



# TRUST NEWS | WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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**ABOVE L-R:** Night Photo of Council House c.1960s. History Centre. Council House 2012, Juha Tolonen, inkjet print, commissioned for the City of Perth Art Collection

**INSET:** Modernist Architecture Stamp, © Australian Postal Corporation 2007. Designer: Gary Domoney, Spark Studio  
Photo: Robert Frith/Acorn, Memorabilia Collection



## 50 Years: Council House 1963-2013

JO DARBYSHIRE, CITY OF PERTH SOCIAL HISTORY AND MEMORABILIA CURATOR

The National Trust of Australia (WA) has been instrumental in many of Perth's heritage battles over fifty years, including the Barracks (1966), The Palace Hotel (1975-82) and the Swan Brewery (1990). While many members of the Trust were divided over the fate of the Council House building in the mid 1990s, the Trust played an important part in the campaign to save one of the City of Perth's iconic Modernist buildings.

The role of architects in the National Trust and their attitudes towards restoration and conservation changed over time, and by the late 1980s there was a growing awareness that the process of restoration was also an interpretation of history. It was recognised that restoration could show the importance of the passage of time on a building, accentuating its connection to, and continuity between past and present.<sup>1</sup>

This argument was significant in the effort to save Council House. Architects were able to put forward the possibilities of refurbishment, ensuring both the preservation of the aims and ideas of the original architects and the new upgrade requirements for modern office technology.

In 1994, Commissioners appointed by the State to oversee the break-up of the Perth City Council voted to demolish the building.

This was despite a *Heritage Assessment Report and Conservation Plan* by Schwager, Brooks and Partners (November 1993), argued that Council House represented a civic and cultural continuity and should be retained, refurbished and entered on the Western Australian Register of Heritage Places.

*continued page 3*

<sup>1</sup> Andrea Witcomb and Kate Gregory, *From the Barracks to the Burrup, The National Trust in Western Australia*, 2010, A UNSW Press book, pp134-135.

Inside this issue



## Council and Executive Digest CHAIRMAN, JOHN COWDELL AM

### 1. CONSTITUTION OF NEW COUNCIL AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Council of the National Trust in WA

consists of 16 Council members elected by the members of the Trust (for 3 year terms) and eight Council members appointed by designated bodies.

In 2012 five elective Council positions fell vacant and 10 nominations were received. The WA Electoral Commission conducted a ballot for the vacant positions, which resulted in the return of three sitting Councillors, John Cowdell, Robyn Taylor and Max Hipkins. Rosalind Lawe Davies was returned to Council after a brief retirement and long time former staff member Robert Mitchell was also elected.

The new Council, including Grant Godfrey who was co-opted to fill a casual vacancy, was constituted at the first Council meeting following the Annual General Meeting of the Trust.

The valuable services of our Treasurer John Palermo will be sorely missed and we hope that circumstances will enable his return to Council next year.

At its December meeting Council re-elected John Cowdell as Chairman and Gregory Boyle as Deputy Chairman. Max Kay was elected President, Helen Cogan as Secretary and Grant Godfrey as Treasurer.

Jenny Gregory and Christine Lewis were elected as Vice Presidents.

### 2. RULE CHANGES AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

At a special general meeting held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting, on 7 November 2012, the Trust amended its rules so that Western Australian categories of membership more closely reflected those in the other State and Territory Trusts. It is hoped that the fees charged for the core categories of membership can once again be made uniform throughout Australia. The WA Trust further amended its rules to ensure that those who are able to vote and hold office in the Trust must be individual members or represent corporate members.

The position of Fellow was created, as the highest membership honour that can be bestowed by the Trust.

In recognition of their long and distinguished service, including lengthy terms as Chairman and President, Dr Margaret Feilman OBE and Mr Michal Lewi AM were elected as inaugural fellows.

Dr Feilman is the sole surviving foundation member of the Trust in WA, with a record of 53 years service.

### 3. GOVERNANCE

At its December meeting, Council resolved to establish a meeting schedule for 2013 that would involve four regular Finance and Audit Committee meetings, and eight

regular Executive and eight regular Council meetings.

It is envisioned that this would allow the administration a summer (December and January) and winter (June and July) period to catch up on the backlog of work, while not organising agendas, papers and briefings for Executive and Council.

Council recognised that the National Trust in Western Australia has a supervisory regime that is significantly greater than any other State or Territory Trust. While this contributes to the good governance of the Trust, it was felt that some amendment to the sitting schedule was needed. Alternative proposals for alternate monthly Executive and Council meetings or quarterly Council and Executive meetings were not adopted.

The Council felt there could be more flexibility for member participation in setting Council agendas with a greater emphasis on presentations and discussion of general heritage matters rather than a more narrow focus on property matters. Four meetings will be held as forums each year for these discussions.

It was agreed that a thorough review of the rules would be conducted in 2013 and that the Annual General Meeting should be set later in November and combined with a Christmas function for members and volunteers.

#### The Trust's role of honour now includes:

##### FELLOWS

Feilman OBE, Margaret  
Lewi AM, Michal

##### LIFE MEMBERS (HONORARY)

Bodycoat AM, Ronald  
Brown, Eileen W  
Bush, Fiona L  
Cardwell, Margaret Jane  
Clarke, Peggy  
Dayman, Heather J

Feilman, Margaret  
Folvig, Dorothy A  
Hale, Barbara  
Hall, Pamela F  
Hardy, Joyce M  
Hassell, Cleve  
Haviland, E M A  
Laver, Sheila Engenie Mary  
Lewi, Michal  
McLarty, Katherine Joan  
Meadows, Madge H

Montgomery, Frank M  
Playford AO, Phillip  
Sorensen AO, Harry W  
Stewart OAM, Roslyn F  
Strang, Don  
Symons, Valmai O

##### BENEFACTOR MEMBERS

McLarty, John  
Mitchell, Robert  
Perrigo, Thomas

# PERSPECTIVES

continued from page 1

*'Rarity: The building is a rare, intact example of an early 1960's modernist office building in Perth... Dumas House (1964) although not dissimilar in character, does not display the same refinement of detail, or dazzling transparency.'*

*Heritage Assessment and Conservation Plan, Council House, 1993, p. 5.*

The State Government also proposed demolishing the building as part of a broader plan entitled 'Perth - A City for People' and suggested the Council move into the Old Treasury Building across St Georges Terrace.

The then Heritage Minister, Graham Kierath, refused to place the building on the Heritage Register, despite calls from the Heritage Council and National Trust CEO Tom Perrigo to do so.<sup>2</sup>



**ABOVE:** Council House in our sights, *The Architect* Magazine, No 2, 1963, History Centre.

This decision 'stunned' the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) who galvanised into action to save the building from demolition. The community was invited to participate in a greater public discussion about whether the building should be kept and how 'heritage' was defined.

A half-day forum entitled 'Council House - To be or not to be?' was held in September 1994 at the Perth Concert Hall. It was organised by the Australian Institute of Urban Studies in association with City Vision. Speakers included those prominent in the fight to save the building; the National Trust heritage architect Ron Bodycoat, resident Bill Warnock, architect Ken Adam, and Dean of School of Architecture at the University of Western Australia, Professor Geoffrey London.

This forum made it clear there was a strong body of informed opinion in the community in favour of keeping the building which led to the establishment of the Save Council House Committee. By March 1995 public sentiment seemed to swing in favour of keeping Council House.

'Heritage doesn't come from the age of a building - it comes from what the building means to the community.'

*Jack Marks, a former Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Perth and newly elected Mayor of Vincent, at a public meeting at Perth Town Hall on 13 March 1995.*

**RIGHT:** 'We are going home' flyer produced by City of Perth, 1999

## 50 YEARS: COUNCIL HOUSE 1963-2013

In 2013 the City of Perth commemorates the 50th anniversary of its iconic Council House building in Perth.

To celebrate, the City is presenting an exhibition exploring the origins and history of the building.

**Where:** Foyer Council House, 27 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

**When:** 25 March to 24 May 2013

The exhibition will be free to the public.

Opening hours: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Monday to Friday (Closed Easter public holidays).

Contact Curator Jo Darbyshire on 9461 3145 or

[Jo.Darbyshire@cityofperth.wa.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Darbyshire@cityofperth.wa.gov.au)

In late 1995 the City of Perth had an independent feasibility study carried out into the possible refurbishment of Council House. The study indicated that the building could be economically refurbished for \$25 million.<sup>3</sup>

The two year campaign to save Council House was deemed successful when Council voted on the 13 March 1996 to return to the historic building. Two hundred people crammed into the Perth Town Hall for the special Council meeting.

Council House was entered as a permanent entry on the Heritage Register on 8 December 2006.

2 Letter from Thomas Perrigo, CEO National Trust to the PCC CEO, 20 June 1994 and article 'Call for Council House review by National Trust', *The West Australian*, 25 June 1994.

3 This was carried out by architects Cox, Howlett and Bailey, of which one of the partners was the son of original designer Jeffrey Howlett.

## Inside this Issue

50 Years: Council House 1963-2013

### 2 PERSPECTIVES

Council and Executive Digest  
Emeritus Professor Tom Stannage  
AM

### 5 INNOVATION

Bubbles, blood and botany  
Mother of Arcadia  
Heritage Watch August 2012

### 7 CATALYST

Wedge and Grey Shack Settlements  
World Heritage turns forty

### 9 PLACES

Conservation and Interpretation of  
the Nursery at Hamel  
Property Wrap  
Anniversary of St Paul's Anglican  
Church  
Albany at auction

### 12 OUT 'N' ABOUT

Annual General Meeting!  
Avondale bushland  
Japanese Visitors  
A good day's outing

Scan this code to access  
the National Australia of  
Australia (WA) home page.





## PERSPECTIVES

### 10th Anniversary

ANNE BRAKE, MANAGER INTERPRETATION



LEFT: Professor Carmen Lawrence, Chair of the Australian Heritage Council, UWA

Professor Carmen Lawrence, Chair of the Australian Heritage Council will present the 2013 CY O'Connor Lecture.

It has been 10 years since the ghost of Sir John Forrest appeared at the Kalgoorlie launch of the Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail. Since that day, thousands of people have explored the fascinating history of the great engineer, the visionary politician and the men and women who spent their lives delivering fresh water to the wheatbelt and the goldfields.

To celebrate, the National Trust, along with the Water Corporation, Engineers Australia, WA Museum (Kalgoorlie Boulder) and the many communities along the way will hold a range of events.

Celebrations include a Golden Pipeline knit off which will recognise the six million sheep which the pipeline waters every year. There will also be a pipeline reunion, a special musical performance, and the annual CY O'Connor Lecture. Incidental talks, representation at an international water conference and the unveiling of sculptures at Mundaring Weir are also in preparation.

Information for the events will be available through the Trust's e-news, website and special bulletins. For more information or to organise your own event call the National Trust on 9321 6088 or visit [www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa)

## A nasty bite...surviving the Black Dog

ANNE BRAKE, MANAGER INTERPRETATION



ABOVE: Andrew Robb provided a personal insight into dealing with depression that was hopeful and honest. G Pickering/ NTWA

The 2012 Annual Curtin Family Home Lecture was an intimate and touching event by Federal Member for Goldstein, Chairman of the Coalition Policy Development Committee and Shadow Minister for Finance, Deregulation and Debt Reduction, Andrew Robb AO MP. Andrew talked openly and honestly about his struggles with mental illness and the effects it has had on both his professional and personal life.

Bouts of depression were well known to Australia's wartime prime minister and Federal Member for Fremantle, John Curtin, and his family. His daughter Elsie recalled that this 'loving father and ... a lovely man ... had his moments when he was depressed ... but he tried not to show it to us. He would go for a walk to the beach ... and my mother would say "He's coming to terms with the old bogey"<sup>1</sup>.

Managing depression, as Curtin and Andrew Robb have succeeded to do in varying degrees, remains a difficult topic for many to confront or discuss. This made Andrew's frankness both surprising and refreshing. His commitment to taking up opportunities to speak when and wherever possible is his way of helping others feel less stigmatised and encouraging them to seek help.

The Curtin Family Lecture is held annually and is an integral part of the Curtin Family Home Guest Curator program. Each year a range of events is held associated with this important National Trust property. This year's events also included a fascinating program of readings, held in the home at 24 Jarrad St, taken from John and

Elsie's own words, or those written about them. A grant to prepare a scoping document for a high tech trail through Cottesloe to places connected to the Curtins in Cottesloe story has also contributed to this year's program.

Andrew's talk was held at The Grove Library, Peppermint Grove. John Cowdell AM, Chair of the National Trust of Australia (WA) deputised for Melissa Parke, MP Federal Member for Fremantle, who had accepted the role as host for this annual event but was unfortunately not able to join us at this event.

Andrew Robb's presentation is available at [www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa). Andrew Robb's book *Black Dog Daze*, was published in 2011.



ABOVE (L-R): Andrew Robb AO MP, Anne Brake, Manager Interpretation, John Cowdell, National Trust Chair at the 2012 Annual Curtin Family Lecture. G Pickering/NTWA

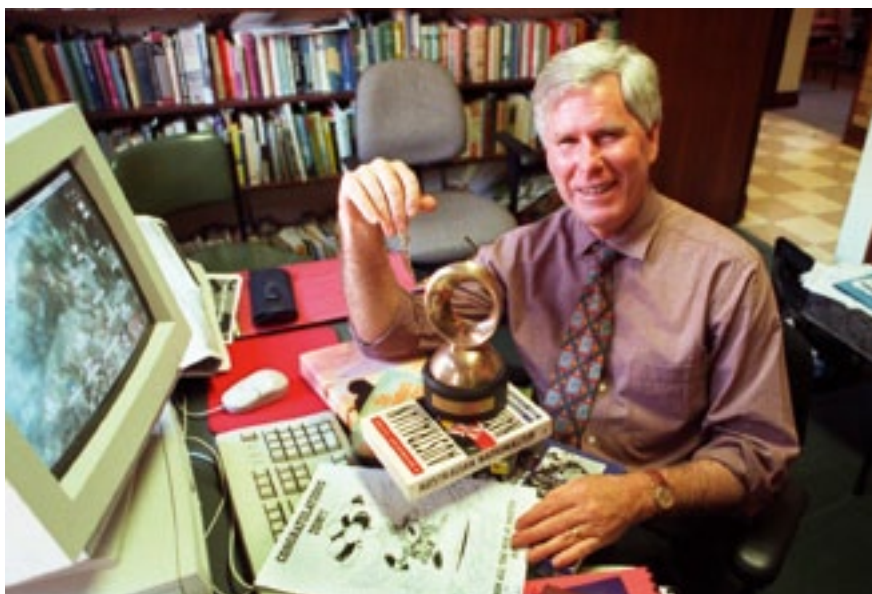
1 Elsie Macleod, interview with Heather Campbell. 29/3/2004, JCPML00855/1

## PERSPECTIVES

# Emeritus Professor Tom Stannage AM

WINTHROP PROFESSOR JENNY GREGORY, THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The National Trust notes with sadness the untimely death of Tom Stannage on 4 October 2012.



**ABOVE:** UWA Professor Tom Stannage with the Prikme Minister's Award for Teacher of the Year 1997. Courtesy The West Australian

Tom was one of Western Australia's most eminent historians, known for both his teaching and his writing. His lectures in Australian history, which he taught at the University of Western Australia for over two decades from the late 1970s, profoundly challenged and inspired his students, influencing many to go on to honours and postgraduate work. He was the inaugural winner of the Prime Minister's Teaching Award in 1997, the highest accolade for teaching possible.

His research and writing had a major influence on the way we now understand Western Australian history. His major work was *The People of Perth* (1979), which focused on life in the nineteenth century city of Perth. Its key theme was power and its consequences for both rich and poor. Influenced by the social history movement of the 1960s, it also bears the traces of the stories of hardship that he overheard as a boy in the sleepout outside his father's study in the Anglican rectory in Bassendean. He also edited a *New*

*History of Western Australia* (1981) in which much new research was published. His essay 'The Pioneer Myth' (1985), in which he criticized the gentry view of Western Australian history, was another powerful intervention challenging the views of many. He edited a number of issues of the *Studies in Western Australian History* series, bringing important new research on convicts and Aboriginal-European relations to public notice.

Tom had a keen interest in museums and heritage. He chaired the State Government's Taskforce on the Future of Museums in Western Australia in 1991 and became Deputy Chair of the National Museum of Australia the following year. He was inaugural Chair of the Heritage Council of WA in 1992 and was a member of the team, led by former National Trust Councillor Professor Norman Etherington and including Jenny Gregory, that developed the Australian Historic Themes in 2001, now widely used throughout the heritage industry.

## INNOVATION

### Bubbles, blood and botany

JULIE HUTCHENS, HERITAGE FESTIVAL COORDINATOR



Want to take a plunge in a heritage diving suit like the old pearlers used? Learn about the fascinating history of one of the state's most significant hospitals? The 2013 Western Australian Heritage Festival offers something for everyone with guided walks, family open days and more.

Enjoy a guided walk through beautiful Queens Gardens, one of Perth's oldest public parks. Your tour guide will be the National Trust's Landscape Architect, Phil Palmer, who will reveal the development and history of this treasured asset tracing the history of the Gardens from abandoned clay pits in the mid 1890s to the present.

Visit a new exhibition spanning the history of Guildford and the Swan Valley, from first contact with the traditional owners to the present day. The three room display includes rare Aboriginal items, images from Stirling's exploration of the Swan River in 1827 and colonial costume, uniforms, furniture and artefacts. Enjoy this event in the heart of historic Guildford.

Visit the National Trust website ([www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa)) to download the program closer to the Festival which will run from 18 April – 18 May.

**ABOVE:** Postcards of Queens Gardens courtesy of Mr and Mrs V Holt



## INNOVATION

National Trust Covenantee Officer Peter Murphy has more than one string to his bow. In November 2012 one of Peter's poems was selected for performance at the Bunbury Shorelines Writers Festival.

### Mother of Arcadia BY PETER MURPHY

*In Arcadia forest, near Bunbury in Western Australia, stands an ancient jarrah tree named Mother.*

*Over the millennium she watched, as Nyooongar hunting parties – flushed-out roo and wallaby to spear; taking fresh meat back to their families.*

*One Hundred and Fifty years ago she watched, as white fella's axe – prised open her stringy skin, but on finding her bones too hard to penetrate; left her for another day.*

*Sixty years ago she watched, as white fella's chainsaw – loudly felled her surrounding children, but because of her greatness; left her for another day.*

*A decade ago she watched, as white fella – lit a fire to burn the strewn remains of her children – her stringy skin catching alight with flames licking at her old bones; but she lived another day.*

*Last week she watched, as white fella – smeared her gnarly old skin with paint; indicating she was a safety-risk to a new generation of loggers.*



**ABOVE:** The longstanding jarrah tree known as 'Mother' in the Arcadia Forest near Bunbury. P Murphy

*Yesterday she listened, as a young white fella named Ben – hugged her, and whispered to her; that he would protect her from the loggers.*

*Today she watches in sadness, as Ben is arrested by police, and dragged away.*

*Tomorrow she anxiously waits – listening for the bulldozer – the blade wider than her 4-metre girth, which will push and push, until she no longer stands, as Mother of Arcadia.*

## Heritage Watch August 2012

### CITY DEMOLITIONS PLANNED

The Trust is concerned about the demolition of a turn of the twentieth century shop front on Hay Street, which in December 2012 was a construction site.

This demolition took place early in the year, but it appears that the old shop fronts between 1005-1011 Hay Street, across the road from this development, are facing demolition as well. Buildings on Murray and Milligan Streets also appear to be marked for demolition during 2013.

While these buildings are not all Classified by the National Trust, the Milligan Hostel (formerly Pearl Villa) was Classified in 2002, with the Assessors noting that it was unusual for such a building to still exist in the city today.

Pearl Villa is a substantial two storey city residence later adapted as commercial premises by two storey additions to its east and north street frontages (Milligan and Murray Streets). The original building (1874) was in colonial polychromatic brick style and the 1930 additions in steel framed structure clothed in a restrained form of Art Deco. The earliest phase of construction represents the wealth that was to be made from the pearling industry.

A city of cyclical booms (gold, iron ore, natural gas), Perth has swept away much of its CBD built heritage with new developments. As the city continues to grow, it is important to retain where possible those buildings that offer heritage values.

### STORM DAMAGES HERITAGE BUILDINGS

The Terrace Hotel (formerly St George's House, or Cardigan House) on its prominent corner location near the head of St George's Terrace and Mount Street, was one of a number of heritage buildings damaged when a storm front moved through Perth in late November.

The Hotel is a fine example of the Federation Queen Anne style and is an important example of the work of John Talbot Hobbs - one of the key practitioners of this style in Western Australia. It is also a tangible reminder of the former residential nature of development on St Georges Terrace of which the place is the only remaining element. The Hotel was placed on the Permanent Register in 2001.

The Terrace Hotel, positioned at the top of the terrace, was impacted by extreme winds affecting the property's original roof line, leading to the partial collapse of a chimney structure as well as debris which was blown into walkway areas. The place was closed to the public until 7 December for repairs.

## Wedge and Grey Shack Settlements

SARAH HOLT-FOREMAN, HERITAGE OFFICER

The Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Wedge and Grey Shack Settlements prepared by Godden Mackay Logan and commissioned by the National Trust was publicly released on 23 October 2012.



ABOVE: Grey Shack Settlement. R.Hill (2004)

This landmark assessment generated considerable media attention for the National Trust and highlighted its ongoing commitment to positive heritage outcomes for all of Western Australia's heritage assets.

The report found the 440 shacks spread between the two communities represent a unique aspect of beachside living in Western Australia and that any attempt to remove the structures would damage the region's social heritage.

The cultural heritage values espoused by the shack associations and communities for decades have been found to be unequivocal in terms of their compliance with the requirements under the Western Australian Heritage Act.

The Assessment found the settlements to have aesthetic, historical and social significance at State-level, and that both tangible and intangible attributes provide the evidence of these values.

The view expressed by the Western Australian Legislative Council Committee which conducted the Shack Inquiry of 2010, was that social heritage could be maintained despite removal of the shacks and development of an alternative form of nature-based accommodation. However, this is not substantiated by the findings in the report which highlight the symbiotic relationship between social values and the shack buildings and shack settlement landscapes.

While it is regrettable the committee inquiring into the shacks in 2010 did not have the benefit of a comprehensive cultural heritage assessment during its considerations, this report provides an opportunity for the State Heritage Office to action a nomination for Wedge and Grey, ensuring the full cultural heritage values of the settlements are considered by the Government before reaching its final decision.

Environment Minister Bill Marmion said the heritage assessment would play a key role in planning for the future of both communities, and it will assist in further negotiations with the Department of Environment and Conservation and other government departments. The Minister has said the issue is complex and finding a compromise will take time.

According to shack advocate Murray Knowles the ball is now in the court of the Heritage Council to act on a professional independent heritage report that says, yes, these are of state significance and should be protected.

Development of a Conservation Management Plan would enable consideration of the range of issues associated with retaining or changing the shacks themselves. For example, the aesthetic qualities and unique character of these places is partly a result of their 'frontier' history. The shacks and their associated lifestyle express particular aspects of Western Australia's history and culture. The loss of the most significant examples of this unique settlement type would represent a missed opportunity to retain an important chapter of the State's cultural history.



ABOVE (L-R): Geoff Ashley (Godden Mackay Logan/Context), Minister for Environment – Hon Bill Marmion MLA, Professor John Stephens, National Trust Councillor. S Holt-Foreman/NTWA

## World Heritage turns forty ANNE BRAKE, MANAGER INTERPRETATION

Around 50 people gathered in the Crown Theatre of Fremantle Prison on 11 October for the Western Australian World Heritage Forum. Events were held across the world to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the World Heritage Convention by UNESCO on 16 November 1972.



**ABOVE (L-R):** Cheryl Cowell Department of Environment and Conservation, National Trust CEO Tom Perrigo, John Strachan City of Fremantle, Kristal Buckley, International Vice President for ICOMOS, Luke Donegan, Fremantle Prison at the Australia ICOMOS event in Fremantle. G Pickering/NTWA

The convention was developed as a response to the recognition over many years that there are sites whose significance and values exceed the boundaries of the country where they are located.

The Recognition that a site has world heritage significance implies a shared inheritance and a need for common engagement in its conservation to provide a legacy to future generations. The convention is a tool to foster respect for cultural diversity, international cooperation and understanding, and peace among nations.

The World Heritage Convention is considered the most successful of all the UNESCO conventions: it has been ratified by 188 State Parties. Western Australia has four World Heritage Sites - Fremantle Prison, Purnululu National Park, Shark Bay and the Ningaloo Coast.

For more information go to <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>.

Australia ICOMOS partnered with the National Trust and held a Symposium at Fremantle Prison as part of a series of national events. Kristal Buckley, an International Vice President for ICOMOS, began the evening with an honest review of the convention admitting it was at a difficult time in the convention's journey and there was a need for those involved to review its purpose and process for it to have an ongoing and viable future.

Luke Donegan from the Fremantle Prison and Cheryl Cowell from the Department of Environment and Conservation provided insights into the complexities of managing sites to ensure world heritage values were maintained and a range of benefits flowed through to the community.

Understandably, communities are keen to be involved in issues that affect them both directly and indirectly. Jon Strachan, Chair of the Planning Committee for the City of Fremantle, completed the panel discussion by looking at community aspirations and opportunities for a potential nomination of the West End of Fremantle as a world heritage place. Tom Perrigo, CEO, National Trust was the consummate chair of the lively discussions that ensued. Feedback from the event was included in a national symposium held in Sydney on Friday 17 November.

The symposium was made possible with the generous support of a Federal *Your Community Heritage* grant.



# Conservation and Interpretation of the Nursery at Hamel

PHILIP PALMER, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

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The National Trust is developing plans and a program of works to conserve and interpret the site of the State's first government nursery which was established at Hamel in 1897. Many of the now-mature trees that grace Perth parks, gardens, schools and streets were produced by Hamel Nursery.

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The place last operated as a (privately run) nursery in the early 2000s and since then has fallen into disrepair. The project is being managed by the National Trust and funded under the Royalties for Region Scheme through the Peel Development Commission.

The objective is to ensure protection and conservation of the heritage significance of the place, which is a permanent entry on the State Register, and to return it to a condition where it can once again be accessible for community enjoyment and use. Possibilities for small scale commercial use are also being explored in a separate, related consultancy.

The site's main attractions include a collection of rare and unusual trees planted from the 1890s onwards, Samson Brook which rushes through the site, and a landscape which offers tranquillity and the

discovery of unfolding sequences of wild and beautiful scenery.

The Trust's team, led by landscape architect Philip Palmer and including Gina Pickering (history and interpretation), Leanne Brass (archaeology) and Kelly Rippingale (building conservation), has been gathering data and developing ideas for conservation and interpretation. Consultants in surveying, service infrastructure and hazardous materials have been appointed to provide expert advice. The team has also been fortunate to engage assistance from respected horticultural historian John Viska in identifying the wide variety of trees and shrubs that remain and Don Ross, who has provided a special insight into the place during its heyday. Don's father Bill Ross managed Hamel Nursery from 1926-1962. Don had a unique upbringing at the Nursery which

included learning to swim in Samson Brook and catching gilgies. He has offered the project access to a unique collection of original photographs of the nursery and his family's life on the property.

Among the very special old plants that remain at Hamel Nursery are groves of flowering Camellias and Waratahs, towering Cork Oaks and London Plane trees along the brook and rarities such as Turpentine Trees, Swamp Cypress and Pencil Cedar.

Works are expected to commence in the new year to encourage public visitation and to inform re-discovery and enjoyment of the delights of this important and special place.



## PLACES

### Property Wrap

SARAH MURPHY, DIRECTOR, CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

#### OLD FARM, STRAWBERRY HILL

In late September a team of 40 students, postgraduates and staff from the University of Western Australia's discipline of Archaeology worked for a week conducting excavations at Old Farm, Strawberry Hill. The excavations were part of the students' final year of Archaeology training.

Old Farm is a significant site for local Aboriginal people, being used before the British, and is known by the Mineng people of Albany as Barmup. The excavations at Old Farm and nearby Kalgan Hall (previously dated to 20,000 years before present) were undertaken in close collaboration with and monitored by representatives of the Mineng community.

The aim of the work was to find the remains of the earlier cottage constructed in 1831 and its three room extension from 1834/5. Both structures burned down on Easter Sunday 1870 leaving intact the two storey 1836 building we know today.

The excavations revealed an area containing burnt building materials and remnants of furniture and personal possessions most surely the result of the 1870 fire. The discovery of a covered drain showed



**ABOVE:** The archaeology team from the University of Western Australia braves wet conditions to undertake excavations at Old Farm, Strawberry Hill. S Murphy/NTWA

that directing water away from the house has long been a problem. The results will be further studied and analysed by the students and the findings used to further our knowledge of this highly significant heritage place.

The project included the use of archaeobotany to search for evidence of the early farming and gardens. Plant samples will be tested over coming months. It is hoped the results will provide information

about the location of previous garden beds and the type of plants being cultivated at the property.

Most of the week provided perfect weather for the local Albany community to visit the property and discuss the excavations with the students. The two final days produced rain and storms which provided a new set of challenges and proved that archaeology isn't as glamorous as the movies would have you believe.

#### WANSLEA



In an interesting parallel, Wanslea has also been producing archaeological treasure. Leanne Brass, archaeologist, has been providing support to a team that has been engaged to document any finds made during site preparations at the property.

**LEFT:** National Trust archaeologist Leanne Brass provides professional support as work progresses at Wanslea. NTWA

## PLACES

# Anniversary of St Paul's Anglican Church

NICK BROUN

A congregation of over 70 people filled little St Paul's Anglican Church and overflowed into the graveyard, for a communion service held by Archbishop Roger Herft on 10 November 2012.

The service was held to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its consecration by Bishop Hale in 1862. The church, five kilometres north of Beverley, was built in 1859 of hand-made bricks and with a shingle roof. Apart from local people, the crowd included some from neighbouring areas, Perth, Albany and as far away as Adelaide and Melbourne.

The Archbishop and his wife joined the congregation after the service for a luncheon held in the hall at St Mary's, the Parish Church of Beverley.

The church and its graveyard, the sixth oldest church in the state, stand alone on a site where the original town of Beverley was planned. However, a few years later the township was moved to its present site. It remained the Parish Church until St. Mary's was built in Beverley in 1892. The scholarly and remarkable Rev Frederick Lynch, rector of the nearby St Peter's Church, Gilgering, served there for 29 years, until his death at the age of 73. With a rector no longer in Beverley, a service is only held when there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

St Paul's stands on land near the Avon River brought from the Edwards family for ten shillings, in early 1859. The well-preserved church registers record the marriages, christenings and burials and include the names of Edwards, Broun, Barrett-Lennard, Lukin and Parker, all settler families of the area.

By about 1970, the church was in very poor condition, made worse by the Meckering earthquake of 1968. As the local parish had little money, there was talk of demolition.

However, Mr Geoffrey Barrett-Lennard, (Peoples Warden), volunteered to supply all the materials, organized a team of descendants, and with the help of several local tradesmen, drains were dug to prevent rising damp, cracks were repaired and outside walls rendered.

St. Paul's was listed by the National Trust of Australia in 1973. In recent years grants from the Heritage Council of WA have enabled the stained glass windows to be restored and other repairs made. The little church is now in excellent condition, and recent work has resulted in a neat and tidy graveyard.

With a small, elderly congregation, and only a few services a year the future of this historic church and its graveyard is to be determined.

## Albany at auction

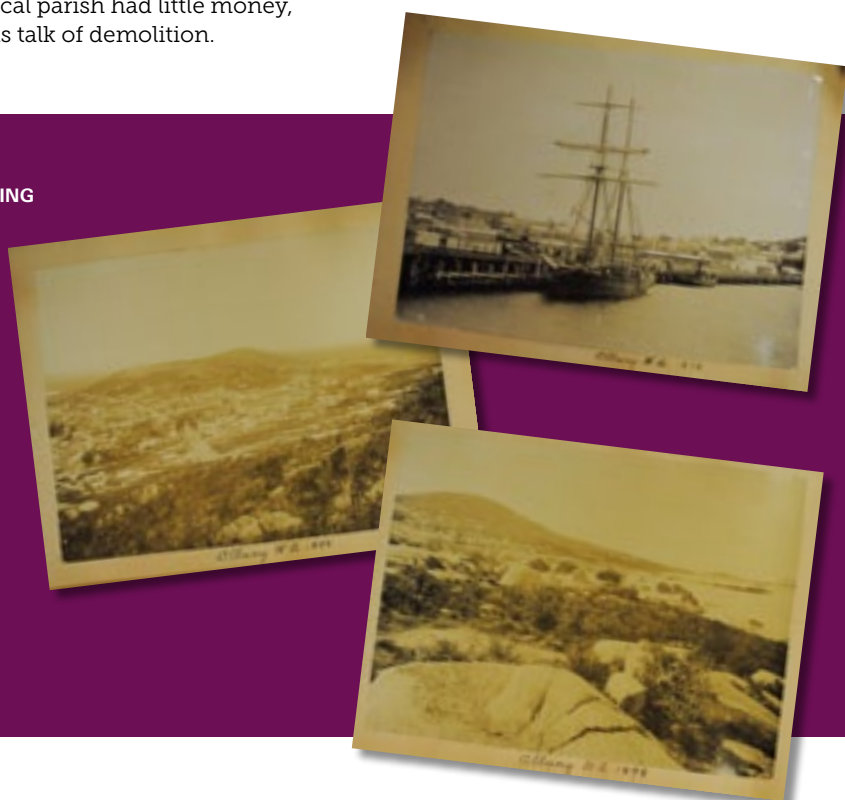
GINA PICKERING

A handful of rare and fascinating images of Albany from the late 1890s has been purchased at auction by the State Library of Western Australia.

The new additions to the photographic collection were shot in 1898 and depict the sailing ship 'Grace Darling' at Albany Jetty, views of Albany Town and Princess Royal Harbour.

The vintage albumen paper photographs images are included in an album bought from Michael Treloar Antiquarian Booksellers for \$200.

**RIGHT:** New additions to the State Library of Western Australia Collection. SLWA





## Annual General Meeting GINA PICKERING

More than 70 members attended the National Trust of Australia (WA)'s 53rd Annual General meeting on 7 November 2012 at the Constitutional Centre in West Perth.

Special awards of appreciation were presented during the evening to Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) fire fighters Lance Jackson and Anthony O'Neil who were instrumental in saving National Trust Property, Ellensbrook when out of control bushfires swept through the Margaret River region in November 2011.

The Fellow of the Trust award was also presented for the first time at this year's event. Michal Lewi AM and Margaret Feilman OBE were

recognised for their *Outstanding Lifetime Commitment to the Conservation and Interpretation of Western Australia's Cultural Heritage*.

Ms Feilman, who was unable to attend the meeting, was a founding member of the National Trust of Australia (WA) in 1959, Perth's first qualified town planner and Australia's first female town planner.

Mr Lewi, who received his award from Trust President Max Kay, has

been instrumental in the governance of the Trust and Chair on two occasions, between 1992-1997 and again in 2000-2001. A lawyer, photographer and heritage advocate, Mr Lewi has devoted more than 30 years to championing Western Australia's heritage.

CEO Tom Perrigo told the meeting the Trust had been recognised for its outstanding contributions to heritage by a public or private organisation at the 2012 Western Australian Heritage Awards. He also honoured the dedication of the volunteers, particularly the members of executive and council.

Mr Perrigo also detailed some of the Trust's key projects and partnerships including the multimillion dollar transformation of Old Farm, Strawberry Hill which was the first property acquired by the Trust. Other projects included the conservation of 57 Murray St, and the collaboration between Murdoch University and the Trust to transform Whitby Falls into a new School for Veterinary Science. The National Trust will also accept the management order for Royal Perth Hospital which is one of the largest heritage precincts in Western Australia.

### All washed up!

New teatowels featuring elegant black and white historic images of iconic National Trust properties in Western Australia are now available.

These 100% cotton teatowels are \$12 each. To order, visit the shop at [www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa) or phone 08 9321 6088. Wholesale orders are welcome.



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## OUT 'N' ABOUT

### Avondale bushland

HELENA MILLS, COORDINATOR OF COVENANTING

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One of the many treasures of Avondale is its 43 hectare flora and fauna reserve. The reserve area has never been cleared, and was fenced-off from stock in the late 1970s. Since then the flora has been slowly regenerating.

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**ABOVE:** *Alyogyne* sp. (Native Hibiscus) is one of the species found in the reserve. H Mills

This year Wheatbelt NRM has directed funds from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program to the Avondale Farm Project Association to manage weeds within the reserve and conduct a flora survey.

As part of this program Greening Australia (WA) conducted weed-mapping of the reserve and undertook weed control activities, including two days hand-spraying for Cape Tulip and Single-leaf Tulip. Timing is the key for Cape Tulip control, and the Greening Australia crew were pleased with the result.

The flora survey component of the project was conducted between 11-14 October by the Wildflower Society of WA. Flora surveys had been conducted almost 30 years earlier, and this was an opportunity

to explore how much the reserve had changed in this period, and how much the flora, in particular, was regenerating in the years since the area was set aside for conservation.

Although the results of the survey are still being collated, the reserve put on quite a show. Everlasting daisies painted the slopes and orchids hid in the shadowy creeklines. Good condition York Gum, She-oak and Jam woodland is incredibly rare in the Western Wheatbelt, making the Avondale flora and fauna reserve one of the most significant areas in the region. The biggest surprise for the surveyors, however, was a mulga snake in the middle of one of the quadrats!

Avondale is a 750 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. The Department of Agriculture relinquished Avondale in 2009, and management was taken over by the National Trust in order to keep the place in public ownership.



**ABOVE:** Members of the Wildflower Society WA survey flora at Avondale. H Mills



## OUT 'N' ABOUT

### Japanese Visitors

DINA BARRETT-LENNARD, PROJECT OFFICER | AVONDALE

The National Trust property in Beverley was host to a CBH Group initiated Japanese school visit to Avondale in August 2012. Avondale is a modern working farm, closely associated with the agricultural heritage of Western Australia.



ABOVE: Japanese students enjoy a hands-on experience while visiting Avondale Discovery Farm in Beverley. D Barrett-Lennard

The heritage listed property was one of the first established in the Avon Valley in the 1830s and was allocated to James Stirling, who sold it to a wealthy landowner. Much of the property was sub-divided under a soldier settlement scheme after the First World War. Between 1924 and 2009 the remaining 705Ha became instrumental in a research station with the WA Department of Agriculture.

The visitors enjoyed learning about the history of agriculture in the Avon Valley and seeing how wheat is grown there. The Avondale wheat crop is exported to countries such as Japan for milling.

### A good day's outing

JOAN MC NAMARA, TRANBY VOLUNTEER

A very enjoyable day was spent when a group of volunteers from Tranby – Peninsula Farm Maylands, visited Old Blythewood in November 2012.

We were welcomed by Vince (caretaker, tour guide and gardener) who had set up everything for morning tea.

Vince gave us an excellent tour of the house and surroundings. We learnt the first to settle on the land was Mr Mears in the very early years. The area at that time was known as "Mears Town". Some years later the land was taken up by John and Mary Ann McLarty, whose family still occupy and work the property. A close neighbour was Captain Fawcett, an officer in the 63rd Regiment, who came out with James Stirling in 1829.

Blythewood originally housed the first post office in the area and also a hotel. The McLarty family vested the house and surrounding land to the National Trust which later opened it to the public in 1976.

After lunch we had a very pleasant walk around the gardens which are a great credit to Vince and his volunteers. The gardens were a delight and the very old rose bushes in full bloom made quite a show.



ABOVE: Tranby volunteers visit Blythewood

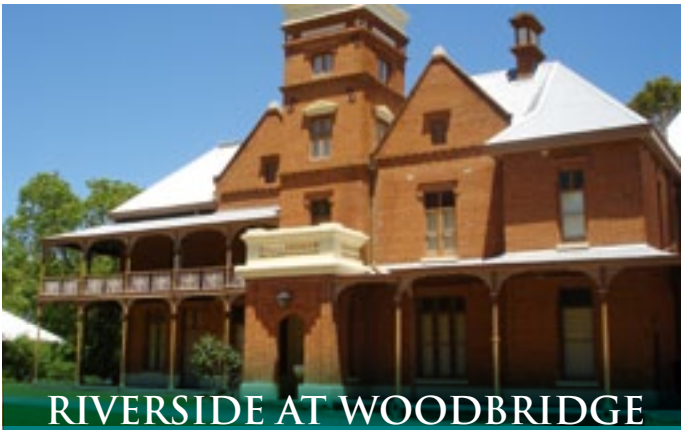
The rear of the house is right on the riverbank, fruit trees planted many years ago still bear fruit every year.

We thank Vince for a thoroughly enjoyable day and plan to make a repeat visit next year.

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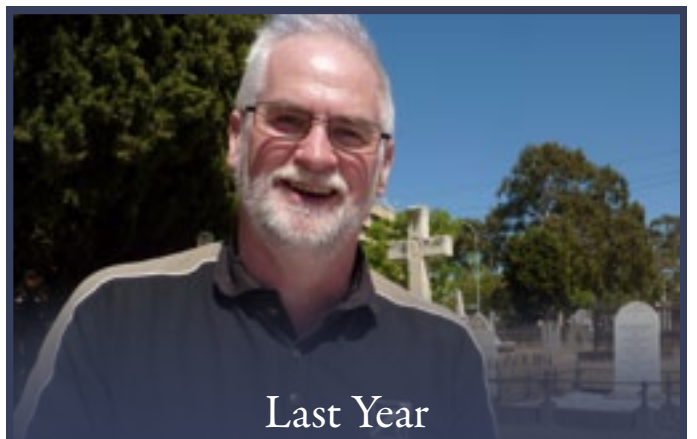
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# National Trust places you can visit for a GREAT day out!



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.

**Keo 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.

TO OBTAIN A COPY OF OUR WA PROPERTY GUIDE PHONE 08 9321 6088 OR EMAIL [TRUST@NTWA.COM.AU](mailto:TRUST@NTWA.COM.AU)

**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, Busseton. 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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