

Affiliates Newsletter

2024-12

November 2024

Fremantle Studies Day 2024 – Sunday 20th October

The day was opened by the President, Jude Robison with the Welcome to Country. Jude spoke about the fact that this month marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Fremantle History Society in 1994. This was followed by the presentation of Life Membership Certificates to long-time members, Bob Reece and Pam Harris for their many year's dedication and commitment to the Fremantle History Society.

The talks commenced with Anne Smith and Simon Meath on *The Boys Reformatory, Rottnest Island Prison: Forgotten genocide site of the Frontier Wars*

Anne talked about her love of the natural environment on Wadjemup/Rottnest Island and how only later in life she found out about the real history of the place. Anne had trouble locating

information on the island's past as this part of the history had been minimised. The conditions that the Aboriginal prisoners were subjected to and their exposure to diseases such as measles, flu, typhoid and tuberculosis took their toll. This seemed particularly cruel as the Noongar people believed that Wadjemup was the home of the souls of the dead. The WA government has proposed to turn the former Boys' Reformatory, or Lodge, into a \$40 million resort. The Boy's Reformatory was built in 1881 and its history is not so well known, especially its use as the prison hospital, it being the only building with fireplaces. There was a measles epidemic in 1883, 60 men died. Anne described the dreadful conditions, overcrowding and cruel treatment of the sick prisoners who 'howled like dingos' in their suffering. According to the Annual Prison Report boys and staff at the Reformatory were also affected by their contact with the prisoners and prison warders brought disease home to their families. In 1889 a small hospital was built on the island but conditions were far from ideal.

Simon Meath continued the presentation elaborating on the appalling conditions. Simon spoke about George Webb, an eleven year old boy who was so badly treated that after weeks of illness he died from a brain infection. The children were often reluctant to talk about why they misbehaved and there was talk in the newspapers about them not being reformed at all but were in fact acquiring 'terrible vices' at the Reformatory. All of this as well as the emphasis in prison reports on keeping expenses down paints a picture of misery and hardship during the years of the Reformatory and Prison's operation.

The second speaker of the day was Caroline Ingram who is this year's recipient of the Ron and Dianne Davidson Scholarship.



President, Jude Robison, presenting a Life Membership Certificate to Bob Reece Photo: Andrew Pittaway

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://visitwanderland.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.

Committee News

The last committee meeting was held on the 15th of October, with many agenda items up for discussion. Welcome to Dunsborough Historical Society who have recently joined the Affiliated Societies. We welcome them and invite them to submit an article for the newsletter outlining some of the great things they are doing in the community.

Exciting news for next year (dates and times to be confirmed) - Rosalie Triolo has offered to host Zoom professional learning workshops for FAHS affiliates (to raise funds and help boost public awareness of the national body). The workshops will include the following topics:

- Visitors, members, volunteers, leaders: Positive approaches to finding all
- Your community's diverse cultural groups: Finding and embracing all in membership, activities, and writings
- How to write engaging exhibition labels and appealing self-guided tours
- Your community's young people as your society's historians: Now and into the future
- School groups: Devising appealing activities and handouts

Dr. Rosalie Triolo OAM FRHSV has enjoyed over 40 years in History education, including multiple long-term, volunteer local and national History leadership, advocacy, presentation, and publication roles for which she has received numerous awards; has worked in the general public, as well as tertiary, secondary and primary education History contexts; has taught Australian History in diverse government schools; and has facilitated the development of specialist teachers of History for 25 years at Monash University.

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.



Baseball WA Museum

The only baseball museum in Australia, located at Empire Ballpark, Thornlie, Western Australia. Open for viewing by patrons attending Perth Heat games or by appointment. Baseball WA's collection can be viewed on Collections WA webpage and is a great resource, with a large number of oral histories.

Some of the great work that is happening at the museum includes uploading a great collection of oral histories.

The below QR code will take you to the oral history of Dale Hughes. Huges, was proficient sportsman who took up Baseball when he was 15 years old and he went on to represent Western Australia and Australia.



For further information head to <https://collectionswa.net.au/organisations/baseball-wa>

Fremantle Historical Society continued ... Fresh off the plane from the U.K. Caroline gave us a very interesting talk entitled: *Dead in the water: The life and trial of Margaret Cody*. Margaret and her partner William Davis were charged with the murder of James Holditch, who was found floating naked in the river at Fremantle. Both Margaret and William Davis were hanged despite there being doubt about the reliability of the evidence particularly in relation to Margaret.

Caroline's story highlighted the way women were treated in the justice system in the late 19th century, particularly if they did not conform to the norms of the time of what was deemed to be proper behaviour for a woman in society. Women were expected to be pious, sober, passive and moral, while men were largely excused; if they beat their wives it was probably because they deserved it. Remembered in the newspapers as being a 'dissolute woman' Margaret sounded like a fiery woman and was not afraid of loudly interrupting the judge during the trial. She appears in the records accused of drunkenness, using foul language and stealing, possibly to provide food for her children. Margaret's pensioner guard husband was twice imprisoned for beating her and the couple parted ways. Margaret then took up with the co-accused William Davis who did not have a good reputation and had previously been convicted of bestiality. Margaret was offered a free pardon if she told all but because of her distrust of the police refused. Much of the evidence used to convict her was hearsay. She was also represented in court by Stephen Henry Parker who was not on good terms with the Supreme Court judge at the time. Caroline's talk cast doubt on the evidence used to convict Margaret Cody for the crime with which she was charged. She and Davis were both hanged on 5th July 1871. Caroline concluded that although things have improved there is evidence that women who do not appear to be 'respectable' are still treated more harshly in the justice system even today.

Following a break for some afternoon tea and a chance to mingle, the talks continued with Nick Everett's presentation: *Wobblies on the waterfront: The Industrial Workers of the World in Fremantle during WWI*. Nick who was due to present at last year's Studies Day but had to cancel due to his involvement with the Friends of Palestine gave a most interesting talk.

Beginning with its origins in the United States in 1905 Nick talked about the arrival of the Industrial Workers of the World, (IWW), an international labour union, in Fremantle. Known locally as the 'Wobblies', they were particularly successful among the Fremantle lumpers, whose conditions of work were difficult and dangerous. The lumpers were also employed on a casual basis, were not well paid and lived in what were described as 'fetid dens'.

Charles Reeves arrived in Fremantle from Chicago to establish a Fremantle Branch of IWW in 1915. Keen to use tactics to change the local unions from within he sought work among the lumpers on the wharves of Fremantle.

As World War 1 was in progress at the time the IWW opposed not just conscription but war itself. They were also anti-capitalist and opposed to racism. Some of the posters in their office windows had slogans such as "Don't scab on the unemployed-the faster worker dies young-someone must be slowest-let it be you!" Because of their anti-conscription stance the 'Wobblies' were portrayed as being dangerous, radical and unpatriotic during World War 1 despite support from Adela Pankhurst and John Curtin. This difference in ideology led to tensions between the existing unions and the 'Wobblies' which eventually led to Bloody Sunday and the death of Tom Edwards in 1919.

Ultimately the IWW in Fremantle failed and new unions arose to fill the void. Despite this Nick concluded his talk saying that the anti-political IWW changed the politics of Australia at the time because of its anti-war and anti-racism stance.



Affiliates News

Fremantle Historical Society continued ... The final speaker of the day was Kiara Gormlie who gave her talk on: *The founding women of Soroptimist International Fremantle: Early intentions and lasting legacies.*

Kiara's presentation spoke of a little known area of women's history in WA, Soroptimists International (S.I.). The movement, which is dedicated to justice, equity and the empowerment of women, started in 1921 in the U.S. then spread initially to London and eventually Australia.

The Fremantle Chapter was founded in 1953 thanks to the dedication of three women; Dorothea Parker, Gladys Locke and Sadie Stone. Dr. Dorothea Parker, the first President, was the first W.A. born woman to practice as a doctor. She had her own practice from 1926 to 1967 and also worked at Fremantle Hospital and Hillcrest Maternity. Gladys Locke opened her home to host many wartime support services, but also held fetes there fundraising for local organisations, apparently cooking much of the food herself. Sadie Stone was the second woman to be elected to Fremantle Council, but committed her time to countless charities and community services, for which she was awarded an OBE in 1980.

Soroptimists Fremantle has supported a host of charities and organisations to help the underprivileged, including a slow learning children's group (now the Activ Foundation), the Crippled Children's Society (Rocky Bay), resettlement of refugees and aged care facilities.

Initially started as a women's only movement, these days men can join S.I. and take part in the activities. There is an SI memorial garden in the memory of Sadie Stone on the corner of High and Parry Streets in Fremantle. Although the members have gained some recognition for their work they tend to work in the shadows and don't seek the limelight. Kiara, herself a member of the local S.I. group, is working to promote the group and gain recognition for the work of the early founding members in WA.



Bridgetown Historical Society - Orcharding Project

Orcharding was integral to the development of Bridgetown and this important history of orcharding in Bridgetown must be preserved and displayed. The Bridgetown Historical Society (BHS) will be conducting an oral history project over the next few months to collect orcharding stories, with the aim of collating these stories to create a book about Orchard in Bridgetown.

During World War 2 approximately 3,500 Italian PoWs were interned in WA. BHS member Peter Hall has been researching the Italians that came to WA to find names of all the Italian POW's who worked in the Bridgetown area during WWII and before repatriation in 1946. He has now identified some 350 that were posted to Prisoner of War Control Centre (PWCC) W1 - Bridgetown.

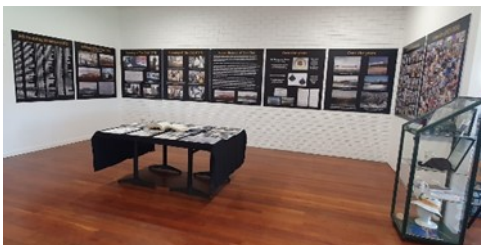
Peter would be very interested to get in contact with any members of History West or affiliate associations that have been studying the Italian PoWs in WA, and in particular, if anyone has done research on the geographic boundaries of each the 27 PWCCs in WA. He can be reached via email: orcharding@bridgetownhistory.onmicrosoft.com

Cervantes Historical Society members have been out and about recently.

Saturday 5th October a group of eight travelled to Carnamah for the unveiling of the big tractor. An incredible big orange structure visible through the trees on entering town. The tractor was manufactured in Geraldton and transported in pieces. It is five times the size of an ordinary tractor.



A display of photographs and memorabilia was mounted in The Club Cervantes to celebrate 50 years since the opening of the Community Club.



Affiliates News

Cervantes Historical Society continued - The regular monthly meeting for October was held at Nambung Station, hosted by members Brian and Gloria White. A tour of the Frederick Smith Creek, Waterhole and Well was led by Brian White. A picnic afternoon tea was enjoyed after a quick meeting in the bush setting.



The Nambung River was encountered by explorer [George Grey](#) on 16 April 1839, during his second disastrous expedition along the Western Australian coast. He named it the **Smith River** after Frederick Smith, a member of his party who died from exhaustion during the final days of the expedition. Smith was the 18-year-old grandson of [William Smith](#), prominent M.P. for [Norwich](#), and was a [first cousin](#) to [Florence Nightingale](#).^[2] It was renamed the Nambung River by government surveyor John Sherlock Brooking in 1874-75. The Nambung River's longest tributary was subsequently named Frederick Smith Creek.^[3]



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Join Australia's largest network of collecting professionals.
Membership discount for eligible Affiliates.
Offer ends 30 November 2024
membership@amaga.org.au

See page 7 for more details

The Australian Society for the Study of Labour History (Perth Branch) and UnionsWA invite you to the Annual Harold Peden Memorial Lecture on Thursday 21 November at 5.30pm 6th floor, The CASA Building, 445 Hay Street, Perth.

The lecture is given in honour of the late Harold Peden, a union organiser and peace activist who passed away in 1993. Each year, a topic is chosen that is of immediate interest to working people. Recent topics have included silicosis and COVID, the transformation of Collie and the new Work Health Safety legislation. Details of this year's lecture are attached.

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society - The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society needs your help! Over the next year, we are preparing a database of unmarked graves of World War One veterans buried in the Eastern Goldfields. This can include any town from Wiluna to Southern Cross to Norseman and out to the border. If you have any queries, we encourage you to get in touch.

The eligibility criteria includes the following points:

- The veteran must have lived in Australia at the time of enlistment,
- Seen active service between 10 August 1914 and 21 August 1918 with the Australian Navy and Military Expeditionary Force, the Australian Imperial Force of the King Edwards Horse.
- The unmarked grave must be located in Australia (and we are focusing on the Eastern Goldfields only)

We will need some of the following details (if you have them): name, date of birth, date of death, place of death, cemetery where they are buried, grave number (if known), and any relevant family contact details.

Have you come across any relatives or veterans in your research who are buried in unmarked graves? If so, please get in touch.

For the purpose of this project, an unmarked grave is an existing grave that is completely bare of any permanent headstone, plaque, or kerbing. If kerbing exists on a grave, but no prior commemoration exists on that grave, and no above-ground infrastructure exists on the grave. (Temporary markers, such as a wooden cross, are not considered infrastructure.

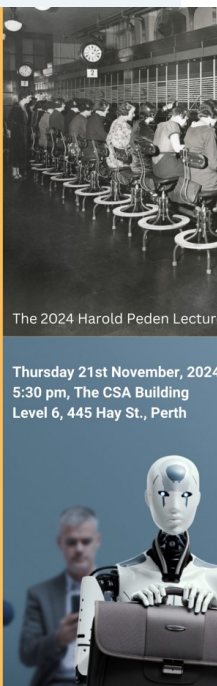


History Lessons for the AI Age:

A Short History of Technology, Management and Unions

Dr. Alexis Vassiley, Lecturer, ECU School of Business and Law

RSVP
<https://www.unionswa.com.au/event/history-lessons-for-the-ai-age/>
call: 0439 932 447
email: stephanie@mayman.com.au



The 2024 Harold Peden Lecture

Thursday 21st November, 2024
5:30 pm, The CSA Building
Level 6, 445 Hay St., Perth

Affiliates News

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!



MEDIA RELEASE: 10 October 2024



NOMINATE AN 'INSPIRING' REGIONAL WOMAN FOR THE WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2025

The Hall of Fame is an incredible record of the diversity in life for women around our State. It celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, reflecting on how far we have come, and how far we still must go to realise gender equality.

Launched in 2011 to celebrate the Centenary of International Women's Day, the WA Women's Hall of Fame celebrates its 15th Anniversary in 2025.

The annual 'Call for Nominations' process provides the opportunity for women from all walks of life to be recognised for their achievements. It could be a relative, a colleague, a friend, or a neighbour, a woman who has made a difference in her community and in doing so, has mentored young women and left an impact, socially, economically, politically, or culturally.

Of the anniversary and call for nominations Chairperson Fiona Reid said, "As we mark the significant milestone of our 15th year Anniversary, I find myself reflecting on the wide array of women who come from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, across sectors, and around the state. Women who have been recognised for their contributions, their achievements, and their commitment to the betterment of fellow Western Australian's, and regional women have been, and continue to be, an integral part of that complement of women.

As we call for nominations for 2025, we encourage everyone to think about nominating a woman they, with the hope that we will receive more nominations for women from regional WA so we may share their stories, fostering greater respect for women in all communities throughout our State."

Nominations will be accepted in the categories of: **Health, Community, STEM & Technical Trades, Culture, Education, Arts, Sport, and Business.** Nominations are also welcome for the "Roll of Honour", to be inducted posthumously.



NOMINATIONS OPEN NOW
NOMINATIONS CLOSE: 4 December 2024
NOMINATION FORMS: www.wawomenshalloffame.com.au
CATEGORIES: Community, Business, Health, Education, The Arts, Culture, STEM + Technical Trades, and Sport
QUERIES: wawomeshof@gmail.com
MEDIA: Gina Church 0409 299 220 / ginachurch@westnet.com.au

The WA Women's Hall of Fame 2025 would not be possible without our valued supporters and sponsors; Lotterywest, Department of Communities WA, Family Access Services, IGO Ltd, St John of God Health Care, Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries, Cornerstone Legal, Edith Cowan University, Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, WALGA, Karen Wheatland Photographer, Brookfield Place Perth, and Minuteman Press Perth.

City of Swan



Midland Town Hall Tours

Explore the iconic Midland Town Hall

Join us to discover more about the iconic building with the Midland and Districts Historical Society's knowledgeable tour guides.



Midland Town Hall
 312 Great Eastern Hwy, Midland WA 6056
 Saturday September 28
 Saturday October 12
 Saturday November 23

To book your ticket scan the QR code below or visit bit.ly/midlandtownhall or email placeactivation@swan.wa.gov.au



City of Swan



VOLUNTEERS

AMaGA

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network of collecting
professionals.**

**Membership discount for
eligible Affiliates.**

Offer ends 30 November 2024
membership@amaga.org.au

Join AMaGA at an exclusive discounted rate for Affiliated Societies! As a member, your organisation gains access to affordable volunteer insurance, exclusive events, networking within WA chapters and national interest groups, voting rights, and a members-only resource hub. Enjoy tailored WA updates and connect regionally via the WA Branch office. This offer is designed to elevate your organisation's impact and reach, strengthening the network of collecting organisations in WA and nationally. Offer ends **13 December 2024**. Click the picture for full details or contact membership@amaga.org.au





DISCOUNT OFFER TO JOIN AMaGA

Australian Museums and Galleries Association Western Australia (AMaGA WA) is pleased to announce a 25-50% AMaGA Organisational Membership discount for current RWAHS Affiliated Societies.

AMaGA understands that smaller, volunteer and community organisations across Australia face challenges arising from COVID-19, natural disasters, rising operational costs and falling numbers of volunteers. It is hoped this offer will provide access to resources and services that can help strengthen WA's community of historical societies.

This offer was announced at the 2024 Affiliated Societies Conference in Dongara, and Affiliates have until 5pm AWST, 30 November 2024 to redeem their discounted organisation AMaGA membership.

WHO ARE AMaGA?

Australian Museums and Galleries Association

Australian Museums and Galleries Association Incorporated (AMaGA) is the national association and peak advocacy body representing museums and galleries. AMaGA Western Australia is your State based branch and centre of local activities.

We encompass a wide and diverse range of national, state, regional and community museums, galleries and collections. Our members are linked by a shared dedication to culture, the arts, movable cultural heritage and communities, and the knowledge that Australian cultural life is a dynamic ecosystem that generates creativity and innovation and contributes to the social and economic wellbeing of the country.

Whether you are a long-time member of AMaGA or are considering joining for the first time, we welcome you, or welcome you back to the AMaGA community.

WHAT YOU GET: AMaGA MEMBER BENEFITS



Discounted premiums on volunteers' insurance

AMaGA has worked with our insurance broker, Gallagher, to create a volunteers insurance policy at an affordable price, exclusively for AMaGA members.

With Volunteer Workers Group Personal Insurance cover starting at \$56.70 for up to 30 volunteers, this exclusive AMaGA member insurance offer can make a dramatic difference to your organisations operating costs.



Access to member exclusive events and discounts

AMaGA offers a range of events such as our National Annual Conference and National Museum and Galleries Awards.

Your staff and volunteers will have access to discounted national conference registration, member pricing for AMaGA Awards entries, and exclusive bursary opportunities to attend conferences.



Member exclusive networks

Your organisation's membership grants access to AMaGA's National Networks (special interest groups) and WA's Regional Chapters.

Membership is to the National Association providing you with access to activities across Australia as well as connecting more closely with the WA Branch locally for WA-specific activities at discounted prices.



Make your voice heard

Your membership allows your organisation to vote on, and you to nominate for, National Council, WA Branch, Chapter, and National Network committees.

Access to members portal and future resource hub

AMaGA has a new website and membership portal and continue to build a library of resources and professional development offerings. Our members only resource hub is your go-to site for peer-reviewed, industry specific information.



E-news bulletins and branch updates

AMaGA provides up-to-date insights to the arts, culture and collecting sector via focused e-news bulletins.

AMaGA hosts a [jobs board](#) and shares opportunities via a specific jobs e-bulletin. Members get discounts for job listings and can subscribe to the jobs bulletin.

The WA Branch has a Quarterly Update for members with a WA-specific focus and interpretation of national strategies and activities.

Full member benefits
here

More on Volunteer's
Insurance

Email Finance Officer
for advice

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR DISCOUNT

Determine your organisational membership level according to the information on the right.

If you are unsure which Level to choose, contact the National Office by phoning 02 6230 0346.

Complete the [online membership form](#)

or,

Choose the [Level A](#) or [Level B](#) printable form to return via email or post (addresses are on the forms).

Please note.

The offer has been extended until 13 December 2024. The date on the forms (30 Nov) is incorrect.

If your organisation is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled (ACCO) business, please contact the national office prior to payment.

Email: membership@amaga.org.au or call 02 6230 0346.

If you have renewed your Level A or B AMaGA membership since 1 December 2023 and not received this offer, [contact us](#) and an additional six months will be added to your membership.

Level A

annual operating budget of less than \$50,000

Eligible for 50% discount on a 12-month, Level A organisational membership.

\$80.50 for a 12-month membership, (standard price \$161.00)

Level B

annual operating budget from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

Eligible for 25% discount on a 12-month Level B organisational membership.

\$195.00 for a full 12-month membership, (standard price \$261.00).

AMaGA National and WA staff are available to assist with any questions you have:

National Office

Monday – Thursday
9am – 5pm AEDT
info@amaga.org.au
02 6230 0346

WA Branch

Monday - Thursday
9am - 4.00pm AWST
wabranch@amaga.org.au
0477 311 271