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March 2010

# FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

## Guest speakers

**Dr Pamela Statham Drew  
and  
Jacqueline O'Brien**

*'Highlights from  
the Wittenoom  
Story'*

Rev. John Burdett Wittenoom,  
Colonial Chaplain c.1850.  
(Courtesy Battye Library, 150795PD)



Our meeting will be held on  
Tuesday 9 March 2010  
5.00pm for 5.30pm

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 J S 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

**Emeritus President** Professor Geoffrey Bolton

### **Committee (2009-2010)**

President                   Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President             Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary                  Mrs Lorraine Dearnley

Treasurer                  Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Mr Graham Bown, Ms Jennie Carter,  
Dr Alison Gregg, Mr Jim Gregg,  
Mr Robert O'Connor, and Mrs Marion Marlow.

Ex-Officio                 Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)  
                               Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (Director, SRO)  
                               Dr Sarah Brown (Battye Historian)

Newsletter editor        Ms Jennie Carter

Volunteers                 Ring (08) 9427 3266 or email:  
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Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Friends of Battye Library Committee, the State Library of WA, or the State Records Office.

## **Our March Meeting**

**Tuesday 9 March 2010  
Great Southern Room, 4th floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5.00pm for 5.30pm.**

**Our speakers will be our President Dr Pamela Statham Drew  
and Jacqueline O'Brien.**

### ***Highlights from the Wittenoom Story***



Pamela and Jacqueline, with their recently published history of the Wittenoom family.

**Following the meeting you are invited to join us for a meal at Harry's Bar and Grill. Bookings can be confirmed on the night.**

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### **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.

## About our speakers

### Highlights from our Wittenoom Book

Pamela Statham Drew and Jacqueline O'Brien will discuss some the highlights they discovered when writing the history of the Wittenoom family.

Jacqueline had been brought up with stories of her family but found many new aspects when writing the book with Pamela. Although born and raised in Western Australia Jacqueline had studied Economics (like Pamela) but from 1951 had lived and raised a family in Ireland. Consequently she missed out on a lot of Western Australia's history and was intrigued with the way in which her own family's story involved so much State history - eg the rabbit proof fence, the gold rushes, Federation and visits by royalty.

The book will be available to buy on the night and our authors will be only too pleased to sign copies.

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### Message from our President.

Dear Friends

Welcome to all our members and we hope 2010 will be a great year for all of you. There are exciting times ahead for our organisation and your Committee is pleased to note that our application, in partnership with the Oral History Association of Australia (WA Branch) for a grant to Lotterywest to preserve the Battye Library's oral history and sound recordings was successful. Work has begun by the advisory committee to assist the State Library staff to select the magnetic tape recordings considered most significant and at risk of loss.

Heartfelt congratulations to three of our members, Dr Sue Graham-Taylor, Dr David Black, and Professor Jenny Gregory, who were honoured in this year's Australia Day Awards. Details appear opposite.

We are currently considering the feasibility of a project by members Cherie Strickland and Lorraine Clark, of Swan Genealogy, to locate and place on the Battye Library's website details of burials at the historic East Perth cemetery. We hope to bring you more about this proposal in due course.

I hope to see as many of you as possible when we meet on the 9th March for our first get-together of the year. My co-author Jacqueline O'Brien and I are looking forward to sharing with you some of the highlights from our Wittenoom book. Cheers till then

Pamela Statham Drew

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## **Our 2010 meetings and speakers' program**

### **11 May 2010**

Prof. Bob Reece - *Robert Menli Lyon*

### **13 July 2010 - Annual General Meeting**

The Oral History Records Rescue Group (OHRRG)  
*Saving our oral history heritage*

### **14 September 2010**

June Caunt - *Post war migration experiences*

### **23 November 2010 - End of year function**

Jennie & Bevan Carter - *Writing the history of Armadale*

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## **Friends of Battye Library members honoured**

We were delighted to learn that three of our members have been recognised for their work and achievements in today's awards for the Order of Australia. All of them received the award of Member (AM) in the General Division.

### **Dr Sue Graham-Taylor**

Sue receives her award for her role in conservation and the environment, air quality and waste management as well as being a noted historian. Sue was the inaugural James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellow for her work on the history of the Swan River. Some of Sue's work can be viewed on a special website *Swan River Stories: a social, political and environmental*

*history of Perth Water* at the State Library of WA [http://slwa.wa.gov.au/swan\\_river](http://slwa.wa.gov.au/swan_river) Sue is a former President of the Conservation Council of WA and is currently President of the History Council of Western Australia.

### **Professor Jenny Gregory**

Jenny received her award in recognition of her excellence as an academic and for her role in local and regional historiography. For many years she has taught history at the University of Western Australia's and is the author of historical works including 'City of Light: A History of Perth Since the 1950s'. Most recently she has been the driving force behind the publication of the 'Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia' and is its co-editor with Jan Gothard. Jenny was also Inaugural President of the History Council of WA.

### **Emeritus Professor David Black**

David has been honoured for his achievements in Education and the Social Sciences and the political history of Western Australia. For more than 25 years, David has been Chairperson of the Parliamentary History Advisory Committee in WA, responsible for guiding the Western Australian Parliamentary History Project and its oral history program. In 2004 he was appointed as a Parliamentary Fellow (History). David is the author of numerous works including 'House to House: The story of Western Australia's Government and Parliament Houses over 175 years' which he co-authored with the late Phillip Pendal.

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### **State Library News**

#### **Our Page in History**

Since the launch of Our Page in History in November last year The State Library of Western Australia Foundation has rolled out the first Public Library at the Bassendean Memorial Library. The Hon Donna Faragher, Minister for Environment; Youth and the Member for the East Metropolitan region officially launched the first Our Page in History Booth in Bassendean on Wednesday 3rd of February. Local history practitioners were in attendance as well as various groups associated

with the Bassendean Library.

The State Library of WA Foundation would like to work closely with the Friends of Battye to make the project a significant tool to capture what Western Australia looks like for future generations while preserving the history of our state. A booth has been placed in the State Library and a volunteer schedule for assisting in scanning and using the site will soon be in place. The Foundation encourages feedback from the Friends of Battye to help us make the site more user-friendly and encourage other historical groups to begin their own pages.

Our Page in History aims to raise money to digitise the collection of the State Library of Western Australia. Friends of Battye can subscribe to

the site using the promotional code of libprom. (Go to the bottom of the payment section under “Get involved” and type in as the alternate code). The Foundation encourages members to start building their own family histories and link them to towns to begin the process of storing the community memory. Our Page in History is in its infancy – we plan to spend the next two years working across the state to collect stories and images - groups like Friends of Battye are critical to our success!

Should you have any questions at all, feel free to call the Foundation on 9427 3105 or 9427 3351 or [info@ourpageinhistory.org](mailto:info@ourpageinhistory.org)



‘Our page in history’ launch at Bassendean Public Library.

Photo courtesy State Library of WA.

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### News from the Battye Historian

#### **The Royal Flying Doctor Service (WA); the Past, the Present and the Way of the Future.**

This exhibition tells the story of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Western Australia since its inception in 1934 through to today and beyond. View photographs, model planes and equipment used by medical staff in their quest to provide emergency health care to those on remote stations,

settlements and towns throughout the State. Learn how communication technologies have changed from pedal operated wireless and Morse code receivers to transistorised radios and mobile phones. This exhibition runs from 10th April -23rd May 2010

### **Digitisation at the State Library**

The State Library of Western Australia is responsible for a state collection of library material, including a comprehensive collection of material relating to Western Australia and its people. The collections include books, journals, maps, printed music, pictures, manuscripts and oral history recordings.

Reformatting, primarily by microfilming and digitisation, has enabled the State Library to both preserve collections and employ innovative ways of providing access to its collections.

By reformatting its collections the Library aims to build more accessible content relating to Western Australia's documentary and cultural heritage to support research and library programs; and, to preserve rare and fragile collections.

In addition to these objectives the Library has further specific goals relating to digitisation:

- To enable people, regardless of location, to directly access and use a range of collection materials without having to visit the Library; and
- to engage with new audiences by making collections available online and through innovative technologies.

Over the past 3 months the State Library has digitised over 700 objects from the Battye Library collections, and over the coming months this figure will grow exponentially.

Sarah Brown

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### **Western Australian Premier's Book Awards – Call for Entries**

The State Library of Western Australia announces the Call for Entries for the 2008 and 2009 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards.

The 2008 and 2009 Awards will be judged separately but presented at one function in early September 2010.

Entry is open to books and scripts which have been published/produced between 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 (2008 Awards) and 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009 (2009 Awards). For the first time, entry has been opened nationally. To be eligible authors must be citizens or permanent residents of Australia or whose work has Australia as its primary focus. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 31 March 2010.

There are six categories in the Awards: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Children's Book, Writing for Young Adults, Poetry and Scripts. The State Library of Western Australia West Australian History Award is selected from works submitted to the above categories.

The Premier's Prize of \$25,000 is presented to the overall winner, chosen from the category winners. Prize money is made available by the Western Australian Government. The West Australian History Award is sponsored by the State Library of Western Australia. Short listed entries will be announced in June 2010.

Writers or publishers wanting to enter their work should download the Guidelines and Entry Forms from the State Library's website at <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pba.html>

Expressions of interest from suitably qualified or experienced people for the Judging Panels are also sought. Further information and application details are available at <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pba.html> EOI for the Judging Panels close Wednesday 5 March 2010.

For more information regarding the Western Australian Premier's Book Awards please contact Doug George on (08) 9427 3150.

Margaret Allen  
Chief Executive Officer and State Librarian

## **The Sydney Morning Herald archive**

The State Library has recently purchased the online newspaper archive for the Sydney Morning Herald 1955-1995. The database includes articles, captions, advertisements and birth, marriage and death notices.

Earlier issues of the Sydney Morning Herald are available on the Historic Australian Newspapers website, together with other historic newspapers

from around Australia.

The database can be accessed via our website at How Do I Find – Electronic Resources – e-Newspapers. Please note that access is limited to those searching within the State Library building.

## **Press Photographer of the Year Awards 2010 Exhibition from 13 February to 30 March.**

The 500 best entries to the Awards are on display. Sunday Times photographer Ian Munro was named as the WA Press Photographer of the Year for a diverse portfolio of photographs that included a police raid, a hospital clown and a Nullarbor golfer. The 500 best entries will be displayed at the State Library of Western Australia. Ian also won the Spot News Award.

The awards are divided into nine categories: Portfolio, Spot News, News Feature, Portrait, Sport, Feature, Picture Story, Suburban and Country. The overall, Suburban and Country prizes are each judged from a portfolio of the entrants best four images for the year.

Other category winners are Michael Wilson of The West Australian, freelance photographer Ross Swanborough, Kerris Berrington of The Sunday Times, Lee Griffith of The West Australian, Paul Kane of Getty Images, Andrew Ritchie of Community Newspapers and The Kalgoorlie Miner's Mary Mills.

(From the State Library's website)

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### **Have you visited the Friends of Battye Library Website yet?**

Recently we commissioned consultant researchers, and Friends of Battye Library members, Lorraine Clark and Cherie Strickland of 'Swan Genealogy' [<http://www.swangenealogy.com.au>], to develop a web presence for our organisation. Thanks to their skills and generosity we now have an attractive and informative new website.

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

We welcome your comments or suggestions which can be easily made using the feedback page.

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## State Records Office News

### Margaret Medcalf Award

Nominations are called for the Margaret Medcalf Award. This award recognises excellence in referencing and research in the use of State archives and 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 the Award receives a cash prize of \$1000.

Works nominated for the award must demonstrate use of the State Archives collection, held by the State Records Office. Selection criteria include level of use of the State archives collection, the quality of referencing of archival sources, the level of the work's contribution to knowledge, whether the work uses new archival sources or if known archives are interpreted in new or different ways, and the quality of the work's presentation.

Nominated works need not be published, may be fiction or non-fiction, and in any media. Copies of nominated works must be supplied to the State Records Office, to enable short-listing and further consideration by the judging panel. Short-listed and winning works will be retained permanently by the State Records Office. Any work completed in the 2009 calendar year is eligible for nomination. Nominations may be submitted by anyone, including the author of the work.

Nominations for the Award, along with a copy of the nominated work, should be sent to the Director: State Records, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth, WA 6000, by close of business Wednesday, 31 March 2010.

For further details see the SRO's website at <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/MMAward.asp> or contact Gerard Foley at the State Records Office on (08) 9427 3364.

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### SRO Lunchtime seminars 2010

The State Records Office of Western Australia invites you to the

## 2010 series of Lunchtime Seminars.

Featuring a variety of topics, these seminars are designed to inform researchers about the SRO, its functions and the collections it houses. It also provides researchers with an opportunity to meet fellow researchers, learn about members of staff, and provides a forum for questions and discussions in a relaxed and friendly environment. Attendees are encouraged to bring their sandwiches and drinks to the Seminars. Tea and Coffee are provided and bookings are essential.

Following are details about the first Lunchtime Seminar for 2010 featuring SRO's Archives Research Officer Tom Reynolds

Thursday 11 March - Speaker: **Tom Reynolds**

Topic: *Records about Mining held by the State Records Office.*

When:       Lunchtime 12.30 – 1.30

Venue:       Southwest Room, Ground Floor, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre.

Other Lunchtime Seminars scheduled for 2010 are:

Tuesday 4 May – Speaker: **Isla Macphail**

Topic: *Western Australian Parliamentary elections 1829 – 1901.*

Venue:       Southwest Room, Ground Floor

Tuesday 6 July – Lunchtime Seminar to mark NAIDOC week.

Speaker: **Dr Mary Anne Jebb**

Topic: *Community history and 'Mowanjum 50 years'.*

Venue:       Great Southern Room, 4th floor Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre.

Thursday 9 September – Speaker: **Kerry King**

Topic: *'Lifting the Bonnet' on the dark history of road crashes in WA.*

Venue:       Southwest Room, Ground Floor,

Wednesday 13 October – Speaker: **Damien Hassan**

Topic:       AEON 2.0.

Wed 24 Nov – Speaker: to be advised – Topic: to be advised

These dates and venues will be confirmed a month before the event.

Bookings are necessary for these Seminars, so please phone 9427 3360 to book, or let us know should you visit the SRO's Search Room before the event.

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### **Email addresses needed**

To enable us to share information and keep members up to date on important happenings, we have a group email list for current members. If you would like to be kept informed of important matters or forthcoming events relevant to the Battye Library and the State Records Office, please email me at [bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com) or Nick Drew at [nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com).

In August, advance notice about the September meeting was circulated to our 'online' members. If you received this notice, then your email address has already been included on the list and you do not need to reply to me or Nick. If you are a new member or renewed your membership and included your email address, then your email address has also been added to the group list. If you do not want to be sent any Friends of Battye Library information by email, please let me know.

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

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.

Visit the bookshop on the Ground Floor of the Alexander Library Building or Telephone: 08 9427 3211, Fax: 08 9427 3215

Email: [info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@slwa.wa.gov.au). Open seven days a week:

Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm

Sat & Sun: 12noon - 5pm

## **Archival quality materials**

The bookshop also stocks archival materials as recommended by the State Library's conservation staff. There are a variety of boxes, paper and card, photo enclosures, and binders available to help preserve precious items.

Jennie Carter

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## **Lindsay James Peet - 'Gem of Time' 2009**

Lindsay is great friend of the Battye Library and a generous supporter and contributor to the State's heritage collections. Over many years he has donated important and valuable collections of original materials,

including personal papers and photographs to the Battye Library and State Records Office archives. In addition he has contributed enormously to the Library's published works, ephemera, and map collections. Battye Library staff appreciate Lindsay's efforts and recall fondly the times when he would regularly pop into the library and deposit with them bags of ephemeral publications which he had assiduously gathered on his many trips around the State. Lindsay understood that these brochures, flyers and pamphlets,

all items which are generally tossed away, give a unique perspective on Western Australian society and are a precious research resource for the future.

His passion for Western Australian history is infectious and Lindsay's deep



knowledge of many aspects of our heritage and past is remarkable. He has a particular interest in the history of military aviation in this State and has worked with the National Trust (WA) to identify and preserve sites of importance. Lindsay has researched and written authoritatively on aspects of World War Two as well as the history of real estate development in Western Australia. Most recently he has written articles on these topics for the *Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia*. Lindsay holds a Bachelor of Science, a Graduate Diploma in Heritage Studies, a Diploma in Real Estate Management and is a qualified valuer. He has been working towards a Master of Arts degree at Curtin University.

Lindsay was instrumental in the establishment and management of the Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) Project which was sponsored by the Friends of Battye Library with a \$3million grant from Lotterywest. Lindsay's parents, Cyril and Ethel Peet are commemorated in the memorial fund which was used to preserve an important collection of photographs identified through the HRRC Project.

As an indicator of Lindsay's deep concern and compassion for those less fortunate, he has been involved in several community and charitable groups, such as 'Lifeline' and the Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation. He is a long term member of the Friends of Battye Library, the National Trust (WA), and the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, and has served on the executive of the Professional Historians Association.

The Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.) would like to add to Lindsay's many awards and achievements and show our appreciation of his commitment and generosity 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 Honour Board list can be viewed on the third floor of the State Library of WA, just outside the lift near the Battye Library.

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## **Anglican Orphanage records now available for research at the Battye Library.**

In 2007 the Anglican Archives in Perth was awarded a Community Heritage Grant, part of which was for a Significance Assessment of the archives. Recommendation number seven from this report identified the need to microfilm the early orphanage records, some of the collection's rarer and most significant records and provide them to the Battye Library.

In August 2009 this was partly accomplished when 12 archival boxes were sent to David Whiteford and his team for microfilming. Too fragile for research in the past, these volumes are now available to the general public and will hopefully give historians a new source of information on early childcare in Perth.

The records span the years 1872 to 1955 and include Matrons' Diaries of Swan Boys Orphanage 1898-1900, these hand written accounts of the boys' daily small illnesses and Matrons' remedies make for very interesting reading. Financial Records of the Swan Boys Orphanage 1903-1915 and Swan Native and Half Caste Missions 1893-1915, account and statement books for Redhill Industry School for Boys 1903-1908 and Industrial Farm 1920-1922, Accounts and expenditure for St. George's Girl's Lodge 1897 -1904 and Minutes of the Perth Protestant Orphanage Committee 1881-1888.



Hopefully in 2010 the Anglican Orphanage Committee Minutes 1899-1952 will also be copied. Thanks go to Jennie Carter who did the Significance Assessment of the Anglican Church Archives in May 2008 and David Whiteford for his ongoing support and advice in organising microfilming of archives in our collection by the Battye Library.

The records are available for research at MN 614, Perth Orphanages, Acc. 7203A

Annie Q. Medley, Diocesan Archivist  
Anglican Church, Perth

## Update on restoration of Gwambygine Homestead



We mentioned in an earlier newsletter that I had been involved in securing a large grant from the Commonwealth Government to rescue the old Gwambygine Homestead, just outside York. This mud built house was built originally by the Wittenoom brothers in 1835-6, and occupied, after the Wittenooms, by the Hicks family and the Cliftons (to whom the land still belongs).

There has now been significant progress. All the accumulated rubbish (and sheep droppings) have been cleared out, the pest control people have terminated three white ant nests discovered in the roof and nearby, the asbestos people have removed the asbestos sheeting used to fill in the verandah to make a sleep out and a work area outside the kitchen. The photograph shows this kitchen work area - where one can imagine chooks being dispatched and de-feathered for dinner, wood cut into smaller pieces for the fires and the dinner bell rung to call the hands in for their meals. Work begins next week on the roof, replacing the corroded iron with new iron sheeting - at which time we will be able to see how much of the original shingle roof remains. We will keep you posted.



Pamela Statham Drew

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## From the Battye Library collections

The following interesting snippet has been sent to us from the Battye Archivist, David Whiteford.

## Battye Library immortalised in Eneabba cave

The Weelawadgi Cave, 11 miles west of Eneabba, was known from at least as early as 1910 but it wasn't until 1969 that a full survey was made of it, discovering nearly 4,000 feet of passage and many interesting features. David C Lowry, his wife, and D Hos undertook the survey and named and photographed the features, Among them is :

"The Battye Library, with records of a long history of occupation by bats. The chamber has spectacular white masses of stalactites, stalagmites and columns, which make an attractive contrast with the dark smoothly undulating floor of sand and guano. It is probably the finest display of formation in any cave north of Perth" (as described by David Lowry in *Western Caver* v9 #5, Sept-Oct 1969).

A September 2009 report on the cave is published in the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia)

Inc. newsletter *CEGSA News* edition 216, Nov. 2009. Paul Hosie led a group of cavers who undertook some cleaning and maintenance of the cave. It is a gated cave and approval to access it must be obtained from the Department of Environment and Conservation. A copy of this South Australian newsletter is being added to our ephemera collection as it contains a number of Western Australian reports.



Battye Library at the Weelawadgi Cave. Photo courtesy of Paul Hosie, published in *CEGSA News* November 2009.

David Whiteford

Team Leader, Archives

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## Recent books in the Battye Library

Basedow, Herbert. *Narrative of an expedition of exploration in North-West Australia*. Carlisle, W.A.: Hesperian Press, 2009.(The Western Australian Explorers' Diaries Project). [This journal of the 1916 expedition describes

the geology, flora, fauna and Aboriginal peoples of the west coast of the Kimberley frontier and the Wyndham.]

Clunies-Ross, John C. *The Clunies-Ross chronicle*. Imprint: John Clunies-Ross, 2009. [The chronicle details 150 years of the settlement and evolution of the Cocos Island community and the Clunies-Ross family.]

Hetherington, Penelope. *Paupers, poor relief and poor houses in Western Australia 1929-1910*. Crawley, W.A.: UWA Publishing, 2009. [The story of poor relief in Western Australia intersects closely with the stories of convicts and assisted immigrants. Discusses the system of nineteenth century poor relief in Western Australia, illustrating the states social, economic and political history.]

*One small port : three names. A history of the Dongara Port*. Compiled by the Irwin District Historical Society Inc, 2009. [History of the Dongara Maritime Industry.]

*Persistence in faith: a history of St Marks Anglican Church Bassendean, Western Australia 1909-2009*. Bassendean, W.A.: St Marks Anglican Church Council, 2009. [Traces 100 years of history of the St Marks Church and the Church of England (later the Church of England in Australia and then the Anglican Church of Australia in Bassendean.)]

Shellam, T. *Shaking hands on the fringe : negotiating the Aboriginal world at King Georges Sound*. Crawley, W.A. University of Western Australia, 2009. [This ethnographic history narrates cross-cultural stories of the developing relationships between British and Aboriginal individuals after the British established a garrison at King Georges Sound Albany in 1826.]

Willing, J. & Ferguson, Beth. *Full steam ahead : Bunbury Port Authority 1909-1995*. Bunbury, W.A.: Bunbury Port Authority, 2009. [The story of men who built a port which, after a century of growth and innovation, has become a model for responsible and successful port operations.]

Yiannakis, John N. *Odysseus in the golden west: Greek migration, settlement and adaptation in Western Australia since 1947*. Waterford, W.A.: API Network, 2009. [Sets the experience, achievements and adaptation of post-war Greek migrants and the Australia-born firmly within the economic, cultural and political context of the host society.]

Compiled by Marion Marlow

## More great resources for Western Australian researchers.

### Police Gazette of Western Australia (1876 to 1889, 1899 - 1900)

The *Police Gazette of Western Australia* (1876 onwards) is a valuable resource for researching police and criminals in Western Australia. Information can be found under various headings: apprehensions (name of person arrested, arresting constable, charge and sentence); police appointments, dismissals, discharges, promotions, resignations and transfers; tickets of leave, certificates of freedom, and conditional pardons issued to convicts; physical descriptions of prisoners etc.

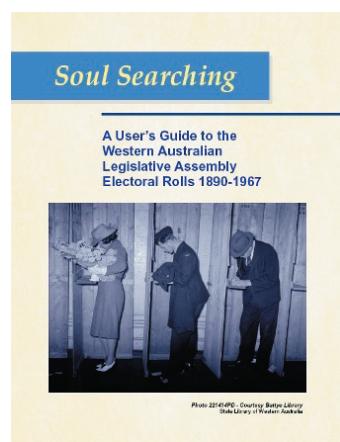
With thanks to the Friends of Battye Library and the Sholl Bequest, the *Police Gazettes* 1876-1900 have been digitised and are fully text searchable.[www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/western\\_australian/police\\_gazettes](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/western_australian/police_gazettes)

### Soul searching: A user's guide to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly electoral rolls 1890 - 1967

This useful publication was compiled by Julie Martin, who was for many years a senior librarian at the Battye Library, with the aid of a grant from the Friends of Battye Library.

In 1890, Western Australia was granted self government and a bicameral parliament (one with two Houses) was established. The Legislative Assembly or Lower House provided the Government of the State whilst the Legislative Council or Upper House acted as a House of Review.

This guide is only to the Legislative Assembly electoral rolls, as most residents of Western Australia met the voting qualifications for this House. Until 1963, a property qualification was required for those enrolling to vote in Legislative Council elections. The guide can be accessed from the Friends of Battye Library website at:  
<http://www.friendsofbattyeibrary.org.au/Online%20Publications.htm>



### Legislative Council Minutes 1832-1870

You may have seen in the *West Australian* an article titled 'Bringing our Colonial Days Back to Life' - announcing the availability of the Legislative

Council Minutes from 1832-1870. They have all been typed up and are very clear and can be found at: <http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/web/newwebparl.nsf/iframewebpages/LC+Archived+Minutes>

or through Google at 'WA Parliament , legislative Council business'.

## Australian Newspapers Online

News from the National Library of Australia's Australian newspapers online project is that work has started on digitising more of the *West Australian* and we should see some online articles for the period 1901-1954 appearing in late March or April this year. See newspapers on line at <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

## CSO Records

A reminder also about Graham Bown's early WA Colonial Secretary's Office records on CD is probably timely too as they are a marvellous resource for the first years and can reveal so much not available before. They can still be purchased at the Library Shop as can other Friends of Battye Library publications.

## Swan River Stories

*Swan River Stories* provides a fascinating look at the social, political and environmental history of Perth water, as told through original photographs and words.

Developed by Sue Graham-Taylor (the inaugural James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellow), this multimedia website is a useful tool for those interested in the history of Perth water or as a starting point for further research. See: [http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/swan\\_river](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/swan_river)



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Perth Baths c.1900, E L Mitchell collection. Courtesy Battye Library 001739D

The State Library offers a range of tours and interactive programs designed to help you explore the building and its collections. All tours and programs are free.

### ***Maps, music, microfilm and more***

Discover more than just books @ Your State Library.

When: Tuesdays 12.30pm (weekly)

Where: Discovery Lounge ground floor.

This free guided tour of the Library will introduce you to our unique collections, including the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and take you behind the scenes. Tour lasts approximately 50 minutes  
Bookings not required (except for groups).

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### **Have you a story to tell?**

Contributions for the Friends of Battye Library Newsletter are welcomed from our members.

Have you come across any interesting snippets about Western Australian history? Are you involved in a research project that you would like to share with us? Do you use the Battye Library or any of the online resources provided by the State Library of WA or the Friends of Battye Library? If so, we would love to hear from you.

Articles up to 250 words are preferred for publication. Your contributions can be emailed to [bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com) or posted to the Friends of Battye Library (Inc), PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865.

Deadlines for publication in 2010 are 10 June, 10 August, and 15 October.

Jennie Carter

(Editor)

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

**Annual Membership**

Ordinary	\$20
Joint	\$30
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$10
Corporate	\$50
Donation	\$_____

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

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Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

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Tel: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

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

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. For example 'JCarter subs'.

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.

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

## **Jack's Back: Two fascinating relics of a theatre long gone**

Once again I invite the reader to share in one of my own fields of historical interest, namely matters theatrical. Specifically, to focus on two very different works of art that once decorated the mezzanine foyer of the Capitol Theatre, Perth's leading cinema in its early years, the Capitol stood at the foot of William Street from 1929 to 1967.

One of these pieces is the buff-coloured marble bust of the film star Rudolph Valentino, who enjoyed widespread fame and adulation as the great lover in the era of the silent screen. Some emphasis is given to

this item as part of 'Show Stoppers', the current exhibition (no.39) presented by the Museum of Performing Arts at His Majesty's Theatre. Sculpted by an Italian artist, Professor Bessi, it was made for the actress Pola Negri, Valentino's last paramour, and is attached to a free-standing alabaster pedestal. The idol of millions of female fans, the actor was deeply mourned after his untimely death in 1926. Even in staid Perth, he obviously had his long-devoted admirers, for the staff at the Capitol often founded the sculpted face earing impressions of lipstick!



The second art feature is a much bigger affair - a pair of wooden casements, each 5.2 metres wide and 1.2 metres high, and each containing a set of coloured leadlight panels. These form panoramic depictions of Perth in about 1870 and 1928 respectively. They are on permanent display back-lit and mounted along a gallery wall within the Film and Television Institute at Fremantle. At the Capitol they used to adorn two curved loges or 'cosy corners' on either side of the central stairway that led from the mezzanine level to the dress circle and lounge seating.

The five panels were commissioned from Barnett Bros Ltd, Builders' suppliers, by Poole and Mouritzen, the architects of the Temple Court complex (of which the Capitol was part); they were designed and executed by Arthur Clarke. When the buildings were eventually demolished, the panels were saved and relocated thanks to the efforts

of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, the WA Museum, the WA Arts Council and their new host, the aforesaid FTI.

The first series of panels shows the young city as it would have appeared from the end of the William Street jetty- a succession of small buildings huddled together and dominated by the new Perth Town Hall. Interestingly, ten of its features are further identified by captions superimposed in tiny lettering. From left to right, they are William Street, the Old Pier, the Site of Temple Court, Sir James Lee Steere's residence, the Old Congregational Church, the Misses' Cameron school, the premises of A D Letch and of J J Mews, the Devonshire Arms Hotel and the Misses Camerons' residence.

A careful search could well reveal what photograph or other basis the artist used in designing this scene. What is most intriguing is why he gave such emphasis both to the Misses Camerons' school (which faced the Esplanade) and their residence (in Pier Street?). Were they his relatives, perhaps? It is also of present-day relevance to note the blue water of the Swan River lapping the southern edge of the street then as now called The Esplanade. Will it be made to return there?

the second set of panels shows the scene from a more distant viewpoint, namely from Kings Park, with shrubbery in the foreground. The vista extends from the new Lord Forrest statue at left and sweeping all the way round to Mill Point at the right. This time there is little detail in the city itself, and it still has a low-level skyline but for a still lofty Town Hall. However, there are far fewer buildings shown in South Perth than one would expect for the late 1920s.

This fine piece of artwork deserves to be better known generally. If visiting Fremantle on a weekday, Friends would do well to call in at the FTI, which leads off Princess May Park at 92 Adelaide Street (and just opposite the venerable Proclamation tree).

The archivist at His Majesty's has further advised that his Museum's exhibition no.41 (from July next) will be devoted to the Capitol's contemporary, the even more ornate Ambassadors Theatre, which entertained Perth from 1928 to 1972.

(Jack Honniball)



Capitol Theatre audience, ca. 1932 Courtesy  
Battye Library 101599PD:

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### **May Gibbs exhibition at South Perth**

Held as part of the 2010 City of South Perth Fiesta, Theatre in art: *May Gibbs - frequently centre stage* reflects May's involvement in theatre and her love of family and performance. Absorb yourself in the gorgeous watercolour world of May and her father Herbert. Entrance is free.

#### **Exhibition details**

Friday 26 February - Sunday 11 April 2010

Monday closed

Tuesday to Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Heritage House Cultural Centre  
111 Mill Point Road, South Perth, Ph: 9474 0811

(Corner of Mill Point Road and Mends Street). Parking is available on the South Perth Esplanade and at the Perth Zoo

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

**Life membership** \$500

### **Annual membership**

Ordinary	\$20
Joint	\$30
Pensioner / student / junior	\$10
Corporate	\$50

### **Meetings**

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July (also the Annual General Meeting), September and November (also the end of year function). These 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.

### **Newsletter**

Published four times per year - March, June, September and November (no newsletter is published in May). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 10 February, 10 June, 10 August and 15 October each year. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

### **Contact details**

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 Secretary, Lorraine Dearnley on [dearnley@aapt.net.au](mailto:dearnley@aapt.net.au), or,  
The editor, Jennie Carter at [bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)

or write to:

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

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

<b>Opening hours</b>	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 (from 1 July 2009)		

<b>Retrievals</b>	Every half hour during opening hours.
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Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291	Fax enquiries (08) 9427 3256
Website <a href="http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au">www.slwa.wa.gov.au</a>	Email: <a href="mailto:battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au">battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au</a>

**Specialist staff:** Dr Sarah Brown (Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165  
Steve Howell (Senior Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3476  
Carmel McRobert (Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3305

**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 on weekdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

<b>Retrievals</b>	Previous day	Available 9.30 am
	11.00 am	Available 12.00 pm
	1.00 pm	Available 2.00 pm

Requests for use of Government archives in the Battye Library must be lodged at the State Records Office by 1.00 pm if required the same evening and by 1.00 pm on Friday if required on the weekend; for continued use of the material in this way, the requests must be renewed on each occasion they are required. Requests must also be submitted for after hours use of State Records Office microfilm.

Telephone (08) 9427 3360, 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**

(First Floor State Library) for Family History research.

**Opening hours-** as per Battye Library opening hours.

**Specialist staff for Family History:** Tricia Fairweather ((08) 9427 3395), Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247. Email: [family.history@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:family.history@slwa.wa.gov.au)

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

NO. 137

June 2010



# FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

*27th Annual General Meeting*

**Jonathan Schmidt**

*'Through the eyes of the conservator'*

**'Exhibiting the  
Duracks :  
the other side  
of the story'**



Mary Durack and friends at Argyle Downs Station, 1942 (Courtesy Battye Library Reg Durack Collection.061761PD )

Our AGM will be held on  
Tuesday 13 July 2010  
5.00pm for 5.30pm

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 J S 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

**Emeritus President** Professor Geoffrey Bolton

### **Committee (2009-2010)**

President                   Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President             Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary                  Mrs Lorraine Dearnley

Treasurer                  Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Mr Graham Bown, Ms Jennie Carter,  
Dr Alison Gregg, Mr Jim Gregg, and  
Mr Robert O'Connor.

Ex-Officio                 Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)  
                               Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (Director, SRO)  
                               Dr Sarah Brown (Battye Historian)

Newsletter editor        Ms Jennie Carter

Volunteers                 Ring (08) 9427 3266 or email:  
[volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au)

All correspondence to:  
The Secretary, PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865

ISSN 1035-8692

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

# Our 27th AGM

Tuesday 13 July 2010  
Great Southern Room, 4th floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5.00pm for 5.30pm.

*Through the eyes of the conservator*

## Exhibiting the Duracks :the other side of the story.

Paper Conservator Jonathan Schmidt will discuss the process of putting together an exhibition from storage to display.

Following the meeting you are invited to join us for a meal at Harry's Bar and Grill. Bookings can be confirmed 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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## **About our speaker**

### **Through the eyes of the Conservator**

Jonathan Schmidt has been the Paper Conservator at the State Library for seven years and has treated a wide range of collection materials including documents, photographs, maps, ephemera and plans. He trained in conservation of cultural materials at the University of Canberra.

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### **Message from our President.**

Dear Friends

Our last meeting was clouded by our speaker Prof Bob Reece's ill health. The bits that he gave me to tell you about Robert Menli Lyon, however, were enough to whet our appetite for another talk on this enigmatic man perhaps next year.

Our next General meeting is the AGM – and we have another interesting talk lined up for you. Please remember too that subscriptions are now due and you will find an application / renewal form on page 19.

In this issue we have included nomination forms for places on the committee. Please, please, can some of you think about joining us on the committee. We would like to see some new faces and we could all do with some new ideas and perspectives. It is not onerous - we meet the second Tuesday of the alternate months at 4pm – in between the general meetings. The committee's responsibility is to organise the program for members, supervise our gift fund, decide on applications for funding from the Sholl bequest – and to find ways of raising interest in both the State Library's Battye Library and State Records Office collections.

As you will hear at the AGM our Lotterywest grant to help rescue Oral History Tapes is progressing – the Library is in the process of installing the sound proof rooms to enable the project to get underway – and the team of library specialists and OHHRC representatives are sorting through the existing tapes to decide on priorities – which is a mammoth task.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting. We will have just returned from

a wonderful overseas trip – with a cruise of the Baltic as the highlight!

Pamela Statham Drew

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## Our 2010 meetings and speakers' program

### **13 July 2010 - Annual General Meeting**

Jonathan Schmidt, *Through the eyes of the conservator.*

### **14 September 2010**

June Caunt - *Post war migration experiences*

### **23 November 2010 - End of year function**

Jennie & Bevan Carter - *Writing the history of Armadale*

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## State Library News

### **Exhibitions**

#### **Durack Dynasty: an exhibition of the Durack Family Papers**

The Durack family have had major influences across Australia. It all began when a small branch of an Irish family tried to escape poverty in 1853. The State Library presents an exceptional exhibition on this pioneering family, showcasing the extensive collections of Durack material held by the Library together with material on loan from members of the Durack family. Featuring diaries, artworks, letters, notebooks, photographs, film, rare books, objects and more, the exhibition tells us some of the fortunes of this extraordinary family and their contribution to Western Australia.

The exhibition is open from 29 May to 3 October 2010. There are also a number of associated events, including a series of talks, tours and films. For more information visit: [www.slwa.wa.gov.au/whats\\_on/events](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/whats_on/events)

### **New Collections**

The State Library's heritage collection has been enriched by several

significant donations, including:

- Diary of Eileen Lanagan, written on the Canning Stock Route in 1940
- Records of the Australian Opera Studio
- Papers of the Hepburn Heights Bushland Reserve Campaign: 1986-1994
- Collection of watercolor paintings by Mary Edwards
- Collection of pastoral station ledgers, including PM Durack and Mary Durack material, personal correspondence of John Forrest
- Recollections of small country schools early in the 20th century by Dorothy G. Austin
- Papers of Bishop Michael Challen
- The Aerial Surveys Australia collection (1000+ negatives of aerial photographs taken 1960-1990s).

Note: some of these collections have not been processed/re-housed etc, so may not be accessible to researchers yet.

### **Digitisation**

Digitisation of Battye collections continues – this includes a range of materials including, maps, archives and photographs.

### **Kalgoorlie CollectionsCare Regional Hub**

SLWA has recently met with the coordinator of the new CollectionsCare Regional Hub in the Goldfields to discuss possible opportunities for working together. CollectionsCare aims to develop practical skills and knowledge of staff and volunteers of regional collecting institutions. SLWA will look at ways to work with the Hub to help local collecting organisations manage their collections and build cooperative working relationships.

### **Closing the Gap**

Under the Commonwealth's Closing the Gap Strategy, SLWA will be delivering Information Literacy training in WA's remote Indigenous

communities. This will be a three year program, and will see SLWA staff working with Indigenous communities to improve literacy in all age groups.

Sarah Brown  
(Battye Historian)

## From the collections

### Rare stamp found

Volunteer Patrick Bunbury had a rare find when processing archival documents, Acc 712A/8 (Stone, James & Co.), recently – a Penny Black stamp. The stamp is attached to a letter, dated 29 July 1840 and addressed to Messrs Few Hamilton & Few, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden (London). The sender is Wm. Smith of 2 Francis Street, Golden Square, requesting payment for various goods.



Before gathering our belongings and disappearing into the sunset, Patrick and I thought we should ‘do a Google’ to find the stamp’s worth - see if we were flying first class or business. We sadly unpacked our bags when we saw that used Penny Blacks are valued at anything from \$20 upwards to about \$2000, depending on the condition of the stamp.

“Our” Penny Black is in quite good condition, apart from having no left-side margin. A Penny Black with all margins intact is worth more than those with missing margins. This and many other interesting facts about the Penny Black can be found online in *Wikipedia* and various enthusiastic philatelic sites.

The stamp is safely and securely housed in Security Stack with a copy made for client use. Despite the lack of monetary value, it is still a significant item and has the added value of being a part of a complete, combined letter, and item of postal stationery (most letters at that time were sent folded and sealed, thus transforming into an envelope). According to Wikipedia, in the less than two years (1840-41) that the Penny Black was on issue, over 68 million stamps were printed, and with so many letters and other documents being kept, there are many

survivors of the stamp!

For those interested in philately, see the Prinsep Family collection of postal marks (call number Acc 1972A/185) and records of the Philatelic Society of Western Australia (call number MN 813)

Rosalyn McHale, Archive Team.

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### **Have you visited the Friends of Battye Library Website yet?**

We commissioned consultant researchers, and Friends of Battye Library members, Lorraine Clark and Cherie Strickland of 'Swan Genealogy' [<http://www.swangenealogy.com.au>], to develop a web presence for our organisation. Thanks to their skills and generosity we now have an attractive and informative new website.

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

We welcome your comments or suggestions which can be easily made using the feedback page.

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### **State Records Office News**

#### **Margaret Medcalf Award**

On the morning of 19 May 2010, the Hon John Day MLA, Minister for Planning: Culture and the Arts, accompanied by Margaret Medcalf OAM, presented this year's Margaret Medcalf Award to Kevin Fitzgerald and Chris Owen from the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. The Award, including a prize of \$1000, was made for the book '*It's still in my heart, this is my Country: The Single Noongar Claim History*', authored by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, John Host with Chris Owen.

Culture and the Arts Minister John Day recognised the contribution the work makes to the knowledge and history of native title in Western Australia, saying

"this book brings together evidence that was gathered as part of the

Single Noongar Claim Federal Court trial to provide a comprehensive account of Noongar people and their history. The judges felt this book had the potential to alter the path of historical Aboriginal research and that the work has led to a paradigm shift in the way Aboriginal culture and identity is defined and understood. The researchers spent several years reviewing thousands of records at the State Records Office, in addition to other evidence gathered as part of the Single Noongar Claim. The records included 19th century colonial archives about Aboriginal people in WA, the records of the State Native Welfare and Aborigines departments and the anthropological papers of Daisy Bates.”



Margaret Medcalf Award. L-R Chris Owen, Kevin Fitzgerald, Margaret Medcalf, Hon. John Day, Sven Bluemmel, and Cathrin Cassarchis, Director State Records Office. (Photo courtesy Rob O'Connor)

Special commendations were also awarded to two works:

Tiffany Shellam's paper - *Enumerating the unknowable: imagining, counting and defining the politically relevant Aboriginal population of colonial Western Australia*

Penelope Hetherington's book - *Paupers, poor relief and poor houses in Western Australia, 1829-1910.*

The judging panel for this year's Award comprised Associate Professor Jean Chetkovich, from the Centre for Western Australian History at The University of Western Australia, Justine McDermott, State Records Commissioner, and Cathrin Cassarchis, State Archivist and Director State Records.

## **Geoffrey Bolton Lecture 2010**

The speaker at the 2010 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture will be Emeritus Professor David Black AM, Chairman of the Parliamentary History Advisory Committee at the Parliament of Western Australia. The Lecture will be held at the Government House Ballroom at 6pm on Monday 20 September 2010. The date has been chosen to coincide with a parliamentary sitting week. The topic for this year's Lecture has not yet been finalised but Professor Black has stated that he sees the Lecture as an opportunity to explain what has been achieved in parliamentary and general political history in Western Australia, with particular reference to the State's archives.

## **SRO Seminars**

Details of the 2010 program for SRO's lunchtime seminars are available at <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/whatsnew/events.asp>. and elsewhere in this newsletter. The most recent speaker at a SRO Lunchtime Seminar was Isla Macphail who spoke about her 2009 Margaret Medcalf Award winning publication titled *Highest Privilege and Bounden Duty: A study of Western Australian parliamentary elections 1829-1901*, published by the Western Australian Electoral Commission. Isla spoke eloquently about her topic, making what seems at first to be a somewhat dry academic subject, come vividly to life, underlying the use of a great deal of archival material from the State Archives collection in the production of the work.

The next Lunchtime Seminar will mark NAIDOC week and will occur on 6 July 2010. Featuring Dr Mary Ann Jebb, the seminar is titled "Community history and 'Mowanjum 50 years'" and is about this lively and interesting work produced to mark the 50th anniversary of the Mowanjum Aboriginal Community. The book is richly illustrated and uses oral and archival sources to describe the people, culture and country of Mowanjum in the Kimberley region. The seminar will occur in the South West Room at the SRO.

## **1979 State Cabinet Records released**

Each year the State Records Office organises the official release of the State Cabinet Records from their 30 year restriction access period, on or near Western Australia's Foundation Day – a day chosen because it

marks the commencement of government in Western Australia. This year a Guide to the 1979 State Cabinet Records was produced and promoted, resulting in newspaper, television and radio coverage of some of the issues highlighted in the State Cabinet Records from 30 years ago.

1979 was the year Western Australia made international headlines when Skylab fell to earth near Esperance, and the Miss Universe contest was held at the Entertainment Centre in Perth. The 1979 State Cabinet records reveal the concerns of Sir Charles Court's government about various issues, including: the actions taken to provide relief to drought ravaged farmers and victims of the Cadoux earthquake, the consideration of sites for a possible nuclear power plant, deliberations about oil drilling on Noonkanbah Station and about Aboriginal Land Rights generally, discussions about the abolition of the Marriage Allowance for public servants, the release of an Energy Policy for Western Australia, discussions about proposed Sex Discrimination legislation and discussions about Nude Bathing at Swanbourne.

1979 was also the year of the 'sesquicentennial' anniversary of British settlement in Western Australia, and the State Cabinet Records show the deliberations by the Government about the use of the 'WAY 79' logo and celebratory events that occurred during that year including; Prince Charles' visit, the Parmelia Yacht Race, the Military Tattoo, and a 150th anniversary Golf Tournament. Western Australia was certainly in a 'state of excitement' throughout 1979.

For more detailed information about the events from 1979 and the State Cabinet Records please see the online Guide to the 1979 State Cabinet Records at:  
[http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/whatsnew/documents/A\\_Guide\\_to\\_the\\_1979\\_State\\_Cabinet\\_Records\\_000.pdf](http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/whatsnew/documents/A_Guide_to_the_1979_State_Cabinet_Records_000.pdf).



Prince Charles talks to women in the crowd outside the Town Hall, Perth, during his visit for the State's WAY '79 celebrations.  
(Courtesy Battye Library - Ronald Armstrong Collection 232056PD)

## Historical maps online

Over 5000 historical maps have been made available online since funding

from the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) was granted for this project late last year. Only 250 more maps are awaiting loading to the system and these require further descriptive work first. This will then complete this project.

### **Anna and Thomas Leonowens in Western Australia, 1853-1857**

Anna Leonowens was the almost mythical 19th century Governess to the King of Siam's children, portrayed in the 20th century bestselling book *Anna and the King of Siam* (1944) and the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The King and I* (1951) which were both later turned into Hollywood films. Much has been written about Anna and the State Records Office has recently published an *Occasional Paper*, authored by distinguished American biographer Alfred Habegger and SRO Senior Archivist Gerard Foley, titled *Anna and Thomas Leonowens in Western Australia, 1853-1857*.

This paper reveals the little known facts about their time in Western Australia. This includes the story of their perilous journey to Western Australia from Singapore, the record of Anna Leonowens advertising to be the teacher of a 'seminary for young ladies' in Perth, Thomas's strong opinions recorded in the Minutes of the Swan River Mechanics Institute and the story of the family's life in the remote convict outpost of Lynton, north of Geraldton. The true story is every bit as remarkable as the Hollywood version of Anna's life, but the truth has always had difficulty coming to light. Unfortunately, for various reasons, Anna concealed her early life, never revealing to anyone that she spent four years in Western Australia, preferring instead to say that time was spent in the more salubrious surrounds of St James Square in London.

The paper can be found online at: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/community/documents/OccasionalPaper1-LeonowensinWesternAustralia.pdf>

Gerard Foley  
(Senior Archivist, SRO)

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### **SRO Lunchtime seminars 2010**

The State Records Office of Western Australia invites you to the 2010 series of Lunchtime Seminars.

Featuring a variety of topics, these seminars are designed to inform researchers about the SRO, its functions and the collections it houses. It also provides researchers with an opportunity to meet fellow researchers, learn about members of staff, and provides a forum for questions and discussions in a relaxed and friendly environment. Attendees are encouraged to bring their sandwiches and drinks to the Seminars. Tea and Coffee are provided and bookings are essential.

Following are details about the first Lunchtime Seminar for 2010 featuring SRO's Archives Research Officer Tom Reynolds

Tuesday 6 July – Lunchtime Seminar to mark NAIDOC week.

**Speaker: Dr Mary Anne Jebb**

**Topic: *Community history and ‘Mowanjum 50 years’.***

**Venue:** Great Southern Room, 4th floor Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre.

Thursday 9 September – Speaker: **Kerry King**

**Topic:** *‘Lifting the Bonnet’ on the dark history of road crashes in WA.*

**Venue:** Southwest Room, Ground Floor,

Wednesday 13 October – Speaker: **Damien Hassan**

**Topic:** AEON 2.0.

Wed 24 Nov – Speaker: to be advised – Topic: to be advised

These dates and venues will be confirmed a month before the event.

Bookings are necessary for these Seminars, so please phone 9427 3360 to book, or let us know should you visit the SRO's Search Room before the event.

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### **Email addresses needed**

To enable us to share information and keep members up to date on important happenings, we have a group email list for current members. If you would like to be kept informed of important matters or forthcoming events relevant to the Battye Library and the State Records Office, please

email me at [bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com) or Nick Drew at [nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com).

In June advance notice about the July AGM was circulated to our 'online' members. If you received this notice, then your email address has already been included on the list and you do not need to reply to me or Nick. If you are a new member or renewed your membership and included your email address, then your email address has also been added to the group list. If you do not want to be sent any Friends of Battye Library information by email, please let me know.

Jennie Carter  
(Editor / membership secretary)

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

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.

Visit the bookshop on the Ground Floor of the Alexander Library Building or Telephone: 08 9427 3211, Fax: 08 9427 3215

Email: [info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@slwa.wa.gov.au). Open seven days a week:

Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm

Sat & Sun: 12noon - 5pm

### **Archival quality materials**

The bookshop also stocks archival materials as recommended by the State Library's conservation staff. There are a variety of boxes, paper and card, photo enclosures, and binders available to help preserve precious items.

Jennie Carter

## 'Have you a story to tell?'

[The following piece has been kindly sent to me by one of our members, Christopher Fyfe. Christopher is a long time researcher and supporter of the Battye Library and is the author of a number of publications, among them being *The bale fillers : Western Australian wool, 1826-1916* published by the University of Western Australia Press, 1983. *Wheels in Malaya : the Wearne brothers and their company* published by Lana Press, 2002 and *A backward glance: twenty years of the Richard Wagner Society of Western Australia (Inc.)* also published by Lana Press, 2006. (Jennie Carter)]

Dear Editor

Your 'Have you a story to tell?' in the recent newsletter prompts me to recount the following tiny snippet which I would like to share with your readers.

Recently I was reflecting on my earliest visit to the Public Library [now the State Library of Western Australia] in the early 1940s. In those days my father wrote brief broadcasts for the Australian Broadcasting Commission on English poets and authors, touching on their style and subsequent influence on English literature.

His research necessitated visits to the Library, always on a Sunday afternoon, during which he and Dr Battye would engage in long discussions on topics far above my comprehension. On my first visit there with my father, Battye, seeing the look of boredom on my face, asked, "Would you like to look in the back room where lots of other books are stacked?". He then took me over to the door, opened it and switched on the lights. All I could at first see were long dark corridors barely lit by two sixty-watt globes which struggled to serve each gloomy alley. Battye closed the door behind him and I was left to my own devices.

As my eyes became used to the darkness, my imagination soon dreamed up visions of foreign spies armed with guns waiting around the next corner, whom I silently crept upon to defeat, and having despatched them, sought further adventures in the next dark canyon. When it was time to leave, Dr Battye asked, "Did you enjoy looking at the books?", to which I mumbled an unconvincing reply. In the

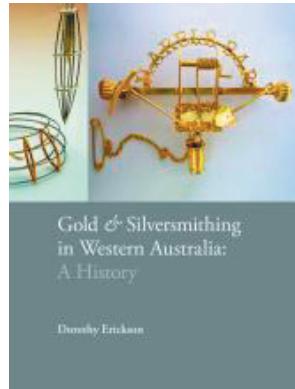
past forty years I have made countless visits to the Library, but none have matched the excitement, danger and death in that back room almost seventy years ago!

(Christopher Fyfe)

### Recent books of interest

Erickson, Dorothy. *Gold & silversmithing in Western Australia: a history*. Nedlands: UWA Press, 2010. [A superbly illustrated account of WA jewellery designers and makers.]

Buchanan, Bruce, with the assistance of Buchanan, Anne [eds.]. *The journal of Gerald de Courcy Lefroy*. Carlisle: Hesperian Prss, 2009. [Gerald de Courcy Lefroy (b.1819, d 1877) wrote five diaries in which he described his daily life, contemporary events and his impressions of the times and people he knew.]



Hopkins, Leckie and Roarty, Lynn. *Among the chosen: the life story of Pat Giles*. Fremantle: Fremantle Press, 2010. [A well researched biography of the private and public life of Western Australian feminist, activist, and Federal ALP Senator, Pat Giles.]

Pascoe, Rob. *In old Kalgoorlie: the photographs of J. J. Dwyer*. Welshpool, W.A.: Western Australian Museum, 2010.

(Jennie Carter)

### More great resources for Western Australian researchers.

#### **Police Gazette of Western Australia (1876 to 1889, 1899 - 1900)**

The *Police Gazette of Western Australia* (1876 onwards) is a valuable resource for researching police and criminals in Western Australia. Information can be found under various headings: apprehensions (name of person arrested, arresting constable, charge and sentence); police appointments, dismissals, discharges, promotions, resignations and



transfers; tickets of leave, certificates of freedom, and conditional pardons issued to convicts; physical descriptions of prisoners etc.

With thanks to the Friends of Battye Library and the Sholl Bequest, the *Police Gazettes* 1876-1900 have been digitised and are fully text searchable.[www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/western\\_australian/police\\_gazettes](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/western_australian/police_gazettes)

### ***Soul searching: A user's guide to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly electoral rolls 1890 - 1967***

This useful publication was compiled by Julie Martin, who was for many years a senior librarian at the Battye Library, with the aid of a grant from the Friends of Battye Library.

In 1890, Western Australia was granted self government and a bicameral parliament (one with two Houses) was established. The Legislative Assembly or Lower House provided the Government of the State whilst the Legislative Council or Upper House acted as a House of Review.

This guide is only to the Legislative Assembly electoral rolls, as most residents of Western Australia met the voting qualifications for this House. Until 1963, a property qualification was required for those enrolling to vote in Legislative Council elections. The guide can be accessed from the Friends of Battye Library website at: <http://www.friendsofbattylelibrary.org.au/Online%20Publications.htm>

### **Australian Newspapers Online**

News from the National Library of Australia's Australian newspapers online project is that work has started on digitising more of the *West Australian*. Already featured online are articles for the period 1901-1918 as well as selected issues to 1936. This is a wonderful source for researchers, historians and genealogists. See newspapers on line at <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/hdp/del/home>

### ***Swan River Stories***

*Swan River Stories* provides a fascinating look at the social, political and environmental history of Perth water, as told through original photographs and words.

Developed by Sue Graham-Taylor (the inaugural James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellow), this multimedia website is a useful tool for those interested in the history of Perth water or as a starting point for further research. See: [http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/swan\\_river](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/swan_river)

The State Library offers a range of tours and interactive programs designed to help you explore the building and its collections. All tours and programs are free.

### ***Maps, music, microfilm and more***

Discover more than just books @ Your State Library.

When: Tuesdays 12.30pm (weekly)

Where: Discovery Lounge ground floor.

This free guided tour of the Library will introduce you to our unique collections, including the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and take you behind the scenes. Tour lasts approximately 50 minutes  
Bookings not required (except for groups).

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### **Have you a story to tell?**

Contributions for the Friends of Battye Library Newsletter are welcomed from our members.

Have you come across any interesting snippets about Western Australian history? Are you involved in a research project that you would like to share with us? Do you use the Battye Library or any of the online resources provided by the State Library of WA or the Friends of Battye Library? If so, we would love to hear from you.

Articles up to 250 words are preferred for publication. Your contributions can be emailed to [bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com) or posted to the Friends of Battye Library (Inc), PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865.

Deadlines for publication in 2010 are 10 June, 10 August, and 15 October.

Jennie Carter  
(Editor)

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

**Annual Membership**

Ordinary	\$20
Joint	\$30
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$10
Corporate	\$50
Donation	\$_____

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tel: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

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

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. For example 'JCarter subs'.

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.

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

## Some dates in Western Australian history.

### JULY

- 1 July 1889 Great Southern Railway opens for traffic.  
9 July 1839 First theatrical performance in Perth (*Love a la Militaire*)  
12 July 1979 Debris from USA space station Skylab falls in WA's south west.  
13 July 1982 WA's first test-tube baby, Jarrad Carter, is born at KEMH.  
19 July 1958 Last tram service in Perth (from Inglewood to the city).  
The tram is now preserved at Whiteman Park.  
20 July 1926 Flooding causes the collapse of the Fremantle Railway Bridge.  
20 July 1963 First stage of the Ord River Scheme opens.  
25 July 1973 Murdoch University is established.  
26 July 1879 The first Government Railway (Geraldton-Northampton) opens.  
26 July 1882 The Daily News became the first daily paper in Perth.  
30 July 1942 Port Hedland is bombed by Japanese planes.  
31 July 1900 WA votes in favour of Federation.  
July 1905 Completion of the 1164km Rabbit Proof Fence no.2.  
July 1916 King Edward Memorial Hospital established as a maternity hospital  
July 1958 Roe Street brothels closed



Josie Bungalow, brothel in Roe Street 1929  
- (Courtesy Battye Library 048405PD)

### AUGUST

- 1 August 1854 First WA adhesive postage stamp issued.  
1 August 1894 J.S.Battye begins his 60-year tenure as head of the Public Library.  
10 August 1914 Blackboy Hill Camp opens for training troops.  
12 August 1984 The first stage of the Northwest shelf gas operation begins with gas being piped to Perth and industrial areas.  
16 August 1832 First will proven in the Civil Court, Perth.  
17 August 1899 Women win the right to vote in WA.  
21 August 1943 WA's Dorothy Tangney becomes Australia's first woman senator.  
27 August 1842 Boys from Parkhurst prison arrive at Perth.  
28 August 1885 First gold found in the Kimberley.

(Compiled by Leith Robinson)

## **Jack's Back: On the trail of the Leonowens**

It is a pleasing development to see Occasional Paper No.1 lately put out by the State Records Office and that on the intriguing topic of Thomas and Anna Leonowens and their stay in Western Australia in the 1850s (see page 12 of this issue). Some reflections concerning this little piece of our history went into this column of mine in our Newsletter no.128 of May 2008.

It is quite opportune for me to revisit the subject in consequence of a brief holiday I recently enjoyed at Penang in Malaysia. I was already aware that Thomas Leonowens had died there in 1859, and so I soon sought out his grave in the old Christian cemetery. Actually, his is one of some twenty-five noteworthy names to which the visitor's attention is drawn on a large signboard that has stood near the main gate since 1993 as part of the Penang Heritage Trail. At the grave the inscription is on one side of the monumental superstructure of brick and stone: 'Sacred to the memory of Thomas Leonowens who departed this life on the 7th of May 1859 aged 31 years & 5 days. Lord have mercy.'

According to the authors of the Occasional Paper, previous research has



Jack contemplates Thomas Leonowen's grave in Penang. (Photograph courtesy of Tom Herzfeld.)

shown that the deceased really should have been aged 35 in 1859, but Gerard Foley has since reminded me that they have found quite a few such discrepancies in their pursuit of Anna's whole trail! In her own 'autobiography'

published in 1870 she made no mention at all of the four years the couple had spent in Western Australia in the decade before her time in Bangkok. And the new Paper only takes the story up to the point when Thomas and Anna left here for Singapore in 1857.

This is also a convenient occasion to produce a relevant item that I came across long ago. It shows that Anna's stay here was not altogether forgotten by our colonists in 1870, as indicated by a piece in the Fremantle newspaper *The Express* of 15th October that year. Under the heading, 'Death of a Buddhist king', it quoted a lengthy report on King Mongkut in his dying days in 1868 (of which just a portion follows here):

'The following interesting account is we have been given to understand from the pen of an English Lady named Leonowens who has been governess at the Siamese Court, and formerly resided in this colony.

'...On the day before his death he called to his bedside his nearest relatives, and parted among them such of his personal effects as were most prized by him... In the evening he wrote with his own hand a tender farewell to the mothers of his many children, - eighty-nine in number. On the morning of his last day, he summoned his royal half-brother Wongsah, the Prime Minister and others, and solemnly imposed on them the care of his eldest son, the Chowfa Chulalon Korn and his kingdom; at the same time expressing his last earthly wish, that the Senabawdee [i.e. the Accession Council] in electing his successor, would give their voices for one who should conciliate all parties, that the country might not be distracted by dissensions on that question...

Then turning his gaze upon a small image of his adored Teacher [i.e. Buddha], he seemed for some time absorbed in awful contemplation. "Such is life!" Those were actually the last words of this most remarkable Buddhist king... That very night, without disorder or debate, the Senabawdee elected his eldest son...to succeed him... The title of the present supreme king (my amiable and very promising scholar) is Prabat Somdetch Phra Paramendr Maha Chulalonkorn Kate Clou Cheu-yu-Hua. – "*The English Governess at the Siamese Court*" in the *Atlantic Monthly*.

Anna's promising pupil went on to prove an able and progressive ruler and reigned till his death in 1910. He was the grandfather of Thailand's much revered monarch of today, the aged and ailing King Bhumibol.

(Jack Honniball)

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

**Life membership** \$500

### **Annual membership**

Ordinary	\$20
Joint	\$30
Pensioner / student / junior	\$10
Corporate	\$50

## **Meetings**

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July (also the Annual General Meeting), September and November (also the end of year function). These 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.

## **Newsletter**

Published four times per year - March, June, September and November (no newsletter is published in May). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 8 February, 8 June, 8 August and 10 October each year. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

## **Contact details**

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 Secretary, Lorraine Dearnley on [dearnley@aapt.net.au](mailto:dearnley@aapt.net.au), or,  
The editor, Jennie Carter at [bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)

or write to:

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

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

<b>Opening hours</b>	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: [battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au)

**Specialist staff:** Dr Sarah Brown (Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165  
Steve Howell (Senior Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3476  
Carmel McRobert (Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3305

**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 on weekdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

<b>Retrievals</b>	Previous day	Available 9.30 am
	11.00 am	Available 12.00 pm
	1.00 pm	Available 2.00 pm

Requests for use of Government archives in the Battye Library must be lodged at the State Records Office by 1.00 pm if required the same evening and by 1.00 pm on Friday if required on the weekend; for continued use of the material in this way, the requests must be renewed on each occasion they are required. Requests must also be submitted for after hours use of State Records Office microfilm.

Telephone (08) 9427 3360, 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**

(First Floor State Library) for Family History research.

**Opening hours**- as per Battye Library opening hours.

**Specialist staff for Family History:** Tricia Fairweather ((08) 9427 3395), Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247. Email: [family.history@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:family.history@slwa.wa.gov.au)

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

NO. 138



September 2010

# FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

*September 2010 Meeting*

**June Caunt**

*'I was not a whingeing Pom'*



***Migrants arriving  
on the Fairstar,  
Fremantle, 1969.***

(Photo courtesy  
Battye Library,  
Govt Photographer  
collection - image no.  
000976D)

Our meeting will be held on  
Tuesday 14 September 2010  
5.00pm for 5.30pm

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 J S 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

**Emeritus President** Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

### **Committee (2010-2011)**

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary Mrs Lorraine Dearnley

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Mr Graham Bown, Ms Jennie Carter,  
Mr John Dowson, Prof Neil Foley,  
Dr Alison Gregg, Mr Jim Gregg,  
Mr Robert O'Connor QC, Mr Lindsay Peet,  
and Dr Nonja Peters.

Ex-Officio Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)  
Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (Director, SRO)  
Dr Sarah Brown (Battye Historian)

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

Volunteers Ring (08) 9427 3266 or email:  
[volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au)

All correspondence to:  
The Secretary, PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865

ISSN 1035-8692

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

**Our September meeting**  
**Tuesday 14 September 2010**  
**Great Southern Room, 4th floor**  
**State Library of Western Australia**  
**5.00pm for 5.30pm.**

*I was not a whingeing Pom*  
**Post World War Two migration experiences.**

June Caunt with Nikki.



**Following the meeting you are invited to join us for a meal at Harry's Bar and Grill. Bookings can be confirmed 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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## About our speaker

### Post World War Two migration experiences



June as a young woman enroute to Australia.

June Caunt completed a Masters degree at the University of Notre Dame in 2007 with a thesis titled *From Dream to Reality : A Story of British Migration to WA in the 1960's* and is now doing a PhD with the University of Western Australia's History Department looking into the attitudes of Western Australians towards British immigrants in the 1960's as expressed through newspapers and other documents. She has given talks to many groups and benefited from the memories they have shared with her.

Migrants from the ship *Orcades* having their passports checked, 22 April 1955

(Courtesy Battye Library, West Australian Newspapers collection. 061543PD. Published in *Milk and honey- but no gold : post war migration to Western Australia, 1945-1965* by Nonja Peters, p.103.



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### A word from our President.

Dear Friends

Exciting news this month, your committee has just approved a Battye Library project for the 2009 Sholl Bequest Funds ( yes 2009 – 2010 has not come in yet – the Trustees take time!). The project is to digitise the Western Australian Biographical Index (WABI) cards, and to create a user search function on the State Library's website. This means that the WABI cards will be fully searchable on your own computer, and can provide valuable information relating to dates of births, deaths and marriages of family members, date of arrival in Western Australia, where they lived and occupation, etc. Of course some of this information – which mainly came from family members

contributing to Rica Erickson's gigantic biographical project – may not be accurate. But most of it will be and will be a huge help to those beginning to search their family trees. What about the Dictionaries? - I hear some of you asking. The idea is to progress to the Bi-Centennial Dictionary set after the cards are safely filmed. The card collection takes up a lot of space and is deteriorating with constant use so they must be our first priority. They also contain information that has been added since 1988!

Another big plus to come from the use of our Sholl Bequest funds is the *Maps online* project undertaken by the State Records Office – there are now over 6000 maps available on line to help our researchers – and if you look at any of these maps do not forget the zoom button which lets you get a highly magnified look at particular portions of maps. You can see comments by the surveyors and the names of landmarks, which are often difficult to read on the whole map.

We are also pleased to announce that Lindsey Peet, whom many of you saw when he was made our 2009 Gem of time, has been able to join your committee thanks to the State Library organising a teleconference set-up – which worked very well in its first application earlier this month. He was able to contribute to one of the tabled issues – viz the RSL seeking advice on its archive holdings. Lindsay's long commitment to the library and his wealth of historical experience will be of enormous help to your committee.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our September meeting where June Caunt will be speaking about post war immigration – something we all know a little about!

Do mark 23 November in your diaries – it is our end-of-year function with a traditional in-house dinner and entertainment!

Cheers for now, Pamela.

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### Our 2010 meetings and speakers' program

#### **23 November 2010 - End of year function**

Jennie & Bevan Carter - *Writing the history of Armadale*

Our final meeting for the year will be followed by a catered three course dinner to be held on the fourth floor of the State Library Building. Members and guests are very welcome and all details will be provided in our next newsletter.

## **State Library News**

### **New Collections**

The State Library's heritage collection in the Battye Library has been enriched by several significant donations, including:

- Papers of Sir John Forrest and Lady Margaret Forrest (probate/estate).
- Diary of Errol James Evans on embarkation for service abroad with R.A.A.F. 5/7/1941.
- Photographs of daily life at Sunset Hospital, 1960s.
- History and photographs of the Australian Naval Cadets Association, 1953-1995.
- Letterbook of H M Deakin 1898-1899.
- Oral history interviews of Subiaco RSL sub-branch members.
- Papers of Charles Harcourt Smith 1928-1967 (farmer at Koorda).
- Papers of Governor Professor Gordon Reid.

Note: some of these collections have not been processed or re-housed etc, so may not be accessible to researchers yet.

### **Jean Chetkovich joins the State Library**

In late August, Dr Jean Chetkovich will be joining the staff of the State Library of Western Australia. Jean will be known to many Friends of Battye Library members as an historian and the former Director of the Centre for Western Australian History. Jean will be part of the State Library's Collection Development team with specific responsibility for the collecting of original Western Australian materials. Jean's title will be 'Collection Liaison: Original Materials'. A key part of her role will be to build on the work of the team in seeking and acquiring West Australian heritage material and to promote the State Library's role in preserving and making accessible West Australia's documentary heritage.

With the contacts and experience Jean has built through her involvement in the Centre for Western Australian History at the University of Western Australia, on various Boards and in developing or commissioning West Australian history publications, such as Studies in Western Australian History and the Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, Jean will be a tremendous asset in this role.

## **Digitisation**

Within the Library's annual digitisation program the State Library has digitised over 23,600 images in the last year. Some important items digitised over the past year include the RAC Year Book and Road Guide 1917-1930, Lands and Surveys Historic Map Series 1880-1890s, Western Table Talk, Society Magazine 1897, illuminated addresses presented to the Governor, Sir Gerard Smith, 1895-1908 and the Badjaling/Winmar collection of photographs.

In addition to the annual reformatting plan, late last year the Library commenced a project to conserve and digitise some 2500 architectural drawings of The Krantz and Sheldon architectural firm, which was established in the early 1930's and made a significant contribution to the architectural history of Western Australia. With some external funding sourced through the Heritage Council, the Library has been able to conserve and digitise part of this extensive collection, making it accessible via the online catalogue.

## **Closing the Gap**

As reported in the last newsletter, the State Library is involved with the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access, also referred to as Closing the Gap. The project seeks to improve access to the internet for Indigenous communities in WA through the provision of upgraded technology and infrastructure for remote regions. The State Library has developed and implemented flexible training programs for computer skills and information literacy to support and enhance the use of the new technology. In addition, the State Library uses the opportunity to digitally repatriate photographs of cultural significance from our collection.

Earlier this year, State Library staff visited the Ngaanyatjarra Lands in the Western Desert region of WA to deliver training in the communities of Wingellina, Blackstone and Warakurna. Training was delivered in partnership with Ngaanyatjarra Media who was contracted to deliver training in all twelve communities within the Ngaanyatjaraku Shire for the first year of the program. In September the State Library will embark on the second year of the program that will see staff delivering training in five communities in the West Kimberley region, including Jarlmadangah Burru, Mowanjum, One Arm Point, Djarindjin and Bidyadanga.

## **Better Beginnings**

Since 2005, the State Library, Rio Tinto and Western Australian local governments have partnered to provide *Better Beginnings*, working with families and communities to support children's early literacy and learning and provide successful school readiness strategies.

Rio Tinto is currently funding a 12 month pilot to build on and embed the successful strategies of *Better Beginnings* with an extension delivering early literacy resources and support for children aged four and five years when they begin their formal education. Pilot centres include 23 remote indigenous communities in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne and Western Desert.

This year's State budget included funding of \$6.8 million, including \$2.8 million from Royalties for Regions, over four years to improve and extend the program throughout Western Australia.

This funding will roll-out *Better Beginnings* to the families of children from birth to age five over the next four years.

## **Facebook**

To complement the State Library Blog (<http://slwa.wordpress.com/>) the Library now a Facebook page: This page allows us to share information and events with other Facebook users; to connect with new audiences; and provides a relaxed space for the online community to interact with the Library.

Sarah Brown  
(Battye Historian)

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## **Have you visited the Friends of Battye Library Website yet?**

Friends of Battye Library members, Lorraine Clark and Cherie Strickland of 'Swan Genealogy' [<http://www.swangenealogy.com.au>], have produced and continue to maintain our website: New items are being added all the time.

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

We welcome your comments or suggestions which can be easily made using the feedback page.

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## **State Records Office News**

### **State Records Commission Award**

The State Records Commission Award for excellence, (in reporting compliance with the State Records Act 2000 in annual reports by government agencies), was presented by the Director, State Records Office (SRO) to the Fremantle Port Authority on 17 June 2010. This Award is one of a suite of Special Awards within the W S Lonnie Awards, which are sponsored by the Institute of Public Administration of Australia.

### **Historical Maps Online project**

Approximately 6000 existing digital images of early Lands Department maps and plans are now accessible online, following the implementation between December 2009 and June this year, of a project funded by the Sholl bequest, (through the Friends of Battye Library). New images of archival plans will be added to the SRO's online catalogue (AEON), when they are produced through the SRO's digitisation program; which is progressed in collaboration with the State Library's Preservation Services Branch.

### **Geoffrey Bolton Lecture**

Distinguished Parliamentary Historian Emeritus Professor David Black AM will deliver the 2010 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture on Monday evening 20 September 2010 at 6pm.

Professor Black is the Chairman of the Parliamentary History Advisory Committee of the Parliament of Western Australia and has written and edited more than twenty works about the history of representative democracy in Australia, including the definitive biographies of Western Australia's parliamentary representatives. Commentating in the media for many years, Professor Black has become a well known authority on Western Australian politics and elections.

Professor Black's topic for this year's Lecture is *Parliament, the People and Archives: Documenting Politics in Western Australia*. Like previous years, the venue for this year's Geoffrey Bolton Lecture is the historic Government House Ballroom, in St George's Terrace, Perth.

Bookings are essential for this event. Please email [events@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:events@sro.wa.gov.au) by 13 September 2010 to secure your place for the Geoffrey Bolton Lecture 2010.

## **SRO Lunchtime Seminars 2010**

The State Records Office of Western Australia invites you to the 2010 series of Lunchtime Seminars.

Featuring a variety of topics, these seminars are designed to inform researchers about the SRO, its functions and the collections it houses. It also provides researchers with an opportunity to meet fellow researchers, learn about members of staff, and provides a forum for questions and discussions in a relaxed and friendly environment. Attendees are encouraged to bring their sandwiches and drinks to the seminars. Tea and coffee are provided and bookings are essential.

On Tuesday 6 July Dr Mary Anne Jebb spoke on *Community History and 'Mowanjum 50 years'* to mark NAIDOC week. The venue was the Leschenault Room, ground floor, Alexander Library Building (ALB).

The next talk will be at 12.30pm on Thursday 9 September. The presenter will be researcher Kerry King, and her topic is, *Lifting the Bonnet on the dark history of road crashes in WA*. The venue is the Southwest Room,

Further seminars are:

Wednesday 13 October – Speaker: Damien Hassan  
Topic: AEON 2.0.

Wed 24 November – Speaker: to be advised – Topic: to be advised

These dates and venues will be confirmed a month before the event.

Bookings are necessary for these seminars, so please phone 9427 3360 to book, or let us know should you visit the SRO's Search Room before the event.

Details of the 2010 program for SRO's lunchtime seminars are available at <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/whatsnew/events.asp>

## **General Disposal Authority for Local Government Records**

The General Disposal Authority (GDA) for Local Government Records has been comprehensively reviewed this year. A Working Group, consisting of metropolitan and regional local government agencies and SRO staff, has held regular meetings to review the draft to ensure that a fully revised GDA reflects current local government operational needs. The draft was released for external stakeholder comment during May

and completed by the end of June this year. The SRO expects that the GDA will soon be approved by the State Records Commission, and published later this year.

## **SRO staff news**

Two new friendly faces at the SRO reference desk are, Michele Keogh and Nicole Thompson. Both archivists have arrived this year from NSW. Michele has recently worked with the NSW office of the National Archives, and also (some years ago) with the City of Armadale in WA. Michele may be with SRO for some time, while Nicole's contract expires in December 2010.

Visitors to the Search Room may remember Jessica Morris who has been with SRO since 2001. Jessica recently returned from a 2nd run of maternity leave, to take up her substantive part time position with the SRO's Record Keeping Services Team.

Tom Reynolds  
State Records Office

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## **Have you a story to tell?**

[Robert O'Connor QC kindly supplied the following article. Rob is a member of the committee of the Friends of Battye Library and is a recently retired Barrister specialising in Taxation Law.]

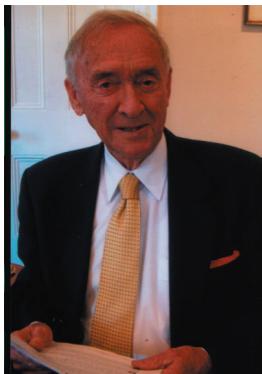
### **The surname of Colonial Secretary**

#### **Peter Brown / Broun**

This short article deals with the background to the reason why Western Australia's first Colonial Secretary Peter Brown changed his surname to Broun , and is based on my discussions with Mr James Nicholas (Nick) Broun of Beverley (who is the most senior member of the family in WA) and my reading on the subject.

Walterus le Brun moved from France to Scotland in about 1120 , taking up residence at Colstoun north of Haddington .

In 1360 Sir John changed the surname of the



James Nicholas (Nick) Broun,  
great-great-grandson of Peter  
Broun, July 2010. (photo courtesy  
Rob O'Connor QC)

family to Broun, which continued for several centuries.

The family “backed the wrong side” in the 1745 Rebellion in which Bonnie Prince Charlie (Prince Charles Edward Stuart, “the Young Pretender”) failed in his attempt to win the English and Scottish thrones. In view of the ill-feeling of the British against the French, and people with French names, members of the Broun family changed their name to Brown.

Thus, when Peter was born at Guernsey, Channel Islands in 1797 and arrived in the Swan River Colony as Colonial Secretary in the Parmelia in 1829, his surname was Brown .

By the 1840s , the family had no reason to fear any adverse reaction or prejudice against a French surname . There are several documents prior to 1843 in which the Colonial Secretary’s signature is plainly P. Broun That spelling was used in his signature at the foot of the Estimates for 1843 .

A notice by the Colonial Secretary about land selection was signed on 19 September 1844 as “Peter Broun”. When that notice was published in the *Inquirer* on 25 September 1844, Broun’s name was followed by an asterisk which directed the readers’ attention to an announcement at the foot of that page that the Colonial Secretary had adopted the spelling Broun, being the orthography in use by the head of the family (ie. the baronet in Scotland). The name Brown was never reverted to.

The 13th baronet Sir William Windsor Broun, a fourth generation Australian, died in Sydney in 2007. The baronetcy then passed to his nephew who became Sir Wayne Broun of Colstoun and Thorniedykes in Scotland, and who lives in the Sydney suburb of Warriewood.

**From the Government Gazette.**

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,  
September 19, 1844.

**H**IS Excellency the Governor has directed  
that it be notified, with a view to the speedy  
adjustment of outstanding claims on the part of  
those who may have had permission to select  
lands on account of deficiencies in the grants  
originally assigned to them, that all such selec-  
tions should be made before the termination of  
the present year; and that any person who shall  
have neglected to make good his claim within  
that period, will be considered to have evaded all  
right to any such further selection.  
*By His Excellency's command,*  
**PETER BROUN,\***  
Colonial Secretary.

QUARTER SESSIONS.

**N**OTICE is hereby given, that the next  
General Quarter Sessions of the Peace of  
our Lady the Queen for the colony of Western  
Australia, will be holden at the Court-house at  
Perth, on Wednesday, the 2nd day of October  
next, at the hour of nine in the forenoon.—Dated  
the 19th day of September, 1844.  
**A. H. STONE,**  
*Clerk of the Peace.*

\* The Colonial Secretary, in writing his name, has now  
adopted the u instead of the w, being the orthography in  
use by the head of the family.

*Edited, printed, and published by the proprietor  
Francis Laché, at the office of the "Inquirer," in Saint  
George's Terrace, Perth.*

Extract from the *Inquirer*. Note the asterisk explaining change of spelling.  
(Image courtesy Rob O'Connor)

## Sources and References

My discussions with Mr James Nicholas Broun, July 2010 ; *Early Days, Journal and Proceedings WAHS, ( 1935 ),VI 2 , Part 18,*" Peter Nicholas Brown (1797 – 1846)", by Dr Cyril Bryan and Mr F I Bray, pp. 3 – 5. *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 1, Broun ( Brown ) Peter Nicholas, by Malcolm Uren, pp.164-5; *Brouns of Colstoun – Broun Family History*, by Peter Boyd Broun, 1998; *Inquirer*, 25 September 1844, last page ; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 March 2007, Obituary.

Rob O'Connor QC

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[Pamela Statham Drew attended a recent seminar held at the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and we are indebted to her for the following report.]

### **'Beadwork is forever'**

On Tuesday 10th August Valerie Carvill held 60 odd ladies in the palm of her hand while she spoke about the magic of beads and beadwork. Sponsored by the Royal Western Australian Historical Society Auxilliary, participants walked in to see a table at the back of the room literally laden with cakes and other scrumptious goodies. Then, surrounded by the society's amazing collection of beaded dresses and bags and a special exhibition put up by the Bead Guild of WA, Valerie began her talk.

Beads were used by the very earliest civilisations - including our Aboriginal peoples. Only a few years ago three perforated beads made of kangaroo bone were found in an archaeological dig at Devils Lair in W.A. which proved to be between 17,000 and 19,000 years old – older than the oldest known American Indian beads.

Most people know that the Egyptians used beads in their burial practices but it was a surprise to learn how many cultures have used beads, and



An example of modern beadwork. (Photo courtesy Nick Drew)

the variety of purposes for which they were used: as a sign of wealth and status, especially among African women; as potent protection against illness, or in Tibet against falling; as a religious object such as the Rosary; as a good luck charm and of course everywhere simply for their beauty and ornamentation. And the variety of different kinds of beads she spoke of - and showed us in specially prepared boards – is mind-blowing: she had beans made of bone, wood, coral, glass, crystal, china, clay, amber, jet, various precious stones, pearls – real and artificial, plastic and steel. They also came in a large variety of shapes: large and small, round and oblong, single and joined, plain and decorated.

A RWAHS member, Helen Treloar, a neighbour of Valerie's, contributed a number of pieces to the exhibition including a beaded green snake made by Turkish prisoners in 1919. Valerie had previously told us that Turkey had given its name to the wonderful blue stone, Turquoise, which was one of the earliest materials used for beads. It had been mined in the Sinai desert but exported to Turkey where it was highly valued for its range of colour from light blue to deep green. Amber beads - from a light honey colour to dark red - were also used by ancient man. They came mainly from the Baltic and were believed to have healing properties. Coral beads found in ancient burial sites were supposed to bring good-luck – particularly at sea, to stop bleeding and fend off bronchitis. We learned that specific types of beads, and colours, could have very different meanings.

In finishing up Valerie made her audience laugh by holding up a string of 1960s plastic pop-beads – a fashion that came and went – but still part of a collection that proves beads themselves will go on forever.

Pamela Statham Drew

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### Email addresses needed

To enable us to share information and keep members up to date on important happenings, we have a group email list for current members. If you would like to be kept informed of important matters or forthcoming events relevant to the Battye Library and the State Records Office, please email me at [bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com) or Nick Drew at [nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com).

In September advance notice about the meeting was circulated to our

'online' members. If you received this notice, then your email address has already been included on the list and you do not need to reply to me or Nick. If you are a new member or renewed your membership and included your email address, then your email address has also been added to the group list. If you do not want to be sent any Friends of Battye Library information by email, please let me know.

Jennie Carter  
(Editor / membership secretary)

### **A note from the Treasurer**

I have received payment of subscriptions for the year ending June 2011 from many of you.

This is a gentle reminder for any members who have not paid that your continuing support of the Battye Library and State Records Office is greatly appreciated and is needed.

For details please find a membership form on page 19 of this Newsletter with various options on how to make payment OR you can use the membership form on the Friends of Battye Library website [www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au](http://www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au).

I do hope you will continue your membership of the Friends of Battye Library.

Nick Drew, Hon Treasurer

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

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.

Visit the bookshop on the Ground Floor of the Alexander Library Building or Telephone: 08 9427 3211, Fax: 08 9427 3215

Email: [info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@slwa.wa.gov.au). Open seven days a week:

Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm

Sat & Sun: 12noon - 5pm

## **Archival quality materials**

The bookshop also stocks archival materials as recommended by the State Library's conservation staff. There are a variety of boxes, paper and card, photo enclosures, and binders available to help preserve precious items.

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## **Recent books of interest**

***From the Royal Western Australian Historical Society [RWAHS] bookshop: [<http://www.histwest.org.au>].***

***Georgiana Leake's Wildflower Album. Western Australia's first botanical artist.*** by Margaret Love and Bryan Sherwood with comments from botanist Alex George. Published by RWAHS, Nedlands 2010.] [The Leake and Kingsford families and their life in the Swan River Colony. Includes 43 plates of Georgiana's paintings.]

***Tall timber, brown paper and porridge: a childhood memoir*** by Bob Primrose, (self published. Karrinyup, 2010). ["His childhood offered a world unknown by today's young ones ... Readers of a certain age will enjoy reminiscing through this recreation of the way things were more than half a century ago." - extract from a review by Bruce Devenish for the RWAHS.]

***The Sherwood papers: a Swan River story***, by Margaret Love. ['recently awarded third prize in the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies' Alexander Henderson Award for family history.' - extract from a review by Steve Errington for the RWAHS.]

***From Hesperian Press: [<http://www.hesperianpress.com>].***

***The Australind journals of Marshall Waller Clifton 1840-1861.*** Edited by Phyllis Barnes, JMR Cameron and HA Willis with Ian Berryman and

Andrew Gill. ['Marshall Waller Clifton, Fellow of the Royal Society and Royal Geographical Society, and former Secretary of the Royal Navy's Victualling Board, was Chief Commissioner for the small agricultural colony of Australind.]

**Born in the desert** by Marion Hercock with Georgina (Dadina) Brown. ['Martu woman Dadina Brown was born and reared in WA's Little Sandy Desert during the 1970s. Like her famous kinsfolk, Warri and Yatunkga ('The Last of the Nomads'), her family met Stan Gratte's party of field historians, and came to live in Wiluna.]

**Eggs-a-Cook!The story of the Forty-fourth.War – as the Digger fought it.** by Captain C. Longmore. ['Eggs-a-Cook! relates the experience of the 44th Battalion of the Third Division in France during 1916-1918. Formed at Claremont in early 1916 they landed in England in July 1916, via Egypt, where they collected their cognomen, arriving in France in November.]

**From Fremantle Press:** [<http://www.fremantlepress.com.au>]

**Under Corporate Skies: A struggle between people, place and profit** by Martin Brueckner & Dyann Ross. ['Foreword by Erin Brockovich. Is about what happens to communities when they stand in the way of corporate profits. It is the story of a tiny town pitted against a strong corporate neighbour. With the help of international campaigner, Erin Brockovich, the small town of Yarloop is preparing a civil class action against Alcoa World Alumina.]

**Fremantle poets 1: new poets** by Scott-Patrick Mitchell, J.P. Quinton & Emma Rooksby edited by Tracy Ryan. ['Editor and award-winning poet, Tracy Ryan, said the book combines 'three quite different works, extremely diverse in tone and approach'.]

**From UWA Press:** [<http://www.uwap.uwa.edu.au>]

**Doing life: A biography of Elizabeth Jolley** by Brian Dibble. ['Brian Dibble has been shortlisted for the 2010 National Biography Award. ... his biography details the remarkable experiences of Elizabeth Jolley, from her upbringing in England and Scotland, her days spent in boarding schools and hospital wards, and her independent adult life in Australia.]

(Compiled by Jennie Carter)

The State Library offers a range of tours and interactive programs designed to help you explore the building and its collections. All tours and programs are free.

### ***Maps, music, microfilm and more***

Discover more than just books @ Your State Library.

When: Tuesdays 12.30pm (weekly)

Where: Discovery Lounge ground floor.

This free guided tour of the Library will introduce you to our unique collections, including the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and take you behind the scenes. Tour lasts approximately 50 minutes  
Bookings not required (except for groups).

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### **Have you a story to tell?**

Contributions for the Friends of Battye Library Newsletter are welcomed from our members.

Have you come across any interesting snippets about Western Australian history? Are you involved in a research project that you would like to share with us? Do you use the Battye Library or any of the online resources provided by the State Library of WA or the Friends of Battye Library? If so, we would love to hear from you.

Articles up to 250 words are preferred for publication. Your contributions can be emailed to [bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com) or posted to the Friends of Battye Library (Inc), PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865.

Deadlines for publication for the next newsletter is 15 October 2010.

Jennie Carter  
(Editor)

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

**Annual Membership**

Ordinary	\$20
Joint	\$30
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$10
Corporate	\$50
Donation	\$_____

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tel: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

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

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. For example 'JCarter subs'.

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.

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

## **East Perth Cemeteries Project**

The site for a burial ground was surveyed at East Perth in late 1829, and the first acknowledged burial was John Mitchell on 6 January 1830. The cemeteries within the grounds continued to be the main burial ground for the Perth area until April 1899 when burials commenced at Karrakatta Cemetery.

The East Perth Cemeteries burial ground were closed for new burials in 1899, except for those in vaults or with the approval of the Governor. Burials at East Perth continued until 1916 when this practice was ceased with a handful of exceptions.

It is widely acknowledged that there are over 10,000 burials within the grounds of the East Perth Cemeteries; approximately 3500 of these burials are recorded. There was no burial register kept by either the Church Wardens or the caretakers of the Cemeteries. This led to researchers have spending many hours compiling various histories and datasets on the East Perth Cemeteries and these have been produced in various formats.

Cherie Strickland and Lorraine Clarke with the help of funding from the Friends of Battye Library Inc. are collating a database of the numerous datasets and will carry out further research into other documents and family histories to enable the most comprehensive biographical database on the inhabitants of Cemetery Hill.

In partnership with the National Trust (WA), the Friends of Battye Library aim to make this research available freely online. This database would be fully sourced and would acknowledge all previous researchers who contributed to the end result.

We would like to thank National Trust, Royal West Australian Historical Society, West Australian Genealogical Society, Graham Bown, Ron Bodycoat, Father Edward Doncaster, Gillian O'Mara and Anglican Archives for their support in this endeavour.

Cherie and Lorraine are keen to hear from members who may have ancestors buried in the East Perth Cemeteries; if you have a photo of a headstone or any other document that places your family at East Perth, please contact them at [swangenealogy@ozemail.com.au](mailto:swangenealogy@ozemail.com.au) or 93438838.

## **Jack's Back: Brevities and foretastes**

Three different topics vied for coverage here this time!

First then, I hope that some keen Friends were among the visitors who enjoyed the latest display by the Museum of Performing Arts at His Majesty's Theatre. In some 120 photos, it has shown the ornate architecture and décor that was the Ambassadors Theatre, and also stills of the lavish 'presentations' staged there in its early years. It was demolished in 1972, and so nowadays many a viewer under fifty can scarcely believe that Perth once had such a remarkable picture theatre. Incidentally, Battye also holds some excellent scenes of the Ambassadors, and notably an 'album' of 37 shots that came from the photographic firm Illustrations Ltd.

Next I saw the opportunity of reporting that our Newsletter number 131 of November 2008 had met with a pleasing reception in the English village of Gautby in Lincolnshire. In that issue I mentioned this was the parish where the Reverend Edward Millett finally served after his five years here at York in the 1860s. Both he and his wife are buried at Gautby so when a member of their local Heritage Society googled the word 'Gautby' on her computer a while back, she eventually came up with that item of Jack's Back compiled in the antipodes. She then sought and received our permission to make use of the piece in a forthcoming publication of their Society. I have now decided we should wait until we hear further news from England and make a full story of it.

Thirdly, I considered putting together a page on Sir Benjamin Pine. For apparently he is now recognised as having been Western Australia's Governor for a time in 1868-69, though he never actually came here. And thus I find he appears as eighth of the potted biographies in Western Australia's Governors and Premiers, a glossy booklet of 62 pages put out by the Constitutional Centre in 2002. However, that topic too warrants holding over for further investigation and fuller treatment in a future Newsletter.

(Jack Honniball)

[Members might enjoy viewing the following photographs of the sadly long gone Ambassadors Theatre. They have been preserved by the State Library and made available through the Historical Records Rescue Consortium Project led by the Friends of Battye Library with funding from Lotterywest. Jennie Carter]



Ambassadors  
Theatre 629 Hay  
Street, Perth 1967.  
Photographer Fritz  
Kos. (*Courtesy Batty Library* 341142PD)



Interior of the  
Ambassadors Theatre,  
1953. (*Courtesy Batty Library - Illustrations Ltd. collection.* 237171PD)



Interior with  
orchestra,  
ca. 1932 .  
(*Courtesy  
Batty Library.  
Illustrations  
Ltd. collection.* 101622PD)

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

**Life membership** \$500

### **Annual membership**

Ordinary	\$20
Joint	\$30
Pensioner / student / junior	\$10
Corporate	\$50

### **Meetings**

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July (also the Annual General Meeting), September and November (also the end of year function). These 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.

### **Newsletter**

Published four times per year - March, June, September and November (no newsletter is published in May). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 8 February, 8 June, 8 August and 10 October each year. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

### **Contact details**

Friends of Battye Library website:

*<http://www.friendsofbattylelibrary.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 Secretary, Lorraine Dearnley on *[dearnley@aapt.net.au](mailto:dearnley@aapt.net.au)*, or,  
The editor, Jennie Carter at *[bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)*

or write to:

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

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

<b>Opening hours</b>	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: [battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au)

**Specialist staff:** Dr Sarah Brown (Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165  
Steve Howell (Senior Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3476  
Carmel McRobert (Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3305

**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 on weekdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

<b>Retrievals</b>	Previous day	Available 9.30 am
	11.00 am	Available 12.00 pm
	1.00 pm	Available 2.00 pm

Requests for use of Government archives in the Battye Library must be lodged at the State Records Office by 1.00 pm if required the same evening and by 1.00 pm on Friday if required on the weekend; for continued use of the material in this way, the requests must be renewed on each occasion they are required. Requests must also be submitted for after hours use of State Records Office microfilm.

Telephone (08) 9427 3360, 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**

(First Floor State Library) for Family History research.

**Opening hours**- as per Battye Library opening hours.

**Specialist staff for Family History:** Tricia Fairweather ((08) 9427 3395), Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247. Email: [family.history@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:family.history@slwa.wa.gov.au)

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

NO. 139



November 2010

# FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

*End of year function.*

Jennie & Bevan Carter will speak on:

*'Outpost to City: a history of the  
Armadale district.'*



**Ye Olde  
Narrogin Inne,  
cnr Albany and  
South Western  
Highways,  
Armadale 1950.**

(Courtesy Birtwistle  
Local Studies  
Library, Armadale,  
image no. FPH43.)

Our meeting will be held on Tuesday  
23 November 2010 at 5.00pm for  
5.30pm.

A catered dinner in the library will follow  
at 6.30pm.

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 J S 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

**Emeritus President** Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

### **Committee (2010-2011)**

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary Mrs Lorraine Dearnley

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Mr Graham Bown, Ms Jennie Carter,  
Mr John Dowson, Prof Neil Foley,  
Dr Alison Gregg, Mr Jim Gregg,  
Mr Robert O'Connor QC, Mr Lindsay Peet,  
and Dr Nonja Peters.

Ex-Officio Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)  
Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (Director, SRO)  
Dr Sarah Brown (Battye Historian)

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

Volunteers Ring (08) 9427 3266 or email:  
[volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au)

All correspondence to:  
The Secretary, PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865

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

**Our November meeting**  
**Tuesday 2010**  
**Great Southern Room, 4th floor**  
**State Library of Western Australia**  
**5.00pm for 5.30pm.**

**Our speakers are Jennie and Bevan Carter who will talk about writing the history of Armadale**

**Help us celebrate another successful year for the Friends.**

Members and guests are invited to our end of year function following the meeting when we will move into the adjacent room for a three course catered dinner.

The total cost is \$30 which includes orange juice, wine and tea and coffee. A lighthearted history quiz will be run during the evening's festivities with a prize for the winning table.

Bookings are essential so please RSVP by 19 November to Nick Drew on 9384 8154 or by email at [nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com)

**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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## About our speakers

# *Outpost to City*

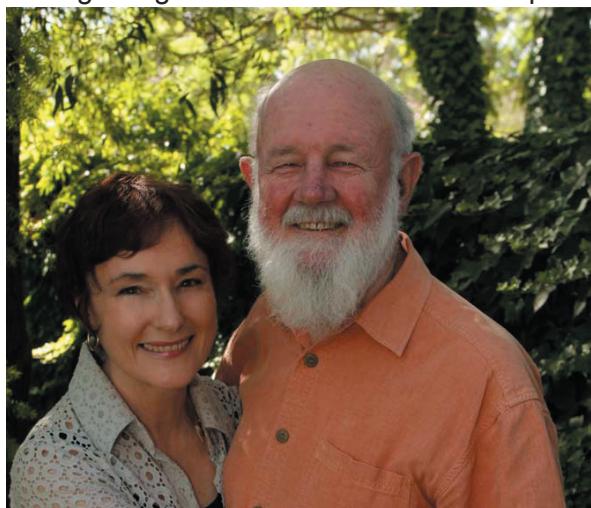
### Writing the history of the Armadale district

For the past three years, Jennie and Bevan have been working on a commission from the City of Armadale to research and write the history of the district from its earliest beginnings as a remote soldiers' outpost in Kelmscott in 1830 to its present day position as one of Perth's largest and fastest growing suburbs. Along the way there have been some interesting discoveries made about the history of Armadale, a couple of myths busted, and just a few controversies stirred.

Jennie has an Honours in History from the University of Western Australia, and graduate qualifications in

Library and Information studies from Curtin University. She is the author of *Bassendean: A social history 1829 to 1979* which was commissioned and published by the Bassendean Town Council. Before retiring from the State Library in 2007, she managed the archival collections of the Battye Library, then spent two years as Director of the Battye Library prior to completing her career as Battye Librarian and manager of the State Library's Subject Specialists team.

Bevan has degrees in science and education from Sydney University. For many years he has pursued his interest in family history including a stint as President of the Western Australian Genealogical Society. He is the author and publisher of books on conservation, botany, and history, his most recent works being *From Norfolk poacher to Northam farmer: the life, times, and descendants of Robert Carter and Phoebe Oxbury* and *Nyungah Land: Records of invasion and theft of Aboriginal land on the Swan River 1829-1850*.



## **A word from our President.**

Dear Friends

On page 17 you will see an advance notice for a small change to our Constitution to give us more flexibility in the timing of our Annual General Meeting. At this stage we are planning to have the motion voted on at a special meeting to be held immediately before our 8 March General Meeting commences.

Your committee is currently assessing various idea's for projects to use our surplus Maude Sholl Bequest funds, monies generously donated by Lindsay Peet, and (when it comes) this year's Sholl bequest funds. We need more suggestions so if any of you have a long held wish (like mine for the 19th century censuses to be put on line) please email me or write to us at the address on the back of this newsletter.

I must thank everyone also for being so good in paying subscriptions when they fell due. It is so easy to forget when we do not send out invoices but the response to Nick's "gentle reminder" has been fantastic. Your membership contributes to the society's valuable work in helping the State Library and the State Records Office to preserve and promote their wonderful collections of Western Australian materials. It also allows us to circulate to members our quarterly newsletter – which Jennie Carter prepares for us. Our last newsletter was an absolute bumper issue as I am sure you will all agree.

Jennie and Bevan's talk will be preceded by the award of our 2010 Gem of Time, and followed by our three course buffet dinner – which will be held with Margaret Allen's kind permission in the refectory next door to the Great Southern Room as has become traditional. Details are on page 3, please do reply as early as you can so we can calculate numbers for catering.

Many of you will be pleased to hear that Lindsay Peet is a lot better – still not exactly walking, but definitely "on line" (his email is [ppeetlj@ic-net.com.au](mailto:ppeetlj@ic-net.com.au)) and he is participating in our committee meetings by phone. I am sure he would like to hear from any of you – particularly those who share his passions for aircraft and aviation history!

Other great news is that the OHRRG project will be commencing soon. See details on page 8. That's all from me, hope to see you on the 23rd.

Cheers for now, Pamela.

## Our 2011 meetings and speakers' program

**8 March:** Jane Davis, J S Battye Fellow, State Library of WA.

**10 May:** Mr Kim Epton - *WA Explorers' Diaries project.*

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### Gala Evening for Conferment of Fellowships

Tuesday 19th October saw a distinguished gathering of past and present senior State Library and SRO staff, members of the Library Board, family and friends gather in the Great Southern Room for the conferment of Library Board of Western Australia Fellowships on Lennie McCall AM and the late Kay Poustie AOM. Previous Fellows, Margaret Medcalf and Wendy Birman, were there to congratulate Lennie and Kay's husband Trevor, who accepted the award on behalf of his late wife. It was wonderful to see the considerable achievements of these two women acknowledged and applauded – and as you can imagine there was a specially loud clap for our Lennie.



L-R Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian), Lennie McCall AM, Matthew Allen (Chairman of the Library Board). (Photo courtesy Nick Drew.)

On a screen behind the gathering were pictures of the two recipients and many of the people with whom they worked. It was also an 'Allen night' with pictures on screen of previous CEO Lyn Allen, previous Battye Director Trish Allen, current Library Board Chairman Professor Mathew Allen as presenter together with current CEO Margaret Allen – and none of them are related! Many of those present had not met for years and we all very much appreciated the Library's hospitality.

Pamela Statham Drew

## What's New at the State Library

### Exhibitions

The recent Durack exhibition, which ran from 28 May – 3 October, proved to be one of the most popular ever held by the State Library. The Durack story seemed to strike a chord with Western Australians and there were always people in the exhibition area looking at the panels and items on display. It has been succeeded by Vite Italiane (Italian lives), which tells the story of Italian migration to Western Australian in the last century, highlights some of the many Italians who came here and displays memorabilia from their lives, both here and in Italy. Vite Italiane runs from 21 October 2010 – 30 January 2011 and should also prove to be very interesting and popular.



Blessing of the fleet procession in Fremantle, 1979.  
(Courtesy Roger Garwood Collection, Battye Library  
04385D)

### “That Reminds me of a Story”

The Library is set to undertake a new project, entitled: “That Reminds me of a Story”. This project will see the creation of a number of digital stories, based on the collections of the Battye Library. Digital storytelling takes the latest in digital imagery technology and applies it to the world’s oldest art form – storytelling. Rather than simply recounting a story verbally, digital storytelling combines many different types of multimedia resources to create new stories and new artefacts.

This exciting new project is in its early stages and we will keep you informed as to future developments. Some of the early stories will feature Herbert Hoover and May Gibbs.

### National Family History Week

National Family History Week was celebrated at the State Library during the first week in August with a range of presentations, tours and training. Presentations were given by staff of the Library, the State Records Office, the National Archives and the State Library Foundation as well

as by members of the Western Australian Genealogical Society and individual historians and genealogists. Over 550 participants attended and much positive feedback was received. Sessions were aimed at both beginners and more experienced family historians and the diverse topics included child migration, hidden treasures at the Library, group settlement, poor laws in the UK, women and the regiment, Aboriginal family history, English prison records, caring for family photographs and the 'Our Page in History' website. There were also presentations which followed a specific family, showing the type of information which can be found; Ian Simon told the story of his ancestor, Charles Herring, who lived in both Narrogin and South Australia while Cindy Solonec presented the story of her father, Francisco Casanova-Rodriguez, who came to the Kimberley from Spain and married a Nykina woman.

Sarah Brown, Steve Howell, and Trish Fairweather.

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### **Oral Historical Records Rescue Group (OHRRG)**

As you probably know last year the \$849,000 Lotterywest grant was received by the Friends of Battye Library and will be managed by a combined stakeholder group, OHRRG. The Committee is represented by members of the Friends of Battye Library, the Oral History Association of Australia WA Branch, the Professional Historians Association and the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.

Since the first payment of \$49,000 was received in October last year we have had little news to report except ,after hours of work ,the most at risk tapes have been identified to save to digital format.

After unavoidable delays, we are pleased to announce that the OHRRG has received this update from Alison Sutherland, Director Resource Services, SLWA

" You will be delighted to know that the construction of the sound studios is nearly complete, so the equipment will be on its way very shortly. Recruitment is also progressing, we nearly have a project manager, and have had a great response to the call for sound technicians".

The latest update is that preservation work will start in December.

## **State Records Office news**

### **Friends Grant – Historical Maps Online project**

Friends may recall that in the August 2010 newsletter we mentioned that approx 6000 digital images of early Lands Department maps and plans held by the State Records Office (SRO) may now be viewed online, via the SRO's website. This was achieved through the SRO's Maps Online Project, which was funded by the Sholl Bequest.

Between October 2009 (when Maps Online was launched) and June 2010, there were 13,785 visits to these images on the SRO website.

### **Geoffrey Bolton Lecture**

Over 200 people attended this year's Bolton lecture at the Government House Ballroom, on the evening of Monday 20 September 2010. Professor David Black spoke on the topic Parliament, the People and Archives: Documenting Politics in Western Australia. In his address Professor Black emphasised that it was important for the State's archives to be appropriately identified and accessible so that historians and other social commentators could consult all available documentary evidence in assessing the nature and motivations behind significant government and parliamentary decisions. The lecture is available to listen to or read via podcast and pdf by viewing the SRO's, Geoffrey Bolton Lecture webpage at:

<http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/whatsnew/GeoffreyBoltonLecture.asp>

### **SRO Lunchtime Seminars**

Details of the 2010 program for the SRO's lunchtime seminars are available at <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/whatsnew/events.asp>

On Thursday 9 September PhD candidate Kerry King spoke on the topic 'Lifting the Bonnet on the dark history of road crashes in WA'. Ms King described her PhD research into how fatalities on WA roads were dealt with by the Courts from approx 1945 to 1980. During her research Kerry has made considerable use of Supreme Court criminal indictment files, held by the SRO.

The next lunchtime seminar will be held on 24th November 2010, at 12.30pm. The presenter is Meg Travers, who is the Digital Archives Support Manager at the SRO. Meg will discuss *The history of computer use in Western Australian government - archival challenges for SRO*.

The venue is the South West Room, Ground Floor, Alexander Library

Building.

## **State Records Commission News**

The Recordkeeping Services team at SRO have recently completed a fully revised version of the General Disposal Authority (GDA) for Local Government Records, and also Guidelines for the Authority's implementation .Once the State Records Commission has signed off on this disposal authority, the SRO expects to publish the GDA and the attendant Guidelines in late November this year..

The State Records Commission will next meet at Albany on 19 November 2010. The Commission normally convenes four times a year, and one of these meetings is held in regional Western Australia. The Commission's Annual Report for 2009-10 was tabled in State Parliament on 21 September, and can be viewed on the SRO website at

<http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/src/src.asp>

Tom Reynolds, State Records Office

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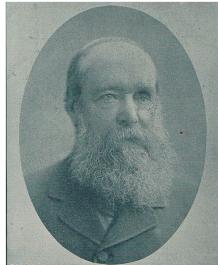
### **Have you a story to tell?**

[The following article was kindly submitted by Bruce Buchanan. Bruce is a researcher and historian and a long term volunteer at the State Records Office. In partnership with his wife Anne, Bruce is the author of ? which won the Margaret Medcalf Award in ?. His most recent work is ]

### **Beards and WA Settlers.**

Many of the photographs of early WA settlers show them to have full, even generous beards. This certainly applies to Gerald De Courcy Lefroy, whose extant photographs show him with a very full beard. His elder brother Anthony O'Grady, who came with De Courcy to Western Australia in 1844, has a similar full beard in an undated photograph of them together. Photography in something akin to the modern form commenced in Europe in the 1850's and it is probable the joint Lefroy brother's photograph dates from the late 1850's, at the very earliest.

Much later, when Anthony was Colonial Treasurer he retained a beard,



Anthony O'Grady  
Lefroy

although closer to the ‘Van Dyke’ style.

*The Journal of Gerald De Courcy Lefroy* (Hesperian Press 2009) reports that De Courcy, who first established himself as a farmer settler, commenced a moustache on 11 April 1846, making it virtually certain he was previously clean shaven. His Journal subsequently refers to him shaving (9 August 1846, 6 June 1848 and 22 March 1849) although it is unclear whether he retained his moustache.

It seems likely that in the 1840’s clean-shavenness was general. The frequent pictorial representations of well bearded settlers (and policemen), are taken after the early 1850’s, and it seemed likely this may have owed something to a change of fashion, akin to the appearance of long hair among ‘Teddy Boys’ in the UK in the 1950’s and 1960’s. Their long hair was in part a reaction to the short hair-styles necessitated by the 1939-1945 war.

While engaged on work for the State Records Office recently I found letter 3740/2 dated 18 July 1864 (in 1156, C37) in which the police request the Comptroller-General of Convicts to ensure that the convict members of Road Parties have their hair and beards kept short, because when their hair and/or beards grew long, the police were unable to readily distinguish the convicts from the settlers. The Comptroller-General, while sympathetic, did not believe the police request to be practical in the circumstances of the country based road parties.

The police request makes it likely that the coming of clean shaven, short-haired convicts from 1850 onwards (so ‘dressed’ for both recognition and hygiene purposes) gradually caused settlers to distinguish themselves from the convicts by growing full beards and long hair. It is in this ‘distinctive’ free settler guise that the photographs of De Courcy and Anthony Lefroy were taken.

[Bruce Buchanan]

### Book reviews

#### **Australia’s Magna Carta**

(Published by the Department of the Senate, Canberra ACT, 2010.)

The Magna Carta (“the Great Charter”), the most famous document in the history of the English-speaking world, was executed by King John in 1215. It sets out concessions granted by the King to the Church, the Barons, and free men living under royal rule. As the principles stated are of fundamental significance in law and define the relationship between the King and his subjects, the Charter is the foundation of English (and Australian) constitutional law.

The Charter was re-issued with slightly varied contents in 1216, 1217, 1225, 1297 and 1300. The text of each was copied out by hand, so that each County and major town would receive and proclaim the Charter. An estimated 300 – 500 individual copies of the Charters were prepared longhand by scribes and distributed throughout England. They were nevertheless “original” Magna Cartas. Today, only 22 are still in existence. Of these, only two (both the 1297 version) are held outside the UK, one in Parliament House, Canberra, and the other in the National Archives, Washington, USA. The USA document was bought in 1984 for US\$1.5 million and sold to the National Archives in 2007 for US\$21.3 million.

The 35-page booklet under review contains an excellent article by Nicholas Vincent, a Professor of Medieval History in England, in which he discusses in detail two very interesting questions: how the Charter came to be bought in 1952 by Australia, and how the Charter, issued to Surrey County in 1297, came to be found in 1936 in the possession of King’s School, Somerset, some 100 miles away from Surrey.

In 1936 a master at King’s School found the Charter in a desk. The British Library was keen to acquire the document, but it was prepared to pay only £2,000 – £2,500. Sotheby’s valued it at £10,000 plus £2,500 selling commission. Australia learnt of its availability and made attempts to buy it. An export licence was required before it could be sold to an overseas buyer. Eventually, after intrigue and long deliberations, an export licence was granted, an Australian import licence was approved , and the purchase was made at the price of £12,500.

The full explanation as to how King’s School acquired the Charter will never be known. In 2007, facts became known which partly explain how the Charter came into the possession of the school well before its discovery there in 1936. A miscatalogued and previously unnoticed copy of the 1297 Forest Charter came to light in the British Library. It

was obviously a companion piece to the 1297 Magna Carta bought by Australia in 1952. It formed part of a small collection of documents gifted to the British Museum (later the British Library) in 1905 by a solicitor upon the death of his father who conducted his law practice 20 miles from King's School. Professor Vincent has concluded that in 1297 the Magna Carta and the Forest Charter were sent to Surrey; that the County Sheriff had handed them to the nuns of Easebourne Priory for safe custody; after the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s, the documents passed into the possession of a family which in due course engaged the services of the solicitor; and at some time the 1297 Magna Carta escaped from the deed box at the practice by being lost, sold or given away, and found its way to King's School.

The booklet also contains a Latin to English translation by Professor Vincent of the 37 clauses of the 1297 Magna Carta, a four-page article "Preserving Magna Carta", and a three-page Glossary explaining the meaning of words and expressions used in the Charter.

The booklet provides fascinating and very interesting reading at a cost of only \$5 (including postage), and can be ordered at [www.aph.gov.au/Senate.pubs/magna\\_carta/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate.pubs/magna_carta/index.htm) .

[Reviewed by Rob O'Connor QC]

### ***Edmund Stirling Swan River Colony Pioneer: A Biography of the Editor of the Inquirer Newspaper Edmund John Stirling (1812 to 1897)***

(By Patricia Reynolds and published by Perth Black Swan Press 2010

This is a fascinating small book. Edmund Stirling, a relative of the writer, arrived at Swan River in August 1830 aboard the *Edward Lombe* aged 18. Initially known as Edmund Starling, he was befriended on the ship by flamboyant and wealthy publisher Charles McFaull. Edmund consequently spent his first years in the colony learning the printing trade with the aid of the small Ruthven Press now in the Museum of WA. When an early partnership between McFaull and William Kernot Shenton was dissolved, Shenton sold his interest in the press to Francis Lochee who, with Edmunds help, continued to publish the *Chronicle* on the old Ruthven Press while McFaull, using a Stanhope Press introduced by

Governor Stirling, began the *Perth Gazette*.

In 1840, using a press imported by William Tanner, Edmund and Francis Lochee began the *Inquirer* newspaper, which provided spirited competition for the more ‘establishment oriented’ *Gazette*. Reynold’s book has far more detail than this – including the fortunes of the notorious William Laird Clark, but she primarily follows Edmund, whose name changed to Stirling around the time he married 16 year old Ethel Read and began working at the *Inquirer* – the start of a 50 year association.

When Lochee sold his interest Edmund worked as compositor and reporter for several individuals before taking over as publisher and editor himself in 1847. As editor Stirling gained considerable respect: his criticisms were well founded – even when aimed at the Governor himself. He became a pillar of society – a member of the Perth Trust, a director of the Geraldine Mining Company and a founding member of the WA Telegraph Co. in 1868. Indeed two of his sons, Horace and Lewis Stirling, were closely involved with the first telegraph relay stations. The oldest son, with help from others of Edmund and Ethel’s eleven surviving children, took over the *Inquirer* when Edmund retired in 1876. He did not stop contributing however, producing the very valuable *Brief History Of Western Australia From First Settlement* in 1894 . Unfortunately he died before completing the second volume– passing away in York on 2 November 1897.

This is a book all those interested in WA’s early years will want to add to their shelves, although most will regret the lack of an index

[Reviewed by Pamela Statham Drew]

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### Email addresses needed

To enable us to share information and keep members up to date on important happenings, we have a group email list for current members. If you would like to be kept informed of important matters or forthcoming events relevant to the Battye Library and the State Records Office, please email me at [bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com) or Nick Drew at [nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com) .

Advance notice about the November meeting will be circulated to our ‘online’ members. If you receive this notice, then your email address has already been included on the list and you do not need to reply to me

or Nick. If you are a new member or renewed your membership and included your email address, then your email address has also been added to the group list. If you do not want to be sent any Friends of Battye Library information by email, please let me know.

Jennie Carter  
(Editor / membership secretary)

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

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.

Visit the bookshop on the Ground Floor of the Alexander Library Building or Telephone: 08 9427 3211, Fax: 08 9427 3215

Email: [info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@slwa.wa.gov.au). Open seven days a week:

Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm

Sat & Sun: 12noon - 5pm

### **Archival quality materials**

The bookshop also stocks archival materials as recommended by the State Library's conservation staff. There are a variety of boxes, paper and card, photo enclosures, and binders available to help preserve precious items.

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### **Recent books of interest**

**From the Royal Western Australian Historical Society [RWAHS] bookshop: [<http://www.histwest.org.au>].**

***Kondinin Page by Page: Frank Eggleston's letters 1925-1932.***  
By Deryck Eggleston. Deryck has edited and given an historical context to a series of letters written by his father as a newly qualified pharmacist in Kondinin. "They document the struggles of a small

business and are a great addition to the social history of Kondinin” extract from the RWAHS ‘Shelf Help’ supplement.]

***Lonely for My Land: Tales of Karratha Station and the Nor' west.*** by Tish Lees. “Tish grew up on Karratha Station when it was a pastoral property with Roebourne the nearest town. It was sold to Hamersley Iron in 1966. Tish has now recorded her family’s life in the Pilbara before it became synonymous with iron ore, and it’s a delightful read.” Extract from the RWAHS ‘Shelf Help’ supplement.]

**From Hesperian Press:** [<http://www.hesperianpress.com>].

***The Archimedean Lever – Alexander Livingstone, a freewheeling journalist on the Westralian Goldfields.*** Collated and edited by Peter J Bridge with Angela Teague. 2010 [“Livingstone was one of those characters thrown up in the convulsions of the Australian gold rushes. They burned brightly and quickly, like the volcano that suddenly erupts and then returns to dormancy. ... Arriving in Western Australia sometime in the early 1890s he worked on the *Victorian Express* paper in Geraldton, and in late 1892 decided to start his own paper in Cue. Together with Leslie Hamilton Montague, he opened the *Murchison Miner*, the first issue appearing on 6 January 1893.” Extract from the Hesperian Press website.]

***Lasting the Distance: Memoirs of John Gilmour - World Champion Runner.*** By P.D. Collier. 2010. [“Lasting the Distance was written as a permanent record of the remarkably long and distinguished athletic career of John Gilmour, one of Australia’s greatest runners.” Extract from the Hesperian Press website.]

**From UWA Press:** [<http://www.uwap.uwa.edu.au>]

***The Kimberley: Australia’s Last Great Wilderness*** by Victoria Laurie, 2010. [“This is the Kimberley at its most beautiful, from the teeming bird life at Roebuck Bay, Broome, to elusive desert animals; from cascading waterfalls and tangled vine thickets to wide savannah plains, you’ve never seen the Kimberley like this. Featuring over 200 stunning images in full colour, The Kimberley conveys the excitement of discovering a new species in this highly biodiverse part of Australia, the resurgence of life in once fire-ravaged places, and the effect of humans on the landscape.” Extracted from the UWAP website.]

***Selected Poems of Dorothy Hewett.*** Edited by Kate Lilley. [“Dorothy Hewett is one of Australia’ best known poets. In an act of intimacy matched with literary acuity, Kate Lilley presents a selection of her mother Dorothy

Hewett's poetry written over a sixty-year period. Lilley draws out the passion and innovation in Hewett's work, shining a light into different areas of her oeuvre to find surprising new angles and resonances.” Extracted from the UWAP website.]

(Compiled by Jennie Carter)

## **Notice of Amendment to the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Constitution**

Advance notice is given of a proposed small amendment to the Constitution. To allow more flexibility in organising meetings and to help with financial reporting, the Committee would like to change the date of the AGM from “not later than the 31st July” to “not later than the 30th September.”

### **Motion**

Moved Pamela Statham Drew and seconded Jennie Carter, that the Constitution section 15 (a) (i) ‘General Meetings’ be amended to read:

“The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held each year at such time and place as the Committee may determine but shall be held not later than the 30th September.”

A short Special General Meeting will be held just before the General Meeting on 8 March 2011 to make this amendment.

Lorraine Dearnley, Secretary.

### **Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Website**

It is over a year now that Friends of Battye members Cherie Strickland and Lorraine Clarke of Swan Genealogy were commissioned to develop our website <http://www.friendsofbattylelibrary.org.au>.

Recently the website has became fully searchable including all previous newsletters. We are very grateful to Cherie and Lorraine for organising this and for offering to keep the website up to date on a voluntary basis.

Cherie and Lorraine have 25 years cumulative knowledge of Western Australian family history and Swan Genealogy provides a family and local history research service. If you would like more information please see <http://www.swangenealogy.com.au>.

## Film Screenings

The State Library regularly presents free film screenings in the comfortable surroundings of the State Library Theatre. The Wednesday Matinee features films and videos from the collections held by the Library. Screenings usually run for about 60 minutes. Admission is free and screening start at 12.30pm. Bookings are not necessary.

### November/December program

3 November

***Fairbridge in its heyday*** [193-] 19 min. [A comprehensive survey of the Fairbridge Society's child migration scheme, showing the range of activities and experiences of children at the Fairbridge Farm.]

***Jumbuck jamboree: Katanning & district*** [1961] 17 min. [Activities at the Katanning and district wool festival, October 1961. Distinguished guests included the Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner and the Premier Sir David Brand.]

***South west corner*** [1971] 14 min. [Tourism promotion of the South West describing historical aspects of Augusta, Busselton and Australind, and illustrating lifestyle and tourism features of Bunbury, Wellington Dam, Collie, Dunsborough, Bridgetown, Hamelin Bay, wildflowers and forests.]

10 November

***Sowing for need or sowing for greed?*** [1989] 56 min. [Genetically engineered food crops are seeping into our diets, frequently without our even being aware of it. This film reveals the connections between multinational chemical companies and the food they want us to eat.]

17 & 24 November - No Screening

1 December

***Gadfly: Francis James*** [1994] 58 min. [A dramatised documentary about Francis James, one of Australia's most intriguing post war figures. A story about a man who was a journalist, theologian, prankster and a Walter Mitty character.]

8 December

***Salvation*** [2001] 50min. [Salvation is about front-line workers serving the needy in Toronto under the umbrella of the Salvation Army.]

**The Wednesday Matinee Film Season will  
commence again in February 2011.**

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

**Annual Membership**

Ordinary	\$20
Joint	\$30
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$10
Corporate	\$50
Donation	\$_____

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tel: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

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

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. For example 'JCarter subs'.

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.

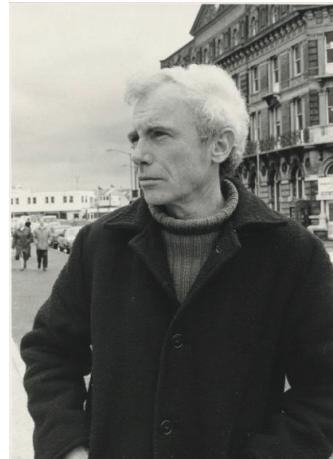
**Thank you for your interest in the Friends of Battye  
Library, your support is very much appreciated.**

## Jack's Back:      Vale: Randolph Stow, Our 'Mick'

I am glad to have this column for adding my own piece to the many tributes that have come forth to honour Randolph (Mick) Stow since his death in May. He and I were fellow students at secondary school and university in the halcyon days of the 1950s. At school the budding writer impressed many of us with the crisp original contributions he fed into our rather dry and formal end-of-term magazine, *The Swan*. And in our final year at university we marvelled at his achieving publication of his first novel, *A Haunted Land*.

Our newsletter is just the place to emphasise that local history and the geographical environment are basic components that Stow wove skilfully into his writings, especially his novels, as many a reviewer has noted. He was able to draw a lot of material from the experiences of his own childhood and of his maternal forebears who were among the first to take up properties near Geraldton. His mother was a daughter of the Sewell family who were pioneers at Sandsprings, and her paternal grandmother was a sister of Major Logue, long the paterfamilias at Ellendale. Original papers of both the Sewells and the Logues were acquired for Battye by Mollie Lukis on a field trip in 1955, and detailed listings are set out as MN3 and MN11 respectively. It is very likely that Mick made use of some of these records when putting together that first book.

Less well-known generally are some fascinating details of Mick's paternal family history. In England the Stows came of an old farming family based near the town of Stowmarket in East Suffolk. In 1837 the Reverend Thomas Quinton Stow (1801-62) was commissioned to go out to Adelaide to be the first Congregational minister in the new colony. There his eldest son, Randolph (1828-78) pursued an outstanding public career in the realm of law and was followed in the legal profession by his son Francis (1869-1935), who came to Western Australia in 1903, and his grandson Cedric (1902-59). Clearly, Cedric's son Mick owes his baptismal name



Randolph Stow Essex UK  
1985. By A T Bolton. (Courtesy  
National Library of Australia  
an14599010-1.)

to his great-grandfather, and in fact to earlier distinguished lineage in the New World.

Back in the 1820s in Suffolk, the young Congregational cleric had married Elizabeth, the daughter of William Eppes of Bristol and his wife Elizabeth nee Randolph, descendant of early settlers in the colony of Virginia. On the second of their four sons the couple bestowed another name well to the fore in Virginia, Jefferson; and indeed, President Jefferson's mother was also a Randolph by birth. In colonial South Australia, Jefferson Stow (1830-1908) was another noteworthy public figure. In 1864 he took part in the ill-starred survey expedition that sought to open up the Northern Territory. The next year he headed for home with six companions in a small open boat that brought them into Geraldton and Fremantle. A rising journalist, the visitor has left us with a good account of the two ports and also of Perth and Guildford as he saw them in July 1865. This is held in Battye as a 12-page typescript, PR354, being an excerpt from the booklet he subsequently published, *The Voyage of the Forlorn Hope*.

Today many old families over in Virginia trace their ancestry back to the marriage in 1614 of the prominent colonist John Rolfe with the Princess Pocahontas, daughter of the leading Indian chieftain Powhatan. Such distinguished extraction is not overlooked here either. Thus, aided by an extra 'c' in the spelling, our Mick's sister Helen McArthur has long been endowed with the nickname Pocca!

Mick himself was also quite interested in his remoter forebears, and so it suited him well to spend the second half of his life ensconced in ancestral territory on England's lower east side. I had the pleasure of visiting him there three or four times.

Personally, most of all I have enjoyed every detail of Mick's evocation and treatment of local history and geography in *Midnite*, his children's classic of 1967, 'a nonsense novel' as he described it in an oral history interview in 1974 (a transcript in Battye, OH2377/4).

But to do that subject justice would take me another whole column some time.

In the online catalogue of the State Library as a whole, there are now as many as 174 entries under the name Randolph Stow, so forming a

most commendable bibliography of many and varied works by and about him. A collection of his manuscripts and other personal papers is held in the National Library and will be further augmented soon. Mick was indeed an outstanding literary figure on the local, state and national scenes. His family and many of his friends were pleased to be able to attend a well presented Celebration and Memorial Service for him in the University of Western Australia's Winthrop Hall on 24th August.

Jack Honniball

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### **Have you a story to tell?**

Our members have a wealth of expertise and knowledge to share. Contributions from you for the Friends of Battye Library Newsletter are keenly sought and welcomed.

Have you come across any interesting snippets about Western Australian history? Are you involved in a research project that you would like to share with us? Do you use the Battye Library or any of the online resources provided by the State Library of WA or the Friends of Battye Library? If so, we would love to hear from you.

Articles up to 250 words are preferred for publication. Your contributions can be emailed to *bevnjen@gmail.com* or posted to the Friends of Battye Library (Inc), PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865.

Deadlines for publication for the next newsletter is 10 February 2011.

Jennie Carter  
(Editor)

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### ***Tours of the State Library - Maps, music, microfilm and more***

Every week on Tuesdays at 12.30pm Discovery Lounge ground floor. This free guided tour of the Library will introduce you to our unique collections, including the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and take you behind the scenes. Tour lasts approximately 50 minutes Bookings not required (except for groups).

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

**Life membership** \$500

### **Annual membership**

Ordinary	\$20
Joint	\$30
Pensioner / student / junior	\$10
Corporate	\$50

### **Meetings**

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July (also the Annual General Meeting), September and November (also the end of year function). These 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.

### **Newsletter**

Published four times per year - March, June, September and November (no newsletter is published in May). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 8 February, 8 June, 8 August and 10 October each year. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

### **Contact details**

Friends of Battye Library website:

*<http://www.friendsofbattylelibrary.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 Secretary, Lorraine Dearnley on *[dearnley@aapt.net.au](mailto:dearnley@aapt.net.au)*, or,  
The editor, Jennie Carter at *[bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)*

or write to:

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

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

<b>Opening hours</b>	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: [battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au)

**Specialist staff:** Dr Sarah Brown (Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165  
Steve Howell (Senior Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3476  
Carmel McRobert (Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3305

**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 on weekdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

<b>Retrievals</b>	Previous day	Available 9.30 am
	11.00 am	Available 12.00 pm
	1.00 pm	Available 2.00 pm

Requests for use of Government archives in the Battye Library must be lodged at the State Records Office by 1.00 pm if required the same evening and by 1.00 pm on Friday if required on the weekend; for continued use of the material in this way, the requests must be renewed on each occasion they are required. Requests must also be submitted for after hours use of State Records Office microfilm.

Telephone (08) 9427 3360, 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**

(First Floor State Library) for Family History research.

**Opening hours**- as per Battye Library opening hours.

**Specialist staff for Family History:** Tricia Fairweather ((08) 9427 3395), Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247. Email: [family.history@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:family.history@slwa.wa.gov.au)

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