

**The Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.)**  
**MINUTES**  
**59th Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies:**  
**Waves of Change**  
**hosted by**  
**Irwin Districts Historical Society (Inc)**  
**Dongara 2024**

**Saturday 6 September – Priory Hotel**

**Minute Taker:** Fiona Bush, Mundaring & Hills Historical Society

**Opening Conference:** 8:30am Dance by Wattandee Littlewell Aboriginal Corporation - performed the sweeping dance on the Priory's lawn. Followed by Welcome to Country by Elder Thomas Cameron

Welcome 9.15am: Hon. Sandra Carr, MLC formal opening of the conference

9.25am 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**

Augusta Historical Society  
Bassendean Historical Society  
Bayswater Historical Society  
Bindoon & Districts Historical Society  
Bunbury Historical Society  
Busselton Historical Society  
Cervantes Historical Society  
City of South Perth  
Denmark Historical Society  
Donnybrook Historical Society  
Fremantle Historical Society  
Geraldton Historical Society  
Harvey Districts Historical Society  
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  
Royal Western Australian Historical Society  
Serpentine Historical Society  
Swan Guildford Historical Society  
Swan River Pioneers 1829 - 1836

Toodyay Historical Society  
Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society  
York Society

**Other Organizations**

AMaGA, Western Australia  
Batavia Coast Maritime  
City of Cockburn  
Collections WA  
Flat Sea Project  
Film maker Paul Barron  
Greenough Museum  
Mingenew Historical Society  
Oral History WA  
Rockingham/Kwinana  
Swan Genealogy  
The Fremantle Society  
UWA  
WA Museum Geraldton  
WA Sikh Association  
Wattandee Littlewell Corporation

## 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 2023-2024:

### **Albany Historical Society**

Maureen Lucas

### **Augusta Historical Society**

Gwen Miller

### **Cervantes Historical Society**

Penny (Owen) Randell

### **Darlington History Group**

Lee Ashton

Judy Bracks

Tom Herzfeld

### **Eastern Goldfields Historical Society**

Kevin Young

### **Esperance Bay Historical Society**

Stan Latchford

### **Fremantle Historical Society**

Barbara Dudding

Garry Gillard

June Hutchison

### **Irwin Districts Historical Society**

Adriana (Jean) Amos

Terry Domico

Frances Nicholls

Isabel Borland

### **Jarrahdale Heritage Society**

Ian Nice

### **Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society**

Ross Annetts

John Pope

Rodney Van Proctor

### **Maylands Historical & Peninsula Association**

Terry Gaunt

### **Melville & Districts Historical Society**

Barbara Dudding

Maria Formentin

Mardi Quinn

### **Midland & Districts Historical Society**

Howard Angel

Ena Willemsen

### **Mundaring & Hills Historical Society**

Michael Kidd

Jan Philpot

Barry Rhodes

Keith Wilkinson

Marj Holmwood, also Life Member RWAHS

### **Narembeen Historical Society**

Gaynor Latham

### **RWAHS**

Yvonne Doncaster

Malcolm Higham, Hon. Life Member

Lionel Hemsley, Life Member

Gilliam Meecham

### **Swan River Pioneers 1829 - 1838**

Graham Bown

Ruth Reid, AM

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

Keith Cundale

Jacqui Huntley

Marilyn Gazeley

Bev McGuiness

Ashleigh Murch

Lynn O'Hara

Trish Parker

Irwin Districts Historical Society

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society

Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Maylands Historical & Peninsula Association

Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society

Cervantes Historical Society

Denmark Historical Society

Denmark Historical Society

City of South Perth Historical Society

Irwin Districts Historical Society

Ellen Parrick  
Diane Pope  
Rosie Stroud

York Society  
Bindoon & Districts Historical Society  
Eastern Goldfields Historical Society

## **Session 1**

9.40am: Gary Martin - *Moving Beyond Pioneers - Innovations for the survival of local history museums*

11.00am: Thomas Cameron - *Littlewell Project*

11.30am: Jeff Murray & Dr Nan Broad – *Cartographic Chronicles: Exploring history using maps*

12.00pm: Tarun Preet Singh - *Sikhs in Western Australia and the Irwin Districts*

12.30pm: Heather Huntwick - *An Appetite for Change: the nineteenth century food and health reform*

**Morning Tea: 10.30 – 11.00am**

**Lunch: 1.00 – 1.45pm**

**Afternoon Excursions**

## **Sunday 8 September**

### **Session 2 - Chaired by Richard Offen, President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society – Annual Meeting, Reports, Awards and Open Forum**

8.45am: Minutes of 2024 conference ratified with no changes required. Mr Offen provided a brief report on the activities of the RWAHS since the last conference. Thanked Lenore Layman, editor of History west who skilfully transforms the information she receives into a pleasing format that we read each month. The jewel in the Society's crown is the annual journal Early Days. The first edition was published in 1927, and it has been produced annually since then. It is now the only annual publication devoted to WA history. High praise to joint editors Heather Campbell and Jennie Carter, and the Readings and Publications committee. This year it was decided to do a stand-alone event for the launch, which was held on 23rd August.

This year's annual weekend Booksale was once again a great success. Grateful thanks to Nick Drew and Pamela Statham Drew and their team of helpers for the excellent results achieved.

Richard also noted that is remarkable the number of volunteer hours provided to the Society, over 1,000. Probably a similar figure for our affiliates. It's important to keep track of volunteer hours as this is a valuable piece of information when applying for grants.

The Society continues to look at prospect buildings for their new headquarters. It had been thought that we had found a place in Subiaco, but it was discovered that the building did not have vacant possession, so the search goes on. Thank you to Sally Anne Hasluck who continues tirelessly with this task.

A big thank you to Lesley Burnett, our Community Officer who is our public face. She always goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that our daily affairs run as smoothly as possible.

9.00am: Richard Offen announced the winner of this year's Merit Award: Busselton Historical Society and called on representatives from Busselton to accept the award.

9.10am: Richard Offen called on representatives from City of Cockburn and the Historical Society of Cockburn to provide a short presentation for the 2025 conference which will be hosted jointly by the City of Cockburn and the Historical Society of Cockburn. The conference theme is Faces & Spaces of Cockburn and will be held on 12 - 14 September 2025 in the Jakovich Centre.

9.20am: Nick Drew announced the membership of the 2024/25 Affiliates Committee:

Bruce Baskerville (Irwin Districts); Tony Bird (City of Cockburn); Fiona Bush (Mundaring & Hills); Denise Cook (City of Cockburn); Keith Cundale (Maylands Historical and Peninsula Association); Nick Drew

(RWAHS); Jacqui Huntley (Wanneroo & Districts); Marilyn Gazeley (Cervantes); Ashleigh Murch (Denmark); Lynn O'Hara (City of South Perth); Ellen Parrick (York Society); and Rosie Stroud (Eastern Goldfields).

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

9.25am: Richard Offen called on Affiliated Societies Committee member, Fiona Bush, to discuss a constitutional requirement for the Society's affiliates. Fiona reported that whilst undertaking changes to the RWAHS' constitution, it was noted that a requirement of affiliation with the RWAHS was that affiliated societies provide an annual report. Currently, the Affiliated Societies Committee each year requests affiliates to provide a report on their activities for the past financial year. The responses received were then used to determine a recipient for the annual Merit Award. The committee had been unaware that an annual report was a constitutional requirement and that the format had to be agreed on at the annual State History Conference. Therefore, the following motion, which outlines the requirements, is proposed:

**Motion:** That in accordance with RWAHS Rule 87(5), each affiliated society, following their AGM, will forward to the RWAHS during each financial year, a copy of their annual committee report together with any changes made to office bearers, email addresses or any other contact details.

## **RESOLVED**

## **CARRIED**

9.30am: Open Forum - several queries on new ATO requirements. It was noted that information on this had been included in the August issue of the Affiliated Societies Newsletter. Natalie Evans (AMaGA,WA) reported that AMaGA, WA was in a position to provide 50% off insurance for Tier A members. Any queries speak to her on this matter.

Swan Pioneers representative asked about preparations underway for 2029 celebrations. Brief discussion on this. Natalie Evans recommended taking a holistic approach so that not everyone is trying to tell the same story.

Richard Offen reported that the state government is not making any decisions on this matter until after the state election next year.

## **Morning Tea 9.40 - 10.00am**

10.00am: Dr Howard Gray – *Batavia: The wreck that keeps on giving*

10.35am: Su Dhu – *FlatSea Project*

11.00am: Dr Bruce Baskerville - *Commoners and Co-operators: Local history is so much more than rugged individuals*

## **11.30 - 11.40 Break**

11.40pm: Matthew Pavlinovich - *Midland Railway Company of WA and its local and regional heritage*

12.10pm: Paul Barron - *Reflections on "Such Was Life"*

12.40pm: Bruce Baskerville - Closing Address and Thanks

Richard Offen presented Bruce Baskerville with a host shield as a memento of this event.

## **Lunch 13.10 - 13.50pm**

## **Afternoon Excursions**