

Affiliates Newsletter

2024-15

March 2025

Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society The Story of How Piesse Brook School Got its Playground. Written by Mr Hal Pike

My association with the school began about 1950 when a few indefatigables began a drive to put in a playground for the children attending the school. If anyone was to visit the site and try to envisage the area requiring improvements one would be looking at a problem that put the playground at about 40 degrees from the level.

By means of a 'shanghai'd' bulldozer, a box of Monobel (an explosive), some picks, shovels, wheelbarrows and last but not least by any means, the backup force that out did each other by providing charm (to encourage, cakes (to fill) and drinks –it was dry work 'talking'.

A few of us actually did something constructive really – yes even when it came to the final finishing touches that involved the use of a grader loaned by the Darling Range Road Board.

I think the P & C president was Cec Wright whose wife Grace was a very hard worker for our cause.

Our parties got to the stage where the kettle on the hob was totally inadequate so a move was made to obtain a copper and fit it into a 44gallon drum. I had the task of providing a lid, someone else supplied an elbow from an old burnt out casing and the necessary flue while Cec Wright had the job of cutting the necessary hole in the top of the drum with, of all things a carving knife (his words). A hammer was used to provide thrust. The whole job turning out very satisfactory and absolutely essential for the celebration party that was held on 5th November, 1950. A very large crowd was in attendance and I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The fireworks display nearly got out of hand when a sky rocket decided to stay put in its launching site and ignited some nearby crackers! Jack Thomas rendered some very welcome assistance and saved the day ! Guess who was in charge of the fireworks?



School c 1928 showing slope it was built on

Next Affiliates Committee
Meeting will be held on the
10th April 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@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.

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.






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

Committee News

Great News! If you submitted a 2024 Affiliates report, it is now available online. If you click the link, you can see all the great work the other Affiliated Societies have done over the past year.

<https://histwest.org.au/activity-reports-news/>



Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society The Story of How Piesse Brook School Got its Playground continued

The ladies out did each other and proved that, as well as being very able dancing partners and were very decorative into the bargain, they turned out magnificent cream puffs(with oodles of cream), cakes (including a decorated cake for the raffle donated by Mrs. Loaring) and sandwiches.

At this time, John & Glenn Miller (both teachers but not at this school) were very involved. John being the go-between between the P&C and the Education Dept. They both helped us very willingly in our efforts, that is, by approach to the Education Dept and in their unselfish efforts to help us raise money to effectively execute the completion of our project.

Some of the names of those families involved in the project were: Bateman, Loaring, McQuirter, Palmer, Lyneham, Wright, Doyle, Thomas, Miller, Hutchison, Pike.

Addendum: I attended this school for my first 2 years of education 1953/1954 and got to enjoy a level playground but this school opened in 1928 so for 22 years children learned to walk and play on a slope. All that work for only 4 years

as in 1954 the school was closed at the introduction of the school bus service and the Central School Idea.



School photo c1951 taken on the new playground

It was all hush hush back then, but the 'shanghaied' bulldozer came from the army via Mr Lyneham who was still in the service after returning from the war. I don't think there is any harm mentioning his name at this late stage, but it just proves that nothing has changed – the old saying "it's who you know not what you know" still stands!

Busselton Historical Society - UNVEILING OF HAND CARVINGS

On Friday, 14th February Busselton Historical Society members were delighted to host a small ceremony to unveil the beautiful Marion St Clair Layman carvings. The carvings are now on display in the Busselton Museum after being relocated from the Busselton Woolworths store in October last year.

Great-great-great-niece of Clair Layman, Linda Edwards, BHS member Kate Sutherland who travelled from Melbourne, Emma-Clare Bussell and Jacquie Happ of the City of Busselton joined several committee members for a delicious morning tea. After a few words from BHS President Stephanie Piper, Linda and Kate unveiled the new signage for the carvings. Linda expressed thanks for the hard work to gain the carvings and for setting up the display of her ancestor's hand-carved works, which her aunty would be so proud of.



BHS President Stephanie Piper with Linda Edwards and Kate Sutherland



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.

Local accommodation includes:

- 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

We look forward to seeing you in September.

Reviewing the Annual Merit Award for Affiliated Societies

The Affiliates Committee has been looking at the current Merit Award system and discussing whether it could, or should, be amended in some way to become more useful for the Affiliated Societies as well as providing essential information for the RWAHS.

The Committee would like to hear from as many Affiliates as possible and I have volunteered to coordinate the responses and provide a summary to the Committee.

Please read the background notes (see page 5) and submit your Society's feedback to me before the end of March. Once the feedback has been received and analysed, the Affiliates Committee will share some recommendations for the development of the Award and maybe suggest other forms of knowledge sharing that could be introduced in the future.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Keith Cundale
mhpahistwest@gmail.com

Reviewing Merit Awards for Affiliates

The Affiliates Committee has been considering potential changes to the current arrangements for the “Merit Award” and would like to canvass the opinions of the Affiliated Societies before making any final recommendations. Please read the background notes below and then record your comments and suggestions on the attached sheet and send it to back to Keith Cundale (mhpahistwest@gmail.com) who is coordinating this review process.

Summary of the current arrangements

- There is currently a requirement for all Affiliated Societies to submit an annual report on their activities, along with confirmation of the office bearers for the current year.
- The current documentation includes a number of prompts to help shape a report on the Society's activities during the previous year.
- These reports have been used as the basis for identifying one Society as worthy of receiving the *RWAHS Award of Merit* which is presented at the WA State Annual History Conference.

Criticisms of the current arrangements

- The possibility of winning the Award was seen as a potential incentive for Affiliated Societies to submit their reports on time, although there is evidence that the actual number of reports submitted has been consistently no higher than 30% of the total – so perhaps that incentive is not working!
- The prompts in the reporting outline do not always apply to the actual activities of a Society: in effect we are not comparing “Apples with Apples”.

For example: effective management of a society whose main efforts are focussed on running a museum is somewhat different to a Society focussing on community outreach, visits or talks.

- *One is not better than the other: they are just different!*

Suggested actions to move ahead

It has been suggested that a revised approach could be to require all Affiliated Societies to submit their Chair / President's Report for the most recent year, along with confirmation of the office bearers for the forthcoming year. This would certainly simplify the reporting load for the Affiliated Society since there would be no need to create a special “Merit Award Report”.

Learning from others

- Suggestions have been made for ways in which the various Affiliates around Western Australia might interact more systematically with others and therefore have the chance to learn from what others are doing.

This process of sharing best practices could be achieved in various ways: but the Affiliates Committee would like to canvass the opinions of the constituent Societies before making any further recommendations

Feedback sheet

- Please complete the attached feedback form with as much detail as possible and send it to Keith Cundale by Friday 14th March so that he can summarise the feedback for the next meeting of the Affiliates Committee.
- The Committee will then share the results with all of the Affiliates and outline the next steps.

Any questions - Please feel free to contact Keith Cundale.

1: Does your Society agree with the view that the current Merit Award system could be improved and made more effective?

Affiliate organisation:

Respondent's e-mail address:

What comments do you have? Do you agree with not giving a Merit Award this year – waiting until it has been re-designed?

Comments & suggestions

2: It is proposed that the current **reporting element** of the Meirit Award process could be replaced by a requirement for each Affiliated Society to submit a copy of the Annual Report from the President / Chair, together with confirmation of the current office bearers. Does this seem a good move to you?

Comments & suggestions

3: Information sharing and learning from others

It has been suggested that we develop some simple mechanisms for sharing of current best practices, new ideas, effective solutions etc. This might involve such activities as

- Workshop sessions on selected topics at the Annual State Conference
- Poster displays of your good practices or new ideas
- Breakout groups to focus on selected themes, topics or techniques

Note: the focus of these discussions and information-sharing activities could vary each year to provide variety and an opportunity for Affiliated Societies with different areas of interest to find something relevant for them.

To what extent do you agree with these ideas? Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

4: Potential involvement of the RWAHS Council and leadership

It has been suggested that the Affiliates might need (or want!) greater involvement and support from the Council.

In what ways could the Council support your local (Affiliate's) activities? Please be creative!

5: Any other comments

Please send your responses to mhpahistwest@gmail.com by c.o.b Friday 28th March 2025

The Anna Salen

In 2020 Amanda Lovitt decided to do some research on the passengers that accompanied her dad to Australia from post war Europe. It was coming up to the 70th anniversary of his arrival on 31st December 1950. Her initial thought was that it would be a big job but not that big. Surely?

The ship was called Anna Salen, and it was a far from glorious transporter that on more than one occasion broke down. It started life as the Tasman, and was eventually scrapped. Like most passengers Amanda's father Peter Haas left from Bremerhaven. He travelled with his first wife and her daughter. Peter was born in Czechoslovakia in 1928, and his wife in Germany in 1918. There were 1550 passengers on that particular journey, and that was why Amanda knew it would be a big job. Then she began to get queries from others asking about their families and they weren't on that list, but had travelled on the Anna Salen. Before long her research showed there was in fact over 10,000 passengers who arrived on 10 different journeys of the one ship. Amanda isn't sure if it was the 50% stubborn Slovak in her, or her decades on the Goldfields that made her determined to keep going. She has now told the stories of close to 8000 passengers on a Facebook Group called Anna Salen Immigrants to Australia.

Amanda said "This may seem like recent history to some, as many passengers, particularly those who were children are alive and well. This is why the telling of this history has to start now, as it will be lost over time." Presentations on the project have been done by Amanda at Collie, Eaton, Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, Northam and at Family History WA Bayswater over the last couple of years. She's always happy to do these presentations for community groups and historical societies, so please get in touch with her if you would like to hear the stories first hand.

The stories of the passengers are as varied as their names and backgrounds. Many were listed as labourers, and were in fact highly educated in law, medicine and science. Some became religious leaders, artists and actors. Over the past 4 years of managing the project, Amanda has seen many connections made as people recognise a family member, then discover other family members through that process. Online reunions are now quite common. This provides closure for some of the families in Eastern Europe who were left wondering what happened to that old uncle that grandma always spoke of, or that cousin of dads that he never knew what became of them.

A multitude of sites are explored in the research, and in future newsletter articles, Amanda will explain some of the research, and share some of the amazing stories.



Above: Anna Salen

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 BOOKSHOP RELOCATION SALE

Charles Court I love this place by Ronda Jamieson \$5

We Must Ever Be Friends The GHS and St Hilda's Old Scholars Association Edited by Pam Casellas \$5

Two and Sixpence A Student Century UWA Student Guild Edited by Patrick Cornish \$5

They Served With Honour Untold Stories of Western Australian Aboriginal Servicemen at Gallipoli by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs \$10

Northcliffe The Town That Refused To Die by Carole Perry \$5

The Legend from Bruce Rock. The Wally Foreman Story by G E Foreman \$20

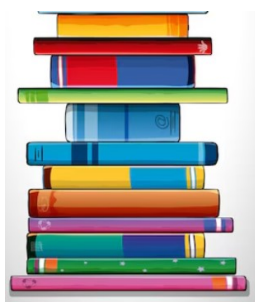
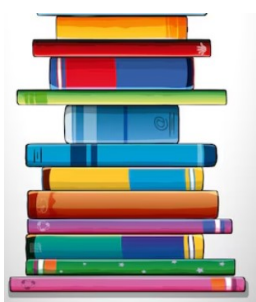
Lucky Ross The Autobiography of an R.A.N. Officer -1934-1951 by W H Ross \$2

The Shentons by June Shenton Turner \$30

On We Go The Wittenoom Way by Jacqueline O'Brien & Pamela Statham Drew \$10

For more information on purchasing these titles please contact Linda Bush, the Bookshop Manager

bookshop@histwest.org.au





PASSIONATE, PAST AND CURRENT RESIDENTS

ALONG WITH

THE GOLDEN OLDIES FOOTBALL CLUBS

ANNUAL RACECOURSE GET TOGETHER

at

BELMONT RACECOURSE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21st 2025

From 11.30am

Come along to renew acquaintances of days gone by!

No restrictions, No exemptions, No invitations JUST TURN UP!

Belmont Park Riverview Room - Grandstand 2nd Floor

Free entry

Full bar and food facilities available

Race event card for the punters

Shuttle Bus from Burswood Station - before and after

Please bring and securely display your own name tag

Spread the message to family and friends through direct contact and importantly ... copy and paste to your Facebook, Instagram and "X" accounts. **INSIST THEY PASS IT ON**

Contact **Nicola Unkovich - 0438 115 796** for further information

Grant Opportunity

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

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

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

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

- Upgrades or minor capital works. Equipment. Technology.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



VOLUNTEERS