

Affiliates Newsletter

2024-14

February 2025

50th ANNIVERSARY OF BUSSELTON MUSEUM

This year the Busselton Museum celebrates 50 years since it first opened its doors to the public from the heritage-listed Butter Factory.

As far back as Busselton Historical Society's inception in 1938, research records and documents were kept at private homes of various members, some artefacts were displayed at *Prospect Villa* in a private museum, and other articles and farm machinery were stored in a shed on Peel Terrace.

In 1967 a new member, Geoff Lord, became Society President and was adamant that the Society needed a central place to store and display its artefacts. His initiative saw him approach the Shire of Busselton in March 1974 inquiring the future use of the Sunny-West Butter Factory on Peel Terrace. Within months the run-down building was offered to the Society and under Geoff's supervision, a small group of dedicated volunteers spent months preparing the building for a proposed display in the summer. Concrete floors were re-surfaced, electrics re-wired, cool room insulated, doors and windows secured, and staircase installed to access the second floor. Despite his poor health, Geoff worked every spare minute to get the museum up and running. The Busselton Museum opened its doors to the public for the first time on 18th January 1975, as part of the Festival of Busselton.

With the support of his wife Hilda, members and volunteers, Geoff worked tirelessly to source funding, relocate and display the Group Settlement buildings and document local history, and the Museum has since gone from strength to strength.



Hon. Libby Mettam MLA, BHS President Stephanie Piper, BHS Secretary Elizabeth Craigie, Hon. Nola Marino MP

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.



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) - mhpahistwest@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.

Affiliates news

50th ANNIVERSARY OF BUSSELTON MUSEUM continued

Around 100 past and present members and other invited guests acknowledged the Busselton Museum's 50th anniversary at a celebratory evening on the museum grounds on 17th January 2025. Those present had a chance to reminisce on past achievements, share many stories and witness the cutting of our celebration cake by Tom Mullarky, the longest serving active member who joined the Society in 1975.

Throughout the coming year the Society will celebrate its milestone by hosting several other events. It will also pause to remember, not only the survival and progress of the Museum, but also the memory of those members and volunteers who dedicated their efforts to

preserve the history and heritage of Busselton.

(Photos courtesy of Abby Murray Photography)



Members enjoying the celebratory evening

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.



Tom Mullarky and BHS President Stephanie Piper



Affiliates News

Kwinana Heritage Group - Kaylene Heard - In 2025 we hope to open our 'Tool & Engine (T&E) Museum and have our agricultural machinery under a purpose-built shelter at the Smirk's Heritage Site, Medina. These new additions will compliment the heritage-listed Smirk (1902) and Soldier Cottages, Kwinana Museum, and the other exhibits.

The Kwinana Heritage Group are on site Monday and Wednesday mornings between 8.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. plus our Open Days (first Sunday in the month), and open on request for groups. Please contact via email at kwinanheritagegroup2@gmail.com, telephone 9548 7210, or on Facebook under Kwinana Heritage.



Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society - Paula Wilkins - Oh No! Not Again! - Early on Tuesday the 4th of February, a tree unfortunately fell onto our orchard shed. While the damage wasn't extensive the building will be closed until further notice.

We were very lucky that whilst the building was badly damaged, the tree fell in between our two fruit graders. We have a working "Lightning" Fruit Grader built about 1935 and used in the Dell Orchard, Karagullen, from 1964 to 1972.

Adjacent to this grader is a locally handmade grader, made by one of our local orchardists who had seen "Lightning" grader in use, but did not himself have electricity at his orchard. Children worked the crank handle whilst the adult picked the fruit.

We were also fortunate that the tree fell out of hours, as we have a very busy Education Program that lots of children attend with their schools.. THE HISTORY VILLAGE WILL REMAIN OPEN.



Affiliates News

Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association - Keith Cundale. The last month of 2024 saw us hold our annual Christmas Social event at Rifos Restaurant in Maylands and this was the best-attended seasonal function for many years. We also ran a fund-raising sausage sizzle at Bunnings just before Christmas, but unfortunately for us, on that particular day Perth was experiencing a major heat-wave. I am so grateful to our people who volunteered for this fund-raiser and who went above and beyond on the day itself. The temperature hit 40°C by midday and Bunnings decided to close us down after one of our volunteers fainted. As we were not allowed to sell any more hot-dogs, we delivered the left-over food to St Barts and we donated the left-over drinks to Maylands Rotary for a free community BBQ that they held on the Maylands Foreshore: gestures that were sincerely appreciated by both organisations. Despite having to shut down early - and thanks to a contribution from Bunnings - we managed to turn a profit of just over \$1000 that will help maintain our activities in 2025.

On the 20th January we launched a brand-new room layout telling the story of Maylands Aerodrome. We call the display: "Perth's 1st Airport – here in Maylands!" and the launch was a huge success. The Chief Operating Officer of Perth Airport came along to open the newly redesigned Aerodrome room and to talk about some of the future plans for the Airport. The feedback from Members and Guests was universally positive and I think that it reflected well on the Association that we could attract almost 40 people for the display opening. We also re-scheduled the AGM from the usual date in late 2024 to the same date as the Aerodrome launch in order to fit in an additional Guest Speaker in October. Having the AGM on the same night as a major Members' event was also successful as we managed to retain a good number of Members for the AGM itself. At the AGM we awarded Honorary Life Membership to John McLennan who has worked tirelessly over the last 10 years to undertake research and develop the materials that form the basis of our public displays.



Above. MHPA Aerodrome opening. Standing in front of timeline panels that tell the story of Maylands Aerodrome at the Official opening on 20th January 2025. L to R: **Keith Cundale** (MHPA President), **Scott Woodward** (Chief Operating Officer at Perth Airport), **Sue Cundale** (MHPA Secretary), **Dan Bull** (local Councillor and Candidate for Maylands in the forthcoming State election).



Above. Committee with award. MHPA Committee members proudly display the Certificate and Medallion Awarded for **Citizen of the Year 2025** by the City of Bayswater. L to R: Bevan Marshall, Louise Quekett, Sue Cundale, Keith Cundale, Val Hatley, John McLennan

The hard work of everyone at MHPA over the last few years has been recognised by the City of Bayswater in giving us the "Active Citizenship 2025" Award as part of their *Citizen of the Year* awards at the Australia Day Citizenship ceremony. The accolade was given to us in recognition of our strong focus on engaging with the local communities as well as maintaining high standards of research, discovery, preservation and presentation of our local Heritage and History.

I have been in touch with our speakers for January and February (Tarun Preet Singh and Matt McVeigh) and we are looking forward to some interesting talks throughout the year.



Above. Mayor's presentation 27th January 2025. MHPA was represented at the **Citizen of the Year Awards** by Keith and Sue Cundale, seen here with **Filomena Piffaretti**, Mayor of the City of Bayswater

Affiliates News

City of South Perth Historical Society. Anthea Harris - Heritage House is now repainted and tidied up so we are looking forward to new exhibitions and visitors in 2025. We opened at weekends, mainly to reduce the stock in our gallery shop at bargain prices; a random selection of framed items on display turned out to be surprisingly interesting.



Unpacking and reorganising has been a real labour of love for our fabulous volunteers, especially when the air-conditioning did not work and the smell of the oil used on the floor made some of us a bit queasy. Can anyone recommend a treatment for 1904 jarrah floorboards that doesn't smell?



We are now illuminated at night – and are hoping to be able to choose our own colours!

When Nights Were Nights and Days Were Days

Published in the Western Mail, 15 Jun 1939.. OVER THE PLATES – When Nights Were Nights and Days Were Days.

Dear "Non-com."- Tears filled my heart when reading (W.M. 30/3/39) the item by "B.B." (Mt. Magnet) entitled "The Old Brigade," a rather pathetic incident. To me it has always seemed that the saddest of all things sad is the tragedy of old age, and more particularly is this so when riches more needed in our shadowing eve have vanished, as often happens in the sinister jestings of old Mother Fate...

And sure, those old names mentioned ... Jack Grant (85), Watty Davis (84), Ben Davy (83), Dave Williams (76) and Jack Plummer (74), brave hardy pioneers, as keen as sword blades, still standing up to it, though like withered trees, beaten upon by the storms of the years, are to me as old-time land-marks of the back tracks down which I have drifted through the wheeling years, shadowy fingers, as it were, beckoning me back to times a thrill with youth and life when days were often big thirst days and most nights were dream nights of golden wealth.

Ay sure. I can plainly hear, too, the far-off pound, pound, pound of the dolly pots, as memories lead me on and I vision the golden trail when the prospect was good. Then what future hopes that old pan whispered, but what different-endings for so many old prospectors, who it was put W.A. on the gold map of the world.

About six years ago I was riding my aged blood horse, bred from one of the late Tom Dunn's horses here, going along the Macleay River-road. I pulled up at a small road job and in conversation with the contractor (doing this small job for the Shire) I casually mentioned the W.A; goldfields. "Look at that, now!" said he. "My wife comes from there. Come over to the tent. She would like to see you if you know Perth and Kalgoorlie?"

Oh the pity of it all caused me heart! tugs. She had been the wife of one of Kalgoorlie's leading mining men and a full fledged member of Perth's high society, and had accompanied her first husband three times to England. Heavy speculation, however, had brought ruin. The husband died, like Tom Dunn and hundreds of others ever since gold's been known, and she was left down and out.

And there, my readers, at that little bush tent by the river road, with a far-away look in her eyes, maybe in silent regret visualising past golden days when we lifted the cup of pleasure with a careless hand, thinking nought of life's crosses around the bend, she told me that when pitiless misfortune in crowdings befell, few, if any, real friends to her remained.

When Nights Were Nights and Days Were Days continued ...

Well, such is life. However, she managed to return to New South Wales and in due course married again, a good man, holder of a small selection on the next river south of ours. But to keep the home fire burning he had taken this Shire road contract, and she, like all our brave pioneering women who helped to blaze our trails and bridle tracks, had accompanied him from their little timberland home down the south in true camaraderie devoid of all outward requiems for departed glories.

How strangely things do come about at times - as an instance: It's just 41 years since Mum and I last met on a W.A. goldfields track the late Tom Dunn. Now, believe it or not, by a queer twist of fate, after this lapse of two score years and one. I find myself allied with the widow of Tom, finder of one of the richest surface quartz shows in the West, concerning a matter of vital importance to this widow. Appearing in the W.M. about the end of 1937 or early in 1938 was a statement reading something like this, as near as I can recall: "The West Australian Historical Society has this year decided to commemorate old pioneers who have blazed the trail with a monument at Wyndham to such men as Donald Swan, Nat (Bluey) Buchanan and others-well-known drovers like those who took part in epic feats as was Buchanan's trip from Central Queensland with 5,000 head of cattle in 1883 to Ord River, a 2,500 miles trek of one year and eight months".

The article also gave the names of about a score of pioneer prospectors to be rewarded and the amounts due to them or their widows, stating £100 to the widow of Tom Dunn, prospector of the Wealth of Nations G.M. W.A., in 1893.

I now learn that Mrs. Dunn has received nothing. Let me quote her letter to her sister (my neighbour) in answer to my inquiries:

"April 18, 1939, 15 Goodlet street, Strawberry Hill, Sydney.

Re West Australian report, I did write to them and got a reply saying no more funds were available, so I wrote back and told them I would be satisfied if they would do Tom's grave up for me. They replied that they would. That was before last Christmas. I have heard no more about it. If nothing is done about it, I will get Mr. O'Brien to see into everything for me."

And so, I will. Wouldn't any of you under the circumstances?
JIM O'BRIEN, 76 Sea Street, West Kempsey, N.S.W.

Grant Opportunities

Festival Australia Round 20

Festivals Australia provides funding to support individual art projects in regional or remote locations. Eligible projects take place at festivals, or at significant one-off community events such as a town celebration or opening of a new community resource. Festivals Australia will:

- provide access to a diverse range of engaging, innovative arts projects that grow audiences at festivals across regional and remote Australia,
- support partnerships and collaboration across the arts sector, and encourage community participation in arts projects at regional and remote festivals.

<https://www.grants.gov.au/Fo/Show?FoUuid=dced871f-50be-4c3a-ab74-018fb1804d15>

FRRR – In a Good Place Program

<https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/in-a-good-place/>



Because history matters

**New Visitors, Members, Volunteers and Leaders:
Positive Approaches to Finding and Retaining All**

Wednesday 12 March, 10.00-11.30am by Zoom

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The RWAHS is delighted to partner with FAHS in delivering this important professional learning workshop.

Please distribute this notice to your members.

Description: Some historical societies are defying oft-quoted negative trends and attracting new people with knowledge and skillsets immediately beneficial to their society and capable of securing its future. Existing members are either welcoming people of diverse ages, cultures and career backgrounds whom they already know but have never specifically invited to 'join in', or extending warm and well-worded invitations to other individuals or groups in their communities. Fresh thinking of 'what is history', targeted approaches for the skills needed and the setting of membership goals have helped structure the activities which, themselves, have given existing members fresh purpose and energy.

This zoomed professional learning workshop offers a wealth of ideas whereby every participant will depart equipped to support their society attract and retain a variety of the collegial, knowledgeable and skilled 'new people' every society needs.

The Zoom link will be emailed to registrants several days before the workshop and the PowerPoint and workshop readings will be emailed immediately after the event.



Presenter: Dr Rosalie Triolo is the President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. She has enjoyed over 40 years in professional and volunteer History contexts, including numerous long-term, volunteer Victorian and national leadership, advocacy, presentation and publication roles. She learned early to justify publicly the value of what historians do, and her professional life has been infused with belief that knowledge of the past can inform life into the future while being profoundly a source of personal or community interest. For 25 years at Monash University, she helped facilitate the development of teachers of History, and she has been awarded for different roles across time in general public as well as education contexts.

Cost: \$20 per member of the RWAHS or Affiliated Society (to be named at time of registration);
\$25 per non-member

Registration: Please email the FAHS Honorary Treasurer, Mr Nick Drew, for bank details:
nickdrew@bigpond.com

Grant Opportunities

Community Heritage Grants - National Library of Australia

The Community Heritage Grants (CHG) 2025 Round will open on Tuesday 4 March 2025. Guidelines and application forms will be available at that time. Check the [website](#) for more details.

Supporting mental health in rural communities

The In a Good Place program gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of community-driven projects, services, activities or initiatives, which clearly and directly focus on strengthening mental health and wellbeing of vulnerable community members who are at risk of, or are experiencing, mental health issues.

The program supports community-based approaches that:

- are preventative or responsive in nature;
 - focus on reducing mental health stigma and promote open discussions about mental health;
 - encourage, support and enable people to seek help; and
 - reduce social isolation by fostering social participation, inclusion and connection.
-

Western Australian History Foundation Inc

Western Australian History Foundation grants 2025

The Foundation invites applications for its 2025 grants round.

For guidelines and more information, see this website: <http://www.wahistoryfoundation.org.au/grants/guidelines-for-applicants/>

Grants round opens – 1 April 2025

Grants round closes – 1 July 2025

Announcement of successful applicants – by 1 August 2025

The Secretary is available to answer any further questions by email or phone (on request).

The Secretary is available to answer any further questions by email or phone (on request).

Lenore Layman [Dr.]

layman@westnet.com.au

Grant Opportunity

Lotterywest Arts and Culture Infrastructure Grant - Lotterywest is committing \$45 million across three years to support upgrades for arts and culture infrastructure and spaces in Western Australia. This commitment includes \$30 million towards refurbishment and equipment needs for arts and culture centres, and \$15 million of targeted support towards Aboriginal Art Centres.

The following Frequently Asked Questions refer to Lotterywest's \$30 million support for arts and culture infrastructure projects.

What can be supported? Lotterywest's targeted support is towards refurbishment and equipment needs for arts and culture centres across Western Australia.

The following would be considered for support to existing facilities or spaces:

- Upgrades or minor capital works. Equipment. Technology.

Additional support can be considered where there is limited organisational capacity for:

- Feasibility and design costing. Critical maintenance. Asset replacement. Project management support.

What outcomes do these grants seek to support? These projects should bring communities together through improved and accessible arts and culture infrastructure. Outcomes might include:

- Improved community access to cultural and creative spaces and activities
- Enhanced community participation, inclusion and wellbeing and experience
- Increased capacity for sharing knowledge and developing new skills
- Greater efficiency and functionality for organisations to deliver arts and culture activities
- Sustainable solutions and opportunities to share spaces.

How are these grants different from other Lotterywest support? Lotterywest recognises the need for support towards arts and culture infrastructure across Western Australia. These grants will be in addition to current grants available.

Who can apply for a grant and how? Applications are through the current [Lotterywest grant application](#) process and must be from:

- An eligible not-for-profit organisation (none of the profits go to owners or shareholders) or
- A local government authority.

How long does my organisation have to apply? Applications are open. Targeted support has been committed over the next three years.

I have an arts or culture infrastructure project or idea that might benefit from this support, who can I contact? Please talk to us about your project or idea by submitting an [Expression of Interest](#) or contacting our team on 133 777.

