

The York Society, Inc.

History • Heritage • Arts • Culture



Letter from the President

Dear Members



York Heritage Weekend

In conjunction with the York Business Association, The York Society will be taking part in an informal and low key York Heritage Weekend on 23 and 24 April 2022. This weekend was originally to be part of the National Trust's Heritage Festival but the National Trust

of Western Australia decided to cancel the event because of COVID 19.

The York Society's two events will be two walks which I will conduct and will be outdoors and therefore safe:

Janet Millet's York Walk, on Saturday 23 April at 2 pm

York Architecture Walk, on Sunday 24 April at 10 am.

The Janet Millett's York Walk is a new walk. If anyone would like to add an event, they are welcome to do so. Displays and other events are being organised by the York Business Association, the President of which is Karen Thomas.

Costumes

The committee has decided to begin collecting 19th century settler costumes so that they can be worn at special events, and so we ask for donations from members if you have any suitable period costumes or clothing or other objects. We will be putting out a Perth-wide appeal. If you have any donation, please bring your donation to the archives on a Tuesday.

Regards

Rob Garton Smith

**NEWSLETTER NO. 1
October-December, 2022**

Vale Betty Fox & Colleen McAdam

Long time member of The York Society, Betty Fox passed away in January of this year. Betty was a stalwart of the Society and held the posts of Secretary as well as Social Convenor. Her catering was legendary and long-time members will remember the Winter Solstice Feasts and Christmas Dinners. Betty came to York in 1999. She bred Borzoi (Russian wolfhounds), she sang in the Cantara Choir, she was a Hospital Visitor, Secretary of the York CWA and a keen Church member.



Colleen McAdam, who passed away in 2018, was passionate about heritage and York history. She served on the Committee of The York Society and was very active working in the Archives. Colleen also ran the garden Club, along with Sue Deaeman for three years.

Sandalwood Gallery Renovations

Renovations of the Sandalwood Gallery continue and we hope the work will be finished by our AGM. The work is being undertaken by John Clarke of Avon Valley Builders. Funding has come from a grant from “Art on the Move” and their requirements include air conditioning and security for when we host their travelling exhibitions.

The next function to be held in the Sandalwood Gallery will be the AGM, followed by the Photographic Awards. Those of you who have helped in the past, either setting up or attending the door will remember how hot it can be in March/April, and so the Airconditioning will be very gratefully received!

One actor play based on Janet Millett excerpts

The President and Sarah McNeill are developing a one actor play based on Janet Millett excerpts, for The York Festival in September 2022, to be performed by Sarah McNeill.

Wikipedia

The President gave a seminar on how to do Wikipedia entries to volunteers on Tuesday 25 January. In addition to John Taylor, other recent York related Wikipedia new pages have been *Samuel Smale Craig*, *William Marwick* and *An Australian Parsonage*. Many other pages are continuously being edited, especially *Avon Terrace*.

York Vignette #62: Do four-thirds of a loaf make a loaf?

Stephen Hogan, the York John Gilpin in another York vignette, and John Merrick, were at the York Hotel one night in February 1879 drinking.

Merrick, an expiree, that is, a former convict, was being a bit of a pest to everyone including Hogan. He was going around asking everyone: Do four-thirds of a loaf make a loaf? And when people answered yes, Merrick would say: you are wrong!

Well, four-thirds of a loaf make a loaf and a third of a loaf, so whether you can say four thirds of a loaf make a loaf or not depends on whether or not you can accept that there is at least one loaf and ignore the additional third of a loaf.

Hogan thought the answer was yes, four-thirds of a loaf at least make one loaf, there's your loaf, a very practical answer, but Merrick thought the answer was no, four thirds of a loaf do not make a loaf. They make a loaf and a third of a loaf.

Both were adamant in their views.

Hogan said he would bet Merrick a pound that he was wrong.

Merrick said: "I could not bet a pound but I would not mind betting five shillings. I would still get it correct." Merrick then tactfully added: "why don't you acknowledge your ignorance in these matters".

Hogan pushed him back with one hand and said: "You bugger, **you** talk to **me** about ignorance!"

Hogan then struck Merrick on the forehead, gave him a shove and pushed him to the floor of the hotel.

Merrick stood up and Hogan said: "Put up your props!".

Merrick replied: "I will not".

Hogan then hit him again and Merrick had the good sense to walk out.

Merrick then returned and being the pest he undoubtedly was, said he was going to prosecute Hogan for assault and started asking everyone at the bar to agree to be a witness if he pressed charges. This did not go down too well because Henry Eyre also punched Merrick.

So Merrick prosecuted both Hogan and Henry Eyre for assault and both were fined.

Index to York, a Documentary History, compiled by Pamela Statham Drew and Tony Clack

An index has now been compiled for this work by Liz Parker. It will be available on The York Society website as well as in the Archives. We hope this will prove to be a valuable tool for researchers into York's history.

Who was the settler?

An Australian Parsonage was published in January 1872. In 2022, we will continue to celebrate Janet Millett with more events.

Members may recollect that a year ago, we were trying to work out who was the settler friend of Janet Millett and her husband, referred to on pages 119 to 120, and again on page 176 of *An Australian Parsonage*, with the following facts:

The settler grew up poor in England, earning half a crown a week by cutting turnips for sheep.

In the evening he listened to the famous coach *Defiance* go past signalling the end of the working day.

At 17 he came to Western Australia a few years after settlement. He worked his way upward and became the upper servant or bailiff to one of the more wealthy settlers.

He could not get paid in cash but was remunerated by a share of the herds.

After the coming of convicts, he became wealthy.

In the late 1850s or early 1860s he visited England and brought back 14 relations on the same ship on which he was a cabin passenger.

In the mid-1860s he had a wheat farm of 500 acres of cleared land. His farm was on the border of a forest.

In a hollow between his farm-house and his wheat field was a steam-powered flour mill, "lately added".

He once drove his team for many miles when the temperature was 145 degrees Fahrenheit. (page 176)

We are pleased to announce that we believe we have identified Janet Millett's settler: he must be John Taylor of Yangedine. This discovery comes from the President focussing on John Taylor for a Wikipedia entry on him over Christmas, and realising that he so closely aligns with the settler referred to by Janet Millett that it must be him. Descendants of John Taylor can now obtain additional information about John Taylor by reading the Wikipedia entry or the above references in *An Australian Parsonage*.

Christmas Party

On 5th December about 30 members and friends gathered at Sandalwood Yards to enjoy a hot-dog supper in the balmy evening. Salads were provided by the committee and then to everyone's surprise the icecream van arrived and everyone present was treated to an icecream!



Photographic Awards

The Photographic Awards will be held in the newly refurbished Sandalwood Gallery 9-28 April, 2022.

This year we are inviting participants to submit entries on a special theme for the York Subject Award: Our Fabulous Farms and Farm Animals. The theme is optional and photographs can still be submitted in all the other categories, ie: Open Colour, Creative Photography and Monochromatic Photography. For the first time, we are also offering a Junior section for children 12 years and under. The Opening will take place at 2pm on Saturday, 9th April at 2pm and all members are invited.

If entering the photographic awards please use the new user friendly online facility on our redesigned website at www.theyorksociety.com

If you are entering from Perth you can(if you wish) also choose a depot to deliver your framed entry to and from York.

Anyone with questions about their online entry can email Jackie at arts.yorksociety@westnet.com.au or pop into or ring

(+61 8 9641 1765) the York Archives at the Sandalwood Yards on a Tuesday between 10am and 3pm.

Coming Events

The oldest Panoramic photograph of York

The York Society and the Residency Museum hold a photograph of York taken from Mt Brown in about 1877. This appears to be the oldest panoramic photograph of the town.

On Saturday 26th February 2022, at 2:30 pm, the President, Rob Garton Smith, will give a Powerpoint presentation on this photograph with closeups of a number of buildings. If you want to see what the CWA building, Settlers and the Castle Hotel and more looked like in 1877, please come to the presentation. Included in the discussion will be buildings which have since been demolished such as Hoops Store, the Mechanics' Institute and the Girls' School. Also discussed will be who possibly took the photograph and why? Entry \$10.00, \$5 for members. Afternoon tea included.

Daliak

Our next site visit will be to Daliak, a farm first granted in the 1830s to the Carter Bros, and which was later purchased by the Monger family. This visit will take place on 14 May 2022 at 10 am. The President will present a 19th century history of the farm.

Walks

April 23, 2pm: Janet Millett Walk. Meet at Gallery 152

April 24, 10am: York Architecture Walk. Meet at Gallery 152

Annual General Meeting

In anticipation of our Annual General Meeting to be held on 26 March 2022, pursuant to Rule 32 of our Model Rules, we call for **nominations from members wishing to be on the committee**. Nominations must be received by Saturday, 12 February. Please email the society or myself if you are nominating. Liz Parker (Secretary). Email: yorksociety@westnet.com.au

The annual general meeting will be held in the Sandalwood Gallery of The York Society on 26 March 2022 at Saturday 10:30 am. Tea and biscuits will follow. To vote, you must be a financial member.

At the AGM, one of the items to discuss will be whether or not The York Society should change its logo to a logo based on the York gum, as suggested by Roger Underwood.

Please renew your membership

Please renew your membership by paying \$20 for individuals or \$35 for a family to The York Society, Inc, BSB 633 000 A/c 117 811 182, citing your 'surname membership'.

Dates to remember:

Sat. Feb. 26th, 2.30, Archives building: Presentation on The oldest photograph of York

Sat. March. 26th, 10.30am, Sandalwood Gallery: AGM

Saturday, April 9th, 2.00pm: Opening of Photographic Awards

April 9th-18th: Photographic Awards

Sat. April 23, 2pm: Janet Millett Walk. Meet at Gallery 152

Sun. April 24, 10am: York Architecture Walk. Meet at Gallery 152

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
[Instagram#yorksocietyevents](https://www.instagram.com/yorksocietyevents)

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THE YORK SOCIETY COMMITTEE

President: Rob Garton-Smith

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Vice-President: & Honorary Archivist: Jackie Phillips Email:

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Secretary: Liz Parker ph. 0428 322 167 Email: parkerprint@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Denese Smythe

Email: desmythe@bigpond.net.au

Jacqui Graham : Committee Member

Jan George: Committee Member

Ian Phillips: Committee Member

Liz Christmas: Committee Member

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 \$65

Sunset over Mt Douraking \$35

Sandalwood by Pamela Statham-Drew

\$30

These books are available by contacting:

York Archives, email:

archives.yorksociety@westnet.com.au