

Vale

Jean McDonald

2 July 1930 – 31 May 2019



Jean McDonald was an inaugural member of the Enrolled Pensioner Guards Special Interest Group and was instrumental in setting up our aims and objectives. Jean had fully researched her great grandfather Robert Helliwell of the Honourable East India Company Bengal Artillery at a time when most of us had merely read our ancestor's entry in FH Broomhall's *The Veterans*. In 2002 she published her book "The Helliwell Family A Part of North Fremantle History."



2002 was a busy year for Jean as she was elected as Convenor of the group, a role she was to fill until she resigned in 2009 for health and family reasons.



During the seven years Jean attended many public events either as a guest speaker or as a guest. She never missed an opportunity to advance the group spending many hours speaking on the phone to prospective members helping to further their research and gaining respect and goodwill.

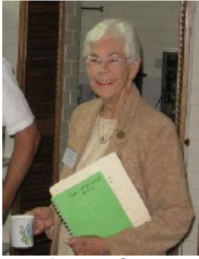


She worked tirelessly for the group and each year she attended the Descendants Day presentations at the Fremantle prison on WA Day. She spoke at Family Historical Society

meetings at Mandurah and Rockingham as well as organising visits to Toodyay, Northam and York. During this time we had memorial plaques erected at Kings Park and Lake Coojee in honour of our men. We had displays at the Fremantle Gaol, Fremantle Artillery barracks and the Royal Historical Society Conference at Toodyay.



As well as writing her regular Convenors report for the EPG Gazette Jean contributed many articles using her extensive collection of Western Australian books as a resource, there was rarely an issue of the EPG Gazette that did not have at least one article she had written. The topics were wide ranging from her special interest the wives and families of Pensioners to individual profile of many of the pensioners. After her retirement she collaborated with Peter Canole to write about pensioners who joined the Police Force.



Jean was prepared to help in any situation whether meeting interstate visitors, new members or interested people. There are many who remember with nostalgia the mock chicken sandwiches at the afternoon tea. Jean's door was always open and we could always be sure of a



hearty welcome, a cup of tea – rose tea for Jean- and a homemade slice and a wander around her beautiful garden.

Jean died on 31 May 2019 deeply mourned by all who loved and respected her.

Articles Written by Jean McDonald

- Jan 2001 What about the Wives
- July 2001 What about the Children
- Apr 2004 Letter to Guy (Lady Broome)
- Jan 2005 William Hammond
- Apr 2005 The old Barracks
- July 2005 Thomas Grady VC
- Jan 2006 Edward Vagg
- Jan 2006 Did your EPG serve in the WA Police – with Peter Canole
- July 2006 James Cunningham
- Oct 2006 Pensioners. Police officer and Catalpa – with Peter Canole
- Oct 2007 Mt Eliza Old Men's Home
- Jan 2008 Strike up the Band
- Jan 2008 Bryan Thomas
- April 2008 The Benevolence of Enrolled Pensioners
- Feb 2009 The Governor's goal and the Ball Game
- April 2009 Cottage Bassendean
- July 2009 A Bunbury Pensioner and his Sons-with Peter Canole
- Oct 2009 Thomas Martin
- Apr 2010 Corp James Gorman-with Peter Canole
- April 2010 Descendants Day Fremantle
Red Feathers
- Oct 2010 Mary Carson
- Oct 2010 The Hashemy
- Oct 2010 James Graham –with Peter Canole



All above Photos courtesy of Ian Barnes