

Swan Guildford Historical Society (Inc.) founded 1962

Patrons: Ken Wyatt, AM. MP Donna Faragher, MLC

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Newsletter

September -October 2014

Upcoming Events

Monday 8th September 2014

Talk: by **Reverend Dr. Philip Raymont**
subject: The Guildford Grammar School
Chapel of St Mary and St George celebrating
100 years.

In 1909 Cecil H Oliverson received a circular sent to sympathisers in England, asking for donations to build a school chapel. Rev'd Percy Henn was staggered when he heard that Mr Oliverson would build the church entirely himself.

The original estimated cost was £5000. It cost much more how did the school raise the money?

Time: 7 00pm for 7 30pm

Place: Mechanics Institute

Monday October 13th 2014

Talk: by **Adjunct Associate Professor Lenore Layman**, subject: Sudden Deaths by Accident Murder and Suicide in WA History. Lenore is a Murdoch University historian who works intensively within Western Australia. She has recently co-published 110 in the Waterbag, a book about the North East Goldfields. She has also been involved in researching numerous aspects of the industrial, labour and health history of the state. A recent interest of Lenore's is the history of sudden deaths accidents and murder and suicide in WA. What has she uncovered?

Time: 7 00pm for 7 30pm

Place: Mechanics Institute

Did you Know?

Captain William Townsend Dance commander of the HMS Sulphur arrived in the colony 6th June 1829. His father William Dance, a musician is credited with forming the first London Philharmonic Society.

Law and Order Returns to Guildford?



This image of a policeman outside the Gaol in the historic precinct reminds us of the importance of the police presence in Guildford from early settlement.

Guildford Gaol Closed 16th November 1969

On the 13th August 1969 the Shire of Swan –Guildford (Now City of Swan) wrote to the Commissioner of Police objecting to the closure of the Guildford Police Station. The reply ... "The question arises, are bricks and mortar of such importance as to justify derogation of efficient policing?" Policing went to Midland where it remains until this day.

The Old Gaol/Museum is available for tours
Meadow St Guildford

Wednesday 9:30am till 2:00pm

Friday 9:30am till 2:00pm

Saturday 9:00am till 12:30pm

FREE TOUR AVAILABLE FOR GUILDFORD RESIDENTS SEPT AND OCT. Cut out coupon below and present.



Swan Guildford Historical Society
Meadow St

FREE ADMISSION TO The
GAOL/MUSEUM GUILDFORD

Valid September - October 2014

VALE Sheila Mellor died 2 August 2014 aged 91

Sheila came to Perth as a war bride in 1946 and lived in Midland for a while before building a house in South Guildford and lived there for over 50 years before moving to Geraldton to be near her family. She was former Treasurer and then President for the Swan Guildford Historical Society, Sheila spent many dedicated years conserving the societies costume collection awarded a life membership in 2004. Five foot nothing, a tough Yorkshire lass, she didn't suffer fools gladly a wicked sense of humour, hard working, loyal friend, the salt of the earth. Played bowls for the Swan Bowling Club a Parish Warden and Rector's Warden at St Matthew's Guildford for a total of 9 years. She was also Perth Diocesan Treasurer for the Mothers Union. She leaves 3 children 5 grandchildren and 9 great grand children.

See our collection of Irons, on your free visit to the Museum, women in the 1880's would have been using a "sad iron" to press their families' clothes. One meaning of sad in nineteenth century dictionaries was "heavy." Although many of these irons were small, they were very heavy.

When sad irons were heated near an open fire or on the stove their handles became red hot. Women tried wrapping aprons or towels around the handles, but still burned their fingers.



Tour guide Lester with collection of irons

The West Australian Perth, WA Saturday 21 Oct 1933

"GUILDFORD GAOL, Renovation Desired: The dilapidated condition of the Guildford gaol and police stables, which face the main entrance of Stirling Sq. A beauty spot in the municipality was discussed at a meeting of the Guildford Council. Cr. Kingsbury said that the council had gone to considerable trouble and expense in improving the conditions of Stirling Sq. and it was a scandal that the hideous gaol and police stables close to the main entrance should be allowed to remain in the dilapidated condition". 26 years earlier when a new courthouse was built in Midland there was a call to demolish the Guildford gaol and courthouse, at that time Sir Walter James said, "What do I understand that you want these historic buildings demolished? People of other districts would pay a fortune to have such buildings in their town". Common sense prevailed now in 2014 the City of Swan are busy restoring the Gaol the SGHS applaud the City. (Midland Courthouse was officially opened on 5 November 1907. The Swan Express reported "The Local Court would not be held in future at Guildford. Perhaps it was that the people at Guildford were so law-abiding that they could not find the R.M. [Resident Magistrate] sufficient to do, and so the authorities had sent him Midland to see if the people of Midland could find him more work to do".)

The visit to WA Museum to see Dinosaur Discovery and Afghanistan Hidden Treasures was enjoyed



Skeleton of Protoceratops

by 8 members, the Dinosaur exhibition featured cutting edge 3D augmented reality technology not seen before in Western Australia. There were also fossils and dinosaur specimens to touch and feel. Great range of informative hands-on activities in the dedicated play area located in the museum grounds.

The Afghanistan Hidden

Treasures exhibition blew us away, "A nation stays alive when its culture stays alive". Afghanistan was at the heart of the Silk Road, the trading route travelled by Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan and Marco Polo, linking ancient Iran, Central Asia, India and China, and the more distant cultures of Greece and Rome. More than 230 priceless treasures, some thousands of years old, offered a rare opportunity to discover the surprising, untold story of the long and extraordinarily rich culture that is Afghanistan. Awesome.



Tyrannosaurus Rex