

## Mundaring and Hills Historical Society



### Mundaring and Hills Historical Society will present a talk on **CY O'CONNOR AND THE GOLDEN PIPELINE** by Bill Cutler

We will do an exploration of the early life, work, and projects undertaken by engineer CY O'Connor, principally the impact of his great achievements following the discovery of new wealth (for some but not all) in the eastern goldfields, and the establishment of the significant towns of Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, where great hardship affected the early prospectors.

During this period of WA's rapid growth O'Connor developed a special relationship with WA's first Premier John Forrest. However, there were also detractors who put enormous pressure on O'Connor both professionally and personally.

We will discuss and debunk some of the myths surrounding O'Connor, and the enduring legacies left behind by a brilliant but sometimes troubled man.

This is the story of Western Australia's first golden years of development, and the period when the state came of age in the 1890s and early 1900s.

Our Speaker, Bill Cutler, was born on the pipeline at No 7 Pumping Station, Gilgai, and lived his early life and schooling as a pipeline kid. His father worked his entire life on three of the O'Connor built steam pumping stations, including No 2 Pumping Station, firstly as a fireman, and later a greaser.

Bill is a 43 year career banker serving in Western Australia as well as overseas postings in Fiji, Hong Kong, Singapore and



London. He retired in 2002, and amongst other things became a volunteer tour guide with the National Trust, specifically looking after visitors to the Trust's steam powered No 1 Pumping Station at Mundaring Weir.

Bill is also interested in early Australian colonial history, being a direct bloodline descendant of two First Fleet convicts who arrived with Captain Arthur Phillip at Sydney Cove on January 26th 1788. He is currently Vice-President of the West Australian Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

**Saturday 16th March**

**2.45 pm**

**At Boya Community Centre, 135 Scott Street, Boya**  
**Afternoon Tea supplied for a gold coin donation**