

Affiliates Newsletter

2025-18

June 2025

Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association

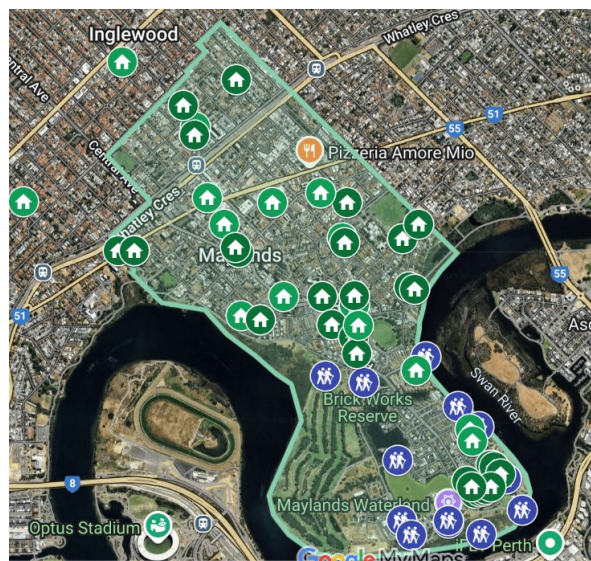
Some highlights of recent activity for Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association include the confirmation of another grant from LotteryWest – this time to enable us to have all of our paper files and documents professionally scanned and therefore searchable through OCR technology – Optical Character Recognition. This will greatly increase the amount of valuable information available through our website and by creating a ‘mini-Trove’ we will make searching for information so much easier. This development is an important element of our strategic goal of getting information out of dusty files and into the public eye.

The LotteryWest grant we received last year was used to fund the procurement and customisation of the large-scale touch screen to create an interactive map of Maylands. We have been steadily adding more and more ‘pins’ onto the map. Clicking on a pin brings up a display of relevant pictures and a brief text paragraph. A link to more detailed information on our website is also included. Currently we are adding information on all of the places contained within the Heritage Listing of the City of Bayswater and any other “interesting” houses. As people come into the Old Police Station and enquire about their house, we either provide them with what we have or encourage them to research their house history (using resources and guides that we have prepared) and then come back and add their results to the map. Our Secretary / Treasurer Sue Cundale has so far added around 50 houses and we have plans to add many more in the years to come. The “layers” that we now show on the map include all of our documented walks, the extent of Maylands Aerodrome, information on heritage buildings, ‘then and now’ images of the shops along Guildford Road and, most recently, links to information about our corporate sponsors.

The map can be investigated by following this link
https://maps.app.goo.gl/i6v3Am7fMv2uWpv86?g_st=ig

Right - Interactive map

Screen shot of the map displayed on a laptop showing the boundaries of Maylands within the City of Bayswater, the way-points on the Peninsula walk (the little walking figures) and the green “Heritage Houses of Maylands” pins.



Next Affiliates Committee
Meeting will be held on the
19th June 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 – (President RWAHS) - richardoofen@outlook.com
- 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.



Merit Award Categories for 2025

Following the recent Affiliates Committee meeting, we are pleased to confirm that the Merit Award will run again this year. As part of the review process, Keith Cundale submitted a discussion paper outlining some recommendations for developing both the Merit Award and Annual Report systems. The aim is to identify and recognise achievements by Affiliates within certain categories – rather than having a single Merit Award. For 2025 Affiliates are encouraged to submit a summary of their accomplishments related to any of three focus areas:

- **Temporary Exhibitions**
- **Research and Publications**
- **Membership Growth and Volunteer Recruitment and Development**

Details on how to make submissions will be provided shortly and Award winners will be announced at the State Conference. Following a review of the effectiveness of this new approach, focus areas for 2026 will be announced early next year.

In terms of formal Reporting, we are also currently reviewing the Annual Report Form for relevance and usability. Feedback is pending, and updates will be shared once available.

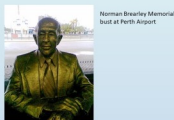
Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association continues ...

We have begun a long-term collaboration with Bold Park School where some Year 10, 11 and 12 students loaded the map on their hand-held devices and used it to explore as many as possible of around 40 pieces of Street Art around the suburb. They have come back to us with some recommended routes that could form the basis of new 'walks' and they have shared some very helpful and insightful comments from their perspective. This collaboration will be useful for us in terms of engaging with a very different demographic group as well as getting some useful inputs – for example they have already suggested we add the locations of all the playgrounds and cafes around so that parents can plan family walks!

We continue to be very active in other aspects of community outreach. During April we presented three public talks at Maylands Library (in place of the usual monthly talk since that day was Easter Monday). We presented "The story of the Old Peninsula Hotel" (and why it was almost demolished to create a Tavern car park), recounted the events around a gruesome murder in Maylands between the Wars and presented a review of "Maylands during the war years" exploring how the two world wars affected the people of Maylands and the role of the aerodrome in WW2. We did not organise an official ANZAC Day service this year due to a lack of an organising committee, but we did hold an impromptu ceremony at the War Memorial, along with temporary displays of some ANZAC stories. Our public talk in May attracted a good crowd and was given by Allen Graham who talked about his book "The Inns and Outs of Fremantle," which, of course, was Highly Commended in the Willaims/ Lee Steere book awards in 2024.

Some pioneers and personalities in WA aviation history

Sir Norman Brearley CBE, DSO, MC, AFC, FRAeS 1890-1989



Norman Brearley was a commercial and military pilot, one of the pioneers of the airline industry in Australia and a towering figure in WA aviation history.

- Flew military aircraft in World War 1, was shot down but crawled to safety. After rehabilitation, he returned to WA and founded Western Australia Airlines, based in Geraldton
- Inaugurated many of the early flying displays, joy rides and commercial services in Perth and across Western Australia and he was granted the 1st civil pilot's licence in Australia
- Knighted in 1971 and commemorated today in the naming of one of the lakes near the site of the airfield on the Maylands Peninsula and with a bust in the viewing gallery at Perth Airport



Frank Colquhoun AM 1909-2010



- Had an amazingly long and active career in aviation across Western Australia, with many notable moments connecting him to Maylands.
- At age 14 he wrote to Sir Norman Brearley and asked for a job cleaning the hangars, became one of the earliest aviation apprentices in Australia and went on to fill many different jobs at Maylands Aerodrome.
- Initially was a mechanic and pilot at MacRobertson Airways, progressing to become Chief Engineer.
- Frank was Flight Engineer on the trip bringing the Indian Cricket team to Perth in 1947 and he was as part of the crew during the dramatic recovery of a Lockheed Electra that had crash landed near Derby – using a team of mules to pull it free before managing to take off.
- His memoir, "Cockpit and Spanner", can be seen in our Library.

Horrie Miller 1893 - 1980

- Pioneering Australian aviator
- Co-founder of MacRobertson Miller Aviation (MMA)
- Flew in the 1929 WA Centenary Air Race
- The road to Perth Airport's T1 is named in his honour.



Sir Macpherson Robertson FRGS 1859-1945

- Successful business man and a pioneering Australian aviator.
- Founded MacRobertson's Confectionery Company, bringing US style goodies like chewing gum and fairy floss to Australia and launching Fredro Frog, Cherry Ripe and Old Gold chocolates.
- Co-founder of MacRobertson Miller Aviation and promoted his confectionery brands through many different aviation activities: including Air Races and named aircraft.



(Left) Studio portrait of Macpherson Robertson with an air race winner's cup. (Middle) Poster for one of the air races sponsored by the MacRobertson confectionery company and rights one of their original products.

Charles Kingsford Smith 1897-1935

- In 1928 he completed the first non-stop flight across Australia in the *Southern Cross*, landing in Maylands, after flying for 3,200 kms from Melbourne.
- Before his aviation career he was a dispatch rider at Gallipoli.
- Joined Western Australia Airways in 1921 and became one of the first commercial pilots in Australia.
- In 1928 he also plotted the first Trans-Pacific flight (California to Brisbane via Hawaii and Fiji) and the first Trans-Tasman flight.
- Sydney's airport was named in his honour.



Above: "Southern Cross" aircraft landing at Brisbane after crossing the Pacific.
Left: "Early Southern Cross" at a later aircraft flown by Kingsford Smith.

Harry 'Cannonball' Baker 1904-1986

- Skilled and fearless flyer and also motorcycle rider.
- Credited with being the 1st person in WA to take a vehicle to 100mph (160kph), earning himself the nickname of *Cannonball* after the famous USA motorcycle rider
- Was one of the first pupils at Norman Brearley's Perth Flying School in Maylands.
- In December 1932 was involved in a 'secret gold quest' flight with prospector Paddy Whelan that nearly ended in catastrophe after the plane crashed on a salt pan.
- Finished his career as Executive at Australian National Airways.



Amy Johnston CBE 1903-1941

- Pioneering aviatrix who achieved many firsts during her life.
- Set many long-distance and speed records in the 1930s: London-Moscow in one day, a record time for England-Japan; solo record for London-Cape Town; a record time for England-India
- Gained world-wide fame as the first woman to fly solo England-Australia, with her flight ending in Maylands.
- Gained her UK pilot's licence in 1929 and in 1930 was awarded the CBE and Australian Civil Pilot's Licence No.1 in recognition of her solo flight achievements
- In 1941 while flying for the Air Transport Auxiliary her plane crashed in the Thames Estuary – she bailed out and her body was never recovered.



Left: Amy is greeted by well-wishers at Maylands aerodrome July 1930 at the end of her solo flight from England.
Above: Amy Johnson in 1930

Left Aviation Personalities A reproduction of the A0-sized poster included within the new Aerodrome display. We will be adapting this sort of image for use at Maylands golf course, since many of the 18 holes are named after famous aviators or aircraft.

We have just started to work with Maylands Golf Course to help them set up permanent displays relating to the story of Maylands Aerodrome – the forerunner of Perth Airport - since part of the golf course occupies land once used for the airfield. There are many aeronautical and aviator references around the course: for example, the name of the restaurant (The Hangar) and the naming of all 18 holes. We will share some of our archive images and information to create eye-catching and informative panels for their public areas. In return they have become our newest sponsor and will provide golfing vouchers for our raffles.

We continue to engage with Officers and Elected members within the City of Bayswater and we also maintain regular communication with our newly-elected representatives at State and Federal levels. All of these interactions help to reinforce the importance of preserving and sharing information on the "History and Heritage" of our suburb.

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 History Society Call for papers – Fremantle Studies Day


The highlight of the Fremantle History Society's calendar is Fremantle Studies Day, through which we strive to achieve two of our main objectives: to encourage new research and writing of the history of Fremantle, and then to publish the results. A half-day event, it has been held annually since 1996, the papers presented contributing much to the understanding of this city's history and heritage.

We are now calling for papers. Applications are encouraged from community members, students, historians, academics or individuals interested in Fremantle's history. The work submitted is expected to be original and not submitted elsewhere, of academic quality, based on factual research and it is hoped will give a new or fresh perspective on past research. Papers are generally somewhere between 5,000-8,000 words in length and photographs or illustrations are encouraged.

Applicants will present their work at this year's Fremantle Studies Day on Sunday 19th October. Papers are then submitted to the editorial committee for publication in the next volume of the award winning Fremantle Studies Journal to ensure your hard work will have an enduring legacy. A copy of the work will be lodged with the Fremantle History Centre.


For more information or to express your interest in being a presenter, please contact our President Jude Robison on 0434 571 666 or secretary.fhs@gmail.com

Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of WA



**Jewish Historical &
Genealogical Society WA Inc**

Rabbi Dan Lieberman presents:



**The
ANZAC Rabbi:
David Isaac
Freedman**

**Sunday 22nd June 2025
1:30pm for 2:00pm start**

Please note Change of address.

**Perth Hebrew Congregation (PHC)
Freedman Rd, Menora**

Members: \$5.00 Non Members \$10.00

www.jhgsa.org.au

**RSVP: Michelle 0418 910 258
michelle.urban@jhgsa.org.au**

Please RSVP for Security Purposes

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.

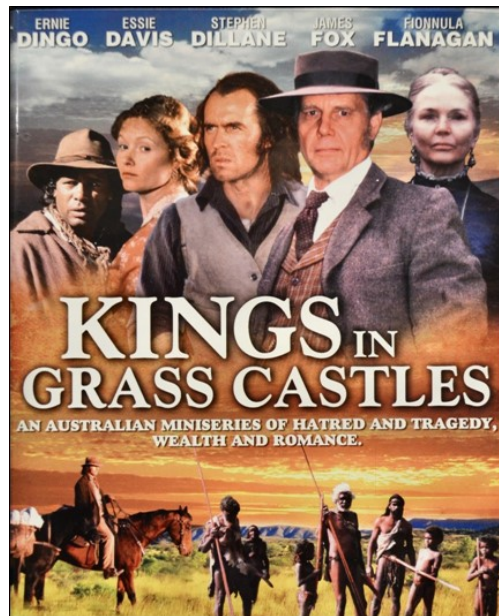
We also open on request for families, schools and community groups. Phone Trevor 0499977529 or email -serpentine.hs@outlook.com



HISTORY WEST

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

HWCC ANNUAL LECTURE



Weaving history into film making

from Logie-winning 'Tracks of Glory' today's 'Such Was Life' on SBS

Paul Barron

Film and television producer and writer

UWA Club Auditorium Wednesday 2 July, 6 for 6.30pm

Our digital multi-media world presents new and exciting opportunities for bringing history to modern audiences. Explore with Paul how his passion for history is woven into his film making.

Don't forget to tell your diary

Cost \$40 Bookings essential

Click on the link or scan the QR code

<https://www.trybooking.com/CZYCC>



An Immersive Journey Through Art and Inspiration a bicentennial project hosted by the Hilton Hotel Albany:

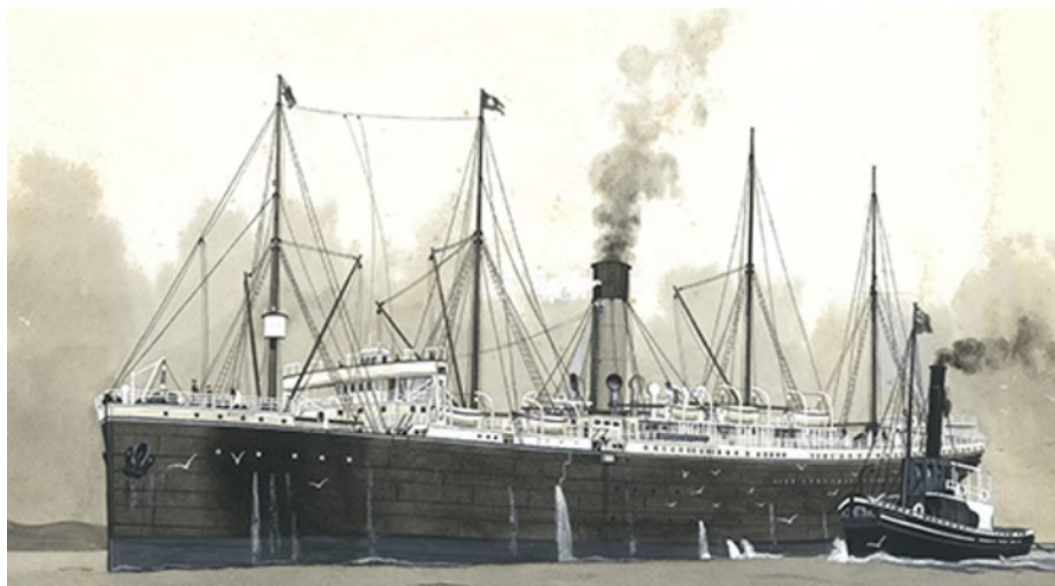
The Albany Historical Society in collaboration with Hilton Garden Inn is excited to present a truly exceptional exhibition that will feature over 60 never-before-seen original works of art, including watercolours, drawings, and prints. This remarkable collection will spotlight the talent of local Albany artists and offer a rare opportunity to explore a diverse array of artworks drawn from AHS's extensive catalogue and archives. The Art Exhibition will include pencil sketches, commercial works, historical printing plates, photographic prints, postcards, early settler depictions and oral histories, each offering a unique glimpse into the rich artistic heritage of 'Kinjarling' Albany and its surrounding region.

This exhibition is not only a must-see event for art enthusiasts, but it will also showcase a number of historically and nationally significant pieces that are invaluable to the cultural fabric of Western Australia. The Art Collection plays an essential role in preserving and promoting the artistic legacy of our region, providing a lasting contribution to the arts community. By offering the public the opportunity to experience these important works firsthand, we aim to celebrate and honour the legacy of artists whose contributions have shaped our artistic landscape.

Each work is by local artists, each telling its own unique and compelling story. This exhibition not only shines a spotlight on the talent of Albany's artists but also offers a profound exploration of the region's rich history through a diverse range of art forms. It serves as a wonderful opportunity to engage both the local community and visitors, providing an enriching experience that honors our past while celebrating the vibrant creativity that continues to define Albany today.

One of the major highlights of this exhibition is the Batelier Collection, which will be prominently featured alongside the works of renowned local artists such as John Barker and Brenda Holland, including some of Brenda's works that were entered in the 1930 Archibald Prize. In addition, we will be showcasing a selection of one-off pieces. This unique collection promises to offer an unparalleled experience for both art lovers and history buffs. The exhibition will provide an immersive journey through the diverse artistic traditions that have defined Albany and the Great Southern's cultural identity spanning over 200 years. It will be displayed at the Hilton hotel commencing from 21st of January 2026 concluding on 22nd of January 2027.

HMAS Encounter | c.1906

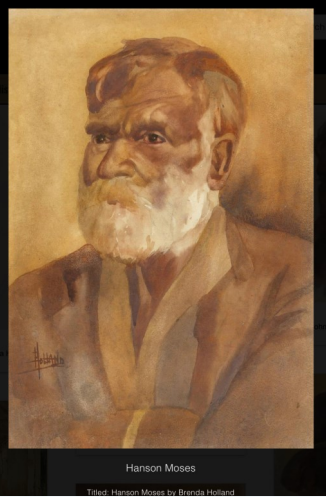


SS Suevic steaming into PRH with Tug the Bruce Towing a Lighter

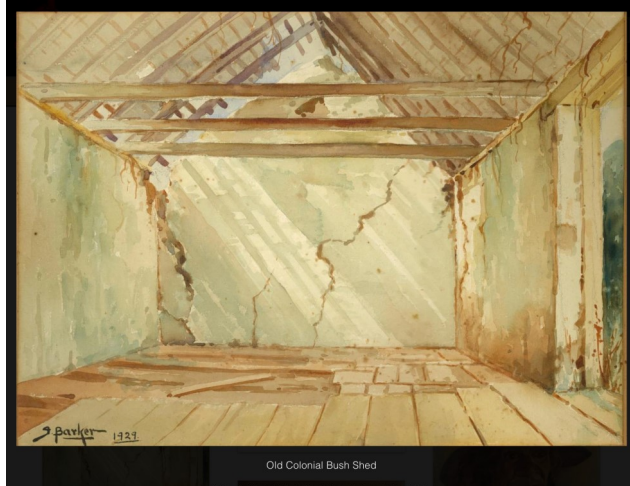


Mary Wheeler

Titled: Mary Wheeler by Brenda Holland



The Art of Restoring: Albany Historical Society is proud to announce it's self-funded restoration of several exquisite art pieces by renowned local artists; Brenda Holland and John Barker, in preparation for the highly anticipated Bicentenary Art Exhibition. This meticulous restoration effort ensures that these masterpieces, rich in local history and cultural significance, are preserved and showcased in their full splendour. By doing so, the Society enables visitors to immerse themselves in the



artistry and heritage of Albany, while celebrating this monumental anniversary. The restoration work underscores the AHS's unwavering commitment to safeguarding our cultural legacy and fostering a deeper connection to the artistic history of our community.

Andrew Eyden

Donnybrook Historical Society

Donnybrook Historical Society Inc. Presents Museum Open Day & 100-Year Celebration of the 1925 Buick

📍 44A Emerald Street, Donnybrook

📅 Saturday, 4th October 2025

🕒 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Join us for a day of nostalgia, local history, and classic car celebration as the Donnybrook Historical Society opens the doors to its museum and marks **100 years of the 1925 Buick!**

🍰 Morning Tea & Cake Celebration – 11:00 AM

Enjoy complimentary **tea, coffee, and homemade biscuits**, followed by the **cutting of the birthday cake** in honour of the Buick's centenary.

🍴 Picnic & BBQ – Lunchtime

Arriving later? No worries! **Free BBQs** will be available for those bringing a picnic lunch. We're also in talks with **local cafés, wineries, and the Donnybrook Brewery** for some great lunch options around town.

🗣️ Guest Speakers

Hear firsthand stories and memories from local community members about the **Trevena Family**, the original owners of the Buick. A heartfelt tribute to local history!

📖 Explore Donnybrook

You don't have to stay all day — come and go as you please. We'll have information available on exploring the **Donnybrook district**, including **river walks, wineries, and hidden historical gems** in our beautiful shire.

All visitors to the South West are warmly invited.

Please come and say hello to the friendly team from **Donnybrook Historical Society Inc.**

📄 *More details to come – stay tuned!*

Fresh paint brightens Kalamunda History Village - Our village has undergone a transformation over the past 18 months through the repainting of some of our significant buildings. In most part the work has been completed by the dedicated efforts of Sally Wensley and the Painting Ladies. Their recent work has brought a new lease of life to several buildings within the village, making them look sharp and vibrant.

Recently, the Northern end of the post office building required attention due to the leaching of the top colour into the green weatherboards. After some preparation by Bob Rogers the Painting Ladies meticulously sealed and repainted the cladding and trim, ensuring that the colours remain distinct and the building's aesthetic preserved.

In addition to the post office, the station verandah, along with its doors and trim, received fresh coats of paint. The careful repainting has revitalised the structure, enhancing its historical charm and inviting appearance. Sally reported that the work on the supporting structure was finicky due to the crossover of so many wooden posts and beams, and that it was also extremely dirty and dusty in the higher parts near the roof. Discovering the correct colour to use proved tricky because of conflicting notes, and red herrings thrown in by two existing tins of paint marked as the station trim again having different colour formulas. Sally's painting expertise was invaluable, using the good old Mark One eyeball to visually match the colour. The painting of the small goods building will now be done within our volunteer ranks to finalise the station work. This latest round of painting completes the bulk of the planned work within the village, with Chambers House external and the Ellis Cottage internal work completed earlier. The buildings now stand as testaments to the skill and dedication of Sally and her team. Their efforts have ensured that our village remains a picturesque and welcoming destination for visitors, and the fabric of the buildings are looking sharp and robust for many more years to come.

Looking ahead, the next significant project will likely involve the school building, continuing the village's commitment to preserving its heritage through regular maintenance and improvement. Meanwhile, work will soon begin on the McCullagh Cottage verandah. The planned restoration aims to remove the warped beams and reinforce the structure, ensuring its durability and longevity while still preserving the heritage nature of the cottage. Special thanks are due to Bob Rogers for his invaluable support and input. His contributions have been instrumental in guiding the restoration efforts, ensuring that Kalamunda History Village continues to thrive as a loved and valued historical landmark and a vibrant and engaging destination for all who visit.

Paula Watkins



Some of the completed trim on the station.



The finished beam structures of the station building



Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society proudly announces Leon Ashton as the inaugural winner of the Wilson Publishing Grant. Established in 2020 through a generous donation from life member Scott Wilson and his wife, Maria, the grant offers up to \$1,000 to support the publication of original works focused on Goldfields history.

In 2024, Leon visited the Society to present his compelling memoir, *Yehbut*, which chronicles his journey from South Australia to a bachelor's life in 1970s Kalgoorlie. The book traces his experiences across various remote locales, including Parkston, the Trans Australia Railway, Israelite Bay, and Maralinga. He also shares insights from his time with the State Emergency Service and the Water Authority in the Western Desert. Brimming with familiar names and iconic places, this captivating new release promises to resonate with readers across the region.

Yehbut! Is available for purchase at the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society and selected bookshops throughout the Goldfields.

LEON MURRAY ASHTON

YEHBUT!



THE STORY OF A LIFE AND THE PEOPLE
WHO HELPED SHAPE IT

Grant Opportunities



Australia Post Community Grants More information here -

[Community Grants](#)

2025 Australia Post Community Grants Guidelines

Supporting eligible local community projects that help people connect and stay mentally well.

Apply now for a grant of up to \$10,000.

Key dates

Applications open:	Tuesday 10 June 2025 (10.00am AEST)
Applications close:	Monday 7 July 2025 (11.59pm AEST)
Successful grant applicants notified:	Late September 2025

Contact us if you have any questions about the Community Grants program including eligibility.

Email: grants@auspost.com.au

Website: auspost.com.au/grants

For technical issues with SmartyGrants or the application form, please call the SmartyGrants support team on (03) 9320 6888.

**REGIONAL
ARTS WA**

You can apply for funding to support arts projects, professional development for artists and workers, and community capacity building projects. Funded projects will meet the objectives of the Regional Arts Fund.

Key dates - Opens July 2025

More information can be found at -

<https://regionalartswa.org.au/funding/raf-project-grants/>



VOLUNTEERS