



# FREMANTLE

www.fremantlesociety.org.au

SPRING EDITION 2006

## THE SILENCE IS..... DEAFEN..ING

Traffic  
Bridge  
under  
siege  
Public  
Debate  
Be In-  
formed  
Have  
your  
say!



Sur-  
plus  
Port  
Land  
must  
be  
man-  
aged  
by  
our  
City!

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In June this year The Fremantle Society was instrumental in organising a Special Electors Meeting at Fremantle Town Hall on the ING proposals for Fremantle's Victoria Quay.

**Approximately 600 people attended the meeting to voice strong objection to proposals by ING and Fremantle Ports.** In response to a planning issue, the public meeting was one of the largest in the last 30 years. **At the meeting City of Fremantle committed to the following actions:**

- Advise the Minister it strongly objects to the proposal by ING & Fremantle Ports.
- Form a high level strategic group to deal with the ING site.
- Seek to have the land brought under the City's planning control.
- Seek to have the land, which is clearly surplus to the requirements of Fremantle Ports, transferred to the City of Fremantle.
- Support a comprehensive community consultation program to assist in determining the best development outcomes for the site.
- Seek the support of local parliamentarians

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## 'THE COMMITTEE'

**Patron** *Cr Les Lauder 0408 409 900*

### President

**Kris Kennedy** 0417 932 470

kke72635@bigpond.net.au

### Vice President

**Cathy Hall** 0407 086 300

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### Secretary

**Vacant\***

### Treasurer

**Alessio Capelli** 0411 153 370

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### Committee Members

**Nicolas Gurr** 0413 804 401

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**Jean Tonkinson** 9335 4927

**Dianne Davidson** 9430 6096

**Christine Mathieu** 9430 4394

### Co-opted Members

**Henty Farrar** 9335 2672

**Helen McLeod**

**Jason Townes**

### Newsletter Editor

**Vacant\***

### Newsletter Acting Editor

**Cathy Hall**

**\*\*Note** All Executives Positions will fall Vacant on 23 November 2006 at AGM, see Notices.

## FREMANTLE SOCIETY OBJECTIVES

**To give** responsible voice on matters affecting the overall character & development of the Fremantle area.

**To encourage** the improvement of the Fremantle area as a desirable residential & commercial district whilst retaining its character.

**To encourage** the retention & restoration of buildings & settings of historic & aesthetic value.

**To encourage** the preservation of the natural heritage of the Fremantle area.

**To ensure** that new development complements established patterns, is of high architectural and aesthetic standards & serves the long term interests of the area.

**To foster** the development of the area as a major cultural, educational & entertainment centre.

## “ MEMBERSHIP MATTERS ”

### The Society Welcomes

the following **New / Returning Fremantle Society Members:**

#### Life Membership:

Paula Silbert, Fremantle :)

#### Annual Membership:

Kathy Anketell, WGV; Lynn Carlin; Kathie Drake, Fremantle; Lino & Sanya Franich, Beaconsfield; Jacque & Dr Mark Hagan, Fremantle; Dr Carmen Lawrence MP; Bill Manning, Fremantle; Laidley Ian McGibbon, Fremantle; Robyn Oliver, Beaconsfield; David Phillips, Fremantle; Maggie Poole-Johnson, Hamilton Hill; Mary & Dennis Tarrant, Fremantle; \*Jason Townes; Sharon Ward, Fremantle.

**Special Welcome to Co-opted Committee member Jason Townes :) \*\*\*\*\***

### Committee Farewells

**We farewell Fremantle Society member Joan Dowson MBE OBE 4 June 1918 - 11 October 2006. Vale to a remarkable lady \*\*\*\*\***

**Many**, many thanks to recent outgoing Fremantle Society Committee members **Marilyn Dimond and John-Baron Gordon.** The committee most gratefully acknowledge their contributions to Fremantle and the operation of **The Fremantle Society** over a number of years. Marilyn and partner Maurice Stack were members of the intrepid team of inaugural **Fremantle Society** members who undertook the Society's important photographic survey started during the 1970's and in recent years, Marilyn has played a key role on the Fremantle Heritage Festival planning committees. So we shall expect to stay in touch. Good luck John-Baron with your new work & Marilyn with your Grand-parenting role, and yes we promise someone will relieve you soon of the precious Fremantle Society archives you are caring for!! :)

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## ‘THE PRESIDENT’

Cont..  
“ **ING...THE SILENCE IS  
DEAFEN...ING!**”

The City is making progress with the above tasks. While there is still a long way to go, the above actions represent a compelling win for the Fremantle community. **The City of Fremantle deserves a very big thankyou !**

Initially ING and Fremantle Ports publicly stated that a development application would be forthcoming **August 2006**.

**Well, it hasn't eventuated!** It would be heartening, although probably misguided, to think that ING / Freo Ports have gone away in response to the significant community outrage to the proposal. Alas, I think it very unlikely... More than likely Freo Ports and ING are simply playing “a waiting game”. It is very important that the City effectively dictates terms if an application is lodged. For example, it would be disastrous and a sham if the application was lodged **over Christmas time**.

The City, on behalf of the community must ensure that the proposal is subject to a **proper consultation process**. The process must be coordinated by the City not highly paid “spin doctors” on the developer's payroll. Once more, accurate plans need to be submitted and most importantly **a scale model!**

## ‘HERITAGE MATTERS’

### FREMANTLE INNER HARBOUR NATIONAL HERITAGE NOMINATION

**PROGRESS REPORT: Fremantle Inner Harbour** was nominated for National Heritage Listing in 2005 and classified as a “**Nominated Place**” in September, 2005.

The Society was advised in September 2006 that the assessment process was to be extended by another year by the Australian Heritage body. The Society is participating in ICOMOS **Port Cities** Conference to be held in Fremantle Town Hall in November, rather timely for events unfolding in our Port City. It is to be hoped that perhaps the Conference papers may throw some light on that matter.....as Federal Listing under the EPBC Act would provide both protection & opportunity for this national asset.

The Society contends **the place is sadly being neglected**, the Listing would attract Federal funding to support necessary conservation and possible sympathetic adaptive reuses.

## **CHALLENGE & CHANGE: IN PORTS, THEIR TOWNS & CITIES**

**Australia ICOMOS  
National Conference  
Fremantle WA  
9-11 November 2006**

**The Society's** President and committee will participate in an exciting **conference** to be held from **9 – 11 November** in **Fremantle Town Hall** (c.1887) exploring a range of issues facing historic Port Cities and Towns across Australia and around the world. Over the two session days, three Keynote and over Forty other speakers will investigate the tensions and opportunities that arise due to changes in use patterns and technology, particularly in relation to the built fabric. Papers include a range of case studies covering diverse global ports - **from Gdansk to Geelong and Fremantle to Fiji**.

The changing demographics of the towns and the planning and heritage pressure this creates on housing, services and facilities will also be explored.

**Heritage professionals as well as port managers will be presenting papers**, promising informed debate about both operational and conservation issues. Sustainability, interpretation, planning and adaptive re-use topics will consider the dynamics of heritage in working industrial environments.

**Alongside the formalities of the conference**, a number of pre and post conference tours are offered to provide participants with insights into key issues facing some of the state's most important heritage projects and sites including Rottne Island, West End Fremantle, the Fremantle Prison and sites associated with Engineer, CY O'Connor.

While focusing on ports, their infrastructure and surrounding urban environments, the conference promises to be of great relevance to anyone involved or interested in heritage management.

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<http://www.promaco.com.au/2006/ICOMOS>

## ***'Council Chamber'***

### ***Marich Building 'Great Win for the Historic West End'***

Last year Cr Gorman proposed a five level building in Fremantle's historic West End. The City and the community strongly objected to the fifth level element and the two storey verandah component. In a nutshell the height, did not comply with the City's key policies or the Planning Scheme.

Council unanimously rejected the proposal but Cr Gorman then appealed his own Council's decision to the SAT. The City vigorously defended the appeal lodged by Cr Gorman at a cost to rate payers of over \$50,000! Fortunately in late June 2006 the SAT advised that Cr Gorman had lost his case ("dismissed") and in doing so emphatically stated the following

*...we have reached the view that there are two aspects of the proposed development which are not acceptable, having regard to the need for caution in a highly sensitive heritage area. Those two aspects are the fifth floor of the development and the upper level of the balcony on Henry Street. From the Tribunal's perspective, we would have been prepared to approve the development subject to conditions requiring the removal of the fifth level and removal of the upper level of the balcony. At the hearing, however, the applicant indicated that conditions to that effect would be tantamount to refusal and that it would not wish to proceed with the development in that form.*

The **decision of the SAT is regarded as a landmark case** in town planning and legal circles.

The significance of the SAT decision cannot be underestimated. The decision demonstrates that **Heritage and the retention of Heritage values are significant issues that cannot be ignored in Fremantle's West End.** Moreover the decision **vindicates the City's policy**, and in particular the new town planning Scheme CPS4, which **sets an absolute maximum height limit of four levels in the historic West End.** The decision clearly recognised the dangers to the special heritage qualities of the West End posed by building of greater height than those of buildings in their immediate surrounds.



**Indeed, these SAT decisions send an ominous warning to other groups like Fremantle Ports and ING Real Estate**, who entertain even more monstrous proposals within central Fremantle. Perhaps the SAT decision will **deter rogue developers from using the Planning Appeals system** as a back-door method of achieving inappropriate development outcomes that override the provisions of local planning schemes and the clear preferences of local communities.

The Fremantle Society, Fremantle Inner City Residents Association and a number of precincts **are** absolutely delighted with the recent decision by the State Administrative Tribunal re Cr Gorman's Henry St development.

Kris Kennedy **President**,  
In collaboration with:  
Dr Ian Alexander,  
Fremantle Resident (Adj Prof  
Dep Urban and Regional Planning, CUT)

## ***“ WEST END FREMANTLE CONSERVATION ”***

### **CONSERVATION POLICY REVIEW**

Committee members continue to participate with the City of Fremantle in the process of reviewing our City Policies which serve to provide Heritage protection for the West End of Fremantle. Keep watching the Port City Column or contact the Planning Dept for updates in the future.....

# “MORE WEST-END ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS”

**HENRY & PHILLIMORE  
STREETS FREMANTLE**

*The Fremantle Society* committee brings news of more important archaeological work conducted by Dr Shane Burke beneath our Port City’s West End. Many people have recently taken the opportunity to observe Shane’s team undertaking excavations in High St West including the railway reserve in front of Western Australia’s oldest colonial settlement building *The Roundhouse*. That was undertaken for the City of Fremantle and Shane presented a report-back paper with artefacts on display during *The Fremantle Heritage Festival* this year when his team also, with permission of Notre Dame University Australia, conducted excavations (which were open to the general public for the Festival) in the Bar at *The Fremantle Hotel* before current renovations.



*Photo Cathy Hall*

The following commentary kindly shared by Shane with Society committee member *Nicolas Gurr* relates briefly to the earlier parents and children from nearby Lance Holt School, local business and staff from NDUA in August this year.

“Dr. Shane Burke has quickly become a Fremantle **dignitary**, through an increasing number of archaeological excavations, explorations and interpretations undertaken by him and his team.

The initial site explorations undertaken by Dr. Burke were at the foot of High Street adjacent to Number **1 High Street**, directly outside the site of the original tram barn. This unearthed a number of sleepers & nails used to anchor the tracks to the sleepers and revealed the depth & direction followed by the tracks to the middle of High Street. The other excavation was undertaken immediately opposite at Number **2 High Street**, which revealed the site and layout of the **first Police Station** in Fremantle, as cross-correlated with plans of these premises.



*Photo Jon Strachan*

Next followed an investigation within the **Hotel Fremantle**, where the foundations of the original onsite hotel and their incorporation within the present building were revealed.

*Contd p6*

A later dig also commissioned by the Notre Dame University in the car park and future three storey building site, on the corner of **Henry & Phillimore Streets**, to quote Dr. Burke, “was done on **Fremantle Town lot 55** that during the later 1830’s and early 1840’s was occupied by boat and **sail maker William Heard**. The excavation unearthed a **rich collection of archaeological material**, including many clay smoking pipes, ceramics, glass and objects associated with boat building such as copper nails and boat sheathing.



*Photo by Nicolas Gurr.*

The excavation also exposed a section of Fremantle town that has changed greatly since the arrival of Europeans. The excavation area is about 10 metres south of the now filled North Bay, with the Swan River’s beach **comprising clean white sand about 2.5 metres below the present ground surface**. European objects sit on the interface between the beach unit and the first of two in-fill units, the oldest consisting of limestone cobbles and white sand.

Historical documents indicate that **North Bay’s reclamation began as early as 1854** with the help of convict labour and these limestone/sand unit most likely dates to this time. Another in-fill unit of light grey sand covers the first in-fill unit. This unit is un-dateable, but was most likely created between 1860 and 1875.”



*Photo Nicolas Gurr*

## **FREMANTLE’S EAST-END NEXT?**

Dr. Burke’s current digs include the **Woolworth’s site on Adelaide Street**, next to St Patrick’s Basilica, upon which was sited St. Josephs Convent and which included a school. We look forward to his **continued digging** into and **revelations** about Fremantle’s early history.

We also asked Shane for comment on the East End excavations, but unfortunately **‘Fremantle’** goes to press too early to bring you those insights yet :< **Ed**



Courtesy Fremantle History Society

## ***Fremantle History Society's***

### ***FREMANTLE STUDIES DAY 2006***

28 October 2006  
12.30 pm – 5.30 pm  
Reception Room, Fremantle Town Hall

This year's exciting program includes:

**Sandra Murray – *Escape! Fremantle to Freedom*: the curatorial story behind the exhibition at Fremantle Prison**

**Allen Graham - Patrick Moloney - the story of a Fremantle publican and his connection to the Fenian fright of 1881**

**Shane Burke – More of "Fremantle's hidden history"**

**Pamela Statham Drew – *Sandalwood: A sometime saviour for Western Australia***

Phone 9430 6096 or email  
[ronaldi@cygnus.uwa.edu.au](mailto:ronaldi@cygnus.uwa.edu.au)

Proceedings of ***Fremantle Studies Days*** are published by the History Society in their regular Journal ***Fremantle Studies Vol 1-4*** are available from History Society contacts

## ***"HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS"***

***The Fremantle Society*** & ***The Fremantle History Society*** enjoy **reciprocal membership** & our members are encouraged to participate in the activities which the History Society regularly conducts about Fremantle's richly layered history.

We recommend ***"Fremantle Studies Journals"*** available to Members at discount including the Award winning Vol 4\*.

***Fremantle Society*** members recently attended a fascinating History Society evening conducted by local legend & fmr Cr Ann Forma who gave a most interesting perspective on Fremantle "beyond the bridge.. Details in History Society Spring Newsletter. We understand Ann will also speak at the up coming some say rather controversial Forum on the future of the Fremantle Traffic Bridge being orchestrated by Main Roads .

We do recommend Society members consider becoming full members of your local History Society & getting involved in their many activities including social & research based activities. See Diary Dates section in this Newsletter for occasional snippets

**Contact:** Fremantle History Society President Dianne Davidson p 9430 6096 or , The Secretary PO Box 1305 Fremantle W.A. 6959.7

## ***FREMANTLE PRECINCTS SYSTEM***

***The Society*** is a **"Virtual Precinct"** and committee members participate in geographical Precinct discussions, Joint Precinct meetings, workshops & promotion of the Precinct System in a number of ways since its inception.

In recent months, current Vice President **Cathy Hall** fronted a Joint Precinct Promo stall for ***the Society*** at Kings Square Village Markets sponsored by City of Fremantle & organised by Precinct Officer Jen Valesini with Convenors/Reps from several Precincts including O'Connor, Gibson Park, & South Fremantle. ***The Society*** committee has contributed to the regular Precinct system Reviews and a revamped **Precinct Charter** goes to Council in November.

Precinct meetings are advertised, as are ***the Society's monthly committee meetings*** in ***Herald's Port City Column***. All sorts of things happen at Precinct level. Why not drop into a meeting sometime and find out what's happening on the ground. If your Precinct is not active at the moment, why not **Contact** City of Fremantle Precinct Officer: **Jennifer Valesini ph9432 9919 [jenniferv@fremantle.wa.gov.au](mailto:jenniferv@fremantle.wa.gov.au)**

**' THE FREMANTLE  
SOCIETY DIARY DATES '**

**9–11 November ICOMOS Australia  
Port Cities National Conference**

Fremantle Town Hall See p3

**12 November 7.30 pm**

**Fremantle Chamber Orchestra  
"Emerging W.A. Talents"**

Fremantle Town Hall Enq p 9335 6980

**16 November 6.30pm**

**Fremantle Society Committee  
Meeting**

Old Council Chambers Fremantle Town Hall  
All members welcome

**17– 26 November**

**Fremantle Festival—*Animate***

**17 Nov 6.30pm *Opening Event***

Kings Square

**18 Nov 11-5pm**

***Wardarnji***

Esplanade Park

<http://www.fremantlefestivals.com/main/html/>



***Precincts Festival Events***

**19 November**

**12-8 pm South Fremantle High  
School Fair & South Fremantle  
Kite Festival Extravaganza**

South Fremantle Senior High School Lefroy Rd  
**Theme "Connecting Community"**  
p9314 6204 or 0407 086 300

**1 pm Gibson Park Horrie Long  
Mural Awakening** p9433 5123

**4.30-8pm WGV Candlelight Fun &  
Feasting.** Valley Park p9433 4171

**5pm Wangi Maacia FICRA**

**"Meeting Place of two cultures"**

Arthur Head p 9331 5479

**23 rd November 6:30 pm**

**The Fremantle Society Annual  
General Meeting of Members**

"Old Council Chambers" Fremantle Town Hall  
William Street Entrance 1st Floor

***"Celebrate the many achievements  
of your Fremantle Society during  
"Animate Fremantle Festival"***

Bring a new member to sustain the  
"Animation "of **the Society** into the future,  
Membership options prior to AGM @ 7.30pm .

**24 Nov 6.30– 9pm**

**North Fremantle Gala**

**Underwater Photo Exhib. String Beans,**

**Auction & more NFCA** p 9335 1509

North Fremantle Bowling club

**25 Nov 11-4pm**

**Hilton Fiesta**

Hilton Primary School

**24, 25, 27, 29 Nov 1 & 2 Dec 8pm**

**26 Nov Matinee 2pm**

**Harbour Theatre' s "Don't Lose the  
Place"**

Princess May Buildings Cantonment  
Bookings 9433 6260

**26 November 12-9pm**

**Claiming the Streets Carnival Day  
& Animate Street Parade 4-6pm**

**28 November**

**Fremantle History Society**

**Xmas Lunch Celebration**

Sail & Anchor Hotel p 9430 6096 or 9335 7451

**The Fremantle Society Inc.**

Founded 1972 Patron: Les Lauder PO Box 828 Fremantle WA 6160

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2006**

**6.30pm Refreshments (for 7.30pm AGM)**

**Old Council Chambers Fremantle Town Hall**

Notices and Nomination Papers will be posted to members contact addresses.

**Contact the President/Treasurer PO Box 828 Fremantle WA 6160**