

# Affiliates Newsletter

2024-16

## April 2025

Welcome to Hyden and Mingenew Historical Societies, recently becoming affiliated with the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. We look forward to your contributions to the newsletter.

## Australian Heritage Month

A community driven celebration of heritage. For more than 40 years the National Trust has connected the nation through the Australian Heritage Festival celebrations.

Spanning cities and regions across Australia, the Festival offers unique opportunities for the community to engage with the country's rich and diverse heritage. Look forward to exhibitions, tours, talks, workshops, food fairs, ceremonies, demonstrations, dinners, and much more.

In April and May this year, the festival will return with the theme **Unearthed** – revealing the past, bringing to light lesser-known histories and stories, and unearthing knowledge to empower younger generations as custodians of culture and tradition.

We are looking forward to hearing about all the exciting events that our affiliates held in the forthcoming newsletters. Please send us your event information and experiences if you took part.

Images below form part of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society's outdoor exhibition.



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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au) or phone 9093 3360.

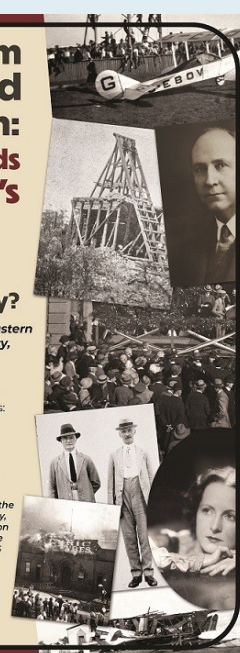
### From Boom to Bust and Back Again: The Goldfields in the 1920's

How did events 100 years ago shape the Goldfields today?

An outdoor exhibition by Eastern Goldfields Historical Society, featuring nearly forgotten local stories from the 1920's

Also: the 1934 Riots, the Mighty Steam Navy, In His Own Words: The Wartime Letters of Private Stephen Grace, Forever B.U.F.S. and Boulder City Fire Station

Story panels can be found at the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society, Old Boulder Power Station, Hamilton Street, Boulder. Exhibition available to view from 18 April to 18 May 2025



## 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@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 60<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:history@cockburn.wa.gov.au) | Website: [history.cockburn.wa.gov.au](http://history.cockburn.wa.gov.au)





# Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society WA Inc

**Rabbi Dan Lieberman presents:**



## The ANZAC Rabbi: David Isaac Freedman

**Sunday 25th May 2025**

**1:30pm for 2:00pm start**

*Members: \$5.00 Non Members \$10.00*

**Please note Change of address.**

**Perth Hebrew Congregation (PHC) Freedman**

**Rd, Menora [www.jhgswa.org.a](http://www.jhgswa.org.a)**

RSVP: Michelle 0418 910 258

[michelle.urban@jhgsa.org.a](mailto:michelle.urban@jhgsa.org.a)

The National Records of Scotland recently published this article that the Affiliates might find interesting and brings to attention security of records and might lead to discussions around the topic.

National Records of Scotland (NRS) has completed the return of thousands of documents that were stolen from its archives and from other UK institutions by a single individual between 1949 and 1980.

NRS recovered around 3100 items in total, mainly family, estate and business correspondence, that its archivists believe were stolen by one individual, Professor David Macmillan (1925-1987).

Most of these documents were found in Canada after his death and the investigation, audit and return of the items to their original collections represents an unprecedented piece of work by NRS.

Of the 3100 items returned, around 2000 were stolen from the NRS archives. These were owned by NRS, deposited by their owners or held by NRS on loan from another institution.

Around 500 of the documents had been stolen directly from other institutions across the UK. These organisations included The National Archives, the University of Aberdeen, Glasgow City Archives, the University of Glasgow, the University of Edinburgh and the National Library of Scotland.

Around 500 items were found to belong to collections held by private owners. A further 100 items are as yet of unknown origin.

Alison Byrne, Chief Executive of NRS, said: "These historical thefts were on an unprecedented scale and carried out we believe by one individual who was a regular visitor to the institutions he stole from.

"Thanks to the highly detailed and painstaking work of NRS archivists, we have been able to restore these records to their original collections and ensure they are available for study once again.

"We have also been working closely with the other institutions affected by these thefts to ensure their items are also returned to their rightful collections."

Work by NRS archivists led them to conclude that Professor Macmillan had stolen the items between 1949 and 1980, when he was caught taking a single item in an NRS building and his access was immediately revoked.

A number of items were recovered through a private sale in 1994 following the deaths of Macmillan and his wife, however, the full scale of the thefts became apparent in 2012.

A researcher saw a reference in an online catalogue at Trent University in Canada to an item which he thought may have belonged in Scotland and raised concerns with NRS. Subsequent research by NRS archivists, working with colleagues in Trent, uncovered around 2900 items which had been stolen by Macmillan.

These documents had been gifted to Trent University Archives after Macmillan's death.

Through collaboration between NRS and Trent University, the documents were successfully repatriated to Scotland in 2015. Since then, NRS archivists have been working to return the thousands of items to the archives, as well as carrying out an extremely detailed audit of the collections held by NRS which were accessed by Macmillan.

NRS has also been engaging with owners whose privately deposited collections were impacted by the theft.

# National Records of Scotland

In an audit of deposited collections accessed by Macmillan a further 200 items were found to be missing and NRS archivist experts conclude he is likely responsible for their loss. This means it is believed he stole at least 3,330 individual items.

Archivist opinion is that the historical integrity of none of the collections has been significantly compromised.

Karen Suurtamm, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections at Trent University said:

"The successful repatriation of these items is a testament to the productive collaboration between Trent University and NRS over many years and to the dedication and expertise of archivists who carefully steward these collections. This is meticulous work that ensures valued historical and cultural materials are preserved and properly documented, so they can return to their rightful homes. Archives play a critical role in supporting researchers, and maintaining the integrity and security of our vast collections ensures the integrity of academic study and discovery."

John Chambers, Chief Executive, Archives and Records Association UK & Ireland, said: "We are pleased to see that international co-operation between archivists and archives has brought these records home. When these thefts began (in 1949) the profession was in its infancy. Improvements in processes and security have been many since then and it is good to see the detailed work by NRS over many years that has led to a successful outcome."

**Background:** Professor David Macmillan was born in Scotland in 1925. He was an archivist who worked for the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh in 1949-1950.

He then worked at the University of Sydney from 1954 to 1968. He left Australia in 1968 to go to Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, where he was a professor for 20 years and taught History from 1968 to 1987. He died in 1987. Records show he made annual visits to the NRS archives as a user from 1969 until 1980.

Although he was not convicted of the offences, NRS is confident Professor Macmillan did carry out the thefts given the documents that were recovered that he was known to have accessed and the detailed collection audit that archivists have undertaken.

NRS today maintains robust security measures to protect its vast holdings, which comprise the 38 million documents spanning nearly 1,000 years of Scottish history. These security measures are regularly reviewed and updated in line with best practice for institutions of this kind and size.

Our policies, plans and processes were evaluated by the UK Archive Accreditation Panel in 2022 and NRS was awarded accredited archive status.

In total, NRS holds around 38 million documents and the physical archive collection, including paper documents, parchments, photographs, maps, fabrics and objects, currently occupies 80 kilometres of shelving.

All owners who have collections deposited with NRS have been contacted directly if their records were impacted.

Images for this story can be found in a [NRS Google Drive](#) along with background information. They include a portrait of NRS Chief Executive Alison Byrne OBE and scanned images of some of the returned letters.

NRS does not own a photograph of Professor Macmillan. An image of him is available on the [University of Sydney online archive](#). Please take care to avoid confusing him with living persons of the same name.



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](mailto: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-story>

keeping?

## Antique Roadshow Coming to Australia

Calling all treasure keepers: "Antiques Roadshow" is coming to Australia

Have you ever wondered if that art deco brooch passed down through generations is worth more than memories? Or if the painting that's hung on your wall for decades holds a secret history? Was that first edition comic book really worth If you're ready to discover the value of your treasured antique, now's your chance!

Australia's very first production of Antiques Roadshow is rolling into town and we're inviting you to be part of it!

Apply now to have your antique featured on the Australian debut of this world renowned show!

Submit your application below, including photos and a short video about your antique.

Eligibility Requirements:

- You must 16 years and over
- You must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident (have the right to live and work in Australia)

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW- [Antiques Roadshow](#)

# State Heritage Conference

## 2025 State Heritage Conference 2025 -

**Monday 12 May 2025, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle**

The 2025 State Heritage Conference, hosted by the Heritage Council of Western Australia, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, will take place at the Esplanade Hotel, adjacent to Fremantle's historic West End precinct.

The conference theme, ***The Heritage Ecosystem***, highlights the evolving values of Western Australia's cultural heritage. Attendees will have valuable opportunities to network and discuss emerging trends and future projects in the sector.

Heritage lies at the heart of an ecosystem that connects diverse fields such as environmental sciences, economics, education and technology. Over time, these fields have influenced the way heritage is preserved, shaping practices that safeguard history for future generations.

More information can be found on the conference webpage [2025 State Heritage Conference](#)

This event will be held in person and online.

You can register for both in-person and online attendance if you're not able to attend all sessions in person.

PRESENTED BY THE PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (WA) IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE HERITAGE CONFERENCE 2025



## HISTORY SLAM 2025



YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE OR ENJOY A WA HISTORY TALE IN  
JUST THREE MINUTES!

- Be entertained and amazed by stories in a three-minute bite.
  - Take part in, or just watch, a unique history event.
  - Learn facts you thought you never needed to know about WA history.
  - A prize for the winner – but fun for everyone.
- and ...
- Stick around after the slam to continue the historical fellowship.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BE A SLAMMER OR TO REGISTER  
AS AN AUDIENCE MEMBER GO TO [EVENTBRITE](#)



STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA <B5719042\_1>

**12 MAY 2025  
5.00PM – 6.30PM  
ESPLANADE HOTEL,  
FREMANTLE**

ENTRY IS FREE  
LIGHT SNACKS PROVIDED  
BUY DRINKS AT THE BAR

## QANTAS Regional GRANTS



**Applications close 10 May 2025**

## Qantas Regional Grants

The Qantas Regional Grants program is back, offering \$2 million in support to Australian-based communities and projects that are looking to benefit our country's regional areas.

<https://www.qantas.com/au/en/about-us/our-company/in-the-community/qantas-regional-grants.html>