

Affiliated Societies

of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Newsletter

December 2025

2025-24

Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation



The Army Museum of Western Australia, through its supporting body the Army Museum Foundation, is once more back in the fold as an affiliated organisation of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.

The museum was established

in 1977 at "Dilhorn" in Bulwer Street in Perth and relocated in 1995 to the heritage-listed Artillery Barracks in Fremantle, the museum now occupies the full site.

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society was one of several external organisations invited to be represented on the original Army Museum of Western Australia Committee, being initially represented by Mr A.E. Williams. Subsequent representation of the Society on the committee was through Mrs Pamela Jackes who also became a volunteer at the museum.

The Army Museum of Western Australia did become an affiliated member of Royal Western Australian Historical Society, but this lapsed some years later

Current Army Museum Project -

The Army Museum of Western Australia recently acquired two historic army colours (flags) that had been previously laid up in St. John's Church in Fremantle. The oldest of these, the Regimental Colour of the Fremantle Rifle Volunteers dates from 1862, and the King's Colour of the 86th Infantry dates from 1917. The museum has engaged members of the Embroiderers' Guild of Western Australia to carry out some delicate conservation work on these items before they go on display.



Next Affiliates Committee

Meeting will be held in
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

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) - richardooffen@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

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.



Manjimup Historical Society

Seniors Week wanderings through the Heritage Park, by Kate James.

On Wednesday 12 November, we held a Senior's Week celebration at the Manjimup Heritage Park. 30 people joined a walk, led by President of the Manjimup Historical Society, Ian Wilson, around the Historic Hamlet. Ian explained the history of each part of the Hamlet and invited attendees to share their own memories.

Following the walk, we gathered at the picnic area for a shared morning tea, catered by Park Cafe. Thank you to students of the Manjimup Senior High School Certificate in Active Volunteering program, who helped with setting up and pack down and serving morning tea. Shout out to Southern Forests Community Landcare, who generously allowed us to borrow tables and chairs.



It was a wonderful morning, sharing stories over a cup of tea and some delicious food. Thank you to Ian for your support and knowledge, and to the Manjimup Historical Society for supporting this event for the second year.

Thank you to Advocare, Lotterywest and the Department of Communities for supporting our 2025 Senior's Week event.

Submitted by Ian.

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: https://murdochuni.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9LbjbiEhBdNcLs

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.



MU Murdoch
University

This study has been approved by the Murdoch University Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval 2025/208). If you have any reservation or complaint about the ethical conduct of this research, and wish to talk with an independent person, you may contact Murdoch University's Research Ethics & Integrity office on 08 9360 6677 (+61 8 9360 6677 for overseas studies) or e-mail human.ethics@murdoch.edu.au. Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

February Newsletter

If you have any news for the February newsletter please forward to eo@kalgoorliehistoy.org.au by the 12th February 2026.

Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society



Submitted by Paula Wilkins

Friends of Donnelly Village Inc.

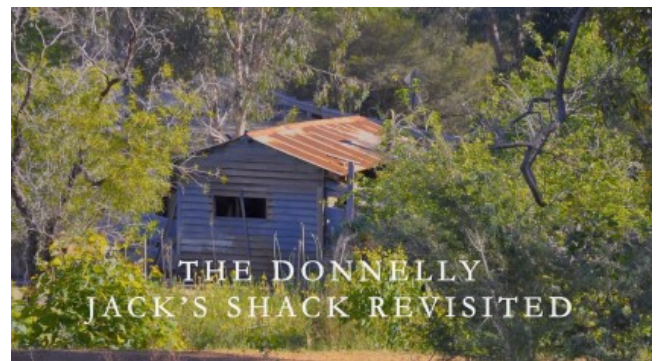
Donnelly River Village - Jack's Shack Celebration, a brief recount - Saturday 15th November saw the Friends holding a very successful event with approximately 100 people coming to take part in the official celebration of the new precinct for Jack's Shack and its completion. The event was attended by the Minister for Forestry, Jackie Jarvis, Nannup Shire President, Tony Dean and Wheatley Village Pty Ltd Chair, Nicole Peterson.

Following the ceremony at the shack everyone was invited to the Club House to view a video produced for the event. Don't miss out on viewing this fabulous video; either click on the link below the above photo or view on our website under the 'News & Events' tab. www.friendsofdonnelly.org.au

Following the video everyone was entertained by Tim Muirhead and Brad Scarlet as they played their guitars and sang the lyrics to John's poem from his book Men and Mill. Then there was the opportunity to buy a new edition of John's book and have it personally signed whilst enjoying afternoon refreshments.

Next time you are at Donnelly or driving by take the time to visit the precinct and view the shack including some of Jack's clothing through the windows, take a selfie from the restored toilet (not in use) and listen to audio recordings of personal recollections of Jack on the U-Turn located near the ramp. As a note, the U-Turn handle has to be turned to power the unit and it takes quite a bit of turning but well worth it!

Taken from FODV December 2025 Newsletter.



Albany Historical Society

Albany's Bicentennial Commemorations 2026: Exploring Albany's 200 Year Journey with Dr Donald S. Garden (OAM)

Join one of Australia's most respected historians, Dr Donald S. Garden (OAM), in an illuminating exploration of Albany's 200-year journey. Author of ***Albany: A Panorama of the Sound from 1827***, Dr Garden brings history to life, sharing behind-the-scenes stories, rare insights and events that have shaped the region's remarkable 200-year journey as Western Australia's first and oldest settlement.

Through engaging stories and expert analysis, Dr Garden reveals the fascinating interplay between people, place and events across two centuries of Albany's past. Expect captivating narratives, thoughtful reflections and historical context that deepen your understanding of the region's identity and legacy.

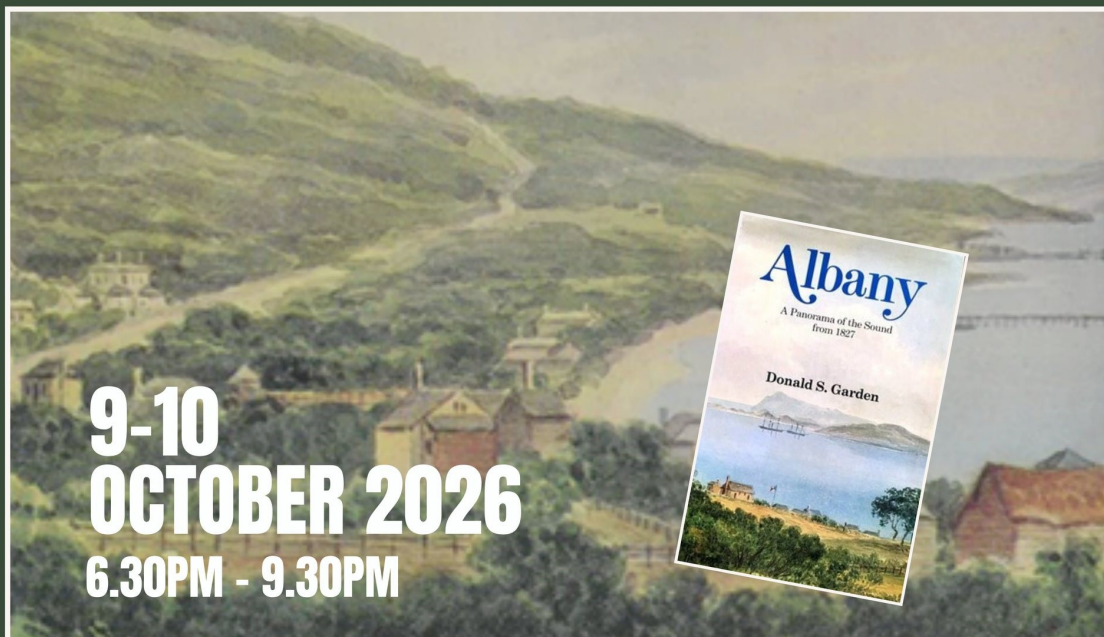
This is more than history—it's a conversation that connects the past with the present, inspiring pride, curiosity and a renewed appreciation for the stories that define a community and region.

After the discussion, guests are invited to the courtyard for canapés and cocktails—a relaxed setting to meet Dr Garden, share ideas and connect with fellow history enthusiasts. It's the perfect way to continue celebrating Albany's rich 200-year story.

Tickets go on sale in February 2026 - don't miss out! Register your interest by emailing:
historic.albany@outlook.com

AN EVENING WITH

DR. DON GARDEN



TICKETS GO ON SALE 1 FEBRUARY 2026 - REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW !

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.HISTORICALBANY.COM.AU

Swan Guildford Historical Society

Bus Tour : explore the Swan Valley. Breadbasket for thousands of years

On Sunday 16th November, Swan Guildford Historical Society hosted a bus tour, exploring historic sites in the Swan Valley.

The tour, conducted by Dr. Shane Burke, Archaeologist and lecturer at Notre Dame University, and also Vice President of the Society, visited three sites that are testament to the Swan Valley as a place occupied and appreciated for thousands of years.

The three sites visited included Yagan's Memorial Park, highlighting both the long and rich Indigenous culture and the inextricable change that occurred with the arrival of the British.

The second stop was Cruze's Mill, with evidence of British adaptation to a new environment, while St. Mary's Church in Middle Swan shows evidence of the landscape that existed 200 years ago.

The day was a huge success, enjoyed by all who participated. Swan Guildford Historical Society will be repeating similar tours soon.



St. Mary's Church, Henley Brook



Yagan Memorial Park

Submitted by Gaye Sweeney.

Irwin Districts Historical Society

Pettit Lane Lives Again!

Pettit Lane or Pettit Road? Its been a fraught question for 50 years – at least in official circles although among local people the folk name Pettit Lane has always held sway. It recently came to a head (again) when residents of the street petitioned the Shire to formally revert the official name to the traditional Pettit Lane. The new shire president asked the Society to provide a background briefing for councillors on the historical, social and cultural aspects of the names, and the question was formally considered at the council's 25 November meeting. After some discussion, councillors voted unanimously to return the official name to Pettit Lane. Congratulations to the Pettit Laners for their strength and resilience.



I thank the councillors for their consideration of the historical and social contexts, and new president Isabelle Scott for inviting the briefing. This bodes well for a constructive relationship between the Society and the Shire. The briefing documents can be seen on our website under the Advocacy tab, or click here: <https://irwinhistory.org.au/advocacy/>

Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association

In a new departure for Maylands Historical, we worked with local artist Matt McVeigh to set up an Open Studio visit on Sunday 30th November. Dan Bull, State MP for Maylands, supported this event and opened it with a welcome address. Deputy Mayor of Bayswater (and MHPA member) Elli Petersen-Pik also attended as did around 20 Members and guests. Matt is an accomplished artist in many different media and has also won a number of prestigious commissions for public art installations around Perth and WA. He took the time to talk through his ideas and the genesis of some of the pieces on display around his studio.

Our final public talks of the year took place in November. Richard Offen attracted a sizeable audience for his talk on the development of photography in WA and he talked about some rare photographs he had unearthed in the State Archives taken in Perth during the very early days of photography. We also presented two lunchtime talks at Maylands Library, with speakers from our recent monthly talks returning to present their talks to a different demographic group. Geoff Moor presented *"Shop 'Til You Drop"* recounting the development of some of the household names in Perth retail shopping such as Boans, Foy & Gibson, Parrys and Ahearns. He also talked about some of the earliest shops and businesses in Maylands. Greg Benjamin presented *"Stories from East Perth Cemetery"*, recounting the background to graves and memorials featuring such famous family names such as Roe, Hardey, Leeder, Monger and Trigg as well as the stories behind some of the prison guards and convicts interred in these ancient cemeteries.

We ended the year in a strong position financially and were delighted that we have gained many new followers on social media, additional paid-up members and, most importantly for an organisation like ours, new volunteers! We have local people coming on board to work on specific projects of their own or to help out in the implementation of our large digitisation project.

We have an interesting line-up of speakers and events for 2026 and look forward to another successful year. Visitors are always welcome to explore our displays in the Old Police Station, Guildford Road, Maylands or to help us add information to the digital map. A link to the map, our walks and other resources are accessible through our website: maylandshistorical.com.au

Keith D Cundale - President, MHPA, 2025-26



Pictured at the opening L-R: Keith Cundale, President MHPA, Dan Bull MLA, Member for Maylands and local artist Matt McVeigh

MHPA Members and guests exploring the studio as Matt talked about his work that has evolved over many years and in many different formats and media.



HERstory - Remembering Australia's Military Women

My name is **Carla Edwards**, and I am the founder and lead artist behind **HERstory – Remembering Australia's Military Women**, a national, multi-year photographic and oral-history project honouring the service and lived experiences of Australian women across Navy, Army, and Air Force.

I will be travelling through the **Northern Territory (June 1–14)** and **Western Australia (June 15–30)** to document women veterans from both states.

I am writing to ask whether your organisation can help by:

1. Sharing this opportunity with women veterans in your network

I am seeking women who served in **any era – and definitely those still around from WWII**, including:

- contemporary ADF women
 - Vietnam, Malaysia, and post-war service
 - peacekeeping & humanitarian deployments
 - ex-WRANS, ex-WRAAC, ex-WAAAF/WRAAF
 - reservists and specialist corps
- women who prefer anonymity or voice-masking (fully supported)

Participation is **free**, voluntary, trauma-aware, and includes:

- a photographed portrait
- a recorded conversation
- or **voice-only podcast session** if preferred.

2. Providing me with local women-veteran contact points

If you are aware of:

- informal women veterans' groups,
 - quiet achievers who never step forward,
- ex-servicewomen living rurally,
I would be grateful for introductions.

3. Suggesting suitable, supportive locations

Community spaces, RSL rooms, quiet meeting areas or halls would be greatly appreciated for interviews in your region.

NT – Availability (June 1–14)

I intent to be travelling between **Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Daly River, and Alice Springs** during this window.

WA – Availability (June 15–30)

Locations include **Perth, Rockingham, Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton, and Karratha**, with flexibility for additional regional stops.

If you are able to share this call-out, make referrals, or connect me with the right women in your community, I would be sincerely grateful.

Thank you for the work you do supporting veterans and their families. This project exists to ensure women's service is recognised, recorded, and remembered with dignity — and the guidance of your organisation makes that possible.

With thanks and regards,

Carla Edwards - exhibiting photojournalist

M: 0407 102695