

## MEDIA RELEASE

05 August 2011



### Rocks return home to Fremantle Prison

Historic objects from Western Australian's premier public collections are being showcased in the exhibition *Rock Breakers: convicts built this colony, geology made it rich*, which was developed by Fremantle Prison.

Fremantle Prison's Interpretation Manager Luke Donegan said the Prison was excited to host an exhibition that told the story of Fremantle Prison and the Old Perth Gaol during the 1880s.

"In 1881 the colony's first public collection was started at Fremantle Prison so it is fitting that the rocks are temporarily returning home," Mr Donegan said.

"Visitors to the exhibition will gain a snapshot of the Swan River Colony as it perched between the end of the convict era and the discovery of gold.

"In 1891 the Geological Museum moved from Fremantle Prison into the Old Perth Gaol. There it transformed into the Western Australian Museum, precipitating the birth of Perth's cultural precinct."

The Geological Museum held rocks, minerals and fossils collected throughout Western Australia. The rock displays served as a reference collection for explorers and prospectors planning to set out into the state's interior in search of the ultimate geological prize – gold!

*Rock Breakers* will feature samples from the original geological collection, now held in the Western Australian Museum's main storage facility in Welshpool.

Other objects showcased in the exhibition include punishment implements from the Fremantle Prison Collection and the original 1850 flogging post, early maps and plans from the State Records Office, colonial books from the State Library of Western Australia and 19th Century scientific instruments from the Western Australian Museum.

The exhibition runs from 10 August 2011 to February 2012 in the Prison Gallery at Fremantle Prison. Admission to the exhibition is free, open 9am to 5pm daily.

**Images are available on request. Luke Donegan is available for interview.**

#### Media Contacts:

Luke Donegan, Interpretation Manager, 9336 9216 / 0423 827 523

Alana Law, Marketing and Events Coordinator, 9336 9205 / 0439 913 402