHPA had their final public talk of 2024 when Richard Offen drew a large audience eager to hear about “Heroes, Villains and Vagabonds”

This marked the end of another very successful year in terms of our public events, community engagement and membership growth. Some highlights of recent months include successful talks in September (on the “Rise and Fall of the Maylands Trams”) and October, when well-known broadcaster and author Bill Bunbury gave a very informative and engaging account of early life in the Goldfields.



We are regularly hosting around 40 people for these talks at the Old Peninsula Hotel and they continue to raise our profile in the local community and further afield. The raffle held each time also serves as a valuable fund raiser for our running costs! As part of the strategy to engage with different groups in our local community we gave two more talks at the local Library during November, exploring “The artistic heritage of Maylands” and they attracted a different demographic to our usual Monday evening talks.

Back in June, the Affiliates Newsletter included an article about the launch of our large-scale interactive digital map and since that time the level of engagement with MHPA members and the general public has been very encouraging. This has resulted in the uploading of fascinating information and pictures on over 40 individual privately-owned houses, as well as the creation of “layers” on the map that highlight the wide range of street art visible around the suburb, four of our published self-guided walks, information on all of our corporate sponsors and supporters, as well as highlighting other features of interest in the locality. We are planning to add yet more links and information and to make this map available remotely via the internet early in 2025.

A display was set up to mark Remembrance Day in November and a major new display is under preparation: “The Story of Perth’s 1st Airport – here in Maylands!” An appeal through the local press resulted in a number of fascinating conversations with people from across the State who had various personal connections with the aerodrome in the 1940s onwards. We are working to incorporate these memories and personal photographs into our new display which should be available to the public before the end of January 2025.

Membership growth has continued with new Members joining and some ‘lapsed’ members coming back to the Association: we now have nearly 70 paid-up Members and a much larger following on social media. A growing number of people are also now engaged in research or in other ways of working with the Committee.

Our efforts to develop strong connections with local communities have been recognised by the City of Bayswater when MHPA was announced as a Finalist in the search for the Community-focused Citizen Organisation of the Year. We will know on Australia Day in January if we have been chosen as a winner, but in any event, it was a great honour for us to have been short-listed!

We end the year pleased with the continued health of the Historical Society and are looking forward to 2025 when we will have a series of interesting speakers, the launch of new out-reach activities and the introduction of more ways for the public to interact with the information we have on the Heritage and History of Maylands.

As President of MHPA, I am really grateful to the many people whose hard work has made this past year such a successful and enjoyable one!

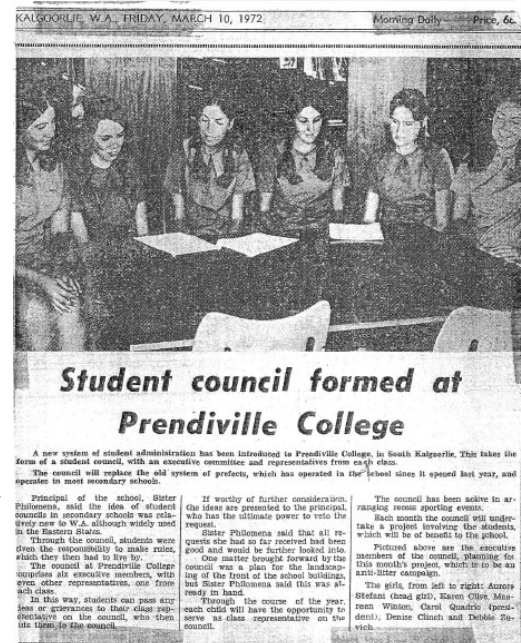
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Prendville College (Kalgoorlie) 1971-1983. Calling all ex-students and teachers of Prendville College (Kalgoorlie) 1971-1983. The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society is teaming up with JPC to gather the history of Prendville College while it's still fresh in your memories.

Were you a student or staff member? We'd love to hear from you!

If you have any photos, memorabilia or stories to share, please reach out! It would be fantastic to connect with as many former students and staff as possible. If you're not ready to part with your photos, no worries! We can scan them for you and return the originals. We're also happy to accept any donations related to Prendville College in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Thank you for helping us preserve the schools story!

Please email research@kalgoorliehistory.org.au if you can help!



Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material - Disaster Planning

“Disaster Planning also known as Disaster Preparedness, is a long established and well-researched approach to reducing the impact of these disasters.

Major natural disasters are a significant threat to collections. Over the last few years Australian has experienced floods, fires, and cyclones that have devastated communities throughout our states and affected the heritage held within institutions as well as those in the private sector, family memorabilia amongst them.” (AICCM, 2024)

Disaster Preparedness Calendar - available from the AICCM website [AICCM Disaster Preparedness Calendar - Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material](#) .

“ Australia is experiencing an increasing number of natural disasters, some truly devastating in their impact. While there are some disasters that we can't prevent, we can reduce their impact on our collections by:

- Practicing risk reduction
- Focusing on disaster preparedness
- Reviewing policies
- Developing resilient communities

AICCM has developed a Disaster Preparedness Calendar to help cultural organisations act in a timely manner and be prepared for the hazards prominent in their region.” (AICCM, 2024)

Also available on the AICCM website is a publication called - Be Prepared - Guidelines for small museum for writing a disaster preparedness plan. Free to download. <https://aiccm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/beprepared.pdf>

