

Affiliated Societies

of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Newsletter

August 2025

2025-20

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.

All the details of the talks, tours and social events are on the booking website: <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 get back to you as soon as possible.



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.

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.



Royal WA Historical Society
Affiliated Societies Annual
State Conference



FACES & SPACES of Cockburn

Stories waiting to be told...

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

Welcome Event
12 September 2025

Memorial Hall 365 Carrington Street,
Hamilton Hill

Official Dinner
13 September 2025

City of Cockburn Administration
Function Room 9 Coleville Crescent,
Spearwood



Email: history@cockburn.wa.gov.au | Website: history.cockburn.wa.gov.au

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
Heritage Grants Program is now open.

More information can be found [here](#).

2025-26 round of the Heritage Grants Program is now open <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/heritage-grants-program>

The Heritage Grants Program offers funding assistance for the conservation, future planning and promotion of heritage places. There are two primary funding streams under the program, State Heritage Grants and Community Heritage Grants.

A total of \$1,221,000 has been allocated to the program for 2025-26.

For queries about the guidelines, deadlines, or questions in the form, please contact us on 08 6551 8002 during business hours or email: HCWAincentives@dplh.wa.gov.au

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.](#)

Swan Guildford Historical Society

We recently hosted a tour for members of the Quilt and Textile Study Group of Western Australia

Recently Swan Guildford Historical Society hosted a very successful event, when members from the Quilt and Textile Study Group of Western Australia came for a glimpse of some items in our costume and textile collection.

We really enjoyed hosting 26 ladies who squeezed into our headquarters to learn some more about the Society, and see some treasured items in our collection. At the conclusion of the tour, everyone benefited from some serious networking, and discussing our common interests. We plan to hold similar events soon.

Some photos of the day.

Submitted by Gaye Sweeney



Manjimup Historical Society

Where did our ancestors live?

This question has become quite common over recent years. Ian Wilson works through some of the information available to respond to the query in relation to someone's ancestor who arrived in Australia to become a group settler.

The document Development Western Australia. Group Settlement. Part I. from the National Archives of Australia is a good starting point. Part A has an alphabetical list of approved migrants which has proven to be a good start, with the provided surname. This information along with a map dated from that time may provide some initial detail. However it could follow with where will I locate it these days? This may create some challenges.

From Part C group 25 is recorded as starting on 17 July 1922. Part A has settler WE Anderson placed in the group in July 1922, however was transferred to location 9370 in September 1926. GL Mainard was placed in the group in July 1922 on location 9360, with JW Pritchard being placed onto location 9359 in August 1922.

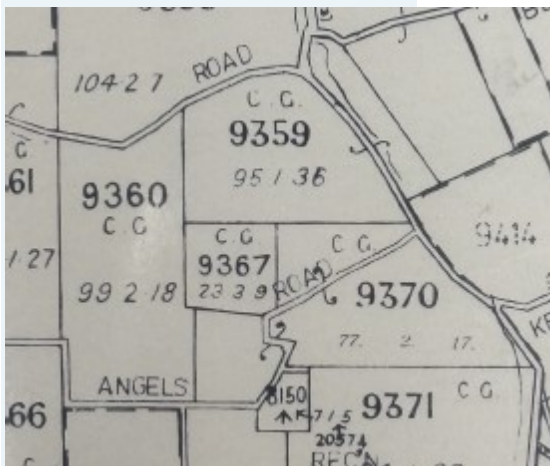
JM Cheetham was placed on location 9367 in November 1922. However it also shows that settler Cheetham was dismissed from the group on 19 June 1928.



Excerpt from 442B/40 map, dated 22/01/1924



Excerpt from Group 25 map, c. 1928



At the time of the Returns of Holdings document (Part C) was prepared in late 1928, settlers Anderson, Mainard and Pritchard had retained their allocated blocks and worked parts of location 9367, totalling roughly 100 acres each.

When the map was prepared in the 1960's the locations had some significant changes to the original map. The descendants are probably still confused, however they have a deeper understanding of interpretation of historical records. But they can place a pin on their electronic map to show where the family started in Western Australia.

Excerpt from 442B/40 map, c. 1960

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."

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.

The Society currently has 125 members and warmly welcomes new ones. For more information, visit kalgoorlie-history.org.au

Despite the wet and wild weather on Sunday 3rd August a small group gathered at the Miller Bakehouse Museum

Melville History Society

for our monthly Open Afternoon. We were joined by Master Baker Derek Hughes who demonstrated how to make our own dough at home using traditional methods (No fancy machines involved!) Some of us were lucky enough to take some of the bread rolls home to bake for dinner – which proved to be very delicious. We all had lots of fun – thanks Dereck! - and we were encouraged to explore the world of bread making further in our Bakehouse in the future.

Submitted by Chris Soutar, President, Melville History Society.



Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society

Mr. Burkhardt's Pine Trees -

In 1893 the second arrival in Kalamunda proper (the first being Stirk), was the Swiss-born Samuel Burkhardt. The railway had arrived at this time and all the development took place at the top end of Haynes Street. Burkhardt's house, which was known as the Brown House was on the corner of Haynes St and Railway Rd. In 1922 The Brown House became Kalamunda's first hospital. Burkhardt built the second general store in Kalamunda, c1922, facing Railway Rd. He was a public-spirited man, a member of the first Roads Board and volunteer planter of the pine trees that graced Railway Rd.

While he was planting one of these trees in 1914, Mr Mead happened by and said to him gruffly:
"You're wasting your time planting those Sam, they'll never grow here"

Burkhardt looked up and replied: **"They'll grow big enough to make a box for you Bill"**

Well, it appears Sam won that argument as in the past few months the last of his trees succumbed to old age at the ripe old age of 111 years. Personally, I miss those trees as to me, having been born and bred here they were 'Kalamunda' tall, magnificent, gracious specimens of a tree. Thank you, Sam!

(Information taken from 'Cala Munnda' A Home in the Forest)
Marie Garwood



Railway Road looking north a few years later

South Perth Historical Society

CITY OF SOUTH PERTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



ART MUSEUM AND LOCAL HISTORY

GALLERY & SHOP OPEN Fri 10am-4pm, Sat & Sun 1pm-4pm

WATTLE DAY in WINDSOR PARK HERITAGE and ARTS FAIR

Saturday 30th August
12 noon - 5pm

FREE EVENT · ALL AGES

Fun activities at this local heritage treasure spot!
Celebrate strong community links to the arts and community spaces.

LOCAL HISTORY WALKS, TALKS + EXHIBITION ·
ART IN THE PARK · PORTRAITURE · EN PLEIN AIR
DEMONSTRATIONS · ART SALES · REFRESHMENTS ·
FUN STALLHOLDERS · AND MORE!



City of South Perth's May & Herbert Gibbs Art Collection © The Northcott Society & Cerebral Palsy Alliance

Celebrate heritage and arts at 'Wattle Day in Windsor Park' Heritage and Arts Fair in South Perth WA on Sat. 30 August This enjoyable community day started in 2018 and this year will include the Award ceremony for finalists of the annual local Phillip Pental 'Young Heritage' Essay and Photograph Award whose work will be exhibited in Heritage House, Village Green, May Gibbs and Ferry Tram activities, local craft stalls, en plein air art competitions, Walking Tours of Heritage Places and viewing of Portraits as they unfold in the Old Mill Theatre.

Submitted by Lyn O'Hara

Vale Bob Woollett

It was with great sadness that Nick and I learnt in July that Bob Woollett had passed away. When I joined the Affiliates Committee in October 2005, Bob was the committee's convenor and represented Fremantle. I don't know how long Bob had served on the committee prior to my joining, nor when he became its convenor. Other affiliated members who sat on the committee before I joined would no doubt remember. It was Bob's idea to introduce an annual Merit Award for an affiliated society, together with the presentation of a conference shield to the conference host. Bob presented a paper to the committee proposing both ideas in July 2008. The merit award was to recognise significant endeavour and enterprise over twelve months by a society. The annual reports were to provide the basis for the committee's decision. The presentation of such an award was approved by the Council in September 2009.

In addition to the small host shields, a large honour board, recording the names of all affiliated societies that had hosted a conference since 1964, was also made. Both were ready for the 2009 conference hosted by Cockburn with Cockburn being the first recipient of a host shield. Societies who had previously hosted a conference could apply to purchase a shield.

The Merit Award was first presented at the 2010 conference (hosted by Albany) and was awarded to Carnamah. Bob was a charming man and my memories of him will forever be of him and his dog which went most places with him in the back of Bob's Subaru. The dog even accompanied Bob when we attended country conferences, sleeping in the back of the car.

Bob stepped down as the committee's convenor in 2007 and I took over from him. He retired from the committee in September 2013. Fiona Bush (Mundaring & Hills).

Submitted by Fiona Bush



Affiliates Committee in January 2011: From left standing: Lennie McCall (Chair of Council), Fiona Bush (Mundaring & Hills), Gillian O'Mara (Wanneroo), Andrew Eyden (Albany), Nick Drew (RWAHS). Seated from left: Julie Rae (York), Andrew Bowman (Carnamah), Celia Miller (Guildford) and Bob Woollett (Fremantle).