



**LEFT** Winthrop Professor of History Jenny Gregory calls on the State Government for a better Waterfront Plan. G Pickering NTWA

heritage values will be appropriately represented through on site interpretation.

"As the *Esplanade Reserve* is a registered place, the Heritage Council will have an ongoing statutory role in providing advice on development of the site as it occurs, and the development of the interpretation strategy and plan for the site," Mr Gammie said.

National Trust Councilor, Winthrop Professor of History Jenny Gregory, doubts interpretation, particularly through public art, can adequately represent the history of the site and believes that it does not justify the loss of heritage values.

"This approach was used widely at the East Perth Claisebrook development, but presents a sanitised version of the history of the area," she said.

In May 2011, the Trust registered concerns about the adverse impact of the proposed Waterfront Masterplan in a submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission recommending the public utility of the development not be compromised by excessively

## Valuing heritage on Perth's Waterfront

GINA PICKERING

How safe are places listed on Western Australia's State Heritage Register?

Until recently, the State Heritage Office website stated the Register legally protected a place's cultural heritage significance by ensuring any new development is in harmony with its cultural heritage values. Protection is achieved under the Heritage Act and responsibility for the Act lies with the Minister, who is advised by the Heritage Council and the State Heritage Office.

Opponents of the Perth Waterfront development have been critical of the State Government's proposed cluster of towers with their accompanying long shadows, and

the reduction of public meeting space. Both contribute to an irreversible loss of cultural heritage values of this place.

Opponents have also voiced concerns over traffic chaos and an end result that would deliver commercial outcomes but rob the site of civic value.

Perth Waterfront Project Director Glen Finn and State Heritage Office Executive Director Graeme Gammie openly admit the proposed development will see the physical fabric of the Perth Esplanade removed, however both claim the



**ABOVE** At the rally Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins raised concerns about traffic flow. G Pickering NTWA

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### Inside this issue



# PERSPECTIVES



**CHAIRMAN,  
JOHN COWDELL AM**

The Council of the National Trust in WA has further determined a number of initiatives during the first quarter of 2012:

## GOVERNANCE

The Council approved a program to implement recommendations contained in the 2011 Report of the Public Sector Commissioner. At its March meeting it adopted both a property acquisition and property disposal policy addressing each of the Commissioner's recommendations. The Trust's property acquisitions and property disposal policies are now published on the Trust website.

The Commissioner Mel Wauchope attended the March meeting of Council with the Commissioner's Director of Practice & Leadership, and gave a presentation on accountable and ethical decision making.

Some options for consideration in the Commissioner's report canvassed possible legislative change to the National Trust of Australia (WA) Act 1964. It was noted that the Council's size (26) and representative nature, could be addressed by legislative amendment, although the operation of Council and its extensive use of committees did not inhibit the operations or good governance of the Trust. It was further noted that, while the Trust could either be entirely privatised as a limited liability company or incorporated in a department and made subject to Ministerial direction. Both of these options had been canvassed in the past and been found to deliver a less desirable heritage outcome.

## ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS

The Trust has received approval from the Government in recent months to sell the old courthouse and police complex in Beverley (subject to a heritage agreement) with funds from the sale being devoted to heritage works at Avondale. The government has also approved the sale of the National Trust's remaining two

The Council of the National Trust in Western Australia has elected its Officers for 2012. The following members elected unopposed:

Chairman	Hon John Cowdell AM
Deputy Chair	Mr Gregory Boyle
President	Mr Max Kay AM CIT. WA
Vice President	Prof Jenny Gregory AM
Vice President	Mr Grant Godfrey
Secretary	Ms Helen Cogan
Treasurer	Mr John Palermo
Councilor	Dr Robyn Taylor
Councilor	Prof Jenny Gregory AM
Councilor	Mrs Peggy Clarke
Councilor	Prof Alistair Paterson
Councilor	Mr Roger Jennings
Councilor	Ms Fiona Bush
Councilor	Dr Ken Collins

bushbank properties, with funds being devoted to the maintenance of its bush covenanting program on private land. The Trust's conservation covenanting program currently supports 125 landowners to manage over 16,000ha of bushland.

The Council has agreed to accept the donation of St Peters Anglican Church and graveyard Gilgering, in order to support the work of the local community to conserve the site. The Trust has accepted the vesting, subject to the incorporation of a local group to be known as the Friends of St Peters Anglican Church, with a view to the transfer of the site in due course.

## IMPROVEMENTS

Following expressions of interest the Council has authorised Clinton Matthews of Matthews Architecture to enter into planning discussions with the Town of East Fremantle with a view to restoring and maintaining the Royal George Hotel as an ongoing commercial operation. A concept proposal has been advanced to accommodate a wine bar, cafe and meeting room on the ground floor, with provision for community space that may be used for a gallery area, meeting room or exercise space on the lower ground floor, and office accommodation for professional businesses on the first floor.

## PUBLIC ADVOCACY

### Perth Waterfront Development

The Council received an update on the Perth Waterfront Development from the Project Director at its February meeting, followed by extensive questioning on transport and traffic, heritage, water quality, scale of development and climatic

conditions. Prof Jenny Gregory and Max Hipkins reported on planning and heritage concerns. Council resolved to express its concerns on the development to the Minister. (Further details are featured in the story in this edition).

## Wedge & Grey Shack Settlements

Following consideration of a comprehensive report funded by the residents of the Wedge & Grey Shack communities, Council resolved to:

- nominate Wedge & Grey Shack Settlements for inclusion on the State Heritage Register as historic Precincts.
- request the State Government through the Minister for the Environment develop a holistic management plan which conserves and interprets the cultural heritage values of these precincts.
- Offer to assist the Minister in the preparation of such a plan. (Further details are featured in the story in this edition)

## APPEALS

Council has authorised the establishment of a Trust appeal for Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Geraldton. This brings to 60 the number of public appeals currently maintained by the National Trust with a value of \$ 1.2 million.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Council was pleased to note public donations of \$825,000 towards the conservation and up-keep of Trust properties Mangowine and Woodbridge.

## PERSPECTIVES

### A rare flock at Old Farm, Strawberry Hill

PRESIDENT, MAX KAY AM



I was privileged to meet and spend time with the Bird Family at their former family home at Old Farm, Strawberry Hill in March. Over the long weekend, the Trust Chairman, John Cowdell AM, the Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, Grant Godfrey and I, visited this significant and captivating place.

We enjoyed a very private and special tour of the first property acquired by the Trust, by members of the Bird family who lived at Old Farm and still have adjoining land.

Sisters Joscelyn, Wendy, Chloe and brother David who grew up at the property were joined by more than 60 members of their extended family during a reunion hosted by the National Trust. Family came from as far as Canberra to attend the celebration.

Only two European families have lived at Old Farm, Strawberry Hill. Sir Richard Spencer was appointed as

Albany's first Government resident, who, with his wife Ann, purchased the property soon after their arrival in 1833. The property stayed in the Spencer family until 1869 with the death of his eldest remaining son. The Bird family connections began two decades later.

The morning of the reunion, Alwyn Coyne, Elder and member of the Minang people provided a traditional welcome. In a letter of thanks to the National Trust, Wendy Hackett (nee Bird), said the occasion was a memorable and special day for the extended Bird family who met with new relatives, swapped

stories and made connections as they began to understand their family links to Old Farm from 1889 – 2012.

Old Farm, Strawberry Hill is a priority for the National Trust in 2012. A master planning process to guide conservation and interpretation of the place is almost complete. It will include an assessment of the place for potential inclusion on the National Heritage Register.

Not only is Old Farm, Strawberry Hill significant, it is providing unique research opportunities. An archaeological field school will be held on site later this year in partnership with the University of Western Australia, and a members' event is scheduled for September as part of the Trust's regional commitment.



**LEFT** The extended Bird Family gathers at Old Farm, Strawberry Hill at its 2012 reunion. S Murphy NTWA

**BELOW (L-R)** Minang Elder Alwyn Coyne, National Trust (WA) Chairman John Cowdell, National Trust (WA) President Max Kay with Wendy Hackett (nee Bird) as she welcomes her family to Old Farm, Strawberry Hill. S Murphy NTWA



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## GUILDFORD HOTEL

The fate of the Guildford Hotel remains uncertain three years after it was badly damaged by fire.

In late 2011 after two years of delays, the owners of the hotel submitted a development application to the City of Swan. The application was open to the public for comment and the City of Swan received 32 submissions, with 27 offering conditional support.

The City processed the application in record time and endorsed the development with a number of conditions. Nevertheless the owners have taken the matter to the State Administrative Tribunal, and have claimed in the media that the conditions imposed make the project economically unviable.

As time passes, the future of the Hotel becomes more and more perilous. The local community continues to advocate for the restoration of the hotel and has recently stepped up its campaign to remind the City and the Heritage Minister that government has the legal power to intervene.

## STOCKMAN ROAD

The City of Canning has decided make use of Section 406 Miscellaneous Local Government Act and force the demolition of a 100 year old building. Ironically, it is this section of the Act that the City of Swan could use to require the restoration of the Guildford Hotel.

Late last year, the National Trust urged the Council to commission a heritage assessment before it considered the future of the place. This was done, but unfortunately the Council considered the matter confidential and made the decision to demolish the place without any public scrutiny.

The National Trust has contacted the Council in the hope that a compromise can be found which will allow the retention of the building.

## WEST PERTH

Despite the City of Perth's trumpeting its record with heritage conservation, West Perth is being transformed as a number of heritage buildings are demolished. Recently two 1912 shops on the corner of Hay and Havelock Streets were demolished and a number of pre-1930 buildings are in the process of being demolished. The City has a reasonable record with places on the State Heritage Register but needs to do more when it comes to conserving and retaining places of local significance.

# PERSPECTIVES



## Direction for State Heritage

HON JOHN CASTRILLI MLA

On 21 March, I announced a new direction for State heritage with changes designed to cut red tape and introduce greater transparency.

Under the changes, owners of State Registered places are no longer required by law to seek Heritage Council advice on maintenance and minor works to their properties.

New regulations provide much needed certainty to owners, and allow them to get on with the job of looking after their heritage places without unnecessary paperwork and delay. The regulations detail works that are exempt from Heritage Council approval.

This initiative also allows the Heritage Council to focus its resources where they are most needed.

I also announced that the Office of Heritage will be known as the State Heritage Office to reflect its role as a branch of State Government supporting the Heritage Council.

This will clarify the Heritage Council and the State Heritage Office's services and messages within the community, promote a deeper understanding of roles and functions of each entity, and reduce the confusion between the different heritage agencies, groups and lists.

This is not simply a name change. It consolidates reforms and changes in governance and service delivery that arose out of the 2009 Functional Review. This has led to transformational change for both the Council and the Office.

This change coincides with the move by the Heritage Council and the State Heritage Office into the restored State Registered Bairds Building, part of the one40william complex. This move will create greater synergies between key government agencies with an interest in heritage.

A new website has also been launched to provide easy access to up-to-date information for owners and other stakeholders, and to highlight outstanding examples of conservation and adaptation of heritage buildings.

It also marks the beginning of a range of initiatives that will be unveiled through the year including a one-stop-shop for State and local heritage inventories and lists.

The new online database, known as InHERIT, has already been populated with the State Register and local lists of 22 local governments. The database will include geospatial mapping and interactive street view capability, and will be linked to local government web sites.

These changes build on a wider platform of reform for heritage in this State as it faces the many challenges brought about by our growing economy and population.

This Government's commitment to heritage has been demonstrated through its adoption of Western Australia's first State Cultural Heritage Policy, increasing penalties for illegal demolition of heritage places, and the review of the outdated Heritage Act. This is another step forward.

The new direction for the State Heritage Office and the Heritage Council will assist in meeting the growing challenges of conserving and promoting the sensitive development of heritage places during this period of rapid change.

I encourage you to visit the State Heritage Office's new website at [www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au](http://www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au)

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**ABOVE** The weekend rally was organised by lobby group City Gatekeepers. G Pickering NTWA

high buildings, and the amount of public space earmarked for removal be reduced as ways of mitigating the impact. The Trust also registered its disapproval about relocating the Florence Hummerston building from the Esplanade to the Supreme Court Gardens.

The National Trust has urged the State Government to consult further with the community and delay the commencement of construction in a bid to deliver a better outcome.

Despite the looming impact on the site and wider cultural landscape, Mr Gammie says there are no plans to remove the *Esplanade Reserve* from the Register.

"The Heritage Act does not prescribe a point at which a place should be removed from the State Register," he said.

National Trust Councilors Professor Jenny Gregory and Mayor of Nedlands, Max Hipkins independently called on the State Government for a 'better plan' for Perth's Waterfront at a public rally held on February 26 at the *Esplanade Reserve*. The event itself contributed to the site's long list of significant social and historic values.

About 1000 people attended the public meeting which was organized by Perth lobby group City Gatekeepers.



**ABOVE** The Esplanade Reserve has served as a site of commemoration for ANZAC Days and Marches since the 1920s. Battye Library 3051B

Addressing the crowd, Professor Gregory stressed the rich legacy of historic values associated with the Esplanade Reserve which was created in 1870s and has been a major site of public gatherings over 120 years.

Meantime, Max Hipkins, a former City of Perth Planner, voiced concerns over the proposed closure of Riverside Drive and the capacity for the new development to provide adequate car parking and traffic flow.

The Legislative Council debated a disallowance motion relating to the development for many hours at its first meeting in March. It was the last ditch attempt to stop the progress of the Perth Waterfront development. A vote of 17 to 10 ensured it went through.

National Trust members continue to raise questions about the role of the State Heritage Office, the value of the State Register of Heritage Places and the transparency of the decision making process associated with the Perth Waterfront Development.



**ABOVE** The public rally attracted about 1000 people. G Pickering NTWA

## Connecting and Building Sustainable Communities – 2012 CY O'Connor Lecture

GINA PICKERING

From footbridges to freeways, engineering provides a pivotal framework that creates and links communities in sustainable ways according to Dr Ken Michael AC, former Governor of Western Australia.



ABOVE Dr Ken Michael presents the 2012 CY O'Connor lecture at Government House, Perth. G Pickering NTWA



ABOVE (L-R) Dr Ken Michael with National Trust Interpretation Manager Anne Brake and National Trust Chairman Hon John Cowdell. G Pickering NTWA

Dr Michael presented the National Trust's 2012 CY O'Connor Lecture *Connecting and Building Sustainable Communities* on Wednesday 14 March at Government House Ballroom.

"CY O'Connor's work was fundamental in providing vital infrastructure and services to establish and stimulate the growth of our community in the goldfields and across the Wheatbelt," Dr Michael said.

"Outstanding engineering combines vision with horizon and the CY O'Connor Lecture provides a fitting setting to discuss the ways in which engineering continues to have profound outcomes in metropolitan and in regional areas linking remote and the broader community along the way," he said.

More than 190 people attended the talk which was held at Old Government House. An exceptional bridge engineer in his own right, Dr Michael played an instrumental role in shaping many of Western

Australia's metropolitan and regional infrastructure projects and was named the 2011 WA Professional Engineer of the Year at the Engineering Excellence Awards.

"I've had the privilege of being closely involved in the development of engineering projects that transform communities such as the Graham Farmer Freeway, the redevelopment of East Perth and the sealing of almost 400km of highway between Meekatharra and Newman.

"One of the most inspiring aspects of engineering is that it underpins the foundation and prosperity of our communities into the future," Dr Michael said.

The CY O'Connor Lecture is held each year on or about the anniversary of O'Connor's death – 10 March 1902. This year marks the 110th anniversary and provides the opportunity to celebrate his legacy, by considering notions of creativity, sustainability and humanity in pursuit of excellence.

Rather ironically, since the pipeline was built to solve the shortage of water in the Eastern Goldfields, Dr Michael's repeat lecture in Kalgoorlie had to be cancelled due to a rain-bearing depression preventing his flight from landing.



ABOVE (L-R) Managing Director Main Roads Menno Henneveld, National Trust Chairman Hon John Cowdell AM, Former Governor, Dr Ken Michael, National Trust President Max Kay AM. G. Pickering NTWA

## Heritage Festival Highlights GINA PICKERING

The month of May offers some fascinating events, exhibitions and experiences during the Trust's inaugural Heritage Festival. A rare watercolour of Old Farm, Strawberry Hill will be displayed in Albany for the first time. This 1840s artwork was purchased at auction by the National Trust as part of its commitment to the interpretation of Old Farm which was established in 1827 as part of the first European settlement at King George Sound.

The National Trust's signature event for the festival is "Safe Keeping". This exhibition features specially commissioned artworks from a range of talented Western Australian artists, each responding to some aspect of our natural, Aboriginal or historic heritage. Each artwork is displayed in, on or alongside one of more than 30 Coolgardie Safes that have been collected from local museums, historical societies and

private lenders around the State.

As part of a nation-wide celebration of Australia's heritage the National Trust WA is offering Free Entry to all its properties and support for individuals and community organisations to present their unique take on this year's festival theme *Amazing Stories: Innovation and Invention*.

The National Trust is also offering a unique professional option for teachers as part of the festival. 'Reading Rocks' focuses on Perth's Colonial Graveyard and links to the Australian Curriculum: History and English.

For Heritage Festival event details visit [www.ntwa.com.au](http://www.ntwa.com.au)



**ABOVE** One of more than 30 Coolgardie Safes that have been interpreted by invited WA artists. NTWA



**ABOVE** This 1840s watercolour will be on public display for the first time in Albany. NTWA



**ABOVE** Jillian Green has produced *Mother's Bloodline Coolgardie Safe* for the National Trust's signature exhibition. J Green

## Meeting the threshold of cultural value

KARL HAYNES MANAGER HERITAGE SERVICES

Located 150km north of Perth, the Wedge and Grey Shack Settlements have been under threat since the introduction of the State Government policy to remove squatter shack communities in 1989.



**RIGHT** Wedge and Grey Shack Settlements meet the threshold for listing on the State Heritage List according to the new report. NTWA

An inquiry into this policy by the Upper House Select Committee in 2010, gave some recognition of the cultural heritage values of the settlements, but still advocated their removal. The State Government extended the shack leases for another year, while all parties try and find a way forward.

The plight of the shack communities is emblematic of a deeper flaw in land use planning and the role heritage plays in planning decisions. The government policy to remove all squatter communities gave no recognition of the potential cultural heritage values of those communities. The Wedge and Grey Master Plan, developed by DEC (then CALM) in 2000 concluded that the cultural heritage values of the place could be addressed using a few interpretive signs. In 2003 the Heritage Council was asked to do a heritage assessment but declined, claiming it could not provide an assessment that was contrary to government policy. Most recently the Select Committee agreed with the National Trust's submission stating the communities had cultural heritage values, but then went on to state that those values would be retained by removing the shack settlements and replacing them with an "eco-tourist" development.

At no point had the cultural heritage values actually been assessed, let alone understood or genuinely considered as the futures of these communities have been decided.

Confronted with the Heritage Council's unwillingness to undertake a heritage assessment, and the Upper House Select Committee's assertion that the significance of the place could be retained despite demolishing it, the National Trust commissioned Godden Mackay Logan to do a detailed heritage assessment. The aim of the project was to independently establish the cultural heritage values of the place and whether it met the threshold for listing on the state heritage register.

The draft report was presented to the Council of the National Trust in March 2012 and confirmed that Wedge and Grey Shack Settlements meet the threshold for listing on the State Heritage List.

The report itself represents an important landmark in the assessments of heritage values in Western Australia. Unlike most heritage assessments, Godden Mackay and Logan address in great detail the social significance of the place and the interplay between intangible and tangible elements of those values. Given the results of the assessment, the desire for a negotiated resolution and the important principle that assessment of heritage values should always be independent to the management of those values, the Heritage Council may wish to revisit their current position.

The Wedge and Grey Shack Settlement Heritage Assessment can be downloaded from the National Trust website, [www.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au)

### THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

The National Year of Reading 2012 is about helping people discover and rediscover the magic of books. It's about supporting reading initiatives while respecting the oral tradition of storytelling.

The National Trust has created some inspiring events to celebrate the National Year of Reading 2012.

Here are a few!

### EAST PERTH CEMETERIES READING FACES: 3D FACIAL APPROXIMATION WORKSHOP 5/6 MAY

Dr Susan Hayes, facial anthropologist and Research Fellow with the School of Anatomy and Biology, UWA, will run a two day workshop in the art and anatomy of facial approximation. Working in pairs, participants will be guided through the clay build up of muscles and features of the face, working directly onto a replica skull of a once living individual.

For bookings call 9321 6088.

### CURTIN FAMILY HOME READING FAMILIES 23 JULY – 3 AUGUST

Small groups will be given an insight into John and Elsie Curtin and their lives at their home in Jarred St, Cottesloe. Using John and Elsie's own words from diaries and letters, amusing and enlightening oral histories from John and Elsie's children John Jr and Elsie Macleod and one or two newspaper articles of the 1920s to 1940s, visitors will learn about the lives of this humble but extraordinary couple. The readings will be followed by a guided tour of the house and garden finishing with morning or afternoon tea. Group bookings (up to 20) encouraged. For bookings call 9321 6088.

### READING HOUR 25 AUGUST (6 – 7PM) ACROSS THE NATION IN HOMES, BOOKSTORES AND OTHER VENUES

Share a story or read something inspirational with 1000s of Australians across the nation.

Visit [www.ntwa.com.au](http://www.ntwa.com.au) for National Year of Reading events and locations.

## It's a long shot

SARAH MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP, NATIONAL TRUST (WA)

John Warkentin is a professional photographer, originally from Canada, who lives in Melbourne with his Perth born wife Alice.

While on holidays during the Christmas of 2010, John came by the Old Observatory in West Perth hoping to take photographs of the city and Kings Park from the top of the tower. Although the office was closed at the time, fortunately his knock on the door was heard.

Some time earlier John had found a photograph taken from the tower by Reg Lambert in the early 1920s that had been reproduced in a 1986 publication "Perth: A Pictorial Contrast". The image was captured by a Kodak Cirkut panoramic camera that was able to take 360° photographs that were 10 inches high and 14 foot long. John was keen to take a current photograph of the same view which he did but utilizing more contemporary photographic techniques producing a gigapan image.

A year later, again during the Christmas holidays, John came by to take another photograph. In the space of one year the skyline had changed immeasurably. His arrival coincided with the donation to the National Trust of a large format negative which turned out to be the 1920s Reg Lambert image John had been replicating.

For the image shot in January, John used a Canon 7D, a prosumer 18 megapixel camera.



ABOVE John Warkentin compared skylines and technology across ninety years of photography at his visit to the National Trust in Western Australia. G Pickering NTWA

"The photos are shot with enough overlap to assemble a mosaic and then put together in the editing process with a stitcher," he said.

Just under 200 images were individually shot to deliver the Old Observatory image, and more than 400 hours was devoted to perfecting the finished product. John said the Kodak manufactured Cirkut camera was actually more advanced technically than the photography process used today. The camera rotated, it had a vertical split aperture and a clockwork mechanism. It produced one image and no stitching was required.

John is keen to take regular photographs from the same location to track change over time and to work with the National Trust using the images on the website and for other educational purposes. Due to the large format the images are of an extremely high resolution and John has already demonstrated how he can overlay images and embed 'hot buttons' so viewers can see related images (historical or not) of various items of interest. There are obviously great opportunities for interactive interpretation with this

technology and it is hoped a partnership will grow from the initial tentative knock on the door.

For more information about John Warkentin: [www.mydigitaleye.com](http://www.mydigitaleye.com)

To see his gigapan image from the Old Observatory tower go to [www.gigapan.org](http://www.gigapan.org) and put John Warkentin's name into the search field.



ABOVE Photographer John Warkentin and his camera equipment during a visit to the Old Observatory in West Perth. G Pickering NTWA



ABOVE The Reg Lambert 1920s image which features in the 1986 publication *Perth: A Pictorial Contrast*, was shot from the tower at the Old Observatory. G Pickering NTWA

## PLACES

### Stewardship at the frontline

PETER MURPHY, CONSERVATION OFFICER

A stewardship visit provides an opportunity for a National Trust Conservation Officer and a Covenantor to come together and reflect on the management plan of covenanted bushland. It's a time to flush out niggling land-care problems like weeds, fencing and feral animal issues, dieback, fire management and external threats to conservation values.

Pressure can come from neighbouring properties, extreme drought, mining companies or land developers who see high conservation value bushland as an obstacle to financial gain.

A recent stewardship visit to Griselda Hitchcock's property at Barragup near Mandurah Western Australia revealed the pressures of land development in the region. This small bushland oasis named 'Yerderup' (place of waterfowl) is located on the edge of suburbia.

Remnant pockets of bushland like 'Yerderup' offer a lifeline to precious wildlife. The bush also offers the owner, friends and family a spiritual connection to the land. There are also cultural heritage values that provide a link between the current custodians and the traditional owners of the land, the Noongar people.

The meeting with Griselda included discussion about many and varied bird-sightings at the property and concerns about the priorities of developers.

The visit included a short stroll to a beautiful shaded wetland that Griselda had dedicated to her deceased mother and father. In a grove of freshwater paperbarks (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*), a

beautiful metal sculpture spiraled around one of the trees. Etched into the sculpture is a dedication to Griselda's parents.

The sculpture was designed by Griselda's, recently deceased sister and internationally recognised artist Shelagh Walkley.

Griselda's son Miles, wrote and etched the words, reminding all who visit that the pursuit of short-term gain can fail to acknowledge the spiritual connection associated with the custodianship of land.

The demand for residential housing gathers pace as the population of the South West of Western Australia continues to expand and the National Trust's stewardship program continues to support Griselda in protecting her little oasis.

While the National Trust cannot prevent land from changing ownership, it can work on behalf of landowners who view their land as much more than a commodity, but with a sense of place.



BELOW A unique sculpture is set amongst the paperbarks on the covenanted bushland. P Murphy

## Weir Wall Closures



Due to upgrade works on Mundaring Weir, sections of the weir wall will be closed for short intervals over the next six to twelve months. At this stage, the exact timing and length of closures are unknown. All patrons will be advised of the closures as early as possible.

For more information please call 1800 810 075 during office hours or visit [http://www.watercorporation.com.au/M/mundaring\\_wtp.cfm](http://www.watercorporation.com.au/M/mundaring_wtp.cfm).

## PLACES

# Old Hamel Nursery KELLY RIPPINGALE ARCHITECT

Over the next 18 months the Trust will work with the Shire of Waroona and Peel Development Commission on a community based project at the old Hamel Nursery near Waroona.

The Nursery site is part of a broader historic precinct containing the second State Nursery in WA (established in 1897), later nursery (1917), Pinetum and Oakum (1929/30) and an inland arboretum (1956).

The Royalties for Regions scheme has made available \$362,500 to develop a community centre at the site, to conserve and interpret the heritage values and to prepare the restored facilities for sustainable community and business opportunities.

The State Nursery was established in the newly opened Harvey Agricultural Area in 1897, relocating a temporarily facility established in Guildford a year earlier. Renowned Conservator of Forests, John Ednie Brown, the founder of economic and scientific forestry in Australia and instigator of forestry systems in South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia set up the nursery.

The State Government acquired the estate of Lancel Victor de Hamel (former Mayor of Albany and subsequently Member of the Legislative Council and Assembly) selecting the site for the quality of the soil, presence of water and proximity to the newly opened South Eastern Railway.

Until its closure in 2007, Hamel Nursery was the oldest surviving nursery in Western Australia. It was integral to the development of the state's forest industries, especially pine growing and aboriculture. As an experimental farm it produced thousands of exotic trees that assisted with the establishment of public parks and gardens throughout Western Australia. Trees grown at Hamel remain as mature species in Kings Park, the Perth Zoo, Hyde Park, Harold Boas Gardens, Queens Gardens, Karrakatta and



ABOVE Growing pine seedlings at Hamel Nursery 1938. Battye Library 004321D



ABOVE The healthy flow of Sampsons Brook at the old Hamel Nursery. G Pickering NTWA

Fremantle Cemeteries and many other public spaces. In later years the site was leased by Greening Australia and then a commercial nursery.

The site includes the remains of the former nursery buildings (mostly dating from c1966) and facilities along with Sampsons Brook, now modified as an agricultural drain. The original arboretum and the Jubilee Arboretum, a collection of mature plants and trees including a grove of twenty Camellias of different cultivars and other decorative shrubs such as Crepe Myrtles, Magnolia and a large

Bushman's Tea are located along the brook.

The planting south of the footbridge includes a Maidenhair tree, Jacaranda, Australian Cedar and a large Cork Oak along with a line of six Plane trees and a line of a further nine Cork Oaks. 23 Cork Oaks and 16 Camellia were placed on the National Trust (WA) Register of Significant Trees in 1984. The Pinetum and Oakum, (which comprise a collection of trees including pines, firs, oaks, swamp cypress and sequoia dating from 1929 and 1930), are located in the south east corner of the site.

# The business of heritage at Samson House

DR KATE GREGORY, SPECIAL PROJECTS HISTORIAN

The National Trust opened the doors of Samson House to over sixty people from the West Coast Community Centre on 7 March 2012. Education specialist, and long-standing Fremantle history buff, Mike Lefroy together with Dr Kate Gregory, the National Trust's Historian, gave a tour of the property, explaining its significance and the National Trust's current activities at this important site.

In July 2010 the National Trust took over management of Samson House from the Western Australian Museum. The house and grounds were bequeathed to the Western Australian Museum by Sir Frederick Samson for the purposes of public education about Fremantle history. The site has been an important part of Fremantle's public heritage since it opened as an historic house museum, complete with its contents, in 1987. The property provides a record of Fremantle domestic life over time, reflecting layers of use by several generations of the Samson family.

The National Trust is in the process of preparing a comprehensive Conservation Plan for the site involving archival research and physical analysis to reveal the history of the place. Education Curriculum Courses are also being developed for years 2, 5, & 6, with support from the WA History Foundation. An oral history program is commencing with the Samson family and Fremantle



ABOVE Mike Lefroy tells the extraordinary story of the Samson family. J Lefroy NTWA

community to capture memories, personal experiences and stories associated with the site for use across interpretation, education and conservation activities in the future. Public programs, such as the tour and talk at the property are activating community interest during this research and development phase at the property. The National Trust is working in partnership with the Samson family and wider community to find creative ways of utilising the site and connecting it with the distributed heritage of Fremantle.

Samson House was built in 1888-89 for Michael Samson, from the prominent Fremantle merchant family, who played an important role in the burgeoning civic, political and social fabric of Western Australia. It was also home to Sir Frederick Samson, Fremantle's long serving Mayor and advocate for Fremantle heritage. It is one of the earliest buildings designed by architect Sir JJ Talbot Hobbs in Western Australia, and is a rare heritage asset because of its intact condition, collection and grounds that reflect the ordinary domestic life of an extraordinary family.



LEFT On the verandah of Samson House, Kate Gregory explains the significance of the site with members of the West Coast Community Centre. J Lefroy NTWA

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## OUT 'N' ABOUT

# DUMP lightens the load

GINA PICKERING

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Paul Caporn is an artistic risk taker who offers his audience notions of choice and chance. These qualities led him to win the top prize at the 2012 Sculpture by the Sea Exhibition. His sculpture was a standout in the beach landscape and caught the attention of kids as well as kids at heart.

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The Perth artist's latest work *Dump* is modelled on the enormous trucks - the Haulpak (Komatsu) and the Cat 797 that ply WA's mining landscape. Instead of sturdy metal, his sculpture is made of hundreds of pieces of soft EVA matting which collapse and deform under weight.

"In a way it's a play thing for kids but it's also about kids carrying the burden of the future and part of their future is driven by the mining industry and how we deal with our environment," he said.

The work also reflect Paul Caporn's professional links to the museum industry as it uses a material traditionally used for packing

precious objects as the primary medium.

Paul Caporn enjoys a dialogue with the widest possible audience and his bright and eye catching dump truck was an accessible object to all who visited the Cottesloe Beach event.

"It says something about the environment, it says something about a system that's unsustainable," he said.

The exhibit is surprisingly soft and vulnerable and has been routinely damaged, which poses another challenge from the artist to those who encounter the sculpture.

"The question it raises is do you have to destroy it?"

"The idea with something like this is the balance of complete failure and part failure," Mr Caporn said.

The Perth artist would relish creating an installation with authentic mining hardware. As part of his win the Perth Artist took out a \$15000 NAB WA Sculptor Scholarship.

His next work will focus on the notion of inheritance.

**ABOVE** Paul Caporn with his creation *Dump* during Sculptures by the Sea 2012. G Pickering NTWA

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## OUT 'N' ABOUT

### Introducing Paula Silbert's 'My City'

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Perth's radio airwaves have a new arts and heritage voice with deep ties to the west. Paula Silbert is convinced Perth doesn't have a dullness problem and is determined to connect community and culture in her new MIX94.5FM program.

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#### DESCRIBE HOW YOU GOT HOOKED INTO HERITAGE AND THE ARTS.

I was raised in a family where heritage and culture were highly valued. Music, theatre, design and a sense of place were esteemed and ever-present. They were priorities in our conversations, education and recreation.

I was encouraged to study music at uni, then I taught it at high schools before 'jumping ship' to the visual arts and a career in curatorial and public art, arts in healthcare and media. Paula Silbert Arts Consultancy was launched in the '80's and I've been hooked since! I love my work and can't imagine doing anything else.

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#### WHAT ARE YOU AIMING TO ACHIEVE WITH MY CITY?

*My City* provides a voice for arts, heritage and community organizations who otherwise wouldn't be able to reach the broader community. Four weekend arts and entertainment bulletins are broadcast on MIX94.5FM, WA's most listened-to radio station. Each segment celebrates the best cultural events in the city and suburbs. They're not just broadcast on air, but featured on the *My City* page at [www.mix.com.au](http://www.mix.com.au). It will net 360 fabulous stories in 2012, so tell museums and heritage festivals to email me ten days before the opening at [media@paulasilbertarts.com.au](mailto:media@paulasilbertarts.com.au).

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#### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE PERTH'S ARTS SCENE?

It's abundant, diverse and inspiring. There's a plethora of activities for all interests, different cultures and all levels of engagement from



ABOVE Paula Silbert highlights one of her favourite Fremantle heritage haunts. G Pickering NTWA

community and recreational to experimental and academic. Something for everyone – and lots of it!

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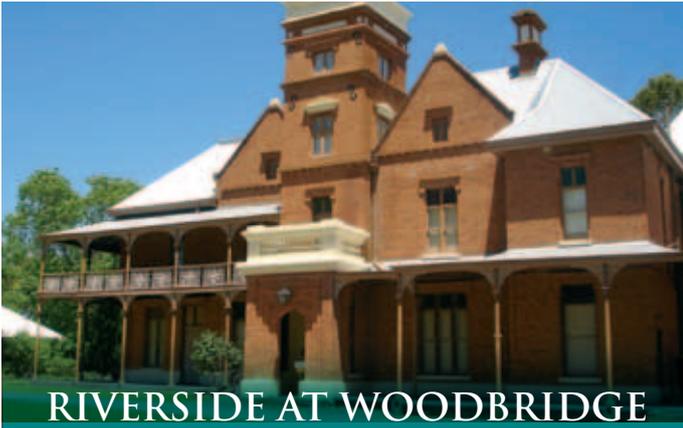
#### WHAT IS THE BIGGEST THING IN THE ARTS IN 2012?

There are about a million 'biggest things' but I can't wait to see the exhibition *Safe Keeping* during the 2012 inaugural Heritage Festival at the Perth Town Hall in April and May. I am a big fan of curator Catherine Czerw and can't wait to see the artists and historians' interpretations of the Coolgardie safe.

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#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HERITAGE SITE IN PERTH?

My family settled in Fremantle in 1897 and the shoe business connection in Freo goes back even further to 1892. My father, Eric Silbert was born in Ellen Street, his home in view of the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum – now the Fremantle Arts Centre and heralded as one of Australia's finest gothic buildings and a place I regularly visit for exhibitions and concerts. I'm extremely fond of Barney Silbert's Corner too, where High and Market Streets intersect.

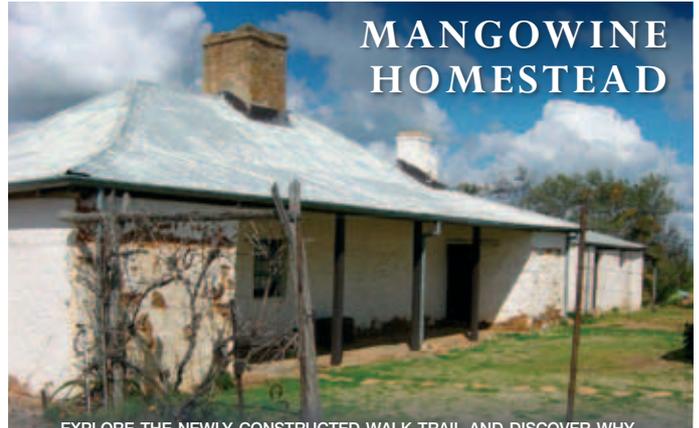


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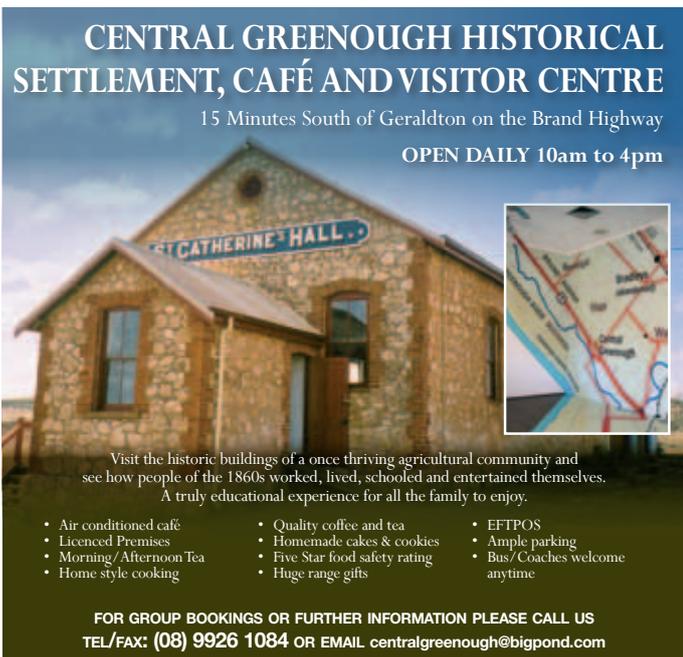
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**NATIONAL TRUST**

# National Trust places you can visit for a GREAT day out!



1. Old Farm, Strawberry Hill, Albany
2. Avondale Farm, Avondale
3. Ellensbrook, Margaret River
4. Central Greenough Historic Settlement, Greenough
5. No 1 Pump Station, Mundaring



## PERTH

**East Perth Cemeteries:** Bronte Street, East Perth. Tel: 08 9221 4022. Open Sunday 2 to 4pm for guided tours or by appointment.

**KeP Track:** Starts at Mundaring Weir Hall, Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring to Northam. Multi use trail open every day. Tel: 08 9321 6088

**No 1 Pump Station:** Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring. Tel: 08 9295 2455. Open Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 12 noon to 4pm. Closed February.

**O'Connor Trail:** Starts at Mundaring Weir Hall, Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring. 5.3 kilometres (2.5 hr walk approximately). Open every day. Tel: 08 9321 6088.

**The Old Observatory:** 4 Havelock Street, West Perth. Tel: 08 9321 6088. Tour by appointment only. Open week days.

**Tranby:** Johnson Road, Maylands. Tel: 08 9272 2630. Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. Closed 20 December to 5 February and July.

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**Weir Walk:** Starts at No 1 Pump Station, Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring. 1.9 kilometre (1 hr walk approximately). Open every day. Tel: 08 9321 6088.

**Woodbridge:** Ford Street, Woodbridge. Tel: 08 9274 2432. Open Thursday to Sunday 1pm to 4pm. Café open 9am to 5pm daily.

## WITHIN 90 MINUTES DRIVE OF PERTH

**Jarrahdale Heritage Park:** Jarrahdale Road, Jarrahdale. Tel: 08 9525 5255. Open every day. Please contact Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale for details.

**Old Blythewood:** 6161 South Western Highway, Pinjarra. Tel: 08 9531 1485. Open Saturday 10.30am to 3.30pm, Sunday 12.30pm to 3.30pm and July school holidays by appointment.

**York Courthouse Complex:** 132 Avon Terrace, York. Tel: 08 9641 2072. Open daily 10am to 4pm including public holidays.

## WITHIN 3 HOURS DRIVE OF PERTH

**Bridgedale:** Hampton Street, Bridgetown. Tel: 08 9321 6088. Open Saturday and Sunday only, 10am to 2.30pm.

**Ellensbrook:** Ellensbrook Road, Margaret River. Tel: 08 9755 5173. Now Open.

**Wonnerup:** Layman Road, Busselton. Tel: 08 9752 2039. Open 10am to 4pm on Thursday to Monday.

## OVERNIGHT

**Central Greenough (Historic Settlement):** Brand Highway, Greenough WA. Tel: 08 9926 1084. Open Monday to Sunday 9am to 4pm. Café open during nominated opening hours. Closed Christmas Day only.

**No 8 Pump Station:** 80km west of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, at Dedari. Open by Appointment. Tel: 08 9024 2540

**The Old Farm, Strawberry Hill:** 174 Middleton Road, Albany. Tel: 08 9841 3735. Open 7 days per week 10am to 4pm.

**Warden Finnerty's Residence:** 2 McKenzie Street, Coolgardie. Tel: 9026 6028. Open everyday except Wednesday. Phone for opening times. Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday.

**Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail:** Extends across 650 km from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie. Tel: 08 9321 6088. For more information go to [www.goldenpipeline.com.au](http://www.goldenpipeline.com.au)

**Mangowine Homestead:** Karomin North Road, Nungarin. Tel: 08 9046 5149. Open Thursday to Tuesday 1pm to 4pm.

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