



FRESHWATER BAY MUSEUM  
NEWSLETTER – MAY 2017

**LATEST NEWS**

**Museum Upgrade**

As Friends will no doubt be aware, a renewal and upgrade of the Freshwater Bay Museum buildings, adjoining car park and toilets is being planned, following the allocation of funding in the Town of Claremont 2016-2017 Budget and subject to the outcome of a significant Lotterywest grant.

**Friends Have Their Say**

Along with other stakeholders, the Committee of the Friends participated in a consultation session on the future direction of the Museum during 2016. Members of the Friends also participated on a Working Party for the development of the Request for Quotation document to develop the concept phase of the facility development plan for the Museum site. Architecture firm, Hames Sharley, was awarded the contract and has now completed the initial Concept Plans. The Museum Committee of Council, which includes several Committee Members of the Friends of FWB Museum, have participated in information and consultation sessions with Hames Sharley. Most recently they attended a presentation on the Concept Plan for the Museum.

The Hames Sharley Concept Plan was formally presented to Council at its meeting on Tuesday 9 February 2017. A good number of Friends attended the meeting and Committee member, Joan Fisher, presented a submission to the meeting on the Concept Plan. Unfortunately I was interstate and unable to attend the meeting but worked on the Submission presented by Joan on behalf of the Friends.

While highly supportive of the Museum facility upgrade, two key items of concern were raised in the Submission:

- the very limited amount of storage space incorporated in the Concept Plan as well as lack of certainty about accessible and

adequate offsite storage to accommodate existing and future collection needs: and

- the unsuitability of the public reception and first point of contact area.

We have been advised that additional local storage space for the Museum is being pursued by the Town of Claremont and that the architects are reviewing the Concept Plans to improve the public reception area.

**Museum Closure**

As a result of the planned upgrade of FWB Museum, buildings at the Victoria Avenue site were temporarily closed in December 2016. Staff are now based in an office in the Station Master's House in Guger Street, Claremont.

During the period of closure, Museum staff are working on several key projects. They are reviewing the entire collection, including the items held in storage, in readiness for new on and off site storage and display facilities, details of which will be better known as the Facility Development Project progresses. They are undertaking a major digitisation process and developing and presenting exhibitions and activities in spaces around the Town of Claremont. They are also providing the Museum's schools education program using an incursion approach, where "Mrs Herbert" takes a road show out to schools. In addition, staff are working on fundraising and partnership ideas and are actively in discussion with the Friends Committee on these ideas.

**Annual General Meeting – 3.00pm Sunday 2 July**

Traditionally, the Friends' AGM has been held in April or May each year. However, at its most recent monthly meeting, the Friends' Committee decided to delay the Association's AGM until 2 July 2017. The date for the meeting has been extended for a number of reasons. Importantly, the July date will mean that staff who are on leave, will have returned. In addition, it is

anticipated that by 2 July there will be more information available about the Museum facility development project that can be presented to members. We trust the meeting will attract a record attendance and considerable interest in members getting involved in the Association, which will have a role to play in supporting the Museum through the exciting next phase in its development.

### **Annual Subscriptions – Free membership for 2017**

Due to the closure of the Museum in 2017, the Committee has decided to waive 2017 annual membership fees. As a result all past members and any new members will be granted free membership for 2017 and will be eligible to attend and vote at the upcoming Friends Association's AGM. They will also be eligible stand for positions on the Committee and are strongly encouraged to do so.

Ricki Hewitt

President

### **MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **6 July: 10.00 – 11.00 am History in a Coffee Cup**

**All The World's a Stage at Midnite Theatre.** *Midnite Youth Theatre* Company, at Christchurch Grammar School, has been producing outstanding theatre with young people for 30 years now. Hear from Emeritus Artistic Director, Tony Howes and view the first ever Midnite performance at His Majesty's Theatre. We will also hear from Hilary Heptinstall about the history of another local performance group, Swanbourne's St Oswald's Music Hall. *Venue – Christ Church, Corner Queenslea Drive and Stirling Highway.*

#### **14 August to 11 September Opera Costumes**

**WA Opera Company Costumes.** Take a look at some of the gorgeous costumes from the WA Opera on display in the Claremont Council foyer and the Claremont Community Hub and Library.

#### **7 Sept: 10.00 – 11.00 am History in a Coffee Cup**

**50 Years of WA Opera.** Established in 1967 the WA Opera company has been thrilling Perth audiences for 50 years now. Join us to hear local resident and long time of the history of Perth's only opera company. We will also enjoy a taste of opera singing as one of the ensemble shares their tale of what brought them to opera and shares a sample song.

*Venue – Zenith Music Auditorium, 309 Stirling Highway.*

#### **September: 10.00-11.00am School Holidays**

**Singing in the Lane.** A *Smarter Than Smoking* program produced by the WA Opera. Sing out loud and have some fun with two members of the WA Opera ensemble. Kids will have the chance to learn about rhythm, tempo and pitch before singing in a final aria with the ensemble! Town of Claremont is subsidising this activity for local residents.

*Venue – Zenith Music Auditorium, 309 Stirling Highway.*

#### **2 Nov: 10.00 – 11.00 am History in a Coffee Cup**

**Marigolds to Melaleucas: Gardening in WA.** Manicured hedges, rosebushes and marigolds have made way to wood chips and drought tolerant native plants. Join us to hear from a range of Perth's gardening experts, including Town of Claremont's Manager of Parks and Environment, Andrew Head and a local Dawson's Garden World expert. Noongar guide, Marissa Verma, will share her knowledge of the uses for a variety of bush plants and there will also be a demonstration from *Love Grows Perth* showing us how to make one of the latest plant trends, a kokedama!

*Venue – The Goods Shed, Corner Shenton Road and Claremont Crescent.*

#### **14 November: 4.00 – 5.00 pm Kids Workshop**

**Konnichiwa Kokedama!** Originating from Japan, kokedama are hanging moss balls. They are a beautiful way to bring the outside in and can live for years. Come along to this hands-on workshop

and make your very own kokedama. What a great Christmas present for your teacher or grandparent or parent! Town of Claremont is subsidising this activity for local residents. Normal fee is \$40, residents only \$20!

Venue – *The Goods Shed, Corner Shenton Road and Claremont Crescent.*

#### **6 Dec: 10.00 – 11.00 am Christmas Celebration**

**Cockatoo or Mince Pie?!** The Freshwater Bay Museum would like to invite all our loyal volunteers, History in a Coffee Cup Friends and Claremont residents to a Christmas celebration. Learn about how Christmas was celebrated in Australia in the past. Traditions have been embraced from a cold English Christmas but we also have new traditions to reflect our climate. How do other cultures celebrate Christmas? Enjoy a delicious shared morning tea.

Venue – *The Goods Shed, Corner Shenton Road and Claremont Crescent.*

RSVP for these events:

[museum@claremont.wa.gov.au](mailto:museum@claremont.wa.gov.au) OR

[www.trybooking.com/268284](http://www.trybooking.com/268284) - Opera Talk

[www.trybooking.com/282422](http://www.trybooking.com/282422) - Singing Activity

[www.trybooking.com/268285](http://www.trybooking.com/268285) - Midnite Talk

[www.trybooking.com/268288](http://www.trybooking.com/268288) - Garden Talk

[www.trybooking.com/285013](http://www.trybooking.com/285013) - Kokedamas

[www.trybooking.com/285015](http://www.trybooking.com/285015) - Christmas

#### **TEMPORARY MUSEUM CONTACT DETAILS**

Contact details for the Freshwater Bay Museum during the closure of the buildings at 66 Victoria Avenue, Claremont are as follows:

[museum@claremont.wa.gov.au](mailto:museum@claremont.wa.gov.au)  
PO Box 54, Claremont, WA, 6910  
0437 725 155

The Friends contact details remain the same:

[fwbmuseumfriends@gmail.com](mailto:fwbmuseumfriends@gmail.com)

#### **FROM YESTERYEAR**

#### **A LOCAL HISTORY HIGHLIGHT by JOAN FISHER:**

#### **MLC AND THE TWO WORLD WARS**

Through newspaper and Council articles the Friends of Freshwater Bay Museum will probably know by now that the Museum will be closed this year for much anticipated alterations and additions. With this in mind we reflect on the past two exhibitions the staff so well researched and presented for all our interest and enjoyment. In 2015 the theme was THE WESTERN SUBURBS AT WAR and 2016 told us and reminded us of old and present SCHOOL DAYS.

For our Yesteryear column in this first 2017 issue we decided to look into past days and what effect war had on one of our local private schools; Methodist Ladies' College: The original building (pictured below) still stands today and was opened in 1908. This article comprises excerpts from a book written by the third headmistress Gertrude M Walton, B.A. covering the years 1908 to 1946 and the photos are courtesy of the FWB Museum collection.



*Up to the end of 1913 Public Examinations taken by the pupils were those of the University of Adelaide then in 1914 candidates were prepared for the first Public Examinations at the University of Western Australia. In 1915 the former pupils' Old Girls Association newsletter, The Collegian, reported that their planned fete at the school would be in aid of funds for the relief of suffering caused by the war. The April issue contains an essay on "Why Australia if sending troops to Britain". Evidences of war had not yet begun to alter daily lives and work, though it occupied and influenced work.*

*In 1916 a Preparatory School was instituted with a kindergarten class for children under six. During 1918 the M.L.C. Council bought the land at the*

junction of Stirling Highway and Corry Lyn Road giving the school a total of 10 acres. Interestingly that same year the three term system was introduced in place of the four terms into which the school year had hitherto been divided. The greatest event of that year was the conclusion of World War 1. The news of the Armistice came through at 8.15 pm but staff and girls feared it was not a British message. At 8.50 pm the girls trooped downstairs in their dressing gowns and a little later the official message was announced. What a din there was!

At the beginning of the year quarantine regulations were imposed on account of the world-wide epidemic of pneumonic influenza. In common with the rest of the State M.L.C. had its share of the epidemic and the building was taken over by nurses and doctors. All patients recovered by the beginning of third term.

The outbreak of war in September 1939 cast a great shadow over the end of the school year. Especially it was seen by the Dutch boarders who appeared to realise better than Australian girls that danger would be brought to Pacific countries. The Speech Night function was held for the first time in the school grounds. The lawns were flood-lit and a platform was erected for the choir. The experiment was a great success and continued until the outbreak of war with Japan.

During 1940 the School was troubled with widespread epidemics of measles and mumps. The School's last Speech Day took place on December 5<sup>th</sup> 1941. Two days later came the opening of the Pacific War and the complete transformation of the world as we had known it. Preparation for black-out and everyone became acutely conscious of the danger of air-raids. There were no meetings of the Old Girls Association in this year as so many past pupils were engaged in war work.

The school was full during 1944 and we had to refuse many applications. It was not possible to increase our accommodation as to do so would be to add to the already great difficulty of finding staff.

The first paragraph of the 1945 School Report reads: "It is not likely that the year 1945 will have a parallel in the future, either in world history or in

that of Methodist Ladies' College".



#### ON THE ETIQUETTE OF DRESS OF YESTERYEAR

For a bit of fun, here are some notes for women on how to dress according to "The Complete Book of Etiquette" by Mary & John Bolton. The book has no publication date but our guess is the 1950s.

Those who want to make a real success of their social lives should know how to achieve that well-groomed look. This look is not achieved by wearing expensive clothes or jewels, but rather it is acquired by the way clothes are worn. Always the accent should be on simplicity. Extremes of fashion and over-elaborate clothes are not in the best taste, whilst too much jewellery is downright vulgar.

Town Wear: The well-groomed woman should wear hat, gloves and stockings in addition to the main part of her costume.

Luncheon Wear: Wear a well cut costume with really smart accessories, hat, gloves, shoes all complimentary or contrasting with the main colour of the costume. Gloves and top coats should be removed before eating, but the hat is retained.

Beach Wear: This is the place where dress can be as informal as you like. Gloves, stockings, hats may all be discarded. Sun-suits, play-suits, slacks, shorts, sandals and even bare feet now come into their own.

Tea-time wear: Similar to luncheon wear, but perhaps a little more elaborate, and a little more jewelry. The hat again is worn throughout the tea.

Wedding Guest wear: Any form of day dress, providing it is not over-elaborate. It should never be the aim of any woman guest to out-shine the bride.

