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August 2011

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 57 1625138600

Annual General Meeting

Our speaker will be Dr Jean Chetkovich

Building the Battye Collection:

Show and tell



Image from the Albert Pickles collection of World War One photographs.

L-R: AWP (Albert Pickles?), Ernie Rose,
Jim Salmond (Scotty),

(Courtesy Battye Library b3005195-2)

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 16
August 2011 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm.

Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia.

We will also be voting on amendments
to our Constitution - please see Page 4.

Please see details on Page 3.

Objectives

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

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Emeritus President Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

Committee (2010-2011)

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Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

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

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

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

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

Our Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 16 August 2011
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5.00pm for 5.30pm.

Our speaker will be Dr Jean Chetkovich

*“Building the Battye Collection:
Show and tell”*

Prior to the meeting and Dr Chetkovich’s talk, members present will be asked to vote on two minor, but important, amendments to our Constitution. Please see p.4 for details

Following the meeting you are invited to join us for dinner at the Loreto restaurant (formerly Vultures). The restaurant’s menu can be seen online at <http://www.loretolounge.com.au/index.html>. Bookings can be confirmed on the night.

Problem with the stairs?

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

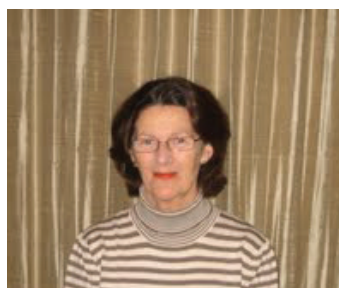
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About our speaker

Dr Jean Chetkovich will show us some of the new items which have been added to the Battye collection over the last year. She will also speak about the challenge of determining the significance of items which could potentially be added to the collection. She will welcome discussion with the members on this topic.

Jean commenced work at the State Library of Western Australia in August 2010. Her role is described as Collection Liaison: manuscripts. This involves selection of material for inclusion the heritage collection



of the library. Knowledge of Western Australian history or heritage was the primary qualification for the role. Prior to taking up her new role, Jean was formerly the Director of the Centre for Western Australian History at the University of Western Australia. Jean did her PhD at UWA on Irish migration to Western Australia post 1945 and has maintained an active

interest in Western Australian history. Her historical works include *Irish Migration to Australia after 1945*, published in 2009 and *A century of care: 100 years of the Silver Chain Nursing Association, 1905-2005* by Jean Chetkovich and Deborah Gare, published in 2005.

Our Annual General Meeting

Prior to the election for the Executive and Committee of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) for 2001/2012, members present will have the opportunity to vote upon two changes to our Constitution.

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

As the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) is an incorporated body, we are required by the State Department of Commerce, which is the agency that administers the *Associations Incorporation Act 1987* to make two minor changes to our Constitution to ensure it is consistent with the provisions of the Act. These changes must be passed by the membership at a general meeting of members.

The first change is to add a clause to **Section 8 ‘Register of members’**. If accepted this will become Clause 8(c) to read:

“A member may at any reasonable time inspect without charge the books, documents, records and securities of the Association.”

The second change is to **Section 26 ‘Dissolution’**. The existing Clause 26(c) currently reads:

“If at the dissolution or winding up of the Society there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the residue shall not be paid or distributed among members of the Society but may be given or transferred to a library approved under Section 78((1) a) of the Income Tax Assessment Act under the terms and conditions as shall be determined by members at the time of the dissolution and winding up.”

It is proposed to change this existing clause to comply with Section 33(2) of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1987* which restricts the distribution of surplus funds and property to either an association incorporated under the Act or for charitable purposes.

It is proposed that Clause 26(c) be amended to read:

“If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same must not be paid to or distributed among the members, or former members. The surplus property must be given or transferred to another association incorporated under the Act which has similar objects and which is not carried out for the purposes of profit or gain to its individual members, and which association shall be determined by resolution of the members.”

If these changes are agreed to at the meeting, they will be incorporated into our Constitution along with the amendment which was passed at the meeting held on 8 March 2011 to alter Section 15 (a) (i) ‘General Meetings’ to “The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held each year at such time and place as the Committee may determine but shall be held not later than the 30th September.”

A copy of the revised Constitution will be printed and provided to all paid up members of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) before the November meeting this year.

Elections

Nomination forms have been included in this newsletter. Please consider nominating either yourself or another member who would like to contribute to the management of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) for the coming year. The committee meets approximately every two months for about an hour and the work, while interesting and very important is not onerous. Extra forms will be available at the meeting and nominations can be taken up to the start of elections.

Current projects

In accordance with its objectives, the Friends of Battye Library is currently funding several important projects being undertaken by the State Library and the State Records Office.

State Library projects

Funded from the Friends of Battye Library General Account:

- Conservation of the JS Roe papers - \$20,000 (over two years)
- Conservation of James Henty papers - \$300
- Digitisation of the *Coolgardie Miner* 1913-1917 - \$1,277
- Digitisation of the *Southern Advertiser* 1888 - \$844

From the Sholl Bequest:

- Conservation, review and digitisation of the Western Australian Biographical Index materials - \$9,260.

In addition, a special project to digitise the Lands & Surveys Chain Series maps has been made possible by a generous gift of \$11,400 from Lindsay Peet. These maps are invaluable for research as they often contain the names of property owners as well as showing change over time.

In recognition of Lindsay's support for the Friends of Battye Library and Western Australian heritage over the years, the project will be named in his honour.

State Records Office project

- Digitisation of Surveyors field books - \$5,715 (Sholl Bequest)
(see further details on page 12)

Fee changes

To cover rising costs, we have had to increase our membership fees by

\$5 each for ordinary, concession, and joint memberships. We have kept the fees as low as we possibly could in appreciation of our members' continued support and you will find the new schedule on the inside back page of this newsletter.

Jennie Carter
(Editor/Membership Secretary)

A new honour for Emeritus President of the Friends of Battye Library, Professor Geoff Bolton AO

We are delighted to announce that Professor Bolton has been presented with the John Douglas Kerr Award for distinction in Research and Writing Australian History. The award was made by the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Professional Historians Association of Queensland at the Queensland Day Dinner on 6 June 2011.

The citation which was read at the function noted that Geoff was one of the earliest researchers to work on north Queensland history. Geoff's early research and writing into the North West Australian pastoral industry is also of note. We extend our warmest congratulations to Professor Bolton on his latest achievement and the recognition this award gives to his extensive body of exceptional work over the years.

Congratulations to Dr Alison Gregg

Alison's book which she co-authored with Paul Dench, *Carnarvon and Apollo : one giant leap for a small Australian town* which was published in 2010 has been nominated for an American award, the Eugene M. Emme award of the American Astronautical Society.

What's New at the State Library

Exhibitions

A very popular and entertaining exhibition has just finished at the State Library. Called Mapping Memory - an exhibition of family history, it was curated by Wendy Lugg, the Royal Western Australian Historical

Society's resident artist, in conjunction with the State Library's family history specialists. It ran from 9 April to 10 July 2011 and used the collections of the Society and the State Library to tell stories echoing Wendy's family memories. Artefacts, maps, ephemera and documents from the two collections intermingled with the artist's memorabilia and artworks to tell a personal story which appealed to all levels and ages of society.

Mapping Memory is being succeeded by The Odditorium, which will run at the State Library from 30 July to 15 October. This mix of oddities and curiosities comes from the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. Shaun Tan, the award-winning children's author and illustrator, has created an intriguing story for each item, replacing factual descriptions with fantastical and funny stories, designed to arouse curiosity in visitors young and old.

To coincide with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth in late October, the State Library, in partnership with Curtin University, is presenting an exhibition on the media in Western Australia. Using the collections of the State Library and with the participation of various media organisations, this exhibition will tell the media story, from newspapers, through telegraph, cinema, radio and television to the internet, in a manner which will interest and engage the people of Western Australia. The exhibition will run until the end of January 2012.

New Acquisitions

The State Library has recently acquired some interesting collections, either through donation or by purchase. Some early Western Australian maps and some beautiful coloured illustrations were recently purchased from the Trowbridge Gallery. Another interesting collection acquired at auction in November 2010, the Cecil Walkley Postal History Collection, has now been catalogued and digitised. It is a significant collection of 32 letters and postcards covering the period 1832-1912 from members of the Bussell family, George Walpole Leake, Henry Trigg, William Locke Brockman and John Septimus Roe amongst others, together with some rare convict letters. Also included are many envelopes, together with their postal markings and postage stamps.

Other material of interest includes an 1840 letter to Walter Padbury from his brother about land; a collection of nearly 200 photographs and watercolours of Fred Flood mainly from 1920-1950; the records

of television station Access 31; a collection of the correspondence of Paul Ritter; a diary of Governor Frederick Bedford of his time in Western Australia 1903-1906 containing photographs, postcards and sketches; the Hardie family photograph albums 1905-1914 & 1933-1938; the Ron Elsegood collection of lantern slides; and a sketchbook of Thomas Turner of Augusta.

National Family History Week 2011

To celebrate National Family History Week 2011 the State Library is offering a program of tours and presentations from 2nd to 4th August.



Discover how to research your family history, learn what resources are available at the State Library, the State Records Office and the National Archives of Australia. Find out how to get the best from our subscription databases and ask the experts for advice on your problem ancestors. Join a behind-the-scenes tour of our conservation and preservation area and learn how to use our scanning equipment. Visit our website at: www.slwa.wa.gov.au/whats_on/national_family_history_week for full program details. Please note: all sessions must be booked.

This event is presented in partnership with the Western Australian Genealogical Society (Inc.).

Steve Howell and Tricia Fairweather.

[Note: Members will be pleased to learn that the Genealogical Centre will be shifting to the State Library's third floor search room, and will share the area with the Battye Library. A new enquiry desk has been designed at all equipment moved to the one area. This will enable better access

to the scanning and imaging equipment in the Leah Cohen Researchers room. JC]

Oral Historical Records Rescue Group (OHRRG)

A grant, totaling \$849,000, to be expended over two years for the OHRRG project was approved by the Lotterywest Board in June 2009. The project aims to rescue and make available the most at risk and in demand oral history interviews held in the Battye Library.

The OHRRG Lotterywest project outcomes are

- 7,500 hours digitized for preservation and access
- 200 voices available for access via the State Library's website.

The State Library of Western Australia is contributing audio equipment (through the Leah Jane Cohen Library Bequest), digital storage, furniture and has constructed two new sound studios as well as providing human resources, payroll, information technology and financial administration services.

Oral History Digitisation Project

[The following article on the progress of the project has been reproduced from the Professional Historians Association WA Newsletter with the kind permission of Kris Bizzaca.]

After a few delays, the construction of the high quality sound studios was completed in December 2010. This, together with the purchase of state of the art equipment, was funded by the State Library of WA as part of their invaluable contribution to the project, which will see the transfer of 7,500 hours of the most at-risk oral history interviews to digital format.

The completion of the sound studios at the State Library meant training with the digitisation equipment could be undertaken by project manager Lee Blackford and her team of audio technicians and that the project itself was finally underway!

Between December 2010 and March 2011, 789 hours (188 interviews) of oral history cassette tapes were digitised.

Audio technicians have spoken of some of the wonderful stories about outback life, wartime and personal hardships and offer a glimpse of a



Sound studio, December 2010. OHRRG staff (from left to right): Kim Lofts, Valda Kiely, Lee Blackford, Anna Kotooussov, Tim Gillett and Maureen Blackford. Absent: Adrian Bowen, Librarian. Courtesy State Library of WA.

couple of interviews that have been digitised for preservation and access:

- A former Director of Mental Health Services in WA, which provides remarkable insight into the development of mental health services both at a state and national level, as well as the development of psychiatry as a discipline in Western Australia. As well as covering his distinguished career, the interview covers his entire life experience from early childhood. Anecdotes from his school years are particularly delightful, such as a surprising weakness in mathematics (particularly for a doctor), or a very clever system of avoiding being forced to play football in the rain.

A merchant seaman who worked mostly on boats out of Fremantle, but who was actually moored in Darwin harbour during the bombing of Darwin in WWII. (This interview is also distinguished by its particularly salty language.)

A part-Aboriginal man who worked on cattle stations in the Pilbara in the 1920s. He discusses his own life experiences, the customs of his mother's tribe, his perspectives on white and Aboriginal society, and what he sees as the problem of alcohol.

Kris Bizzaca and Lee Blackford

State Records Office news

SRO Lunchtime Seminars

Tues 14 Sept 2011 - Speaker: Dr Philippa Martyr - Topic: *Taking Over the Asylum: the Graylands History Project*

Wed 16 Nov 2011 - Speaker: Jan Lord - Topic: *The History of Poliomyelitis in Western Australia*

The dates, speakers and venues will be confirmed and advertised 3-4 weeks before the event.

Bookings are required for Lunchtime Seminars and these can be placed at the Search Room Desk, by telephoning 9427 3360, or by emailing sro@sro.wa.gov.au

Field Days: Digitisation of Surveyors Field Books held by the State Records Office

Earlier this year the Friends of Battye Library agreed to provide funding for the digitisation of a discrete set of Crown surveyors field books, selected from the 1600 books held by the State Records Office (SRO). The majority of these field books were filmed many years ago by the State Microfilm Services Bureau and can be viewed on microfiche at the SRO. However, the microfiche is badly degraded due to constant use and cannot be replaced due to the microfilming technique used at the time. The field books are generally written in pencil, which can also cause problems in reading and interpreting the fiche. As a result, the original field books are now frequently viewed in the SRO Search Room. They are small and can be easily damaged by handling.

Using FOBS funding the SRO will employ a digital technician to scan the field books from the original. Each image will be identified in accordance with SRO naming protocols, before being loaded up to the online catalogue, AEON. It is anticipated that the recruitment of a technician will occur in September and the scanning will commence by the end of this year.

The digitisation of these field books will enhance access to the information held within them, and improve their preservation by reducing handling by staff and researchers. It will enable SRO to reach a new generation of researchers, interested in climate change, land use and sustainability,

and could significantly contribute to our understanding in these areas. It may also help school students and teachers develop teaching materials based on Western Australian records. Digitisation will also allow SRO to look at transcription of the field books, either through another dedicated project or through crowd sourcing. It also will have benefits for the Western Australian based Explorer Diaries project : <http://www.explorationswa.com.au>.

Tom Reynolds

Friends of Battye Library members invitation to the Margaret Medcalf Award

Ms Cathrin Cassarchis, State Archivist and Executive Director State Records has invited Friends of Battye Library members to attend the 2011 Margaret Medcalf Award for Excellence in Referencing & Research to be presented by Mr Colin Murphy PSM, Auditor General and Chairperson of the State Records Commission.

The ceremony will be held at the Alexander Library Building Theatre, Ground Floor, Perth Cultural Centre.

9:45 for 10am on Wednesday 3 August 2011
(Please be seated by 10am)

Morning tea will be served following the presentation. Please RSVP to Birra-Li Cunningham by 29 July 2011 by phone on (08) 9427 3426 or email: birra-li.cunningham@sro.wa.gov.au

Have you a story to tell?

[The following article has been submitted by member Bevan Carter, author of several publications including *Norfolk poacher to Northam Farmer: the life, times and descendants of Robert Carter and Phoebe Oxbury* published in 2007]

Appealing convicts and a baptism

1. the convict

While on a recent long holiday in England staying with our son, Matthew, and his family, to await and celebrate the birth of our newest grandchild, I took the opportunity to expand my research into Western Australia's

convict records held in the British National Archives in Kew. My interest in these records has grown out of years of piecing together my own family's history, particularly that of my ancestor, Robert Carter, a Norfolk poacher who was convicted of wounding a game-keeper and transported to Western Australia in 1854.

On this trip, I decided to continue work that I had begun on a previous visit of taking digital images of the English Prison registers contained in the British Archives Prison Commission (Pcom) 2 files which had not been included in the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) collection of microfilm reels held in the State Library of Western Australia. While convicts who were transported in the early 1850s do have their English prison records available on AJCP reels, and the Convict Group, a special interest group with the West Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS), has indexed them, convicts who arrived after that time have little or no information available on them here.

During a previous stay in England I had, with the permission and assistance of the British Archives, photographed 19 Millbank Prison books from 1853 to 1867 which also contain information about convicts' families. Nearly all convicts who were transported spent some time at this prison on the banks of the Thames not far from the Houses of Parliament. Millbank Prison which operated from 1816 to 1890 was demolished in 1892 and the Tate Gallery built on the site.

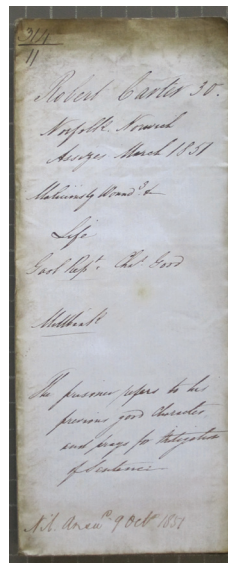
As a Christmas present last year, Matthew gave me a book on East Anglian rural crime - *By a flash and a scare; Incendiarism, Animal Maiming and Poaching in East Anglia, 1815 – 1870* by John Archer – a riveting read indeed! Believing the author could help answer some queries I had about Robert and his crime, I contacted him and he suggested I might find further information in the British Archives Home Office (HO) records, particularly HO18 which are bundles of petitions from criminals seeking a reduction in their sentences and HO 19, an index to these petitions consisting of 13 registers.

I had no idea these records existed and they are certainly well worth investigating by anyone interested in our convict past, as I estimate one in six Western Australian convicts may have appealed their sentences. Unfortunately, the petitions are time consuming to photograph being an A3 sheet folded to A4 size and then refolded four times. There are about fifty petitions in each bundle which is archaically wrapped in paper and tape. As well as taking digital photographs of the information relating

to my ancestor, I also copied the indexes in the last three registers which cover the years between 1847 and 1854, and am currently organising this data for inclusion on the WAGS website.

I was surprised at the number of convicts who had appealed to the Home Office, and sure enough, Robert Carter did put in a petition which most of the literate men in his little village of Shouldham Thorpe had signed, as did many in the neighbouring village of Shouldham, where Robert and his family had lived for seven years prior to his arrest.

Robert Carter, who was 30 years old when convicted, had asked for his sentence to be reduced on the grounds that while he admitted assaulting the gamekeepers and wounding one of them, he was merely defending himself against their attack on him and his three fellow poachers. The judge was not inclined to be lenient, however, and Robert's sentence of transportation for life remained unaltered.



Robert Carter's appeal.

Adjacent to Robert's petition were those of two of his companions. Twenty-year-old George Hobbs had been shot at the beginning of the fracas and argued that as he had no weapon and had been wounded he could not have been capable of assaulting anyone. The other petitioner was William Goddard who was 21 when arrested. I had wondered why I could find no trace of the fourth poacher, Robert Mason aged 25, but one of Hobbs's five petitions revealed that Mason had died in prison almost immediately after his conviction.

In 1852, Robert Carter, as the leader of the gang and the one who wounded the gamekeeper, was sent to the hellish Dartmoor Prison and Goddard and Hobbs were transported to Bermuda which seemed to have been considered a lighter sentence. As things turned out it was the worst option for the two young men as William Goddard died of yellow fever in 1853 and George Hobbs had to endure terrible conditions on the Bermuda hulks. By contrast, Robert Carter was sent to Fremantle in 1854 and helped to build the prison. By 1856 he had received his ticket of leave and took up farming in Northam, eventually being joined by his wife, Phoebe, and five children.

Word of Robert's release and prosperity had somehow reached Hobbs in Bermuda and prompted his series of increasingly aggrieved and desperate petitions over the years. The Bermuda hulks closed in 1861 and Hobbs was shipped back to Millbank prison where he again petitioned the Home Office. He was eventually released and joined his mother who had left England and moved to Orange County, New York.

2. the baptism

Several years ago while undertaking research at my ancestral village of Shouldham Thorpe (pop.157) in Norfolk, I gained access to the Anglican Parish baptismal register which dated from 1816 and contained entries for several of my forebears. Given its age and importance as a unique record, I was surprised that the register was still kept in the Parish Chest (yes, these things do exist). When I asked why it had not been archived, the verger explained that there were still blank pages to be filled.

When our grandson, named Robert after his ancestor, was born in February, I idly remarked to my daughter-in-law, Sherie, that wouldn't it be historically neat if the register was still at the church in Shoulham Thorpe and if Robbie and his older sister Alyssa could be christened there too. Sherie became enthusiastic about the suggestion and enquiries were made. The newly appointed parish priest for the area, the Reverend Barbara Burton, strongly doubted the register would still be at the church but would check for us when she held her next monthly service there. "To my amazement, yes!" was Barbara's reply and wheels were put in motion.

On a beautiful crisp sunny Sunday morning in mid-April, our two



Godparents and family:

Adults L-R: Maxine, Corry, Bevan, Steve, Jennie, Phyl, Sherie, and Matthew.

Children L-R: Riley, Alyssa, Lewis, Cameron, and baby Robert being held by Jennie.

grandchildren, five-year-old Alyssa and two-month-old Robert, were baptised in the ancient church of St Mary the Virgin and their names inscribed in the register. Theirs will be the last entries as the register is to be finally sent to the Norfolk Archives for preservation. The family party with Godparents and friends outnumbered the tiny congregation who were delighted when the Reverend Burton explained the reason

we were there. At the conclusion of the ceremony, our granddaughter, Alyssa, who has a fine sense of the importance of occasions, sang a hymn she had learnt in school and her clear sweet voice left more than a few in the audience a little misty-eyed.

Bevan Carter

Book reviews

Ruth Marchant James, *Tides of Change: A History of St Philip's Anglican Church, Cottesloe, 1911-2011*. St Philip's Anglican Church, 2011

Though not a churchgoer and not even a resident of Cottesloe, I purchased this book as a reference tool for work as an oral history interviewer for The Grove Library, Cottesloe. The author Ruth Marchant James won the history category of the Premiers Book Award in 2008 with *Cottesloe A Town of Distinction* and was therefore an ideal choice to write *Tides of Change*. This publication maintains her usual high standards of authorship and provides an excellent source for researchers.

The book was commissioned to mark the centenary of the church in May 2011 and as one reads through the eight chapters it is apparent that in many ways the history of the church is a reflection of, and a response to, what was happening in the wider community and the world. The First World War resulted in the loss of male parishioners, the Great Depression in more creative ways of fund-raising and the Second World War in the provision of a rest room for enlisted men following the fall of Singapore.

The nuts and bolts story of the church is detailed, including its birth as a mission church from St Luke's and its journey from a cottage-cum-hall to a beautiful building which 'evokes a timeless quality'. The lists of parishioners and ministers are brought to life. When visiting the goldfields Bishop Riley lived in camp with his parishioners and cleaned his own boots 'to save his hostess the trouble'. In 1897 Janetta Foulkes, on laying the foundation stone of St Philip's parent church St Luke's, 'counted seventeen vicars ... we were all glad of tea' afterwards – I would be too! When a fire burnt down a make-shift church in 1910, two determined ladies prevailed on the current lay preacher to provide a canvas tent, which he informed them 'would not need to be returned until Show Time'.

Mary, the wife of the first rector, was noted for the 'funny old hats' she wore. Sometimes 'these strange items' were sold after 'mistakenly ending up on a jumble sale table'. The Reverend Holland organised weekend

dancing classes for the young people and though he kept 'a strict eye' on everything was 'not beyond taking a turn on the floor with the girls'. Hats and gloves were de rigueur for church attendance, but there were obviously hats and hats. After questions about the respectability of one hat, the Reverend Lawrence pronounced 'it was indeed a proper hat'. His ability to make fashion statements however, could be questioned, because he was on occasions known to tie 'up his long white tennis trousers with one of his neckties'

Colourful characters are not confined to the past. The current Rector, Malcolm Potts could work as a stunt man. After falling from his bike and under a long-load truck in Stirling Highway, he 'had the presence of mind to roll towards the centre of the rig'. After emerging unscathed he found himself sitting in the middle of the road facing oncoming traffic. One suspects divine intervention because an approaching driver not only believed his story, but drove him home, minus bike which went on its merry way attached to the rig.

Financial problems and a dwindling attendance in the 1980s were overcome and St Philips has flourished. The latter chapters of the book feature activities such as parish camps and picnics, a kids' church, a crèche, a Prison Ministry, teaching refugees English and the Alpha courses, a ten-week programme exploring the meaning of life. Malcolm Potts finds 'the people of St Philips to be "good news" people. When you come from a place, you just think it's normal. Cottesloe is not like just "anywhere". Hardly anywhere is like Cottesloe with its over-representation of extraordinary people.' After reading this book one can only agree with him.

Heather Campbell

State Library Bookshop - discount for members

The State Library has generously offered members of the Friends of Battye Library a 15% discount on new book purchases. To be eligible for the discount, members must show proof of name when making their purchases so staff can confirm that you are a current member. [continued on p.20]

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$15
Corporate	\$50
Battye Library and State Records Office volunteers	[free]
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, your support is very much appreciated.

Jack's Back: Our Phantom Governor of 1868-69

I am writing this piece just when Western Australia is going through an interregnum of two months between occupancies of its highest public office – that of Governor. And, as is generally the case for such, the Lieutenant-Governor has been serving as our Administrator for the period. It is timely then to draw attention to an instance a long while ago when, under vastly different conditions of life, we had a protracted interregnum of eleven months, namely in 1868-69. This sets us to focus on a recent amendment to the full listing of successive Governors with which many of us would have long been familiar.

Colonel Bruce was indisputably the Administrator, or informally the Acting Governor, for the whole of that lengthy period. But lately the elusive Sir Benjamin Pine has been properly recognised here as having been the colony's seventh Governor, even though he never came to Perth.

Pine had held vice-regal office successively in Natal, West Africa and an island of the West Indies before he was assigned to Western Australia by Letters Patent issued on 20th July 1868. Notification of this appointment reached Perth a few weeks later and he was expected to arrive and take over from Governor Hampton in October. However, he failed to turn up when due, and Hampton sailed away as planned on 1st November.

The Colonial Office had detained Pine in England while it considered how best to fill another vacancy that had just occurred in the West Indies, and they felt his previous experience there would be useful in handling a new federal arrangement. Government wheels moved rather slowly before Pine was re-directed westward again, and such that till April the next year the authorities in Perth still expected him to materialise locally. Only in mid-May did they learn that he had been replaced by Weld as Governor of Western Australia by virtue of new Letters Patent dated 14th April 1869. The existing state of overseas communications was the major factor in the tardiness of Weld's arrival in Perth at the end of September.

Until a few years ago then, various official listings of the State's cavalcade of Governors failed to show the name of Pine at all. Then a study was made of the subject by Sir Francis Burt, who himself served as Governor from 1990 to 1993. This resulted in an address he gave to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society entitled 'Our Reluctant Governor: Sir Benjamin Pine, Knight', which was published in the Society's journal *Early Days*, 11:2, 1996, pages 141-154. Inter alia, Burt emphasised that Pine was shown as being Governor of Western Australia in the 1869

edition of the annual Colonial Office List. His legal acuity to the fore, Burt concluded that Pine should receive recognition here as having been Governor from 20th July 1868 to 14th April 1869, the dates of the pertinent Letters Patent.

Before long, Sir Francis had the satisfaction of seeing his advice accepted by the relevant adjudicators. A suitable parenthetical note was therefore added to the list of Governors in the *Western Australian Parliamentary Handbook* of 1998. And like all his better-known counterparts, Sir Benjamin was accorded a full page, with photo, in the glossy booklet, *Governors and Premiers of Western Australia*, put out in 2002 by the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia.



Sir Benjamin Pine. Courtesy The Constitutional Centre of Western Australia.

Five years after his death, was accorded a fitting biography in Volume 45 of Britain's mammoth *Dictionary of National Biography*. There was no mention of Western Australia in that, but there is in the entry for him in its present-day successor, the online *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2002).

After serving as Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands till 1873, Pine found himself required in southerly latitudes again and was transferred to be Lieutenant-Governor of Natal a second time. He retired from his long career in the Colonial Service in 1875, and died in 1891 aged 81. He was twice married, but had no children. The longest account of all for Pine is in Volume 2 of the *Dictionary of South African Biography* (1972).

Nowadays, a substantial page is given to Pine in the online resource Wikipedia, which, I notice, was last modified on 15th May 2011. However, it states that he was Governor of Western Australia from 2nd November 1868 to 29th September 1869, so it needs further modification, I suggest, to reduce the timespan.

Another recent listing of all thirty of our Governors to date appears as Appendix 1 in the *Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia*, published in 2009, and this includes Pine, with his dates (just in years, like all the others) as 1868-1869.

Government House has come to the party too. A photographic portrait of Pine now takes its due place in a long run of gubernatorial faces that line the large room that is host to the meetings of the Executive Council. However, perhaps it would hardly be warranted to seek a portrait of Lady (Margaretta) Pine to add to the run of Governors' wives that hangs in the passageway nearby!

We can note too that lists in authoritative publications of late no longer include Frederick Irwin as one of our early Governors. Previously he appeared as such in the *Western Australian Year Book* and *The Australian Encyclopaedia*, for example. As senior military officer, he simply succeeded as Administrator on the untimely death of Governor Clarke and continued till the arrival of Governor Fitzgerald. In that he served so from 12th February 1847 till 11th August 1848, it was an interregnum of exactly eighteen months.

Jack Honniball

Have you a story to tell?

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

Our members have a wealth of expertise and knowledge to share and this section of the newsletter has proved to be a popular addition. Further contributions for the Friends of Battye Library Newsletter are keenly sought and welcomed.

Articles no longer than 500 words are preferred for publication. Your contributions can be emailed to bevnjen@gmail.com or posted to the Friends of Battye Library (Inc), PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865.

Deadline for publication for the next newsletter is 10 October 2011.

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Newsletter

To be published four times per year - March, May or June, August or September (depending on the date of the AGM) and November.. Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 8 February, 8 April, 8 July (depending on the date of the AGM) and 10 October each year. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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