

No. 164



March 2019

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

Our March 2019 meeting

Andrew Green

Paradise Defiled...Paradise Defiant

*British and Australian soldiers' visions of Great War
pastoral landscapes.*



Supporting troops of the 1st Australian Division walking on a duckboard track near
Hooze, in the Ypres Sector 5 October 1917.

(Photographer Frank Hurley, Australian War Memorial no. E00833.)

Tuesday 12 March 2019 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. *Please see details on page 3.*

Objectives

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

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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.

March Meeting

Tuesday 12 March 2019
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Andrew Green

Paradise Defiled...Paradise Defiant
British and Australian soldiers' visions of Great War
pastoral landscapes.

Details of Andrew's talk are on page 4.

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

Problem with the stairs?

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

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Andrew Green's talk

One of the most striking features of Great War soldiers' testimony is how closely many of them identified with the pastoral landscapes and natural life of the Western Front.

In his talk, Andrew Green will dip into the large body of such material to shape a narrative of how the countryside was disfigured by the appalling conflict...and then healed itself. There will be extracts from the letters, diaries and autobiographical writings of British and Australian soldiers, combined with a large body of photographs which help tell the story.

About Andrew

Andrew Green recently retired after more than three decades as a freelance radio producer and presenter for various BBC networks... chiefly Radio 3, Radio 4 and the World Service. Andrew's main interests as a broadcaster were in making music and history programmes, but he also worked in the areas of sport, politics and religion. He continues to operate as a music journalist and as a Fellow of the University of Hertfordshire, where he specialises in running oral history projects. A major thrust of his personal research involves examining various aspects of the eye-witness testimony of Great War soldiers on the Western Front.



Andrew is a regular visitor to Perth, where he has family. From 2014 to 2017 he was involved in running a joint oral history project between UWA and the University of Hertfordshire. This gathered memories of migration from the UK to WA and recollections of family members left behind.



Meeting dates for 2019

- 14 May** - Michelle McKeough: *Western Australia and the bubonic plague.*
- 9 July** - Alex Aitkin and Trevor Tough - *Outback Graves*
- 10 September** (AGM) - Peter Ellery - *WA Mining history*
- 19 November** (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function
Richard Offen - *Lost Perth* (TBC)



President's piece

Dear Friends

A Happy and Healthy New Year everyone.

As set out in our Newsletter, 2019 promises to be a busy year. The State Library is off to a splendid start with an exhibition featuring the work of Shaun Tan a very gifted artist in a number of media. His oil paintings, clay sculptures, sketches and book illustrations present a feast for the eye so do try to visit it on the ground floor.

We have now acquitted the big Lotterywest grant awarded to the Friends to update and improve the East Perth Cemeteries website, and many of you were able to attend our launch and unveiling late last year. It is a website to be proud of and has won much acclaim from historians here and in the East. Other cemeteries are now going to follow our lead, which is a huge feather in Lorraine's and Cherie's caps!

Hopefully your committee will put together another largish proposal for Lotterywest funding this year. Lord knows the Library, and especially our Battye Library collections, really need help with the Government's continual and savage cuts to the non-performing arts sector!

Looking forward to seeing many of you again at our March meeting

With very best wishes Pamela



Members' information

Australia Day honour for Phil Bianchi

We were delighted to read in this year's Australia Day announcements that one of our members, Phil Bianchi, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his services to community history.



Members might recall that Phil was shortlisted for the Margaret Medcalf Award in 2014 for his book 'Work completed, Canning': a comprehensive history of the Canning Stock Route 1906 – 2010, which was published by Hesperian Press.

Phil Bianchi.
(<http://www.philbianchi.com.au>)

Vale Bill Henderson

We were grieved to learn last year of the passing of one of our long term members, Bill Henderson, and would like to extend our sincere condolences to Bill's wife, Helen Henderson, and their family.

The following obituary first appeared in *History West* and is reproduced here with appreciation to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.

Bill Henderson (1928-2018)

We noted with sadness the death of our member, volunteer, former Councillor and Treasurer. Bill helped the Society wherever there was a need with skill, good cheer and gentlemanly kindness. The support he provided was invaluable, most notably when he stepped in as Treasurer at a difficult time.

William George Henderson LS, FISA, was born in West Perth and undertook his survey cadetship under F G Medcalf in Albany. As a surveyor in the WA Lands and Surveys Department he carried out many surveys across the State, his career culminating in the position of Surveyor General from 1984 to 1986. He made a significant contribution to the mapping of Australia and will be particularly remembered for the part he played in pinpointing the desert triangle where the Northern Territory, South Australia and Queensland meet.

After retirement in 1986 Bill developed a protea plantation at Toodyay which he operated until 1997. Most recently he worked with his wife Helen to research and write the biography of Augustus Oldfield, a 19th century botanical collector and ethnographer about whose collecting trips not much was known. Bill mapped Augustus Oldfield's travels and, with Helen, retraced the routes. In the process they have added greatly to knowledge and have produced a splendid book, *A Greater Prize Than Gold*, which will be the go-to reference for any queries on Oldfield or related topics in the future.



Introducing Dr Chris Owen, Acting Battye Historian

Chris was with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and was involved in the Single Noongar Claim (SNC) native title litigation (2005-8) that established native title over Perth. His book *"It's still in my heart, this is my country": the Single Noongar Claim History* UWAP, 2009, co-written with John Host, won the 2010 Australian Human Rights Award for non-fiction as well as the Margaret Medcalf Award for that year.

Chris is currently Acting Battye Historian and a Honorary Research Fellow in the School of History at the University of Western Australia. He has been researching Aboriginal history for more than twenty years, and has published articles which have won several awards.



Chris's research interests, primarily using archival records of the State Records Office, include colonial policing (specifically the Kimberley), Aboriginal policy and governmental administration, and the social conditions at the frontiers of colonisation in Western Australia.

In 2016 he published '*Every Mother's Son is Guilty*': *Policing the Kimberley Frontier of Western Australia 1882-1905*. This book is based his PhD which won the UWA Board of the Graduate Research School Dean's List 'In recognition of an outstanding thesis.' His PhD also received a special commendation at the 2015 Margaret Medcalf Awards.



Update of Friends of Battye Library publication

Our little book, *The convict records of Western Australia: a research guide*, which is on our website, has been extensively updated and will soon be in print again. This comprehensive guide builds on Gillian O'Mara's popular publication which was first published by the Friends in 1990.

The *guide* has been revised and expanded by Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland of Swan Geology. It is an unparalleled reference source and the online version on our website www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au is already 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.

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.

Have you a story to tell?

[Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland, who are two of our committee members were responsible for information and setting up the East Perth Cemeteries website. The project, which was funded by Lotterywest and supported by the Friends of Battye Library, was launched late last year and it is already proving to be a very valuable resource.]

New website for the East Perth Cemeteries

The East Perth Cemeteries has gone through many changes over its 189-year life span.

Location R, the burial ground for the Perth district was non-denominational although Reverend Wittenoom, a Church of England minister, was the chaplain responsible for most early burials. During the earliest years of colonial settlement no one appeared to be responsible for the operations of the burial ground, until 1842 when the land was granted to Trustees of the Church of England to administer as a public cemetery. Cemeteries for other religious denominations were gradually allocated as required. The Roman Catholic church was allocated Lots T41 and T42 in 1848, the Independent Congregational and Wesleyan Methodist faiths were each were granted Lots T39 and T40 respectively in 1854, and in 1867 the Jewish congregation was granted Lot E72. The Presbyterian church acquired Lots E70 and E71 in 1881, and the Chinese community obtained Lot E69 in 1888. An eighth cemetery Location, E73, was assigned for the burial of felons in 1867.

The new website will ensure that we can capture the unique Western Australian stories of the individuals who are buried at the cemeteries and how the small colony worked and played. The site will enlarge over time and enable descendants of those buried there to capture individual anecdotes and share them with the world through the online FREE platform.

Visitors can take a virtual or real walk amongst the Imperial convicts who were sent to the colony to build infrastructure and provide much needed farm labour. A search of the burial database will uncover 779 hits for the word 'convict', currently there are 35 headstones for convicts and the convict walk tells the story of six of the lesser known ones. Or you can take a walk in the shoes of our pioneer women. So many stories can be

found about men of the Swan River Colony, but many women also left an indelible mark on our early history. Or how about taking a different walk and find out about six individuals and how they met their grizzly deaths.

Images of headstones have been digitised and memorial Inscriptions transcribed. An interpretation of the symbols on graves are now included, and the what and why of these symbols help the reader learn more about those buried within.

If you have an ancestor who is interred in the East Perth Cemeteries and would like to share their story, please get in contact and we would love to help you share it.

The Friends of Batty Library and National Trust Western Australia launched the new East Perth Cemeteries website, thanks to Lotterywest. The new site has a mapping interface which enables visitors to see the cemeteries in a whole new manner. The website enables us to take virtual walks amongst villains, famous men, interesting women, convicts, publicans and/or people who have been murdered. We are now able to engage the public and tell many more stories in a unique and ground-breaking way. Do take a moment or two to check out:

www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au

Lorraine Clarke



An interesting find in the State Library's catalogue

Sometimes, when trawling through the wonderful online photographic images in the Battye Library we come across some gems. In this case a true Gem of Time, our own Fr Ted Doncaster, who has done so much to document and record the history of the Anglican church in Western Australia. These two photographs of Fr Ted at work in his ministry were taken in 1959 and are part of a series photographed for the filmstrip *We call on the Rector* made by Lily Best, affectionately known as 'Tiger Lil'.



Rev. Ted Doncaster, Rector of St. George's Anglican Church, Bluff Point rings the bell for morning service.

(Battye Library, SLWA 335048PD)

Rev. Ted Doncaster conducts a religious instruction class at Bluff Point Primary School.

(Battye Library, SLWA 335050PD)



The very informative catalogue entry also includes a script for the film, which was written by Fr Ted.

Photographer Miss Lily Best was brought to Western Australia by the Bishop of Kalgoorlie, Rt Rev'd Cecil Muschamp. This filmstrip was based on the daily life of a priest centred on the sacraments and seasons. Bluff

Point, Wonthella, Northampton and Nabawa churches are all depicted as well as other locations of ministry. The Rector of Bluff Point, Rev. Ted Doncaster, who appears in many of the images, wrote the script which was approved by the photographer before being committed to reel-to-reel tape, which was played with every showing of the filmstrip. The filmstrip was produced by E.C.E. in Maidenhead, U.K. using Lily Best's Kodachrome transparencies which were developed by Kodak.

Lily Best later went on to Papua New Guinea to film the missionary work being undertaken there by the Anglican church.

We are indebted to Fr Ted for preserving these photographs and the script and for donating them to the State Library in 2005,

(Jennie Carter, ed.)

Commemorating the end of Transportation

[The final entry in this series is a list of all the convict ships that came here and the number of male convicts who disembarked in Fremantle between 1 June 1850 and 9 January 1868. In compiling this list, we are indebted to the ground-breaking research work carried out by Gillian O'Mara and Charles Bateson.]

Convict ships arriving at Fremantle 1850-1868

The ships on this list all sailed from Britain unless noted in square brackets as being sent from another country.

The number of convicts who disembarked at Fremantle is shown in parentheses after the ship's name. Ships coming from India carried British military prisoners who had been court-martialled in that country, and as far as can be ascertained, all 38 of them came ashore in Western Australia.

1850 *Scindian* (75), *Hashemy* (100)

1851 *Mermaid* (208), *Pyrenees* (293), and *Minden* (301)

1852 *Marion* (279), *William Jardine* (212)

- 1853 *Dudbrook* (228), *Pyrenees* (293),
Robert Small [Ireland] (303), and *Phoebe Dunbar*
[Ireland] (285)
- 1854 *General Godwin* [India] (15), *Sea Park* (304),
Ramillies (277)
- 1855 *Guide* [India] (6), *Stag* (224), and *Adelaide* (259)
- 1856 *William Hammond* (249), *Runnymede* (248)
- 1857 *Clara* (262), *City of Palaces* [India] (4)
- 1858 *Nile* (270), *Caduceus* [India] (1), *Lord Raglan* (268),
Albuera [India] (11), and *Edwin Fox* (280)
- 1859 *Sultana* (224), *Frances* [India] (1)
- 1860 no convict ships arrived
- 1861 *Palmerston* (293)
- 1862 *Lincelles* (304), *Norwood* (290), and *York* (299)
- 1863 *Merchantman* [Bermuda] (191), *Clyde* (320),
and *Lord Dalhousie* (270)
- 1864 *Clara* (301), *Merchantman* (257)
- 1865 *Racehorse* (278), *Vimeira* (280)
- 1866 *Belgravia* (276), *Corona* (305)
- 1867 *Norwood* (253)
- 1868 *Hougoumont* (279)

Total 9676 convicts

The total number of convicts given above excludes 61 convicts who were either removed from their ships before arrival in Fremantle (such as the few taken off at Gibraltar), or who died on the voyage. See Charles Bateson *The convict ships 1787-1868* Artarmon NSW, AH & AW Reed, 1974. A complete list, which includes the court-martialled convicts from India omitted by Bateson, is in Gillian O'Mara *Convict records of Western Australia: a research guide* Northbridge, Friends of Battye Library (Inc.), 1990 pp.49-50. O'Mara lists the number of convicts who embarked on the voyages.

Bevan and Jennie Carter



Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is one of Australia's most well-known oral historians. This article is the twelfth in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library. The quotes from Haworth's interview reflect the language of his time.]

Eugene George Haworth (1902–1985) – OH 338

Born in Norseman, Eugene George Haworth moved with his family to Ravensthorpe in 1909 when he was aged seven. His father, James, was a miner who had moved from Victoria to Coolgardie in 1894 and mining was the dominant activity in the Ravensthorpe district at the time. The family's first house there was of wood and hessian with a galvanised iron roof added next; their third house was entirely iron.

Eugene described a town with a few small sheep farms in the district and where hay was grown for the 'hundreds of horses' that were needed to cart ore and wood. Residents could run cows on the town commonage to provide milk for their families. The town had four hotels, and he recalled the different attitude of publicans with one taking advantage of men who were drunk ensuring an even greater supply of beer, and another who would refuse to serve anyone in that state. There was a code of honour about how women were treated and talked about, particularly during the First World War. The same with miners and prospectors:

The whole town was more or less built around miners and prospectors and ... they're free and easy, and easy spenders ... but one miner every day is trusting his life to the mate he's working with. It's an unwritten law; you never hurt anybody else. You don't worry about yourself, but make sure you never hurt anybody else.

The First World War meant the enlistment of virtually every eligible young man, despite the town voting against conscription. It brought the town's residents closer together with letters from serving family members being shared by placing them on the town's notice board.

There was a charity for war going all the time, the Red Cross and all sorts of things. Everybody was putting every penny they could scratch up into the darn thing. All the women were knitting socks.

In 1916 Eugene left school aged fourteen and worked with his dad, James, on the Marion Martin mine. His strongest memory of that time was the number of working bees that town people joined in to help 'any soldier's wife', to harvest a crop and build a haystack. Due to the war,

copper was in heavy demand and the practice was for the mines to be worked for three months. A horse was used to 'pull the ore' to the top where 'it went through a screen' to separate the 'fines' and the 'roughs'. When enough ore had been accumulated, smelting then took place.

Eugene and his dad later joined 44 other men to work on the government smelters: 'We didn't get any pay until we smelted the darn stuff. While the war was on the Government was squealing for copper, they needed the copper bad.' Again there was a caring attitude. When the manager's wife died in childbirth, a collection was taken up for him even though he was the highest paid man on the smelters.



Men gathered outside the Ravensthorpe Smelter c.1900
{Mines Department Collection Battye Library, SLWA 090607PD}

Eventually James and Eugene took over running the smelters. He described in graphic detail the dangers involved in the process which could see forehearth blow up. One such incident led him to be considered 'a bit of a hero; I was the only man that didn't run away.' He reckoned the reason he didn't run was because the amount of dust in the air after the

blasts meant he couldn't see a thing. A second blast followed and the whole works were wrecked. 'When the smelters blew up like that there was no use going in the mine any more. If you couldn't smelt the ore well there was no use getting it. So the whole work stopped.'

Eugene was another to describe the difficulties experienced with government payments. Advance payments were made on the anticipated value of the copper and gold with the final payment held until the ore had been smelted and sold. He found that final payments could take 'donkeys years', which kept Eugene and his father 'broke for flaming years'. Cases were taken up in various courts, ending up in the Privy Council, a process that 'whittled and whittled' the value of their claim away over a five-year period: 'instead of being about three thousand pounds, he got three hundred pounds'.

With the closure of the smelters, mining in the Ravensthorpe area ceased at the end of 1918 and James and Eugene left to go 'overland with a horse and buggy' to find work. Sadly he described how 'Every able bodied man who wanted work had to leave Ravensthorpe.' After finding work on the way, Eugene and James ended up working at Shotts mine in Collie. Eugene's 'excellent pay' was largely sent back to his mother who remained in Ravensthorpe. He described her as a 'lovely' and 'capable' woman who was 'always happy.' She used it to buy land in the Ravensthorpe area wanting to have a farm but her sudden death after getting pneumonia, meant the family needed to pay the rates and taxes, which they stopped doing during the Depression and all of the land was lost.

After leaving Collie, Eugene became a sleeper cutter at Brunswick Junction using a broadaxe and crosscut saw which he described as 'pretty tricky work.

You could tell a good sleeper cutter. You could slide over the blooming sleepers and wouldn't get a splinter in you at all, he cuts so cleanly, but mine had enough splinters on them to fly.

He remembered only cutting three sleepers on his first day while the expert in the team squared 30. He then helped build a saw mill.

Not wanting to work in the saw mill, which he described as drudgery, Eugene moved to East Kirup where Millars had a saw mill and went falling.



Sleeper cutters in the South West c.1920.
(Battye Library, SLWA 078688PD)

The faller's the king of the bush. It's the best game in the bush; highest pay and the best, cleanest. You're your own boss, you work when you like, how you like, and where you like.

Eugene had an amazing capacity to describe every aspect of mining and smelting in detail and set out the differences in local ores which needed adaptations made to the process. He did the same with each of the jobs that followed, and never hesitated over a name.

I often wondered why when I visited Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun on holidays in my youth, I never saw an Aboriginal person. According to Eugene, the reason for this was because the first farmers in the district were the four Dunn brothers who arrived 'in the late '70s or early '80s'. One of their shepherds was speared: 'John Dunn shot the native and the native speared Dunn and they both perished'. Other incidents occurred and the Dunns were unhappy about how such episodes were dealt with by the police in Albany, the nearest police presence at the time. Following an incident that saw one of the Dunn brothers concussed after a confrontation with local Aboriginals, Walter Dunn loaded a pack horse with 'tucker and ammunition and poison and he shot everything that moved that was black, man, woman and kid'. The story went that



seventeen Aboriginal people were shot. The Bremer Range, where they mainly roamed, was dry and Dunn knew where all the gnamma (rock) holes were where water could be found and 'where a white man daren't follow'. Walter travelled deep into the dry area:

On the way back he poisoned all the gnamma holes ... When the tribe came to that gnamma hole and drank the water, they died, but before they died they had time to put their signs up that the water was poisoned ... And from that day on no tribal native ever walked past that line ... It's still taboo. Natives still don't come to Ravensthorpe.

Ronda Jamieson

Walter Dunn, Ravensthorpe 1921.
(Battye Library, SLWA 024524PD)



News from the State Library

Staffing matters

On 23 August 2019 Dr Susanna Iuliano (Battye Historian Strategic Projects) left the State Library and Dr Kate Gregory remains on maternity leave until June 2019. In early October 2018 the role of Battye Historian was taken up by Dr Chris Owen in an Acting capacity. Dr Owen has over twenty years' research experience and particular interest into Aboriginal history (see information about Chris on page 7). In early November 2018 Adrian Bowen took over Steve Howell's role as Senior Subject Specialist after Steve retired. Adrian has worked with the State Library's heritage collections for more than eleven years, including roles in cataloguing, acquisitions, collection development and digital collections management. He was heavily involved in the Friends of Battye Library sponsored OHRRG project, which digitised 17,500 hours of unique oral history recordings. From 2014 Adrian has been responsible for coordinating the

collecting and management of Western Australian archival and original material and brings a deep knowledge of the Battye Library's collections to his new position.

From another view

In January 2018 the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) began work on *From another view*, a project to reinterpret the 1874 trek from Geraldton to Adelaide by explorer and later Western Australian Premier, Sir John Forrest, exploring it from different creative and community perspectives through artworks, regional displays, public programs and educational resources. The project is a partnership with the Minderoo Foundation and will culminate in free exhibitions at two locations in Perth and at a third location in Geraldton in 2019.

Forthcoming events and exhibitions at the State Library

The exhibition at the State Library will unpack the history and meaning of 'exploration', 'colonisation' and 'Country', from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal perspectives and feature historical archival material from SLWA's collections. The exhibition will run from 7 May to 20 July 2019 in the State Library's ground floor exhibition space.

In 2019 the State Library has been running a series of Western Australian focussed historical and literary talks. In January Chris Owen spoke at a



Mounted police patrol escorting Aboriginal prisoners in chains in the Kimberley, 1922,
(Battye Library, SLWA BA2596/1/163)

well-attended State Library Theatre event on his book *'Every Mother's Son is Guilty': Policing the Kimberley Frontier of Western Australia 1882–1905*. This talk revealed how records from the Battye Library and the SROWA collection were utilised. An audio of the talk is available here <https://soundcloud.com/statelibrarywa/every-mothers-son-is-guilty>

On Tuesday 19 March 2019, respected Western Australian historians Dr Charlie Fox and Dr Bobbie Oliver will give a presentation on their edited volume *Radical Perth, Militant Fremantle* (also edited by Dr Lenore Layman). Here you will hear fascinating stories of radical moments in the cities' past. From the 1890s and as recent as Occupy: "Bloody Sunday" on Fremantle Wharf, the Chinese community's fight for survival, Perth's Red Dean and his rock masses, bodgies and widgeys at Scarborough's Snake Pit, women's apron parades in the 1950s, Fremantle's Rajneeshees, the Point Peron Women's Peace Camp and many more.

Recently Acquired Material

- ***Murray Johnstone collection*** relating to oil and gas exploration in WA, ca. 1948-1999. Murray Johnstone (1928-2010) was a well-known Australian geologist who played a key role in the search for oil in Western Australia in the 1950s-1970s. He was a keen photographer and amateur film-maker and kept well-organised records of his travels to remote parts of the state. The material Murray accumulated over his career includes personal correspondence and memorabilia, geological reports, presentation scripts from talks he did to schools and organisations, slides, photographs, and films including a 45-minute film of the Rough Range 1 oil discovery in December 1953 - the first significant oil discovery on mainland Australia. This is an important collection documenting the search for oil in WA and providing insight into the life of one of Australia's leading petroleum geologists of the second half of the 20th Century
- ***Papers and recordings of John Exton***. John Exton (1933-2009) was a notable Western Australian composer, who emigrated to Perth in 1966 to take up a position teaching music at the University of Western Australia. Exton taught composition, twentieth century music and performance, and during his time at UWA he was fundamental in developing the UWA electronic music studio and the Student Chamber Orchestra. Exton retired in 1988, but continued to teach music privately. Over his career he composed 56 complete works, including five works for orchestra or large ensemble, eight string quartets,

nine works for tape and a range of works for solo performance. The collection includes original hand-written scores and notes for many of Exton's works, recordings of his works on sound reels, personal documents relating to his tenure at the university, scrapbooks and archives of his writings and performances of his works, and writings from after his retirement. The collection is an important record of the professional and creative life of one of the most influential figures in the development of Western Australian new music composition.

- ***Early records of the Chung Wah Association.*** The Chung Wah Association is the state's oldest and most established Chinese community organisation. These valuable early records contain a considerable amount of information both in the first Minutes of the Association which date from 1909 (the foundation year) and in detailed applications for membership and the membership certificates of the Kuomintang (KMT) Nationalist Party, which was a major political force in China from the 1920s to 1949, and subsequently became the ruling party of Taiwan. The records were lent for copying (digitisation) by the Chung Wah Association as part of the SLWA and Chung Wah Association Partnership 2017-2018 with assistance from the Office of Multicultural Interests.
- ***Poseidon Nickel photographs*** and slides and transparencies 1970s-1980s, including the Mt Windarra mine site, South Windarra, Laverton, power house crusher construction and commissioning photos, and the effects of Cyclone Trixie. The nickel deposits at Mt Windarra were discovered in 1969 by Ken Shirley, a prospector with Poseidon Limited who then pegged some 40 claims in the area for the company. At this time nickel was in high demand and low supply world-wide and the discovery led to one of the largest mineral booms the Australian Stock Exchange had ever seen. The early photos in this collection are dated 1970-1975 and document the nickel mine during this period of high expectations. Unfortunately, by the time Poseidon actually started producing nickel the price had fallen and in 1976 the company was delisted and taken over by Western Mining who ran it until 1991. The collection includes digital images by Darryl Peroni Photograph taken in September 2005 after Niagara Mining had acquired the mine. In 2007 the company was renamed Poseidon Nickel Limited.



View of headframe and plant at Windarra Nickel Mine.2005.
(Darryl Peroni, Poseidon Nickel collection. Battye Library, SLWA BA3014/388:

- ***Images of the East Kimberley*** including the Bungle Bungles, Frog Hollow, Halls Creek, Kununurra, Mabel Downs Station, Warmun, and Wolfe Creek Crater, recording photographer Darren Clark's fourth trip to north-east WA, July-September 2018. This collection provides insight into both traditional and contemporary life in the East Kimberley. Photographs of dreaming sites, ancient rock art, and indigenous families collecting bush medicine and white ochre contrast with photos of modern, well-equipped educational and health care facilities and the Warmun Art Centre, one of Australia's leading Indigenous art centres.

During his time in Warmun Darren got to know several of the local Gija artists and was able to gain a deeper understanding of how they connect to and represent their country. Clark's evocative documentary photographs are accompanied by written commentaries on issues facing the Gija people today – ongoing threats to their ancestral lands, the loss of traditional culture and language, drug-taking, suicide, and domestic violence. This purchased comprises 362 digital images in total, including 27 aerial shots of the Bungle Bungles taken from a helicopter.

- **Andrée Hayward papers**, dated 1922-1978. Charles Wiltens Andrée Hayward was born in 1866 in England and arrived at the WA goldfields in 1894 where he became a leading figure among a group of goldfield writers. He started his journalist career with the *Geraldton Express* and later worked for the *Murchison Advocate*, *Kalgoorlie Sun* and the *Perth Sunday Times*. In 1922 Andrée moved to Sydney and joined the *Bulletin*, writing satirical verse and social commentary under various pseudonyms. He died in 1950. This collection includes certification for the Bar of the Inner Temple in London where Andrée qualified as a barrister before emigrating to WA; correspondence relating to his career at the *Bulletin*; verses penned by Andrée and signed by various pseudonyms including “T the R” (Thomas the Rhymers); condolence letters written after his death in 1950 including a letter from Blanche D’Alpuget (pioneer woman journalist in Sydney, great-aunt of Blanche D’Alpuget who married Bob Hawke); letters to Andrée’s daughter Lucie including requests from Margaret Medcalf requesting the papers for the Battye Library. This small collection of papers provides insight into one of WA’s most influential poets.
- **Three Lefroy family portraits**
 - Francis Egerton Lefroy ca. 1937, Elizabeth Grace Lefroy ca. 1923, and a copy of a daguerreograph of Henry Maxwell Lefroy, pre-1840. These photographs add to the significant Lefroy collection of letters, diaries, maps, drawings, paintings, and other items already held by the State Library which provide a fascinating historical record of the family and the development of the Swan River Colony.



Portrait of Henry Maxwell Lefroy c.1860.
(Battye Library, SLWA 5001B/58)

State Records Office - News from the Archives

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

State Records Office staff have been involved in committees relating to the State Government announcements on 27 June 2018 relating to the Royal Commission's 409 recommendations, in which it accepts or accepts in principle all 23 recommendations related to recordkeeping and information sharing.

The SRO is a member of the Royal Commission and Related Inquiries Sub Group, a committee of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's Directors General Implementation Group, for implementing the Recommendations. The SRO is also a member of the WA Redress Implementation Working Group, which is working to ensure key WA Departments, such as Communities, Education, Health, WA Police, etc., are prepared to respond to request for information from the scheme, and implement appropriate policies, protocols, and procedures, etc.

Additionally, SRO has been invited to participate in a number of working groups across government, to provide advice on the identification of relevant records.

Perth Metro Plans Update

The State Records Office has completed geo-referencing its historical set of 'sewerage' plans for the Perth metropolitan area. These plans – which comprise 2,202 individual surveys from the early to mid 20th century – show a high level of detail for individual properties, both public and residential. The plans typically provide more detail than historical sets of aerial photography and, in any case, many of the plans pre-date the sets of aerial photographs of the metropolitan area that are available. As such, they provide a unique insight into Perth's built environment from many decades ago and document how much the city has changed over the last hundred years.

The high resolution digitisation of the plans was kindly funded by the Friends of Battye and the SRO has subsequently been geo-referencing each plan (akin to adding in latitude and longitude co-ordinates) with assistance from trained volunteers. Geo-referencing 2,202 plans for a specific project such as this may count as a new world record?



An example of one of the Perth Metro plans SRO

The SRO is now focussed on building the web mapping interface to make the plans available by location or address. Public clients will be able to freely download individual plans through the interface as well as use other options such as ‘fading’ the plans to compare the historical imagery against modern satellite imagery.

This type of capability also sets up the SRO with the ability to add in other types of plans to the interface in time. As many readers will be aware, the SRO holds many other sets of maps and plans that would benefit from being accessible via a modern mapping interface.

The SRO is currently on track for making the mapping interface available in mid 2019 at which time it will publicise the initiative. As many residents in Perth will be able to view their property from many decades ago (even up to 100 years ago), it is expected there will be very strong public interest in the outcomes of this project.

The SRO wishes to thank the Friends of Battye Library once again for their support of this project and their patience in having it completed.

Damien Hassan, Senior Archivist

2019 Margaret Medcalf Award

The SRO has called for nominations for the annual Medcalf Award. Any work completed or published in the 2018 calendar year is eligible to be submitted for nomination, and anyone, including the author of the work, may submit a nomination.

The winner of this Award receives a cash prize of \$1000, or shares this prize if there is more than one winner. Works nominated must demonstrate the use and accurate referencing of State Archives.

Nominations for the 2019 Margaret Medcalf Award should be addressed to the State Archivist, State Records Office of WA by 4pm Friday, 5 April 2019.

The 2019 Lunchtime Seminar Program

The 2019 program will commence on Wednesday 12 March with a presentation by Dr Lise Summers and Dr Michael O'Connor on upgrades to the AtoM catalogue and the release of a Zotero translator, which is a piece of open source referencing software.

The next planned seminar is scheduled for 16 April 2019 with Dr Leigh Straw, Senior Lecturer in Aboriginal Studies and History, Notre Dame University speaking on the topic *After the War: World War One and Returned Soldiers in Western Australia*.

Arrangements for a seminar during NAIDOC week, 7-14 July, are to be confirmed.





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

Afterwords by Steve Errington

Convict 4027 writes a letter home

Not many letters written home by our 9600 convicts have survived. But in 1967 a Xerox copy of one written in Fremantle Prison in 1856 found its way into the safe hands of the Mitchell Library in Sydney.¹ It was written by Griffith Boyer, a 20 year-old who had arrived in Fremantle on the convict ship *Runnymede* in September.

Under the rules convicts could write home every two months. On 21 November, he wrote his second letter, opening in the formal way he had been taught:

I once again embrace the opportunity of addressing these few lines to you hoping they will find you all at home in good health as they leave me here

The letter was sent to John and Elizabeth Boyer in Church Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire enclosing a lock of his hair plaited on a card.

Griffith was born in his ancestral village of Barnton, Cheshire and was baptised in nearby Little Leigh on 7 August 1836. After schooling he had taken up his father's trade of platelaying. Platelayers were employed by railway companies to lay and repair the rails on which their trains ran (the early version of rails were called 'plates'). Remarkably, in Fremantle Prison Griffith was able to practise his trade:

Dear parents I am working at my own trade platelaying in and about the prison yard with wooden rails.

Before the convicts built the prison they built a wooden tramway down what became Fairbairn Street to deliver the excavated soil and stone into the town.

In his letter Griffith wrote 'I like this colony very well' but he also proclaimed his innocence:

I am sure you too often trouble yourself about me knowing that I have been transported away from you innocent.

Griffith was sentenced to transportation for fifteen years for manslaughter. His father John would have had better knowledge than most parents about whether their son was innocent or not – he and Griffith's brother William were at the crime scene.

It was nearly midnight outside the 'Bunch of Grapes' pub at Silkstone, near Barnsley on 14 August 1854. William and a miner named George

Turton had a fight in which Turton was stabbed. Turton walked away but John and Griffith made a life-changing decision: they followed him. Griffith had a knife and in the fight that followed he stabbed Turton three times. The injuries proved fatal but Turton survived long enough to make a deposition before a magistrate, naming Griffith as the one who stabbed him.

Griffith received his ticket-of-leave in July 1858, his Conditional Pardon in August 1861 and settled in the Toodyay area. In 1861, at Dumbarton near Toodyay, he married Isabella Lucas. Together they had four daughters and raised two, Elizabeth and Louisa, to adulthood.

Griffith never went home and it is not known if he remained in touch but, in September 1867, the Fremantle *Herald* published a query from England requesting his address, should he still be in the Colony.

In August 1872 his name re-appeared in the same newspaper when he helped save another Toodyay resident from drowning in that winter's disastrous floods. Mrs Shea was taking two pigs to Newcastle in her one-horse trap. Water had covered the road to a great depth and her young horse had panicked and broken free. Mrs Shea spent several hours standing on the side of the trap in water above her waist until Griffith and another man swam to her rescue.

On 8 June 1880 Louisa Boyer married Charles Ellery in Toodyay and on 17 December that year Elizabeth married Edward Stone in Wesley Church, Perth. Sadly, neither Griffith nor Isabella lived to see their daughters married.

Isabella had died in 1875 and early in 1880 Griffith was at Williams River, probably looking for sandalwood, when he was taken ill. A visiting doctor recommended that he be transferred to Perth Public Hospital (now RPH) and it was there that he died on 15 January. He is buried in an unmarked grave at the East Perth Cemeteries.

Steve Errington

1. MLDOC 1110, Mitchell Library. Rica Erickson quoted a few lines from the letter in *The brand on his coat*, see p.14.

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

Life membership	\$500
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Ordinary	\$25
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Meetings

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

The editor, Jennie Carter at *bevnjen@gmail.com*

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
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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 Chris Owen (A/Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165

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: for Family History information call Tuesday to Thursday on 08 9427 3247 or email info@slwa.wa.gov.au

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