

Goldfields Diggings

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society 2022-11

November 2022

November Dates to Remember:

1st November - Melbourne Cup Luncheon

5th November - Boulder Primary School Fete 3-7pm

8th November - Boulder Traders Meeting

17th November - General Meeting

Great Boulder Plaque - Tess Thomson



W.G. 'Willie' Brookman was one of the finders of the Great Boulder Mine on the Golden Mile. A bankrupt when he found the gold, the proceeds from some of the rich leases enabled him to discharge his debts. He then lived a lavish life, travelling to London in 1895 and purchasing an enormous amount of property in W.A.

The Brookman's main residence, staffed with liveried servants, was a two-storey Adelaide Terrace mansion, furnished in a style that made it Perth's

most glittering showplace. As a tribute to the source of his wealth, Brookman set up an ornate symbolic plaque on the corner tower of the house, with the words 'Great Boulder' across it.

At the 'Great Boulder' there was a spacious tennis lawn surrounded by formal flower gardens and in the stables, a Benz motor car, one of the earliest in W.A. They also had a substantial country estate at Cannington, a yacht and an eleven room seaside home at Mandurah, which later became the Peninsular Hotel. Continued over



**EASTERN
GOLDFIELDS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.**

Preserving & promoting Goldfields history

DGR Status

Did you know that the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society Is recognised 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.



Contact Details

Phone: 08 9093 3360

Email:

eghs@kalgoorliehistory.org.au

Website:

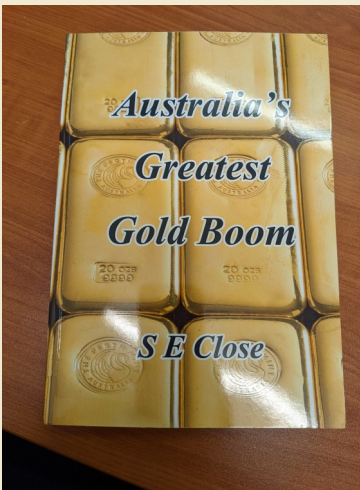
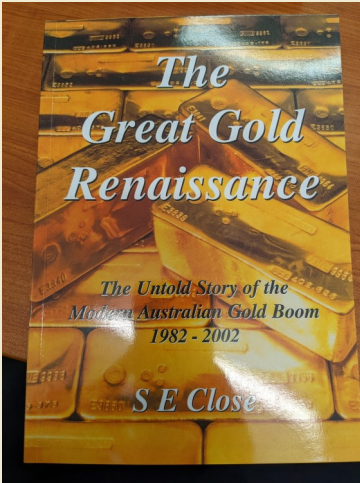
www.kalgoorliehistory.org.au

Donations

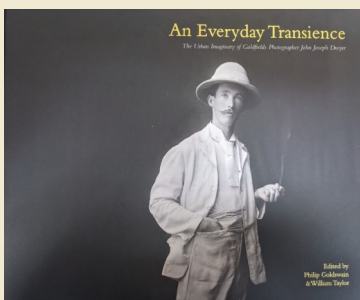
BSB: 066514

Account: 00900580

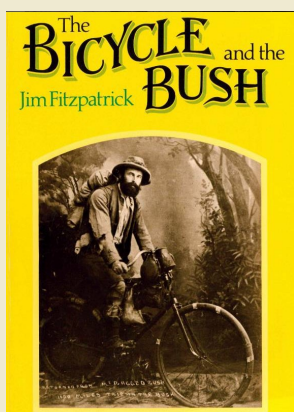
New to the Library and available to borrow.



Available in the Bookshop



\$60.00



\$50.00

Great Boulder Plaque - Tess Thomson Continued

For an eight month period early in the century he was Lord Mayor of Perth and during the same time was a member of the Legislative Council. However, Willie Brookman's high life was short lived. By 1903 his fortune was rapidly declining and he was again facing insolvency.

Although during his heyday he boasted that he had secured investments of £35 million for W.A., at his death in 1912, his estate in W.A. was valued for probate at only £127 and in South Australia at less than £8.

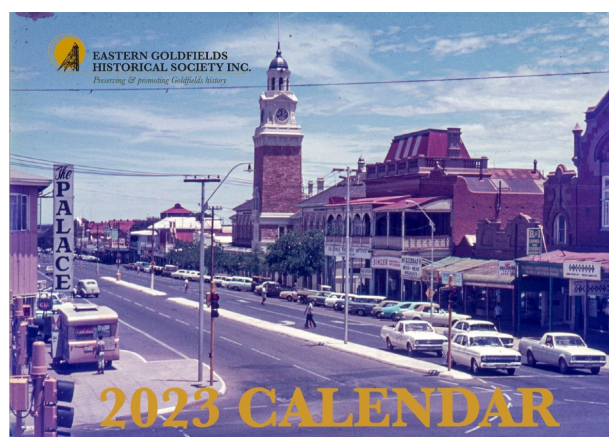
Over time, 'Great Boulder' the Adelaide Terrace mansion became a rooming house, and later a car sales yard. By the time it was demolished in 1966, it had long been without its beautiful wrap-around ornately carved verandahs. At the time of its demolition to make way for the IBM Centre, the ornate nameplate 'Great Boulder' went to the Royal W.A. Historical Society headquarters in Nedlands displayed on an outside wall.

In the mid 1990s the plaque was offered to the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society and was brought back to Kalgoorlie by Barrie and Tess Thomson.

Image below of the Brookman residence Adelaide Tce .P.W.H. Thiel & Co., (1901) *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*. Page 449.

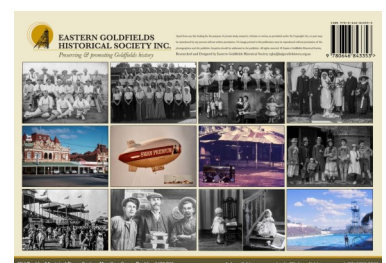


Calendar 2023



The 2023 calendar is selling fast call in and grab your copies now.

Great stocking stuffers at only \$15.00



Terrace landmark to come down

THE former town house of Perth's only millionaire mayor, G. W. Brookman, is to be demolished to make way for a modern office building.

The old house, on the corner of Bennett-st. and Adelaide-ter., is to be demolished in early January.

What makes it a landmark at present are the two fronting Norfolk Island pines, conspicuous all along Adelaide-ter.

These will have to come down.

Glittering

As The Great Boulder at the beginning of the century, the house was furnished in a style that made it Perth's most glittering show place.

After its wealth and magnificence, according to a contemporary writer, fine homes like Lord and Lady Forrest's bungalow looked "plainly furnished" and "old fashioned."

In recent years, The Great Boulder has been a rooming house and a car sales yard.

But in 1893, Gordon William Brookman,

By MARY FERBER

who with Sam Pearce had pegged the first and richest leases on the world's richest mile, came back from England after the



◆ The Great Boulder plaque on the old building

State's greatest shopping spree.

He then proceeded to make The Great Boulder—his new home on the corner of Bennett-st. and Adelaide-ter.—into a place to make people gasp.

He was a bankrupt in 1893 when Goldfielders scoffed at the number of leases he pegged—called them Brookman's sheep-runs."

Golden words

But the names of the mines were golden words, and Brookman hung them on his houses.

An ornate symbolic plaque which Brookman set up on the corner tower of the house, with the words The Great Boulder across it, has been hidden for years by a Japanese pepper tree.

There is no doubt that Brookman was at least a millionaire for a time.

When he returned from London in 1897 he was director of 20-odd different gold min-

ing shows, held 10 shares in the fabulous syndicate then valued at £220,000 each, had been awarded a fee of £10,000 to bring all the 20-odd mines to a dividend paying stage of development.

It was an age of big sharks in the gold-share pool—names like Horatio Bottomley, Whittaker Wright—of glittering dinners and rocketing share markets.

Tuberculosis

William Gordon Brookman, broken in health and fortune, went home to die of pulmonary tuberculosis in his father's home in South Australia in 1912, a lonely man who had loved Anne Brookman and given his name to her three children by her first husband.

At the peak of his success he was said to be Perth's biggest ratepayer, having been the first mining magnate to promise to spend his money in the country where he made it.

The tragedy which broke up the Adelaide-ter. home has only been a matter for speculation.

The millionaire mayor resigned after a very short term. He had succeeded Alexander Forrest as mayor, was followed by Mr S. H. Parker.

His seat in Parliament was declared vacant after continued absence through ill health.

His financial collapse was hastened by the activities of London share gamblers.



◆ G. W. BROOKMAN, the millionaire mayor in court dress.



◆ ANNE BROOKMAN, her magnificent clothes were the talk of Perth. It was ironic, at that, that she brought the to Perth from Pe society, looking wearing mourning.

Cinderella has found her slipper

Boulder — generally looked upon as the "poor sister" of Kalgoorlie — is leading the way in a housing boom in the twin Goldfields town.

Increased regional mining activity lead to high prices for established homes and extraordinary rentals — which prompted new housing activity.

The two towns have changed — once people were wary about building or even buying homes, a symptom of the 1970s gold price slump when all but Mt Charlotte closed and real estate values plummeted.

Confidence in Kalgoorlie-Boulder has returned.

Kalgoorlie is undergoing a housing boom, but Boulder, with its lower land prices and cheaper land rates is attracting most new home builders.

According to Boulder Shire Council figures, 172 new houses were built in the area in the financial year just gone.

In Kalgoorlie, 122 homes were built. New sub-divisions with many houses valued at over

\$100,000 have sprung up in both towns.

Prices

Old houses in Kalgoorlie-Boulder are fetching high prices, a result of the housing shortage in the area. Buildings that a few years ago fetched much less than \$10,000 are now attracting over \$30,000.

The average house price is around \$50,000 — about the same cost as building an average new home — excluding land price.

It is rare to find a house — no matter in what area or condition — with a weekly rental below \$100.

More land continues to be put onto the market through Government auctions — more than 350 new blocks have been cleared and developed since early 1983.

ou

Articles published

Terrace Landmark to come down -

Weekend New, Sat,
December 18, 1965.
p.8

Cinderella Has found her slipper

The Gold Gazette.
September 23, 1985.
Vol1. No15.



Early Boulder

By June O'Brien



\$5.00



EASTERN
GOLDFIELDS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.

Preserving & promoting Goldfields history

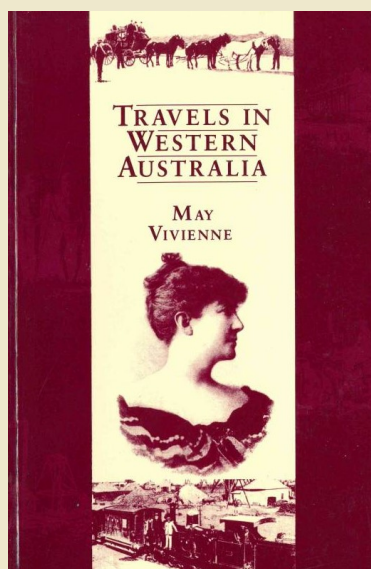
130 Women Project

23rd November 2022

together the 130 Women Project are hosting morning tea in the garden.

Please come along and share your family stories.

From 10.30am



Travels in Western Australia is a delightful account of May Vivienne's tour through the South-West and the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia.

Written at a time when the Colony was astonishing the world with its riches, Travels continues to fascinate readers, showing a people with faith in their future and their new land.

\$30.00

Available in the book shop

Wilson Endowing Fund

Wilson Academic Bursary Guidelines 2022-23

The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society is pleased to offer an academic bursary valued up to \$2000 (including GST for ABN holders) for research into, and the recording of, Goldfields' history.

Purpose

The **Wilson Academic Bursary** aims to encourage new, high quality research which will contribute to the understanding of the history and heritage of the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia.

Recipient obligations

The successful recipient is expected to undertake research into a previously unexplored aspect of Eastern Goldfields' history or heritage. Conditions of the bursary require the findings are made publicly accessible, including via the EGHS library, on completion. Recognition of support from the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society is required in the final product. The research must result in a high-quality piece of writing, including referencing. The format of the final piece is negotiable, but is expected to take the form of a manuscript of at least 15 000 words. Photographs and/or sketches are encouraged, if they enhance the final product.

The applicant will have **12 months** to complete the project and will be paid in **four, equal, quarterly instalments** with receipt of evidence of work. Bursaries are available up to the value of \$2000 per year, with the total amount payable being at the discretion of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society Committee.

Applications close **30th November 2022** and all applicants will be notified on their success by the 31st December 2022.

Eligibility

A wide range of applicants are encouraged to apply. Applications from community members, students, local historians, academics or individuals interested in Goldfields history will be considered.

Selection criteria

Proposals must be focused on new research or a new perspective on past research, intrinsically connected to the Eastern Goldfields. Confirmation is also required that the piece is original, and not published elsewhere, or submitted for another publication.

Applications

Applicants must complete the **Eastern Goldfields Historical Society Bursary Application Form**. A research proposal of 250 words and Curriculum Vitae must accompany the bursary application form. Applications can be emailed or posted to the attention of the Executive Officer: eo@kalgoorliehistory.org.au; or Eastern Goldfields Historical Society, PO Box 643, Kalgoorlie, 6430.

The **Wilson Academic Bursary** has been named after Life Member of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society, W. Scott Wilson and his wife Maria, who endowed the money for this research. We are thankful for their donation.

Gold Under the Streets

Gold Under the Street Road Workers' Discovery

Yesterday morning, in the course of road making operations at the corner of Hannan and Porter streets, Kalgoorlie, a municipal Diesel-engined road roller caused the mouth of an old disused mining shaft under the gutter to subside. Whilst municipal employees were cleaning out the mouth of the shaft, a bystander picked up a piece of gold weighing half an ounce, which had been thrown out from the hole with a shovelful of dirt by one of the workmen.

(1938, June 14). *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA : 1895 - 1954), p. 4. Retrieved October 11, 2022, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page9053595>

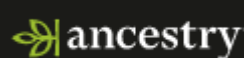
Walk Of Fame

Walk of Fame nominations are coming up and the EGHS would love for you to get in contact with your ideas on who you believe deserves recognition. Alternatively you can nominate someone yourself through the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

The Walk of Fame acknowledges outstanding contributions of individuals that have brought national and international recognition to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. More information can be found at <https://www.ckb.wa.gov.au/our-community/events/awards-ceremonies/walk-of-fame.aspx>

The City is also looking for nominations for the following categories - Citizen of the Year, Senior of the Year, Event of the Year, Young person of the Year and Volunteer of the Year.

Members' Corner



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.

Members can also borrow from the library. We have a large range of DVD's and books to browse through.

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



Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help as “greeters” at the Society. This will involve greeting people on arrival and helping in the bookshop. If you are interested in helping out for an hour or two one day per week (or more), please get in touch. Your support will be greatly appreciated.



The Eastern Goldfields Historical Society is looking for volunteers.

Can you spare an hour or two once a week?

Do you have a passion for local history?

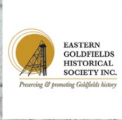
We can help!

Phone, email or call in.

08 9093 3360

eghs@kalgoorliehistory.org.au

Old Boulder Power Station. Hamilton St. Boulder.



Any Thoughts?

The EGHS has been approached by a member of the public and would like to know a little bit more about this 1901 coin? Can any one help shed some light on this medal?



Help Required

The EGHS is working with Hesperain Press to publish a collection of diaries and are looking for some biographical information on the following people - Allan Brand, Allan Miles, Arthur McBride, Arthur Thomas, Captain Maitland Thomson, Chris Bateman, David Walker, Dorothy Miles, Douglas Kemsley, Dr. Henderson, Dr Mason, Dr Peter Jeffery, Ernest Shaw, Ernie Shaw, Ethel Simmons, Harry Wheeler, Harry Woodall, Jack Clugston, Laurie Smith, Norvall Watts, Paul Jeffery, Ralph Thomas, Ross McRae, Tony Moriarty and William Williams.

We need short bio notes including date of birth and date of death of the participants, profession, place of work etc so that we and the future can see who were those who were fundamental in recording our past and heritage.

A small photograph would also be greatly appreciated.



Ora Banda

We are still looking for images of the Ora Banda Hotel, inside and out, to help build a pictorial history of the hotel.

Please forward your images to:

eghs@kalgoorliehistory.org.au

Did you know the Bookshop has a large selection of secondhand books? All are available at very reasonable prices.

Drop in for a browse soon!

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.