



## President's Report

October 2024

### Your 2023-2024 Committee

President	James Stevens
Committee Members	Marc Tennant
	Margo Warburton
	Kevin Kenneally
	William Chi
	Warren Kerr
	Luke Barratt
	Ken Ilett
	Joseph Christensen
Convocation's Representative	Brett Davies
Ex-Officio	Fran Pesich
Ex-Officio	Ron Bodycoat
University Archivist	Maria Carvalho
Guild Archivist	Cameron Jeffrey
Student participant	Kayla Gill



Remembrance Day 2023  
Preparing the cenotaph display, Kevin Kenneally  
*Image by Manny Tamayo Photography*

### Introduction

This year has been one of transition for UWAHS. Amidst the myriad changes that have occurred in relation to our online presence, the events we organise, and the projects we run – I am pleased to report that volunteer engagement has remained at a high level. Adding fresh faces to our community, and making new connections along the way, the 2023-24 committee has worked hard to make it a year to remember (despite the many hiccups that could have derailed it!). Without the unwavering support of our core management group, our members, our volunteers, and university staff, we would not be entering 2025 in such a positive manner. For this I extend my sincere thanks to all involved.

### Remembrance Day 2024

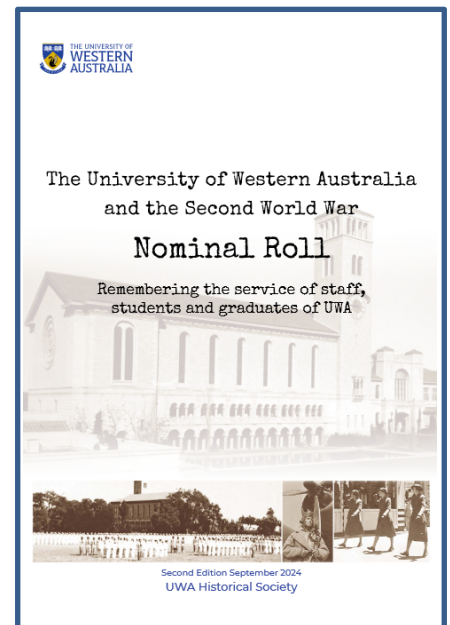
Having coordinated a Remembrance Day service on campus every year since 2018, the UWAHS has successfully built this event into a firm fixture of the university calendar. Beginning modestly, and relying on the time and effort of select volunteers (to name but a few; Fran Pesich, Mihaela Safta, Karen Worrall, Kevin Keneally), it gradually grew in size and complexity. With thought and intention imbued into every small detail that comprises the day, it has been a source of great pride for the Society. Since 2023, discussions have been in place to transfer the organisation of this event to the University, and more specifically to Development and Alumni Relations (DAR). With all parties in agreement that this event deserves special attention, these discussions have progressed and culminated in this year's Remembrance Day arrangements. Jointly hosted by DAR and UWAHS, Kevin Keneally and Marc Tennant have been instrumental in overseeing and assisting with this transition. Securing the future of this event, we are excited to see it continue to flourish in the years to come.

## UWAHS Oral History Program

Following the publication of our booklet based on the Vietnam War interviews last year, and with a short report about to be published in the upcoming issue of *Studies in Oral History*, we have been on the lookout for our next project. Fran Pesich has been in dialogue with Siri Kellner, curator of the Edward de Courcy Clarke Earth Science Museum, about the facilitation of an interview with Jane Balme, daughter of Australia’s leading palynologist, Basil Balme. A successful academic in her own right, her interview would represent the first inter-generational oral history for the UWAHS. We are actively searching for funding. However, the main focus of the oral history program this past year has been to re-home our oral history collection. With UWA’s changing online landscape, we have been in discussions with university staff to place our material on their new website *UWA Collected*. Working in alignment with library staff and Records, Archives & Digitisation Services (RADS), we are moving in a positive direction.

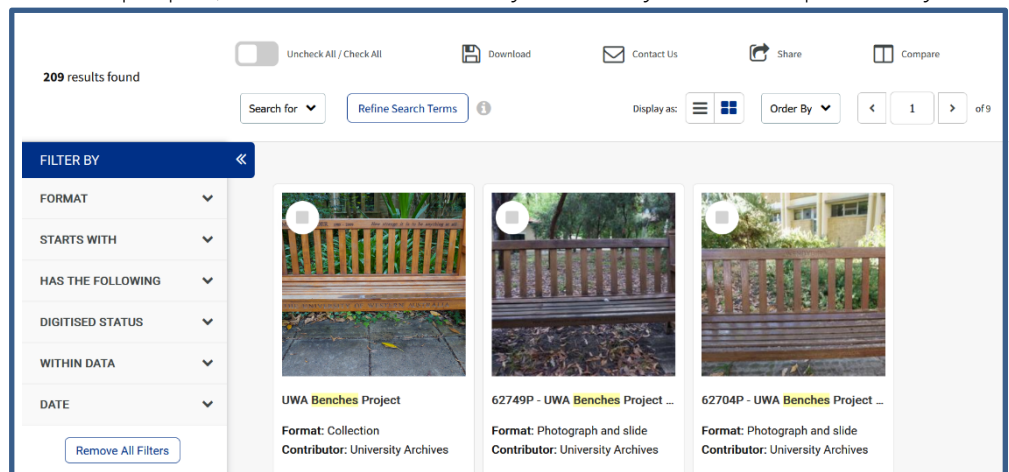
## Nominal Roll Updates and Research

With the success of our WWII Nominal Roll Project, which saw 1,403 names confirmed in the first edition of our publication from 2020, the committee and our volunteers have continued working to keep this list updated and amended as further information has rolled in from the wider community. UWAHS is glad to announce that we now have enough edits to warrant the circulation of a second edition. Convocation Council has kindly funded this initiative. The updated book will be distributed to WA High Schools, just as it was previously. A similar project has been launched with regards to individuals impacted by the First World War. Margo Warburton, Joan Pope, and Kayla Gill have been researching stories and contextual information to supplement the lists they are collating – an ongoing mission that is showing great promise. The creation of a list for the Vietnam War is still in progress. Updated online links for the WWII list will be posted to our new website soon.



## UWA Benches and Plaques

Marc Tennant, Joan Pope, and Margo Warburton (amongst other helpers!) have been working to locate, photograph, and geocode benches and plaques on campus. Tracking down these items has at times proven difficult, but as it stands, the benches have been explored to the fullest and uploaded to *UWA Collected*. With only a few deemed “unlocatable”, UWAHS has been able to contribute these detailed records to the new digital museum. In relation to the plaques, the task is still underway – and only further complicated by the tricky question of “what constitutes a plaque”? Activity will continue in this space into next year. A very worthwhile undertaking that will be of significance to RADS.



### UWAHS Website Transfer

In late 2023, UWAHS was notified that its website would be transferring to the new UWA system and that we should prepare for this changeover. Fran Pesich and Marc Tennant have been key to overseeing this process; reviewing what should be retained, removed, updated, and redirected. Assisting UWA staff, with UWAHS' best interests in mind, a complicated migration has been navigated. Providing the Society with the opportunity to more easily edit its own web content, and manage its online presence, our committee members will soon have the chance to partake in training modules. While we have much fine-tuning to do, we are eager to share our new online portal with you at: <http://uwa.au/uwahs>.

### UniPrint Online Store

Warren Kerr, Craig MacKenzie, and Fran Pesich have brokered a deal between UWAHS and UniPrint to set up an online store that will allow us to sell our numerous publications. With plenty of stock in our office-space, generously donated by a range of authors, or created specifically for circulation by UWAHS, this arrangement is an exciting one for us. The prospect of being able to more effectively distribute our books, produced by writers such as Jenny Gregory, John Melville-Jones, Joan Pope, Margo Warburton, Ken Ilett, and Alexandra Ludewig (with more still to be confirmed), has injected new life into the committee and put us in a position to better advertise that which we have been working on. While not yet operational, as this site is still under construction, you will soon be able to browse our selection and even print-on-demand those publications that catch your eye.

### Terry Larder Honorary Membership

A crucial part of the UWA family, Terry Larder has been entertaining staff, students, and the general public on his "Terry Tours" for decades. Acting as the face of the UWA Visitors Centre up until his retirement from the role in 2017, Terry is a walking encyclopedia of the university's history. But moreover, he has been a staunch supporter of the UWAHS for as long as we can all remember. Championing our projects and offering to provide his tours under our banner on a volunteer basis, he represents a branch of the UWAHS that has long deserved more recognition. While not part of the management committee, he is an active member who asks for little and offers a lot. Through his 'amusing anecdotes, fun facts, and sensational stories' the Society has been able to engage with a wide variety of people – both inside and outside the university bubble.\* In this way, Terry has been an invaluable part of the UWAHS, and a cherished part of our community at large. As such, it is with great pleasure that at this year's AGM we will propose that he be made an honorary member of the Society. Straight off the back of a very popular campus walk in April of this year, he has indicated that he is eager to keep operating in service of UWAHS.



## “On the Horizon”

Seeking to push on strong into 2025, the committee already has plans and projects in mind. With tentative internal discussions having taken place during the course of 2024, one of our main goals is to explore the possibility of establishing a “Garden of Remembrance” somewhere on campus. Locations, logistics and funding all need to be considered in depth. In terms of the oral history program, we will still be pursuing funds in order to get the Jane Balme interview to happen. Having opened dialogue with contacts in the mining industry, we will be casting our net wider for financial assistance. In this space, we have also been offered the opportunity by DAR to conduct sessions with Robert French following his stint as Chancellor of UWA. This will be of high priority in the coming months.

Beyond this, we have also begun to strengthen our bond with the Student Guild in order to help draw the attention of like-minded volunteers who might be interested in roles with UWAHS. Currently we are looking for help in running our social media platforms and curating our new website. But so too are we keen to coordinate with students who may be undertaking academic projects on aspects of UWA heritage – whether that be from directions of Architecture, History, Fine Arts or Creative writing. And finally, we are actively searching for assistance in sorting through and cataloguing the archival materials of Ron Bodycoat, former UWAHS President. Any and all are welcome to come and get involved.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support, and look forward to a great year ahead!

**James Stevens**

UWAHS President

8 October 2024

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\* See ‘The “Oracle” calls it a day with a final tour’ - <https://www.news.uwa.edu.au/archive/201702079375/february-2017/oracle-calls-it-day-final-tour/>

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