

The Fremantle Society moves...

It's a long time since the Fremantle Society had a space to call their own with the majority of the work of the Society taking place for years in private Fremantle homes with occasional sorties into public places, for members meetings. The exception being the establishment under the Presidency of Ralph Hoare of access to "Fremantle Old Council Chambers" via the kind assistance of the City of Fremantle for formal meetings. The author always discovers new facts of Fremantle History upon visiting that interesting space. Those visits have diminished partly due to limitations of access for some of our longstanding members. With the recent advance of a LW Grant (see elsewhere in this edition) the committee revisited with greater gusto the search for a place to undertake work for the project and with the kind assistance of the Town of East Fremantle has secured temporary digs in the grand old Royal George Hotel on the corner of Duke & George Sts East Fremantle. With a welcoming community of artist tenants alongside us the experience is a most agreeable one and the committee is in discussion with representatives of the resident Artists with the intention of future Members Gallery viewing opportunities. We had a taste of the possibilities with the recent China Photo Opening night held on the 07-08 before the auspicious 08-08-08 opening of the Beijing Olympics with several members responding to the last minute

email invitation (if you wish to hear of such on-spec events in the future send your email address to the Secretary;)

There's still plenty of working bee work to be done esp. in the kitchen (once home of the Thai Kitchen), 'The Rooms' are in full swing with meetings of the Executive and Committee, regular Wednesday working groups of the Archives team (other times by arrangement) sorting, filing & recording Fremantle Society documents and memorabilia coming our way and an ever increasing number of visits from the Davidsons as new material unfolds. We have now acquired some useful pieces of furniture but the Archive team are especially keen to receive any old (working) filing cabinets and other such storage items.

If you are a longstanding Society member please get in touch with either the Secretary or the Davidsons if you have any Society paperwork or other memorabilia we can look through or look after for you. There are a number of gaps so far in the record that we are very keen to pursue further. We welcome any assistance / donations from Society members to assist with this project of particular importance to members. Contact Secretary or President.

RECORDING THE HISTORY OF THE FREMANTLE SOCIETY

At last the colourful life and times of the Fremantle Society is to be the subject of a book. Lotterywest has provided a \$20,000 feeder for the project; other groups including the City of Fremantle are supporting the project in kind. The grant has been made to the National Trust who will administer the project through a steering committee. The Lotterywest community histories program is always highly competitive and we were fortunate to get such a large grant.

The authors of the text are historians Ron and Dianne Davidson who bring a range of Fremantle experience and knowledge of the Fremantle Society to the task. They have also had a number of short listings for the Premier's book award while Ron's Fremantle Impressions won the Fremantle Heritage Festival award for 2007. The authors would like to talk with anyone who can provide additional insights into the Fremantle Society's history and impact on Fremantle (ph 9430 6096).

The History project Working Groups established to progress this important project include a small Archives team to assist Dianne & Ron in the fascinating tasks of sorting and reviewing the many boxes of materials from the Society's 36 year history. If you have any materials or know of the whereabouts of any please contact the Secretary asap as we are working to Lotterywest publication deadline.

Contact: Cathy Hall 0407 086 300 / <>

The Secretary The Fremantle Society Box 828 Fremantle 6160

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Help the Fremantle Society settle in to its new 'History Room' at the Royal George Hotel, George Street, East Fremantle

Join the BUSY BEE

Saturday Sept 20th 10am -12 Noon

We want to spring clean the premises and fit out the rooms in style!

Please bring:

- Yourself, family and friends ready to lend a hand;
- any donations/loans of old chairs, shelves, files, pictures for the walls;
- any documents on Society history

Enquiries to Cathy Hall 0407086300



The Fremantle Society Inc

(Established 1972)

PO Box 828 Fremantle Western Australia 6160

www.fremantlesociety.org.au

An open letter from The Fremantle Society (Inc) to:

Alan Carpenter, The Premier of Western Australia
Colin Barnett, Leader of the Opposition

Our Heritage: it's for the future!

The heritage places of our State need decent, effective and up-to-date protection. Our Heritage Act does not provide that.

When investors and developers can bulldoze heritage-listed property, or deliberately let it run down and get off without any meaningful penalty, it's time for a change. The current Government has promised to address this problem, but has not acted. The Minister has allowed Heritage buildings to be demolished and delisted.

Heritage is the community's treasury of its identity. It is a vital part of defining who we are and the nature and character of the places in which we live.

We call on the new State government to act within the first 100 days of its election to rewrite the Heritage of Western Australia Act. The New Act must provide more effective means of protection for our State's diminishing Heritage.

Dr Ian Alexander,
President,
The Fremantle Society (Inc)
for and on behalf of concerned Western Australians