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# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN News & Events

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The Old Farm, Strawberry Hill is a priority for the National Trust for the next five years. National Trust (WA)

## NEW PLANS FOR THE OLD FARM

*Sarah Murphy, Director Conservation and Stewardship*

The National Trust was awarded a significant Federal Government grant in March through the National Historic Sites program to fund a Masterplan for The Old Farm, Strawberry Hill in Albany.

Federal support of \$91 000 will be matched by cash and in-kind support from the National Trust. The project, which is one of forty-four to receive federal funding, will identify and document conservation priorities, as well as explore avenues to enhance visitor and community access to the property so that the long term protection of this heritage asset can be further guaranteed.

The National Trust's recent strategic planning process has confirmed The Old Farm, Strawberry Hill as a priority project over the next five years and consequently it is intended that major conservation and interpretation works will be undertaken in that time.

Partly as a result of the necessary concentration of resources on conserving the built fabric, and partly as a result of a shifting focus away from the presentation of Trust properties as ornamental public parkland, the National Trust has also developed a vision to revitalise The Old Farm to world class standards of landscape conservation and interpretation.

This coincides with a time of heightened interest in sustainable gardening and productive landscapes and when implemented is certain to attract interest of visitors and volunteers with the outcome of increasing their awareness, knowledge, understanding of and commitment to Western Australia's heritage.

In previous decades, The Old Farm, Strawberry Hill has enjoyed very high levels of visitation. Many visitors were attracted to the ornamental gardens that were developed in the 1970s. The fragile nature of the built fabric has more recently directed the Trust's attention towards essential conservation works.

*continued page 3*



NEW FEDERAL FUNDING

# CHAIR'S REPORT

## FAREWELLS AND WELCOME

HON JOHN COWDELL, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL TRUST (WA)



Background image above: Woodbridge Jetty and River access. National Trust (WA)

This is my first column as Chairman of the National Trust in WA. I would like to start by thanking my predecessor Professor Jenny Gregory who served for three years as Chair, and ten years as President of the Trust, particularly from someone as busy as Jenny. We have all appreciated Jenny's warm and inclusive manner in chairing our Council and Executive meetings, in attending countless Trust events and meetings and, with the CEO, being the public face of the Trust in WA. It will be a hard act to follow. Fortunately Jenny will continue to serve on both the Council and Executive, and her experience and expertise will not be lost to us.

I would also like to record my appreciation of the contribution of Professor David Dolan who was a faithful member of the Trust for over thirty years, serving as Chair of the Trust in WA from 2000 to 2007 and as Director of the ACNT. David's untimely death in December 2010 brought to a close a career dedicated to the conservation and interpretation of Australia's heritage. As many of you will know, David was both a teacher and university lecturer, serving as Professor of Cultural Heritage at Curtin University for over fifteen years. He made a significant contribution as Manager of Collections, Development and Research at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, as fine arts adviser to the Prime Minister with oversight of the official establishments of the Prime Minister and Governor General (or chief picture hanger and furniture collector as he referred to himself) and as Director of the (Sidney) Nolan Gallery.

David discharged his duties as National Trust Councillor Executive member and representative of the Trust on the Heritage Council of

WA until the very end. How appropriate it was that David should speak on behalf of the Trust at the launch of our Jubilee History in 2009. David was buried in Adelaide, but a memorial service was held at the Chapel at Fairbridge (of which he was a Trustee) in February. Anne Brake detailed a fine eulogy concluding with the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart." And noting that "This is what David left us, an indelible footprint of love, kindness, friendship, loyalty and inspiration." How true.

Talking about farewells, we farewelled Zoe Lawrence from the Trust office last month. Zoe served the Trust loyally for over 16 years, starting in the library area in 1994 and moving into reception and the administration and membership. Zoe acted as hostess at countless AGM's and numerous openings and public events, where she was greatly valued. She knew many of our members and volunteers on a first name basis and was always the welcoming face of the Trust. As I commented at her farewell, Zoe made us all feel part of a family.

Perhaps I should conclude on a note of welcome. Max Kay is the new President of the Trust in WA. Max has served as the Premier's representative on the Trust Council for the last 12 months and has regularly attended Executive meetings as noted in the CEO's media release 'New Era at National Trust.' He has been recognized for his contribution to the entertainment industry and charitable work. Max will bring a much needed boost to our public profile, not to mention theatrical entertainment.

## WA'S HERITAGE MINISTER HON JOHN CASTRILLI MLA

### BETTER PROTECTION FOR WA'S HERITAGE

From 3 March this year, increased penalties of up to \$1million apply for illegal demolition and unauthorised development of heritage-listed properties in Western Australia.

Amendments to the Heritage Act ensure improved protection for the 1 300 properties listed in the State Register of Heritage Places throughout the State.

Previous penalties for illegal works on heritage-listed places were extremely low and offered little deterrence to deliberate destruction.

The increased penalties apply to damaging or despoiling a State-registered place without a valid approval under Sections 11 and 78 of the Heritage Act.

With this legislation, properties which have been recognised for their heritage value through entry on the State Register of Heritage Places will be assured meaningful protection for current and future generations.

Penalties for persons convicted of this offence are:

- monetary penalty of up to \$1million, and a \$50 000 daily penalty for continuing offences
- a development moratorium placed on the property for up to 10 years
- restoration orders (where the offender is obliged to make good the unauthorised works).

The State Government is making it very clear that it values the retention and conservation of our heritage buildings.

The amendments will ensure meaningful protection for heritage properties ensuring their retention for current and future generations of Western Australians.

These are the first major amendments to the Heritage Act since it was introduced in 1990, and a milestone in a major review of the Heritage Act in Western Australia.



## HERITAGE WATCH

### DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO PETROGLYPHS

Recent reports have circulated detailing vandalism to petroglyphs on the Dampier Archipelago. Australian Geographic published graphic photos illustrating how vandals are defacing ancient rock engravings on the Burrup Peninsula, leaving stark reminders in graffiti that the National Heritage-listed area lacks effective protection. Local MLC Robin Chapple said that the major problem is that due to the resource boom. "We have a lot of people with no knowledge of the Aboriginal heritage value of the area or its international importance," he said. Visitors to the area need to be made aware that they are desecrating a place of international importance. The Department of Indigenous Affairs is reportedly investigating the vandalism.

### EARTHQUAKES IN CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND & SENDAI, JAPAN

The heritage impact of the earthquake and resulting tsunami on Japan is not yet clear at the time of going to print. However recent natural disasters have had a significant impact on Christchurch, New Zealand where the city's iconic cathedral suffered major structural damage, and liquidification (a process in which solid earth becomes mud) is reported to have undermined the stability of many other heritage places. At the time of going to print, 24 heritage places in New Zealand have been ruled unsafe and will be demolished. A further 300 have received red stickers from surveying engineers and remain at risk of demolition. A red placard means the building is unsafe to enter but is not a demolition order. While safety must be considered, it is of concern that the Earthquake Recovery Minister, Jerry Brownlee, stated on 5 March that "most of Christchurch's heritage buildings would be bowled tomorrow". He further stated that "old buildings killed people when they toppled during the earthquake and can't remain."

### DRILLING AT OR NEAR NINGALOO

The Australian newspaper and other sources have reported the push by petroleum giant Royal Dutch Shell to drill for oil and gas 50km off Western Australia's spectacular Ningaloo Reef. This potential drilling could jeopardise efforts to have the area listed on the World Heritage register. Premier Colin Barnett has admitted he is concerned. "If there was drilling anywhere in the vicinity of the stunning Ningaloo Reef, that would certainly compromise any application for World Heritage listing," Mr Barnett said. Sites granted World Heritage status are deemed to have a universal value "that transcends the value they hold for a particular nation". Drilling for oil in or near the Ningaloo is a very undesirable outcome.



*continued from page 1*

The 1965 warden's residence at Old Farm which was considered intrusive, and was demolished this year as part of new works. D Freer

The first phase involves refocusing the grounds to better reflect the property's history as the first farm in Western Australia, thus creating a place for contemplation and discovery. This requires the removal of major intrusive elements at the property and the commencement of landscaping works involving:

- Demolition of 170 Middleton Rd, the Warden's House and existing toilets
- Rehabilitation and landscaping of the grounds
- Installation of an interim toilet block (providing much needed facilities for visitors requiring disabled access) and a staff/volunteer office facility with kitchenette
- Reconnection with the community through a well supported volunteer recruitment and training program

Following on from this initial stage of works, attention will be paid to the conservation of the plantings and garden layouts from the Spencer and Bird family periods and their management in light of significance and interpretation. There is also a desire to reintroduce plant species known to have been grown by the Spencer family and the techniques used to cultivate these exotic plants in a foreign land - the return of such lost elements will add interest to the grounds.

Funding through Lotterywest has enabled the Trust to employ Mike Harvey as conservation gardener at The Old Farm on a twelve month contract. Under the direction of Phil Palmer, the Trust's landscape architect, Mike will be responsible for implementing a program for ongoing conservation of historic plantings. In addition he will be heavily involved in the development and implementation of a management plan for the routine care and maintenance of the gardens, grounds and plants including the recruitment and training of volunteers.

This project heralds the commencement of the National Trust's vision for the conservation and interpretation of this nationally significant place through the implementation of important, high profile works that will "set the scene" and create impetus for the achievement of the long term vision for The Old Farm, Strawberry Hill.

## VALUING HERITAGE

### CY O'CONNOR LECTURE SELLS OUT AT CSIRO *Gina Pickering*



Beverley Ronalds is Group Executive Energy at CSIRO, based at the Australian Resources Research Centre (ARRC) in Perth. She is currently participating in several federal government and state-based initiatives. L Margetts



(L-R) National Trust President Max Kay AM, with National Trust CEO Tom Perrigo, Prof Beverley Ronalds, and National Trust Chair Hon John Cowdell AM. L Margetts

A total revamp of the nation's energy infrastructure is one of the biggest challenges facing our generation according to Prof Bev Ronalds who delivered the 2011 annual National Trust CY O'Connor Lecture, *Energy that doesn't cost the earth*.

The leading CSIRO researcher provided an overview of Australia's energy demands in an intriguing context of creativity and daring inspired by CY O'Connor who as Engineer in Chief for Western Australia from 1891 until his death, was responsible for major infrastructure projects such as the Eastern Railway, Fremantle Harbour, and the Goldfields Water Supply.

"CY O'Connor solved the major challenge of water security in regional WA; a century on our global sustainability challenges embrace carbon, climate, water, biodiversity, food, energy and beyond," Professor Ronalds said.

Professor Ronalds, who comes from a line of notable engineers, described how innovators often faced uninformed criticism. Her father was the first Chief Civil Designing Engineer for the Snowy Mountains Authority, and her great-great-great-uncle signalled he was before his time by inventing the electric telegraph in 1816.

During the course of the talk Prof Ronalds detailed to a sell-out Perth audience a range of clean, secure and wealth-creating energy options for Australia's future.

These included geothermal energy, solar energy and smart grids, as well as CO<sub>2</sub> capture and geological storage that was being used in a large scale in the Chevron Gorgon project in Western Australia.

"The CY O'Connor lecture provides a fitting setting to discuss pathways to a prosperous, lower carbon future and some of Australia's clean energy innovations," she said.

Dr Ronalds is currently participating in several federal government and state-based initiatives including the Australian Centre for Renewable Energy, Innovation Australia, the National Carbon Capture and Storage Council, Australian National Low Emissions Coal R&D, the Queensland Clean Coal Council and the Western Australian Energy Research Alliance. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Engineers Australia and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

This year's CY O'Connor lecture was the seventh in the series for the National Trust. The annual event provides the opportunity to celebrate not only his work, but also the traits that underpinned his life including innovation, sustainability, integrity, workers' rights and safety.



### FINE VOLUNTEERING EFFORT

Janey Bickersteth from the UK is volunteering at the National Trust over three months and contributing valuable outcomes to the Trust's Education and Learning programs.

Janey Bickersteth volunteers at the National Trust. G Pickering/National Trust (WA)

Janey, who holds a Fine Arts degree, is using her expertise to identify and source images from private and public collections in WA. The images will be used to complement Education and Learning courses and curriculum development.

Janey is a practicing artist with an interest in sustainability.

## VALUING HERITAGE

### DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL FOR ROYAL GEORGE HOTEL

*Sarah Murphy, Director Conservation and Stewardship*

In February the Town of East Fremantle granted a Development Approval for the adaptive reuse of the Royal George Hotel. It is proposed to undertake major conservation and other building works to transform the currently vacant building into short term accommodation and a restaurant. This is in keeping with preferred heritage practice which is to maintain a building in a use as close as possible to its original function. The DA came with 21 conditions and the National Trust is working through these with the project proponents and the Town's officers. It is hoped that a workable arrangement can be agreed and then the detailed work can begin.

The Royal George Hotel is a significant and representative example of a Western Australian gold boom hotel with much of its original form and fabric intact. Built in 1903 it is a notable landmark and an important townscape element, particularly in the George Street historical precinct.



The Royal George Hotel has landmark qualities in the George Street historical precinct. National Trust (WA)

### BILL SEWELL COMPLEX MASTERPLAN

A masterplan has been commissioned for the Bill Sewell Complex in Geraldton to identify how the place can be developed to conserve significant heritage values; accommodate a range of existing and potential new tenants as part of a regional centre while generating income for the long term conservation and maintenance.



The former maximum security block (1979) at the Bill Sewell Complex provides an intriguing contrast with the early gaol (dating from 1863). P Griffiths

The National Trust is also pursuing an outcome which is culturally sensitive and delivers a high standard of environmental sustainability as an example for community education and to attract support for other developments in the future.

The Bill Sewell Complex comprises nine principal buildings over a site of approximately three hectares located just north of the CBD of Geraldton. The place demonstrates the development, expansion and evolution of a large and complex site over 150 years, which included a convict depot (of which only portions of walls remain), gaol and well, medical officer's residence and hospital buildings, including nineteenth century operating room, through conversion of the surviving buildings to serve as Geraldton Regional Prison and their later conversion to a community recreation complex for the town and region.

### SCHOOL STASH AT OLD PERTH BOYS' SCHOOL

Constructed in 1854, the Perth Boys' School was the first purpose-built public school in Perth. It was extended in the 1860s and remained in use as an education facility for over 130 years. This place is unique as the only mid-nineteenth century stone building surviving in the Perth CBD.

Brookfield Multiplex is constructing the City Square development which runs behind the OPBS and as part of these works has demolished the 1957 ablutions block that previously serviced the building. The Trust is embarking on major conservation works and the construction of new internal toilets.

As part of the overall project, grout injection underpinning is being carried out to stabilise the structure of the building. For this to be done it was necessary to lift many of the floorboards which revealed a stash of items such as inkpots, pens and rulers – typical of the building's previous use as a school. Work was halted while archaeologists were brought in to examine the site in more detail. While the report is yet to be received, the excavations have served to better confirm our understanding of the building's chronology.

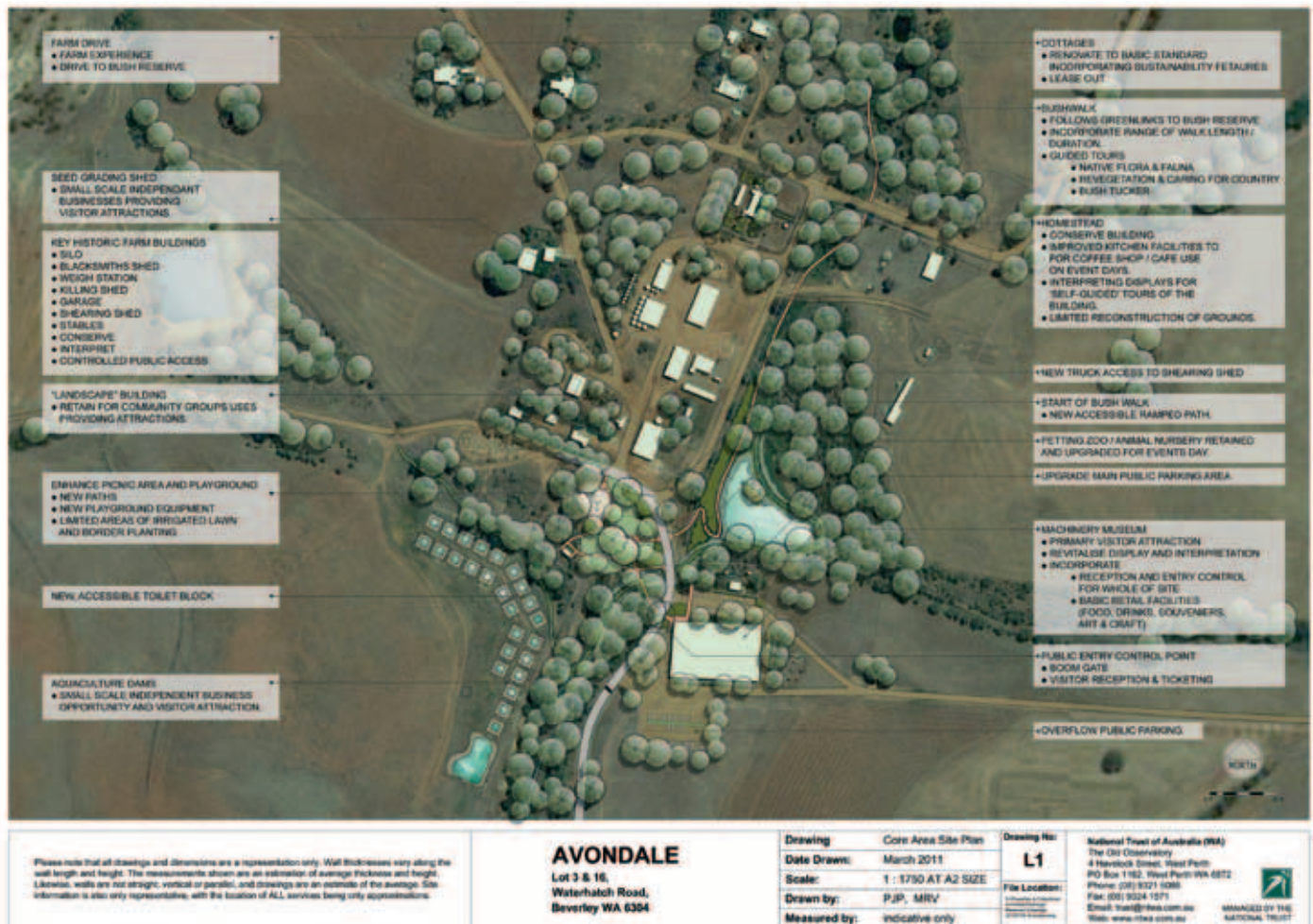


Bits and pieces from a school past were discovered under the floorboards at Old Perth Boys School. G Pickering/National Trust (WA)

# CONSERVATION

## MASTERPLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF AVONDALE

Phil Palmer, Landscape Architect



Concept plan for Avondale. National Trust (WA)

The Draft Master Plan setting out the future development and management options for Avondale is nearing completion.

Avondale is a 750 – odd hectare farm in the wheatbelt near Beverley. Formerly known as the Avondale Discovery Farm, the farm has a long history of agricultural experimentation and training. In more recent times it was opened by the Department of Agriculture as a place where the public could learn and enjoy first-hand experience of farm life. The Department relinquished Avondale in 2009 when management was taken over by the National Trust in order to keep the place in public ownership.

Development of the Master Plan is a cooperative effort between the local community and the National Trust and is being guided by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from the Avondale Farm Project Association, the Shire of Beverley and the Ballardong Nyoongar community.

Background studies have been prepared by specialist consultants. Local farm consultant Rick Madin has prepared a thorough assessment of

the existing farming operation and projected different scenarios for how the place can be managed into the future in a financially viable way. Melanie Price from Coffey Environments has conducted on-site workshops with the Steering Committee and has produced a clear, practical guide for the enhancement of the important remnant bushland and green links to demonstrate how native flora and fauna conservation can be successfully integrated into the farm. This aspect of Avondale has great potential for hands-on involvement by the Nyoongar community by incorporating and demonstrating traditional methods of caring for the land, inclusion of bush-tucker plants and animals and low-impact, bush related enterprises such as bee keeping. Grant Godfrey has produced a draft business plan linking the farm and natural area management plans with tourist and community access endeavours.

The National Trust has developed a site plan outlining conceptual designs integrating the proposals for farm and natural area management, improving the layout and enhancing the attractiveness of the farm for operators and visitors alike.

## CONSERVATION

### STORM DAMAGE

*Eric Hancock and Dina Barrett-Lennard*



The approaching spectacular storm. H Butler

A severe storm hit the Beverley/York region causing considerable wind damage to trees, buildings and other structures on the 29 January 2011. A flame-red cloud of dust fast became destructive winds reaching 120km per hour and within half an hour a trail of havoc was left behind.

At Avondale the storm caused severe damage to the Blacksmith's Shed and other less severe damage to a number of other buildings and structures. Falling trees caused a large part of the damage and other buildings affected including the 1890s stable complex, and the 1850s homestead.

While farm fences and contemporary structures can be readily repaired some extra attention was required for the circa 1890s Blacksmith's Shed. This 5 metre wide by 26 metre long timber and galvanised iron farm building has an eight metre section of wall blown away, posts broken off at ground level and a large sag in the roof. One of the Trust's aims is to keep as much original material as possible and where possible salvaged timber and galvanised iron sheets will be reused even to the extent of hammering out dents/buckling of the iron sheets. Steel will replace the in ground section of broken posts and a number of steel brackets and bolts will provide strength to the timber frame.

A large tree also damaged the former butcher shop at Balladong Farm. At the York Courthouse Complex the major damage was to the 1903 Lockup Keepers Quarters at the rear (5 Lowe Street). A large tree branch flattened most of the original timber, weatherboard and galvanised iron laundry that was so beautifully conserved in work of 2009. A surprising amount of material was salvageable and will be reused to rebuild the laundry as it was.



(L-R) A large tree caused extensive damage to the former Butcher shop at Balladong Farm. The Blacksmith's Shed is damaged at Avondale. D Barrett-Lennard/National Trust (WA)

### BUCKINGHAM BRIDGE – LOST, BUT LESSONS TO LEARN *Lloyd Margetts*



Buckingham Bridge was severely impacted by recent fires. L Margetts

The loss of the Buckingham Bridge over the Canning River (on Brookton Highway) during the recent Roleystone fire could provide a timely warning about similar structures in the heritage portfolio. As with some heritage buildings and structures, large eucalypt trees had been allowed to remain close to the bridge, and blackberries were growing heavily along the river bank approaching and underneath the bridge. Both eucalypts and blackberries have leaves which release volatile material in a fire, greatly accelerating the intensity of the blaze.

Without the "tidy housekeeping" which is an essential part of an effective asset management plan, it was inevitable that a strong fire event like that which swept through on 6 February would either do major damage, or destroy such infrastructure.

Large eucalypt trees are highly likely to be ignited by the burning debris which accompanies a tree-top fire storm, and a percentage of these will burn completely – either falling over and spreading very hot fires at ground level or dropping large burning branches to spread moderately hot fires in the understorey. The risk posed by leaving such trees close to irreplaceable heritage buildings is evident, and proactive management should involve replacing such eucalypt trees with some of the fire-resistant varieties of the type which proved effective at insulating a number of houses and structures around Roleystone. It must be noted that prior to the fire a number of Roleystone residents had already started a program of planting fire-resistant trees, and this effort had been significant in saving some large properties from major damage.

The Small Tree Farm features some case studies focused on fire retardant trees planting in Western Australia.

Visit [www.smalltreefarm.com.au](http://www.smalltreefarm.com.au)

### NEW APPOINTMENT

Mike Harvey has joined the National Trust as Conservation Gardener at The Old Farm, Strawberry Hill.

His role will involve maintaining the grounds, conserving and propagating historic plants from the heritage listed place. He will also assist in the training of garden volunteers over the next 12 months.

## TRAILS

### MINING TRAILS *Anne Brake, Interpretation Manager*



Cue's public buildings still house government departments which serve the local district. A Brake/National Trust (WA)

The National Trust has had a strong connection to the Western Australian trails fraternity for several years through the commitment and work of CEO Tom Perrigo and more recently through the Golden Pipeline project and some natural heritage opportunities. The Trust is clever at using strategies and techniques to deliver its message of valuing heritage. Organisations such as the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Department of Environment and Conservation have long been advocates of recreational trails. Recreational trails have become a booming business across the globe as people recognise the opportunities that trails offer – a chance to enjoy yourself while you get fit.

The National Trust has taken this one step further to embrace a healthy mind healthy body philosophy. By developing interpretive trails, users not only get the chance to enjoy the recreational experience, they also get to become more aware of where they are through a range of different interpretive tools including signage, the internet and a range of digital technologies. This understanding will hopefully lead to a more proactive approach by people to conserving their heritage.

Recent projects in which the Trust has been involved include the feasibility of a drive trail through some mining areas to the north of Geraldton and planning for a trail to link key sites in Cue.

Geraldine Mine was the first commercial mine established in Western Australia as far back as 1849. Lead was mined from the site using convict labour from the nearby Port Gregory. Remnants of the ore floor, the outline of the mine manager's house and the cemetery straddle the Murchison River. Although dry for eight to ten months of the year, the winter floods deluged the mine completely and once passed, the mine had to be redug so work could begin again.



Warribanno Chimney remnants. The chimney was part of a smelting works which extracted lead mined from nearby mines in the late 1800s. A Brake/National Trust (WA)



Aboriginal art at Walga Rock, about 50 km north west of Cue, includes an image of a 19th century sailing boat. A Brake/National Trust (WA)

Close to the Geraldine Mine is the Warribanno Chimney site. Located on a small hill, the chimney was part of the smelters where the lead was extracted from the rock. The elevated location gives great views across the adjacent Kalbarri National Park.

As well as the rich mining legacy, the area also has Aboriginal cultural sites and gives access to the district's ancient geology; some of the oldest rocks on the planet can be found in this area dating back a billion years.

Patrick Maher, a geologist with CSA Global who has spent much of the last 15 years promoting and working in geotourism, has prepared a Concept and Interpretation Plan for the site which forms a triangle along the Great Northern Highway, the Kalbarri Road and a connecting road that runs from the old Galena township site approximately 80 kms north of Geraldton. Patrick and National Trust of Australia (WA) Manager Interpretation, Anne Brake, travelled to Northampton recently to deliver the completed report and to discuss future directions for the implementation of the project.

Both then followed the lure of gold and drove to Cue, 640 km from Perth. CSA Global has been contracted to work with the National Trust and the Shire of Cue to identify and evaluate opportunities for the development of a trails network in the Cue Shire to improve recreational and tourism opportunities and facilitate the conservation and management of the natural and cultural heritage values of the shire.

There is much to recommend the development of a trail in the area. The town is on the Great Northern Highway connecting Perth and Port Headland. The well preserved public and commercial buildings of the main street are indicative of a time when the town had a population of over 20 000. A close drive away are remnants of Cue's sister town, Day Dawn, which at its peak had a population rivaling Cue. Ethereal rock paintings speak of Aboriginal stories and culture at Walga Rock and Lake Nallan and Milly Soak provide opportunities to explore cultural and natural heritage values of the area.

Both of these projects have been funded by the generosity of the Lotterywest trails grant program and allow the National Trust to assist communities to recognise, explore and present their heritage to a wider audience.



## EDUCATION

### SHARING THE RIVERS *Miranda Holker*

Clashes between river users and uses are becoming increasingly common as more people flock to the Swan Canning Riverpark for an ever growing range of recreational pursuits. Kite boarding, fishing, picnicking, diving, skiing, dog walking and yachting are just a selection of activities taking place on the rivers, and in a fairly confined area.



Boating is becoming increasingly popular in the Swan Canning Riverpark. Swan River Trust

Managing these uses is just one of the challenges the Swan River Trust faces in its new role, which effectively sees it act as a park manager for one of Western Australia's most outstanding, heavily used and popular natural resources.

The *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* established the Swan Canning Riverpark which includes 72.1 square kilometres of river reserve and public lands. The Riverpark concept is new to Western Australia and heralds an era of protection for Perth's rivers, acknowledging and managing their iconic status in a style similar to Kings Park. It also gives the Trust responsibility as the park management agency.

The Swan River Trust is developing a suite of management solutions, including an overarching River Protection Strategy which will provide a 'blueprint' to guide future management of the Riverpark.

A key action within the strategy is the development of an Aquatic Use Management Framework, a joint project of the Trust and Department of Transport. The project aims to improve management of the multiple uses of the Swan Canning Riverpark, and focus groups were held in February with river users.

It is the first comprehensive review of aquatic activities in the Swan Canning Riverpark and could result in the river being rezoned for its different activities.

The Swan River Trust has also commissioned a study on the impacts of boat wash on the Riverpark. This study demonstrated that reducing boat speed from eight to five knots would significantly reduce shoreline erosion. It would also boost safety to other river users. Following extensive consultation with stakeholder groups, a 5 knot speed limit for the upper Swan came into effect on 1 Dec 2010.

Another significant initiative is the Swan Canning Riverpark iconic trails project. This will guide the development of a network of walk trails throughout the Riverpark. The Swan River Trust is leading this work with the assistance of a steering group that includes foreshore land managers, members of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and the National Trust of Australia (WA).

Managing diverse and sometimes conflicting river uses is a key challenge for the Swan River Trust, but one that it is well equipped to meet. Along with its stakeholders, the Trust is committed to delivering a sustainable future for the Riverpark.

Safe, sustainable and equitable use of the Riverpark is a key challenge, amid growing population and development pressure, but along with its stakeholders, the Swan River Trust is ensuring the Riverpark will be nurtured and enjoyed by future generations of Western Australians.



Young explorers on the foreshore at South of Perth Yacht Club. G Pickering/National Trust (WA)

## CHILDHOOD BY THE RIVER NETS WIN FOR LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

*Miranda Holker, Swan River Trust*



The winning image *Raised by the Swan – a West Australian childhood*. M Poor

A striking image of children playing on the shores of the Swan River has taken out first prize in this year's Swan River Trust photography competition.

Attracting a record 269 entries, the competition asked local photographers to capture what they love about the Swan Canning Riverpark.

"I often take my children to all the parks along the Swan," said competition winner Melinda Poor, who won a \$500 Camera Electronics voucher for her photograph *Raised by the Swan – a West Australian childhood*.

"On a hot summer's day there is nothing better than sitting by the calm river lapping against the soft sandy beaches along the western part of the river. The sandbar at Point Walter, Keanes Point to fish, Matilda Bay for a brilliant place to show off to visitors. The Swan is Perth, Perth is the Swan. There is no living in this city without the lifestyle the majestic river provides."

Her vision obviously resonated with competition judges, with one commenting, "I like this image because it takes me back to my youth. The memories of hours spent exploring the Swan during my early years are bliss. And this image takes me there."

Second place in the competition, which was coordinated by the Trust's River Guardians program, went to Mark Gerlach for his unique underwater view of a jellyfish in the Swan Canning Riverpark.

Entries from the competition can be viewed at [www.riverguardians.com/PhotoCompetition/](http://www.riverguardians.com/PhotoCompetition/)



Mark Gerlach's underwater shot of a Swan River resident. M Gerlach

# EDUCATION

## WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR EARLY NEWSPAPERS?

### FISH AND CHIPS HADN'T BEEN INVENTED *Steve Errington*

When Lt Governor James Stirling and his officers loaded up the *Parmelia* in January 1829 they forgot to include a printing press. But within nine months of arriving in Fremantle, Swan River settlers had a weekly newspaper, thanks to an enterprising 24-year-old called James Anthony Gardner.

It was only four pages and it was handwritten, but in February 1830 the *Fremantle Journal and General Advertiser* could be bought for 1s 6d. By June, Gardner's paper had metamorphosed into *The Western Australia Gazette* (now 3s 6d) and it ran until August.

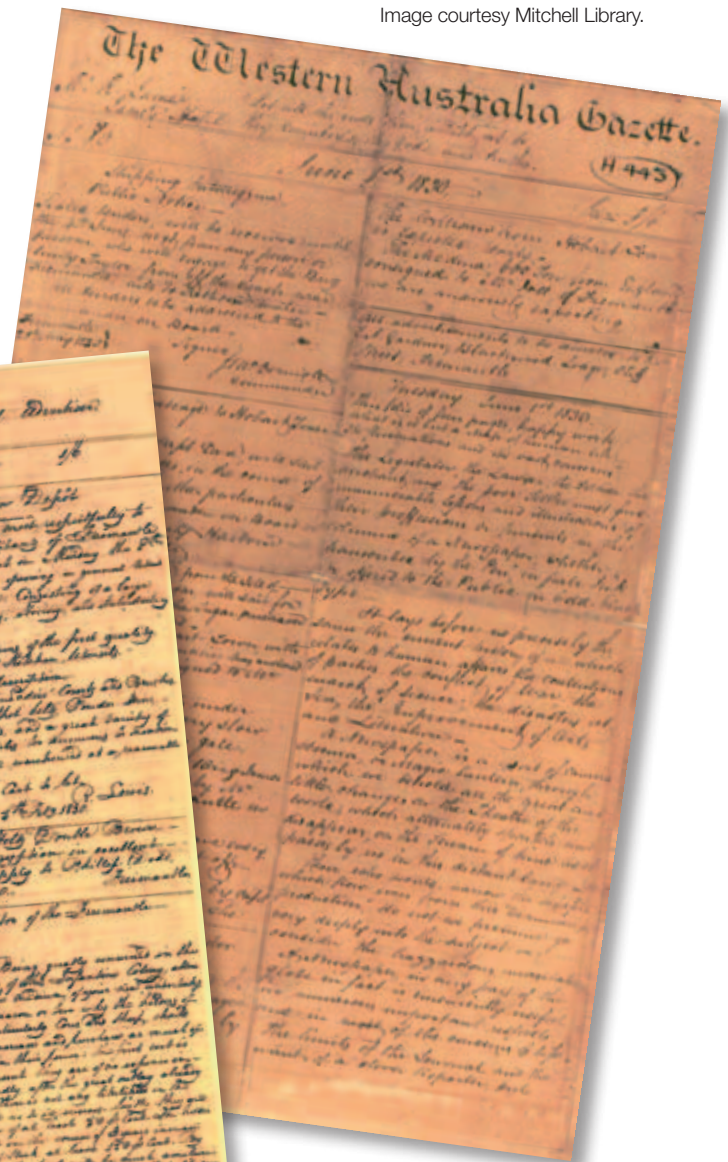
In February 1831 the *Gazette* was succeeded by *The Western Australian Chronicle and Perth Gazette* edited by William Kernot Shenton, best remembered as builder of the Old Mill at South Perth. In his ninth weekly issue Shenton revealed that he had obtained a printing press. He took on a partner in Charles MacFaull and used the press – an old Ruthven – to print *The Fremantle Observer, Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal*.

Over the next seven years another five weekly newspapers and pamphlets – still four pages on one folded sheet of paper – issued forth from the little Ruthven press. In 1832 MacFaull reappeared with *The Observer* which was handwritten, but in January 1833 he used a larger Stanhope press to commence *The Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal*. After name changes and amalgamation with the short-lived *West Australian Times*, this emerged in 1879 as *The West Australian*.

For the formative years 1830 – 1833, copies of at least 86 individual issues have survived. In the course of my own research I secured copies of three manuscript papers not yet available in the J S Batty Library of WA History. They weren't lost – they were well preserved in libraries in Cambridge, London and Sydney – though two were uncatalogued. This offers hope for the future because – at best – 21 issues are still missing. They are known because they represent missing numbers in numbered series or because part of their content was reprinted in English or eastern colonies' newspapers.

A much worse picture emerges if we assume that all pioneer editors stuck to their weekly publication schedule. If they did, another thirty other issues have vanished without trace. To end on a positive note, the Ruthven press survived and is in storage at the WA Museum.

The Western Australia Gazette 1830.  
Image courtesy Mitchell Library.



The Fremantle Journal and General Advertiser, 1830. Image courtesy Mitchell Library.

## EDUCATION

### REFLECTIONS ON FRESHWATER BAY AMID PERILS OF THE SWAN

Gina Pickering



Dr Sue Graham-Taylor presents Reflections on Freshwater Bay.  
G Pickering/National Trust (WA)

Dr Graham-Taylor, who is developing a new thematic approach to interpretation for the Claremont Museum's Mews Boatshed, also shared some perils of the Swan including stories of fatal boat accidents, shark attacks, drownings, as well as the impact of pollution.

Fittingly, broader ideas of well-being and the recuperative qualities of Freshwater Bay were ever present on the warm Sunday afternoon, as had also been the case over thousands of years for Nyoongar people who seasonally used this place.

Artist and sculptor Tony Jones has recently installed one of his works, entitled *Freshwater Bay*, at the Claremont Museum's historic boatshed.  
G Pickering/  
National Trust (WA)



Artist and sculptor Tony Jones and historian Dr Sue Graham-Taylor AM have the Swan River and Freshwater Bay in common. On the last weekend in February both inspired a group of thirty at the beachside base of Claremont Museum with stories of their connections to Perth's iconic waterway. Tony has recently installed one of his works, a windvane marker entitled *Freshwater Bay*, at the Claremont Museum's historic boatshed. The Perth artist detailed family links to the river including how his father had built the family home at Chidley Point, learning to sail at Mosman Bay and how local shags were shot and their bodies retrieved from the River.

## INTERPRETATION

### DUTCH CONNECTIONS - UNDERSTANDING OUR MUTUAL HERITAGE THE AUSTRALIAN DUTCH HERITAGE COOPERATION PROJECT

Koosje Spitz

The historical relations between the Netherlands and Australia date back more than 400 years. In 1606 the Dutch East India Company (VOC) vessel *Duyfken* went to explore the northeast coast of the then unfamiliar continent Australia. In the years following the expedition of the *Duyfken* many other visits took place, although some of these were unplanned confrontations with the West Coast of Australia by ships travelling along the so-called Brouwer-route from the Cape to Batavia.

Four VOC shipwrecks have been discovered off the West Australian Coast. After the WWII, Dutch Australian relations intensified due to large-scale flows of migrants from the Netherlands and Dutch East Indies to Australia.

Interest groups in both countries consider these connections to be of considerable social and cultural significance. Australian Dutch historical events are being commemorated, such as the commemoration of 400 years of bilateral relations in 2006 and many research initiatives are or have been undertaken on the common heritage.

To assist policy makers and volunteers to increase the visibility, accessibility and coherence of their respective activities a database of projects and stakeholders involved is being developed. The main aim is to increase cooperation between the stakeholders and create synergy between cultural heritage projects in Australia and the Netherlands.

As part of this, the Dutch Embassy in Canberra has commissioned the Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE) to undertake an inventory of projects, organisations and experts in Australia and the Netherlands. The CIE is an independent organisation specialising in knowledge exchange on heritage of European expansion and international cooperation.

In order to reach as many parties involved in projects and events as possible, stakeholder meetings have been organized in various cities around Australia, including Geraldton in early 2011. More information on the Australian Dutch Heritage Cooperation Project and database can be found online [www.heritage-activities.nl](http://www.heritage-activities.nl).



Participants of Australian Dutch heritage cooperation gathered at the Shipwreck Gallery at the Western Australian Museum in Geraldton in February 2011. WAM

## INTERPRETATION

### THE QUOD PROJECT

*Soula Veyradier, Curator Heathcote  
Museum & Gallery*

For many Western Australians, Rottnest Island has been synonymous with holidays, play and leisure activities like bike riding, camping and buying fresh bread at the bakery. For many Aboriginal Western Australians, Rottnest has been a place of imprisonment and death, and a place of immense sorrow.

Artist Tania Ferrier began researching the history of Rottnest Island in 2008 during a residency, a continuation of her long relationship with the island. It took more than two years for her exhibition entitled the Quod Project to come to fruition and more than 340 people attended the official opening at the Heathcote Museum and Gallery in January.

The building known as the Lodge, or Quod, where Tania spent her childhood holidays and which today is a tourist resort, was in fact a

dank prison site for Aboriginal men from all over the state. The history of the island and its role as a prison have rarely been disseminated in tourist brochures. People are shocked to find out that the place in

which they have holidayed, was a prison space housing up to seven men per cell at any one time. Approximately 370 Aboriginal men were buried at Rottnest, often in unmarked graves that became part of the Island's camping grounds.

The Quod Project exhibition took visitors on a journey across a physical and mental landscape, starting with light hearted irony of the "Isle of Girls" and eventually progressing to the inhuman and claustrophobic Quod cell replica. Along the way question marks in the form of metaphorical mirrors are held up to visitors as postcard representations, painted vignettes of both prisoners and holiday makers. The exhibition included installations, staged photographs, a room dedicated to 're'-search, a floor plan of the building, and a three by two metre cell replica in all its gloom.

In collaboration with Aboriginal Elders, Cedric Jacobs and Noel Nannup, the exhibition gave an experiential account of the Quod building spaces. Their gaze from the framed space of the cell/hotel room meets the visitor and challenges the history that has so far been disseminated. Their involvement in the project is crucial.

The exhibition repositions Rottnest from a place of leisure to a place of history, and in particular, a silenced Aboriginal history. The Quod Project is about us remembering rather than forgetting and commencing that act of acknowledgement and remembrance of our shared history.



Visitors were challenged by metaphorical mirrors depicting both prisoners and holiday makers. G Pickering/National Trust (WA)

### RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The National Trust of Australia (WA) is in the process of finalising its commitment to a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). A RAP is a tool to build positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and to turn good intention into measureable actions that support Aboriginal people in achieving equality in all aspects of life. The Plan involves a framework detailing steps and priorities and is part of the effort to close the 17-year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

The Plan is shaped around three concepts:

1. **Relationships** - developing good relationships and respectful partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.
2. **Respect** - the social contribution of Indigenous people to Australia.
3. **Opportunities** - ensure Indigenous people have the same opportunities as all other Australians.



The National Trust of Australia's (WA) Aboriginal advisory committee represents six regions across Western Australia. G Pickering/National Trust WA

The process embraces all levels of organisation, involves specific actions and annual reporting on progress.

## EVENTS

### GALLOP HOUSE INVESTIGATION WORKS AND OPEN DAY *Kelly Rippingale, Conservation Architect*

Investigation works were undertaken to the north wall of Gallop House in April, comprising removal of an approximately 1200mm high band of render.

In addition to revealing the condition of the building in greater detail, this project also aimed to demonstrate the benefits of undertaking investigations before commencing significant works to a building in line with the Burra Charter process, which advocates a sequential process of collecting and analysing information before making decisions.

Removal of the render shed some light on the following unresolved issues:

- The original construction and finish of the building
- The condition of the walls and effectiveness of previous repairs
- Whether or not the house was built in two stages and the order of construction if this is the case
- Whether or not the window on the ground floor northern elevation is a later addition.

The works were undertaken Saturday 16 April at the commencement of Australian Heritage Week and just prior to World Monument Day (18 April).

The investigation team was led by Alan Kelsall of Kelsall Binet Architects, with Piero Casellati Building Conservationists. Both have considerable experience working with limestone buildings in Western Australia.

Gallop House has cultural heritage significance as the oldest private residence in the City of Nedlands and is closely associated with the Gallop family, who were amongst the first European settlers associated



Gallop House at Dalkeith. National Trust (WA)

with farming in the district. The place occupies a prime location in a prominent landscaped setting and, being particularly noticeable from Melville Water, the building is a Perth landmark.

The house, a fine example of the 'Victorian Georgian' style, is a two-storey structure of cement rendered stone walls built on a rectangular plan. There is some uncertainty regarding the date of its construction. Williams in *Nedlands, Campsite to City* puts the date of construction between 1874 and 1876, however John Pidgeon and Julia Ball ('Conservation Plan – Gallop House – Dalkeith' NTWA 1998) argue there is evidence to suggest a later construction date. This remains undetermined.

It is hoped that the investigation works will stimulate greater interest in local history and conservation. They will explain the process of discovery and let people experience conservation in progress.

## HISTORIC GARDENS OF PERTH

AN EXHIBITION BY THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY (WA)



The WA branch of the Australian Garden History Society will present 'Historic Gardens of Perth', a photographic exhibition on the ground floor of the Perth Town Hall from 13 to 24 May. The photographs represent a selection of Perth gardens ranging from private pleasure gardens, public parks, plant nurseries and market gardens.

The society's researchers have found photographs of forgotten gardens and little-known stories of some surviving favourites within the present city and beyond, in what was once known as the Greater City of Perth. The exhibition will reveal secrets of historical horticultural practice and changing trends that resulted from the growth and development of the city. It will tell of the personalities, public officials and municipal gardeners who, as they guided plant selection and garden design, contributed to the appearance of city streetscapes we see today.

The exhibition is supported by the society and a grant from the City of Perth. It will be open daily from 10am to 4pm.

## EVENTS

### GETTING IT OUT THERE

Joy Lefroy, Manager Education & Learning



Members of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators were keen to learn about the National Trust's contribution into the Australian Curriculum. G Pickering/National Trust (WA)

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators gathered at the National Trust to learn about the new Australian Curriculum: History. Many children take their first interest in history through the books they read or have read to them, so this group was particularly interested to learn about what themes will be taught at what age and some of the stories associated with heritage places around Western Australia. Look out for some great stories connecting to National Trust places in the future!

Education & Learning Presenters from Tranby and Woodbridge got together in January to share some of the stories and ideas they have about engaging students with the history of these places. Over a cup of tea and cake they enthused each other and made a commitment to continuing their work with the Trust.



National Trust Education and Learning presenters share their ideas about Tranby and Woodbridge. G Pickering/National Trust WA

### UNDERSTANDING PLACE - THE RESOURCE OF LANDSCAPE *Gina Pickering*

An innovative forum explored the values of local and international landscapes at the University Club of Western Australia in March. More than 80 people attended the Australian Garden History Society event which was supported by the National Trust and ICOMOS Australia.

Dr Richard Walley AM provided the welcome to country for visitors and introduced the morning with a Nyoongar perspective on landscape.

The one day event focused on landscape, cultural heritage and economic development and how they can co-exist. Presenters provided a snapshot of Western Australia's geology, contemporary case studies of controversial landscape decisions as well as insights into Perth's domestic and public gardens. National Trust Landscape Architect, Phil Palmer's presentation detailed landscape values around Trust properties as well as a background on the Trust's highly successful covenanting program.



The resource of landscape natural and cultural attracted a range of professionals to the Understanding Place forum in Perth. G Pickering/National Trust (WA)

### NEW LOOK BUSSELTON JETTY

Premier Colin Barnett officially opened the refurbished Busselton Jetty with a symbolic ribbon-cutting ceremony in February.

Mr Barnett said the historic jetty had been closed to the public since May 2009, during which time it had undergone a \$27million refurbishment program.

"The Liberal-National Government made a commitment of \$24million to fund the restoration program in 2008 shortly after it came into government as it recognised the impact this tourism landmark has to the South-West," he said.

"More than 400 000 people visit the Busselton Jetty each year and it is the fourth most visited site in Western Australia behind Kings Park, Rottnest Island and the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park."

The Premier also commended the work of the Shire of Busselton to the jetty's refurbishment and the long-term commitment of the Busselton Jetty Environment and Conservation Association

"The jetty has endured over the years, thanks largely to the tremendous support of the community and volunteers and to the hundreds of thousands of visitors who choose to stroll its length, visit the Underwater Observatory, fish, swim, scuba dive or snorkel the waters surrounding it," he said.

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Email: [trust@ntwa.com.au](mailto:trust@ntwa.com.au) Web: [www.ntwa.com.au](http://www.ntwa.com.au).

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## PENINSULA TEA GARDENS

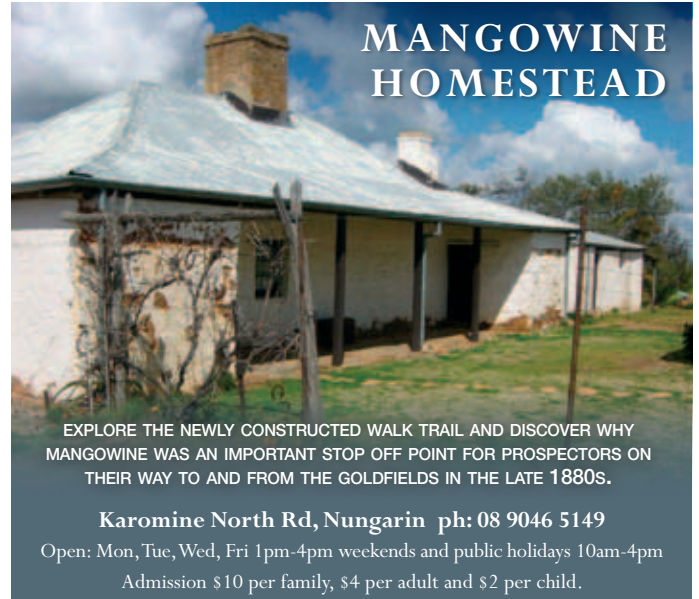
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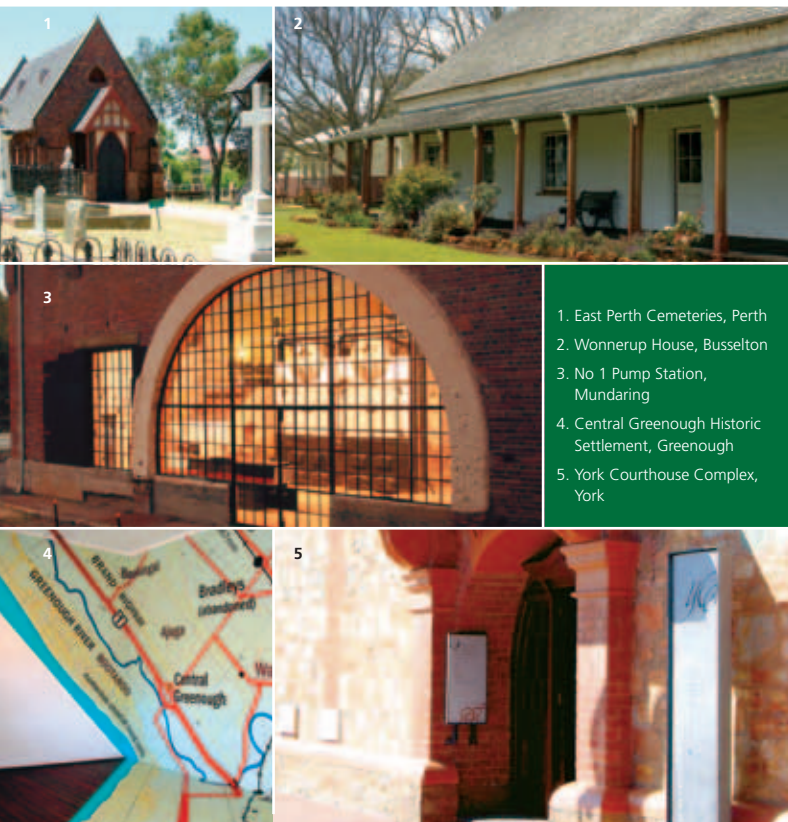


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# National Trust places you can visit for a GREAT day out!



1. East Perth Cemeteries, Perth
2. Wonnerup House, Busselton
3. No 1 Pump Station, Mundaring
4. Central Greenough Historic Settlement, Greenough
5. York Courthouse Complex, York



VISIT A NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA TODAY!

## 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.

**No 8 Pump Station:** 8km off Great Eastern Highway, Dedari. Open by Appointment. Tel: 08 9024 2540

**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.

**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 Blythwood:** 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. Closed 20 December to 6 January.

**York Courthouse Complex:** 132 Avon Terrace, York. Tel: 08 9641 2072. Open daily 10am to 4pm including public holidays. Closed 20 December to 1 March.

## 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. Open Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm, Public Holiday Mondays.

**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.

**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)

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

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

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