

NO. 149



March 2014

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

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ABN 571625138800

*Our March 2014 meeting*

**Bill Bunbury**

*Lessons for a listener*



***Bill Bunbury and Kojonup Elder, Jack Cox, September 2004.***

Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room,  
4th floor State Library of Western Australia.

*please see details on page 3.*

## Objectives

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

**Patron** Mrs Ruth Reid AM

**Emeritus President** Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

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Ex-Officio Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)  
Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO)  
Dr Susanna Iuliano (acting Battye Historian)

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

All correspondence to:

The Secretary, PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865

ISSN 1035-8692

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

# March Meeting

Tuesday 11 March 2014  
Great Southern Room, 4th floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5pm for 5.30pm

**Our speaker will be  
Bill Bunbury**

*Lessons for a listener*  
[Front page image Courtesy Bill Bunbury]

Bill is a renowned Australian broadcaster, author, oral historian and documentary maker with over 40 years experience in both radio and television production.

## **Tour of the rare book room**

Prior to the meeting, our members will have a unique opportunity to tour the State Library's new rare book room. The wonderful and valuable collection of rare publications now have a new keeping place and this special invitation from the State Library is not to be missed.

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

## **Problem with the stairs?**

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

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## Lessons for a listener

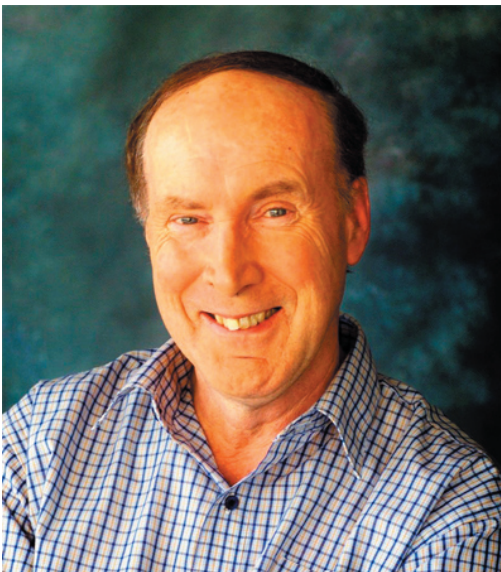
Our cover photograph shows Professor Bill Bunbury with Kojonup Noongar elder, Jack Cox, recording a series of interviews for the ABC's *Encounter* program *Place of axe - place of water - place of healing?*

Kojonup- the name means place of the stone axe - is a small country town in WA's South-West. Home to the local Noongar people for thousands of years, they led Europeans to its central feature -a freshwater permanent spring in 1837. Europeans (Wadjillas) settled and Noongars retreated, losing much of their culture in the process. In 2003 both groups came together to share their history in the creation of an award-winning museum - Kodja Place.

Bill writes: "As a broadcaster, I have been privileged to meet remarkable people from many walks of life who shared their wisdom and their strengths with me and with many others when an audience hears their stories."

## About our speaker

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



(Image courtesy Bill Bunbury)

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

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

Bill is also the author of eleven books on Australian social history. and is currently writing a history of the shire of Perenjori and an environmental history of south-west Australia for UWA Press entitled *Invisible country*.

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

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### **Meeting dates for the remainder of 2014**

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

**13 May** – Dr Lenore Layman: *Sudden deaths by accident, murder or suicide from early inquests*.

**8 July** - Patsy Millett: *A family of diarists*. With a display of Durack materials held in the Battye Library.

**9 September** (AGM) - SLWA staff: A celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the State Library of Western Australia.

**18 November** - John Viska: *Colonial gardens*. Also our end of year dinner.

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### **A message from the President**

Dear Friends,

I know you will be as pleased as I am to learn that our Battye Historian, Kate Gregory, has had her baby Sebastian Philip Gregory Chambers and that Sarah McQuade, our first Battye historian is now pregnant and will be taking leave from July. Our congratulations go to both of them. We

have also been told that Dr Susanna Iuliano, who wrote *Vite Italiane*, is to be the acting Battye Historian while Kate is on maternity leave, so we warmly welcome and look forward to working with Susanna.

Your committee has prepared a pretty full calendar for you this year – our March meeting as you can see from the cover will be the very popular Bill Bunbury and I hope you will all come along to hear his stories about the pleasures and pain of taking oral histories. In May Associate Professor Lenore Layman has agreed to talk to us about the Colonial Inquests – *Accidents Suicides and Murders* which I am very much looking forward to – as will many of those members who like me are avid crime fiction fans. June sees a totally different topic – Patsy Millett, a Durack daughter, will speak about *A Family of Diarists* giving details from four of the diaries that have not yet been handed over to the Battye Library. As a special treat the State Library will put the diaries they do hold on display for members to view. Our AGM provides a chance for Library staff to tell us about their recent acquisitions – always exciting news – and to inform us about their current programs and this year is special as it is the Library's 125th anniversary. The November meeting is our last for the year and we try to provide a topic that will keep tongues wagging throughout the dinner to follow. And this year we have prevailed upon John Viska, President of the garden History Society to talk to us about Colonial gardens – what was in them, how they were grown and how we can copy some of their ideas.

At the moment your committee is in the process of developing guidelines for project funding. Up till now we have relied on grant funding for a specific purpose – eg Newspapers, so we have never asked the hard questions. What we do agree on is that the Friends fund projects to conserve and disseminate Battye Library materials – particularly those most at risk. This is currently done primarily through digitisation - as taking good quality image both conserves the original item and allows us to put it online for free public access – which is another of our goals.

The Library also has a Foundation which has similar aims to the Friends except it supports the wider Library program. The Foundation for example had a role in the *Better Beginnings* early childhood reading scheme that the Library has promoted for several years. Your Committee has undertaken to co-operate with the Foundation to contribute to the Battye Library's materials and programs in the future, perhaps entering

a partnership to promote a particular project, or contributing to a planned event. We will keep you posted.

One exciting development to be put online soon is the Western Australian Biographical Index (WABI) Card collection. This collection of index cards was created as research material for the publication of the four volume Bicentennial Dictionary and information has also been added to some of them afterwards. The Friends of Battye Library provided grant funds for the cards' digitisation and now the State Library has devised an online search program to make the information more easily accessible. There will also be a facility, such as that now currently available through the National Library's Trove site, which will allow members of the public to correct typographical mistakes and possibly add comments on material they believe incorrect. As soon as details are available we will let you know.

With every best wish for the coming year

Pamela Statham Drew

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## **Information for our members**

### **Susan Doncaster**

It is with sadness that we announce that Susan, the wife of one of our distinguished Gems of Time and member for many years, Fr Ted Donaster, passed away in February. Our sincere condolences to Fr Ted and his family.

### **Honour for Jan McCahon Marshall**

Jan is one of our members and has played an important part in the Oral History Records Rescue Group (OHRRG). Her long term dedication to oral history in this State has recently been recognised by the Oral History Association of Australia Western Australian Branch with the award of honorary life membership of the Association. Our congratulations to Jan – a quiet achiever

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## Have you a story to tell?

The following four articles have been kindly submitted by Ronda Jamieson, Steve Errington, Ann Hunter, and Bevan Carter.

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*[Dr Ronda Jamieson is well known to most of our members, having been Director of the Battye Library before her retirement in 2005. Prior to her appointment as Director in 1998, Ronda was in charge of the Library's Preservation Services Branch and before then, head of the Oral History section and one of Australia's leading oral historians. She is the author of several works including a major biography of Sir Charles Court. ]*

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### **Margaret Medcalf and the Battye Library's Oral History Collection**

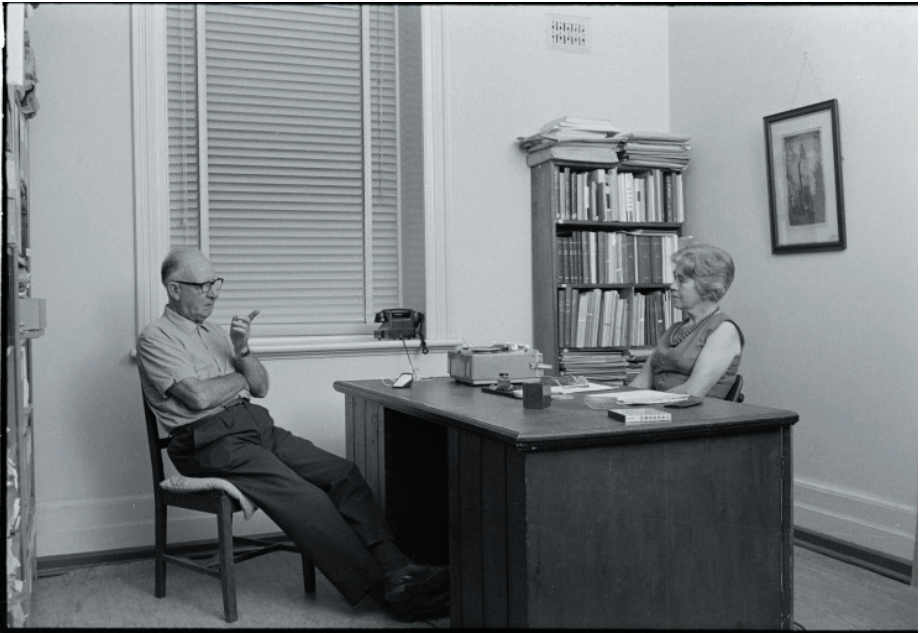
The recent celebration of the completion of the project to digitise the Battye Library's oral history collection was a reminder of how that collection would be a fraction of its size and worth if it was not for Margaret Medcalf. Some of the history of the collection is worth recalling, especially as newer members of the Friends are unlikely to know the full story.

In 1961, Mollie Lukis who was then the librarian in charge of the Battye Library, undertook the first interviews. She had seen the worth of oral history as a means to add to available information on WA's past during a visit to the USA. Margaret Medcalf had joined the Archives Branch of the State Library in 1955 and valued Mollie as a mentor, so it was not surprising that Margaret too did interviews. Recordings were also collected from a few people conducting interviews out of interest or for work purposes.

To quote Margaret in an article she wrote in 1980, 'Library staff continued to do interviews in a spasmodic way as time would allow but it became more and more difficult to fit them in and to do the necessary associated research.'

With the retirement of Mollie Lukis in 1971, Margaret became the State Archivist and Principal Librarian of the Battye Library. By then she was convinced that oral history needed specialist staff and saw an opportunity to fund their employment when Sir Charles Court became Premier. An election promise had been to set up a Heritage Commission whose responsibilities would include gathering 'live history while the memories





Mollie Lukis conducting an interview in 1969.  
(Courtesy Francis Aubie Sharr Collection, Battye Library, SLWA. 319514PD.)

of those who are making it are still strong'. The submission to government set out the need for a formal oral history program to be undertaken by two full-time interviewers and a typist to transcribe the interviews. When the proposal did not gain immediate government support, the Library Board provided the necessary funding.

The first oral history staff were appointed in 1975 and later one of the full-time interviewing positions was split into two. Not only were many more interviews conducted, due to the respect in which the Battye Library was held, it was not difficult to persuade others to deposit copies of interviews they had done.

One of the part-time positions was for 14 hours a week which is the one I successfully applied for in 1978 having previously left the workforce a month before the birth of our first son. With three young children by then, I was delighted when Margaret agreed to my splitting the 14 hours over three days which meant I could see our children off to school and be home before their return. She also agreed to my working extra hours either side of school holidays and taking my own four weeks leave in January which meant I was always shared school holidays with them. It



Miss Margaret Medcalf. (Image courtesy St Catherine's College, University of Western Australia.)

was only later that I discovered that the State Librarian was furious when he discovered the arrangement because it was not covered by any public service rule. I will be forever grateful to Margaret for understanding how important being able to combine the two jobs was to me.

Margaret and Mollie were very conscious of the need for the Battye Library collections to reflect the history of the whole of Western Australia which meant they personally travelled all over the state to collect archival materials. That same attitude led to Margaret occasionally sending the oral history interviewers to country towns to conduct oral histories.

After starting teaching in oral history to try to improve the standard of interviews donated to the Battye Library, I suggested to Margaret that instead of spending a week in a country town to do interviews, it would be preferable to spend a day or two teaching local community members to do the interviews and donate the original tapes to the Battye Library for preservation reasons. Copies would be lodged in the local public library. Members of the community would know more about what questions to ask and their work would be ongoing leading to many more interviews being completed. It also meant a much wider coverage of the State's history. The idea gained Margaret's full support and led to hundreds more interviews being done.

A later suggestion was to persuade individuals and organisations to pay for interviews, which again meant the collection became even more diverse in its coverage. These decisions reflected one of Margaret's great strengths, being able to see the sense of change and letting her staff know they had her full support in the work they did.

The Battye Library was the first of any library in Australia to collect oral histories. When its own program was started in 1975, it was the first

State library to do so – in fact it took until 1986 before South Australia followed and many years later for the Mitchell Library in Sydney and La Trobe Library in Melbourne to follow suit. Discounting the National Library of Australia with its much greater resources, the Battye Library collection remains the largest State Library collection in Australia.

[PS: Another great strength Margaret had was her knowledge of correct English and I owe much to her careful correction of my mistakes. I will always remember her lesson of “‘compared with”; “different from”; “try to”. If she reads this article, she probably won’t like my spelling of program. I meticulously used programme in the days of the Oral History Programme. Then I found that according to Henry Fowler, the renowned expert in English, the spelling should be ‘program’ (as for diagram, telegram, anagram, etc.) and that ‘programme’ was a ‘French affectation’. As someone who was very anti the French testing nuclear bombs in the Pacific, I have not used ‘programme’ since’.]

Ronda Jamieson

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*[Since retiring as head of Curtin University’s Chemistry Department in 2009, Professor Steve Errington has been heavily involved in researching aspects of WA history and has contributed several articles to our newsletter. In his spare time, he volunteers as a Rottnest Island guide.]*

### **Was Rev Hobbes Scott the ‘unknown artist’?**

A few months after the little town of Perth had begun to take shape someone picked up pen and brush to capture the scene. The result is the oldest surviving picture of Perth. It was apparently presented to Lt Governor Stirling: in 1924 it was bought by Dr JS Battye for the Public Library from a London book dealer who had acquired it from a descendant of Sir James.

The picture was one of a collection of eight purchased from Frank Edwards, a longtime supplier of historical works to Australian libraries.



Perth, the seat of government at Swan River, 1830.

(Original sketch in the possession of the Art Gallery of Western Australia.)

Was it painted by the Rev. Hobbes Scott?

They were said to be by an unknown artist and all eight were later transferred to the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

Circumstantial evidence points to the Rev Thomas Hobbes Scott being the unknown artist. Scott, formerly Archdeacon of New South Wales, was marooned at Swan River in November 1829 when HMS Success ran aground off Carnac Island and needed lengthy repairs.

Hobbes Scott (as he was known to his friends) was surprised to find that he was the first clergyman to arrive in Western Australia (Colonial Chaplain Rev J B Wittenoorn was recruited too late to join the Parmelia). With Christmas approaching and no church built, Scott, Civil Engineer WH Reveley and Captain FC Irwin together drove the construction of a temporary 'rush' church. With a thatched roof and sides made of bulrushes, the building was sufficiently complete for Scott to conduct a service on Christmas day.

The rush Church is right at the centre of the little (12 x 18 cm) Perth painting. Other structures include Dr Milligan's tent hospital, soldiers'

tents, Captain Irwin's hut, Government House and a row of government offices.

Five of the other seven works were painted on Garden Island, where Scott is known to have taken divine service for John Morgan's household and conducted a funeral service. It is also where he lived with Captain Jervoise while the *Success* was being careened. After returning to his English parish Scott delivered a paper on the geology of Garden Island. Another shows the stores of the *Success* unloaded on Carnac Island.

For some of the paintings the artist made more than one copy, and four Garden Island duplicates were donated to the Mitchell Library in 1963. They were part of an album compiled by Hobbes Scott of Whitfield Rectory, Northumberland circa 1833-40. It was acquired by Captain AWF Fuller in about 1949. The album also includes two extra paintings of HMS *Success* – on the reef and under repair.

Scott left Fremantle for Batavia in Java on the *William* in August 1830. The Scott/Fuller album also includes five paintings by the same artist painted at 'Christmas Island near Java' and in the Sunda Straits in early September 1830. Our unknown artist clearly arrived on the *Success*, spent time in Perth and on Garden Island, and left on the *William*.

It appears that Mary Ann Friend might have also painted Perth on her February 1830 visit but it is missing from her illustrated diary, recently purchased by the State Library Foundation.

Steve Errington

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*[Dr Ann Hunter has lectured at the School for Indigenous Studies at UWA and worked for the Aboriginal Sites Department. She was awarded the 2013 Margaret Medcalf Award for her book, A different kind of 'subject': colonial law in Aboriginal – European relations in 19th century Western Australia 1829-61 which was published in 2012.]*

## **Research insights**

In my book *A different kind of 'subject' - Colonial Law in Aboriginal – European relations in 19th century Western Australia 1829-1861*, I argue that the colonial government applied legalistically styled devices, policies,

legislation and actions, such as the outlawry of Aboriginal people who resisted what some officials and settlers regarded as a conquest or invasion.

My research for my PhD at Murdoch University on which the book is adapted included using the archives of the Batty Library and the State Records Office. I initially focused on court cases which corresponded with the colonial government actions in 1837 to increasingly subject Aboriginal 'offenders' to the criminal courts. Magistrates were primarily recruited up to the late 1850s from among the settlers, with the British government keen to keep administration costs down. However there were other policies and actions that are also relevant. My research therefore included Colonial Secretary Office records, correspondence, despatches, Executive and Legislative Council minutes, and debates in London.

Additional insights were subsequently discovered in the Colonial Office records (AJCP or PRO records London). These showed that permanent undersecretary James Stephen was increasingly alarmed at the reports back from Governor James Stirling of Aboriginal people being shot by soldiers and settlers in the Avon Valley. At that time in the early 1830s, there were fears of a repeat of Tasmania's "black war", in a much larger area, as settlers took up grants further inland. The release of the British Parliamentary Committee report of mid-1837 into the treatment of Aboriginal people in British colonies, recommended protectors, to come not from the British Treasury but from the sale of Aboriginal or what was described as 'waste' land.

In March 1837 Stephen recommended the revival of an earlier plan to appoint protectors for WA. He repeated the need again stating that a royal proclamation was required that appointed a protector, as well as to warn settlers of penalties for offences against Aboriginal people. However, it was not until after the British parliamentary report that the Colonial Office recommended two for the colony. The Colonial Office records (AJCP) reveal a letter from James Stephen who, under the direction of the Secretary of State for Colonies, Lord Charles Glenelg, wrote to the British Treasury acknowledging the governor's difficulty in securing funds from the colonial legislative council. He used extracts from Stirling's dispatch referring to Aboriginal people as formidable - to justify funding from the British public purse for the salaries of two protectors for the colony. They did not arrive until late 1839.

By then a new governor John Hutt had arrived who had already reached his own similar conclusions, urging the appointment of protectors. Hutt's plan was to include Aboriginal people as part of a colonial economy which relied on a more equal application of British law.

This interest in 1840s Western Australia has led to my researching a biography of John Hutt. A non-military person; Hutt had been an acting collector/administrator for the East India Company in Madras. In the 1830s he worked with his brother MP William Hutt in England on systematic colonization in South Australia and New Zealand. His interest



Portrait of John Hutt.  
(Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA. 663P.)

in solving the economic and social problems in England, initially started on a personal level, when as the eldest son in a very large family, he was forced to sell the family home to pay off debts, after his father's sudden death, and to assist his younger siblings to emigrate to India for better opportunities. His continual interest in better economic and social opportunities through emigration from England and the ideas of Edward Gibbon Wakefield was a primary motivation for his career.

Ann Hunter

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*[Bevan Carter is a former farmer, teacher and lecturer who since retirement has indulged in his fascination with history. He is the author of several publications and with his wife Jennie [editor of this Newsletter] has co-authored a history of the Armadale district published in 2011. He*

*and Jennie are currently working on a commissioned history of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women.]*

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## **Evil in East Perth:**

### **What you find on Trove when you are looking for something else**

For our work on the history of King Edward Memorial Hospital, I was researching Doctors Dixie Clement and James Couch who were appointed honorary doctors to the Hospital when it was established in 1916. Except for Couch's brief spell in the army between May 1917 and March 1918, both retained these positions until their deaths in the 1930s. Dr Edward Officer was appointed to fill in while Couch was overseas, so I needed to find some details about him too and turned to that wonderful boon for researchers, the National Library's digitised newspaper database, *Trove*.

While searching for information, an article on a nurse Alice Mitchell being charged with "unlawfully killing one Ethel Booth" attracted my attention as below this article was one headed "Dr Officer interviewed". I was intrigued. What was our good doctor's role in the unfolding story of Perth's notorious baby-farmer which appeared in papers all over Australia from mid February to mid April 1907?

Alice Mitchell, a nurse and midwife, had been registered since 1903 with the Perth Local Board of Health to take charge of infants. Babies were boarded at her premises in Edward Street East Perth while their mothers worked to support themselves and pay for their children's care. The case came to light after Mitchell was reported by a constable on duty in the neighbourhood when she casually mentioned during a conversation that she had a child lying ill in her house but could not afford a doctor. The police called Dr Davey to attend a 10 month old child who was in "an exceedingly emaciated condition", and while at the house Dr Davey noticed a baby, Ethel Booth, who was in a similar condition. Both children were taken to Perth Public Hospital but little Ethel was too far gone and died the next day.

At Ethel's inquest her mother Elizabeth testified she gave birth to Ethel at the House of Mercy, a maternity home for unmarried mothers, and stayed to look after her baby for a further two months. Elizabeth then



resumed her occupation as a maid, for which she earned 15s a week, and relinquished her child into Mitchell's care after agreeing to pay 10s. per week as well as any doctor's fees. Elizabeth loved her daughter and had become increasingly concerned when Mitchell, with various excuses, had repeatedly prevented Elizabeth from visiting her baby.

As part of her conditions of registration Alice Mitchell was required to keep a register of infants placed in her care but there were no entries after 16 December 1904. Evidence given at the inquest revealed that the female Inspector for the Perth Road Board was apparently friendly with Mrs. Mitchell, and would chat at the door, but never went inside to visit the children or inspect the register. Dr Officer visited regularly, charging five shillings for each child seen, and had examined baby Ethel three days after her arrival, declaring she was in a very healthy condition. At the murder trial Edward Officer, while admitting he had signed 22 death certificates of babies dying at Alice Mitchell's house, denied "that death was in any way assisted or was due to other than natural causes".

In further evidence the local Anglican priest, the Reverend Robert John Craig, testified going to Mitchell's house to baptise a dying nine month old child, Harry Turvey. Craig noted that the baby was very thin and had an offensive smell. Just over a week after little Harry's death,

# **THE BABY-FARMING HORROR**

## **Sensational Evidence Given at the Inquest**

**The Lodgers' Testimony—Harrowing Scenes—Conflict of Authorities—Thirty Five Bodies Buried—Thirty Three Cases Registered—Frightful Accusation—A Hatpin through the Heart!—Board of Health Helplessness—  
Dr. Officer in the Box.**

(Sunday Times 10 March 1907)

Craig was sent for again and complained that the children he saw were very smelly and criticised Mitchell's ability to keep the children clean. Nevertheless he clearly did not feel the need to report the matter.

Seemingly, no one in authority picked up on Mitchell's treatment of the infants she had been paid to look after, and as the trial progressed, revelations emerged that over the six years she had been fostering babies, at least 35 had died in suspicious circumstances.

As well as 'baby-farming' Alice Mitchell also ran a boarding house and another witness, Carl Roux, testified that he stayed there for a month late in 1906 and that Mitchell always had several fostered infants who apparently all slept in the same room as she. Roux said that he had overheard Mitchell's adult daughter complain to her mother of the dirty state in which the house and the children were kept adding, "Those people in the front room [Roux and his wife], know just as well as I do that you kill the babies." Despite this, Roux did not feel obliged to alert anyone else. He also told the court that before the trial Mitchell told him that that if she fell, Dr Officer would have to fall too.

The trial concluded on 13 April 1907 and the jury, after less than an hour, found Mitchell only guilty of manslaughter. The Judge in passing sentence of five years hard labour remarked that the jury concluded that Mitchell had no intention of killing baby Booth, but that her death was caused by criminal negligence. He told Mitchell; "*... you have been, like many other women who carry on the same business, perfectly callous to the sufferings of these children who were entrusted to your care. All that can be said in your favour is that you are a woman getting on in life, and, therefore, whatever term of imprisonment I may pass upon you will affect you much more severely than it would a younger woman*". Alice Mitchell was lucky, for in a similar case in Victoria where a woman was convicted of the deaths of infants in her care, she was executed.

No blame was attached to Dr Officer and no others were charged with neglect of their official responsibilities. The two inspectors were the only ones to suffer any sort of fallout from the case when the Perth Road Board decided to dispense with their services.

It was difficult for people to accept that such cruelty could occur unnoticed in their small Perth community. Public outcry over the Mitchell case brought into focus the need not only to protect vulnerable children, but to ensure that all mothers and their infants were healthy and had access

to good medical, midwifery and obstetric care. Some very influential women took up the cause and the formation in 1909 of the Women's Service Guild, led by women who had been active in other women's organisations, crystallised the momentum for the establishment of what was to become the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women.

Bevan Carter.

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## News from the State Library

### Welcome Susanna Iuliano - Acting Battye Historian

Kate Gregory, the current Battye Historian, is away for most of 2014 on maternity leave. Recently she and her partner Sean welcomed a new addition to their family in the shape of their first child, Sebastian. In her absence Dr Susanna Iuliano will be acting Battye Historian. Susanna is a historian who specialises in Australian migration and multiculturalism and modern Australian history.

She may be remembered by the Friends as the curator of the *Vite Italiane* (Italian Lives) exhibition held at the State Library in 2010/2011. Susanna also published a book *Vite Italiane: Italian Lives in Western Australia*, which tells the stories of hundreds of Italian migrant families in WA, to coincide with the exhibition. After *Vite Italiane* Susanna divided her time between research and policy development with the Office of Multicultural Interests and consulting. Most recently, Susanna has been working as a



Susanna Iuliano. (Image: Courtesy University of WA Press.)

Research Development Advisor at Edith Cowan University. She will commence on 19 February.

## Exhibitions

*Library of Nearly Lost Moments* – To begin the State Library's 125th celebrations we have started the year by reinventing an interactive exhibition originally hosted in 2010. The *Library of Nearly Lost Moments* provides visitors with a snapshot of collecting generally, delving into some



of our most unusual items, and focusing on the moment in time that they capture. Visitors also have the opportunity to add to the exhibition by leaving an item behind, with a small note. The exhibition has been timed to coincide with the Fringe World Festival, which takes place in the Perth Cultural Centre every year in January/February. This has provided an opportunity to attract a new audience, and to engage with one of the most dynamic festivals of the year

*Memory House: celebrating our history, growing the future* will be the main exhibition for 2014, celebrating the State Library story over the last 125 years whilst showcasing significant historical collections and contemporary library services. However, instead of the traditional, singular narrative exhibition style, visitors will be invited to adopt a much more open-ended, exploratory approach to the past. They will be able to discover the history of the Library in WA society through the objects on display, recall their own memories, and make new memories based on what they have seen, touched, heard, smelled or 'visually tasted'. The exhibition will open mid-May and close late September.

## New Acquisitions

Laurie Allen and Jean Butler report that quite a few interesting collections have been added to the collection of the State Library in the last few

months. Amongst them are:

A biography of Hookum Chan, an Indian Hindu who came to WA on the *Cumberland* in October 1829 to be Sir James Stirling's personal assistant. He ran barge services 1829-1839 between Perth, Fremantle and Guildford; spent time in Albany and Geraldton acting as an interpreter and supervisor for building works; and from 1870-1881 owned a cabinet making business in Perth. His daughter Julie married ex-convict Alfred Thomas Jackson who had been a London goldsmith and jeweller. Chan's fortunes changed in his later years with a land dispute, challenge over his citizenship, and a skin complaint resembling leprosy. However, when he died in 1903 he was given a grand funeral. The collection includes Jackson family photographs and papers.

Letter purchased at auction and dated 15 August 1853 from Charles Smith to Mr Keats of Fremantle. Smith arrived in WA in 1829 from Tasmania on the *Orelia* as Walter Gellibrand's agent. He later became postmaster at Mourambine 1862-1876.

Letter purchased at auction and dated 1848 from Charles Pratt to the Colonial Secretary, George Fletcher Moore, complaining about problems with a transfer of property at Guildford to his wife, Anne. Pratt arrived in WA in January 1830 on the *Eagle* which he subsequently acquired. He made 13 voyages between WA and Van Diemen's Land before 1836.

Collection of digital images of contemporary Perth, Fremantle and country towns, purchased from documentary photographer, Philip Gostelow. Images include new building works and development in Perth, iconic Fremantle scenes, portraits of key WA leaders, State Election day, country towns, and family life.

More than 3000 colour transparencies from the Trish Ainslie and Roger Garwood collection of photographs, representing 25 years of work for 12 publications on WA.

Personal journal and photograph album of Harold Benjamin Hayles (1884-1958), May-Sept 1934, recording his impressions of the north-west when travelling as Secretary to the *Royal Commission to Investigate, Report and Advise upon Matters in Relation to the Condition and Treatment of Aborigines* (the Moseley Royal Commission).

Papers and photographs of Robert Sharman, (State Librarian 1976-1997), including correspondence, reports, speeches, photos and a video of his retirement farewell as State Librarian of WA.

Four prints of botanical drawings by Rica Erickson to add to the existing collection.

*Take me to the River* exhibition material including 50 hard copy posters of design plans for the Perth foreshore 1830s to 2013, and a film. Curated



**T A K E M E  
T O T H E  
R I V E R**

Poster advertising the exhibition. (image courtesy of City of Perth.)

by Dr Julian Bolleter, urban planner expert and essayist, this exhibition represents the scope of ideas for the riverfront over the past 180 years and shows how Perth's relationship with the Swan River has evolved from earliest reclamation work to the commencement of the Elizabeth Quay project. Collection also includes the international design competition of 1991, proposals by City Vision, Landcorp, and City of Perth.

Photographs taken by Illustrations Ltd of American child preacher Renee Martz speaking to packed houses

at the Capital and His Majesty's theatres in 1947. The tour had been organised or hosted by the Elim Four Square Gospel Church.

Transcripts of radio scripts, prepared and presented by Don Willesee (later Senator) on behalf of the ALP 1944-46, and broadcast on 6KY or 6IX under the heading 'Workers Digest'. They are an interesting reflection of Labor's concerns at the end of WW2 and the challenges and issues during the first year of peace.

A collection of 37 letters in Polish with an English introduction written by Janina Pas, a Polish immigrant to WA who arrived in 1950 - the letters are to her mother Marta and to her sister Susanna 1941-1958. In 1941 Mrs Pas was taken as a slave labourer to Germany where she subsequently survived the bombing of Dresden and ended up in various Displaced Persons' camps. In 1947 she met and married Peter Pas (also a Polish slave labourer) and in 1949 they migrated to Australia with their two little daughters. Eventually they moved to Wagin where Peter worked for the WAGR and did some farm work and Janina did laundry and cleaning. In

1956 they moved to Wittenoom, leaving in 1964. He died from asbestosis in 1967. The collection is a valuable first hand perspective from a postwar displaced person who settled in WA. As well as her personal observations of the war, the camps and her Australian experience, the collection tracks the work history of Mr Pas.

Five annotated maps showing the exploration journeys of James Edmund Tregurtha, an active gold prospector in the late 19th century. They were stored in a metal cylinder which was how they were carried on his camel.

Records of The Walter Padbury Bequest. Walter Padbury arrived in WA in 1830 aged 13, but his father died soon after arrival. Walter became a successful businessman and was noted for his philanthropy. He died in 1907. His generosity was continued through The Walter Padbury Poorhouse Bequest, established in 1911. Later known as The Walter Padbury Bequest Incorporated, it was wound up in 2012. Hospitals, churches, Old Men's and Women's homes, asylums and children's orphanages all benefitted. The records show the changing needs of the organisations and how the Bequest assisted them.

A hand painted lithograph of an encounter with the Aborigines by Freycinet's exploration party, one of the earliest representations of such an event. The exchange captures what can be imagined to be a wary enthusiasm to make contact with the unfamiliar for each party. This lithograph complements the existing Freycinet images held by SLWA.

Letters relating to Kevin Barlow, who along with Brian Chambers was executed in Malaysia in 1986, having been convicted of drug trafficking. The case caused a great outcry in Australia. These poignant letters - one from the prison authorities to advise his mother of his imminent execution and one from Barlow to his mother from prison - are quite chilling and make what is otherwise just an old news story, startlingly real and very moving.

Records of the Dimensional Weavers Guild, which provide details of a skill based craft practised in WA. The club disbanded in 2012 due to lack of members.

### **Western Australian Biographical Index (WABI) project**

The State Library is now actively partnering with Carnamah Historical Society's Virtual Volunteering program to see the WABI cards transcribed by 'virtual volunteers'. Once the transcribing is complete the cards will

all be fully searchable, and the Library will then explore a platform for the content to be displayed, searched and added to. <http://www.virtualvolunteering.com.au/transcribe/>

### **Storylines**

*Storylines* (Ara Irititja) continues to grow with over 3,000 items added to the system and numerous family groups accessing the database. <http://storylines.slwa.wa.gov.au>

SLWA is now working with the Mowanjam Arts Centre and Community Resource Centre (near Derby) to pilot the software and to assist the community with the management of a vast digital collection. This will be the first community-based instance the SLWA has developed and will launch in mid-2014. *Storylines* is assisting the State Library in the digital return of photos and other material directly to Aboriginal families, communities and people, and also helping us to identify many of the photographs in the Heritage Collection that are currently unidentified and unknown.

### **Legal Deposit Act 2012**

The sections of the Legal Deposit Act 2012 that deal with physical publications were proclaimed and came into force on 1 January 2014 following the approval for the Legal Deposit Regulations 2013. The final step is the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Delegated Legislation which met mid-February. Consultation for the development of regulations for the legal deposit of digital materials will be undertaken in 2014.

Steve Howell

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## **From Margaret Allen - State Librarian**

### **Changes in Publishing**

In the print world, collecting a 50 year old printed book is a common occurrence for libraries, because paper generally has a predictable and extensive life span. It is unlikely, however, that in 2063 it will be possible to acquire an e-book published in 2013. Not only does technological obsolescence and digital fragility work against this possibility, but the very basis by which digital publications are made publically available makes this highly unlikely.

Digital publications are normally licensed, not purchased outright. That



is, consumers and libraries no longer purchase a book in digital format which they own; instead they purchase a license for the access and use of that book. For libraries, that license is usually required to be renewed after a certain time or number of uses. This fundamental change has significant implications for the future of public access to information, the preservation of our documentary heritage, and of course the costs of acquiring and managing publically accessible library collections.

This fundamental change in publishing is also affecting the material that public libraries can make available to the community. The issues in Australia are no different to those being experienced by libraries internationally, and include the embargoes on the sale of new release material to libraries, publishers who will not make e-books available to libraries at all, significant price increases, material only available via subscription, contracts which override the rights of libraries under Australian copyright law, no certainty of supply if a service provider ceases business, and concerns about the privacy of readers' data, amongst other things.

These are issues which are not easily resolved but are fundamental to the provision of library services in Western Australia and beyond. There has been strong demand from the community for the pilot e-book lending service through Western Australian public libraries and without content this demand cannot be met.

The State Library has been significantly involved at the local, national and international level in advocating for the right of libraries to continue to procure e-books, so that the community can continue to have access to a broad range of reading materials and information in digital form. This is fundamental to the long term role of libraries and will continue to be a focus for many years.

Margaret Allen  
CEO and State Librarian

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## **State Records Office - News from the Archives**

### **Margaret Medcalf Award 2013**

A call for nominations for the Margaret Medcalf Award has been posted to the SRO's website. The closing date is Wednesday 2nd April 2014.

<http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/news-events/news/2014-margaret-medcalf-award-call-nominations>

### **Friends of Battye Digitisation Project**

In November 2013 the SRO concluded the second stage of the project to digitize field books from the State Archives Collection. The SRO used as a guide for digitization a priority list of Surveyors Field Books recommended by FOBs. The field books document the work of some of the State's most important surveyors and explorers including JS Roe, Philip Chauncey, Augustus and Francis Gregory, and Alexander and John Forrest. Project officer George Borzyskowski loaded completed field books as he progressed. The SRO is delighted to be able to provide increased access to our collection thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Battye. 335 volumes were digitized during George's contract with a few remaining to be uploaded to BOS. Field Book series digitised include:

J S Roe – 13 books	A Hillman – 10 books
P Chauncey – 22 books	H M Ommanney – 16 books
J Forrest – 29 books	G Smythe – 1 book
A Forrest – 40 books	T Watson – 1 book
A Gregory – 27 books	C Hunt – 7 Books
F Gregory – 13 books	G Lefroy – 3 books
J Gregory – 3 books	J Lefroy books – 72 books

### **Public Programming**

#### **SRO Lunchtime Seminars 2014**

Proposed dates, presenters and topics for 2014 are as follows. These will be confirmed and advertised on the SRO's website 3-4 weeks before the event. <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/lunchtime-seminars>

7 March 2014                      Speaker: Dr Lise Summers  
Topic: *Archival intelligence -  
searching archives catalogues and finding aids'*

May 2014 (date to be confirmed) Speaker: Dr Ingrid van Bremen.  
Topic: *Western Building Construction: Roofs*  
a seminar celebrating the Heritage Festival 2014

July 2014 (date to be confirmed) Speaker and topic to be advised  
A seminar celebrating NAIDOC week

3 September 2014 Speaker: Professor Anna Haebich  
Topic: *Aboriginal people and the Centenary of Western Australia in 1929.*

20 November 2014 Speaker: Gerard Foley  
Topic: *How to research Colonial Secretary's Office records in SRO*

### **Geoffrey Bolton Lecture 2013**

The 2014 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture will be delivered on 3rd November 2014 by the Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson. The subject of his talk will relate to the Centenary of Anzac and will be confirmed later this year.



Anzac Cove in 1915.

(Image courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 274022PD. Digitised under the Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRCO project.)

### **New Collection Management System**

The State Records Office commenced work on a new collection management system in 2013 with a view to replacing the existing system in 2014. The SRO has adapted an open source system developed by the International Council of Archives (ICA) for use with the Australian series system and is currently in discussion with other Australian jurisdictions to develop common Australian specifications for Collection Management Systems, with a view to sharing further development costs for a common system. Development work is nearing completion with the most recent key milestone in the project being the adaptation of a digital preservation component for the collection management system – called *Archivematica*.

SRO is working towards a go-live date in late April 2014 pending finalisation of testing of the new government data centre, and the successful migration of data from the existing system. As development is completed, systems are tested and SRO staff trained, the SRO will

communicate proposed changes to external users through our website, presentations and other public information forums, as well as delivering training for external users, including both government and researchers.

### **General Disposal Authority for State Government Information**

The GDA SGI training session is being held on 25 February 2014. The training is intended for State government employees, consultants and others to guide and inform on the use and application of the new GDA which incorporates: Human Resource records; Finance and Accounting records; and Administrative records common to State government agencies.

Cathrin Cassarchis  
State Archivist

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## **Book Review**

### ***A Daughter's Love: Thomas More and his beloved Meg.***

By John Guy published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Review by Rob O'Connor QC.

There are two daughters in history whom I admire for their loyalty and devotion to their fathers: Margaret Roper, daughter of St Sir Thomas More, and Julie Eisenhower, daughter of USA President Richard Nixon, who stoutly defended her father when he was under attack and threatened with impeachment .

Sir Thomas More was born in 1478 and beheaded on Tower Hill, London in 1535. A lawyer, a judge and Lord Chancellor of England under his close friend King Henry VIII, he is the patron saint of lawyers, judges and parliamentarians. This biography by Australian-born John Guy, Professor of Tudor History at Cambridge University, explains the crucial moral and physical support which Meg provided throughout More's life and death. Guy undertook extensive research on original source documents and discovered significant new insights.

Meg's role in her father's ordeal has never previously been revealed, except for some indications in the film *A Man For All Seasons*, based on

Robert Bolt's play of the same name.

Meg was airbrushed out of the political events by Thomas's official Catholic biographer Nicholas Harpsfield, for whom a woman's independent role was anathema; a truly heroic figure did not need a woman's support; a martyr went to his death confidently, not reluctantly. More was not meant to have his own inner demons, and even if doubts were expressed, they were not meant to be shared with a woman.



Engraving from the painting *Sir Thomas More and his daughter* by John Rogers Herbert. Tate Collection.

To marry Katherine of Aragon, who had been betrothed to his deceased elder brother Arthur, Henry received a dispensation from Pope Julius II. Years later, Henry wanted to divorce Katherine to marry Anne Boleyn. He relied upon Leviticus 20:21 which bans marriage to a brother's wife, to claim that the dispensation was invalid and the marriage should be annulled, but Henry and his advisers could not persuade Pope Clement VII to revoke the dispensation.

The *Act of Succession*, which settled the inheritance of the crown on Henry's heirs by Anne, decreed that the marriage was legally valid, and adjudged deeds or writings threatening the King or slandering his marriage as high treason. The *Act of Supremacy* required everyone to swear that Henry was Supreme Head of the Church in England. Thomas resigned as Lord Chancellor and refused to take the oath but would not say why, believing that, if he remained silent, he could not be convicted. Despite this, Thomas was imprisoned in the Tower of London, convicted on false evidence, and executed.

In the 15 months' imprisonment preceding execution, Thomas's second wife Alice visited Thomas only once and then to try to talk Thomas into signing the oath. Daughter Meg visited and constantly corresponded with More and remained his greatest comfort and champion. When Meg's

visitation rights were withdrawn by Thomas Cromwell, letters revealing details of the ordeals suffered by Thomas and the innermost thoughts and feelings of father and daughter were smuggled out of, and into, Thomas's cell. Meg knew of her father's worries as to whether he could maintain his resistance to Henry and his fear of suffering the cruel death meted out to most traitors: being hung, cut down while alive, disembowelled, quartered, and his head placed on a pole. More's successor as Lord Chancellor pronounced this sentence, but King Henry decided instead that Thomas would be beheaded on Tower Hill and his head displayed at London Bridge. After More's execution, Meg buried his headless body in a chapel at the Tower. A month later, Meg bought Thomas's boiled and tarred skull from the bridge master at London Bridge.

Despite living in a patriarchal society which required women to be "chaste, silent and obedient", Meg was well educated, an accomplished scholar, one of Europe's leading intellectuals, and author of a book on religious reflections. She even corrected translations made from Latin by the famous theologian and philosopher Erasmus.

Meg wanted to produce a collected edition of More's works as a monument to learning, in which each item would be memorialised by a short explanation putting it into context, making More's life and example a beacon for others. Meg collected all More's letters and various writings and aimed to publish them with her own soul-rending letters to her step-sister. Without Meg, Thomas's writings from the Tower could not have been created and preserved.

Meg died at age 39 and her work was completed by others. She was buried in the family tomb at Chelsea, with Thomas's skull beside her. Years later, Meg's body was reburied with her husband William's at the Roper Chapel in St Dunstan's Church, Canterbury. Thomas's skull was also transferred there and is displayed .

In 1557, 22 years after More's death, the 1,458 page *The Works of Sir Thomas More, Knight, Sometime Lord Chancellor of England, Written by him in the English Tongue* was published. Solely by virtue of Meg's tireless efforts, the full story of Thomas More was able to become known. If Meg had not done so, More would have been just another footnote in history.

Rob O'Connor QC

**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:

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

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

to: The Treasurer  
Friends of Battye Library  
PO Box 216, NORTHBRIDGE 6865

Or leave it in an envelope marked 'Attention Treasurer, Friends of Battye Library' at the State Library's Security desk on the ground floor.

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

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

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

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

**If you require a receipt, please tick here**

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

## Jack's Back: In Further Appreciation of Frank

In the last issue of our Newsletter, the Editor kindly included my name as one of several former students of Frank Crowley who had been inspired by his zeal for history in shaping their subsequent careers and interests. So I now seek our readers' indulgence as I add to that fine obituary with a simple account of some areas of mutual interest and links in our chosen lines of work.

In my BA (Honours) year – my fourth at UWA, I was first involved with a significant aspect of our country's history when I was urged to undertake as my thesis a biography of Archbishop Le Fanu. This was destined for publication in *Four Bishops and Their See*, a composite book assembled to mark the centenary of the Anglican diocese of Perth and edited by Professor Alexander. Crowley was a fellow author in providing its short final chapter on 'Church and State in Western Australia'. As part of that same year's course, I was also obliged to enrol in 'History IIA', a unit I had missed in second year where it was one of several history choices available. I thus came to enjoy the stimulating lectures and tutorials that Crowley conducted – though frankly I felt then we were being fed too much detail about the political tumult in Victoria of the 1860s!

When I joined the staff of the Library Board in 1958, Crowley had well and truly made his mark with several undertakings. As one of these, in 1953, he had produced his monumental bibliography, *The Records of Western Australia*. Often when in pursuit of older items, I still value this bulky volume as a very speedy and rewarding finding aid in the two libraries I most frequent.

Secondly, Crowley had soon helped the (Royal) Western Australian Historical Society to organize its holdings, served on its Council, and given addresses at its general



Jack was head of the Battye Library's film collection for many years.



meetings. One very well suited was his 'Problems in Local and Regional History', published in *Early Days* 5:2 of 1956. He was made a Fellow of the Society in 1971.

Thirdly, at UWA, Crowley had been prominent in the resurrection of the pre-war journal of short duration, *University Studies in History and Economics*. The first number of its Volume II, in 1953, contained his survey, 'The Present State of Research in Western Australian History'. Then, rounding off the scene just before he left for the east, he contributed 'Western Australian History 1952-1964: Retrospect and Prospect'. With it went a complementary article by Mollie Lukis, 'Western Australian Records 1949-1964: Acquisitions to the Batty Library', in the same serial's Vol IV, no.2, 1963-64. The successor today forms the series, *Studies in Western Australian History*, and its issue no.XIV of 1993 has included a valuable bibliography of 16 pages that arose from a suggestion made by Crowley. Compiled by Jenny Gregory, it is 'A Guide to Honours and Postgraduate Theses in Western Australian History', which records 278 theses held at three local universities.

Another activity that Crowley introduced was in requiring his students to write a major essay based on the use of original source materials. For this they needed to go into the Batty where they would choose one of three or four set topics, with lists of recommended reading supplied. The best essay on each topic was finally given to the Library. When the scheme eventually came to an end for various reasons, I saw fit to compile a bibliography that listed 41 of such essays produced in the years 1955-69. This was published as 'The Annual Long Essay in Australian History' in *University Studies in History*, vol.V, no.3, 1969.

Naturally enough, Crowley was much involved in helping establish that great and ongoing national project, *The Australian Dictionary of Biography*. He was a member of its original national committee and first chairman of the W.A. working party. The local group soon came to include four members of staff of the Batty – Lukis, Cammilleri, Medcalf and self – and a fifth colleague from the nearby Cataloguing department – Elmar Zalums. Crowley ultimately contributed a total of 10 entries to successive volumes of the ADB. Of these, five were of Governors of colonial W.A. and three of other residents – Tommy Windich, Sir Malcolm Fraser and Lord Forrest (at almost seven pages, one of the longest ever in the 19 volumes to date). Rather surprisingly, he wrote only two other entries for prominent figures of eastern Australia – Sir Charles Darling and Sir Joseph Cook.

It is fitting to record here as well that Zalums was later engaged by Crowley to compile the indexes at the end of some of his major books. A keen bibliographer too, he was just as meticulous and dedicated as the distinguished author/editor. The stated parameters of the current piece deter this columnist from treating further of Crowley's well-known output in the realm of books.

Along with his other old associates, I was always pleased to meet Frank again on his return visits to W.A., such as for the launch of his *Big John Forrest* at Parliament House in 2000. He was also a guest speaker at regular meetings of the Friends and of the Historical Society in 1988 and 1997. We can now look forward to the publication in the next issue of *Early Days* of a paper from another appreciative student of old, Lyall Hunt, entitled 'Making History: Frank Crowley in Western Australia, 1949-1964'.

Jack Honniball

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### **State Library Bookshop discount for members**

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

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

## **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, August or September (whenever is the Annual General Meeting) and November (also the end of year function). These are held at the State Library of Western Australia and usually begin at 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm and conclude before 7.00 pm.

### **Newsletter**

Published three times a 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 each year. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

### **Contact details**

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

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

or write to:

The President

Friends of Battye Library (Inc)

P O Box 216

Northbridge WA 6865

## J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

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

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

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

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

## State Records Office

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

<b>Retrievals</b>	Previous day	Available 9.30 am
	11.00 am	Available 12.00 pm
	1.00 pm	Available 2.00 pm

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

Telephone (08) 9427 3600, website [www.sro.wa.gov.au](http://www.sro.wa.gov.au), email: [sro@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:sro@sro.wa.gov.au)

## The Genealogy Centre

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

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

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

NO. 150



July 2014

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

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ABN 571625138800

*Our July 2014 meeting*

**Patsy Millett**

*A family of diarists*



**Mary Durack, W.J.C. (Bill) Jones, Elizabeth Durack, Reg Durack at Ivanhoe  
in 1930.**

*(Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 061581PD.)*

Tuesday 8 March 2014 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room,  
4th floor State Library of Western Australia.

*please see details on page 3.*

## Objectives

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

**Patron** Mrs Ruth Reid AM

**Emeritus President** Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

### Committee (2013-2014)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary position vacant

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Ms Heather Campbell, Ms Jennie Carter, Mr Neil Foley, Dr Alison Gregg, Mr Jim Gregg, Dr Ronda Jamieson, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, and Dr Nonja Peters.

Ex-Officio Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)  
Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO)  
Dr Susanna Iuliano (acting Battye Historian)

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

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

ISSN 1035-8692

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

# July Meeting

Tuesday 8 July 2014  
Great Southern Room, 4th floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5pm for 5.30pm

**Our speaker will be  
Patsy Millett**

## *A family of diarists*

Patsy is the daughter of the renowned author, Mary Durack, and will be presenting stories from some of the extensive and rich archival material from the Durack family collection, in particular the wonderful diaries some of which date back to the 1850s.

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

### **Problem with the stairs?**

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

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## About our speaker

### ***Patsy Millett***

As literary executor for her mother Dame Mary Durack, Patsy was responsible for dealing with the accumulation of Durack family and related archival documents kept in the family home. Sixteen years of concentrated work followed, cataloguing and indexing the collections to bring them to the high standard of accessibility in which they can now be found at the Battye Library.

Prior to this task, Patsy had experience in teaching English and History to secondary school children and her publications include commissioned work and free-lance articles on literary, biographical and historical subjects. Books include *The Duracks of Argyle: A summary of a pioneering venture 1852-1950 in Kimberley Western Australia* and *Pilgrimage: A journey through the life and writings of Mary Durack*.

Among the Durack archives are to be found seven sets of diaries going back to the 1850s, some of which will be on display, giving a glimpse of the scope of history encompassed. Patsy will introduce the personalities behind the diaries, all of which are completely different in character and content.



(Image courtesy Patsy Millett)



## Meeting dates for the remainder of 2014

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

**8 July** - Patsy Millett: *A family of diarists*. With a display of Durack materials held in the Battye Library.

**9 September** (AGM) - SLWA staff: A celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the State Library of Western Australia.

**18 November** - John Viska: *Colonial gardens*. Also our end of year dinner.

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## A message from the President

Dear Friends,

I am sure those of you who were able to come to our last general meeting enjoyed Lenore's fascinating presentation on accidental deaths in the early days of the colony as much as I did. Our next general meeting promises to also be of considerable interest as Patsy Millett speaks of her relatives the Duracks and their diaries. The Library is also going to spoil us and bring out some of the Durack material they hold for us to see – so it will be a rare treat.

Your committee had a very productive May meeting. We adopted the *Funding policy and guidelines* which has been developed by Jennie Carter, Heather Campbell and Neil Foley. This document will guide us in the distribution of our funds, including those of the Sholl Bequest, for projects to support the Battye Library and the State Records Office. At the meeting we were able to give to the State Library some \$18,000 for various projects, which we will be explaining in detail in coming months. The money will be used for conservation of some wonderful old Western Australian photographic collections as well as for digitisation – which in itself is a form of conservation as well as allowing widespread access. One of the projects is to rescue some rare panoramas of Perth – wonderful views dating back to the 1870s. What look like shots from an aeroplane were actually taken from hot air balloons, or from a vantage point on some of the then tallest buildings in town.

Tall buildings will undoubtedly be on the list that Richard Offen, Executive Director Heritage Perth, is going to talk about at the up-coming State History Conference being held by the Affiliated Societies of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, for more details please contact the Society or Swan Genealogy.

Next time you come in to the Library do make some time to wander around the exhibition that has been put up on the ground floor to celebrate the Library's 125th birthday. The pieces chosen for the inside exhibition are very interesting but I was so pleased to see running round the outside of the exhibition area a timeline giving the history of our State Library. Do make sure you walk around it – the last side of the square mentions our society!

With this edition of the Newsletter we have come to the end of another successful year for the Friends of Battye Library in our work to support the Battye Library, State Library of WA and the State Records Office. It is thanks to you, our generous members, that we have been able to provide the help and funding we do to ensure our wonderful Western Australian historical materials in all their formats are preserved and made accessible for present and future generations to enjoy. Subscriptions are now due for the coming year and I hope that we can continue to rely on your support and commitment.

I hope you all manage to avoid the winter colds and stay warm and healthy over the coming months.

Pamela Statham Drew

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## **Information for our members**

### **Honour for Dr Helen Henderson OAM**

Helen is one of our long term members and supporters of the Battye Library and in June was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for “significant service to the community through the preservation and documentation for Western Australian history, and to public health”. Our warmest congratulations to Helen on such a well-deserved honour.

### **Dr Kerry Smith made Library Board Fellow**

We are delighted to announce that another of our members, Dr Kerry

Smith, has been acknowledged by being made a Fellow of the Library Board of Western Australia. Dr Margaret Nowak, Chair of the Library Board, said; “Kerry Smith has been an outstanding advocate for libraries and the library profession and has mentored and encouraged the education of librarians for two decades”, she said. “She has made a significant personal contribution to the profession at a state, national and international level”.



Dr Kerry Smith at the award ceremony held at the State Library during Library & Information Week May 1914. (Courtesy Nick Drew)

### **Beth Frayne finalist in the 2014 Western Australian Heritage Awards**

Another of our long-standing members is Beth Frayne who was a finalist in the category ***Outstanding voluntary contribution to heritage by an individual.*** Her citation in part reads. “Beth Frayne’s ongoing contribution to the preservation and promotion of Toodyay’s heritage cannot be overestimated. During her time in Toodyay Beth has undertaken a mountain of work bringing to bear her evident professionalism and boundless passion. While the documentation of history is not as glamorous as working on buildings or restoring artifacts it is essential if our history is to be preserved. Beth’s work in this field is on-going and is deserving of recognition is the significant contribution it embodies.” We are thrilled to see Beth’s fine work and dedication to documenting the history and environment of one of WA’s oldest colonial settlements rewarded.

### **Vale Kath Edwards**

We have just learnt that one of our stalwart members who had previously worked for the State Library, as well as volunteering in the Batty Library after her retirement, passed away in March at the age of 88. Former colleagues remember her as a delightful woman with a keen sense of

fun who was enthusiastic about Battye Library and its collections. Our sincere condolences to her family.

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

The following five articles have been kindly submitted by Rob O'Connor QC, Annie Medley, Steve Howell (who has given us two), and Bevan Carter.

*[Rob O'Connor QC has a deep and abiding interest in Western Australian history and since his retirement has lent his expertise to a number of key historical organisations. Rob is a Committee Member of the Friends of Battye Library and has also written some fascinating pieces for our Newsletter over the years. The following article is an edited version of an address given by him at the Cottesloe Primary School ANZAC service on 11 April 2014.]*

### **Why Australia became involved in World War One**

Australia has been involved in many wars such as the South African Boer War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War, but the two principal wars have been World War I from 1914 to 1918 (sometimes called the Great War) and World War II from 1939 to 1945.

World War I commenced exactly 100 years ago this year. My grandfather's brother William O'Connor died in France in WWI and my grandmother's brother Ernest Jordan died in Belgium on his 24th birthday in WWI. My grandfather had another brother Jack O'Connor who served in Egypt in WWI and who survived and returned to Australia. None of the Australian soldiers who fought in WWI is still alive. The last one to die was Claude Choules who died aged 110 three years ago.

In 1914 Australia was a member of the British Empire of which Britain was the head country. Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914 on behalf of the entire British Empire and it followed automatically that Australia, New Zealand, India and Canada were also at war with Germany.

At that time there were agreements between various countries in Europe that if their country was attacked in war then the other country would help

defend that country in the war. The position is different today, following the enactment of Acts in Parliament. Australia now determines its own foreign policy.

As a matter of history, there are many reasons given as to the cause of WWI, some going back to 40 years before the war.

The immediate cause of the war was the assassination of two members of the Austria-Hungary Royal Family, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie, by a person from Serbia. As a result, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, and other countries became involved by virtue of the



“The shot that echoed around the world” an artist’s impression of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie. (Courtesy *The Times* UK - [www.thetimes.co.uk](http://www.thetimes.co.uk))

agreements between various countries. Britain became involved when Germany declared war on Russia and Britain had to meet its obligations to Russia under its agreement with Russia. Australia as a part of the British Empire was also therefore involved.

Australian Prime Minister Joseph Cook promised 18,000 Australian troops, which was soon increased to 20,000. In September 1914 Australia elected a new Prime Minister Andrew Fisher who also strongly supported the war.

Australia called for volunteers to serve in the war, and there was an avalanche of enlistments. The Australian Imperial Force was formed in September 1914 and its first members sailed for the war in November 1914. By the end of 1914, there were 50,000 enlistments.

Why did so many young Australian men have such incredible enthusiasm to volunteer to join up? There were mixed motives.

First, although the Commonwealth of Australia had been created under Federation in 1901 (13 years earlier) and Australia was its own nation,

many Australians still held close ties to Britain which was referred to as the Home Country or the Mother Country. 90% of Australia's non-indigenous population was of British descent. There was still a lot of patriotism and loyalty to Britain. They saw it as their duty, and doing the right thing, to serve and defend the King and the Mother Country. If Britain had lost the war, Australia as a member of the British Empire would have been badly affected. It was therefore in the interests of the protection of freedom and democracy in Australia that Australians fought to achieve a victory for Britain.

At that time, one man in five had been born in Britain and many enlisted in the hope of a trip home to Britain before seeing active service in Europe. It was also the opportunity, which was rare in those days, to see the world.

Secondly, many saw it as the chance to have an adventure. The prospect of overseas travel, to be engaged in battles, the firing of guns, the use of bombs and explosives, all had an attraction to young men who had no personal experience of what was involved in a war. The most recent major war in Europe had been in 1815 which was a century earlier



William Ernest Jordan a Western Australian who died in Belgium on his 24th birthday, 10 June 1917. There is no known grave, but he is one of the 57,000 commemorated at Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium. (Courtesy Robert O'Connor QC.

and of which no one had had any experience. They were unaware of the harsh realities of the battlefield and were eager to go. It was thought that the war could be over in six weeks, well before Christmas 1914, and there was a rush to sign up before the war was all over.

Thirdly, at that time, employment opportunities were limited and wage levels were low. Signing up provided a job, at a better than average rate of pay.

They were the main reasons why Australian men got involved in the war. The reality was in many respects very different. This was meant to be the war to end all wars. It lasted for over four years. The final cost and the immeasurable



the growing school and to provide the Sisters with more living space. In 1854 the convent and the cathedral were re-dedicated under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

By 1853 the original convent and the school building were becoming inadequate, as Sr Anne McLay asserts, "...the living premises of the Sisters had been gradually encroached upon by the school and the orphan girls". The foundation stone of a new convent building was laid on the 11th June 1868. Due to lack of funds the convent was not completed until 1871. The old convent building was remodelled for the orphan girls.

The new convent was built by Joseph Nunan, who was a Fenian who had been sent to Western Australia to serve a seven year sentence at Fremantle. The building was constructed entirely of homemade bricks, of which only three such buildings now remain in Perth. The others are the Town Hall and Wesley Chapel.

In 1893 a new wing was added to the convent. The original chapel, constructed within the convent, was originally designed for 25 Sisters, but became increasingly crowded as the community at Victoria Square

expanded. In 1924 a new large chapel was constructed next to the convent to serve the growing community and also to serve the two schools on the site.



Sisters of Mercy 1928. (Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA. Illustrations Ltd. Collection. 098592PD)

Sisters have continuously lived within the convent since its construction in 1871, except when it was temporarily vacated in 1989 when, after many years of extensive and random additions to the convent over 118 years, the convent was, "...stripped back to the original convent building and refurbished in a way which preserved the sense of history it embodied."

Mercy Heritage Centre Open Day is every Tuesday 10am-2pm at 199 Goderich St, Perth. Enter via the



main entrance on Victoria Square. Entry is free. Enquiries 08 9325 4155 or [mercyarchives@iinet.net.au](mailto:mercyarchives@iinet.net.au)

Group tours can be arranged with the Curator.

[Quotes are taken from McLay, Anne. *Women out of their sphere: Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia from 1846*. Northbridge : Vanguard Press, 1992.]

Annie Q Medley



Mercy Convent Victoria Square Perth in 1929. (Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA. Illustrations Ltd. Collection. 100262PD)



*[Steve Howell, Battye Specialist at the State Library of WA, is well-known to the many researchers he has helped enormously over the years. He has written two articles for this Newsletter. The following deals with the first known football matches in WA (the title is a pun on the famous Star Trek phrase)]*

**It’s football Jim, but not as we know it**

Today we are all familiar with the attributes of Australian Rules Football – the mark, kick, handball, bounce down, playing on, the scoring system and all the other developments over the years - which make the game so exciting to watch. However, the rules under which early football was played in Western Australia were very different indeed.

The first recorded game of football in Western Australia took place over two days in 1868 between a team from the 14th Regiment of Foot (the Buckinghamshire Regiment) and a team of civilians on the Bishop’s Collegiate School grounds near Mount Eliza. It was played under a system whereby the first team to score two goals was the winner, regardless of how long this took (this was discontinued in 1869 and the winner became the team with the highest score in a defined time). The 14th Regiment had previously played a game against the Melbourne Club in July 1867,

reportedly telling their Melbourne hosts “to hell with your Victorian rules, we’re playing the (expletive) Irish Rules.”

The Western Australian game began on Friday 19 September 1868 and was reported by the *Inquirer* as a very spirited match. After an hour the civilians scored a goal and play then went on until dusk, when by mutual consent it was agreed to continue it the following week. The *Inquirer* also reported the continuation, on Saturday 27 September 1868, when the “military came off victorious, after some capital play on both sides, with two goals consecutively.”

The game must have been fairly confusing to players and spectators alike, as there were no umpires (not introduced until 1872) and no uniforms (not introduced until 1873). As a result of the interest created by the 14th Regiment game, the *Herald*, on 17 October 1868, published the rules of the game (from *Cassell’s Outdoor Games*). These fourteen rules seem very strange to the modern eye. The original Victorian rules, drawn up in 1859, had only 10 rules.

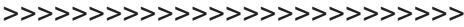
Amongst them they define the dimensions of the field (200 yards by 100 yards), the goal (two upright posts, 8 yards apart, without any tape or bar across), how the game starts (by a place kick), how a goal is scored (when the ball passes over the space between the goal posts at whatever height, not being thrown, knocked on or carried), offside play (a player shall be out of play immediately he is in front of the ball), a mark (if a player makes a fair catch, he shall be entitled to a free kick, providing he claims it by making a mark with his heel at once), running with the ball (a player shall be entitled to run with the ball towards his adversaries’ goal if he makes a fair catch, or catches the ball on the first bound), tackling (if any player shall run with the ball towards his adversaries’ goal, any player on the opposite side shall be at liberty to charge, hold, trip, or hack him, or to wrest the ball from him, but no player shall be held and hacked at the same time), hand passing (a player shall be allowed to throw the ball, or pass it to another, if he makes a fair catch, or catches the ball on the first bound) and equipment (no player shall be allowed to wear projecting nails, iron plates, or gutta-percha on the soles or heels of his boots).

It is presumed that succeeding matches were played under these rules (or variations of them), and by 6 June 1885, when the first official match of football under Victorian rules took place in Perth between Rovers (later Perth Football Club) and Victorians (later West Perth Football Club),

the playing rules numbered 17. For the record, Rovers 1.6 defeated Victorians 0.6.



Rovers Football Club, 1891. (Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA. Colin Osborne collection of photographs. BA1123/24 - 062122PD)



[*Steve's second article deals with our first celebrations of Western Australia Day which used to be known as Foundation Day.*]

**Some Musings on Foundation Day**

While looking for material on Foundation Day I came across an article titled "Celebrating the First of June," written by Enid Russell in 1950. Enid was born in 1904 and became the first female graduate of the University of Western Australia's Law School in 1930 and the first Western Australian woman admitted to legal practice in WA in 1931. However, for many years after qualifying she supported herself as a stenographer and secretary-librarian, as it was impossible to break into the still male dominated field of law. She was secretary to the Secession

Delegation in London for two years, after which she went to South Africa and became secretary to the Aero Club. Unable to leave due to the war, she saw service as an officer in the South African Army. Returning to UWA, she worked as a secretary-librarian and as a lecturer in International Law while completing her Master's Degree. In 1951 she entered private practice in Harvey, but died of cancer aged 54 on 24 September 1958. Her master's thesis, *A History of the Law in Western Australia* was published posthumously in 1980.

Enid reported that in 1835 the gingling match kept the spectators in a roar of laughter, which had barely subsided when they were set off again by the men wheeling barrows blindfolded. She was bemused by the gingling match (perhaps jingling) and found it consisted of a number of blindfolded men trying to catch a man with a bell.

Lieutenant John Enys, of the 29th Foot, while visiting Fort Niagara on 31 July 1787, described a match in his diary: "A space of forty yards square was measured out and enclosed with ropes into which 13 men were placed, 12 of whom were blindfolded. The 13th was not but had in his hand a small bell which he was to keep ringing and endeavoring to elude the 12 others who on their part were to strive to catch him. The bet was whether or not they would be able to accomplish it within an hour. The match from the very beginning appeared to be unequal, as the exercise of evading so many within so small a distance was too much for one man. The man who undertook it was both strong and active and did more than anyone could have expected he would after the first five minutes, notwithstanding which he was taken in about a half an hour. This sort of game would be rendered more equal by making the space larger and circular or by reducing the number of pursuers."

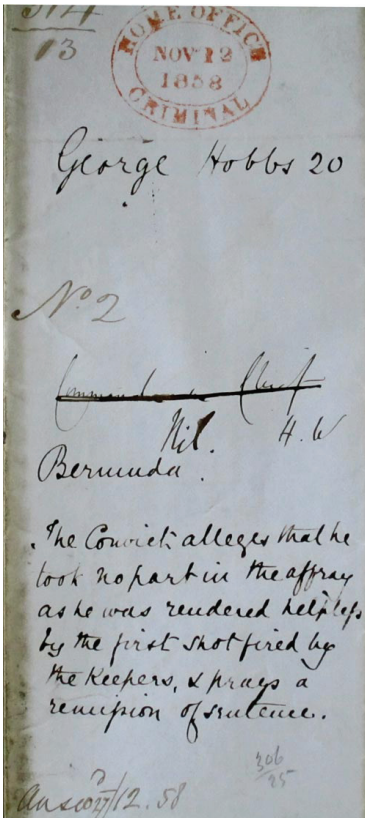
Enid also commented on the number of holidays enjoyed by civil servants in the first few years of the colony. Would you believe that there were 29 of them! The holidays were: Christmas Day; New Year; Shrove Tuesday; Ash Wednesday; Good Friday, Easter Monday and Tuesday; the days of St David, St Patrick, St George, St James, St Luke, St Simon, St Jude and St Andrew; the birthdays of the King and Queen, Coronation Day and the anniversary of the King's Accession; the anniversaries of Waterloo, the Gunpowder Plot and the restoration of Charles II; Foundation Day; Michaelmas; and finally a day for the martyrdom of Charles I. Unfortunately the Colonial Office in England objected to paying civil servants and then giving them so many holidays, so they were cut down to ten.



be treated with mercy were clergymen and leading citizens of the district.

*..your memorialists believe the said George Hobbs was not a confirmed offender but was led into the commission of this offence through the temptation of others and by the fact of his having been for some time without employment. ... That the said George Hobbs having been most severely injured by a gun shot wound during the fray from which at one time the most serious consequences were apprehended, your memorialists humbly submit that he has already suffered a much greater amount of personal punishment than the rest of his associates.*

After receiving Hobbs's petition, Sir George Grey Principal Secretary of State Home Office sought the advice of the presiding Judge, William Erle, who replied:



*The prisoners with many other poachers in Norfolk & Suffolk appear to act on the principle that the slaughter of gamekeepers was not a great crime. ... I therefore thought it necessary to pass the severest sentence which could be executed. ... I did not consider that wounds [Hobbs] received were any grounds for mitigating the sentence."*

That Judge Erle's implacable response had been filed with Robert Carter's petition papers was an unexpected bonus of my research and sent me on the quest to find more about Robert's hapless companion in crime. In 1858 while still in Bermuda, Hobbs petitioned a second time to have his sentence reduced. This, and his later petitions, give details about the encounter between gamekeepers and Robert Carter's gang which do not appear in any other source.

When it was decided to close the Bermuda hulks, prisoners were gradually repatriated to England and Hobbs spent

Hobbs's petition cover page.  
(Courtesy Bevan Carter)

time in both Millbank and Chatham prisons while his supporters continued to fight for his release. Hobbs's fifth petition in 1862 was his longest and most revealing, as the following excerpts show:

*That in consequence of [my] youth and inexperience I was tempted to the commission of a crime, the attendant consequences of which I had no conception. I with three other men agreed to go and shoot some pheasants our sole intention being to obtain money to procure food to supply our immediate wants. With this intention we entered the grounds of Sir Henry Vilaboy [Villebois] 12th December 1850 at Marham in Norfolk when we were suddenly surprised by a number of keepers in a state of partial intoxication accompanied with dogs and guns. One of the dogs rushing furiously towards us; it was shot by one of my companions. Immediately one of the keepers fired and wounded your Petitioner so seriously that when medical aid was procured the opinion was that I should not live til the following morning from which I have suffered much since and will suffer til life's sad day is past.*

The petition reveals that two of the poachers were dead, although George Hobbs was under the mistaken belief that Robert had also died.

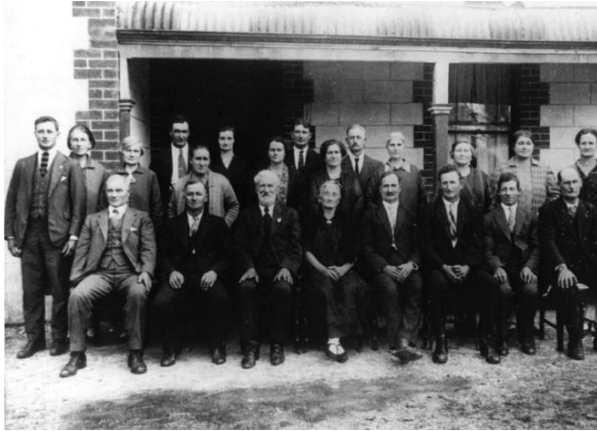
*Your Petitioner is now the only one of four alive who was convicted for the offence for which I have long suffered; one having died immediately after conviction in Swaffham prison, another at Bermuda having the yellow fever in 1853, the third [Robert Carter] in Australia in 1857 after he had received a ticket of leave. This man's charge was in every particular the same as your petitioner yet he was released on a ticket of leave more than four years ago.*

*... your Honour may be graciously disposed to grant your Petitioner a licence or a conditional pardon and allow me to leave this country, the more especially as I have no intention of remaining on in England any longer than the necessary time occupied in procuring a passage to America, as all my friends and only parent [his mother Rebecca] is already there, whose almost broken heart has been cheered for the last eleven years with the hope of once more feasting her paternal [sic] eyes on one whom in youth she was want to picture as the staff and solace of her declining years.*

How George came to learn of Robert Carter's Ticket of Leave but to believe he had died is a mystery. His informant was clearly unaware that in 1859,

three years before Hobbs was released from the Bermuda hulks and shipped back to England, Phoebe Carter with her five children embarked

on the *Hamilla Mitchell* to join her husband in Western Australia.



Golden Wedding anniversary for Robert Carter Jnr (son of ex-convict Robert Carter) and his wife Elizabeth with their children and their spouses in 1918. (Courtesy Bevan Carter.)

Hobbs was finally set free in 1862 and joined his mother in Orange County, New York, never to return to his home village in England. Robert and Phoebe prospered as farmers and land owners in Northam and their descendents today number in the thousands.

Bevan Carter.



**Oral History**

*[Dr Ronda Jamieson is well known to most of our members, having been Director of the Battye Library before her retirement in 2005. In her early career Ronda was in charge of the Library’s Oral History section and one of Australia’s leading oral historians. She is the author of several works including a major biography of Sir Charles Court. We are delighted that Ronda has agreed to share her knowledge of the Battye Library’s Oral History collection in a series of articles for this Newsletter.]*

**Capturing the Library Before it Burns**

The choice of title comes from an inspiration for my work in oral history. It is based on the words Amadou Hampate Ba, a Malian writer and ethnologist, spoke when he addressed UNESCO in 1960. His actual words were ‘when an old man dies, it’s a library burning’, which to American genealogists and historians became ‘When an old man dies,



a library burns to the ground.’ Of course in the politically correct society of today, the words would have been ‘When an old person dies’, but it has always meant that to me anyway. Hampate Ba also said that he ‘graduated from the great university of the Spoken Word taught in the shade of baobab trees.’

This is the first of a series of articles I have been asked to write about my experience in adding to the Battye Library’s oral history collection and memories of some of the amazing people I met as a consequence. In teaching oral history I stressed that the first requirement was a genuine interest in people and their memories. Without these, I don’t believe anyone should even undertake a first interview. Fortunately my interest was real and resulted in amazing, deeply moving and unforgettable experiences. Fancy being paid to do something that was personally rewarding, and revealed aspects of history that were not available in written texts. Then there was the knowledge that the recollections would become even more precious as communities and lifestyles change.

To start at the beginning, I joined the staff of the Battye Library in January 1978 after completing a library degree at what was then WAIT (now Curtin University). The course included a non-library subject to study for three years and I chose my favourite one – history in which there was not one reference to oral history.

The job was for 14 hours a week and I was given time to listen to interviews and read transcripts in what was then a very small oral history collection. To my surprise I found that due to financial constraints, the recordings of early interviews had not been kept after a transcript was prepared so that the reel-to-reel tape could be re-used. Then when recordings were kept, some were almost inaudible. I also found that transcripts were edited so extensively that the Fremantle wharfie sounded the same as an Oxford graduate. These were two things I wanted to see changed once I had proved myself. Not only was the way a person told their story important, it took longer to edit a transcript than to conduct an interview, which meant another story was lost during the process.

The oral history section had cards on which names and details of potential interviewees were recorded. The first person I set off to interview was in her 90s, living in a nursing home and nearly completely deaf. I chose not to record her and took her very disjointed memories down in shorthand, which became nine pages of typescript.

The experience taught me an early and important lesson: conduct a pre-interview to assess the situation because of what could be many years between someone being recommended for interview and it taking place.

For this first article, I will hopefully sharpen your interest in future articles by quoting from the first talk I gave about oral history in which I asked the audience if any of them could answer the following questions:

- How to make whisky out of the white heart of grass trees.
- How one man could spend 77 years in the building industry.
- How to clear a country pub with dynamite when an 'out of town' had the cheek to sit in your favourite chair.
- Why the memories of a distinguished lawyer, judge and Royal Commissioner did not have the impact of his recall of the effect of Darwin's Cyclone Tracy on a 9-year-old boy.
- Why wearing khaki clothes could get you thrown out of an early survey team.
- Why an Aboriginal mother, told her son to 'go white' if he was to survive. (His biological father was a station owner.)
- Why a lady in a country town would never walk down the street holding a parcel tied with string.
- How the twisted, rusting, sand-covered remains of a Norwegian whaling station at Point Cloates became one of the most successful whaling stations in the southern hemisphere.
- How shocked the father of a country girl was when she dared to wear shorts while playing tennis.
- How traumatic it was to be removed from family and placed in an orphanage.
- Why a mother in her 90s could weep at the death of her first child at two weeks of age when she went on to have nine more children.

I will dramatically end with 'watch this space' if you want to know more and perhaps have some of these questions answered.

Ronda Jamieson

## **News from the State Library**

Three months into my new role acting as the Battye Historian, I'm finally beginning to get the lay of the land. As a researcher, I was already familiar with particular aspects of the State Library's collections and acquainted with some of the Library's helpful staff. As a staff member, I'm newly discovering the vastness of the collections and just how knowledgeable staff are about what we hold – particularly the very 'special' Subject Specialist Steve Howell. On any given day, Steve has us all alternately dazzled at his encyclopaedic knowledge of the collections, or doubled over in stitches at his droll witticisms. Steve is such a valuable source of information about the life and history of the Library. I've been fortunate to be able to call on his knowledge as I put together a brief timeline of the Library's history as part of the current 'Memory House' exhibition. The timeline gives a broad sense of how the Library has grown, from modest beginnings, into a rich repository of memories of Western Australia. Several factors have been vital in this development. One is the role of technology - from microfilming to digitisation - which has enabled us to innovate in how we collect, preserve and make accessible our materials.

Equally important are the relationships the Library has forged with various partners, including the Friends of Battye Library, to help deliver and extend our programs and services. Since its inception in 1981, the Friends have played a significant role helping to fund and coordinate major projects that preserve and make accessible West Australia's heritage. Two notable examples in recent times include the landmark Historical Records Rescue Consortium project (2005 -2007) and Oral History Records Rescue Group project (2010-2013). The Friends' support for preserving and enhancing access to heritage collections and information is of ongoing importance to the State Library of Western Australia. I look forward to working in collaboration with the Friends on future work, such as the recently approved photo digitisation projects which will be undertaken in 2014/2015 with generous funding from the Sholl Bequest.

Susanna Iuliano  
Battye Historian

### **Exhibitions**

The 'Memory House' exhibition celebrates 125 years of the State Library collecting, preserving and making accessible our state's history.

The exhibition features treasured items from our heritage collections, grouped according to the five senses. The senses are so important to the way we encode, store, retain and consolidate short and long term memory. We invite visitors to see, touch, smell, hear and imagine tasting unique objects that convey Western Australian memories and stories – from the smell of the sea to the touch of a horse hair fly swatter. We hope these precious objects will help call to mind your own memories of Western Australia. The exhibition is on at the State Library of Western Australia until September 28. During this time, members of the public can contribute their own special stories of the sights, sounds, tastes, textures and smells of Western Australia via postcards available at the State Library and at regional libraries around the state.

## **New Acquisitions**

### ***Six WW1 maps of Palestine***

These maps were used by Arthur Charles Niquet Olden who served in the 10th Light Horse Regiment in WW1. Olden was a West Australian who was born in Victoria but lived his adult life in the state and who served in a WA regiment. On 1 October 1918, while leading a 3rd Light Horse Brigade vanguard, he arrived first to Damascus and formally accepted surrender of the city by way of a document now held by his grandson Bradley Olden. Lawrence of Arabia arrived several hours after Olden who by that time had left the city. The six maps of Palestine used by Lt-Colonel Olden during the WW1 campaigns have been lent to the library for copying. The significance of the maps lies in the enduring interest by Australians for items and stories connected to WW1 and in Olden's role in the surrender of Damascus.

### **Photographs of Yealering**

Starting from 1907, these 547 photographs were compiled by members of the Local History Group and record the life, society, livelihoods and the people of Yealering over 100 years.

### **Papers of Rupert Gerritsen (1953-2013)**

Gerritsen was a noted historian and a social activist in Perth in the 1970s involved in anarcho-syndicalist activities. As this type of organisation tend not to leave written records, these papers are very valuable to shed light on a part of the socialist left in Perth in the late 20th century. The bulk of his papers have gone to the National Library.

### **Brisbane & Wunderlich records**

These contain share registers, volume of Minutes of Trustees of H. L. Brisbane and Wunderlich Ltd Staff Superannuation Fund, 1946-1974. File of Lusterite Plastic Products Ptd Ltd share information, 1960-61. Westralian Potteries Ltd recruited Hugh Lancelot (Lance) Brisbane as General Manager in 1929 and changed the name to H. L. Brisbane & Co Ltd. The company expanded and challenged Wunderlich and in 1938 Wunderlich agreed to merge its WA operation. H. L. Brisbane & Wunderlich became WA's largest clay-tile producer, securing a virtual monopoly in the industry. Over the next 28 years, the company became large and diversified, moving into stainless steel products, clay sewer pipes, porcelain, refractory bricks, aluminium, building cladding and plastics.

### **Bill Warnock's papers**

William Shaw Warnock (1934-2001) was a noted activist for imaginative planning for Perth and a successful author of three published novels, several plays and a compilation of poetry. Apart from his published works, he left a substantial corpus of other writing including screen and theatre scripts. This collection is of his unpublished work, the processes surrounding it and some personal correspondence which provides an insight into the creative mind of a prominent man of letters and of many other talents.

### **WA Retailers Association**

These records are primarily concerned with the controversy which raged in the early part of twenty-first century about trading hours.

### **Julius MacLeod 1915 letter**

written on a cigarette packet and sent from Gallipoli by a West Australian serviceman.

### **Charles Roff photographs**

Dated and captioned slides taken in 1955 by Charles Roff, a Queensland apiary officer, relating to the beekeeping industry in Dandaragan, Toodyay, Yanchep, and Wescobee Perth and his tour of Arthur River, Narrogin, Pemberton and Perth surrounds.

### **Ken Wildy papers:**

A magnificent portfolio of original stained glass commissioned works has recently been accepted as a welcome addition to the State Library's holdings of Ken Wildy papers. Wildy (born 1945), spent 34 years working with stained glass in Western Australia, collaborating with stained glass

artist Ian Frith and running a stained glass studio in Myaree. His latest donation includes watercolour designs to scale, working documents with measurements and costings, locations of completed stained glass commissions in architectural settings throughout WA and overseas, photographs, and correspondence.

### **Birdwood Hamilton Gill photograph album:**

Small photograph album with wooden covers, coloured image of camels on front, 'Jerusalem' on reverse. Inscription on inside cover "To Mother, Snaps of Palestine and Syria. Love from Bert", 1942. Represents 2/28th Battalion (infantry) which served in WWII. 2/28th was raised in Perth in July 1940 from volunteers for overseas service as part of 2nd Australian Imperial Force, shipped to Middle East in Jan 1941 and undertook further training in Palestine before deploying to Libya, Syria and Lebanon. This Battalion took part in the First Battle of El Alamein in July 1942. These images capture the experience of Western Australians who trained and fought overseas in WWII.

### **Papers of Andrew and Marianne Domahidy:**

Includes correspondence (11 letters) with Commonwealth of Australia Immigration Department: applications for admission of Mrs L. Bertha (friend) and Mrs Eugenia Domahidy (step-mother of Andrew, in Budapest, Hungary); naturalisation of Andrew and Marianne; landing permit for Mr and Mrs Kaas. Date range 1952-1967. These papers are representative of the great wave of European, non-British immigration after the Second World War.

### **Frederick Watterston collection of photographs**

Collection of 25 small black and white photos taken on Labuan Island, Borneo, during WWII. Frederick John Watterston (born 1917, died 1989) and his brother Arthur William Watterston (born 1918, died 1969) were Sappers in the Australian Army. The photos were donated by Frederick's daughter Carolyn. These images include Fred and Arthur with army mates in Borneo; the Australian Allied War Cemetery; Labuan War Cemetery; Japanese prisoners on picket line duty; US Marines with dead Japanese; a Catholic Church residence; and Fred painting the Catholic Church after the war. The Borneo campaign of 1945 was one of the most complex operations involving Australian land, air and sea forces in the war. It was also the last Australian campaign to be planned and undertaken.

### **William Johnston Kells papers**

Comprising copies of photographs and letters written 11 July 1936, 21 Nov 1936, and 13 March 1937, together with biographical details and Kells family history provided by his great grand-nephew, Jeff Sengstack. William Kells travelled from Brooklyn via California and on to Perth in 1890 to search of gold. He left behind his family including four siblings. In 1936 after three decades of mining William contacted his siblings via the typography union office in Brooklyn. At this stage William was living in Nedlands, recently widowed and lonely. His letters describe the hard life and his lack of success on the goldfields and represent the far-reaching lure of the WA gold discoveries that attracted people from all over the world.

### **Jack Welburn papers**

“Peregrinations of a Pommie” comprising the story of Jack’s life in Western Australia since emigrating from Scotland. Provides insight into the migrant experience and social and cultural history of Western Australia.

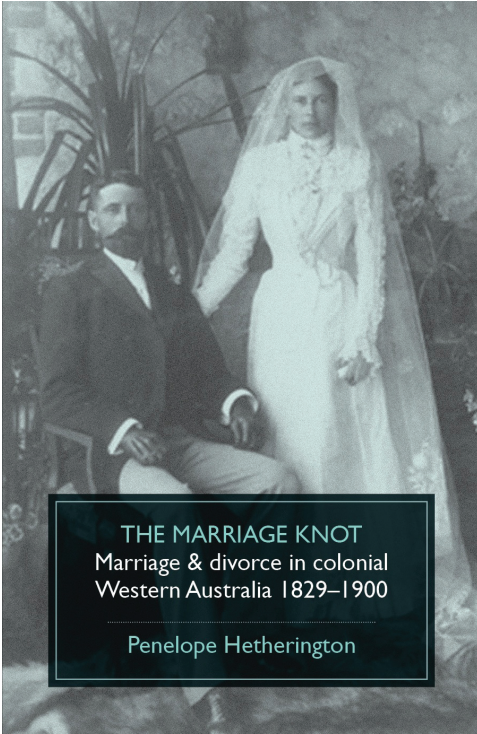
Jean Butler & Laurie Allen

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## **State Records Office - News from the Archives**

### **Margaret Medcalf Award 2014**

The Hon. John Day, Minister for Culture and the Arts presented the Margaret Medcalf Award to Dr Penelope Hetherington at a ceremony held in the State Library theatre on 18 June 2014. From an impressive field of short listed works *The marriage knot: marriage & divorce in colonial Western Australia 1829-1900* was chosen because of Pen’s meticulous research and the light her book sheds on the way people dealt with married life in the early years of WA. Annie Boyd was highly commended for her *Koombana Days* which is a fascinating history of the *SS Koombana* which was lost with all its crew and passengers in a cyclone off the Pilbara coast, never to be found. One of our members, Phil Bianchi was shortlisted for the award for his ground-breaking publication *“Work completed. Canning”: a comprehensive history of the Canning Stock Route 1906-2010*.



**THE MARRIAGE KNOT**  
Marriage & divorce in colonial  
Western Australia 1829-1900

Penelope Hetherington

***Winner of the Margaret Medcalf Award.***

*The marriage knot: marriage & divorce in colonial Western Australia 1829-1900* by Penelope Hetherington. Published by UWA Press, Nedlands, 2013.

### **Online Guide to 1983 State Cabinet records**

The production and release of SRO's annual online Guide to the State Cabinet records on 31 May 2014 received good coverage over the Western Australia Day long weekend in the *West Australian* and on ABC Radio and Television. This year the Guide includes commentary by Emeritus Professor David Black AM, Chairperson of WA Parliament's History Advisory Committee, on the events and issues facing State Cabinet in 1983, focussing on the activities of Brian Burke's Labor Government which was elected on 19 February of that year.

### **Centenary of Anzac Projects**

Between 2014 and 2018 Australia will commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War. The SRO is exploring two potential projects to assist in marking this important national milestone; a soldiers' wills project and WW1 at home.



## **Geoffrey Bolton Lecture 2014**

In addition to the above two potential Centenary of Anzac projects, the 2014 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture will be delivered by the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson on the evening of Monday 3 November 2014. The subject of his talk will relate to the Centenary of Anzac and will be confirmed later this year.

## **New Collection Management System**

SROWA commenced work on a new collection management system in 2013 with a view to replacing the existing system in 2014. The SRO has adapted AtoM (Access to Memory) an open source system developed by the International Council of Archives (ICA) for use with the Australian series system and is finalising with other Australian jurisdictions a set of common Australian specifications for Collection Management Systems, with a view to sharing further development costs for a common system. The infrastructure for this system is now in place at the new government data centre.

Development has been held up due to circumstances outside of our control, however we are now working towards a go-live date in July 2014 pending some finishing touches to the code and the successful migration of data from the existing system. As development is completed and SRO staff trained, the SRO will communicate information on using the new system to external parties through our website, presentations and other public information forums, as well as delivering training for external users, including both government and researchers.

Cathrin Cassarchis  
State Archivist and Executive Director

## **Public Programming**

### **SRO Lunchtime Seminars 2014**

Proposed dates, presenters and topics for the rest of the year are as follows. These will be confirmed and advertised on the SRO's website 3-4 weeks before the event. <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/lunchtime-seminars>

9 July 2014 Speaker: Dr Ann Hunter  
Topic: *A Different Kind of "Subject": Colonial Law in Aboriginal*



**A note from our Treasurer**  
**Membership subscriptions are now due.**

Dear Friends

This is a gentle reminder that membership subscriptions for 2014/2015 are due. Sincere thanks to those members who have already paid.

Your membership of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) is crucial in enabling us to undertake important projects to assist in preserving and making available Western Australian materials in all formats. We have had a very successful year, but we could not have accomplished what we have without the support of our wonderful members.

Another of the Friends' key roles is to help publicise and promote the collections of the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and the State Records Office as well as to advocate for the collecting, building, and care of the State's Western Australian documentary heritage.

A membership form is included on the following page and it lists various ways of making your payment. Or you can renew your subscription at our General Meeting on Tuesday 8 July 2014.

On behalf of the Friends committee, grateful thanks for your continued interest in the Friends.

Nick Drew

**State Library Bookshop  
discount for members**

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

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

**Annual Membership**

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

to:                   The Treasurer  
                      Friends of Battye Library  
                      PO Box 216, NORTHBRIDGE 6865

Or leave it in an envelope marked 'Attention Treasurer, Friends of Battye Library' at the State Library's Security desk on the ground floor.

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

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

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

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

**If you require a receipt, please tick here**

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

## **Jack's Back: Some Aussie film fare of the thirties**

From time to time the devotee of early Australian films has the opportunity to savour some of this product at the free weekly matinees that the State Library presents in its theatre.

The final screening in May was of Australia's first commercially viable sound film, *Diggers*, which was made in 1931 by Efftee Films, the latest enterprise of the prominent showman, Frank Thring. It starred the comedian Pat Hanna, reproducing three of the best sketches he had been performing on stage for the past ten years as leader of a troupe of ex-servicemen entertainers.

After an unpromising premiere in Sydney, *Diggers* built in popularity generally, and in Perth Hoyts placed it at their most prestigious theatre, the huge Capitol at the foot of William Street. For its week's run in March 1932, business was reported as outstanding when its 18 sessions drew 23,461 admissions. Admittedly, there was also a strong drawcard in the supporting program which included a new live band and a vaudeville number on stage nightly. As was then the custom, the film was accorded a second week at the much smaller Majestic Theatre in central Hay Street, and doubtless did well over Easter there. Pat Hanna himself went on to produce a sequel, *Diggers in Blighty*, which likewise earned big returns.

By present standards, *Diggers* was a very static effort and its slapstick comedy rather tedious to behold now. The situation improved just a little with the presentation we saw a month earlier, *Funny by George*, a concoction of 1999 which drew on excerpts from the five feature films of the 1930s that starred another knockabout comedian, George Wallace (Senior). Like Hanna, he came from a successful career on stage touring throughout Australia, and he too now transferred his boisterous style to the screen for Efftee and Cinesound successively. In later times, 1951, Wallace was to play the part of the stage manager in *Wherever She Goes*, the early 'biopic' of our famous pianist, Eileen Joyce.

Best of all, we were treated late last year to a viewing of the 1933 production, *In the Wake of the Bounty*, the first 'talkie' made by the renowned director, Charles Chauvel. Aptly named, this combined dramatic reconstruction with documentary footage, and was intended to launch a series of travelogues set in spectacular locations. It began with some rather subdued interior vignettes recounting the famous mutiny in 1789, and then focused on the lifestyle of the mutineers' descendants on Pitcairn Island 140 years later. The film was noteworthy for marking the virtual debut on screen of Errol Flynn, though giving a rather expressionless portrayal as Fletcher Christian. There was little hint of the charisma and swashbuckling qualities that were to boost him into Hollywood fame two years later and to flower fully in technicolour in the title role of Robin Hood in 1938. *In the Wake* played at Perth's Theatre Royal in early December

1933, 'positively for one week only' so it was announced beforehand. Three years later the same cinema enjoyed an excellent run of four weeks and 35,549 admissions with Hollywood's lavish *Mutiny on the Bounty* (still in black-and-white though) and a livelier Clark Gable as Flynn's successor.

Incidentally, from the credits to Chauvel's film, I noted that its musical direction was the work of Lionel Hart, who had been conductor of the orchestra at Perth's Prince of Wales Theatre before the advent of the talkies and was eventually to be a theatre manager and film distributor in Nedlands.

The three films surveyed above were all shown at the Library by courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive, along with many other productions, chiefly documentaries, during the past twelve months. These Wednesday matinees start at 1.30 pm and run for an hour or so. All programs for the current month are well advertised in advance in the Library's foyer and on its website under the heading 'What's On'.

Happily, these worthy personalities of our domestic film industry are well covered in the volumes of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Thus there are entries, to which I am here indebted, for Hanna, Thring, Wallace, Chauvel and Flynn.

Jack Honniball



Charles Chauvel (with megaphone) and camera operator filming a location scene for *Heritage* (1935). (Courtesy National Film and Sound Archive Australia.)

## **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, August or September (whenever is the Annual General Meeting) and November (also the end of year function). These are held at the State Library of Western Australia and usually begin at 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm and conclude before 7.00 pm.

### **Newsletter**

Published three times a 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 each year. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject articles and notices for publication.

### **Contact details**

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

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

or write to:

The President

Friends of Battye Library (Inc)

P O Box 216

Northbridge WA 6865

## J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

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

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

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

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

## State Records Office

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

<b>Retrievals</b>	Previous day	Available 9.30 am
	11.00 am	Available 12.00 pm
	1.00 pm	Available 2.00 pm

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

Telephone (08) 9427 3600, website [www.sro.wa.gov.au](http://www.sro.wa.gov.au), email: [sro@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:sro@sro.wa.gov.au)

## The Genealogy Centre

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

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

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



NO. 151

November 2014



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

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ABN 571625138600

*Our end of year function 2014*

**John Viska**

*Colonial Kitchen Gardens*



by Sketch of 'Millendon' in the Upper Swan. "By the winter of 1832 George Fletcher Moore had planted roses as well as vegetables and fruits."

(Courtesy: SLWA - Finding home: WA's 19th century colonists finding their new homes - <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/findinghome>)

To be held on Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room, 4th floor State Library of Western Australia.

**This meeting will be followed by a catered dinner**  
*bookings essential - please see details on page 3.*

## Objectives

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

**Patron** Mrs Ruth Reid AM

**Emeritus President** Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

## Committee (2014-2015)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary Heather Campbell

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Ms Heather Campbell, Ms Jennie Carter, Ms Lorraine Clarke, Mr Neil Foley, Dr Ronda Jamieson, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, Dr Nonja Peters, and Ms Cherie Strickland.

Ex-Officio Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)  
Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO)  
Dr Susanna Iuliano (acting Battye Historian)

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

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

ISSN 1035-8692

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

# End of Year Meeting

Tuesday 11 November 2014  
Great Southern Room, 4th floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be John Viska on  
*Colonial Kitchen Gardens*

## End of year dinner.

Members and guests are warmly invited to celebrate with us the end of another successful year for the Friends. After John's talk we will be moving to the fourth floor dining room adjacent to the Great Southern Room where a catered two course spit-roast dinner will be served. We have kept the cost as low as possible and are grateful to the State Librarian and staff for again making the venue available to us.

**The cost will be only \$30 each  
which includes wine or juice.**

Bookings in advance are essential so please RSVP by **Thursday 6 November** to Nick Drew on 9384 8154 or by email on [nickdrew@bigpond.com](mailto:nickdrew@bigpond.com) Our very popular quiz will again be held with a prize for the winner.

### Problem with the stairs?

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

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## About our speaker

### **John Viska**

John Viska is the Chairman of the West Australian branch of the Australian Garden History Society and the author of *A Guide to Conserving and Interpreting Gardens in Western Australia*.

He lectured in Horticulture at Murdoch TAFE for 25 years and has prepared conservation plans for the National Trust of Australia (WA), Heritage Council, and the City of Vincent. John has also contributed entries to *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*, the *Historical Encyclopaedia of WA* and researched and prepared material for the society's exhibition *Historic Gardens of Perth*.

In his presentation, *Colonial Kitchen Gardens an Illustrated talk*, John will discuss the kitchen garden in the nineteenth century, its form and importance in Colonial Perth as well as plants grown and their cultivation techniques.

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### **Meeting dates for 2015**

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

**10 March** - Speaker Annie Q Medley, Archivist.  
*Arrival by Boat 1846*

**12 May** – Speaker Shannon Lovelady.  
*The Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia project*

**14 July** - Speaker Bill Edgar.  
*The Convict Era in Western Australia, It's Economic, Social and Political Consequences*

**8 September** (AGM) - Speakers - SRO and SLWA senior staff.

**17 November** - Speaker TBA - our end of year dinner.

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## **A message from the President**

Dear Friends,

With this edition of the Newsletter we have come to the end of another successful year for the Friends of Battye Library in our work to support the Battye Library, State Library of WA and the State Records Office. It is thanks to you, our generous members, that we have been able to provide the help and funding we do to ensure our wonderful Western Australian historical materials in all their formats are preserved and made accessible for present and future generations to enjoy.

Our warmest appreciation to Jim and Alison Gregg for all their marvellous work on the Friends of Battye Library committee. Jim was instrumental in publicising the lack of legal deposit legislation for Western Australian publications. It was a great satisfaction to see the *Legal Deposit Act*, which requires WA publications to be deposited with the State Library, receive Royal Assent in May 2012. Our gratitude to Jim and Alison, who did not nominate for another term on the committee, for their contribution in so many ways over the years.

At the AGM in September the following members were elected:

President: Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President: Gillian O'Mara

Secretary: Heather Campbell

Treasurer: Nick Drew

Newsletter editor: Jennie Carter

Committee members: Lorraine Clarke, Neil Foley, Ronda Jamieson, Nonja Peters, Rob O'Connor QC, Cherie Strickland.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find further information about the Friends activities as mentioned in my President's annual report presented at the AGM in September. I look forward to catching up with many of our Friends at the end of year dinner and at meetings throughout 2015.

Pamela Statham Drew

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## **Next year's Newsletter**

In commemoration of the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, there will be a special newsletter published at the end of April and posted to members before the general meeting in

May. This issue, which will focus on the ANZAC centenary, will replace our usual March newsletter.

The schedule for publishing our newsletter in 2015 will now be:

April (before the May meeting)

August (before the September AGM)

November (before our end of year meeting in November)

Articles, notices and other contributions from members are warmly welcomed and the new deadlines for copy will be: 10 March, 10 July, and 10 October 2015.

Jennie Carter  
(Editor)

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### **Graham Bown - Gem of Time Award**

We are delighted to announce that Graham Bown is our Gem of Time for 2013. His citation for the award is reproduced below.



Graham Bown as a member of Friends of Battye Library joined our Committee contributing with his wide knowledge and even filled in as Minute Secretary on many occasions. He has also contributed to our General Meetings, greeting members and visitors alike. He became President of the Western Australian Genealogical Society even while being on our Committee and at present is Past President of that Society.

Graham joined the Western Australian Genealogical Society (Inc.) more than 30 years ago and has contributed to many publications which are held in the Battye Library.

Some include the AGCI (Australian Genealogical Computer Index) with his contribution of the WA information held on this CD. The WA Cemeteries Index on microfiche for which he was responsible for much of the original transcriptions of gravestones in cemeteries and burial registers held by local authorities around Western Australia. Not least of which the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) publication of the Colonial Secretary's Office, Western Australia *CSO 1829-1830* for which he painstakingly transcribed the microfilm held in the State Records Office of Western Australia.

Graham retired as Principal of Lakeland High School and has continued to voluntarily support many Western Australian organisations. He has also contributed to other Western Australian societies by his voluntary work at the Perth Zoo and Swan River Pioneers Group.

Through the Gem of Time award, the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) acknowledges the contribution of outstanding men and women to the recording, collection and preservation of Western Australia's history.

Graham's honour would have been conferred on him earlier, but he was busy globe-trotting so the publication of his award was delayed until he could attend the AGM in September.

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### ***Mea Culpa* - corrections needed**

Helen Henderson - In our July Newsletter I noted Dr Helen Henderson as being awarded the OAM which is the Order of Australia Medal, when in fact she has been made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). My sincere apologies to Dr Henderson for my error.

Mercy Convent - Also in the last newsletter I attached the wrong photographs to Annie Q Medley's excellent article on the Mercy Convent sisters. The correct ones have been supplied by Annie

and are:



L-R Sr M Ursula Frayne. Victoria Square Convent in 2005.

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## Information for our members

### Digitised newspapers on Trove

The *Westralian Worker* (1900-1951) as well as a number of early country Western Australian newspapers have been added to the National Library's 'Trove' database this year. Among the towns and districts covered are Northam, Merredin, Moora, Wickiepin, Goomalling, York, Busselton, Gnowangerup, Bunbury, the Pilbara, and Toodyay. What a wonderful boon for researchers.

### Accessing the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* online

The following notice appeared in the latest History Council Newsletter: "Researchers frustrated by the absence of the *Age* newspaper from Trove's marvellous collection may be interested to know that scanned copies of the entire run of the paper up to 1989 are now available on Google News. Searching by subject matter is possible though somewhat clunky from the home page and it is easy to find single issues by date. *The Sydney Morning Herald* is also available to 1989, and possibly other Australian newspapers." Thank you to Marian Quartly for pointing this out.



## Have you a story to tell?

The following articles have been kindly submitted by Beth Frayne, Barry Green, Fr Edward Doncaster, Steve Errington, Andrew Bowman, and Steve Howell.

*[Beth Frayne was a finalist in the 2014 Western Australian Heritage Awards in the category Outstanding voluntary contribution to heritage by an individual. Her citation in part read. "Beth Frayne's ongoing contribution to the preservation and promotion of Toodyay's heritage cannot be overestimated." Beth was in charge of the Battye Library's cataloguing team and since her retirement she has contributed her considerable skills to the Toodyay community and the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.). Among her many achievements, Beth is responsible for creating online access to pages in the WA Post Office Directories.]*

### To be a Chronicler or is it 'Chronologist'?

When I was nominated for one of the 2014 WA Heritage Awards, I was described as a 'chronicler'. I began to wonder if the right word might be 'chronologist' or, perhaps, 'chronologer'. My preference is 'chronologer': 'A person who studied historical records to establish the dates of past events'. I have certainly read a lot of Toodyay newspapers and local government meeting minutes held in the Battye Library and the State Records Office, to determine sundry interesting 'dates'.

I blame my Toodyay friend, Robyn Taylor, for getting me hooked on chronologies. She said that this is what all good historians do first when starting a research job. The *Date it* publications, published by the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.), were also an inspiration for this work. So, off I went, creating chronologies left, right and centre, on any subject relating to Toodyay. My first was one on Moondyne Joe for the 2007 Moondyne Festival.

I have created about 160 of them to date, on topics as diverse as the Toodyay merry-go-round and Vice-Regal visits.

Making lists or 'finding aids' is a nice easy task for a retired library



Beth Frayne in the SRO search room. (Courtesy B Frayne.)

cataloguer. I guess the added extra I brought to my published chronologies is that they are subject indexed. This is a 'must' for someone like me with more than a passing interest in 'subject analysis' but also who really just wants to 'find things out quickly without having to read the whole book', or, 'just can't remember that wretched important date'.

I have published, for the Toodyay Historical Society (THS), three parts of *The long Toodyay chronology: events in Toodyay's history*, covering the period 1829 to 1980. The later decades (Parts 4 and 5) are in draft. This series was created primarily as a reference work for THS members; a sort of 'Toodyay Encyclopaedia'. It is a self-serve, fast fact finder to help remind us of the critical events and dates. It brings together events on the same page that allows us to see correlations in the happenings in Toodyay, and perhaps causes and effects.

I include events for which I know at least a year, so decade summaries are not included (I am not yet a historical analyst). Month and day is preferable. Each event is described in one or two sentences with a 'when, what, and where' component, and perhaps a 'who' and 'why'. The source (usually coded) is given. The chronology is an ordinary table. Each event has its own line, and each event element is in a separate column (Year, Month, Event, Source). So an event may look like:

'1954 Aug. The Toodyay Road Board decided that, in the farmers' own interests, the practice of throwing Cape Tulip weeds onto the roads must cease. NA, 13 Aug. 1954, p.6.'

So, it is very easy to add new events or move existing entries if more information is discovered. A list of codes and sources is included. I prefer primary sources but any source will do, even newspapers and Wikipedia. Trove, of course, is such a boon for this sort of work. I don't even have to leave home much now the *Toodyay Herald* (1912-1954) has been included.

Subject indexing is not easy but my indexing style is easy to maintain. I don't index page numbers, so never need to re-index when I add new events. I just use the year and month data as the table place reference. This means the index can be easily sorted as long as you don't mind that entries under the same subject in the same year may show the August events filing before January events (ie A files alphabetically before J). I don't care, so that is how it is. I do include 'see' and 'see also' references. I try to be consistent subject-wise across the parts, but I don't mind changing my mind. Indexing is tricky when one's town changes its name



Space prevents a more complete analysis of the fine work done over the lifetime of this observatory and its staff.

The first Government Astronomer (1896-1912) was William Ernest Cooke, who was Assistant Government Astronomer for South Australia. The second Government Astronomer was Harold Burnham Curlewis, who was “acting” from 1912-1920, and then formally appointed in 1920.



H S Spigl. (Image courtesy of the Perth Observatory.)

In 1940, at the comparatively young age of 29, Hyman Spigl was appointed the third Government Astronomer. He was an outstanding young surveyor who had joined the Land and Surveys Department in 1933, and in 1935-37 took part in a geodetic survey marking 300 miles south from the Kimberley coast of the 129° (east) meridian, which forms the border between Western Australia and the Northern Territory. This was necessary because the 1922 survey of the State's boundaries found this portion extremely difficult to traverse. In the last years of his tenure (he died of cancer in 1962), Spigl actively sought a new site for the observatory.

The observatory moved to its present site of Bickley near Mt Gungin in the Darling Range, and this was opened in 1966.

After Hyman Spigl, there were five more WA Government Astronomers. These were; B J Harris (1962-1974), I Nickoloff (1974-1984), M P Candy (1984-1993), J Biggs (1994-2010), and R Martin (2010-2013). As of March 2013, the Government Astronomer position ceased to exist at the Perth Observatory.

In 2005, the Bickley site became heritage listed, being Australia's oldest continuing observatory, and Australia's only State Government-operated astronomical observatory. On 22 January 2013, the WA Government announced that all research programs would be cut and that the observatory would be open only for tours.

The Government Astronomer's Residence and Offices, that remained at Mt Eliza after the rest of the site was cleared for Government buildings, including Dumas House, were also to be demolished to allow more office towers to be built. However, these plans were not carried out, and the building continued in use as offices for the Public Works Department





Canon Frank Cash 40 years after Mertondale. (Courtesy North Sydney Parish)

his home was lined with photographs he had taken during the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge 1930-1932 for he had a ring-side seat, so to speak, as the bridge was then in clear view from his front verandah. In 1930 he published many of these photographs in his book, *Parables of the Sydney Harbour Bridge*.

Why do I give you all this information? Simply because when I met him he said: "I have always taken a keen interest in students from Western Australia", and when I asked him "why is that so?", he explained that when he was a teenager he had worked on a gold mine in our State. I took note

of what he had said but for some reason I did not pursue the matter. Perhaps I was more concerned as to whether the marks he might one day award me after my exams would be good ones! We parted with a word of prayer – hence the title of this article.

Now, wind your clocks on about 50 years, for it was not until then that I came across the background to his story. And where did that happen? In the Batty Library, of course! Under catalogue reference 'BA995 Frank Cash photograph album'. There are 128 photographs in that album which were taken by him in his teenage years in the Eastern Goldfields around Kalgoorlie – well worth a look next time you are in the library. Good photographs of the mines, a few churches and Sunday Schools where he taught, as well as some of the attractive Goldfields girls he met.

He had gone to Malcolm about 1905 with his family when he was but a teenager where, after working as a striker for a local blacksmith, he became an errand boy for a storekeeper named 'Dimeetrio' who later gave him a horse and trap to carry out a mail run. The local people said: "He was but a youth to carry the Royal Mail" so he moved to Mertondale, 31 kilometres north east of Leonora, and worked on Merton's Reward gold mine at about the time he became interested in photography and theology.

He also worked on the Golden Mile at Kalgoorlie for a short time and even attended the School of Mines. It was while in that city that he met the Rev'd E M Collick (now recognised as a local saint and hero of the Anglican Church in Western Australia) and young Cash began to feel the stirrings of a vocation from God to the sacred ministry of the Church of



in to their stuffy rooms”. These were reputed to be the opening words of a novel due to be published in London in the autumn of 1893. It went on

Mrs – had a most obliging husband, and one she did thoroughly understand, and one who understood and obeyed her. When his room was preferred to his company, she sent him out of the house. She sent him, on one occasion, to England, and was surprised and disgusted at his speedy return, which occurred at a most inconvenient time.

The book was first mentioned in the *West Australian* on 15 June 1893 in a report by their London correspondent who claimed he had just read the manuscript at the request of a publisher. It was, he said, written by ‘a fair maid of Perth’ and dedicated to Lady Robinson in remembrance of her “many kindnesses to the authoress”. He called the book very clever with an original plot.

Focused as it was on the social lives of the ‘six families’ it painted a picture of the father of many daughters “whose white waistcoat is bursting with pride at having so many houses to visit, and from whose mouth pearls of wit and vulgarity constantly flow”. It also featured the career of “a Perth politician, whose ignorance was only exceeded by his impudence and craving for a title”.

The correspondent thought that the young lady who wrote the book had better leave the colony before it appeared.

He considered that the title – *Forward creatures of a backward colony* - was a poor choice but by the time the book was mentioned again, in the 31 August issue of the *West Australian*, the author had given the publisher another six to choose from. These included *Six Respectable(?) Families*, *Perth Propriety*, *The Morals of Western Australia* and *What Six Families Did*.

He dismissed London rumours that the writer was Lady Broome, wife of former Governor Sir Frederick Broome, claiming that Fair Maid of Perth was born in West Australia and was currently living in the colony. He reported that publication was to be late autumn, having been delayed by a demand for a £50 publication fee, to be paid in exchange for the author having two-thirds of the profits.

He gave more extracts: if the character called ‘Mrs Wagstaff’ recognised herself she wouldn’t have been happy:

Mrs Wagstaff is a very little, consequential, ignorant woman. She comes from the wilds of Yorkshire, and dates back to the time when



school-boards did not exist. Her husband she calls 'fayther,' her conversation is a conglomeration of "no's, never's and nots". She is to be seen at Government House garden parties with 'fayther', and considers it her duty to welcome all newcomers to Perth. She has the complexion of a common old-fashioned wooden doll, and as much brain.

There was little reaction in print. But, under the heading "Prurient Literature" on 18 September, journalist Francis Hart took the matter seriously, regretting that the *West* had been drawn unwittingly into a publicity scheme for a book that any respectable Perth publisher would have binned. He rejected the claim that the author lived in Perth, but conceded that "we have seen other prurient and silly twaddle from a West Australian pen find publication in London".

Did the manuscript really exist, or was it a hoax, designed to goad Perth's social elite? Or was it splendid satire, denied publication by the lack of £50? Either way, it was never mentioned again.

Steve Errington



*[Andrew Bowman-Bright was the Heritage Council's Professor David Dolan Award winner in the 2013 Western Australian Heritage Awards for 'Outstanding newcomer'. His citation noted: "Andrew's voluntary efforts with the Carnamah Historical Society have contributed to Carnamah's heritage rising from relative obscurity to taking a place at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra". Our congratulations also for Andrew's work on the Carnamah virtual museum which recently won a Museums and Galleries National Award. Andrew has also undertaken work for the State Library Foundation.]*

**Carnamah**

What we now call Carnamah is part of the country of the Amangu, a language group of Aboriginal people from WA's Mid West region.

Pastoral leases were taken up in the district by James Nairn of Daliak in York, Duncan Macpherson of the Byeen in Newcastle (Toodyay) and Bishop Salvado of the Benedictine Monastery at New Norcia. The Nairn and Macpherson families both settled in the district during the 1860s and established the pastoral stations Noolooloo and Carnamah.

The northern telegraph line was connected to an outbuilding of the Macpherson's homestead in 1874, however, the district remained relatively isolated until 1894 when the Midland Railway was completed. Small-scale farmers and sandalwood cutters arrived during the early years of the 1900s.



The number of farms was boosted by the Midland Railway Company's Ready-Made Farms Scheme from 1913 before soaring with the establishment of four soldier settlement estates after the First World War.

In 1924 renowned builder Gustav Liebe began establishing his enormous

Waddi property with large purchases of land between Carnamah, Coorow and Perenjori. He quickly became the largest wheat farmer in Australia and in 1929 achieved his dream of producing 100,000 bags of wheat.

In 1929 and early 1930 the Carnamah townsite grew at an incredible rate, often remarked to have "sprung up overnight like a field of mushrooms". At its peak the town boasted five general stores, three tearooms, a hotel, boarding house, post office, bakery, tailor, dentist, chemist, doctor, hospital, solicitor, builder, four mechanical garages, two churches, an accountant, two banks, newsagent, hairdresser, barber, power station, two butchers and a number of commission agents.



During the 1930s farms began increasing in size due to advances in agricultural machinery and economies of scale. This has continued through to the present day. Carnamah now has

a much smaller population but continues as a successful agricultural district.

The Carnamah Historical Society was founded in 1983 to collect, record, preserve and promote local history. We established and operate the



would also provide an opportunity for the people of New Norcia to mix with settlers on an equal footing. Cricket was introduced to New Norcia by Henry Bruce Lefroy, a pastoralist in the Victoria Plains region. He became the New Norcia coach and instigated a series of matches which were played between New Norcia and Perth and Fremantle sides.

The New Norcia team walked to Perth in 1879 to play their first two matches, losing to Perth by four wickets (Perth lost six wickets in the second innings chasing eight runs for victory), but beating Fremantle, then the champion team in the colony. What was remarkable about this first team was the brilliant fielding, which was the decisive difference against Fremantle and nearly produced a stunning victory against Perth. The New Norcians used these first matches to hone up their other cricketing skills. They practiced incessantly on the New Norcia cricket pitch and this had remarkable results. Felix Jackamarra and John Maher became fine bowlers, with Maher earning the nickname 'the destroying angel.' John Walley, Patrick Yapo and Felix Jackamarra showed good batting form, and John Blurton's stylish batting caught the eye of all who saw him.

In the years following the New Norcians successively thrashed a Victoria Plains team by 147 runs and an innings and 103 runs and three days after the latter victory in 1882 they beat a Guildford XV by 10 wickets, margins that were unprecedented in Western Australia's cricket history. They played Perth, Fremantle, Northam, York and some five or six other clubs, and of 18 games they lost only one (indeed it is said that for five years in the 1880s they did not lose a single game). Cricket lovers gathered in their hundreds to watch the Indigenous players, and wherever the team went they were feted and admired.

Those Indigenous cricketers played the game in the true British sense of the word cricket, with sportsmanship and fair play. They were treated as fellow sportsmen throughout their playing history. When they won they were heartily congratulated by their opponents, and when they lost, the opposite was true. The New Norcia cricket team was a force to be reckoned with in Western Australian cricket for over a quarter of a century, before they were disbanded in 1906.

Steve Howell

(Battye Library Specialist)

## Annual General Meeting 9 September 2014

### Presidents Report

Your committee sprang into action after our AGM last year as we had the luxury of a designated secretary – new member Heather Campbell agreed to undertake that role. The question of a Funding Policy had been raised earlier and Jennie, in collaboration with Heather and input from Neil, drafted the policy which was endorsed at the February committee meeting. The policy will be included on the Friends website (<http://www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au>) soon.

Our speakers at the end of year meeting in November were Cherie Strickland and Lorraine Clarke, who described their East Perth Cemeteries project which was partly funded by a Friends grant. We are delighted that Lorraine and Cherie have nominated this year to join our committee.

We are supporting a project to digitise the World War One newspapers and committee member Ronda Jamieson undertook to research and write several applications for Federal Government funding although the final results are still uncertain. The decision making process has been so slow, and the projects so important that the Committee decided to go ahead and fund the one newspaper that everyone wanted to see digitised – the *Camp Chronicle* - the little newspaper produced by the soldiers in training at Blackboy Hill. Again thanks to Ronda and Steve Howell this paper is at this very minute being put into the National Library's TROVE program.

In March Bill Bunbury- a very popular and renowned history buff gave us a fascinating talk titled Lessons for a listener – explaining how much he had learned over the years from the oral histories he had collected. Prior to that meeting members were privileged to be taken on a tour of the new Rare Book room.

In May Dr Lenore Layman regaled us with a fascinating and lively talk on Sudden Death by Murder, Suicide and Accident in 19th century WA History.

In mid –winter Patsy Millett addressed our July meeting talking about her own family in A Family of Diarists- and to complement the stories she told, Steve Howell and our new Battye Historian – Susanna Iuliano – had laid out many of those very diaries.

Throughout the year one person's work – absolutely vital though it is – goes hardly noticed. I suppose that is always the case with treasurers,

but I must pay my greatest respect and admiration for my husband Nick Drew who keeps the accounts of this society in impeccable order. It is not an easy job as we have monies coming from varied sources and we fund a considerable number of projects. So well-done Nick!

I would also like to thank the outgoing committee who have done a sterling job all year. I am pleased that several of them have re-nominated for service on the committee.

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### **Voices That Should Be Heard**

*[Dr Ronda Jamieson is well known to most of our members, having been Director of the Battye Library before her retirement in 2005. In her early career Ronda was in charge of the Library's Oral History section and one of Australia's leading oral historians. She is the author of several works including a major biography of Sir Charles Court. We are delighted that Ronda has agreed to share her knowledge of the Battye Library's Oral History collection in this, the second of a series of articles for our Newsletter.]*

#### **Ethleen Walton, OH292**

The title of this and following articles on my work in oral history for the Battye Library reflects the great pleasure derived from knowing that the special people who shared their lives with me will live forever thanks to the Battye Library's oral history program.

After finding the person chosen for my first attempt was no longer able to be interviewed, the second choice was someone whose work experience had some parallels with my own even allowing for the decades in between. Her name was Ethleen Walton (nee Moore) who was born in 1905 and who was aged 73 when I interviewed her. She worked as a shorthand-typist for nine years before her marriage in 1932, mostly as secretary to the editor of the *West Australian* following work at the Church of England office. I joined the ABC as secretary to the editor of its radio and television news service in March 1960 – before the ABC's first television broadcast on 7 May.

The interview revealed the strength of oral history when I found that besides

her work for the *West* which was the main purpose of the interview, Ethleen was able to bring alive, among many things, the outbreak of World War One, rural social life, the WA centenary celebrations of 1929, and the beginnings of the Women's Auxiliary of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Then there was the establishment by her husband, Edward Storry Walton, of his own accountancy firm, his work as an examiner for the Trinity College of Music and the marvellous musical evenings which were part of family life.

It was obvious that Ethleen was as nervous as I was about the interview and asked if I would always turn the recorder off to give her advance notice of the next question. This not only slowed the process, it also meant the second answer did not contain the detail of the first and after a while I stopped doing it, fortunately without Ethleen noticing.

I learnt another valuable lesson during the interview. Over afternoon tea, Ethleen told me how the takings of the prostitutes who worked in Roe Street were placed in the safe deposit box in the basement of the 'West'. I asked why only to be told she had no idea. Continuing the conversation, I suggested that perhaps it was because the banks were closed at night. Imagine my surprise when after I



"Josie Bungalow, brothel in Roe Street, that allegedly lures married men to folly and infidelity" March 1929. *Truth* newspaper collection. (Courtesy Battye Library SLWA, 048405PD.)

formally asked the question for the record when the interview continued, Ethleen described how Allison Stone the publisher 'had to escort the prostitutes from Roe Street down to bank their takings for the day, for they were too late to put their money in the bank.' From that point on I always changed the subject over any tea breaks.

Ethleen described the duties of the various staff members of the *West*, the attitude to women journalists, training of journalists, new technology for printing and the *West's* role in book publishing. She recalled Sir Paul Hasluck joining the staff as a journalist in 1923 and the regular contributions from such people as Katharine Susannah Prichard, Fred

Alexander, John K Ewers, Leslie Rees, Walter Murdoch, Henrietta Drake-Brockman, Arthur Upfield, Dom Serventy, James McCartney and Molly Skinner. There was also one from Daisy Bates. It made you realise how important the *West* would have been in providing an outlet for the talents of such people as well as the very different newspaper the *West* was when compared with today.

Again as a reflection of the news people wanted then, the *West* had a chain of country correspondents who were paid tuppence a line for any of their contributions that were published. Before the interview, I had assumed that the ABC was unique in this regard being the person responsible for payments made to country correspondents whose stories the ABC used in news bulletins. There the rate was four shillings for a story used in a regional news bulletin, five shillings if it was in a shortwave bulletin, seven shillings and sixpence if it made a state bulletin, and ten shillings on the rare occasion it became an item in a national news bulletin. You can imagine how excited a country correspondent was if one of their stories was heard across Australia.

Then there were the fun things that happen with Pitman's shorthand where symbols are used for sounds. Ethleen remembered typing how children had been given a 'cow' as a gift instead of a 'car' due to the dictator's Scots' accent and how she described Archbishop Clune as an 'insect' instead of using 'inset'. Interestingly, the *West* would not allow any women into what was called the "errors" room' where there were examples of mistakes made.

The interview revealed another issue that would increasingly trouble me over the years. Due to genuine interest in the story of the person being interviewed and their preparedness to tell you things they did not always tell others, a close relationship is quickly established if more than one interview session is involved. After the death of her husband, Ethleen often asked me to 'pop in' so we could have a good chat, even though she lived a very long distance from where I lived and my life as wife, mother, oral historian and community volunteer left little spare time. I often felt guilty about having to decline.

And that is what oral history does to you: you value what you are able to record and regret your mistakes and failings.

Ronda Jamieson



## News from the State Library

### Some Forthcoming Events

#### October:

#### **31 October -2 November Disrupted: Festival of Ideas**

And now for something completely different - In association with writing WA, the State Library will host International, Australian and local thought leaders as they explore democracy, game changers, languages and technology through discussion, debate, film and song. To have a look at the program of events, go to [www.disruptedfestivalofideas.com.au](http://www.disruptedfestivalofideas.com.au).

#### November:

#### **3-30 November - New Norcia exhibition**

In the SLWA nook space for the bicentennial commemoration of Dom Rosendo Salvado's birth.

#### **13-14 November – New Norcia ‘Ways of Telling’ Symposium**

to be held in the State Library Theatre.

#### December

#### **2 December: The Future of West Australian History**

State Library Theatre 5-7pm

President of the Australian Academy of Humanities, Professor Lesley Johnson will speak on how libraries can engage more effectively to promote the collection, study and teaching of history and chair a panel discussion on the challenges ahead for key sector groups involved in collecting, researching and teaching WA history. As part of the event, graduate students from all five WA universities who are working on some aspect of WA history will be invited to distil their magnum opus into a in 3 minute parvum opus for a chance to win an iPad Air (overall winner) or iPad mini (people's choice award).

#### **6 December: Hi Lights**

State Library 4-9pm

Throughout 2014, the State Library has been celebrating 125 years of helping Western Australians treasure their stories. The celebrations culminate on 6 December when the Library will host 'Hi Lights', a night of family friendly events including large scale projections which showcase the State Library's journey to becoming one of Western

Australia's most vital cultural institutions.

Susanna Iuliano, Acting Battye Historian

## **New Acquisitions**

▶▶ The diary of Beresford Bardwell, April to September 1915 - he served in the Dardanelles and was wounded there. He began as a Lance-Corporal, was promoted to Corporal, then Second Lieutenant during this period. This clearly written diary evokes the drama of war and the everyday events of life in that arena. His time in hospital, his friendships and losses are also made available to the reader.

▶▶ A letter, dated 26 May 1915, on a rare YMCA letter sheet with photograph, from 18 year old Private Oscar Stahl of the 11th Battalion to his mother in Kalgoorlie. Private Stahl was in training at Blackboy Hill Camp at the time. In the letter he asks if his mother has any news about his wounded brother Fred who was serving at Gallipoli. Both brothers later fought at Pozieres in mid-1916. Oscar was very badly wounded and was carried out by his brother Fred but he died of his wounds at age 19 on 25 July 1916. Fred was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty' for another action at Pozieres. Oscar is buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme, France.

▶▶ Baptist Marriage Register 1911-1921 - this register, kept by Edward J Clugston, was passed down through the minister's family, and covers areas such as Gnowangerup, Broomehill, Hopetoun, Ravensthorpe and Dangan. Many of the weddings were not performed in churches but instead were in private homes, schools or other secular buildings. The register will be a valuable resource for family historians and those interested in local history.

▶▶ Philip Gostelow – collection of photographs taken on a trip from Roleystone to Mount Barker in June 2014 and include scenes of Beverley, Brookton, Pingelly, Popanyinning, Cuballing, Narrogin, Highbury, North Bannister, Bannister, Williams, Arthur River, Wagin, Woodanilling, Broomehill, Tambellup, Cranbrook and Tenterden.

▶▶ Thomas Sorenson – application to the Yalgoo Goldfields Warden, for a Wayside House Licence, c1896.

▶▶ A memoir written by Charles Hearle-Woodroffe describing his experiences with the 44th Battalion from 15 October 1916 (the day the Battalion departed Blackboy Hill Camp) to his arrival at Ypres 10 October 1917 (it was written after his return to Australia after the war). The memoir includes descriptions of the send-off from Fremantle; life on board the Port Macquarie; shore leave at Durban, Capetown and Freetown; arrival at Plymouth; bomb instructor training at Lyndhurst; and arrival at France where he was posted to the 9th and 10th Field Ambulance and commenced duties as a stretcher bearer.

▶▶ Nathan and Rosa Golinger papers – collection of order books, wage books and accounting records 1947-1959 & 1965-1971, relating to the Golinger family, tailoring and women's fashion in Perth. Both were born in Palestine, Nathan arriving in Perth as a teenager, where he worked for the Austral Manufacturing Company, the Equity Clothing Company and Goode, Durrant & Co, learning the trade and suit making. He married Rosa and she established her own business, becoming the first female proprietor in the fashion business in Perth. After the Second World War they established several tailoring businesses and women's fashion shops in Perth before retiring, Nathan in 1960 and Rosa in 1970.

▶▶ A letter from Arthur Anderson dated 17 August 1888 - from Anderson in Beverley to William Worthy Free in Queensland. Anderson met Free on a voyage of the Parramatta from England to Australia in 1887. The letter describes Arthur's work surveying for the West Australian Land Company for a railway near Albany; the soil, climate, vegetation and forests of the area; difficulties with the man sent out with him; a fatal accident involving the son of the Managing Director; and passenger and events on the Parramatta.

▶▶ George Maloney – large black and white photograph entitled “A record removal job for the State – 1927 – Steel Barge, 25 tons, 40ft x 18ft, drawn by 12 horses. George Maloney, Contractor.” The barge was made at Hoskins Foundry and this image depicts the barge in Wellington Street outside Eagle Globe and Steel as the load began its trip to the river. George Maloney is sitting on the left of the sulky and his son George is seated and holding the reins.

Jean Butler & Laurie Allen  
Collection Services

## **State Records Office - News from the Archives**

### **SRO Lunchtime Seminars**

Our last Seminar for the year is:

**20 November 2014 Speaker: Gerard Foley**

Topic: *How to research Colonial Secretary's Office records in SRO.*

Friends of Battye Library are welcome to make suggestions for next year's Lunchtime Seminar program. Please contact Gerard Foley at the SRO if you have any suggestions for speakers next year.

### **Centenary of Anzac Projects**

The launch of the SRO's online exhibition to mark the centenary of the commencement of the First World War, which featured the digitised version of WA's official 'War' file, has gone very well. The project and SRO received good publicity in the print media and on radio and an accompanying social media campaign has seen a four-fold increase in activity.

A project to digitise WA's Soldiers' Wills and develop stories for an online exhibition has been devised by the SRO. These wills are in the broader series of grants of probate and letters of administration files held by the SRO. The project will use volunteers to assist in identifying these wills as a separate cohort, and stories will be developed about various soldiers who fought and died in the First World War. The work for this will be carried out next calendar year.

### **Perth Metro Plan Project**

SRO is grateful for the funding from the Friends for this project which is to digitise and place online Perth's Metropolitan Plans. To date the SRO has itemised the listing to the 'Perth Metro Plans' and has been liaising with Landgate about the most efficient way to geo-reference the plans (i.e. establishing latitude/longitude coordinates for each plan, etc.).

The next steps for the project are to digitise the plans via the SRO's approved contract supplier; to geo-reference each plan and bulk load to Google's Map Gallery; and to liaise with key government agencies, including local government, to publicise and market the initiative. The project is due for delivery in early 2015.

### **New Collection Management System**

As reported in August the State Records Office of WA has been working on a new collection management system with a view to replacing our

existing AEON system. We have adapted AtoM (Access to Memory) an open source system developed by the International Council of Archives (ICA) for use with the Australian series system and is finalising with other Australian jurisdictions a set of common Australian specifications for Collection Management Systems, with a view to sharing further development costs for a common system. Being an open source system there are no licensing or intellectual property issues to contend with.

SRO staff recently gave a presentation about our new AtoM system at the joint Australian and New Zealand Conference in New Zealand. At workshops for the International Digital Preservation conference (iPres) in Melbourne, staff also presented a workshop on digital preservation utilising this software. Feedback has been excellent with the National Archives of Australia and many other State archives and records authorities in Australia taking great interest in the system. International bodies such as the Tate Gallery have also expressed interest.

### **Information Management Training**

The State Records Office delivers Information Management training to State and local government agencies in regional areas upon request. At the invitation of the Shire of Kondinin, Consultants of the State Records Office's State Information Management team delivered two full-day courses to local government employees in the Central Wheatbelt in early September.

The courses covered "Introduction to Information Management Practices" and "Local Government Retention and Disposal". Twelve employees, from eight local authorities, attended. Very positive feedback was received and attendees were particularly grateful for the face-to-face training and opportunities for discussion about information management issues. We are scheduled to deliver more training to local government in very soon.

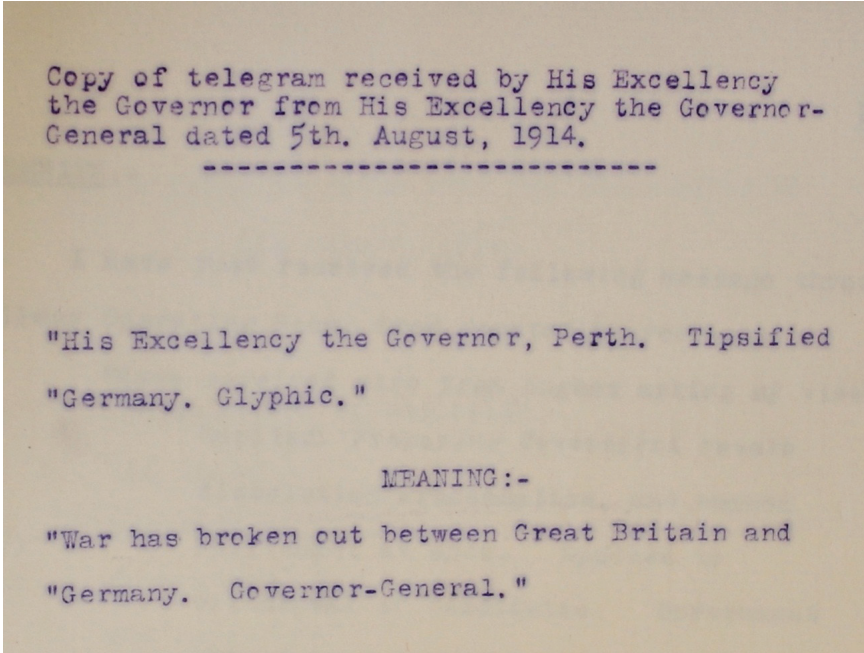
### **A story from WA's official World War 1 file**

To mark the centenary of the commencement of the First World War, the State Records Office has digitised and placed online the official 'War' file created by the Western Australian Premier's Office in 1914 (Cons 1496, item 1914/0302v1-5). Preserved for posterity by the SRO, this remarkable archive provides a behind-the-scenes and uniquely Western Australian perspective to the declaration of war and the actions of government, the military and the people at home in WA. The file can be viewed in an online exhibition via the SRO's website at: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/exhibitions-online/world-war-1-wa-tipsified-germany-glyphic>

One of the WW1 stories recounted in the online exhibition is about the creation of the 'War' file itself.

This Premier's Office file commences on 1 August 1914, several days before the official declaration of war. Titled simply 'War', and also marked 'Confidential', the officials in the Premier's Office were expecting a lot of correspondence about very important and sometimes secret matters. In light of this, the first item on the file seems rather innocuous. It is a memo recording the contents of a telegraph cable from the WA Premier to the Prime Minister enquiring if WA should provide products and displays to the 1915 exposition in San Francisco to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal.

But in a few short days, as the situation became far more serious, an increasing number of telegrams, memoranda and letters about the impending war arrived, all placed in the 'War' file in the order in which they were received. It was not long before this file took on the true purpose for which it was created. On 5 August John Scaddan, the WA Premier, received an urgent telegram from Prime Minister Joseph Cook - "official information has been received that war has broken out with Germany". The same day Sir Harry Barron, the WA Governor, received the coded cable telegraph message from Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, the Governor



Copy of telegram received by His Excellency  
the Governor from His Excellency the Governor-  
General dated 5th. August, 1914.

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"His Excellency the Governor, Perth. Tipsified  
"Germany. Glyphic."

MEANING:-

"War has broken out between Great Britain and  
"Germany. Governor-General."

General in Melbourne. It read “TIPSIFIED GERMANY. GLYPHIC” - which when translated meant - “War has broken out between Great Britain and Germany. (signed) Governor General”.

After war was declared, information about its implications for WA, Australia and the British Empire flooded into the Premier’s office. The file itself conveys the sense of urgency and emergency through the appearance of sometimes duplicated notes, telegrams and memos. It is clear from the file that the State Government was keen to galvanise itself, the public service and the entire WA community; directing the enthusiasm of many, while also addressing the concerns of many others about the war. The security of communication networks and especially the effect this war would have on the economy was of utmost concern. After an initial flurry of activity the work for WA’s government officials soon became routine. No doubt some were confident they would soon be joining the Australian Expeditionary and Imperial Forces, to serve overseas, with the full hope of success and a hasty return to their home and loved ones.

Gerard Foley  
Senior Archivist

### **State Library Bookshop discount for members**

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

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

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**From 1 July to 30 June each year**

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                      Friends of Battye Library  
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Account Number – 4220 58413 : BSB Number – 016-185

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

**If you require a receipt, please tick here**

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



## **Jack's Back: Verily a whole multitude of worthies!**

I assume most of our readers would have a general interest in the various kinds of memorials and honour boards that present lists of pertinent names to the gaze of the public. Three of these have lately been added to take place with a much older one in the narthex (or lobby area) at the western end of St George's cathedral in Perth. All four are in the nature of framed wooden roll-boards to which metal plaques of standard size have been or will be affixed successively.

The earliest board, set just inside the north door, commemorates the first 68 of 'those clergy who labored and died in the diocese of Perth'. Beginning with the well-known pioneers, J.B. Wittenoom (died 1855) and then Archdeacon J.R. Wollaston (d. 1856), it goes down in four columns in order of decease to end with Canon R.W. Hamilton and T.O. Hurst (both d. 1951). And then all the space was filled, with no sign of any further ado. I learn that this board arose from a suggestion by Bishop Riley in 1904 and was erected in 1913. For that snippet I thank another of our Friends, Ted Doncaster, a former Diocesan Archivist and still a fount of ready information.

Incidentally, eighteen of the above names feature among the 45 further given brief career details in print as an 'Alphabetical list of all known clergy in West Australia up to 1875'. This is an appendage in the book published in 1941, *Church Beginnings in the West*, by Canon Alfred Burton (d. 1947), then the leading historian in this field.

The second and third of the boards, more modest in size, are on the west wall just inside the main doors. One shows the names and dates in office of the nine Bishops and Archbishops of Perth, beginning with Mathew Hale (1857-1875) and going down to Roger Herft (2005- ). The other is headed 'Deans of Perth' and lists 16 names and their dates of tenure, starting with George Pownall (1855-1863) and continuing on to John Shepherd (1990-2014). Actually, it is questionable whether James Brown (1864-1873) should be there at all! Brown was certainly appointed Incumbent of the cathedral parish, but also stayed with the post and title of Archdeacon which he had held since 1858, and he never formally assumed the office of Dean. The sharp observer will also notice that there is no name occupying the period 1925-1929. In a nutshell, Archbishop Riley was happy to do without a Dean during the last four years of his life!

There are also photographic portraits of the 15 Very Reverend clerics and their Venerable colleague in line along the west wall in the nearby Burt Memorial Hall, which underwent praiseworthy renovation this year. This series was formerly hanging within the Deanery next door – except for one face of a century ago that it long lacked when the authorities preferred to forget it for a while!

The fourth board, just inside the small south door, was installed in July this year and made a radical departure in the nature of its content. There firstly 'To the glory of God' like the earliest board, its listing of names is defined to be 'in memory of those who created theatre in Western Australia'. This apparently

reflects the cathedral's increasing association over many years past with the arts in the broadest sense. The names begin with Ida Beeby (died 1957) and Bernard Manning (d.1961), and go down to John Milson (d.2012) and Peter Parkinson (d.2014). There is a total of 30 plaques in place so far, and space for about a hundred more in the future. In two basic respects the names on this fourth board differ markedly from those on the other three. They acknowledge a galaxy of notable personalities quite irrespective of any religious persuasions. And within their stated field, they must be very difficult indeed to select.

Worshippers and other visitors can readily observe that the cathedral contains many other memorials to individuals, especially in its numerous stained-glass windows and in nearly a hundred tablets on the walls of the transepts. Somewhat remoter are others in the sanctuary and in the Soldiers Memorial Chapel. Beyond in the Burt Memorial Hall, along with relevant inscriptions, are portraits of Theodore and Francis Burt, who were killed in the First World War, and of their father, Septimus Burt, the donor of this fine memorial building that has been such a useful adjunct to the cathedral for nearly a century now.

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### **It's a Long Way to West Australia! (sung to a well-known tune)**

Well done! ye Museum of Performing Arts at His Majesty's Theatre, for having been promptly off the ranks in marking the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. The current display there focuses chiefly on the patriotic and popular songs that the war generated, with no less than 173 items of sheet music on view. It also includes printed programs for relevant concerts of the time, with photos

and other memorabilia of the local artists involved. Of especial note here were 'The Anzac Coves', a troupe of soldier-entertainers formed in 1916. As always, the associated captions further show the commendable research and enthusiasm contributed to it all by the archivist, Ivan King. This exhibition will stay in place till the end of the year.



Jack Honniball

the ANZAC Coves. (Courtesy Museum of Performing Arts His Majesty's Theatre - Archivist Ivan King. Exhibition no.55.) Also see the online catalogue of the Museum Of Performing Arts (MOPA) at <http://www.mopa.com.au> and the website of His Majesty's Theatre <http://www.hismajestystheatre.com.au> for further information.

## **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, August or September (whenever is 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 this year in April, September, and November (flyers will be sent out in March and July). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 10 March, 10 August, 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](mailto: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](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au)                      Email: [info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@slwa.wa.gov.au)

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

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

## State Records Office

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

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

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

Telephone (08) 9427 3600, website [www.sro.wa.gov.au](http://www.sro.wa.gov.au), email: [sro@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:sro@sro.wa.gov.au)

## The Genealogy Centre

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

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

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