



# HISTORY WEST™

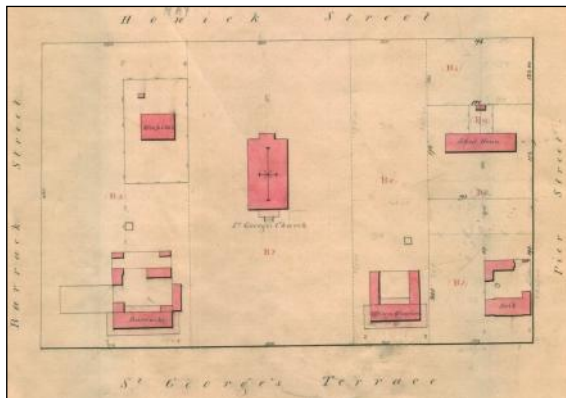
PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

July 2025

## GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting is on Wednesday 16 July at 6pm  
when Emily Lanman will present a talk titled 'Recovering Convict Voices from the Margins:  
Women and Convictism within Western Australia, 1829-1868'

109 Stirling Hwy Nedlands  
Refreshments available from 5.30pm



Perth Lockup plan-Pier St/St George's Tce, 1851,  
AU WA S235 cons3868 item 322, SROWA

to transportation or penal servitude. Through examining these convictions, this paper will demonstrate that these women were colonial convicts, and that their place within WA's history is just as significant as that of the male imperial convicts.

**Dr Emily Lanman** is an early career researcher and Learning Adviser at Edith Cowan University. Her broad research interest is the institutions used in the nineteenth century to control social order in Britain and across the empire. Emily's doctorate focused on the experiences of colonial offenders in WA's carceral network between 1829 and 1868. Her earlier MPhil research on Fremantle Gaol as an example of Jeremy Bentham's panopticon model prison was a joint winner of the 2022 Margaret Medcalf Award.



Emily Lanman

Convictism in the Western Australian context has long been associated with the transportation of imperial convicts from Britain and Ireland, which has resulted in colonial convicts being excluded from the convict narrative.

This becomes significant when considering the relationship between convictism and women as they are portrayed either as passive family members of male convicts or the victims of their crimes. However, by analysing the convictions women received and broadening the definition of a convict, it becomes apparent that a small number of female colonial convicts were present in colonial WA. This is evidenced by the convictions of Keziah Lockyer (1839), Mary Trubee (1852) and Louisa Garrett (1861)

### LOCAL AND DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

We understand that the female Colonial convict, Mary Trubee, who was transported some time since for arson, has become in such a delicate state of health from long confinement in the Perth Lock-up, where she has been undergoing her punishment, that she has received a ticket-of-leave to join her husband in the Toodyay district.

Inquirer, 14 Feb 1855, p2

## LAUNCH OF EARLY DAYS, NO. 108, 2024

109 Stirling Hwy, Nedlands  
Friday 1 August, 5.30pm  
Nibbles and drinks from 5pm

Please join us in celebrating the publication of the Society's annual journal

The authors featured in *Early Days* 108 will give three-minute talks about their topics followed by a short Q&A opportunity

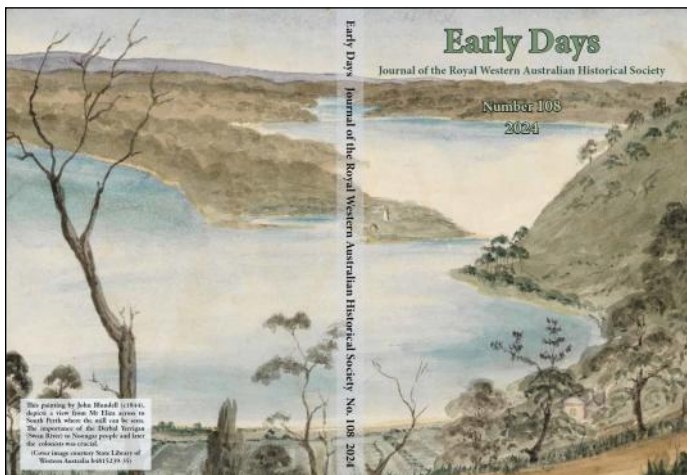
Copies available to members for collection as well as extra ones for purchase

Please ring: 9386 3841 or email:

[admin@histwest.org.au](mailto:admin@histwest.org.au)

or click on the link:

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



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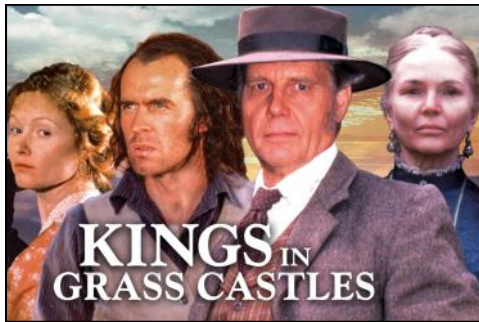
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# Forthcoming Events — Don't forget to book!

Or ring the office 9386 3841 [admin@histwest.org.au](mailto:admin@histwest.org.au)

## HWCC ANNUAL LECTURE

### HISTORY WEST ANNUAL LECTURE



**UWA Club Auditorium**  
**Wednesday 2 July, 6 for 6.30pm**

**Weaving history into film making**  
from Logie-winning 'Tracks of Glory'  
to today's 'Such Was Life' on SBS

**Paul Barron**

Film and television producer and writer

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.

Cost \$40 Bookings essential  
Click on the link or scan the QR code  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CZYCC>



## HISTORY IN THE CITY



**Citiplace Community Centre, Upper-Level**  
**City Railway Station Complex**  
**Wednesday 2 July, 2pm start**

**Mannings, Maids, and Market Gardeners:**  
**The Women of Cockburn**

a taster for State History Conference, 12-14 September

**Tony Bird, Museum Officer, Azelia Ley**  
**Homestead Museum**

Tony will look at the roles of women from European  
colonisation in the district to women's involvement in  
the thriving market garden industry from the 1890s  
through their variety of 20th century activities.

## PRESIDENT'S HOUSEWARMING

**Wednesday 9 July at 6pm**  
**109 Stirling Highway, Nedlands**



Celebrate with fellow members  
the first meeting in our new premises  
**Refreshments available from 5.30pm,**  
courtesy of Larnach's Wines  
*Booking for this free event is necessary  
as space is limited.*

Please ring: 9386 3841  
or email: [admin@histwest.org.au](mailto:admin@histwest.org.au)

or click on the link:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/DBAZI>

## COMMUNITY TALK



**History West Community Centre**  
**109 Stirling Hwy, Nedlands**  
**Wednesday 30 July, 10 for 10.30-11.30am**  
**Liz Davenport: memories of 109**  
**Liz Davenport OAM**

We welcome Liz Davenport back to the premises  
where she ran her successful fashion business for  
three decades from 1984 and look forward to her  
reminiscences of the place and times. These were  
exciting decades with an expanding fashion and fabric  
enterprise, many charity functions and social occasions as  
well as the exuberance generated by the America's Cup.

Cost \$15 Bookings essential  
Click on the link or scan the QR code

<https://square.link/u/gTa8jnuF>







This table, used in the early days of the Perth Stock Exchange, became the property of Leslie Craig when he purchased the Exchange building. When Leslie Craig passed away the table was donated back to the Exchange but, because of lack of space there, it was placed with the Royal WA Historical Society. After some decades in our care, we are delighted to return it to the Craig family.



The large boardroom table is now housed in Nick & Pamela Drew's garage where it replaces the folding tables previously used for book sorting/pricing. The boxes behind the table are being held for the next book sale, mostly West Australian, Australian and Military included in the last sale, together with others recently donated.



Library & Museum volunteers in action

## On the Move!

The Society thanks all its members, volunteers, Affiliates and friends who have helped in every way possible to make our momentous move to new premises successful. It was a labour of love but not without its challenges!

We are especially grateful to see items that are now surplus to our requirements finding new homes and new usefulness. Thanks to all of you for re-using!

Our Stirling House volunteers faced a daunting challenge as the accumulation of 60 years was sorted. Most importantly, our valuable museum and library collection was prepared for its transition. The Bookshop team also planned and prepared for its new premises. And holding all the daily events together was Lesley, our Community Officer, and her team. Her light hand facilitated the transition happily!

We certainly couldn't have done it without each and every one of you.

**Thank you all!**



City of Stirling



Letter box returned to Ledger family descendants



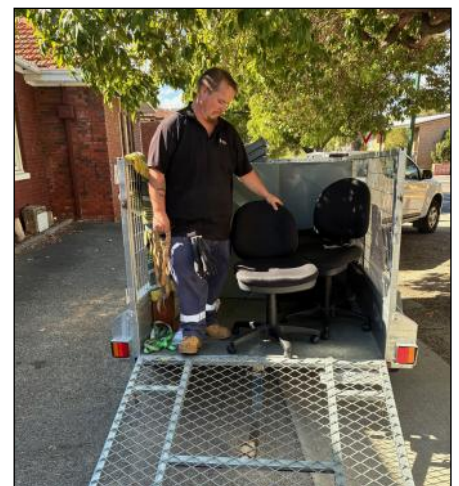
Rail Heritage WA



Kwinana Heritage Group

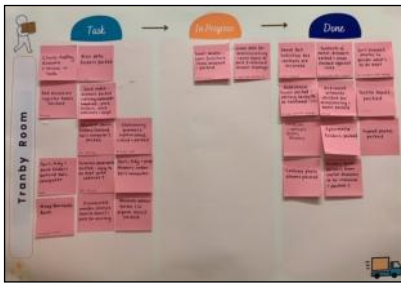


Bassendean Historical Society



Scouts WA Heritage Group





Volunteer Natalie Richards' board of 'To Do', 'Work in Progress', 'Done'



Packed and wrapped



Wendy and Ian rehousing the artworks

## Special thanks to Wendy & Ian Lugg

This is the moment to acknowledge the extra-special contribution of Wendy Lugg to the Society's move of premises. We might just have managed it without her but are so glad we didn't have to do so! Wendy has laboured full-time for several months to move the museum collection – planning, measuring, finding suppliers, dismantling, packing, re-constructing, unpacking and re-shelving.

She began by calculating the shelving and drawers needed for the costume and textile collection, museum artefacts including smaller items from the old map drawers, and larger items such as the clocks, sewing machines and musical instruments, doll collection, framed photographs and art collection. With the help of Bruce Hoar, she measured what we had stored at 49 Broadway and how it could be housed at 109 Stirling Hwy to comply with regulations, weight-bearing boundaries and emergency exits. She then spent many hours contacting suppliers to check on weight and sizes to fit the specifications. She put the order in with fingers crossed that it would be delivered on time. With just a few minor hiccups, all went according to plan – a great relief! Under Wendy's supervision, everything fragile was wrapped separately. The furniture collection was swathed in bubble wrap – thanks to many of the museum team. Wendy was at both ends of the move to guide the removalists.

She looked at what could be salvaged and repurposed from the old shelving. The large worktable in the Tranby Room was dismantled as was some textile box shelving – all wood too good not to be recycled! Wendy could envisage some of the costume room racks being adapted for the new art room storage and took advantage of the photograph room's metal shelving. Ian Lugg had the task of dismantling what was to be transported to 109. His practical mind worked overtime on how to piece together the old wooden shelving and worktable to create shelving in the new art storeroom and adequate space for our framed photographs, art works and framed embroidery collection.

Without Wendy's leadership, commitment and dedication, we could not have reached our deadline to hand over the keys to Stirling House by the end of May. Now we are settling into our new premises with much work still to be done – our grateful thanks to Wendy!

**Val Hutch**



Pictured are four generations of the descendants of Edson Ledger who was the proprietor of the J & E Ledger foundry. From left to right: Ross Ledger, Tom Ledger, Sue Hobson (Ledger), Matthew Ledger, Michael Hobson, baby Jack Hobson.

This pillar box was made by the J & E Ledger foundry in 1903. After it had served its important postal purpose for many decades, the box sat outside the doors of Stirling House reminding visitors of the era of red letter boxes across the nation. With the Society's move to 109 Stirling Hwy, it has not been possible to accommodate more than one pillar box & therefore this one has been returned to the Ledger family. Since its return many family members have visited this addition to the family's history.



**The end of an era!**

President Richard Offen hands over the keys of 49 Broadway on Friday 30 May 2025



# Our thanks to St Andrew's Anglican Parish of West Nedlands

For the last five months the Society has greatly benefitted from the generous assistance of the parish of St Andrew's Anglican Church at 177 Stirling Hwy and the Rector, the Revd Sarah Stapleton. In these months of transition the Society had no home at either its old or new premises to hold regular historical meetings – general meetings where research papers are read, morning community talks and monthly writers' group meetings. The parish welcomed us and we have been able to continue our program using the church's parish hall. Doors were opened, projection facilities explained, and chairs and kitchen facilities made available. We could not have been made more welcome. We are truly grateful and wish all our membership to know of this generosity. Our grateful thanks.

## Aspects of St Andrew's history

St Andrew's is the oldest church in the City of Nedlands. It was established in December 1903 to serve the new district of East Claremont in a wooden building across Stirling Hwy from the current church. It began as an offshoot of Christchurch, Claremont, and clergy from Christchurch provided the ministry. This wooden church was destroyed by fire in 1912 and was rebuilt in brick on the other side of the road.

By 1929 suburban development in Dalkeith and West Nedlands led to the separation of St Andrews from the Claremont parish, and the Revd Richard Hamilton was appointed the first Rector of this separate parish in 1934. Life grew at the new parish – a church hall was added for social and youth activities, a rectory built, and outreach to Dalkeith led to the creation of St Lawrence's. Major re-development of the church building (1956-1958) extended the church (in salmon brick) in a north-south direction with a new sanctuary, nave and organ. From a later heritage perspective this development (and further re-building in 1985) has compromised the historic design. However it has provided the church community with improved facilities as the parish works to minister to the local community.

One feature of the changes to the church building itself in the 1950s deserves further note from a historical perspective. A beautiful stained-glass window created by Gowers & Brown was installed in remembrance of the first Rector, the Revd Richard Hamilton, who died in August 1951 at the age of 49 after a long illness. He was then rector of St Mary's Church, Middle Swan, a Canon of St George's Cathedral and chaplain to the Swan Boys' and Girls' Homes.

The Society's able secretary, Dr Fiona Bush, is writing a book on the stained-glass studio of Gowers & Brown and has provided *History West* with the photographs and information set out below.

## Gowers & Brown window at St Andrew's — from Dr Fiona Bush

Edward (Ted) Gowers and Albert Brown established a stained-glass studio in Perth in 1954 following their arrival from England in that year. The men had complementary skills for this artistic work: Ted designed the windows, and Albert cut and arranged the glass in the lead comes. They generally 'signed' their work with the outline of a red setter, their initials and the date. The Studio ceased operating in 2004. They designed and made hundreds of stained-glass windows throughout Western Australia and they also had some interstate commissions.

Archival documents show that the Gowers & Brown Studio was commissioned by Miss Harley to install memorial windows in St Andrew's in memory of Richard W Hamilton, the parish's first rector. The commission, features panels with a blue leaded glass background with a geometric pattern. A pair of two panel windows are set high up in the east wall, and a pair of five panel windows are in the west wall. The central panel in the west, right window is stained-glass and depicts Christ in the garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14.33-36).

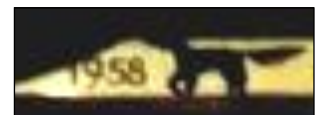
And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

The windows were installed in July 1958 and the Studio's logo can be found in the bottom right corner of the stained-glass panel in the border. It shows the date and the dog only. The stained-glass panel in the left long window was not made by the Studio.

## References

City of Nedlands place 11586. Heritage Council of WA – <https://inheret.dplh.wa.gov.au/>  
 Revd Bryan Shattock, notes, recorded in City of Nedlands Municipal Inventory 1998  
*West Australian*, *Daily News*, *Kalgoorlie Miner* – various articles



# Stories from the Storerooms

## Herbert Gibbs: an artist of significance

Dr Dorothy Erickson



*On the Swan River below Mt Eliza, Perth, 1890+, oil on card. A1938.66a*



*Miller's Pool, South Perth, c1894, watercolour on paper. A1938.66b*

Artist Herbert Gibbs (1852-1940) enjoyed messing about in boats. He founded the Perth Sailing Club, built two yachts and, of course, painted landscapes, many featuring boats in oils and watercolours. His painting of the barges below Mt Eliza in a misty morning light is particularly atmospheric. You can almost feel the dampness while the brighter light of Miller's Pool manifests an air of outdoors *joie de vivre*.

The painting named 'Miller's Pool, South Perth' shows the details of how the mill would have looked when working as described by 90-year-old Mr Rewell who had lived nearby. The mill built for William Kernot Shenton in 1837 was a favourite site for artists' excursions.

Herbert donated two paintings in 1938, and his son Ivan donated another in 1941.

Herbert had a lively sense of humour, something that was inherited by his daughter Cecilia May, known to us as May Gibbs, the mother of the gumnut babies. The painter, topographical draughtsman, cartoonist and public servant was born in Alverstoke near Southampton, England. He was the eldest of seven children of William, a shipowner and merchant and his wife Eliza, and enjoyed an early life of relative luxury. However, his father lost the family money and son Herbert was obliged to commence work as a clerk in the civil service in 1870.

Despite losing an eye in a game of archery at fifteen, Herbert managed to study art part-time at the South Kensington Schools (now the Royal College of Art) and later under Phillip Sydney Holland at the Slade, marrying fellow student Cecilia Rogers in 1874. The Slade admitted women from 1872 and they met on the train to classes.

Lured by a South Australian land scheme on the Eyre Peninsula he and his brother sailed for South Australia in 1881 where, after a disastrous farming venture during a recession, Herbert joined the Lands Department working as a surveyor. Four years later the brothers, Cecilia and the children moved to the Harvey River Cattle Station in WA, a former hunting lodge belonging to Governor Stirling. Farming was not as they knew it in England and they soon sold out and moved to Claremont. Herbert then taught drawing at the Bishop's Girls College for a year.

Life in Perth was much more congenial for the cultured duo, mixing with others of similar education. Herbert and Henry Prinsep started *The Possum*, later the *WA Bulletin*, a weekly satirical magazine for which Gibbs drew cartoons. Produced from 1887 to 1891 the intention was to 'shoot' the public and hit them on their funny bones'. Herbert became drawing master at Perth Grammar School in 1890 and then joined the Lands Department in 1891, retiring in 1917.

The family enjoyed life in the upper echelons of local society during the expanding cultural milieu of the gold-rush era, joining in musical, choral, operatic and artistic pursuits that included painting stage sets. They also supported a wide range of charitable ventures, such as their local church and the St George Boys Brigade. Herbert was a founding member of the Wilgie Sketch club and the WA Society of Arts. Cecilia was particularly active in music circles, as was his daughter May and his artist sister-in-law Jennette Ridley and her family of eight daughters. In 1889 the Gibbs moved to 'The Dune' in Suburban Road (Mill Point Road) in South Perth.

Gibbs was also interested in printmaking and woodcarving and undertook some silversmithing as a hobby. The Art Gallery of WA holds eleven paintings by Gibbs, both oils and watercolours. The National Gallery holds three and the City of South Perth nearly ninety. Herbert's lovely paintings really should be better known.

### Reference

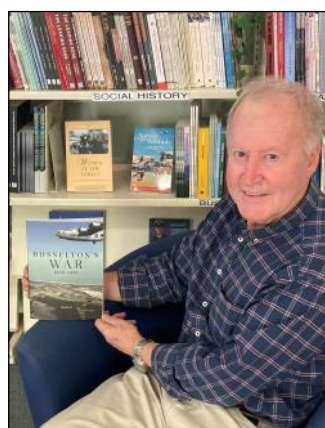
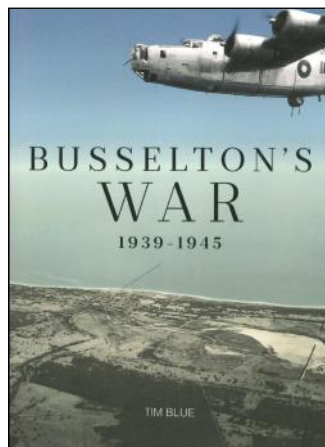
R Holden & J Brummit, *May Gibbs: More than a fairytale an artistic life* (2011)



## Book Reviews

**Tim Blue, *Busselton's War 1939-1945*, self published, 2023. In Library & Bookshop \$45**

**Reviewer: Jeanette Longwood**



In this year when we commemorate the end of World War II, Blue's book is a timely reminder of the incredible lives that people had to live both at home and in the various war zones. Blue skilfully interweaves the sequence of wartime events with the local people involved in them.

The tragedy of the Burma Railway is highlighted by detailing the lives of the Busselton boys who died as Prisoners of War during its construction or subsequently on-board ship when it was bombed. The role played by local airmen in the bombing raids over Europe and in fighter planes over the Mediterranean or Pacific is covered in detail. Blue describes how the danger to Perth from Japanese ships was counteracted. Danger to Western Australia from direct enemy action was still

evident in February 1945 when an American Transport was sunk by a German submarine off the south coast. He includes excerpts from war dairies to good effect.

Campaigns across North Africa, Greece, Singapore and the Pacific provide background to the endeavours of local men and women who signed up for duty or actively supported the war effort with fundraising activities, including knitting and baking. Delays in reporting war news affected many families who were desperate to know how or where their loved ones were.

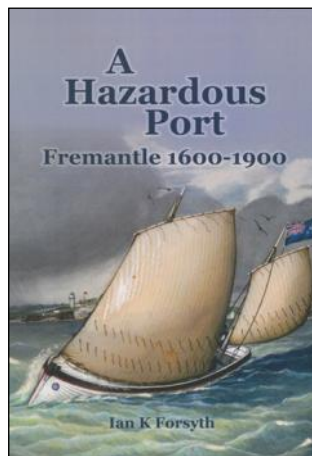
In Busselton, various local facilities were built to detect and withstand potential attacks from the enemy. Picture shows relieved the monotony of daily life but food became increasingly scarce and cosmetics were rationed. The war also generated huge demand from overseas for meat, butterfat and wool. It is interesting to read how the newly created Women's Land Army was able to meet these demands given the reduced male workforce available. As the war progressed, Prisoners of War were also used to supplement the depleted workforce.

In all, Blue provides personal points of views to a war that had tragic outcomes for so many Busselton families. It seems that every campaign and aspect of the war involved people from the district. By the end of the war, soldiers, sailors, airmen and nurses were just glad to be 'getting home'. Blue covers what happened to people and places in postwar Busselton.

The book is referenced and indexed.

**Ian K Forsyth, *A Hazardous Port: Fremantle 1600-1900*, self published, 2025. In Library & Bookshop \$45**

**Reviewer: Heather Campbell**



The book is in two parts, the first concerning 'The Pre-History of the Port 1600-1829' and the second, 'The Development and Operation of the Port in Colonial Times'. The author sets the scene with an early chart showing the area of the Port of Fremantle followed by a comprehensive introduction, which outlines the 'pre-history' of the port before covering

its settlement and operation, and the Harbour Masters Service, in the main body of the book.

It is pleasing that the final two pages of the introduction, boxed and shaded, discuss 'The Colony's Indigenous Population' acknowledging the 'tragic and disruptive consequences' of British colonisation on the land's Indigenous communities. Additional and useful information, boxed and shaded, is included throughout the volume, providing the reader with useful additional insights on the discussion in the text. The book is divided into subsections which are chronological and themselves divided into subheadings. This structure, along with the fulsome index, makes the book useful to researchers.

The narrative is generously interspersed with a wide variety of charts, paintings and photographic images of excellent quality, both in black and white and in colour, and a useful listing of these provides page numbers and citations for each. Eight pages of 'Selected References' detail multiple sources, both primary and secondary, including special papers, books, newspapers and websites, and there are listings by date and under specific headings. There is also useful additional reading suggested where appropriate.

Also of value to researchers are the appendices. These include press reports on rumours of French settlements on the Australian continent 1828-1829, Convict Ships arriving at Fremantle 1850-1868, and Shipwrecks and other Maritime Accidents, with date, location, size of vessel and some commentary.

Ian Forsyth is to be congratulated on his meticulous research and for producing a readable and attractive volume spanning over three hundred years of Australian and West Australian history. This book effectively fills a void in the written history of Fremantle and its port and will undoubtedly become a standard reference on the bookshelves of libraries, WA historians, those interested in maritime history and indeed many residents of Fremantle.

## Welcome to new members!

Barry & Sandy Fehlberg, Philip McCann,  
Annie Medley

## Our next second hand book sale

Your generosity has been overwhelming –  
thank you all

**We have all the books we need  
except for Western Australian titles and good  
children's books**

Book Sale Convenors Pamela & Nick Drew  
[nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com) 0409 290 895

## Is the date of this year's State History Conference in your diary?



City of Cockburn  
Royal WA Historical Society  
Affiliated Societies Annual  
State Conference  
Azelia Ley  
Museum  
Historical Society of Cockburn Inc.

**FACES & SPACES  
of Cockburn**

Stories waiting to be told...

12-14 September 2025  
Jakovich Centre 4 McGrath Road, Henderson

## Affiliates Newsletter

If you would like to read about Affiliates' activities, please visit

<https://histwest.org.au/affiliates-news/>

## Can you help the Library?

We would like some volunteers to assist with a short-term project to re-shelve the book collection in the Society's new premises at 109 Stirling Hwy  
Please reply to [library@histwest.com.au](mailto:library@histwest.com.au)  
or 9386 3841

**Community Officer:**

Lesley Burnett

**Editor *History West*:**

Dr Lenore Layman

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