

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.)

58th Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies

hosted by

Bridgetown Historical Society (Inc)

Bridgetown 2023

Conference Minutes

Saturday 2 September – Bridgetown Library

Minute Taker: Fiona Bush, Mundaring & Hills Historical Society

Opening Conference: 9:00am Welcome to *87th Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies* - Chairman: Mary Elgar, President of Bridgetown Historical Society.

Welcome to Country provided by Sandra Hill

9.00am: Jane Kelsbie, MLA, Member for Warren-Blackwood and Hon. David Templeman, Minister for Heritage opened conference.

9.20am: Nick Drew, RWAHS Councillor and their representative on the Affiliated Societies Committee gave the Roll, Call, Apologies and Remembrances.

Roll Call, Apologies and Remembrances

31 Affiliated Societies, together with 5 other organisations:

Attendance:

Society

Augusta Historical Society
Bassendean Historical Society
Bayswater Historical Society
Bindoon & Districts Historical Society
Bridgetown Historical Society
Bunbury Historical Society
Cervantes Historical Society
Denmark Historical Society
Donnybrook Historical Society
Friends Donnelly Village
Fremantle Historical Society
Harvey Historical Society
Historical Society of Cockburn
Irwin Districts Historical Society
Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society
Mandurah Historical Society
Manjimup Historical Society
Maylands Historical & Peninsula Association
Midland & Districts Historical Society
Mundaring & Hills Historical Society
Murray Districts Historical Society
Northam & Districts Historical Society

Plantagenet Historical Society
Royal Western Australian Historical Society
Scout Heritage Centre of WA
Serpentine Historical Society
Swan Guildford Historical Society
Swan River Pioneers 1829 - 1836
Toodyay Historical Society
Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society
York Society

Other Organisations

AMaGA
Birtwistle Local Studies Library - City of Armadale
City of Cockburn
Coalfields Museum & Historical Research Centre
Greenbushes Discovery Centre

Apologies

Birdwood Military Museum Society
Eastern Goldfields Historical Society
Geraldton Historical Society

Remembrances

Nick Drew asked those present to share a moment of silence in respect for the following members of The Royal Western Australian Historical Society and Affiliated Societies who passed away in 2022-2023:

Albany Historical Society

Joan Blight, Life Member
Harvey Everett, Life Member

Bunbury Historical Society

Lesley Egan
Joan Moore
Joan Paisley

City of South Perth Historical Society

M. Briffa
L. Giblett
J. Harwaood

Denmark Historical Society

Max and Isobel Berridge
Jack Ferrier
Stuart Holmes
Jean Phillips

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

Les Auger
Iryna Barnes

Esperance Bay Historical Society

Toppie Dickerson, Life Member

Fremantle Historical Society

Judy Carter
Nick Gurr
June Hutchison

Mandurah Historical Society

Isabel Borland

Midland & Districts Historical Society

Lisa Busk

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society

Briony Waterhouse

Naremburn Historical Society

Ivy Hall

RWAHS

Margaret Brinsden
Kerry Cross
Pat de Haer
Peter Haride, Life Member
Jo Hiller
Barbara Hurst
Darrell McGuinness
Patsy Roche
R. Russell
Marion Tapper

Toodyay Historical Society

Kathy Chittyigg

Walpole Nornalup & District Historical Society

Elizabeth Gerner, Hon. Life Member

Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society

Margaret Cockman
Alex Lacorte

York Society

Duncan Steed

Nick Drew - Convenor of Affiliates Societies Committee called for nominations for the 2023/24 Affiliated Societies Committee. Current members:

Bruce Baskerville
Fiona Bush
Nick Drew
Mary Elgar
Jacqui Huntley
Marilyn Gazeley
Bev McGuinness
Ashleigh Murch
Lynn O'Hara
Ellen Parrick
Diane Pope
2023 Draft SHC Mins

Irwin Districts Historical Society
Mundaring & Hills Historical Society
Royal Western Australian Historical Society
Bridgetown Historical Society
Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society
Cervantes Historical Society
Denmark Historical Society
Denmark Historical Society
City of South Perth Historical Society
Mundaring & Hills Historical Society
Bindoon & Districts Historical Society

Session 1 Chaired by Mary Elgar President Bridgetown Historical Society

9.30am: Sandra Hill - *First Nations People, their history and inclusiveness in museums.*

10.00am: Peter Hall - *Orcharding in Bridgetown*

10.30am: Philippa Rogers – *WA Railway history to Bridgetown*

Morning Tea: 11.00 – 11.25am

Session 2 Chaired by Mary Elgar President Bridgetown Historical Society

11.30am: Pat Scallan OAM – *Mining in Greenbushes from Tin to Lithium*

12.00pm: Tim Clynnch – *The Evolution of Bridgetown*

12.30pm: Dr Sally Paulin – *The Donnelly Mil Project - recycling a mill town*

Lunch: 1.00 – 2.00pm

Afternoon Excursions

Sunday 3 September

Session 1 Chaired by Richard Offen, President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society – Annual Meeting, Reports, Awards and Open Forum

8.45am: Minutes of 2022 conference ratified with no changes required. Mr Offen provided a brief report on the activities of the RWAHS since the last conference. Numbers attending meetings this year much improved due relaxation of COVID restrictions. Thanked Nick Drew and Pamela Statham Drew, together with their team of helpers, for their efforts in making the annual 2022 Booksale a success. He also noted with regret that longstanding councillors, Helen Henderson and Lennie McCall had decided to stand down from Council this year.

Remarkable number of volunteer hours provided to the Society, over 1,000. Probably a similar figure for our affiliates. Its important to keep track of volunteer hours as it is a valuable piece of information when applying for grants.

New website launched, great improvement, the online shop is working very well. Space on there for information from Affiliates so please send information for this area.

Society's journal, Early Days, is now the only journal that publishes articles specifically on WA History. Thanked the editors, Jennie Carter and Heather Campbell for all their hard work. We will soon have all volumes digitised by Battye Library.

Reported that we think we've found a new building that could be suitable for the Society to move into. Stirling House is now longer fit for purpose.

8.55am: Hon Robert (Bob) Nicholson presented the Federation of Australian Historical Societies report. Noted the function of the Federation: concentrates on Federal issues as well as interstate. Doesn't interfere with running of local historical societies. The committee meets four times a year via zoom. AGM held in October. Current President is Christine Yeats (NSW). Previous President, Don Garden is a strong supporter of the organsiation and is always campaigning Federal bodies for funds. No employed staff. The organisation has two epublications: an eBulletin and a biannual eNewsletter. They always have trouble finding an editor for these issues. The publications deal with issues related to all aspects of the affiliated societies. Have recently joined with AMaGA on a variety of issues. For example:

succession planning for committee membership. Bob encouraged Affiliates to take an interest in the national newsletter and website as there is information there that is relevant to all of us.

9.10am: Richard Offen announced this year's recipients of the Merit Award is Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association. The award was accepted by Keith and Suzanne Cundale (President and Secretary).

2024 conference will be hosted by Irwin Districts Historical Society.

Richard reported that City of Cockburn had offered to host the 2025 conference. This was accepted by the delegates.

Motion: To accept the invitation from City of Cockburn to host the 2025 Conference **RESOLVED**

9.20am: Bruce Baskerville, President of Irwin Districts Historical Society, gave a short presentation on the area covered by Irwin. They have decided on a theme: Waves of Change. The dates: 6 - 8 September 2024. It's also the Society's 60th anniversary. Drew delegates attention to the flyer that had been placed on their chairs earlier this morning that provided information on Dongara and also accommodation.

2026 Conference, Richard Offen announced that the RWAHS would like to host that year as it is their 100th anniversary. This was agreed to by the delegates.

Motion: To accept the invitation from the Royal Western Australian Historical Society to host the 2026 Conference **RESOLVED**

Nick Drew announced the membership of the 2023/24 Affiliates Committee:

Bruce Baskerville (Irwin Districts Historical Society); Fiona Bush (Mundaring & Hills Historical Society); Keith and Suzanne Cundale (Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association); Nick Drew (Royal Western Australian Historical Society); Jacqui Huntley (Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society); Marilyn Gazeley (Cervantes Historical Society); Bev McGuinness (Denmark Historical Society); Ashleigh Murch (Denmark Historical Society); Lyn O'Hara (City of South Perth Historical Society); Ellen Parrick (Mundaring & Hills Historical Society); Diane Pope (Bindoon & Districts Historical Society) and Rosie Stroud (Eastern Goldfields Historical Society).

He also informed delegates that the Lotterywest grant monies would be paid in the next few days.

Open Forum

Toodyay Historical Society asked a question about insurance. Fiona Bush reported that this has been an ongoing issue for our Affiliates for some years now and there is no easy solution. Many societies have become members of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria as their insurance was not too expensive. Others use AMA GA. The RWAHS would like to try and set up a similar form of insurance to the Victorian one but it requires input from an insurance broker. A broker was approached and reported on the difficulties associated with establishing this type of group insurance. The Affiliates Committee has not given up on the notion.

Helen Henderson also mentioned that insurance offered by WALGA might also be worth investigating.

9.40am: Business completed.

9.45am: Karen Hill - *Heritage Festivals for Rural Towns*

10.05am: Beverley Rebbeck - *Serving Indigenous Language*

10.15 am: Jordana Rebbeck - *Research on Kaniyang Grinding Stones*

Morning Tea 10.30 - 10.55am

11.00am: Richard Allen – *Joseph Smith - Convict Builder and Civic Leader*

11.30am: Mary Elgar – *Oral History*

11.53am: Richard Offen provided closing comments: thanked caterers and BHS volunteers who did a wonderful job keeping delegates fed.

Richard presented Mary Elgar with the Host Shield.

12.00pm: Close

2024 Affiliated Societies State History Conference to be held in Dongara on 6 - 8 September.