

No. 167



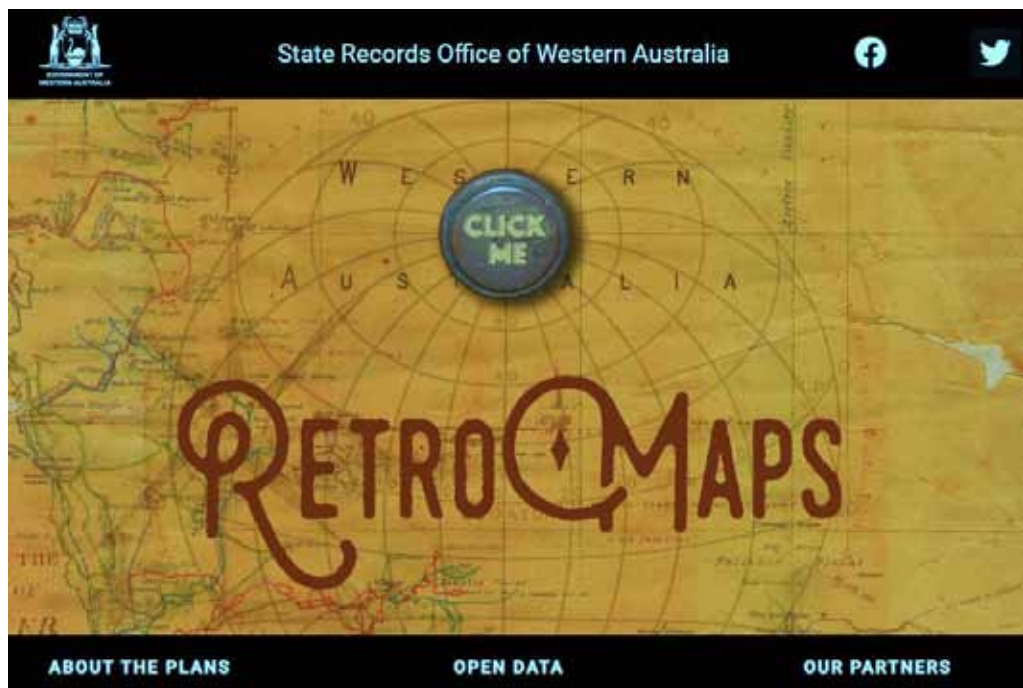
March 2020

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

Our March 2020 meeting

Damien Hassan

*Adventures in time and space
Rethinking access to archives*



Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern
Room 4th floor, State Library of Western Australia.

Please see details on page 3.

Objectives

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

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Committee (2019-2020)

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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

To be held on Tuesday 10 March 2020
in the Great Southern Room
State Library of Western Australia

SRO Senior Archivist Damien Hassan.

Adventures in time and space: Rethinking access to archives

Details of Damien'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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About Damien

Damien studied history at UWA (BA) before further study in Melbourne and completing a Graduate Diploma in Archives at Curtin University. Soon after, he joined the State Records Office of WA where he has worked in various roles since the mid 1990s. As well as coordinating transfers of archives to the State archives collection and managing description of the Collection, Damien has been responsible for a number of projects such as introducing SRO's first online catalogue in 2004, initiating online access to digitised archives in 2008 and more recently managing large-scale digitisation projects. Damien has worked in policy and project roles at the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the WA Museum, but is currently a Senior Archivist at SRO working with the (almost) 200 years, and 15 linear kilometres, of vital official records that form our incredible State archives collection.



Damien Hassan (SROWA).

The presentation

At this meeting Damien will be launching and taking us through aspects of the new *RetroMaps* website. This exciting initiative from the State

Records Office of WA has been funded by the Friends of Battye Library through the Maud Sholl Bequest. The website will allow people to explore the lost landscapes of Perth. Using insights from the website, Damien will also discuss how archives might be accessed in the future



Remaining meeting dates for 2020

- 12 May** - Peter Ellery *The Discovery and Development of the Pilbara Iron Ore Fields*
- 14 July** - Bob Reece - *The 1867 New Norcia Photographs of WW Thwaites*
- 15 September** (AGM) - TBA
- 17 November** (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function. Julie Martin *Gogo Station in the East Kimberley 1962-64.*



President's piece

Dear Friends

We have reached 2020! When we celebrated the turn of the century in 2000, 2020 seemed an eternity away – and now they are talking of targets for 2050. My mind is on a much closer date – 2029 – and I am sure many of you will be with me in this. Perhaps you could send us a note or an email giving your idea of ways to commemorate our State's 200th birthday. A government committee has yet to be formed to organise the event and we would like to see the Friends of Battye Library represented along with both the History Council and the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWAHS). We know that our State Government is currently considering the creation of an Aboriginal museum/meeting place at Elizabeth Quay, but little else has been mooted, and time is getting short. Although some Perth mayoral candidates like the idea of a chair lift from the Quay to Kings Park – my personal opinion? Ugh.

Your expanded committee met for the first time this year and learnt that the SRO reading room will be combined with the Battye Library's Leah

Cowen reading room. It is to be hoped that this will lead to increased search times. You will read later in this splendid little publication that quite a lot is planned for the year by both SRO and SLWA and the Friends will be pleased to offer our support and assistance.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy year to come and look forward to seeing you on the 10th of march.

Pamela Statham Drew.



Have you a story to tell?

[Bevan Carter is a dedicated (some might even say obsessed) researcher into Western Australia's convict past. He is the author of several articles and books on the subject and is currently a member of the Family History WA's Convict group working on documenting the lives of convicts after they arrived in WA.]

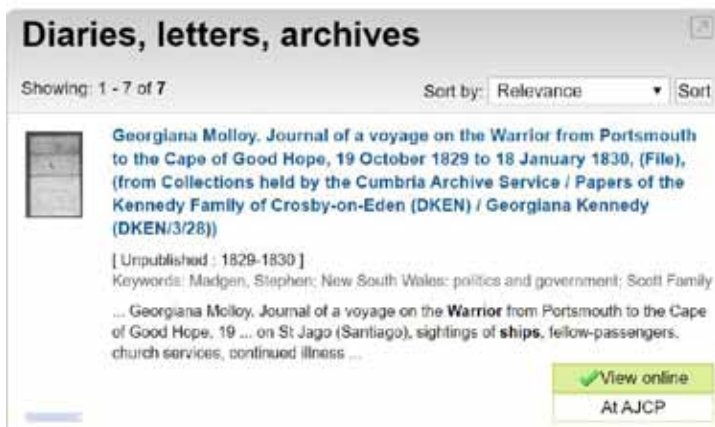
AJCP Online – at last.

Many family history researchers, particularly if they have a convict in their family trees, use the AJCP reels which is a great resource. AJCP, the Australian Joint Copying Project, commenced in 1948 to provide access to archival records relating to Australia that were held in British collections. These reels contain valuable historical information but are famously difficult to research, even using the AJCP handbooks which give some guidance. The UK Prison Commission collection (PCom2 series) which has more than 30,000 names is easier to search because a separate index to them was created by the then WA Genealogical Society (WAGS) [now Family History WA] convict Special Interest Group (SIG). The WAGS PCom2 index links reel numbers, folio (register) numbers, and prisoner numbers, which makes the task of finding a criminal's crime, prison details and sometimes his next of kin, fairly straightforward.

It was very welcome news to learn that the AJCP reels were being digitised and put up on the National Library of Australia's website. It needs to be noted that only the prison registers up to 1852 (except for Portsmouth which is complete to 1868) have been copied onto AJCP reels and so these are the only ones currently available from the NLA website.

Unfortunately my first experience with trying to navigate the online records was disconcerting to say the least.

As I have been researching AJCP information for almost 20 years and am familiar with the prison records, I began with exploring these first. My strategy was first to locate prison hulk registers but when I typed the name of the hulk Warrior in the search box it produced the unexpected result of a record for the diary of early settler Georgiana Molloy (nee Kennedy) who came to Western Australia on the Warrior in 1829.



It is great to know that the Georgiana Kennedy papers held in Britain are available online and a quick glance through the Molloy material is an indication of the variety and richness of the AJCP collection. The side track to Georgiana Molloy's journal was fascinating - it is not for nothing that 'Trove' is an aptly named treasure house of tangents! But back to the prison registers. AJCP files can be also accessed through TROVE directly from the 'Diaries, letters, Archives' tab, although I have become accustomed to find these records on the NLA website from the 'using the library' tab which works quite well for most searches.

When I enter 'Millbank prison' as a search term, it produced a screen of which this is part:

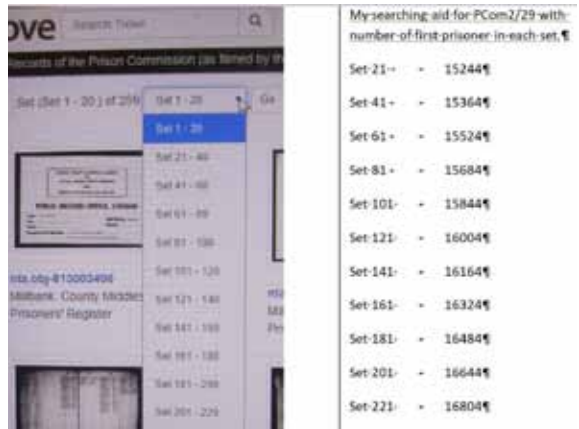
The screenshot shows a search results page titled "Diaries, letters, archives". At the top, it indicates "Showing: 1 - 16 of 16" and "Sort by: Relevance" with a dropdown menu and a "Sort" button. The first entry is for "Millbank. County Middlesex. Prisoners' Register, 1846 to 1847, (File 26. AJCP Reel No: 5973), (from Records of the Prison Commission / Home Office and Prison Commission: Prison Records, Series 1 (PCOM 2))". It includes a thumbnail image of a document, the text "[Unpublished : 1846-1847]", and keywords "Convicts; Stirling Castle (prison hulk); Retribution (prison hulk)". Below the entry is a green button with a checkmark and the text "View online" and a white button with the text "At AJCP". The second entry is for "Millbank. County Middlesex. Prisoners' Register, 1844 to 1845, (File 23. AJCP Reel No: 5971-5972), (from Records of the Prison Commission / Home Office and Prison Commission: Prison Records, Series 1 (PCOM 2))". It also includes a thumbnail image, the text "[Unpublished : 1844-1845]", and the same keywords. It has the same "View online" and "At AJCP" buttons.

The registers did not appear in date order but this is solved by using the Trove 'sort' command at the top right hand corner of the page.

It should be noted that when prisoners are processed into their prisons, they are given a number and each prison has its own unique set of numbers. If a prisoner is sent to more than one prison they will be given a fresh number at each institution. The same system continued in WA where convicts were given a completely new number when they arrived at Fremantle Prison.

Each prison register can list around 1600 to 4000 names and when a register is full, a new one will continue the numbers in sequential order from the previous book. Most registers feature an index in the front of the volume which helps locate a particular prisoner's number.

The greatest difficulty in searching for details about a prisoner when you already know his (in WA they were all male) number is that designers of the NLA website seem unaware that a handwritten front of book index exists and researchers are thus instructed to “browse” the register. For some inexplicable reason, however, the drop down window supposed to be a browsing aid has no prisoner numbers in it, only an administrative set created by the digitiser/cataloguer. This means that a researcher, looking for a particular prisoner number, has to guess the approximate register page and work back and forwards until the entry is found. An example is given (right) for the register for Millbank prison which is on PCom2/29. (This hit and miss approach became so tedious, that in frustration I was moved to create my own index.)



You are able to search adjacent registers but it lacks dates and has one inexplicable feature; number of ‘children’. It turns out that the extremely odd term ‘children’ actually means the number of pages attached to that particular record and has nothing to do with little humans at all.



[nla.obj-727852343](#)
 Millbank, County Middlesex, Prisoners' Register
 File 21, AJCP Reel No: 5971

281 children



[nla.obj-727852362](#)
 Millbank, County Middlesex, Prisoners' Register
 File 22, AJCP Reel No: 5971

272 children

Prison records are quite detailed and can give a fascinating glimpse into peoples' lives. For example, PCom2/29 Index has Henry Brammal prisoner number as 16656 which is in set 201. Brammal was a surgeon

convicted of bigamy twice (Beaumont was a name used in one of his other marriages) resulting in two seven year sentences, his next of kin is listed as his wife Mary and two children. Brammal was transferred to the hulk *Justitia*, but was never sent to WA and presumably ended up being paroled in the UK. As I keep reminding friends in England, the vast majority of British criminals from the 1840s onwards saw out their sentences on their home turf.

16656 2-1-18 5-2-18 5-9-18 2-2-17	Henry Bramall alias Beaumont 29	Married Surgeon 2 Ch.	27 Nov = 1848	Genl. crim Court	Bigamy 1. Indict	7 7 14	12 7/16 11 1/2 12-3-4
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Wife 1. 1. 18	Wife Mary Bramall 28 Ch. { Mary 5 } { an infant }	C 8	30 October 1849 to Justitia Hulk
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If researchers want information from Prison Registers after 1852 they will need to visit the UK National Archives at Kew, wait for them to appear on a pay site, such as 'Find my Past', or they could contact me.

Over the last few years while visiting the UK I have, with the much appreciated support of National Archives staff, digitised the post 1852 registers for Millbank, Pentonville, Wakefield, Chatham and Portland right up to end of transportation to WA in 1868. For further information about access to these records please contact the FHWA Convict SIG or visit the website at <https://membership.wags.org.au/special-interest-groups-mainmenu-47/convict-sig>, or email me personally at wa.research@gmail.com.

Bevan Carter



Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is one of Australia's most notable oral historians. This article is the fourteenth in her series based on the oral history collections of the Batty Library.]

Archie Samuel Ellis (1914- 2004) – OH396

Dr Ellis was born in Melbourne where he completed a medical degree in 1937. He worked in general medicine and psychiatry before joining the Army Medical Corps in 1940, serving in Australia and overseas and being mentioned in despatches.

Post war, he completed a Diploma in Psychological Medicine in England and worked as a psychiatrist for the Queensland Health Department, opening its first outpatient clinic in Townsville. Several appointments followed in England and Australia before he became Director of Mental Health Services in Western Australia in 1963, a position held until his retirement in 1977.

At the time of his appointment, Dr Ellis had been working in Melbourne and considered the Victorian Hygiene Authority the most progressive government department of its kind in Australia. He felt that by applying for the position of director in WA, he could use its new concepts. On arrival, credit was given for advances which had already been made and the public was informed of future plans which included building the Lockridge Hospital for children at Guildford to get children out of the Claremont Mental Hospital. Others were a new day hospital at Shenton Park, to move administration to West Perth instead of it being at Claremont, two new 48-bed wards, new nurses' quarters and a centre for emotionally disturbed children.

While I knew mental health services were a sensitive area, I was still surprised when Dr Ellis stated during the 1979 pre-interview visit that there could be questions he was not prepared to answer as a government officer. He also asked me to send questions to him in advance. I explained this was not possible because I used headings only, and questions also came out of what I was told during the interview. Fortunately, he still agreed to my return for the first interview.

At that session I explained that as his oversight was at a time of much change, it was essential we covered his experiences fully but that the interview could then be closed for however many years he requested.



Dr A S Ellis. (WA Newspapers.
12 December 2004.

The interview went ahead on that basis and eighteen interview sessions produced more than 31 hours of tape.

When the interviews had been transcribed, I visited Dr Ellis to give him a copy and explain he could make corrections and additions. Collecting it led to an interesting situation when he said that everything in the transcript had actually happened and he no longer felt the need to maintain secrecy. He had therefore decided that the whole interview could be open and he would deal with any consequences.

The interviews revealed much change in mental health services, including their role in the community. There was the establishment and growth of suburban and country clinics, the work of the Mental Deficiency Division and community education programs. An Industrial Training Centre was established and rehabilitation was considered of major importance.

The role of allied professionals, such as psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists, was expanded.

Funding by the WA Government and Commonwealth grants were discussed, as were the Prison Psychiatric Service, Alcohol and Drug Authority, and legislative changes. Dr Ellis was generous in acknowledging the importance of the work of colleagues, and gave a real insight into the Ministers to whom he was responsible, along with their attitudes to mental health services and the changes he wanted to enact. Then there was the relationship between allied government departments and community organisations.

At an Open Day held at Claremont, more than 2500 visitors revealed an increasing public awareness of the difficulties of those who had to deal with mental illness. Emphasis was placed on the problems of stigma, overcrowding and inadequate maintenance.

In 1966 a Mental Health Week was held in conjunction with the Mental Health Association, during which every unit and operation of the department was open to the public. Lunch-hour talks on mental illness were given and newspaper articles appeared about the work done at mental hospitals by voluntary agencies. Eric Saint, Professor of Medicine at UWA, gave the inaugural address. Lunch-hour talks on various aspects of mental illness were given by departmental psychiatrists and there was a panel discussion on TV.

A seminar on psychiatry in general practice followed, conducted by the State Mental Health Services under the auspices of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Seventy GPs attended, including many from country areas. Dr Ellis considered this 'a most valuable exercise in cooperation between general practitioners and the department.'

While considering the week had been valuable and largely achieved its objective of bringing the activities of the Department to public attention, Dr Ellis felt of equal value was the realisation that there were still serious problems to be overcome in accepting that mentally deranged people should not necessarily be sent to institutions.

In 1967 when Dr H J Blackmore took over as superintendent of Claremont Hospital, he instituted a major reorganisation including having 'Mental' removed from its title. (The hospital had started off as the Claremont Hospital for the Insane in 1904, and became Claremont Mental Hospital in 1933.) Wards were redecorated and named after Perth suburbs.

By 1966, Claremont housed 1700 long-term psychiatric patients but more patients were being discharged as medical and nursing staff fostered a 'discharge culture'. There were still 1400 patients in the hospital when Blackmore emphasised at an Open Day that at least 400 of these patients were not mentally ill, but that there was nowhere else for them to go. Ellis explained that although there were patients who were not 'technically mentally ill' they had become institutionalised and incapable



Claremont Mental Hospital. c1960.

of living independently. The situation was eventually solved through the opening of psychiatric hostels. Under Blackmore's regime, by the early 1970s the patient load was under 1000 for the first time in 60 years.

In 1967 the department sponsored Maralyn Beavis, a trainee psychiatric nurse, in the Miss Australia Quest. Excellent publicity followed for the department and its clients and Dr Ellis felt it helped combat the stigma associated with psychiatric illness and treatment.

Commenting on the 1970 Mental Health Week, Dr Ellis explained that while there would always be some who needed treatment in mental hospitals,

if civilised standards are to be maintained it is essential that the public should be under no misapprehension as to what happens in our mental hospitals, and the requisites for this are complete frankness, and the maintenance of good relations with the media.'

Ellis believed that a state department of psychiatry should try to prevent mental illness as well as treat it, so a division was set up to specialise in prevention and to educate people in techniques of healthy living. In the Shenton Park Day Hospital, which had replaced Graylands in 1965, some of these functions were carried out, but it was not until a mental health education psychologist, Roberta Tatom, was appointed that education activities became of greater importance. They included training sessions for mental health volunteer workers. In 1971 a Special Education Unit was opened to 'meet the increasing awareness of the community of the value of education in mental health.' The unit organised 32 community workshops in which there were discussion groups designed to help people cope with social problems such as alcoholism, drug addiction, road accidents, marital problems, and parent-child relationships. In the first two years, more than 2500 people took part.

The education unit became the Community Development Centre with 30 staff. During 1972/73 more than 500 people participated in 125 workshop groups, 94 in the metropolitan area and 31 in country centres. Business firms and government departments also used the service to train employees in personnel management, and it was estimated that more than a hundred people a month attended the unit and were involved in its programs or used its facilities.

The Hospital was reorganised internally into three divisions: deficiency, dementia and psychiatric. On 3 September 1972, Claremont Hospital was closed and divided into two separate hospitals: Swanbourne Hospital for

psychogeriatric patients and adults with developmental disabilities while in Graylands Hospital, acute psychiatric patients were treated.

In the time of Dr Ellis, Mental Health Services staff increased from 867 to 2000 and its total expenditure increased thirteen fold to \$26 million. He gave full credit to the many people and ideas that had led to what he saw as major achievements and changes, including great advances through research into the chemistry, physiology and neuropharmacology of the brain. He actually believed that

in the foreseeable future organic brain conditions may be prevented, relieved, or cured, rendering psycho-geriatric hospitals obsolete.'

I found these interviews quite fascinating because I had a sister who was a psychiatrist and who was very critical of mental institutions. I was grateful that Dr Ellis spoke in an uncomplicated way so I could always understand his points and not feel out of my depth. Another fond memory.

Ronda Jamieson



This month in WA history

[The two marvellous little books, Date it! compiled by AH Chate, Bruce Graham, and Glenda Oakley, and Glenda's follow up, More dates!, both published by the Friends, contain a wealth of information. Here is a selection for the month of March. Would readers like to add to this list? (Ed.)]

1827. 8th – Captain James Stirling commences exploration of the Swan River from HMS *Success*.

1830. 6th – a military station is established at Port Leschenault (Bunbury).

1831. 7th – Settlement at King George Sound ceases to be outpost of NSW and comes under the control of WA.

25th – formal adoption of the name Albany.

1834. 20th – the first trotting race in the colony is held at Fremantle racecourse.

1842. 2nd – the *Record, or Pastorals for Guildford*, the oldest WA magazine of which copies have survived, is launched.

1846. 1st – Dom Salvado arrives at New Norcia.

1853. 5th – a civil constabulary is established, a Chief of Police appointed, and a Code of Rules outlining an administrative structure was published

1867. 3rd – the schooner *Emma* leaves Nichol Bay for Fremantle with 42 persons on board and is never heard of again.

1870. 30th – John Forrest leads an expedition overland from Perth to Adelaide (arrived on 27 August).

1874. 18th – John and Alexander Forrest and party leaves Perth to find a practicable route to South Australia (reached Adelaide on 3 November).

1881. 1st – first railway line from Fremantle to Guildford officially opened.

1886. 29th – John Forrest and party leave Fremantle to explore the Kimberley district.

1894. 25th – Perth railway station completed.

1896. 23rd – rail line to Coolgardie officially opened.

1901. 29th – first federal elections held.

1902. 10th – CY O'Connor takes his own life.



Perth Railway Station. c1900.

1907. 28th – Modesto Varischetti, trapped in the flooded Bonnievale mine for 9 days, is rescued by Frank Hughes.

1908. 17th – AW Canning sets out to create a stock route between Halls Creek and Wiluna.

1911. 1st – Busselton jetty opened.

1912. 21st – the *Koombana* is wrecked in a cyclone off the north west coast with the loss of all 150 people on board.

1913. 19th – WA Country Party established.

1921. 1st – first group settlement inaugurated at Manjimup.

12th – Edith Cowan becomes the first woman member of any parliament in Australia.

1938. 10th – opening of the elegant Piccadilly Theatre. It was the first cinema in perth to install air-conditioning.

1942. 3rd – Japanese aircraft attack Broome.

1951. 31st – free milk for primary school pupils scheme commences.
1954. 26th – Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive in Kalgoorlie for the WA leg of their tour of Australia.
1961. 24th – opening of the Muchea satellite tracking station.
1963. 25th – official opening of Council House, Perth.
1966. 16th – first shipment of commercial iron ore - sent from Koolanooka to Japan.
1969. 17th – State's coat of arms granted by royal warrant.
1975. 8th – first daylight saving referendum. No surprises that the no vote won.
1983. 18th – conviction of the Mickleburg brothers on gold swindling charges.
1987. 29th – West Coast Eagles play their first game in the extended VFL competition (defeated Richmond).
1988. 13th – Jon Sanders completes a triple navigation of the world in his yacht *Parry Endeavour*.



Jon Sanders arrives at Fremantle 1968. (Battye Library, SLWA. 135227PD)

News from the State Library

Forthcoming events and exhibitions at the State Library

A Place to Call Home? Migrant Hostel Memories

The 'A Place to Call Home' photographic exhibition features highlights from the National Archives of Australia collection of photographs taken by government photographers documenting the experiences of post-World War II migrants to Australia. The photographs were taken between the late 1940s and the 1990s. Known as the Immigration Photographic Archive, the photographs form part of the National Archives of Australia collection. Images from the archive were used to encourage re-location to Australia to prospective migrants and to help local Australians welcome new migrants into the community.

The photographs strongly represent a time in Australian history that shaped the face of modern multiculturalism. Individuals, families and community groups will identify strongly with the images and will be able to reflect on both their own individual and shared experiences.

The exhibition is in the Ground Floor Gallery until 5 April 2020.



Northam migrant camp with women dressed in national costume in 1950.
(Battye Library, SLWA 221165PD)

Behind the scenes Tour: Highlights of the Dr Peter William collection of illustrations

With illustrations dating from 1970 to the present, the State Library's Dr. Peter Williams collection showcases the artistry and diversity of outstanding Australian picture books. This tour will take participants behind the scenes to explore highlights of the collection including illustrations, sculpture, sketches and storyboards. Explore works by renowned illustrators, Alison Lester, Kerry Argent, Ambelin Kwaymullina, Wendy Binks, Leigh Hobbs, Bob Graham, Shaun Tan and many more.

This tour will run for approximately 50 minutes and can be booked via the State Library website.

Dr Shino Konishi: The Freycinet Expedition in Australia

Louis Claude de Saulces de Freycinet visited Western Australia in September 1818. Though the expedition's time ashore was brief, they amassed a significant collection of natural history specimens and historical objects, including Dutch navigator Willem de Vlamingh's plate, and produced a rich archive of texts and illustrations many held by the SLWA.

Dr Shino Konishi, an ARC research fellow in the School of Humanities and School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia, will trace the history of the expedition, and in particular their encounters with and descriptions of Aboriginal people. She has long been interested in the history of French encounters with Aboriginal people, and has



Watercolour and ink drawing of camp at Shark Bay, by J. Alphonse Pellion in 1818.
(SLWA, Freycinet collection <https://slwa.wa.gov.au/freycinet/shark-bay>).

published a number of works on the subject, including her book *The Aboriginal Male in the Enlightenment World* (London, 2012). Shino is Aboriginal, and identifies with the Yawuru people of Broome. Bookings available via the State Library website.

Recently Acquired Material

- ***World War One memoir: Walter Edward Gillett.*** This memoir was written by Walter Gillett (also known as Gill or Gillie) after his return from the First World War where he fought in France. It is based on his notes and observations made during the war and contains comment on his enlistment and demobilisation. He aims for, and achieves, a humorous style although with the subject matter, this is not always possible or appropriate. Gillett was born in England, was 42 at the time of enlistment (3 April 1916) and married to Leila Rose Ada (nee Stone). They had two daughters. He left Australia on 20 September 1916 for Plymouth on the Uganda and was discharged in Perth on 16 October 1920 after returning on the Kigoma. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1919. This memoir adds to the accounts of the men who served in the 1914-18 war and illuminates the atmosphere in WA with regard to enlistment and provides a first-hand account of the rigours of war and the lengthy process of returning home.
- ***Raymond Winfield's account of 1936-37 trip.*** Frank Winfield (1887-1953) was born in South Australia but travelled to many parts of Australia in search of work. He was in WA 1903-05 and made a second trip 1936-37, this time accompanied by his eldest son Raymond, then aged sixteen. The donation is Raymond's recollection of that trip as told to his son Max Winfield. It is an evocative account of the trials and travails, the countryside, and the characters encountered while seeking work in country WA during the Depression.
- ***David Francis Hughes photographs,*** 1940s-1950s. These photographs feature many places in Western Australia Albany, Anna Plains Station, Beagle Bay, Broome, Bunbury, Caron, Gabbin, Glenroy Station, Halls Creek, Kalgoorlie, Karragullen, La Grange, Marble Bar, Meekatharra, Mt Magnet, Mullewa, Nullagine, Pt Hedland, and Thangoo. David F. Hughes (Dave) first experienced life in northern WA when he joined the West Australian Government Railways as a cleaner in 1947 and worked in Mullewa and Caron, near Perenjori.

After three years, aged 20 and keen to improve himself, he moved to the WA Police Force and requested a posting to the north as soon as he had gained sufficient experience. His first station was Broome (ten men), followed by Marble Bar (two men), and then he had his own one-man station at Nullagine in the Pilbara. Dave believes he was the youngest Officer to get Officer-in-Charge status. While working in the Northern Police Division Dave got to know many Indigenous people and became fascinated with their culture and its relationship to Australian/British law. The highlight of his police career was a secret/sacred farewell gift from the Jigalong Tribe and his photograph collection includes photos of spears, boomerangs and other Aboriginal artefacts. Dave resigned from the Police Force in 1956 but maintained his attachment to the North and contact with Northerners. Dave's photograph collection documents the isolated outback of the 1940s and '50s and many of the images were used in his account of his experiences in the Wheatbelt, Kimberley and Pilbara in his autobiography *Always go north: a West Australian life and times* [2008] (copy included in donation) also published as *Go North : the Dave Hughes story, 1929-2008*.

- ***Macpherson family photographs, 1860s-1950s***. These cover four generations of the family starting with the donor's great-grandfather Donald Macpherson (born Scotland, 1815), wealthy pastoralist at 'Glentromie', Victoria Plains in the 1840s. Donald had eight children with his first wife Jessie MacKnoe (included in photos). Their second son William, known as Bill (born 1855) became Clerk of Course for the four Perth racecourses, Ascot, Belmont, Cannington and Helena Vale in the early 1900s. He was working as a veterinarian at Moora when he died in 1912 and his widow Mary Ann (Molly) took their two children to the UK where teenage son Donald (Don) Edward was apprenticed as a fitter in Brighton in 1916. Don also joined the St John Ambulance Brigade and remained a member for the rest of his life – the collection includes photos of him in uniform and participating in St John Ambulance demonstrations. Don and his mother Molly returned to WA in 1919. Don married Grace Burns in 1937 and their son Robert William (Bill) - the donor - was born 1938. This collection of Macpherson family photos complements the donor's genealogical document: *The Macphersons and the McKnowes in Western Australia: a personal family history of R. W. Macpherson, 54 George Road, Lesmurdie*.

Culture WA

A new, free digital platform that provides access to the extraordinary collections from Western Australia's main cultural institutions through a single, searchable portal, has gone live.

Culture WA brings together collections from the Western Australian Museum, the State Library of Western Australia, and the State Records Office of Western Australia. Collections from the Art Gallery of Western Australia will be uploaded next year and will feature exciting new Aboriginal content.

The first phase of the Culture WA portal incorporates about 1.6 million collection records, covering material that ranges from single documents, research papers, maps and papers, to clothing, medals and toys, to thousands of scientific specimens. Being able to search the State's diverse collections from a single point will improve and broaden access to the unique stories of Western Australia.

The portal has been created using existing resources from across the State's culture portfolio agencies. As more of the State's collections are digitised and uploaded, more information and stories will become available. Access this new way to explore our treasures at <https://culture.wa.gov.au/>

Important notice about the bookshop

Members will have noticed that the shop which used to be situated on the ground floor near the reception desk has been closed. It is not clear at this point, but it is hoped that Western Australian publications may be able to be purchased at the Western Australian Museum when building works have finished.

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society, however, has a bookshop with an extensive collection of WA materials and purchases may be made either in person by visiting 49 Broadway, cnr Clark Street Nedlands, or by browsing the catalogue and ordering online through <https://shop.histwest.org.au/books.html>. The RWAHS bookshop also sells a range of other goods including archival materials. For more information phone 08 9386 3841 during business hours or email: admin@histwest.org.au.

State Records Office - News from the Archives

The 2020 Lunchtime Seminar Program

Arrangements for these seminars are to be confirmed. Further details will be available on SROWA's website.

Facebook page

SRO also has a Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/StateRecordsOfficeWA>

It is certainly worth browsing the site to discover interesting stories revealed by the records held in the State Archives collection which are regular features.

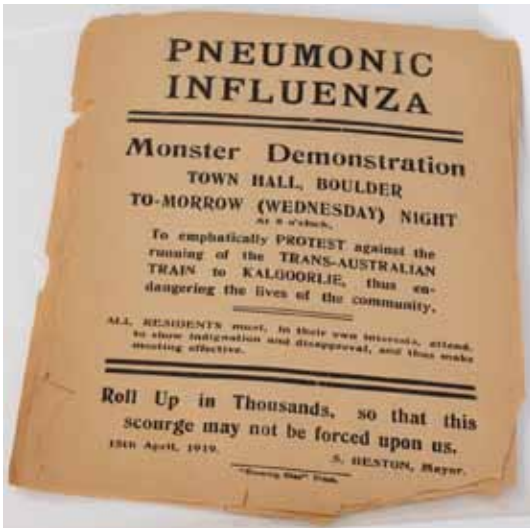
Very topically, given the current concerns over the Coronavirus outbreak, one of the recent posts was an examination of the Influenza epidemic which followed the cessation of the First World War. The following story with several illustrations was posted on 31 January.

“Coronavirus and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1920 - amazing how one event echoes the other. See this joint State Library/SRO story.

As the outbreak of the coronavirus occupies media and headlines and around the world, there are strong parallels in public concerns and the actions of government that occurred a century ago during the influenza (Spanish Flu) pandemic, which commenced at the end of the First World War.

The first outbreaks of Spanish Flu were reported in Europe and America in 1918 - evidence suggesting the disease developed in the trenches of war ravaged France. From there it spread around the world with returning military personnel from Europe. Government archives reveal that the authorities in Western Australia were well aware of this epidemic months before any cases were reported in the state in 1919.

Placing Western Australia under Quarantine was considered the best way to tackle this pandemic. Records reveal that in 1918 the quarantine hospital at Woodman's Point was used to hold infected patients arriving by ship at Fremantle, many of these were returning soldiers and nurses; and while deaths were recorded, the disease did not spread to wider community. Rotanda Hospital in East Victoria Park also treated influenza patients.



Pneumonic influenza leaflet, 1919. Goldfields residents were well aware that this was a potential transmission route for infectious influenza from the east. A 'Monster Demonstration' was held at the Boulder Town Hall on 15 April 1919 "to emphatically PROTEST against the running of the Trans-Australian Train to Kalgoorlie". It asked that residents "roll up in thousands, so that this scourge may not be forced upon us" (cons7288/1). Provided by the State Records Office of WA.

Travel to WA was restricted but quarantine measures did cause great consternation among those Western Australians trapped in other parts of Australia, unable to come home until after the pandemic passed. One black bordered letter posted here - the border an indication that the writer was in mourning – is a touching plea from a widow with four young children stranded in Victoria asking to return to WA by Trans Australian Railway, so she could sort out her husband's affairs. She states all her family "took the Influenza, to which my husband succumbed" (cons1496 1919/0153).

But the Trans Australian Railway was not carrying passengers. Goldfields residents were well aware that this was a potential transmission route for infectious influenza from the east. A 'Monster Demonstration' was held at the Boulder Town Hall on 15 April 1919 "to emphatically PROTEST against the running of the Trans-Australian Train to Kalgoorlie". It asked that residents "roll up in thousands, so that this scourge may not be forced upon us" (cons7288/1).

Nevertheless, by June 1919 Influenza did eventually take hold in WA and affected all communities throughout the state. In February 1919 plans had been made to isolate infected patients at the Blackboy Hill Military Camp near what is now Greenmount,. In June 1919 when the first major local outbreak occurred patients were

transferred there. But by mid October 1919 the epidemic in WA was all over and the last patients were discharged. The following year the potential for another Influenza epidemic did occupy the work of public health officials, but flu outbreaks were much fewer and had milder effect. The “scourge” had passed.”

Thank you to Gerard, Damien, and the team at the State Records Office of Western Australia for preparing this information.

Change in archives retrieval times in 2020

From Tuesday 7 January 2020 the SRO has made a change to archives retrieval times so we can continue to provide good service to all customers. From that date, all retrieved archives, whether from our onsite or offsite storage areas, will be available for use in the Search Room at 12 noon each day we're open (10am-4.30pm Tuesday to Friday).

Each business day customers will be able to access up to ten records that are held onsite, as well as ten records held offsite. Requests placed before 4pm will be available the next day we're open at 12 noon. There is no change in the number of records available to clients each day, just one set delivery time for all records.

Requests for archives can be made online through registering as a researcher via the SRO's catalogue and clients are encouraged to search the catalogue and place requests in advance. For our regular customers we appreciate the change to retrieval times may mean you have to plan your research differently; and SRO Search Room staff will be happy to help you adjust.

Requests can also be made by telephone on (08) 9427 3600 or in person at the SRO during opening hours. No retrievals occur on weekends or public holidays. The SRO's catalogue also allows clients to place orders for digitising archives.

If you wish to provide feedback about this change in retrieval times please email sro@sro.wa.gov.au

See the SRO webpage for more information about archives retrievals.



Book review

[This review appeared in History West last year and is reprinted here by kind permission of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.]

Sue Taffe, *A white hot flame: Mary Montgomerie Bennett – author, educator, activist for Indigenous justice*, Clayton Vic., Monash University Publishing, 2018.

Mary Montgomerie Bennett was described by her friend and admirer, Doris Bekh, as ‘like a white hot flame ... such singleness of mind – utter unselfishness’. Sue Taffe has deftly expanded on this image and given us an impressively detailed biography which captures the brilliance, complexity, dedication, and conflicted humanity of her subject.

Mary Bennett was born in London on 8 July 1881 the eldest child of Robert Christison, a wealthy Queensland squatter, and his wife Mary. As a three year old living with her mother and sister in NSW, she became close to her Aboriginal nursemaid, Wyma, whom her father had sent down from his Queensland property, Lammermoor. From the age of six to twelve, Mary and her siblings lived with their mother in England, but after their return to Australia, she had five idyllic winters at Lammermoor, spending time with Wyma and the Dalleburra station workers, whose country Robert Christison had usurped.

Mary returned to a comfortable existence in England and on her father’s death in 1915, received an independent income which she used throughout her life to further her activism on behalf of Aboriginal people. At the age of 33 she married Charles Bennett, a captain of the P&O line, who was 25 years her senior, but by all accounts the marriage was a happy one, if childless because of Mary’s diabetes.

Mary idolised her father and wrote *Christison of Lammermoor*, which she styled ‘a romantic history’. It was while preparing the book for publication in 1927 that she read about the 1926 Forrest River massacre and was horrified enough to add extra chapters highlighting the dire situation of Aboriginal people in Australia. Mary’s husband died a month after the book was published, and to deal with her grief she threw herself into various religious and social causes, notably the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society (ASAPS), an organisation she remained committed to for the remainder of her life. It was her zeal to improve the lot of people that she characterised as ‘the most wronged at our hands’ that sent her, at the age of 50, to leave England for Australia, finally

settling at the remote Mount Margaret Mission on Wongatha country. Always practical, she brought with her spinning wheels and weaving looms and taught Aboriginal girls and their mothers to use them. She also developed a method of education which was highly successful, to the extent her pupils often won prizes and several went on to distinguished careers in nursing and education.

Sue Taffe skillfully charts Mary's awakening conscience, nurtured by her deep religious conviction, and her journey from privileged daughter, to selfless missionary, to gifted teacher, to fighter for human rights for dispossessed Aboriginal families. For most of her life, Mary railed against the sexual abuse of Aboriginal women by WA pastoralists and the removal of children from their families. She wrote incessantly despite suffering bouts of debilitating ill health. An intensely private person, she attracted staunch admirers, but made powerful enemies in government and in agencies supposedly responsible for Aboriginal protection and welfare. Mary could be warm and caring to her charges but uncompromising in her quest for justice for them. Capable of a deep loving-kindness, she was also prickly and judgemental, alienating influential allies like Betty Rischbieth and members of the Women's Services Guild. She fell out with Mt Margaret Mission head, Rod Schenk, who accused her of needlessly stirring up dissent. Her intractability is illustrated by the fact that when Mary became estranged from her family 1919, she resolutely



L-R: Sadie Corner (later Canning), M.M. (Mary Montgomerie) Bennett and Gladys Vincent, Kalgoorlie, ca.1955. Battye Library, SLWA, BA1340/ERA3/95A.

ignored her only sister's overtures, the latest being three months before Mary's death at the age of 80 in Kalgoorlie Hospital.

Sue Taffe's clear-eyed yet empathetic portrayal of an extraordinary woman, is a compelling read. My only criticism is that the book might have benefitted from further editing as there is some repetition (for instance a quote on page 344 is repeated almost word for word on page 392). But this is a minor quibble and possibly difficult to avoid, given Taffe's decade of meticulous research to bring Mary's story to such vivid life.

Jennie Carter



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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ post code _____

Tel: _____ mobile _____

Email _____

Do you wish to receive emails about meetings or events? YES or NO

How would you like to receive your Newsletter? POSTED or by EMAIL

If paying by cheque, please complete this form 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:

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

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

We need a completed form for our records, so please return it either by post or as an attachment to an email to ***membership@friendsofbattyeiblibrary.org.au*** with your online receipt number.

If you require a receipt, please tick here

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

Afterwords

From Government hut to Governor Hutt

Englishman John Hutt arrived at Fremantle on the *Brothers* on 2 January 1839. The following day he travelled upriver to Perth and, in a ceremony performed in front of Government House in St Georges Terrace, he was publicly proclaimed as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Western Australia.

This Government House was the third at Swan River, all three designed by Henry Reveley the Colony's Civil Engineer. The first one was little more than a hut with a leaking roof, built high on a cliff on Garden Island looking over Cockburn Sound. It appears in some naive paintings made by the Revd Hobbs Scott.

The second government house was a wooden building, erected in St Georges Terrace late in 1829. It housed James and Ellen Stirling and their growing family as well as hosting church services and balls. But most of the wood was imported and it was rapidly consumed by termites.



Government House Garden Island (detail).

The third government house, the one John Hutt moved into, was originally intended as a private residence for Sir James Stirling and is marked as such on the 1835 plans held in the National Archives in London, signed by Reveley as Civil Engineer and Architect.

Incidentally, thanks to our indispensable diarist George Fletcher Moore, we know how Reveley pronounced his name. The emphasis was on 'Reve' – after meeting Henry's wife Amelia he twice recorded her name as 'Reeveley'.

The building faced St Georges Terrace rather than Perth Water and the front veranda had six Doric columns, a favourite Reveley architectural feature that can still be seen on the porch of his old court house.

We know exactly what it looked like - it survived long enough to be photographed from the Terrace. The same view was painted by Julian



From the street: Julian Ashton's painting of old Government House.

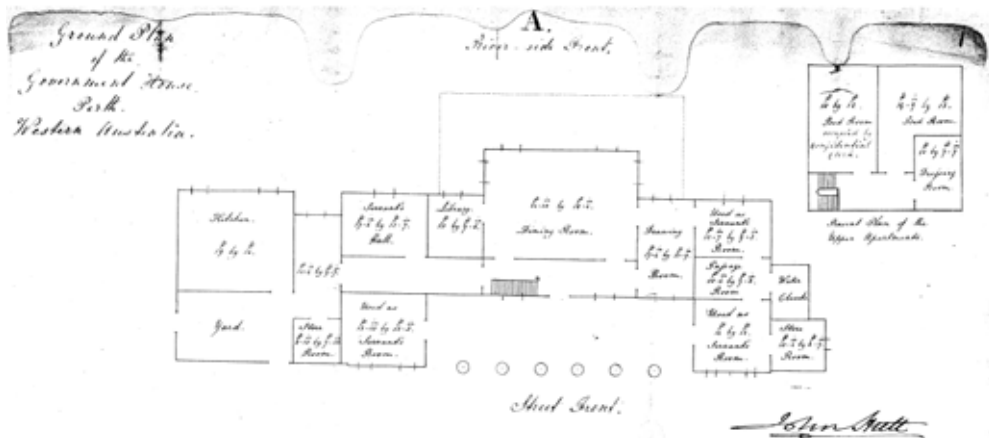
Ashton in about 1886. The view from Perth Water is shown in a landscape painting by talented watercolourist Amelia Fielding. Amelia was the sister of famous painter Copley Fielding and she completed the painting before she and Henry left the colony in 1838.



From the waterside: a painting by Amelia Reveley (Silentworld Museum)

We also know something of the planned layout of the house from a written description left by Henry Reveley. The biggest room was a dining room in the centre of the ground floor with a drawing room on its western side and a butler's pantry on the eastern. Above the dining room were two bedrooms. We know that there was a jarrah staircase leading to the bedrooms.

But from a set of 1840 plans held by the National Archives in London, we know exactly what use Governor Hutt made of the rooms. There are some interesting features: the pantry was turned into a library with a servants hall next to that then a gap to the kitchen. Servants occupied rooms on the front veranda. The Governor slept upstairs and his Confidential Clerk Walkinshaw Cowan occupied the other bedroom.



Governor Hutt's labelled ground plan (TNA London).

The Garden Island painting shows what looks like an outside lavatory but which was probably a sentry box. Early colonial reports rarely refer to toilet arrangements. But in the 1840 ground plan a small room on the far right is labelled 'water closets', a very early use of the term later abbreviated to 'WC'. It was probably too early for flush toilets but on what arrangements actually prevailed, colonial history remains silent.

Steve Errington



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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary \$25

Joint \$35

Pensioner / student / junior \$15

Corporate \$50

Meetings

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

<http://www.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*

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.
Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291 Fax enquiries (08) 9427 3256
Website www.slwa.wa.gov.au Email: info@slwa.wa.gov.au

Specialist staff: Dr 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.

No. 168



July 2020

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

Our July 2020 meeting

Bob Reece

Early New Norcia



Tuesday 14 July 2020 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room
4th floor, State Library of Western Australia.

Please see details on page 3.

Objectives

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

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Committee (2019-2020)

President	Pamela Statham Drew
Vice President	Jennie Carter,
Secretary	Heather Campbell
Treasurer	Nick Drew
Membership Sec.	Cherie Strickland
Committee members	Shirley Babis, Kris Bizacca, Lorraine Clarke, Steve Errington, Neil Foley, Robert O'Connor QC Richard Offen (Co-opted), and Gillian O'Mara.
Ex-Officio	Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian) Damian Shepherd (CEO State Records Office) Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)
Newsletter editor	Jennie Carter
Volunteers	Ring (08) 9427 3266 or email: <i>volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au</i>

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

ISSN 1035-8692

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

July Meeting

To be held on Tuesday 14 July 2020
in the Great Southern Room, fourth floor
State Library of Western Australia
at 5pm for 5.30pm

Dr Bob Reece

Early New Norcia
the 1867 photographs of WW Thwaites

Details of Bob'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.

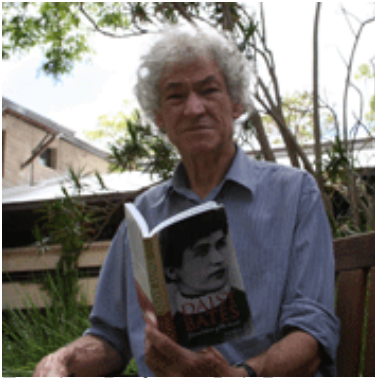
Problem with the stairs?

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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About Bob Reece



Emeritus Professor Bob Reece
(Murdoch University)

Dr Bob Reece is Professor Emeritus in History at Murdoch University, Western Australia, where he taught from 1978 until 2012 apart from three years as Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History at University College, Dublin. His first publications were in Aboriginal History, notably *Aborigines and Colonists* (1974) and 'Inventing Aborigines' (1987). He was also a contributor to *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia* (1994). His time in Ireland resulted in three edited

collections of Irish convict biographies (1989, 1991, 1993) and *The Origins of Irish Convict Transportation to New South Wales* (2001). His Irish interest was also pursued in 'The Irish and the Aborigines' (2000) and a biography of Daisy Bates (2007) for the National Library, where he held a Harold White Fellowship in 2005.

More recently, he has published several articles on the history of the Benedictine Aboriginal mission at New Norcia, *The Invincibles: New Norcia's Aboriginal Cricketers 1879-1906* (2014) and *Early New Norcia* (2019). He has also published extensively on the history of Sarawak (Borneo), on which he wrote his doctoral dissertation (1977), his books on the subject being *The Name of Brooke* (1982), *Datu Bandar* (1991), *Masa Jepun* (1998), and *The White Rajahs* (2004).

Early New Norcia: The 1867 Photographs of WW Thwaites

From the late 19th century until more recent times, the New Norcia Benedictine Mission in the Victoria Plains district of south-western Western Australia was Australia's best-known Aboriginal missionary institution, often credited with being the most successful. Much of this reputation was no doubt due to the early availability of photographic images of its Yued (Yuat) Aboriginal community, the monks whose mission it was to tend to their spiritual and material needs, and its impressive buildings.

New Norcia is remarkable in the history of Aboriginal missions for its photographs of Aboriginal people taken in the 1860s and 1870s. The Battye Library of Western Australian History in Perth holds ninety-two

collodion glass negatives of New Norcia from the period, while New Norcia's own archives hold the albumen paper prints made from the negatives. In the past, all of these early photographs were attributed to Bishop Rosendo Salvado's elder brother, Dom Santos Salvado, who lived at New Norcia from 1869 until 1879, but further research has indicated that this is not correct.¹

As far as can be ascertained, the first photographer to visit New Norcia was an English-born itinerant practitioner from Adelaide, Walter William Thwaites, who spent six weeks at the Mission from late August until early October 1867 and took more than thirty photographs over six days.

Taken collectively, this unique set of images portrays New Norcia at a time when it was beginning to show promise after experiencing many setbacks, not the least being a series of epidemics which decimated its Aboriginal population. The main purpose of this book has been to reproduce definitively the Thwaites photographs, identifying their subjects wherever possible and providing information on Thwaites and his place in the history of early photography in Western Australia. The commissioning of the photographs by Prior Venancio Garrido and their distribution within Western Australia as well as overseas demonstrates the importance attached by both Salvado and Garrido to the use of images to publicise New Norcia's work and raise funds for the Mission. They express Salvado's utopian vision of a self-sufficient monastic settlement where monks supervised the work of Aboriginal farmers and trained young Aboriginal people in useful occupations. They also reflect the need to attract more Aboriginal children to the Mission to ensure the viability of its indigenous population.

For the Yued Noongah people, once located on the Victoria Plains but now widely dispersed across Western Australia's south-west region, Thwaites' iconic images of New Norcia help to re-create an era when they were brought together in a communal experiment in Christianisation and civilisation by a man remarkable for his enlightened thinking and policies. They also reflect a moment in time when the Yued were undergoing a fundamental transition from hunter-gatherers with their own unique system of cultural beliefs and practices to membership of a dispossessed and institutionalised minority.

For us today, Thwaites' timeless images of the New Norcia's Aboriginal community invoke values that go beyond early perceptions of them as positive exemplars of Christianisation and civilisation or as interesting

curiosities to be collected and remarked upon. The images represent long-lost kin to be recognised and treasured by descendants who can see their history being returned to them. At the same time, like all fine portraits, they speak to our common humanity.



Remaining meeting dates for 2020

8 September (AGM) - Joanne Hyland *What happened to our convicts? recreating the lives of WA transportees.*

17 November (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function. Julie Martin *Gogo Station in the East Kimberley 1962-64.*



President's piece

Dear Friends

It looks as if the worst of the pandemic is behind us and restrictions are easing all the time. One really wonderful result of the lockdown is that our Battye Library has been refurbished in the break and so a lovely surprise awaits you when next you visit. Apart from being brighter and more attractive it will be easier to use and have more terminals for finding things. Family History WA volunteers will be back on the floor and State Records Office materials will now be accessible from the Leah Cohen reading room.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read more about the marvellous Retro Maps just released by the SRO, they are GPS related so you can just type in your address and look at what was there in the early years. This has been hailed by town planners and architects as an incredible aid to future planning – and you, as a member of the Friends, have helped achieve this as it was part funded by us through our wonderful Maude Sholl Bequest.

The Library share of this bequest money (as you know we alternate between the SRO and SLWA when distributing the yearly interest from this bequest) is to be used to begin digitising selected Anglican Marriage Registers. The State Library will start with the Registers that are easiest to tackle as a pilot project which will give us an idea of cost and time

necessary to digitise each page. We can then plan further digitisation projects more accurately. The work the Friends does is very important and we are grateful to our loyal supporters. Which is also a hint that your membership subscriptions are now due and can be paid using the form on page 37 (see also a notice from the editor on p.36).

Our next speaker is no stranger to you as Bob Reece has spoken several times before and has been a member of the Friends for decades. It was Bob who found the marvelous painting of the Stirling family standing by the Swan river with a mirrored Aboriginal family. It was painted by the wife of our first Architect, Henry Willey Reveley, whose life Bob has also written about.

So I look forward to seeing as many of you who can come to our meeting on Tuesday 14 July.

Pamela Statham Drew.



Remembering Alison Gregg

Dr Alison Gregg (1939-2020) who died on 1 April was a remarkable woman who achieved so much for children's literacy and education. She was a renowned librarian, author, teacher, and historian who was awarded the Western Australian Institute for Educational Research Medal in 1995, UWA's Cameron Prize for Research in Education (1994), and the WAIT Alumni Medal for Outstanding Postgraduate Student (1982). Alison was also made a life member of the WA branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia. Among other works, she co-authored with Paul Dench the book *Carnarvon and Apollo: One giant leap for a small Australian town* (2010).



Alison Gregg
(Courtesy Jim Gregg)

Alison was also one of our long-term supporters and, with her husband Jim, was a committee member for many years.

Her lovely smile, gentle charm, and enthusiasm for life, will be much missed by all who knew Alison. Our sincerest condolences to Jim and their children Robin, Catriona, and Michael.

Have you a story to tell?

[Long term member of the Friends, Dr Alex George is one of our most eminent botanists. He was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia medal (AM) in 2012 for his service to conservation and the environment as a botanist, historian and author.]

Western Australian Plant Names and Their Meanings

A particular interest of our former State Librarian FA (Ali) Sharr (1914–2002) was the meaning of the scientific names of our wildflowers, both genera (e.g. *Eucalyptus*, *Jacksonia*) and species (e.g. *longifolia*, *erythrocorys*). In 1978, the first edition of his book *Western Australian Plant Names and Their Meanings* was published by University of Western Australia Press. Ali estimated that it explained about 4500 names. It was reprinted in 1988 and an enlarged edition appeared in 1996. In January 1997, in the hope that there would be a continued need for it, he asked me to look after ‘its future welfare’, a duty that I was very happy to take on. With the agreement of UWA Press he formally assigned his rights to future editions to me.

From time to time I checked with UWA Press but it was some years before the enlarged edition sold out. The Press then advised that they would not be interested in publishing another, leaving me free to carry the baton. New plants are continually being discovered in the State, and several years ago I decided that it was time for a new edition. Whereas Ali worked mostly before we had computers and the internet, my task was made easier with the use of such facilities. It involves much bibliographic research into botanical works going back to the 18th century. Most early works are in Latin and this language continues to be the basis for almost all scientific names, so my knowledge of that language was essential. By early 2019 I had checked the existing text (which required very few amendments!) and added many new names. I added a new section listing infraspecific epithets—subspecies (e.g. *Isopogon formosus*



Francis Aubie (Ali) Sharr.
(Battye Library, SLWA 005683D)

subsp. *dasylepis*) and varieties (e.g. *Banksia sphaerocarpa* var. *pumilio*). The Western Australian Herbarium kept me informed of new discoveries and I made the cut-off date 30 April. I published the book through my Four Gables Press, with design by Charmaine Cave, Lesmurdie, and printing by Quality Press, Welshpool.

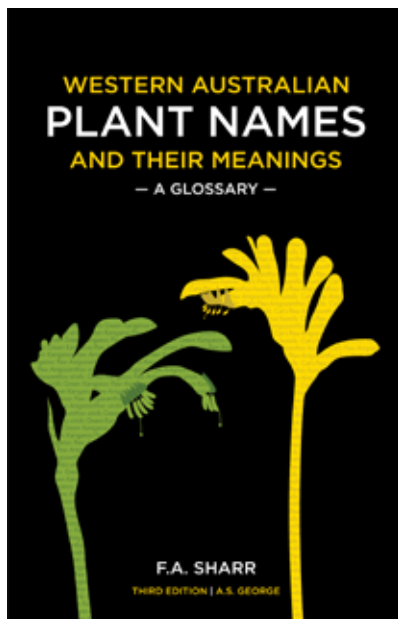
Western Australian Plant Names and Their Meanings by FA Sharr, 3rd edition by AS George, published July 2019, explains the scientific names of all native and naturalised plants in the State. These now total almost 12,000 species though, because some

names have been used more than once (e.g. those with the name *australis* referring to our southern geographical position, and many named for James Drummond), the number to be explained is much fewer. Nonetheless, in total the book explains some 1620 generic names, 5715 specific and 895 infraspecific epithets.

For added interest I included facsimiles of the title pages of seven early works in which Australian plants were first named and filled the space on some pages with some of my early pencil drawings of our plants.

The State Library provided a very nice photograph of Ali to form a frontispiece.

[Editor's note: *Western Australian Plant Names and Their Meanings* is a seminal Western Australian publication and for members interested in obtaining a copy it is available from Alex George, 'Four Gables', 18 Barclay Road, Kardinya, Western Australia 6163. Phone: 0410 933718 email: fourgables@fourgablespress.com. Price \$40.00. Packing and postage within Australia \$15.00.]



[Lindsay Dorman holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Curtin University. He has a particular interest in the United Nations international intergovernmental organisation and kindly written a couple of articles for our Newsletter.]

League of Nations Union (WA Branch).

As a long serving member of the United Nations Association of Australia [WA Division], I decided to research the history of its predecessor, the Western Australian branch of the League of Nations Union (LNU). Below is just a small part of a much larger and interesting history in which it includes many of WA's well known luminaries of the day.

In the unbridled hope of a world exhausted by first industrialised conflict, World War One (1914-18), the League of Nations was established in 1919, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Despite the accepted view of Western Australia and Perth between the wars was of a bland, parochial, rurally orientated, consensus-dominated State and capital¹, the League of Nations Union (LNU) was formed in 1922. Initially there was little support for the League of Nations Union outside the Women's Service Guild (WSG) in the 1920's. The average Western Australian male citizen was little interested in non-Western Australian matters in general.² Despite this assessment, the Perth branch of the LNU was surprisingly lively and complex network of organisations, not including the Returned Services League, churches and political parties.³

The Provisional Committee conducted its first meeting in the Town Hall on Tuesday 1st August, 1922 at 4.00pm. Those present were Professor [later Sir] Walter Murdoch (Chairman), The Reverend C.H.B. Grimes (Secretary), Mr Carson, Mrs Cowan, Mrs King, Mrs Clark, Mrs Macdonald, and Mrs Joyner.⁴ An annual membership fee was set at two shillings. A later meeting that evening at 8.00pm was conducted under the auspices of the WSG. Women's organisations were the greatest supporters, which included the National Council of Women. The WSG were responsible for the catering of LNU luncheons.⁵ At that meeting, Professor Murdoch outlined the objectives of the Union. Although these

1. GC Bolton, *A Fine Country to Starve In*. Perth, 1972, p.22.

2. M Steadman, *The League of Nations Union in Perth Internationalism in Isolation*, *Fred Alexander-A Tribute* edited by Brian de Garis, UWA Press, June 1988, p.31.

3. Ibid #4 p.23.

4. League of Nations Union [Perth Branch] Minutes, 1922.

5. Ibid # 4.p.24.

were not recorded in the minutes, it can be assumed if anything can be assumed, that the objectives would have been to support aims of the League of Nations itself. It was agreed that £2/0/0 was to be sent to London for all the latest literature on the League. ⁶

Professor Murdoch gave radio broadcasts, including one titled, 'War as an Investment, a Challenge for the Churches' and also one called 'Propaganda'. He recommended books to read, which were published in the WSG journal *The Dawn*. These included *Traffic in Arms, War Profit, Bloody Traffic and Patriotism Ltd*. Beverley Nichols' *Cry Havoc* was also recommended by Murdoch.⁷

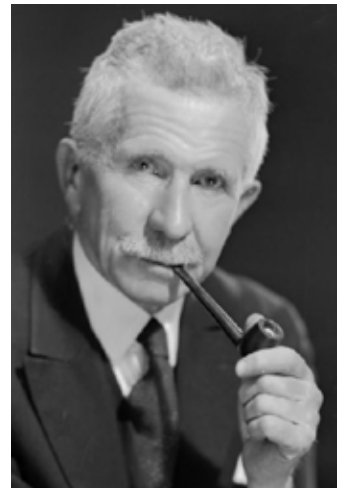
The Director of Education, Cyril Andrews was approached to join the Executive in August 1923. There is no evidence from the minutes that he acceded to the request. The Education Department was receptive to LNU material and co-operated in the presentation of the annual League of Nations Day ceremony.⁸

Lieutenant-Governor Sir Robert McMillan had declined the invitation to become the Patron, however the Premier, Mr Phillip Collier accepted the position in 1928. Collier struck up a close friendship with John Curtin, who owed much to him as advisor and confidant.⁹

The LNU had several prominent figures not only in the general membership but in their Executive. Including those previously mentioned, Professor Walter Murdoch who was founding professor of the University of Western Australia. In 1939 he received the CMG followed by the KCMG in 1964. Professor Fred Alexander, who in the absence of Murdoch on a two year overseas study tour, was Chairman [1926-28]

Alexander recalled in his autobiography,

[M]y arrival [in WA] in 1924 happened to coincide with local interest in the activities



Professor Walter Murdoch,
17 October 1939.
(Battye Library SLWA,
304572PD)

6. Union Minutes, 28/8/1922

7. Ibid # 4, p.26.

8. Ibid # 4, p27.

9 *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol.13, [MUP], 1993.*



of a Perth branch of the Australian League of Nations Union. Suffice to say that by the second half of the 1920s much of my leisure was devoted to the LNU organisation in Perth, [as] Walter Murdoch's offsider and later Chairman of the branch, and to country lecture tours usually with UWA Extension sponsorship and with contemporary international affairs as the topic of my talks.¹⁰

Also among the famous members was John Curtin, editor of the *Westralian Worker* who was a supporter and one time Executive Committee member who provided a badly needed link with the local labour movement. Curtin had been in 1924 an Australian Delegate to the annual conference of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, Switzerland.¹¹

A member of the first Executive was Edith Cowan who was the first women elected in an Australian Parliament, winning the seat of West Perth in 1921. She was the endorsed Nationalist candidate in an electorate that had a majority of women enrolled voters.¹²

Bessie Rischbieth was more your typical LNU member in as much as she was associated with an amazing array of organisations and causes. Rischbieth was an Alternative Delegate to the 1935 League of Nations Session of the Assembly in Geneva¹³ which voted to impose sanctions on Italy as a result of its incursion into Abyssinia [Libya]¹⁴.

As the gathering storm clouds of war appeared in the late 1930s, the LNU continued to be seen to be in the public arena (even though the official minutes ceased to be recorded) with public meetings, lectures' and newspaper reports by both Murdoch and Alexander throughout the war years.

The formal ending of the League of Nations and the establishment of the United Nations saw the LNU morph into the United Nations Association of

10. Alexander, Professor Fred, "On Campus and Off, Reminiscences & Reflections of the First Professor of Modern History in the University of Western Australia 1916-1986" UWA Press, 1987, p.6.

11. Ibid #10.

12. Ibid #10.

13. "League of Nations, Mrs Rischbieth Substitute Delegate", *The West Australian*, 13/6/1935, p.4.

14. "Sanctions against Italy", *Western Argus [Kalgoorlie]*, 3/12/1935, p.2.

Australia. The Western Australian branch was established in November 1946 and Professor Fred Alexander was elected its first President.



Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is one of Australia's most notable oral historians. This article is the fifteenth in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

Melville Williamena (Melba) White (1895-1992) – OH386

The previous article in the Friends newsletter was based on 31 hours of tape with Archie Samuel Ellis. When I found there were only two hours of tape with the next person interviewed, Melba White, I wondered how I would be able to write an article of reasonable length. She was interviewed in 1979 and I could not remember the interview. Imagine my delight when reading the transcript in the Battye Library I found I could not put it down and enjoyed every moment of her recall. She was a person of few words but brought so many distinctive locations and ways of living alive.

Melba's father, William Alexander Caporn, was born in Perth in 1853. Educated at Perth Boys' School, he worked in the government printing office as a photographic lithographer. Her mother was Louisa Elizabeth Towton, born in 1856. They married in Wesley Church in 1872 and had five boys and two girls, with Melba, born in 1895, the youngest; her eldest brother was then aged 21.

Memories of living in Victoria Avenue, Claremont, were happy ones. The house was close to Claremont baths and the family property ran down to the river where crabs and prawns were caught. An Aboriginal couple, originally from Gingin, worked for the family, with Fanny doing the washing and running messages, and her partner (unnamed)



Melba White at the reception desk in Royal Perth Hospital. (Battye Library, SLWA 007281D)

chopping wood and sweeping paths. Their 'home' was a tent on a block next door and they had been living in the area for a 'long, long time.' Their evening meal, provided by Melba's mother, was the same as that of her family. Melba did not know if they were paid for their services, but they were treated as part of the family and their clothes and boots were bought by the Caporns. There was 'no class distinction', and their helpers were very upset when the Caporn family left Claremont.

After William Caporn retired, the Claremont property was sold and the family moved into a new house in Queens Park. The move was so they could have a cow, some chooks and fruit trees on the one-acre block, covered in gum trees, scrub and wildflowers. This time their help came from an Aunt whose husband was 'very cruel', who came to live with them and stayed for twelve years. Fanny and her partner used to visit 'every couple of months', staying for the whole day. They would sit on the back verandah and chat and, as a result, Melba learnt some of their language. One of their grandchildren was called Melba which made her 'very proud'.

With few people living in Queens Park, there were no shops nearby. Two trains operated each morning and night but there was no station. If someone wanted the train to stop during the night, they swung a light to let the driver know. The Caporns travelled to Cannington by horse and double-decker sulky to shop. Clothes had to be bought in Perth.

William Caporn fought for drainage and footpaths for the area, and shops and a railway station were eventually built, together with a hotel and a hall for entertainments.

Melba went to school in the Congregational Church when she was six and then the Cannington school which involved a three-mile walk. When she was ten a school was built at Queens Park to which Melba transferred, leaving when she was fourteen.

On Sundays, all the Caporn children attended Sunday School and the family went to Church, where Melba's sister played the organ. It was also a day when no games could be played.

Overall, Melba described her growing up as sharing 'an ordinary, happy family life'. Her father 'potted about' and milked his jersey cow each day, and her mother scalded the milk and made cream. When two of her brothers married and lived in the district, they too each had a cow.

The children all had jobs to do. Their father grew vegetables and his

garden was 'beautiful'. There were also ducks and chickens to look after. Melba remembered her mother's home remedies for various sicknesses which she used on her own children and those of neighbours. Her parents' relationship was 'a very happy one'.

In time too, a nicer home was built for the family opposite the railway station. They were at the Royal Show when six weeks later, the house was 'burnt to the ground'. The family moved to Claremont for a year in which time a large block was bought 'towards Welshpool Road' and another house was built.

Melba's mother loved people and enjoyed entertaining. She was 'Never happy unless she was doing for people or giving them something. She could see the funny side of everything. Full of life.' Her father was 'lovable', believing 'in discipline but in a kind way'.

There was an interesting point about her father, however:

I can remember my father having a gun and two bullets in the shed. And one day I asked him why they were there, and he said, "Well you two girls, if you come home pregnant, there's one bullet for you and one for the chap that got you pregnant".

Later in life Louisa and one of the Shentons went into partnership, buying land in Claremont and reselling it. They owned the Bedford Hotel, and two streets in Nedlands were named after her: Caporn Street and Louisa Street.

After leaving school, Melba was at home until she 'suddenly got an urge' to find a job when she was sixteen. She worked for Charles Moores, filing and checking docketts, and when a picture theatre opened, became a box office cashier.

In 1922, Melba married Lesley Hugh White at St Luke's church in Cottesloe. He worked as a contractor and then foreman for his father, Shirley White, who did extensive work in South Africa and Western Australia, including on the goldfields and building the Bank of New South Wales in St George's Terrace.

After marriage, Melba did not work but her husband's health eventually failed and when he was practically an invalid, she went back to work in 1944 in three cinemas. (He died in 1951.) By then, theatres had gardens attached to them and queues of people would form to buy seats. There were permanent bookings for 200 people, but the numbers dropped off once TV came at the end of 1959 and audiences were eventually

reduced to around eight people. The Savoy theatre closed, and then the Broadway. 'In the end I don't think we were taking enough to pay the projectionist, let alone myself and the ticket taker.'

With the closure of the cinemas, Melba joined the Friends of Royal Perth Hospital as a volunteer in 1962. She started preparing flowers for patients and then joined the reception service, doing the two services each day. She was later in charge of the flower service and continued in those roles until 1978 and

Loved every moment of it ... You come home feeling how very grateful you are for the health that you've got. When you see people half your age crippled with arthritis and different complaints and you feel that if you've only helped someone once in a day, to me it's satisfaction.

Ronda Jamieson



Treasures from Trove

[Heather Campbell is not only our Society's highly competent Secretary, she is also a researcher, historian, and author. This is the second in her series on delving into the wonders of the NLA's Trove database of Australian newspapers.]

Dr J S Battye – the new broom sweeping clean!

James Sykes Battye was born in 1871 in Geelong, Victoria, to Daniel Battye, a wool-weaver and his wife Maria, both from Yorkshire, England. Before becoming chief librarian of the Victoria Public Library in Perth in 1894, he was an assistant at the Public Library of Victoria. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/battye-james-sykes-5156>

West Australian Tuesday 14 August 1894, page 4

Mr. J. S. Battye, the new librarian of the Victoria Public Library, arrived in Perth yesterday by mail train from Albany, and at once entered upon his duties. Mr. Battye comes with a good record. Although a young man he has been for many years assistant librarian at the Melbourne Public Library, and was considered one of the most capable members of the staff. For some time past he has been in full charge of the leading branch. He is a graduate of the Melbourne University, and passed his University career with distinction."

West Australian, Saturday 15 September 1894, page 6

THE VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The sad and sudden calamity which shut out the light of day to Mr. Basil Porter, the zealous guardian of the Victoria Library, led to the appointment of a new librarian. For four years Mr. Porter has been the guardian of the first public collection of books in Western Australia, and he ever showed an affectionate interest in his charges. The collection grew year by year, and the library, as it now is, would form a very good basis for a much larger and more extensive collection.



The Victoria Public Library St George's Tce, 1897 (Battye Library, SLWA 024609PD:)

Generally the volumes have been well selected, and the standard authors and authorities in most branches of literature are to be found upon the shelves. To meet the demands of a not extraordinarily large number of readers it was not absolutely necessary that all departments should be equally well filled. In

some of the sections there is a weakness out of all proportion with the strength of other and more popular departments. The poetic works on the catalogue are noticeably sparse. Good editions of a few by the great poets of England are upon the half empty shelves of the poetry presses, but with the exception of Tennyson, Swinburne, and Robert and Mrs. Browning, but few of the modern poets are represented. The regions of theology and philosophy have not been widely ranged for contributions to the collection.

There are indeed a few works treating on religious and philosophical topics, but they do not show many signs of use, nor have the volumes of poetry the appearance of being largely read. Possibly it is this fact which may have led the selection committee to refrain from augmenting the number of volumes which lie peacefully upon the shelves under these headings.

The new librarian is Mr J.S. Battye, BALLB, a member of the staff of the Public Library of Melbourne. Immediately on his arrival in Perth and his installation into his new position, he started to put his house in order. Not only has he caused a thorough cleaning up, by the removal of accumulations of dust, but he has altered the arrangement of the presses in order to make room for about a dozen more to



Dr J S Battye 1928
(Battye Library, SLWA 047933PD)

be placed along the walls. A number of the chairs - not by any means too comfortable - are being repaired. A portion of the newspapers and periodicals have been removed to one of the small rooms, and the table is no longer littered with the ephemeral literature both of this and other countries.

These are not, however, the principal improvements which have been effected. They are not the reforms which appear most important to the librarian, who has been accustomed to quite a different system to that which obtained here. He was quick to give expression to his views and to commence the extended task of carrying out his expressions. There are about 6,500 volumes on the shelves, and these have been divided under twenty-six general headings or divisions, marked by the Roman capitals. The presses are identified by Roman numerals. The shelves are distinguished by the ordinary letter - "lower case," as the compositor would say - from "a" to "i," there being nine shelves in each press. The books bear the Arabic numerals. A book, for instance, marked thus "R.IV.h.9" would at a glance show that its proper place was, first, under the eighteenth division, secondly in the fourth press of that division, thirdly on the eighth shelf and fourthly in the ninth place on that shelf. When, therefore, a book is required its place can be found without a moment's delay. The system allows of an enormous expansion, and is capable of being used for a collection of 60,000 volumes without confusion arising.



Dr Battye in his office, undated
(Battye Library, SLWA 304410PD)

Besides re-ticketing the volumes, Mr. Battye is also re-cataloguing the whole collection, and on a principle which is in vogue in Melbourne and other of the larger libraries. The book catalogue has been superseded by a system of cataloguing by cards. Cards containing the names and particulars of the works are written and placed in alphabetical order. They will be contained in a small frame, which will give sufficient room

to permit of the face of each separate card being exposed to the eye of the reader, but not sufficient space to permit of any single card being extracted from its proper place. The beauty of the system is that no matter how large the library may grow the catalogue can keep pace with it and the alphabetical order of the index be preserved. In the Melbourne Public Library, with its enormous collection of books there are about 180,000 cards, and these are kept in correct alphabetical order without the slightest difficulty, and are an invaluable help to the public.

Before leaving Melbourne, Mr. Battye guided through the press an enlarged edition of the catalogue of the Lending Department of that

library, the whole of the matter for which had been prepared by him in the manner described above, the number of cards written being about 25,000. For it must not be supposed that each book is represented by one card only. The average is three cards to each book. Take for instance the work on Switzerland by William Beattie and illustrated by W. H. Bartlett. First of all a card a written with "Switzerland" as the principal word. Another contains the name of the author in large letters, and a third the name of the illustrator, when the illustrator is a man of any importance, whilst each card bears full particulars of the book. If, therefore, a reader desires a work on Switzerland, Beattie's book can be found at once. If the reader asks for it by the author's name the card will show at once where the volume is located, and if it be the pictures which have impressed him who requires the volume and he remembers the illustrator, he has but to give the name of Bartlett and the work can be found for him at a glance. In some cases as many as twenty cards will have to be written about a single book, such for instance as a volume containing some of Moliere's plays, when there will have to be a card bearing the name of each play. The work of cataloguing on this exhaustive principle will take nine or ten months to complete, but as progress is made the cards which are written may be used to index the books. In addition to this work Mr. Battye has completed a new stock list, and under his system on taking stock once a month will be able to detect the absence of any book should it disappear from the library.

The great want is more room. The accommodation for readers is inadequate. The attendance averages 110 to 120 a day. Many of them are newspaper readers, perhaps the greater proportion, and they should have a room to themselves, where the constant turning of the crisp pages may not irritate the nerves of the student, poring over some volume of "forgotten lore." In the reading room of a reference library absolute silence is most desirable, but the by-laws of the Victoria institution permit whispering, so long as it does not create annoyance. But the difficulty is where to draw the line, and it would no doubt be in the interest of the reader of books if absolute silence were enjoined.

The committee deem themselves fortunate in having secured the services of Mr. Battye, who has already proved that he combines with a knowledge and love of books an energy and industry which fit him for the care of the best monument to the Queen's jubilee which the people of the colony could have raised, the Victoria Public Library.

From the Australian Dictionary of Biography

Dr Battye personally selected the basic book-stock and by 1903 had raised the number of books to 50,000, and to 100,000 by 1911. By 1953 he was suffering from poor health and the Premier was told that he was 'no longer in a fit condition to carry out the duties of his office'. As he had life tenure, retirement arrangements were under discussion when he died in July 1954. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/battye-james-sykes-5156>

Well, thank goodness for online catalogues and keyword searches I say!
Wonder what happened to that lifetime of cards!

Heather Campbell



This month in WA history

[*The two marvellous little books, Date it! compiled by AH Chate, Bruce Graham, and Glenda Oakley, and Glenda's follow up, More dates!, both published by the Friends, are handy references for the period up to 1989. Here is a selection for the month of July.*]

- 1619. 29th – Houtman's Abrolhos Islands charted and named by Frederik de Houtman.
- 1829. 20th – Horse race meeting on Garden Island. Capt Mark Currie defeats Lt. William Preston.
- 1832. 1st – First census in WA carried out.
- 1833. 11th – Yagan is murdered. His head was later sent to England.
- 1839. 9th – the first performance of the play *Love a la Militaire* staged in Leeder's Hotel.
- 1855. 23rd – Arthur Kennedy appointed Governor.
24th – Frederick Palgrave Barlee appointed Colonial Secretary.
- 1857. 25th – Matthew Hale consecrated as first Anglican Bishop of WA.
- 1868. 21st – The Legislative Council under its new constitution is opened.
- 1869. 21st – The WA Government offers £5,000 for the discovery of gold.
- 1877. 17th – Eyre telegraph station opens.
- 1878. 22nd – The *James Service* is wrecked off Mandurah with the loss of 24 lives.
- 1879. 26th – The first Government railway the Gerardton-Northampton line opens.
- 1882. 26th – First edition of the *Daily News*.
- 1889. 1st – Great Southern railway officially opened.
- 1896. 31st – Opening of the first section of the Library, Museum, and Art Gallery on the corner of James and Beaufort streets.

1900. 31st – WA women vote for the first time. WA decides in favour of joining the proposed Federation of Australian States.
1902. 31st – Foundation stone of WA Parliament House laid.
1907. 1st – Fremantle railway station opened.
1914. 31st – Leaders of both political parties pledge support in the event of war.
1920. 1st – Edward, Prince of Wales, arrives in Perth.
1924. 3rd – First meeting of the WA Naturalists' Club.
1926. 20th – Severe flooding causes the collapse of the Fremantle bridge.
1937. 127th – Opening of London Court shopping arcade.
1942. 30th – Japanese aircraft bomb Port Hedland.
1954. 15th – Death of Dr James Sykes Battye.
1958. 19th – Last tram runs. (the tramcar is preserved at Whiteman Park).
1963. 20th – First stage of the Ord River Scheme opens.
- 29th – Discovery of the *Batavia*, wrecked in 1629
1970. 8th – Minimum age for consuming alcohol is lowered to 18.
- 5th – Sunday liquor trading in hotels begins.
1979. 12th – Debris from US space station *Skylab* falls in southern WA.
1981. 6th – The Friends of Battye Library holds inaugural meeting.
1982. 13th – First IVF baby born in WA [Jarrad Carter].
- 1983, 24th – First legal game of 'two-up' played near Kalgoorlie.
1986. 7th – Brian Chambers and Kevin Barlow are hanged in Kuala Lumpur after being convicted for drug trafficking.



Tram No. 105 on Beaufort Street heading for destination 18, Inglewood, 15 July 1958. (Battye Library, SLWA 136072PD)



News from the State Library

Events, exhibitions, projects, acquisitions

Events

Your Library with Dr Kate

Battye Historian, Kate Gregory, has been regularly presenting during the Focus program on ABC radio. Since people can't currently access the heritage collections, Kate has been sharing collections and stories to radio listeners. So far Kate has talked about:

- Mary Ann Friend's journal
- Raymond Stanley Stewart's toilet roll diary (WWII)
- John Boyle O'Reilly's manuscript book of poetry
- Joseph Talbot Hobbs' WWI diaries
- Rica Erickson - Trigger plants sketches
- William Shakespeare Hall - letter from Andover 1864.
- The Coffee Pot scrapbook
- Travel log by Katherine Shenton

Information about the about the latest and past shows and links to the digital items are available through the SLWA website: <https://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa-on-abc-radio>



Lieutenant Raymond (Ray) Stanley Stewart of the 2/28th Australian Infantry Battalion was captured on 27 July 1942 in Egypt, Ray was held as a prisoner of war in Europe from 27 July 1942 to 1 May 1945. He kept and hid his diary. (Battye Library, SLWA ACC 5062AD/3)

Exhibitions

Staged to Sell

Due to the situation with COVID-19, a planned exhibition for the ground floor gallery was shifted to an online format. Staged to Sell: iconic advertising from the Stevenson, Kinder & Scott Photographic Collection <https://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/wa-story/staged-sell>

“Taken between the late 1960s and the 1990s, the featured photographs paint a visual story of life in Western Australia during this period. The post-World War II period was a time of great social and economic change in Australia. A sense of optimism increased consumer confidence and advertising of goods and services expanded. In this environment, Stevenson, Kinder & Scott were commissioned to photograph consumer goods ranging from household groceries to furniture, vehicles, fashion, fast food, drink, and leisure and fitness activities.”

Further stories are being added to the online exhibition.

Projects

National Redress Scheme

Since mid-January 2020 the State Library has received, managed, and responded to 56 [year-to-date 13/5/20] requests for information from the National Redress Scheme (NRS). We provide responsible access to records in our collections to assist redress processes all in accordance with the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018*.

Peter Edwards, Librarian in the Heritage team, manages the research and prepares the response to each request for information. The nature of the research is - as Peter puts it - simple but time consuming; requiring interrogation of the library catalogue, checking through each section of the manuscript note (finding tool/collection index) for the relevant archival collections, and then manually searching through a variety of archival materials for relevant information before providing digital copies of relevant records to the NRS. The archival collection and indexing work of dedicated staff over the course of many decades cannot be overstated as it now provides us with the opportunity to contribute to NRS processes and positively impact the lives of individuals it touches.

Heritage team and SLWA social media

Stories from the nooks and crannies of our history

In May 2019 a member of the State Library's Facebook audience asked a question about the current location of a suspected graveyard that was shown in an 1885 panoramic photograph of Wellington Street, Perth. Our Communications staff raised the question with our Heritage Team Librarian, and then it was off to the races! A series of responses to the initial question on the graveyard soon developed into a collection of (in some cases) serialised Facebook posts concerning various elements from Western Australia's history.

The stories led to the (re-)discovery of a fabulous 1907 photomechanical print by Felix Whitwell of the new Barrack Street Bridge [Call number: 3740B], and the promotion of many digitised heritage materials including many maps, photographs, and documents.



New barrack Street Bridge, 1907, by Felix Whitwell 3740B

Our online audience actively engaged with the stories and materials, sometimes adding their own stories and historic photographs in the comments sections. The stories covered the history and mysteries of the Barrack Street Bridge, the tale of T'othersiders, Sandgropers, and

secession, the public baths of Perth (and the definition of “flapdoodling”), the rabbit proof fences (including the murderous story of Snowy Rowles), revealing the erosion at Cottesloe in 1929, and confirming the location of the Canning Humps. These stories, combined with great social media management by our Communications team, generated the initial surge of online audience engagement and promotion of digital connections with collections.



The Canning Humps, 1909 - courtesy of the State Records Office
1D/40 Sheet 2 [Tally No. 506560]

Storylines

Storylines has become the central point for thousands of Aboriginal people accessing the State Library’s heritage collections and a safe place to store records of people, place and history. The archive has continued to grow over the last year and has now increased to a total of 10,548 items.

Through the last year the Storylines team has travelled extensively to consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Traditional Owners and Aboriginal families. Family history workshops sessions were conducted in Perth, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Roebourne and Manjimup. The Storylines Facebook page was relaunched with massive success, now hosting a community of over 4,000 members. The page has achieved significant digital repatriation of Indigenous photographs back to Community reaching over 68,000 people.

Music in Vincent Video Interview Series

In 2019 the State Library began working with the City of Vincent Local History Centre on a collaborative project focussing on local music venues in the Vincent area. Thirteen video interviews were filmed with musicians and other music industry personnel including venue managers, booking agents and community arts professionals. These videos focussed on five key music venues that have operated in the Vincent area over the last four decades: the Ellington Jazz Club, The Charles Hotel as the home of the Perth Blues Club, the Hyde Park Hotel, the Rosemount Hotel and the North Perth Ethnic Music Centre. The thirteen full-length interviews resulting from this series have been retained by both City of Vincent and the State Library as digital videos, audio recordings and PDF transcripts. In addition, five short digital videos were created around each venue to promote the series and were released online via the City of Vincent Local History website.

Updating and digitising Cartographic Notes

For many years the collection of Cartographic Notes (CNs) have served to help both clients and staff in understanding of, and finding items in, our extensive map and plan collections. They have operated as a complementary tool alongside the online catalogue and remain vitally important as finding tools for anyone accessing us cartographic collections. With more and more emphasis on provision of digital access to resources we have commenced a project whereby the CNs will be reviewed, updated, digitised, and then attached to the relevant catalogue records. The Heritage Team Librarian is managing this lengthy project and continues to review and update CN entries against library catalogue records. A yet future time will see between 60 to 70 updated and digitised CNs added to the online library catalogue.



Locked gate and closed sign,
State Theatre Company of W.A.,
Northbridge (Battye Library, SLWA
BA2573/164)

Updating and digitising Manuscript Notes

Manuscript Notes (MNs) are to the archival collections as cartographic notes are to the map collections. They are a finding tool of high importance containing—in many cases—granular level information about their archival collection and the individual items within them. For a long time, the manuscript notes only existed as hardcopies available to researchers on the 3rd level of the State Library. As digitisation started to grow the State Library started digitising the manuscript notes and attaching them to their respective archival online catalogue records. This MN digitisation initiative continues seeing each Manuscript Note reviewed, updated (if necessary) and then saved in a format suitable for online access prior to being added to the online catalogue.

Having online (PDF) versions of the Manuscript Notes allows us to provide detailed and easy access to information about the archival collections for both on-site and remote researchers. The latest (at time of writing 13/5/20) Manuscript Notes added to the online catalogue are MN 1248 which provides details on a fascinating set of letters written by Thomas Silver that diarise his war experiences between 1916 – 1919, and MN 62 which lists the details for our extensive and highly popular collection of Fairbridge farm School records.

Digitisation assessment and prioritisation

The State Library holds a large collection of highly significant and valuable rare materials that relate directly to Western Australia's history as well as several other subjects. The rare materials were relocated to a new rare materials room in 2013. The new room continues to ensure that the rare materials are secured in an environment that will protect them from the ravages of times. Part of the preservation of these precious materials includes an ongoing process of digitisation which not only preserves the original materials but also ensures that the materials can be easily accessed via the State Library's online catalogue. To assist the Stock Management and Preservation teams, the Heritage Team Librarian currently checks each rare item:

- To see if it is of significance to Western Australia
- To see if it is available online via other organisations;
- For its current copyright status;
- To make a recommendation as to whether a digitised item should be available; online or kept in the "Digital Stack" until a future time;

- To add notes or questions for consideration by the Preservation team; and
- To suggest captions that should be added to the item once it has been digitised.

As one can imagine this is a lengthy project that will take a significant period to complete. However, as the old saying goes *a journey of a thousand miles starts begins with a single step*. It is pleasing to know that the State Library has taken many steps on this journey. We can report that 980 catalogue records for rare books have been assessed along with catalogue records for 67 maps, 22 photographs, 10 ephemera, and 231 music scores.

Digitisation on demand scheme

In response to the COVID-19 crisis the State Library quickly developed a digitisation on demand service to provide clients with access to information throughout the time that the Library was closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. This service was free of charge and offered clients the opportunity to request digital access to State Library materials that remain unrestricted by copyright & other embargoes. The service was very successful with State Library staff receiving a high volume of digitisation requests.

Acquisitions/collection development –COVID 19 contemporary collecting

Visual Electronic Diary – by a W.A. Mum

The State Library has been offered a visual diary about which the writer says, ‘I think to keep my creative juices flowing over the next few weeks (and to keep my sanity), I’m going to do a bit of a visual diary, through the eyes of a mum, and through the eyes of my kids. I guess it’s a pretty significant moment in history, like the photos we see in books we study. These may be the ones my grandchildren look at, as a virtual teacher somewhere in the future reminds them of when Corona came, and how it shifted our world’. The diary is in development or “in media res” right now and will be submitted to the State Library after the COVID-19 crisis ends.

Pictorial collecting

Over the last few months Collection Liaison – Pictorial has been focused on the collection of images that capture the social effects of

the COVID-19 pandemic in Western Australia. With contributions from members of the public, library staff and volunteers, as well as purchases from professional photographers, we are building up a comprehensive record of this unique period in our State history, to be preserved in perpetuity for researchers in the future.

Images have been selected to cover all aspects of daily life during the pandemic, both around the metropolitan area and from the regions including the Pilbara. These COVID-19 related photographs include deserted city streets and parks, a variety of “Closed” signs and public health warnings, long queues at Centrelink, cruise ships moored off Fremantle, neighbours socialising at a distance, community initiatives to boost morale, people working from home, virtual birthday parties, and a selection of evocative ANZAC Day driveway Dawn services. They capture the fear, anxiety and despair of lives upturned, but also stoicism, humour, and kindness between strangers. Personal commentaries accompanying the photographs also provide valuable insights into how individuals and families have coped with the lockdown.

The impact of the coronavirus on everyday life in WA will continue to be a collecting focus for the foreseeable future and contributions to this topic can be made via this link on the State Library website: <https://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/explore-discover/collecting-wa/covid-19-collecting-drive>

Other acquisitions

Notebook of ‘Follow Forrest’ Expeditions of 1974 and 1975

This notebook documents two expeditions to commemorate the centenary of John Forrest’s 1874 expedition from Geraldton to the source of the Murchison River, and then east through the unknown desert centre of WA to Adelaide. Geraldton historian Stan Gratte was the leader of both travelling parties. These personal notes provide background to the trip which Stan had first envisaged in 1971, his plans to organise everyone into four teams (camp duties, vehicle maintenance, scouting, or cooking), and commentary comparing landmarks in 1874 and 1974 and 1975. They set off on Saturday 11 August 1974 from the Geraldton Hotel in 11 vehicles and finished 30 miles north of Oodnadatta. In 1975, they set off from Lighthouse Cottage, Bluff Point on 10 May.

Over the course of the journeys, the travellers were able to find and photograph traces of the original expedition still in existence after 100

years (such as blazed trees, “Forrest’s Fort”, Weld Springs, and a stone cairn) and they left plaques at these important points along the route. Combined with the donation of six related digital documents, this is an interesting collection in terms of both the historical perspective and the 1970s re-enactment of this overland adventure through the rugged country in WA and further east.

Papers of O’Hare family, Cunderdin

Edmond (Ned) James O’Hare (1920-2019) came to WA from Queensland c1926-27 with his parents: father (Martin Patrick O’Hare; 1874-1953) and mother (Angela Catherine O’Hare nee Raselli; 1878-1973) and siblings Honor (married name - Pusenjak), Frank, Martin, and Betty (married name- Stokes). His parents took up land in Bilbarin (near Corrigin) at a farm they named ‘Manna Gums’. In 1938 they purchased a larger piece of land (‘Yenelin Farm’) near Cunderdin. Edmond O’Hare was manpowered to work the land during World War II. He and Margaret Mary O’Hare (nee O’Keefe; 1923-2006) married in Melbourne in 1951, returned to Cunderdin and continued to farm at ‘Yenelin’. ‘Yenelin’ is now farmed by Edmond’s son John and John’s son Josiah. This collection adds more to knowledge about life in the wheat belt in the mid-twentieth century – farming and social life – as well as being the history of a family.

Gardner Family Papers and Photographs



Jim and Hilda Gardner with children at Cringleber, 1939. From left, Teresa, Jim, Georgina (in front), Hilda and Walter. (Battye Library, SLWA BA3121/125)

James Stone Gardner was born in 1891 at Lancashire, England, and migrated with his family (parents – George William and Sarah Stone Gardner - and siblings) in 1909 to Western Australia. In January 1910, the family settled in the district of Yorkrakine, in the northern part of the Shire of Tammin. The farm was named Cringleber, after one of the farms at which the family had lived in Lancashire. George and Sarah bought a second farm, Lyndhurst, at Wagin around 1920. George fell ill in the mid-1920s and returned to England, where he died in 1926. Sarah moved to Inglewood about

1925, where she died in 1934. James married Hilda Mary Hothersall in England in 1924 and they returned to Cringleber. Hilda was originally Philip's fiancée but he was killed in World War One. While the majority of the archive relates to James and Hilda's family, there are also significant elements of the collection that relate to the activities of his parents, George and Sarah, and his siblings, especially three of his brothers (Philip, Edward and Charles) and four of his sisters (Josephine or Jessie, Anne or Annie, Katherine or Katie, and Louisa or Louie). This collection represents a successful story of family migration but also shows the ongoing connection to England after many years in WA.

Letters of Reverend Charles Challen

Reverend Charles Challen was the chaplain of the Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra from 1931-34. The family (parents, a 2-year-old and 10-week-old twins) travelled with 13 children on the Largs Bay to Western Australia. The children average 10 years of age. Rev. Challen was Minister in Merredin after his time at Fairbridge and the family returned to England in 1938 on the Jervis Bay. Those letters give news of Rev. Challen's family as well as many observations about W.A. and Fairbridge. There is a description of the church at Fairbridge under construction; the variety of his busy workload; taking 300 children on a picnic; becoming used to mosquitos, flies and 'scorching summer sun' and isolation. There are insightful comments about the children and their needs and that the Reverend and his wife are 'sometimes puzzled and worried almost to despair'. He alludes to the encroaching effects of the depression and of a pastoral visit to a bush camp at Myalup where about 1000 men are working diverting the course of a river. There are many very interesting observations particularly in the 1932 letter.

Records of the Save the Guildford Hotel Group

The historic Guildford Hotel was badly damaged by fire on 1 September 2008. When no action was taken to protect the remaining fabric of the building nor a plan announced for restoration, the Save the Guildford Hotel Group was formed. The group used the democratic process to protest, publicise, and put pressure on State Government Ministers, and



Hotel on fire (ABC Perth)

the Opposition, to make statements, table a Petition and ask questions in Parliament. This collection is a comprehensive record of effective community action to save built heritage in Western Australia.

Ken Knox photographs, late 1940s-1950s

Ken Knox photographs, late 1940s-1950s created while Ken was a member of the Western Australian Camera Club from 1948-1962. Ken's black and white photographs feature a range of subjects including architecture, industry, landscape and portraits, in accordance with themes and creative/aesthetic parameters set by the Camera Club. Ken's work was highly commended in interclub competitions and exhibitions at locations including Boans Department store, the Kelmscott Agricultural Society, and the Kalamunda Show. The photographs represent both the output of a talented photographer and the influence of the Western Australian Camera Club, which was formed in 1917 to encourage the science, art and practice of photography and the interchange of knowledge amongst members.

Photographs and papers relating to WAPET's discovery of oil at Rough Range, 1952-55

Photographs and papers relating to West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd (WAPET) and their discovery of oil at Rough Range, 1952-55, gathered by Dr Phillip Elliott Playford (1931-2017) who was an eminent WA geologist and author of many reports and publications on oil exploration in Western Australia. The collection includes photographs and slides of "The Big Strike" at Rough Range; Learmonth Camp; Exmouth Gulf; and WAPET employees including key geologist Murray Johnstone who was a close associate (Phillip wrote the script for Johnstone's film on the Rough Range oil strike, *The Dinkum Oil*). Private Archives/Papers include Owen C. Evans' descriptions of "That Day at Rough Range" and "Drill Camp (Ranger) and Learmonth Humour"; lists of WAPET employees 1952-54; news cuttings, and correspondence between Phillip and former geologist colleagues Owen Evans and Don Stanley, 2003-2005. This collection captures the great excitement at the discovery of Australia's first flowing oil at Rough Range and adds to the important record of oil discovery in WA in the mid-1950s. It also complements Murray Johnstone's photographs, papers, and film footage of Rough Range (BA3020).

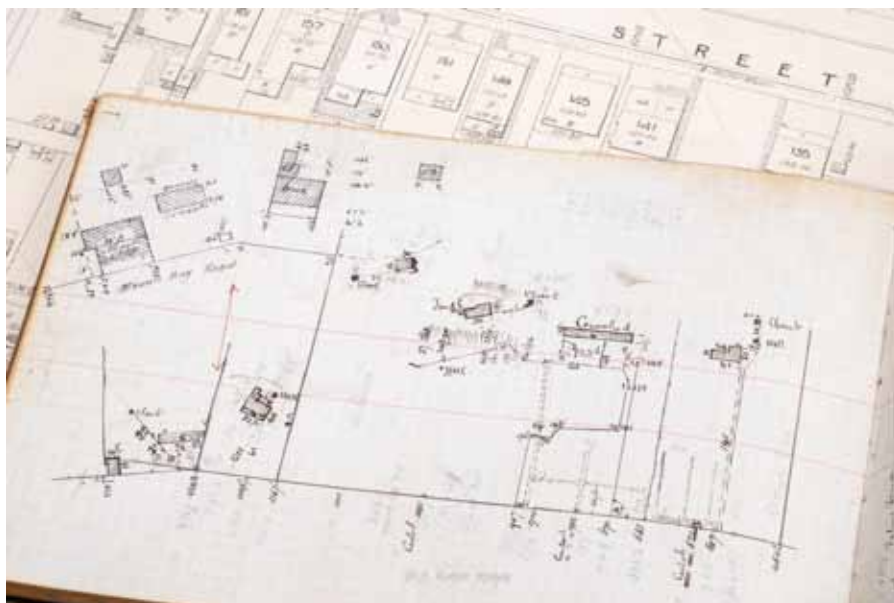


State Records Office - News from the Archives

RetroMaps launched

The FOBS funded project developed by the State Records Office – new Retromaps site – was released by Ministers David Templeman and Dave Kelly on 5 June 2020. You can read the Minister’s statement here, acknowledging the important funding contribution of the Friends to this project: <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/06/Online-resource-brings-past-to-the-fore.aspx>

The State Library of WA posted about the new RetroMaps site through Facebook and, mainly off the back of that post, the new site got a good workout over that first weekend of release with 16,000 users checking out this new online resource. Public response to the site has been extremely positive. Those that have expressed disappointment are people living outside the RetroMaps “boundary” and whose house is not included within the historical survey plans available through the site. However, urbanised Perth up to the mid 20th Century had essentially developed along the Swan river (and Fremantle – Midland railway line) for very practical purposes. The site shows how the more densely



A WA Government Public Works Department Field Book (State Records Office)

populated areas of Perth looked before urban sprawl.

Just as a recap, the RetroMaps site incorporates over 2,000 historical “sewerage plans” held in the State archives collection and that have been digitised, geo-referenced and added in to a modern mapping platform. The Friends funded the initial digitisation component. Clients can now access these plans from home and search by current street location, fade the historical plans in and out to see how the Perth landscape and individual properties have changed (or not) over time and freely download high resolution copies of plans for their own purposes. The plans span a date range of 1905 – 1971.

The project has been a bit of an experiment by the State Records Office to see how this sort of work could be conducted and what the result could look like, and as a way to engage new audiences with archival materials in a manner that is (hopefully) easy to use. Many more government archives held by the SRO lend themselves to being searchable by location as per the RetroMaps site.

In case you have not yet visited the site, have a look at : <https://mapping.sro.wa.gov.au>

Damien Hassan, Senior Archivist

Facebook page

SRO also has a Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/StateRecordsOfficeWA>. It is certainly worth browsing the site to discover interesting stories revealed by the records held in the State Archives collection which are regular features.

The following story about Charles Kingsford Smith is a recent posting using information from WA Police Department files.

Flying into danger

Tried and tested over many thousands of miles, distinguished Australian aviator Kingsford Smith and his crew didn’t express the faintest note of pessimism at the outset of their 12,000-mile flight from Richmond (near Sydney) to London.

“We’ll win through, all right,” Kingsford Smith told reporters moments before flying out on the Southern Cross. But he was wrong.

Only a day later [on 31 March 1929] in the early hours of the morning, the



Charles Kingsford-Smith 1928.
(Battye Library, SLWA 047549PD)

Southern Cross ran into bad weather in the far north Kimberley. In a report to the Secretary Premier's Department in Perth held by the State Records Office of WA, Smith described heavy rain and low clouds. Forcing him to fly as low as 50 feet from the ground.

Disorientated after hours of flying and unable to land, Smith and his crew dropped messages from the plane over settlements they flew over, asking to be pointed towards the direction of Wyndham. People on the ground made

pointing gestures and directional markers.

Glad from Port George describes the Southern Cross searching in vain for a landing place, coming right down nearly on her roof. It "dropped a hanky with a note weighted in it asking us to lay a strip of calico in the direction of Wyndham and write on it how many miles to go. When they read it they flew away."

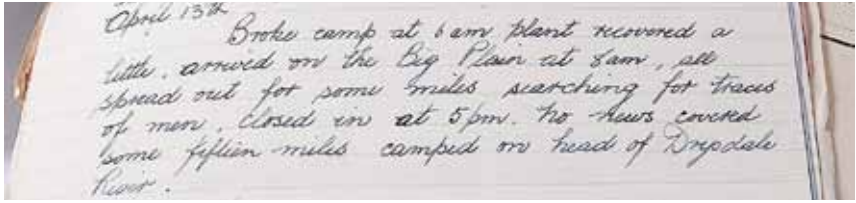
With safety of the machine being Smith's primary consideration and only 10 minutes of petrol left, the Southern Cross landed safely on a soft grassy swamp. Unsure of what direction to take and with little food, Smith decide to "stand by the machine". The men's strength failed rapidly, aggravated by heat, flies and mosquitos. They sighted several planes, but they were more than four miles away and didn't spot their smoke fires.



The Southern Cross at Wyndham,
April 1929 (4383B/64)

It wasn't until the 12th day that a civilian aircraft the Canberra, sighted the Southern Cross and found the crew alive. Provisions were subsequently dropped and a couple of days later enough petrol was delivered for the Southern Cross to fly.

Sadly, during the extensive search which attracted considerable public and media interest, one of the aircraft participating in the search, the



A day by day account of the search for the Southern Cross written by a member of a search party. (SROWA)

Kookaburra, was forced down in the Tanami Desert with engine trouble. It couldn't take off again because of thick scrub and the crew of two, Keith Anderson and Bobby Hitchcock (also friends of Kingsford Smith), ill-prepared for such an event, died before help arrived.

Many sections of the media and public felt that the forced landing of the Southern Cross, which was dubbed the "Coffee Royal" incident after the brew of coffee and brandy which the crew had drunk while awaiting rescue, was a publicity stunt and that Kingsford Smith was responsible for the two deaths. An official inquiry into the incident was convened and while Kingston Smith was exonerated his reputation suffered.

More than 6,000 mourners attended Keith Anderson's funeral in Sydney. It was an elaborate affair befitting a national hero. Bobby Hitchcock was buried at Karrakatta Cemetery in Perth.

Interested to find out more? The State Reports Office of WA hold fascinating Police Department and Premiers Department files relating to the search available to view.

State Records Office of Western Australia ABC Perth ABC Kimberley The West Australian Aviation Heritage Museum The Kimberley Echo.

[With appreciation to Damian Shepherd, Damien Hassan, Gerard Foley and the SROWA team for preparing this story.]



Please renew your membership

We congratulate the staff of the State Library and State Records Office on the vital work they do in preserving and telling Western Australian stories. Supporting our State collections is the central role of the Friends and your membership is key in ensuring we continue our work. Subscriptions are now due and can be renewed using the following form or contacting us by email at membership@friendsofbattayelibrary.org.au.

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ post code _____

Tel: _____ mobile _____

Email _____

Do you wish to receive emails about meetings or events? YES or NO

How would you like to receive your Newsletter? POSTED or by EMAIL

If paying by cheque, please complete this form 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:

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

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

We need a completed form for our records, so please return it either by post or as an attachment to an email to **membership@friendsofbattye.org.au** with your online receipt number.

Afterwords

The Aboriginal Prison in the Terrace

In the 1830s the area around the corner of Pier Street and St Georges Terrace was the administrative hub of the Swan River Settlement. It had the army barracks, the officers' quarters, the rush church, the Colonial Secretary's house, government house, the commissariat, the court house and the government offices including the Legislative Council chamber and the Post Office.

And right at the centre, where the Old Deanery now stands, was the Perth Gaol.

It wasn't much of a gaol. The colony's annual report (the 'Blue Book') for 1837 was quite scathing:

There is a Building in Perth called the Gaol and commenced for the purpose of being used as such. But it is very unfitted for a place of permanent confinement, and has in consequence been

used as a Commissariat Store, with the exception of one cell for the temporary custody of disorderly persons or prisoners committed for trial, or after summary conviction until they can be conveyed to Fremantle, a second cell is used as a Black Hole for the military.

Ten years later, things began to change. In February 1847 the cells were emptied out and former army sergeant William Burrell was appointed gaoler. It was all about saving money: it was expensive to transport prisoners on remand to Fremantle Gaol, bring them back for trial then return them if found guilty.

Then, in March 1848, tenders were called in the *Government Gazette* for 'erecting a Building for the reception of Native Prisoners in Perth.' Reasons weren't given but it was probably about boosting the conscripted labour supply in Perth. It was extremely rare for anyone sentenced to imprisonment for the sentence not to include hard labour. All Fremantle male prisoners whether Aboriginal, colonial, visiting sailors or court-



The Deanery Cnr St George's Tce and Pier St. AH Stone 1860s. (Battye Library, SLWA 6923B/49)

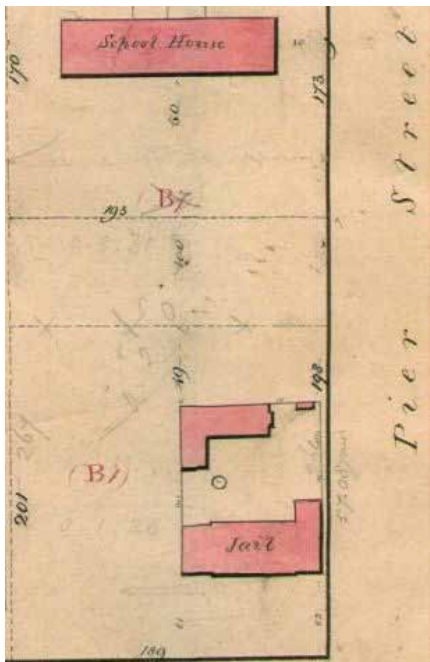
martialled soldiers were mostly employed on public works. 'Road making' and 'repairing roads' were typical.

But since 1838 male Aboriginal prisoners, whether awaiting trial or after conviction, had been sent across to Rottnest Island.

The oldest known 'Return of Prisoners' for the Perth Gaol is that dated 4 April 1849, compiled by William Burrell. It has two parts, the first headed 'Return of Prisoners of the Aboriginal Race' lists 18 prisoners. The second part lists 9 European prisoners. All 27 were undergoing punishment with hard labour. The Aboriginal prisoners were from all around the southwest: Bunbury, Albany, Beverley, York, Northam, Toodyay and Gingin.

In July 1849 tenders were called for 'enlarging the Native Prison in the Perth Gaol'. Later that year the Rottnest gaol was closed and the prisoners were brought back to work on the roads around Perth, especially the roads from Perth to Guildford and Kelmscott.

Lists from 3 January 1850 include 22 Aboriginal men and 11 Europeans. Several of the former were among the nineteen 'native prisoners' who absconded from the Guildford Road road gang on 22 February. For many it was their third or fourth escape.



A detail from the 1851 plan of central Perth showing the final layout of the first Perth Gaol which was on the site now occupied by the Old Deanery. The building at the top is the Perth Girls School

In the absence of detailed building plans it is difficult to follow the changes made to the gaol – except possibly for the February 1849 decision to raise the fence round the gaol-yard by five feet. The only hard information comes from successive detailed plans of the central Perth area. These indicate that the northern building of the complex was the Aboriginal prison.

Extended it might have been but it rapidly became overcrowded. On the night of 1 August 1850 40 Aboriginal prisoners were confined in two rooms, 12 feet by 15 feet and 12 feet by 18 feet.

The arrival of convicts in June 1850 gradually provided the labour for public works. In 1855 the Rottnest Island prison was re-opened and work began on a new gaol for Perth – the 1856 building which is still a very important part of the new museum.

Steve Errington



The State Library Bookshop

Members will have noticed that the shop which used to be situated on the ground floor near the reception desk has been closed. It is not clear at this point, but it is hoped that Western Australian publications may be able to be purchased at the Western Australian Museum when building works have finished.

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society, however, has a bookshop with an extensive collection of WA materials and purchases may be made either in person by visiting 49 Broadway, cnr Clark Street Nedlands, or by browsing the catalogue and ordering online through <https://shop.histwest.org.au/books.html>. The RWAHS bookshop also sells a range of other goods including archival materials. For more information phone 08 9386 3841 during business hours or email: admin@histwest.org.au.

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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

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

Meetings

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

<http://www.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*

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours when they are resumed after all visiting restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic are lifted.

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 Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)

State Records Office

The SRO Search Room is being shifted to the third floor of the State Library, Alexander Library Building. Once visiting restrictions are lifted, a Researcher's Ticket will still be required.

Retrievals

The SRO will be co-locating for public access with the State Library of WA in the Battye Library reading room. Further details will be provided when they come to hand.

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

The Genealogy Centre

Opening hours- When the State Library opens fully to the public, the hours that the Genealogy Centre will be accessible will remain as per Battye Library opening hours on the third floor.

Volunteers from Family History Western Australia (formerly the WA Genealogical Society (WAGS)) will again be available to assist researchers on Tues, Wed, and Thurs from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm once the Library reopens to researchers.

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

No. 169



November 2020

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

Our end of year function 2020 speaker

Julie Martin

*The 60s, Aboriginal children in the Kimberleys, and an
experiment in education.*



'Station scene' Go Go Station, Kimberley WA c1963.

Coloured pencil drawing by Bill Chestnut aged 12. (Battye Library, SLWA 10260A/1.4.)

Tuesday 17 November 2020 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. Our meeting
will be followed by a catered dinner. *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.

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Committee (2020-2021)

President	Richard Offen
Immediate Past President	Pamela Statham Drew
Vice President	Jennie Carter,
Secretary	Heather Campbell
Treasurer	Nick Drew
Membership Secretary	Cherie Strickland
Committee members	Shirley Babis, Lorraine Clarke, Steve Errington, Neil Foley, Robert O'Connor QC, and Gillian O'Mara.
Ex-Officio	Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian) Damian Shepherd (CEO State Records Office) Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)
Newsletter editor	Jennie Carter
Volunteers	Ring (08) 9427 3266 or email: volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au

All correspondence to:

The Secretary, PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865.

ISSN 1035-8692

Views expressed in this *Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Friends of Battye Library Committee, the State Library of Western Australia, or the State Records Office.

End of year meeting.

Tuesday 17 November 2020
Great Southern Room, fourth floor
State Library of Western Australia
at 5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Julie Martin

The 60s, Aboriginal children in the Kimberleys, and an experiment in education.

Help us celebrate the end of a rather trying year!

After Julie's talk, members and guests are warmly invited to stay on and join us for a special catered two course spit-roast dinner which will be served in the staff dining room adjacent to the Great Southern Room.

The cost is only \$35 which includes wine and orange juice.

We have kept the cost as low as possible and remain grateful to Margaret Allen, CEO and State Librarian, for her generosity in making the venue available to us. Bookings for the dinner are essential as we must provide final numbers to the caterer by Tuesday 10 November.

Please RSVP to Nick Drew by email nickdrew@bigpond.com or telephone 0409 290 895 before 10 November 2020.

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 Julie Martin

At the same time as her brother began his stint on Gogo Station, Julie was one of two student librarians to begin their 'apprenticeship' at the State Library. Julie's initial placement was in the Battye Library and forty+ years on, with several deviations along the way (including motherhood) she also ended her working life in the Battye Library. The 60s were pioneering days in the development of library services in WA and Julie feels very fortunate to have been a part of this particular slice of Western Australia's cultural history and to have been guided by and worked alongside some exceptional SLWA staff.



Julie's topic

It's easy to forget that our everyday lives are often the stuff of tomorrow's history. That was brought home recently to Julie Martin when her brother Brian shared with her, some of the stories associated with the collection of photographs, drawings and schoolwork which he and his wife recently donated to the Battye Library.



In 1962, rookie teacher, Brian Hassell started the school year in the Kimberleys, with a cave for a classroom. This was no emergency measure. There was no school building; for the children of the Aboriginal workers on Gogo Station, the cave was it. Without a special curriculum or guidance in the education of Aboriginal children, it was an opportunity for Brian and his wife Noela to experiment and adapt their skills to the needs of their students. It was a challenge they enjoyed and embraced.

Using selections from the donated material, Julie will outline some of her brother's experiences in this remote area of WA and the social change that was unfolding during this period.



Meeting dates for 2021

- 9 March** - Steve Errington: *The Round House Fremantle.*
- 11 May** - Richard Offen: *WA's oldest buildings.*
- 13 July** - To be confirmed.
- 14 September** (AGM) - Kate Gregory *History of collecting archival materials in WA*
- 23 November** (4th Tuesday) - End of year function. To be confirmed.



[At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2020, Pamela Statham Drew retired from the Presidency after 22 years combined service over the almost 40 years of the Friends existence. Richard Offen, who members will know from his work as the author of Perth then and now and Lost Perth, and his broadcasts on WA heritage, was elected unopposed to the vacant position. Please see page 14 for a report on the AGM.]

President's piece

Dear Friends

I feel greatly honoured to have been elected President of the Friends of Battye Library and, as I said at the AGM, realise that I do not just have big



Richard Offen.

shoes to fill, but a whole shoe shop full of them to work on!

Elsewhere in this newsletter there is a tribute to my predecessor, Pamela Statham Drew, but I would like to express my personal gratitude to her for the remarkable contribution, over a very long period, she has made to the Friends. Her leadership has put the Friends in very good stead for its future work.

Like James Battye, who hailed from Ballarat, I came to Western Australia from a distant place and very quickly became captivated by the history of this State and its people. In order to find out more about the place I gravitated to the Battye Library, a

gold mine with a vast array of information on every aspect of the history of Western Australia.

Although he encountered many obstacles along the way, Dr Battye enthusiastically and painstakingly laid the foundations for the amazing library we now have at our disposal, and it is our role as the Friends of the Battye Library to help in every way we can to support the continuing work of the library. I suspect making Western Australia's long history accessible for everyone to enjoy and learn from was exactly what James Battye had always intended and our role is to help ensure the continuation of that aspiration.

2020 has been a very strange and difficult year, which we have survived remarkably well considering the difficulties those in other parts of Australia are labouring under (aren't we lucky to live in Western Australia!). Hopefully, things will return to near normal in the next few months and 2021 will see a resumption of the Friends usual activities supporting the work of the Battye Library. There is certainly no shortage of projects which require our support.

Richard Offen



Members' obituaries

David Hough

[Journalist and author, Patrick Cornish, paid tribute to his friend David Hough who died in September 2019. Among many other works, David is the author of Boans for service: the story of a department store 1895 to 1986 and A dream of passion: the centennial history of His Majesty's Theatre The following is an extract from the forthcoming Early Days number 103.]

David was a man for many old times – the early years of Boans department stores, His Majesty's Theatre, prominent WA arts people – he wrote about many people and places. A lover particularly of dance and theatre, he recorded many other colourful parts of life's rich pageant. His enthusiasm, whether on the page or stage, lingered in the mind of readers and audiences.

Born in 1940, the son of a Methodist minister and his Yorkshire-born wife, David would have turned 80 in May this year. He died in September 2019, having just enjoyed a European holiday with his partner, Karina Sysko. Immediately before that trip, he had walked from Perth to New Norcia. His thirst for adventure, and talent for recounting the best bits, were prodigious.

He was an academic but believed in blending information and entertainment. His Order of Australia Medal (OAM) was recognition of his broad purpose - sharing details and delights.

Patrick Cornish

Stephanie and Allen McNamara

[Members Stephanie and Allen McNamara both died last May. Their niece wrote to us with the sad news.]

Stephanie and her husband Allen sadly both passed away in May within days of each other. [Many patrons and former staff of the State Library's Music Library will recall Stephanie, born in 1931, who was the Library's first dedicated Music Librarian.] Stephanie made an enormous contribution towards building up and running the Music Library at the State Library. Those of us who knew her well would like her to be remembered as a kind person with incredible intellect and gentle demeanour.

Allen and Stephanie had a long and happy marriage of over fifty years and were able to be united even at the end of their lives.

Pamela Hine and Anne Sotzik



Members' news

An honour for the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.)

At the Meeting held on 14 July, members and guests of the Friends of Battye Library were invited to gather on the third floor to view the refurbishment of

the Battye Library and to witness the Friends of Battye Library receive the honour of being awarded Fellow of the Library Board of WA. At the ceremony a slideshow of the



achievements of the Friends, which had been compiled by State Library staff, was screened. Speeches were given by Margaret Allen, CEO and Chairman of the Library Board, Mr John Day, who

presented Pamela Statham Drew with a framed citation (see opposite).



In her response, Pamela thanked the Library Board and paid tribute to the work of staff of the State Library and the State Records Office and reiterated that our organisation exists to help collect, preserve, and make available to the public our priceless documentary and pictorial heritage.

Top right: Margaret Allen. Above: Pamela Statham Drew and John Day. (SLWA)

Fellow of the Library Board of Western Australia Friends of Battye Library

CITATION

Since its inception in 1981, the Friends of the Battye Library has made an invaluable contribution to the people of Western Australia through their support of the State Library of Western Australia and the State Records Office of Western Australia.

The Friends of Battye Library aims to assist the State Library's JS Battye Library of West Australian History and the State Records Office with the acquisition, preservation and making accessible Western Australian archival and documentary heritage materials and raising funds for these purposes. Friends of Battye members have also volunteered significant amounts of their time to assist the work of these agencies.

In supporting the Battye Library, the Friends of the Battye Library have repeatedly proven themselves to hold true to their laudable aims, especially in their efforts to raise funds for work that would not have been possible otherwise.

In 2005, the Friends of Battye successfully led a bid for Lotterywest funding for the Historical Records Rescue Consortium. The \$3 million received enabled a project to preserve and ensure the ongoing accessibility for high demand Western Australian heritage collections such as historic newspapers, photographs, and motion pictures held in the Battye Library that were at risk of loss due to the effects of time and use on their original formats.

In 2009, the Friends were again successful receiving \$849,000 Lotterywest funding for the Oral History Records Rescue Group project that supported the Library's efforts to physically and digitally preserve 11,500 hours of oral history recordings of thousands of voices from Western Australia's past, ensuring their ongoing accessibility for future generations. The project also saw 200 oral histories digitised and made available online via the State Library's catalogue.

The Friends of Battye continue to make funding available for the digitisation of Western Australian heritage materials and the publication of finding aids for heritage publications.

The distinction of Fellow of the Library Board of Western Australia is conferred upon the Friends of the Battye Library for being an outstanding long-term benefactor, and partner in the State Library's endeavours to preserve, and make available for the future, Western Australia's documentary heritage and for being a champion of Western Australian history.

Hon. John Day

Chairman

14 July 2020

[Jack Honniball writes of the remarkable life of a former colleague.]

Vale! Elmar Zalums (1920-2020)

His Perth colleagues and associates of times long past will be interested to note Elmar's recent death in Sydney. Born, raised and educated in Latvia, he was able to savour the independence that the small Baltic states enjoyed for most of the inter-war period. Then, after all the tumults of World War II, 1945 saw him languishing in the big ranks of displaced persons in the British zone of West Germany. There he soon met and married a compatriot, Valda, and in due course they produced their first son, Sven.

In February 1950 the family of three was part of a shipload of refugee migrants who came to Fremantle and dwelt in camp at Northam until they joined in the Australian workforce. Once the trio were able to make a home in Perth, Elmar took on agreeable work as a tram conductor, his journeyings mainly on the original line to Subiaco (Route 6), but with some variety aboard the trolleybuses elsewhere. 'Now for home and 6PR', it stated on many of the tickets the conductor issued to his passengers.

Two or three years later Elmar applied successfully for a position in the Public Library of WA, at first tending the big stock of newspapers old and new, and then assisting in cataloguing work, which all developed markedly under the new Library Board of WA that brought about the modern State Library, including its Battye Library, in 1956. Through part-time studies he also acquired professional library qualifications and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University.

The new environment also led to Elmar taking on extra activity as a research assistant and member of the original WA working party of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* chaired by Dr Frank Crowley; he was credited as author of four of its entries when the mammoth series got going into print in 1966. As another tangent he was encouraged to compile *Western Australian Government Publications 1829-1959: A Bibliography* (of 95 pages eventually). In these years, moreover, he and Valda welcomed two more sons, Robert and Peter.

In 1965 Elmar and family moved to Adelaide to take up a post he had obtained with the new Flinders University. This involved the setting up of its Library's support staff structure, and he happily remained in his senior managerial role with acquisitions and cataloguing for nearly twenty

years. His experience in Perth also led him to continue taking on other professional projects, such as state-based bibliographies and indexes for inclusion in specific books. The high reputation he held for indexing books for Crowley (who now lived in Sydney) brought him a commission to index three of the six volumes of Professor Manning Clark's *A History of Australia* for Melbourne University Press.

As retirement age approached, Elmar and Valda considered removing to Sydney where their three sons lived, but their marriage had broken down and they separated in 1980, with she going first, and he a few years later, but to different locations. After Latvia regained its independence in 1991, Elmar enjoyed making three visits there, the first of them in company with Sven. In Sydney he happily lived in a retirement village in Lindfield until he went into an excellent nursing home at Collaroy in 2017. Then on 21st June this year he was in good form when he celebrated his 100th birthday at the home of his son Robert. It was a gathering of 35 people, mostly of his descendants and their partners; his first great-grandson aged three. It took Sven seventeen minutes to read out all the congratulatory messages from the Queen, the Governor-General, other local leaders and groups, and the President of Latvia.

In the next two months Elmar deteriorated rather rapidly in health and died on 15th August, by coincidence the very day his Australian passport expired, and his funeral followed ten days later. Elmar's fifteen years in Perth had proved to be a good basis for a successful and happy career.

Jack Honniball

Newcastle Gaol and Convict Depot Walk.

Toodyay Historical Society on 1 October 2020 launched the restored Newcastle Gaol and Convict Depot Walk. Friends of Battye Library member Beth Frayne has identified 26 Toodyay convicts that appear in the *Australia's Last Convicts* book and completed further research on the men. The Friends of Battye Library gave Toodyay Museum Curator Margie Eberle permission to use these photos to enhance the gaol experience and the museum has commissioned two panels using the mugshots. These can be viewed in the Toodyay Gaol Museum.

The restoration of the gaol and the Toodyay Convict Depot Walk is fantastic, and members of the team are to be congratulated on their hard work.

Governor Kim Beazley opened the new exhibition and walk. We all started at the Tourist Information Centre and walked up towards the court house and gaol.



Not long after leaving the Tourist Information Centre, an escaped convict joined our group. A great touch, the Governor pardoned the convict who proceeded up the hill with us.

We walked over the railway line, through the WW1 memorial gardens, past the courts and to the gaol. After reaching our destination we were treated to a short slide show on the restoration works and then morning tea.



A wonderful team effort and a recommended visit for Friends of Batty Members.

Beth has also compiled an impressive list of more than 1922 convicts who had been associated with the depot and gaol, this includes 1300 Ticket of Leave men; 110 convicts or expirees who have been buried in the district; 84 Toodyay Ticket of Leave men, and 24 expirees who came to Toodyay later.

Lorraine Clarke

Governor Kim Beazley AO, who has a convict ancestor, 'pardons' a convict. (Lorraine Clarke)

Tindale collection launched

On 25 September, Aboriginal Affairs Minister, the Hon Ben Wyatt, launched an index to the Norman Tindale Collection of genealogical information and photographs recorded in 50 WA Aboriginal communities between 1935 and 1966. Printed copies of the index, which feature more than 14,000 names, photographs, and data cards, were made available to guests at the launch, but it will soon be placed online by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.



The index was researched and compiled by staff of the Aboriginal History WA unit, located in the State Library of WA, and will be used to assist Aboriginal people to research their family and community histories.

Minister Wyatt commented,

The Norman Tindale index provides an invaluable platform for Aboriginal people to research their family histories to help understand how their families and communities have been impacted by past government policies. ... I encourage all Aboriginal people searching for truth to make use of this important resource. ... With the existence of several hundred captivating photographs, many of which have never been seen previously, there is no other genealogical collection in Australia quite like this.

Having experienced an emotional journey uncovering my own family history, I expect this resource will assist others in travelling the same path. Knowing the truth is an important step towards reconciliation and healing.



Minister Wyatt launches the Tindale index. (Aboriginal History WA)

In our July 2018 *Newsletter*, I wrote about the formation of the Aboriginal Family History Program in 1986 when I was employed at the WA Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority. I was delighted that Rose Mitchell, who took over the program in 1991, and I were invited to speak at the launch. It was also great to catch up with so many people we knew all those years ago. Congratulations to the dedicated staff of Aboriginal History WA who are carrying on with the valuable work of helping people, many of whom as children were taken away from their families and communities, to research their own families' stories.

Jennie Carter



Annual General Meeting 2020

At the AGM held on 8 September and attended by 42 members, the following were elected to the Committee of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) for 2020-2021.

President	Richard Offen
Immediate Past President	Pamela Statham Drew
Vice President	Jennie Carter,
Secretary	Heather Campbell
Treasurer	Nick Drew
Membership Secretary	Cherie Strickland

Committee members Shirley Babis, Lorraine Clarke,
Steve Errington, Neil Foley, Robert O'Connor QC,
and Gillian O'Mara.

As there were no items of general business on the agenda prior to the formal election of members to the Committee, Pamela gave an account of the preceding year and announced:

I am not re-nominating as President. I think 40-odd years is long enough and the Society needs new leadership to take it into the 2020s. And I think the perfect person to take it on has nominated for the position. Richard Offen is no stranger, but few of you are aware of the enormous experience Richard has had in the heritage field, and in promulgating history in a way that engenders public support. I am no-way leaving the Society or the committee – I am giving myself the title of IPP – Immediate Past

President - and will do whatever I can to support President Richard, and Vice President Jennie Carter, in carrying out the Friends of Battye Library aims of helping the Battye library, State Library of WA, and the State Records Office to acquire, manage, conserve and make available to the public the documentary and photographic history of Western Australia.

It is not often that Pamela is disconcerted, but at the end of her speech, when Heather Campbell, who is also a founding member of the Friends of Battye Library, presented our retiring president with a lovely bouquet of flowers and a bottle of champagne on behalf of the Committee members, Pamela was almost lost for words. She later commented,

It was certainly a night I will remember for a very long time. The flowers are lovely ... and the champagne! Again thank you all for such a fantastic surprise.

A couple of weeks later Pamela and Nick opened the champagne to celebrate their 24th wedding anniversary.

Jennie Carter



Pamela's bouquet.
(Robert O'Connor)



Have you a story to tell?

[Among other works, Bevan Carter is the author of Nyungah Land which looks at Aboriginal land ownership before the Swan River Colony was founded in 1829 and shows evidence for colonists' understanding of this prior ownership and subsequent relationships with first nations people.]

Revelations from Millendon Memoirs

George Fletcher Moore wrote many letters and kept a fascinating journal detailing life in the infant Swan River Colony from 1830 to 1841. His hand-written diary for the years 1834 to 1841 is one of the treasures of the Battye Library. In 1884 Moore's *Diary of ten years eventful life of an early settler in Western Australia: and also a descriptive vocabulary of the language of the Aborigines* was published and there have been several reprints and revisions since then.



George Fletcher Moore (From *Diary of ten eventful years of an early settler in Western Australia*).

In 2006, the same year that *Nyungah Land* was released, *The Millendon memoirs: George Fletcher Moore's Western Australian diaries and letters, 1830-1841* edited by JMR Cameron, was published by Hesperian Press. Cameron's is a very thorough and meticulously-researched work which sheds a new light on life in the early settlement. My contention that colonists knew much more about the intricacies of Aboriginal land ownership than is commonly held is backed up by hitherto unpublished documents which now feature in Cameron's book.

By 1836 Aboriginal people understood the difference between British land tenure laws and their own. British migrants to the Swan River bought and sold land which they then individually 'owned', while the original land owners kept their lands in communal trust, handing down their clearly demarked country to succeeding generations. Traditional laws governed who could access or traverse the land and there were strict protocols that had to be followed by neighbouring groups.

Entries from Moore's diary, quoted below, had been omitted from earlier published versions, but are now included in Cameron's *Millendon memoirs*.

From Moore's diary:

Monday 12th [September 1836] – Natives are beginning to complain of our encroachments and to enquire what compensation we mean to give them for taking away from them the use of their own land. This has occurred at Perth.

Saturday night, September 17th [September 1836] – Went to Perth on Tuesday to attend executive council." [*Millendon memoirs* p.409.]

Before continuing with Moore's diary entry for Saturday 17th, the following extract is taken from 'Minutes of the Executive Council meeting' held on Tuesday 13 September 1836:

The Governor informed the Council that some time back the Native Interpreter had been applied to by certain of the leading Natives of the district, on the subject of their Lands which had, to a considerable extent,

been taken from them in consequence of the Settlements effected by the Whites, and expressive of a wish to dispose of the same to the Government for a small consideration provided they were allowed free access to such parts as were not enclosed. His Excellency expressed himself favourably to some Arrangements being made with them in order to secure their good conduct, and conceived that to certain extent the View of His Majesty's Government would thereby be promoted on very moderate Terms, merely by the issue of a small Gratuity of Flour and Clothing.

After some desultory Conversation it appeared more advisable to inform the Natives that it was not the wish of the Government to deprive them of any part of their Land beyond that which is or may be acquired by the White Inhabitants of the Territory, and upon which they are not to trespass or commit any theft on pain of forfeiting the good will shown, and the Protection afforded by the Local Government and inhabitants generally, and also of disturbing that Friendly intercourse which is no less beneficial to them than to the other Party. That occasional issues of flour had been made to them in consideration of their good Conduct which will be from time to time repeated, provided they conduct themselves properly, and that the Governor as well as all the Whites would do them all the good in their power. Lastly that as they have for sometime back behaved themselves, entirely to the Satisfaction of the Governor, he would direct an Issue of Flour to be made to such of them as may be in Perth on Friday first at Noon. [National Archives UK CO20/2 p.152 AJCP reel 1118.]

Moore's diary entry for 17 September continues:

There was a great business with the natives yesterday at Perth. Flour was distributed to the principal men as a reward for good conduct and an inducement to continue it. There are great discussions here as to the propriety of purchasing from them their interest in the land. I consider it a matter of justice that some recompense should be made to the natives or some consideration given, but I consider it is the part and duty of the British Govt to do this as a national measure on account of the large territory which has been acquired and added to England, whether it be by conquest or by mere occupancy. But I feel strongly that it would be a measure of great injustice to compel the poor struggling settlers to pay for it, this country, out of their pockets when it formed no part of the conditions of original purchase. A purchase of land from an individual implies a power & a right for the vendor to sell and the purchaser has a right to complain if the usual covenant for quiet enjoyment is broken by his being disturbed in his possession. Surely it would appear very strange between individuals if the vendor sold an estate as if it was his own & then after some years coolly told the man who bought it that he must now pay the rightful owner of the land for his interest in it. A Govt, in my opinion, is bound to act with justice as well as an individual.

For all of Moore's sympathy for Aboriginal prior ownership, he was keen to assert his own rights over property as is evidenced in the continuation of his 17 September entry:

The settlers have great reason to complain on many occasions of frequent disturbance by theft & outrage. It is not in human nature tamely to endure the loss of hard earned property & so accordingly at York a number of natives being discovered in the act of plundering Mr Bland's barn, one of his men let fly a shot among them which killed one and wounded another. [*Millendon memoirs* p.409.]

A number of attachments to the June 1836 Executive Council minutes were affidavits which also addressed the York shooting. In them it is fascinating to see that relationships between colonists and Aboriginal people had become almost formalised with accepting punishment and re-establishing 'friendship' an important aspect.

Attachment - Executive Council minutes June 1836

James Solomon being duly sworn stated that in the early part of 1835 I lost a Filley. Some natives coming about the house told me that Mallet and Pingay speared it. Some time afterwards I took Mallet prisoner and sent him down to Guildford where he escaped. On his coming back, he sent to know if I flogged him whether I would forgive him, which I said I would. He accordingly came and received his flogging, and afterwards were friends again.

On Christmas Day a Native by the name of Knight stole some Emu. I discovered this robbery by a Native boy that was living here. The Native who committed the Robbery came in to be flogged, and was punished by myself, and afterwards was friendly. On my coming up from Guildford on the 22nd of April I was informed that the Natives had been robbing Flour belonging to Government. A few days afterwards three Natives came to the House to know if we were friendly. Their names were Mallet, Pingay and Wheelbarrow. We took them prisoners when they confessed to the Robbery, and we then marched them in to York, when Mr Bland the Govt Resident directed them to be flogged. During the time we were securing the three Prisoners, others were robbing the Store again. And on other occasions when the Soldiers who were sent here for Protection were patrolling, the Natives again robbed the Place.

From that time up to the 18th of June they have been frequently about the place, but on that day at 11 O'clock A.M., a Soldier, came in with information that the Natives were detected in getting into the Store, he immediately set the Dogs on them. On getting up to them he engaged one of them by the name of Gallipot. I got up nearly at the same time and caught hold of the other Native. They struggled very much and tried to escape, and attempted to spear the Soldier with a short spear he had in his hand. On which Mr Pratt fired at him. The other one which I had

hold of after struggling with me and throwing me down several times on the ground escaped. On which the Soldier fired and he died. Shortly afterwards I proceeded to York to give information of what had passed to the Government Resident. He immediately sent out three more Soldiers to patrol the District and give information to the other Settlers that they should be on their guard. [National Archives UK CO20/2 p135-136 on AJCP reel 1118.]



Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is one of Australia's most notable oral historians. This article is the sixteenth in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

“I'll tell you a secret”

Alice Wood (1900-1992) OH429

The interview with Alice Wood, 40 years ago, is one of my fondest and clearest memories.

Alice was born in Matlock, England in 1900 and had an older sister, Ella, and younger brother, William. Twelve years later the family migrated to Western Australia and lived on a farm at Yalup Brook where her parents, Minnie and Harry Hopkinson, worked. He had been a butcher in England and at Yalup Brook worked on the farm of Andrew Henning, a retired barrister and solicitor. Harry killed sheep to provide meat for both families and Minnie was the housekeeper. The family was provided with a cottage and Alice fondly remembered the ‘beautiful’ trees, ‘lovely wildflowers’ and the big orchard.

Ella moved to Perth to work and found a job for Alice looking after the five children of Ernest Terry, the head of Emu Brewery. She was very happy working for what she described as a ‘lovely family’. She learnt to cook and was paid six shillings a week initially, rising to ten shillings. She had her meals with the family and accompanied them on excursions.

Alice left the Terrys and worked for Walter Canon and his family of four children. He was a tailor in Fremantle and this was another very happy experience.

Aubrey Walter Wood lived in Fremantle and she liked him 'straight away'. He was a storeman at Felton Grimwades and was seven years older than Alice. Immediately after setting the scene, she said: "I'll tell you a secret. It was rather a hasty marriage."

I explained to Alice that her 'secret' had been recorded and that the transcript of the interview would be available to read in the Battye Library. After a very long pause she agreed to the story remaining.

Alice fell deeply in love with Aubrey and 'never, never bothered about anyone else.' Theirs was a long courtship because he did relief work on lighthouse stations. She was eighteen and had been going out with him for 'quite a while' when she became pregnant. She knew nothing about sexual relationships and, in an age when sex before marriage was considered by many to be a sin, she was initially totally rejected by her parents. This led to her going to live with her future husband's sister, Vera: 'one of the sweetest people that ever lived.'

Alice and Aubrey were married in a registry office. His parents had a different reaction to those of Alice and later told her that he could not have had a 'better wife'. In time, she was reconciled with her parents.

Jack was born first, followed by Dot fifteen months later. In the years ahead five other children were born, two of whom sadly died at birth. Alice was living on lighthouses when the babies were due and had to travel to the nearest town three months before each birth.



Cape Naturaliste lighthouse.
(Battye Library, SLWA
BA2220/23)

After marriage, Aubrey relieved at the Rottneest lighthouse and then was transferred to the Cape Naturaliste lighthouse near Busselton when Jack was two months old. There were three stone houses which provided accommodation for lighthouse workers. Living there was a happy experience, with workers getting along well and the men sharing fishing trips and shooting rabbits.

In early 1920, Aubrey was transferred to the Point Cloates lighthouse near the whaling station where he worked for the next twelve years. Supplies came by boat every three months and mail by horseback once a month.



Main lighthouse Rottneest Island 1930s. (Battye Library, SLWA 004513D)

Meals were supplemented by the men shooting turkeys and rabbits and catching fish. The Woods also grew their own vegetables and had goats to provide milk, a practice they continued at each lighthouse. Alice was always busy and, as her children grew, was responsible for their education by correspondence. She also fondly remembered visits by local Aboriginal people selling fish and turtles. To her, turtle meat was 'delicious' and she still had two turtle shells in her home. She caught crayfish by wading into the water, and shearers working on Ningaloo Station used to come for meals and 'gorged' on the crayfish.

An unforgettable episode was the enteritis son Don developed when he was nine months old, which became pneumonia. A doctor and nurse from the Carnarvon Hospital arrived to take Don to the hospital during 'the worst dust storm you could ever have'. He remained there for two months.

Another was when two Japanese cargo ships were wrecked on a reef near the whaling station. Around twenty Japanese then had a meal cooked by Alice after they were rescued: 'They were very, very grateful and when they arrived back in Japan they sent me this model of an ancient helmet and a silk cloth and an umbrella.'

There was time spent on Rottneest Island tending to the lighthouse where there was close contact with men from the Army camps, and Alice became 'Ma' because of the meals she cooked for them.

In 1939 the family moved to Cape Leveque where the lighthouse station was near the Lombadina Catholic Mission and the Protestant Mission on Sunday Island. Alice employed a local Aboriginal woman, Mindo, from Sunday Island who knew the hymns and scriptures well. She would say:

Mrs can we have Sunday music? ... She'd call out "Mrs," and if I didn't answer ... she wouldn't go into the house, she wouldn't take any liberties, because I think some of the men that had been up there relieving ... used to take liberties, and she didn't like it .

Mindo had two sons and Alice made them shirts, bought them clothes and supplied dresses for Mindo. Daughter Dot helped Mindo and took a great interest in learning about Aboriginal knowledge.

Mindo used to take her for a walk out in the bush, and they can tell from a footprint who the person was that walked along the beach or on the road, in the sand. And they used to have a sacred tree.

Mindo explained it was taboo to go near the sacred tree or you would get very ill.

There is so much more to Alice's story. The transcript is available online and I would strongly recommend reading it. The interview was memorable for the credit she gave to so many other people and the relationships she had with local Aborigines. She was revealed as a totally caring and tolerant person.

When I called on Alice to give her a copy of the transcript to read, she explained she still had not told her children about 'having' to get married. I again told her the story could be deleted, but that it was important for researchers to know this sort of thing happened. She agreed to tell her children and later let me know that they were proud of her for being honest about her situation.

Ronda Jamieson



Treasures from Trove

[Heather Campbell is not only our Society's highly competent Secretary, she is also a researcher, historian, and author. This is the third in her series on delving into the wonders of the NLA's Trove database of Australian newspapers.]

‘The great want is more room’

... noted an article in the *West Australian* of 15 September 1894, referring to the Victoria Public Library. This omission was resolved in 1913 with the opening of ‘one of the finest and most commodious structures of its kind in Australia’.

West Australian, 18 August 1913, page 7

‘The Public Library. The new buildings. Official opening today. A fine structure’

An event epoch making in the history of the Public Library of this State will take place this afternoon, when at 3 o’clock His Excellency the Governor (Sir Harry Barron) will officially open to the public the imposing-looking structure which is to serve as an extensive addition to the present library buildings. ... As a result of the extensive additions which have been made to the Library the public will now have available to them one of the finest and most commodious structures of its kind in Australia, not merely of distinct utilitarian value, but also pleasing to the eye from the architectural standpoint.

It is not inopportune at this stage to point out that by the operation of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of Western Australia Act, which came into force in November 1911, the Public Library and the Museum and Art Gallery, became incorporated under trustees.

With the proclamation of the Act the committee which had governed the two institutions as quite separate concerns ceased to exist, and a trust governing the two as one took its place. On this trust Sir Winthrop Hackett, who for years had been chairman of the then defunct committee, was honoured, with the position of first president; the term of office being six years. The Public Librarian (Mr. J. S. Battye, B.A., L.L.B) was appointed general secretary to the trustees, arrangements being made at the same time to keep the institutions, until the trustees should otherwise direct, separate, so far as possible, in administration.

Description of Building.

Provision is made on the ground floor for the entrance lobby and staircases to the upper floor, attendants’ room, newspaper room (“L” shaped), 76 by



Hackett Hall, premises of the Public Library of Western Australia, James Street, Perth, 1913.
(Battye Library, SLWA 013888PD)

43 ft. one way and 56 by 38 ft. the other; and the Children's Library and Patents' room 68 by 38 ft. On the upper floor, of fireproof construction, is the main reading-room, 125 by 38 ft., with an annexe 53 by 38 ft. to the existing library (now to be used for offices and book storage purposes). As the floor space is devoted to readers, storage space for books is provided in two open galleries 4ft. wide carried right round the Library, access thereto being by circular stairs at convenient points, with lifts for the carriage of books.



Inside Hackett Hall, main reading room of the Public Library of Western Australia, 1913.
(Battye Library, SLWA 013894PD)

This hall is 30ft. high at the walls ... The buildings have been designed to harmonize with the Art Gallery and Museum, though a departure has been made from the arcaded piazzas of the latter. ... The materials used externally are brick, with moulded and enriched dressings of Donnybrook freestone on a plinth of rusticated granite, with a roof of green Vermont slate. Internally native timbers have been used where possible, and the under sides of galleries and the coves and fascias of open roofs are of stamped zinc and wood. The buildings were designed by the Chief Architect (Mr. Hillson Beasley), and the work was carried out under his supervision, the contractor being Mr. S. B. Alexander.

The Public Library Movement.

To "The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia," of which Mr. J. S. Battye is editor, we are indebted for the following excellent description of the

movement which led to the erection of the Public Library, and of the circumstances which made imperative the handsome additions which have now been made to the building: The Estimates for 1887, laid before the Legislative Council in 1886, contained provision for the sums of £5,000 to be expended on the celebrations in Western Australia of Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

As no decision was arrived at in the Council regarding the objects to which this money should be devoted, a Commission was appointed, consisting of members of the Council and other gentlemen, with the then Governor (Sir Frederick Napier Broome) as chairman, to draw up a scheme for the erection of a fitting memorial in honour of the event. The Commission met on December 21, 1886, and various propositions were made. Ultimately it was decided that £2,000 of that amount should serve as Western Australia's donation towards the Imperial Institute, and that the balance should be devoted to the foundation of a Free Public Library to be established in Perth. ...

A committee of management, consisting of Sir Malcolm Fraser, K.C.M.G. (chairman), and Messrs. Septimus Burt, Q.C., J. W. Hackett, M.A., M. F. A. Canning, and F. J. Hickling, was appointed in May 1888: and on January 26, 1889, the library was opened with 1,796 volumes on the shelves. On the resignation of Sir Malcolm Fraser, who became Agent-General, Sir J. G. Lee-Steere, K.C.M.G., was appointed chairman, Mr. W. C. Townsend was appointed clerk to the committee, he being succeeded in March, 1890, by Mr. Basil Porter, who held the position until 1894, when he resigned owing to loss of eye sight, and the present Chief Librarian (Mr. J. S. Battye) was appointed.

[T]he Government reserved a large block of land at the corner of Beaufort and James streets as the permanent site for a building to include the Library, Museum, and National Gallery, and in 1896 a commencement was made with the first portion of such structure. This was intended to be temporarily the home of the Library, but ultimately for the use of the Museum. The foundation-stone previously laid in St. George's-terrace was removed to a new position, a further stone commemorative of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty being placed with it, and the two were unveiled by his Excellency the Governor, Sir Gerard Smith, on June 22, 1897, the function forming part of the celebration in Western Australia of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign. ... In 1902 the rapid growth of the Library caused a demand for more extensive accommodation, and in 1903 the second portion of the comprehensive scheme was erected by the Government. This forms the first part of the permanent Library, and contains accommodation for 100,000 volumes, as well as ample and well ventilated space for readers. By resolution of the committee, confirmed by the Governor-in-Council, the word "Victoria" was, in April 1904, deleted from the name of the institution, which then became known as "The Public Library of Western Australia". ...

The additions made to the buildings in 1903 were rapidly outgrown, and in 1910 the Government was approached with a request to build the first portion of the main front. This request was acceded to, and the work was actually started in October 1911. A useful adjunct to the reference library is the system of travelling libraries, under which cases of books are loaned for definite periods to country mechanics, miners' and agricultural institutes. This arrangement is largely availed of, there being at present about eighty institutes receiving assistance. The total number of volumes in the Library on June 30, 1913, was 106,733, of which over 96,000 were in the reference collection, and about 10,500 in the travelling libraries' branch. The average annual attendance of visitors approaches 190,000. The principal assistants are Mr. H. B. Collett, the Sub-Librarian, and Mr. Charles Battye, who has control of the cataloguing department.'

By 1977 there was again 'great want' of 'more room' as the 1913 building itself had become inadequate and overcrowded. A new construction, named after Professor Fred Alexander, Chair of the Library Board 1952-1982, commenced in 1982, opening to the public in 1985. Hackett Hall became part of the WA Museum and the old Victoria Library was demolished.

A new museum building of 'bold and dynamic design' and incorporating the remaining heritage buildings, was announced in 2016 and opened in November 2020.



The old and the new. (Heather Campbell, 11 August 2020)

The Chief Architect of original building, Mr. Hillson Beasley, believed 'that the style of buildings should fit their purpose, be well mannered and appropriately decorated only to enrich their type'. As he died in 1936 we shall never know what he would have thought about the changed

appearance of his 'fine structure' wrought by the architects of the new WA Museum.¹

Heather Campbell

1. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/beasley-hillson-12789>



New books by members

Deaths in Western Australia—A Genealogy Guide

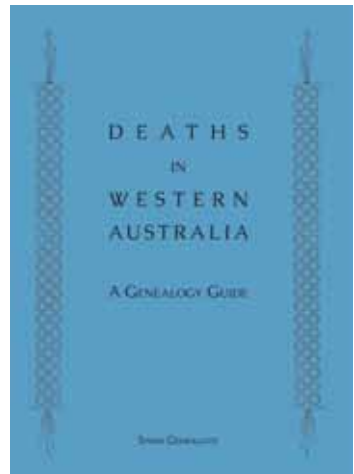
Published by Swan Genealogy and Hesperian Press

This publication contains death and burial resources and records within towns and regions of Western Australia, held within archives, libraries, genealogical societies and on the Internet.

Its 423 pages, divided into four sections, the first contains essential resources for looking for death or burial records; then primary sources for death and burial information in order of locality; [some localities have very few resources and as such have been placed within the defined regions of Western Australia: Gascoyne, Goldfields-Esperance, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Perth, Peel, Pilbara and South West]; the next section is on general Western Australian resources; and the final section is in-depth information on which organisation has recorded the record and the history behind that record/series. The final section has address and contact details for repositories which have been included in this publication.

Deaths in Western Australia was compiled to encourage family and local historians to delve deeper into primary sources to uncover the story of their ancestors or the communities in which they lived. Using archive catalogues can be daunting and it is often hard to locate a record due to transcription errors as well as name variations.

To order a copy please contact research@swangenealogy.com.au



News from the State Library

Events, exhibitions, projects, acquisitions

Your Library with Dr Kate

The popular Dr Kate series continues ABC Radio, Battye Historian, Kate Gregory, has been regularly sharing treasures from the Battye Library's collections with radio listeners on Tuesdays at 10.45am on ABC radio (720). Over the course of this year, in conversation with Jessica Strutt, Kate has built an appreciative following. Among the topics she has presented since July are:

- Hilda Wright's wildflower photography.
- The Freycinet collection.
- The *Georgette* Rescue and the role of Sam Isaacs and Grace Bussell.
- The Meckering earthquake of 14 October 1968.
- Early WA newspapers.
- UWA composer and academic John Exton.



Battye Historian, Dr Kate Gregory. (SLWA)

So make it a date with Dr Kate. If you miss one of her broadcasts, you can still listen to it later on the State Library's website <https://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa-on-abc-radio>. Recently staff from SROWA have also been featured on radio. See page 36.

National Redress Scheme (NRS)

Since mid-January 2020 the State Library has received, managed, and responded requests for information from the National Redress Scheme (NRS). SLWA was able to supply copies of collection items for 45 of the applications. Peter Edwards (Heritage Team Librarian) figured out that he had submitted copies of 842 items for those 45 NRS applications! Averaged out, that means approximately 19 items were submitted for each one of the 45 NRS applications. Of course, the non-numerical reality is that some applications have few supporting records whilst others have

many supporting records. The NRS project ends on 30 June 2027 so we expect to be helping the NRS for the next seven years.

Sholl Bequest - projects

Digitisation of our selection of Anglican marriage registers from around the state was completed in late September. A total of 3395 pages from the selection of marriage registers were digitised and are now available on the SLWA catalogue. (Note: only records up to 31 May 1945 are available online):

- Kelmscott Parish marriage register (17 September 1886 - 3 May 1975)
- Gingin Parish marriage registers (1861 – 1894)
- Geraldton Parish marriage registers (1867 – 1921)
- Williams Parish marriage registers (1907 – 1945)
- Merredin Parish marriage registers (1915 – 1945)
- Fremantle Parish marriage registers (1834 – 1895)
- Dongara Parish marriage registers (1878 – 1918)
- Busselton Parish marriage register (1858 – 1885)
- Bayswater Parish marriage registers (1906 – 1924)
- Bunbury Parish marriage registers (1839 – 1904)
- Mt Hawthorn Parish marriage registers (1915 – 1945)
- Roebourne Parish marriage registers (1883 – 1918)

Cartographic Notes (CN)

The review and refresh of the CNs continues! We are very pleased to advise that the following CNs have been added to their respective catalogue records:

Cadastral maps

- CN 77 (20 chain)
- CN 77 (40 chain)
- CN 77 (80 chain)
- CN 77 (240 chain)
- CN 77 (300 chain)

Historic map series (C, G, K, M, S, L) CN 9

Perth metropolitan area CN 10 (4 chain)

More cartographic Notes will be made available on the catalogue over the coming months.

The Western Australian Chronicle – can you help?

Recently we have been investigating the origin of a pamphlet called *The Western Australian Chronicle: a survey into the events occurring in our young colony to 1832*. Several of our clients have asked about this pamphlet and we have not been able to lock down an answer as to

its origin. We are quite sure that it was not published in 1832. The fonts used, the look of the paper, the “cut here” and “fold here” guides and text along the pamphlet's edges led us to think the pamphlet was a later 20th century reproduction; perhaps for WA's sesquicentenary in 1979. The WA Museum (Boola Bardip) has a copy, as does the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, but they cannot add anything to the unravelling of the mystery of the pamphlet's origin.



Do you know anything about the pamphlet? If so, we'd love to hear from you!

Creating Perth exhibition

The 'Creating Perth' exhibition opens on the ground floor of the State Library on 7 November. It will explore the ways visions of Perth – both compatible and contested – have shaped this place, revealing many layers of our city's history. The exhibition features photos, paintings, maps, videos and stories from the State Library, State Records Office and loans from community. The exhibition themes are: Waugal shaping the landscape; Early European maps shaping the city, and more recent re-inscription of Noongar names and information back into the map; Shaping the river's edge; Rebuilding the city: gold rushes and modernism; and Shaping Kings Park. The exhibition will also reflect on

the role of the library in remembering, and the ways library collections have changed over time.

Exciting images and artefacts to be included in the exhibition include a six-metre reproduction of the 1892 cycloramic (panorama) of Perth



Detail from the 1892 Cycloramic. (SLWA)

drawn by architect John Stewart Jackson, an 1887 plan for reclaiming the foreshore for a cricket ground and public gardens, a quilt ‘Balbuk’s Country – Unforeseen Future’, and a photograph of the 1983 America’s Cup celebrations on the Esplanade.

Music Talks on 6PR

Dr Adam Trainer, Community Engagement Officer WA Music at SLWA has recently been featured on 6PR Radio talking about the history of popular music in WA as part of the build-up to the Disrupted Festival. Disrupted will feature a WA Supergroup featuring the first WA ‘popstar’ Johnny Young, coordinated by Adam.

Graham ‘Polly’ Farmer

SLWA was recently successful at auction obtaining artefacts featuring renowned West Australian Graham ‘Polly’ Farmer, including a Sandover Medal and significant photographs of Farmer playing football for Geelong, East Perth and West Perth. A successful media launch was held on 16 September with Polly’s daughter Kim, Local Government, Heritage, Culture and the Arts Minister, Hon. David Templeman MLA, and Hon Mick Murray MLA, Minister for Seniors and Ageing, Volunteerism, Sport and Recreation.

The Farmer family was especially appreciative of the State Library obtaining these items and keeping them in the public domain and have

subsequently provided on loan a Polly Farmer football guernsey to complement the collection.

Highlights from the collection include:

- 1959 Simpson Medal. With a letter from East Perth Football Club congratulating him on winning the medal for the 1959 Grand Final and for also winning the club's Best and Fairest;
- 1960 Sandover Medal. The medal will be accompanied by a collection of congratulatory letters and telegrams to Farmer on his win;
- 1960 Best and Fairest Medal;
- 1971 Member of the British Empire medal. With original certificate signed by Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. Graham Farmer became the first current Australian footballer to receive a Queen's honour;
- 1977 telegraph to Farmer from the WA Premier Charles Court wishing the WA players luck in the first State of Origin match which Farmer coached.



Famous image of Polly Farmer (*The New Daily*)

The Digitisation Centre of Western Australia

The State Library is partnering with the five Western Australian Universities and the WA Museum to establish a world-class archival quality Digitisation Centre. There is no existing facility of this kind in WA. During this twelve-month project all digitisation equipment will be acquired, installed and used to digitise a diverse range of cultural objects to ensure its ability to address the full spectrum of research needs. The Digitisation Centre will form a major piece of national research infrastructure with a prominent international profile and significance. This will mean SLWA will be able to digitise moving image film in-house rather than sending it interstate.

Significant Acquisitions

Graham 'Polly' Farmer collection (see above).

Photograph of engraved pearl shell and hair-string belt (riji), circa 1938-39

Photograph taken by visiting English evangelist Wilfred H Ayres. The riji was probably made much earlier than the date it was photographed as it belonged to missionary Annie Lock (1876-1943) who is believed to have acquired it while working at Sunday Island Mission near Derby from 1917 to 1923. This engraved pearl shell and hair-string belt is a beautiful example of such ceremonial ornaments crafted in the Kimberley from shells obtained in the Torres Strait and suspended from belts or pendants made of human hair. Its engraving is a typical geometric design and would have been accented with red ochre although this does not show up in the gelatin silver print. This photograph is a welcome addition to the Library's pictorial collection and complements a publication on Riji and Jakuli: *Kimberley pearl shell in Aboriginal Australia* (by Kim Akerman with John Stanton).

Covid Archive - fourteen digital photographs and ten digital videos

Images taken around the empty streets and venues of Perth and Fremantle in May-June 2020 during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Western Australia's Covid-19 restrictions, including images documenting the architecture of interesting buildings without usual crowds, and images taken at the Black Lives Matter rally in Forrest Place on 1st June. These fourteen stills complement a series of ten videos recording the social impact of the coronavirus in the metropolitan area.

Videos showing the impact of Covid-19 restrictions and societal implications including the impact on businesses.

Other acquisitions include

- Papers of Father Francis Byrne including personal notes and unpublished manuscripts;
- Records of the Civil Aviation Historical Society – WA Division;
- Records of The Society of Women Writers WA (Inc.);



The Boardroom Bar,
Rokeby Road, Subiaco
'Sinking with the Titanic'
23 April 2020. (SLWA
BA3262/14)

- Ken Atkin: A Memoir;
- Memoir: 'Fifty Years Ago At Paraburdoo' including 'The Day Miss Australia Visited the Wet Canteen at Dampier';
- Plan for house in Carawatha Avenue, Mt Nasura. Patent process for Multi-spiral and copier maker;
- Letters of Alberto Passalacqua;
- Memoir: 'The Canning Stock Route, September 2019' and photograph;
- Lefroy and Hamersley papers and photographs including Thomas Brown family, Samuel Hamersley family and papers of JH Maxwell Lefroy;
- Minutes of the UWA Choral Society Committee meetings;
- Indie and alternative rock music images from the 1980s and 1990s;
- Photographs relating to the making of a documentary on a dance project with children from Catholic Centacare foster homes in Beverley and Northam;
- Dorothy Brown photographs (x 55 slides) of a holiday to Western Australia, 1960-61;
- Panoramic photo of Wellington Street taken by Reg Lambert;
- Films by Ernest Gainer (Ralph Meadly);
- Oral history interviews: Menno Henneveld, Susan Murphy, Roslyn MacKinlay;
- Oral history interview with Abraham (Izzy) Orloff (unknown date) by Joan Donaldson;
- Twenty oral histories and three accompanying transcripts related to History and Sociology of Design in WA collection;
- Interviews recorded in 2019 by Dr Adam Trainer for the City of Vincent / SLWA Music Collection Project.



Indie music zine. (SLWA)



State Records Office - News from the Archives

Stories from the State archives on radio

SROWA staff have joined the State Library's Kate Gregory and sharing airtime on ABC Radio 720 on Tuesdays; and 6PR on Sundays – taking it in turn each fortnight on the ABC, and every month on 6PR.

Over the past couple of months, SRO staff have talked about the earliest records of cyclones and storms, the tale of an albatross and a shipwreck, convict 'flash language', bumper sticker censorship, and fly plagues. The latter was presented by Damien Hassan, Senior Archivist at the State Records Office, on steps taken by the State government in 1962 to ensure the Empire Games held in Perth in that year were a "no-fly" zone. In the lead up to the Games, house flies and bush flies were considered a potential nuisance for athletes and those attending the Games, as well as a source of embarrassment with Perth being placed on the world stage. The State archives document the actions taken by government to address what was referred to in Parliament as the 'fly menace'.



The Public Health Department produced and issued educational material to raise community awareness of fly control. (SROWA)

Record numbers of requests for digitisation

In the first quarter (July to September) 2019 there were 220 items filmed for digitisation for 66 orders.

In the first quarter 2020 there were 357 items filmed for 112 orders – so almost doubled compared with 2019.

In 2019 many of the files ordered were for Redress requirements; but only a few have been recorded this quarter so there has been a considerable increase in orders from the general public.

This is a great outcome and it means people are accessing the collection without having to physically handle and view the archives.

New online booking app for an ‘Appointment with an Archivist’

Proving very popular for first time and returning researchers. Provides for one-on-one help and SRO is able to adjust appointment times as needed more easily than set opening times.

Co-located research space in the Battye Library

Usage remains very strong. Getting great feedback from clients about being able to access State archives more of the time during Library opening hours compared with limited opening hours for the old SRO Search Room.

We acknowledge a current challenge regarding the number of microfilm readers available in the Battye Library. The SRO is working with the State Library to address this.

Margaret Medcalf Awards -

Judging for the 2020 Margaret Medcalf Awards has concluded and a winner will be announced in late November at an event in the State Library Theatre. The SRO will also be running a campaign online to celebrate the excellent standard and extraordinary diversity of entries for the Awards this year.

Annual Geoffrey Bolton Lecture

Will be recorded in mid-November in the State Library Theatre. This year, the event is being recorded for a podcast to respect COVID-safe measures and enable the lecture to reach a broader audience across the State and beyond.

Damian Shepherd
Director State Records

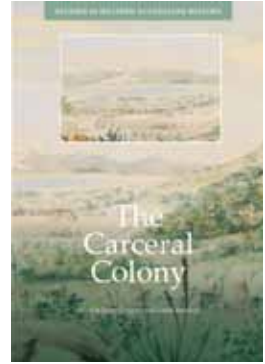
Facebook page

SRO also has a Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/StateRecordsOfficeWA>. It is certainly worth browsing the site to discover interesting stories revealed by the records held in the State Archives collection which are regular features.

Recent stories include: ‘Animals in the Archives’ for the 122nd anniversary of the Perth Zoo, and ‘Blows, willy-willies, and cockeyed Bobs’ covering the first official records about cyclones in WA, which was also featured on 6PR radio with Harvey Deegan. The SRO has also released a *Guide to the 1989 State Cabinet Records*.

Recent work on convictism in Western Australia launched

'The Carceral Colony' *Studies in Western Australian History Vol.34* edited by Jenny Gregory and Louis Marshall was launched by Duncan Ord Director-General of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on 30 September 2020. The launch was held in the Exhibition Centre of Fremantle Prison, where more than 40 guests enjoyed the outstanding exhibition of prison art on display as well as the formalities.



Following an introduction by Bruce Baskerville, Associate Director of UWA's Centre for WA History, as MC for the night, and a welcome from Paula Nelson, Director of Fremantle Prison, Duncan Ord spoke. Duncan has played a leading role in government in culture and arts, education, training, planning and Aboriginal Affairs. Previous roles in private industry include Dean of the School of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and General Manager of the WA Theatre Company and Black Swan Theatre.

In a generous speech launching the volume, he praised the accessibility and quality of the writing as well as the research. Some research had really struck home for him and he revealed that reading of the role and skills of Aboriginal prisoners in the complex building of the Rottneest Lighthouse had shocked him. We know about Vincent's role as the builder of Rottneest/Wadjemup, he said, but the role of Aboriginal prisoners has been ignored.

Duncan led the Department of Arts and Culture for some years and, noting the value of historical research exemplified by this volume, he admitted that in contrast to the performing and visual arts, 'there has been little government support for history. Historical research and writing has been left to the universities'. Not surprisingly his comment that historical publications should be supported in the lead up to Western Australia's Bicentenary commemorations in 2029, was greeted with cheers and applause from guests.

'The Carceral Colony' is the third volume of *Studies* to be published on convictism in WA. Its genesis was a symposium held at Fremantle Prison by UWA's Centre for WA History in 2018 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of convict transportation to Western Australia.

The first volume of *Studies* on convictism, edited by Tom Stannage, was published in 1981 at a time when convicts were thought ‘best forgotten’, well before anyone celebrated their convict ancestry. The second, published in 2006, ‘Building a Colony’ was edited by Jacqui Sherriff and Anne Brake. It emerged from a seminar held at Fremantle Prison in 2000 to mark the 150th arrival of the first convicts to Western Australia. Each volume has showcased the latest research and contributed new knowledge to our understanding of that period in our history.

We were thrilled that amongst those present at the launch were two historians who contributed to the 1981 volume – Pamela Statham Drew and Jennie Carter, one of the editors of the 2006 volume – Anne Brake, and two historians who have made significant contributions to research into convicts and the prison research – Robyn Taylor and Lorraine Clarke.



Lorraine Clarke, Pamela Statham Drew, Jenny Gregory, Jennie Carter, Anne Brake, Louis Marshall and Robyn Taylor, previous contributors to and editors of the three Convict volumes of *Studies in Western Australian History*. (CWAH)

Since it became a heritage site, Fremantle Prison has been a great supporter of research into the convict experience and we were pleased to be able to hold the launch at the Prison. Fremantle Prison holds special significance for many Aboriginal people and their families and, in this volume of *Studies*, the definition of convicts has been broadened to include not only convicted men transported from Britain, but also the hundreds of Aboriginal people who were imprisoned during the early years of colonial settlement.

‘The Carceral Colony’, co-edited by Louis Marshall who was awarded doctorate for his brilliant research on convict health, greatly expands

our understanding of convictism. The volume includes articles that reconsiders who the convicts were, how the convict system related to other forms of labour in the colony, and how it was connected with imperial developments.

It pushes back the date when convictism commenced. Well before 1850, several experiments with unfree labour had already taken place in Western Australia. In 1826, our first convicts provided the labour to establish a New South Wales military garrison at King George's Sound. Between 1832 and 1849, convicted Nyungar men were taken to the Aboriginal prison on Wadjemup (Rottnest Island). And between 1842 and 1852 boys aged from twelve to eighteen were transported to Western Australia from Parkhurst Prison, as Andrew Gill's research has shown.

It examines the type of labour provided by convicts, adding new evidence and overturning old. Did you know that Aboriginal prisoners were deployed in road gangs on the mainland and assigned to settlers and government departments? Or that, contrary to previous beliefs, ticket-of-leave convicts working in the community were scarcely better off than convicts incarcerated in Fremantle Prison.

It considers who the convicts were. Did you know that some were convicted and transported for sodomy? Or why WA was the only colony that did not receive female convicts? It discusses archaeological evidence that shows that some of the first construction projects in the Swan Valley used a mixed labour force, that included free workers, transported convicts, Aboriginal prisoner road gangs, and local prisoners. And that marks scratched on cell walls in Fremantle Prison — the graffiti — reveals much of the experience of those incarcerated.

Perhaps most importantly it situates the system of convictism in WA within a wider Imperial context locating it amongst flows of coerced labour right across the British Empire — including indentured Europeans, Indians and Chinese, Aboriginal labour, and child labour. All of which provided the political climate for the introduction of convicts to Western Australia. For many decades Western Australia truly fitted the description of the Carceral Colony.

Jenny Gregory

'The Carceral Colony' *Studies in Western Australian History, Vol 34*, is available for purchase from the Centre for WA History. See website <https://www.uwa.edu.au/able/research/centre-for-wa-history>

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We need a completed form for our records, so please return it either by post or as an attachment to an email to **membership@friendsofbattye.org.au** with your online receipt number.

Afterwords

The sad end of Douglas Thompson, settler.

Among the 78 hopeful settlers who arrived from London on the Atwick on 19 October 1829 was a 31 year old single man named Douglas Thompson, born in Chiswick to Douglas Thompson and Catherine Thompson (née Bland) on 28 July 1798.

An agriculturalist, he was travelling with his cousin Spencer Trimmer with whom he was going to farm in the new colony. They had brought out tradesmen and farm labourers (twelve in all), tools needed to start a farm, together with 5 horses, 6 pigs and 26 sheep but, oddly, no cattle (in a letter written at sea he had told his father that the cattle were in good order).

Keen to get started, he wrote to Colonial Secretary Brown from the ship the day after his arrival, asking for applications forms for land. Because of the value of the useful assets they had brought out (£2977) they were ruled eligible for 39,693 acres.

Although they had arrived on only the fourth ship with private settlers, all the good land had already been taken. They and their stock were saved when Lt Governor Stirling transferred 1000 acres of his 5000 acres on the Swan. Their new property, which they called Sion Park, was on the east side of the Swan above Guildford, Location 14 (now partly occupied by the suburb of Viveash).

He reported this to his father in a long letter written in January 1830. He also added that, despite the summer heat, the climate was so pleasing he had slept in the open on the bare ground for '32 nights together'. He had felt no ill effects except, occasionally, 'a slight dysentery'. But he was an early adopter of bush medicine: 'a few grains of red gum gathered from the nearest tree' rapidly effected a cure.

He and Trimmer had no idea where the rest of their land might be found. At that stage the would-be settlers were hemmed in between the sea and the Darling Ranges. As Thompson explained to his father: 'the mountains through which no passage has been discovered' were only thirteen to eighteen miles from the sea.

Ensign Robert Dale and a small band of explorers found their way across in August 1830 and became the first Europeans to see the Avon River and good farming land. Thompson made a small contribution to this key

expedition: the Dale party made his and Trimmer's establishment on the Swan their first point of call out of Perth, spending the night of 31 July there.

In September-October the following year Thompson himself went out with Dale and George Fletcher Moore to choose a line of road to York and explore the land around Mount Bakewell where he and Trimmer had been granted 37,000 acres.

He interested himself in civic affairs. He sat on the coroner's jury for an inquest into the death by drowning of Dr Whatley who had tried to take a cow across the river in too small a boat; he signed the big petition of 1831 asking for a bank, more soldiers and labourers and for roads and bridges; he joined the protest against imposing duty on spirits.

On Sunday 14 June 1835 he crossed the Swan to visit the Ridley family. On the following day, George Moore recorded in his diary the dreadful news of what followed:

Having spent the evening at Mr Ridley's he wished to cross the river to go home; the boat was nearly full of water, but he thought he could manage it. Mr Ridley stood on the bank with a lantern in the meantime and asked him if he was over yet. 'I'm half way at all events, and will soon be over' said he; so Mr Ridley went home, but soon heard a shout that the boat was going down.

Thompson could not swim. His body was found an hour later.

An inquest was held at Devenish's Hotel in Guildford, the verdict being 'accidentally drowned'. A report of the inquest was published in the Perth Gazette of 20 June 1835. It was by reading this issue in London months later that Douglas Thompson Snr accidentally learned of the death of his son.

The correspondence that followed somehow found its way to the London Metropolitan Archives. Transcriptions can be found in the Battye Library (see MN 645).

Steve Errington



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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary \$25

Joint \$35

Pensioner / student / junior \$15

Corporate \$50

Meetings

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

Newsletter

Three issues will be published each year in March, July, and November (flyers will be sent out in May and September). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 5 February, 5 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.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*

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.

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

Specialist staff: Dr Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)

State Records Office

The SRO Search Room has co-located to the Battye Library, third floor of the State Library, Alexander Library Building. To access these materials in the Leah Cohen Reading Room a Researcher's Ticket will still be required.

Retrievals

As per usual times for SRO retrievals.

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

The Genealogy Centre

Opening hours- The hours that the Genealogy Centre will be accessible will remain as per Battye Library opening hours on the third floor.

Volunteers from Family History Western Australia, formerly the WA Genealogical Society (WAGS), are available to assist researchers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

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