

The York Society, Inc.

History • Heritage • Arts • Culture



Letter from the President

Dear Members,



We have a busy year of activities planned for 2021, site visits, presentations, walks and other events.

Our next major event will be the Act-Belong-Commit York Photographic Awards in the Sandalwood Gallery from 27 March to 5 April 2021. Refer to the article on the awards below.

Our application for a grant from LotteryWest to complete the Sandalwood Gallery extensions is currently through the preliminary process and is now being considered. We are hopeful that the grant will be given in time for the York Photographic Awards, but we will proceed in any event. LotteryWest has at the same time also informed the Society that it will release the Society from any interest in our archives building and property.

As The York Society has not to date changed its rules to meet the changes required by the Associations Incorporation Act, Liz Parker and I have now produced new rules for the Society based on the Model Rules but which preserve many of the features of our old 2011 Constitution. This version of the Model Rules has been approved by the committee and will be put to members at the next annual general meeting. If any members would like to see an advance copy of this draft, please email the Society and I will send the draft to them.

Regards

Rob Garton-Smith

Christmas Function at Westpac Bank Building

Chris Lindsay and Peter Ellis invited members of The York Society to visit them at the old Westpac Bank building which they are restoring to its former grandeur. Members heard about their work and were encouraged to view the very spacious upstairs rooms, including the old vault. A delicious afternoon tea was provided by Chris and Prudence Ford.



WikiYork Project

The York Society committee has formally adopted the WikiYork Project, which is to put entries on Wikipedia for all of York's remarkable buildings and people. This project was started by the York Business Association in 2017 and will now be continued by The York Society. We are following the lead of Toodyay, though for Toodyay, the Shire funded the research and the making of entries.

Wikipedia is very fussy about how entries are to be made, only remarkable buildings and people are permitted. Every statement has to quote a source. Entries are in Wikipedia code. The moment a new entry is made, Wikipedia monitors scrutinise the page and begin editing, questioning and

commenting.

York itself and one or two buildings (e.g. the Town Hall, Holy Trinity, St Patrick's, Railway Station quarters), and many people connected with York, were already on Wikipedia at the start of the Project. Those entries have been expanded and new pages added being the Courthouse, Motor Museum, Faversham House, Post Office, Castle Hotel, York Palace Hotel, Imperial Hotel, Settlers House, Masonic Hall, Dinsdale's building, Uniting Church, Residency Museum, Old Hospital, York Flour Mill, Fire Station, Westralian Bank, Suspension Bridge, Marwick's Shed, Eliza's Cottage, and Avon Park. All of York's heritage buildings have been put on Wikipedia in summary form.

A new page for notable people connected with York has been added which is an alphabetical list of (to date) 81 notable people mostly already on Wikipedia related in some way to York. Of these people, new pages have been researched and created for Peter Barrow, Solomon Cook, Walkinshaw Cowan, Cowits, Edward Wilson Landor, Henry Landor, John Henry Monger Snr, Arthur Trimmer. Existing pages for Revett Henry Bland, Richard Goldsmith Meares, John Smithies, John Drummond and others have been expanded.

The President of The York Society will continue to add buildings, sites and people. He is currently working on entries for the York Hotel, the Kings Head Hotel, Penola House, Union Bank building, Daliak, Samuel Smale Craig, Mary Craig Emily Craig, Robert and Sophia Doncon, Joseph Pyke, Joseph Kenworthy, Henry Stevens, William Marwick, George Wansbrough and the York Agricultural Society.

Anyone interested in assisting in the research and programming is welcome to contact the President. Would anyone like to research and prepare the text and source references for Sargent's Pharmacy, Kairey Cottage, Bridge House, Collins Buildings, Davies Buildings, Edwards Building (IGA), The York Racecourse, the Rabbit Shed, George Inkpen, or William Edwards?

York Vignettes

Voice of the Avon has now recorded 60 York Vignettes for The York Society: short stories and incidents that have happened in and around York, and one is being broadcast every week.

Thanks to Rhonda Jackson at Voice of the Avon for her enthusiastic assistance and editing of the Vignettes. The purpose of the York Vignettes is to promote The York Society and an interest in the history of the region.

YORK VIGNETTE # 59

What happened at the Greenhills dance

A story from the Marwick family, to be precise Kim Marwick, thank you Kim.

At Greenhills there was a hall for dances. This may have been at the Agricultural Hall built in 1894 or McMullen's Hall, built by Mary Anne McMullen in 1910. Whichever hall it was, at one dance, a young man who was brain-damaged, could not get a girl to dance with him.

He left the dance hall and went outside and found in front of him all the carriages where the parents had left their babies and young children fast asleep. He had a wonderful idea, to swap all the sleeping babies and young children around, which he proceeded to do. When the dance was over everyone jumped into their carriages and drove home with the wrong child.

In those days very few people had telephones and so it took some time to get all the children back to their own homes.

Memorandum of Understanding with the Shire

The committee of The York Society is keen to cooperate with the Shire of York and the Residency Museum in relation to matters of common interest. With that objective, after initial discussions with the Shire about cooperation, The York Society has prepared a draft Memorandum of Understanding which was sent to the Shire of York on 29 January 2021 for discussion and comment.

In the meantime, in the spirit of cooperation, the Society will be housing the Residency Museum computers and volunteers while the Residency Museum is closed for earthquake protection work in 2021.

Coming Events

Visit to Faversham House

York Society members only are invited to a guided tour of Faversham House on Sunday 21 February 2021 at 4 pm. Richard Bliss will lead the tour. The tour will be followed by sundowner drinks and nibbles.

Convict York Walk

The York Society is contributing an event in the March Mini Fest of Wheatbelt Arts & Events (with runs The York Festival), namely the Convict York Walk to start at Botanicalia (152 Avon Tce) on Sunday 7 March at 10 am. The walk will be presented by the President and will cover the story of the coming of convicts, the impact on the York community, and the buildings constructed using convict or ticket-of-leave labour. The walk will take one hour and a half and is free. This walk will be repeated during National Trust Heritage Week, on Sunday, 18th April, 10.30am-noon.

Photographic Awards

The Photographic Awards and Exhibition will be held in the Sandalwood Gallery, March 27th-April 5th.

We are very pleased to welcome this event back as it had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid 19 outbreak. Entries and enquiries are coming in already.

If you are able to offer assistance with the setting up of the exhibition or willing to 'man' the door during the exhibition, please let us know as soon as possible. You can ring a committee member or email us at yorksociety@westnet.com.au.

If you would like more information about the Photographic Awards you can check out our website, www.theyorksociety.com/photographic-awards.html.

Notes from the Archives



Do you live in Brunswick, Ulster or Osnaburg Roads?

Many streets in York seem to have been named with a theme. Brunswick, Osnaburg and Ulster all relate to Prince Frederick Augustus (1763-1827), the second son of George III (King of both Britain and Hanover) and Queen Charlotte.



At the age of six months he was declared Prince/Bishop of Osnaburg in the Holy Roman Empire. The Peace of Westphalia stipulated that the city of Osnaburg would alternate between Catholic and Protestant rulers, with the Protestant bishops to be elected from the cadets of the House of Brunswick-Lüneburg. Furthering this link Frederick married his cousin Princess Frederica Charlotte, the daughter of King Frederick William II of Prussia and Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick-Lüneburg in 1791.



George III decided that his second son would pursue an army career and had him made a colonel in 1780 at the age of 17. In 1784 he was created Duke of York and Albany and Earl of Ulster. By successive promotions he reached the position of Commander in Chief of the British Army by 1799, all without any substantial experience in the field. This resulted in a series of military disasters caused by his own lack of experience and the poor conditions in the British army at the time. Hence the penning of the particularly defaming poem *The Grand Old Duke of York*.

The Grand old Duke of York

He had ten thousand men

He marched them up to the top of the hill

And he marched them down again

And when they were up they were up

And when they were down they were down.

And when they were only halfway up they were neither up nor down.

In the Avon Gazette and York Times of November 1919 a letter to the editor suggested that Osnaburg Road should be renamed Peace Street due to its German origins. Whilst Albany (which was originally called Frederick Town after Frederick Augustus) did indeed change its own Osnaburg to Bridges Road, nothing came of the suggestion in York.

Jackie Phillips

Membership

A reminder that Membership fees are due in January. \$20 single membership, \$35 Family. Payment may be made to BSB 633000 Ac. 117 811 182. Please put your 'surname and membership' in the details.

Dates to remember:

- Sunday February 21st. 4pm. Visit to Faversham House
- Sunday March 10th. 10am Convict York Walk
- Also Sunday, April 18th., 10.30am-noon. Convict York Walk
- Photographic Awards: Saturday, March 27th - Monday, April 5th
- Membership fees, due now.

Keep up-to-date with York Society activities on our website:

www.theyorksociety.com and on Facebook:

[York Families & Footprints](http://www.theyorksociety.com) and www.facebook.com/yorksociety

The York Society Inc

PO Box 143

York WA 6302

Phone & Fax:

08 9641 1765

Email: yorksociety@westnet.com.au

Website: www.theyorksociety.com

THE YORK SOCIETY COMMITTEE

President: Rob Garton-Smith

Email: yorksociety@westnet.com.au

Vice-President: Elizabeth Parker ph. 0428 322 167

Email: parkerprint@bigpond.com

Secretary: Liz Christmas ph. 9641 1937

Email: lizchristmas@westnet.com.au

Treasurer: Denese Smythe

Email: desmythe@bigpond.net.au

Prudence Ford: Committee Member

Mike Bryant: Committee Member

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PUBLICATIONS

Aborigines of the York Area \$15

York Sketchbook \$15

York Cemetery Walk Trail \$10

Recollections of York Diary \$10

Origins of the York Town Hall \$10

“YORK WA – A Documentary History”,

by Pamela Statham-Drew \$70

“Sunset over Mt Douraking” \$35

These books are available by contacting:

York Archives, 9641 1765, or email:

archives.yorksociety@westnet.com.au