

NO. 146



March 2013

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# FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

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ABN 571625138800

## **Our March 2013 meeting**

*A focus on film : movies from the  
Battye Library*



Camera crew  
filming for the  
Chamber of  
Mines of Western  
Australia in  
1972.

(Courtesy Battye  
Library, SLWA.  
Stephenson, Kinder  
Scott Collection.  
347865PD)

Tuesday 12 March 2013 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room, 4th floor State Library of Western Australia.

Please see details on Page 3.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) are to assist and promote the interests of the 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 (2012-2013)**

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary Mrs Gillian O'Mara (Acting)

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

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

Ex-Officio Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)  
Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO)  
Dr Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)

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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 March Meeting**

**Tuesday 12 March 2013  
Great Southern Room, 4th floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5pm for 5.30pm**

## **A special presentation by Steve Howell**

### *A focus on film movies from the Battye Library*

A treat in store for our members is a rare chance to view some of WA's historic short documentary films. The successful Friends of Battye Library Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) project, which attracted a substantial Lotterywest grant, saved more than 150 early films. A small selection has been chosen by Steve and will be shown at the meeting.

After the meeting, members and guests are invited to join us for a meal in a nearby restaurant. Bookings can be made 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.

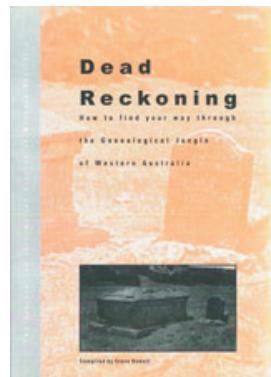
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## About our speaker - Steve Howell

For many of us interested in Western Australian history and genealogy, Steve certainly needs no introduction. Currently he is working as the senior Subject Specialist for the Battye Library, but he has been an important part of the library for more than 30 years.

Steve is an expert on the collections, a gifted researcher with an amazing talent for finding obscure links, the curator responsible for many of the State Library's recent exhibitions and displays, and a skilled historian. Steve wrote *Dead Reckoning: how to find your way through the Genealogical Jungle of Western Australia* first published in 1997 and which has now been extensively updated and made available online at [http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/dead\\_reckoning](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/dead_reckoning)



## State Film Archives

The State Film Archives, which was the only regional film archive in Australia, was formed in 1969 to care for a collection of films that had been donated to the Battye Library.

In the early 1940s the WA Education Department established a film unit to produce training and instructional movies to show at schools, community groups and youth organisations throughout the State. The



Cinematographer Fred Murphy behind the camera with the cast of a now lost film that he made in the 1920s.

(Courtesy Battye Library 000629D.)

Fred Murphy collection BA1562/12)

aim was to improve the moral and physical status of the youth of WA and the topics focused heavily on physical fitness, civic duties, and other issues of contemporary concern. Following the Second World War, films were also made to attract migrants as well as to highlight the State as a tourist destination. In the 1950s the Audio Visual Branch of the Department became responsible for making, maintaining and distributing films until its closure in 1967 and the transfer of archival footage to the Battye Library.

In the 1960s there was a strong push to set up a special film archive in the wake of a devastating fire which destroyed almost all the existing films of leading WA film-maker, Fred Murphy and the loss of much of our moving picture heritage of the time.

There are at present more than 4,500 Western Australian titles in film, video or DVD format cared for in the library. Some of the films were facing serious deterioration because acetate stock was used from the 1920s until the 1980s. Efforts to save a selection of the most 'at risk' films was a key feature of the Historical Records Rescue Consortium project.

Jennie Carter

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### **General meeting dates for 2013**

All meetings will be held in the Great Southern Room, 4th floor, State Library of Western Australia to begin at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. The schedule for the rest of this year is as follows:

14 May - Dr Pamela Statham Drew

*A H Stone - Perth's pioneer photographer.*

9 July - Dr Lesa Morgan.

*Ukrainian Migrant Refugees in WA:  
Let's Not Talk About Stalin.*

10 September (AGM) - Dr Kate Gregory, Battye Historian

19 November - End of year function

Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland.  
*Stories from the East Perth cemetery.*

## A message from the President

Dear Friends

Your President has had rather an exciting time lately. Nick and I took a 31 day cruise from San Francisco all the way down the west coast of South America round Cape Horn over to the Falkland Islands and then up to Buenos Aires where we caught a flight to Sydney and then home to Perth. It was a wonderful trip and as you can imagine seeing all that without having to pack and re-pack the suitcase was divine. Once home we were caught up in organising the launch for the book I co-wrote with Jacqueline O'Brien called *Court and Camera*. It is the story of Alfred H Stone – early lawyer and photographer and is full of his pictures carefully restored by Jacqueline. I will be presenting his story and pictures at our May meeting.

You will note elsewhere in this newsletter the exciting news from the Oral History Records Rescue Group project, funded by a Lotterywest grant we applied for. The project has well and truly exceeded our expectations. Instead of our initially hoped for 7,500 hours of interviews digitised and 200 voices put on line we have managed to digitise all of Battye's tapes (over 10,000 hours) – with the exception of the Parliamentarian interviews which the Government is going to finance separately. This is superb news and Lee Blackford and her team deserve a huge pat-on-the-back for their hard work and wonderful results. Seventy of the planned 200 voices are already on-line and can be accessed through the State Library's catalogue.

The East Perth Cemetery project which we have in partnership with the National Trust is about to enter the second stage which is an interactive web site. Soon everyone will be able to access the detailed information collected by Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland. We are planning to have them come and chat to us before our dinner in November but more about that later.

We are very pleased to welcome to the Friends our new Battye Historian, Dr Kate Gregory who was previously with the National Trust. Kate comes to us with fresh ideas and a lot of enthusiasm, which is very much appreciated. Kate's parents, Ross and Professor Jenny Gregory will be known to many of you, so it is great to see their daughter also contributing strongly to Western Australia's history and heritage.

While welcoming Kate to our committee we are sad to note that Sue

Summers has to leave for family reasons. Our glamorous Sue has been a huge asset always pitching in before meetings and helping Rob O'Connor with design for our Gift and Bequest brochures. We wish her all the best for the future.

Do remember that if you have anything special happening that might interest our members please let our newsletter editor Jennie Carter know about it. She is always looking for copy and can be reached on [bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com) or by mail at post box 216, Northbridge 6865.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Pamela Statham Drew

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

The following articles have been kindly supplied by members Dr Ronda Jamieson, and Patrick Richardson Bunbury (see page 9).

*[Ronda was for many years the Director of the Battye Library before her retirement in 2005. She was awarded a 'Gem of Time' by the Friends in 2010 in recognition of her unstinting work preserve and promote the collections of the Battye Library.]*

### **Hooray for Digitised Newspapers and 'Trove'**

To my great shame, despite having said when teaching oral history how important it was to interview parents, I did not finish an interview with my mother, Ednah Daw. She was in good health and so active that I thought there was plenty of time and had only covered up to her marriage before her tragic death in 1998 in an accident. You can imagine how my sorrow was compounded by knowing I would never hear her version of the rest of her life.

A story I remembered her telling us at the meal table was the dramatic tale of how I, as an infant, took ill when Dad was away during the war and Mum was living with her three small daughters in Ravensthorpe, 540 kms from Perth. There was no doctor or hospital in Ravensthorpe, so she drove a gas producer car to Lake Grace, 186 kms away. The doctor there told Mum that I was too ill to be admitted to the local hospital and needed to be taken to Princess Margaret Hospital in Perth.

Mum's parents, Charles and Emily Robinson, lived on a farm 21 kms from the town. She took my two sisters to them before setting off to cover the 375 kms to Perth. She recalled how filthy she was on arrival because

of having to do work on the car and keeping it filled with charcoal.

It has taken all this time for me to look at the archives Mum left behind. Imagine my delight at finding a small cutting from a newspaper covering that trip – but typically, with no details of newspaper or date.

While many of us had reason to bless the fact that we could research newspapers on microfilm in the Battye Library, it could be a slow and frustrating process. Before the expert team joined Preservation Services in 1995, the microfilm was mostly hard to read. After the experts took over, the quality of the microfilm improved enormously, but it still didn't take long to make me feel 'seasick' if I did not know the date of an article being searched for and had to spend long on the task.

How things have changed. One of the many pleasures of working in the Battye Library was to be associated with the digitisation of newspapers started by the National Library of Australia, which included the *West Australian*. Without having to go into the Battye Library, I brought up Trove through the internet, identified the *West* as the likely source and typed in the heading on the cutting I had found. Up came the article on 24 August 1942, when I was 19 months old.

**WOMAN'S REALM.**

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**GAS PRODUCER CAR.**

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**No Trouble to Woman Driver.**

Driving a gas producer unit has no fears for Mrs Courtney Daw, of Ravensthorpe, who has just completed a trip of 370 miles from Ravensthorpe to Perth. Mrs Daw's husband is in the RAAF and last weekend was unavaiable.

It is reproduced below with a vote of thanks to the hard working and expert preservation staff who used to be attached to the Battye Library and who have earned the respect and gratitude of researchers for the wonderful work they have done in preserving and making available so much archival material.

### GAS PRODUCER CAR

#### No Trouble to Woman Driver

Driving a gas producer unit has no fears for Mrs Courtney Daw, of Ravensthorpe, who has just completed a trip of 370 miles from Ravensthorpe to Perth. Mrs Daw's husband is in the RAAF.

The trip from Ravensthorpe to Lake Grace took 7 hours – it should have taken less but for the breaking of an air valve on the gas-producer butterfly. She made temporary repairs on the road side

which lasted until she reached Lake Grace where she had it properly repaired. Mrs Daw stayed overnight at Lake Grace, leaving there at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning, she reached Perth at 7 pm.

"It was an excellent trip," she said "and the producer behaved perfectly. They are not so hard to manage as many women appear to think."

The necessity to stop about every 50 miles to refuel with charcoal makes the trip much less tiring than a long straight run, Mrs Daw thinks. She bought charcoal at Lake Grace, Wagin and Williams and at Lake Grace cleaned the scrubbers herself and prepared the car for the following day's trip. She had with her her 2 small daughters aged 3 and 4 years old.

The total cost of the whole journey was 14/- for charcoal and 2/6 for oil, or about ½d per mile.

The trip resulted in the need for an operation and in an undated letter, Mum told her parents in law, 'Poor little Ronda is still in Hospital & will be for some weeks yet .. I was very worried all the week-end when I knew the operation was to take place, I don't think I have ever spent a worse week-end in my life'.

Ronda Jamieson

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*[Patrick Richardson Bunbury has been one of the Battye Library's long-term and most dedicated volunteers. His meticulous work to preserve and provide access to archival records has been acknowledged by his Friends of Battye Library Gem of Time award in 2011. The full citation for Patrick's award is on page 19.]*

### **Volunteering in Private Archives**

With retirement approaching at the end of 2001 the need arose to find an occupation for the retirement years. An interest in the early families of Western Australia led me to approach the Battye Library and I was fortunate to be accepted as a volunteer in Private Archives. Having no library qualifications or experience, an informal 'apprenticeship' was necessary in the form of listing a number of small collections. Finding myself in company with more like-minded souls than I had been accustomed to for some years was a very pleasant experience and was

further enhanced by the move from the fourth floor to join the library staff on the first floor in early 2012.

A very extensive collection of papers of the Le Souef family, principally Dr Ernest Albert and his son Dr Leslie Ernest were box-listed only, a full listing not being practical due to the volume of the material. This collection waits for an intrepid individual to refine it into a full listing. The Australian Le Souef family who settled in Victoria in 1838 were of French extraction. Albert Alexander Cochrane Le Souef became Director of the Melbourne Zoo in 1880 and in 1897 Ernest Albert, his second son, was appointed by John Hackett to be Director of the Zoo to be built in Perth. He qualified as a veterinary surgeon and was appointed as Major, Veterinary Officer in 1916 and served in Egypt until 1917. He remained active in the Military and was retired in 1930 with the rank of full Colonel. He carried on veterinary work with the Agricultural Department and Agricultural Society until retirement to Margaret River on his property, "Glenellie". His daughter Mildred's 'Life of Ernest Albert Le Souef' can be found in *Early Days*, the Journal of the RWAHS, Volume 6. The letters of Ernest Albert and his son, Leslie Ernest who obtained his medical qualifications at Melbourne University in 1922, constitute a large part of the collection. Leslie Ernest's letters were from school and university where he was a gifted sportsman, and from his army days and as a prisoner of war in Crete and in Germany where as Lieut. Colonel he earned a reputation as a strong protector of his fellow prisoners of war. Following the war he undertook administrative positions in the medical field and served on the Senate of the University of Western Australia. In 1980 his autobiography *To war without a gun* was published. The letters of his sister Mildred (Mrs. Bernard Manning) who became a much loved teacher in Perth are also part of the collection.

Three collections of papers of the de Burgh family revealed an old and distinguished Irish family and also opened another window into the Lefroy, Brockman and Harper families who were connected by marriage to the de Burgh family. The voluminous, entertaining and forthright correspondence of the immediate and extended de Burgh family locally and from around the world made for riveting reading and almost a diversion from the task in hand. Two sisters, WA born Una and Fanny married in England, both were prolific letter writers before and after their marriages and Fanny vividly recounts her time in Nigeria with her husband George Monk. The mysterious 'con man' J C de Lancourt's

activities were the subject of Bill de Burgh's book *On Australia's Rim*. Bill's other publications need no introduction, his research papers and notes tell of the dedication required to write such valuable local histories.

A collection of diaries purchased at auction and stated to be written by members of the Bussell family was found to contain also two very detailed journals compiled alternatively by John and Georgiana Molloy and which showed that their marriage was a very happy and successful one, contrary to some unfavourable comments that have been made over the years.

Geoffrey Drake-Brockman was one of the several distinguished descendants of the Bussell family of Wallcliffe House, Margaret River, from the marriage of his father Frederick Slade Drake-Brockman to Grace Bussell, the daughter of Alfred and Ellen Bussell and of 'Georgette' fame. His service in the First World War saw him at Gallipoli, in Egypt and on the Western Front and the award of the Military Cross and promotion to Major. Whilst in England in 1917 he married Alice Milne, a marriage which ended with her death in 1918. Here there is a connection with the de Burgh family with the marriage of Una de Burgh to Alice's brother Dr. Ernest Milne. His marriage to Henrietta Jull took place in August 1921. They became one of Western Australia's most distinguished and well known couples. A number of Henrietta's paintings and drawings are among the collection and her prolific writings, in particular on the *Batavia* wreck, need no introduction. After the end of the Second World War Geoffrey had a long and varied career in the WA Public Service and one of his concerns was alleviating Perth's growing traffic congestion, now an even more serious issue. In recollections of early Perth he lamented the decline of Adelaide Terrace, once the location of fine old homes.

The 'jolly nun', the redoubtable and witty Sister Mary Albertus Bain, came to Western Australia in 1937 from New Zealand to enter the Dominican Order at Dongara and obtained her BA degree at UWA, majoring in economics. She was the author of numerous papers and publications of local histories of the Champion Bay area and the pearl industry. Her exchanges of research material with local and national historians make up a large part of the collection. For family historians the collection contains a wealth of information with numerous brief biographies, histories and genealogies of members of early

settler families. Her book on Governor Hampton remains, regrettably, in manuscript form many years after her death.

The Cecil Walkeley Postal History collection revealed a number of new Bussell family letters and a brief recollection in 1881 by Mrs John Garrett Bussell of a moving occasion prior to the funeral of Georgiana Molloy in 1843. A number of letters by and concerning convicts were another important part of the collection.

The Prinsep family papers revealed information on the distinguished English family of that name and their senior administrative and cultural positions in India. Henry Charles Prinsep who was inclined to an artistic career, was sent to Western Australia in 1866 to manage the Prinsep Estate in the Dardanup district established by his father. The uncles, brothers and sisters that he left behind kept up a steady correspondence and their letters, full of interest, are worthy of research in themselves and possibly an edited publication. This part of the collection brought a couple from England on two occasions to research their Prinsep ancestor. Henry married Josephine Bussell in 1868 and following a difficult period managing the estate they moved Perth where he became a significant figure in the cultural life of the town after he took up a government appointment in early 1874. Henry retained his artistic skills and left us many fine paintings, in particular of the Champion Bay area. The letters of many other early Western Australian families feature in the collection, Bussells, Vines, Brockmans to name a few.

The Noisy Scrub Bird research papers of Harry Webster provided a view into the Two People Bay area near Albany and to his devotion in the quest to re-discover the suspected to-be-extinct bird, in the face of some suspicious activities by other persons. His skill in the photography and the documentation of his findings was aided and encouraged by Dr D L Serventy and Dr Norman Robinson.

The task goes on with the recent acquisition of the Fairbairn Collection being in the initial stages of listing. Robert Fairbairn was a long serving public servant and as Resident Magistrate or Government Resident among other varied positions, saw Western Australia from the Vasse in 1862 through to the, Avon Valley, Champion Bay, The Gascoyne and the Kimberley in 1883 and finally to Fremantle from 1886 to 1908.

Patrick Bunbury

## **Introducing our Battye Historian - Dr Kate Gregory**

### **New perspectives on the Battye Library**

Having long admired the Battye Library I am delighted to have been appointed to the position of Battye Historian. Childhood memories of tagging alongside my mother in her research quests firmly established my sense of awe for the Battye at a young age. As an adult embarking on my own research interests the fascinating world of the Battye opened up to me as I delved into various aspects of the collection. The sense of discovery, the inspiring ‘aha’ moment, is a strong association that I have with the Battye Library and one which I carry with me in my new role. For me the Battye is not only about solving research puzzles like piecing together parts of a jigsaw but it is also about the discovery of past lives through traces that remain.

The experience of reading archival documents, with the smell and sound of pages turning, and stumbling across some very vivid ‘voices’, inspires a palpable connection with our past. This imaginative and sensory engagement with the past through our collections is one often overlooked when thinking about the Battye, yet familiar I’m sure to many researchers. A sense of discovery aids and abets our research efforts. My task is partly to develop avenues for such engagement, and to foster a sense of discovery with the Battye’s unique collections.

The extraordinary range and scope of the Battye collections makes it a rich resource for our whole community, and one which at present is underutilised.

As the Battye Historian my role is to provide leadership for the development of the Battye Library collections and services. My aim is to create greater access to the Battye collections, facilitate cross-disciplinary research using the collections, foster creative use of the collections, engage with diverse communities around the State, develop strategic collaborations and stimulate dialogue about Western Australian history and heritage throughout our community.

Through the Battye collections we can discover and rediscover what it means to be Western Australian. This constantly evolving picture of ourselves will change as new evidence comes to light. Primary evidence always has the power to surprise, to complicate and to challenge. Creating greater access and use of our collections will lead to many more perspectives on our past and what it means for present West Australians.

Kate Gregory

## Recent additions to the Battye Library collection.

### *Mary Anne Friend's Journal 1829-1831*

This lovely addition to the collection finally arrived on 24 January 2013 safely ensconced in a most secure crate. Laurie Allen, Jean Chetkovich, Barbara



Left: Jean Chetkovich (L) and Barbara Patison (R) unpack Mary Anne Friend's journal.



Right: the journal's detailed drawing of the Swan River.

Patison and a cast of admirers approached the crate with considerable care and worked their way through the packing to finally lay eyes (and gloved hands) on the journal. It is currently in safe storage until Senior Conservator Cristina Albillos returns from leave and assesses its condition prior to digitising.

Jean Chetkovich

The Minister for Culture and the Arts, the Hon. John Day issued a press release about the purchase late last year from Christies Auction House in London, stating:

"I am very pleased that the State Library has been the winning bidder at the auction acquiring Mary Anne's journal for the State Library. Items such as this are rarely offered for public sale, so we are pleased the diary will be now kept in a public collection and made available for research and display. The journal contains three hitherto unknown and unpublished watercolours of Fremantle which are some of the earliest images of this settlement, as well as two manuscript charts of rivers of the region, probably drawn by Mary's husband, Captain Matthew Friend. The section written during January 30 to March 19, 1830 is the most significant to Western Australia and the journal is full of interesting anecdotes about day-to-day life on board ship and

ashore, the crew and passengers. All this recorded information enriches our understanding of WA's settlement.

The total cost of securing the journal was AUD\$196,041. The State Library will pay \$115,000 towards the purchase with the remainder coming from the Federal Government through the National Cultural Heritage Account Fund to assist with the acquisition of the diary for safekeeping and display in the State Library's archive collection."

Mary Anne Friend's husband, Matthew, was Captain of the *Wanstead* which was privately commissioned in 1829 to bring prospective settlers to the Swan River Colony.

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

Since the Project commenced in December 2010, more than 5600 oral histories have been digitised for preservation and access. Seventy three interviews are now available on-line through the State Library's catalogue. Examples include interviews with Kira Bousloff, founder of the WA Ballet <http://catalogue.slwa.wa.gov.au/record=b1795701~S2> and noted trade unionist Cecilia Shelley <http://catalogue.slwa.wa.gov.au/record=b1786417~S2>

Here is a selection of some of the unique and interesting stories that have been preserved for all West Australians.

A woman who boarded at St Mary's Hostel in Alice Springs as a child in the 1940s and 50s. She discusses her background, having both Aboriginal and German heritage, life at the hostel and particularly Sister Eileen Heath. During her time at St Mary's she was also (somewhat unwillingly) selected to play a role in the first Australian feature film shot in colour, and discusses her experiences with the filming and her feelings about her involvement. The interview is particularly interesting as it covers race-relations and policies in the middle of the 20th Century, from the perspective of someone who lived through them.

A man who joined the British army at the age of 15, serving in the Middle East under Lawrence of Arabia in East Africa, putting down the slave trade, as well as in France and Russia, before moving to the South-West of Western Australia as a Group Settler in 1924. He describes life in the early Group Settlement – the isolation, finances and so on – as well as life in general in the South-West during the early to middle 20th Century. After WWII, he became heavily involved in community affairs, eventually becoming the Chairman of the Busselton Road Board and President of the Busselton Shire Council.

More interviews are being added to the SLWA catalogue, so please check back on progress.



## *Margaret Medcalf Award*

### Nomination Form

This Award recognizes excellence in referencing and research in the use of State archives. It honours Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM, Western Australia's second State Archivist, for her valuable contribution to the development of archives in Western Australia. The winner of this Award receives a cash prize of \$1000, or shares this prize if there is more than one winner. Works nominated must demonstrate use of the State archives collection, held by the State Records Office (SRO).

Nominated works need not be published, may be fiction or non-fiction, and in any media. Nominators are encouraged to supply 3 copies of nominated works to the SRO, to enable short-listing and further consideration by the judging panel. One copy of short-listed and winning works will be retained permanently by the SRO.

For further details including information about the selection criteria for the Award, see <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/margaret-medcalf-award> or contact Gerard Foley at the State Records Office on (08) 9427 3641.

#### Nominations

Any work completed in 2012 is eligible for nomination. Nominations may be submitted by anyone, including the author of the work.

Nominations for the Margaret Medcalf Award are to be made to the State Archivist, State Records Office of WA, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth, WA 6000, by close of business **Friday, 5 April 2013**.

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

*Thank you for your submission.*

## **Nominations are called for the 2013 Margaret Medcalf Award**

The State Records Commission established the Margaret Medcalf Award in 2003. The Award is a prize of \$1000. (A copy of the form is included on the facing page). This annual Award honours Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM, the second State Archivist for Western Australia (1971-1989), for her valuable contribution to the development of archives in Western Australia. Works nominated for the Award must demonstrate use of archival sources, and substantial (but not necessarily exclusive) use of State archives held by the State Records Office.

Nominated works may be fiction or non-fiction and may comprise any format (i.e. book, article, conference paper, website, index, etc). Nominated works may be published or unpublished. Nominations may be submitted by anyone, including the author of the work. Nominated works must have been completed or published during the previous calendar year.

The judging panel for the Award comprises a member of the State Records Commission, the State Archivist and a well-known WA-based historian. The judging criteria for the Award are:

Level of use of the State archives collection:

- How much does the work rely on archival sources for its argument?
- What proportion of the cited works are State archives?

Use of referencing:

- How well does the work reference the sources in the State archives collection? How easy would it be to locate the archival sources the author references?

Level of contribution to knowledge (historical, cultural, heritage, etc).

Original use of the State archives collection:

- Does the work use new archival material or use different sources to answer questions or highlight issues? Is well known archival material dealt with in a new or different way?

Presentation:

- How well has the work been crafted? How well does it stimulate interest in the material? Does the work have community appeal?

To enter please complete the Margaret Medcalf Award 2013 Nomination Form, and return the form with three copies of the nominated works to the State Records Office of Western Australia by Friday 5 April 2013.

## **State Records Office - News from the Archives**

### **SRO Lunchtime Seminars 2013**

The State Records Office of Western Australia invites you to the 2013 series of Lunchtime Seminars. Featuring a variety of topics, these seminars are designed to inform researchers about the State Records Office, 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.

Lunchtime seminars occur between 12.30 and 1.30pm on the day advertised and are usually held in the SRO's South West Room, next to the SRO's Search Room. The proposed dates and more details about these Seminars will be confirmed 2-4 weeks before the scheduled event, the SRO's website being updated with further details.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their sandwiches and drinks to the Seminars. Tea and Coffee are provided.

### **Proposed dates, presenters and topics for 2013**

Thursday 7 March 2013

Speaker: Gerard Foley - ***How to find what you want in the State Archives' - a seminar for beginners and refreshers***

Wednesday 8 May 2013

Speaker: Fiona Bush - ***The contribution that convicts made to Perth's private building sector between 1850 and 1880***- a seminar marking the Heritage Festival 2013

Wednesday 3 July 2013

Speaker: to be advised - NAIDOC week related

Wednesday 4 September 2013

Speaker: Peta Serna - ***Les Grandes Horizontales - the surprising history of French prostitutes in Western Australia from the 1890s until World War 2***

Wednesday 20 November 2013

Speaker: Tom Reynolds - ***100 years go - State Archives revealed.***

## **Our two new Gems of Time**

Two outstanding recipients of the Friends Gem of Time Award were honoured recently. We take pleasure in including their citations here.

### **Patrick Richardson Bunbury - awarded 2011**

Patrick is one of the Battye Library's unsung heroes. For the last ten years he has freely volunteered his time, giving four days every week to assisting staff in the Archives section. He has contributed his skills in organisation and research as well as his knowledge of Western Australian history to help list and arrange materials donated to the State Library of Western Australia's, Battye Library collections.

Over the years, Patrick has created finding aids for large collections of material from such well known Western Australian families including Bussell, Prinsep, De Burgh, Lefroy, and Durack, and organisations such as the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, and the leading law firm of Stone, James & Co. (now Mallesons Stephen Jaques). Without his in-depth knowledge of the genealogy of some of WA's pioneer families, and his expertise in deciphering 19th century cross-written letters, many of these collections would have remained inaccessible to researchers. Patrick's thoroughness and deep knowledge of Western Australian history is invaluable, as his ability in providing extra information to guide researchers to other relevant material.

Currently Patrick is involved in checking and expanding the extensive Mary Durack-Miller collection indexes, which were created by Patsy Millett. Patrick was also an adviser to staff on the Bussell family history when the Bussell diaries were purchased by the State Library.

He is painstaking with his research and patiently transcribed many 19th



Patrick at work in the Battye Library's Private Archives collection. (Photo courtesy Ros McHale, SLWA)

century hand-written letters contained in the recently acquired Cecil Walkley philately collection. He also discovered, and alerted Library staff to, a valuable and rare Penny Black stamp when working on a separate collection of material.

Patrick's generosity is remarkable and many researchers have sought his advice for information about Western Australian families. He is always willing to help other volunteers with queries. In addition, Patrick volunteers weekend hours at Kings Park, helping with re-planting and other physical tasks.

His quiet and unassuming manner, coupled with his gentle sense of humour has made him a favourite with staff, volunteers and library clients alike.

David Whiteford

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### **Gillian O'Mara - awarded 2012**

Gillian O'Mara joined the Friends of Battye Library in 1989 and three years later (exactly 20 years ago) became Vice President – a position she has held ever since. She has acted as President many times in the absence of both Geoff Bolton and Pamela Statham Drew – for a full six months on one occasion!



Gillian was part of Rica Erickson's team in producing the first set of the *Dictionaries of West Australians* in 1979, typing up the cards that prefaced every volume. She twice edited her own volume on convicts. She went on to help bring out the four volumes of the *Bicentenary Dictionary* and Rica made it known several times that she could not

have brought out this widely acclaimed set without her. More recently she has been a firm supporter of the Library's project to digitise the

Western Australian Biographical Dictionary cards.

Gillian's service to the Library and to the Friends has been little short of incredible. Hers is a well known face in the Family History section of the first floor where she has been a tower of strength to families researching their past, often helping with information from her own research and her own renowned data bank.

Gillian currently works as archivist at Mater Dei Catholic College and is an associate member of the Australian Society of Archivists and the School Archives Group. She is also a member of the Wanneroo & Districts Historical Society and the Police Historical Society, and has helped with publications for both societies.

Gillian joined the WA Genealogical Society in 1984 and their Convict group, of which she was convenor for many years. She is also a member of the Enrolled Pensioner Guard group and currently editor of their newsletter. With regard to Western Australia's convicts Gillian is the acknowledged expert. She personally verifies all the applications for convict ancestry at the Foundation Day ceremony at Fremantle Prison. Her publication on WA convicts for the Friends in 1991 is in constant demand and it is hoped that she can produce a revised edition in her retirement to capture all the new information she has uncovered since then.

Pamela Statham Drew

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## Obituary

### **Jan Ormerod (nee Hendry) - illustrator and writer**

born Bunbury 23 September 1946, died Cambridge UK 23 January 2013

Jan made an outstanding contribution to children's literature in Western Australia. She was one of a small group of influential writers who led the way to the lively Western Australian children's literature culture we have today. Two of her earliest picture books - *Sunshine* and *Moonlight*- were early trailblazers, coming out at a time when there were very few homegrown Australian books available for young Australians to read.

Well into the 1960's, large consignments of English books for children continued to be imported from the UK, or printed in Australia under licence. Among them was my own much loved copy of *Midnite* by Randolph Stow: such a quintessential Australian story that I was startled to see that it was published in Middlesex, England - half a world away from Australia. At that time, new Australian publishing for children was still weighted towards adventure stories, school stories and homegrown stories of country life.

That's why Jan Ormerod's *Sunshine* (1982) made such an outstanding impression. It is a beautiful piece of work in itself - a joy to hold as you savor the marvellous images; a joy to read as you follow the start of a young child's day through the simple but engaging text. *Sunshine* stood out from most of the other early childhood books of the time, because there was never any doubt that its author was a true storyteller, deftly weaving words and images to capture the imagination of her readers.

Of course she went on writing, illustrating, inventing and providing immense satisfaction for a very wide audience almost to the end of her life. She will be sadly missed by very many friends, colleagues and book lovers of all ages. We were lucky to have enjoyed her books and company - and her books will surely live on to delight new generations of young readers.

Alison Gregg

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## Book Review

***Court & Camera: the life and times of AH Stone a pioneer photographer in Perth.*** Written by Jacqueline O'Brien and Pamela Statham Drew

"This beautifully illustrated book is essentially a history of pre-gold rush Perth. But it is so much more. Through the eyes of pioneer lawyer and photographer Alfred Hawes Stone it is possible to see the beginnings of the Perth we know today. Excerpts from Alfred's originally coded diary, 1850-52, and the hundreds of photos he took between 1859 and 1869 reveal life in Perth just three decades after foundation with the emergence of landmark buildings such as the Town Hall, Deanery and Government House. Photographs also portray ordinary houses and everyday living, with river scenes that will fascinate young and

old. Anyone interested in photography will have much to absorb, and historians will be delighted with details of the regimes of Governors Fitzgerald, Kennedy and Hampton. Costume and family historians will be intrigued by his photographs of individuals – particularly the young women he portrayed in all their finery. Alfred was also interested in commerce and pictured shops and merchant houses as well as river traffic. It is a book that will never date and will become a ‘must have’ for all old Perth families.” [Extract from the book’s jacket information.]

Jacqueline O’Brien nee Wittenoom has lectured internationally on historical subjects and produced a number of beautifully illustrated and quite unique books on Irish heritage. These include *Great Irish Houses and Castles*, *Ancient Ireland and Dublin; A Grand Tour*. Born in Albany, Jacqueline graduated from the University of Western Australia with honours degrees in both Economics and Arts. In 1951 she married the celebrated Irish racehorse trainer Vincent O’Brien and lived in County Tipperary with him and their five children, taking summer holidays in WA when possible. In 2006 Jacqueline completed a best-selling biography of her husband – which went into several editions - and in 2009 with Pamela’s help, she completed her own family history. The first copies of *On We Go: The Wittenoom Way* arrived just in time for her husband to see it before he passed away. Having made a commitment to Dorothy Croft when borrowing pictures for the Wittenoom book Jacqueline and Pamela then began the research that has resulted in the present volume.

The book is available from the State Library Shop.

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

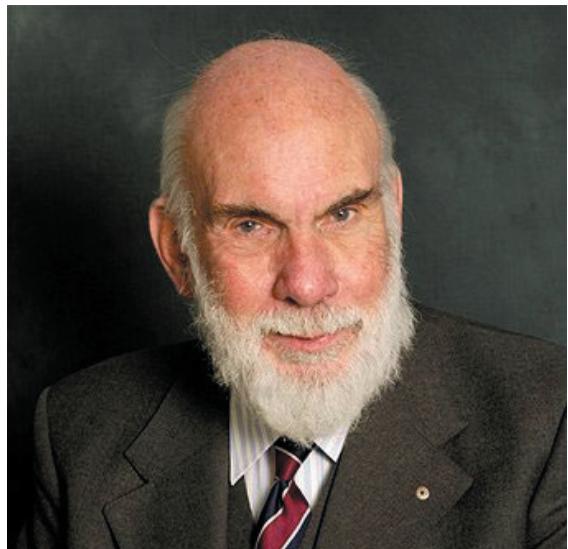
The State Library has generously offered members of the Friends of Battye Library a 15% discount on new book purchases. To be eligible for the discount, members must show proof of name when making their purchases so staff can confirm that you are a current member.

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.

## **Blainey /Bolton Debate – UWA 25th October 2012**

### **Is Australia going West, will Perth be the capital of Australia in 2050?**

Television compare Geraldine Doogue chaired this immensely entertaining debate between two old friends. The two Geoffrey's, as Geraldine called them, had met as editors of their respective student newspapers in the late



1950's and had kept in touch ever since.

Geoffrey Curnow Bolton AO is an Australian historian born on 5 November 1931 in Perth Western Australia. He attended Wesley College, Perth from 1943 to 1947, University of WA and Oxford. He has been publishing works on Australian history since 1952, and has authored 13 books, including *A Fine Country to Starve In*, *A Thousand Miles Away*, *Spoils and Spoilers*, *The Middle Way 1942-1995* and

most recently *Land of Vision and Mirage: Western Australia since 1826*. Professor Bolton is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (London), Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and Fellow of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. In 2005, Bolton was named Western Australia's 2006 Citizen of the Year.

Bolton began the debate – strongly in the positive, as befits a sandgroper who had taught more than half his audience. Capitals have moved before, he said citing India as an example. And Western Australia was leading the country on many fronts – where the 20th Century had been focused on the Pacific, the 21st looked to be focused on the Indian Ocean. All the drivers in the region – India, China, Asia – needed the resources that WA had in abundance.

Australia had been Sydney-centric for too long. Too many students mistakenly believe Captain Cook discovered Australia! Historians have often felt the West was simply 40 years behind Sydney – that we were

bumbling cousins, but the West has advantages they have overlooked. Our location is second to none with space and a warm climate – plus the resources to provide amenities that enable us to live comfortably in a warm climate. And time-wise the West is closer to our trading partners than the Eastern States.

Geoffrey Norman Blainey AC, is a prominent Australian historian who was born in Melbourne March 11, 1930. He went to Wesley College and the University of Melbourne. He has written 36 full-length books including *The Tyranny of Distance*, *Triumph of the Nomads*, *Black Kettle* and *Full Moon*, *A Short History of the 20th Century*, *Sea of Dangers* and the best-selling *A Short History of the World*. Professor Blainey held chairs in history and in economic history at the University of Melbourne for 21 years. He was a delegate to the 1998 Constitutional Convention and also chaired various Commonwealth Government bodies, including the Australia Council, the Literature Board, the Australia-China Council, and the National Council for the Centenary of Federation.



Geoffrey Blainey did not mount a strong counter attack, as he agreed that the West had many advantages. Moreover he said that a recent count had shown that Queensland and WA had 31% of Australia's population and rising whilst New South Wales had 32%. By 2050 he prophesised half of all Australians will live in Queensland or WA. The old leaders, Victoria and NSW have been in decline for decades. It was a 50 year trend and the shift will bring changes. The Eastern States tended to see WA as a quarry without realizing the hugely technical and computerised industry mining had become. The West now needs cultural yardsticks to improve, as WA is not to the fore in the arts generally. Perhaps WA has not reached the critical mass in population size yet that would foster such change.

Would the Capital move? Recognising the importance of the Indian Ocean, Blainey was "half convinced".

Pamela Statham Drew

## New book - UWA's Centenary

***Seeking Wisdom: a centenary history of the University of Western Australia*** / edited by Professor Jenny Gregory

[following is an excerpt from UWA's website <http://www.news.uwa.edu.au>]

"It was a university built on the back of a vision to 'advance the wealth and prosperity of the people' and to solve pressing agricultural and other problems by means of ground-breaking research. As history now shows, The University of Western Australia has delivered on that bold promise time and time again in the 100 years since it was made.

The pivotal role UWA has played in the State's development since 1913 - from the pioneering research it has consistently produced to the luminaries who have emerged from its faculties of science, law, the arts and others - is captured in *Seeking Wisdom: A Centenary History of The University of Western Australia*.

The richly illustrated book - an extensive rendering of the University's first century featuring black and white photos on almost every page as well as a colour photo insert - will be launched on February 10 during a special UWA Alumni Weekend, which starts tomorrow with LUMINOUSnight.

The book's 470 pages canvass the University's physical and academic development, and highlight the rich history of student life over the past century. Covering everything from politics and protests to an inventive and at times controversial catalogue of pranks, the chapter Constructing the Student Experience makes for revealing and often funny reading. It also records tumultuous periods of student activism over issues including the Vietnam War, Aboriginal rights, the White Australia Policy, capital punishment, gender politics, student unionism and drugs.

*Seeking Wisdom* - published by UWA Publishing and edited by Winthrop Professor of History Jenny Gregory, with former Director of the Centre for Western Australian History at UWA, Jean Chetkovich - is a multi-authored collection featuring the research and writing of prominent historians and other academics.

Using a thematic approach and building on the work of Fred Alexander and Brian de Garis in earlier UWA histories, it provides a historical overview as well as detailed analysis of major aspects of the University's history, including UWA's ongoing engagement with and contribution to the community."

*Seeking Wisdom* (\$65) is now in Peth's bookshops.

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**From 1 July to 30 June each year**

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The Treasurer

Friends of Battye Library

PO Box 216, NORTHBRIDGE 6865

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

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Account Name – Friends of Battye Library (Inc)

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

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

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

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

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

## More news from the State Library

### Identifying the Unidentified

Occasionally the State Library receives items relating to the history of Western Australia which are unidentified. A recent letter/journal which came to the State Library for assessment fell into this category. The first part, dated 25 May 1864, was written from the Harding River and addressed to Mr Wellard. On the last page a section dated 24 July begins, so obviously a part of it is missing, including the page containing the signature of the author. A quick look through the letter identified some key phrases, such as references to Withnall and the Sherlock River, sending an employee named McCourt after Withnall's horses, and of receiving a letter dated 27 May 1864.

I assumed the letter would most likely have been written to John Wellard, who was born in 1825 and arrived in Western Australia as a crew member of the James Matthews, which had been wrecked in July 1841. Later he sailed to India in 1842 and returned in 1844. He was successively a surveyor, a storekeeper with Samuel Moore, a hotel keeper in Fremantle, a chandler and in 1854 went into partnership with William Padbury. Wellard married Ann Woodward in January 1850 and they had several children. He purchased Serpentine Farm in 1860. His north west ventures failed in the late 1860s. In 1876 he retired to Whitby Falls and died on 24 December 1885.

Luckily the State Library holds a microfilm copy of John Wellard's letter book 1852-1875 (Acc 506A). I checked this and found a copy of a letter dated 14 September 1864 to a W S Hall, saying that he'd read his journal letter with interest. In the letter to Hall there were references to Withnall and Sherlock River and about the employment of someone named McCourt. Also in the letter book was a letter to Hall dated 27 May 1864, so I was fairly certain that W S Hall was the author of the unidentified letter.

W S Hall turned out to be William Shakespeare Hall, who was born on Christmas Day 1825 and came to Western Australia on the Protector with his parents on 26 February 1830. He explored in the north west with F T Gregory in April 1861 and in 1865 went to the Fitzroy River. In 1866 he applied for a 10,000 acre pastoral lease and by 1869 was in Roebourne where he was a storekeeper, a ship owner and a pearler. He married Hannah Boyd Lazenby in November 1868 at Serpentine (where

John Wellard had his farm) and died on 11 February 1895 at Cossack.

However, the clincher to positively identifying the unidentified letter writer as being William Shakespeare Hall was the fact that Hall had established and managed Andover Station on the Harding River for John Wellard (Andover was the first pastoral station established in the north west of Western Australia). So you see, it is possible, with a little bit of detective work and luck, to identify the unidentified.

Steve Howell

Senior Specialist, Batty Library

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### New Titles for Trove

The State Library of Western Australia has suggested 10 newspapers titles to the National Library of Australia (NLA) to be digitised for the 2013/14 program. As there is an undertaking to digitise all World War I newspapers in time for the 100th anniversary of the start of the war (4 August 2014), only titles published over the 1914-1918 period were suggested. Still to be completed from this financial year are the Eastern Districts Chronicle 1877-1926, the Great Southern Herald 1901-1954, the Norseman Times 1898-1920, the Pilbara Goldfields News 1897-1923, the South Western News 1903-1949, the Westralian Worker 1900-1951 and the Herald 1867-1886 (funded by Fremantle City Council). These titles will soon be available on the NLA's Trove website at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper?q=>.

### State Library Digitisation

The digitisation of the townsite series of maps (c.1000) has now almost been completed and many of them are available for view through the State Library's catalogue. The digitisation of photographs and the Library's rare Western Australian books continues apace. Many books and manuscript collections are now accessible for viewing online, including the John Septimus Roe collection, the Sir Gerard Smith illuminated addresses, the Freycinet Collection, the Joseph Paul Gaimard journal and some diaries of Georgiana Molloy and the Bussell family. Currently being digitised are the George Fletcher Moore diaries.

## New Acquisitions

The two major acquisitions late last year were the Robert Fairbairn Collection and the diary of Mary Ann Friend.

The Fairburn Collection was purchased at auction in Perth. It is a significant collection of the records of Robert Fairbairn (1841-1922) who was Government Resident for Greenough, Toodyay, Albany, the Kimberley, Roebourne and Fremantle during his 50 years of public service in Western Australia. The collection comprises hundreds of items and includes diaries, letters, memoirs, maps, photographs, miniatures, drawings and sketches relating in large part to the Fairbairn and Bussell families. There is also a great deal of paraphernalia used or collected by Fairbairn, including his dress uniform and sword, fly whisk, a ceremonial mallet, Aboriginal artefacts and an antique carved ivory whale's tooth.

Mary Ann Friend's diary was purchased at auction in London and has just arrived in Western Australia. Friend came to Western Australia on the *Wanstead* in 1830. The diary describes her time at the Swan River Settlement during the stay of the Wanstead and is an early look at life in Perth and Fremantle from a woman's perspective. As such it is an invaluable insight into the early days of the colony. [See article on p.14]

Other acquisitions include: letters home from Sergeant Kevin McAuliffe (World War II); Lindsay Peet papers (research and personal); a history of Arabian horse organisations in WA and records and results pertaining to Arabian horses; an original handwritten diary of Phillip James McWhinney March 1919-April 1920, describing his voyage from Fremantle to Port Hedland on the Kwinana and his work as a telegraph linesman in Marble Bar; papers and photographs of Kenneth and H K Gibbsone relating to irrigation and citrus cultivation in the Harvey district; a letter book of Alfred Hill, manager of the Devon Gold Mine 1927; various photographs of Albany, ethnic communities in WA, group settlement, Wiluna, the penal settlement at Rottnest Island, the gold escort at Sir Samuel, Tunney's Hotel at Wagin; and many more.

## Exhibitions

The Library's last major exhibition, *Finding home*, curated by Jane Davis, the Battye Memorial Fellow, ran from October 2012 to February 2013 and detailed the way early colonists related to their new homes in WA. It focused on George Fletcher Moore, Edmund Ashworth and Maude Wordsworth James and their relationships to the land they lived on.

On 14 January *A Crash of Rhinos* opened in The Place. Running until 7 April it features illustrations from Patricia Mullins' book of the same name and is an exploration and celebration of collective nouns, animals and illustrations. Bring your children or grandchildren in to see original artworks and other activities in this interactive and engaging exhibit.

Finally we are gearing up for the opening of an exhibition on the RSL, *From War to Remembrance – a Living History of the RSL*, which will run from 20 April-30 June. In 1916 a group of returned servicemen from the 11th Battalion met and formed an association to look after the interests of returned servicemen in WA. This association was known as the Returned Soldiers Association and was the pre-cursor of the RSL in WA. The exhibition will tell the story of the RSL in WA and its role in the community with particular focus on the themes of commemoration, defence and repatriation.



Group portrait of all the original officers and men of the 11th Battalion, 3rd Brigade AIF on the Great Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt, 10 January 1915. [This famous image of the First World War has been reproduced many times. (Courtesy Battye Library 21091P)].

Steve Howell

### **Jack's Back:**

I recently dipped into an entertaining book of 1928 by Lowell Thomas – *The Sea Devil*: The Story of Count Felix von Luckner, the German War Raider. This buccaneer/hero played havoc with Allied shipping in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans for much of the year 1917. Commanding a well-armed auxiliary cruiser heavily disguised as a Norwegian windjammer, he sank fourteen ships, making prisoners of all their crews until he had opportunity to release them. Finally captured himself and interned in New Zealand, he won lasting fame and respect as a dashing and chivalrous adventurer. His own account of his exploits came out in German in 1921, and, after they met and collaborated, the American writer refashioned his story for a wider consumption.

Is there a Western Australian connection in this? Yes, that future celebrity was here, for several months it seems, as a big-framed, strong and lively teenager. However, precise age and dates are hard to affix for his visit, because of the rather vague chronology he gave out and the selectivity of the phases of his career that he later chose to describe.

Born into a noble Saxon family at Dresden on 9th June 1881, the boy Felix was expected to follow in the tradition of his distinguished forebears and serve in the army as a cavalry officer. Instead, he yearned for wider adventure and so ran away to sea at the age of thirteen and a half, so he said (likely making it early 1895). Changing his name, he assumed that of his mother's family, and, as Phelax Luedige, sailed before the mast for the next seven years. The skimpy record makes it sound it was on his very first voyage as a miserable cabin-boy that he landed in Australia, but it was more likely in the summer of 1896-97 that he had the experiences here that he eventually recounted.

Claiming to have arrived on the fully-rigged Russian tramp *Niobe* (evidently another pseudonym), the youth jumped ship at Fremantle, which 'turned out to be as commonplace and bleak a port as you could hope to see'. But he soon found congenial company in Salvation Army circles. He liked their band music and songs, testified at their meetings, and sold copies of their newspaper *The War Cry* in the town's public bars. Then, through solicitous Army friends, he was steered into taking a job as 'Assistant' at the new lighthouse down at Cape Leewin. Dedicating it to the world's mariners, this valuable facility was formally opened by the Premier on 10th December 1896.

At his new post, the young lad joined a staff of three keepers – Willmott, Tattersall, and Howe – who each had a house nearby. His main work was in cleaning the myriad of lenses and winding up the weights of the revolving apparatus, but he found his colleagues were piling their duties on to him while they passed the time playing cards and fishing. Then one day he was caught kissing the daughter (Eva) of one of the keepers and felt impelled to quit the scene posthaste! Leaving his sea-chest behind, he considered he was justified in making off with one of their horses in lieu.

'I rode to Port Augusta, and for a time worked in a sawmill', so he put it. Obviously he meant he rode to the tiny township of Augusta some 10 km away. But many a reader of Thomas's book must have been astonished to see that name of the much larger town in far-off South Australia. The sawmill was very likely one of M C Davies's empire, then in its heyday and centred on Karridale about 15 km north of Augusta. He found this work 'frightfully hard' but well paid, and next turned to kangaroo-shooting to earn his living for a while.

Also at Port Augusta, as he again called it, he watched a steamer discharge an unusual group of passengers who he learned were a troupe of 'Hindu fakirs' or conjurors proceeding on a tour of Australia. On his making contact, they said he was exactly the man they needed for pitching their large tents and booths in public places, for currying their horses, and for distributing their handbills and posters. So he accepted their offer and went travelling with them from one end of Australia to the other, adding further to his skills, moreover, by learning some of their sorcery tricks. Their early journeying included another visit to Fremantle for him, and he eventually parted company from the group in Queensland when 'nearly sixteen', as he said. Shortly after that he sailed off for North America.

Thanks to the Thomas book presumably, the story of young von Luckner in colonial Western Australia has achieved continuing notice in appropriate histories of our south-west corner. That is the case with Gail Cresswell's history of the local shire [1990?] and the booklet compiled by Cyril Ayrис for the centenary of the lighthouse (1996).

Making good use of his flamboyant personality, von Luckner largely spent the inter-war years travelling on good-will missions, with numerous speaking engagements. Accompanied by his Swedish wife Ingeborg, whom he married in 1924, he made further world voyages under sail

and had a lengthy involvement with the United States. During World War II, he remained in his home city of Halle in uneasy stand-off with the Nazi regime. At war's end the couple moved to Sweden, where he died at Malmo in April 1966. He was buried in Hamburg.

Today there is good coverage of von Luckner's remarkable life-story in the online Wikipedia, with a generous bibliography. Furthermore, it tells us that a Count Felix von Luckner Society was founded in Halle in March 2004, which soon attracted over 100 members in 14 countries (several in New Zealand, no doubt). Let us hope more evidence will one day emerge to confirm or add to what we know about his early sojourn here.

Jack Honniball



Commercial postcard signed by Felix von Luckner. Photogr. F. Langhammer, Cassel. This photo was taken circa 1920 in Kassel, Hesse, DE. (Posted to Flickr – by Drake Goodman <http://www.flickr.com/photos/drakegoodman>)



Leeuwin Lighthouse c.1950

(Courtesy Battye Library. John K Ewers collection b3388444\_2)

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

**Life membership** \$500

### **Annual membership**

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

### **Meetings**

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, 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 three times per year - March, July, and November (flyers will be sent out in May and September). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 10 February, 10 June, and 15 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 editor, Jennie Carter at *[bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)*

or write to:

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

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

<b>Opening hours</b>	Mon/Thurs	9.00 am - 8.00 pm
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**Specialist staff:** Dr Kate Gregory (Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3480  
Steve Howell (Senior Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3476

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

## **State Records Office**

The SRO Search Room on the Ground Floor is open for enquiries and use of material 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**

**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. 147



July 2013

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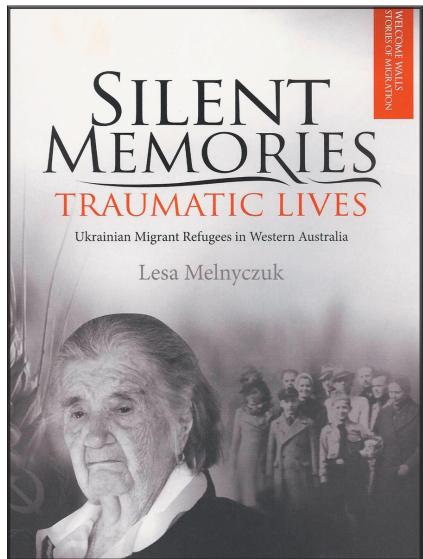
# FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

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ABN 571625138800

Our July 2013 meeting

**Dr Lesa Melnyczuk (Morgan)**



*Ukrainian migrant  
refugees in WA:  
Let's not talk about  
Stalin*

(Cover of Lesa's book which has been published by the Western Australian Museum.)

Tuesday 9 July 2013 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room,  
4th floor State Library of Western Australia.

Please see details on Page 3.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) are to assist and promote the interests of the 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 (2012-2013)**

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary position vacant (Acting Gillian O'Mara)

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Mr Graham Bown, Ms Jennie Carter,  
Mr Neil Foley, Dr Alison Gregg, Mr Jim Gregg,  
Mr Robert O'Connor QC, Dr Nonja Peters, and  
Ms Kris Bizzaca (co-opted)

Ex-Officio Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)  
Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO)  
Dr Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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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 Meeting

Tuesday 9 July 2013  
Great Southern Room, 4th floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5pm for 5.30pm

## Our speaker will be Dr Lesa Melnyczuk (Morgan)

### *Ukrainian migrant refugees in WA: Let's not talk about Stalin*

Lesa is the author of *Silent memories: traumatic lives*.

"Millions of Soviet Ukrainians died in the Holodomor (death by starvation) of 1932-1933 at the hands of Stalin. However, the struggle for the survivors continued beyond the end of the Holodomor. The children who lived through the famine and genocide then faced the bombings and invasion by Hitler and, as teenagers, forced labour in Germany, followed by post-war Displaced Person Camps, and eventual migration to the other side of the world. The hunger and shock, the fears and humiliations were part of a long struggle for survival, freedom and life in a new country."

(Extract from *Silent memories traumatic lives: Ukrainian migrant refugees in Western Australia* book jacket.)

After the meeting, members are welcome to join us for a meal at a nearby Perth restaurant. Bookings will be taken 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**

"Lesa Melnyczuk was born in 1954 to Ukrainian post-war migrant refugees in Perth. She has been a teacher, academic and active and passionate member of the Ukrainian community in Perth, and has raised two daughters. In 2009 Lesa was awarded her doctorate based upon research on the Ukrainian Holodomor [death by starvation] 1932-1933 and the Ukrainians in Western Australia who remembered those years in Soviet Ukraine. She is a regular speaker at Ukrainian commemoration events, exhibits her collection of Holodomor paintings and images and encourages the preservation of Ukrainian heritage in Western Australia. Lesa works in supporting all ethnic groups in Perth through the History of Migration Experiences (HOME) Centre with Curtin University and the Western Australian Museum. She also sits on the Board of Ishar, a not-for-profit migrant women's health and welfare organisation.

Lesa is also working with her editor, Katherine Wallace, on the book of memories resulting from her doctoral study. This will provide a broader narrative based upon the interviews from her research." (Information from the cover of *Silent memories traumatic lives*.)

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## **Remaining meeting dates for 2013**

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month (unless indicated) and begin at 5.00pm for 5.30pm.

10 September (AGM) - Dr Kate Gregory, Battye Historian.

19 November - End of year function (third Tuesday in November)  
Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland  
***Stories from the East Perth Cemetery***

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## **A message from the President**

Dear Friends,

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the successful conclusion of the OHHRG project. It is mind-boggling that the team have been able to accomplish so much – indeed ALL of the library's cassette oral history

tapes have now been digitised – and we only aimed to do the most at risk! There is still a need to digitise the odd non-standard recordings, for example on CDs and micro-cassettes and this will be done with Lindsay Peet's donated money. We are so lucky to have this available as it means we can keep on at least one of the audio technicians who have become so skilled during this project

A spin off from our OHHRG project is that our team leaders – Pat Beament and Lee Blackford - have been asked to share with others the ground-breaking knowledge they have gained at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Congress in Singapore next month. We congratulate them and look forward to hearing more when they return.

Another exciting happening you might have seen in the paper is the establishment of a Chair in Australian History at UWA by Wesfarmers. The lack of a specific Chair in Australian History at UWA has long been lamented and the advertisement that has now gone out has the promise of rejuvenating the history profession in this state. Wesfarmers said their goal in funding the Chair was (to quote their chairman) to “benefit and promote Australian history regionally, nationally and internationally with a specific focus on Western Australia’s place in the history of the nation and wider Asian region. The appointee is expected to be an academic leader in the broadest sense: a productive and original researcher, with a commitment to high-quality teaching, a passion for Australian history and the ability to communicate its value and vitality in a variety of public settings, the media and throughout the education system”. It is a tall order and one we will watch with great interest.

I would also like to foreshadow a future event – the Library Foundation is going to launch the “200 voices on line” result of the OHHRG project concurrently with the Friends September AGM. So those of you who tend to skip the AGM can put the date back on your calendars. Our normal meeting time on 10 September will be something to look forward to – more details will be given closer to the time.

In a different direction but another project funded by your Society is the Field Survey books digitisation being undertaken in the State Records Office. In 2011 we funded a pilot project which saw 111 field books digitised. This included high quality scans of all 22 of the RS Allen field books (he surveyed in the Mt Magnet and goldfields region in the 1890s) and the 89 field books listed under WH Angove (surveys in the south west from

the 1880s). It was successful beyond hopes – showing that we could digitise notes made in pencil and rough sketches, so SRO applied again for Friends of Battye Library Sholl funding which was granted at the end of 2012. Approximately 60 field books have been digitised including all those by John Septimus Roe and Alexander Forrest. Those belonging to Sir John Forrest are in progress at the moment, and SRO will update their blog on the project once the final books are added to AEON. An article on the Field Books digitisation project can be found on page 29.

We live in exciting times – research is becoming easier day by day. However we must keep in mind that while events of the past recorded on paper are becoming easier to source, today's material is being recorded electronically and there is no guarantee that it will be available to future researchers. The State Library is now grappling with the difficult issue of how to ensure that electronic copies donated under Legal Deposit legislation can be preserved. We are also going to have to ensure that we have the capacity to store and retrieve masses of electronic data and that such information remains accessible as computer soft and hardware continues to change at an ever more rapid rate.

It tends to worry our generation, but we have only to look at the little ones around us to know that they can cope with this type of change and indeed welcome it. So worry not and enjoy the benefits that computerisation has brought us. I am sure most of you, like me, can spend hours and hours on Trove!

Cheers  
Pamela Statham Drew

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## Information for our members

### **Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) achievements**

Committee members noticed with surprise in the State Library of Western Australia's last annual report for the year 2011/2012 that there was no mention of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) and of the work we are currently doing to support the Library. A letter from our President in which this omission was mentioned was sent to the CEO and State Librarian, Margaret Allen, who responded in a letter dated 28 March 2013:

"I apologise that there was no mention of the Friends of Battye

Library in the most recent Annual Report, this was indeed an oversight.

The Library continues to value the Friends for their support of our work and particularly for facilitating the various history groups and lobbying Lotterywest to create projects such as the HRRC [Historical Records Rescue Consortium] and the OHRRG [Oral History Records Rescue Group]. A quick glance through our previous annual reports will show this has been acknowledged on many occasions, with the OHRRG having a particular focus in the 2010-11 report because of the commencement of the project. The support of the Friends in lobbying government for the Legal Deposit Act 2012 was invaluable.”

As a follow-up the Friends Committee resolved to submit our own report on activities for the past 18 months and sent a copy to the State Librarian, the Chair of the Library Board, and the Minister for Culture and the Arts, the Hon John Day MLA on 9 April 2013.

We take pleasure in reprinting our full report here:

### **2011/2012 Report – Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.)**

“The following is a report by the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) for the period of the 18 months up to 31 December 2012 setting out the details of the specific ways in which The Friends has provided financial and other assistance to the State Library of Western Australia in its operations. We are providing this as it is considered that the 2011/12 Annual Report of the State Library Board of Western Australia failed to give due acknowledgement and credit to the Friends for the contributions made by it to the State Library during that period.

The Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.) was established in 1981 with the general aim of supporting and advocating the work of the JS Battye Library of West Australian History and the then State Archives (now State Records Office of WA). Our first President was Sir Paul Hasluck and since then many distinguished historians, researchers and philanthropists have accepted the role of President and Patron of the Friends, including Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton and Mrs Ruth Reid.

Over the years, the members of The Friends have sought, co-ordinated and applied funding to many projects in both the Battye Library and the State Records Office. At present these include:

- Digitisation of Surveyors field books - State Records Office of Western Australia (funded by the Sholl bequest) \$10,600
- Conservation of the J S Roe papers - State Library (funded by the Friends of Battye Library Inc., currently this is a two year project). \$20,000
- Conservation of the James Henty papers - State Library (Funded by the Friends of Battye Library Inc.) \$300
- Digitisation of the *Coolgardie Miner* newspaper- State Library 1913 to 1917. (Funded by the Friends of Battye Library Inc.) \$1,277
- Digitisation of the *Southern Advertiser* newspaper- State Library 1888. (Funded by the Friends of Battye Library Inc.) \$844
- Conservation, review and digitisation of the *Western Australian Biographical Index* materials (Funded by the Sholl bequest) \$10,186
- Digitisation of the Lands and Surveys Chain Series Maps - State Library (Funded by the Friends of Battye Library Inc. through a donation from the late Lindsay Peet) \$15,900
- East Perth Cemetery – researchers Cherie Strickland and Lorraine Clarke, documenting over 10,000 burials 1830-1916+ (Funded by the Friends of Battye Library and Lotterywest through the Friends of Battye Library Inc.) \$10,000 plus supporting their Lotterywest grant application for \$34,000

The Friends have channelled millions of dollars in funding to Library projects over more than thirty years of voluntary service.

The Friends have also published many guides to WA records, and have undertaken numerous other projects, including instigating, facilitating and successfully obtaining major funding for the Oral History Records Rescue Group (OHRRG) which, with the support of a Lotterywest grant, has instigated a project to rescue and make accessible irreplaceable and deteriorating oral history interviews recorded on many thousands of audio cassette tapes held in the Battye Library for the immediate and long-term benefit of the entire Western Australian community. This project followed the groundbreaking Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) organised by the Friends of Battye Library Inc. which has allowed the State Library to preserve and make available important newspapers, photographs and WA films.

More about The Friends can be discovered on our website: <http://www.friendsofbattylelibrary.org.au/index.htm>

It is considered that it would have been desirable from the viewpoint of the Friends if the JS Battye Library of West Australian History received greater mention in the State Library's Annual Report, as the Battye collection appears to have been mostly referred to as the 'Heritage Collection or Heritage materials'. The Parliament would have also been better informed if the Annual Report contained a brief explanation of the origins and background of the Battye Library and the supporting role of the Friends (perhaps this could have been mentioned in the same section that described the work of the State Library of Western Australia Foundation on page 31). It would also have been greatly appreciated if the Friends' assistance in digitisation and other projects was noted. See for example pages 25 and 26, where the Friends' efforts did not receive any mention, or page 3, where there is no reference to the Friends' funding of the digitisation of the John Septimus Roe and Henty material.

It would have also have been appropriate for the other organisations which formed part of the Oral History Records Rescue Group to have been acknowledged. The Friends were mainly responsible for obtaining the \$847,000 Lotterywest grant upon which this project is based.

Dr Pamela Statham Drew  
President of the Friends of Battye Library"

Not only did we get an appreciative response from the Hon John Day, he also made a statement to Parliament about our activities and we are delighted to include the following extract from Hansard - Legislative Assembly — Wednesday, 22 May 2013:

“FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (INC.)  
*Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts*

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda—Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.05 pm]: Mr Speaker, I am pleased to inform the house of the significant achievements of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) over the past 18 months. The Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) was established in 1981 with the aim of assisting the acquisition, preservation and use of Western Australian archival and documentary heritage material by promoting the work of the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian

History and the State Archives, now the State Records Office of Western Australia, sharing research, identifying, acquiring and preserving historical records, and raising funds for these purposes. Members also provide valuable assistance as volunteers. In recent years, they have played a significant role in funding and facilitating a number of significant digitisation and conservation projects, including most recently a Lotterywest grant of \$847 000 for the Oral History Records Rescue Group that has assisted with the preservation of the library's significant oral history collection.

Since July 2011, the friends have generously provided \$20 000 to digitise and conserve papers of John Septimus Roe, a naval officer, surveyor and explorer and the Swan River Colony's Surveyor General. This important archive includes documents from 1797 to 1862, including correspondence, diaries, logbooks and sketchbooks. They have provided \$300 to digitise and conserve 24 letters from 1829 to 1831 of James Henty and members of the Henty family regarding their land on the Swan River, the voyage out, transport of goods and other matters; \$2 121 to digitise the *Coolgardie Miner* newspaper 1913 to 1917 and the *Southern Advertiser* newspaper 1888; \$10 186 to review and conserve the *Western Australian Biographical Index*, funded through the Sholl Bequest; \$15 900 to digitise the lands and surveys chain series maps, funded through a donation to the friends from the late Lindsay Peet; and \$10 600 to digitise surveyors' field books in the State Records Office, funded through the Sholl Bequest.

The friends have also supported research into the East Perth Cemeteries to document over 10 000 burials circa 1830 to 1916, providing \$10 000 additional cash contribution to a Lotterywest grant of \$34 000. The total funding provided towards these current projects exceeds \$52 000, yet the ongoing value of the work in preserving our state's history is immeasurable.

I acknowledge the passion and commitment of the friends of the Battye Library during more than 30 years of voluntary service. Their work has resulted in millions of dollars in funding being channelled to projects with immediate and long-term benefits for the entire Western Australian community."

We are grateful to the Minister, Hon John Day MLA, for his advocacy and generosity.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to The Greens WA Member for the South Metropolitan Region, the Hon Lyn McLaren MLC, for the letter she wrote to the Library Board of WA on 14 March 2013 supporting the role and work of the Battye Library and the State Records Office.

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

The following three articles have been kindly supplied by members Fr Edward (Ted) Doncaster, Professor Bob Reece, and Mrs Sue Osmond.

[The Rev. E (Fr. Ted) Doncaster was honoured by the Friends of Battye Library and awarded the Society's 'Gem of Time' in 2008. He has written extensively on the history of the Anglican Church in Western Australia and is a generous contributor to this newsletter.]

### **Another word from Fr Ted**

(by invitation of the Editor)

In 1937 when the Very Rev'd G.H. Jose wrote the *Preface* to the first of his trilogy entitled *The Church of England in South Australia* he included a famous saying of the Duke of Wellington that the first Bishop of Adelaide had quoted in a letter to someone: "There is no mistake, there can be no mistake and there will be no mistake." Jose continued: "But though this may have convinced the good Bishop's correspondent, it cannot be applied to historical records. Slips of the pen, inadvertences of memory, breadth of imagination, partiality of judgment, to say nothing of the ravages of time, are all liable to attack old documents and old raconteurs."

William Shakespeare wrote *A Comedy of Errors* but for those interested in history, errors present no comedy. I have just written a little volume borrowing the bard's title in which I have pointed out some errors that I have discovered and I'll share a few of them with you now. For the first we'll visit Northampton's Anglican Church where the foundation stone proudly proclaims that it was laid by Mrs W. Castell Brown on Saturday 19-02-1908 whereas in fact it was not laid until the following Saturday! The date had been set, the stone ordered, preparations made but as Bishop Riley was delayed in the Murchison he didn't get "to the church on time" - he arrived a week later to bless the stone. So you can't believe everything you read - even if it is set in stone!

Little old S. Bartholomew's Church in the East Perth Cemeteries also suffered from "a comedy of errors" for in the original plans someone had drawn in pencil a cross on the spot where a mortuary chapel might eventually go and some later researchers made the assumption that "x marked the spot" where it actually stood in 1848. However, the chapel was not built until almost forty years later - it was only half the size of the present building. The problem was further confounded by a compositor's error in misplacing a line of print which applied to the church in the previous entry in the Diocesan Year Book. Even the Parish had continued the error in a 1948 leaflet and the National Trust was led astray until 1984 when it fell to me, as Diocesan Archivist, to outline the errors to them. In fact, Wikipedia still makes the same error!

The little church at Upper Swan has been a problem because it has been claimed since 1912 that it is the oldest standing Anglican Church in Western Australia whereas I have always opted for the Church at Picton. Oh yes, Upper Swan was first used in January 1841 and Picton's first service was not until September the following year but one important factor is overlooked - the original church at Upper Swan was constructed with mud bricks which had to be replaced in 1858 with burnt bricks. Although the old timber rafters and flooring were recycled, the actual building can in no way be claimed to be the same structure. Picton's original wattle and daub walls are still there, enclosed in the timber framing. Even the WA C of E Magazine of 1871 stated concerning the Upper Swan church: "The Church, which is now in good order and repair, both externally and internally, and presents a very neat and seemly appearance, was built of brick about fourteen years ago."

Photographs are often labelled with incorrect captions - a glaring example may be found in *West Anglican Way* wherein the photograph on page 256 purports to be of Holy Cross Anglican Cathedral in Geraldton - it is in fact the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Bristol UK! One wonders how that mixup occurred.

So, errors in stone, errors in print, errors in claims, errors in photographs - is it any wonder that dear Mollie Lukis advised me "many long years ago" to "always ask questions". Yet I have managed to be "hoist with my own petard"! For in the November issue of this magazine there was a mistake in an article that I had written, if you please! Our intrepid researcher Jack Honniball spotted in the penultimate paragraph on page 8 that it was stated that "the Diocese of Kalgoorlie did not eventuate



(Image courtesy Fr Ted Doncaster. Old Picton Church. Note the lad admiring the church; in the photo published in the magazine, the boy has been neatly removed.)

until 27 years" after Barton-Parkes's arrival in Coolgardie. Now, I was never much good at maths at school so that could be the cause of any miscalculation, for the figure should have read "17 years" as the Diocese was not inaugurated until 1914. On the other hand, it might have been a typographical error but would I dare to suggest that?

Rev'd E W Doncaster

[Ah, it is true and the error is entirely mine. My apologies Fr Ted.]  
Jennie (Editor)]

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[Professor Bob Reece, (Professor Emeritus in History, Murdoch University and Adjunct Research Associate, University of Western Australia) is the author of many works on Australian, particularly Indigenous, history. Bob is co-author with Rob Pascoe of *A Place of Consequence: A Pictorial History of Fremantle*, published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press in 1982.]

### Captain Charles Howe Fremantle

Captain Fremantle's claim to fame, as far as West Australians are

concerned, is his role as harbinger of Swan River Colony. Arriving as commander of HMS *Sulphur* in early May 1829, he established a fortified camp at Bathers Bay, Arthur Head, and took formal possession of 'all that part of New Holland which is not included within the territory of New South Wales' in the name of His Majesty George IV. He thus completed the formal process of annexation on behalf of the British Crown of what is now Australia that had begun with Captain James Cook's claim of the eastern half ('New South Wales') in August 1770.



(Courtesy Battye Library. Image no. 1321B. Portrait of Charles Howe Fremantle. Photograph of original painting [no provenance given].)

Returning to Swan River Colony in September 1832 after circumnavigating the globe, Fremantle remarked favourably on the little village that had sprung up in the shelter of Arthur Head and been given his name. To quote his oft-quoted words: '... in spite of its sandy and unpromising appearance, I have no doubt, if the Colony continues, of its being in time a place of Consequence'.

In the diary of his first voyage, he had suggested that he might even become a settler himself: 'I have taken with me a bull, two cows and some English sheep to start stocking my estate, so there will be a Fremantle villa, as I intend taking a [land] grant'. Three years later, he was not so sanguine about the colony's future.

Captain Fremantle did not return to see how the village grew into a thriving commercial town but his commemoration in having the place named after him would seem an appropriate acknowledgement of his worthy but limited contribution to our history.

Some years ago, a rather ugly statue of the recumbent Captain, executed in grey stone or concrete, was set up in Fremantle's Esplanade but was vandalised and taken away to be dumped. As it was no great work of art, nobody missed it. Now, however, there are moves afoot to create a more tasteful memorial, possibly in the form of an exhibit at Fremantle's

Maritime Museum or as part of Fremantle's Maritime Heritage Trail.

Fremantle heritage crusader John Dowson is strongly of the view that something more should be done to honour the captain and his career in the Royal Navy. There certainly needs to be a more gracious response by Fremantle City Council to any new initiative than there was when a presentation of some of the Captain's books and memorabilia was made by the Fremantle family some years ago.

It is worth noting that the cities of Fremantle and East Fremantle both incorporate the Fremantle family motto, *Nec Prece, Nec Pretio* (neither by entreaty nor by bribery) which seems singularly appropriate to local government.

The problem encountered whenever Captain Fremantle's name is mentioned, of course, is that someone will invariably hark back to the fact that he was charged in late April 1826 with raping a fifteen or sixteen years old servant girl at Portsmouth in the presence of a woman and children. Bail was allowed on a surety of £4,000 (a not inconsiderable sum) provided by four of his relatives and depositions containing intimate details were made by the witnesses, but in the event the case was dropped and Fremantle was soon given control of his own ship, *Challenger*, after his uncle William had vigorously lobbied the Admiralty.

It might well be suggested (as the historian of the Fremantle family accepts) that the witnesses were bought off, but it is also possible that it was a case of attempted blackmail. While it was not uncommon for men of the upper classes to prey sexually on young servant girls, it was not unknown for trumped-up charges of rape to be brought in the hope of securing a handsome out-of-court settlement. The presence of the woman and children in the Portsmouth room makes it seem rather unlikely that a rape could have taken place.

Maritime historian Graham Henderson, on the other hand, concluded in his 2007 book, *Unfinished Voyages*, that 'it seems very likely that Captain Fremantle had done the wrong thing'. Launching the book, then Attorney-General and Fremantle MLA, Jim McGinty, went much further in calling him 'a sadistic rapist'. However, the presumption of innocence unless convicted must prevail, even if doubts remain.

Fremantle's alleged 'sadism' as a naval commander also needs to be examined in the context of the time, notably of Royal Navy practice. The log of *Challenger* records his orders of 36 lashes for 'skulking', 60 for 'desertion', 35 for 'disobedience' and 30 for 'drunkenness on duty'.

Was this excessive? Floggings of between 30 and 70 lashes were common at the time and a maximum of 24 lashes on a captain's order was only set in 1830. Discipline in the Royal Navy depended on this barbaric punishment until 1870 and it has never been removed from the regulations.

Henderson may be on safer ground in his suggestion that Fremantle was only an 'ordinary' (i.e., barely competent) sailor because of the faulty laying-out of the buoys to mark the channel into Cockburn Sound (originally charted by Captain Stirling in 1827), for which he blamed his ship's master. If he was in the wrong (which is by no means established), what do we say about Stirling and his careless handling of the *Parmelia* on his approach to Garden Island in early June 1829 that almost led to disaster?

Fremantle's subsequent naval career was worthy, if unspectacular. As a young commander he was awarded a medal for bravery after swimming a line out to a stricken Swedish ship and consequently saving the entire crew. Named after Admiral Richard Howe, the celebrated British commander who defeated the French fleet in the Channel on 1 June 1793, there is no doubt about his physical courage.

Pensioned off on half-pay in 1835 during a lull in naval activity, Fremantle returned to serve as controller of logistics in the Crimean War and commander of the Channel Fleet, from which position he retired in 1860.

Recently-released letters to his mother in 1813-14 reveal a plucky 11 year old midshipman caught up in 'the hottest part' of the British attack on Washington during the Anglo-American War. The planned publication of these with his original 1829 journal, together with a museum exhibit or interpretative panel outlining his career, would certainly recognise his contribution in a tangible way. Word has it that the MLA for Cottesloe (which was named after Charles' elder brother and Tory politician, Thomas 1st Baron Cottesloe) is not unsupportive of such initiatives.

*Bob Reece*

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[Our third contributor, Sue Osmond, has been a member for many years and is employed by the State Library of WA in its Preservation Services section.]

## **State War Memorial replicas – where are they?**

The *Listening Post* has been microfilmed by the State Library of WA and is now being digitised and made available online. This wonderful resource has inspired me to comment about my Dad, Herbert 'Dick' A Turpin. Dad graduated as a Wireless Navigator in 1942, from the No.1 Wireless Air Gunners' School, (no. 27) RAAF. I must confess that I did not know my father as a real person until I was 16 years of age. As I am now 67 years old, I feel it is time to set the record straight.

My Dad built a replica of the State War Memorial around 1937. His father, Ernest Turpin built a cabinet c.1941 (which may have been one of several others he made) to house the replica. Then they donated the cabinet and model to the local RSL club (probably Subiaco). They were both carpenters and cabinet makers and therefore I know that these replicas, where ever they are now, could still be in good condition. Here's hoping they can be located before any more clubs are closed. Apparently when the first replica was put on display, other RSL clubs became interested in acquiring a similar object for their club meetings.

Dad died about 15 years ago and as he never spoke of his war experiences,



Courtesy RSL Living History Project. Photographer Naomi Lam

I had no idea (until a couple of months ago when I was going through photos and other memorabilia) about his other exploits relating to World War Two. After speaking to other members of my family and not getting any answers, I am in the process of seeking help from other sources as my investigations have led to more questions about these replicas.

I, like so many others, have enjoyed the excellent RSL exhibition at the State Library and was inspired to get in touch with the RSL Archivist Naomi Jones who kindly sent me a photo of the model held by the Subiaco Branch. Naomi also sent me photographs of others at Shenton Park and Gnowangerup.

Perhaps Friends of Battye Library members may know other sources of information about these replicas and could contact me by email at [sosmond1@hotmail.com](mailto:sosmond1@hotmail.com) or by letter to PO Box 446, Morley 6943.

Sue Osmond

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## News from the State Library

### Exhibitions

Funded by Lotterywest, From *War to Remembrance – a Living History* of the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) Western Australia Branch is a collaborative exhibition between the RSL and the State Library. Approximately 200 guests attended the opening including the Minister for Emergency Services, Corrective Services and Veterans, Joe Francis MLA; the President of the WA Branch of the RSL, Graeme Edwards; the Lord Mayor of Perth, Lisa Scafidi; the CEO of the Western Australian Museum, Alec Coles; and the CEO and State Librarian, Margaret Allen. It was opened in the State Library exhibition area on Friday 19 April by Ben Elton. Ben gave a speech which was both humorous and moving and the guests were also treated to a playlet involving an imagined dialogue between Herbert Brayley Collett (President of the WA Branch of the RSL 1925-1930 and Senator 1933-1945) and Mrs Jean McKinlay (founder of the RSL Women's Auxiliary), which was enjoyed by all.

The next exhibition at the State Library, *Majority Rules*, opens on 5 July, and is about State and Federal elections in Western Australia.

### Recent Acquisitions

Some of the State Library's recent interesting acquisitions include:

- a collection of images of WA multicultural groups by Louise Whelan, an award winning documentary photographer;
- Robert Cecil Clifton's diaries 1874-1930;
- a collection of letters, mostly written to H A Lightfoot of the Mines Dept, 1893-1948;
- the Habgood papers;
- Roe family papers 1912-1932;
- E W Doncaster's papers; [thank you Fr. Ted]
- goldfields photographs 1891-1896;
- Barbara Pickernell's photograph collection of Ravensthorpe, Newdegate and the Lloyd family in the 1920s;
- a sale of land to William Storrs in 1840;
- stereoscopic views of South-west caves around 1905; t
- The Jamieson Brown manuscript collection;
- Laurie McCallum's collection of papers and photographs of Dampier and Paraburdoo in 1970;
- Bob Nelson's collection of photographs of Dampier 1967;
- Arthur Gordon Markey's papers relating to his surveying work in 1927;
- a digital copy of Edward Townley Hardman's 1883 watercolour sketchbook;
- Abraham Moise Josephson's letterbook;
- Gustave Dahmer's letters in German to his wife 1944-1945;
- the diaries of Adrian Netterville Davies, a railway and tramway engineer,
- 1895-1940; photographs, plans and other archival material from Australia Post;
- contemporary and archival photographs, an oral history and a journal involving Indigenous family and place in the mid-west from Joe Mallard; and,
- photographs showing rice growing in the 1950s on Liveringa and Camballin Stations.

Further information about recent collections donated or acquired for the Battye Library appears later in this newsletter.

## **Family History Week**

The State Library will celebrate the 2013 National Family History Week from 6-8 August. Topics include: online historic newspapers, researching your house history, tips for effectively searching the State

Library catalogue and website, tracing the Samson family through a house museum, digitised treasures from the heritage collections, late 19th and early 20th century migration of domestic servants to WA and much more. You can check the State Library website under 'What's On – Family History – National Family History Week 2013' for more details.

## **Discovery**

Discovery, which is currently on trial at the State Library, is the latest library e-resource subscription. It is the new search feature for the vast collections of the UK National Archives at Kew and, while Discovery is freely searchable on the Internet; this subscription allows State Library members to download digital content free of charge. Such content includes: Victorian prisoners' photograph albums 1872-1873; wills, e.g. pre-1858 wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury; Army records, e.g. British Army nurses' service records 1914-1918 and British Army war diaries 1914-1922; Navy records, e.g. Royal Navy ratings' service records 1853-1923; Merchant Navy records, e.g. Royal Navy Reserve service records 1860-1955; and Air Force records, e.g. Royal Air Force officers' service records 1918-1919. Discovery can be accessed at home by anyone with a State Library card.

## **Walmajarri Language Stories Project**

A collection of 65 stories from the Kadjina Aboriginal Community, written and illustrated by children, teenagers and adults, and featuring Walmajarri, Kriol and English translations of the works has recently been digitised by the State Library. Written from 1998-2002 by members of the Wulungarra School's Literature Production Centre, each book is fully digitised, with permission from the authors, artists and Kadjina community members. Located just over 100km south of Fitzroy Crossing, Wulungarra School has been operating as an independent school at Kadjina Aboriginal Community since 1997. The books are part of a larger partnership between the school and the community to promote Walmajarri culture, language and art as a way of maintaining and strengthening knowledge.

## **The Fairbairn Collection and the Law**

The State Library of WA Foundation and the Law Society of WA recently organised two events around the newly acquired Robert Fairbairn collection. On 13 May Dr Joanna McEwan gave a talk in the State Library Theatre, Body of Evidence: the collection of Robert Fairbairn. A Resident Magistrate for much of his long career serving the state, Fairbairn

travelled widely throughout Western Australia. The well-attended public talk explored his life and colonial times through the collection.

On 16 May Robert French AC, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia gave a talk entitled *The Past: not such a Foreign Country*, a witty look at the legal profession and the importance of acquiring such a collection of records as that of Robert Fairbairn. The full text of the speech can be read at: <http://www.hcourt.gov.au/assets/publications/speeches/current-justices/frenchcj/frenchcj16may13.pdf>. The speech was followed by a viewing of selected items from the collection, which had not previously been seen.

The collection contains about 3,000 letters, plus diaries, photographs and objects, including Fairbairn's uniform and sword, a fly whisk, a ceremonial mallet, a carved whale's tooth and Aboriginal message sticks. The collection is currently being listed, classified and housed to make it available for researchers.

The Governor of Western Australia, Malcolm McCusker AC, the Chairman of the Library Board, Margaret Nowack, the CEO and State Librarian, Margaret Allen, the head of the State Library of Western Australia Foundation, Conrad Crisafulli and a number of legal practitioners and staff attended.

### **Recent additions to the Battye Library collection.**

*[Please note: while these items have been accepted, because of the process required to accession and catalogue them, some may not yet be available immediately for people to use. If you wish to research any of the items mentioned, please check the State Library's catalogue under 'Heritage Collections' or speak to a member of staff.]*

### **Swan Brewery Records**

The Swan Brewery operations at Canning Vale have ceased and production has moved interstate. The library was contacted to see if we were interested in their archives. Laurie Allen and I went to the huge, nearly empty premises to see what they had to offer. There are still many trucks coming and going and a vast amount of kegs being moved from the site however the administration area is all but deserted.

Records in the vault date from 1887 and include those of the Swan Brewery, Emu Brewery, Fremantle Bottle Exchange, Kalgoorlie Brewery,

Stanley Co-op Brewery, Stirling Brewery, and West Australian Glass Manufacturers. The material included advertising ephemera, agendas, articles of association, awards, balance sheets, bottled summary sales, correspondence, ledgers: balance sheet, general, private, minute books, photographs, property valuations of premises (residences and hotels) and staffing charts. There may be some films and videos available.

The company is still sorting out what they want to keep and thus far we have brought in just a portion of what is likely to come to the library. Amongst those records (as yet unprocessed) are a series of terrific photographs taken in 1957 of hotels all over the state. Some of course have since been demolished.

The records of the Swan Brewery show the history of an iconic West Australian company which has now passed out of Western Australian hands. The available corporate records date back to 1887 thus providing consistent, detailed documentation over a 100 year period of a major brewing company, as well as several associated companies. This comprehensive collection will support research about an industrial workforce in WA, its management, and financial structure. Information about commercial practices, hotels all over the state, beers made and distributed, and the demand for and consumption of alcohol will also be of interest to researchers. Photographs, films and videos provide a visual component to the written documents, some of which are ledgers so large and heavy as to be curiosities in themselves.

On the lighter side, after working in the very large, stuffy vault for a couple of hours, Laurie and I responded with alacrity to the loudspeaker announcement that the Jiffy Van (food and drink vendor) was on site and encountered our colleague Steven Anstey from the WA Museum who was also seeking sustenance. The site is huge and sadly we waited in the wrong place for the van but had the opportunity to have a good conversation with Steven. (On our subsequent visit, we cracked the Jiffy Van system and were successfully fed.)

Steven is appraising the realia and has already selected many objects including the mirror from the staff bar – a very impressive if now deserted area - and the dray used to deliver beer barrels. Between the library and the museum, and with the co-operation of the company, a good deal of this history will be saved for the state.

Jean Chetkovich, *Collection Development*

*Some more recent interesting archival acquisitions include*

## **1) Papers of Dame Dorothy Tangney (1907-1985)**

These include documents and photographs relating to her parliamentary career, and family history papers of the Tangney and Shanahan families (1822-2013). In 1943 Dorothy Tangney became the first female Federal Member of Parliament in Australia, the first woman to be sworn into the Australian Federal Parliament, and the first woman to speak in either House. Dorothy served in the Senate for nearly 25 years, facing many challenges as a woman in politics, and a single one at that. She retired from parliament in 1968 and in 1969 she was invested with insignia of Dame Commander of the British Empire. In 1973 the newly created Federal seat of Tangney was named after her and in 1993 she was featured on stamps issued to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the First Women in Australian Federal Parliament and the 90th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

Dorothy Margaret Tangney was born in Perth on 13 March 1907, the third of nine children to Eugene and Ellen Tangney (nee Shanahan). Her maternal grandfather, Owen Shanahan, was an Irish rebel who was transported to WA in 1853 at about 26 years of age for burning down a British building in Ireland. His 14-year sentence and time served time in Fremantle Prison was a well-kept family secret for many years. Family legend also has it that Owen hid prisoners from the Fenian escape in a well but this has not been confirmed. Owen died before Dorothy was born but as both her parents were active supporters of the Labor movement Dorothy grew up in a political household with a keen sense of social justice. By her early 20s she had started taking disadvantaged children on holiday and in 1929 she founded the Fremantle Young People's Ideal Club which organised activities for children of the unemployed. Dorothy was also a founding member of the Boys' Employment League and the University Labour Club, and remained active in community service throughout her life.

The papers and photographs were kindly donated by Dorothy's niece. While a great deal of Dorothy's career documentation is available in Canberra, the State Library is grateful to have these more personal papers including autobiographical details, family photographs, and information relating to both the Tangney and Shanahan families.

## **2) Fourteen days on an ice-box at sea**

The amazing story of the man who drifted on an ice-box for fourteen days off the coast of WA happened 50 years ago this year!

Jack Drinan was master of the prawn trawler *Nor VI* which was wrecked off Shark Bay on 24 April 1963. All the crew drowned except for Jack who was able to climb into a large ice-box containing a few oranges and eggs. The ice-box was blown out to sea and drifted some 200 miles before currents brought it back near to shore fourteen days later, almost at the original site of the wreck. Jack fashioned a raft from the foam lid of the ice-box and was able to paddle ashore but finding no assistance, food or water, he decided to take to sea again. On the sixteenth day, Jack was lucky enough to be rescued by a local fishing boat.

Jack's story about being carried out and back by the currents was met with much scepticism but one man who believed him was WA author Bill Brown (1916-2009), also a sailor and 'man of the sea'. Writing under the pen name of 'Jamieson Brown' Bill produced several versions of Jack's story between 1966 and 1978: *The Jack Drinan Story, Fourteen Days On An Ice-box, and Survivor*.

Manuscripts of these stories, as well as correspondence between Bill and Jack, a hand drawn map of the drift path, and photographs of Jack Drinan and the actual ice-box, are included in The Jamieson Brown Collection which has recently been donated to the State Library by Bill's family.

Other papers in The Jamieson Brown Collection include manuscripts of his four published novels, *Destroyers Will Rendezvous*, *Violent Anchorage*, 'Blood Slick' (published as *Harpoon*), and *Shark Bay*; many short stories; and correspondence that captures Bill's own story of his life as a writer.

The Jamieson Brown Collection is just one of many interesting donations entrusted to the care of The State Library each year. We are most grateful for the generosity of donors who contribute to our heritage collections and allow us to share these significant WA stories with the widest possible audience.

### **3) Multicultural photographs**

An extensive collection of immigrant communities in Western Australia was recently purchased from award-winning documentary photographer, Louise Whelan. These photographs include images of Congolese, Sierra Leone, Vietnamese, Rwandan, Senegalese, Sudanese, and Sikh migrants and refugees in their homes, at work and play, and during social and religious ceremonies. A further collection of images acquired

from Louise depicts the 1950s inspired Rockabilly subculture in Perth. The photographs are online and can be viewed by doing an Author or Keyword search of <Whelan Louise>.

Laurie Allen  
*Collection Development*

### **SLWA Newspaper Digitisation Report**

So far the National Library has digitised the following Western Australian newspaper titles onto its Trove website (only the most popular title has been listed): the *Albany Advertiser* 1897-1950, the *Bunbury Herald* 1892-1929, the *Coolgardie Miner* 1913-1917, the *Daily News* 1882-1950, the *Geraldton Guardian* 1906-1950), the *Inquirer* 1840-1901, the *Kalgoorlie Miner* 1895-1950, the *Western Argus* 1894-1938, the *Mirror* 1920-1956, the *Northern Times* 1905-1952, the *Southern Advertiser* 1888, the *Sunday Times* 1897-1954, the *West Australian* 1833-1954 and the *Western Mail* 1885-1954.

Of these, the digitisation of the *Coolgardie Miner* 1913-1917 and the *Southern Advertiser* 1888 has been funded through the generous assistance of the Friends of Battye Library Inc.

The following newspapers are part of the 2012/13 program, but have not yet been digitised: the *Eastern Districts Chronicle* 1877-1926, the *Great Southern Herald* 1901-1954, the *Norseman Times* 1898-1920, the *Pilbara Goldfields News* 1897-1923, the *South Western News* 1903-1954, the *Westralian Worker* 1900-1951 and the *Herald* 1867-1886 (funded by Fremantle City Council). It is hoped that they will be added to the website in the next few months.

The following ten titles have been suggested for the 2013/14 program: the *Toodyay Herald* 1912-1954, the *Mt Magnet and Lennonville Leader* 1896-1927, the *Call and WA Sportsman* 1914-1953, the *South Western Advertiser* 1910-1954, the *Merredin Mercury* 1912-1954, the *Bruce Rock Post & Corrigin Guardian* 1917-1924, the *Evening Star* 1898-1921, the *Midlands Advertiser* 1907-1930, the *Gnowangerup Star* 1915-1954, and the *South Western Times* 1917-1954.

As the National Library still only digitises from microfilm, some of the titles filmed long ago are not up to standard and will have to be re-microfilmed before digitisation. All newspapers covering World War I which need re-

microfilming have been given priority, as it is hoped to get them digitised for the centenary of the outbreak of war in 2014.

Kate Gregory, *Battye Historian*

### **Peter Williams granted Fellowship of the Library Board**

The Library Board of Western Australia has granted Dr Peter Williams a Fellowship of the Library Board Award for his contributions to Western Australian library services.

After an initial presentation of 107 original picture book illustrations to the State Library in 2006, the passionate art collector has continued to donate works to what has since been dubbed the Peter Williams Collection.

“The illustrations play such an important role in engaging young children when reading,” said Dr Margaret Nowak, Chairman of the Library Board. “The State Library values highly the wonderful collection that has been made available through Peter’s goodwill.”

This award will be officially presented on 1 November at the opening of *Picture a Story*, an exhibition at the State Library which will feature children’s illustrations from the Peter Williams Collection.

Dr Williams donated his collection to the State Library under the guidelines of the Commonwealth Cultural Gifts Program.

For more information see: [http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/collections/childrens\\_literature/the\\_williams\\_collection](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/collections/childrens_literature/the_williams_collection).

Karen de San Miguel  
A/Community Awareness Coordinator

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### **State Records Office - News from the Archives**

The presentation of the 2013 Margaret Medcalf Award will occur on 19 June 2013.

This annual Award honours Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM, the second State Archivist for Western Australia (1971-1989), for her valuable contribution to the development of archives in Western Australia. Works nominated

for the Award must demonstrate use of archival sources, and substantial (but not necessarily exclusive) use of State archives held by the State Records Office. Nominated works may be fiction or non-fiction and may comprise any format (i.e. book, article, conference paper, website, index, etc). Nominated works may be published or unpublished.

This year six nominations have been received and an award presentation, followed by morning tea, will occur at 10am on Wednesday 19 June 2013 at the Theatrette on the ground floor of the Alexander Library Building in the Perth Cultural Centre. Invitations have been sent out, and all Friends of Battye members are invited to attend. You must RSVP to Birra-Li Cunningham by 4pm 14 June 2013 if you wish to attend, either by phone 9427 3636 or by email [birra-li.cunningham@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:birra-li.cunningham@sro.wa.gov.au)

The State Records Commission established the Margaret Medcalf Award in 2003. The Award is a prize of \$1000.

### **Online Guide to 1982 State Cabinet Records released for WA Day**

To commemorate Western Australia Day, each year the SRO marks the release of the State Cabinet records from their 30 year access restriction period by the production of an online Guide to these historically significant archives. State Cabinet records reveal the decisions made by the government of the day and are the unique primary source documents for information about the issues raised at State Cabinet meetings.

### **1982 State Cabinet Records**

The online Guide to the 1982 State Cabinet Records includes deliberations from the beginning of 1982 until the State election on 19 February 1983, which saw a change of government from Ray O'Connor's Liberal - National Country Party Coalition to the ALP led by Brian Burke.

These State Cabinet records reveal discussions about proposed human tissue transplant legislation, the possible development of a Casino and the amendment of Gaming laws, restricting the advertising of tobacco products on public transport, and a 12 month wage freeze on all wages in WA. The records also show that State Cabinet agreed to initiate a feasibility study on a low cost light rail system in Perth, to encourage national pride by distributing table flags to all WA schools, and approved an inquiry into allegations of corruption against WA Police, which resulted

in State Cabinet deciding that a Royal Commission was not justified. State Cabinet denied a request from the East Perth football club to allow its members to gamble on club premises and refused to pay the Leader of the Opposition Brian Burke's legal costs after he was ordered to pay costs after mounting a legal challenge to WA's electoral laws.

Researched and drafted by an intern secured through the Public Sector Commission's 2012 WA State Government Internship Program, the online guide can be found at: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection/premier-cabinet-and-parliamentary-records/release-state-cabinet>.

### **SRO Lunchtime Seminar for NAIDOC Week 2013 – 3 July 2013**

The next SRO Lunchtime Seminar will be presented by Professor Len Collard, ARC Research Fellow at the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia. He will be speaking on the topic Aboriginal place names in Perth and the South West. Each year the SRO celebrates NAIDOC week by inviting a speaker to describe some aspect of the Aboriginal perspective and interpretation of archives and documentary heritage.

This Seminar will be held from 12.30 - 1.30pm on Wednesday 3 July at the SRO's South West Room, next to the SRO's Search Room. You must book to attend this Seminar by telephoning (08) 94273600 or emailing [sro@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:sro@sro.wa.gov.au). Attendees are encouraged to bring their sandwiches and drinks to this Seminar. Tea and Coffee are provided.

Lunchtime Seminars are designed to inform researchers about the SRO State Archives collection. They also provide researchers with an opportunity to meet fellow researchers, learn about members of staff, and provide a forum for questions and discussions in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Gerard Foley, Senior Archivist

Friends of the Battye Library are welcome to submit topics and ideas for Lunchtime Seminars for next year. Please contact Gerard Foley at [gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au) if you have a suggestion.

Cathrin Cassarchis, *State Archivist*

## **Surveyors Field Books digitisation project**

The Friends of Battye Library (Inc) have supported a project by the State Record Office to digitise their Surveyors field books (WAS 32) which have previously been available only on Microfiche. Many of the field books were written in pencil which made reading and interpreting fiche versions increasingly difficult. In consequence there was an increasing demand to see the original field books, which are small and easily damaged by handling. Conservation clearly required digitisation

SRO has access to a high quality overhead book scanner, which can scan in both black and white and colour, to 300 dpi. The scanner head takes line by line images of the page, enabling a much higher quality scan than will be available for a simple whole of page image. The system also uses strip LED lighting meaning that light damage to fragile documents is very limited. Documents are placed on a hinged book cradle which can be set to accommodate book spines easily, or can be locked in place for flatter documents.

Initially the Friends provided funding of \$10,600 for a pilot project over eight weeks. A recruitment process fortunately secured the services of George Borzykowski, digital imaging technician extraordinaire, who was already working for SLWA. The success of the pilot project led to another request to the Friends for \$15,900 to continue the project. However the Friends did ask SRO to change their initial alphabetical approach to a chronological digitising of Field books – so the earliest will become available as soon as possible.

Pamela Statham Drew

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## **From War to Remembrance - recent exhibition at the State Library**

If you have not already done so, this is your last chance to catch this fascinating exhibition as it finishes on 30 June. It is well worth seeing as it charts stories of commemoration, defence, and repatriation over a period of close to a hundred years and features never before seen material from the RSL, the Fremantle Army Museum and the State Library.

In 1916, a group of returned servicemen from the 11th Battalion met to form an association that would look after the interests of returned servicemen in Western Australia. The association became known as the Returned Soldiers Association and was the pre-cursor to the RSL in Western Australia.

As you enter the Library from the Cultural Centre there is a space devoted to a field of poppies – the symbol of those who fell in the First World War. This simple display of red paper poppies among ‘leaves’ of twisted paper containing the words of the *Ode of Remembrance* makes a very strong impression and is a credit to its designers.

As part of the exhibition there is an interactive online display which you can also look at from home (<http://www.rslcentenary.org.au/map>) This maps the many sub branches of the League across the State, and when you click on each location it shows the records that branch has and their activities on a community level. This, plus the fact that the *Listening Post* – the RSL’s newspaper – is now available on line, marks the culmination of the Lotterywest funded project to collate, retrieve and make accessible the records of RSL branches throughout WA.

Naomi Lam, the Archivist and Curator, and exhibition co-ordinator Fleur Rondini scoured the State for Branch records and memorabilia – tracing material even from defunct branches. In total, the online exhibition maps 372 branches - with an interactive timeline that allows users to see which sub branches existed at various times in the RSL’s history.

The steering committee for the entire exercise is pictured below (L to R) Dr Neville Green, Dr Pamela Statham Drew, Mr Graham Bland, Archivist and Curator Naomi Lam, Digger Cleak, Chair Prof. John Stevens, Steve Howell and Fleur Rondini. (Missing are Ms Jan McCahon Marshall and Mr Doug George.)

Pamela Statham Drew



## **Oral History Records Rescue Group (OHRRG) - progress report**

The Project has been a tremendous success and has seen the preservation through digitisation of over 6000 interviews (11,550 hours), 190 interviews available on-line through the State Library's catalogue as well as providing digital copies to a number of historical groups and public libraries of their collection.

Here is a selection of some of the unique stories that are now available online. These interviews have a regional theme and recount lives and industries in the North Eastern Goldfields, South West and North West.

**Don (Donald) Evans** was interviewed for a collaborative project - *Family and Working Life in the North Eastern Goldfields - A Social History of Gwalia and Leonora WA 1890 to 1990*. Don describes everyday life in the mining town of Gwalia in the 1930's, where he grew up in a household of 10. He recounts family dinners, which included eating kangaroo, rabbits, pigeons, and offal, as well as his mother making crib in the tin boxes for his father and brothers to take down the mine. Hurricane lamps, candles and Coolgardie safes were normal household items, and all water was carted from the nearby mine. He recounts school life, running barefoot and camping out with just a blanket to keep warm. During the war he remembers community members rounded up to be interned, having air raid drills, and the death of his brother in New Guinea. This interview provides an insight into the tough living conditions that existed in remote outback mining towns. (OH3562/22)

**Bill (William) Miller** owned and operated a seafood processing factory at Port Samson in Western Australia. He arrived in Port Samson during WWII, with a population of six, no water or power supply, no shop or services - the isolated community relied on the State Shipping Service. Living in a tent on the beach, he survived on one bucket of water a day. Bill had a very long and varied career. He was a pioneer in the Nickol Bay prawning industry and also trawled in the Gulf of Carpentaria and Exmouth Gulf. He was involved in charter work for off-shore oil exploration companies and iron ore companies, and was a master pearly, taking shell in the wild. In addition to outlining his own career, which is a saga of hardship and effort, prosperity and decline, that is quite remarkable, his story is a vivid portrayal of post-war development of the north-west. The interview was part of Murdoch University's *History of the Australian Fishing Industry* project. (OH2266/45)

**Fred Swarbrick** born in Albany in 1911 entered the fishing industry in 1926 with his father and brother. His maternal grandparents were the first permanent European residents at Emu Point, and he recounts early life in the area. He recalls in detail the boats, nets, methods and practices they used, but also talks about the flora and fauna of the Emu Point area, especially the bird and marine life of Oyster Harbour and the south coastal region. He speaks about a rich and varied natural environment and makes reference to swans, parrots, seals, oysters, crabs, and cockles, but also talks about chasing whales, the flying habits and size of albatross, spotting large sharks and recounts the plentiful fish species. This interview gives a good description of the fishing industry and the natural environment in early Albany. (OH2266/34)

Lee Blackford: Project Manager: OHRRG

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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.

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#### **Copying photographs from the State Library's catalog**

Some of our members have found it frustrating, if not downright impossible, to download photographs that they need for research purposes from the SLWA catalogue. It is particularly tricky to obtain online copies of images presented as a 'slideshow'.

From enquiries I have made, the problem could lie with the version of web browser used, but take heart, there is a way around the difficulty if

you employ the following method which was suggested to me by a State Library staff member. Although a strange and convoluted process, I am happy to say it works and the Battye Library images featured in this newsletter were obtained with only a little bit of trouble.

**To save images from the SLWA website catalogue in a 'slideshow' format**

1. On the catalogue entry page, shade the photograph required (sometimes more than one image will be shaded but this is fine).
2. Click ctrl C then ctrl V in a blank Word document. You will get a printout of all the images you had shaded. (see sample below)



3. Click into the caption of the photo you want and then ctrl and left click on your mouse.
4. The image will appear in a second web window. Then all you need to do is right click on your mouse to 'save picture as' and choose a file to save it in. Now you are ready to use your photo in your document.

Jennie Carter

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**An honour for one of our members**

Andrew Bowman was awarded *Outstanding Newcomer: The Professor David Dolan Award* in the 2013 State Heritage Awards held in April this year. He was acknowledged for leading the way with multiple virtual and online endeavours to promote the Carnamah district. Due in large part to Andrew's work, Carnamah is featured in the National Museum of Australia. Congratulations Andrew!

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

**Annual Membership**

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$15
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**If paying by cheque**, please print this form, complete it, and send with your cheque to:

The Treasurer

Friends of Battye Library

PO Box 216, NORTHBRIDGE 6865

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

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

Account Name – Friends of Battye Library (Inc)

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

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

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

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

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

## **Jack's Back: Arcadian Delights**

Two or three times a year, having parked my car at the Library, I venture on foot into the heart of Perth's CBD for appointments with my dentist there. My chief pleasure on these occasions is to walk one way through London Court and the other by way of Trinity Arcade.

The creation of Claude de Bernales in 1937, London Court is, of course, well-known as one of Perth's prized tourist attractions. There I briefly take note of any changes in the occupancy of the tiny shops and in the general decor of the whole structure. I enjoy the ambience provided by a busy thoroughfare that is flanked by three tight-packed storeys each side and open to the sky above. And to think that the upper floors originally consisted of residential flats! It is with mixed feelings that I sometimes remember the cobblestones with which the walkway was formerly paved. It is some consolation that one shopkeeper proclaims himself a cobbler!



(Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA. Image no.004130d)  
'Old Englyshe fayre' to open London Court in 1937. (photographer unknown).

Trinity Arcade likewise benefits from the open sky above its southern end, where it merges with a modest courtyard. Otherwise, in contrast with the unity of the gently sloping London Court, it is remarkable for the irregularity of its composition, drawing together several sections of different vintage. At its Hay Street end it contracts to a simple passageway alongside the 'Trinity Building' of 1926, but presenting its walls attractively lined with showcases. On one side five panels contain succinct historical accounts of the whole property, with chief emphasis on the churches of 1865 and 1893 that stand at the other end. Here we are told that the ornate architecture of the 1893 church is in the style of Dissenter's Mediaevalism; elsewhere I have read it described, just as reasonably, as Commissioner's Gothic. A basic feature of Trinity Arcade is the fact that it occupies two levels for the most part, these linked by several stairways and lifts.

It is on the lower level of the Trinity that most Friends would enjoy the commendable decorative feature in the form of some 30 old photographs set on its walls under glass. These were chosen by the parties who undertook the major redevelopment of the arcade in the early 1980s, and each one indicates it is there by courtesy of the Battye Library. While a majority are of buildings and streetscapes, there is still a good deal of variety in subject matter and not just in the city. For example, they include the newly built GPO in Forrest Place, the Government Tourist Bureau next door to the Treasury building, Market day in James Street (ca 1915), and one view each at Rottnest, Narrogin and Cossack. Shots of His Majesty's Theatre, the Ocean Beach Hotel and The Knowle that was the nucleus of Fremantle Hospital are all noteworthy for the extensive verandahs and latticework they once had in common.

Among my own favourites has long been a scene that has the caption 'White City Amusement Park c. 1930', though I would prefer it 'ca 1925'. Taken from a lofty vantage point not far from the river, it clearly shows at left foreground the funfair's roller-coaster railway. But the greater part of the picture looks up the steeply rising William Street to its intersection with St George's Terrace. In preparation for writing this article, I recently walked slowly along this line of photos to study them once more, when I found my progress blocked by a tall young man who stood facing the White City photo and studying it even more intently. So striking up a conversation, I said he looked puzzled and offered my help if wanted. He then admitted he could not solve the scene's location, for there was not one building he could recognise in it. I therefore identified it as lower

William Street and before the closure of White City in 1929. ‘So that was where the underground station is now?’, he asked, with ‘Yes’ in reply. We



(Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 012489D)

*Another image of White City taken 26 June 1928. Elevated view of the grounds, with the Swan River, South Perth and Kings Park in the background.*

[Members will be interested to know that his photograph has been preserved and digitised as part of the Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) project sponsored by the Friends of Battye Library. Jennie]

briefly discussed several other structures that were faintly visible in the background, such as the AMP Building and the Palace Hotel. I also pointed out the then-vacant block on which the Capitol Theatre was to arise in 1928, and he said that the latest building to occupy the site is just where he himself works now! Ruing the loss of so many old features of Perth, he ended this pleasant dialogue by saying, ‘They should have kept them and built a new city somewhere else.’

Nowadays the public in general is well served with collections of old photos in books and ‘flashback’ columns, and many scenes are oft-repeated, but there will always be the rarities that can bring forth an onlooker’s fascination and delight. Incidentally, in this group on display there are several others that deserve a more accurate estimate of their dates.

To round off this piece, I feel it worth adding that the lower level of Trinity

Arcade links directly with other arcades at either end – with the Carillon Arcade via the Hay Street underpass, and with the Allendale Arcade passing under St George's Terrace. They all go to make a long north-south pedestrian spine to the city. Another busy thoroughfare that warrants attention here is the attractive Piccadilly Arcade, which runs between Hay and Murray Streets further to the west. Its Art Moderne style is a far cry from the Mock Tudor of its contemporary, Ye London Court. Having opened in 1938, it too is a legacy of de Bernales, the mining magnate then in his heyday. And like the Trinity, the Piccadilly Arcade (and Theatre) underwent major redevelopment in the 1980s, and similarly offers the passers-by a concise history on a wall panel a few metres down from its Hay Street end.

(Courtesy Battye Library,  
SLWA - Portrait of Mr  
Claude de Bernales  
1954.

Photographer Susan  
Watkins, 1912-2006).

Image no. 220207PD.  
[Also saved by the  
HRRC Project.]



Jack Honniball

### ***Adendum***

Regrettably, in our March issue I omitted to print the title to the piece about Count Von Luckner which Jack had supplied for his 'Jack's Back' column. Those of our readers who maintain a run of their Newsletters for reference may care to pencil in the title as *A Colony's Contact with a Colourful Count*.

Jennie Carter, editor.

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

**Life membership** \$500

### **Annual membership**

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

### **Meetings**

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, August or September (whenever is the Annual General Meeting) 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 three times per year - March, July, and November (flyers will be sent out in May and September). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 10 February, 10 June, and 10 October 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 editor, Jennie Carter at *[bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)*

or write to:

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

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

<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:[info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@slwa.wa.gov.au)

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

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

## **State Records Office**

The SRO Search Room on the Ground Floor is open for enquiries and use of material 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**

**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. 148



November 2013

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# FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)

# NEWSLETTER

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ABN 571625138800

*Our end of year function 2013*

**Lorraine Clarke & Cherie Strickland**

*Stories from the East Perth Cemetery*



Tuesday 19 November 2013 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room, 4th floor State Library of Western Australia.

***This meeting will be followed by a catered dinner  
bookings essential - 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 (2013-2014)**

**President** Dr Pamela Statham Drew

**Vice President** Mrs Gillian O'Mara

**Secretary** position vacant

**Treasurer** Mr Nick Drew

**Committee members** Ms Heather Campbell, Ms Jennie Carter,  
Mr Neil Foley, Dr Alison Gregg, Mr Jim Gregg,  
Dr Ronda Jamieson, Mr Robert O'Connor QC,  
and Dr Nonja Peters.

**Ex-Officio** Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)  
Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO)  
Dr Kate Gregory (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.

# **End of Year Meeting**

**Tuesday 19 November 2013  
Great Southern Room, 4th floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5pm for 5.30pm**

**Our speakers will be  
Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland**

## *Stories from the East Perth Cemetery*

[Front page image: East Perth Cemetery 1940s. Backshall collection of photographs - BA1188/10]  
(Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA no. 004512D)

### **Dinner arrangements.**

Members and guests are warmly invited to celebrate with us the end of another successful year for the Friends. After Lorraine and Cherie's talk we will be moving to the fourth floor dining room adjacent to the Great Southern Room where a catered spit-roast dinner will be served.

**The cost will be only \$30 each  
which includes wine or juice.**

Bookings in advance are essential so please RSVP by Thursday 14 November to Nick Drew on 9384 8154 or by email on *nickdrew@bigpond.com*. Our very popular quiz will again be held with a prize for the winner.

### **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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## **Stories from the East Perth Cemetery**

Lorraine and Cherie will look at the lives of five unique pioneers who rest in the East Perth cemeteries. In doing so they will show how, by using primary source documents from the National Library of Australia, the State Library of Western Australia and State Records Office of Western Australia, they ascertained where these people were buried within the cemeteries. Their research presents a fascinating insight into how these quite different people in their own ways influenced the Swan River Colony.

### **About our speakers**

Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland have for the past thirty years (cumulative) been involved in researching and compiling family histories, their collaboration led to the beginning of Swan Genealogy in 2005.



Cherie Strickland and Lorraine Clarke

Cherie was previously the Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) Bookshop Officer, Projects Officer and Vice President. Lorraine was previously the WAGS Treasurer, Awards Officer and Vice President. They have produced for and on behalf of WAGS 12 CDs on various early pioneer databases.

As Swan Genealogy, they have undertaken additional research for Jacqueline O'Brien and Pamela Statham-Drew on both *The Wittenoom Way* and *Court*

*on Camera*, the Gwambygine heritage homestead, the Shenton family for June Shenton-Turner, *Clarence Enigma* for Ruth Marchant James and Pamela Statham-Drew, as well as background work for number of heritage buildings for Ron Bodycoat Heritage Architect.

Currently Cherie and Lorraine as members of and in conjunction with the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.), have completed the most comprehensive biographical database on the inhabitants of the East Perth cemeteries. This is being completed in partnership with the National Trust of WA with the aim to make this research available freely online. This database will be fully sourced and will acknowledge all previous researchers who contributed to the end result.

## **Meeting dates for 2014**

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month (Except the November meeting which is on the third Tuesday) and begin at 5.00pm for 5.30pm.

**11 March** - Speaker - *Bill Bunbury* - "Oral History". Also a tour of the new Rare Book room.

**13 May** – *Lenore Layman* – "Sudden deaths by accidents, murder or suicide from early inquests".

**8 July** - TBA

**9 September** (AGM) *Kate Gregory* - "125th Anniversary of the State Library".

**18 November** - TBA - our end of year dinner.

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## **A message from the President**

Dear Friends,

Your committee and I look forward to greeting you at our end of year function on Tuesday 19 November. As has become almost traditional, we will conclude the meeting with a lovely catered dinner in the staff canteen on the fourth floor of the State Library, adjacent to the Great Southern Room. Our warmest appreciation to the State Librarian and CEO, Margaret Allen, for generously offering the venue and assisting us to provide the meal. It is because of the support of the State Library that we are able to keep our costs to a minimum and this year is no exception.

We are also excited to announce that the four volume *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1888* is now available on our website. Copyright has been cleared with the main copyright holders.

The Dictionary has been scanned by volunteers using everyday technology and is not very searchable but it is, nevertheless, a huge asset. We hope in the future to replace it with a fully searchable version scanned with the most sophisticated technology available – but I am sure you will all agree that this is a an incredibly valuable interim step.

There will be those among you who wish to correct entries in the Dictionary – and we already know of a number of errors. Please could you send any corrections in writing and with documentary evidence to support the correction to the Friends mail box. Post Office Box 216, Northbridge 6865. We will periodically add to a corrections page on the website so naturally we cannot correct the original text.

Pamela Statham Drew

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## Obituary

### Emeritus Professor Frank Crowley (1924-2013)

Frank Crowley, who died on 16 October 2013 aged 88, will be remembered by the Friends, not only for being instrumental in bringing to the fore rigorous research, teaching, and writing about Western Australian history, but also for his insistence on the importance of collecting, preserving, documenting and promoting the great collections of the Battye Library.

Francis Keble (Frank) Crowley was born in Melbourne in 1924, the son of an Anglican Minister. When the family moved to South Australia, Frank was sent to board at the prestigious St Peter's College. Unhappy there, he rebelled and left school but finally completed his education at Peterborough High School where he matriculated with the State's highest mark. Crowley won a theological scholarship to Melbourne University,

but soon became side-tracked by “a range of social causes and by women”<sup>1</sup>. For a brief time he was a member of the Australian Communist Party.

He married Honor Hebbard, a qualified botanist, in 1945 and completed his PhD in 1948 with a thesis on working class conditions in Australia 1788-1851, which was supervised by Manning Clark. Crowley’s was the first PhD to be awarded in Australian History in Australia.

Frank came to Perth in 1949



Professor Frank Crowley c.1980.  
[Image courtesy University of New South Wales.]

when he was appointed as a research fellow at the University of Western Australia, but left at the end of the year to study for another doctorate at England's Oxford University. Although he did not enjoy his two years at Oxford he completed his doctoral thesis, an examination of British migration to Australia, under the supervision of eminent historian Asa Briggs. Crowley returned to Western Australia in 1952 when he was offered a position at UWA as a lecturer. "Earthly in interests and casual in dress"<sup>2</sup>, he had little in common with his urbane senior, Professor Fred Alexander, who despite their differences, and to his credit, acknowledged Crowley as the 'leading authority' of this State's history.

The Crowley's marriage failed and Honor returned to the Eastern States with their children while Frank became ever more immersed in work including research for his seminal *Australia's western third : a history of Western Australia from the first settlements to modern times* which was published in 1960.

With the collaboration, encouragement and guidance of the State Library's accomplished first archivist, Mollie Lukis, who had been appointed in 1945, Frank Crowley listed and categorised Western Australian documentary materials that had been stored since the turn of the century - a task they had begun in 1949. With Lukis's help he produced *The records of Western Australia Vol.1* in 1953 which was a key finding aid used by Western Australian researchers for decades. There was never to be a need for a 'volume two' as Lukis, assisted by Margaret Medcalf who joined the library in 1955, ensured that under their expert management, incoming records were efficiently accessioned, catalogued and stored ready for access.

Crowley and his second wife, Margaret, made their home in Cottesloe and raised three daughters while Frank continued lecturing at UWA and writing history, including a superb local history of suburban South Perth published in 1962. He resigned from the University of Western Australia in 1964, eventually moving to the University of New South Wales to take up a professorship in history in 1965.

Frank Crowley remained at UNSW rising to the position of Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Emeritus Professor on his retirement in 1984. A prolific writer, Crowley produced essays, articles, and major works on many subjects from his ambitious biography of Sir John Forrest, to a little-known treatise which he co-authored in 1977 arguing for the de-criminalisation of marihuana in Australia<sup>3</sup>.

Patrick O'Farrell called him "a gifted Australian larrikin, vastly engaging and entertaining, colourful to outrageous lengths, serious teacher and

champion of Australian history.”<sup>4</sup>

Former student, Geoffrey Bolton, knew him as “a stimulating and lively-minded teacher and supervisor – if at times a provocative colleague – who made a constructive and lasting contribution to his discipline.”<sup>5</sup>

While here he inspired many of his students, among them Geoff Bolton, David Black, David Mossenson, Brian de Garis, Lyall Hunt, Tom Stannage and our own Jack Honniball, with his zeal for Western Australian history, and many of those he taught were to become leaders in their field.

Jennie Carter

### Sources:

[I am indebted to Lyall Hunt’s article, *Remembering Frank Crowley in Western Australia, 1949-1964* [slwa\\_b2791465\\_001](http://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa_b2791465_001), for much of Frank Crowley’s biographical information.]

1. Hunt, Lyall *Remembering Frank Crowley*.
2. Ibid.
3. Crowley, Frank & Cartwright, Lorna *A citizen’s guide to marihuana in Australia* Sydney : Angus & Robertson, 1977.
4. O’Farrell, Patrick. *UNSW, a portrait : the University of New South Wales, 1949 - 1999*. Sydney; UNSW Press, 1999. Quoted in <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/newsroom/articles/vale-frank-crowley>.
5. University of Western Australia *Media Statement* 18 October 2013.  
<http://www.news.uwa.edu.au>.

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### Information for our members

An important new book written by one of our members, Phil Bianchi, and published by Hesperian Press, is to be launched on 26 November.



#### **“Work Completed, Canning” : A Comprehensive History of the Canning Stock Route 1906 – 2010**

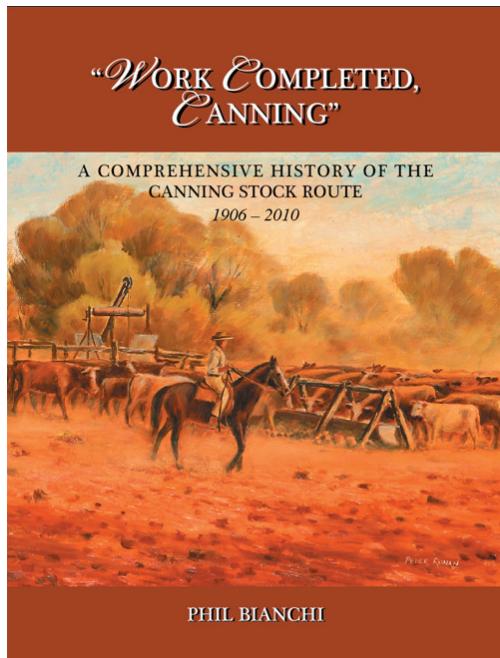
The story of Alfred W. Canning and the development and subsequent use of the 1800 kilometre long Canning Stock Route from Halls Creek to Wiluna is told in this new volume. The CSR played an important role in WA’s economic

development. It was originally constructed in 1910 so herds of cattle could be taken south from the Kimberley to alleviate a meat shortage during the Eastern Goldfields gold rush. The last mob came down in 1959.

Original historical documents are combined with oral history in a narrative that covers the origins of the stock route, surveying, construction of the wells, droving, deaths and murders, exploration and prospecting, well restoration, identities and adventurers, place name origins and tourism.

This new book features photographs, maps, exploration and droving journals that have never been published before. Mysteries of the stock route are solved, and long-held beliefs and myths corrected. Phil Bianchi's research is complemented by expert analyses of flora, fauna and pasture.

This heavily referenced and comprehensively indexed book is destined to become the definitive history of the Canning Stock Route and will appeal to general and professional readers, historians, anthropologists, scientists, family history researchers, local shires, tour companies, tourists and CSR travellers.



This new volume in the *Western Australian Exploration Diaries* series will be available from Hesperian Press, Serendipity Books or the State Library bookshop.

**Friends of Battye Library members are invited to the launch of Phil's book which will be held on 26 November 2013 at 5.30 pm for 6.00 pm start in the Lecture Theatre, State Library of Western Australia.**

Please RSVP for catering purposes by 20 November 2013 to Phil at : Email [pelbianchi@gmail.com](mailto:pelbianchi@gmail.com) or by phone on 08 9276 7861.

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

The following three articles have been kindly supplied by our President, Dr Pamela Statham Drew, Ruth Marchant James, one of our 'Gems of Time', and Bridget Curran of the Belmont City Museum.

.....

### **Introduction to Knight's Diary**

I was doing some research in the new York Archives and came across this little known diary – with summer about to burst upon us I thought it might amuse you to see the comments of a young (well 25 year old) Englishman describing his first Christmas in the bush.

Nathan Knight arrived on the *Advocate* in 1841 with the Landor Brothers – Edward (who wrote *The Bushman* after his return to England in 1846) Henry, and GW. It is Henry Landor that Nathan went into partnership with to farm in the York district 1841-45 – and it is this Henry that Nathan refers to in these journal entries. Henry was a doctor and practised medicine while in the York area as well as being a Justice of the Peace in 1841. The Landor brothers returned to England later in the 1840's and Nathan married Sara Sophia Hester in 1847 and raised a large family in the Fremantle district where he became a Customs House Agent. (Source *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*).

Nathan Knight was a very literate chap and his scrawly handwriting has been lovingly transcribed so it is easy to read and is a rich resource for York researchers as he mentions so many names. At this stage York was, to quote Lt Henry Bunbury who saw it in 1837 – just four years earlier than this diary – “a town in embryo; it contains two houses, a barn, a barrack and some outshout houses...’ Back then there were about six farms spread well apart along the Avon, so it really was a wilderness that Nathan set out to tame. I do not know yet who purchased his farm when he and his partner Henry Landor left in 1845, maybe one of our members will know.

### **“Christmas in Australia, Very Hot” Nathan Knight’s Journal 1841-45 - York Archives**

**Pages 75-77**

*Friday Dec. 24*

We started with Lefroy’s wagon & bullocks with Snowball & Strawberry leaders, the native boy Philip started with him & got a shirt in consequence,

promising to go all the way but he returned soon after dinner, they are very good for nothing in this way---very ungrateful.

Hy and I made a fence again round (small) wheat stack, heat ... We also cleaned the shed and Hy found my keys amongst the straw, I lost them the day before.

Burges came for his flour, the younger one----Crutchly went to Dodd's for bullock, he is with their cattle in bush.

#### *Sat 25 Christmas day*

Had service & sacrament. Hy myself & Lefroy the only communicants & the only persons in church giving the administration besides the clergyman, no clerk even. Mr & Mrs Mears & Lefroy dined with us on leg of mutton & potatoes and a fine plumb pudding---strong wind this evening & Thursday.

[In margin] John [brought] sheep from Big Hill, Brook where they have been some 10 days or more.

### **Page 76**

#### *Sunday 26th December St Stephens Day.*

Rev Mears pony gone, lent him Betsy to go to Vivashes to afternoon service---Hy (bled) Billy goat a native---large fire of bush at Milas, Mr, Mrs. Natives went away to fight plenty---lightening very beautiful, distant, East and Northern, rolling thunder I heard later on some distance away.

#### *Mon 27th*

Crutchley gone again to Dodd's for Cptn. (horse) John helped me to put a small rick of hay into the barn away from pigs etc. Hy took Harry & Tommy to Walls for wagon & they ran it into the pool---he then went with Sails for wood-----heat very great today---Cptn came home with Blands cows.

#### *Tues 28th*

Hy (sett) mill stones tried Cptn but no use, ground with other three.

#### *Wed 29th*

Tried Cptn again with ring in his nose but pulled it out, tied him to a Log, let him run about, ground with others.

#### *Thursday 30th*

Cptn gone with his collar- ground all day.

## **Page 77**

NEW YEARS EVE  
*Friday 31st Dec 1841*

Joyce returned late last night with Wilm's sheep 52—Wilm gone to Perth  
the cart axel having broken

I went to Cut away hill got 78 post rails for Bland, Frewin brought 4  
bullocks & I took Harry & Tommies. Mac Kue has lost can of eatables.  
I went back to where we turned off, but left in hut no doubt. Called at  
Gruildes as I came home had some beer, saw Drummond there head  
of Police, he had almost taken Daffian---head ache & very tired ---the  
scene dreadfull the whole surrounding country on fire -----found the  
bush near wheat field the South side on fire, went to put it out, Cruchley  
was there with Betsy we succeeded, Hy having been there before -----  
Henry brewed-----.

*Sat. January 1st 1842*

very hot, Cruchley gone out with Wm's sheep, I waited for Frewin all day  
- he got merry at Moryers last night (New Years Eve). Tried a mellon but  
not quite ripe. Wm returned at night & a Mr Harris

## **Page 78**

A NEW YEAR BEGINS

*Sun January 2nd 1842*

Beautiful morning, hot but a nice breeze & many natives about; (Philip)  
the native taken for spearing one of his Women, escaped this morning.

Being the third Sunday of having service here---Mr Mears went to  
Toodyay. Hy intended read prayers but no one coming. He returned,  
shortly after, Mr Paton came and called on us, said he had seen some  
one on a bay pony at the church.

*Mon Jan 3rd*

Grinding & c----Frewin did not leave-----Mouglas sr., got no more  
wood. I waited all day.

*Tues 4th*

Frewin came; I went with him to cut away hill for more rails but the  
wagon broke down so I went on and got the can I had left---I and Hy  
grinding.

*Wed 5th*

As usual grinding, I went to Hardies & Carters to get them to take

Brockmans thrashing machine S2 per day, horses & 7/6 each man & (fourpence finds) his travelling from one to another

*Thurs 6th*

I went to Burges about Brockmans thrashing machine---our Bullock Captain still there-----but Mr Hy King very ill (have cerrus)---(all Teamore). Mears Geo Witfield & Lefroy with whom I returned and slept at this house (many fires).

Pamela Statham Drew

.....

[Ruth Marchant James's article is a follow-up to Bob Reece's piece on Captain Fremantle which appeared in the last *Newsletter*.]

### **A further note on Captain Fremantle and the *Challenger***

Congratulations to Professor Reece for present a more logical approach to a range of unproven criticisms levelled against Captain Charles Howe Fremantle. He correctly pointed out in the July issue of the *Friends of Batty Library Newsletter* that although Fremantle, when young, was charged with the rape of a servant girl, the case never went to trial, consequently leaving the allegation unproven. Whilst it is reasonable to wonder if influential pressure played a part in the trial not proceeding, the fact that the alleged act occurred in the presence of others surely raises an element of doubt about the accusation. Likewise, it is illogical to describe Captain Fremantle as 'sadistic' when, in common with most naval officers in command, he saw the need to carry out floggings as a form of punishment. Condoned by the Admiralty / Royal Navy, harsh discipline was regarded as essential in an era when lengthy voyages into the unknown were promoted.

I would also like to question author Graham Henderson's criticism of Fremantle's seamanship, apparently based on the incorrect placing of a buoy before the *Challenger* attempted to enter Cockburn Sound. The following entries in Captain Fremantle's diary confirm that the *Challenger's* master and not its captain was the person responsible for positioning the buoys to mark the passage into the Sound.

**"26 April, Sunday:** sent the Master to Sound the passage into Cockburn Sound; returned about Noon, reported the Chart [possibly Stirling's] to be incorrect & the passage rocky, but possible to enter. ... I do not like the appearance of the Anchorage & if there is no nearer secure mooring for Merchant Ships it will be inconvenient for establishing a colony."

Also:

**"27 April 1829:** ... sent the Master, 2nd Master and a Mate with 3 boats and buoys to mark the passage in and desired him to hoist a flag when ready and I would move the Ship. At 3 o'clock observed the flag, weighed the Anchor and stood for the boats; the Master came on board when near the channel, having as I supposed all his Marks distinct, and the buoys on the necessary rocks."

It is also obvious that the master took the ship in and not the captain, for on that same day Fremantle stated: "On seeing one of the buoys, I asked him which side he intended going & he answered the Starboard; the Ship struck immediately, he having mistaken the buoy on the rock for the one in the fairway". He angrily continued:

"Never since I have been at Sea have I ever witnessed anything to equal the carelessness and stupidity of the Master; he placed a buoy on a rock and then steered for the buoy & ran the Ship immediately on it. ... Unless I attend to everything myself ever so trifling, something invariably goes wrong; so much for the assistance a Captain derives from his Officers."

Ruth Marchant James

.....

[Bridget Curran is the Local History Curator at the Belmont City Museum and has kindly supplied the following article on some intriguing objects in her collection.]

### The 'Hampton's Cheeses' of Belmont

In August 2012, the City of Belmont was invited to inspect an extraordinary discovery on Great Eastern Highway at a section of the old convict road: large wooden discs, known as "Hampton's Cheeses" were found under the highway. Dusted in sand and debris and crumbling under the warm August sun after decades in darkness, these jarrah wooden blocks immediately attracted the interest of everyone who beheld them.



Some of the jarrah rounds known as 'Hampton's cheeses' being dug up from the highway. (Photo courtesy Bridget Curran.)

followed a well worn Aboriginal track.

What followed was a unique collaboration between City East Alliance, the State Heritage Office, the WA Museum and the City of Belmont.

It was decided that the most natural home for the Hampton's Cheeses would be the Belmont Museum. The Council set about collecting as many as they could, but in the end the cheeses were so fragile they were disintegrating and only five could be saved.

Executive Director of WA Museum, Dr Ian MacLeod, kindly offered his services in directing the conservation process. For nearly 33 years, the focus of Dr MacLeod's work has been shipwrecks and rock art collections and since 1986 he has been involved in the conservation of Aboriginal rock paintings, making him the perfect candidate to develop a conservation program for the delicate wooden structures. Under his direction, the Belmont Museum staff began a long and careful chemical treatment of the cheeses, and they are coming to the end of

The "Hampton's Cheeses," so called because of their round cheese-like shape and their association with the historical era of Governor Hampton, were a significant find with local and state-wide significance. It was believed that convicts working in the 1860s had cut down 300 year old jarrah trees to create the important road that would become Great Eastern Highway, guiding people from Perth to Guildford and beyond. It



Dr MacLeod working on the 'cheeses'. (Photo courtesy Bridget Curran.)

this process.

The Hampton's Cheeses are an amazing and tangible example of the work of the convicts in the Belmont area. It was only natural then, that experts in this significant area of history be called in to add their contribution to the Cheeses' story. The WAGS Convict Group Committee were invited to the Belmont Museum to view the cheeses and other artefacts discovered on the road and to see what other information could be gleaned from various historical sources.

Bringing the Hampton's Cheese's stories to life has been the most exciting aspect of the process. It is lovely to think that the community that still travels on Great Eastern Highway are able to visit the museum to see the fruits of the labour of our convict forbears over 150 years ago, and through supporting primary documentation, hear the experiences of the people who lived in those times.

We are excited to hear the stories that are uncovered and are grateful to the WAGS Convict Group for sharing their expertise and enthusiasm in uncovering them for the enjoyment and education of future generations. Stay tuned for more news on the ongoing discoveries of Belmont's Hampton's Cheeses!

Bridget Curran

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## **News from the State Library**

### **Exhibitions**

The most recent exhibition in the State Library, *Majority Rules*, an exhibition about elections, campaigns and the history of our political system, ran from 8 July to 21 October 2013. It showcased some of the items from the Library's large collection of political ephemera, such as campaign posters, how to vote cards, badges, cartoons etc. The exhibition showed how political parties persuaded the public to support them through campaigns and highlighted milestones in Western Australia's election history and the issues which affected voting. There were various events connected with the exhibition, such as a lecture by David Black and Harry Phillips on voting and politics in Australia, an education trail and

curatorial tours.

Following *Majority Rules* is *Picture a Story: illustrations from the State Library of Western Australia's Peter Williams Collection*. This exhibition, which should appeal to children of all ages, will feature original artworks of talented illustrators held in the Peter Williams Collection and show characters from books you know and love. There will also be an opportunity to explore design details and look at the creative contents behind the artworks. *Picture a Story* will run from November 2013 to February 2014.

### **Family History Week**

This was held 6 to 8 August 2013 and was a very successful event, attracting approximately eight hundred participants over the three days of seminars, tours and training. The seminars on a variety of interesting topics included those given by State Library staff members Leonie Hayes and Tricia Fairweather (Family History Subject Specialists), Dr Kate Gregory (Battye Historian) and Mollie Tebo (eLearning Librarian); and Library Board members Mike Murray and Kris Bizzaca. As well, there were talks by Marjorie Bly (Perth Branch of the National Archives); Dr June Caunt; Julie Martin, Liana Fitzpatrick and Edwina Shooter (WAGS); David Whiteford (State Records Office) and Malcolm Traill from Albany. Other sessions included informal lunches with experts, training in the use of digital scanners and tours of the Battye Library and the Genealogical Centre.



Scottish immigrants bound for the Group Settlement Scheme 1926. Photographer Izzy Orloff (1891-1983). (Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA. 112396PD).

### **Television**

The State Library has helped out with three television programs so far this year. Firstly came a spot for *Who do you think you are*, featuring a well known Western Australian, but you will have to watch next year to

find out who it is. Secondly we assisted with a segment for *Whose been sleeping in my house*, also to go to air next year, about a very unusual converted property with quite a history to it. Thirdly, Battye Historian Kate Gregory and Steve Howell filmed interviews for a segment which aired on Channel 7's *Today Tonight* on Friday 4 October, on the 180th birthday of *The West Australian*. All three segments featured material from the collections of the Battye Library and helped show that the collections can be useful for all sorts of enquiries on any facet of Western Australia's history.

### **Genealogical Centre move**

The Genealogical Centre, which has been situated on the 1st floor of the State Library since 7 December 1999, has moved to the 3rd floor. It brings all the other Australian and overseas family history material together with Western Australian material to make it more convenient for researchers. Planned and designed by Trish Fairweather, one of the Family History Subject Specialists, the move was carried out in three phases. These involved the moving of material from 3rd floor into stack, the relocating of microfiche machines, moving shelving, moving books on the 3rd floor, purchasing new microfiche cabinets and moving microfiche up into them, purchasing plastic holders for microfilm and relocating 1st floor microfilm to shelving on the 3rd floor, moving the Genealogical Centre desk and computer stations from the 1st to the 3rd floors, relocating the photograph collection and catalogue, and relocating the WA community newspapers to the 1st floor. The move went smoothly and the WA Genealogical Society volunteers seem happy in their new home.

### **Launch of Mary Ann Friend's Journal**

In 2012, with the assistance of a grant from the Commonwealth of Australia's National Cultural Heritage Account, the State Library purchased at auction in London, the journal of Mary Ann Friend, who accompanied her husband, Matthew Curling Friend, the captain of the *Wanstead*, on a voyage from Portsmouth to Tasmania and return. On this voyage they stopped at Swan River, spending about seven weeks there in early 1830. Mary Ann's journal is one of the earliest eye witness accounts of the Swan River Colony held by the State Library and provides a woman's perspective on life in the colony at the time. Mary Ann and her husband later settled in Tasmania and he became Port Officer at Launceston. He was attacked in the press and successfully sued his detractor for libel in 1838. It is thought that the strain of the case may have contributed to Mary Ann's death, as she died the same year.

The journal underwent considerable conservation on arrival and has since been digitised. The State Library of Western Australia, with the State Library of Western Australia Foundation, and in partnership with Notre Dame, Fremantle campus, will launch the journal at Notre Dame on 11 November 2013. It will then be on display at the Western Australian Museum – Shipwreck Galleries in Fremantle from 12 November 2013 to 3 March 2014. Also on display will be *Two years at sea: being the narrative of a voyage to the Swan River and Van Diemen's Land during the years 1829, 1839 and 1831* by Jane Roberts (published London 1834), who was also on the *Wanstead*. The digitised version of the journal will be available for view through the State Library's catalogue.



Watercolour on ivory miniature portrait of Mary Ann Friend c.1830. (Courtesy National Library of Australia. No. nla.pic-vn4835935.)

## New Acquisitions

New items acquired by the State Library in the last three months include: a large framed portrait of William Burges painted c1840, the John Hutchinson birdsong collection 1962-1987 (tapes and data sheets), the 19th century travel diary of Jane Wheeler (Nairn), the records of the Dimensional Weaving Guild (club disbanded 2012 due to lack of members), an interview and other papers of Rosalind Denny (Director of Nursing at KEMH), a 1915 booklet advertising the public auction of Peel Estate, the records of the Consumers' Association of WA (records spanning 35 years), a biography of Hookum Chan (an early Indian Hindu settler and businessman), papers of Frederick Douglas Miller (his teaching career from 1948-1984), a farm wages book from Kirkhaugh Farm near Merredin (1934-1965), a scrapbook from Diana Warnock

on her election campaign for the state seat of Perth 1992/93 and the diary of Sister Edie Owens (later Cowdell) on her daily life at the United Aborigines Mission at Gnowangerup 1940-1941.

Steve Howell (Battye Library Specialist)

### Photographs and Aboriginal Histories Event

The event *Photographs and Aboriginal histories: collaborating with communities to explore collections* held 26 August, attracted over 100 people with several elders and representatives from the local Aboriginal community and staff from the collecting sector. The full day event explored how photographs of Aboriginal people now form a substantial heritage resource in collections across Australia and how they be used to re-connect family and explore Aboriginal histories. Digital repatriation

of photographs to Aboriginal communities was a key discussion point in relation to the State Library's Storyline's project.

The event was a collaboration with UWA's Professor Jane Lydon, and included international speakers, Dr Christopher Morton Curator of Photograph and Manuscript Collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum Oxford University and Dr Angela Wanahalla, from the University of Otago in New Zealand, as well as Tasmanian based artist and curator Julie Gough, and local speakers Donna Oxenham from UWA and Damien Webb from the State Library.

The event generated widespread community interest in Storylines, raising the profile of the project within the local Aboriginal community and collecting sector.



Tiger, mechanic at Broome Air Base 1929. Jimmy Woods collection of photographs; BA891/198. (Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 217167PD)

The first phase of the pilot project is near complete.

### **Diaries and Letters of Bishop Mathew Hale**

An exciting discovery of diaries and letters relating to Bishop Hale's time in Western Australia has been unearthed in London. The State Library is collaborating with the Anglican Diocese of Perth to digitise the material, making the collection accessible through the State Library's online catalogue and by assisting with finding volunteers to transcribe the collection. The Diocese anticipates publishing the diaries, with Professor Geoffrey Bolton's involvement, in the future.

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## **State Records Office - News from the Archives**

### **Geoffrey Bolton Lecture 2013**

Professor Marcia Langton AM, Foundation Chair in Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne, delivered the 2013 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture to a packed audience at the Government House Ballroom on Friday 27 September. The topic was "The resonance of history: archives, past decisions and Indigenous disadvantage".

At this function Cathrin Cassarchis named the speaker for the 2014 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture. On 3rd November 2014, the Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson will deliver the lecture on a topic related to the Centenary of Anzac.

### **Margaret Medcalf Award 2013**

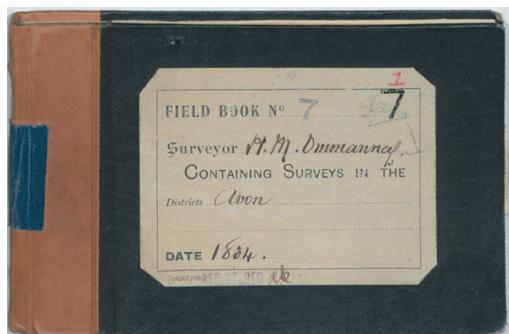
As advised at the FOB AGM, on 19 June 2013 the Margaret Medcalf Award 2013 was jointly awarded to Ruth Morgan for her PhD thesis *Running out? An environmental history of climate and water in the southwest of Western Australia, 1829 to 2006*, and Ann Hunter for her book, *A different kind of subject: colonial law in Aboriginal – European relations in 19th century Western Australia 1829-61*, published by Australian Scholarly Publishing.

### **Surveyors' field books digitisation project**

Following is a list of Crown Surveyors' Field Books that have been

digitised and uploaded to SRO's catalogue BOS/AEON.

J S Roe – 13 books  
P Chauncey – 22 books  
J Forrest – 29 books  
A Forrest – 40 books  
A Gregory – 27 books  
F Gregory - 13 books  
J Gregory - 3 books  
A Hillman - 10 books  
H M Ommanney-16 books  
G Smythe - 1 book  
T Watson - 1 book  
C Hunt - 7 Books  
G Lefroy - 3 books  
J Lefroy - 23 books ( incl 7A)



The field books which have been digitised but are awaiting processing and uploading are the J Lefroy books 23 - 53 = 31 books (incl 34A). All in all, 239 field books have been digitised under this contract.

### **Is this the first image of cricket in Australia?**

Sometimes official archives reveal unexpected things. While digitising the field books of Henry Mortlock Ommanney, one of JS Roe's first assistant surveyors, it was noticed that Field Book No. 7 - a survey along the Avon River in 1834 - included personal details such as a list of Ommanney's washing being sent to be laundered by a Miss Heal, and several sketches of life.

One is a drawing of the survey office in York with a caption reading 'Three Lords of the house settling a sheepish affair', the men surrounded by barrels marked 'rum' and 'porter'. Another is a sketch of John Picton Beete, Captain of the 21st Regiment, who arrived in the colony in late 1833. The sketch shows Picton Beete with a very tall hat and the caption 'Capt Beete as he appeared'.

One small sketch is of a cricket game where someone who appears to be a sailor is bowling underarm to a batsman. But research has revealed that this small sketch is quite historic. The State Library of New South Wales claims that the earliest known images of cricket in Australia are in a

series of three watercolours of Hyde Park painted in 1842 by John Rae. But Ommanney's sketch is from 1834. Isn't this then the first image of cricket in Australia?

Ommanney's Field book no.7 is now available online - see details at <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/blogs/rare-find>.



Gerard Foley, Senior Archivist

### Liaison with Ancestry.com

An agreement between the SRO, Ancestry.com and the local authorities that were once part of Perth City, has facilitated the digitisation of the City of Perth rate books (1880 to 1946) from microfilm copies held by the SRO. On 25 September there was an official launch co-hosted by the City of Perth and Ancestry, to acknowledge the successful conclusion of this project, and mark the loading of the digital images onto the Ancestry Ancestry.com website.

### SRO Lunchtime Seminars 2013

The final Lunchtime Seminar for this year will be held on Wednesday 20 November 2013.

Speaker: Tom Reynolds - Topic: *Land records in the State archives collection.*

Updated seminar details are available for viewing on the SRO website at: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/lunchtime-seminars>.

Cathrin Cassarchis  
State Archivist

## Freycinet revisited

On 24 October 2013 the State Library of Western Australia Foundation hosted a viewing of the State Library's famed Freycinet collection of maps, sketches, watercolours, and etchings from the 1800-1804 voyage headed by Nicholas Baudin, in which Louis de Freycinet was a junior officer, and the 1817-1820 expedition when Freycinet was in charge.

The Deputy Chair of the Foundation, Philip Hirschberg, gave a brief history of the 2002 acquisition of the collection for which the Western Australian State Library Custodians (forerunners of the State Library Foundation) coordinated in a campaign which raised almost \$1.2 million and acquired seven lots including a very rare early map of the Swan River drawn in 1801. The campaign involved many people in a collaborative effort to raise funds for the auction and the story of the bidding at Christies in London, which was undertaken on the Library's behalf by the late Robert Muir, was grippingly told by former member of the Custodians, Richard Hazelwood.

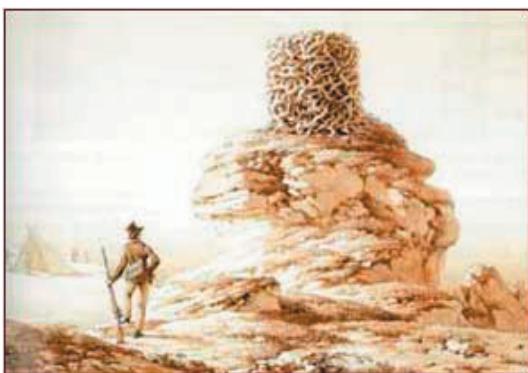
One of the most moving stories of the Freycinet voyage is that of Louis' wife Rose who with the connivance of her husband was smuggled aboard his ship the *Uranie* to share the hardships and triumphs of his life at sea for four years. A watercolour sketch shows Rose seated at the entrance to her tent while the ship was on a two-week stay at Shark Bay. In the official account of the expedition, however, the lithograph of this scene has Rose removed from the record.

Another interesting image from Shark Bay is that of a giant osprey nest found on Dirk Hartog Island. The brown wash engraving shows the original artist, a jaunty Francois Arago, examining the massive structure.

It was a treat to see again items that I first viewed more than 11 years ago when I had the privilege of curating the inaugural exhibition of these wonderful works.

(Information about the State Library of WA Foundation can be found on the Foundation's website: <http://www.statelibraryfoundation.org.au>.)

Jennie Carter



[I have been asked to reprint the instructions for downloading 'slideshow' images from the State Library's catalogue - here they are again.]

### **Copying photographs from the State Library's catalog**

Some of our members have found it frustrating, if not downright impossible, to download photographs that they need for research purposes from the SLWA catalogue. It is particularly tricky to obtain online copies of images presented as a 'slideshow'.

From enquiries I have made, the problem could lie with the version of web browser used, but take heart, there is a way around the difficulty if you employ the following method which was suggested to me by a State Library staff member. Although a strange and convoluted process, I am happy to say it works and the Battye Library images featured in this newsletter were obtained with only a little bit of trouble.

#### ***To save images from the SLWA website catalog in a 'slideshow' format***

1. Shade the photograph required (sometimes more than one image will be shaded but this is fine).
2. Click ctrl C then ctrl V in a blank Word document. You will get a printout of all the images you had shaded. (see sample here)



3. Click into the caption of the photo you want and then ctrl and left click on your mouse.
4. The image will appear in a second web window. Then all you need to do is right click on your mouse to 'save picture as', and choose a file to save it in. Now you are ready to use your photo in your document.

Jennie Carter

### **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.

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

**Annual Membership**

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

The Treasurer

Friends of Battye Library

PO Box 216, NORTHBRIDGE 6865

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

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

Account Name – Friends of Battye Library (Inc)

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

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

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

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

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

## **Jack's Back:        100 Years Ago – The Zenith of the Battye Era**

A few weeks ago there occurred a ‘domestic’ centenary, which I was pleased to find was not overlooked altogether. In fact it was adequately observed, considering the present-day context. The occasion was the hundredth anniversary of the official opening of The Hackett Hall on 18th August 1913. Doubtless many Friends can recall close acquaintance with this grand reading-room of yore and its contents. The background history warrants recounting in brief.

In 1887 Western Australia’s legislature decided to found the Victoria Public Library to honour the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria’s reign. The nascent Library functioned in hired premises in St George’s Terrace from 1889 to 1897. It then moved to ‘Gaol Hill’, specifically to the corner of James and Beaufort Streets. There it occupied the first portion of what was expected to be a building of monumental proportions that would eventually house the Public Library, Museum and National Gallery. Honouring additionally the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee of 1897, this section is now known as the Jubilee Wing of the Western Australian Museum. Possession passed from the Library to the Museum in 1903 when the Library moved to the west of the Gaol into the large but plain new structure that was designed to be the rear half of its permanent quarters. As the Victoria Public Library had long drawn much confusion with its bigger counterpart in Melbourne, it was renamed the Public Library of Western Australia the next year. Construction work resumed in October 1911 and erected the main front wing of the expanded premises. This presented an imposing façade to James Street and a conforming western face to the southern end of Museum Street (earlier Limbo Street; this section now gone).

In respect of bookstock and attendances, the Library made excellent progress during its first twenty-five years and the prosperous times prevailing. In achieving this, the hands-on work was chiefly to the credit of James Sykes Battye, head librarian from 1894. From the wider community, the strongest impetus came from Sir Winthrop Hackett, who had been to the fore in its creation and latterly the president of the Trustees that governed it.

A big attendance of both officials and the interested public filled the Hackett Hall that Monday afternoon when it was formally declared open by the Governor, Sir Harry Barron. To commemorate the event, he also unveiled a brass plaque which today adorns the wall of the first gallery at the head of the main spiral staircase. In his introductory speech, Hackett declared



Hackett Hall c.1930 with the Museum to the right of the picture. A little girl is enjoying a drink at the public water fountain opposite the library. Photographer Ernest Lund Mitchell. [Image Courtesy Battye Library, State Library of WA - 006319D.]

it a happy co-incidence that they were opening the new facility in the same year as that other great educational achievement, the university. The name it now bore was hailed 'a graceful tribute' to Hackett's work by the Hon. Thomas Walker, the Minister for Education, and indeed, he said, if given his way, Hackett would be 'a veritable Augustus' in transforming the city. Speaking next on behalf of the Trustees, Bishop Riley urged the authorities to give citydwellers a lending library to add to 'this fine State Reference Library'. As Hackett's newspaper reported next day, 'the function was a brilliant success from every standpoint'.

In fact, 18th August 1913 turned out to be the zenith for the institution during the sixty years in which Dr Battye had charge of it. Leaner economic times and world catastrophes then stunted its progress until the 1950s. However, Queen Victoria continued to cast a benevolent eye on the readers from a photographic portrait that hung against the lower eastern gallery. In 1954 the building was officially given the name State Library of Western Australia and then State Reference Library in 1971. The Hackett Hall remained the pivotal reading-room until the whole Library moved next door westward to occupy the modern building that has been its home since 1985.

The old Library premises then passed to the Museum, and its main section underwent renovations in 1999 that gave it a spacious glass vestibule which linked it at long last to the Jubilee wing. Happily, the Museum saw fit, in its own words, ‘to celebrate the 100th birthday’ of the Hackett Hall by assembling a collection of some 20 images from the archives of the State Library and the Museum, which shows the transition from Library reading-room to the exhibition space it is today. These can be viewed online on a page on their website. ‘Western Australia – The Land & People’ is the title of a major exhibition of artefacts, photos and descriptive panels now lining its walls, and is well worth a leisurely viewing.

Jack Honniball



Interior of  
Hackett  
Hall 1913.

By E L  
Mitchell.

[Courtesy  
Battye  
Library,  
SLWA  
013894PD]

*[In our last Newsletter (of July) I focussed on Perth’s Trinity Arcade and the fascinating collection of old photos displayed there which came from the Battye Library in the early 1980s. I was therefore dismayed when I next walked through the arcade in September to find that they had all been removed, leaving the showcases empty. A month later another visit apprised me of the explanation. The arcade is again undergoing a major refurbishment, and the pertinent section will have ‘a new feature wall’. Over the past thirty years or so, I hope many Friends will have enjoyed seeing the erstwhile display. JH]*

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

**Life membership** \$500

### **Annual membership**

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

### **Meetings**

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, August or September (whenever is the Annual General Meeting) 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 three times a year in March, July, and November (flyers will be sent out in May and September). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 10 February, 10 June, and 10 October 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 editor, Jennie Carter at *[bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)*

or write to:

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

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

<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:[info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@slwa.wa.gov.au)

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

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

## **State Records Office**

The SRO Search Room on the Ground Floor is open for enquiries and use of material 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**

**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.