



Fremantle Studies Day 2023



**Ground Floor Local History Display Area
Walyalup Civic Centre
151 High Street, Fremantle 6160**

**Sunday 29 October 2023
12.45 pm for a 1.00 pm start**

Cost: Members \$20, non-members \$25

Payment can be made online

BSB : 126 568 Account No. : 43329120 Reference - StudDay

Bookings: ESSENTIAL

Email secretary.fhs@gmail.com by Friday 20 October 2023

Launch of Fremantle Studies Volume 12

Program

Grant Donnes	Commander-in-Chief of Fremantle
Nick Everett	Wobblies on the Waterfront: The Industrial Workers of the World in Fremantle During WWI
Steve Grant	The <i>Fremantle Herald</i> : working for a community newspaper
Bruce Menzies	Opting Out: Guru Games in Fremantle & Beyond

Grant Donnes - Commander-in-Chief of Fremantle

Grant Donnes is a miner from Perth, whose grandfather Mick Donnes Jnr lost his dad at age 11 (after he never came back from UK). Grant was taught to drive the orange pilot boats in and out of the harbour as a little kid by his uncle and grandfather, so he is passionate about Fremantle Port and he is a Dockers supporter.

Apparently, soon after WW1 had ended, the entire contents of the Perth Mint were cleared out by persons unknown to whereabouts unknown. Grant claims that his grandfather stumbled across the information that Australian wheat was unknowingly on-sold to Germany, leading to the 1919 Fremantle Wharf riots. He asks: How did Australia get its gold reserve in 1918 and how did the Imperial Japanese Army empty out the Perth Mint in May 1919?

Nick Everett - Wobblies on the Waterfront: The Industrial Workers of the World in Fremantle During WWI

Nick Everett has a keen interest in Aboriginal and labour history. In 2021, he worked alongside members of the *Remembering the 1946 Pilbara Strike* committee to organise commemorative events in Perth and Fremantle to mark the 75th anniversary of the 1946 walk off by Pilbara Aboriginal pastoral workers. Nick is the author of a book chapter in *Radical Perth, Militant Fremantle* on the labour movement's solidarity with the Pilbara Strike. Based in Fremantle, Nick works with remote and town-based Aboriginal communities to address their housing needs.

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) nicknamed 'Wobblies,' originated in the US. An international labor union, they argued that workers should amalgamate into One Big Union in order to resist capitalism and abolish the profits system. In 1914 they established a branch in Fremantle. Nick will discuss the part played by Fremantle IWW members in the conscription debate and the subsequent industrial upheaval on the waterfront in 1917 and again in 1919.

Steve Grant - The Fremantle Herald: working for a community newspaper

Steve Grant, Editor in Chief, Fremantle Herald

The Fremantle Herald has been around for 35 years, a remarkable innings for an independent suburban newspaper (It's colonial namesake, from which the Herald's cheeky anti-establishment streak derives, lasted 19 years, while the second iteration bookended the Great War). The Chook has survived 'the Recession we had to have', political bastardry, Covid, the digital age, sabotage and even the occasional tiff with its readers, mainly thanks to their incredible support, trust and occasional forgiveness. It's also because the Herald has been beside them through all the big issues, from the hostel facing closure which graced the first issue in November 1989, through to a little convict wall in the way of a big new Police Station. Is the local newspaper still relevant in this digital age? Steve Grant has been the Editor of the Fremantle Herald for ... well, that is a story in itself.

Bruce Menzies - Opting Out: Guru Games in Fremantle and Beyond

Bruce Menzies was born in Subiaco, Western Australia. After scraping through a law degree he moved to Canberra for a stint in the Public Service, highlighted by three years in Germany. In the seventies, he worked as a lawyer in Fremantle and helped set up a Montessori school. Graduating to an Indian ashram, he spent seven years in a commune before returning to Perth in the mid-eighties. In 1990 Bruce and his wife built a mud brick home in Denmark, grew bio-dynamic raspberries and ran holiday accommodation. During that period Bruce morphed from a lawyer into a mediator – and succumbed to the writing virus. He now lives in South Fremantle.

Why would a thirty-something, football-playing, cricket-loving, agnostic lawyer abandon a comfortable suburban existence in favour of an Indian ashram? How would he, his wife and two small boys manage that radical transition and what would be the reaction from family and friends? Following on from Joseph London's fascinating presentation on the Rajneeshees, Bruce relates his personal experience living as a member of that community.