

Proposed Public Programme for Samson House
(using NTP Public Programme template as the guide)

Are You Old Enough to Come to Our Party?

Proposed Programme: To hold a 'Garden Party' at Samson House for seniors during Seniors Week in November 2014. This will involve games on the lawn such as croquet and quoits as well as tours of the house, refreshments and perhaps music.

Background: The National Trust of Australia (WA) has been approached by the City of Fremantle to offer some sort of programme at Samson House during Seniors Week in November. Below is the query received via the website in June 2014.

firstname = Kay
lastname = Raymond
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Telephone = 94329826
Address_1 = 8 William Street
Address_2 =
Town = Fremantle
Postcode = 6160
Message = Seniors week is held in November and I was thinking about Samson house as a possibility. Not sure what so open to suggestions.

Please make contact. Kay

Aims:

to provide an opportunity for seniors to visit Samson House during a week that has a high profile in terms of publicity in the general press (i.e. the Trust can piggyback on existing advertising).

to provide an opportunity for seniors to visit Samson House during a week when special events are organized for seniors (i.e. the Trust is seen to be participating in this community-wide initiative recognizing the older members of society).

to partner with the City of Fremantle, Samson House being significant to the history of the port city. The Samson family has been in Fremantle since the start of European settlement. Being one of the 'merchant princes' of Fremantle, the family was influential in having Fremantle, rather than Albany, developed as the major port of Western Australia.

Historic Relevance of the programme to the Property:

Samson House was built in the 1880s and extended a few years later. As such, it fits in with a period when garden parties would have been de rigueur i.e. they were introduced by Queen Victoria in the 1860s at Buckingham Palace and widely copied.

A newspaper record exists of a Coming of Age party held at Samson House for the daughter of the proprietor of the boarding house as it then was. While not a garden party, we can incorporate aspects of this event into our own programme:



Sunday Times
Sunday 14 October 1928

Aspects we can incorporate into our programme include dancing, music and competitions that were included in the festivities. One example might be a competition for the best Garden Party hat.

Refreshments could be served on the verandah where the birthday banquet was spread. A cake could be part of the refreshments.

There is scope to play on this particular event in the advertising for Seniors Week e.g. *Only people who have come of age can come to our garden party commemorating a Coming of Age party held at Samson House.*

In the house is an old-fashioned gramophone so old-fashioned tunes would be appropriate.

Links to Plans and Policies: (See under aim above regarding linking with the City of Fremantle for this programme too.)

The last owner of Samson House, Sir Frederick Samson, bequeathed his house "for the purpose of providing a Museum ... for public education or instruction and particularly relating to the early history of Fremantle". Samson House Conservation Plan.

This Garden Party programme fits neatly with his wish that Samson House “become a permanent public record of the way of life of a prosperous merchant family in Fremantle at the turn of the century” – Samson House Conservation Plan.

Target Audience: Seniors by request

Dates and times: Two hour sessions.
Mornings and/or afternoons during Seniors Week

Partners: City of Fremantle

Details of Programme:

The programme will consist of three ‘activities’: a tour of the house, morning or afternoon tea and games. Small groups will circulate through the house while the others are outside having tea or trying their hand at quoits etc.

Resources required:

1. Non-consumables

Games to play on the lawn i.e. lawn bowls, croquet, quoits etc.
Chairs and tables for seating and eating in the garden
Tables for the food to be served
Portable gazebos to provide shade
Soundscapes to be triggered as people move into rooms if self-guided tours otherwise brochures with information about the rooms and their objects.
Music system: old-fashioned gramophone if possible

2. Consumables

Afternoon tea. Scones, jam and cream, cucumber sandwiches, fruit cake.

3. Human

Staff on duty to serve tea, supervise games and, if not conduct tours, keep an eye on the house and its contents.

Purpose of Programme:

Increased understanding of the Trust’s role in preserving WA’s Heritage.
Increased knowledge of the Samsons and their connections with Fremantle.
An opportunity for seniors to reminisce.