

NO. 140



March 2011

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FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)  
**NEWSLETTER**

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ABN 571625138800

Our speaker will be Battye Fellow, Dr Jane Davis:

*'Reviewing George Fletcher Moore  
and the Swan River Colony  
1830-1852*



George Fletcher  
Moore ca 1841.  
(Courtesy Battye  
Library, image  
no.1090P.)

Our meeting will be held on Tuesday  
8 March 2011 at 5.30pm for 6.00pm.  
(please note later starting time).

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

Please see details on Page 3.

## Objectives

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

**Patron** Mrs Ruth Reid AM

**Emeritus President** Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

### Committee (2010-2011)

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Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary Vacant (formerly Mrs Lorraine Dearnley)

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

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

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

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

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

ISSN 1035-8692

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

**Our March meeting**  
**Tuesday 8 March 2011**  
**Great Southern Room, 4th floor**  
**State Library of Western Australia**  
**5.30pm for 6pm.**

**Our speaker will be Dr Jane Davis, the second James Sykes  
Battye Memorial Fellowship winner**

*“(Re)Viewing George Fletcher Moore  
and the Swan River Colony 1830-1852”*

**(A very short five minute Special General Meeting will be held before the Meeting to vote on an amendment to the Constitution please see page 6 for details.)**

**Following the meeting you are invited to join us for dinner at a nearby restaurant. 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.

**Contents.**

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| About our speaker                   | 4  |
| A word from our President           | 4  |
| 2011 May & July Speakers            | 5  |
| Proposed Constitutional amendment   | 6  |
| Members news                        | 6  |
| Friends ‘Gem of Time’ award         | 7  |
| Memories of Woodbridge House School | 8  |
| State Library news                  | 9  |
| OHRRG                               | 10 |
| State Records Office news           | 11 |
| Gwambygine damage                   | 12 |
| RSL Project                         | 13 |
| Have you a story to tell?           |    |
| Jim Gregg                           | 14 |
| Book Review                         |    |
| Hon Bob Nicholson                   | 17 |
| Subscription form                   | 19 |
| Jack’s back (Jack Honniball)        | 21 |

## About our speaker

The title of Dr Jane Davis's talk is '[Re]Viewing George Fletcher Moore and the Swan River Colony 1830-1852'

Jane was born in England in 1960 but emigrated to Australia with her family when only five years old. As a young adult she worked as a school psychologist, trekked in Nepal, ran half-marathons and then worked at home as a parent for 12 years. In 2002 she embarked on a PhD in the school of History at the University of Western Australia and completed this in 2008. Her research was concerned with the relationships between British colonists in southern Western Australia and the 'new' landscapes they encountered, and she argues that contrary to the pioneer narrative that portrays colonists as threatened and alienated by a harsh environment, many colonists developed an attachment for their 'new' place and called it home.



In 2009 Jane was awarded the James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellowship at the State Library of Western Australia to further her research into colonial Western Australia. An online illustrated presentation of her work titled *Finding home* features on the State Library's website at <http://slwa.wa.gov.au/findinghome>. She also coordinates short courses in Australian Studies at the University of Western Australia and teaches Australian History at Notre Dame University, Fremantle.

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## A word from our President.

Dear Friends – Another year is upon us – and it only seems yesterday we were all worried about planes falling out of the sky and computer glitches as we rolled into 2000! So much has changed since then – and not all bad. We have made huge strides in the Library to keep up with what I am sure in the future will be called the Computer Revolution. Newspapers-on-line through the National Library is a magnificent resource for all researchers – and our WA papers are leading the pack in terms of dates digitised because of all the work that went on with HRRRC in having our newspapers microfilmed to such a high standard. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read of the progress of the Oral History group in rescuing our precious

tapes – another feather in the cap of the Friends.

You will also see that we are going to make an alteration to our Constitution. It is something not done lightly, but unfortunately we were too prescriptive in timing our annual general meeting – we have said that it must be held in July. But from time to time your office bearers have to be out of the State in that month – and as we cannot have it earlier (because our finances end on 30th June and need to be presented to the AGM) we need to give ourselves a little flexibility. For this reason we want the Constitution to stipulate that a date before the 30th September would be suitable for our annual general meeting which we have to have to remain an incorporated society! If the amendment is accepted, this year the AGM will be held on the 16th August.

While talking about our AGM, I would urge you all to think about joining (or nominating someone for) our committee. Unfortunately, our Secretary Leanne Dearnley, who did a truly marvellous job, has had to resign and there is no one on the present committee (except yours truly) to take her place (though I have been get a huge amount of help from Graham Bown who takes super notes). It is not an onerous job as we only meet every second month and usually just for an hour. So please have a think for us. Also, if any of you hear a really interesting talk about any aspect of our history do let us know, as it might be nice for all our members to hear. We have some really good speakers lined up for this year but we tend to plan a year ahead so suggestions are welcome at any time.

You might be interested to know that this newsletter has been put together literally across the world. We assembled all the articles from contributors here in Perth, then sent the electronic version - pictures and all – to England, Fleet in Hampshire where our Jennie and Bevan Carter are staying with family. Jennie has put everything into the right format for publication by our printer who then received the electronic copy back here in Perth. It really is marvellous what modern communications have made possible! And many thanks to Jennie for taking time out of her UK trip to do this for us.

With best wishes to all, Pamela

### **Our 2011 meetings and speakers' program**

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

**12 July:** Slate Library staff - Oral Histories project (TBA)

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

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

**Motion**

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

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

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

Lorraine Dearnley, Secretary.

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**Vale Sir Ernest Lee-Steere KBE (1912-2011)**

We record with regret the death on 6 January of Sir Ernest Henry Lee-Steere, Lord Mayor of Perth 1972-78. A leading pastoralist, thoroughbred stud breeder, businessman and staunch Anglican, he played a prominent part in a wide range of community affairs. Some of our members might recall seeing him walking his dogs or swimming on Cottesloe beach – one of his favourite haunts. He wrote an interesting autobiography which was launched at the Royal Western Australian Historical Society in 1995, titled *Be Fair and Fear Not*.

**News of Father Ted Doncaster.**

Following open heart surgery late last year, we are very pleased to announce that Friends of Battye Library Gem of Time, Father Ted Doncaster, is now home and well on the road to full recovery.

We look forward to seeing Ted at our Meeting this year.

## **2010 Gem of Time award**

Dr Ronda Jamieson was our 2010 Gem of Time. The Friends of Battye Library (Inc) confers this award to acknowledge the contribution of outstanding men and women to the recording, collection, and preservation of Western Australia's history.

It was my pleasure to read the following citation at the November meeting.

“Ronda is an acknowledged expert in the recording and preservation of Western Australia's history as well as being a loved mentor and much admired leader. Knowledgeable and passionate about Western Australia's history and heritage, Ronda has the unique ability to inspire the people around her to strive for and achieve excellence in their work.

In 1978 she joined the State Library and soon became renowned for her expertise as the State's foremost oral historian and conducted hundreds of interviews for the Library. Ronda was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1991 which allowed her to travel overseas to investigate best practice in oral history. For her services to the profession, she was made a life member of the Oral History Association of Australia.



As Manager of the State Library's Preservation Services Ronda introduced reforms and significant improvements to ensure that the State's unique documentary history was superbly cared for and made available for research.

In 1998 Ronda was appointed Director of the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and worked tirelessly to extend and improve the library's services and enlist broad public support in the task of collecting, preserving, promoting, and making its collections more accessible. She was adept in obtaining several large grants for the Battye Library and was the guiding force behind the successful bid for a \$3 million Lotterywest grant sought in partnership with the Friends of Battye Library and other key Western Australian history organisations. The resultant Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) has been outstandingly successful in preserving our unique newspapers, photographs and film.

Despite her busy life at the Library, Ronda has found time to research

and produce a number of important works on Western Australian history. While Director of the Battye Library she completed a PhD with her thesis on Country storekeeping. Since retiring from the library in 2005 she has researched and written the definitive biography of Sir Charles Court. In addition, Ronda is also deeply committed to volunteer work in the community.

The Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.) would like to add to Ronda's many awards and achievements and show our appreciation of her commitment and generosity by listing her as a "Gem of Time"

Pamela Statham Drew

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### **Memories of Woodbridge House School , East Guildford , WA**

[Mr James Nicholas ('Nick') Broun, of Beverley, has donated his papers on Woodbridge House School, East Guildford, to the Battye Library.]

Woodbridge House School came into existence in 1921 when Cecil Clement Priestley secured a lease of the magnificent Woodbridge House which Charles Harper had commenced to build in 1883 (the land having been taken up and a small cottage built by Captain James Stirling in 1829). Priestley began his new school and remained as its headmaster until it was requisitioned in 1942 at one week's notice by the Public Health Department for use by the inmates of the Women's Home, Fremantle who had been evacuated. The house never became a school again. In 1968 the property was vested in the National Trust. Following restoration and furnishing, the building was opened to the public, and became one of the National Trust's most prized possessions.

The course of instruction of the school was similar to that of English preparatory schools. Boys aged 5 to 15 years were received into the school to prepare them for secondary school.

Over the 21-year period from 1921 to 1941, some 230 boys attended the school, with 30 - 40 boys being there at any particular time . The school's famous students include Sir Francis Burt , Justice Gresley Clarkson, Air Vice Marshall Fisher , journalist R R ('Buzz') Kennedy, and members of the Harper, Burt, Lefroy, de Burgh, Clarkson, Donald, Roe, Cameron and Carew-Reid families.

Nick Broun attended the school from 1938 until 1941. His papers include

his memoirs of his own time at the school. articles on the history of the school, school floor plans, lists of former students and their addresses, group photographs with names, 1935 Prospectus, correspondence from Helen Priestley, Buzz Kennedy and Douglas Fraser, a relevant Guildford Grammar School Open Day 1989 speech, newspaper articles on the acquisition by the National Trust, National Trust Newsletters, and school reunion photographs.

Rob O'Connor QC

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## **What's New at the State Library**

### **Exhibitions**

The exhibition *Vite Italiane* (Italian Lives) has been extended in the gallery exhibition area on the ground floor of the State Library until Sunday 20 February. This fascinating exhibition, curated by Susannah Iuliano, looks at the contributions made to Western Australia by Italian emigrants and also chronicles the lives of a few of those migrants. Many Italians throughout Western Australia have contributed photographs and memorabilia for display and material from the collections of the State Library are also shown.

It will be succeeded on 26 February by the Western Australian Press Photographer of the Year Awards. This showcases the talents of press photographers from metropolitan and regional newspapers around the State and is a virtual snapshot of events and what made the news in Western Australia during 2010. It is always one of our most popular exhibitions and is a must see for everyone. This fascinating exhibition runs until 3 April.

Also on the ground floor has been the very successful *Library of Nearly Lost Moments*. This interactive exhibition, which ran until 8 February, involved members of the public who were asked to rummage through bags, pencil cases and pockets to share and capture a moment almost lost in time. Over 400 items and their stories have been captured. The eclectic selection of ephemera included train tickets inspiring memories of happy travels, a ring from relationships past, a tea bag for all occasions, a pair of 3D glasses from two young women determined to change the world, and a beautiful badge created in 1986 as part of the 150th Bunbury bicentenary celebrations.

## **Dead Reckoning**

*Dead reckoning: how to find your way through the genealogical jungle of Western Australia* was updated and published online in 2009 thanks to a grant from the Sholl Bequest, which is administered by the Friends of Battye Library Inc. In December 2010 and January 2011, some further updating was done to correct some formatting errors (mainly some inexplicable bolding which affected about half of the entries for the government and private archives sections), to reinstate links which had broken (mainly due to changes of websites), to enter some new material and to link to material which had been digitised since 2009. This updating will be a continuous process to make sure the publication is kept up to date and relevant.

Steve Howell

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

In July 2008 the Oral History Records Rescue Group (OHRRG) submitted an application to Lotterywest for funding for a project to rescue and make available the most at risk and in demand oral history interviews held in the Battye Library. 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 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.

Work on the Sound Studios commenced on 31 May 2010 and was completed at the end of October 2010. The new purpose built sound studios will enable the transfer of analogue tape to digital format to preservation standards and the future work relating to sound from the West Australian Heritage collection.

Seven staff were recruited for the project by December 2010 consisting of the Project, Manager Lee Blackford, Administrative Assistant Valda Kiely, Librarian Adrian Bowen, Senior Audio Coordinator Tim Gillett, and Audio Technicians Anna Kotooussov, Maureen Blackford and Kim Lofts. At the same time the Quadriga audio ingest system and a Dobbin Audio Render Farm was installed in the newly built sound studios and training was undertaken by Syncrotech Pty Ltd, Sydney.

The team is in the process of developing procedures and workflows for the ingest of the digital files into the State Library's Useful and Reformatting Application (SLURP) for preservation and access.

To the end of January 2011 the OHRRG team has digitized 200 hours of oral history cassette tapes, a great start to a great project.

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## **State Records Office news**

### **SRO Lunchtime Seminars**

The State Records Office of Western Australia invites you to the 2011 series of Lunchtime Seminars. Featuring a variety of topics, these seminars are designed to inform researchers about the State Records Office, its functions and the collections it houses. It also provides researchers with an opportunity to meet fellow researchers, learn about members of staff, and provides a forum for questions and discussions in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Lunchtime seminars occur between 12.30 and 1.30pm on the day advertised and are held in the SRO's South West Room, next to the Search Room

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

Proposed dates, presenters and topics for 2011 are:

Wed 2 March 2011 - Speakers: Gerard Foley and Lise Summers - Topic: *How to research the State Archives Collection and Referencing State Archives*

Wed 18 May 2011 - Speaker: Dr Penelope Hetherington - Topic: *Paupers, Poor Relief and Poor Houses in Western Australia 1829 -1910*

Thurs 7 July 2011 - Speaker: Tom Reynolds - Topic: *Commemorating NAIDOC Week - Records about Indigenous people in the State Archives collection*

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](mailto:sro@sro.wa.gov.au)

Tom Reynolds, State Records Office

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## **Gwambygine Homestead Restoration**

We have mentioned in earlier newsletters that significant progress had been made in the restoration of Gwambygine, the oldest homestead in Western Australia. It is situated 12 km south of York on the Great Southern Highway towards Beverly immediately after the Wittenoom Bridge.

The restoration of the historic homestead was celebrated with a gathering of those associated with the project at the property in December. About 70 people attended the function to unveil the completed project. The formalities were performed by the immediate past president of the Royal WA Historical Society, Inc., Hon Robert Nicholson. He gave a resume of the history of the homestead over the last 175 years. Our Friends of Battye Library President outlined the events that resulted in the Federal grant and a smaller W.A. Heritage Council being allocated to the Project, both Pamela and her husband Nick have been involved with the project since the start in 2009.

Tony Clack represented the River Conservation Society, which was responsible for placing the homestead and the Gwambygine pool on the

State Heritage Register, and spoke of their involvement with the project. Also present was the current owner Mrs Maggie Venerys and heritage architect, Ron Bodycoat, who was the project manager. He and historian, Robyn Taylor, were responsible for the conservation plan.

The homestead was to be open to the public every second Saturday of the month from April to November 11am to 4pm and other times for special group tours.

BUT On Saturday 23rd January a fierce storm went through the York Northam region and unroofed many homes – including Gwambygine. Thankfully the homestead was insured and work can commence on the reconstruction . Hopefully we can still open on April 9th. Anyone interested can contact Nick on 0409 290 895 or email [nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com).

Pamela Statham Drew



Homestead -  
damage to the  
roof. (photos  
courtesy Nick  
drew)



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## RSL Project

The Returned Service League has just won a large grant (\$660,000) from Lotterywest to copy and digitise records held by sub-branches all over Western Australia. Many of these branches were the life of their communities after the first and second world wars but now their numbers are dwindling and some branches are closing. When this happens the records of the Society often get lost or are destroyed – which is diabolical

as they contain so much of the social fabric of our State. Some of the country records are also in need of preservation – which filming will accomplish.

The RSL's Archivist Naomi Jones is spear-heading the project with guidance from an Advisory Board comprising: Professor John Stephens (chairman - from Curtin & Defence Heritage National Trust), Mr Graeme Bland (Aviation Heritage Museum, Bullcreek), Dr Neville Green (Royal Western Australian Historical Society and the History Council of WA), Ms Carmel McRobert (Battye Library), Ms Lindy Wallace (Museums Australia, Claremont Museum and the Oral History Association) and Mr Arthur Stanton (RSL WA Branch headquarters – Project Overseer) as well as yours truly Dr Pamela Statham Drew (representing Friends of Battye and HRRC).



The goals of the project are to not only to conserve and digitise the sub-branch records but also to produce an online exhibition of RSL memorabilia. The logo for the project (see left) was designed by Paul Glasson from the Glasson Murray Group. We will keep you posted as the project unfolds over the next two years.

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

[The following article was kindly submitted by Committee Member, Jim Gregg.]

#### **Steam Launch Cygnet**

*Cygnet* was the original Police Launch used by Water Police on the Swan River, but her history in Western Australia goes back much further than that. C.Y. O'Connor had arranged for her to be imported specifically for use as an inspection vessel during the construction of Fremantle Harbour.

*Cygnet* was built of teak by the well-known English firm of Simpson Strickland to a standard design of the company, and exported to WA. Below the waterline she was sheathed with copper to deter the teredo

wood borer and other marine nasties, and to prevent weed growth. She was powered by a Simpson Strickland steam boiler and a very compact tandem quadruple expansion steam engine from the same maker. This engine of some 100 nominal horsepower could give her a substantial turn of speed when required.

While in Police service some time later, she was re-powered with some kind of internal combustion engine - probably similar to the hot bulb engines used in the "Val" launches on the South Perth Ferry run. This proved unsatisfactory and she was re-converted to steam a short time later.

The conversion may have used a different steam plant from the one fitted originally.

The boat *Ti-Tu*, now in the WA Maritime Museum collection, is almost certainly a sister ship from the same builder. She belonged to the Burt family who donated her to the museum some time ago. Because she had been converted to internal combustion power much earlier than *Cygnets*, *Ti-Tu* may not give an accurate representation of how *Cygnets* may have looked.

*Ti-Tu's* superstructure had been extensively modified over the years. Her original large and elegant cast bronze stern frame (which enclosed the propeller and held the rudder) was long ago cut down so that she could use a smaller propeller, and to reduce the maximum draft of water. *Cygnets* had a huge four-bladed scimitar-shaped propeller more than four feet in diameter, and a draft in the water of about five and a half feet. Not the best in the shallow areas of the Swan and Canning rivers!

At some point *Cygnets* was fitted with a deep wooden external keel to strengthen her lightweight hull. It was made of jarrah - certainly a later addition. *Cygnets* and *Ti-Tu* are - or were - elegant Victorian/Edwardian steam launches, a far cry from the run-of-the-mill workboats of the period.

*Cygnets* was originally fitted with a small cabin aft, in front of a rear cockpit. A separate compartment in the cabin held a marine toilet - very Victorian polished brass and mahogany - which pumped directly into the river.

A roof or canopy extended forward from the front of the cabin over the engine, amidships. The canopy may have extended as far forward

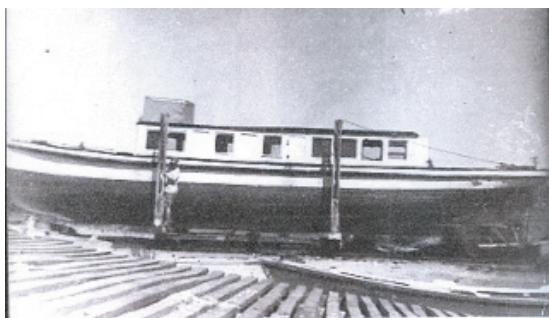
as the fore-deck. At some stage the roof was extended, and the cabin was also extended forwards to the rear of the foredeck, thus providing complete enclosure for the engine and boiler and the forward steering position. *Cygnets*' funnel was about a foot in diameter and extended several feet above the cabin top.

The WA Maritime Museum collection now includes a compound steam engine which is alleged to have come from *Cygnets*. For reasons connected with steam pipes and exhaust arrangements, I do not believe this to be *Cygnets*' engine, but cannot prove it. My parents owned *Cygnets* for some time after she was sold out of police service in the 1950s, but were unable to restore her -especially when we discovered she had extensive dry rot in the elegantly sloping counter stern. To repair this would have been a huge and incredibly expensive job because of the way she had been built. We eventually sold her, and she subsequently passed through several other hands.

I believe that the final owner burnt her for her copper sheathing, fastenings and bronze ... A sad end for a fascinating and beautiful boat.

Note: The above refers to the first *Cygnets*. Many later police boats were also called *Cygnets*, usually with an appended number – as in *Cygnets* II, the launch which replaced her.

The photo is of *Cygnets* on the slip at the South of Perth Yacht Club at the mouth of the Canning River. At that time, the yacht club was situated on the opposite side of the river to its present location on land now occupied by the Kwinana Freeway.



One of *Cygnets*' star turns while we owned her occurred in a howling North westerly gale which blew up one night. The old Yacht Club anchorage had no shelter from the northerlies.

Two or three boats dragged their moorings and ended up across '*Cygnets*' bows. Our mooring could not hold all of them, and the whole lot dragged down onto the Canning Bridge.

One launch ended up between the bows and the bridge piles, being battered both by *Cygnets* and the bridge. The launch sank and *Cygnets*' bows got

wedged between the piles. As she swung back and forth in the gale, she was wedging the piles apart. The first we knew of it was a 2 a.m. phone call from the Main Roads Department asking us to come down and stop our boat destroying the bridge!

Dad and I went down, and with the aid of a couple of Main Roads blokes and some “sticks and string” seamanship, we got her off the bridge and worked her through the arch, then let her drift upstream of the bridge a bit, then got her anchored. She did not have a useable engine at the time. We retrieved her a couple of days later.

Unfortunately I haven't many photographs of *Cygnét* when we had her. As an impecunious University student at the time, I simply could not afford the expensive film. I have few outside pictures of her, and no interior photos at all. She did appear in many newspaper and other photos of activities on the river and so on, but is rarely identified in captions - making the pictures hard to find or index.

I am trying to research *Cygnét*, collecting photographs and more information about her – so if any member has further information or photographs of her that I might copy, I would be most appreciative.

Jim Gregg Tel. 0403 950 736

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### **Apology**

In our last newsletter, details about the work of Bruce Buchanan to 'Have you a story to tell' were inadvertently omitted. My sincere apologies to Bruce for the editorial error.

Jennie Carter (editor).

### **Book reviews**

*Carnarvon and Apollo*, by Paul Dench and Alison Gregg

Published 2010 by Rosenberg Publishing Pty Ltd, NSW, Australia

The sub-title of this book, evoking the words of the first man to land on the moon, tells the story of 'one giant leap for a small Australian Town.' The story is told from the perspective of just one tracking station and the local community that took it to its heart. CRO, the call sign of the

Carnarvon Space Tracking Station, was established in 1963 on the outskirts of what the authors describe as ‘an isolated trading port on the remote northwest coast of Western Australia.’ Until it was closed in 1975, CRO was the United States’ National Aeronautical and Space Administration’s (NASA’s) largest tracking station outside mainland USA.

On 25 May 1961 US President Kennedy told the US Congress that the nation should commit itself to achieving within a decade the goal of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth. On 20 February 1962 Astronaut John Glenn propelled Western Australia into world attention when he commented on Perth as the City of Lights observed from his Mercury 6 flight. The book tells the triumphs and tragedies of Carnarvon’s involvement through the subsequent Gemini and Apollo missions, followed by the Skylab project.

The story is told of how Carnarvon opened its arms to welcome the new arrivals. It also tells the story of the establishment of Australia’s first OTC satellite-earth station in Carnarvon and the first overseas live television broadcast from there. CRO closed because of the development of satellite communications concepts to provide a network of tracking data relay satellites, supplanting the need for a ground-based network.

Author Dench rose to Station Manager., his fellow author Gregg, historian and academic, is the wife of a Supervising Technician. They lived the adventure. And Paul Rigby’s cartoons add a wonderful touch of humour.

(Reviewed by Hon. Bob Nicholson)

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

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP     \$500

**Annual Membership**

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

The Treasurer  
Friends of Battye Library  
PO Box 216  
NORTHBRIDGE 6865

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

Account Name – Friends of Battye Library (Inc)  
Account Number – 4220 58413  
BSB Number – 016-185

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

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

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

## **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.

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

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

Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm

Sat & Sun: 12noon - 5pm

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

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

Jennie Carter

## **Jack's Back: Bertie R.I. and Lionel C.V.O.**

In the past few weeks the film *The King's Speech* has earned five-star reviews from the critics, won several prestigious awards, and proved a great success at the box-office. To the plaudits of many friends and acquaintances who saw it before I did so rather tardily, I now add mine.

Producers of historical drama can be excused somewhat for indulging in artistic licence, but just a few matters call for comment from the historian and film enthusiast within me. And I readily seize upon points arising from the local connection in this story.

The main point at issue is the time frame conveyed in regard to Lionel's treatment of Bertie and the eventual cure. Bertie actually consulted Lionel about his stammer as early as October 1926 and already acquitted himself well when he opened the Federal Parliament at Canberra in May 1927. Newspapers indicate that he also gave a few short speeches in Perth the following week. An early biography of the Duke of York claimed that Logue had effected a complete cure, as reported in *The West Australian* of 3rd December 1929.

It is true that the therapy long continued in some measure, though evidently more in the nature of personal encouragement and coaxing when the pair remained friends. This was particularly important, as the film emphasizes, once the Duke succeeded to the throne. It is unfortunate the film failed to show the King handing Logue the MVO decoration on the eve of the coronation and reportedly saying, 'Wear this tomorrow!' Obviously the producers opted for minimal expense in re-creating the coronation, and made the most of a rehearsal scene. But it would have been nice to show both Lionel and his wife setting out, arriving at the Abbey, or just in close-up seated in the royal box.

Again it is hardly an unusual feature of historical drama to have actors considerably different in appearance from the real-life characters they portray. This is so with the film's two main actors, and especially Geoffrey Rush, though both of them gave fine performances. All the chief supporting players were quite good look-alikes, I thought.



Lionel Logue. (Image courtesy Telegraph UK Newspapers Ltd.)

Born in 1880, Lionel Logue lived his first twenty-five years in Adelaide, the next nineteen in Perth, and his last twenty-nine in London. So he clearly qualifies as a West Australian, and furthermore he married a charming Westralienne, Myrtle Gruenert. The couple lived in West Perth most of the time, and their three sons were born here.

In much later times, Logue's influence on royal diction was recalled in print and duly credited on many occasions. So it was no surprise when he achieved an entry, of 530 words, in Volume 15 of the Australian Dictionary of Biography, published in 2000. The main emphasis of its content is on his long association with Bertie. Then, when it too came on the local scene last November, I dipped keenly into the 112-page book *Lionel Logue: The King's Mentor*, by Norman C. Hutchinson (Box Hill, Vic., 2010). Despite its sub-title, this deals mainly with Logue's career in Australia as elocutionist, public speaker and speech therapist. It contains a lengthy section on his diverse repertoire as monologist and actor in a range of performances he gave in Perth. The sub-title must have unduly influenced the National Library's cataloguing-in-publication entry that it contains, for the medical aspect prevailed when it was allotted the classification number 616.8550232! The book is not yet in Battye, but once on the shelves, it is more likely to go at B/LOG, I should think.

Another book come to hand only last month is *The King's Speech: How One Man Saved the British Monarchy*, by Peter Conradi and Mark Logue (242 pages, London, 2010). The second author is Lionel's grandson, who has drawn extensively on family archives. It has just been reviewed and at length in *The Australian* of 1 and 4 February. Copies of this book are held in several suburban public libraries, some classified at B/LOG and at least one, British history prevailing, at 941.084.

Finally, I draw Friends' attention to a small display concerning Logue in the Museum of Performing Arts at His Majesty's Theatre. It shows about twenty printed programs and other ephemera relating to his activities in Perth. This will remain on view till the end of March.

Jack Honniball

[*Postscript*: Committee member, Lindsay Peet also mentioned at a recent meeting that he remembers as a small child being taken to visit Lionel Logue in England and being shown his scrapbook with photos of the king and little princesses.]

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

**Life membership** \$500

### **Annual membership**

Ordinary \$20

Joint \$30

Pensioner / student / junior \$10

Corporate \$50

## **Meetings**

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

## **Newsletter**

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

## **Contact details**

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

The editor, Jennie Carter at *[bevnjen@gmail.com](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)*

or write to:

The 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  
                                  Friday            9.00 am - 5.30 pm  
                                  Sat/Sun         10.00 am - 5.30 pm  
                                  Public holidays - closed

**Retrievals**                Every half hour during opening hours.

Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291        Fax enquiries (08) 9427 3256  
Website [www.slwa.wa.gov.au](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au)                      Email: [battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au)

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

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

### State Records Office

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

**Retrievals**                Previous day    Available 9.30 am  
                                  11.00 am        Available 12.00 pm  
                                  1.00 pm         Available 2.00 pm

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

Telephone (08) 9427 3360, website [www.sro.wa.gov.au](http://www.sro.wa.gov.au), email: [sro@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:sro@sro.wa.gov.au)

### The Genealogy Centre

(First Floor State Library) for Family History research.

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

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

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