

No. 161



March 2018

# FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

*Our March 2018 meeting*

**Bill Bunbury OAM**

*You can hear the ants breathing:*

*The power of memory, land and language and the  
Aboriginal and European sense of country*



Bill interviewing at Goomalling. (Courtesy Bill Bunbury.)

Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room  
4th floor, State Library of Western Australia.

*Please see details on page 3.*

## Objectives

The objectives of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) are to assist and promote the interests of the JS Battye Library of West Australian History and the State Records Office, and of those activities of the Library Board of Western Australia concerned with the acquisition, preservation and use of archival and documentary materials.

**Patron** Mrs Ruth Reid AM

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Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Friends of Battye Library Committee, the State Library of Western Australia, or the State Records Office.

## March Meeting

Tuesday 13 March 2018  
Great Southern Room, 4th floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5pm for 5.30pm

**Our speaker will be Bill Bunbury**

*You can hear the ants breathing:  
the power of memory, land, and language, and the  
Aboriginal and European sense of country.*

**Details of Bill's talk are on page 4.**

**After the meeting, members are very welcome to join us  
for a meal at a nearby Perth restaurant. Nick Drew will  
take bookings on the night.**

### **Problem with the stairs?**

If any members have difficulty with taking the stairs to the fourth floor, please notify staff on either the ground floor reception desk or the Battye Library desk on the 3rd floor for access to the staff lift to the fourth floor.

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## Bill Bunbury's talk

### ***You can hear the ants breathing***

Bill discusses the power of memory, land and language and the Aboriginal and European sense of country. Expressed through Oral History, allowing us to hear and share personal experience, and, in this context, attachment and response to land, which, for both original and more recent Australians, is deeply interwoven into both our past and our present.



Bill interviewing Jenny Hill near Busselton for an Oral History project with Community Arts Network in 2017. For the Busselton Aboriginal community. (Courtesy Bill Bunbury)

## About Bill

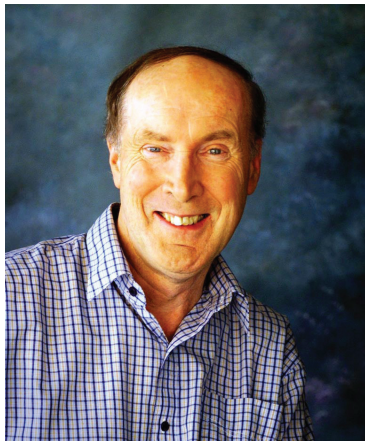
Bill Bunbury BA, (Hons) Lit. Dip Ed. D.Litt Hon. is currently Adjunct Professor History & Communications, Murdoch University. He was recently awarded an Order of Australia Medal, General Division for services to Broadcasting and Indigenous Communities.

Bill Bunbury is an ABC broadcaster and documentary maker with 40 years experience in both radio and television. In that time he presented and produced *Background Briefing*, *Word of Mouth*, *Verbatim*, *Talking History*, *Hindsight*, *Street Stories*, *Encounter* and *The Science Show* on ABC Radio National. He also presented regular social history segments

on ABC 720 and Regional Radio.

He has received five international and national awards for his radio documentaries including:-

- 1986 United Nations Australia Peace Prize for his documentary on the Vietnam War, *The war rages on*.
- 1996 New York Radio Festival Gold medal for Best History Documentary *Timber for gold: The Woodlines of WA's Eastern Goldfields*.
- 1997 Inaugural NSW Premier's Media Prize for his six part radio series *Unfinished Business, the Republic, Federation and Reconciliation*.



Bill is also the author of twelve books, expanding material from his *Social History* features. His most recent publication, *Invisible Country* is an environmental history of South West Western Australia.

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### Meeting dates for 2018

- 8 May** - Dr Sue Graham-Taylor. *Rubbishing Western Australia: the history of waste in in the west.*
- 10 July** - Prof Neville Marchant. *Poison Plants and Swan River personalities.*
- 11 September-** (AGM) - Dr Susanna Iuliano. *Preserving the history of mining in WA.*
- 20 November** (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function - Peter Du Cane. *Archive on the brink: the race to save WA's endangered video heritage.*

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### President's piece

Dear Friends

In November we held another very successful end of year meeting and catered dinner. More than 50 friends and guests attended and we made a small profit which was donated to the funds we hold to support and promote the collections of the Battye Library and the State Records

Office. The unsuspecting David Whiteford, our Guest speaker on the night, was awarded the 2017 *Gem of time*. And Jack Honniball was gifted with a printed collection of many of the 'Jack's Back' columns he has written for us over the years.

The Friends sent our warmest congratulations to the CEO and State Librarian, Margaret Allen, who was awarded a Public Service Medal in the Australia Day Honours. Further details about Margaret's award can be found on page 8.

The Friends of Battye Library was recently invited to contribute to a focus group on the new 'Strategic Directions' being planned for the State Library. Meetings were held on 31 January and we were represented by Gillian O'Mara and Jennie Carter at separate sessions. A brief report on the outcome of the meeting is on page 26.

Our Treasurer Nick Drew and committee member Rob O'Connor QC, are working on revising our constitution as the WA Government's Department of Commerce has new guidelines for non-profit associations that must be complied with by 2019. The Friends new constitution will be presented to members at either a general meeting or at our AGM in September.

Our first speaker of the year is the acclaimed oral historian, Bill Bunbury OAM. He has been invited to give a presentation of his address, *You can hear the ants breathing* to the University of Hertfordshire in April so we are privileged to hear it first. We also have a interesting group of speakers for you this year who I am sure you will find engaging and informative.

On a personal note, Nick and I were fortunate enough to attend an evening event at the historic Gallop House on the Nedlands foreshore. The House is now a National Trust property and they have turned it over to a trust that manages homes for young composers. The lucky lass who is living in the house this year is Kate Moore who won the scholarship on the basis of work she did in the Netherlands for her PhD. She has incorporated didgeridoos into her orchestral music which she hopes conveys a strong sense of the Australian bush. You can hear her music at <https://katemoore.org>. It was great to see history, heritage, and art combine in such an interesting initiative.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy year to come and look forward to seeing you on the 13th of march.

Pamela Statham Drew



## **Gem of Time award for 2017**

The Friends of Battye Library has awarded David Whiteford with its honour of *Gem of Time*. The following citation was read out at November's meeting where David was also our speaker. It was with great pleasure that the Friends Committee congratulated David on his achievements.

### **Citation**

David has more than forty years experience as a dedicated custodian of Western Australia's important published and archival heritage. His knowledge of the collections of both the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and the State Records Office is unparalleled.

David began work at the State Library in 1975 as a cadet directly from high school and worked in various sections of the Library for more than a year. During 1976-1978, he completed his degree at the Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT, now Curtin University), while working at the State Library during his holidays.

David joined the Battye Library on 3 January 1979, and worked chiefly with maps, monographs, serials, archives and private archives, becoming senior librarian and manager of the Battye and State Reference Libraries' map collections. He took on the responsibility of Senior Librarian for the Published Materials team in 1997 and in 2002 became Senior Archivist.

After the restructure of the State Library in 2006, David was made Team Leader Archives. During his time in this role, he was seconded to the State Government's Redress agency as Chief Researcher. David left the State Library in 2012 to join the State Records Office as Senior Archivist until late 2016. He then took up a role in the newly constructed Perth Public Library.



David - 21 November 2017.

Apart from David's extraordinary knowledge of the Battye Library's collection, he is an authority on trains and railways and WA maps. He was lead researcher and coordinator of a team of volunteers responsible for the compilation of the *WA map bibliography, Perth and districts* which was published by the Friends of Battye Library in 2002.

David is outstanding in his ability to patiently help researchers, drawing on his knowledge of Western Australian heritage collections and research techniques. He is generous with his time and expertise and has been an enormous support to his colleagues at the Battye Library and the State Archives. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him and the speed with which anything was done was amazing. He joined the Friends of Battye Library very early in its history, has served on the committee, and has always been a loyal friend to all who know him.

The Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.) would like to add to David's many achievements and show our appreciation by listing him as a "Gem of Time" – a list that will last to acknowledge the contribution of outstanding men and women to the recording, collection, and preservation of Western Australia's history.



### **Margaret Allen - Australia Day Honour.**

At this January's Australia Day Honours Margaret Allen was awarded the Public Service Medal, the only one given to a Western Australian public

servant. Margaret's award was granted "For outstanding public service to the libraries sector in Western Australia". Her citation is published on the Governor General's website.



Ms Allen began her career in a public library where she was involved in developing a library management system. Subsequently she was appointed to the position of Associate Director and then Acting Director at the State



Library of South Australia where she transformed the organisation as it transitioned to new accommodation and included the development and implementation of a new service delivery model.

In 2004, she was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) and State Librarian where she is responsible for the strategic leadership of library services in Western Australia, the operation of the SLWA, and its partnership with local governments for the delivery of public library services.

During her time in the role she has demonstrated a strong commitment to early childhood reading and literacy as illustrated by her leadership of the highly successful 'Better Beginnings' program. The program has been run by the SLWA since 2004 in partnership with the State Government, local governments and industry partners. 'Better Beginnings' now reaches over 60,000 families each year throughout Western Australia.

She has also actively participated in the Australian copyright reform debates and remains committed to the objective of reforms that ensures fair access.

Ms Allen's work in the fields of literacy, Indigenous heritage, copyright, and her support of library and information science education and emerging leaders is well above the norm."



### **Members' information - Jack Honniball**

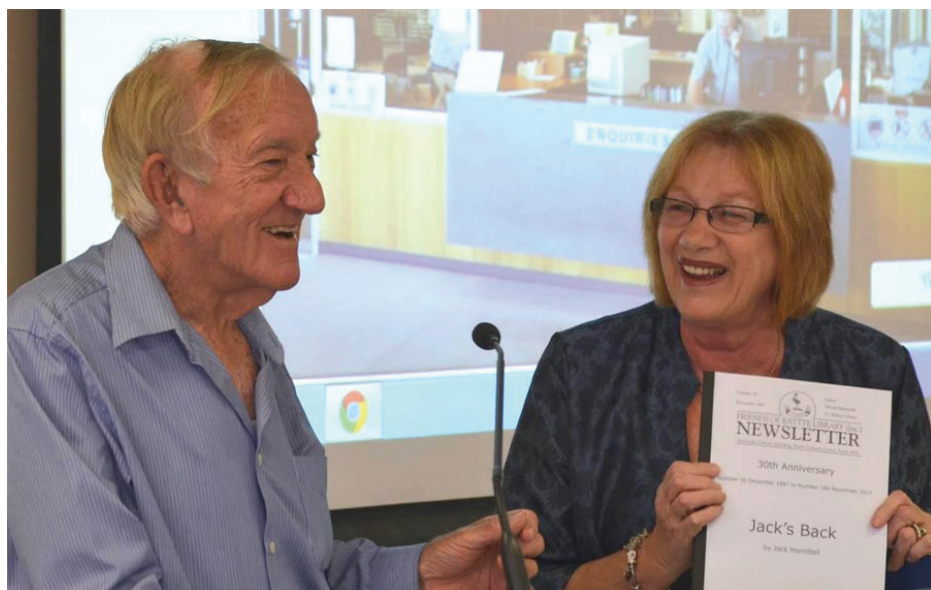
Also at our November meeting we honoured the contribution of Jack Honniball to the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) and this *Newsletter*. Jack has been our most prolific and longest-serving writer and his marvellous column 'Jack's Back' has delighted our members for many years. Cherie Strickland brought together many of Jack's articles in a printed and bound volume and completely flummoxed him with a formal presentation of the collection.

Cherie also read out the following tribute to Jack on behalf of the Friends of Battye Library.

Jack Honniball joined the State Library of Western Australia in 1958, which was then located along with the Museum and Art Gallery

in James Street, in 1985 the State Library moved into its current location in the Alexander Library building. Jack was employed for most of his working career in the State Film Archives and at his retirement in 1989 was Head of the Archive. His knowledge of all the collections in Battye Library is extensive and impressive, and his tenacity and research skills are renowned. He has written more than ten articles for the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.), which in 1986 conferred on him their highest honour – Fellowship of the Society.

A member of the Friends of Battye Library Inc. since its inception and a passionate supporter, Jack became editor of the Friends *Newsletter* in October 1983. His last newsletter as editor was in September 1987 with Edition No. 29, in the very next edition 'Jack's Back' was born.



Jack Honniball being presented with 'Jack's Back' a collection of his historic articles for the Friends of Battye Library Newsletter by Cherie Strickland. 21 November 2017. (Courtesy Wendy Lugg.)

Michal Bosworth took over the role of editor from Jack and he noted that he may have relinquished his post as editor, but he is allotted a page, and sometimes more, where he will continue to

keep us informed about diverse matters of general interest.

In 2006 the Friends of Battye Library Inc. added to his many honours, by listing him as a Gem of Time – a list that will last to acknowledge the contribution of outstanding men and women to the recording, collection and preservation of Western Australia's history.

The chatty 'Jack's Back' page for many years has been a regular and much appreciated contribution. Jack has written 115 stories only missing 14 editions over the 30 year period.

Friends of Battye Library Inc would like to congratulate Jack on his contribution and thank him for his time and lasting memories.

Cherie Strickland



## **Commemorating the end of Transportation**

The 9 January this year marked the 150th anniversary of the cessation of transportation of British convicts to anywhere in the world. The last convict ship, the *Hougoumont*, arrived in Western Australia with 279 prisoners on board. The Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS), the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWAHS), and members of the Friends, particularly the indefatigable Lorraine Clarke organised a successful series of events to mark this historic anniversary. Over the course of this year we will feature articles on the Western Australian convict system.

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*[On Sunday 11 February our President, Dr Pamela Statham Drew, gave a fascinating presentation on the Western Australian Convict System and the end of transportation to a standing-room-only audience at the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. The following article is an abridged version of her talk.]*

### **Why did the transportation of convicts to Western Australia stop?**

There had been rumours before 1868 that transportation would be discontinued. In 1857, for example, there were grave fears (founded in

fact) that British Authorities had just that in mind, causing the Friends of Western Australia in London to lobby hard for the retention of transportation to WA.

So why did it stop in 1868? Three reasons are usually given for the decision.

1. **A change in English attitudes.** Attitudes towards transportation had become negative, partly due to the influence of the recent anti-slavery campaigns, and partly to the shortage of labour for local infrastructure construction. At that time Britain had a number of very large infrastructure projects in the pipe-line, and was experiencing for the first time a lack of men to do the work.

2. **Reaction to the 1867 Inquiry** into Governor Hampton's treatment of convicts which showed that both the Governor and his son, who he had appointed Comptroller of Prisons in 1866, had used excessively harsh treatment of the convicts under their care. For example the number of lashes assigned for various offences was double that which the law allowed; the instrument (ie the cat-of-nine-tails) used to inflict them was illegal, and that men had been kept in solitary confinement and irons for more than nine months which was also illegal.

3. **The Eastern Colonies threat of a trade boycott** if Britain did not cease transportation to the West.

The Eastern Colonies of NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia complained bitterly from about 1860 that ex-convicts from WA were flocking there. New South Wales, Tasmania, and Queensland had long ceased accepting convicts and Victoria and South Australia had never officially agreed to take them. In the wake of the gold rushes Victorians, in particular, were distressed that ex-convicts were infiltrating their colony. A strong Anti-Transportation League was formed which sent voluminous petitions to London demanding the end of transportation. Other colonies were encouraged join in refusing to allow any ship that had docked in WA to land. If successful this would have amounted to a trade boycott, which would have lowered Britain's revenue from duties. The colonies, however, could not agree to conditions of the boycott so it never eventuated, but the threat had effect. The Secretary of State for Colonies, Lord Edward Cardwell, admitted that "the interests and feelings of the neighbouring communities has weighed materially" in the decision to discontinue transportation.

**But there was another, a fourth and never before mentioned, reason for the decision.**

It is found in a letter from Cardwell to the Governor of New Zealand, Sir George Grey dated 26 November 1864 stating that “The immediate occasion for this decision [to end transportation] has been the necessity for the issue of regulations for the disposal of Crown Lands in the newly explored district of WA”.

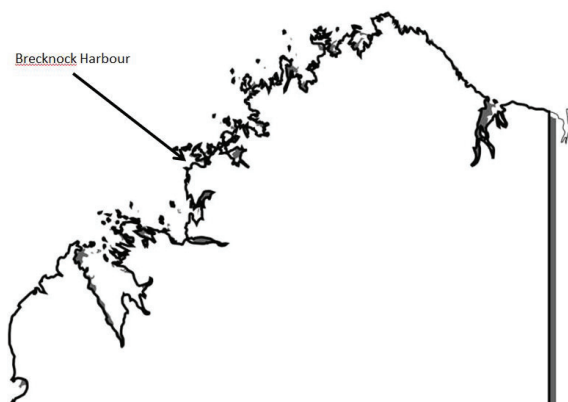
This followed a report that had been received from Frederick Panter, a relative of Governor Kennedy (and the same Panter who was speared later that year with Goldwyer and Harding), that his expedition northwards had discovered 5.5 million acres of good land inland from Brecknock Harbour capable of carrying 3.5 million sheep.

Hampton wanted to open the land for settlement and in October 1864 begged Caldwell for appropriate regulations. Caldwell could see a profitable venture but only

if Western Australia was free of convicts, and as no colony could have two opposing systems operating at the same time, transportation had to cease.

Slowly all government processes to end transportation were completed and the last British convict ship to anywhere in the world, arrived in Fremantle on 9 January 1868. The convicts who disembarked were only starting their sentences – and the shortest sentence of those on this ship was some seven years. Many were up for life, although this could always be remitted for good behaviour. So there were convicts in the system for 20 or more years after the *Hougoumont* reached our shores. In fact, according to Gillian O'Mara, the last transported convict died in 1939.

Pamela Statham Drew



Brecknock Harbour region of the Kimberley.

[Bevan Carter has written several articles on convicts and family history.]

### **Some of the *Hougoumont's* 'aristocratic' passengers**

During the 70's, High street, Fremantle, was a highway of shopkeepers, the majority of whom were on their ticket-of-leave. ... Many of them rose to be entities of considerable tonnage in the life of the State's second township. They had in the main been selected by some of the best of English judges for citizenship in Australia. <sup>1</sup>*Daily News* 26 August 1924. ]

Not all the men transported to Western Australia during the years 1850-1868 for various crimes were the 'scourings of English gaols', some were well-educated, had a privileged position in life, and were independently wealthy.

William Oliver, born in 1820, was a qualified chemist who set himself up as a stockbroker in London without a licence. He had married Bertha Mount, a wealthy woman in her own right, in 1854 and they had no children. In 1858 he was accused of fraudulently appropriating £5000 which a Miss Dance had instructed him to invest in specific Canadian bonds. Dance became suspicious that she was being cheated after Oliver sent her the first dividend and she demanded evidence that her money had been invested as she had requested. From all accounts Miss Dance kept a close watch on the stockmarket and had a good idea of likely returns. Oliver's refusal to provide paperwork caused her to refer him to the Guildhall for examination of her complaint and when more of Oliver's clients came forward with similar accusations he was detained for a trial in the Old Bailey. With the game up, Oliver pleaded guilty to five fraudulent transactions and was sentenced to twenty years penal servitude.<sup>1</sup>

On 29 July 1859 he was moved from Pentonville prison, where his occupation is recorded as a chemist, to Chatham and then shipped to Bermuda in 1860. When imprisonment on the Bermuda hulks was abolished in 1862 he was transported to Western Australia to complete his sentence and arrived on the *Merchantman* in February 1863. It seems the prison records did not travel with him for the charge on the Fremantle Register has him convicted for forging a cheque and his occupation given as 'surgeon'.

His stay in Fremantle prison was short, presumably because he reported at least once a week to the sick bay, and he was clearly not an experienced



tradesman or manual worker. 'Doctor' William Lemon Oliver opened a pharmacy on receiving his ticket of leave in 1864 and a year later his wife joined him in Fremantle. Bertha, whom the *Daily News* described as 'attractive', established a ladies' seminary on the corner of High and Cliff streets. She ran her 'school for young ladies' for six to eight years until William died in 1873 at the age of 53. Bertha then closed the school to the consternation of her students and their families who were full of praise for her. She sailed for London on January 8, 1874 on the *Fitzroy*. In London Bertha ran an asylum for elderly or 'lunatic' women until her death in 1904, leaving a considerable estate.

Another of our convict aristocrats was Lionel Holdsworth described as being six foot tall with a "patriarchal look" and a "commanding" presence.<sup>2</sup> He and Thomas Berwick, both master mariners based in Liverpool, cooked up an insurance scam that provided them with thousands of pounds courtesy of London insurance companies. After a five day trial at the Old Bailey the pair were convicted in 1867 of sinking the ship *Severn* bound for China. It was a well-planned scuttling by a complicit captain with no loss of life. Holdsworth and Berwick who were each given a twenty years' sentence, arrived in Fremantle on the *Hougoumont* in 1868. Lionel Holdsworth received his ticket-of-leave in 1876 and was joined in 1879 by his Irish-born wife Margaretta.



Thomas Berwick (standing) and possibly, from his physical description, Berwick's partner Lionel Holdsworth (seated). (Battye Library, SLWA b1904311\_4)

Thomas Berwick had to make do with a teaching position at Jarrahdale after his wife and seven children refused to join him in the fine house he had built for them. Holdsworth worked for the Adelaide Steamship Company before acquiring two ships which he used

at Cossack in the flourishing pearl shell industry and used the profits to invest in land in Fremantle. He built Braeside on Monument Hill where Margaretta died in 1886 and Lionel in October 1901. The couple had no children and the Holdsworth properties were put up for sale in 1905. Lionel himself is commemorated in Fremantle's Holdsworth Street.

Bevan Carter

1. *Essex Standard* 5 November 1858, *Morning Chronicle* 28 October 1858.
2. *Daily News* 26 August 1924.



## Have you a story to tell?

*[Regular contributor Steve Errington has a son, Ben, who loves all things old. When Ben was strolling through Salter Point in 2016 he spotted on a verge boxes marked 'Free. Help yourself.' A family clearing out a house had resisted the temptation to throw all 'old and useless' stuff into a green bin, hoping that others might appreciate objects that they had looked after for decades. Ben rescued two objects which intrigued his father. In a previous Newsletter Steve wrote about one of the objects, this is the other.]*

## Things People Throw Out, part 2

Does anyone remember Kasely's Ltd? No one I've spoken to does, but thanks to my son Ben I now own a 1953 clear glass bottle with a Bakelite screw top belonging to 'Kaselys Ltd, Perth WA'. He found it on a Salter Point verge along with the rare 1941 single sheet street directory of Perth which I wrote about in the March 2017 issue.

Kasely's first appearance coincides with the start of the American milk bar craze in Perth and Fremantle in 1934-35. Milk bars served malted milk with chocolate or strawberry syrup mixed in an electric blender with vanilla icecream. The drinks became known as milkshakes.

The first Fremantle milk bar was opened by Culley's in Atwell Arcade in October 1935. They soon had a rival in Rex's Milk Bar in High Street which, in December 1935, boasted 'Kaselys Syrups exclusively used'. Steve's American Milk Bar also used Kasely's syrups when it opened in

Murray Street, Perth in November 1936. Presumably others did too.

The syrups were then available from Kasely's, 'syrup and cordial manufacturers' of 328 Hay Street, Perth. This was the address used when Kasely's Ltd was registered at the Supreme Court as a new company in October 1937. By October 1938 they had moved to 23 (later renumbered 223) Stirling Highway, Claremont with Fred Hebditch as manager.

By this time they had also moved into margarine manufacture under the West-Vale brand. Margarine manufacture was then strictly controlled with WA manufacturers limited to seven tons per week. Of this, Meadow Lee was allocated 4½ tons leaving West-Vale with a quota of only to 2½ tons a week. This was sold in packets and tins.

During World War Two Kasely's won many contracts to supply tins of boiled carrots to the Army. Between March 1943 and July 1945 they supplied one million cans of boiled carrots, as well as juices, syrups and cordials.

After the war when butter was rationed Kasely's was still restricted to only 2½ tons of West-Vale margarine a week for shoppers to compete for. But they exported hundreds of cases of cordials to Singapore, and proudly displayed their wares in their stand at the 1951 Royal Show. In 1954 they were still recruiting 'strong youths' for their Claremont factory.

I don't yet know what became of Kasely's but the Battye Library's collection of old Perth phone books reveals that they were listed in the 1961 edition but were absent from the 1962 edition.

Steve Errington



Kasleys Perth WA bottle. (Steve

## Voices that Should be Heard

*[Dr Ronda Jamieson is one of Australia's most well-known oral historians. She is also the biographer of Sir Charles Court. This article is the ninth in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]*

### **Gerald (Gerry) Ledsam Throssell, 1902–1984, OH330**

Gerry Throssell worked for the Department of Agriculture from 1921 to 1965 during which time he was involved in a remarkable number of trail-blazing activities. When I contacted him in 1978 about a possible interview, I was told the biography he was going to write would cover the things I was interested in. On learning in the 13 years since his retirement not a word had been written, I suggested the interview was still a good idea because it could actually help him with the biography; happily, he agreed.

What followed were the remarkable recollections of a man with an amazing memory, a fascinating life story and a determination to not let health or injury problems deter him. There were also memories of well known Western Australians involved in politics and agriculture. Grandfather George Throssell had been a member of John Forrest's ministry, for example, and had a brief period as Premier in 1901.



Gerald Ledsam and Lancelot Ledsam Throssell aged three, 1905, (Battye Library, SLWA image BA1580. Throssell Family Collection.)

Gerry and his twin brother, Lancelot Ledsam, were born in Northam in 1902, two of the four children of Isabelle and George Throssell. Having been the deputy matron of Adelaide Children's Hospital before her marriage in 1896, Isabelle was credited with being 'very energetic in working towards the foundation of a children's hospital' in Perth which opened in 1909. George was the proprietor of a pioneering agricultural firm which imported machinery from the Eastern States and overseas to assemble in Northam; the 1914 drought left him bankrupt.

In 1921 Gerry was appointed the Department of Agriculture's first cadet. A lasting memory were the words of a 'very great personal friend of our family', Sir James Mitchell, Premier and Treasurer. The cadetship had been his idea and he impressed on Gerry that he should not spend his 'time grizzling and growling about wages and conditions ... hop in and work, make yourself indispensable and worth twice as much'.

The studies Gerry undertook at the University of Western Australia between 1922 and 1927 led to a Diploma in Agriculture and appointment as an Agricultural Adviser based in Merredin. A year later he was sent to the Salmon Gums research station and worked on preliminary soil and plant surveys for the proposed 3,500 farms scheme. It was a time when plagues of rabbits affected the viability of farms, adding to the many hardships created by the Economic Depression. Farmers used to be paid in advance by merchants for their wheat at less than the expected price. In the first year of the Depression.

farmers had already agreed to sell on an advance of three and six a bushel expecting the wheat to go to five shillings, but instead it fell down to one and six a bushel ... quite a number of farmers who had a thousand or more acres under wheat going eight and nine, ten bags to the acre [had] ... to pay out two shillings to two and sixpence a bushel to the wheat merchants; a lot of them went broke.

Appointed to Geraldton as an Agricultural Adviser in 1933, Gerry supervised the Chapman Valley Research Station and inspected wheat and flour for export. Six years later a new appointment took him to Moora where he was involved in copper deficiency experiments and pasture improvement.

During World War II, Gerry served in the Middle East from 1941 in a machine gun battalion (which led to major hearing loss); he was also an intelligence officer for the 2/11th battalion. Forced to return to Perth in 1943 because of health problems, he was then transferred to



Darwin to 'knock the Japs back' and was in charge of six ambulances. He developed a gangrenous infection which took him eventually to Hollywood Hospital because the infection would not heal. Then came the instruction that all men over 40 had to be medically examined. To what Gerry described as his 'tremendous sorrow' he was declared unfit and discharged. He served on the Northam and Geraldton District War Agriculture Committees, responsible for rationing manpower and resources after the war and was a corporal in the Citizen Military Forces from 1949 when the first company was formed in Geraldton.

It was not until 1948 that Gerry married Mary Hooper, a theatre sister at the Geraldton Hospital and, according to her husband, 'we've lived happily ever afterwards'. This was obviously true because when I asked Gerry what he viewed as 'the greatest achievement of your working life' he replied 'Getting married.' Mary took a great interest in Gerry's interview and wanted to sit in which I could not agree to after finding she answered the questions I asked Gerry. I explained she could add anything she wished to after she had read the transcript which, as it happened, she did not feel was necessary. I can well imagine her pleasure at reading what he had to say about her.

In 1945 Gerry was appointed the Geraldton District Agricultural Adviser and in the 20 years until his retirement, was involved in tomato growing and export, the eradication of footrot in the district and formation of Pasture Improvement Groups. Other activities involved ley farming and research into trace elements. There were tests for TB in dairy herds and work as a noxious weeds inspector. An association with Allan Millington led to the discovery of a new strain of clover in 1950, later named Geraldton clover, which proved much more productive than other clovers. Before his retirement he was involved in a major cropping project in Mullewa.

For 10 years from 1954, Gerry and other Agricultural Department officers ran a successful radio program, 'Here's Your Answer'. In 1959, he unsuccessfully stood as the Liberal Party candidate for Geraldton, managing to greatly improve the vote against the sitting Labor member, William H Sewell.

On his retirement, Gerry was given a civic reception which led to the presentation of a plaque by the then mayor, Charles Eadon-Clarke, who said it was 'in appreciation of your efforts to make this district better and our lives easier.'



Gerry remained very active in his retirement playing bowls several times a week, doing voluntary work for Meals on Wheels, being a member of the Repatriation Committee of the RSL and being associated with Torchbearers for Legacy. He expressed being

very lucky that another colleague of mine, Dr Laurie Snook, invites me to go down with him whenever he wants any work done, especially with sheep, crutching or shearing. He has a most delightful property four miles this side of Margaret River, which in my opinion is as near to paradise as you can possibly get.

After the interviews were finished, Gerry regularly asked me to 'pop in'. He donated much appreciated archives from his personal collection to lodge in the Battye Library covering the period from 1917 until 1978 as well as 22 photographs.

Transcripts of interviews were not given titles other than to identify the person interviewed. In Gerry's case, I added the title he had chosen for his autobiography, 'Seeds in my Sox', which he never did get around to writing.

Ronda Jamieson



## **News from the State Library**

### **Forthcoming events and exhibitions**

#### ***Rothschild Prayer Book Exhibition***

Discover the secrets of the Rothschild Prayer Book, one of the world's most important medieval illuminated manuscripts. In partnership with the Kerry Stokes Collection, the State Library is hosting a small exhibition in the 'Nook' (Perth Cultural Centre entrance) entitled, 'Illuminating the World of the Rothschild Prayer Book'.

The illuminations are presented page by page using the most detailed digital reproduction techniques. Accompanying the interactive digital display is a showcase of handmade books and printed publications, with several very early printed bibles from the State Library's collection.

The exhibition follows a successful and well attended public lecture and masterclass on medieval manuscripts held at the State Library on 23 and



24 January with Professor Michelle Brown. Professor Brown is the former Curator of Illuminated Manuscripts at the British Library and now Professor of Medieval Manuscripts at the University of London.

### **Battye donation and visit**

On 22 January, Mr Greg Battye of Canberra, grandson of the late James

Sykes Battye, visited the State Library to gift a selection of materials belonging to his late grandfather. The material gifted included a book of handwritten notes on Shakespeare prepared by JS Battye, and his CBE medal and citation, awarded in 1950. State Library CEO Margaret Allen was pleased to receive the material and delighted to meet with one of the few remaining members of the Battye family.

### **James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellowship**

Applications for the James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellowship close 5:00pm Friday 16 February 2018.

The Fellowship honours the legacy of librarian and historian James Sykes Battye, Chief Librarian of the State Library of Western Australia from 1894-1954. Established through the Leah Jane Cohen Bequest, the Fellowship aims to enhance understanding of Western Australia through research based on the State Library's heritage collections, particularly the Battye Library.

### **From Another View**

Late last year, the State Library announced a new partnership with Andrew and Nicola Forrest's Minderoo Foundation for a project that retraces and re-imagines John Forrest's 1874 trek from Geraldton to Adelaide. The project, 'From Another View', engages artists, researchers and Aboriginal communities along the trek route to broaden perspectives on West Australian exploration history. The eighteen month project has three main components:

- Community engagement – the State Library's 'Storylines' model of digital repatriation and reinterpretation of documentary heritage will be used to engage with Aboriginal communities along the trek.

- Creative Interpretation – indigenous and non-indigenous artists will re-interpret the expedition that was led by Forrest and guided by two Aboriginal trackers.
- Research – further investigation into private and public papers relating to Forrest’s expedition will be undertaken to contribute to the greater understanding of collecting legacies around exploration history.

SLWA’s involvement in the project aligns with its mandate to collect and treasure the stories of Western Australia and with its strategic goal to work in partnership with Aboriginal people to collect and restore community memory. The project will culminate in a major exhibition at the State Library in 2019.

### **Selected recent acquisitions**

***Two manuscript copies of the biography of John Septimus Roe – Not an Idle Man*** by JL Burton Jackson. These two manuscripts show the evolution of the biography of Roe which was published in 1982 .

### ***Records relating to Serpentine Cottage – Lefroy family***

The property was originally taken up in 1849 by John Giblett and Stephen Longbottom and sold in 1861 to Bishop Hale who had a cottage built in 1862. In 1866, Henry Lefroy purchased the property. The cottage passed through several family members and over time had some structural alterations and additions. The surrounding land was gradually sold or resumed by the government so that now only the cottage block remains. In 2000, the cottage was carefully restored by the then owner, George Lefroy. This restoration included retention of much of the early furniture. The cottage remains in regular use by the family. The collection of papers, primarily correspondence, shows the land transactions, the renovations, the uses and potential uses of the property and much else. It is a remarkable history of an early West Australian property which so far has remained in the Lefroy family for over 150 years.

***John Thomas Tunney photographs*** (digital copies) of Tunney family members and farming activities at ‘Gracefield’, their property near Kojonup as well as Aboriginal people taken during Tunney’s collecting trips around the state for the West Australian Museum. The Tunney collection provides an important visual record of colonial and indigenous life at the turn of the 20th century which will also be of interest to *Storylines*.

## ***Bell Bros. operations in WA***

***Charles Barnett Phillips photographs*** of Big Bell Mine, 1936-1980 (1 album). This collection documents the beginning of Big Bell town which was established in 1936. Black and white photos include views of the open cuts, the miners' compound, hospital, hotel, railway station, mess and swimming pool.

## ***A prisoner with the Turks, 1915-1918, by R.F. Lushington***

Reginald Francis Lushington was one of only four Australians captured by the Turks at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. This memoir relates the remarkable story of his four years in captivity, which were spent in the San Stefano Prisoner of War camp outside Constantinople and in harsh conditions in the mountains of southern Turkey, where Turkish prisoners were used as forced labour. This unique copy bears the ownership inscriptions of Lushington's mother, and contains 35 additional manuscript illustrations in pen and ink by the author himself.



## **Retirement of Steve Howell**

I am sure there will be more than a modicum of dismay at this news. Steve Howell will be familiar to many of our members who have researched in the Battye Library over the years. He has an amazing knowledge of WA history and knows the collections like nobody else. Those of us, like me, who were privileged to work with Steve have wonderful memories of his companionship, kindness, commitment and devilish wit. He is an accomplished wordsmith and has often delighted his colleagues and friends with wonderful 'pomes' that poked shrewd fun at all sorts of pomposity. We will miss seeing Steve in Battye but wish him a wonderful, fulfilling, and well-travelled retirement.

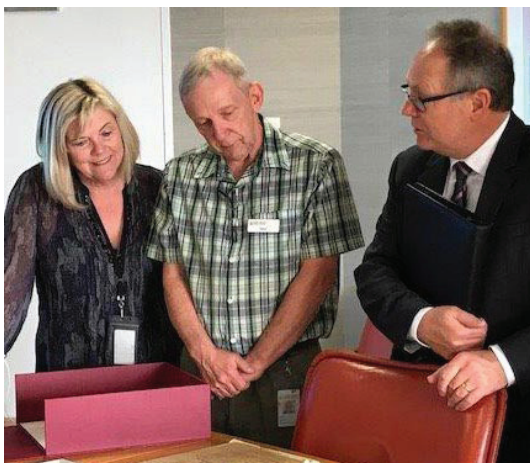
Jennie Carter

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Margaret Allen also pays tribute to Steve.

Senior Subject Specialist Steve Howell announced his retirement from the State Library in January. Steve began his career at the Battye Library in March 1977. In his forty one years of public service, Steve

has provided assistance to many thousands of Western Australians, answering all manner of research queries in a professional, accurate and thorough manner. He is the author of many subject guides to the Battye Library as well as the publication, *Dead reckoning: how to find your way through the genealogical jungle of Western Australia*. Over his long career, Steve has written and presented research papers and curated exhibitions on a diverse range of topics from the Durack dynasty to the story behind the colony's first printed book. His professionalism, broad knowledge of the Battye collections and wicked sense of humour will be sorely missed by colleagues and clients alike.



Steve Howell (centre) with Library Board Vice Chair, Deborah Hamblin and David Templeman, Minister for Local Government, Heritage, Culture and the Arts, 2017. (SLWA)

Margaret Allen PSM, CEO and State Librarian.



## State Library - building works on Level One

The State Library has announced that Level One will be closed for refurbishment. To prepare for an upgrade, the collections on the floor will be moved and bookshelves will be emptied. If members have trouble finding items you are looking for please speak to a staff member on the Ground Floor or Level Three.

Sections of the first floor will be inaccessible until May while painting and carpeting is being undertaken. SLWA look forward to welcoming us all back to Level One when work is completed.



## **State Library of WA - Strategic planning**

The Library Board of Western Australia is developing its next strategic plan to guide its policies and programs up to 2022. As part of the task of consultation with the community, the Friends of Battye Library, along with other organisations was invited to two focus groups which were held on Wednesday 31 January. Gillian O'Mara and I represented the Friends - I attended the morning session and Gillian the afternoon one. As well as people from history organisations, including the History Council, Professional Historians Association and the Friends, representatives of State Government agencies, Curtin and the University of WA, reading and literacy programs, and Indigenous and multicultural affairs.

We were limited to an hour, but the session I was in extended beyond that time as many issues were hotly discussed. Almost immediately it was clear that the Western Australian collections of Battye Library and the State Records Office were uppermost in the thinking of the majority of those present. Several suggestions were made to improve the promotion of our State's history, and comparisons were drawn with the prominent emphasis given to an area's materials and heritage in other institutions in Australia and around the world. Gillian reported that her session was similar in its concern for the Battye Library and WA stories. One man from a government department (unfortunately I didn't catch which one) made a very astute observation that with the revitatisation of the Perth Cultural Centre and the soon to be opened Yagan Square that the State Library was in a key position to showcase its collections and entice visitors to experience WA history on the ground floor. This sparked several comments on how this could be done. The session went by very quickly and it will be interesting to see how the concerns raised by the various focus groups are incorporated into the State Library's forthcoming strategic plan.

One concern raised was how the strategic plan would impact or guide the work of the State Records Office. The Director of the SRO, Cathrin Cassarchis, has since clarified, that under the Act, the State Records Office produces its own strategic plan.

At our February Friends of Battye Library Committee meeting, our President expressed appreciation to the CEO, Margaret Allen, for the opportunity to be involved in the consultation and we are looking forward to hearing more about the progress of the plan in due course.

Jennie Carter



## State Records Office - News from the Archives

### Geoffrey Bolton Lecture 2017

Emeritus Professor Stuart Macintyre from Melbourne University delivered the 2017 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture on Thursday evening 14 November 2017, at the Government House Ballroom in St George's Terrace, Perth. 'From Bolshevism to Populism: Australia in a Century of Global Transformation' was the topic of his address and approximately 160 people attended the event. The Hon. David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts officiated at the event by introducing this year's speaker and other dignitaries included H.E. Kerry Sanderson AC, the Governor of Western Australia. Like previous years ABC Radio National recorded the lecture which was broadcast on 23rd January 2018 – the first Big Ideas program for 2018. It is also available for podcast on ABC's Big Ideas website. Work is in progress to secure a speaker for the 2018 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture, which will occur in the second half of this year.



### SRO Lunchtime Seminar - Tuesday 8 May 2018

Speaker: Dr Andy Kaladelfos, Senior Research Fellow with 'The Prosecution Project' at Griffith University Criminology Institute.

Topic: *The Prosecution Project: digitising Australia's crime and punishment records*. This seminar is presented as part of the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival.

#### ***An invitation:***

If any Friends of Battye Library members wish to present at a SRO Lunchtime Seminar on a research topic related to the State Archives Collection in the second half of this year, please email [gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au) with your proposal.



### Introductory Workshop for the Ancestors' Words/Noongar Letters Project

On 24 and 25 October SRO hosted a visit and provided a workshop for a group of 19 Noongar elders and people from the South West of Western Australia led by Darryl Kickett. They were accompanied by

three attendees from the Curtin University's Ancestors Words Project Team, led by Professor Anna Haebich. The workshop was essentially an introduction to SRO and the State Archives Collection. It also focused on ways of researching State Archives at the SRO, and remotely, by using the online catalogue and other online and in-house finding aids. The primary aim of the Ancestors' Words project is to locate Noongar voices in the State Archives and other archival collections. The workshop included a brief tour of SRO.

### **Notre Dame/SRO Workshop: Lives in Archives - using archives at the SRO**

Also in late October 2017 Senior Archivist Gerard Foley led a workshop for 12 people organised by both Notre Dame University and SRO titled 'Lives in Archives: using archives at the State Records Office of Western Australia'. A session was also provided at Notre Dame University in Fremantle. The workshop covered the essential skills required to research and critique State Archives.

### **Perth Metro Plans Project**

Work is continuing to finalise the geo-referencing of Perth's sewerage plans and to complete this project in 2018.

### **Consultations**

The SRO continues to be involved in meeting with and advising agency representatives regarding appropriate practices during the substantial Machinery of Government changes. An SRO MOG officer has been seconded to SRO from the Department of Communities for 12-18 months to assist in this process.

### **State Records Commission**

The State Records Commission met on 8 December 2017. The Commission acknowledged the work of SRAC and SRO staff in what was a challenging year.

Cathrin Cassarchis

State Archivist and Executive Director State Records



### **Margaret Medcalf Award 2018 - Call for Nominations**

Since 2003, sixteen researchers and historians, creating works on various Western Australian subjects, have won the Margaret Medcalf

Award. Recognizing excellence in referencing and research using State Archives held by the State Records Office of Western Australia (SRO), the award honours Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM, Western Australia's second State Archivist, for her valuable contribution to the development of archives in Western Australia.

Any work completed or published in 2017 is eligible to be submitted for nomination, and anyone, including the author of the work, may submit a nomination. Unlike book awards, nominated works need not be published, and may include student dissertations and theses. They may be fiction or non-fiction, and be presented in any media.

To submit a nominated work please complete a 2018 Margaret Medcalf Award Nomination Form (see following page) and post or email it to the SRO. If published online please provide a web link. One copy of nominated and winning works will be retained permanently by the SRO.

The judging criteria for the Award are:

- Level of use of the State Archives Collection;
- Proficient and consistent use of referencing;
- Level of contribution to knowledge (historical, cultural, heritage, etc.);
- Original use of the State Archives Collection;
- Presentation.

For further details including more information about the judging criteria for the Award, see <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/margaret-medcalf-award> or contact Gerard Foley by email [gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au) or by phone on (08) 9427 3641.

Completed nomination forms and three copies of the works must be received by 4pm Friday, 6 April 2017. If more copies of the form are required please contact Gerard Foley of the SRO.



### **Margaret Medcalf Award 2018 - Nomination Form**

This annual Award recognizes excellence in referencing and research in the use of State archives held by the State Records Office of Western Australia (SRO). It honours Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM, Western Australia's second

State Archivist, for her valuable contribution to the development of archives in Western Australia. The winner of this Award receives a cash prize of \$1000, or shares this prize if there is more than one winner. Works nominated must demonstrate the use and accurate referencing of State archives.

Nominated works need not be published, may be fiction or non-fiction, and in any media. Nominators should supply three copies of nominated works to the SRO, to enable further consideration by the judging panel. If published online please provide a web link. One copy of nominated and winning works will be retained permanently by the SRO.

For further details including information about the selection criteria for the Award, see <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/margaret-medcalf-award> or contact Gerard Foley by email [gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au) or by phone on (08) 9427 3641.

Eligible nominations: Any work completed in 2017 is eligible to be submitted for nomination, and anyone, including the author of the work, may submit a nomination. Nominations for the Margaret Medcalf Award are to be made to the State Archivist, State Records Office of WA, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth, WA 6000, by 4.00pm Friday, 6 April 2018.

Author/Researcher	
Mailing Address	
Email Address	
Title of Work	
Type of Work	
Brief Description of Archival Research	

Thank you for your submission.

### **Newsletter format**

The Friends of Battye Library *Newsletter* is currently published three times a year and posted out to all members. The State Library of WA generously provides the postage and membership fees cover the printing costs. Over the past couple of years postage and printing charges have risen dramatically and, given that the vast majority of our members have access to email, it is opportune to review our practice.

Thank you to the members who have responded to the request in November's issue - you will now receive your copy by email as soon as it is printed.

If other members would be happy to receive the newsletter electronically, please let the editor, Jennie Carter, know by 30 May 2018. Email Jennie at [wa.research@gmail.com](mailto:wa.research@gmail.com) or drop her a line at:

Friends of Battye Library (Inc)  
P O Box 216  
Northbridge WA 6865



### **State Library Bookshop discount for members**

Don't forget that the State Library has generously offered members of the Friends of Battye Library a 15% discount on new book purchases. To be eligible for the discount, members must show proof of name when making their purchases so staff can confirm that you are a current member.

Please note that the discount does not apply to secondhand books sold in the bookshop, nor to the Friends of Battye Library publications which are sold at an already discounted rate.

**Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Subscriptions form**  
**From 1 July to 30 June each year**

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

**Annual Membership**

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$15
Corporate	\$50
Donation	\$ _____

(Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible)

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

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Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ post code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(If you do not wish to receive emails from us, please tick here ☐)

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**If paying by cheque**, please print this form, complete it, and send with your cheque to:

The Treasurer

Friends of Battye Library

PO Box 216, NORTHBRIDGE 6865

Or leave it in an envelope marked 'Attention Treasurer, Friends of Battye Library' at the State Library's Security desk on the ground floor.

**If paying by electronic direct funds transfer**, our details are:

Account Name – Friends of Battye Library (Inc)

Account Number – 4220 58413 : BSB Number – 016-185

In the payment description section, please type your initial and surname as well as 'subs' or 'donation' to ensure that your payment can be identified.

We will still need your completed form for our records, so please return it either by post or as an attachment to an email to [nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com) with a note of your online payment.

**If you require a receipt, please tick here ☐**

Thank you for your interest in the Friends of Battye Library, it is much appreciated.



## Jack's Back: A Further Focus on Footwear

It certainly came as a complete surprise to me when I was called from the audience at our last general meeting to be presented with a printed and bound collection of some of the 'Jack's Back' articles I had written over the years. Here I again express my sincere thanks to the Friends Committee for initiating the project and to Cherie Strickland for the actual work of producing it so admirably. It is also timely to record my appreciation to the editor of our Newsletter, Jennie Carter, for having obtained many of the pertinent illustrations enlivening it that have been drawn from Battye's extensive collections. It is from the last photo in this work that I am now inspired to enlarge upon what I wrote for this column in our November issue. It shows the façade of Moana Chambers at 618 Hay Street in Perth, with its strong focus on the shoe store of Ezywalkin Pty Ltd.



Moana Chambers. Battye Library, SLWA 099569PD.

Founded at Boulder in 1899 by two partners, Gaze and Cookes, their firm went on to establish branch shops in Perth, suburbia, other country towns and in the eastern states, and so grew to be the largest boot and shoe manufacturers and retailers in Australia. From 1923 to 1955 their chief place of business was at the Moana site, where their colourful displays were said to have dominated the street. Some major alterations were made to the building after that, as shown in architectural drawings that are also part of the historical account now on display there. It seems that the shoe store was of lesser stature thereafter, and presumably another factor in such decline must have been the strong competition from nearby rivals in the trade.

One such rival, Betts and Betts, originated in Perth in 1912, and established a shop a few doors west of Ezywalkin's in about 1932. This outlet expanded in 1961 to take over most of the ground floor of the massive Savoy Hotel. Its proprietors then claimed it to be the biggest shoe store in the world in respect of the floor space it occupied, having surpassed the acknowledged record previously held by Lilley and Skinner at Oxford Street in London.<sup>1</sup>

Next we learn from the research done by the Museum of Perth's team that the giant retail empire of Coles entered the footwear business by purchasing Ezywalkin in 1981, and the business was sold to the American Payless Shoe Company in 1988. Then only last month the press reported that Betts and Betts, which had also expanded nationally, will shortly close nearly 70 of their 170 stores, this caused by the rapid growth of online shopping recently.<sup>2</sup>

Thus some superlatives and fluctuating fortunes have been notable features of the local footwear trade over the past century or so. The effects of changing fashions in costume would be another interesting matter to explore, but I am pleased to end with just one little foray into this realm. I often recall an item about menswear from the wealth of fascinating information in Sir Paul Hasluck's lively book of 1955, *Mucking About: An Autobiography*. At page 125 of his chapter entitled 'Young Men About Town', he records: 'In daytime we wore boots and it was not until about 1926 that the fashion of wearing shoes in daytime became general.'

Jack Honniball

1. *The West Australian*, 11 November 1961.

2. *The West Australian*, 2 February 2018.

## **Membership Subscription** (from 1 July to 30 June - GST inclusive)

<b>Life membership</b>	<b>\$500</b>
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### **Annual membership**

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Pensioner / student / junior	\$15
Corporate	\$50

## **Meetings**

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, September (the Annual General Meeting), and November (also the end of year function). They are held at the State Library of Western Australia and usually begin at 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm and conclude before 7.00 pm, except for the November function which finishes around 8.00pm.

## **Newsletter**

Three issues will be published each year in March, July, and November (flyers will be sent out in May and September). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 10 February, 10 June, and 10 October. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

## **Contact details**

Friends of Battye Library website:

*<http://www.friendsofbattyselibrary.org.au>*

For comments, more information, membership forms, a copy of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Constitution, or to send articles and notices for the newsletter, please contact:

The editor, Jennie Carter at *[bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)*

or write to:

The President  
Friends of Battye Library (Inc)  
P O Box 216  
Northbridge WA 6865

## **J S Battye Library of West Australian History**

**Opening hours**

Mon/Thurs	9.00 am - 8.00 pm
Friday	9.00 am - 5.30 pm
Sat/Sun	10.00 am - 5.30 pm
Public holidays	- closed

**Retrievals** Every half hour during opening hours.  
Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291 Fax enquiries (08) 9427 3256  
Website [www.slwa.wa.gov.au](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au) Email: [info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@slwa.wa.gov.au)

**Specialist staff:** Dr Susanna Iuliano (Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165  
Steve Howell (Senior Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3476

**State Library shop:** Mon/Fri 10.00 am-5.00 pm. Sat & Sun 12.00 noon-5.00 pm.

### **State Records Office**

The SRO Search Room on the Ground Floor is open for enquiries and use of material Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4.30pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

#### **Retrievals**

On the days that the Search Room is open (Tues-Fri) archives held onsite are retrieved twice a day: before opening at 10am and at 12pm midday with items available by 1pm. Requests received after midday and before 4pm will be retrieved the following working day by 10am. Online and email requests made after 4pm will be available from 1pm onwards the following day if the Search Room is open. No retrievals occur on weekends, Mondays or public holidays.

Clients wishing to view archival records held at the State Records Office should still submit requests in advance. Requests can be made online at any time by registering as a researcher on the SRO's catalogue. Requests can also be made by telephone on (08) 9427 3600 or in person at the SRO during opening hours.

Materials held offsite (eg. most maps and plans, and most consignment numbers greater than 5237) will continue to be retrieved and made available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Telephone (08) 9427 3600, website [www.sro.wa.gov.au](http://www.sro.wa.gov.au), email: [sro@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:sro@sro.wa.gov.au)

### **The Genealogy Centre**

**Opening hours**- as per Battye Library opening hours on the third floor.

**Specialist staff for Family History:** for Family History information call Tuesday to Thursday on 08 9427 3247 or email [info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@slwa.wa.gov.au)

Volunteers from the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc. (WAGS) are available to assist researchers on Tues, Wed, and Thurs from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.