

Affiliates Newsletter

2025-17

May 2025

Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society

The Tragedy of the Blue Goose, 80 Years On.

At dawn on a cloudy morning the DC-3 took off from Perth Airport (then Guildford Airport) in April of 1945. Inside it sat 8 US Navy officers, from a reserve technician to a Lt Commander, and beside them 3 Red Cross nurses, all being guided through the sky by 2 experienced US Navy pilots bound for Adelaide. But this flight would never reach its destination.

On the morning of April 19th, 1945, the DC-3, a twin-engine US Navy R4D-5 transport plane affectionately named the "Blue Goose", was set for take-off from the then-known Guildford Airport at 5:30 am. Although carrying a full cargo load, passengers and a complete tank of gas (800 gallons or 3000 litres) it was not overloaded when it took off. The Blue Goose left the runway smoothly in what was described as a normal take off, meeting the expected elevation of 15 feet at a thousand yards and was able to adjust its climbing settings, however, despite the field being clear upon take off, the plane quickly disappeared into a blanket of fog. A WAAAF aircraft plotter working at the 6 Fighter Sector Headquarters in Belmont, recalled that conversations with the chatty pilots were abruptly cut off just two minutes later, what occurred next would be marked at the time, as the worst aviation disaster in Western Australia's history.

After entering the thick fog, pilots Lt. William C. Armstrong and Ensign Victor F. Padelsky made the ultimately fatal decision to curve the DC-3 Southeast, away from the low coastal plains in the West typically utilised by pilots to ascend. It is thought that the pilots had planned to travel through the Helena Valley but became disoriented. Within just seconds, the aircraft slammed into a rocky outcrop on the property of Gooseberry Hill resident Mrs Bartlett, even clipping the side of the Bartlett home, fortunately missing all occupied rooms. Locals Mrs Brodie-Hall and Mr Slatyer were some of the first to rush to the scene, startled into action by the loud crash, but little could be done but to watch as fuel fires as tall as 10 metres blazed across the wreckage where only the tail stood intact.

Continued page 7

Next Affiliates Committee
Meeting will be held on the
15th May 2025

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) - mrbbaskerville@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@inet.net.au
- Jacqui Huntley (Wanneroo & Districts) - huntleyjacqui@gmail.com
- Denise Cook (City of Cockburn) - dcook@cockburn.wa.gov.au
- Natalie Evans (Collections WA) - natalie.evans@amaga.org.au
- Tony Bird (City of Cockburn) - tbird@cockburn.wa.gov.au

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



Stories Waiting to be told....

We're busy preparing to welcome you to Cockburn on September 12th-14th for the 60th State History Conference.

Confirmed highlights include stories of Bibra Lake, conservation in Cockburn, and Midgegooroo- the early Whadjuk Nyungar leader in the Cockburn area. Friday night's welcome reception will be at the Hamilton Hill Memorial Hall, which celebrates its 100th birthday in 2025. Saturday and Sunday morning's conference sessions are at the Jakovich Centre, 4 McGrath Road, Henderson (near Lake Coogee).

There will also be several exhibitions as part of the conference, including "Passion and Protest: Cockburn Community Speaks Up".

Tours are to Coogee Common (the former Coogee Hotel); Woodman Point Quarantine Station; Bibra Lake and the Wetlands Centre; and Azelia Ley Homestead Museum with a guided walk at Manning Park.

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.



Accommodation options

- A range of different sized cabins at Woodman Point Discovery Park (Phone 9434 1433 or <https://www.discoveryholidayparks.com.au/caravan-parks/western-australia/greater-perth/woodman-point>) This is 5km from our main conference venue at the Jakovich Centre
- A range of different cabins at Coogee Beach Discovery Park (Phone 9418 1810 or <https://www.discoveryholidayparks.com.au/caravan-parks/western-australia/greater-perth/coogee-beach>) 7.5km from our venue
- Gallery Hotel in Bibra Lake (Phone 9494 2002 or <https://www.galleryhotel.com.au/>). 10km to our venue

Looking forward to seeing you in September.

State History Conference 2025



Royal WA Historical Society
Affiliated Societies Annual
State Conference



FACES & SPACES *of Cockburn*

Stories waiting to be told...

12-14 September 2025

Jakovich Centre 4 McGrath Road, Henderson

Welcome Event

12 September 2025

Memorial Hall 365 Carrington Street,
Hamilton Hill

Official Dinner

13 September 2025

City of Cockburn Administration
Function Room 9 Coleville Crescent,
Spearwood



Email: history@cockburn.wa.gov.au | Website: history.cockburn.wa.gov.au



Fremantle Fishing and Blessing of the Fleet

The Fremantle Fishing Fleet Festival Committee invites you for an afternoon celebrating the rich legacy of Fremantle's Blessing of the Fleet and the Western Rock Lobster Fishing Industry as part of the 2025 City of Fremantle Heritage Festival.

Hosted at Running with Thieves—a beautifully restored 140-year-old wool store with a rich Fremantle history, this free community event will feature a captivating photo presentation showcasing the festival and the industry's history from 1948 to today. The presentation will be delivered by Fremantle Fishing Fleet Festival Committee Member and President of the WA Fishers Lost at Sea Memorial Association- James Paratore, with special guest Fedele Camarda representing the Western Rock Lobster Council.

Enjoy complimentary grazing platters and drinks thanks to the generous support of the City of Fremantle and the Western Rock Lobster Fishery. Come along to connect, remember, and raise a glass to one of Fremantle's most iconic industries and traditions.

Tickets can be booked through the Trybooking link here: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/>
Sunday 18 th May 2:00 - 5:00 pm.

Running with Thieves Brewery/Distillery
218 Marine Terrace, South Fremantle

Submitted by Kristi McNulty

FROM THE BAY TO THE BATTLEFIELDS

ESPERANCE IN WWI

Discover the Stories of
Esperance's WWI Heroes

eBook now available to
view on the
Esperance Museum
website



The Esperance Museum is proud to announce the launch of the eBook, *"From the Bay to the Battlefields"*.

From the Bay to the Battlefields is an eBook that presents a comprehensive account of the 75 men listed on the RSL Honor Board, constructed by a local carpenter immediately after WWI. This Roll is believed to be the most accurate list of the 75 men from Esperance who served in the conflict. Of these, 70 were sent overseas, with 49 returning to our shores, one emigrating to Canada, and 20 making the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

After a decade of dedication, a modest yet passionate Museum research volunteer has meticulously combed

through records, gathered information, and woven captivating stories to bring this book to life.

This digital format ensures that everyone can access this book full of important and poignant stories. If there is sufficient interest, the Museum may consider producing a printed version later this year.

Access this eBook now through the Museum website www.esperance.wa.gov.au/museum

Submitted by Lynda Horn

Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society

KOSTERA'S - A Kalamunda Business for 100 years. 1925 to 2025

In 1925 Kazmiex (Charlie) Kostera purchased the existing bus and taxi company in Kalamunda to begin this story. The bus service with its distinctive deep red brick livery served the community until 1958 when the Government took over all the private bus services. At this time the Kalamunda Bus service numbered 22 buses.

Kostera's garage and petrol pumps located at the top of Haynes St. were a fixture throughout the decades. The business moved to its present location in the late 1980s.

Charlie Kostera contributed much to the Kalamunda community and was a stalwart of many organisations including a member of the Darling Range Road Board for 12 years. His son Jack carried on the tradition of community service as has his grandson, Stuart.

The naming of Kostera Oval by the City of Kalamunda recognises the contribution of Charlie and the family more broadly. A comprehensive display of the story of this family is featured in History Village.

Paula Wilkins



VOLUNTEERS



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Albany Historical Society Bicentennial Commemorative Projects 2026-27



Patrick Taylor Pathway 3

Pioneer Pathways, Project 1: Pathway to Legacy: A Commemorative Journey. From its origins as our state's first settlement, to a penal outpost and military garrison that laid the groundwork for the State of Western Australia, Albany has evolved into a bustling community that played a crucial role in the early industrial development of whaling, pastoralism, and international shipping.

Pioneer Pathways will be an informative walking tour that takes visitors back through our history. It aims to educate the community, as well as the thousands of visitors and many school and youth groups we welcome each year. This initiative provides an opportunity to preserve and share an important link to our past for future generations.

The Pioneer Pathways journey will allow people to explore the rich and often overlooked heritage of the influential men, women, and families who contributed to the initial settlement and development of our

city and region.

The chosen location is the pathway leading to Patrick Taylor Cottage, which is fitting as it is the oldest surviving dwelling in Western Australia. The pathway will be lined with several plaques commemorating notable individuals who played a significant role in Albany's development from its settlement to the present day. We will also include a special plaque honouring the Menang people and their custodianship of the region for tens of thousands of years.

We hope this walk will raise public awareness and interest in these long-forgotten individuals, whose remarkable contributions helped shape the community we know today. We are pleased to partner with Rio Tinto, which has agreed to provide the majority of funding for this project.

Andrew Eyden.



Patrick Taylor Pathway 1



Patrick Taylor Pathway 2

The Tragedy of the Blue Goose, 80 Years On continued

Eight volunteer firemen from the Guildford Brigade made it to the scene of the crash in an astonishing 17 minutes after being notified by telephone of the incident. Led by Captain Baker, the team fought for 2 hours to contain and extinguish the extreme blaze before the scene was handed over to military authorities. By mid-morning, it was confirmed that all 13 occupants of the plane had been killed on impact.

These 13 individuals were:

- Lt. William C. Armstrong, USNR (Pilot)
- Ensign Victor F. Padelisky, USN (Co-Pilot)
- A.M.M. 1c Robert A. Dunleavy
- A.M.M. 2c Stanley A. Gober, USN
- A.R.M. 1c James A. Glenn, USNR
- Commander R.R. Helbert, RN
- Lt. Commander Montrose G. McCormick, USN
- Lt. (jg) Sidney S. Cook • USNR C.R.E. Robert V. Daly,
- USN Tech BuShips C.L. Nelson
- Anne Woodward, American Red Cross (Nurse)
- Geraldine Crow, American Red Cross (Nurse)
- Cecil Nichols, American Red Cross (Nurse)



News of the crash spread quickly in the close-knit Kalamunda, and that same morning as military and police alike scoured through the wreckage, locals gathered to witness this tragic once-in-a-lifetime sight. One such local was our own Pat Hallahan, just 16 at the time, he and his mates had ridden up to the crash site at 8 am on their bikes, the wreck was still smouldering, he recalls the way black liquid trickled down the rocks and the smell in the air, it was 'intense, overpowering, I have never forgotten'. Even Mary's Mount Boarders, housed nearby were brought up to the crash by their nuns before school to bear witness to the crash site.

In the weeks that followed, intense investigations were undertaken by authorities, but no conclusive explanation was found as to why the Blue Goose crashed that morning. However, resources and time were stretched thin for such things, as World War 2 raged into its final months. Although a terrible accident, the significance of it to Western Australia was small as all casualties were American with few ties to Australian residents, and because the crash wasn't a direct result of the ongoing conflict, attention was quickly shifted on.

Today, the crash report confirms that at no point during the short flight did the Blue Goose experience any mechanical faults, operating smoothly and without complication from take-off to impact. This left it up to the people to speculate alternative causes of the tragedy.

As the years wore on from the crash, and World War 2 ended, the Blue Goose tragedy faded into the memories of those who bore witness to it, as scarred trees barked over and the debris was taken away. The remains of the Blue Goose' passengers and crew were buried at Karrakatta Cemetery, but over time they have been exhumed and relocated, returned to US soil in the years after the war. At the sight of the crash, the Kalamunda and Districts Historical Society helped set up a plaque in 2018, a permanent commemoration of the horrific morning, as well as a sign located on the Railway Heritage Trail above the Railway Rd and Gooseberry Hill Rd roundabout, installed in 2013. But even still, today few know about the historic incident that forever changed the hills scape.

The Crash of the Blue Goose marked a tragic day in Kalamunda and Perth's history with it being the worst air accident in WA's history until the York crash in 1950.



Just sit right back
And you'll hear a tale
A tale of a great road trip,
That started from Cervantes,
Four cars in the convoy.
Gloria and Marilyn led the crew,
On a magical museum tour.
Nine other intrepid members
joined in
For a four day tour, three nights
away.

The weather was fine.
The first stop a museum tour and
morning tea,
Hosted by Watheroo in a lovely
old hall.
Next was the Koobabbie Precinct
in Coorow
And a picnic lunch in the park.
Dinner and an overnight stay in
the Coorow Hotel,
an experience not to be missed!

Carnamah was next, with plenty to see. And lots of advice from Andrew.
The Big Tractor was checked out – big photo opportunity.
The convoy then moved on to Mingenew
With the bakery as well as the museum on the agenda.
Lunch over and done with, we moved on to Morawa.
Lots and lots to look at, rather overwhelming.
The caravan park was invaded and the locals were entertained
At the local pub come dinner time, with entry being achieved
Through the TAB door at the side.

Following breakfast, Perenjori was the next stop.
Very helpful ladies from the Shire, unfortunately discovering some damage
From a fallen ceiling in the old building.
The local church, a Monsignor Hawes design, was a delight to visit.
Checked out the remains of Latham,
That Dorothy lady seems to appear everywhere through this area.

The dedicated group at Wubin did not fail to impress with their displays.
Table and chairs, and the hot urn, were welcome additions for a takeaway lunch.

With the Wheatlands Motel calling, a nanna nap after lunch was had by a few.
Dinner that night with table cloths and service, the meals were enjoyed.
Early to bed for a 9am start calling in at the Dalwallinu Discovery Centre.

Miling Roadhouse had to be called in for a coffee and biccies on the way home.
The convoy wended their way to Moora, having to visit the bakery for lunch.
A very tired group of eleven then made their way home back to Cervantes



Serpentine Historical Society

Serpentine Historical Society - Old Bridge School

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

The interior of the building represents an early 1900's schoolroom, we encourage children and adults to write with pen and ink, infants with chalk on slate. We have a display of photos and information relating to the district which includes Serpentine, Keysbrook, Hopeland & Mardella. Also a large wall map of the Shire which includes, mid/late 1800's land allotments and 1920's group settlements.

We also open on request for families, schools and community groups. Phone Trevor 0499977529 or email - serpentine.hs@outlook.com

Ephemera Relating to the Australian Federal Election Campaigns

Herewith from the National Library about the kinds of election material they wish to collect. Note you can send A4 envelopes with contents to them via a Reply paid address.

<https://www.library.gov.au/give/offer-us-collection-material/what-were-looking/capturing-australian-democracy-storykeeping?>



Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

Wilson Endowing Fund - Academic Bursary

Applications are now open for the Wilson Endowing Fund - Academic Bursary and close on the 31st of May.

Application forms and more details can be found on the EGHs website or by emailing eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au.

<https://www.kalgoorliehistory.org.au/wilson-endowing-fund/>



Preserving & promoting Goldfields history

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

