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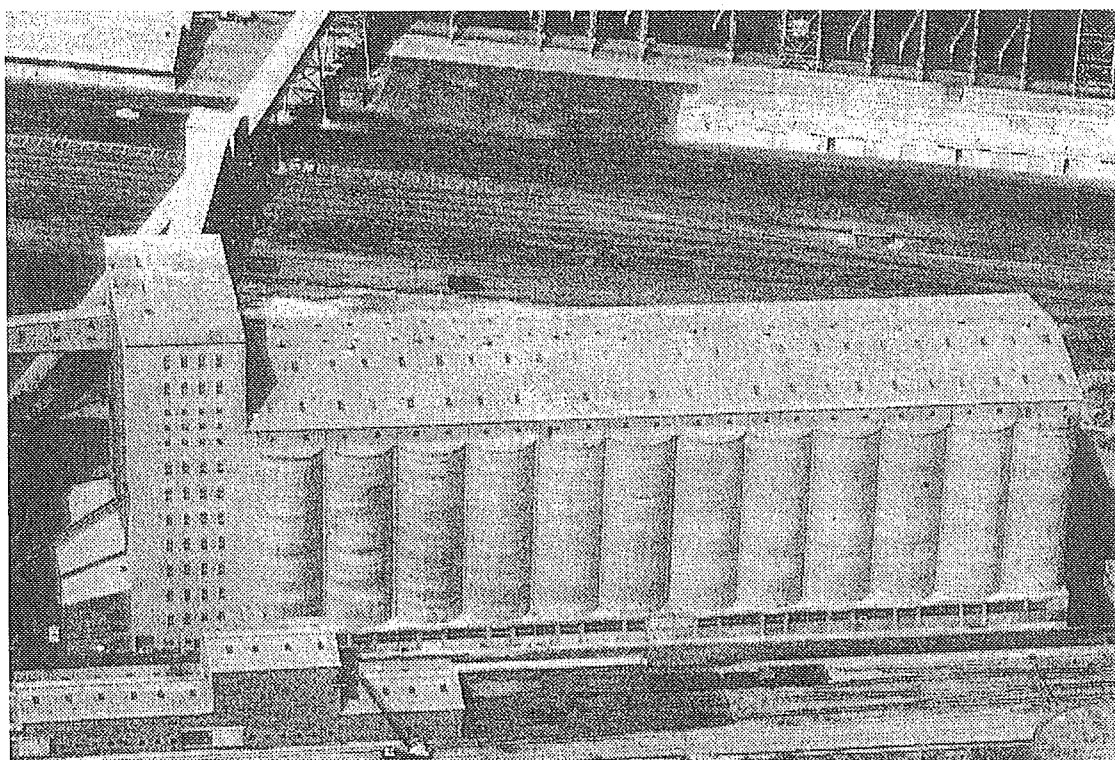
FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY

Established 1994

The Secretary, 24 Fothergill Street,
FREMANTLE WA 6160

**Spring Edition
2002**

Editors: Ron Davidson, Anne Brake



'The new Fremantle Terminal – CBH Annual Report, 1964

FREMANTLE STUDIES DAY

David Hutchison

The sixth Fremantle Studies Day, held on Sunday 27 October, was acclaimed as a major success. It is not often possible in any one year to find papers that can be related to a single theme. Fortunately, this year, in the centenary of CY O'Connor's death, the papers related to the theme of public works in Fremantle. The papers dove-tailed even more than expected. There were four contributors:

- Dr Nonja Peters, Director of the Migration, Ethnicity and Citizen Research Unit at Curtin University and author of *Milk and honey but not gold: Postwar migration to Western Australia, 1945 – 1964* (UWA Press)
- Kristy Bizzaca, historian and heritage consultant and Vice President of our Society
- Ron Bodycoat, a well-known architect who has prepared conservation plans for a number of buildings in Fremantle
- David Hutchison, historian and member of our committee (and organiser for the day: Ed)

Dr Peters' topic was *Arrivals and departures: the immigration buildings on Victoria Quay*. She herself, was a migrant arriving with her family from the Netherlands as a child soon after World War II. She outlined the history of the building – a very significant building on the Quay – including changes of location, alterations and extensions. The many thousands of immigrants who arrived in Fremantle would have made use of the building to obtain information and assistance; many of them must have poignant memories of it. Dr Peters illustrated her talk with panels of photographs and documents.

Kristy Bizzaca's topic was *The CBH silos, North Wharf: weren't they sexy enough?* She prepared the conservation study on the silos which – to the regret of many – have been demolished. Many of us feel that it is a pity that at least the earlier "hospital silo" was not preserved. Having outlined the history of the structure and the arguments for and against retention, Kristy went on to speak generally and passionately about the need to conserve examples of our industrial heritage, especially in a port city. Some people – although fewer than formally – have a narrow view of heritage. Her paper was, in effect, a good introduction to the next paper.

Ron Bodycoat's topic was *South Fremantle Power House: a heritage dilemma*. The Power House is a fine example of an industrial building, dignified in style and with internal spaces with some of the qualities of a cathedral. It was built to relieve the power shortage crisis in the early post war period. A use – or uses – need to be found for it. Ron doubted if it was suitable for accommodation; the adaptation would lead to the loss of the spacious industrial quality of the interiors. One interesting proposal is to use it, or a substantial part of it, for a film production studio. Another proposal which has been floated is to house South Fremantle TAFE in it. It is always desirable to find compatible uses for heritage buildings; uses as close as possible to the original. Either of these proposals would be compatible.

David Hutchison's topic was *The Railway Workshops in Fremantle: their development and their demise*. Many present-day residents of Fremantle would be unaware that from the 1880s until 1905, the state railway workshops were in Fremantle, firstly near the end of Cliff St, later near the site of the present railway station. The decision to remove the workshops to Midland aroused fierce opposition in Fremantle, particularly because of the potential effect of the loss of jobs and residents. In fact Fremantle did suffer to some extent, although new jobs provided by the opening of the new inner harbour offset this at the time.

These and other papers will be published in the third volume of *Fremantle Studies* which is now in preparation. Look out for it.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive:

Bob Woollett (President)	9335 7451
Kristy Bizzaca (Vice President)	9328 5316
Beres Coley (Treasurer)	9335 9473
Ron Davidson (Secretary)	9430 6096
Ken Hopkins (Minutes Secretary)	9339 1865

Committee:

Elaine Berry	9336 1906
Anne Brake	9336 5206
Jean Cecil	9335 2352
David Hutchison	9335 1594
Alan Kelsall	9336 4573
Alison Gregg	9432 9739

Fremantle History Society's committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

If you have something you would like discussed at a meeting, please contact one of the members at the numbers shown above.

General meetings of the Society are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Details of these meetings can be found in your newsletter and reminders are placed in the local press. As we have

started to have Sunday afternoon meetings occasionally, please be sure to check details.



COMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DINNER

You should have booked by now for our upcoming Christmas Dinner. Like the pub lunch, the FHS Christmas party has become a must on the calendar offering members and their friends an opportunity to share good food, wine (or other drinks) and company.

This year's repast will be held at the Fremantle Club, the venue in Bannister Street on Tuesday December 3rd. The Club has an exciting history. It has been a major centre of Fremantle social activity for 80 years. It provides an environment like no other and has a reputation for excellent food. It's not too late to ring through your booking to Bob Woollett on 9335 5471. This is an occasion not to be missed.



The club was founded by a group of local businessmen in 1940 when they took over the premises of the Club Giovanni d'Italia (the Young Men's Italian Club) which was established in 1924 and closed its doors at the onset of World War II. Some controversy exists over the nature of the 'take-over'. The president of the Italian club had already applied to have the name changed, probably in anticipation of the seizure of Italian assets.

Little of the nineteenth century building remains on the site. What's there has been called the Queens Gardens Hotel, before that the Stanley Arms and, from 1840, the Duke of York Hotel.

The manager, Wally Maker, will give a talk on the club's rich history and provide tours of the building.



MEETING REPORTS

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME ...

Stan Whip, a long time North Fremantle resident was our very well received speaker at the annual pub lunch, held at the Rose Hotel in Nth Freo. Over 40 members and friends enjoyed a delicious roast dinner followed by Stan's reminisces of growing up in North and particularly of his time involved with the North Fremantle Football Club.

Stan was followed by a stalwart of the Society but a ring-in from the other side of the river, Rusty Christensen. Rusty felt he had a claim as a speaker for the day – his wife was a North Fremantle girl and he used to run the gauntlet of the local boys when he was courting her.

Both Stan and Rusty amazed us with their memories for details – names, dates, places. The afternoon was rounded off by Rusty's rendition of a poem he had performed earlier in the day to send off a mob of caravaners who were on a fund-raising drive. It was a lengthy but very entertaining verse, superbly performed!

MEMORIES GALORE

There were some anxious faces among the Society's committee members when they arrived for the September general meeting. Would a session based on *Your First/Best Memory of Fremantle* work? Would people come? After two hours of reminiscing, both happy and sad, everyone agreed it had worked very well indeed. We were lucky that those consummate public performers, Mick Vodanovich and Rusty Christensen, came along and, with Connie Herbert, formed an amusing team. Memories also flowed from the sizable audience.

Thelma Limpus who worked for 50 years as a chiropodist and podiatrist brought along some notes. These centred of three Fremantle picture theatres - the lovely Majestic with its white marble stairs, the Princess and the Hoyts. (When you are next in the High Street Mall see if you can find clues as to where the Majestic was.) . There was also the entertainment park Uglyland where Pioneer Park is now. She also remembered the Chinese laundry in Suffolk Street, exploring the caves around Arthur Head, and Christmas Eve when the Town Hall was decorated with lights and gum trees.

Connie's memories included the Cake Man who carried a tall black case with lift-out trays covered in cakes. He would prop one leg against her mother's gate for support, balance the case on one knee and display his cakes. Plain cakes with coloured icing cost one penny and fruit cakes tuppence. The Fremantle Station tearooms was another source of pleasant memories for Connie. She was waited on by young women wearing black dresses, starched white aprons and white pleated caps. They served hot buttered scones and tea from a silver teapot.

The Newsletter will run more of Connie's memories in later editions.

FREMANTLE STUDIES DAY NO 6 REPLACES OCTOBER MEETING

(See lead story)



For Your Diary

Tuesday 3 December – Christmas Dinner at the Fremantle Club. Join members and friends at this end of year party to celebrate another good year for the Society and to welcome in the festive season. 6.45 pm, Fremantle Club, Bannister St. **Bookings essential** – call Bob Woollett on 9335 7451 or Jean Cecil 9335 2352 by Tuesday 26 November.



A HUMBLE HOUSE WITH A FASCINATING STORY

The following is an edited extract from a heritage assessment of 12 Crandon Street, Fremantle carried out by Kris Bizzaca. Heritage assessments are undertaken for a variety of reasons. In this case the house, which became a government property in 1987, has been identified as being surplus. Due to its age, the government is required to do a heritage assessment of the property before it can be disposed of. The information goes before the Heritage Council to ensure its heritage status is determined. Even if the property is listed, it is still possible for the house to be sold. This extract is taken from the section of the assessment titled *Documentary Evidence* and it provides details of the history of the property. This assessment shows that even the most modest of buildings have a story to tell. (Note: In the interest of space all footnotes have been removed. The full documentation is held by the Heritage Council of Western Australia.)

The discovery of gold in the Kimberley, Murchison and Eastern Goldfields regions in the 1880s and 1890s had a significant impact on the development of Western Australia. Like other areas throughout the State, Fremantle was transformed as a result of the gold boom and the huge increase in population due to the goldrushes. In 1895 alone, 19,129 prospectors travelled through Fremantle, a number which was more than a third of the State's population at that time.

Although the majority of immigrants were passing through Fremantle on their way to the goldfields, a large number stayed on, finding work on the wharves and in the factories and foundries that were being established in the outlying areas of Fremantle. As few could be accommodated in Fremantle itself, 'canvas towns' developed at Willis Point, Monument Hill and in East Fremantle. Outlying areas of Fremantle, including South Fremantle and East Fremantle, developed as residential areas primarily for local workers and their

families. The larger land locations were subdivided to small blocks on which the homes of these people were constructed.

In 1896, Fremantle Town Lot 714 was a vacant lot in the Fremantle rate book. By the following year, the land had been subdivided, sold to various people, and a number of residences had been built. In 1897, Ernest Butson was registered as the owner of Lot 8 in Crandon Street and Gilbert Payne Harris, tailor, was the occupier. In 1898, a 'weatherboard cottage' was recorded at lot 8 Crandon Street. In this year, Butson is listed as both the owner and occupier of the property.

Ernest Edward Butson arrived in Western Australia from South Australia in 1893. He married Mary Jane Harris at Wesley Church in Fremantle in September the next year. Butson became a well known musician, playing the piano, organ and double bass. His activities were based in Fremantle, where he taught music and was involved in a number of musical societies. In 1906, he founded the Fremantle Philharmonic Society and from 1917 to 1940 was the President of the Fremantle Amateur Orchestral Society (established in 1877) for which he was also the Honorary Conductor.

Butson was the organist for Wesley Church in Fremantle in the early 1900s, before he became the organist for St John Anglican Church, a position he held for 37 years. He was a founding member, and later made a life member, of the West Australia Music Teachers Association and served on this organisation as Vice President, Member of Council and Auditor. From 1931 to 1948, Butson was also employed by the Fremantle Council as its 'Piano Tuner'.

A comparison of Butson's cottage and the other residences in the street shows that it was a simple structure with no front verandah. Physical and oral evidence reveals that the main entrance to the cottage was located at the western (side) elevation. The entrance passage was 'L-shaped', running along the southern and eastern ends of the cottage, and led into two separate rooms. A dual fireplace heated these rooms (the dining room and the

bedroom) and a kitchen was located to the rear of the cottage.

From 1916, Lot 8 is listed as number 24 Crandon Street in Wise's Post Office Directory.

Physical evidence shows that there was a second phase of construction to 12 Crandon Street. This phase comprised the erection of a large timber room to the southern end of the cottage, which was entered from the existing entrance passage and had a high chamfered pressed metal ceiling. It appears that this addition was carried out c. 1918/1919. Butson himself carried out the construction of this addition. (The original pressed metal ceiling is still extant.)

Butson's grandson, Murray Charnley, recalled that his grandfather used the front room for music practice and as a classroom for tutoring children in music (c. 1941/1942). A small stage was constructed in one corner of the music room, upon which a piano was located. Students sat at the piano to practise music. Butson had a large desk in the music room and there was also a bookcase located on the western wall of the room.

Butson used the first floor of the outbuilding at the north-eastern corner of the property as a workshop where he repaired his own and other peoples' instruments. Mr. Charnley recalled that his grandfather even made piano keys for the repair of these particular instruments.

The work carried out c. 1918/1919 incorporated the extension of the large gable roof. In the roof space of the original section of the cottage (the 'attic'), a small bedroom had been constructed and is likely to date from at least the early 1900s. This area was used as a bedroom by Alsa Charnley (nee Butson). A steep steel and timber staircase leading up to the roof space had been installed prior to the early 1940s.

Located under the music room at House, 12 Crandon Street is a limestone 'cellar', which was in existence by at least the early 1940s. A conversation with Mr Charnley revealed

that he knew of the location of the cellar but nothing about its use or its original date of construction. No documentary evidence regarding this element has yet been located; however, some oral investigation has been undertaken, primarily concerning the cellar's connection to an underground tunnel system in particular. (the exact nature or extent of these tunnels is not known and access to them has been blocked.)

In 1934/1935, the street address of the property was changed from number 24 Crandon Street to 12 Crandon Street.

Ernest Edward Butson died on 19 March 1951. Mrs. Butson lived at House, 12 Crandon Street up until the mid to late 1950s.

A revised sewerage plan of the Fremantle District shows that the original galvanized iron water closet had been replaced by a brick water closet by 1954. This 1954 plan also shows other residences in the immediate vicinity of Crandon Street, including three terraces, as still existing. Since this time, the majority of these places have been demolished leaving 12 Crandon Street the only house in the street that pre-dates the 1950s.

The property had a number of owners until it was transferred to the Crown on 19 November 1987. On 10 March 1993, the Minister of Education was registered as the proprietor of the property. Since 1987, House, 12 Crandon Street has been occupied by a number of tenants.

One of these tenants was Frank 'the Birdman' Morris. While Morris resided at the place he carried out a number of works to do with the housing of his carrier pigeons. Part of the upstairs bedroom was converted to a pigeon loft complete with cages, feeding areas, and release catches. Similar works were also completed to the two storey outbuilding.

As part of its survey of historic buildings in the Fremantle area, House, 12 Crandon Street was identified by the Fremantle

Society in 1978 and was allocated a 'red' classification. This classification means that the place makes a significant contribution to the unique character of Fremantle.

In the late 1990s, as a result of a broad State Government policy, a number of government owned properties have been identified as being surplus property, including House, 12 Crandon Street. As the property falls under the Government Heritage Property Disposal Process, a heritage assessment of the place was required.



FREMANTLE PRISON DRAFT MASTER PLAN

In our last newsletter it was reported that a Master Plan for the future conservation and management of the highly significant Fremantle Prison is in the process of being prepared.

In October 2002, the FHS Committee formed a sub-committee convened by David Hutchison to formulate a response to the draft Master Plan. The sub-committee comprised five members who thoroughly reviewed the report both individually and as a team meeting on three different occasions, as well as receiving input from members of the FHS Committee. This has resulted in a substantial 10 page response, which will be presented to the Prison Trust and the consultants responsible for the Master Plan at a meeting of stakeholders in late November.

We will keep you informed about the proposed future of this amazing heritage site.



30 YEARS AGO - THE ART, THE HISTORY, THE BOOKS, THE PEOPLE THAT ARE FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE

Lisa Williams

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Fremantle Arts Centre. *30 Years Ago* is an exhibition celebrating this milestone and the

contribution the Arts Centre, Fremantle Arts Centre Press and the Fremantle Museum, which have all shared the Finnerty Street site, have made to local culture over the last three decades.

Developed by and on show at the Fremantle History Museum, a branch of The Western Australian Museum, the exhibition focuses on various aspects of the organisations' histories including the people who have played significant roles in their growth.

There are reflections from each of the Art Centre's General Managers (only four in 30 years), as well as images of some of the more than 4000 artists and examples of their works from the City of Fremantle's Collection. Photographs of the many and varied events that have been held at the Arts Centre including Fremantle Festival events, the Fabulous Flying Duck Auction and Exhibition and The Monaro Show are on display and will have those familiar with these happenings reminiscing for hours.

The Museum's first curator reflects on what it was like to open the first Social History Museum in Australia and a selection of objects collected by the museum will also be on show. First edition books from the Fremantle Arts Centre Press will show how much things have changed in the publishing field in the last 30 years.

30 Years Ago is a lively celebration of some of the events which have made the Fremantle Arts Centre the vibrant and dynamic place it is today. Visitors will enjoy the combination of social history and visual arts in this exhibition, and some of the quirky objects on display like the extremely colourful hotpants, also celebrating their 30th year!

The history of the Arts Centre building lies with the people and experiences associated with it.

Staff dedicated to the aims of the Centre have achieved a unique blend of community-focused activities, and provided Western Australian artists with a platform from which to launch their careers.

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Fremantle Arts Centre, *30 Years Ago* shares a few of these stories.

30 Years Ago is showing at Fremantle History Museum from 16 November

Fremantle Arts Centre is located at 1 Finnerty Street Fremantle and is a smoke free venue. For further information call 9427 2726 (Curator at WA Museum).



2002 RWAHS CONFERENCE

Two members of the Fremantle History Society committee, Jean Cecil and Bob Woollett, represented the Society at the annual conference of Royal Western Australian Historical Society affiliates, which was held at Wanneroo on September 14th and 15th. The conference was part of the city's celebration of its 100 years of local government. Apart from the efficient organisation by the Wanneroo Historical Society, a major feature was the close liaison with the Wanneroo City Council which made its impressive facilities available for the conference.

In addition to the session devoted to conference business, a number of interesting talks were given on the first day, two by members of the host society on the history of the local area, one by Dr Jenny Gregory, director of the WA Centre for WA History, on the production of the *Encyclopaedia of WA History*, and the fourth by Vanessa Griffiths, the Art Conservator at the WA Art Gallery, on the conservation of artefacts. A dinner was held on the Saturday evening.

A major item was our Society's expression of interest in hosting the 2005 conference in Fremantle. It would be a major commitment and, over the next nine months, the FHS will be fully exploring what is involved before making a final decision before next year's conference.

The committee would welcome members' views on the proposal.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S MARITIME HISTORY COMES ALIVE

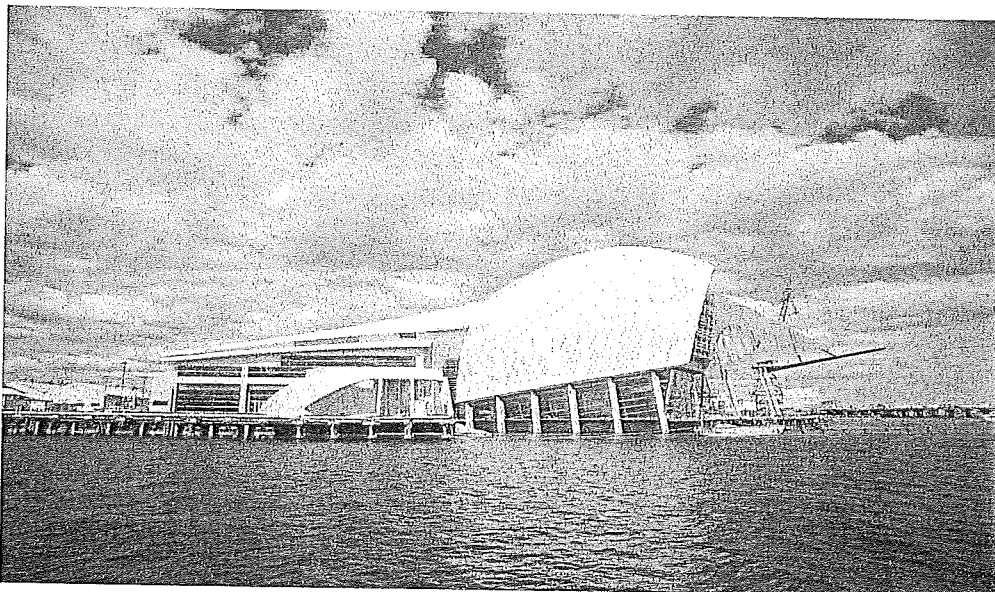
The new Western Australian Maritime Museum on Victoria Quay, Fremantle will open on December 1 with a public opening ceremony at 10.30am followed by a carnival on the Wharf with music, theatre and activities for the kids until 4pm.

The new Museum is the jewel in the crown of one of Australia's most significant historic maritime precincts. This precinct in the West End of Fremantle stretches from the Maritime Museum's convict-built Shipwreck Galleries beside Fishing Boat Harbour to the new Maritime Museum on the edge of Fremantle Harbour, and links to development happening on the Fremantle waterfront.

The world-class new Western Australian Maritime Museum is a richly entertaining journey through our maritime past. A centrepiece is the America's Cup winner Australia II. As well as other significant boats that are part of Western Australia's sporting and adventurous heritage, there is a collection of beautiful historic boats and examples of the latest in sailing technology. The new Museum is far more than a boating museum. Exhibitions tell stories of human endeavour to bring to life our maritime past, including the Swan River and Fremantle, naval defence, trade, fishing and the movements of people, goods and cultures throughout the Indian Ocean region. The Museum also highlights the maritime traditions and cultures of Aboriginal people. Important historic collections, hands-on exhibits and state-of-the art technology will make this a unique experience for visitors.

Entry to the new Western Australian Maritime Museum on opening day, Sunday, December 1 is by gold coin donation. Entry charges will apply from Monday December 2. Admission charges will be \$10 for adults, \$3 for children from 5 - 15 years, \$5 concession or a family entry (up to two adults and four children) for \$22. For just \$2 more than a day ticket, you can purchase an Annual Boarding Pass and visit the new Maritime Museum as many times as you like over the following 12 months. The Annual Boarding Pass also offers discounts on entry to the Submarine Ovens, one entry to the Maritime Museum's lecture series, and discounts on purchases from the Maritime Museum shops.

For information phone 9431 8444 or check out the web at www.mm.wa.gov.au



Patrick Baker Photog



ROCKINGHAM VISIT

The Rockingham District Historical Society has invited Fremantle History Society members to their last meeting of the year on Friday, November 29 at 2 pm, at the Rockingham Museum, Cr Flinders Lane and Kent Street, Rockingham. If you want to visit the very interesting headquarters of this impressive organisation please ring the secretary, Myra Pearman, on 9592 3455.



LINKS WITH FREMANTLE SOCIETY STRENGTHENED

The links between the Fremantle Society, Fremantle's major heritage group, and the up-and-coming Fremantle History Society have been strengthened recently. The Fremantle Society President, John Dowson, chaired a session at the History Society's Studies Day in October. Later a number of History Society members were among the record crowd at the Fremantle Society's annual general meeting at the new Maritime Museum. In a strong speech advocating protection for the city's heritage, John Dowson also praised our society for its emphasis on industrial heritage at the Studies Day.

Fremantle MLA and Attorney General, Jim McGinty, spoke of three 'rash moves' he made as a very junior heritage minister in the early nineties. These concerned the restoration of the Swan Brewery, the order stopping demolition of the Cottesloe Flour Mill, and the forced rebuilding of the Railway Hotel in Perth after it had been illegally demolished, and the prosecution of the developers.



Seasons
Greetings 

UNIS UNITE IN EXCITING RESEARCH PROJECT

Dr Paul Longley Arthur, Project Manager, Research and Development, at Murdoch University attended the Society's November committee meeting to invite us to be involved in an exciting project to seek funds for a program of research into Fremantle's history. A research team from four universities, Murdoch, UWA, Curtin and Notre Dame, intends to make a proposal to the Australian Research Grants Committee for a substantial grant.

The project will focus on the history of Fremantle's West End and its people from the time of European settlement to the present day. The proposed themes are: Trade and Port, Migration and Communities, Maritime History, Tourism, Fishing, Religion and Belief, Built Heritage and Streetscapes, and Festivals and Food. The project aims to produce the first major history of Fremantle with a focus on the people of the port city, to inspire interest in the West End, to make Fremantle the centre of world-class historical research, and to promote the value of Fremantle's unique heritage. The title of the project is *Voices from the West End; the Fremantle living histories project*.

Proposed outcomes include a published history reflecting the research aims, a multimedia documentary on Fremantle and its people today, a PhD historical research study, and published papers. If funds are obtained the project will run for three years.

Our committee supported the proposal strongly and we will make our resources available through consultation. It was suggested that our Fremantle Studies Day and the *Fremantle Studies Journal* could help to publish some of the research. Committee members also suggested other topics for consideration.

It is hoped this project will lead to a long-term commitment by the universities to the history of Fremantle.

