

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.)
MINUTES
60th Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies:
Faces & Spaces of Cockburn
hosted by
City of Cockburn and the
Historical Society of Cockburn (Inc)
Cockburn 12 - 14 September 2025

Saturday 13 September – Jakovich Centre, Henderson

Minute Taker: Fiona Bush, Mundaring & Hills Historical Society

Opening Conference: 9:00am CM Cassandra Cooper

Welcome to Country by Vaugh McGuire

Welcome 9.15am: Mayor of Cockburn, Logan Howlett

Welcome 9.20: Sally Anne Hasluck, Vice President and Vice Chair RWAHS

Welcome 9.23: Helen Greer, President of Historical Society of Cockburn

Opening of Conference: Simon McGurk,

9.30am Nick Drew, RWAHS Councillor and representative on the Affiliated Societies Committee: Roll, Call, Apologies and Remembrances.

Roll Call, Apologies and Remembrances

31 Affiliated Societies, together with 5 other organisations:

Attendance:

Society

Army Museum of WA
Augusta Historical Society
Bassendean Historical Society
Bindoon & Districts Historical Society
Bunbury Historical Society
Busselton Historical Society
Cervantes Historical Society
City of South Perth Historical Society
Denmark Historical Society
Fremantle Historical Society
Geraldton Historical Society
Harvey Districts Historical Society
Harvey History Online
Historical Society of Cockburn
Irwin Districts Historical Society
Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society
Maylands Historical & Peninsula Association
Melville Historical Society
Midland & Districts Historical Society
Mundaring & Hills Historical Society
Rockingham District Historical Society

Royal Western Australian Historical Society
Serpentine Historical Society
Swan Guildford Historical Society
Swan River Pioneers 1829 - 1836
Toodyay Historical Society
Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society

Other Organizations

AMaGA, Western Australia
City of Cockburn
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
City of Perth
Divine Mercy College
Family History of WA
Family History of WA - Enrolled Pensioner Guards
Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp
Greenbushes Discovery Centre
History Family Assoc. of Rockingham
Murdoch University
Spearwood Dalmatinac Club
UWA
WA Museum

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 2024-2025:

Albany Historical Society

Jo Price

Cervantes Historical Society

Mamie Moody

Jenny Seymour

Ted Wilson

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

Tess Thomson

Peter Pavlonvich

Fremantle Historical Society

Bob Woollett

Historical Society of Cockburn

Bob Pallett

Howard Shephead

Nola Waters

Jarrahdale Heritage Society

Lorraine Bowtel

Geezame Nice

Midland & Districts Historical Society

Kevin Mountain

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society

Trish Beaman

Northam Historical Society

Luis Pachon

RWAHS

Reg Appleyard, Fellow

Ian Berryman

Merle Bignell, Fellow

Coline Catyless

Mary Lilburne

Winston Foulkes-Taylor

Gabor Hamory

Kevin Hoganb

Adelphie King (& York Society)

Ruth Marchant James, Fellow

Janice Munt

Rob O'Connor

Basil Twine

Swan-Guildford Historical Society

Marilyn Corcia

Toodyay Historical Society

Sheena Hesse

York Society

Rev. Peter Mold

June Dawson

Nick Drew - Convenor of Affiliates Societies Committee called for nominations for the 2024/25 Affiliated Societies Committee. Current members:

Bruce Baskerville

Tony Bird

Fiona Bush

Denise Cook

Nick Drew

Natalie Evans

Keith Cundale

Jacqui Huntley

Marilyn Gazeley

Ashleigh Murch

Lynn O'Hara

Trish Parker

Ellen Parrick

Rosie Stroud

Irwin Districts Historical Society

City of Cockburn

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society

City of Cockburn

Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Collections WA, AMaGA WA

Maylands Historical & Peninsula Association

Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society

Cervantes Historical Society

Denmark Historical Society

City of South Perth Historical Society

Irwin Districts Historical Society

York Society

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

9.40am: Mary Blight - *Midgegooroo, early Whadjuk Nyoongar leader in Cockburn*

10.05am: Panel Group: Marcia Blagaich, Jeanette Paulik & Rina Lovretta. Facilitator: Bruce Baskerville - *Growing up in market and flower gardens*

Morning Tea: 10.30 – 11.15am

11.15am: Ross Anderson - *Shipwrecks and Vampires: Cockburn Sound's underwater sites*

11.50am: Nandi Chinna and Catherine Baudins - *Bibra Lake Stories*

Lunch: 1.00 – 1.45pm

Afternoon Excursions

Sunday 14 September

Business Section of Conference: Chaired by Sally Anne Hasluck, Vice President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society

8.55am: Minutes of 2025 conference ratified with no changes required. Ms Hasluck provided a brief report on the activities of the RWAHS since the last conference. Great changes have taken place in the Society's location. After 10 years of planning 49 Broadway (Stirling House) was sold and 109 Stirling Highway, Nedlands was purchased. This purchase was due to a Lotterywest Grant of \$1.7 million and two private donors. The purchase was assisted by pro bono assistance from many professionals. Moving the Society's collection was achieved through the efforts of the Society's volunteers who carefully packed and then unpacked the boxes. An Open Day was held in January for members to view the building. Due to the generous assistance of St Andrew's Anglican Church in Nedlands, the monthly talks and the community talks continued through the year, held in the parish hall and by May we were able to hold our monthly meetings in our new home. A President's Housewarming Day was held in July, and the official opening by the Governor is scheduled for February 2026.

Alterations to the Society's Constitution were made in December 2024 and moves towards rebranding, with a new logo, has commenced. 2026 represents the Society's Centenary which presents us with the opportunity for a new focus and also the need to focus on a membership drive.

It was noted that the Affiliates newsletter has been a great success which is enjoyed not only by our affiliated societies, but also by History West members and also a federal audience via the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS).

Ms Hasluck closed her report by thanking Cockburn for hosting the 2025 conference and invited delegates to visit 109 Stirling Highway. See Nick Drew to arrange a visit.

Call for hosts for the 2027 and 2028 conferences - no offers. Swan-Guildford has nominated for the 2029 conference.

Fiona Bush provided a short presentation for the 2026 Conference which will be hosted by the RWAHS. 2026 represents the Society's Centenary year and the topic will be 1926 - 2026 A Century of Change: Where to Next?

Results from 2025/26 Affiliated Societies Committee Election:

Fiona Bush (Mundaring & Hills); Elizabeth Craigie (Busselton); Nick Drew (RWAHS); Natalie Evans (Collections WA, AMaGA WA), Jacqui Huntley (Wanneroo & Districts); Wendy Garstone (Bayswater); Marilyn Gazeley (Cervantes); Ashleigh Murch (Denmark); Lynn O'Hara (City of South Perth); Trish Parker (Irwin), and Rosie Stroud (Eastern Goldfields).

Fiona Bush reminded delegates that at last year's conference it was agreed that following their AGM, affiliated societies would provide the RWAHS with a copy of their annual report together with information on their office bearers, email addresses or any other contact details. This is required under Rule 87(5) of the RWAHS' constitution.

Ms Hasluck called on FAHS President, Dr Rosalie Triolo to provide a brief update on the Federation's activities. Dr Triolo reported that the Federation receives no funding for the Federal government. They have a monthly eNewsletter: Historical Society Matters which delegates can subscribe to for free. Societies can join the Federation for \$35 per year. The Foundation has 8 members; each state and territory has two delegates. WA is represented by Nick Drew (Treasurer) and Michael Nind. She closed her report by thanking delegates for making her feel welcome.

Open Forum/Question Time - there were no questions

9.30am: Maeve Harvey - Coogee: *So Much More than a Beautiful Beach*

10.05am: Erik and Joshua Sorgan - *Dida Ante's Vino: An Enduring Croatian Tradition*

Morning Tea 10.35 - 11.00am

11.00am: Dr Crienda Fitzgerald – *Murder and the Camel Trade: Fremantle to Karachi, 1896. A tale of avarice, deceit and pursuit*

11.50am: Dr Michael O'Connor & Dr Denise Cook – *Wandi Dixon*

12.25pm: Prof Andrea Gaynor - *Cockburn as a conservation powerhouse*

Lunch 12. 50pm

Afternoon Excursions