

Affiliated Societies

of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Newsletter

May 2026

2026-28

Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association

It has been an exceptionally busy and successful couple of months for Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association!

The scope of our various community engagement activities expanded, a large number of people attended a wide variety of public talks and events and the depth of our engagement with local communities has deepened. This has translated to 50 more followers on Facebook (now up to 1,280), some new paid-up members and, to date, over 23,300 views of our digital map!

We were delighted to have worked with Bayswater Historical Society to lead community efforts to engage with the City of Bayswater Council at various meetings with the eventual result of the Councillors voting unanimously to include the position of *History and Heritage Officer* in the forthcoming budget. This is a major step forward in reinforcing the importance of heritage and history to the whole of the City and brings us more in line with many other local authorities around WA who already employ staff in that role. The advocacy efforts of members of both Societies paid off when the Council voted to support this major step forward.

Our March talk was given by Robert Nicholson, AO, past President of the RWAHS, retired judge of the WA Supreme Court and the Federal Court of Australia. Bob talked about the life of his great grandfather, Captain Robert Laurie, who played such an important role in the operational development of Fremantle Harbour.

During April, we worked with Maylands Library - as we have done in previous years - to plan and deliver a short series of daytime talks: Keith Cundale presented a new talk on **"The A to Z of Maylands - Part 1"**, covering some of the people, places and events from the letters A to H. We were delighted that one of the descendants of the Hardey Family who arrived on the Tranby in 1830 – the family that built Tranby House / Peninsula Farm - attended this talk and also in the audience was a relative of the Olympic swimmer Evelyn de Lacy – who was also featured as one of our local heroes.

MHPA President Keith Cundale presenting at the April talk at the Old Peninsula Hotel.



Next Affiliates Committee Meeting will be held in June 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.

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.



Can You Help?

We have another photo for can you help? Do you recognise the swimming pool in this photograph? →

Following up from last months can you help - We still do not have an answer to the questions - 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. However Jo Cornish edited the original image. Thanks Jo.



Afghans in Coolgardie

Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association continued

Later in the month, Bevan Marshall recounted the story of Perth's 1st Airport on the Maylands Peninsula and finally Keith presented a talk that has been given a few times before on "Maylands at War" to align with ANZAC Day. On ANZAC Day itself, we held a short informal ceremony at the War Memorial adjacent to our premises and our lead researcher John McLennan set up a display of illustrated stories relating to local men and women who served in World War 1. After the ceremony, attended by around 60 local residents, a quite a few of the visitors took up the invitation to visit the Old Police Station and view the current displays and the latest developments in the digital map.

The regular monthly talk at the Old Peninsula Hotel was a repeat of the "A to Z of Maylands" talk and this evening event attracted a different audience keen to be reminded of places and people that were familiar with, as well as learning some new things about the suburb.

MHPA also supported Maylands Business Association with arrangements for a special Mothers' Day event activating the town centre. Our relationship with Bold Park School continued to deepen. The school is based in what was the old Presbyterian Church which features on our "Heritage Buildings Walk" and we are always keen to work with them on joint projects. Three of our Volunteers took part in an initiative from the City of Bayswater entitled "Inter-Generational Story Telling" when they were interviewed by some the Year 10 students as part of their course work. Some other students from that school also came to the Old Police Station to learn more about how we present our information and it is planned that they will use these insights in their course work and personal assignments.

We also supported local author Deb Huff on the launch of her book – *"Gossip, Ghosts and Good Times: Perth's most colourful building histories"*. We are pleased to be associated with this project as Deb's early illustrations of local buildings were included in the designs for our guided walks and many of the examples of buildings with stories in her book are located in Maylands.

We also supported and enabled the launch of a public seminar by Sarah Murthy on *"Researching the History of your House"*, which Sarah developed from a talk that was one of the monthly talks a year or so ago.

Finally, in February, I returned from a trip to England, delighted to bring with me some branded shirts that our volunteers now wear with pride! They were designed and printed by a UK company – Base1- owned and managed by my brother and we are really grateful to his company for donating these shirts to MHPA. In the photograph two of the volunteers – Sue Cundale and Gertie Murphy - have bravely knelt to show off the logo on the back of the shirts. We are all happy to at last have some MHPA logos to wear with pride.

In summary, with more volunteers now working with us, digitisation of our archives proceeding well, consistently large audiences for our talks, productive relationships with our local elected representatives at City and State levels and a deepening relationship with a local school I feel that we are well placed to continue our growth and development throughout the rest of this year and beyond. I am justifiably pleased with the results that have come from the tremendous efforts of our wonderful volunteers.

Keith Cundale, President



MHPA Volunteers pleased to wear their new branded shirts!

Cervantes Historical Society

The May meeting of the Cervantes Historical Society attended by eleven members was held at the historic Fatfield homestead at the invitation of the current owners Pauline and Phil.

This property is now in the development names Marine Fields, approximately half way between Cervantes and Jurien Bay.

In 1878 Hugh Hammersley purchased several freehold locations in the area and constructed a three room house and called it Fatfield.

The current homestead has been renovated from the original which was in ruins.

This area was along the stock route from the north, where stock was taken from Champion Bay to Guildford.

Henry Bower purchased Minyulo in 1891 and sometime after that purchased Fatfield which was used for the summer grazing of their cattle.

In 1919 the New Zealand and Australia Land Company, which was the largest pastoral operation in Australia at that time, purchased Yathroo followed by other properties including Fatfield, also using it for summer grazing of stock.

There is much more information on Fatfield to be found on Trove.



Swan Guildford Historical Society

Building Skills & Preserving History

Recently **Swan Guildford Historical Society Inc - SGHS** held a Museum Documentation Workshop at Judy Hammersley House. The first in a series of workshops to be made available to Society Volunteers.

Led by Stephen Anstey, former Head of History at Museums WA, the workshop provided participants with both the theory and practice behind professional museum documentation. From understanding object significance to mastering correct documentation techniques, Stephen's guidance offered invaluable real-world insight.

A key highlight was the participation of archaeology students from The University of Notre Dame Australia (NDA), who worked alongside SGHS volunteers, and SGHS curator Alexander Reid, as the Society continues to foster its partnership with NDA and explore volunteering and internship opportunities.



Our sincere thanks to Stephen Anstey, and to everyone who attended and contributed to this extremely rewarding day. Partnerships like these strengthen historical understanding and support education.

Attached photos show Stephen Anstey with Andrew Minogue, President of Swan Guildford Historical Society, and workshop participants.

Submitted by Gaye Sweeney.

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

During 2025, EGHS volunteers spent many hours auditing the collection of books held at the Old Boulder Power Station. This work has culminated in the library catalogue now being available to search online.

We invite you to browse the catalogue using the link below and encourage you to share it with others. All books are available to view at the Society, and most are available for members to borrow.

<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/KalgoorlieHistory>

The catalogue can be searched by topic, subject, or author.

As the catalogue has only just gone live, you may notice occasional errors. If so, please feel free to contact eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au.

We encourage your feedback on the usability. Tags, images, and comments are being added daily to improve the users experience.

WA Historical Cycle Club

Northam Cycle Depot / Agency / Works

Between 1923 and the 1960's there were two distinct business entities who used the term Northam Cycle as part of their names. The first was short lived, lasting only two years. The second ran from 1929 and passed through three owners.

Northam Cycle Depot 1923 to 1925 - Lloyd Edwin Elms had been employed by the Armstrong Cycle & Motor Agency in Perth for many years before he took over the shop at 254 Fitzgerald Street in June 1923 that had previously been used by the cycle agent William Travers. Advertising as L. Elms & Co and offering built-to-order cycles he initially rented the premises from JK Moore as agent for the Gordon Motor & Cycle Co, using money borrowed from JK Moore.

He also took on the agency for West Cycles and advertised as the West Cycle Depot, and sometimes the Northam Cycle Depot, also selling AJS motorcycles from at least May 9th 1925 to March 18th 1927. Elms briefly had a sub-agent in Toodyay, Wilfred M. Ferguson, from March to June 1925. Ferguson advertised bicycles built by Northam Cycle Depot at this time.

Following a fire in January 1927 that burnt his entire stock he was unable to repay his debts to JK Moore and supplier Mortlock Bros. He closed business in February 1927 was in bankruptcy court by March and was later found employment as an engine driver.

Northam Cycle & Motor Agency 1929 - 30 - Reginald John Campbell was a motorcycle salesman from Maylands before moving to Northam and forming a partnership with Cecil John Avery as Campbell & Avery. They opened business as Northam Cycle & Motor Agency at 234 Fitzgerald Street (opp. Northam Post Office) on September 22nd 1929. They advertised their locally built Northam cycle, as well as Douglas, Triumph and Indian motorcycles, and Triumph cars for whom they were sub-agents. (Armstrong Cycle & Motor Agency were the head agent).

Their partnership did not last long and was dissolved on May 9th 1930. Campbell had a cycle shop at Katanning for a short time in 1931 before moving to North Perth with his Navy Cycle Works in 1932.

Northam Cycle Works 1932 - 196? - In 1926 Royle "Roy" Thomas Haddrill opened a business as a saw doctor & tool sharpener at the rear of Peter Salvaire's garage, across the road from the Northam train station at 22 Peel Terrace (photo, right). Salvaire had run a cycle shop at Kalgoorlie prior to WWI.

Haddrill began advertising his services as bicycle builder and repairer under the names Avon Cycle Works and Northam Cycle Works in 1932. He last advertised as a cycle manufacturer in 1939 and as a saw sharpener on July 19th 1946 but is listed in the Post Office Directories as a bicycle dealer from 1940 to 1946 at the Peel Terrace address.

Northam has a history of producing notable racers; locals Peter Panton and Phil Bristow-Stagg rode and won at national and international levels. Two decades before Panton and Bristow-Stagg started making their marks, Bill Appleton was turning heads, both on track and in endurance events. In 1937 he rode the Beverley to Perth Road Race in 5 hours 12 minutes, on a Northam Cycle, beating South Australian Dean Toseland's 1935 record by three minutes. Appleton's record stood for 15 years.

Four years earlier, in 1933, Bill, a promising junior rider, was employed by Roy Haddrill. WWII war service in the 2nd AIF interrupted his employment, however once discharged he returned to Northam and the shop.

WA Historical Cycle Club continued ...

Due to ongoing health issues Haddrill sold Northam Cycle Works to Appleton, changing hands on November 19th 1945. In a retirement statement, Roy Haddrill mentioned that he had been building Northam Cycles for 20 years, and had purchased the business from Campbell & Avery in 1930.

Northam Cycle Works rarely advertised for business once Appleton took the reins, however there are two notable entries in the Northam Advertiser.

The first, in 1952, promotes Northam Cycle Works on the back of Peter Panton's wins in the York Wheelrace and Northam-York-Northam Road Race that year. 20 year old Panton, it is claimed, "naturally relies on his 'Super Northam' cycle to carry him to victory."

The second, in 1954, is a notice to 'long overdue' account holders threatening legal action. It concludes on a bleak note; "We can't live on promises, Bill Appleton".

Trove trawling reveals little else beyond Bill's 1954 missive with it's implication of financial difficulty. An article from 1963 notes interstate treatment for, and recovery from, an unspecified health issue, as well as a move to Chidlow. Bill was 47 at the time, and he died in 1992 aged 76.

The existence of WAHCC member Collyn Gawned's 1960 Swansea, rebranded as a Northam, suggests that Bill Appleton was still active in the bike industry in the early 1960's. The downtube decal still sports Bill's name but gives a new address in Northam's commercial precinct - 96 Fitzgerald Street.

Update; At our pop up museum at Toodyay's Moondyne Festival on May 3rd, club secretary Bill Raczowski had a conversation with descendants of Bill, Diane and Leanne Appleton. Leanne runs a bike shop in the metro area.

Rick Beazley and Robert Frith



Western Australian History Foundation Inc

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY FOUNDATION GRANTS 2026 - The Foundation invites applications for its 2026 grants round.

For guidelines and more information, see this website: <http://www.wahistoryfoundation.org.au/grants/guidelines-for-applicants/>

Grants round opens – 1 April 2026

Grants round closes – 1 July 2026

Announcement of successful applicants – by 1 August 2026

Community Heritage Grants

The Community Heritage Grants 2026 Round is now open. Please read the [Guidelines \(PDF, 405.74KB\)](#) for further information. The Guidelines is supported by resources on:

CHG website (this landing page, [Preparing an application](#), [Preparing for an assessment](#), [Recipients and reports](#) and [Other resources](#));

[Trove Partner Learning Hub](#) (select the 'Login as a Guest' option at the bottom left corner) and click on Community Heritage Grants 2026.

Applications are made via the SmartyGrants online platform. Depending on previous CHG grants, your organisation will complete one of three forms: New Applicants, Repeat Recipients or Training Projects. More details are provided below.

All applicants should contact the CHG Program to confirm that the organisation and project are eligible, prior to receiving a link to the appropriate SmartyGrants form.

[Send an email](#) with:

- name of your organisation and entity type (eg incorporated association, local government);
 - nature of the collection;
 - brief details of previous CHG projects; and
- proposed project and budget items (estimates are fine).

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:

