

## Swan Guildford Historical Society (inc.) founded 1962

Patrons: Ken Wyatt, AM and MP Donna Farragher MLC Michelle Roberts MLA

Website: [www.swanguildfordhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.swanguildfordhistoricalsociety.org.au)

Contact: [sghistsoc@bigpond.com](mailto:sghistsoc@bigpond.com) Tel: 9379 1829

### Newsletter November-December 2016

#### General meeting November 14th 2016

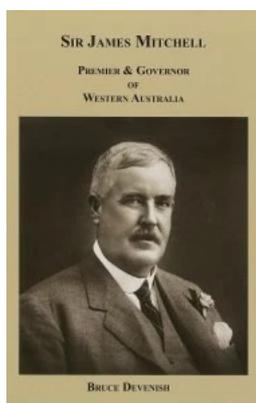
Mechanics Institute 7 00pm for 7 30pm

All welcome

**Speaker: Bruce Devenish**

**Subject: Sir James Mitchell**

13<sup>th</sup> Governor of Western Australia



Sir James ranks alongside his contemporary and predecessor in office, Sir John Forrest, such that he has been described as "the architect of agriculture in this state in the first half of the twentieth century."

### Christmas Party December 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

Our Christmas Elf Warren and his able helper Fairy Janet are taking a break from organising the festive frivolities this year. What an act to follow.

Who will santa's little helpers be this year. Will it be Angel, Holly, Mistletoe, Noel, Twinkle, Jingle, Snowball, Snowflake, Frosty, Jangle, Tinsel or Shiny?

#### Members:

watch your **letterbox** for your invite.



### News from Wendy

Chair of the Tourism Committee

Gaol Renovation Update. The work is progressing nicely. The new drains have been installed. New cabling laid for the electricity.



*photo courtesy Adriana*

**Marketing and publicity.** We have been very busy with marketing and publicity work that will help promote our relaunched Gaol.

**Social Media.** Bromwyn, Adriana and Gaye are taking a lead in increasing our social media presence. Adriana has launched an Instagram site on @sghistsoc see facebook <http://www.facebook.com/sghistsoc>

**Guildford Leaflet and Flyer.** Our planned colour leaflet promoting Guildford as a great place to visit is awaiting print and distribution. We hope this will work to increase awareness of Guildford and visits for our tours.

We have also started work on a smaller flyer that will be used in Guildford itself to promote just the Colonial Gaol and Taylor's Cottage tours.

**Gaol Relaunch.** We are also lining up a heavyweight media launch to promote the Gaol once the renovation is completed and the new gaol has the displays, exhibition and artefacts in place. We anticipate this will be in late March, prior to the Heritage Festival.

REPORT from our Vice- President Ann-Marie Meredith

This year's **State History Conference** was hosted by the City of Armadale and was a top class event with many interesting talks and field trips around the Kelmscott/Armadale region. The [Friday evening](#) Cocktail Reception was held at the historic site of the St Mary in the Valley Anglican Church. After an interesting overview of the history of the church, we were treated to an organ recital of music written around the time the antique organ was built. The wine and conversation flowed afterwards during registration and supper.

Saturday saw us reconvene at the Champion Lakes Christian Centre for an action packed day of talks. Andrew Meredith, from the State Library of Western Australia, ran us through the Storylines Project: an online archive for the State Library's digitised heritage collections relating to Aboriginal history in Western Australia. This highly impressive and well organised site is well worth a visit <http://storylines.slwa.wa.gov.au>. This was followed by a talk by Denise Cook on her interesting research into Nyoongar camps in the Armadale/Kelmscott region and the impact these camps had on both the indigenous and non-indigenous community. Jennie and Bevan Carter then gave a fascinating insight into their research of the Kelmscott/Armadale region. The couple have produced a book on the history of the City of Armadale which is well worth a read.

After morning tea, Jeff Walker gave us an entertaining overview of the life of Ivor Birtwistle, after whom the City of Armadale's Local Studies Library is named. Birtwistle was a founding member of the RWAHS and the subsequently formed National Trust. Ian Boersma then regaled us with tales of his Dutch immigrant family life in Wongong, before Clare-Frances Craig from the WA Museum reminded us again of the importance of a sound risk management plan for historical collections.

After lunch, was the awards and open forum section of the program. The 2016 RWAHS Affiliated Historical Society Award went to Kununurra Historical Society. This small, remote historical society, managed to achieve an outstanding amount of achievement for such a small group and were well deserved winners. Wanneroo Historical Society gave an entertaining presentation promoting the 2017 State History Conference and Cervantes Historical Society put their hand up to host the 2018 Conference.

The afternoon sessions included a talk by Linton Reynolds on War Memorials, and Christen Bell, from the City of Armadale's History House, outlining some of the innovative projects they have been conducting to engage different audiences.

[Saturday evening](#) was the Conference Dinner at Avocados Restaurant in Roleystone. Local author Linda Bettenay, shared stories from her own family's history which both shocked and entertained the punters.

[Sunday morning](#) saw us at History House in Armadale ready to board buses for the Conference field trip. An informative and interesting tour of the surrounding district followed; with stops at various points of interest, including the historic Roleystone Theatre. A picnic lunch awaited us back at the Minnowarra Heritage Precinct and tours of History House by curator Christen Bell. A wonderful conference, expertly organised by Birtwistle Local Studies Library Officer, Susan Hall and her dedicated team. Looking forward to next year's conference in Wanneroo! *Thank you Ann-Marie.*