

A vision for

the Former Victoria Park Croquet Club

31 Rushton Street Victoria Park

by Perth History Association Inc



Courtesy - State Library of Western Australia

A temporary community use

The Victoria Park Croquet Club has a long and interesting history. Having moved to superior premises in East Victoria Park, the club's former rooms and grounds at Rushton Street have been retained by Council for future possible development or divestment. For the time being they are being maintained at Council expense until plans for the site's future firm.

Understanding this is a future redevelopment site, the Perth History Association Inc would like to propose a temporary License Agreement for use of the site and buildings for the purpose of establishing a productive gardening training program overseen by our Heritage Gardens Coordinator Stacey Smithers, and her team of trainers and volunteers.

Our Association has significant expertise running a variety of training programs including research, heritage building restoration and maintenance, and the establishment and maintenance of productive and ornamental gardens.

Our current projects include:

1. Sloans Cottage in Leda: A former farmhouse which we are managing for the City of Kwinana as a productive vegetable garden and local history research hub.
2. Pensioner Guard Cottage and Residence, Bassendean: An historic property gifted to us by the Town of Bassendean for restoration and the establishment of a museum and productive vegetable garden
3. Wilkinson's Homestead in Gosnells, a large productive vegetable garden at the rear of the City of Gosnell's Wilkinson Homestead Museum. In the coming months we will be breaking ground on a very large vegetable patch, with produce being gifted to local community organisations and volunteers
4. Midland Worker's Cottages at Sayer Street: A 3,300sqm block of land and two heritage worker's cottages we are managing on behalf of the City of Swan, restoring the houses and establishing substantial productive gardens.



Sloans Cottage, Leda. 2022

Our expertise

Since our inception the PHA has focused heavily on the built architecture of the City of Perth and broader metropolitan area. In recent years we have taken ownership or restored and managed a number of historic properties.

Our staff and board have a range of expertise including, historical research techniques, community engagement, traditional and social media, exhibition planning and design, heritage interpretation, oral history recordings, long-form writing, biographical and genealogical research, volunteer management and heritage restoration.

Our point of difference is that we can provide financially self-sustaining research, outreach, education, restoration and historical services in partnership with local governments, private organisations and community institutions.

The PHA operates with fifteen paid staff and the assistance of more than a hundred community volunteers and program trainees who contribute to our exhibitions, projects and research on a weekly basis. Our activities cover a range of initiatives including:

- digitisation and transcription of archival materials (like rates books, records, family documents, photographs, slides and corporate minutes etc);
- exhibition research, design and curation;
- website design and maintenance;
- social media management & community engagement;
- graphic design, video creation & photographic slideshows;
- data analysis, data entry & archival research;
- heritage building interpretation and restoration.



The launch of 'Gnaarla Boodja Mili Mili' (Our Country on Paper), 2021, in partnership with the State Government of Western Australia's Aboriginal History Unit.

Our Funding

The Perth History Association utilises funding from a variety of sources, but especially Work for the Dole (WFTD) programs funded by the Federal Government's Education and Training Budget. We receive payments for hosting training participants who undertake gardening and restoration works which significantly reduces the costs of our work.

With 20 participants undertaking restoration and maintenance internships, and 20 participants undertaking garden internships, we would generate around **\$140,000** of training revenue to offset the operational costs of wages, materials, tools and equipment that would be utilised in the operations of the Croquet Glub Gardens, ensuring the projects will operate on a cost neutral or cash-flow positive basis.

The PHA Inc has 8 years experience operating training programs under this scheme and has confidence in the operating model working well at this location.

Additional revenue, to make ongoing operations cost-neutral would be derived from:

- visitor donations;
- state, federal or local grants;
- lotterywest or philanthropic grants;
- sale of produce, preserves, pickles; and
- workshops.



The Launch of 'From Hooves to Highways', 2020

Our History

Perth History Association Incorporated (PHA), a not for profit association registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. Further information about our staff, constitution and Board of Directors can be found here:

www.museumofperth.com.au

1. Museum of Perth

Our first - and most well known initiative was the Museum of Perth, which chronicles the social, cultural, political and architectural history of the City. The Museum's gallery is located at The Atlas Building, 8-10 The Esplanade Perth and hosts a permanent exhibition on the history of the City, as well as regular exhibitions on various topics. We have produced 18 exhibitions since our establishment and have welcomed more than 24,000 visitors through our gallery since opening.



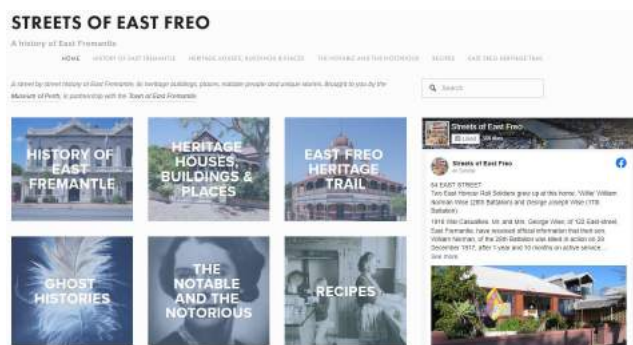
Exhibitions have been delivered in partnership with the Art Deco Society WA, WA Historical Cycle Club, Pride WA, The Aboriginal History Unit WA, The State Library of Western Australia, Western Australian Museum and RAC.



2. Streets of East Freo (Town of East Fremantle partnership)

www.streetsofeastfreo.com

A street by street history of East Fremantle, its heritage buildings, places, notable people and unique stories delivered in partnership with the Town of East Fremantle.



3. Streets of Freo (University of Notre Dame partnership)

www.streetsoffreo.com.au

A street by street history of the City of Fremantle, its heritage buildings, places, notable people and unique stories. Our research starts with the State-Heritage-Listed West End, detailing the gritty and fascinating history of pubs, businesses, residents and 'characters' that make Freo so unique. Streets of Freo is delivered in partnership with the University of Notre Dame.



4. Streets of Bunbury (City of Bunbury partnership)

www.streetsofbunbury.com

A street by street history of the City of Bunbury, its heritage buildings, places, notable people and unique stories. We work in close partnership with the City of Bunbury's Local Studies Centre and Museum as well as the Bunbury Historical Society and Oral History Group.



5. London Court Books

www.londoncourtbooks.com

London Court Books – Perth City's smallest bookshop – was created and is staffed entirely by volunteers and run on a not-for-profit basis.

The books we sell have been provided through the generosity of our consignment partners and donors. Our shop activated an otherwise empty City tenancy.



6. RAC Archives Management

A specialist team led by Archivist, Curator and Historian Shannon Lovelady, is working to preserve, digitise and transcribe RAC's fascinating Heritage Collection. The Collection is comprised of historical materials including photographs, video tapes, film from earlier eras, textiles, Membership Registers, Annual Reports, Board Minutes, objects and memorabilia.



7. CBH Archives Management

The Perth History Association is currently undertaking a comprehensive digitisation and cataloguing project for Cooperative Bulk Handling. Their important organisational history parallels the history of the State's Agricultural industries, and that of the many small wheatbelt towns that are connected to CBH.



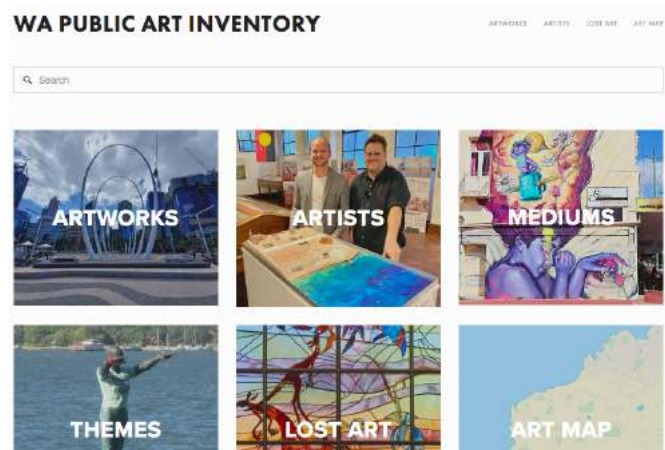
8. Newman College Archives Management

The PHA established, and has been running the school archives for Newman College since the beginning of 2021. The Archives (including extensive photographic collections and student registers and yearbooks) is a busy, working Archives which acts as the conduit to any facet of the Schools' histories for staff and students at Newman College, their alumni, and the wider community.



9. State-Wide Public Art Inventory

A project in partnership with Janet Holmes à Court, our team of volunteers have written to every local government in WA, and are methodically cataloguing every public artwork in the state. So far we have published the works of nineteen local governments, but we have catalogued many thousands of works from right across the state in what is, we believe, the only state-wide index of public artworks to have ever been created



10. Pensioner Guard Cottage & Residence (Town of Bassendean partnership)

www.museumofperth.com.au/bassendean-pensioner-guard-cottage-and-residence

In 2021 the Perth History Association was gifted this property by the Town of Bassendean. Over the coming four years we will restore the 1856-built Pensioner Guard Cottage at 1 Surrey Street, Bassendean, and the adjoining 1893-built Residence as our Eastern-Suburbs Headquarters.

We recognise the enormous significance of this site and our plans include:

- Ensuring the Pensioner Guard Cottage is open to the public frequently;
- Working in partnership with the Bassendean Historical Society;
- Installation of an accessible bathroom and a kitchenette for volunteers;
- Replanting productive gardens in a heritage style;
- Stabilisation and repair works;
- Realignment of the roof profile to its original shape;
- Replacing concrete tiles with original-style corrugated iron;
- Repair and restoration, or replacement of ceilings throughout; and
- Asbestos remediation.

Once restored we plan to establish a Local Research Centre here to host our historians and community volunteers. The adjoining Pensioner Guard Cottage, will open to the public as a Living History Museum, allowing its important story to be acknowledged and celebrated.

We have established a tax-deductible fundraising account in partnership with the National Trust WA. The fund is co-administered by the National Trust, Perth History Association and a Heritage Specialist, to guide the restoration works over the coming years.



11. Sloan's Cottage - Leda (City of Kwinana partnership)

www.museumofperth.com.au/sloans-cottage

We are well underway with the restoration and rehabilitation of Sloan's Cottage and the surrounding farmland under our control. Our partnership with the City of Kwinana to restore Sloan's Cottage and establish a large productive garden, including a bush-tucker garden and wildflower walk has strong community support.



The aims of our training program are:

- To create an abundant and productive organic garden space at Sloan's cottage using low technology strategies.
- To provide a program that gives participants confidence and skills in growing, harvesting and processing their own organic food and bush tucker using Permaculture and organic gardening principles. Our focus will be on Regenerative agriculture systems. These are holistic farming systems that, among other benefits, improve water and air quality, enhance ecosystem biodiversity, produce nutrient-dense food, and store carbon to help mitigate the effects of climate change.
- To provide a program that gives participant's opportunity to restore endemic vegetation in selected areas of the site, and creates aesthetically pleasing landscapes.
- To use gardening activities to provide meaningful engagement and build community for participants.
- To make Sloan's a 'living museum' by encouraging interaction with the site by members of the local community.



Produce from our garden



Before we took over management (2021)



After refurbishment, May 2022





Re-plastering and painting works underway.





Our first intake of horticultural trainees.



Our newly-established market-garden patch with its first planting.



Our first crop of garden greens.



2021 before we took over management.



May 2022, after just 6 months.

Research Offices & Gallery at 8-10 The Esplanade Perth



Key Staff

Reece Harley - Executive Director

Reece founded the Perth History Association Inc as Board Chair in 2015 and was appointed its inaugural Executive Director later that year. Reece holds Bachelor of Communication from Murdoch University and has been involved in many not for profit organisations including Rotary, Heritage Perth, Perth Convention Bureau, Perth Public Art Foundation and Perth Modernian Society.

Prior to his election as a Councillor of the City of Perth in 2013, Reece ran history and small bar walking tours of the City sharing his knowledge with residents and visitors alike. He prides himself on knowing every alleyway and street, arcade and building like the back of his hand.



Shannon Lovelady - Project Leader, Historian, Archivist

Shannon is a Perth-born historian and writer. She is an archivist, fine art and small museum curator and an experienced WWI researcher, having founded the Gallipoli (2013) and Western Front Dead from Western Australia (2016) projects, which have determined the number of West Australians killed in those theatres of war.

In 2014-2015 Shannon wrote a popular weekly newspaper column 'Gallipoli Remembered', for which she was a WA Media Award finalist for Best Columnist (the Matt Price Award). Shannon has curated a number of exhibitions for the Museum of Perth and leads a number of initiatives.



Jo Darbyshire - Historian

Jo is a West Australian visual artist and social history curator. She graduated with a Master of Creative Arts in Cultural Heritage from Curtin University of Technology in 2004 and worked as Memorabilia and Social History Curator at the City of Perth for ten years (2005 – 2016).

She is passionate about telling stories about the people of Perth and has a special interest in 'lowlife' history - the history of the forgotten, difficult, colourful, marginalised and uncollected aspects of West Australian history.

In 2003 she was artist in residence at the WA Museum and curated the Gay Museum, a history of Lesbian and Gay people in WA, using strategies from the visual arts and 'new museology' to bring alive a history that had not been collected or acknowledged before.



Stacey Smithers - Heritage Gardens Coordinator

Stacey has extensive experience in designing and building edible gardens, working with community groups and teaching permaculture, organic gardening and regenerative agriculture. Before joining the Museum of Perth Stacey was a horticultural facilitator in Fitzroy Crossing working with remote aboriginal communities to grow and cook their own food. Prior to this she was the garden specialist and program coordinator for 6 years in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program at a primary school in the Perth Hills. Here she planned and taught gardening lessons to grades K-6, and managed a large school kitchen garden and orchard.



Stacey has Certificate III in Production Horticulture from Great Southern TAFE, has undertaken a Permaculture Internship, several Permaculture Design Certificates, an Advanced Permaculture Teacher Trainer Certificate and a Certificate in outdoor learning.

Joanne Hyland - Historian

Joanne completed a first class honours degree in History at UWA in 2009 on the subject of WA Convictism, an ongoing research interest.

Working as an assistant curator and museum extension officer for the Western Australian Museum from 2006, Joanne was also a member of the National Standards Taskforce which developed the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries, first published online in 2008. During 2012 Joanne worked for the State Library Foundation and the Wanneroo Museum before returning to a curatorial position in the History Department of the WA Museum in 2013. Joanne developed content for the National Anzac Centre in Albany and for WA's New Museum Project.



Marelda Kelly - Archivist

Marelda founded the Archive of the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Mosman Park and later the Iona Presentation College Archives. Since then Marelda has been employed as a University Archivist, recordkeeping advisor and consultant, and archive officer with the State Records Office of Western Australia.

Marelda has also worked as an Historian with the State Solicitor's Office. As a private archives consultant Marelda has worked on indigenous family history, business histories and for the Miriam Stannage Collection



Key Advisers

Marc Beattie - Associate (Heritage)

Marc is a highly knowledgeable and experienced heritage professional. He is a keen collaborator having worked on many large multidisciplinary project teams to deliver award winning heritage projects.

Having worked on some of Western Australia's most significant heritage projects – such as the adaptive re-use of Swanbourne Hospital (Montgomery House by Aegis), Sunset Hospital in Dalkeith, The Guildford Historic Town Policy and Hillcrest North Fremantle – he specialises in emphasising inherent character of the original in a new use. At any time, Marc's work profile could include preparing conservation management plans, specifying schedules of work, informing feasibility and condition surveys, underpinned by his practical knowledge of conservation techniques.



Marc cites his work on the award-winning Guildford Hotel revitalisation as particularly rewarding, uncovering local stories about the building, advising on the reconstruction process and ultimately seeing the building rise from the ashes as a popular food and beverage venue. Hard to escape his Scottish roots, he sees the Edinburgh World Heritage Site being one of the world's most inspiring urban evolutions, blending contemporary architecture with ancient streets and lanes.

The Hon. John Cowdell AM - Chair State Heritage Council

John Cowdell AM was elected to the WA Legislative Council for the South West region. From 1997 to 2001, he was shadow minister for parliamentary and electoral affairs; and deputy president of the Council, becoming president in 2001.

Mr Cowdell retired from politics in 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Education, and was Dean of Kingswood College at the University of WA. Mr Cowdell was president and vice president of the National Trust of WA, and director & deputy chair of the Australian Council of National Trusts. He was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2001.



Mr Cowdell was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2010 for services to the Parliament of Western Australia, to regional development, and to the community, particularly through contributions to history and heritage.

Queries

Reece Harley
Executive Director
Perth History Association Inc.
reece@museumofperth.com.au
m. 0402 901 766

Atlas Building
Level 2
8-10 The Esplanade
PERTH WA 6000
www.museumofperth.com.au