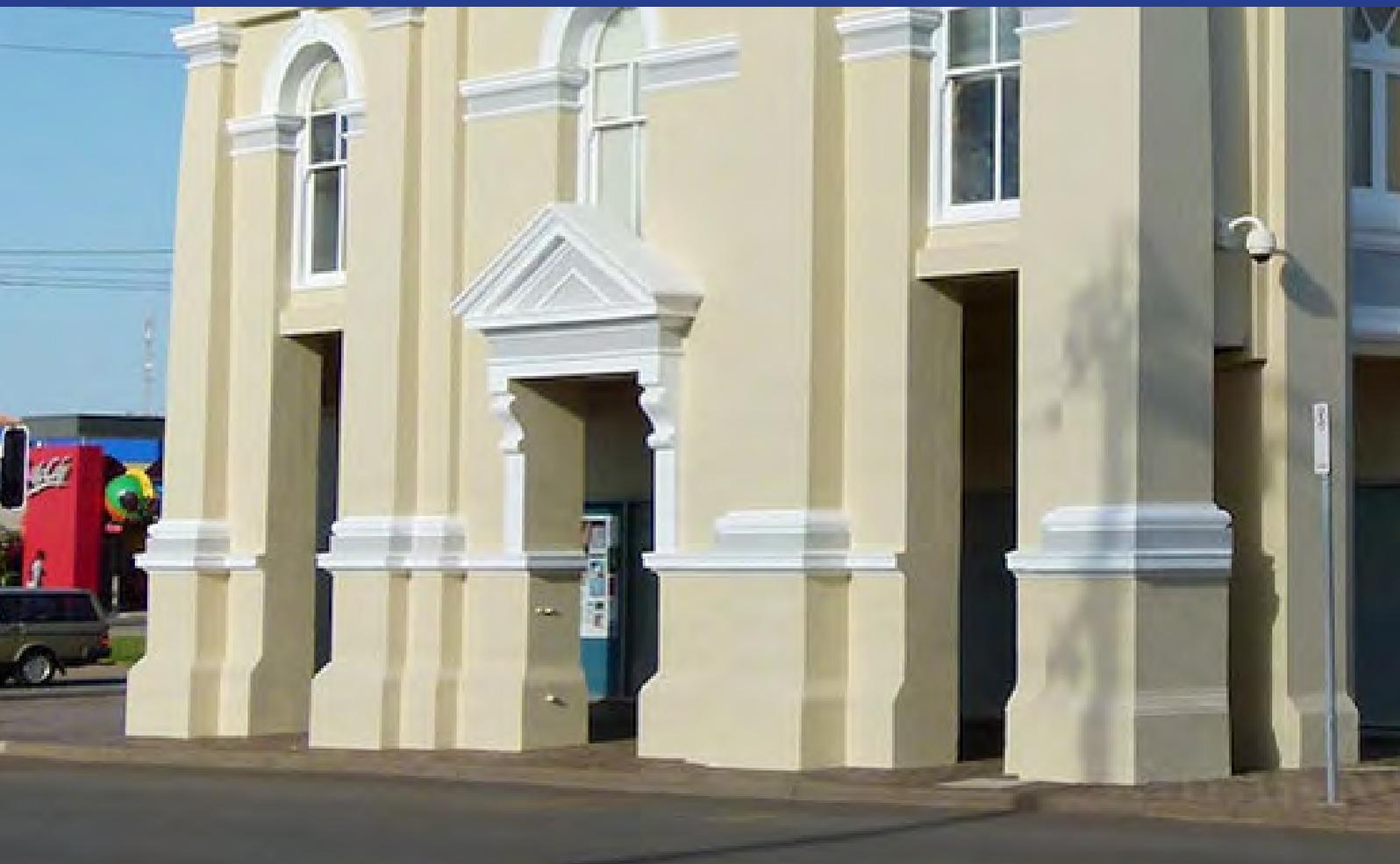




The City of Greater Geraldton

# Heritage Awards 2015



City of  
Greater Geraldton  
a vibrant future





*Above* - Bottle collection at the Mullewa Masonic Lodge.

*Cover Photo* - Geraldton Regional Art Gallery.

*Panel Inserts* - Bimara Sculpture, Ellendale Pool.

All photos courtesy of the Geraldton Regional Library (GRL).

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*Above: Marine Terrace, Geraldton, c1890. Courtesy GRL.*

# *City of Greater Geraldton*

## *Heritage Awards 2015*

The City of Greater Geraldton has emerged from a rich heritage formed by historic buildings, landscapes, cultural records and traditions. The stories of our community therefore form an integral part of our local identity. Valuing our heritage helps us learn more about ourselves and gives us a sense of belonging and place.

The City is proud to acknowledge, through the biennial Heritage Awards, outstanding efforts by people and organisations who have worked to conserve and promote this local heritage. First awarded in 2012, the Awards are the cornerstone of the City's Heritage Strategy. This is a key document which links community aspiration with clear goals and strategies for managing our City's valuable social, cultural and natural heritage.

In 2015, the following Awards were presented at a special ceremony held at the POSH Function Room, Geraldton on the 10th April. The entry descriptions in this booklet are written in the proud and personal words of the award nominees.



*Above:* Girl Guides excursion to Moonyoonooka, 1936. Courtesy Edna McKonkey.





*Above:* Interpretive signage installed on the Esplanade Breakwater.  
Courtesy GRL.



*Above:* Restoration works undertaken on the Recreation Ground Grandstand.  
Courtesy GRL.

The City of Greater Geraldton Award *for*

Excellence in Heritage  
Building Design and Conservation



*Winner:* Geraldton Building Services & Cabinets Pty. Ltd.  
*High Commendation:* The Geraldton Club Inc.  
*Special Recognition:* Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Parish Council



GERALTON STATE BANK PANORAMIC VIEW, GERALDTON, W.A.

*Above:* Panoramic view of Geraldton, c1950. Courtesy Lesley Blakeney.

*Photo on previous page:* Geraldton Visitor Centre. Courtesy Gerard Sherlock.



# Original Railway Station Project

*246 Marine Terrace, Geraldton*

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Geraldton Building Services and Cabinets Pty. Ltd. is the winner of the  
City of Greater Geraldton Award for Excellence in Heritage Building  
Design and Conservation 2015.

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# Original Railway Station Project

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Geraldton Building Services and Cabinets Pty. Ltd. is the winner of the City of Greater Geraldton Award for Excellence in Heritage Building Design and Conservation 2015.

Situated on Marine Terrace, Geraldton, the original Railway Station is a cultural heritage icon of statewide significance. It has a permanent entry on the Register of Heritage Places (No. 1068) having been built in 1878 to house the first Government Railway Station in the state as part of the Geraldton-Northampton Railway line project (the first Government Railway in Western Australia). Between 1900 and 1967 the building was occupied by the Geraldton Mechanic's Institute and Public Library (which was Geraldton's first) and in 1909 a second storey along with verandahs and balconies were added. This graceful building then served the community as the Geraldton branch of the WA Museum from 1979 until 2000, following which the building remained unoccupied for approximately 13 years.

While empty, the building deteriorated to such a poor state that some felt it would be lost forever and with it a significant part of the state and local heritage. In 2014 work commenced by Geraldton Building and Cabinets Pty. Ltd. on the restoration of this important local landmark. The building had deteriorated to a very poor condition, due to vandalism and exposure to the harsh marine environment. There was extensive decay and rotting timber structures and finishes, cracking to structural walls and footings, deteriorated masonry from rising damp and fire damage to many fixtures.

Exterior works included the removal of cement render from original stonework, followed by restoration by hand by a master stonemason; the removal of render and paint from face brickwork; repointing of brick quoining panels; refurbishment of all casement windows including the pulley weight systems for window sashes, and refurbishment of all timber doors and door frames. A nearby heritage listed Moreton Bay Fig tree was carefully protected during construction following the advice of an experienced arboriculturalist.

Structural work included the underpinning of external walls, with piles dug in alternative sequence and filled with concrete and reinforcement to avoid collapse of the double storey stonework and structure. The existing jarrah roof frame was reinforced to achieve compliance, numerous parts of the roof frame were removed and replaced with new sawn jarrah timbers and a lift shaft was installed in the rear of the building. Existing and newly installed doorways were reinforced with jarrah lintels.

With regard to specialised finishes and furnishings, veranda posts were entirely replaced like for like. The internal skirtings had steel profiling blades manufactured to allow machining of new skirtings to the same profile. The internal jarrah staircase required sourcing of suitable dry timber and doors badly damaged from termites were remade by a custom joiner to match. The face external brickwork was repointed to match existing dirt engrained mortar and new openings were placed in old doorways and plastered along with other repairs to internal plaster with numerous layers of the original mix of lime putty and sand. Timber recycled from the demolition was machined for reuse. New walls required building with lime render in layers over 120mm thick to achieve matching alignment and roof sheeting, gutters, down pipes replaced in galvanised heritage roofing material. Brick and timber fireplaces were restored. The fragile state of the building resulted in several challenges and many tasks had to be done painstakingly by hand.

*Nominated by Peter Fleay. Images supplied by GRL.*





*Above:* Mechanic's Institute Library, c1930. Courtesy GRL.



*Above:* Photo taken in 2014, prior to restoration works. Courtesy GRL.



Above and Below: Exterior and interior views of the Geraldton Visitor Centre, following completion of restoration works. Courtesy GRL.

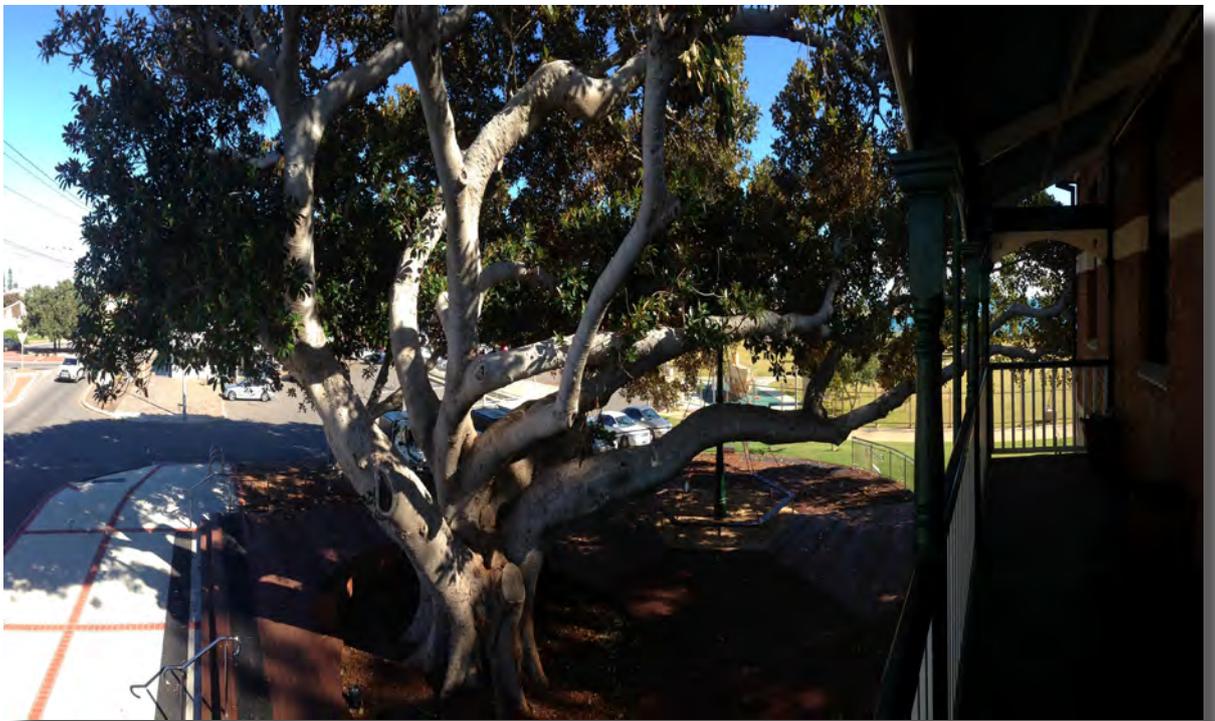


## *The Moreton Bay Fig Tree*

*“There arrived at Geraldton yesterday 50 handsome, sturdy little Moreton Bay fig trees, all consigned to the Municipal Council. Eighteen of these are for plantation along the Esplanade.*

*The majority of the remainder will be placed in Queen’s Park. Experience has taught people in Geraldton that the Moreton Bay fig is one of the few trees that can withstand the strong winds that blow in from the sea.”*

Geraldton Express, 20 July 1900, p.3.



*Above: A panoramic view of the Moreton Bay Fig Tree adjacent to the Geraldton Visitor Centre, following completion of site works surrounding this tree. Courtesy Lauren McMill.*



# The Geraldton Club Inc.

*162 Marine Terrace, Geraldton*

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The Geraldton Club Inc. is the recipient of a High  
Commendation for the City of Greater Geraldton Award for  
Excellence in Heritage Building Design and Conservation 2015.

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# The Geraldton Club Inc.

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The Geraldton Club Inc. is the recipient of the High Commendation Award for the City of Greater Geraldton Award for Excellence in Heritage Building Design and Conservation 2015.



The Geraldton Club was built between 1911-1913. Over the years this Federation free-style building has served as a popular social club for mine owners, businessmen and pastoralists. The Club was granted permanent status on the Heritage Council of Western Australia Register in 2008. Under guidance of a Conservation Plan prepared in 2009, and with partial funding from Lotterywest, the Club is currently working through those recommendations outlined by this plan with the aim to restore the building to its former grandeur. This includes significant works being undertaken such as extensive repairs to the tuckpointing of external brickwork, the installation of custom made balustrades for the French doors with profiles identical to the internal stairway, repairs to window frames and sashes and extensive repainting works.

The building maintains its original purpose with a consistent membership and remains a popular function venue for members and non-members alike, so sustaining its cultural heritage significance.

*Nominated by Marilyn McLeod. All images supplied by nominees.*



*Left: The Geraldton Club before renovations were undertaken.*



*Above: Windows, before and after.*



*Above: Trim, before and after.*





*Above: Front entrance, works during and after.*



*Above: Front of bulding, before and after.*



# World War I Memorial Restoration Project

*Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, Mullewa*

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Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Parish Council is the recipient of a Special Recognition Award for the City of Greater Geraldton Award for Excellence in Heritage Building Design and Conservation 2015.

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# World War I Memorial Restoration Project

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Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Council is the recipient of a Special Recognition Award for the City of Greater Geraldton Award for Excellence in Heritage Building Design and Conservation 2015.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Mullewa has, within its grounds, a unique World War I Memorial crafted in 1928 by the priest-architect Monsignor J.C. Hawes. During a storm in 2014 the stem and cross of the memorial broke away from the pedestal and smashed on the ground. The Parish Council have since raised \$28,000 to have the memorial fully repaired and conserved.

In his book *Between Devotion and Design: the Architecture of John Cyril Hawes 1876-1956*, John Taylor comments: “Hawes soon built a memorial adjacent to the Mullewa Church, which he also designed in memory of those who had died in the First World War. Hawes’ drawing for the Mullewa Fallen Soldiers Memorial is dated February 1928. The memorial is one of many intricate building features which surround this marvellous church. The Mullewa Church was apparently described by Hawes’ associate Herbert Eales (a noted practitioner and Past President of the West Australian Institute of Architects) as “..one of the most beautiful buildings I have ever seen.”

The Parish Council recognized the importance of this memorial as one of only a few dedicated solely to World War I and was aware that age was taking its toll. The structure was beginning to develop cracks, a few small details had broken off and there was genuine concern for the memorial’s structural integrity. There had been some well-meaning attempts at repair with grey concrete over the years, but these had not improved the structure’s stability or appearance. With commemorations for the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign on the horizon, the Parish Council began to seek grant funding for conservation works.

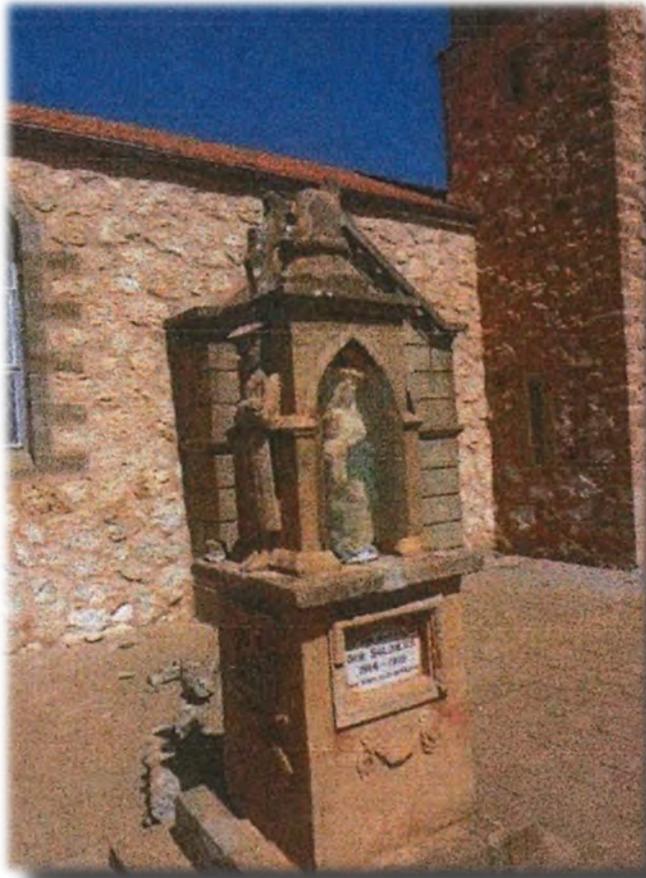
An application was made to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Parish Council were waiting on news when the unthinkable happened. On January 12th 2014, Mullewa experienced a summer thunderstorm which was followed by a fierce dust storm with high winds. The stem and cross which made up the top half of the war memorial broke away from the pedestal and smashed on the ground. The pieces were collected and stored carefully inside the church until a stonemason who was willing to work on the restoration and repairs could be found. The Parish Council also now had to raise considerably more money than had originally been expected.

Nick Lucaks, a stone mason based in Mandurah and known for his work on National Trust properties and other heritage buildings, was engaged to completely repair, restore and conserve the War Memorial. The Parish Council now had to raise \$28,000; they received \$5000 from Veterans Affairs, \$8,300 from insurance as a result of the storm damage and had to make up the balance by taking out a loan. The result is wonderful, with the stem and cross completely reassembled, the detailed features of the memorial restored, the integrity of the structure reinforced, the concrete patch-ups removed and the pedestal re-rendered in a colour which closely matched the original and is sympathetic to the church.

*Nominated by Julie Freeman. Images supplied by nominee.*



*Above: Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, Mullewa.*



*Above:* Damage to the Memorial following the storm in January 2004.



*Above:* Following restoration works.

The City of Greater Geraldton Award *for*  
**Outstanding Heritage  
Achievement**



*Winner:* Monsignor Hawes Heritage Inc.

*High Commendation:* Jim Trevaskis

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Parish Council

*Special Recognition:* Community Group of Greenough

Diane Evans



*Above:* Old Tenindewa School site and installation of the interpretive signage and picnic shelter.  
Courtesy Tanya Henkel.



# Monsignor Hawes Heritage Inc.

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Winner of the City of Greater Geraldton Award for  
Outstanding Heritage Achievement 2015.

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# Monsignor Hawes Heritage Inc.

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Monsignor Hawes Heritage Inc. is the winner of the City of Greater Geraldton Award for Outstanding Heritage Achievement 2015.

The Monsignor Hawes Heritage Trail Signage Project was opened officially on 26th April 2014 at a gala event held at the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Geraldton. This project involved the creation and installation of high quality interpretive signage at Monsignor Hawes' buildings across the Midwest, Gascoyne and Murchison. External interpretive signage panels with relief sculptural bases, as well as a well-researched, supporting guide brochure formed the basis of this project. The signs inform visitors about the history of each location, point out specific features of interest and inform them of other Monsignor Hawes buildings that they can visit both nearby and across the region. This project celebrates the buildings and the work of Monsignor Hawes. It also adds to tourism products in the regions and helps to further unify the amazing work of Monsignor John Hawes as a single attraction spread throughout the region.

*Nominated by Father Robert Cross. Images supplied by GRL.*



*Above: Nazareth House, designed by Monsignor John Hawes in 1939.*



*Above and Below:* The Hermitage, built in 1936 and interpretive signage.





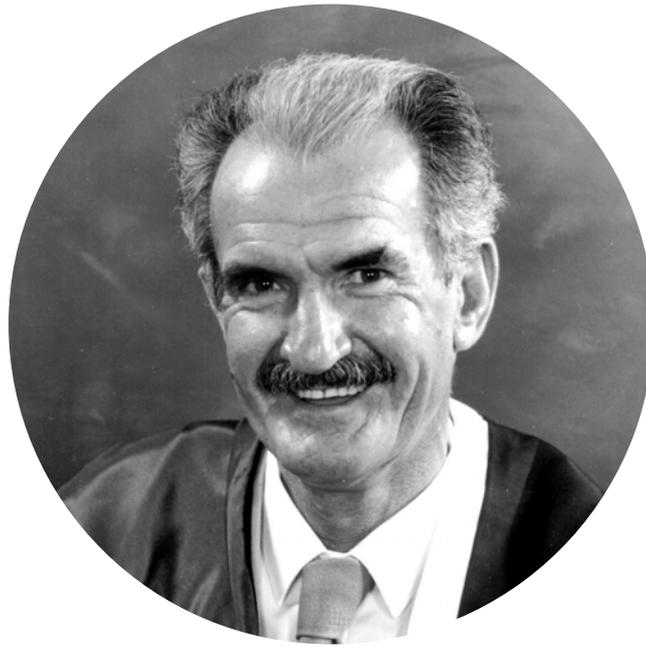
Above: Interpretive signage at Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Mullewa. Courtesy Tanya Henkel.



Above: Monsignor Hawes and his pet dog named Dominie. Source: *Architectural Gems of John Hawes* by Rob Lefroy. Below: Interpretive signage at Convent of the Sacred Heart. Courtesy Tanya Henkel.







# Jim Trevaskis

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Recipient of a High Commendation for  
the City of Greater Geraldton Award for  
Outstanding Heritage Achievement 2015.

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# Jim Trevaskis

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Jim Trevaskis is the recipient of a High Commendation for the City of Greater Geraldton Award for Outstanding Heritage Achievement 2015.



Affectionately known as “Jack Trak” to two generations of students, Jim Trevaskis first came to Geraldton in 1956. However, his historical connections to the area go back to 1875 when his Great-Grandfather and Grandfather landed in Port Gregory from Cornwall and headed for the lead mines of the Northampton district.

Born in Perth in 1928, Jim’s own education included the Perth Boys’ School, Perth Modern School, the University of Western Australia and the Claremont Teachers College. After teaching in several country towns, Jim moved to Geraldton High School in 1956, taking on the role of Senior Master of English. At the time, Geraldton High School was a small school of some 250 students and as the only Government High School north of Perth, it catered for students from the Northern Wheatbelt, the Murchison, Gascoyne and Kimberley districts. This geographical diversity of students created a special ethos which greatly appealed to Jim. In 1968, and after serving as Headmaster at three different high schools in the south-west of Western Australia (Bullsbrook, Donnybrook and Margaret River), Jim became the Principal at Geraldton High School. During his time away from Geraldton, Jim had been awarded a Fellowship at the University of London Institute of Education, where he studied for a year and visited many English Schools.

In 1970 he successfully contested the North Ward in the Geraldton Town Council elections. He served three terms from 1970 to 1980 and was Deputy Mayor from 1972 to 1973. Jim gained Council support for the construction of a purpose-built Maritime Museum and then served 20 years on the Museum Committee. His other special interests included the planning of the new Public Library and the Queens Park Theatre.

In 1986 the Director-General of Education, Dr Bob Vickery, presented Jim with an Award of Merit as “The Complete Educator”. However, Jim’s most valued commendation came from an ex-student, Ernie Dingo, who said: “He looked for the good in all students. He made everyone feel special.”

In retirement Jim has been an invaluable voluntary contributor in the Geraldton community, including volunteering for Meals on Wheels, choral singing and playing an integral role in the Oral History Programme delivered by the Geraldton Regional Library. Jim has interviewed numerous local residents (over 50 interviews), making sure their stories are preserved for future generations. Each month, Jim hosts an Oral History Morning at the Geraldton Regional Library, with attendees regularly numbering 50 people and over. The success of the programme has been largely attributed to Jim’s research skills, his willingness to share his skills and train others and his entertaining presentation style. Jim himself has been interviewed for oral history projects such as the Voiceprints of Geraldton project, by Bill Bunbury, and the Original Railway Station Project, by Trish Parker.

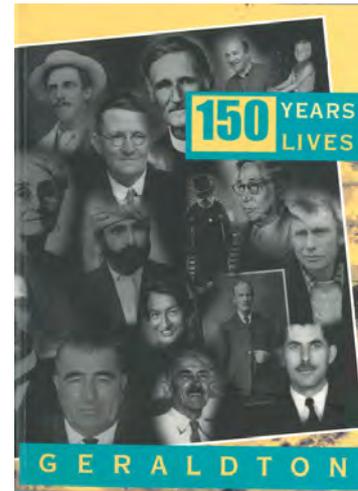
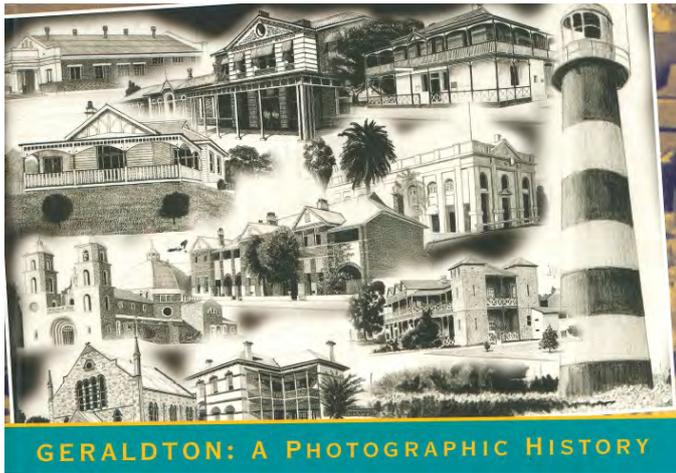
Two important Local Studies publications which Jim played an important role in producing were “Geraldton : a Photographic Story” and “150 Years, 150 Lives”. In 2013, Jim’s efforts were recognized in the City of Greater Geraldton Heritage Awards.

*Nominated by Neville Thompson. Images by GRL.*



*Above: Jim conducting an oral history interview.*





Above: Local history publications co-produced by Jim Trevaskis.



Above: Oral History Morning conducted by Jim at the Geraldton Regional Library.



# Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Parish Council, Audio Guide for Priest House, Mullewa

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Recipient of a High Commendation for  
the City of Greater Geraldton Award for  
Outstanding Heritage Achievement 2015.

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# Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Parish Council, Audio Guide for Priest House, Mullewa

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Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Parish Council is the recipient of a High Commendation for the City of Greater Geraldton Award for Outstanding Heritage Achievement 2015.



An audio guide was developed by the Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish Council in Mullewa to capture and conserve the extensive knowledge accumulated by volunteer guides about Monsignor J. C. Hawes' life and works. This guide also enhances the visitor experience and has greatly assisted in increasing volunteer numbers, allowing the Priest House Museum to open for a longer season each year.

The Priest House Museum at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church is dedicated to the life and works of priest and architect Monsignor J. C. Hawes. This venue attracts many visitors to Mullewa with approximately 1000 visitors touring the Church and Museum each year. The Museum is cared for by a dedicated group of volunteers led by Mrs Dolores Bone. It is currently opened and run by a small group who work over a short season from June to September. Unfortunately, the season sometimes has to be shortened due to the availability of volunteers. The depth of knowledge accumulated by the Museum Guides is significant. For example, information such as where individual pieces of furniture were designed and produced, what each artifact in the Museum was used for and stories of Monsignor Hawes' involvement with the local school and the wider community.

The Parish Council came up with an innovative and simple solution to address these two problems. A high quality, professionally produced audio guide would be developed for the Museum. This would mean volunteers could open the Museum and welcome visitors, without needing to have any expert knowledge and visitors would still be receiving all the expert knowledge accumulated by long-standing tour guides. With more volunteers to help, the Museum would hopefully be able to open for a longer season each year. It also meant that through the script writing process, the information held in the memories of the guides was captured and preserved for the future.

Grant funding was received from the City of Greater Geraldton - Mullewa Community Trust to cover the cost of having the audio guide professionally recorded, as well as the purchase and installation of an audio system to play it through. Volunteers spent many hours working on the script, revising, checking and rewriting to make sure it captured all the details of Monsignor Hawes' life and the story of the Priest House which he designed and built.

*Nominated by Juulie Freeman. Images by GRL.*



*Above: The Priest House Museum, Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, Mullewa.*





*Above: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Mullewa.*



# Community Group of Greenough

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Recipient of a Special Recognition for  
the City of Greater Geraldton Award for  
Outstanding Heritage Achievement 2015.

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# Community Group of Greenough

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The Community Group of Greenough is the recipient of a Special Recognition for the City of Greater Geraldton Award for Outstanding Heritage Achievement 2015.



Under the management of the Community Group of Greenough (CGoG), the Greenough Museum and Gardens are open 7 days per week, 363 days of the year. The Group has created a much needed meeting place for community gatherings and activities and has involved a variety of groups in the process. Under the management of CGoG, volunteers have been encouraged to make use of their skills and passions to improve the Museum. The Museum is striving to embrace multiculturalism therefore broadening it's appeal to the wider community.



*Right:* Bread making workshop.

Working in co-operation with Geraldton Menshed, the CGoG is working to preserve local mobile heritage. Through the group's initiative and use of volunteer skills, the Museum has embraced a hands-on interpretation of our local history for increased visitor delight, such as the Rabbit Poison Cart display. Rabbits were first sighted at Greenough in the early 1900s. By the late 1920s numbers had increased so rapidly they were causing serious damage to the environment. Attempts to limit their spread by erecting rabbit-proof fencing failed. At first rabbits were trapped, but this did little to diminish their numbers, so more dire methods of control such as filling in (or dynamiting) burrows and the use of poison baits were tried. The horse drawn Rabbit Poison Bait Layer shown below is an excellent example of farmers' ingenuity in killing rabbits. Poison was mixed with oats and deposited for the rabbits to feed. Bernard Clinch used this cart on his farm, *Donnaville*, at Central Greenough, c1930-50.



*Above and Right:* Rabbit Poison Cart before and after restoration.

Bernard's widow Edith Clinch donated the Rabbit Poison Bait Layer to the Museum in 1976. Over the years the cart had deteriorated and concerned about its dilapidated condition, the Community Group of Greenough contacted the Menshed Geraldton to see if they would be interested in taking it on as a project. With funding from the City of Greater Geraldton, restoration work commenced on the cart in October 2014.





*Left and Above: Metters Stove before and after restoration.*

On taking over the lease of the Greenough Museum, the CGoG discovered the original Metters Stove in the kitchen was only a facade held up with concrete, fence posts and rusting metal. Restoration work on this commenced in 2015. One of CGoG's policies is that this place should become an active museum and so restoration of the stove to working condition became a priority.

*Nominated by Josie Hopkinson Images supplied by nominee.*



*Above: Pottery Workshop.*



# Diane Evans

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Recipient of a Special Recognition for  
the City of Greater Geraldton Award for  
Outstanding Heritage Achievement 2015.

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# Diane Evans

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Diane Evans is the recipient of a Special Recognition for the City of Greater Geraldton Award for Outstanding Heritage Achievement 2015.



Diane Evans has made a significant contribution to documenting and interpreting Mid West heritage through her research of the history of the Geraldton Old Gaol and convicts in the Mid West. Diane is a trainer and tour guide for the Geraldton Voluntary Tour Guide Association, leading guided tours and providing excellent customer service and visitor information, particularly about the region's heritage and history. As a Visitor Services Officer at the WA Museum Geraldton, Diane has combined her passion for history and learning in ensuring local history is interpreted in a way that is both enjoyable and memorable, and has mentored many others in delivering informative, relevant historical guided tours.

*Nominated by Leigh O'Brien. Images by GRL.*



*Above and Below:* Diane Evans providing a guided tour of the Geraldton Old Gaol.



# City of Greater Geraldton Heritage Awards Evening 2015



*Top left:* Amangu Elder, Robert Ronan conducting the Welcome to Country. *Top right:* Special Guest Speaker, Bill Bunbury. *Middle:* Shaun Tormey receives the Excellence in Heritage Building Design and Conservation Award from Mayor Ian Carpenter. *Bottom:* Father Robert Cross receives the Outstanding Heritage Achievement Award from Mayor Ian Carpenter, on behalf of Monsignor Hawes Heritage Inc.

*Booklet compiled by Trudi  
Cornish and Lauren McMillan.*

*For more information contact:*

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