

Affiliated Societies

of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Newsletter

July 2025

2025-19

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

Wilson Academic Bursary 2025-26 - Congratulations to Lucy Hair on her successful application for the 2025-26 Wilson Academic Bursary. Lucy's application asks the question: Why were so few Asian people on the Eastern Goldfields? We congratulate Lucy on the success of her application and look forward to the final paper.

Lucy is a professional historian with several decades of experience working on WA History Projects. Since 2023, Lucy has served as the Project Officer for the Two Centuries of Chinese Heritage in Western Australia project, a major initiative funded by the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations, which is managed by the University of Western Australia.

Lucy's research project focuses on the exclusion of Chinese and other Asian people from the towns on the Eastern Goldfields.

Also Happening at the EGHS - The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society Secures Ninth Year of City Funding to Sustain Local Heritage Work.

The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society (EGHS) is proud to announce that it has secured 12 months of funding from the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder under the City's Annual Grants Program—marking the ninth consecutive year of support.

Founded in 1946, EGHS has been a cornerstone of the local community, preserving and promoting the region's rich history. Operating solely as a volunteer-run organization for seventy years, the Society achieved a milestone in 2016 when it received funding to appoint a full-time Executive Officer, ushering in a new era of professional leadership.

The EGHS continues to thrive today, under the guidance of current Executive Officer Rosie Stroud. Notable achievements in recent years include the opening of Stage One of the Kanowna Heritage Trail in December 2024, recognition as City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community Group of the Year in 2022, and hosting the highly successful 2021 State History Conference, which drew more than 200 history enthusiasts to the Goldfields.

Executive Officer Rosie Stroud commented, "It's great to see the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder recognizing the value of our work. We're one of the largest volunteer organizations in the Eastern Goldfields, and this ongoing support helps us continue preserving and promoting our unique local history."

Next Affiliates Committee
Meeting will be held in
August.

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 109 Stirling Hwy (corner Baird St), 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



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.

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society continued from page 1

President Tim Cudini added his appreciation for the City's continued partnership. "We're incredibly grateful that the City has continued to recognise the valuable work the Historical Society has been undertaking for a long time. The latest grant from the City will allow the Society to employ a Customer Service Officer to complement the work of our Executive Officer and increase our capacity to deliver for our local community and visitors to the region."

Originally established as a branch of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, EGHS became an incorporated organization in 1979. It now operates out of the Old Boulder Power Station on Hamilton Street in Boulder, with a mission to preserve, promote, research, and record the history of the Eastern Goldfields.

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

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.





The Federation of Australian Historical Societies annually offers awards in two categories, Fellowships and Awards of Merit. [For your convenience, the guidelines and nomination forms can be found on the FAHS website: https://www.history.org.au/awards/](https://www.history.org.au/awards/)

The website further contains lists of former awardees in both categories:

- Fellowship - <https://www.history.org.au/fellowship-award/>;
- Merit - <https://www.history.org.au/merit-award/>

Please consider nominating if you believe that your society knows anyone who might be eligible for a Fellowship and Merit Awards.

Nominations for all awards need to be received by Dr Don Garden at gardendon@outlook.com no later than **15 September, 2025**. If you have any questions, please also contact Don.

Guidelines for Awards of Merit -The Federation of Australian Historical Societies (Inc.) (FAHS) annually calls for nominations for its Awards of Merit. Up to five Awards of Merit are awarded to individuals. These awards take the form of a Certificate of Merit.

Awards of Merit are recognition of a **meritorious contribution** to the community history and heritage movement across a region, at State/Territory level or across more than one State/Territory.

Any individual is eligible for this award who has **an association with** one of the constituent societies of the Federation, namely the Canberra & District Historical Society, Historical Society of the Northern Territory, History Trust of South Australia, Royal Australian Historical Society, Royal Historical Society of Queensland, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Royal Western Australian Historical Society, Tasmanian Historical Research Association **OR** the Launceston Historical Society **or other** community history/heritage organisation.

Eligibility must be demonstrated through one or more of the following:

- meritorious contribution to historical/heritage bodies across a region, at State/Territory level or across more than one State/Territory;
- meritorious contribution to the collection, preservation, care and management of movable and/or built heritage across a region, State/Territory or more than one State/Territory;
- meritorious contribution to advocacy for the protection and conservation of movable and built heritage across a region, State/Territory or more than one State/Territory;
- meritorious contribution to Australian historiography across a region, State/Territory or more than one State/Territory;
- publication of meritorious works that promote engagement with community history and/or heritage or heritage protection across a region, State/Territory or more than one State/Territory;
- meritorious contribution to advocacy for and/or the teaching of history/heritage at primary, secondary and/or tertiary levels or similar, including teacher training and ongoing professional learning;
- meritorious contribution to the technology that has supported the preservation or promotion of built or movable cultural heritage across a region, State/Territory or more than one State/Territory;
- [other forms of meritorious contribution having a bearing on achieving the aims of the FAHS and/or the community history and heritage movement across a region, State/Territory or more than one State/Territory.](#)

State History Conference 2025

Bookings are now live for the State History Conference 2025. You can book on line or call Denise on 9411 3306 or 0408 927 989 for assistance.

Royal WA Historical Society State History Conference - City of Cockburn

Here is more detailed information about how to book for the conference "Faces and Spaces of Cockburn" from 12th to 14th September.

Bookings are just open to Historical Society members until 31 July. After that we will advertise the conference more widely.

All the details of the talks, tours and social events are on the booking website:

<https://megatix.com.au/events/fas-cockburn>

How to book:

Click on the booking website link

<https://megatix.com.au/events/fas-cockburn>

Have a look at the details of each event and especially choose which Saturday and Sunday tour you would like to go on

- Click **Buy Tickets**
- Click on the + sign to indicate the number of tickets you want for each event
- When you have chosen them all, click **Continue**
- If you haven't used Megatix before you will need to fill in the details at Guest Checkout, then click **Register**
- Put in your credit card details
- Click **Purchase**
- You will receive your tickets by email

Any problems, or if you would like assistance with the booking please call Denise on 9411 3306 or 0408 927 989. She works part time but will to you as soon as possible.



Royal WA Historical Society
Affiliated Societies Annual
State Conference



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



State History Conference Exhibition

Passion and Protest, Cockburn Community Speaks Up!

A history of protest in the City of Cockburn with stories of people who have spoken out.

Campaigns of passion and protest have taken many forms since Nyungar leader *Midgegooroo* resisted European colonialisation, which threatened Beeliar land and community in the early 1830s.

Nearly 112,000 people now live in the City of Cockburn's 23 suburbs, which span three landscapes: the western coastal area, the wetland chain in the central ward, and bushland and farmland to the east. Diverse issues have shaped each area.

Some campaigns have been for a better outcome, like the *Jandakot Railway League* Campaign (1902), and market gardener *Tony Galati's* campaign against the Potato Marketing Board (1998-2017).

In the 1980s many people in the community supported anti-nuclear protests, including 400 women from all over Australia, who were concerned at the growing US military presence in Cockburn Sound. They camped outside the gates of HMAS Stirling for the 1984 *Cockburn Sound Women's Peace Camp*.

Other protests galvanised around coastal areas by local residents who valued their family connections to place. These included the *Coogee Coastal Action Coalition* (2002) and the *Save Naval Base Shacks* group (2010).

Two campaigns were efforts to protect the precious bushland environment of the area. The *Farrington Road protest* (1984), and the *Save Beeliar Wetlands/Roe 8 protest* (2000-2017), involved hundreds of people who literally put their bodies on the line in protest actions.

Other protests occurred in response to government actions to resume land. Residents of Bibra Lake formed the *Resumptions Protest Federation* to fight for land resumed for State Housing in 1954. Another group formed in Wattleup and Hope Valley (*KABZ*), to advocate for fair compensation when their entire town and rural areas were resumed for an industrial estate in 1997. Finally, Cockburn residents rejected government plans for forced amalgamations in 2015 with their *Hands Off Cockburn Protest*.



John and Kevin Nelson with the signs they organised as part of the Save Naval Base Shacks campaign, 2010. Photo Jo Darbyshire, 2025



"No Roe 8" on the bridge opposite Hamilton Hill High School, 2017. Photo Gideon Digby

It is with deep respect and heartfelt gratitude that we pay tribute to Nick Trandos, a man whose dedication, vision, and tireless efforts have left a lasting legacy in the City of Wanneroo and far beyond.

As one of the esteemed patrons of the Wanneroo Historical Society, Nick's support was more than symbolic—it was active, passionate, and rooted in a genuine love for the region's rich heritage. He understood the importance of preserving our past to inform and inspire future generations. His advocacy for historical education and his generous involvement helped ensure that the stories of our early settlers, the evolution of our community, and the cultural identity of Wanneroo remained alive and accessible to all.

Beyond his work in heritage, Nick Trandos was a pioneer grower in the City of Wanneroo—part of a generation that transformed the region into one of Western Australia's most productive agricultural hubs. From humble beginnings, he built a reputation as an innovator in horticulture, contributing not only to the economic prosperity of the region but also to the culture of hard work and resilience that defines Wanneroo's spirit. His family name became synonymous with quality produce, integrity, and a love of the land.

Over the years, Nick's endeavours extended into many areas:

He was a leader and mentor in the farming community, always willing to share knowledge and support the next generation of growers.

A community champion, he lent his voice and efforts to initiatives that enhanced the wellbeing of local families and supported migrant communities.

As a man of strong values, he was known for his humility, generosity, and unwavering commitment to community service.

Nick Trandos was not only a witness to the City of Wanneroo's transformation—he was an architect of it. His legacy is seen in the fields that still bear the fruits of his work, in the historical records he helped preserve, and in the hearts of those who had the privilege to know him.

We honour Nick today not only for what he achieved but for who he was—a true pioneer, a guardian of our history, and a beloved figure in our community.

May his contributions never be forgotten, and may his story continue to inspire.

With deepest respect and enduring gratitude.

Submitted By Jacqui Huntley



Bridgetown Historical Society wishes to deaccession a Lightening apple sorter.

Please contact Mary 0487 592 704 or email bridgetownhistory@inet.net.au for more information.

Busselton Historical Society

Historically Significant Donation -The Busselton Historical Society was excited to receive a recent donation from Timothy Harris of a historically significant woodturning lathe and saw sharpening vise.

Timothy is the author of the book *Colonial Furniture of Western Australia 1829-1910*, which documents all types of furniture used in colonial homes or farmhouses and made by local furniture makers from native timbers. Some of the furniture in the book was documented at the museum and around Busselton. While researching the book in the 2010s, one of his contacts in Busselton had acquired tools and a woodturning lathe from the Bovell family. This lathe was once owned by George Knapton, a renowned cabinet maker from Busselton. It was restored from a badly weathered frame with all its parts to a functioning lathe.

George Holland Knapton (1824-1898) and his family sailed from England aboard the *Travancore* and arrived at the Swan River settlement in 1854, after which they joined his father-in-law, John Herring, who had already settled in the Vasse. On his arrival in the Vasse, George worked in the Margaret River area and helped in the building of homes in Vasse and Wonnerup, including Wallcliffe House, the 12-room home of Alfred Bussell, where he was responsible for much of the internal jarrah woodwork made in a provincial Regency style.

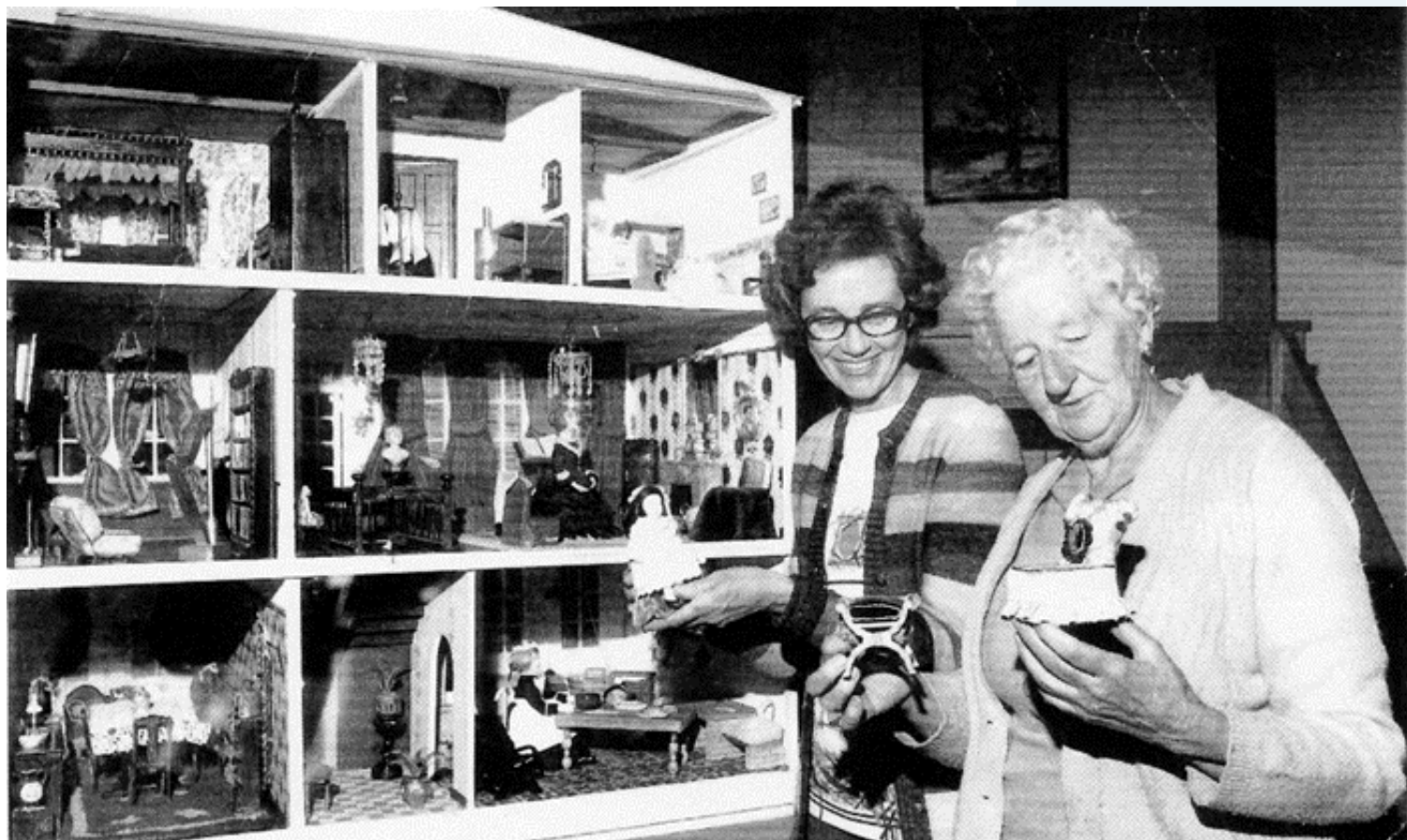
Around 1873, George purchased a carpentry and cabinetmaking business from American Charles Keyser. George worked this business along with his three sons, making furniture for many local properties. A particularly fine staircase is in Beachgrove in Busselton, a house Henry Prinsep designed for Capel Brockman (nee Bussell). Two of George's sons were the reputed makers of the furniture at Wonnerup House, although it is likely their father was also involved.

George Knapton held positions on the local Busselton Town Trust Board and became Mayor of Busselton in 1888. He became a well-known and highly respected identity in the south-west region. The lathe and vise are now exhibited in the Busselton Museum's Timber Room and complement the Knapton pit-sawn table already on display.

Submitted by Elizabeth Craigie



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If you visit the Kalamunda History Village have a **REALLY** good look at the doll's house in the Swindells Room in the school building.

How it came to be is really an extraordinary, fast-moving story of a major community effort in 1974. The Kalamunda & Districts Arts & Craft Group decided to embark on a project which incorporated as many of their skills as possible. And it had to be finished very quickly to be ready for WA Week that year.

Under the leadership of Thea Brown, the new committee decided that they would construct a miniature dolls house, of the Georgian period, 1872 was the specific year! Henk Romberg, with his carpentry skills, built the basic shell, using a scale of 1.5 inches to 1 foot. Thank goodness for the advent of metric measurement, so much easier!

Sixty other people got to work with substantial energy and talents and two months later it was ready to go on show. Along the way, whoever was in charge of publicity needs to be congratulated. Newspaper articles frequently appeared Kalamunda News, The West Australian and the project was even filmed by the ABC for TV. That so much community interest was generated is not surprising. It needs to be remembered that this period in the Shire of Kalamunda's history was one continuous boom for all the 1970s and into the 1980s. The extraordinary population growth and real estate development was at its peak. Almost feverish!

Next time you visit Swindells, have a close inspection: you will see tiny Georgian furniture and furnishings, a tiny piano and harp, chandelier, tiny books on the bookshelf, a mini fish, a loaf of bread and cheese, good enough for the cat and even mice! Miniature cutlery was on show to serve the tiny people. And so much more. Electricity was used to look like gas lights because that's how it was in 1872 England, pre-electricity.

Just when the Group was feeling smugly delighted with their phenomenal efforts, a young child asked, "But where are the stairs? How can the people go up into all three storeys?" So, hastily but with skill, an aluminium staircase was erected.

These days, school children and adults gaze in wonder at the precision which must have been used to produce such a detailed recreation of life in a rather wonderful house and home. But there is always a pedant in our midst....if it was 1872, was it not a Victorian house? Theo Brown admits that was just an error at the time. She also assures me that lots of other inaccuracies occurred because, frankly, making tiny miniatures is a really tricky skill! Maybe try it sometime.

For a more detailed account of this extraordinary project, see [20 Years of Creative Endeavour: The story of the Kalamunda & Districts Arts & Crafts Group](#) (Pub. 1993), pp.12-23

And maybe visit The Craft Wagon in front of KHV. That's part of their ongoing endeavour.

"What a brilliant day, I can't thank everyone enough." Iris Bristow was as radiant, as she was profound, on the occasion of her 100th birthday last Tuesday 24th, June 2025.

"Mum had professed to no fuss birthday, however, having made it to a milestone that not many people reach, she deserved to be celebrated. Having accomplished so much in her life, Mum is an enduring Inspiration to us all. Had Dad been sitting beside her, he'd have been grinning and proudly clutching her hand".

Having been 'arrested' at Lakeside and escorted in his van by Sergeant Craig Woods, Iris arrived to a huge welcome from family in front of the Recreation Centre. However, this was not before the highlight of hearing the school children and staff, lined along the school fence, joyfully singing 'Happy Birthday Mrs. Bristow! (Iris taught In Narembeen, her first appointment from 1945 until her marriage to Melvin Bristow In September, 1947)

Inside, the atmosphere was warm, casual and relaxed as Iris was engrossed with family, friends and acquaintances echoing birthday wishes and clinking glasses in celebration. Both Chris Bray on behalf of the Shire and Lorraine Lethlean on behalf of the Historical Society each presented Iris with beautiful flowers in recognition of her dedicated contribution to the district.

A prolific researcher and writer, Iris had penned her own family history in myriad exercise books many years ago, So, fittingly she was presented by family with a compilation of this history and of community involvement, complete in book form. (In 2003 Iris had received an OAM "for service to the community of Narembeen particularly the aged, local heritage and publishing").

Iris was invited to cut the cake(s) much of which was shared and devoured (with the remainder given to the children at school the following day). She returned to Lakeside ever grateful and thankful for the day of celebrations she could never have Imagined.

In reflection ... Iris had woken to the Lakeside dayroom adorned with birthday decorations then celebrated morning tea blowing out candles on an array of mouth watering cupcakes enjoyed by residents and staff.

Realized the 'arrest' was a ploy, was both Intrigued and delighted: covertly organised by Elaine Mitchell, Narembeen Health Services Manager, in engaging Sergeant Craig Woods to report for duty and tour past the school children on their way to the celebrations.

Expressed that she was sincerely humbled by all who joined her during the day and particularly those who had travelled distances. Gloria Smith, her only surviving sibling from five of the Moppett children, had come from Perth earlier to spend a couple of days to celebrate and reminisce.

Touched that King, Charles, Federal and State leaders and local constituents had forwarded their 'very best wishes' on reaching such a milestone. Caught the GWN Regional News in the evening to relive the interview from the day before and, with the reality of a 100 birthday expressing, how happy she had been during her life and lucky to be living in such a friendly town as Narembeen.



South Perth Historical Society

The South Perth Historical Society is busy now that the premises are renovated and a new air-conditioner is on the way.

We hosted the Kings Park Guides and will repeat the formula of a talk in the tram, a tour of the May Gibbs garden, statue and new artworks followed by a talk in Heritage House about May.

We are having a grand opening for the display of the 2025 inductees into the Women's Hall of Fame from 26 July. Alison is a fabulous new volunteer who has developed a great guest list and collected giveaways for exhibition visitors.

Anthea has developed a fun talk - 'About May Gibbs - a South Perth gal', that she is giving on Sunday 20 July at the South Perth Bowling Club where all are welcome but RSVP appreciated.

Plans for our Wattle Day and Phillip Pandal Youth Heritage Awards event on Saturday 30 August are underway.

The current display of May and Herbert Gibbs artwork.

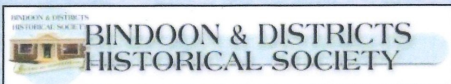


Grill'd is a yummy restaurant chain that gives customers a bottle top to put in a jar for a charity. We were lucky enough to be one of the chosen charities for June in Grill'd Waterford and won \$100.

We are very proud that Marjorie Barker was awarded an OAM, partly for all the work she has done for the Society.

Submitted by Anthea Harris

Bindoon & Districts Historical Society



BINDOON



Government of Western Australia's
Road Safety Community Grants Program.

TOWARDS ZERO
SAFETY AND ZERO DEATH
SAFETY AND ZERO INJURY
WWW.OTIS.WA.GOV.AU



HISTORIC VEHICLE DAY

(Incorporating the Bindoon Farmers Markets)
SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2025



9am to 3pm Bindoon Oval
6182 Great Northern Hwy Bindoon

MARKETS STALLS - FOOD - COFFEE - FREE ENTERTAINMENT - FREE LIONS TRAIN RIDE
FREE BOUNCY CASTLE
CHITTERING SPRINGFEST ARTS & CRAFT - QUILTS IN SPRING - HISTORICAL MUSEUM
OPEN STUDIOS - TRINITY CHURCH TOUR
COURTESY BUS TO THE BROCKMAN CENTRE

Enquiries: Chris Waldie 0411 420 501. Email: bindoonhistorical@gmail.com

