Curtin Uni brings new future to Old Perth Boys’ School

Curtin University’s new city premises will be located at Old Perth Boys’ School in St Georges Terrace, Perth under a leasing deal with the National Trust of Western Australia.

Curtin University Vice-Chancellor Deborah Terry said she was delighted with the decision which would strengthen the presence of Curtin University in the CBD. Curtin also has the Curtin Graduate School of Business located at 78 Murray Street in the city.

“The location is perfect and the move is very timely, given how important our links with industry, business and alumni will be to our future success,” Professor Terry said.

Old Perth Boys’ School has a prominent location at the entrance to Brookfield Place adjacent to the BHP Billiton Tower, retail outlets and an outstanding line up of adapted heritage places including the former Newspaper House, Royal Insurance, WA Trustees and Perth Technical College.

National Trust CEO Tom Perrigo said the Trust is committed to both a sustainable and compatible use of state heritage places under its care and control and Curtin University’s proposal has met these criteria.

“This is a win for present and future generations which will see one of the oldest buildings in Perth CBD remain in public ownership and used as a public education facility,” Mr Perrigo said.

Constructed in 1854, the Perth Boys’ School was the first purpose-built public school in Perth. It has historic links to Curtin University through Perth Technical College and the Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT) which both occupied the premises at 139 St Georges Terrace.

The National Trust and Curtin University are working together to complete an internal fit out of the building during 2015.

“We are very pleased to be working with the National Trust in their efforts to conserve Australia’s heritage,” Professor Terry said.
Urban Heritage Strategies for the Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct  

TOM PERRIGO, CEO NATIONAL TRUST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A recent fellowship opportunity extended to two National Trust Conservation Architects and myself, to attend an Urban Heritage Strategies program in the Netherlands, hosted by the Institute for Housing and Urban Development (IHS) at Erasmus University, has brought valuable new perspectives and an exciting future for the sustainable adaptive reuse of the Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct.

There are three key parts to the project which include conservation due diligence, interpretation research and planning and developing a shared, integrated vision.

This important city-based heritage site has been in the care of the National Trust since November 2013 and leased back to the Royal Perth Hospital. It includes six buildings and reflects not only Perth’s initial medical services but its most recent restructuring, which brings with it the capacity to respond to the latest changes and introduce some truly vibrant heritage outcomes to the inner city. The buildings include the Colonial Hospital, Kirkman House and Ainslie House.

The National Trust is a Trust for government and community and it’s working to maximise the sustainability and the compatibility of the precinct in partnership with the Royal Perth Hospital and numerous stakeholders including the Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Society, the City of Perth, the Aboriginal community and the Catholic Archdiocese.

The Trust has also secured the support of the Dutch government to bring to Perth a specialist heritage planner as part of the process of creating an integrated vision for the place that delivers innovative community values. This has been another of the benefits of the international fellowship in Rotterdam.

The project is proceeding under the guidance of National Trust Heritage Architect Caroline Stokes, who is assisted by architectural intern Aimee Hall, in the preparation of initial planning for conservation works.

Perspectives

Urban Heritage Strategies for the Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct

TOM PERRIGO, CEO NATIONAL TRUST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Chair of the Trust’s Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Irene Stainton delivered the Welcome to Country at the 55th Annual General Meeting held at 57 Murray Street, Perth on 12 November 2014.

CEO Tom Perrigo acknowledged the outstanding support of Lotterywest to the National Trust and Garry Trinder accepted the Margaret Feilman Award which recognises extraordinary service over a long period of time on behalf of LotteryWest.

National Trust Volunteer Recognition Awards of Appreciation were presented to those who had supported and contributed to Trust places and activities during the year. Pamela Hall, John James and Carol Sharp were each honoured with a Stirling Award which recognises more than 15 years of volunteer service.

Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to representatives of the Friends of Battye Library for their commitment to the new East Perth Cemeteries’ website and to those who have supported the Trust’s Aboriginal Foundations during 2014.
Heritage Watch

GUILDFORD PROPOSED SCHEME AMENDMENT

The whole Guildford Hotel site including the vacant area is part of the curtilage defined under the State Register of Heritage Places (Place No. 2463). A scheme amendment will influence the future use and development of the place, with potential impact on the heritage significance of the hotel building itself.

The National Trust does not support large scale development in the historic town of Guildford and a proposed building of seven storeys is unlikely to be appropriate in the context of the Guildford Hotel redevelopment. Given Guildford’s urban character and heritage significance as an historic town, a large multi-level building will result in detrimental physical and visual impacts.

Construction of residential buildings with a suitable scale and bulk which is sympathetic to its surroundings may be supported depending on the final design outcome. It is possible to mitigate the bulk and scale of large buildings through various design elements including setback, colour scheme and articulation of façades. However, without any detailed plans to reference, no further comment can be made.

The National Trust strongly supports the City’s recommendation any subsequent development should not be allowed to proceed until the Guildford Hotel has been satisfactorily conserved, redeveloped and made fit for occupation.

POINT PERON RESERVE COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Point Peron near Rockingham remains under threat from a proposed canal and marina development called Mangles Bay. Much of the public reserve, currently bushland, will become marina and canal-side residences. More than 30 hectares of coastal bush including stands of tuart and melaleuca will be lost.

The site was acquired by the state government from the Commonwealth in 1964 for use as a public reserve for recreation or parklands. Sir Crawford Nalder, as Acting Premier of Western Australia, wrote to then Acting Prime Minister John McEwen and committed the state to preserving the land.

The agreement was signed by Premier David Brand in 1964. The proposed development area includes a Bush Forever site. The Mangles Bay marina proposal is also thought to pose a threat to the Little (fairy) Penguins of the area, both in terms of habitat loss, and the accompanying loss of sea grass and associated fisheries.

The proposed development of Point Peron is opposed by significant numbers of local community members in tandem with Preserve Point Peron, Hands Off Point Peron, the Conservation Council of WA, the Greens, the Urban Bushland Council of WA, and Defending Public Spaces WA. These groups suggest a marina development would be better suited to Rockingham, preserving Point Peron’s natural heritage values, and benefiting the local economy.
Heritage Festival 2015 offers a pop up

JULIE HUTCHENS, HERITAGE FESTIVAL COORDINATOR

A rush of Heritage Festival events was registered by the December deadline. The optional 2015 theme Conflict & Compassion in WA has provided flexibility while attracting a host of military-themed events including fascinating dramas and exhibitions reflecting the ANZAC centenary. Get tickets for Don’t Forget Me Cobber on 29 April. With a cast of four young actors, the production is based on letters, diaries and verbal accounts. It includes songs of the era accompanied by voices from the Older Women’s Network singing group and senior voices from the Men’s Shed movement.

The 1927 New Norcia Hotel is the inspiration for a fabulous 1920s night on 9 May with piano tunes, heritage cocktails, canapés and vintage cars. Frock up ladies! You might even see a flapper or two at this lovely evening. In the fashion stakes, see the Mother’s Day Costumes Launch at Azelia Ley Museum in Spearwood on 10 May.

If you’re a nature lover you’ll be delighted with Grass Tree Stories on 3 May which explores their place in the natural environment, importance to Aboriginal people and how to care for relocated specimens. Discover Rock Gardens of the Early 20th Century on 7 May with the National Trust and Australian Garden History Society.

Explore civil conflict at the Wadjemup to Walyalup exhibition on Rottnest Island which tells the history of Aboriginal incarceration in Western Australia. The exhibition includes panels developed by the Fremantle Prison, short films by Glen Stasiuk and artefacts from the Rottnest Island prison era.

For heritage professionals, heritage enthusiasts and government officers, book the Heritage Management & Planning Seminar 2015 offered by the Heritage Council and hosted by the City of Swan on 16 to 17 April with an additional half day introductory workshop on 15 April.

The Mary Davies Library and Community Centre in Baldivis is hosting an innovative pop-up local history museum from 11 to 17 May or why not pop up at the State Library of Western Australia. You can ‘put yourself in the picture’ and make an appearance in an historical event or place thanks to a green screen and the library’s extensive collection 5 to 7 May and 9 of May.

Visit the Festival website www.nationaltrustfestival.org.au in 2015 or for queries about the Festival phone 9321 6088 or email julie.hutchens@ntwa.com.au.

The National Trust Heritage Festival (18 April - 18 May annually) is supported by the Australian Government & Australian Heritage Week (11 April - 19 April 2015).
**Question:** Which heritage place is believed to be the oldest residence and the only example of a homestead and outbuilding in the Old Colonial Georgian style dating from the first decade of the Swan River Colony in metropolitan Perth?

**Answer:** Tranby House.

**Question:** What is the name of the farm, established in 1830, that included a house named after the ship on which its owners travelled to the Swan River Colony?

**Answer:** Peninsula Farm.

The National Trust has managed this property on behalf of the community since 1977 and it has been known as either Tranby or Tranby House. Following recommendations from both the Conservation and Interpretation Plans for the place, the name has recently been changed to Peninsula Farm which encapsulates the geographic location of the place and its role as one of the early colonial farms.

This broader focus provides greater opportunities for interpreting and understanding the considerable significance of this heritage place. The name change is only part of it. In late 2014 a number of physical changes also took place at the riverside location.

For some years now there has been a tradition of dressing the house for Christmas. This time the house was presented in a way that contrasted the differences between what colonists like the Hardey family were familiar with in England and what they experienced in the Australian summer heat. While we don’t know how Christmas was celebrated at Peninsula Farm, the historical record has offered some insights into what may have happened – maybe the Hardeys had a picnic that included roasted swan?

As part of a longer term plan to better depict the property as a colonial farm, the red brick pavers and gravel driveway were removed and replaced with compacted dirt. This treatment has already given the property a more rural appearance and the house appears to sit more comfortably in the softer landscape setting. The main entrance is now along what has in recent years been a driveway giving visitors a more readily accessible approach and a better aspect of the house and café.

If that was not enough, the former reception area has been completely transformed. As visitors arrive they are now greeted with a vibrant installation that explores the arrival of the Hardey family in Western Australia. It provides an introduction to the story of Peninsula Farm and helps set the scene for the rest of the visit.

It is an exciting time with a bright future ahead for Peninsula Farm and it is hoped members of the community will come forward to join the National Trust in its work. Volunteers are always needed, particularly in ‘front of house’ roles to welcome and provide visitors with some orientation to the Peninsula Farm story.
Artillery Drill Hall  KELLY RIPPINGALE, CONSERVATION ARCHITECT

Following a successful expression of interest to lease the Artillery Drill Hall in Fremantle, Sunset Events is working with National Trust staff towards conservation and adaptive reuse of this significant place. Sunset Events’ proposal for adaptive reuse of the Artillery Drill Hall offers exciting opportunities to re-engage the history of the place with its broader community context. Innovation and social links have been outstanding qualities of the Artillery Drill Hall since its construction in 1895 on part of Fremantle’s original convict grant.

The Artillery Drill Hall was the first purpose-built military drill hall in Western Australia, constructed for a volunteer artillery corps known as the Fremantle No.2 Battery Field Artillery. The hall not only provided space for practising drill, but also facilities for various leisure pursuits and social activities. The rare and distinctive roof structure was achieved through the innovative use of curved wrought iron T-sections and laminated jarrah beams with iron tie-rods.

The Drill Hall is located within an historic precinct which includes Fremantle Courthouse, Lock-up, Police Barracks, Warders’ Cottages and the prison. It remained associated with defence until 1985. The current occupant, the Fly By Night Musicians Club, has used the hall as a live music venue for nearly 30 years.

Sunset Events proposes retaining the main hall as a live music venue, increasing its capacity and making changes that will deliver a more attractive venue for day as well as night use. In addition, the former ‘Gun Room’ will become a cafe/restaurant and the outdoor area on Parry Street activated for use. The offices will be leased to a music school that will also use the hall for practice.

National Trust conservation architects will document and manage the project which includes essential conservation works to the 120 year old timber floors of the hall, repointing of the brickwork to the 1941 two storey building, and conservation of joinery. Incidental interpretation will reveal key stories buried under its twenty first century use.
Prisoners help conserve buildings at Whitby Falls
MARLISE DOSSIN AND ERIC HANCOCK, CONSERVATION PROJECT OFFICERS

The National Trust in WA has again partnered with the Department of Corrective Services in a training program involving prisoners in significant conservation works.

The Department has provided around 16 prisoners and two trainers for the duration of the five day project to make repairs to the stone buildings at Whitby Falls near Mundijong. The Trust provides materials, equipment, three trainers and project design/management.

The stone buildings at Whitby Falls are of heritage significance and have not been used for a long time. They are vulnerable, deteriorating rapidly and in need of urgent stabilisation works.

The Egg Store and the Southern Poultry Shed, which have been given priority, are the first stone buildings to be conserved in this project. The long term objective is to provide conservation works to all the heritage buildings at Whitby Falls.

The works include:
- Removal of grass and flammable vegetation from around the Egg Store and the Southern Poultry Shed to provide a safe working area.
- Removal of non-heritage contents and rubbish from the buildings. Artefacts considered of relevance will be kept and stored.
- Masonry repointing with lime mortar and stabilisation works using Helibeam and Helifix bars system.
- Internal lime washing.

The Department of Corrective Services’ prisoners are all volunteers undertaking day release work at other workplaces. The trainers are from Applied Building Conservation Training (ABCT) which specialises in training related to conservation trades. ABCT has completed numerous similar training projects with prisoners in Australia.

The project is running as a typical building/construction project with all the standard requirements for a building contractor. A structural engineer is also on board providing advice on how to use the Helifix system.

The trainees have received theoretical information, demonstrations and practical experience in the use of lime mortars, preparation of masonry walls, stone repointing techniques and interior rendering on a heritage building.
Australian Garden History Society Conference in Albany

JOHN VISKA, CONFERENCE CHAIR, AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Two hundred Australian Garden History Society members from throughout Australia travelled to Albany to attend the 35th Annual National Conference held at the Albany Entertainment Centre in October 2014. This was the first time it had been held in regional Western Australia, and delegates took advantage of seeing the delights of Albany and the Great Southern prior to the ANZAC Centenary celebrations.

Topics included the cultural and natural history of the Albany region, botanical illustration and community garden related projects.

Delegates visited a selection of gardens and heritage places including Old Farm, Strawberry Hill where a picnic lunch was enjoyed in the garden. Volunteers stationed around the grounds provided information on the projects currently being implemented to interpret the site of the Western Australia’s first farm.

Other gardens seen included Greystones and Wayville sur Mer in Albany, Gavin and Ann Grey’s garden and Pate’s Patch in Denmark, The Banksia Farm in Mount Barker and, in Kojonoop, Pet Zadow’s town garden and Cherry Tree Farm in a rural setting.

Holding the conference in Albany provided an opportunity for delegates to gain a deeper understanding of the region and the role that the Great Southern has in the garden history of the state. Next year the conference will be held in Adelaide, South Australia.

Christmas Carols on the Peninsula

GINA PICKERING

A clear night and Swan River backdrop provided the perfect setting for up to 400 people attending Christmas Carols at Peninsula Farm, Maylands.

A huge line up of performers assembled by Artistic Director Carmel Charlton provided the evening’s entertainment. Collo Voce Choire, Challenge Brass Band, Tuxedo Junction and the Balga Joondalup Linking Choir performed some crowd favourites, while 15 year old Cassandra Mattes and Didgeridoo player Michael Spratt provided some unforgettable moments.

Thanks to Robert Mitchell as Master of Ceremonies and Carol Foley for the Welcome to Country. The original house built in 1839 by the Hardey Family was opened for tours following the carols with generous support of Trust volunteers.
Property wrap

A secure future for Luisini

Conservation works for Luisini Winery (1929), Kingsley, are complete and the new security system is in place and working smoothly to protect the clean and fresh building from further vandalism.

Trust property management staff will monitor the Winery ‘live’ through a password protected website. 5 CCTV cameras with motion detection and high quality IR sensors have been installed around the building.

New outdoor LED flood lights illuminate two sections each controlled by a 24 hour timer and daylight sensors will prevent the outdoors lights operating during the day.

The Luisini Winery was established in 1929 by Ezio Luisini and operated till 1986 when it was closed.

Old Farm, Strawberry Hill Open Day

Over the weekend of the 1st and 2nd November thousands of people travelled to Albany for events commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the departure of the first Australian and New Zealand troops from King George Sound, Albany.

To coincide with a range of Anzac Centenary events, a public open day was held at Old Farm, Strawberry Hill on Sunday 2nd November. Tours of the property were offered as well as cups of tea and ANZAC biscuits! To cater for a younger audience a ‘Be an Archaeologist’ children’s program was held throughout the day. A range of archaeological activities were offered, including digging, sieving and sorting so that children were able to learn more about the history of the place through ‘hands-on’ experience.

Samson House

The National Trust is working on three projects at Samson House: completing a conservation plan, re-roofing the severely deteriorating verandah roof, and restoring the water garden. The water garden restoration project will be commenced during the Heritage Festival in 2015 with a volunteer gardening day under the supervision of the Australian Garden History Society’s John Viska. John will also be giving a talk on rock gardens of the early twentieth century during the Heritage Festival.

The gardens are of particular interest and include a 1941 rockery built for Daphne Samson as well as other significant plantings.
New recruits  
KELLY RIPPINGALE, CONSERVATION ARCHITECT

Two new staff members have joined the Conservation & Stewardship team for a three month summer internship. Kyra Lomas and Aimee Hall both graduated this year from the University of Western Australia with a Masters Degree in Architecture.

Having visited The Old Observatory with Dr Ingrid van Bremen earlier this year, as part of a 5th year unit in heritage and conservation, both students were interested in the work of the Trust and an opportunity for a summer placement arose. At the same time the National Trust was successful in securing two large conservation and adaptive reuse projects.

Aimee says that she is keen to gain experience in heritage and conservation projects and to develop her architectural and administration skills using conservation principles to make a meaningful contribution. She will begin this journey working on the Royal Perth Hospital precinct as well as Old Perth Boys School.

Kyra has received university awards for architectural technology and practice as well as being part of the winning team in the WA 2014 Superstudio (a 24 hour design competition). The team then went on to gain third place in the national Superstudio competition. She will bring her skills to the Artillery Drill Hall project and to works at Samson House.

Undertaking major projects such as 57 Murray St, Stirling House, Old Perth Boys School and the Artillery Drill Hall has enabled the Trust to invest in graduates like Aimee and Kyra – ensuring the next generation of conservation architects in Western Australia has a solid understanding and appreciation of heritage values.

A stellar event  
GINA PICKERING

All eyes were skyward at the Old Perth Observatory, home to the National Trust on a clear 8 October eve. The full moon eclipse provided a spectacle in the eastern sky for approximately an hour. The moon rose at 6.19pm and about a hundred visitors enjoyed privileged views of the spectacle thanks to the generosity of Stargazers Club WA, who brought seven substantial telescopes for the occasion. Clouds had threatened earlier and cleared just at the right time.

Highly qualified astrophotographers were also on site, providing startling images of the ‘blood moon’ and the Old Observatory during the eclipse. Access to the elegant 1896 building which is foundational to the history of astronomy and meteorology in Western Australia provided a rare treat for visitors. The place has played a significant international role in cataloguing the stars. Halley’s Comet was viewed from here in 1910 and the introduction of ‘correct time’ and time keeping in Perth is linked to its early operations.

Significant people associated with Old Perth Observatory include the first Government Astronomer, William Ernest Cooke, Government Architect George Temple-Poole who designed the building, and WA’s first Premier, Sir John Forrest. The former Government Astronomer’s residence and place of work has been the headquarters for the National Trust since 1986.

Visit www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa/Home to see the stunning time lapse.

ABOVE: Carol Redford from Star Gazers WA presents a $1000 donation to National Trust CEO Tom Perrigo-proceeds from the full moon eclipse. G Pickering

ABOVE (L-R): Aimee Hall and Kyra Lomas are contributing fresh architectural skills at the Trust. G Pickering
Wild weather for Photo and Story Ceremony  

GINA PICKERING

The 2014 entrants in the National Trust Photo and Story competition were more courageous than ever as wild storms threatened the 10th anniversary presentation ceremony.

Competition winners, the highly commended and participating students were recognised for their efforts in the annual Valuing Our Heritage Competition at the Old Observatory on 26 November 2014.

This year judges noticed a strong emphasis on the natural environment in both the stories and photographs. One of the winning stories centred on Perth’s Bell Tower and highlighted the conflict between the built and natural environments.

Beaches, a civic theatre and a shed that’s now a theatre featured amongst the entries.

In the multimedia category, for the first time, a general commendation was given to a whole class from Flinders Park Primary School, Albany because of their outstanding work which showed a good understanding of heritage and its importance to their community.

A special presentation was made at this year’s awards by Lil-Jasmine Miller, a young author who was so inspired by the collection and stories associated with National Trust property Samson House in Fremantle she wrote and published a book entitled Ella’s Story which is available for purchase online at www.partridgepublishing.com/Singapore

A copy was also presented to Steve Samson who attended the ceremony on behalf of his family which was key to business at the beginning of the Swan River Colony.
Saying a special thank you to our volunteers
KARL HAYNES, MANAGER HERITAGE SERVICES

More than 50 National Trust volunteers were treated to a special trip and some hospitality as a thank you for their hard work throughout 2014 in early December.

The event was organised to coincide with the United Nations’ official International Volunteer Day which is an initiative the UN publicises worldwide.

In essence, any group or organisation which works with volunteers to meet their goals is encouraged to take the day to acknowledge and appreciate the contribution their volunteers make.

The Trust arranged a coach trip to three significant heritage sites in the metropolitan area: Wanslea in Cottesloe, Samson House in Fremantle, and the Army Museum of Western Australia, also in Fremantle.

Trust President Max Kaye thanked the volunteers, and morning tea was served before the group departed the Old Observatory.

First stop was a guided tour around the newly conserved Wanslea site by Trust Conservation Architect Caroline Stokes and Conservation Project Officer Eric Hancock.

This Trust place is now a cancer wellness centre and many of the volunteers remarked on the beauty and skill of the conservation works, as well as the tranquillity of the precinct.

At Samson House, volunteers toured the old property with Joy and Mike Lefroy, seasoned Trust Education and Learning presenters, and Diana Frylinck, a Trust Education Officer.

Michael Samson, a Mayor of Fremantle, built the beautiful Federation era home and his descendants gifted it to the WA Museum, before it was transferred to the care of the National Trust in 2010.

The Trust volunteers were able to have a drink and relax in the gardens before departing for the Army Museum of Western Australia, in Burt Street.

A barbeque lunch was served before the Museum’s Executive Officer and Curator Colonel Robert Mitchell (Ret’d) gave a personal tour of the Army Museum collections and galleries. Colonel Mitchell is a volunteer himself and serves as a Trust Councillor.

The day concluded with volunteers receiving small gift bags, a token of appreciation from everyone at the National Trust, for their outstanding work in 2014.
App breathes new life into old shipwrecks

IAN WARNE, MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF WA

A new app for smartphones and computer tablets that has been designed and developed in Western Australia is set to remove some of the mystery from the shipwrecks in the Swan and Canning Rivers.

Called Shipwreckswa, the app is available for Android, Apple and Windows devices and gives users instant access to a treasure trove of information about the 20 wrecks in the Swan and Canning system, including locations, historical information, plans, drawings and photographs.

The project is the result of a successful collaboration between the Maritime Archeological Association of WA (MAAWA), Design students from Central Institute for Technology, Lotterywest and software developer Digital Solutions Perth.

MAAWA’s Ian Warne said the app provides access to some of the shipwreck data researched and collated by members of the Association over the past 30 years.

“We wanted to bring history out of boxes and make it available direct to the public,” said Mr Warne.

The app has links to information such as the type of wreck, its description, purpose, construction, builder, owner and sinking date.

Where available, users of the app can also see photographs of the original vessel.

“This is a great tool for anyone with an interest in our early history of transport and boating,” said Mr Warne.

“Visitors to Perth, walkers along the shore, divers and snorkellers, people in boats and ferries along the Swan River and at Rottnest can all find something of note.”

MAAWA also hopes the app will encourage members of the public to provide new information and photos about the shipwrecks and their crews.

The app is the first stage of a project which could be expanded to include the entire West Australian coast and to feature videos as well as 3D modelling of important shipwrecks.

INSET: The new app makes available rare photographs like this one from the Battye Library of the iron paddle steamer Harley – one of only two vessels of its kind brought out to WA in pieces from Scotland in 1897.
Capturing Riverpark culture

The Swan River Trust is developing a virtual trail guide to showcase the cultural, social and environmental wonders of the Swan Canning Riverpark.

Swan River Trust Recreation and Trails Project Officer Ben Ansell has been developing a ‘River Journey’ for the Blackwall Reach area - a concept that captures ideas, stories and experiences.

“The theme of this River Journey focuses on the relationship the Whadjuk people have to this area of the river, and has been given the name Jenna Biddi Yorga, women’s feet walking on a path,” Mr Ansell said.

‘Jenna Biddi Yorga runs along the limestone cliffs of Blackwall Reach (Jennalup), which is to the Whadjuk people traditionally a place for women and children, and carries the story of Junda the Charnok woman.’

To capture the significance of this area, and to create an interactive interpretative experience for trail users, Ben Ansell has been working closely with cultural heritage consultants Anthropos Australis (WA) Pty Ltd to record Whadjuk Elder stories at key locations.

Filming took place recently with Whadjuk Elders Marie Taylor, Noel Morich, Corrie Bodney and Roma Reidy who shared their river stories. The footage is currently being edited and will soon be available on the Trust website. This inaugural visual project will be linked to QR codes on site so that people can listen to the river stories as they walk along Jenna Biddi Yorga.

“We hope this project can offer people rich sources of knowledge relating to local Whadjuk cultural heritage values while encouraging participants to actively engage with the interpretation,” Mr Ansell said.

The stories include the creation of the deepest part of the river, the formation of the limestone cliffs at Blackwall Reach and the significance of the iconic Point Walter sandbar.

The National Trust developed marli riverpark an interpretation plan for the Swan and Canning Rivers in 2014. This recent project recommended the recording of the Whajuk Elders as a priority project.

If you wish... GINA PICKERING

The emotional and social meanings, experiences and interactions between Perth’s community and the jellyfish of the Swan and Canning Rivers is the focus of a Scholarship with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (CHE) won by National Trust Communication and Interpretation Officer Gina Pickering. The Jellyfish Chronicles project follows a commitment by the National Trust to the cultural heritage values of the Swan and Canning Rivers over the past eight years including the development of the statement of significance, and audit of heritage values, the Rivers of Emotion project (CHE) and most recently the completion of marli riverpark an interpretation plan for the Swan and Canning Rivers which involved 21 local government authorities and a Noongar Advisory panel. Ms Pickering has been made an Artistic Outreach Associate with the Centre for the duration of the project which will draw on oral histories, images, perceptions and practices with jellyfish and include an audio visual outcome.

ABOVE: One of the stars of the Jellyfish Chronicles in the Canning River. G Pickering
Making a difference

YOUR GIFT OF A DONATION MEANS THAT WE CAN HELP CONSERVE AND INTERPRET WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE PLACES FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY.

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WEST PERTH WA 6872

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Volunteer Graeme Gerrans has scanned 7,871 photographs for the National Trust. We salute you Graeme! Our volunteers are everyday people who make extraordinary contributions.

Contact Gae See to find out more. PH 08 9321 6088
National Trust places you can visit for a GREAT day out!

PERTH

East Perth Cemeteries: Bronte Street, East Perth. Tel: 08 9221 4022. Open Sunday 2 to 4pm. Groups 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: Open Saturdays and Sundays and most public holidays 12noon to 4pm. Open for group bookings during the week by appointment.
Tel: 08 9321 6088

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

Peninsula Farm (Tranby): Johnson Road, Maylands.
Tel: 08 9272 2630. Open Friday to Sunday 11am to 3pm.

Weir Walk: Starts at No 1 Pump Station, Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring. 1.9km (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 Thursday to Tuesday.

WITHIN 90 MINUTES DRIVE OF PERTH

Jarrahdale Heritage Park: Jarrahdale Road, Jarrahdale. Tel: 08 9525 5265. Open every day.

Old Blythewood: 6161 South Western Highway, Pinjarra. Tel: 08 9531 1485. Open Saturday 10.30am to 3.30pm, Sunday 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

York Courthouse Complex: 132 Avon Terrace, York. Tel: 08 9641 2072. Open Thursday to Monday 10am to 4pm.

WITHIN 3 HOURS DRIVE OF PERTH

Ellensbrook: Ellensbrook Road, Margaret River. Tel: 08 9755 5173. Open Friday to Monday 10am to 4pm.

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

OVERNIGHT

Central Greenough (historic settlement): Brand Highway, Greenough. 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 650km from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie. Tel: 08 9321 6088 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa

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

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 6026. Open Thursday to Monday. Phone for opening times. Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Property opening times were correct at the time of print and are subject to change. The National Trust recommends you check directly with the property to confirm.