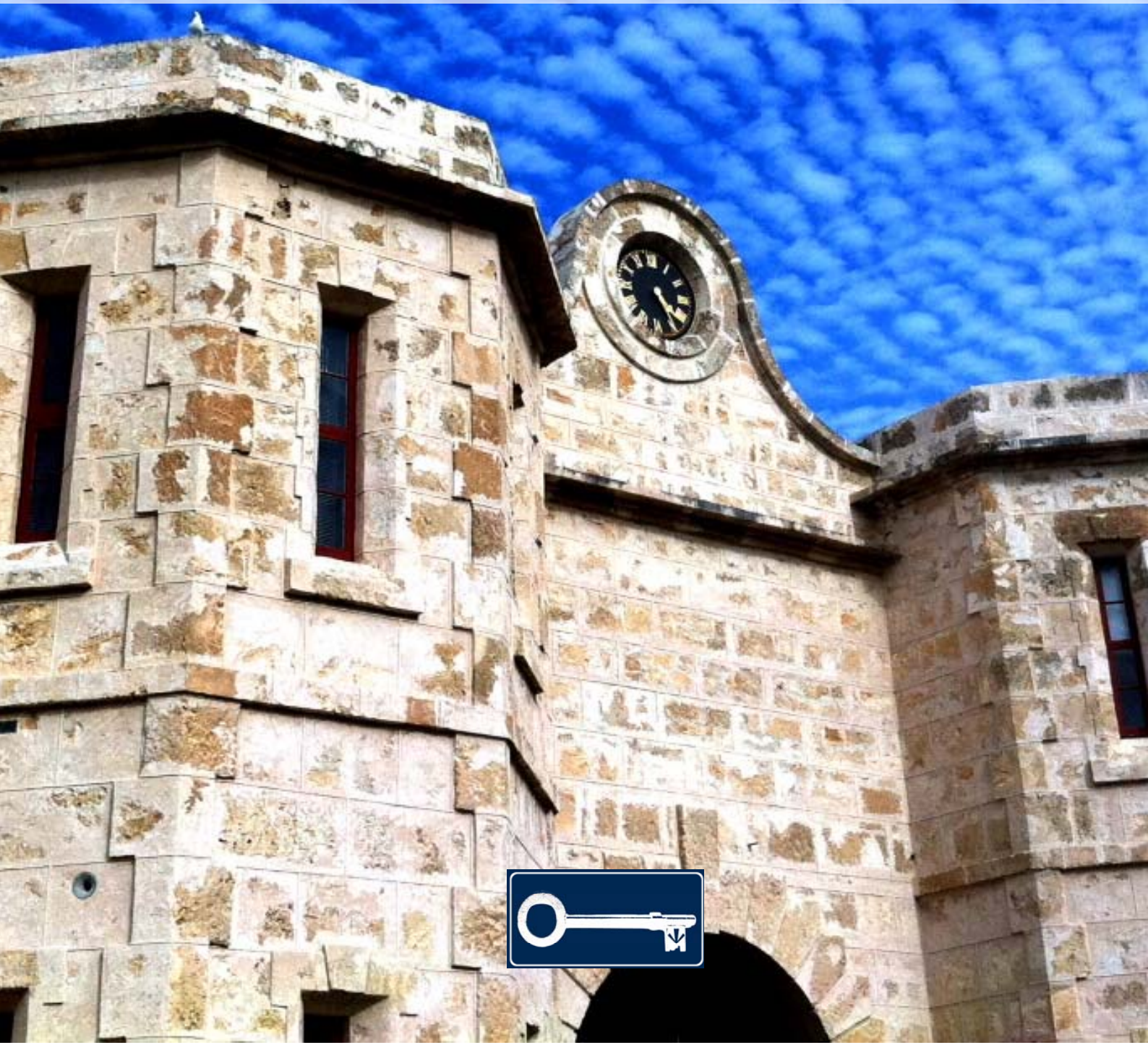


FREMANTLE PRISON
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY CURRICULUM
LINKS FOR YEAR 6
AUSTRALIA AS A NATION



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FREMANTLE PRISON

In 2010 Fremantle Prison, along with 10 other historic convict sites around Australia, was placed on the World Heritage Register for places of universal significance. Collectively known as the Australian Convict Sites these places tell the story of the colonisation of Australia and the building of a nation.

Fremantle Prison is Western Australia's most important historical site. As a World Heritage Site, Fremantle Prison is recognised as having the same level of cultural significance as other iconic sites such as the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China, or the Historic Centre of Rome.

For 136 years between 1855 and 1991 Fremantle Prison was continuously occupied by prisoners. Convicts built the Prison between 1851 and 1859. Initially called the Convict Establishment, Fremantle Prison held male prisoners of the British Government transported to Western Australia. After 1886 Fremantle Prison became the colony's main place of incarceration for men, women and juveniles. Fremantle Prison itself was finally decommissioned in November 1991 when its male prisoners were transferred to the new maximum security prison at Casuarina.

Fremantle Prison was a brutal place of violent punishments such as floggings and hangings. Conditions were primitive - freezing in winter and scorching in summer, infested with cockroaches and rats, the site was lonely and cruel. It housed thousands of prisoners, each with a fascinating story to tell. It was the site of numerous daring escapes and prisoner riots.

Western Australia, as we know it today, would not be here if not for the introduction of convicts to the colony and the construction of Fremantle Prison. For students studying the history of our State and Australia, Fremantle Prison is an essential site of historical investigation.



CURRICULUM LINKS

YEAR 6 – AUSTRALIA AS A NATION

The Year 6 curriculum moves from colonial Australia to the development of Australia as a nation. Students explore the factors that led to Federation and the experiences of democracy and citizenship over time. Students learn about the way of life of people who migrated to Australia and their contribution to Australia's economic and social development.

Fremantle Prison as an institution underwent major changes during this period as it transitioned from a convict prison to a maximum security prison operating as the main prison in the state of Western Australia. Fremantle Prison can be studied as a case study of the broader changes that occurred in the community as the Swan River Colony became the state of Western Australia.

A framework for developing students' historical knowledge, understanding and skills is provided by inquiry questions. The key inquiry questions at this year level are:

- **Why and how did Australia become a nation?**
- **How did Australian society change throughout the twentieth century?**

Fremantle Prison was a key institution in the transition of the Swan River Colony to the State of Western Australia. As the convict era ended in 1886, Fremantle Prison became the major place of incarceration for all sectors of the community, including colonial citizens, women, juveniles, and Aboriginal people. As the colony changed, so too did Fremantle Prison.

- **Who were the people who came to Australia? Why did they come?**

The Gold Rush period saw the population of Western Australia boom as thousands of fortune seekers flocked to the west. Many Chinese and other Asian migrants came to the colony, and many of these, as a result of the inevitable clash of cultures on the goldfields, ended up in Fremantle Prison.

- **What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?**

Fremantle Prison was a site of major change during this period in Australia's history. Evolving attitudes towards issues such as punishment and reform were played out here. Capital punishment began here in 1888, boys as young as 8 were incarcerated here, as well as thousands of Aboriginal people. These issues can be explored by students before, during and after a visit to Fremantle Prison.

HISTORICAL CONCEPTS

Evidence and Significance

Fremantle Prison exhibits an extraordinary power of place. Because it remained operational as a prison until 1991, the site is remarkably intact and authentic. Students visiting the Prison can see first hand what life was like for modern prisoners as well as for convicts 150 years ago. Seeing the original heritage fabric allows students to identify the heritage significance of the site.

Sources

Our tour guides encourage students to ask questions while on tour. In this way are tours focus on an exchange of information rather than a one-way lecture on the Prison's history – our tour guides are sources of information directed by the active inquiry of students.

Continuity and change

On a tour of the Prison students can identify what aspects of the prison system changed over the years and what stayed the same.

Cause and Effect

Our display cells provide a visual example of how changes to cells over the Prison's history were driven by cause and effect.

Perspective

People in the past may have had different points of view about a particular event, depending on their age, gender, social position, beliefs and values etc. Our tour guides tell stories about historical individuals and provide an insight into their differing perspectives.

Empathy

An understanding of the past from the point of view of a particular individual or group, including an appreciation of the circumstances they faced, and the motivations, values and attitudes behind their actions. Students on tour see the real conditions of incarceration and punishment which helps them to empathise with prisoners' experiences.

HISTORICAL INQUIRY

Fremantle Prison is a site of active historical inquiry. Historical research to inform the content of our tours and exhibitions is ongoing. Curators research and manage the Prison's collection which includes colonial and modern-era artefacts, prison clothing, documents, photographs and artworks. Prison historians research the intangible heritage of the site which includes stories of prison life, escapes, riots and punishments. Heritage specialists manage and conserve the Prison's buildings and structures, ensuring that they are preserved for generations to come.

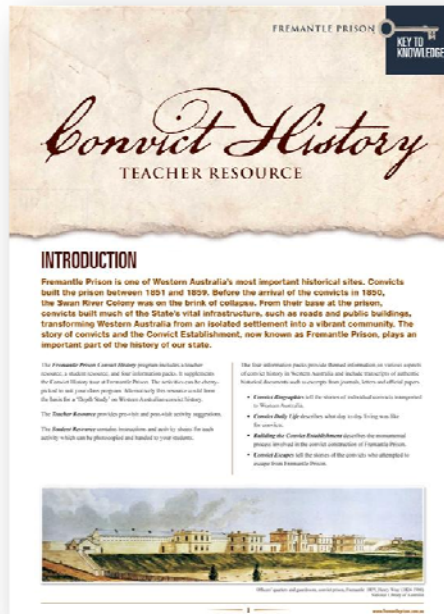
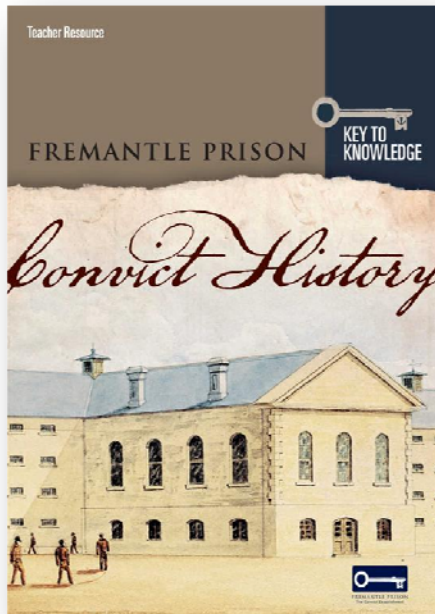
Fremantle Prison has two visitor centres which provide visitors to the site with an introduction to the history of Fremantle Prison and the themes of incarceration. The Convict Depot focuses on the story of the convicts who originally built Fremantle Prison.



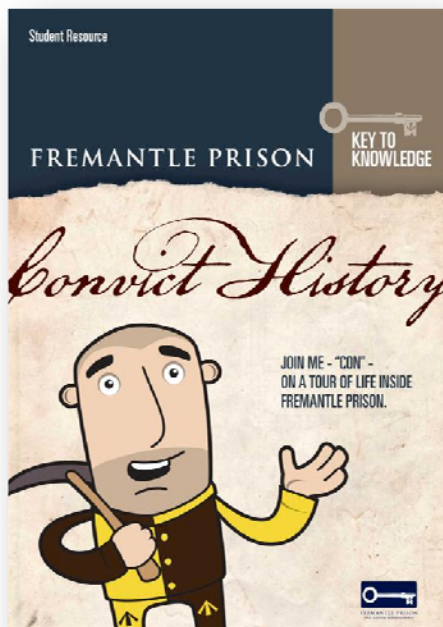
TEACHING RESOURCES

Fremantle Prison's on-line Convict History resources are designed for students studying early colonial or convict history. While these resources focus on the convict-era, many of the pre-visit and post-visit activities can easily be adapted for the Year 6 Curriculum focus areas. The Teacher Resource provides suggested pre-visit and post-visit activities and the Student Resource provides activity and information sheets for students.

These resources are free and downloadable at www.fremantleprison.com.au



The Student Resource provides activity and information sheets for students.



FREMANTLE PRISON

PICTURE COMPARISON

Over the course of time, some things change while others stay the same. Paintings and photographs can show how places change over time.

The watercolour below was painted by Henry Wray in 1859 and shows the prison soon after construction was completed.



Convict Prison, Fremantle 1859, Henry Wray (1824-1900)
National Library of Australia

The photograph below shows the same view of Fremantle Prison in 2008, 149 years later. How has the prison changed over 149 years?



Main Cell Block 2008
Fremantle Prison Collection

PICTURE COMPARISON

Have a close look at the painting and the photograph. Look at the building and the Parade Ground in front. Identify what things you can see in the pictures that have stayed the same and what things have changed.

1859 painting



2008 photograph



What things have changed?

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What has stayed the same?

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What does the painting show about life at Fremantle Prison in 1859?

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Who are the people in the painting and what are they doing?

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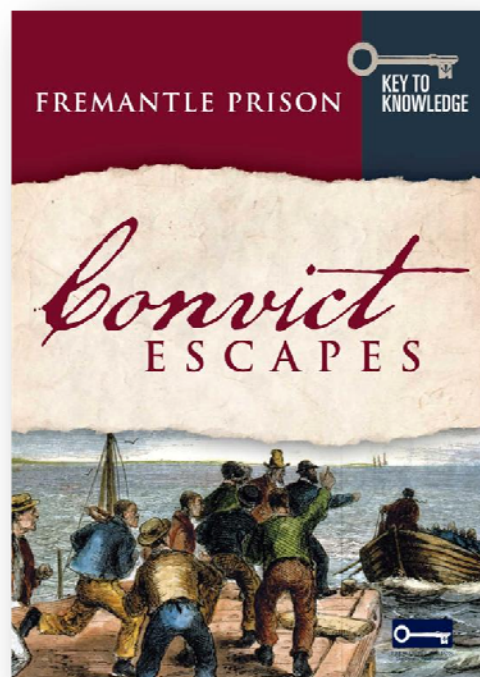
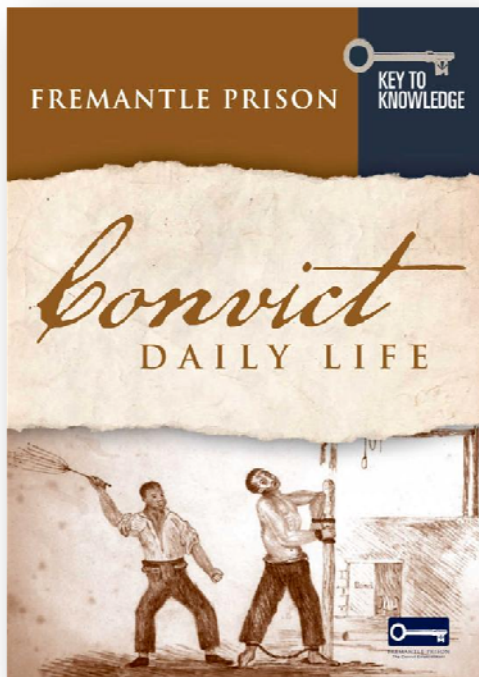
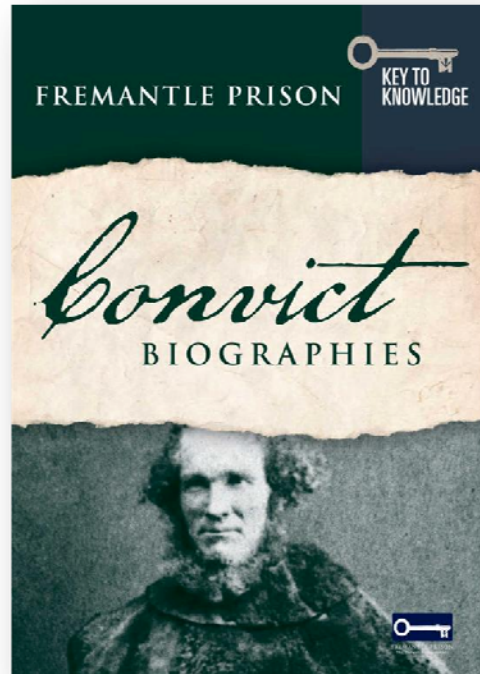
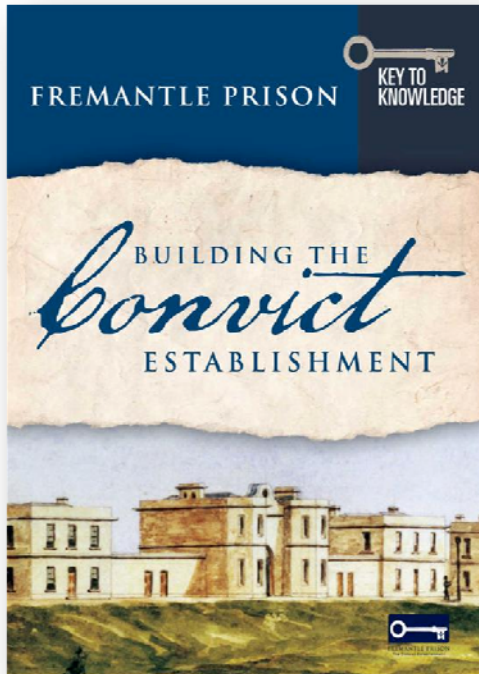
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RESOURCE BOOKLETS

There are four resource booklets that provide supporting information for the student and teacher booklets.



PLANNING A SCHOOL EXCURSION



Put your class behind bars

www.prisonstour.com.au





SCHOOL TOURS

Our tours focus on the history of Fremantle Prison and its role in the development of the Swan River Colony and of the state of Western Australia. Students explore the buildings and cells and discover what life inside was like for convicts and prisoners. Students see the Main Cell Block, punishment cells, the flogging post, the chapels and the morgue.

Our tours are flexible. Tell your tour guide your specific area of interest and your guide will tailor the tour for your students. For example, if your focus is on early convict escapes, your guide will take you to the places of specific escapes from Fremantle Prison.

Make your history lessons come alive.



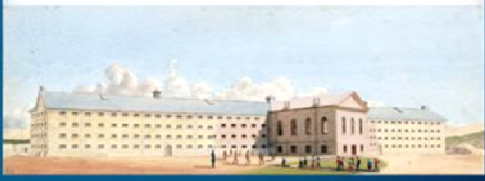
Download your FREE Prison history resources at www.prisonstour.com.au

The Teacher Resource provides suggested pre-visit and post-visit activities. The Student Resource provides activity sheets for students.

- What was life like for convicts in the Swan River Colony?
- How long did it take them to build Fremantle Prison?
- Did any escape?
- How were they punished?

The answers to these questions and more can be found in our Convict History Information Packs.

School tours cost \$6.50 per student and are one hour in duration. Bookings for student groups are essential. Various times are offered throughout the day so there's sure to be a time that suits you. We admit one supervisor free of charge for every ten students. Additional adults are charged at concession price.



Fremantle Prison is fully compliant with the public liability and excursion requirements of the Department of Education and Training.

So what are you waiting for? visit www.prisonstour.com.au to book your class a real life prison experience or call our School Bookings Officer on 08 9336 9210.

Plan your next school excursion? Let Fremantle Prison do the work for you. Fremantle Prison offers 150 years of ideas for the new History curriculum.

Explore the buildings and cells of Fremantle Prison and discover what life was like for a convict transported to the Swan River Colony. Designed specifically for students the Convict History Tour focuses on the early history of Fremantle Prison.

Students will be able to see, hear about, and touch our convict history, and teachers can bring their own convict history lessons to life by integrating them with the Convict History Tour.

Our experienced Tour Guides will show you through our convict cells, punishment cells, the flogging post, and the morgue. The tour also features famous convict characters such as Moondyne Joe and the Fenians. Simply tell your Tour Guide your area of interest on the day of your tour.

Fremantle Prison school tours are designed to support learning outcomes in the Society and Environment learning area and are complemented by online educational resources geared to the Curriculum Framework.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Looking at planning your next school excursion? Look no more. Fremantle Prison is a fantastic location for your next school excursion. You can choose from a standard Prison Day Tour or a Convict History Tour.

All the information you need to know is right here....

School Tour Details

Departs: Daily at 9.45am, 10.15am, 10.30am, 11.45am, 1.00pm, 2.15pm, 3.30pm, 4.45pm, or 5.15pm - subject to availability

Tour length: 1 hour

Tour cost: \$7.00 per student. One teacher/supervisor free per 10 students. Additional adults are charged at concession price.

Audio guides available: Japanese, French, German, Korean, Mandarin and English

Bookings are essential. Minimum two to three weeks notice preferred. Bookings can be made by telephone 08 9336 9210, email (schoolbookings@fremantleprison.com.au) or by completing the online request form available here.

(Please note, the Online Request Form may take a few minutes to download. You may wish to save a copy to your desktop or refresh your screen if it does not load quickly)

Group Size

Fremantle Prison's Tour Guides can take a maximum of 35 people per group for Prison Tours or Torchlight Tours. Please note, these maximum numbers include supervisors and carers. If you have more students we will split them into multiple groups - with tours departing at the same time.

Tunnels Tours can accommodate a maximum of 13 people per group and participants must be age 12 and over.

To make a booking or for further information please phone 08 9336 9210, email schoolbookings@fremantleprison.com.au or complete our online School Booking Request Form.

On Tour Discipline

Our Tour Guides are committed to providing all students with the best possible experience from their visit to Fremantle Prison.

As each group has its own objectives for the visit and ground rules for student conduct, we ask that one of the teachers or helpers accompany the Tour Guide throughout the tour to help us make sure that the information presented is targeted to your educational needs and to bring the group to order when necessary.

Supervisor Ratio

At least one supervisor must accompany every tour. As per the above information, our Tour Guides can take a maximum of 35 people per group for Prison Tours or Torchlight Tours.

One supervisor per 10 students on Prison Day Tours or Torchlight Tours will be permitted entry free of charge. Additional supervisors will incur a fee equal to the concession rate. Supervisor policy is not part-thereof.

Certificate of Currency

Fremantle Prison holds Public Liability Insurance to the value of \$250,000,000.00. A copy of the current Certificate of Currency can be downloaded.

Safety and Emergency Information

Fremantle Prison is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all visitors. The following information pertains specifically to school groups.

- Prior to and on completion of the tour all students must be supervised by teachers / helpers.
- One teacher / helper to accompany the tour guide throughout the tour to ensure that the information presented is targeted to educational needs and to bring the group to order when necessary
- During the tour a guide will accompany the students at all times. Fremantle Prison guides are trained in processes relevant to emergency evacuation procedures and medical emergencies. All guides carry radios for immediate communication.
- At the start of each tour visitors are provided with safety information.
- Torches are provided to all guests for Torchlight Tours.
- Emergency throughways are kept clean and clear of safety and fire hazards. All emergency lighting is fully operational to AS 2293. All emergency exit signage is operational.

SUGGESTED PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

In terms of preparing students for a visit to Fremantle Prison, a useful pre-visit activity would be to run a simple Five Ws and an H exercise to focus students on what they plan to learn from their visit. In small groups students list possible questions focussed around the theme of their visit. Ideally their questions should link back to one or more of the key inquiry questions from the Australian History Curriculum for year 6:

- **Why and how did Australia become a nation?**
- **How did Australian society change throughout the twentieth century?**
- **Who were the people who came to Australia? Why did they come?**
- **What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australia society?**

Questions are grouped into five Ws and an H. These questions then form the focus of their visit to Fremantle Prison and are used to direct the tour guides tour.

What do I want to know?

WHAT?

WHO?

WHEN?

WHERE?

WHY?

HOW?

Write a question you can ask the tour guide on your trip to Fremantle Prison.

FREMANTLE PRISON HISTORICAL OVERVIEW – COLONIAL AND POST-COLONIAL ERAS

CONVICT SYSTEM ENDS 1886

When the transportation of convicts to Western Australia ceased in 1868, 3158 convicts remained in the system, most of whom were working in the colony on tickets of leave. Fremantle Prison remained under administration of the British Government and the system continued to operate for another 18 years.

By 1884 only 63 prisoners populated Fremantle Prison, aging ex-convicts and serial re-offenders. By this stage the prison was a mostly empty complex, quiet but for the sounds of a few remaining angry and bitter men. The British Government, reluctant to continue paying for Fremantle Prison, decided to hand the Prison over to the colony. On 31 March 1886 Fremantle Prison was transferred to the Colonial Government, bringing an end to 36 years of convict history in Western Australia.

PERTH GAOL CLOSURES AND FREMANTLE PRISON BECOMES COLONY'S MAIN PRISON IN 1888

The colony did not need two large prisons. On 31 March 1888 the Perth Gaol was officially closed. Its 54 male and 12 female prisoners were transferred to Fremantle Prison which became the colony's main prison. Perth Gaol only stood empty for a year before it became the site of the Western Australian Museum.

NEW PRISONERS

By 14 April 1888 all of the prisoners from Perth Gaol were transferred to Fremantle Prison, which then became the state's main place of incarceration for men, women and children. Originally designed as a convict barracks, Fremantle Prison was transformed into a maximum security prison holding a more complex and violent criminal class. Subsequently the Prison's population boomed.

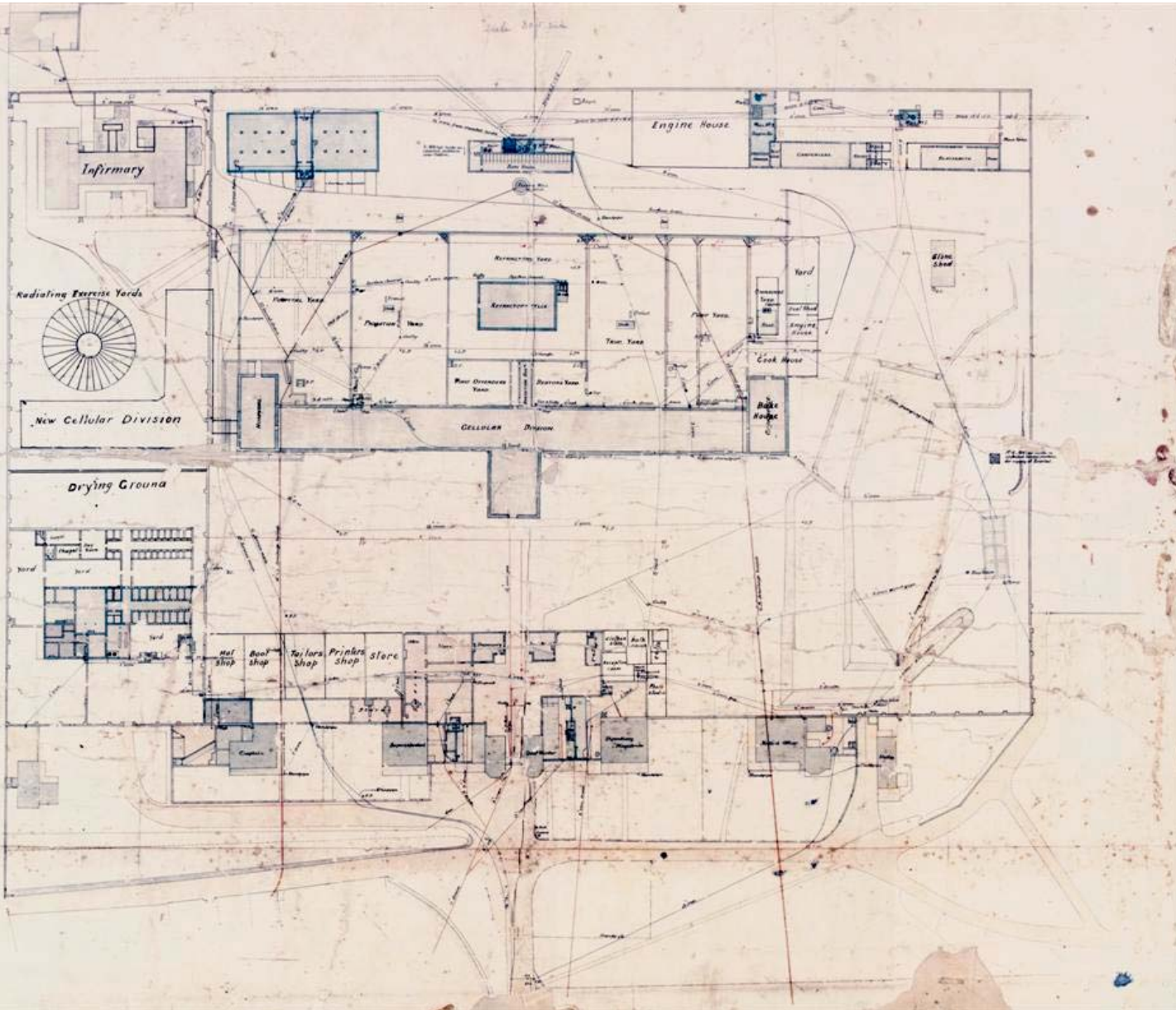
Deeming it unwise to place the female prisoners in the main cell block with the male prisoners the prison hospital was temporarily converted into the women's division while a permanent female division was constructed.

While the number of boys kept at Fremantle was small (for example, in 1893 there were only two boys incarcerated at Fremantle), nonetheless they had to be kept separate from the adult prisoners for fear of sexual abuse.

Up until 1903 Aboriginal prisoners were sent to the Aboriginal prison on Rottnest Island. However, during the 1880s a small number of Aboriginal men were kept at Fremantle Prison. They were kept separate from the other prisoners and they mostly served short sentences.

Finally, penal prisoners (men originally transported to Western Australia) remaining at Fremantle Prison tended to be paupers and old men who had nowhere else to go.

The remaining majority of prisoners were adult white men, colonial prisoners sentenced to hard labour for serious crimes. The different categories of prisoners including men, women, Aboriginal men, juveniles, ex-convicts and invalids, penal and colonial prisoners, caused major logistical problems at the prison, specifically to do with segregation and the different levels of security required for different classes of prisoner.



Plan of Fremantle Prison 1887
Fremantle Prison Collection

RETURN OF PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT - FREMANTLE PRISON 31 DECEMBER 1893¹	
PRISONERS	NUMBER
Undergoing Penal Servitude	35
Undergoing Hard Labour	85
Paupers (ex-convicts) under medical treatment at hospital	5
Ticket-of-Leave Holders out of Employment	3
Juvenile Male Prisoners	2
Debtors	1
Aboriginal Male Prisoners	3
Female Prisoners Undergoing Hard Labour	12
TOTAL	146

GOLD RUSH

After decades of geological exploration, a rich field of gold was finally discovered in Coolgardie on 17 September 1892. The colony exploded with an influx of fortune seekers. During the 1890s the population of the colony rose from 48,502 to 179,967 people.

Life on the goldfields was characterised by squalor, greed and crime. Water was in short supply and outbreaks of typhoid, scurvy and dysentery were common. Crime rates soared as rivalry between prospectors and the bitterness of failure pushed men towards violence.

Fremantle Prison was never the same again. In 1890, 452 adult male prisoners passed through the Prison. By 1900 that annual figure had increased to 1,511.

Originally convicts slept in the prison and spend their days on work parties outside the prison gates. As prisoner numbers increased there was no associated increase in staffing levels of warders. It became impractical and unsafe to have large numbers of prisoners working outside. From the 1890s onwards Fremantle Prison faced issues with keeping large numbers of inmates on the inside and providing them with meaningful employment, particularly in a prison never designed to be inhabited during the day. Many of the issues were to do with conflict between the different prisoner groups, including different racial groups, most notably whites, Aboriginals, and Asians.

AN INHARMONIOUS PRISON

With the increase in the number of prisoners in Fremantle Prison came an associated increase in insubordination, criminal activity inside prison, and escape attempts. In 1897 Superintendent William George ordered the height of the perimeter walls be increased.

¹ Ibid, p. 36.

In January 1898, after three escapes in four days, the *West Australian* commented that ‘Gaol breaking is becoming a common occurrence at Fremantle.’² High-risk prisoners were put to the hard and monotonous work in the pump yard of turning the pump to fill the East Reservoir.

Superintendent George’s annual report in 1898 summarized the prison’s main weaknesses:

- the prison buildings were inadequate
- there were insufficient staff
- there were too many prisoners
- the system of prisoner employment was inadequate
- the general character of the prisoners at this time represented a greater threat to security than previous stages of the prison’s history.

These issues and more were the subjects of a Royal Commission into Prisons from 1898-1899, appointed to investigate the Penal System of the Colony.

SECONDARY PUNISHMENT

As the number of inmates rose, the number of infractions resulting in secondary punishment such as restricted diet, time in the Refractory block, hard labour in chains, or flogging, also increased. But more significantly, the proportion of punishments per capita of the prison population also increased. In 1890, there were 101 sentences of secondary punishment across that year’s population of 583 prisoners. In other words, 17% of prisoners in that year received secondary punishment of some form. In 1894 that figure rose to 20%, and in 1898 it rose again to 26%. This increase in prisoner misbehavior pointed to a growing sense of prisoner discontent with the penal system in an age when the ethics of prisons and punishment were being seriously questioned in society.

ESCAPES

One of the most notable escapes from Fremantle Prison occurred in 1887. While excavating the East Reservoir, two prisoners, Tom Hughes and James Jarvis, overpowered their guard and stole his shotgun. Aiming the gun at the other prisoners, Hughes ordered them to raise a long plank against the perimeter wall. The two escapees climbed the plank and dropped over the other side.

A man hunt involving aboriginal trackers and police eventually caught the escaped prisoners in Bassendean. On his return to Fremantle Prison, Hughes was sentenced to 36 lashes from the cat o’ nine tails and three years hard labour in the pump yard in leg irons. Jarvis was let off lightly with only three months hard labour added to his sentence.

² *West Australian*, 4 January 1899.

EXECUTIONS

Prior to 1888 most executions in the colony occurred at the Perth Gaol. Hangings were open to public view until 1869 when, after a number of complaints from local residents, the execution yard at Perth Gaol was walled in.

After the closure of Perth Gaol in 1888, Fremantle Prison became the only site of legal executions in Western Australia. Between 1889 and 1964, 44 prisoners were hanged at Fremantle Prison, 43 men and one woman. During its first four years of operation, seven men were executed in the gallows. All were convicted of murder.

1898 ROYAL COMMISSION

By 1898 it was clear to people both inside and outside Fremantle Prison that there were serious problems with the prison system and the treatment of prisoners. A member of the Legislative Assembly, Charles Vosper, began agitating for a Royal Commission into Fremantle Prison. In particular he was vocal in his criticism of Superintendent George, challenging the man's credibility in the *Sunday Times*:

*Do you consciously consider that a man wield the autocratic power that Mr. W.A. George is allowed to with impunity, ably seconded by the herde of illiterate and brutal warders, most of them, like himself, the product of the most iniquitous convict system on earth, is a proper person to have absolute domain on the lives and liberty of men?*³

He alleged that secondary punishments for prisoners were too severe, citing the examples of leg-irons, dark cells, and flogging. He stated that the sanitation was bad, the food poor, and the system of remissions chaotic.⁴ He was particularly critical of the policy of having prisoners engaged in the pump yard pumping water into the East Reservoir:

*Sixty or seventy prisoners are engaged on pumping which could be done by a dozen men; but there is no other work available in the walls. ... If other forms of labour were employed the engine could do all the pumping work.*⁵

Western Australian society had reached the point where people felt the prison should be focused less on punishment and more on the reform of prisoners. As the main voice of reformation, Vosper put-forward the motion to the Legislative Assembly on 6 July 1898 that:

*A Royal Commission be appointed (with power to call for persons and papers), to inquire into the existing condition of the penal system of Western Australia, and to report to this House upon the method now in vogue for the punishment of criminals, the classification of the same, the sanitary conditions of Fremantle Gaol ... also into the manner in which convicts are employed both inside and outside of places of detention.*⁶

³ *Sunday Times*, 17 April 1898.

⁴ Thomas, J.E. and Stewart, A. *Imprisonment in Western Australia*, University of Western Australia Press 1978, p. 50.

⁵ *Report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the Penal System of the Colony*, WAPP, V. 1, 1899, Evidence from W.A.George, p. 55

⁶ *Western Australian Parliamentary Debates*, Vol. 12 6 July 1898, p. 303

The commission met eighty times and received 240 witness accounts from a wide variety of people including Vosper himself, Superintendent George, the Inspector of Prisons J.B. Roe, the police, warders and other prison staff, and prisoners.

The overall picture revealed by the Royal Commission was that the operating prison system was archaic and in desperate need of renewal.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION

Among the key recommendations of the Royal Commission included the abolition of flogging as a secondary punishment at Fremantle Prison, the abolition of the dark cells which were described as 'a relic of barbarism', the abolition of irons and the crank in the pump yard. Another recommendation was that boys under the age of sixteen and girls under the age of eighteen should not be sent to Fremantle Prison.

A major recommendation of the commission, quickly adopted by the prison, was that a system of proper classification of prisoners be introduced. The Main cell Block was divided into four divisions:

- Division one - debtors, trials and remands, and juveniles
- Division two - first offenders with short sentences, petty thieves, drunkards and vagrants
- Division three - long-sentenced and habitual offenders
- Division four - cooks, bakers, cleaners and orderlies⁷

The other major recommendation was that the cells be enlarged and the ventilation improved by removing the walls between each successive single cell. The West Workshops were constructed in 1900 to house new trades such as shoe-making, tailoring and book-binding to provide more work for inmates.

FEDERATION

Despite the forward thinking ideas espoused by the commission, many of its key reforms were not immediately taken up by the prison administration. The major reason for the lack of interest in the findings of the Royal Commission was that Western Australians had at that time an even greater major change taking place around them. In May, the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900* was passed by the British Parliament, and was signed by Queen Victoria on 9th July 1900. The Act declared that on 1st January 1901, the colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania would be united and known as the 'Commonwealth of Australia'. In August 1900 a referendum was held, and the people of Western Australia voted to join the Commonwealth.

In this way Australia became a united federation. For prisoners in Fremantle Prison, the following century saw many major and fundamental changes. In other areas however there was very little change at all.

⁷ Georgiou, N. *Work and Reform in Fremantle Prison 1989-1912*, History Research Essay, University of Western Australia, 1995.



View of Main Cell Block from the South Knoll c1911
Fremantle Prison Collection

A PERIOD OF REFORM – FREMANTLE PRISON DURING THE 1910s

Despite major changes to prison structure and operations in the latter years of the 19th century and the recommendations of the 1898 Royal Commission, Fremantle Prison remained a 19th century anachronism well into the 20th century. As far as conditions for prisoners and prison officers went, there had been few improvements since the prison had been constructed by convicts 50 years earlier.

ROYAL COMMISSION 1911

In 1911 a Royal Commission was set up to investigate a series of complaints made by prison officers regarding alleged poor work conditions. Captain Pennefather, Comptroller-General of Prisons in Queensland was appointed to investigate.

Pennefather interviewed 55 prison officials and 14 prisoners, and he inspected the prison buildings in the company of the medical officer and the acting superintendent.⁸ As had many reports before, Pennefather condemned the physical state of Fremantle Prison, in particular the Female Division, and called for the construction of a new penal establishment. The old

⁸ Ibid.

buildings, he stated, were 'badly constructed and badly ventilated,' and did 'not appeal to one as being adapted to the application of modern prison principles.'⁹

Regarding the prisoners the Royal Commission made a major recommendation that was to have 'a considerable impact on the future of the Western Australian prison system,'¹⁰ that being the reintroduction of the Mark's System which had been in operation during the convict-era but was abolished in 1865. This system which allowed prisoners to accumulate points for good behaviour led to the re-introduction of 'indeterminate sentences' whereby prisoners had the possibility of reducing their sentences and achieving early parole.

Apart from his call for the closure of Fremantle Prison, many of Pennefather's recommendations were accepted by the system. This was due largely to good timing, more than anything else, as the report's tabling in parliament coincided with a major changing of the guard at Fremantle Prison, with new administrators being receptive to modernising and reforming the prison system.

THE REFORMER VERSUS THE PUNISHER

After running Fremantle Prison since before the turn of the century, Superintendent W. A. George retired in 1911. George was a conservative administrator who focussed on security and prisoner discipline. He had raised the prison's perimeter walls in 1898 and brought to an end the practice of prisoners working outside the prison. His replacement Hugh Hann was an energetic and imaginative administrator who came into the role with an agenda to overhaul and modernise the prison system. During the next few years a number of significant reforms and changes occurred at Fremantle Prison.

⁹ *West Australian*, editorial 10 May 1911.

¹⁰ Stewart, Alex, *Imprisonment in Western Australia*, University of Western Australia Press, 1978, p. 84.



Superintendent Hugh Hann, c unknown

Superintendent Hann's annual report for 1912 details a number of significant improvements to the prison including the introduction of games for prisoners. This indicated an understanding of the importance of leisure activities for prisoner morale. Prisoner clothing was now treated in a disinfecting room, a vegetable garden on the south terraces had been established, and international correspondence school courses had been introduced. Hann implemented changes to prisoner uniforms including the removal of any visible prison marking on the uniforms, the addition of collars on shirts and the issuing of ties, hairbrushes, hand mirrors and razors. 'All our efforts at reform,' he concluded, 'are thrown away unless we

can make them feel that they are not mere brutes and get them to hold their heads up again like men.’¹¹

The 1913 report indicated the continuing project of enlarging the cells by knocking out every second wall. An attempt to eradicate vermin in the prison was made by injecting acid into the walls. The vegetable garden established the previous year had produced 21 687 pounds of vegetables and a second garden was created where ‘prisoners could sit, talk and read’.¹² The Female Division had been improved with the addition of a visiting room, a reception room and a bath.

In December 1915 Hann ordered his staff to issue ham, eggs and cigarettes to the prisoners and to hang up Christmas decorations in the Main Cell Block. Prisoners were served their Christmas meal on plates rather than the usual eating tins. Also provided were basins, knives and forks. The meal was a success and from this point on plates, knives and forks became standard for mealtimes.



Christmas decoration in the Main Cell Block, Fremantle Prison 1916
Fremantle Local History Collection

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

In 1913 prisoners were given the privilege of having pens and paper in their cells. Education classes were extended to include shorthand and language studies.

Hann believed that the object of prison was to reform. His approach to prison discipline came under criticism by those in the government and the general community who believed that the object of prison was to punish. People felt that under Hann's administration, Fremantle Prison was becoming too easy on its prisoners. The easing of discipline led to an inevitable weakening of security and during Hann's regime the number of escape attempts began to rise. In 1918 a Board of Enquiry was set up by the Public Service Commission to investigate the rise in escapes. On April 5 it was reported in *the West Australian* newspaper that Hann had been found to be negligent in the discharge of his duties as well as incompetent, and had been suspended from duties.¹³

Although an investigation by the Public Service Commissioner into the charges laid against Hann led to his total exoneration, he was to retire soon after because of ill-health. Despite receiving little recognition or accolades for his reformatory influence on the prison system by his contemporaries, in retrospect Hann can be considered 'the most important figure in the history of Western Australian prisons since the convict period.'¹⁴

¹³ *West Australian*, 15 April 1918.

¹⁴ Stewart, Alex, *Imprisonment in Western Australia*, University of Western Australia Press, 1978, p. 96.

STORY: TOM HUGHES 1887

The most notable escape of the 1880s occurred in 1887 during the excavation of the East Reservoir near the prison hospital. Thomas Hughes was a desperate character suspected of a number of burglaries in the Fremantle area in early 1887. As two police came across him one night in town he immediately tried to flee. The police took chase. Constable O'Connell grabbed at Hughes as he was climbing through a fence. Hughes turned and fired a gun, killing the unfortunate police officer. Hughes fled and was at large for three months. After a massive manhunt the police caught up with him and Hughes was shot in the leg during a wild shootout.¹⁵ He received a life sentence for manslaughter.

Hughes was put to work at Fremantle Prison with a group of prisoners excavating the East Reservoir. In late November, Hughes and another prisoner named Jarvis planned their escape. James Jarvis' involvement is peculiar considering that at the time of the escape attempt he had only five weeks left to serve on his sentence.

At 9:30am Jarvis climbed from the pit and walked to the tool shed near where a sentry armed with a shotgun watched over the prisoners. Hughes also left the pit and walked in the other direction. As the guard kept his eye on Hughes, Jarvis grabbed him from behind pinning his arms. Hughes ran up and knocked the guard to the ground, wrenching the shotgun from his grasp. Covering both prison officers with the firearm, Hughes herded them to a nearby toilet and locked them inside with the warder's keys.

Training the gun on the other prisoners, Hughes ordered them to raise a large wooden plank against the perimeter wall. It fell just short of the parapet. Jarvis climbed it, gained the top of the wall and dropped over the other side. Hughes followed, but as he reached the top of the plank a prisoner named Green attempted to pull it away from the wall. Hughes raised the shotgun and fired at Green. He missed, but as everyone dived for cover, Hughes gained the top of the wall and dropped over the other side.

Police began tracking the escapees at once, following their tracks over Monument Hill. A manhunt involving more than forty police as well as Aboriginal trackers followed. One hundred pounds reward was offered to any member of the public who helped to capture Hughes.

Mrs Davies came across Hughes in the act of loading his shotgun. He assured her he meant no harm and went on his way.¹⁶ As Hughes and Jarvis passed an old man near the Canning River, Hughes told him, "They will have to put a bullet through Tom Hughes' heart before they will take him."¹⁷ The following day Hughes and Jarvis reached Guilford, broke into a clothing store and stole supplies. The police, rushing to Guilford along the north bank of the Swan River came across the fugitives in Bassendean. Hughes was a skilled bushman - used to roughing it outdoors, but Jarvis was an ex seaman not used to bush life. While on the run his condition had deteriorated rapidly. Hughes stayed with his companion, even to the point of allowing himself to be captured. They gave up without a fight, were handcuffed and escorted back to Perth.¹⁸

¹⁵ Elliot, I. *Moondyne Joe – The man and the myth*, University of Western Australia Press, 1978. p. 105.

¹⁶ Ibid. 106.

¹⁷ *West Australian*, 18 November 1887.

¹⁸ Elliot, I. 1978. p. 106.

Hughes was sentenced to 36 lashes from the cat-o-nine tails for assaulting a prison warder and three years hard labour in irons for the burglary committed in Guildford. This sentence was added to his previous conviction. Jarvis was sentenced to three months hard labour. On 5 May 1888 the West Australian referred to Hughes and Jarvis:

*Since the escape of 'Hughes' and 'Jarvis' precautions have been taken which render escape almost impossible. Hughes is employed in the pump yard and his movements are watched by a sentry who is stationed out of his reach.*¹⁹

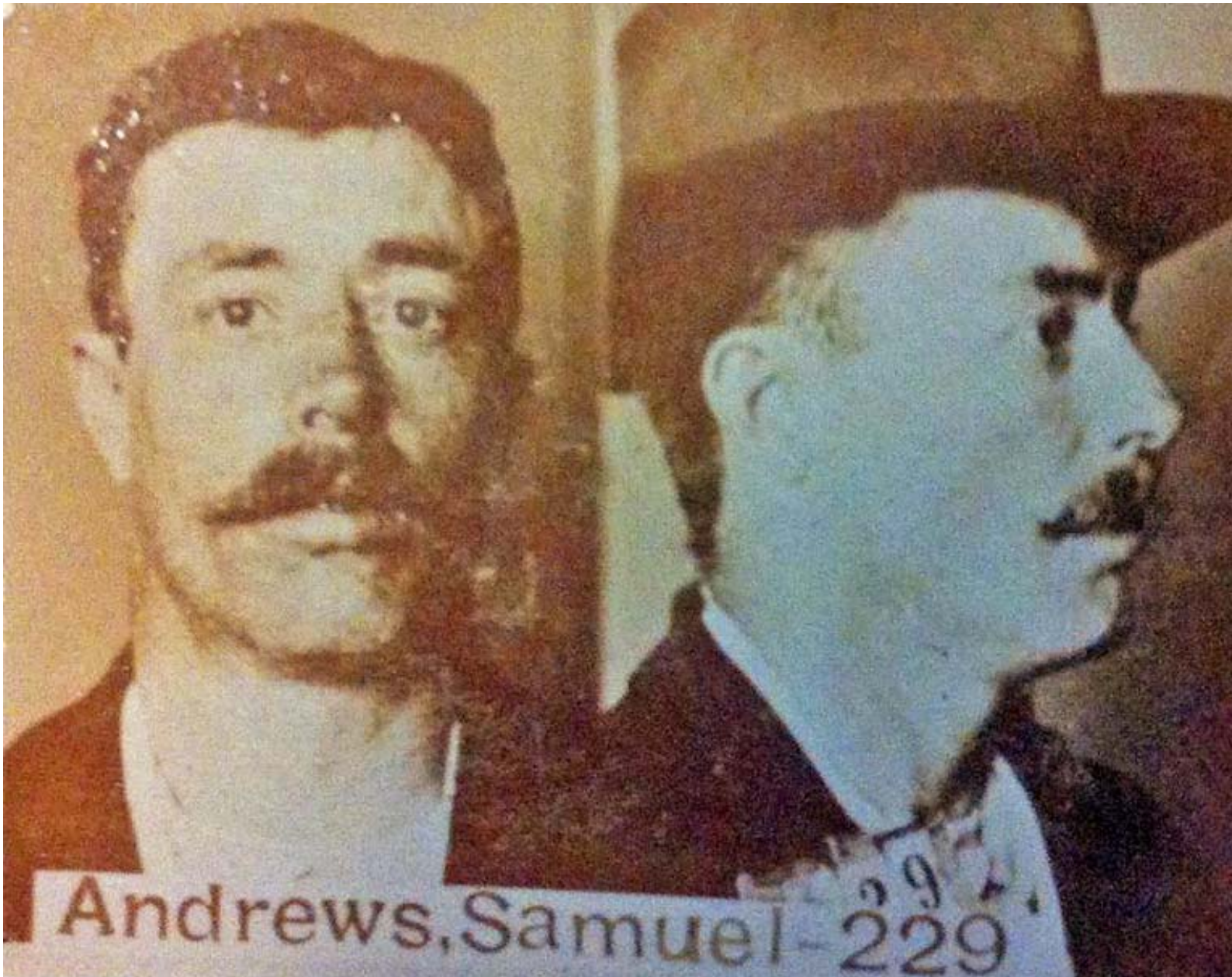
Hughes eventually became a trusted prisoner and gained his ticket of leave on 29 June 1896. He went on to successfully prospect for gold and ended up marrying and settling in the Dwellingup area, south of Perth, where he established an orchard and a saw milling business.

¹⁹ *West Australian* 5 May 1888

STORY - SAMUEL ANDREWS – AN INCORRIGIBLE YOUNG SCAMP!

The information below is about Samuel Andrews, a repeat offender and habitual criminal from an early age. He was first sent to Fremantle Prison in 1889 for three hours where he received 6 strokes of the birch. He was 8 years old. He was the youngest known offender sent to Fremantle Prison.

Samuel Andrews' name appears again and again in the newspapers over the next 20 years. He was birched numerous times, spent 4 years at the Rottnest Island Reformatory until he was 14, and then was in and out of Fremantle Prison continuously.



Samuel Andrews Charge Sheet, Prisoners Register c1903
State Records Office of Western Australia

SAMUEL ANDREWS CHRONOLOGY OF CRIME

30 July 1889	Stole 17 shillings in silver from shop till on High Street
31 July 1889	Three hours imprisonment at Fremantle Prison and 6 strokes with birch. He was 8 years old
11 August 1889	Caught stealing 3 dozen oranges from a 'Chinaman's' shop
15 August 1889	Three hours at Fremantle Prison and 8 strokes of birch
30 December 1889	Charged with attempting to set fire to the Fremantle Town hall. He was 8 years old. Case sent up to the Supreme Court
16 April 1890	Supreme Court sentences Andrews to 14 days imprisonment – On review he was sent to Rottneest Island Reformatory until he was 14. While on Rottneest he received a total of 100 strokes with the birch. Rottneest Island Reformatory opened in 1881 and ran for 20 years until 1901. It was next to the Aboriginal Prison.
4 September 1894	Recently discharged from Rottneest Island Reformatory, convicted of stealing oysters from 'artificial oyster bed in river'. Imprisoned for one hour and received 24 strokes of birch. All imprisonments after this point were at Fremantle Prison.
3 November 1894	Charged with stealing items from shop on Pakenham Street. Sentenced to 36 strokes of birch.
10 January 1895	Charged at Fremantle Police Court with two counts of larceny. Sentenced to 36 strokes of the birch. Magistrate Fairbairn advises Samuel's father to "get the young good-for-nothing aboard some ship."
20 January 1896	Charged with stealing bag of lucerne, from railway yards. Received 24 strokes of birch.
3 August 1896	Andrews with two companions charged with assaulting a vagrant, George Taphier. Andrews received 12 strokes of birch. Taphier charged with vagrancy and received 6 months imprisonment
22 August 1896	Cautioned for using abusive language towards a Greek.
8 January 1897	Fined 5 shillings by Fremantle Police Court for 'driving round street corners at a faster pace than a walk.'

16 January 1897	Caught plying for hire without a licence – ordered to pay 3 shillings
6 June 1899	Charged with assembling with others for an unlawful purpose. Sentenced to 3 months hard labour. Judge – “You seem an incorrigible young scamp. It is hard to know how to deal with you.”
29 June 1901	Apprehended in Kalgoorlie on a warrant from Fremantle, charged with stealing 55 bottles from Port Brewery.
8 August 1901	Andrews appears before the court. He states he was with his sister at the time of the alleged crime. His sister Mary Andrews gives corroborative evidence. Jury unable to reach a verdict.
1 January 1902	Andrews and a large number of youths were charged with disturbing the peace. Early in the morning on New Year’s Day they were kicking kerosene tins around High Street. Andrews was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment with hard labour.
7 October 1904	Andrews charged with housebreaking and receiving stolen property, a gold bangle, a gold scarf-pin, and a razor. Judge read a list of 19 previous convictions from 31 July 1889 to 19 September 1904. Noted that on Rottneest Island Reformatory he received a total of 100 strokes of the birch. Andrews was 23.
8 October 1904	Sentenced to 2 years imprisonment with hard labour. Andrews laughs and shakes hands with himself.
7 July 1906	Sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for breaking into a pub and stealing food.
14 July 1908	Sentenced to 5 months in prison for stealing two suits from Spiros Nicola.
30 March 1909	Charged with being a rogue and vagabond, living on the proceeds of immorality - Perth Court. Sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with hard labour.
28 February 1910	Sentenced to 6 months imprisonment for stealing 800 chaff bags and a quantity of corn sacks and flour bags.
16 November 1910	Andrews, then 28 years old, and two companions, Thomas Roberts and a woman called Florence Redpath, were charged with indecently assaulting a woman, Maud Lipshut and stealing her property, including a gold brooch, and gold wedding ring, a pair of gold earrings, and other items.

Andrews knew Lipshut. He offered to give her a lift into town on his dray (horse and carriage), which she accepted. Redpath told Lipshut that she and Samuel Andrews “were married”. Lipshut soon noticed that they were taking her out of her way. When she protested they went to a hotel in Maylands and told her, “have one drink with us and we will take you to your friends.” After leaving the hotel they took her to bushland in Maylands. There Lipshut was assaulted and robbed.

Lipshut warned her attackers “I will make trouble with the police for you this day.” Roberts then threatened her, “If you use those words, I will throttle you and leave you in the bush.”

Lipshut then escaped and ran to a nearby house for help.

After a three day hearing, Andrews and his companions were found not guilty. Maud Lipshut was a married woman estranged from her husband. She had a record of minor crimes from when she lived in the north of the state.

After this point there is no record of Samuel Andrews appearing in the public record (that I can find). Perhaps after narrowly escaping conviction for what was a serious crime he decided to move interstate, although there is no record of him anywhere else in Australia. It also seems unlikely that with his criminal record, he suddenly went straight.

FREMANTLE PRISON TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
1788	First Fleet arrives Port Jackson
1819 - 1821	Bigge Inquiry - Recommends stricter convict system
1827	Captain James Stirling explores Swan River area Stirling recommends establishment a colony at the Swan River
25 April 1829	<i>HMS Challenger</i> captained by Charles Fremantle arrives Cockburn Sound
1 June 1829	<i>HMS Parmelia</i> captained by Stirling arrives Cockburn Sound
12 August 1829	Foundation of Perth
1837-1838	Molesworth Committee - Recommends abolishment of transportation
1840	Transportation to NSW ends
1842 – 1849	Western Australia accepts 234 Parkhurst Apprentices
1843 – 1844	Economic depression effects colony
1846	York Agricultural Society petitions Legislative Council for colony to accept convicts
6 November 1849	Swan River colony officially becomes a penal settlement
1 June 1850	<i>Scindian</i> arrives Fremantle with first convicts In the first year of transportation, 4 ships unload 676 convicts
18 December 1851	Captain Henry Wray and Twentieth Company of Royal Engineers arrive Fremantle on the <i>Anna Robertson</i>
1853	Transportation to Van Dieman's Land ends
1 June 1855	Convicts move from temporary establishment to main cell block
1856	Select Committee on Transportation investigates transportation to colony
2 January 1858	Henry Wray leaves the colony
1859	Fremantle population is 2946
15 April 1859	Superintendent Dixon suspended – flees colony in July
December 1859	Construction of Convict Establishment officially completed
28 February 1862	Governor Hampton replaces Governor Kennedy
December 1862	Comptroller-General Henderson resigns and departs colony
1863	Captain Newland replaces Henderson as Comptroller-General
30 March 1863	Warder Johns refuses order to give convict Own Duffy 100 lashes. He is relieved from duty
1864	Frequency of floggings at prison increases rapidly Government House completed using convict labour

1865	Fremantle Lunatic Asylum completed, built with convict labour
1866	George Hampton replaces Newland as Acting Comptroller-General Fremantle (Stick) Bridge completed using convict labour
5 September 1866	Inquirer refers to 'severity of punishment' at the prison and is highly critical of George Hampton
1867	Convict Establishment renamed Fremantle Prison
March 1867	George Hampton abolishes Board of Magistrates, removing prisoners' means of redress
1868	Transportation of convicts to colony ends with arrival of the last convict transport <i>Hougoumont</i> Upper southern association ward converted to prison schoolroom
2 November 1868	Governor Hampton resigns and departs colony
31 March 1886	Fremantle prison handed over to colonial authorities and becomes colonial prison
1888	Gallows constructed
14 April 1888	Transfer of prisoners from Perth Gaol to Fremantle Prison completed
1889	Jimmy Long first man hanged at Fremantle Prison
1893	Gold strikes at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie
1897	Superintendent George orders height of perimeter walls to be increased in response to escape attempts
1898	Royal Commission into Prison System
1899	Royal Commission recommends abolition of dark cells and leg irons at Fremantle Prison, enlargement of cells and division of main cell block
1900	West Workshops constructed
August 1900	Western Australian vote to join the Commonwealth
1 January 1901	Federation of states