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Call out for artefacts to grow Fremantle Prison Collection

- Fremantle Prison has a diverse collection of 12,000 items that span the Prison's operational life from 1851 through to 1991
- The Prison is calling for donated artefacts to enrich its museum collection

Fremantle Prison is calling for donations of artefacts to grow the Prison's collection and encourage the return of objects with a connection to the Fremantle Prison site.

The Fremantle Prison Collection is diverse, comprising approximately 12,000 items, including photographs, documents, furnishings, artworks, tools, clothing and textiles, institutional paraphernalia, letters, weapons and archaeological material.

The Collection spans the entirety of the Prison's operational life, from the beginning of construction in 1851 through to 1991 when the Prison was decommissioned and closed.

It includes items of varying significance from ones with international and national heritage value, to others that tell a local story.

"I am convinced there is a wealth of artefacts out in the community that would enrich the Fremantle Prison Collection, as evidenced by the recent discovery and donation of a rare Ticket-of Leave document," Paula Nelson, Director Fremantle Prison said.

Fremantle Prison will be holding two donation 'open days' during which people can bring their items and discuss the donation and care of the items with the Prison's curatorial team.

"The call-out is also an opportunity for people connected with the Prison's history to donate or return objects that are relevant to the Collection and tell their associated stories.

"By donating objects to the Fremantle Prison Collection, donors ensure these valuable pieces of WA's history will be accessible to the community and looked after for the benefit of future generations," Mrs Nelson said.

The first open day is planned for Friday 18 May on International Museum Day, and the second on Saturday 26 May, as part of the Fremantle Heritage Festival, from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

(ends)