

Affiliated Societies

of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Newsletter

April 2026

2026-27

Bridgetown Historical Society

Bridgetown Police Station and Orcharding Museum - Last month, Bridgetown Historical Society took the final step when we opened an extension to the Bridgetown Police Station Museum. This contemporary museum was created in 2018 and won many accolades. We have now put the finishing touches to the Orcharding Museum within the museum precinct, and we welcome visitors to come and see both museums.

Orcharding was a very important industry that sustained the district of Bridgetown (originally known as 'the Blackwood') from 1863 to the late 60s. The museum honours the work done by orchardists since 1863, especially John Allnutt and his amazing wife Kate, who led this industry and created jobs and drove exports that put Bridgetown firmly on the map for pome fruit and stone fruit varieties. It was also the birthplace of the scourge of the district in blackberries.

The Orcharding Museum is the only one of its type in the South West of WA. Interpretive panels and artefacts line each wall of the Museum, telling the story of orcharding and its eventual demise. We display many rare pieces of equipment including:

Fruit Dehydrator - This portable, tower fruit dryer was invented by Mr Gordon Holdsworth, artist and sculptor, in the early 1920s. It was wood-fired with 18 trays which could be rotated mechanically.

Multi-cut Apple Cutter - Apples were placed in the red square tube and the cutter pushed down firmly to slice and core multiple apples at one time. These apples were then used to mix with bait to feed/poison rabbits. Date c.1941. Distributed by Paterson & Co. Perth.

Excelsior Apple Grader - A system for sorting apples over a leather conveyor belt, developed by Joseph Lomas, Huonville, Tasmania c.1910

The Orcharding Museum benefited greatly from the support from our previous State Member for Warren-Blackwood, Jane Kelsbie, who encouraged me to apply for a Native Forests Transition grant in 2024.

History must be saved for the future, and thanks to the generosity of Bridgetown residents who donated items, photos and ephemera for us to care for and display, we have an extraordinary orcharding museum.

Next Affiliates Committee
Meeting will be held in
March 2026

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 phone 9093 3360.

Submitted by Mary Elgar. Chairperson.



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 2025-26 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
- Marilyn Gazeley (Cervantes) - cervantes50th@hotmail.com
- Lyn O'Hara (South Perth) - lynn@eon.net.au
- Rosie Stroud (Eastern Goldfields) - eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au
- Richard Offen (President RWAHS) - richardoofen@outlook.com
- Jacqui Huntley (Wanneroo & Districts) - huntleyjacqui@gmail.com
- Natalie Evans (Collections WA) - natalie.evans@amaga.org.au
- Trish Parker (Irwin Districts Historical Society) - Trishpark@bigpond.com
- Wendy Garstone (Bayswater Historical Society) - wendygarstone@gmail.com
- Elizabeth Craigie (Busselton Historical Society) - secretary@busseltonhistoricalsociety.org.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.



Me Can You Help?

Have you seen this image in your collection? Do you know where a better copy can be found? Please contact Adeel Akhtar (adeelakhtar66@googlemail.com) if you can help.



Afghans in Coolgardie



Department of **Local Government,
Industry Regulation and Safety**



Department of **Local Government,
Industry Regulation and Safety**

Media Statement

Consumer Protection 140 William Street Perth Western Australia 6000

Email: cpmedia@lgirs.wa.gov.au

31 March 2026

Thousands of not-for-profit groups at risk of being deregistered

- Nearly 5,000 incorporated associations failing to meet obligations
- Groups must submit annual information statement every year to stay incorporated
- Volunteer groups urged to check their details

Nearly 5,000 incorporated associations around Western Australia are at risk of being deregistered for failing to provide information required under law.

The warning follows ongoing efforts by Consumer Protection to identify not-for-profit clubs and associations that are no longer operating, as evidenced by their failure to lodge their Annual Information Statement (AIS).

Western Australian not-for-profit groups at-risk of having their incorporated association status cancelled include, school parents and citizens associations, sporting clubs and religious organisations

Commissioner for Consumer Protection Trish Blake said attempts had been made to contact those associations via email and notifications, highlighting the importance of updating contact details.

“Consumer Protection will never cancel an association without plenty of warnings and attempts to contact committee members, so it’s essential all details are up to date,” Ms Blake said.

“Deregistration means an association will lose its legal identity, its name protection and ability to use ‘incorporated’, its members risk personal liability for debts, and any remaining assets are seized by the State Government.”

“We strongly encourage all associations to keep their reporting current to avoid losing their registration.”

Consumer Protection has published a list of association that need to submit their overdue Annual Information Statements (AIS) or face having their registration revoked.

Groups that are still operating need to complete their outstanding AIS immediately or Consumer Protection may take further action issuing a Show Cause Notice under the Act to commence cancellation.

Users will need an AssociationsOnline account to complete any outstanding AIS's online or can email a manual [form](#) to infostatements@lgirs.wa.gov.au

For help with registering and linking an AssociationsOnline user account to an incorporated association, please contact aohelp@lgirs.wa.gov.au

Further information about the reporting responsibilities of incorporated associations is available on the Consumer [Protection website](#). Enquiries can be made by calling 1300 30 40 74 or emailing associations@lgirs.wa.gov.au

Geraldton Historical Society

150th Anniversary of the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage, Bluff Point

In October 2026, the Geraldton Historical Society will mark a significant milestone, the 150th anniversary of the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage at Bluff Point.

In October 1876, the lanterns were lit for the very first time, both in the upper tower of the Cottage and at the former Bluff Point Lighthouse. These were the first navigational lights for Champion Bay, guiding vessels along the Mid West coast and signalling the beginning of a lasting maritime presence in Geraldton.

The Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage remains an important part of the region's heritage. Built to house the lighthouse keepers and their families, it stands today as a reminder of the vital role these individuals played in coastal safety and communication during the early years of settlement.

To commemorate this anniversary, the Society is planning a celebration to be held on Sunday, 25 October 2026.

As part of this milestone, the Society is seeking to reconnect with former members, families of past members, past residents of the Cottage, and descendants of lighthouse keepers.

The Society also welcomes memories, photographs and historical information relating to the Cottage and its occupants, helping to build a richer picture of its history over the past 150 years.



This anniversary provides an opportunity not only to reflect on the Cottage's past but to celebrate its continued role in preserving and sharing Geraldton's history with the community.

Enquiries may be directed to the Geraldton Historical Society via email at geraldtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Submitted by Nicole Edwards. President.

Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society

Kalamunda area servicewomen WW2 - John Paskulich 2026

These notes were compiled as an offshoot of my research for my talk at KDHS in March 2026 on Women in Telecommunications.

The following ladies all had a connection to the Kalamunda area and are recorded as having enlisted into the armed services during the Second World War. WAAAF means Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force and most in the army were AWAS (The Australian Women's Army Service) although nurses directly enlisted into the Australian Army Nursing Service. I cannot find any enlisting in the navy, the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS), although given Kalamunda's distance from the coast that is unsurprising.

The acronym NOK means next-of-kin as recorded on enlistment papers. Some women married while in service. Where possible both names are listed. The spouse supersedes a prior NOK.

Members of WAAAF and WRANS were disallowed overseas or Australian war-zone postings (e.g. Darwin) but not the army. Several of these women served in the Middle East, New Guinea and/or Darwin during the war.

I cannot guarantee the completeness of these results. If you know of any others not listed here (for example, members who served at the Lesmurdie wireless facility - not originally from Kalamunda) or can elaborate on their lives, I would like to hear from you. My best contact is john.paskulich@gmail.com or via KDHS.

Primary Information sources were:

DVA Nominal Rolls <https://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/ww2> (Note: DVA records often quote generic ranks e.g. Private rather than corps specific Gunner, Signaller etc. Also F [female] often missing from service no.)

National Archives of Australia <https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records>

(Note: Air force and navy records are separate from other WW2 entries)

WA Births deaths and marriages <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-justice/online-index-search-tool>

SLWA Post Office Directories <https://slwa.wa.gov.au/collections/collections/post-office-directories>

Ancestry (Paid site) <https://www.ancestry.com.au/>

Military acronyms and abbreviations <http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-asstd/abbreviations.htm>

BIRD, URSULA ELISABETH	BLAMIRE, ELIZABETH AMY	BRYCE, ANNETTE
CAMPBELL, ETHEL MARY	CHRISTOPHER nee HOWE, DOROTHY	CORNISH, NANCY MAY
CRAIG nee STIRK, DORRIS MAY	CROXTON, ROMA MARIE	CROXTON, VIOLET JESSIE
DRYSDALE nee WELLS, JOAN LORNA		EDHOUSE, MARY
EDHOUSE, MARJORIE JEAN	HALSE, LILIAN PEARL	
HAWKINS, EMILIE MARY DELMEGE	HILL nee PENROSE, MELVA	HOOPER, THELMA GERTRUDE
HUTCHISON, AVIS MARY	JENNER, GWENDOLINE LANGLEY	JOHNSON, AGNES MURIEL
JOHNSON, ELSIE MAVYS	JOHNSON, KATHLEEN MARY KINDRED, MARIE MADGELINE	LEPPARD, DORIS MAY
LEONHARDT nee DEACON, PAULINE CAMILLE HENRIETTA		
LEWIS, ANNE WYNDHAM	LEWIS, MEGAN GRAHAM	
MCGREGOR nee CAMPBELL, ELLEN JANE		MCINERNEY, MARGARET
MARY MUNDY, KATHLEEN DAISY	NESTOR, MAISIE BARNARD	
NICHOL nee BUTEMENT, STEPHANIE (also STEFANIE) CATHERINE		
O'NEAL nee COLEBROOK, MERRIAL NOEL		
PHILIP, ELIZABETH MARY	ROONEY nee THORNE, BERYL VIOLET	PEPPER, MONA IRENE
THOMAS, MARGARET LOTTEE	WATTS nee MORTON, JOYCE DAPHNE	TAILOR, GRACE ALICE MARY

For more information on the above project contact the Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society.

Submitted by Paula Wilkins.

Survey Sessions!

Who's what in the community museum sector?

Are you involved with a community museum? How much do you know about it? How does it operate? Who runs it? What's in it? These are some of the questions asked in a new nation wide, online survey of community museums being conducted by Bryan Kalms, a PhD student at the Australian National University.

Bryan is seeking to understand the role community museums play in modern Australia and the challenges they face. Overall, very little is known about these important institutions and completing this survey is an opportunity to highlight their importance and the contribution they make to their local community and Australian society generally. You can access the survey at https://anu.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aWg65JKAv3KgwGG or by clicking on the QR code. And don't forget to tell your friends in other museums about the survey.

If you want to know more about the survey or Bryan's project please contact him at bryan.kalms@anu.edu.au.



Just who is doing the work and how?

Just who is doing the work? Collecting Community Heritage in Western Australia. Are you a committee member of a community based historical society? Are you an active volunteer/member in that society? (more than one volunteer from any organisation can complete the volunteer section of the survey). Do you represent a local government that has a heritage collection and/or supports community heritage collecting organisations?

Are you willing to participate in a confidential online survey?

We want to develop an up-to-date picture of the community based/LGA supported historical collecting sector in Western Australia?

We really want to know all about your organisation and your perspectives on what you do! The survey is confidential and depending on the level of detail may take about an hour to complete.

If you are responding as a member or volunteer – it won't take so long!

You can get stuck right into the survey now: [Survey Link](#)

If you would like more information, please email Sally Paulin at s.paulin@murdoch.edu.au

Please share this survey invitation with other colleagues and collecting organisations in WA who you think might be interested in being involved.

Grant Season

WA History Foundation.

Our next grants round opens tomorrow and closes 1 July 2026.

Would you be able to mention the grants in the next edition of the RWAHS Affiliates newsletter?

<http://www.wahistoryfoundation.org.au/>

For more information please contact Lucy Hair lucy@radiam.com.au

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

Wilson Academic Bursary Guidelines 2026-27

The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society (EGHS) is pleased to offer the **Wilson Academic Bursary**, valued at up to **\$2,000 (including GST for ABN holders)**, to support research into and the recording of the history of the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia. The Wilson Academic Bursary has been named after Life Member of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society, W. Scott Wilson and his wife Maria, who endowed the money for this research.

Purpose - The Wilson Academic Bursary aims to encourage new, high quality research which will contribute to the understanding of the history and heritage of the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia.

Recipient obligations - The successful recipient will be expected to:

- Undertake research into a previously unexplored aspect of Eastern Goldfields history or heritage, or present a new perspective on existing research.
- Produce a high-quality, fully referenced written work.
- Submit a final manuscript of **no fewer than 15,000 words** (format negotiable with the Committee).
- Ensure the completed research is made publicly accessible, including through the EGHS Library.
- Acknowledge the support of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society in the final publication.

Photographs and/or sketches are encouraged where they enhance the final work. The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society does not provide images free of charge under this bursary. Any use of images from the EGHS collection will be subject to the Society's standard fees and charges. Reproduction fees and conditions also apply.

The recipient will have **12 months** to complete the project. Payment will be made in instalments, or at the discretion of the EGHS Committee.

Bursaries are available up to the value of \$2,000 per year. The final amount awarded and paid will be determined by the Committee and is non-negotiable.

Eligibility - A wide range of applicants are encouraged to apply. Applications from community members, students, local historians, academics or individuals interested in Goldfields history will be considered.

Selection criteria

The Proposal must:

- Demonstrate originality and scholarly merit
- Be intrinsically connected to the Eastern Goldfields
- Present new research or a new interpretation of existing research
- Confirm that the work is original and has not been previously published or submitted for publication elsewhere

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- A completed Eastern Goldfields Historical Society Bursary Application Form
- A 250-word research proposal
- A current Curriculum Vitae
-

Successful applicants will be required to submit a written progress report by 31 January 2027, outlining the status and development of the project.

Key Dates

Applications open: 1 April 2026

Applications close: 31 May 2026

Applicants notified by: 30 June 2026

Submission Details - Applications may be emailed or posted to:

Executive Officer

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

Email: eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au

Post: PO Box 643, Kalgoorlie WA 6430



**EASTERN
GOLDFIELDS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.**

Preserving & promoting Goldfields history



WILLIAMS / LEE STEERE PUBLICATION PRIZE PRIZE

\$1000

ENTRY FORM / COVER SHEET

The Society is offering a prize for a publication on Western Australian history published between June 2024 and June 2026. Entries must be publications over 20,000 words in length. Topics could be a biography of a West Australian, a family history, a local or community history, or any aspect of WA history the author chooses. Self-published entries are welcome, however non-fiction entries only are acceptable. Those which clearly belong to historical fiction are not eligible. Two copies of each entry must be submitted. Ebook entries are also welcome and while no printout is required for these, two USB carrying the book must be provided.

Closing date **last Friday in June 2026.**

The winner will be announced at the Society's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 21 October 2026.

Entries must be submitted to the Society office: 109

Stirling Hwy Nedlands WA 6009

Tel (08) 9386 3841

Email: admin@histwest.org.au

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Title of entry

Name: Address:

Email:

Phone:

