

Goldfields Diggings

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society 20223-16

June 2023

June Dates to Remember:

7th June - Volunteers Morning Tea

21st June - General Meeting

National Volunteers Week 2023

To help celebrate our wonderful volunteers, the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society was successful in receiving a grant thanks to Volunteering WA and Lotterywest. The grant money enabled the Society to hire a couple of buses and head down to Coolgardie for a glorious day to Celebrate National Volunteers Week 2023.

The first stop of the day was the Pitman and Walsh site and then we headed onto Warden Finnerty's residence in Coolgardie for morning tea. Whilst we were stopped for morning tea, **all** our wonderful volunteers were presented with a certificate of appreciation and a lapel pin.

At the conclusion of morning tea, we headed to the Coolgardie Cemetery, paid our respects to Ernest Giles, Tagh Mahomed and various family members of the volunteers, then headed to the park for lunch.

After lunch we drove to the Pioneer Cemetery to view the grave of Richard John Holland and his wife. Finally, we made our way out of town to the Varischetti rescue site. Photo courtesy of Claire Weir. Head to our Facebook page for more images.



EASTERN
GOLDFIELDS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.

Preserving & promoting Goldfields history

Can you help?

We are looking for someone to help transport a microfilm reader from Perth to Kalgoorlie. You will need a large car with a fair bit of space. Let us know if you can assist.

General Meetings

7pm, 3rd Wednesday of the month (excludes Dec & Jan).
The AGM is held on the 3rd Wednesday of August.

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday
9am until 2pm

Published by
Eastern Goldfields Historical
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17th June 1893

Hannan's Story, as recorded by John Kirwan and published in the Early Days Journal (December, 1942).

"Early in June, 1893, I was in Coolgardie. News arrived of a rich discovery at a place called Mt. Youle, somewhere to the east or north-east, and parties had left in search of the new find. My mate, Thomas Flanagan, and myself left on June 7, a few days after the report of the discovery was received. We would have gone earlier, but we had no horses. Fortunately, we were lucky enough to secure some animals and we started. The other parties were mostly travelling with teams, but only one or two of the groups had horses of their own. My mate and I had made up our minds not to travel with the teams, but to form a separate party of our own as we wanted to be free to travel how and when we liked. By this arrangement we could prospect any promising country we passed through.

On June 10, three days after leaving Coolgardie we reached what is now known as Kalgoorlie. The other prospecting parties had gone on in the direction of the reported find. My mate and I found some colours of gold near Mt. Charlotte, so we determined to stop and prospect the country round about. On the 14th we shifted our camp and got good gold more or less from the north end of Mt. Charlotte to down south of Maritana Hill.

There was another man, by the way, with us, Dan Shea, to whom we gave an equal share in our prospecting claim. As we were getting excellent gold, we decided to apply for a reward claim, and on **June 17** I left for the return journey to Coolgardie. Rain began to fall as I was on my way and continued for some time. The fall was exceptionally heavy, and extremely welcome as it solved the water difficulty which just then was beginning to get grave. I reached Coolgardie on Saturday night. The news of our find soon got abroad. There was much excitement and men set out for the scene. ..."



Kalgoorlie in 1897, from "The Western Mail" of November 26, 1897. Inset: Pat Hannan.

DGR Status

Did you know that the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society Is recognized as a DGR or Deductible Gift Recipient?

A DGR is an organisation that can receive donations that are tax deductible.

What does this mean?

If you make a donation to the EGHS you may be able to deduct that gift from your own income - claim the donation as a deduction when filing your personal income tax return for the year.

For more information please speak to your accountant.

We are looking for a volunteer to help in the Bookshop. This will include jobs such as dusting the displays, keeping the bookshelves stocked and keeping our Hesperian Books in alphabetical order. Ideally it would be great if you could come in once or twice a week and spend about half an hour keeping your eye on things .

If this sounds like something you would be interested in doing please call in and have a chat.

Paddy Hannan's Tree

Excerpt taken from *Paddy Hannan's Tree* written by W. Scott Wilson

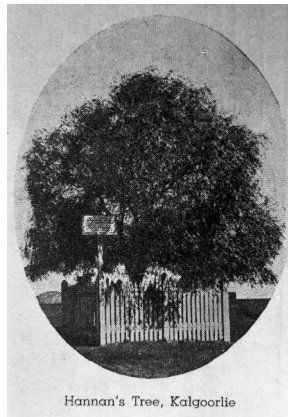
Paddy Hannan's Tree Kalgoorlie, WA

W Scott Wilson



The Tree Enclosure, April 2018, Photographer: W S Wilson

\$8.00



Hannan's Tree, Kalgoorlie

The tree is situated on Brown Avenue (previously Outridge Terrace), Kalgoorlie and it is at the lane way behind what was once the Glen Devon Hotel. Its GDA94 coordinates are 51J 354350/6597675.

It would seem that 'Hannan's Tree' had already entered the town's folklore before it was suggested to plant a new tree to mark the site. The town had some knowledge of it being significant and worthy of maintaining as a connection to the discovery of the town.

The Kalgoorlie Miner of 3 November 1896, records a meeting held between the Mayor of Kalgoorlie, Mr John Wilson and the Governor of Western Australia, Lieutenant Colonel Sir Gerard

Smith KCMG, in Albany late in October 1896:

THE GOVERNOR AND 'HANNANS TREE'

The Mayor said that he had met the Governor at Albany, who said to him that he had spoken to the acting-Mayor about the protection of a tree which he called 'Hannan's Tree,' which he (the Mayor) believed was the tree the pioneer of Kalgoorlie had used for shelter.

Cr Nethercott said that the tree could not be traced by him although he had inquired about it, and the matter was allowed to stand over.



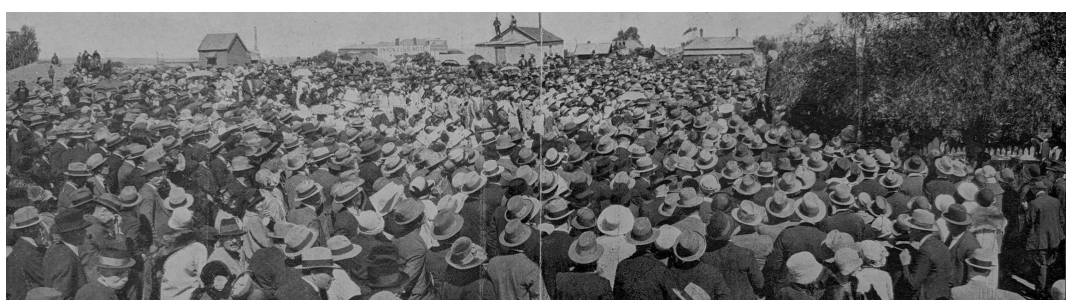
Another paper, The W.A Record (14 November 1896) saw the lighter side of the proposal:

Pat Hannan's Tree — A goldfields paper pokes a little mild fun at Governor Smith's suggestion that the tree under which Pat Hannan sat after discovering Kalgoorlie should be carefully preserved.

Pat Hannan is probably, like most prospectors, a very unpoetical fellow, who attaches little value to trees except in so far as they furnish shade, timber for shafts, and firewood. Even if he could remember the particular tree of the forest under which he sat it is not likely he has ever put forth an effort to save it from the all-devouring axe.

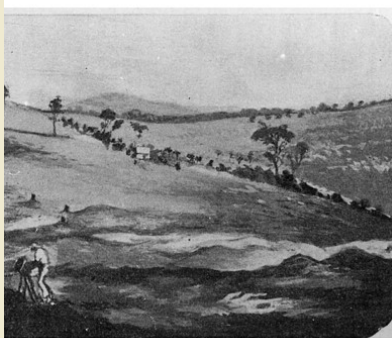
Someone didn't share, or they were otherwise ignorant of the significance of the tree, and it was found to have been cut down. So it was decided to plant another one in its place. Later, when Paddy Hannan was visiting the town, he was able to show the many dignitaries who were a part of a nostalgic procession the "stump which was all that remained of the famous tree under which he camped in the early days."

It had been the Mayor of Kalgoorlie, Mr HG Parson's intention, to have Paddy plant a pepper tree at the site. This indicates that this was not a chance happening and that the plan to renew the tree was well organised - confirming the Council's desire to mark the spot.



Crowd at Paddy Hannan's Tree 1926

The various names of Kalgoorlie



RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN BY

W. Scott Wilson

\$8.00



**EASTERN
GOLDFIELDS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.**

Preserving & promoting Goldfields history

Monthly Meetings & Guest Speaking

Are you an aficionado on anything Eastern Goldfields? Do you have a great story to tell about growing up, living on, or anything Eastern Goldfields? Do you have an historic building you would like to show off?

If you are looking for a forum to share your story, then we have the place for you!

Every third Wednesday from 7pm the EGHS holds a general meeting with a guest speaker presenting a talk to members and visitors. They are always interesting and entertaining. If you have something to share please feel free to get in touch. We would love to hear your story.

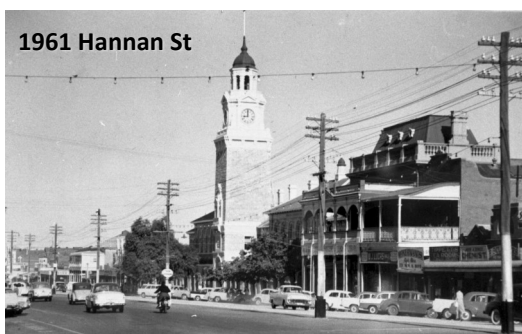
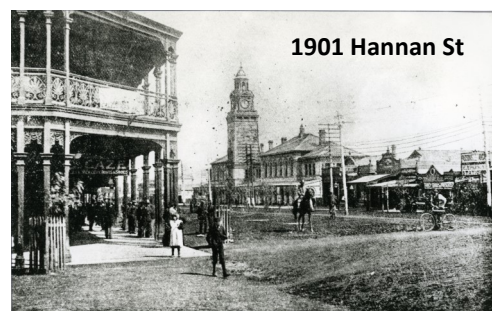
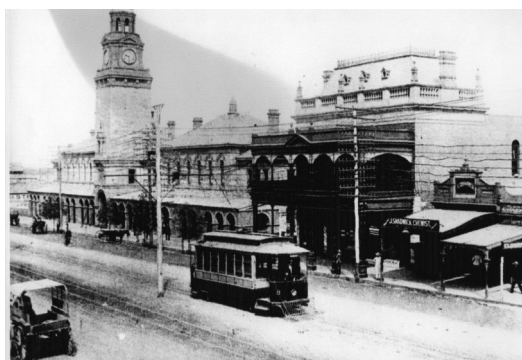


 **VOLUNTEER**

Hannan Street over the last 130 years



Above -1895 Hannan St looking west - gum trees are where the post office is today.
Photographer Roy Millar.



Below - 2023. Can you fill in the blanks with any other years? It would be great to see them.



Great Boulder

Following on from the article written by John Kirwan regarding the discovery of Gold by Paddy Hannan and Co, he also wrote about Brookman, Pearce and De Rose, and the Great Boulder Gold Mine.

“The real importance of Hannan's find was that it led on to the discovery of mines of inestimable value to this State, and indeed to the Empire. The Boulder group of mines were opened up in circumstances that have been properly described as a "romance of gold mining”.

The story begins in 1893 in South Australia at alluvial workings in Dashwood's Gully, where two men, W. G. Brookman and Charlie De Rose, were digging, searching for gold. Their efforts were attended with but trifling success. After three months' strenuous labour the two men were rewarded with only about £10's worth of gold. Whilst thus employed, they met Sam Pearce, an enthusiastic prospector who possessed an extensive practical knowledge of mineralogy. They had pegged out a claim known as the Boulder, so-called because its distinguishing features consisted of large sandstone boulders from the crevices of which small quantities of gold were recovered.

George Brookman (afterwards Sir George) who lived in Adelaide was interested in the work of his brother, W. G. Brookman, and visited the show. The prospects were hope-less, and George Brookman frankly told them so. He said they were merely wasting time and labour. The four men, sitting on stones, then had a talk together in the gully as to what they should do. At that time, South Australia in common with all the Eastern States, was suffering from a severe industrial depression. Unemployment was general. Reports were received daily of sensational gold finds in the West. Men were flocking from the Eastern States to the Murchison and Coolgardie. It was but natural that these reports should attract the men's attention.

Sam Pearce suggested that they should go to Western Australia, but the trouble was to get the money to finance the venture. George Brookman expressed the opinion that the financial difficulty might be overcome. He promised that he would try to get the money and returned to Adelaide where he formed a syndicate consisting of 15 shares of £15 each, with five free shares for the prospectors.

The syndicate was first known as the Adelaide Prospecting Party, but it was afterwards called the Coolgardie Goldmining Prospecting Co. Ltd.

The syndicate decided to send Sam Pearce and W.G. Brookman to prospect on their behalf. The experiences of the two prospectors are interesting. They sailed from Adelaide by the P. & O. Steamer "Australia" on June 7th, 1893. They landed at Albany, and proceeded to Perth, where they wisely secured a copy of the Mining Laws so as to be prepared for all emergencies. On their arrival at York, they invested in a spring dray and two horses with which to convey all their requisites.

YouTube - Oral History Recordings

The EGHS is now on YouTube. Via video link only at this stage, members can listen to a selection of Oral History Recordings.

Do you have time to come down to the Society and help upload some of our oral histories?

BREAD TAGS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Aussie Bread Tags for Wheel Chairs

The EGHS is now one of the two collection points in the Goldfields. Don't forget to drop them off!



The EGHS has set up an account with containers for change. If you would like to donate to a worthy cause please consider us.

Scheme ID: C10397895



Kanowna

We are looking for images of Kanowna to help build a pictorial history of the town.

Please forward your images to:

eghs@kalgoorliehistory.org.au

We still have lots of books that we would like someone to read and write indexes for. If you are interested, please get in contact with us.

The plant display is looking a bit empty...

If you have any plants you would like to donate to the Society, that would be greatly appreciated. Please drop them off.

We are also on the look out for a small garden shed. If you have one that you might like to donate to the Society, please let us know.

We are always interested in images and stories from the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and up until now, that pertain to the Eastern Goldfields.

If you have them and you would like to share them, come and see the volunteers at the Society.

Great Boulder continued

Those who travel today to the Eastern Goldfields in trains, motor cars or aeroplanes, have but little idea of what the journey between Perth and Coolgardie meant in a spring dray. In 1893, there were but bush tracks badly cut up by heavy traffic - tracks on which the dust rose in thick clouds. A few people are still to be met who experienced the scarcity of water and other discomforts that such an undertaking entailed. The progress of Pearce and Brookman was slow and painful. They were compelled to walk the whole distance - some 350 miles - beside the dray. Usually, they had to camp out and the weather was bitterly cold at night as it can be in the interior at that time of the year. They eventually arrived at Coolgardie on June 29th, three weeks and a day after they had left Adelaide.

A Coolgardie claim had been offered for sale to the syndicate. They inspected it, but decided not to accept it.

Coolgardie was then much interested in what was called Hannan's Find. About a fortnight before the arrival at Coolgardie of Pearce and W. G. Brookman, Paddy Hannan and his mates discovered gold at what is now known as Kalgoorlie.

Within three days of the discovery being reported there were over 700 men on the field. Excellent results were obtained. Brookman and Pearce decided to go on to Hannan's Find.

When they arrived, they were much impressed by what they saw. In a letter dated July 4th, 1893, they wrote to the Adelaide syndicate that they saw rich quartz crushed that went 400 oz. to the ton. It was, in their opinion, as good if not better than the ore at Bayley's Reward mine at Coolgardie. By the time that the two men reached Hannan's Find, the whole of the country around had been pegged as mining leases. They were weeks too late.

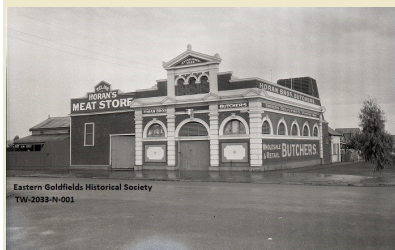
Sam Pearce had a prospector's instinct, and seemed almost to scent gold. When camped at Hannan's Find he made frequent excursions on foot about the country. He was especially attracted to "hills a couple of miles to the south", and he began to prospect them. The results were so promising that he and his two mates decided to shift their quarters to that locality, where they set to work on what subsequently became the Ivanhoe Goldmining Company's lease.

Brookman went to Coolgardie to apply for the block, and whilst he was away, Pearce was fortunate in discovering a short distance from the camp, a very rich leader which when sunk upon opened out into a large reef. They pegged it and called it the Great Boulder. They reported on it favourably to Adelaide, and the syndicate, at a meeting, decided to instruct the prospectors to continue acquiring claims wherever indications justified their exploitations. And thus were pegged the Boulder group of mines - later to be known as the Golden Mile!"

Early Days Journal, Gold Discoveries of Kalgoorlie and the Golden Mile by Sir John Kirwan. Pages 5-13 December 1942.

Facebook Insights

The most recent then and now Facebook post generated over 7700 post impressions. This is a great achievement .



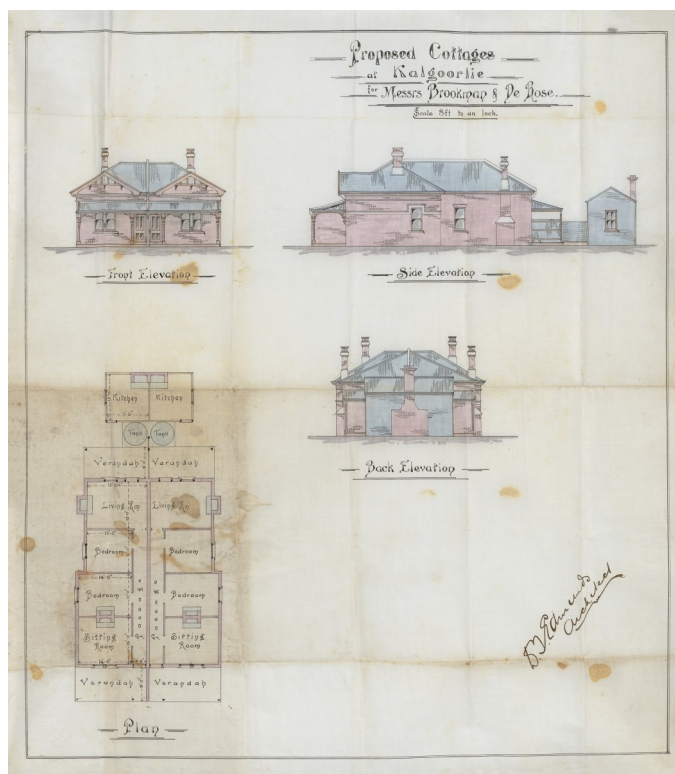
Thanks to all the followers and members who continually check in and read the stories and like the posts.

The Society takes very seriously any derogatory remarks and bullying directed at employees, volunteers and members on our Facebook page (and within the Society in general). We are continuing to closely monitor our social media for inappropriate comments and are committed to taking swift action where it's required. We are grateful to the majority of people for your continued interesting and insightful contributions to our posts.



Curatorial Curiosities - Brookman & De Rose Cottages

Recently we had a couple visit the Society and share with us the hand drawn plans of the Brookman and DeRose cottages located at 45 & 47 Brookman St, designed by architect Daniel T. Edmunds and built by J.V. Miles and Co.



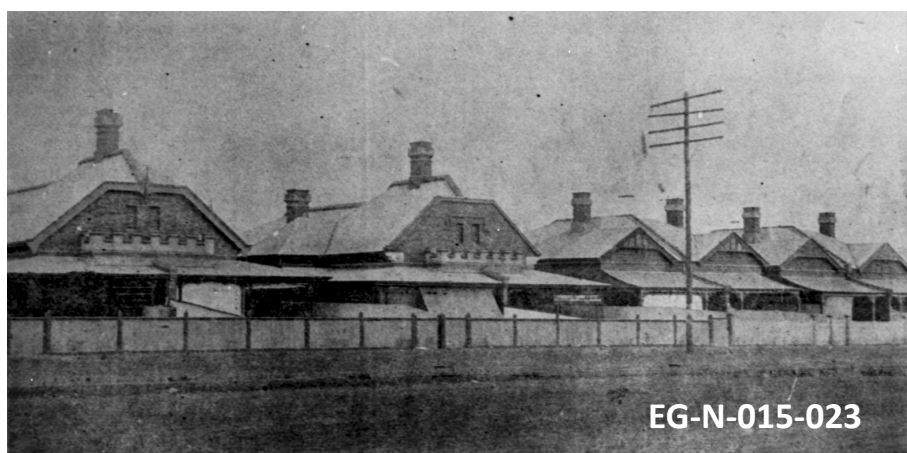
The cottages were constructed in 1898 and show characteristics of the Victorian Tudor style.

The Western Argus, 13 October 1898 reported: "A long felt want is about to be supplied in the town by the erection of a number of stone and brick cottages or villas for leasing. Messrs Brookman and De Rose who own a large number of town blocks, have made a start in this direction by letting a contract for the erection of four semi-

detached villas in Dugan St. The contract has been secured by Messrs J. V. Mills and Co, who will make start on the buildings on Monday. The cottages will be situated immediately opposite the State School in Dugan Street, and the first part of the work comprises four houses and it is probable a much larger number will be put in hand almost at once.

Already several enquiries have been made from the architect Mr D. T. Edmunds, from people wishing to rent the villas and two out of the four have been bespoke.

There is a big demand for nicely furnished cottages within reasonable distance of the business center of the town and no doubt sufficient inducement will be offered to Messrs Brookman and De Rose to continue building till the whole of the ground between Cassidy and Maritana Streets has been covered with dwellings."



EG-N-015-023

AGM - Spotlight on Research

Indexing

We have a number of books that have been indexed and now we are looking for someone to type these index's up using Word.

If this is something that interests you, please get in touch. This can be done at home and does not require you to be at the Society.

Email:

eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au

Introducing a book & puzzle swap for volunteers and members. Call in and drop off some books and pick up a few new ones to read.

Take a book - leave a book

Did you know that the EGHS has a subscription to Ancestry.com? Members are welcome to come down to the Society and search for information on Ancestry. Non-members are also welcome, for a small fee.

DISCLAIMER

Accuracy of facts or the opinions expressed in any of the articles of this newsletter, are not necessarily those of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society Inc. and the Society cannot accept responsibility of any action taken as a result of statements contained within.

The AGM for the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society will fall on the 16th August 2023 and all positions will be declared vacant. Over the next few newsletters, we will highlight some of the roles that are available at the EGHS which may interest some of our readers. If you are interested in joining the committee, please call in and have a look around. Being on the committee is very enjoyable and rewarding.

Outlined below is the role of the research coordinator. All support is offered from the Executive Committee, the EO and our team of great volunteers.

Research Coordinator

- Interest of history in the Eastern Goldfields region
- Manage research requests and engage with stakeholders to assist when required
- Strong ability with computer applications to research internal and external archives
- Provide customer service when able, taking payments, promoting books sales and membership and answering research requests
- Provide brief monthly report for members for general meeting agenda
- Attend committee and general meetings

Ideally you would be required to come into the Society at least one full day a week to help complete the above tasks.

Ordinary Committee member

- Attend committee and general meetings
- Advise and engage on delivery of strategic goals for the Society
- Provide customer service when able, taking payments, promoting books sales and membership and answering research requests

Members' Corner

Full set of 24 including Index, White Bound, Bi-Centenary 1768-1968 Special Edition Encyclopedia Britannica. Purchased in 1968.

Also an Authentic Replica of the First Edition of Encyclopedia Britannica in 1768. Special Paper was used to give the subtle "foxing" light brown spots that occur naturally on the pages of old books as the result of bacterial action. The authenticity certificate is included.

A set of 3 Britannica Perspectives. Year books from 1970 to 1988.

All books are in excellent condition and still held by the original owner. These books are held in Kalgoorlie ready for pick up and purchaser responsible for freight. Contact eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au for more information.

