



One hundred years ago, on 10 March 1902, Charles Yelverton O'Connor rode into the sea at South Beach, put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger. A tragic ending for a visionary man who had made such a magnificent contribution. In the years he had been in Western Australia, O'Connor, as Engineer in Chief, had been responsible for the extension of the State's rail services, the building of Fremantle Inner Harbour and the construction of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme. As well as these three enormous projects, O'Connor's hand touched all areas of the State as the Public Works Department built all manner of public buildings, services and utilities.

To celebrate O'Connor's life in the year of the centenary of his death a number of events have been organised by the CY O'Connor Centenary Committee, on which Fremantle Ports is represented.

SUNDAY 10 MARCH

Commemorative Literary Walk ~ 7.30 am

An early morning Commemorative Literary Walk will be held along South Beach on the anniversary of O'Connor's death, 10 March 2002 starting at 7.30 am. The walk will feature literary readings about O'Connor's life from (and by) Tony Evans, author of 'CY O'Connor - His Life and Legacy' and Robert Drewe's 'The Drowner' amongst other works. Meet at the South Beach Café at 7.20 am. This event is free.

Memorial Service ~ 2.30 pm

The CY O'Connor Memorial Service will be held at St John's, Fremantle. The service is open to the public and will be followed by an afternoon tea in the Fremantle Town Hall.

His Excellency Lieutenant General Sanderson, Governor of Western Australia; the Hon Kate Doust, Member for the South Metropolitan Region representing the Premier, the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop; and the Right Reverend David Murray, representing Archbishop Peter Carnley, will each pay tribute to O'Connor's life and extraordinary achievements.

O'Connor Heritage Trail from 4.30 pm

A guided tour by tram of significant sites around Fremantle relating to O'Connor's life and his works will leave from the Town Hall clock at 4.30 pm and 5.00 pm. The tour will be repeated during Heritage Week (1 - 3 June). A brochure for the trail will also be launched during Heritage Week which will allow people to do the trail independently.

Fremantle Ports' Photographic Exhibition 1.00 pm ~ 4.00 pm

Incorporating CY O'Connor's Harbour Works.

This photographic display will be in the foyer of Fremantle Ports' Administration Building on Victoria Quay, on Sunday 10 March, from 1pm to 4pm. It will be also be open weekdays between 8 am and 5 pm from 8 March - 31 July.

O'Connor Trail, Mundaring ~ 10.00 am & 11.00 am

Visit the location of one of O'Connor's greatest projects, Mundaring Weir, and learn more about the significance of this engineering site to Western Australians and their history. Guided tours including the wall, the O'Connor Memorial and No 1 Pump Station will leave from No 1 Pump Station. Bookings essential. Ring 9321 6088.

No 1 Pump Station, Mundaring ~ 12.00 ~ 5.00 pm

The old steam pump station at Mundaring Weir has been reopened while redevelopment work is being done. The pump station is open on Sundays from 12.00 - 5.00 pm. There are also signed walk trails around the site. Brochures available at No 1, the Mundaring Weir Hotel and Mundaring Tourist Office.

OTHER EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Lecture Series

The WA Division of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, the CY O'Connor Society and Curtin University of Technology will present a series of lectures which will focus on CY O'Connor's legacy including his continuing influence on engineering in this state. Final dates and details are still to be confirmed.

Literary Evening

The State Literature Office, in conjunction with the WA Maritime Museum, will be holding a literary evening featuring Robert Drewe, author of 'The Drowner' and Tony Evans, author of 'CY O'Connor - His life and Legacy' and focusing on writing historical fiction and non-fiction, using the CY O'Connor story as an example. The evening will be held on Tuesday 14 May at the WA Maritime Museum.

Fremantle Sailing Club Regatta

The annual P & O Ports Fremantle Harbour Classic run by the Fremantle Sailing Club will be held on December 8 starting at 1 pm. As a tribute to Fremantle Inner Harbour engineer CY O'Connor, this year's event will be part of the CY O'Connor Centenary Celebrations.

Each of these events will be promoted closer to their dates. For further information on any of these events please contact The National Trust of Australia (WA) on 9321 6088.

PORT LANDSCAPING CONTINUES



Frogmat Environmental's Grant Mahony and Fremantle Ports' Project Manager, Kim Doherty, with a Norfolk Island Pine recently planted as part of the landscaping along Tydeman Road.

The second stage of Fremantle Ports' Inner Harbour Landscaping Project is now underway.

The work is being carried out in Tydeman Road between Port Beach Road and Queen Victoria Street. Planting will be along the median strip and on the southern verge of Tydeman Road.

Tree planting will be carried out initially, with the planting of ground covers following in early winter.

The current landscaping follows last summer's planting along Port Beach Road near the Tydeman Road intersection. The work is part of the extensive landscaping plan which has been developed for the Inner Harbour in consultation with the Inner Harbour Landscaping Reference Group.

The Group is also having input into the urban landscaping design for the area adjacent to the new ferry terminal.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

Fremantle Ports' has recently undergone the second of the six monthly external audits required to maintain certification to the rigorous international environmental standard ISO 14001.

The auditor was satisfied that Fremantle Ports has the necessary systems in place to deliver the required environmental outcomes, and has extended the period to the next survey to one year.



FREMANTLE PORTS SUPPORTS FREODOCTOR FESTIVAL

Fremantle Ports is proud to sponsor the Family Fun Day, which will be held on 24 March at the Esplanade Park as part of the Shacks Holden Fremantle FreoDoctor Festival.

The Festival begins on Saturday 16 March and runs through until Sunday 24 March. It aims to strengthen links between the hospital and the community, while raising much-needed funds for medical research.

Research conducted at Fremantle Hospital targets illnesses and diseases most relevant to the local community, and is of benefit to present and future generations.

Attractions at the Fremantle Ports Family Fun Day will include the Fremantle Football Club player presentation ceremony, school group performances including jazz bands and choirs, the Shacks Holden 80th anniversary vehicle display, vintage motorcycle displays and, to start the day, a corporate triathlon.

Addressing the Port Beach Rocks Problem



An excavator has been used to clear rocks from the Port Beach surfline.

Daily monitoring and regular clearing of Port Beach to remove rocks and other materials is continuing, and further clearing of rocks from the surf line is planned.

The aim is to reduce the impact of the current problem on beach users and to help prevent a recurrence next summer. Meanwhile, warning signage has been put in place asking beach users to exercise caution when walking on the beach or entering the water.

Coastal experts consulted about the current rocks problem at Port Beach have concluded that mild winter conditions over the past year have been a significant contributor to the current problem.

"It is likely that the rocky material off shore, some of which has been deposited along this section of the beach over the last century, has been uncovered by the seasonal northwards movement of sand," says coastal engineering expert, Mick Rogers of M.P. Rogers and Associates.

"The processes that move the sand north in the summer months and south in the winter along our coastline are influenced by the seasonal weather conditions."

"The last winter has been fairly mild, and, as a result, less sand than usual has returned at the end of winter to cover the rocky material that normally lies concealed on the seabed," says Associate Professor Charitha Pattiaratchi of the Centre for

Water Research at the University of Western Australia.

"Some of our other metropolitan beaches are also experiencing problems this season, related to sand erosion."

"Unless we have some unseasonal summer storms, it is likely to be two or three months before the sand begins to return."

Fremantle Ports Chief Executive Officer, Kerry Sanderson says hydrographic survey work showed that the water was up to 1.5 metres deeper in the vicinity of the rocks than at the same time last year, indicating that the seasonal return of sand had been lacking as had also occurred in some other metropolitan beaches this summer.

Research carried out since the rocks problem emerged this summer had turned up some figures relating to the original dredging of the Inner Harbour in the 1890s.

"About eight million cubic yards of dredged limestone and other materials were deposited along this section of the coastline when the Inner Harbour was created," Kerry Sanderson said.

"This area of North Fremantle was once much narrower, but has been widened over the years through the depositing of dredged materials and through other activities.

"Port Beach as we know it today is a beach that has developed on what is an artificial shoreline.

"Geotechnical engineers working with us on this issue have confirmed that most of the material turning up on the beach is Tamala limestone, which occurs naturally in this area and may have derived, in part, from dredging undertaken when the Inner Harbour was constructed around 100 years ago.

"Anecdotal evidence and the variety of other material now turning up on the beach also suggests that some dumping of building materials from the greater Fremantle area may have occurred in this vicinity in the past.

"Fremantle Ports has engaged several engineering consultants over the past few years with expertise on coastal processes to gather and interpret data relating to sand movement patterns at Port Beach. The studies were initiated in early 1997, and the data from them has previously been reviewed as part of the work of a joint technical committee comprising representatives of Fremantle Ports and the Fremantle City Council.

"The function of this joint committee has been to analyse the pattern of sand movements at the southern end of Port Beach and to make recommendations to assist in the future management of the beach.

"The principal focus has been to gain more understanding of the processes occurring along this portion of the coastline, before deciding on the best way forward in terms of future management.

"Although the studies and photographs show that the beach has had a net accretion since the 1960s, within this general accretion there is seasonal erosion of the beach, and in some years this is more pronounced than in others.

"In the current season, removal of rocks from the water has been by means of an excavator, and we have also unsuccessfully trialed a small dredge. Working closely with the Fremantle City Council, we are now looking for a more efficient way of reducing the amount of rocky material present along the surf line, so that the likelihood of a recurrence in future years is reduced."

Point of Interest

Every hour of every day an average of \$1.6 million in trade passes through Fremantle Ports.

Victoria Quay Ferry Berthing

Berth construction has been completed at the new Victoria Quay ferry terminal.

The project, which began in September, improves ferry berthing facilities at Fremantle and enables a larger range of ferries, including river ferries to use Victoria Quay, in the Inner Harbour.

The upgrade was undertaken by Fremantle Ports as part of the Fremantle Waterfront Development.

The existing wharf alignment has been retained, but a deck has been constructed at a lower level. The project has also involved upgrading of fendering along the berth and repairs to wharf piles.

Fremantle Ports Chief Executive Officer, Kerry Sanderson, said that as well as opening up opportunities for ferry operators, the upgrading would provide more convenient access for ferry passengers.

"We expect that river trips will be a popular means of coming to Fremantle to visit the new Maritime Museum now under construction on Victoria Quay," she said. "The improved ferry berthing will help to encourage this form of travel to and from the Port."

The improved berth, which will take vessels up to 46 metres in length, is expected to be operational by the end of March.



The adjustable ramp under test at the Victoria Quay Ferry Terminal.



A computer generated view of the wind farm from Challenger Boat harbour.

Fremantle Wind Farm Proposal

A proposal to develop a wind farm on Fremantle Ports' land at Rous Head and North Mole in North Fremantle is progressing with initial community consultation taking place between October and January.

The proposed 7.2 megawatt wind farm could provide clean and renewable energy from Fremantle's abundant wind resource.

The project is being developed by a consortium comprising Western Australian company, Energy Visions Pty Ltd, and Melbourne-based company, Pacific Hydro Ltd.

The City of Fremantle facilitated a workshop recently to give community representatives and others an opportunity to hear more about the project and to give their views. There will be further opportunity for community input when public comments are sought as part of the Planning Application process.

Fremantle Ports Chief Executive Officer, Kerry Sanderson says the proposal

reflects Fremantle Ports' commitment to the environment and, in particular, to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Raoul Abrutat, Managing Director of Energy Visions, says that although the design has yet to be finalised, it is envisaged that the wind farm would consist of up to eight wind turbine generators. These would be mounted on tubular steel towers, each of which would have three fibreglass rotor blades.

"Generation of electricity from the wind avoids the burning of coal or gas in conventional power stations and for the Fremantle Wind Farm proposal, the saving is equivalent to about 22,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year."

Ensuring that the design of the wind farm does not interfere with port operational requirements, integrates with existing industrial uses and minimises any local impacts has been a priority in the development of the proposal.

Fremantle Ports Acquires New Bulk Handling Site

Fremantle Ports' recent acquisition of additional industrial land and an established bulk handling business at Kwinana will open up new trade opportunities, says Chief Executive Officer, Kerry Sanderson.

Under an agreement signed with BHP Billiton, LandCorp and Fremantle Ports purchased the 207-hectare BHP Billiton property for \$24 million.

Planning and Infrastructure Minister, Alannah MacTiernan described the purchase as a key strategic investment for the State.

"Importantly, it will facilitate the establishment of the proposed HIs melt

commercial scale pig iron plant which could create about 230 construction jobs and about 100 permanent jobs," Ms MacTiernan said.

This project is subject to relevant approvals.

Fremantle Ports gained a 43-hectare waterfront site, 29 staff and the facilities associated with bulk storage and transport. The business, which will be integrated with Fremantle Ports' other operations, handles commodities including cement clinker, mineral sands, silica sands, petroleum coke and Liquid Petroleum Gas.