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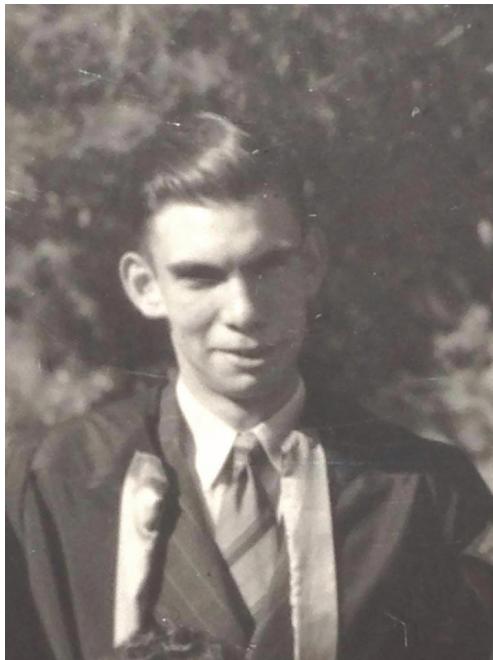
March 2016

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

*Our March 2016 meeting
Bill Bunbury*

*The warmth, wit and wisdom
of Geoffrey Bolton*



A young Geoff Bolton at the University of Western Australia. A precocious sixteen year old, among his other achievements at UWA, he became the youngest ever editor of the University's magazine Pelican.

(Information and image courtesy of the Pelican. See website: <http://pelicanmagazine.com.au>.)

Our meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 March 2016 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

Committee (2015-2016)

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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.

March Meeting

Tuesday 8 March 2016

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

Our speaker will be Bill Bunbury

The warmth, wit and wisdom of Geoffrey Bolton

In this audio-illustrated presentation, former ABC broadcaster, Bill Bunbury, retraces a long and productive partnership with the eminent historian, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton, including Geoffrey's support for oral history as a valuable adjunct to the written word and his other widespread interests; environmental history, biography and the evolution of Australian society. The excerpts include recordings made on many locations across the Big Country for broadcast on Radio National.

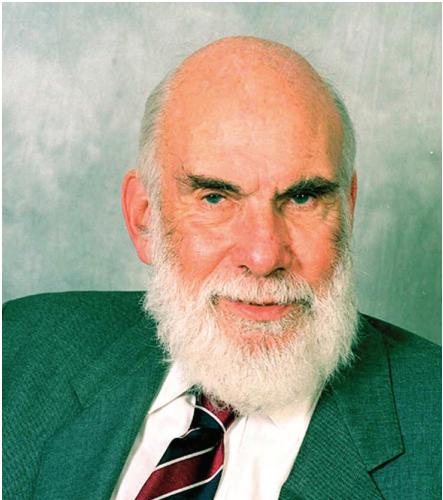
After the meeting, members are welcome to join us for a meal at a nearby Perth restaurant. Bookings will be taken on the night.

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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Geoffrey Bolton AO

(5 November 1931 -
3 September 2015)

In tribute to our much missed Emeritus President - eminent historian, biographer, teacher, raconteur, activist, and foremost supporter of Western Australia's heritage, history and collections.

(Image courtesy UWA)

About our speaker - Bill Bunbury

Adjunct Professor Dr Bill Bunbury has had a wealth of experience in radio and television including 25 years of presenting programs such as *Encounter*, which he is still producing for the ABC, and *Hindsight* on Radio National.

He has received international and national awards for his work including the 1986 United Nations Australia Peace Prize for *The war rages on*, his documentary on the Vietnam War; the 1996 New York Radio Festival Gold medal for Best history documentary *Timber for gold* the story of the the Woodlines of Western Australia's Eastern Goldfields. Bill also received the inaugural NSW Premier's Media Prize for his six part Radio series *Unfinished Business - The Republic, Federation and Reconciliation*.

As one of our leading oral historians, Bill records interviews for the National Film and Sound Archive. In 2010 he directed *Voiceprints* for the Perth International Arts Festival and is currently producing Audio-Visual projects for CANWA; Community Arts Network WA, with Noongar communities.

2009 Bill was awarded an Honorary D.Litt for services to Social History and Broadcasting by Murdoch University, where he is currently Adjunct Professor, History & Communications.

Bill is also the author of eleven books on Australian social history. Together with his wife Jenny, Bill wrote a history of the shire of Perenjori *Sound of the Cockies*. This book was launched at the 75th Perenjori Agricultural Show on 15 August 2015.

Bill's latest book, *Invisible Country*, is an environmental/social history of the south-western landscape. Bill cites four case studies of environmental issues affecting field, forest, rivers and estuaries. It was published by UWA Publishing in December 2015.

Bill Bunbury, who lives in Margaret River, was honoured recently by being selected as a State finalist for the 2016 Senior Australian of the Year.

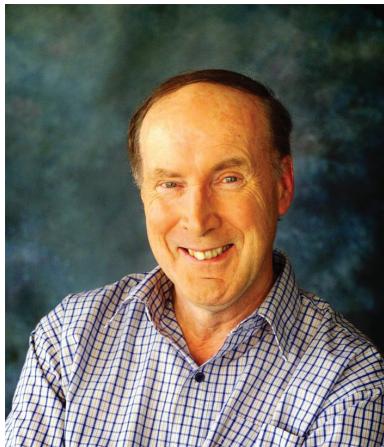


Image courtesy Bill Bunbury.

Meeting dates for 2016

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. We apologise for having to rearrange the order of some of our talks and the speakers will now present on the following meeting dates.

10 May - Dr Nonja Peters:
The Dutch in Western Australia.

12 July - Speakers - Heather Campbell, Jan McCahon-Marshall, and Jenna Lynch (City of Perth History Centre).
Treasury, Land and Titles Office oral history project: dungeons, maps, rats and the people who worked with them.

13 September - (AGM) - Speakers Jennie and Bevan Carter
Considerable travail: 100 years of King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women.

22 November (4th Tuesday) - End of year function

Speaker - Steve Howell.

I'm a celebrity: what the hell am I doing here?

President's piece

Dear Friends

A very happy New Year to you all for our first general meeting of 2016. I hope this finds you well and looking forward to our functions this year. We are starting the year with a tribute to our late Emeritus President, Geoffrey Bolton. It is quite amazing the number of people he inspired and the very different lives he touched – and the stories that are now surfacing. If anyone can do him proud it will be Bill Bunbury who knew him well for many years.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the success of our project with the State Records Office to digitise the surveyors field books. They are being used constantly which is a matter of great satisfaction to us – and to you I hope, for your contributions help us to undertake these very worth while projects. Perhaps I should add at this stage a gentle reminder from our Treasurer that a few of you have not paid your subscription for this financial year, we hope this is just an oversight that can be rectified at our next meeting*, as your support is greatly valued.

Another of our projects is conserving the photographic panoramas – some of which were displayed at a meeting last year and are now going to be used in an exciting tourist-type venture where people can use their mobile phones to focus on a place and see what the scene in front of them looked like many years ago.

We are in the process too of updating and making available on line Gillian O'Mara's indispensable resource *Convict records of Western Australia* which was originally published by the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) in 1990 as the first of our *Occasional Papers*. Cherie Strickland and Lorraine Clarke of Swan Genealogy are working on this project to upload it to our website, make it fully interactive, and include new information. I will keep you informed about this project.

We are still celebrating the digitisation of our WW1 newspapers. How many of you have had a look at *Camp Chronicle*? If you just type that into Google it will come up, but it is much more exciting to go into 'Trove'

and see the whole newspaper digitisation project. Try searching your surname or looking at a particular paper.

Well enough from me, I look forward to seeing you at our March meeting.
Very best wishes Pamela

*If you have a query with the subscription please email Nick Drew nickdrew@bigpond.com or Tel 0409 290 895. You could also fill in and send us the membership form in this Newsletter on page 32.

Members' information

An honour for Kerry

Dr Kerry Smith (AM)

We are delighted to report that Friends member Dr Kerry Smith was honoured in the Australia Day Honours list for "significant service to library and information sectors as an academic and researcher and to professional organisations." Kerry is one of Australia's finest librarians and researchers and before her retirement to concentrate on other pursuits, including the Wildflower Society of WA, she was head of Curtin's School of Information Studies. Apart from her support for the Friends of Battye Library, she is also involved with the Royal WA Historical Society. A busy woman indeed!



A new book by Chris Coggin

Chris Coggin was the State Archivist and head of the State Records Office WA before his retirement. He has been very busy since then and has written a fascinating novel, *The Empire Sketcher*, which is a

fictionalised account of the life of Thomas Baines an explorer and artist.

Baines accompanied Augustus Gregory on his expedition across the north of Australia in 1855. Mount Baines and the Baines River were named in honour of his contribution. Three years later Baines was with David Livingstone exploring the Zambezi River in Africa when they came across the fabled Victoria Falls. Information about the book on the website notes: "The men who explored Australia and Africa became legends

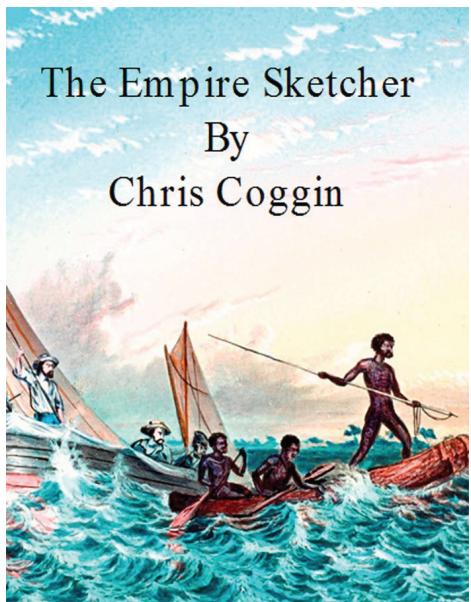
especially the missionary David Livingstone. Thomas Baines - explorer and artist - was a man whose life rivaled that of Livingstone for excitement and who came to know the dark side of the Livingstone legend. Following Baines' successful Australian expedition, was his treatment at the hands of Livingstone on the Zambezi less than diabolical?"

Chris's book has had excellent reviews. It is at present only available as an ebook, but is easily purchased and downloaded in most available formats - epub, mobi, pdf, rtf,

lrf, pdb, txt, and html - from Smashwords at <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/412682>

Jennie Carter

Ivan King (OAM) Although not a member, Ivan is well known and respected by many in this State's history, museum, and archives community for his dedicated work as the curator and archivist of the theatre and performing arts collections at His Majesty's Theatre. Ivan received the Medal of the Order of Australia for "service to the performing arts as an historian and archivist." Jack Honniball has more information about Ivan's collection in his regular column *Jack's back* on page 33.

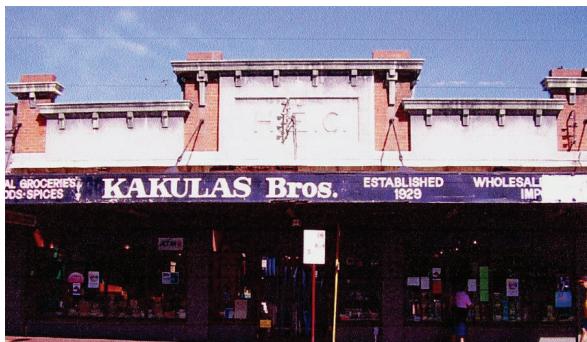


Have you a story to tell?

[A long-serving member of the Friends, Fr Edward (Ted) Doncaster, is an acknowledged expert on the history of the Anglican Church in Western Australia, about which he has written extensively. Fr Ted was made one of our Gems of Time in 2008.]

H E C

How many, of all the people who go up and down William Street in Northbridge every day, notice these three letters on the facade of the shop where the Kakulas Brothers have operated since 1929? Do any ever wonder why those letters are there? Or who or what they might represent?



Photograph taken by Fr Ted Doncaster in 2007.

I must confess that even though I may have wondered sometimes, I didn't know for certain until one day in December 2007 when I came across the story in an article that had been sitting in my filing cabinet for some time!

They are the initials of Henry Ebenezer Clay who was born in England in 1844 and migrated with his father, step-mother and two sisters to the place he later delighted to call "Westralia". His father, Charles, was born in 1812 in England and arrived with his family in Western Australia aboard the clipper sailing vessel *Swiftsure* on 4th January 1859.

He came as a Minister of the Methodist Church and was stationed at York and Perth before returning to York for a short period prior to seeking ordination in the Church of England, as she was then styled.

In February 1864 he was made a Deacon by Bishop Mathew Hale who also ordained him Priest in December that same year. Both these services were held in first Church of S. James at Northam where Clay

remained as Colonial Chaplain until 1868 when he was appointed to serve at Geraldton and Greenough. Sadly he died there on 14th June 1869.

But what of his son? From babyhood Henry Ebenezer had been an invalid as a result of an accidental fall and this impeded his subsequent growth with the result that he remained a dwarf for the rest of his life. He also suffered from chronic asthma. His mother had died when he was quite young and he bore his load of affliction with fortitude and courage.

In spite of all that, he succeeded from an early age to earn his own living by working in the Prison and Postal Departments in Perth, and even rose to the position of Chief Clerk in the latter. He became an avid reader and was able to play the piano and organ very acceptably by ear.

He developed skills in the composition of verse to such an extent that the Battye Library has about 195 of his works, as well as some books that were published containing many of them. A list can be found in the Library's online catalogue.

Before he was thirty years of age the *Perth Gazette and W.A. Times* was able to state that "his descriptions are full of truth and beauty, and though they rarely stimulate the passions, they have an irresistible claim upon the affections. He is tender and graceful; he always pleases but never astonishes. Nevertheless, we look upon Mr Clay as a young poet of considerable promise". How well their claims were justified as the years went by.

One of my favourite verses written by him comes from his item *Plunder*:

Map the world and closely scan
All the ruin strife is breeding.
Learn that man is still a man
Though he votes not with your clan,
Though he follows not your leading.

Henry Ebenezer Clay died in Perth on 27 December 1896 and the local press accorded him due praise for his many gifts. His own words were entered upon his headstone in the East Perth Cemeteries: "Who self forsaketh, angels are his friends. Who loveth all, hath found the heart of God."

The building in William Street was erected in his memory by his legatees

at a later date - hence his initials on its facade. These serve to remind us of a gem who lived among us in bygone days.

Fr Ted Doncaster

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

[Before her retirement from the State Library, Julie Martin was the Battye Library's Pictorial Librarian. Her initiative Adopt a Soldier helped raise enough funds to preserve original glass negatives of WA soldiers from the Dease Collection. If you have been following the West Australian's recent series on WW1, you may have seen a few of these fine images.]

More than meets the eye

Without a doubt, photos are fascinating.

We can be drawn to an image because of its technical excellence or the way it's been composed. There may be a fascination with the subject or an intrigue as to the context or identity of the photographer. Then too, the provenance of a particular copy of a photograph may be the main interest because of the story it reveals.

Some fourteen years ago, I found myself drawn to a particular photograph in the pictorial collection of the Battye Library. Recently though, my interest in it has widened considerably. Let me explain....

In 2001, a reorganisation of the shelves in the Battye Library's Private Archives stack was commenced. During the process of moving and relocating items, a flat box containing about eight large format photographs was discovered. The photographs appeared to be unrelated and there was no accompanying documentation. None of the items had been processed or catalogued.

I was particularly interested in one of the images, 10056B, a gelatin silver print mounted on thick card; its dimensions were, from memory, about 15 x 12 inches. It had the neat caption 'Anzac Cove, May 1915' and at the base of the image an inscription in the right hand corner in the same hand which read 'Capt. R Henderson Smith from Lieut H D Mosely 29/7/1919'

I had visited Anzac Cove some seven years earlier, at a time when Turkey and Gallipoli were not popular tourist destinations for Australians

and my emotional reaction during that visit caught me completely by surprise; seeing the newly discovered photo was a moving reminder.



Image courtesy Battye Library, SLWA. 274022PD.

The photograph was clearly not the work of an amateur photographer and I contacted the Australian War Memorial to ask if their curators recognised the image and if so, what copyright restrictions might apply. I was advised that to the best of their knowledge, it was not an Australian or British official war photograph.

All Internet resources available at the time were checked, but in 2001, they were few. The digitisation of Australian newspapers was merely a dream and only limited records of material held by the Australian War Memorial and National Archives were available online. Every attempt was made to discover more about the photograph and its provenance without success. After deliberation, it was decided to send the original item to the Australian War Memorial and prior to its despatch, the photograph was scanned and a copy negative made. It was accessioned as 10056B.

Some thirteen years later, now retired, I became involved in a project

sponsored by the West Australian Genealogical Society to name the men in the iconic photograph of the 11th Battalion on the Great Pyramid of Egypt (Cheops) taken in January 1915.

Part of my involvement was researching the stories of the men in the original 11th Battalion; one such subject was 2nd Lieutenant George Holt Henderson Smith. The surname 'Henderson Smith' was familiar and eventually I recalled that it was one of the names inscribed on the Anzac Cove photograph. The initials and rank were different however and George was killed at Gallipoli in May 1915 and therefore could not have been the recipient of the photo in July 1919.

No mention of an R Henderson Smith or an H D Moseley could be found in AIF records and I came to the conclusion that Captain Henderson Smith and Lieutenant Moseley were British officers.

It was only when delving deeper into the background of George Holt Henderson Smith that I discovered a newspaper article on the Trove website. It revealed that in 1914, George's father, Robert Henderson Smith was instrumental in forming the Cottesloe Rifle Club, then a reserve forces unit, and had been appointed its Platoon Commander with the rank of Captain. In addition, one of the section commanders was an FA Moseley and a junior corporal, an ND Moseley. Was it possible that Captain R Henderson Smith, the recipient of the photograph was the father of George Henderson Smith (killed at Gallipoli in May 1915) and could the surname of the donor, Moseley (as inscribed on the photo) be misspelled?

Further investigation revealed that the initials of Moseley, the Junior Corporal mentioned in the newspaper article were not ND but HD. Harry Doyle Moseley had joined the AIF in 1916 and returned to Australia in 1919, disembarking at Fremantle on 24th July. Prior to his return to Australia, he had been seconded to Australia House to work in its Publications Section.

It was easy to reason that, whilst working at Australia House, Harry Moseley discovered the photo of Anzac Cove, obtained a print and brought it home with him. Five days after his arrival, he organized for it to be mounted and inscribed, (with his own surname misspelled) and presented it to his former platoon commander, Robert Henderson Smith.

The story however was not yet complete. A search of the State Library's catalogue revealed that Battye Library now held a collection of the papers

of a Robert Henderson Smith (5781A). These were not processed and catalogued until 2002, a year after the Anzac Cove photograph had been discovered although they'd been received in April 1985 just prior to the opening of the new Alexander Library Building.

I suspect that the Anzac Cove photograph was also received in April 1985 as part of the Henderson Smith collection but because of its format, was separated from the remainder of the collection. During the enormous task of packing up the Battye Library's materials ready for transfer to the new building, the documentation linking the photograph to the Henderson Smith collection was mislaid or not completed.

It was also interesting to discover that the Private Archives Curator had decided to forward the original documents relating to the death at Gallipoli of George Henderson Smith to the Australian War Memorial.

I'm still left with a query about the subject matter of the photograph and it's unlikely I will ever know the answer. Did Moseley chose the image because it was taken in May 1915 when George Henderson Smith was killed or did he recognize George in the photo? There is certainly a likeness between George, whom Moseley would have known well, and the central figure of the group of three walking towards the camera.

There is more to the story of Robert and George Henderson Smith. Dr Peter Stanley in his book Digger Smith and Australia's Great War: ordinary name – extraordinary stories tells of the tragedy which decimated this family. In addition, the results of my research into the story of George Henderson Smith can be found on the 11th Battalion website (<http://bit.ly/1TZThmp>)

The Anzac Cove photograph is yet another piece of evidence which demonstrates the esteem accorded Robert and George Henderson Smith and its likely connection to the Henderson Smith archive in the Battye Library should be recorded for future researchers.

There's always more to a photo than what meets the eye.....

Julie Martin

[Editor's note: Also of interest to our members may be that Henry (Harry) Doyle Moseley rose through the public service ranks and headed the Royal Commission into the condition and treatment of Aborigines - The 1935 Moseley Royal Commission. The reporter covering the commission was a young Paul Hasluck (later Sir Paul) the distinguished Australian statesman who was also the first President of the Friends of Battye Library.]

[Rob O'Connor QC is a long-serving committee member with a keen knowledge of world history and is involved with several history associations. He has a particular interest in 19th century American history and has written on a range of topics for our newsletter.]

The brilliance of the intellect of USA President Thomas Jefferson

On 4 March 1801 Thomas Jefferson (1743 – 1826), was the first president of the United States to be inaugurated in the capital city of Washington, DC. The ceremony was held in the Capitol building which was still under construction at the time.

Jefferson was the third President of the United States (1801 – 1809). He was a lawyer, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and the statute of Virginia for religious freedom. A wartime Governor, a legislator, diplomat, (Minister for France), and the USA's first Secretary of State, Jefferson was also a surveyor, mathematician, classical architect, inventor, philosopher, well-versed in English, Latin, Greek, French, Italian and Spanish, university founder, writer and correspondent, horticulturist, scientist, musician, artist, theologian, educationalist, botanist, farmer and gardener.

In 1962 President John F Kennedy hosted a dinner at the White House for 49 winners of the Nobel Prize, the most esteemed prize in science, mathematics and the humanities. Kennedy left his guests in no doubt as to the exceptionally high regard he had for Jefferson's brilliant intellect when in his welcoming speech to them, he said: "I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever gathered together at the White House – with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

Jefferson and the second USA President John Adams both died the same day, 4 July 1826, the 50th anniversary of the coming into effect of the Declaration of Independence. John Adams, son of John Quincy Adams, became the sixth President of the USA (1825 – 1829).

Rob O'Connor QC



Thomas Jefferson. Courtesy
<http://www.american-historama.org> public domain image.

Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson, Director of the Battye Library, before her retirement is one of Australia's most well-known oral historians. She is also the biographer of Sir Charles Court. The SLWA catalogue lists more than 130 interviews carried out by Ronda. This is the sixth in her absorbing series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

Lorna Dickson OH293

There was a grace and dignity about Lorna Dickson that added to the pleasure of discovering in 1978 what a remarkable contribution she had made to Western Australia even though she did not think her life was out of the ordinary – in fact she gave credit to others for the things she achieved.

Lorna Ferrier Dickson was born in Albany in 1899. Her father Alexander had migrated from Scotland when he was aged seven and married Louisa Leggoe in 1898 when he was working for Wilcox Mofflin. He soon joined the new firm Henry Wills, who traded in wool, sheep, hides and 'other farm utilities' and was asked to open an office in Albany. There he was involved in the first shipments of mallet bark and apples to Europe. Henry Wills later amalgamated with Goldsbrough Mort. In describing her own youth and schooling, Lorna gave details of Albany's shipping, sporting and social life.

She became a boarder at Methodist Ladies College in Perth in 1913 because there were no high schools in country areas. As an only child she enjoyed having contact with fellow students and gained a Leaving Certificate in 1916. The Principal of MLC was Gertrude Walton who Lorna credited with starting a revolution in education for girls:

It wasn't very fashionable in those years for girls to be educated in a general way. They were given art education, music education and education in things like needlework, but very little in ordinary general subjects and her ambition was to create a place where girls could be given a general education more in line with the boys of the State. This she accomplished and was looked up to as one of the head women educationalists of the State.

As a consequence Lorna was able to study English, French, Latin, biology, history, mathematics, geography and physiology. She then completed an

Arts' Degree at the University of Western Australia in 1919 and taught at MLC between 1921 and 1924. Throughout her life she took a particular interest in libraries and the provision of books and when MLC's first library was set up in 1949, she donated 100 books of her own to help build the collection. In the 1950s she assisted the Principal, taking over the book room. Her years of voluntary service at MLC, which included helping in the tuck shop and running the bookshop, led to the new Junior Years' Library being named the Lorna Dickson Library in 1971.

Having joined the YWCA in 1922, Lorna was involved in the Girls Citizens' movement and other YWCA activities including camps run for Aboriginal girls from country high schools. In 1942 she became an Assistant Commissioner of the YWCA's wartime services, later travelling to New South Wales. She was one of the first women to go to Japan after the war as a member of the occupation forces to act as a liaison officer between the Australian Army Medical Women's Service and the British YWCA.

Based on the island of Eta Jima she found herself in a dormitory without heating and no glass or curtains in window frames which meant living in a constant stream of light. Water shortages meant 8 people had to have a shower at the same time to get the water to flow. While not allowed to mix with the local Japanese population she was aware that they were very short of food. She continued:

Our food supplies all came from Australia and we used to have times when they were very bad, when there was a strike on the Sydney waterfront and we had those dreadful powdered eggs; they were revolting. And tinned onions was another one we couldn't bear.

At such times, the food was smothered in tomato sauce to make it palatable: "As a result I've never been able to look at tomato sauce since."

Better accommodation was eventually provided and Lorna spoke of being too busy to be homesick.



Lorna Dickson - from a photograph taken in 1916. Image courtesy Methodist Ladies College.

A period in Malaya followed and she returned to WA in 1951 where she again became involved with the YWCA including in its work with migrants mainly from Holland and Germany, especially the home tutoring scheme in English and helping them adjust to their new lifestyles. She was asked by the Quakers who started Allawah Grove to help the Aboriginal community and her first activity was to start a play centre. She then helped women to make their own clothes and taught them to cook, and to get them ready for moving into State Housing Commission houses. Residents of Allawah Grove used to go to Perth for picnics by the river at Mosman Park. With the closure of Allawah Grove, activities were moved to Perth in 1963 as part of what was called the Kylie Club.

Another association was with St Catherine's College and included its fundraising activities.

Lorna was the first woman to serve on the Methodist Ladies College Council and was the representative of the Old Girls' Association for 13 years. Among other 'firsts' was her becoming a foundation member of the WA branch of the Australian Federation of University Women at its 1923 meeting leading to the granting of an Honorary Life membership in 1973. A similar honour was bestowed by the YWCA in 1976 in recognition of her extraordinary contribution to its work.

Lorna was in her 80s before the transcript of her interview was completed and I still remember how concerned I felt after calling in to give her a copy. She had been asked by a niece wanting to return to work to mind her baby and Lorna did not have the heart to say no even though she was clearly concerned how she would manage. She died in 1994 aged 95.

State Library Bookshop discount for members

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

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

News from the State Library

[Steve Howell is the specialist senior librarian at the State Library of Western Australia and, as many of our members know, he is the authority on the collections of the Battye Library.]

Forthcoming Exhibitions at the State Library

Our Love Affair with the Beach

This exhibition, using images from the collections of the Battye Library, State Library of WA, will highlight the Western Australian public's fascination with our wonderful beaches.

Running from Sunday 14 February to Thursday 31 March 2016 *Our Love Affair with the Beach* is an extraordinary presentation of beautiful photographs reproduced on beach chairs, which will be displayed in the Ground Floor Gallery. The images show how we have played and stayed at the beach over the decades, from sun-up to sun-down. Robert Drewe's books, including his latest publication *The Beach: An Australian Passion* will be available at the State Library Bookshop throughout the exhibition. Other titles featuring Western Australian beaches and landscapes are also available.

Unfinished Business

Stories from Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Disability

Unfinished Business, by photographer Belinda Mason and film makers Knierim Brothers, runs from 2 April to 3 June 2016 in the Ground Floor Gallery of the State Library. It shows the visual stories of 30 Australian Indigenous persons with disability. Each participant's story is complex and intertwined with Australia's history, which has resulted in today's high rates of disability in Australian Indigenous communities.

This exhibition was developed in close collaboration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants and the stories that they tell are their own and that of their people. People with sensory, cognitive and learning impairments are able to engage with the exhibition via an app on a mobile phone.

The State Library is the only Western Australian venue to host *Unfinished Business*. The exhibition is made possible through the support of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, First Peoples Disability Network Australia, The Fred Hollows Foundation,

Outback Academy, Red Dust Healers, Primary Communications and Simpsons.

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Digitisation

The State Library's digitisation program continues apace. We are continuing the scanning of photographs and rare books, but have recently been digitising Western Australian serials (periodicals, journals, newsletters and magazines) from the early to mid-1900s. As well, we have nearly finished the digitisation of Western Australian rare maps and are beginning work on our real estate plans (more than 1000 of them). Notable individual collections digitised include the Raymond Stanley Stewart diaries (including the toilet roll diary) and the James Leslie Turner World War I postcard collection. Turner, a sergeant in the 28th Battalion, sent many photographic postcards from various camps in Alexandria, Marseilles, London, Wareham, Andover, Fovant, Le Havre and Reims. He died of wounds on 11 June 1918 in France.

If you have been visiting Trove, you might have noticed that Western Australia now has the 3rd most number of titles digitised of any of the Australian States and Territories. The full list of States and the numbers of titles digitised are: New South Wales (378), Victoria (338), Western Australia (111), South Australia (108), Queensland (89), Tasmania (63) and the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory (both 8).

Fremantle City Council is funding the digitisation of the *Fremantle Mercury* 1932-1933, 1907-1908, the *Fremantle Mail* 1903-1905, the *Golden Gate* 1911-1912 and the *Messenger* 1895 which will add another five titles totalling 2,837 pages over the coming few months.

As well, the State Library had a shortfall in pages for the titles they paid to have digitised last year. This shortfall occurs when we estimate the number of pages from the page reel counts, which include duplicate pages (often we microfilm one page several times to make sure we capture changes in density on the printed paper) and targets. However, the National Library only does one scan for each page and they do not scan targets (inserted into the microfilm reel to indicate missing issues or pages, non-publication due to holidays, wrong dates, wrong page numbering etc). So the titles we are going to get filmed due to this shortfall are: the *Possum* 1887-1888, the *Possum & WA Bulletin* 1888,

the *WA Bulletin* 1888-1890 and the *Possum* 1890 (title changes); the *Malcolm Chronicle and Leonora Advertiser* 1897-1905; the *Broad Arrow Standard* 1896-1899, the *Hannans Herald* 1895-1896, the *Echo* 1905 and the *Westralian Clarion* 1903.

Steve Howell

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Recent acquisitions

[Dr Jean Butler is the Collection Liaison officer of the State Library's Liaison, Acquisition and Description section. Jean has been involved in the acquisition of many important collections for the Battye Library.]

1858 letter - Whaling

This letter was written from Honolulu by Geo Swain to Lawrence Grinnell, 15 November, 1858. The *Wavelet*'s whaling voyages in the Pacific lasted from 1855 to 1860. The barque was registered on arrival at the port of Albany (King George Sound) on 17 October 1856. While the content is not directly West Australian (although the writer mentions calling at King George's Sound) this letter presents details of American whaling off the coast of Western Australia and the Pacific. The whale catch, prices of oil and crew arrangements are reported by Mr Swain to Mr Grinnell on whose instructions he is apparently acting. As whaling was a vital industry and also had social consequences for the south west of the state, the letter gives some insight into the business of the American ships involved in the trade.

Certificate of British Registry for the *Chance*

Certificate dated 20th October, 1842, Albany, Western Australia. Manuscript certificate of registry, for the first ship to be built and launched in Albany, and as far as can be ascertained, in Western Australia. The vellum document is signed by the governor of the colony, John Hutt. The first sentence of the certificate reads:

This is to certify that in pursuance of an act passed in the Fourth Year of the Reign of King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act for the Registering of British vessels", T. B. Sherratt, of Albany, in the Colony of Western Australia, Merchant, having made and subscribed, the Declaration required by the said Act, and having declared that he is the sole Owner of the Ship or Vessel called the "Chance" of Albany, King Georges Sound.

This is a rare and valuable document of interest to researchers of shipping and the development of Albany.

Professor Fred Alexander

These papers and photographs add to the collection of the remarkable Professor Fred Alexander. Donated by his grandson, Andrew Blanckensee, these are mainly personal letters to Mr Blanckensee as well as letters written by Professor Alexander to his wife from Berlin during the 1930s. There are also copies of speeches, some photographs of a young Fred Alexander and scenes of Perth and surrounds. A personalised artistic tribute to Professor Alexander's work in adult education is included which has been compiled by the students who attended the 21st Summer School at UWA. All of this donation underlines the great contribution made by Professor Alexander to political, artistic and intellectual life in Western Australia as well as showing some of the personal side of the man.

Australind Scheme - letters

There is not a great deal of primary source material relating to the Australind scheme of the mid-nineteenth century beyond the records from the Clifton family thus making these letters from settlers particularly significant. The letters from the Piggott brothers, Benjamin and James, contain valuable insights into the day-to-day experiences of the settlers in what was already virtually a doomed enterprise. They mention attempts to grow crops, the shooting of an Aboriginal woman, effort needed to obtain commodities, problems with alcohol, suicides and food. They warn others not to join them because of the hardships. The third letter which is from their brother Joseph in Canada, provides further insights into family immigrant experiences in the mid-nineteenth century.

Institute of Materials Engineering Australasia Ltd, Western Australian Branch

The organisation began in 1943 as the Institute of Australian Foundrymen, West Australian Branch with a primary objective of 'advancing knowledge of Foundry Practice in its widest sense'. Education and research were other aims. There were several name changes in the years 1943-1970 which is the date range of the minutes: West Australian Foundry and Metals Institute (1950) and Australian Institute of Metals, Perth Branch in 1957. The current name is the Institute of Materials Engineering Australasia Ltd, Western Australian Branch. The first president was Sir Frank Ledger. As would be expected, the minutes highlight the interest

of the members in research and education including input to technical education. There were many guest speakers.

Western Australian Club

With records stretching from 1898 to 2010, this collection traces the history of the Western Australian Club almost since its beginning as the Exchange Club in 1893. It was formed to create a meeting place for men working for the growth and betterment of the Swan River Colony. Some of WA's most prominent citizens such as John and Alexander Forrest were among the founding members. The name West Australian Club was adopted soon afterwards (1897) and it was generally known as the WA Club. In 1948, the name was changed to the Western Australian Club. In 1995, the club decided to admit women members. As many of WA's most prominent men met at the club, major discussions were held there concerning the decision of WA to become part of the federation of Australia. A close reading of these records may reveal that other important decisions were taken among its influential members.

Papers of Dr Dorothy Erickson

Dr Dorothy Erickson, like her late mother Rica Erickson, is a prolific researcher and author on Western Australian topics. Her work is in jewellery, art and design. Dorothy has published four major books and this collection contains drafts and background information about the process of publication as well as personal letters and information about her work as an art critic. In addition, there are more papers and photographs to add to the Rica Erickson collection. A 1981 Craft Council commissioned report by Sally Robins plus all the original images collected for the report entitled 'Colonial Crafts of Western Australia From c1829 to c1930' is also included in this collection.

Records of Strelley Station 1947-1973

Leslie Lewis Miller and Edith Miller (nee Simpson), purchased Strelley Pastoral Company around 1947 after being station managers at both Warrawagine and De Grey Pastoral Companies in the Pilbara out of Port Hedland. They had two children Patricia (married name Grimoldby) and Peter. Leslie and Edith ran Strelley for some years and then the management was taken over by Peter Lewis Miller (1926 -) their son, whose four children were all born on the station. Jan, Christine, and Wendy survive, Catherine died in 2012. Peter left Strelley around 1968 and the station was under management for some years and ultimately the family decided to sell it. It was bought by Don McLeod, in 1971,

representing the local indigenous community, known as the Nomads (according to correspondence.) Don tried to establish Strelley as an aboriginal corporation run with strict adherence to Don's rules. Ultimately it failed and was abandoned with hundreds of wrecked cars blocking the roads in. By 2008, the homestead, sheep yards and shearing shed had been destroyed by a combination of fire, cyclone and vandalism.

World War One photographs



Right to left: Jim (Scotty) Salmond, Ernie Rose, AWP (Albert Pickles). Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA BA2629/2.

These are remarkable photographs taken by or acquired by Albert Pickles (1890-1970) who enlisted in the 10th Light Horse Regiment 23 Division in 1916. Albert was a farmer in Mt Barker and returned to farm there until his retirement. He served in Egypt, Syria and Israel.

The photos show Turkish prisoners of war, many images of the horses, camp life, photos of individuals, the country they were living and fighting in. It is a very evocative collection which can be added to an earlier donation of similar photos. The photos have been lent for copying.

Nineteenth century accounts about Western Australia in overseas newspapers

The seven overseas newspapers which contain reports or comment about Western Australia have dates ranging from 1832-1876. The papers are Bells Weekly Messenger (London), The Edinburgh Evening Cournat and the North American (Philadelphia). It is most interesting to know how Western Australia was depicted when it was a small colony just recently established in a remote part of the world.

Jean Butler

Further photographic collections

[The following information has been kindly supplied by Laurie Allen who is on the Liaison, Acquisition and Description team.]

Amalgamating Room, gold on scales, 1899

This photograph is a rare image of gold bars on scales, taken in the amalgamating room at Peak Hill in the Murchison region in the 1890s. The gold bars are marked "Peak Hill GF Ltd, WA" and represent the end result of the amalgamation/extraction process which used mercury to purify gold from iron ore. Gold was discovered in the area in 1892 by William John Wilson and had attracted nearly 200 people by 1897 when the township of Peak Hill was gazetted. In its heyday this rich goldfield including four open cut mines but by the 1970s Peak Hill had become a ghost town, like so many other goldfield settlements. This photograph is testimony to WA's first gold rush. It is in good condition, on albumen paper, and measures 14.6 x 20.3 cm.

Homer Arthur White photographs

Three photographs relating to submarine optical repair work at Fremantle during WWII: photo of Homer Arthur White with other members of the Optical Shop Submarine Repair Unit Navy 137, signed by many members on reverse and displayed in home-made frame on wooden stand engraved with unit details; photo of Homer and his wife Hilda Ethel (nee Hassell), undated but probably around the time of their marriage; and a photo of USS Holland. This collection of photographs relates to (Hilda) Ethel White's oral history in which she describes her experiences as an Albany girl who became a war bride, moved to the U.S.A. and then returned to W.A.

Flo Hickson papers and photographs

This collection relates to Flo Hickson's experiences as a child migrant to Fairbridge Farm aged seven. It includes documents relating to Flo's work placements as a teenager; letters and photographs of her visit to the UK in 1995 to find her siblings and other relatives; and correspondence relating to the publication of her book "Flo: Child Migrant from Liverpool" in 1998. Flo's manuscript was written as therapy after the overwhelmingly painful experience of returning for a visit to Fairbridge and is believed to be the first published life story of a female child migrant of her generation in Australia. This material, donated by Flo's daughter, complements a separate donation of Flo Hickson photographs from the UK publisher of Flo's book.

Mavis Walley photographic collection

The Mavis Walley collection comprises approximately 350 negatives and some prints relating to family and community life in Goomalling, 1950s-60s. This collection will be of great value to the Storylines archive as it includes, in some cases, the only known images of Walley and Phillips



Frances Phillips at New Norcia, ca.1959. Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA. BA2666/9.

family members. It also provides visual documentary evidence of the impact of the Native Welfare Act on the traditional indigenous way of life (clothing styles, accommodation, transport, farming and other activities captured on camera).

Richard Gale photographic collection

This extensive collection represents the entire body of professional work of one of WA's leading advertising and commercial photographers, including colour transparencies, colour negatives, and black and white negatives in 'job bags' with dates and locations. Richard's company, Galeforce Photography, captured images of people, places, buildings, food, fashion, the North West, and various developments around the state from 1983 onwards (e.g. Galleria 1995, the Superdrome, Canal Rocks, Channel 9, L. J. Hooker) providing a visual record to complement the State Library's recent Illustrations Photography acquisition. Richard Gale's photographs have won awards in New York, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

Laurie Allen

State Records Office - News from the Archives

SRO's New Digitisation Services

Since 11 January 2016 the SRO has been digitising entire files and other relevant archival formats in the State archives collection for clients. This new service is being trialled because of the growing demand for digitisation of State archives, especially from clients who are not located in the Perth metropolitan area. We believe that this new service will be able to better meet the research needs of all our clients, and so far the response to the new digitisation service has been very good.

Digitised State Archives are ready for dispatch.

To digitise files, clients need to first locate appropriate consignment and item numbers for the relevant files on our online catalogue. Clients then need to apply to digitise the State archives they have identified by downloading and completing the Archive Digitisation Request Form with appropriate consignment and item details. This form is on our website at: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/copying-archives/archive-digitisation-services>

Once an application is made, requested archives will be assessed by SRO staff to establish their appropriateness for digitisation. If deemed suitable, once payment has been received, the SRO will endeavour to provide digitised copies of archives within 20 working days. During the trial period digitised archives will be provided on CD to clients, with a view to uploading appropriate digitised copies to our online catalogue in the longer term.

Following are the charges for the digitisation service:

Digitisation of entire files only (includes GST)

Service	File Size	Cost (per file item)
A	1 to 100 pages	\$27.50
B	Over 100 pages	\$55.00

Postage: \$7.85 (AUD) within Australia \$20 (AUD) overseas.

Maps and Plans are also able to be digitised at a cost of \$14.25 each.

Digitised copies are provided to support research and are subject to copyright. There should be no further reproduction of digitised files/items

without obtaining permission from the copyright owner.

Please don't hesitate to email sro@sro.wa.gov.au or telephone the SRO's Search Room on (08) 94273600 for more information.

Changes to SRO Search Room services

To support the SRO's new digitisation service the SRO has changed the number of archives retrievals carried out each working day. Archives held onsite will be retrieved twice a day: before opening at 9.30am, and at 12 midday, with most items available by 1pm. Requests received after midday and before 4.30pm will be retrieved the following working day by 9.30am. Online, email and telephone requests made after 4.30pm will be available after 1pm the following day (Mon-Fri). No retrievals occur on weekends or public holidays.

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

Archives can now be requested online by logging in to our catalogue and clicking on the Request item button. All original archives must be viewed at the State Records Office Search Room, by researchers with Research Tickets.

Nominations are called for the 2016 Margaret Medcalf Award

This annual Award recognizes excellence in referencing and research in the use of State archives held by the SRO. It honours Ms Margaret Medcalf OAM, WA's second State Archivist, for her valuable contribution to the development of archives in WA. Works nominated must demonstrate the use and accurate referencing of State archives.

The State Records Commission established the Margaret Medcalf Award in 2003. The Award is a prize of \$1,000.

Nominated works need not be published, may be fiction or non-fiction, and in any media. Nominators need to supply 3 copies of nominated works, along with a completed 2016 Margaret Medcalf Award Nomination Form, to enable further consideration by the judging panel. If published online please supply a web link. One copy of nominated works will be retained permanently by the SRO. Any work, produced and/or completed in the 2015 calendar year is eligible for nomination for the award, and

nominations can be submitted by anyone including authors/creators of works.

The judging criteria and nomination forms for the Award can be accessed at the SRO website at <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/margaret-medcalf-award>

If you have any further queries about eligibility or the nomination process please contact Gerard Foley at the SRO by emailing gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au.

Nominations must be received by 4.30pm Wednesday 6 April 2016 and should be addressed to:

The State Archivist,
State Records Office of WA
Alexander Library Building
Perth Cultural Centre
Perth WA, 6000

SRO Lunchtime Seminars for 2016

The State Records Office of Western Australia invites you to the 2016 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 engage in 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 3-4 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 2016 are:

Thursday 3 March 2016

Speaker: Gerard Foley, Senior Archivist, SRO - Topic: *Lost in the Bush? Researching land records in the State Archives collection - a seminar for beginners and refreshers.*

Friday 6 May 2016

Speaker: Dr Ingrid van Bremen, University of Western Australia;

Topic: *Western Building Construction: Walls* - a Lunchtime Seminar for Heritage Festival Day

Early July 2016

Speakers: to be advised; Topic: to be advised

Wednesday 31 Aug 2016

Speaker: Damien Hassan, Senior Archivist, SRO; Topic: *Stranger than Fiction: tales of the unexpected from the State Archives Collection.*

Nov 2016

Speaker: to be advised; Topic: to be advised

Please Note: At this stage there are a couple of lunchtime seminar sessions that have not yet been filled, so if any Friends of Battye members are keen to talk about an aspect of their research or interest in WA history please contact Gerard Foley at the SRO by emailing gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au.

Parliament House Exhibition

Exhibition of State Archives in the foyer of Parliament House, showcasing significant State archives to mark the 800th centenary of the signing of the Magna Carta has been extended into 2016.

Crime and Punishment

Articles in the *The West Australian* in the week commencing 18 January showcased prisoner stories and photographs from the State Archives Collection. The article highlighted a fascinating mix of petty crimes and harsh punishments to hardened criminals and their repeat offences, from the earlier half of the 20th century.

Home - the Changing Face of Perth

The Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF) is producing a large scale public event to open the 2016 Perth Festival on 13 February. The event involves a 90 minute visual feed which will unfold over five very large, interactive projection surfaces.

A section of the work (approximately three minutes) will celebrate the

growth of Perth as a city; its transition from a humble settlement into a considered, built environment. Live performances will be accompanied by a series of projected, maps and drawings from the State Archives Collection, that speak to the themes of growth and development of Perth architecture and engineering c.1860-1900.

Cycling Exhibition

The Museum of Perth is soon to launch a new exhibition on the history of cycling in WA on their premises. Images of 19th century cycling from the State Archives Collection will be showcased. Recently the SRO also



WWII stretcher bearing device slung between two bicycles – Courtesy SROWA Cons1005 1943/112.

found this image in a Health Department file about air raid precautions during WWII.

Gerard Foley

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 _____

Email _____

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

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 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: Of our Museums and Theatricals

It is a pleasure to record that the recent Australia Day Honours awarded a well-deserved Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) to Ivan King 'for service to the performing arts as an historian and archivist'. Since about 1980 he has built up an extensive collection of photos, posters, printed programs and other memorabilia from which he has mounted successive displays in the Museum of Performing Arts within Perth's His Majesty's Theatre. In generous space allotted downstairs in 2001, his current display is the 56th he has presented there. This time it is a mixed bill of varied subjects – specifically the early years of Perth's Repertory Club, the visits by celebrities of the classical concert world such as Richard Tauber and Lotte Lehmann, modern ballet, the Rock 'n Roll scene of the 1960s and 70s, the Embassy Ballroom and the Old Time Music Hall. As usual, the research and dedication involved are reflected in very informative captions. So, congratulations, Ivan, and Encore, Encore!

Two city blocks to the east, another modest museum was inaugurated in October last, so starting to fill a long-felt need. This is the Museum of Perth, with entry from the Grand Lane that runs off Murray Street close to its intersection with Barrack. Founded by the Perth History Association Inc., and with Reece Hartley its Curator, it aims to chronicle the social, cultural, political and architectural history of Perth, and operates with the support of donations, sponsorship and volunteers. At present its one sizeable public room mainly displays some 20 panels around its walls that each contain four or five photos on particular themes with liberal explanatory text. For the month of March the focus will be on *A History of Cycling in Perth*, and the Historical Bicycle Club of W.A. will provide a selection of their historical vehicles.

Then in April the Museum of Perth will offer an exhibition entitled *The Soldiers of Barrack Street*, which will show about 600 portraits of World War I servicemen who were photographed by Dease Studios in the very same building a century ago. These will be on loan through a partnership with the State Library, where they came into the Battye Library as glass negatives in the 1980s. In due course, rather than occupy one large building, the Museum is planning to function in about five smaller locations as 'footprints' throughout the city.

Out in suburbia, a third museum is at an advanced stage of gestation. It is the Australian Museum of Motion Pictures and Television (Western Region Inc.). For some years now, the moving image has inspired a group

of enthusiasts to gather and maintain a range of superseded projection equipment, the relevant software and documentation. This includes a collection of 16mm films that came from the State Film Centre formerly at the State Library. In 2013 at a peppercorn rental the Museum obtained suitable storage and work space in a section of the former Sunset Hospital at Dalkeith. The whole complex is expected to be developed as a heritage centre for Culture and the Arts.

For its substantial band of supporters, the AMMPT at present holds an 'In Focus Presentation' one evening each month at a small hall in Bentley. However, its chief source of income is the public film show it presents on the fourth Wednesday morning of each month at 10 a.m. in the Cygnet Cinema in Como. *Classics of the Silver Screen* is the name of this series, and on 23rd March the feature will be *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, a famous comedy of 1941. Then April and May will each have a great musical that was notable as a ground-breaking advance for that genre – *On the Town of 1949* and *Gigi* of 1958. For June – and, exceptionally, on the 5th Wednesday, the 29th - it will be *The Cameraman*, a silent comedy of 1928 starring Buster Keaton, with a live organist accompaniment to be provided by an exponent from Brisbane. The congenial atmosphere of the art deco cinema in a pleasant location is always a bonus.

It was also good to see a focus on Perth theatricals of the past in a large display that the State Library presented for the Fringe World Festival in February. Beaming out from eight big windows facing the James Street concourse, it consisted of enlargements of some 40 photos and press advertisements for items relating to Stage and Screen in the 1920s. Happily it included a photo of our WA-born film star, Enid Bennett, gazing out over the city she left for Hollywood in its infancy.

Jack Honnibal



Born in York, daughter of the Guildford Grammar headmaster, Enid went to Hollywood in 1916 and starred in more than 40 films. Public domain image from http://www.owensvalleyhistory.com/at_the_movies25/page93x.html

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

<http://www.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*

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.

Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291 Fax enquiries (08) 9427 3256
Website www.slwa.wa.gov.au Email:info@slwa.wa.gov.au

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

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

State Records Office

The SRO Search Room on the Ground Floor is open for enquiries and use of material on weekdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

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Telephone (08) 9427 3600, website www.sro.wa.gov.au, email: sro@sro.wa.gov.au

The Genealogy Centre

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

Specialist staff for Family History: Tricia Fairweather ((08) 9427 3395) Email:tricia.fairweather@slwa.wa.gov.au, Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247. Email: leonie.hayes@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. 156



July 2016

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

Our July 2016 meeting

Heather Campbell, Jan McCahon-Marshall, and Jenna Lynch

Dungeons, maps, rats, and the people who worked with them: Treasury, Land and Titles Office oral history project.



Please note the change of venue.

Members and guests are invited to meet in the lobby of the new City of Perth History Centre at 5pm for a tour before our meeting at the Centre.

The new Perth City Library is the first major civic building to be constructed since the Perth Concert Hall opened on Australia Day in 1973.

(Courtesy City of Perth.)

Our meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 July 2016 and start at 5.00pm for a tour of the City of Perth Library's History Centre at 573 Hay St, Perth before the meeting at 5.30pm. Please see details and map 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

Committee (2015-2016)

President	Dr Pamela Statham Drew
Vice President	Mrs Gillian O'Mara
Secretary	Heather Campbell
Treasurer	Mr Nick Drew
Committee members	Ms Jennie Carter, Ms Lorraine Clarke, Mr Neil Foley, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, Dr Nonja Peters, and Ms Cherie Strickland.
Ex-Officio	Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian) Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO) Dr Susanna Iuliano (Battye Historian)
Newsletter editor	Ms Jennie Carter
Volunteers	Ring (08) 9427 3266 or email: 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 Western Australia, or the State Records Office.

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

<http://www.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*

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.

Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291 Fax enquiries (08) 9427 3256
Website www.slwa.wa.gov.au Email:info@slwa.wa.gov.au

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

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

State Records Office

The SRO Search Room on the Ground Floor is open for enquiries and use of material on weekdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

Retrievals

Archives held onsite will be retrieved twice a day: before opening at 9.30am, and at 12 midday, with most items available by 1pm. Requests received after midday and before 4.30pm will be retrieved the following working day by 9.30am.

Online, email and telephone requests made after 4.30pm will be available after 1pm the following day (Mon-Fri). No retrievals occur on weekends or public holidays.

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

Telephone (08) 9427 3600, website www.sro.wa.gov.au, email: sro@sro.wa.gov.au

The Genealogy Centre

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

Specialist staff for Family History: Tricia Fairweather ((08) 9427 3395) Email:tricia.fairweather@slwa.wa.gov.au, Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247.Email: leonie.hayes@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. 157



November 2016

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

Our end of year function 2016

Steve Howell

I'm a celebrity: how the hell did I get here?



1898 - who is this young mining engineer? (Battye Library, SLWA 5392B/2.)

Tuesday 22 November 2016 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. Our meeting will be followed by a catered dinner. *Please see details on page 7.*

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

Committee (2016-2017)

President	Dr Pamela Statham Drew
Vice President	Mrs Gillian O'Mara
Secretary	Ms Heather Campbell
Treasurer	Mr Nick Drew
Committee members	Ms Kris Bizacca, Ms Jennie Carter, Ms Lorraine Clarke, Mr Neil Foley, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, and Ms Cherie Strickland. Co-opted: Dr Nonja Peters,
Ex-Officio	Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian) Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO) Dr Susanna Iuliano (Battye Historian)
Newsletter editor	Ms Jennie Carter
Volunteers	Ring (08) 9427 3266 or email: 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 Western Australia, or the State Records Office.

End of year function

**Tuesday 22 November 2016
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm**

Our speaker will be Steve Howell

I'm a celebrity: how the hell did I get here?

This illustrated presentation by Steve Howell, Senior Subject Specialist at the Battye Library, looks at some of the famous non-Western Australians who have records in the State Library of Western Australia. After a brief biography of the person, their connection with Western Australia will be explored.

Invitation to dinner

After the meeting, members will move next door for a fully catered meal. Our end of year dinner is always popular, so it is essential to book. Please see further details on page 7 of this newsletter.

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

Steve Howell, as many of our members know, is the authority on the collections of the Battye Library. Steve has been working at the State Library for nearly 40 years - he will reach the milestone on 24 March next year. From 1977-2006 he worked in the Battye Library (with a year's absence on exchange with the Provincial Archives of British Columbia in Victoria on Vancouver Island in 1988-89). During this time he worked with monographs, ephemera, manuscripts, oral history and film.

From 2006 he has been the Senior Subject Specialist for the Battye Library, State Library of Western Australia, which involves specialist research, helping clients and staff with their research, tours, talks, seminars, publications and reformatting. Reformatting has involved the microfilming of the newspaper collection and in recent years the digitisation of newspapers onto Trove, plus the digitisation of rare books, serials, maps and private archives.

Meeting dates for 2017

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

14 March - Speaker Vyonne Geneve:

Picture palaces of the golden west.

9 May - Speaker Fiona Bush:

St Ronan's Well : when fiction becomes historical fact.

11 July - Speaker (TBA).

12 September - (Annual General Meeting) - speaker TBA.

21 November (4th Tuesday) - End of year function
Speaker - TBA.

President's piece

Dear Friends

We are coming to the end of another busy and productive year for the Friends as we celebrate 60 years since the J S Battye Library of West Australian History was created as the repository and access point for the largest and most important collection of Western Australian materials in the world. And it is 35 years since our organisation was officially established to support that collection.

At our AGM on 20 September I gave a report on our activities. Our November meeting last year was clouded by the death of our past president and wonderful friend Geoffrey Bolton. In his honour Bill Bunbury gave us a memorable talk in March on Geoffrey's "Warmth, Wit and Wisdom" ...which came through clearly in the oral tapes that Bill prepared for us which with Bill's kind permission can now be heard on our web-site <http://www.friendsofbattylelibrary.org.au>.

Capping a year that had seen us get many of the country WW1 newspapers on line and onto TROVE (particularly *Camp Chronicle*) Julie Martin spoke to us about the famous Cheops Pyramid photograph. Her November talk, presented like a who-dunnit, revealed much that had been unknown about the photograph and the men in it. It provided much for members to chat about over our end-of-year dinner.

In May Carmelo Amalfi stood in for committee member Nonja Peters in celebrating 400 years since Dirk Hartog bumped into Shark Bay. Carmelo is on the organising committee for the celebrations so could give us a good run-down.

In the middle of this year Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland released their up-date of *Convict Records* – now on our website and attracting compliments from everywhere. See further information on page 8.

In July we met in the new and quite fantastic Perth City Library where our wonderful secretary Heather Campbell took us through the recollections of people who had worked in the Lands and Titles office, which used to occupy the buildings adjacent to the new Library and which now form part of a very new five star hotel – The Como. Heather's speakers talked of maps, rats, dungeons, tea ladies, fires in offices and all manner of other fascinating detail about a working environment that is long gone.

At our September AGM our speakers were Jennie and Bevan Carter who gave a very interesting presentation about the 100 years history of King Edward Memorial Hospital. Their book *King Eddies: a history of Western Australia's premier women's hospital 1916-2016* is available through the KEMH Alumni www.kemhalumni.com.au.

The biggest project the Friends have been involved with recently is the digitisation of the Perth metropolitan sewage plans by the State Records Office. You will recall that because the Friends of Battye Library was established before the Battye Library and the State Record Office split in 1989, the Friends provide funds from our Sholl Bequest to both institutions in turn. The digitised plans will be available to see on line from early next year and we will give you the link closer to the date. Again, this will be a wonderful aid to researchers as the detail in these maps is fantastic.

It is worth mentioning also that Curtin University has taken the photographic panoramas of early Perth and Fremantle that the Friends helped to digitise and has put them into a three-dimensional format compared directly with the same scene today. You can look at these panoramas on the Curtin website <http://www.historicalpanoramas.com.au> and they really are amazing. It is just a pity that no mention is made of the role we played in making these images available to the public.

Another important project funded by the Friends was the transcription of a huge quantity of Western Australian Biographical Index (WABI) records. The work involved volunteers transcribing and checking the card records and the creation of a database so that they could be publicly available. The dataset is now available online at <http://catalogue.beta.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/western-australian-biographical-index-wabi>. It is not the most user friendly search, but the State Library is looking at ways to improve its accessibility.

We are currently finalising our speakers for next year and will have a full schedule of talks listed in the March newsletter. If you have a topic on Western Australian history or heritage you would like to present to the Friends, or know of someone who does, please contact our editor Jennie on bevnjen@gmail.com. Jennie would love to hear from you.

I hope you are looking forward to our end of year meeting as much as I am and please see the invitation below. I'm doing the quiz this

year and will try to make it a little easier than last year's. Our speaker is Steve Howell who knows so much about our library that he almost could be called 'Mr Battye' and his presentation will be a treat.

It only remains for me to wish all our members and friends a joyful and safe festive season and a happy and fulfilling new year.

With very best wishes.

Pamela

You're invited!

to help us celebrate

Our traditional end of year function will be held in the State Library's recreation room on the 4th floor adjacent to the Great Southern Room. After the meeting we will move next door to enjoy a fully-catered buffet dinner with complimentary wine and orange juice.

Our popular annual dinner is a great opportunity to get together with friends and socialise. We will also be holding our popular quiz with prizes for the winners.

We are grateful to the State Library for providing the venue and thanks to careful management by our very efficient Treasurer, Nick, the price per head remains at a very low \$30.

advance bookings are essential

Please contact Nick Drew on 9384 8154 or by email at nickdrew@bigpond.com by Monday 14 November to secure your place.

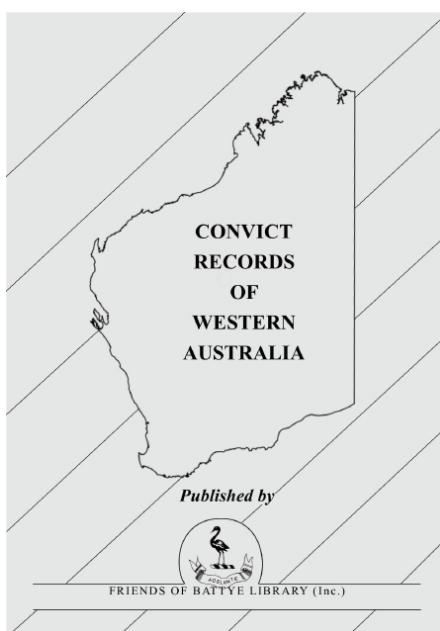
It promises to be a great night and we would love to share it with you.

Vale - Barbara Harper-Nelson

Barbara Harper-Nelson, who passed away on 29 May this year, was a long-term member of the Friends. Born in Liverpool England, Barbara migrated to WA in 1962 with her husband John, who became a well-known newsreader and TV personality. Barbara was a founding member of the Kalamunda and Districts Historical Society in 1969 and remained the society's archivist for 22 years. She was also an author, diarist and historian whose memoir of her wartime experiences, *Bright Squadrons*, was recently adapted as a play. Our sincere condolences to Barbara's family and friends.

Convict records of WA

We are pleased to announce that our publication *The Convict Records of Western Australia* has been updated and is now available for anyone to view and download from our website: www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au on the home page 'New releases'. This comprehensive guide builds on our popular earlier 1990 publication compiled by Gillian O'Mara. The guide has been updated and expanded by Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland of Swan Geology. It is now an unparalleled reference guide for family historians and researchers interested in Western Australian convicts.



It is on the State Library catalogue as well as our own website and already some societies have printed out hard copies to keep in their headquarters. It is proving a boon to researchers and family historians.

Lorraine and Cherie have travelled the road of convict research themselves so they know all the pitfalls and twists and turns in researching convict history and their experience can now help you. Follow the steps they outline to research your convict.

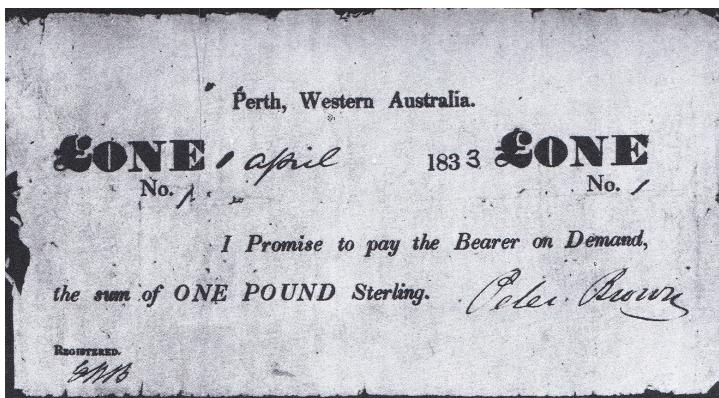
Have you a story to tell?

[Dr Steve Errington was head of Chemistry at Curtin University before his retirement in 2009. He is a long-time member of the Friends and a member of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society which he joined as a mere boy in 1963. He is currently editor of the society's journal Early Days.]

Money troubles at Swan River

In December 1833 the iron Public Chest in the Perth Commissariat was nearly empty. The colony wasn't broke but there wasn't enough hard cash to meet the January payroll for government officials. This wasn't a new situation - every time a cargo ship called at Fremantle the captain would sail away with much of the colony's gold and silver specie, gathered up as payment for his goods.

In June 1829 Colonial Secretary/Treasurer Peter Brown had started a bank which issued handwritten promissory notes signed by him and Lieutenant Governor James Stirling. From 1832 new Deputy Assistant Commissary General (DAGC) John Lewis took over the Treasurer duties but Brown continued his private bank. From January 1833 he was able to have his £1 promissory notes printed. But in May his financial woes forced him to suspend payment.

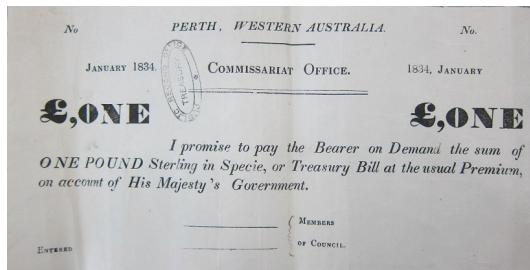


In 1945 Dr James Battye allowed this note to be photographed for inclusion in Professor S J Butlin's book *Foundations of the Australian Monetary System 1788-1851*. The note is now held by the State Records Office.

The colonists resorted to barter and in October 1833 even formed the Swan River Barter Society.

So how were the officials to be paid in January 1834? Acting Lieutenant Governor Richard Daniell consulted the Executive Council and they came up with the solution – they would print some £1 promissory notes drawn on the Treasury. DACG Lewis was instructed to have a proof copy run off for an Executive Council meeting on 7 January 1834. This was done, presumably by government printer Charles MacFaull using his Stanhope press.

On 11 January Daniell published a proclamation in the *Perth Gazette* advising that the notes had the same standing throughout the colony as ‘any British metallic money’.



Proof copy of the £1 note issued by the commissariat in January 1834. Each note had to be signed by two members of the Executive Council.

DACG Lewis immediately wrote to James Stewart, Assistant Secretary to the Treasury in London, to advise him what they had done. The proof copy of the note which he enclosed still survives in Treasury records in the National Archives at Kew. It is not known how many notes were printed but in May 1834 Daniell authorised a further issue not to exceed £500.

Some of the notes were still in circulation in December 1838, well after the newly-formed Bank of Western Australia had issued our first £1 banknotes in 1837.

Steve Errington

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

[*Lindsay Dorman is the Volunteer Coordinator with the United Nations Association of Australia [WA Division] and holds a Master’s degree in International Relations from Curtin University. He is a new member of the Friends of the Batty Library and we warmly welcome him to the society.]*

Murray Giles Little MA - The forgotten one

Mr Murray Giles Little was born in North Melbourne on 10 August, 1886 to Murray and Jessie Little [nee Gardiner].

Mr Little attended Perth Boys State School after which on 3 February, 1902 he was appointed a 4th Class Pupil Teacher¹ at the age of fifteen and eight months old, with an annual salary of £30. In September, 1903 he entered the Teachers' College, Claremont for a three year period, returning to an assistant teacher at Claremont School on 3 September 1906.²

Between 1907 and 1909 Little served as an assistant teacher at Perth Boys School, and Perth Central School, James Street. From January 1910, Murray Little's career headed to the country, where it began in Northam, being appointed First Assistant Teacher .

Mr Little was accepted as a student at the University of Western Australia on the 11th March, 1913, aged 26 years. He enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts degree, taking English 1 and Psychology [Logic], having passed his Matriculation exams through London University in January, 1911. Mr little received pass marks for these two subjects whilst attending evening classes on top of his teaching commitments.

In 1923, Murray Little returned to UWA, where he achieved passes in English11, Education and Mathematics. In 1924, he received passes for English 111, Ethics and Mathematics 11. History B (Distinction) and Latin 1 (Pass) in 1925. After a one year absence, Little returned in 1927 and received Second Class Honours in English and First Class Honours in Philosophy.

In 1923, Mr Little became a member of the College of Preceptors (UK) and achieved the Licentiate, the equivalent of a Master of Arts degree. In 1932, he was awarded a Master of Arts



degree from the University of Western Australia with the title of his thesis being “The Changing Attitude of Society Towards the Child in the Nineteenth Century”.

Director-General of Education. Murray Giles Little was made Acting Director-General from 10th April, 1940 and was appointed Director-General on the 18th November, 1940.

The Second World War (1939-45) dominated all life during a significant period of Little’s tenure. This included reduced expenditure on educational infrastructure, the loss of male teachers to military service, particularly with the entry of Japan into the conflict. During the 1940’s, Little consolidated the rural schools and encouraged the introduction of Indigenous children into state schools alongside non-Indigenous children.³ Mr Little ensured that secondary (three year high schools) would receive staffing on the same basis as five year high schools and the very first Inspector of Secondary Schools was appointed. Mr Little gave active encouragement for increased opportunities for secondary education in rural WA. Larger combined primary-secondary schools in rural towns were named junior high schools.

Whilst the number of schools were reduced during the war, Little, knowing that at some point the war would end, ensured that adequate land was set aside for future schools to be built.

In July 1948, Murray Little, representing all Australian Directors of Education, attended a United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organisation [UNESCO] conference in Beirut, Lebanon.

From there, he travelled to Britain and America to study how their educational systems worked and in particular how handicapped children fitted in to their systems.

Little took long service leave in December 1950 before retiring from his position. After a short illness, Murray Giles Little died in Fremantle Hospital on 25 July, 1968 at the age of 80 years.

Lindsay Dorman

Endnotes:

1. Candidates had to be over 14 years old, of good character and healthy. On passing an entrance examination based on the primary school final year, the student commenced a First Class apprenticeship.

2. Information about M Little's career is from his Department of Education file and his UWA Academic record.

3. WA Department of Education Report 1940. Shannage also notes that during Mr. Little's tenure, State schools were reduced from 883 to 517.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

[Bevan Carter has been a WAGS volunteer at the State Library for the past 17 years and enjoys helping visitors with family history enquiries. He notes; "This story came about because of a query Moyna Harland and I received concerning the authenticity of a John Rowland Jones's birth certificate which has him being born in 1841 to a mariner father. His headstone, however, suggests Jones was born in 1838 and other records have his father as a medical man. After some research we were able to confirm Jones's date of birth and his parentage."]

The colourful life of John Rowland Jones

Ken Spillman in his fine history of Subiaco, *Identity prized*, notes that the first private house in the suburb was built by John Rowland Jones in 1886 on land purchased from the Catholic Church. Jones experienced a great deal of difficulty in constructing his home as it took nine months to sink a viable well and bricks for the house had to be made in Belmont then transported by river and road before being



'Jones's folly' c.1888. The house was demolished in 1959. (Courtesy City of Subiaco)

hauled through scrub to the site. The house sat in “splendid isolation” for eight years becoming known as ‘Jones’ folly’.

A skilled shorthand typist, Jones worked as a freelance stenographer from around 1871. He was also a skilled journalist and later editor of the *West Australian*. He became Western Australia’s first Hansard reporter in 1872 with proceedings of the Legislative Council published in the press. After responsible government was granted, he reported for the Legislative Assembly from 1890 until his death in 1895.¹

His story becomes even more interesting with the knowledge that John Rowland Jones was also a convicted criminal who had arrived in the colony on the last convict ship, the *Hougoumont* in January 1868.

Jones was born in Llanbeblig, Caernarvon on 13 April 1841, to John Rowland Jones, mariner, and Margaret Hughes who had married in Caernarvon 17 October 1838. Their fathers, John Jones and Lewis Hughes, were also mariners. John Rowland jnr appears to have been an only child and when his mother Margaret died in Llanbeblig in 1846 at the age of 31, he was reared by his father’s only sister Margaret in Towyn and her husband.

His aunt Margaret, while still a minor, had married a John Bowen Phillips, a surgeon, 30 years her senior, on 25 March 1842 while John Rowland was still a baby. When aged five he came to live with his aunt she had two young children of her own, John Jones Phillips (four) and Dorothy Jane Phillips (one). While most other people in Britain were struggling in the economic woes of the 1840s and 50s, John Rowland Jones and his cousins had a comfortable upbringing and all received an excellent education. Cousin John Phillips followed in his father’s footsteps and in the 1861 census he is listed as a medical student in London. John Rowland Jones was also resident in London working as a chemist’s assistant but did not remain long in that role and it may have been then that he became a drug addict. It is not known where or when Jones trained as a clerk/stenographer but he was working as a journalist when his life spun out of control.

Three days before the death of his aunt’s husband John Bowen Phillips on 23 May 1865 aged 73, John Rowland Jones’ name appears in the *Chester Chronicle* confirming both his trade and criminal behaviour:

Wrexham - Embezzlement. - On Tuesday last a young man named

John Rowland Jones, late reporter to the *Wrexham Advertiser*, was brought before the Mayor, Jos. Clarke, Esq., charged with embezzling about £11 the monies of the proprietors of that paper.

The trial was reported in the *Wrexham Advertiser* 8 July 1865:

The Chairman in passing sentence animadverted upon the crime with which the prisoner was charged. He considered a man of the education and position of the prisoner really more culpable than an ignorant person, and was afraid that drink had been one of the principal causes. The court had decided to take as lenient a view of the case as in consideration of the recommendation of the prosecutors, and trusted that the leniency manifested would have a beneficial effect upon the prisoner, and that he would return to a honest course of life.

Jones received a four months prison term. A year later his name again appeared in the *Wrexham Advertiser* on 4 August 1866.

John Rowland Jones pleaded guilty to the charge of having, on the 2nd July, forged and uttered a certain cheque or order for the payment of £324 6s 11d., with intent to defraud the National Provincial Bank. ...The money was drawn from the Bank branch at Denbigh by the prisoner in person, who afterwards made his way to London, where he spent the whole of the money in riotous living in the short period of three weeks.

This was a much more serious charge and the sentence was eight years' hard labour.

Jones was first detained in Ruthin prison and an extract from his time there has been preserved in his Western Australian convict file. He was only five foot three inches tall, "middling stout", with brown hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion. He was judged to be "good tempered, polite and civil, but unprincipled." Jones had definitely indulged himself squandering so much money so rapidly because for a time he was in and out of the prison hospital suffering the effects of venereal disease.² In October 1866 Jones was transferred to Millbank prison in London and in July 1867 moved to Portland Prison in Dorset where he boarded the *Hougoumont*.

On receiving his ticket-of-leave on 10 June 1870, Jones worked at the *Fremantle Herald*, first as a clerk and later as a reporter. He took a long time to overcome his drug problem and wild ways for in June 1871 he spent a week in hospital for "poisoning by opium".³ Although a Protestant, he married Elizabeth Connor at St Mary's Roman

Catholic cathedral on 21 September 1872. He also had a child, Mary Ruth Elizabeth Jones, from a relationship with fifteen year old Naomi Dewis who died of puerperal fever on 10 January 1873. Their baby died a month later.

John Rowland Jones received his Certificate of Freedom in July 1874 and with the help of his wife turned his life around to become a respected member of the Perth community. The couple eventually had nine children born between 1873 and 1893.

Jones died of a heart attack at home on Christmas Eve 1895 at the relatively young age of 54 and was buried in the East Perth cemetery. Elizabeth, ten years his junior, survived her husband by 40 years and lived until her death at their house in Subiaco.

Today Jones is commemorated in Subiaco's Rowland Street which has a plaque attached to the street sign giving brief details of Jones's extraordinary life.



Bevan Carter

1. Jones was also the Perth agent for the Remington typewriter and was the proprietor of the Metropolitan Institute of Shorthand and Typewriting. An 1889 advertisement states that he has held the post of Hansard reporter since the early 1870s. The WA Almanac for 1888-89 also lists him as Hansard reporter.
2. SROWA Cons 1156R/16.
3. SROWA Cons 1156M/32.

Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson, Director of the Battye Library, before her retirement is one of Australia's most well-known oral historians. This is the seventh

in the popular series of articles based on Ronda's interviews which are in the oral history collection of the Battye Library.]

William (Bill) Coffin (1903–1984) OH313

Guided by a belief that a vital reason to conduct oral histories was to try to fill blanks in archival records, it was not surprising to find that no Aboriginal person had been interviewed when I joined the Battye Library in January 1978. Imagine my pleasure when I was contacted by a member of the family of Bill Coffin in July to tell me that he was in Fremantle Hospital recovering from eye surgery and had a story worth telling. He lived in Marble Bar which meant the chances of him ever being interviewed were slim.

With the permission of the family and the hospital, I visited Bill in a makeshift ward on a veranda. Despite limited vision, impaired hearing and obvious pain, he very generously agreed to be interviewed. We had four sessions together all of which were brief so as not to tire him. At times he was obviously depressed over his isolation from his family. Anyone listening to the interview will note a distinct lift in his condition after family members had visited or telephoned.

Imagine my pleasure when Bill asked to start the first session with a song and hummed deep notes leading to an expectation it would be an Aboriginal song. The first words were 'Helly helly do let dey let, Helly do let do let let' – followed by 'I love to be a sailor, a sailor sailing on the good ship Kangaroo'. He told me he had learnt the song from a record of old Scottish songs.

Before writing this article, I checked the Internet to see if there was anything about Bill's later life. I was delighted to find that anthropologist Dr Bill Day had written about the Coffin family in 2005, *The*



Bill Coffin, (Battye Library, SLWA 66864P)

Coffin Family of Redcliffs Station, and included quotes from the 1978 interview. From it you learn that Bill's mother was Maggie Mardjuwiya who married a Nyamal man George Mackay and both were employed on Mundabullangana Station. They were relocated to Roy Hill where George Mackay died. Maggie's second partner was teamster Billy Coffin whose mother was an Aboriginal person; their son was born on Roy Hill Station and was given his father's name of William.

Bill worked on Roy Hill until the age of eighteen where his father built stock yards and fences and looked after out camps and stock. His mother did house work and was described by Bill as having 'plenty of brains'. He then assisted his father on a station he leased for seven



Roy Hill Station homestead in 1922 - around the time Bill worked there.
(Battye Library, SLWA 067293PD)

years and spent much time gold and tin prospecting around Marble Bar. This was followed by two years as foreman of a road gang for the local shire council.

Bill told of how he only learnt a little of Aboriginal lore with his mother insisting he 'go on a white child'. "You'll starve if you follow the Aboriginal life" she said. "We haven't got any tucker these days, not like one time" which she put down to the 'white' bringing 'big stocks' and taking 'all the tucker'. He continued:

The whites' cattle and horses they ate all the grass and of course the native got nothing ... [There were] less emus and kangaroos, some places none. Men were not allowed to go hunting — had to do station work.

While he was told about circumcision, Bill did not join in such practices but learnt boomerang and spear throwing. He saw a man ‘speared right through the two legs’ because the legs were what were aimed at in fights, mostly over women. ‘Never throw a spear high.’ It was common to set Spinifex on fire so the kangaroos would come to watch and not see the men with spears. He spoke of traditional cooking and discussed what he saw as the problem of drink at length considering it was ruining Aboriginal people.

Bill learnt to read and write:

... but very little of that went on, those days ... They didn’t want anyone to learn anything like that because they wanted to keep them under their feet so they could get work out of them.

He spoke of the push to get wages rather than ‘tucker – good tucker, plenty of it. Clothes.’ He recalled that a man ‘put us right. “Don’t ever work for nothing,”’ but it took a long time for the Mackays to agree. A delightful word picture was drawn of hunting cows and drinking milk ‘at the same time as the calf’. Riding cows taught him how to ride horses. On Roy Hill he was allowed to choose two horses which became his alone to ride.

Bill’s mother was a musterer’s cook and he repeated her message to ‘go on a white line ... learn to school ... You learn nothing here, you keep away from it.’ Even though she had been brought up ‘the Aboriginal way’ she did not want Bill to ‘learn the lore. “It’s not worth learning” she said, “It’s always starvation ... Stick to the whites.”’ He considered that good advice and was never sorry he followed it; his life was a good one.

At the age of 22 Bill married May Lockyer, his ‘very good wife’ and they had ten children. All went to school in Marble Bar although Bill regretted not having the money to educate them further. He enjoyed his various jobs and started the Eurasian Club which held dances every Friday. He was Chairman of the Di-ari Club and was one of the first Aboriginal people to get citizen’s rights.

A final act was for Bill to ask if he could do some drawings for me. They were of a kangaroo, a squatter, a Chinese cook and an Aboriginal stockman; all very well done. Interestingly, an expert in Aboriginal art later told me that while Bill might have grown up as a ‘white person’, he drew the kangaroo as an Aboriginal person. It was a side-on view

with no sign of the second leg. The page of drawings is attached to the transcript.

Ronda Jamieson

Book Review - *Servants of the people*

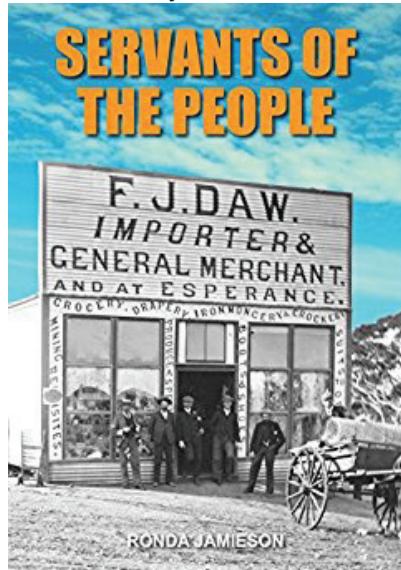
[Heather is the Secretary of the Friends and before retirement worked in the Oral History Unit at the Battye Library. She is the author of Messina News an entertaining and insightful account of the trip she and her husband Graham made in a motor launch across the top of Australia to Townsville in 2000.]

***Servants of the People* by Ronda Jamieson**

(Available as an eBook, Amazon Kindle Edition, EText Publishing, Joondalup, 2016. \$11.90. 350 pages, numerous photographs (which can be enlarged in the eBook version) and extensive references, which include records of the Daw Family and oral history interviews.)

This book, made possible by the Daw family's archival records which were held by the father of the author, traces the family's business enterprises over five generations,

particularly those of Francis and Edgar Daw in the Esperance, Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun region in the late 19th and mid-20th centuries.



At one level *Servants of the people* highlights the difficulties of a country storekeeper in an era of financial uncertainty, through two World Wars, the Depression and the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act. Credit was extended too readily. This greatly contributed to the financial difficulties and stress the family suffered. In hard times they became

'universal providers of goods and finances'. It was difficult seeking restitution from those who lived alongside you in a relatively small, but often mobile, mining and farming community - particularly from those who were nearly destitute, or who were in difficulties themselves.



Interior of F. J. Daw's store Esperance c.1900. (Battye Library, SLWA. Daw family collection 230830PD.)

In these days of self-service it is easy to forget that shopkeepers, particularly those in isolated communities, literally did 'serve the people'. The Daw family took pride in their wide range of stock, and the book reminds us of the difficulties of maintaining that standard. Successive governments found excuses not to extend railway lines, carriage by horse and cart on unmade roads often led to damaged and lost items. Stock coming by sea sometimes sailed on to Albany because it was too rough to land - and some brought safely into harbour was drenched by seawater in the process.

Family activities focussed on the shop. Attempts were made to diversify into farming and mining but these met with mixed success. Seemingly promising mining ventures frequently failed to deliver, but the 'lure of prosperity was just around the corner' encouraging further investment.

On a second level this is a family story about individuals and personalities and through their letters and diaries enticing glimpses of individuals can be found. Old Francis, a man of courage and great integrity. Edgar whose 'steadfastness in difficult times' and 'faith in the district' gave strength to others. Ethel, his wife, a devoted Christian, dedicated to temperance, a strong and complex personality, 'was aggressively intolerant of evil doers and yet she evinced a wealth of compassion for them when they were stricken by ill health'.

Despite the stressful difficulties they encountered and the emotional



Daw family's Ravensthorpe store 1906 with verandah added and separate drapery. (Battye Library, SLWA. Daw family collection. 207225PD]

and financial cost, the Daws almost without exception, strongly believed in the communities in which they lived, becoming active in town administration, 'service organisations, sporting bodies and musical life. ... They were influential in making decisions that benefitted the town ... [and were] prepared to tackle new activities with gusto. Without the combined efforts of family members and the impact of their various ideas and ventures ... it is likely that the town of Ravensthorpe would not have continued to exist in the 1930s.'

A fascinating and unique record of people who were the salt of the earth - 'Five generations of old-time provenders to life'

Heather Campbell

State Library Bookshop discount for members

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

Please note that the discount does not apply to the Friends of Battye Library publications which are sold at an already discounted rate.

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWAHS)

Western Land: a journey of discovery and rediscovery

A new exhibition celebrating the landing of Dirk Hartog at Shark Bay 400 years ago and also the 90th birthday of The Royal WA Historical Society (Inc.). A variety of themes illustrate the journey using materials from the RWAHS extensive and significant collection. Some items are on public view for the first time.

The exhibition is open all year Monday to Friday (except public holidays) 10.00am - 3.00pm.

Tour groups welcome with guide supplied. To make a booking please contact the office 9386 3841. Or write to

Royal Western Australian Historical Society
49 Broadway, Nedlands 6009.

Commemorating Dirk Hartog: the life and times of Dirk Hartog

A publication by The Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.) is a joint initiative by researchers of the RWAHS and the Nationaal Archief (National Archives) of the Netherlands.

The book which was launched 17 October 2016, is for sale for \$20 at the RWAHS' bookshop in Perth and can be ordered online through the bookshop at <https://www.histwest.org.au/services/bookshop>.

From City of Perth Library - forthcoming public discussion.

Stan Grant on Indigenous Futures 24 November at 6.15pm

This talk will be presented by the City of Perth Library, Perth USAsia Centre and Boffins Books

It promises to be a compelling public discussion featuring Stan Grant, journalist, author, and ambassador of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation.

In *Quarterly Essay 64*, Stan Grant takes a deep and passionate look at Indigenous futures, in particular the fraught question of remote

communities. Moving beyond simplistic talk of ‘lifestyle choices’, Grant explores what makes for a sustainable community and life, and asks what we can do to instigate change.

About Stan Grant

Stan Grant is a Wiradjuri man. A journalist since 1987, he has worked for the ABC, SBS, and the Seven Network and, since 2013, as the International Editor for SKY News. From 2001 to 2012 he worked for CNN as an anchor in Hong Kong, before relocating to Beijing as correspondent. As a journalist, he has received a string of prestigious international and Australian awards. In 2015, he published his bestselling book Talking to My Country, and also won a Walkley Award for his coverage of Indigenous affairs. In 2016 he was appointed to the Referendum Council on Indigenous recognition. He has previously published his family memoir, Tears of Strangers.

Need to book - <https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=231702>

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Visitors to the City of Perth Public Library

A query about the use of readers’ cards from other public libraries has been answered by the City of Perth Library.

People can use cards from their own public libraries and only need proof of address to use and borrow items from the Perth Library immediately. The only time anyone may have to use the Perth City library card is if their own library’s card is not compatible with the City of Perth’s electronic system. In that case a City of Perth Library card will be issued to them.

News from the State Library

Report on achievements

One of the Library’s primary purposes is to collect and provide access to Western Australia’s documentary heritage and we continued to build our collections, in print and digital, through legal deposit and donation.

Our program to digitise existing collections to make them more accessible to the community both here in WA and of course the world, continued with almost 50,000 new images created this year by Library staff, further sound recordings digitised and 54 WA newspaper titles digitised and added to the Trove service. These digital images are being used by people from across the world and reused and reimagined in new ways. Our recently digitised historical panoramas were used in a student project by Curtin University's Hub for Immersive Visualisation and eResearch (HIVE), to showcase the changes to Perth and Fremantle over more than a century in an interactive website. We value the ongoing support from partners such as the Friends of Battye Library in maintaining the momentum of the digitisation program.

This year, we continued to work with colleagues through National and State Libraries Australasia in the areas of staff training, digital preservation, and digital legal deposit. The passing of national digital legal deposit legislation provided the opportunity for all state libraries to begin to work together towards a single deposit portal to provide a streamlined experience for publishers across the nation.

Our exhibition program which aims to showcase our collections and to make our Western Australian stories more accessible continues to attract interest. There was an enthusiastic public response to *The Lynley Dodd Story* exhibition which included 60 original illustrations and featured famed characters including Hairy Maclary, plus an extensive educational program.

We were fortunate and pleased that HRH The Duchess of Cornwall was able to visit the Library at the time of this exhibition and she could see the way the Library integrates exhibitions and literacy programs.

We continued to cultivate creative ideas with the *Disrupted Festival of Ideas* and



Visit of the Duchess of Cornwall to the State Library.
(Photograph Bohdan Warchomij for SLWA.)

we welcomed Robert Drewe to the Library to give the Seymour Biography Lecture. To coincide with the 400 year anniversary of Dirk Hartog's landing on the WA coast, we showcased our links to the Netherlands over this period with the *Journeys to the Western Edge* exhibition, which displayed two recently purchased early charts of Western Australia by Dutch and English cartographers. The *Storylines* project continues to build strong community partnerships. The online archive now has over 5000 photographs and there were more than 9000 visitors to the website. This project creates a mechanism by which the stories and perspectives of Aboriginal people can be captured, preserved and shared, and it also provides relevant resources on which we can build literacy programs for Aboriginal people.

Use of electronic library materials continues to grow at a pace with use of the State-wide e-books, e-audiobooks and online magazines and databases growing by 47 per cent. These resources increase the stock for all public libraries, but they are particularly significant for those in regional and remote areas where there are small libraries with limited stock, and those who have a disability as these resources can be downloaded from home. Whilst there was some interruption to inter-library loan services between public libraries, we were pleased to finalise an arrangement with the Spine and Limb Foundation to operate the metropolitan van service in 2016-17.

Following the Agency Expenditure Review of the Department of Culture and the Arts, the Department's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) team has joined with the Library's digital specialists and is managed and operated from the Library. This provides opportunities for cooperation and innovation across the Portfolio agencies in a range of technology areas and services.

The Perth Cultural Centre brings together this State's pre-eminent cultural institutions including the State Library which continues to be the most visited institution in the centre. With the imminent start to the construction of the new museum, the Library has taken the opportunity to review the way in which the building is used as our client engagement continues to evolve. As we increasingly provide information in digital form, the need for extensive areas of bookshelves is decreasing. Collaborative digital and study workspaces as well as traditional quiet individual study space are needed, and our exhibition program would benefit from additional flexible spaces including a

museum quality exhibition area. Architects have been engaged to provide advice on how existing areas can be repurposed to meet the challenges of the future and to respond to the opportunities that the new museum provides.

On behalf of the State Library of Western Australia, I thank the Friends of Battye Library for their continued support and look forward to working together in the coming year to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes and services to the community.

*Margaret Allen
Chief Executive Officer and State Librarian*

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Newspaper Digitisation

Eleven more newspaper titles have recently been sent by the State Library of Western Australia to the National Library for digitisation. These titles are: the *Albany Mail & King George's Sound Advertiser* 1883-1889; the *Collie Miner* 1900-1916; the *Coolgardie Mining Review* 1895-1897; the *Goldfields Morning Chronicle* 1896-1898; the *Group Settlement Chronicle & Margaret Augusta Mail* 1923-1930; the *Magnet Mirror & Murchison Reflector* 1928-1935; the *Manganese Record, Peak Hill, Nullagine & Marble Bar Gazette* 1928-1941; the *Menzies Miner* 1895-1901; the *Mt Leonora Miner* 1899-1910; the *Murchison Times & Day Dawn Gazette* 1894-1925 and the *Yalgoo Observer & Murchison Chronicle* 1923-1941.

These newspapers should start appearing by the end of the year and will boost the number of Western Australian newspaper titles digitised up to 137. Once the *Collie Mail* and the *Murchison Miner & Day Dawn Gazette* have been digitised, all Western Australian newspapers covering the World War I era will be available online through Trove.

Forthcoming Exhibitions at the State Library

A Sausage Went for a Walk One Day

Celebrating Western Australian picture books and 40 fabulous years of Fremantle Press 1 October - 31 December 2016 Ground Floor gallery.

This exhibition celebrates the artistry and diversity of Western Australian picture books published by Fremantle Press. Since the

publication of *A sausage went for a walk* by Ellisha Majid and Peter Kendall, Fremantle Press has established a small but significant children's program which has achieved national acclaim. Visitors to the exhibition will enter a world of imagination through stories and illustrations of creators like Bronwyn Bancroft, Kyle Hughes-Odgers, Norman Jorgensen, Sally Morgan, Tim Winton and Dianne Wolfer, to name a few.

Discover how ideas for picture books emerge, and explore how they are brought to life through storyboards, working notes and then the published book. Read books seen in the exhibition and share your own story ideas in the in-exhibition reading space.

This exhibition is presented by Fremantle Press, the State Library of Western Australia and AWESOME Arts. It is launched as part of the 2016 AWESOME Festival and Fremantle Press 40 Year Anniversary celebrations. For opportunities to meet the authors and illustrators who created these books, go to awesomearts.com.

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Digitisation of Western Australian heritage material

To increase access to, and preserve the Library's valuable collection, significant Western Australian heritage material continues to be digitised. Researchers throughout Australia and across the world can access relatively scarce, and in some cases physically vulnerable materials. In the past year 49,081 digital objects were created and made available through the Library's catalogue.

Significant items digitised were:

- The Batavia journal of Francisco Pelsaert – an account of the wreck of the Batavia published in Amsterdam (1647).
- Raymond Stanley Stewart World War II diaries (1942-1945).
- Annual reports of the Chief Protector of Aborigines (1912-1934).
- Annual reports of the Child Welfare Department (1928-1972).
- The report of the late trial for libel: Clarke versus MacFaul September 4th 1835 - the first book published in Western Australia.

Oral histories digitised were:

- A series of interviews with Cliff Humphries.
- An interview with May O'Brien by Vince McCudden.
- An interview with Hannah Jackson by Maureen Robinson.
- An interview with Jim Fitzmaurice and Sir Norman Brearley by Suzanne Welborn.

Newspaper digitisation

Through the Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program 418 microfilm reels, made up of 54 Western Australian newspaper titles (265,061 pages) were digitised with funds provided by the Fremantle City Council, Rio Tinto and the Library Board of WA. They were made available via the National Library of Australia's Trove platform.

Microfilming program

Microfilming ceased this year due to changing technology, the establishment of the National Library of Australia's (NLA) digitising from hardcopy newspaper standard, and the diminishing skills base in microfilm at the Library. A successful microfilm program has run for over 60 years, preserving primarily newspapers but also many archival collections providing access to these collections without damaging the originals. The library continues to provide microfilm reels to the NLA for digitising and online access through Trove. Using existing digital equipment, several country newspapers have now been digitised from hardcopy, one paper through a grant from Rio Tinto.

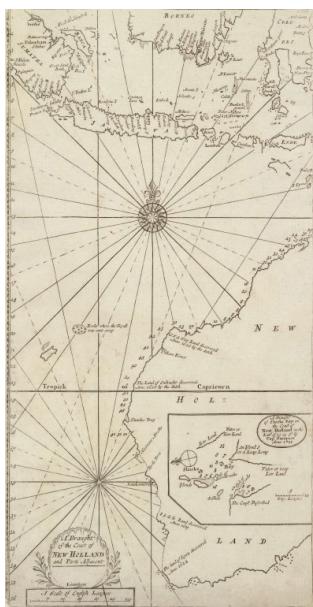
Conservation program

A conservation priority was to box rare materials, heritage items and microfiche, with more than 5000 custom made boxes produced. This work is a major preventative conservation measure which is both an effective and practical way of extending the life of an item. A particular challenge was housing the Fairbairn Collection, an acquisition of immense historical value, which includes many objects including clothing, watches, metal and wooden objects.

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Further Collection Acquisitions

Early maps of Western Australia



Two late 17th century charts of the State's pre-colonial heritage were acquired. The first, by Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh and cartographer Johannes van Kuelen is a large chart of the central west coast of New Holland (Swan River to the north-west). The second, by English explorer Dampier and cartographer Thornton is a small chart of the west coast of New Holland and the Dutch East Indies. These maps complement the 400 year celebrations of the landing of Dirk Hartog in Western Australia.

Yarloop Museum

Digital images of the Yarloop Museum taken in 2006. These images provide an important visual record of the historic Yarloop Workshops, which housed a

unique assortment of railway engines and timber mill machinery demonstrating early WA manufacturing and production techniques in the South West. The Workshops, constructed in 1901-1910, were destroyed by fire in January 2016.

Murakami photographs of Broome

Yasukichi Murakami's photographs show the pearl industry, family life, and social events in Broome in the early 1900s. Murakami was a well-respected leader of the community who designed a modern day pearl suit but never received credit for this invention. In 1941, Murakami was interred in Victoria and he died there in 1944, aged 56. The Japanese-Australian photographer Mayu Kanamori has created a stage play from this story titled *Through a distant lens*.

Wyalkatchem Photographs

George Henry Riches' extensive collection of glass negatives provides a unique visual record of pioneer life around Wyalkatchem in the early 20th century. They show the Riches family and friends, public buildings, bush scenes, logging, agricultural activities, floods, and other significant events of the district.

Mining Photographs

Photographs of mining activities from the 1960s to the 1980s by professional landscape photographer Richard Woldendorp, capture the economic, environmental and social aspects of mining development in WA.

Western Australian Government State Batteries

Ronald T Sheppard photographs of Western Australian Government State Batteries document the government-owned battery facilities used in the mining industry to crush ore and extract minerals from 1898 to 1987. Some of these batteries only operated for a year or two and by 1987 they had all been closed. These photos taken 1898-1999 provide a valuable record of Australia's only state ore-crushing operations.

Durack Family Records

Further records of the Durack family were acquired including correspondence between Bill Durack in Queensland with family members in WA from 1946 to 2010, an unpublished manuscript of Mary and Elizabeth Durack, *The Young Know*, audio-visual material, and approximately 6000 photographs from the 1850s onwards. This acquisition complements existing holdings of Durack material, providing a detailed and continuous record of this well-known Western Australian family, their activities in the north, views on events and conditions of the time, and relationships with other famous people from business and the Arts. It also provides insight into Elizabeth Durack's 'Eddie Burrup' controversy.

Letters of Charles

Learmonth

Letters written by RAAF pilot



Wing Commander Charles Cuthbertson Learmonth.
(Courtesy Australian War Memorial PO3614.)

Charles Cuthbertson Learmonth (1917-1944) to his fiancé then wife Marjorie Chapple (1918-2008). Charles tragically crashed into the ocean near Rottnest on 6 January 1944 while flying a Beaumont bomber on a training flight. The air base near Exmouth was later named in his honour.

Hillcrest Farm, Dalwallinu 1920s-1950s

Thomas Hodgson, who served in the First World War, took up a soldier settlement block in Dalwallinu in 1922. His diaries tell the story from when the block was taken up through the building of the house, construction of dams and the development of the crops and animals of the farm to the transition to modern times.

Dianne Wolfer papers

Further papers and archival material was received from the author Dianne Wolfer relating to her books *Light Horse Boy* and *Granny Grommet*.

'Bark Catalpa of New Bedford'

A rare lithograph was acquired of the 'Bark Catalpa' (1876) drawn by E N Russell (ref.b4608197). It captures one of Western Australia's most colourful tales - the escape of the Fenians from Fremantle Gaol.



Mining and Energy WA (MEWA) Archive

The mining and energy resource sector is of historic and ongoing significance to Western Australia and the Library has committed to creating “a special archive that preserves and makes available the rich history of resources and mining in Western Australia working in particular with private corporations active in the resource sector.” A review of the Library’s existing holdings was undertaken, and then a Scoping and Strategic Plan for the project was developed in 2015.

To date, the Library has digitised select materials, fostered new partnerships with organisations in the sector, and commenced an oral history program targeting key individuals and organisations in the sector, to fill gaps in the existing collection. The Library is collaborating with the State Library of Western Australia Foundation to raise funds to extend the scope of the Mining and Energy WA archival project.

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Western Australian New Music Archive

Hundreds of profiles for performers, ensembles, organisations, locations and events have been created in the Western Australian New Music Archive since its launch in May 2015, and the web portal has been upgraded to improve functionality. In addition, thirty five posters reflecting the history of the Western Australian music industry were acquired for the collection.

To enable hundreds of items from the archive being released into public access via the SLWA catalogue and WAMNA web portal, permissions were sought from the copyright holders. Ninety percent of the creators were contacted leading to many new digital and physical items donated for the archive. Several research papers have been produced over the past year, which have sought to illustrate the model by which the WANMA project operates.

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Pandora

PANDORA (Preserving and Accessioning Networked Documentary Resources of Australia) is the National Library’s web archive dedicated to the preservation of and long term access to significant Australian websites.

The Library identified and archived 160 significant Western Australian

websites during the year, with a major collecting focus on the 400th anniversary of the landing of Dirk Hartog in 1616. The *Dirk Hartog Voyage of Discovery Shark Bay 1616* website available at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.arc-155909> commemorates this significant anniversary.

The strong representation of election materials in Pandora was enhanced with the addition of new websites for the 2016 Australian Federal Election campaign collection at <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/col/13906#13906>

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Premier's Book Awards - 2016 winners announced

It is interesting to note that the winner of the PBA for Western Australian History is State Library of WA Western Australian History is Ruth Morgan for her book *Running Out? Water in Western Australia* which was published by UWA Press in 2015.

“Morgan’s subject is topical and most relevant to Western Australian readers, but it also has a wider appeal. It presents impeccable research and referencing, while Morgan’s wit and humour is engaging. This is a pioneering study of value to other scholars, and the seriously interested reader.” The full list of winners can be found at <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/1578d6060307a528>

State Records Office - News from the Archives

Opening hours are now Tuesday to Friday from 10.00am - 4.30pm.

Changes to SRO Search Room services

Current retrieval arrangements for Tuesday to Friday remain basically unchanged. On the days that the Search Room is open (Tues-Fri) archives held onsite are retrieved twice a day: before opening at 10am and at 12pm midday with items available by 1pm. Requests received after midday and before 4pm will be retrieved the following working day by 10am. Online and email requests made after 4pm

will be available from 1pm onwards the following day on the days the Search Room is open.

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

*Gerard Foley
Senior Archivist*

[Editor's note: The back cover of this newsletter has been updated with the new opening times and retrieval details.]

2016 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture

The SRO has secured Commissioner Andrew Murray of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, to be the speaker for the 2016 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture. Commissioner Murray, a former businessman and Senator for Western Australia, was born in England and was sent to Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) as a child migrant. He migrated to Australia in the 1980s. Commissioner Murray has advised that the topic for his address will be *Children in need: why records are central to identity and justice*. The Lecture will be held at the Government House Ballroom, St George's Terrace, Perth, at 6pm on Thursday 24 November 2016. Along with dignitaries and SRO stakeholders, this year members of WA organisations which represent those who experienced institutional and out-of-home care in times past will also be invited to the lecture.

International Congress on Archives – Seoul, Korea

Senior Archivist Gerard Foley and Dr Debra Rosser, a consultant employed by the Department of Child Protection and Family Services, jointly presented a paper to the quadrennial International Congress on Archives in Seoul, South Korea, on 6 September 2016. The paper titled *Glimmers of Identity and Beacons of Justice: The role of administrative records in achieving justice for survivors of childhood abuse* is about the Restricted Archives Preservation (RAP) project which uncovers information about 'care-leavers' from State Archives. Very good feedback was received about the paper at the Congress, and it supported one of its themes - the use of records and archives in justice, advocacy and reconciliation work.

History Slam 180!

SRO staff were involved in the Perth Heritage Days History Slam, organised by the Professional Historians Association of WA, on Saturday 15 October 2016 at the Burt Memorial Hall in St George's Terrace. The History Slam 180 fulfilled its promise as "a fast and furious storytelling forum where people working and delving in all aspects of history share their most memorable moments: the bizarre, tragic, heart-warming, weird, unbelievable and hilarious. All in 180 seconds each!"

Perth Metro Plans Project

Thanks to the support and funding provided by the Friends, the SRO has now completed digitization of all 2,202 sewerage plans as part of the Perth Metro Plans Project. Geo-referencing of each plan is continuing. The SRO has recently provided an overview of the project on its website and there is growing community and government interest in it. The SRO has been contacted by several government agencies who wish to learn more and have offered their support, potentially in helping promote this initiative when the mapping interface goes live.



Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA)

The SRO-DAA partnership project to digitize all 14,000 Aboriginal Affairs files held in the State archives collection is on track for completion by 30 June 2017. Files are currently being scanned at a rate of 70,000pp/month, with close attention paid to quality control. The SRO is meeting with DAA on a regular basis to discuss project matters, including access protocols to digitized content.

Consultations

Consultation, regarding the management of recorded information during Administrative Change is continuing with the:

- Former TAFE Colleges as they adapt to Administrative Change across the sector;
- Princess Margaret Hospital to ensure State records are captured and managed prior to the move to the new Perth Children's Hospital;
- Potato Marketing Corporation which has ceased to exit; and
- Screen West.

State Records Commission

The Commission's Annual Report is now available on the State Records Office website at: http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/src_annual_report_201516_web.pdf

SRO Lunchtime Seminars for 2017

The State Records Office of Western Australia invites you to the 2017 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 engage in 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 early next year 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.

Cathrin Cassarchis
State Archivist

News from the National Trust of Western Australia (NTWA)

1916: Curtin's war against the state

Thursday 17 November, 5.45pm. Assoc Prof Deborah Gare will give the 2016 Curtin Family Home Lecture. At the Grove Library, Peppermint Grove. \$25 members, \$30 non members. Please RSVP via 9321 6988 or rsvp@ntwa.com.au.

In 1916 the Commonwealth government waged a secretive war against dissidents on the home front. When parliament was disbanded on the eve of the first conscription referendum, it enabled Hughes to control power unilaterally. Around the country, armed thugs broke up anti-war rallies and opposition politicians were beaten. Eleventh-hour measures were put in place to control the outcome of the vote, while eligible conscripts were put in uniform and marched through the streets of Australia's large cities.

It was during this emergency that John Curtin bravely led the anti-conscription movement. Moving from house to house to avoid arrest, Curtin rallied dissent and--in a stunning electoral upset--derailed the government's plan for forced enlistments. The secret events of this period in Australia's war history are only now becoming clear. One thing is certain: Curtin's time as prime minister in the Second World War was shaped by his war against the state in 1916.

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Grounds Volunteers Needed – East Perth Cemeteries

Do you enjoy being out in the fresh air and doing a bit of gardening?

After this wet winter there are a lot of weeds in the graves at the Cemeteries and we'd love to establish a group of volunteers to help us with hand weeding. Both weekday and weekend opportunities exist. Training will be provided and all you will need to bring are your gardening gloves and a hat! Please email trust@ntwa.com.au or phone 9321 6088 and we'll send you an expression of interest form so we can pick a suitable date to get started.



East Perth Cemetery. (Battye Library SLWA. Backshall collection 004512d)

Travellers and Traders in the Indian Ocean World

From November 2016 until Sunday 23 April, 2017. This exhibition, fittingly located in the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle on the edge of the ocean, takes you on your own journey across the Indian Ocean to discover its rich history through ancient objects and stories about its traders, explorers and the many different peoples who inhabit its shores.

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 _____

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

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 with a note of your online payment.

If you require a receipt, please tick here

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

Jack's back: A 90th birthday, a 400th anniversary and a diamond jubilee.

Clearly, a good number of the Friends of Battye Library are also keen members of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, and naturally the two organisations share many interests and general objectives in common. And indeed the society is proud of the part it played in its early years in urging the establishment of the State Archives, which in turn led to the creation of the Battye Library in 1956. Just now it seems fitting to note here briefly some of the recent activities of the 'Royals'.

Over the years since its foundation in 1926, the society has quietly but suitably marked several of its round-number birthdays, and in 2016 it has been vigorously celebrating its ninetieth. The biggest event has been the presentation at Stirling House of a professionally designed exhibition with the title *Western land – a journey of discovery*. This tells the story of Western Australia from 50,000 years of Aboriginal life through to the present day in numerous objects and images that are mostly from the society's own collections. It has been well supplemented by a Community Talks Program, a series of public addresses given by appropriate speakers and well attended. The exhibition will remain on view well into the coming new year, and is highly recommended.



90th birthday reception at Government House 13 September 2016. L-R: Pamela Mulcahy, Clem Mulcahy, Governor Kerry Sanderson, and June Shenton-Turner.

Tying in neatly, there has also been a strong focus on commemorating the landing of Dirk Hartog at Shark Bay four hundred years ago. The society's bronze replica of the pewter plate that the Voyager left there in 1616 is a prominent feature of the Western land display. In addition, with support from the Netherlands embassy, the society has produced the slim but very attractive book, *The life and times of Dirk Hartog*, which was launched on 17th October by Her Excellency the Governor, Kerry Sanderson. The combined work of four authors, this was edited by Phillip Playford and Lenore Layman.

Further observing the ninetieth birthday, Dr Layman also contributed a concise address entitled *A new history of the society* at its Annual General Meeting in September. Its emphasis was on the society's role and achievements in the wider community, and it will be published in the next edition of *Early days*. It follows earlier offerings on the history of the society by Ivor Birtwistle in 1970, Paul Hasluck in 1977, and Rica Erickson in 2006, all in *Early days* too. With this latest enrichment, these four articles will doubtless provide a valuable basis for the further resources, research and work which we can expect to go into a comprehensive history of the society for its centenary in just a few years' time.



Meanwhile,
nearing the
end of 2016,
we can happily
celebrate
that we have
just arrived
at the sixtieth
anniversary of
the foundation
of the Battye
Library!

Battye Library
reading room 28
August 1956.
(Battye Library,
SLWA 319560PD)

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

<http://www.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*

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.

Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291 Fax enquiries (08) 9427 3256

Website www.slwa.wa.gov.au Email:info@slwa.wa.gov.au

Specialist staff: Dr Susanna Iuliano (Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165

Steve Howell (Senior Subject Specialist : Battye) (08) 9427 3476

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

State Records Office

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

Retrievals

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

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

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

Telephone (08) 9427 3600, website www.sro.wa.gov.au, email: sro@sro.wa.gov.au

The Genealogy Centre

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

Specialist staff for Family History: Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247. Email: leonie.hayes@slwa.wa.gov.au

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