



WESTERN SUBURBS Newsletter

November 2021

Welcome!

Both our talks on 4 October were about important people in West Australian history.

Firstly **Geoff Beyer** gave a well-researched talk on Revd John Hawes. Hawes, as a young man in England, studied architecture as well as sculpture and stained-glass crafts. At the age of 21, he was working as an architect and designed a unique four-story white tower to be a dwelling for himself and his brothers to take advantage of ocean views at Bognor Regis on the south coast of England. With a strong interest in the church, his next work of note was designing St Christopher's Church in the Northumberland town of Gunnerton, a traditional stone church with stained glass windows built in 1899. As an Anglican Church minister, he worked as a missionary repairing hurricane damaged churches in the Bahamas. This involved hands on work, as well as designing buildings of stone for durability. Changing to Catholicism, he was ordained a priest in



Mullewa Church designed and built by John Hawes

Rome in 1915. Coming to Western Australia later that year, he worked in the large parish of the Murchison region during the heat of summer. What a contrast to England in winter! He was commissioned to work on the Geraldton Cathedral. During 14 years spent in the Mid-

West, he designed at least 22 buildings and in some cases was involved physically with their construction.

In 1939 Monsignor Hawes left for Cat Island in the Bahamas, never to return. He lived out his life as a hermit using the name Fra Jerome, and died on 26 June 1956 in Miami, Florida aged 79. He was laid to rest on Cat Island.

Hillary Silbert is passionate that people know who Edith Cowan was and what she achieved. She believes so much written about her is inaccurate because she was female and came from the wrong side of Australia. Edith first became involved in the women's suffrage movement and saw women in

Western Australia granted the right to vote in 1899. She was a leading advocate for public education and the rights of children (particularly those born to single mothers). In 1906 she helped to found the Children's Protection Society, which resulted in the creation of the Children's Court. Edith was a key figure in the creation of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. She was one of the first women justices of peace and served in the Magistrate's Court. In 1921, Edith was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia thus becoming Australia's first female parliamentarian. Today 100 women have followed her into the WA parliament and 1000 into Federal parliament. During her life she was involved in an enormous number of organizations and social causes. The clock tower at the top of Kings Park Road is the most significant female memorial in Australia.

Our talks on 18 October proved once again you cannot judge a book by its cover, nor a talk by its title!

Firstly **Peter Bifield** spoke about *Why Things Fail* looking at it from a civil engineering perspective. After a theoretical analysis of failures, he showed photos of some major bridge and building catastrophes and told us why they collapsed. His examples included the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, Tasman Bridge, Morandi Bridge, Westgate Bridge, Hyatt Regency Walkway, 'Walkie Talkie Centre' in London, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Grenfell Tower, Dubai Aquarium, and the Twin Towers (NY). Many of us are now wary of crossing any bridge!

Suzanne Brown from the Water Corporation made us think again about things we take for granted – in particular fresh drinking water from our taps and drains for our waste-water. Perth gets its water from three sources – desalination (the dearest), ground or artesian water, and dams (the cheapest). Changes in urbanisation, population growth and climate all impact on our current old drainage systems. The aim is to convert, wherever possible, open drains into urban streams with revegetation. This requires co-operation between councils and the Water Corporation. Suzanne showed photos of where this had been successful creating pleasant green areas and increasing community space in parks and walkways.

Both these excellent speakers opened our eyes to the wide scope civil engineering plays in our lives.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAMME

Monday 1 November

1.00pm. **Kay Rae**, *Leaves of Iron: the architecture of Glen Murcutt*. Glen is an internationally renowned Australian architect. Kay will present an exploration of his work.

2.30pm. **Amanda Curtin**, *Kathleen O'Connor of Paris*. The life and career of artist, Kathleen (Kate) O'Connor (1876–1968), daughter of C. Y. O'Connor, and the writing of her biography

Monday 8 November

Our third attempt for a visit to Kanyana Wildlife Sanctuary in Lesmurdie. The bus will leave Mosman Park Men's Shed at 8.30am or meet at Kanyana, 120 Gilchrist Road at 10am. More information contact Ian Deany, ianandsue.deany@gmail.com

Monday 15 November

1.00pm. **Dr David Thorne**, *Anaesthetics in Medicine*. A brief history of anaesthetic practice in Australia with an explanation of what it means for those of us who might require an anaesthetic, along with some personal anecdotes from his varied experiences of both giving and receiving anaesthesia

2.30pm. **Robert Russell**, *How to value antiques and collectibles (and why prices vary)*. Robert will focus on coins, medals, banknotes and antiques generally

Monday 29 November

1.00pm. **Gabor Bedo**, *Cocos (Keeling) Islands*. The natural environment, British settlement and coconut plantations, undersea cable and wireless stations, military activity during the world wars, transfer of sovereignty Australia, integration of Cocos Malays and the current economy and services on these tropical islands.

2.30pm. **Robert Russell**, *Capital Punishment, Racism & Rodeos: criminal justice in America's deep south*.

All talks are held in the Community Room at Grove Library, corner Stirling Highway & Leake Street.

CANASTA - now weekly

Seniors Hub, Cambridge Community Centre,
Alexander Road, Wembley.

Play begins at **2.00pm** and finishes at **4.00pm** every **Friday**.

Players, new and old are welcome.



AGM/Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will follow the AGM at the Albion Hotel. The lunch includes two courses from the menu, a choice of a glass of wine, or a middy of beer, and an after-lunch coffee or tea.

Please note, due to space/COVID19 issues, late bookings/attendance cannot be accepted. Bookings and payment by **29 November 2021**.

VALE Don McDonald



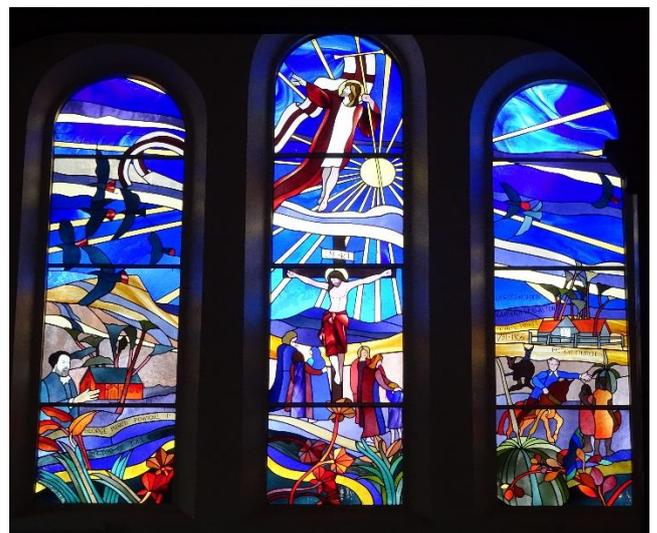
Don & Joan at U3A excursion to the Gingin Gravity Centre

We are saddened by the death of long time U3A member, Don McDonald, on 10 October. Don & Joan joined Western Suburbs when they moved from Dunsborough to Perth. Don held many leadership roles in U3A Naturalists and in the Network.

Six U3A members were able to attend his funeral on 20 October at Karrakatta.



Gabor attended a chamber music concert by a wind quintet at the Anglican Holy Trinity Church in York. Completed in 1854 and consecrated in 1858, this is the oldest inland church in Western Australia. He was much taken with the very colourful stained-glass windows by renowned artist, the late Robert Juniper.



Newsletter compiled by Judith Amey

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