

NO. 140



March 2011

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

Our speaker will be Battye Fellow, Dr Jane Davis:

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



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

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

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

Please see details on Page 3.

Objectives

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

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Committee (2010-2011)

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Mr John Dowson, Prof Neil Foley,
Dr Alison Gregg, Mr Jim Gregg,
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and Dr Nonja Peters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Following the meeting you are invited to join us for dinner at a nearby restaurant. Bookings can be confirmed on the night.

Problem with the stairs?

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

Contents.

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

About our speaker

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

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



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

A word from our President.

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

tapes – another feather in the cap of the Friends.

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

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

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

With best wishes to all, Pamela

Our 2011 meetings and speakers' program

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

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

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

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

Motion

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

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

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

Lorraine Dearnley, Secretary.

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

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

News of Father Ted Doncaster.

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

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

2010 Gem of Time award

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Pamela Statham Drew

Memories of Woodbridge House School , East Guildford , WA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rob O'Connor QC

What's New at the State Library

Exhibitions

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

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

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

Dead Reckoning

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

Steve Howell

Oral Historical Records Rescue Group (OHRRG)

In July 2008 the Oral History Records Rescue Group (OHRRG) submitted an application to Lotterywest for funding for a project to rescue and make available the most at risk and in demand oral history interviews held in the Battye Library. A grant, totaling \$849,000, to be expended over two years for the OHRRG project was approved by the Lotterywest Board in June 2009.

The OHRRG Lotterywest project outcomes are

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Records Office news

SRO Lunchtime Seminars

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

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

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

Proposed dates, presenters and topics for 2011 are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tom Reynolds, State Records Office

Gwambygine Homestead Restoration

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pamela Statham Drew



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



RSL Project

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

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

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



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

Have you a story to tell?

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

Steam Launch Cygnet

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

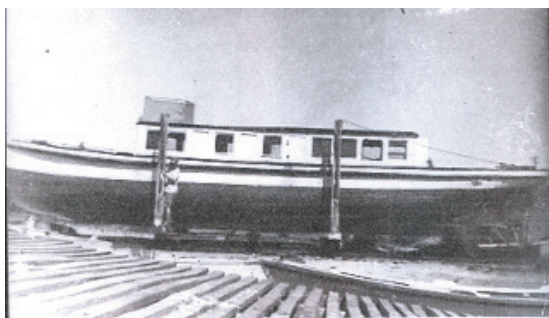
as the fore-deck. At some stage the roof was extended, and the cabin was also extended forwards to the rear of the foredeck, thus providing complete enclosure for the engine and boiler and the forward steering position. *Cygnets*' funnel was about a foot in diameter and extended several feet above the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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jim Gregg Tel. 0403 950 736

Apology

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

Jennie Carter (editor).

Book reviews

Carnarvon and Apollo, by Paul Dench and Alison Gregg

Published 2010 by Rosenberg Publishing Pty Ltd, NSW, Australia

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

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

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

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

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

(Reviewed by Hon. Bob Nicholson)

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

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ post code _____

Tel: Day _____ Evening _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

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

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

The Treasurer
Friends of Battye Library
PO Box 216
NORTHBRIDGE 6865

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

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

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

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

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

State Library Bookshop - discount for members

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

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

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

Email: info@slwa.wa.gov.au. Open seven days a week:

Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm

Sat & Sun: 12noon - 5pm

Have you a story to tell?

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

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

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

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

Jennie Carter

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Jack Honniball

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

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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary \$20

Joint \$30

Pensioner / student / junior \$10

Corporate \$50

Meetings

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

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

or write to:

The Secretary

Friends of Battye Library (Inc)

P O Box 216

Northbridge WA 6865

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.

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

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

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

State Records Office

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

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

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

Telephone (08) 9427 3360, website www.sro.wa.gov.au, email: sro@sro.wa.gov.au

The Genealogy Centre

(First Floor State Library) for Family History research.

Opening hours- as per Battye Library opening hours.

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

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. 141



August 2011

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 57 1625138600

Annual General Meeting

Our speaker will be Dr Jean Chetkovich

*Building the Battye Collection:
Show and tell*



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

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

(Courtesy Battye Library b3005195-2)

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

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

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

Please see details on Page 3.

Objectives

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

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Emeritus President Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

Committee (2010-2011)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

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

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

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

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

ISSN 1035-8692

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

Our Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 16 August 2011

Great Southern Room, 4th floor

State Library of Western Australia

5.00pm for 5.30pm.

Our speaker will be Dr Jean Chetkovich

“Building the Battye Collection: Show and tell”

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

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

Problem with the stairs?

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

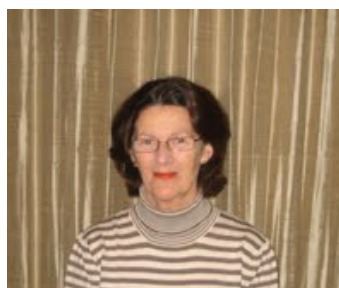
Contents.

About our speaker	4
2011 May & July Speakers	4
Proposed Constitutional amendment	4
Members’ news	7
What’s new at the State Library	7
OHRRG	10
State Records Office news	12
Have you a story to tell?	
Bevan Carter	13
Book Review	17
Subscription form	19
Jack’s back	20

About our speaker

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

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



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

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

Our Annual General Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Elections

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

Current projects

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

State Library projects

Funded from the Friends of Battye Library General Account:

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

From the Sholl Bequest:

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

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

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

State Records Office project

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

Fee changes

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

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

Jennie Carter
(Editor/Membership Secretary)

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

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

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

Congratulations to Dr Alison Gregg

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

What's New at the State Library

Exhibitions

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

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

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

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

New Acquisitions

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

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

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

National Family History Week 2011

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



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

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

Steve Howell and Tricia Fairweather.

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

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

Oral Historical Records Rescue Group (OHRRG)

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

The OHRRG Lotterywest project outcomes are

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

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

Oral History Digitisation Project

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Kris Bizzaca and Lee Blackford

State Records Office news

SRO Lunchtime Seminars

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tom Reynolds

Friends of Battye Library members invitation to the Margaret Medcalf Award

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

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

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

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

Have you a story to tell?

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

Appealing convicts and a baptism

1. *the convict*

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

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

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

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

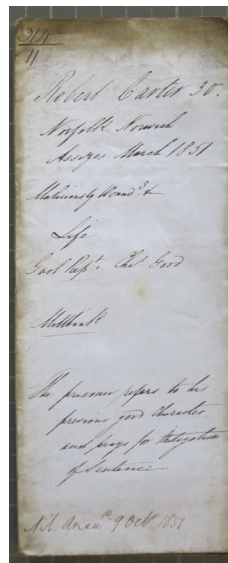
As a Christmas present last year, Matthew gave me a book on East Anglian rural crime - *By a flash and a scare; Incendiarism, Animal Maiming and Poaching in East Anglia, 1815 – 1870* by John Archer – a riveting read indeed! Believing the author could help answer some queries I had about Robert and his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

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

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

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

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



Robert Carter's appeal.

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

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

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

2. the baptism

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

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

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



Godparents and family:

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

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

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

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

Bevan Carter

Book reviews

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heather Campbell

State Library Bookshop - discount for members

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

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$15
Corporate	\$50
Battye Library and State Records Office volunteers	[free]
Donation	\$ _____

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name _____

Organisation _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you require a receipt, please tick here

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jack Honniball

Have you a story to tell?

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

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

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

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

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

The Annual General Meeting is required to be held before 30 September. Four general meetings are held each year. These will be in March, May or June, the Annual General Meeting in either July, August, or September, and November (end of year function). Meetings 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

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

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

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.

Telephone enquiries (08) 9427 3291

Fax enquiries (08) 9427 3256

Website www.slwa.wa.gov.au

Email: battye.library@slwa.wa.gov.au

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

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

State Records Office

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

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

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

Telephone (08) 9427 3360, website www.sro.wa.gov.au, email: sro@sro.wa.gov.au

The Genealogy Centre

(First Floor State Library) for Family History research.

Opening hours- as per Battye Library opening hours.

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

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. 142



November 2011

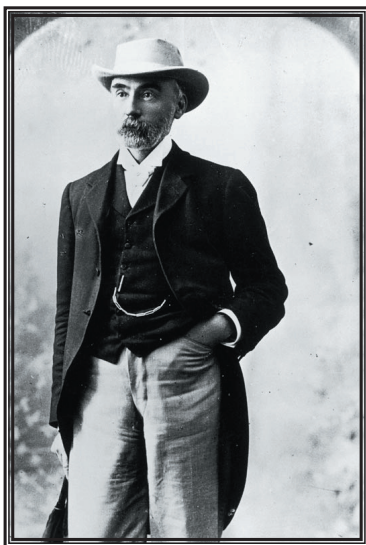
FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

Our end of year function

speaker - Mike Lefroy

'Cy O'Connor - an inside story'



**Charles Yelverton
O'Connor**

The image is a glass lantern
slide taken in 1897 by J A
Clarke.

Photograph courtesy Battye
Library 002722D

To be held on Tuesday 22 November 2011 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room, 4th floor State Library of Western Australia. Our meeting will be followed by a catered dinner.

Please see details on Page 3

Objectives

The objectives of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) are to assist and promote the interests of the 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 (2011-2012)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary position vacant

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Mr Graham Bown, Ms Jennie Carter, Dr Alison Gregg, Mr Jim Gregg, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, Mr Lindsay Peet, Dr Nonja Peters, and Ms Sue Summers.

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

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

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

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 22 November 2011
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Mike Lefroy

Cy O'Connor - an inside story

Celebrate with us the end of another successful year for the Friends

After Mike's talk, members and guests are warmly invited to our end of year function when we will proceed into the adjacent room for a delicious two course spit roast menu with a choice of meats and various salads and desserts.

**The total cost is only \$30
and this includes orange juice, wine and tea and coffee.**

Bookings are essential so please RSVP by 18 November 2011 to Nick Drew on 9384 or by email at nickdrew@bigpond.com A lighthearted history quiz will also be run during the evening's festivities and there will be a prize for the winning table.

Problem with the stairs?

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

Contents

About our speaker	4
Meeting dates for 2012	4
A message from our President	5
Meet our new member	6
President's AGM report	6
State Records Office News	13
State Library News	15
East Perth Cemeteries project	17
Current Friends of Battye Library projects	18
Have you a story to tell?	
Rob O'Connor - The Bixby letter	19
Pamela Statham Drew -update on Gwambygine	23
Two books by our members	
Ronda Jamieson - Charles Court biography	24
Jennie & Bevan Carter - History of Armadale	24
<i>Studies in WA History</i> - vol.27 to be launched	26
Event - Forum on the future of the Esplanade	26
Subscriptions form	28
'Jack's Backup' - Steve Errington filling in for Jack Honniball	29

About our speaker

Mike Lefroy has a passion for history, in particular the history of Western Australia and his home town of Fremantle.

He is a fifth generation Western Australian. His great-great-grandfather was John Septimus Roe, the State's first Surveyor General. His great grandfather was Charles Yelverton O'Connor, the Chief Engineer of Fremantle Harbour and the Goldfields Pipeline.

Mike's interest in history and education has drawn him to writing and he particularly enjoys the challenge of making the past come alive for children. His publications include picture books, junior novels, non-fiction titles and education kits.

Mike's current project is a children's book with Black Dog Books about one of Australia's most notorious shipwrecks, the 17th century Dutch Spice trader *Batavia*.

General meeting dates for 2012

Next year five functions will be held in the Great Southern Room, 4th floor, State Library of Western Australia. These meetings will be held on a Tuesday on the following dates and begin at 5.00pm for 5.30pm.

13 March, 8 May, 10 July, 11 September (Annual General Meeting), and **20 November** (End of Year function).

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.

Archival quality materials

The bookshop stocks archival materials as recommended by the State Library's conservation staff. There are a variety of boxes, paper products, photo enclosures, and binders available to help preserve your precious items.

A message from the President

Dear Friends

This year we have awarded the largest number of grants from our own funds ever - to both the State Library and the State Records Office It is quite amazing how far all your subscriptions and raffle money can go in helping to fund worthwhile projects. It is also a tribute to our Treasurer, Nick Drew, who watches the money market to make sure our Term deposits get the highest interest and that all our funds earn interest. We are particularly grateful again this year to Lindsay Peet for a generous donation which will enable the Chain Map series - which names owners of many properties - to be digitised and available on line. A list of current funded projects can be found on page 18 of this newsletter.

The year closes with some excitement as on 4 November we are hosting the public launch of Ronda Jamieson's biography *Charles Court: I love this place*. It is an easy read for a large book and most interesting. Many of our members will know that Ronda is a former Director of the J S Batty Library of West Australian History.

Our next meeting this month will be featuring Mike Lefroy who will speak about C.Y.O'Connor, his great grandfather. He will have some inside information which will be most interesting. Prior to Mike's talk we will be awarding our 2011 'Gem of Time' award.

The meeting will be followed by our in-house spit-roast dinner, which is able to be held with the kind permission of the State Librarian and CEO, Margaret Allen. In addition, I have been persuaded to give you all a quiz again on Western Australian history - so give the old brain cells a go and come and take part. I look forward to seeing you there.

Cheers Pamela

Vale Alfred (Alf) William Gilpin Richards

Alf who was one of our long time members and a former volunteer for the Batty Library, died in August at the age of 92. Alf was heavily involved in community affairs and he will be much missed, not least for his keen intellect and sense of humour.

[Note: I would be grateful for information about the passing of any of our members or former members for mention in the newsletter. Jennie Carter (editor)]

Meet our new Committee member

Dr Sue Summers from Curtin University recently joined the committee of the Friends of the Batty Library. Sue is Managing Editor of Black Swan Press at Curtin, is a coordinator of the Australia-Asia-Pacific-Institute, and is currently involved in research in folk and maritime history, and the repatriation of disabled soldiers to WA following WWI. Sue has a background in broadcast-journalism and a PhD in Anthropology from UWA. Her personal interests include family history and she has made good use of the State Library's Genealogy Centre, and also her InDesign skills to format the findings into a hard-copy and e-publication for family members.



Sue Summers, our newest committee member.

President's Report - 16 August 2011

Dear Friends

Again the year has flown – this year our AGM is later than usual as your President, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor have all been traipsing overseas – and we do know how lucky we are!

Last AGM – following our tradition of having someone from the Library or SRO speak to us on these occasions – Jonothan Schmidt, the Library's paper conservator took us through the process of preparing the exhibition on the Durack story. He showed us many old prints and explained how they had to be treated to avoid discolouration and blurring with age. This AGM will feature the Library's chief collecting officer Jean Chetkovich telling us about some of the key acquisitions into the Batty Library's collection this year.

Our Christmas even has also become somewhat of a tradition as the talk is followed by an in-house dinner. And our speakers on the last occasion were Bevan and Jennie Carter who told us about writing the history of the Armadale District over the past three years. Reminiscences stemming from their report continued well into the dinner provided by the Spit Roast Company. Our Gem of Time Award for 2010 went to Dr Ronda Jamieson – who was so busy with research she almost missed the presentation. Your committee's choice was loudly acclaimed!

The New Year saw a start on the Lotterywest funded Oral History Rescue project which had been delayed by the building of sound studio's and the recruitment of technicians. Lee Blackford, from the conservation area, has been appointed Project Manager and her team have done extremely well – so far recording some 2,300 hours of 916 interviews.

Our first General Meeting in March was addressed by our Battye Fellow Dr Jane Davis who spoke about the pioneer George Fletcher Moore – a talk that drew a considerable audience. The meeting also voted on the change to the Constitution to allow us to hold the AGM anytime up to the 30th September (previously it had been 31st July). We have another two minor amendments to make at this meeting which were explained in your last newsletter. These changes are to comply with the regulations set up by Consumer Affairs.

The April Committee meeting was one I think your committee members will never forget. It had been already decided to make some decisions about using the funds that had accumulated in various accounts and we had asked both the State Library and the State Records Office to come up with ideas. At that meeting we were able to satisfy both wish lists. SRO was the recipient of the 2010 Sholl bequest money which will be used to digitise some of the Surveyors Field Books – a fantastic research tool that will now be available to a much wider audience and will complement their Maps-on-line.

The State Library's first priority was to conserve the JS Roe papers – comprising letters, diaries, logbooks, correspondence etc. of our first Surveyor General – a \$20,000 project. Their second preference was to fund the digitising of the Lands & Surveys Chain Series of cadastral maps (approx. 700- 800 maps). These maps record the names of owners of grants and so are eagerly sought by researchers. A problem arose because this project was estimated to cost \$11,000 and we only had a spare \$5000 to put towards it. But then Committee member Lindsay Peet

spoke up and said he would give us the additional \$6,500 to undertake the project which will be called the Lindsay Peet Cadastral Chain Maps series.

From bits and pieces our clever Treasurer has been able to squirrel away we were also able to fund the digitising of :-

- the James Henty 1829-1831 letters,
- the Coolgardie Miner 1913-1917 and the
- the Southern Advertiser 1888

As you can imagine we left that meeting walking on air! Progress with these projects will be reported elsewhere.

At our May general meeting (the only one not preceded by a newsletter) our speaker was Kim Epton, the Research Co-ordinator of the WA Explorers Diaries Project. This huge project, working with numerous dedicated volunteers under the umbrella of Hesperian Press, has now published two volumes bringing the story of exploration and survey (from the pens of those who did the work) from 1826 to 1845.

June saw a new development. We have mentioned before the grants to Cherie Strickland and Lorraine Clark for their East Perth Cemetery project –producing a website with the names and histories of all those buried in the East Perth Cemetery. Working in conjunction with the National Trust they have proceeded apace – but now need funds to get the web-site up and running. So the Friends of Battye Library and the National Trust have put in for a Lotterywest grant.

It remains now for me to sincerely thank your committee members. Unfortunately our Secretary, Lorraine Dearnley, had to resign during the year due to work commitments and Graham Bown stepped into the breach, taking notes during meetings for me to use in producing minutes. He has recently been made President of the WA Genealogical Society – as well as his work for the Zoo, so congratulations Graham from us all. I need also to thank the Greggs – Jim and Alison, Rob O'Connor , Neil Foley, Nonja Peters, our Vice President the one and only Gillian O'Mara, our incomparable newsletter editor Jennie Carter, our Treasurer Nick Drew and our benefactor member Lindsay Peet. Although present on a de facto basis as she represents the Library, I know all our committee members would like to say a special thank you to Sarah McQuade – the Battye Historian, for all the work she does both for our committee and general meetings.

After my report and that of Cathrin Cassarchis [see below], (there was no report from the State Library), an election was held for office bearers for 2011/2012 and the following members were elected unopposed.

President : Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President : Gillian O'Mara

Treasurer : Nick Drew

Newsletter Editor / Membership secretary : Jennie Carter

Committee members: Graham Bown, Rob O'Connor, Jim and Alison Gregg, Nonja Peters, Lindsay Peet and Sue Summers.

Pamela Statham Drew

Report of the State Archivist & Executive Director, State Records - 16 August 2011

By way of an overview, the following report touches on just some of the initiatives, achievements, strategies and events occurring during the last year.

State Records Commission

One of the chief functions of the State Records Office (SRO) is to provide administrative and operational support to the State Records Commission, which is established under Part 8 of the State Records Act 2000. The Commission consists of four members: the Auditor General, the State Ombudsman, the Freedom of Information Commissioner, and a recordkeeping professional who is the Governor's appointee.

The Commission met four times since July 2010. Two of these meetings were held in country centres - One meeting was held in Albany in November 2010, and another in Northam just two weeks ago. This provided an excellent opportunity for Commissioners to meet with government clients within the Southern coastal and Avon Valley regions.

The Commission will next meet in Perth in early December.

Record keeping Plans

All State Government agencies are required to submit a recordkeeping plan to the Commission (via the Director SRO), and review this plan every five years. In 2010-11 the Commission approved 50 plans, and 13

records retention and disposal authorities for agency functional records. Also, SRO staff have revised two key General Disposal Authorities.

Commission Awards

The State Records Commission sponsors two awards each year and SRO staff organise and promote these events on the Commission's behalf.

- The Margaret Medcalf Award for excellence in researching and referencing archival records was presented to Dr Anna Haebich for her book *Murdering Stepmothers: the execution of Martha Rendell* on 3 August, by the Commission's Chairman, Colin Murphy. Despite its sombre theme it is an excellent read and I can highly recommend it.
- The Lonnie Award is sponsored by the State Records Commission and is presented for the manner in which agencies' annual reports address their compliance requirements under the *State Records Act*. The Award was presented on 7 April 2011 and the Western Australia Police was the worthy recipient with a special commendation given to the Main Roads Western Australia for the exceptionally high standard of reporting on their recordkeeping and further planned initiatives.

SRO Public Programs

We hold a number of other events throughout the year aimed at a broad sector of the Western Australian community.

- Cabinet Records Release – The 1980 State Cabinet Papers were released from 30 year embargo in time for June 6th, Foundation Day this year. The papers' release was positioned as a media event which resulted in publicity in the *West Australian* and a subsequent interview on ABC Radio, 720AM.

The 1980 State Cabinet records reveal the concerns of Sir Charles Court's government and record decisions about issues at the time such as drought, mineral royalties and flooding in Carnarvon, issues which have resonance today. The records also reflect the times in which they were created by showing Cabinet deliberations about Noonkanbah, Section 54B of the Police Act and public servants attending the boycotted Moscow Olympics.

- Geoffrey Bolton Lecture - on 20 September 2010 the SRO hosted the sixth annual Geoffrey Bolton Lecture, at the Ballroom in Government House, Perth. This year's speaker at the public event was Emeritus Professor David Black AM, Chairman of the Parliamentary History

Advisory Committee who spoke about 'Parliament, the People and Archives: documenting politics in WA'.

- Lunchtime Seminars - these presentations are designed to inform researchers about the SRO and its collections and the research carried out using the State archives collection. These seminars occur between 12.30 and 1.30pm on the day advertised and are held in the SRO's South West Room, next to the Search Room. Attendees are encouraged to bring their sandwiches and drinks to the Seminars. Tea and Coffee are provided.

The following Seminars were presented over the past 12 months

Thurs 9 Sept 2010– Speaker: Kerry King – Topic: 'Lifting the Bonnet' on the dark history of road crashes in WA.

Wed 24 Nov 2010 – Speaker: Meg Travers – 'The history of computer use in Western Australian government - archival challenges for SRO'.

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

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

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

Further seminars planned for 2011 include,

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

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

Friends of Battye Library activities

SRO is grateful for the support received through Friends of Battye that enabled us to:

- make software modifications in order to load digitised maps and plans to our AEON system for public access. This project has enabled the SRO to load images of 6000 Lands Department exploration, survey and cadastral plans (including 'public plans') to the SRO website.

- to digitise a discrete set of field books, selected from the 1600 Crown surveyors field books and diaries held in the State Archives collection at the SRO.

Volunteers

Like any small organization providing both whole of government services and services to the community, the SRO relies heavily on the work of highly valued volunteers. A Commonwealth work experience program has operated since 2004, in collaboration with Centrelink, with the aim of capturing and formatting accession inventories.

We thank Pat Paterson, for her relabeling and preservation work and also Anne and Bruce Buchanan for their indexing of Convict Comptroller General correspondence.

Strategic Focus

The past year has been a year marked by budget cuts which have put a huge strain on our moving forward strategically. In this climate we have developed:

- A Business Case for a new archival storage facility. "Future proofing the State's information Assets" was presented to the State Government in December 2010. The case provides for a central archives repository, with a digital recordkeeping and digital access components. Government's response to the Case is on hold due to the result of a current review of Arts Portfolio resource needs.
- A system for the **O**nline receipt and processing of **R**ecords **D**isposal **A**uthorities. This system known as **ORDA** is planned for implementation in late 2011.

Despite our financial constraints we are consistently resourceful in looking forward and leveraging on opportunities. ORDA is an excellent example of the good work we are doing in support of our government clients, as is the field books project, which will make a popular set of archives accessible on line, supported by Friends of Battye Library.

Like other cultural institutions, we are keen to enhance the work we do to provide increased access on line. I'm pleased to advise that SRO is presently redesigning our website to ensure that we present a more user friendly and dynamic face to clients and user groups. The launch is planned for early September. SRO's new website will enable us to present digital content in increasingly dynamic ways.

For example, we are working tirelessly on an online exhibition concept for 2012 which will enable us to highlight parts of the collection and bring us to the attention of a wider audience. And as a precursor to our planned online exhibition, look out for an unexpected program as part of the CHOGM festival arrangements in the Perth Cultural Centre, to be announced in the first week of September.

I'd like to finish by acknowledging the support of individuals that make up organisations like the Friends. We have an enormous agenda and such support gives us the encouragement to continue.

Cathrin Cassarchis

State Records Office - News from the Archives

SRO relaunched its website on 1 September. The new website (www.sro.wa.gov.au) boasts a fresh look and an improved structure aimed at making the website easier to navigate. It still provides comprehensive information about the collections and services provided by SRO as well as links to maps online and the archives catalogue. With a contemporary website the SRO is now able to host online exhibitions, as well as interact with the public through new features such as facebook, twitter and SRO blogs.

In September the SRO also launched its first online exhibition - Eating the Archives (www.sro.wa.gov.au/eta). The exhibition tells stories around the food served at State banquets in Western Australia over the past hundred years. It supports a luncheon to be held in the Perth Cultural Centre on 28 October as part of the Commonwealth Festival during CHOGM 2011. Award winning chef Hadleigh Troy from Restaurant Amusé will be providing a modern interpretation of previous State dinners in a special lunch for members of the public and a few invited celebrity guests. SRO held a lottery to give away 16 seats at the table, with 720 ABC Perth also running a competition to give away the remaining four places at the table.

November will see Professor Alan Robson AM, Vice Chancellor of the University of Western Australia deliver the 2011 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture. This year is the centenary of the Act to establish the University of Western Australia, so Professor Robson plans to speak on a topic relating to the importance of archives in telling the story of the development of the University, and also the importance of archives to scholarship and

research. The Lecture will be held at the University Club, University of Western Australia, at 6pm on Monday 21 November 2011.

It has been a busy few months for the SRO.

The State Records Office will host its final scheduled lunchtime seminar for 2011 on Wednesday 16 November when Jan Lord speaks on *The History of Poliomyelitis in Western Australia*. These seminars are designed to provide researchers with an opportunity to meet fellow researchers, to learn about members of staff, and provide a forum for questions and discussion in a relaxed and friendly environment. Seminars occur between 12:30 and 1:30 in the SRO's South West Room, next to the Search Room. Attendees are encouraged to bring their sandwiches and drinks to the Seminars. Tea and coffee are provided. Bookings are required and can be made by telephoning 9427 3360 or by emailing sro@sro.wa.gov.au.

Leigh Hays
State Records Office

"Portrait of Sister Elizabeth Kenny, ca. 1917 (after commissioning with two stars on her epaulets, and prior to 1919 when she wore three medals for her war service, 1915-1919). (Description supplied with photograph).

Sister Kenny worked as a nurse on the Western Front during World War I, and later helped develop a treatment for infantile paralysis. 'Sister Elizabeth Kenny was a pioneer in the treatment of Infantile Paralysis or polio, one of the world's most devastating diseases.

Her revolutionary treatment was rejected by the Australian medical establishment, but in the United States she was seen as a miracle worker and became a celebrity."



Image courtesy of the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Digital ID: picqld-2003-02-10-14-21

News from the State Library

Sholl Bequest Projects

Each year the Friends of Battye Library provide funds – from the Sholl Bequest – to prepare finding aids for, and to ensure the ongoing preservation of, materials located in the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and the State Records Office.

This year the Friends have granted funds to the State Library to undertake the following projects:

1. Digitisation of the Western Australian Biographical Index (WABI) cards and the creation of a user search and contribute function on the State Library's website. To date the State Library has digitised 50,000 WABI cards, and should have the remaining 20,000 completed in the next month or so. Work on scoping the delivery portal is currently underway, including discussion with the NLA on their digital delivery systems.
2. Conservation and digitisation of the J.S Roe papers, 1797-1878
3. Conservation and digitisation of the James Henty papers.

Work is progressing on both of these digitisation projects.

Exhibition

Opening on 25 October and running until the end of January in the gallery area on the ground floor of the State Library, the exhibition *From Papers to PCs: the history of the media in Western Australia* will tell of the development of the various forms of media in the state, from newspapers to telegraph, cinema, radio, television and on to the internet. Using material from the State Library's collections, including the unprocessed records of Sir James Cruthers, and equipment borrowed from the Western Australian Museum, TVW Channel 7 and the Australian Museum of Motion Pictures and Television, it is hoped the exhibition will catch the interest of Western Australians and hopefully lead to more donations of media-related records.

More Newspapers Online

Many of you will know that the National Library has digitised more WA newspapers, such as the *Inquirer* 1840-1901, the *Albany Advertiser* 1897-1950 and the *Geraldton Guardian* 1906-1950 and that the Friends of Battye Library is paying for the digitisation of the *Coolgardie Miner*. However, the digitisation of still more newspapers is in the pipeline. The State Library is currently arranging with the National Library to digitise the

Mirror 1921-1956 and the *Northern Times* 1905-1954 and the Fremantle City Council is negotiating to have the *Herald* 1867-1886 digitised.

As well, the National Library may be carrying out more digitisation in the next financial year and has asked the State Library for a “wish list” of 10 titles suitable for digitisation. Among titles being considered are the *Daily News*, the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, the *Bunbury Herald*, the *Pilbarra Goldfields News*, the *Eastern Districts Chronicle*, the *Norseman Times*, the *Record*, the *Great Southern Herald*, the *South Western News*, the *Toodyay Herald*, the *Northam Advertiser*, the *Narrogin Observer* and the *Westralian Worker*. What is chosen largely depends on the suitability of the microfilm i.e. whether it has been recently microfilmed or re-microfilmed to acceptable standard for digitisation.

Recent Acquisitions

The State Library has recently acquired some interesting collections, either through donations or by purchase. The portrait of Mary Durack by her sister Elizabeth, which was featured in the recent Durack exhibition, was recently purchased by the State Library, as were some photographs of Claude Albo de Bernales, the Shapcott archives and some land subdivision posters.

Other material of interest includes the Druids Friendly Society records (including minutes 1901-2000), about 230 boxes of Australian Labor Party records, some Uniting Church records, a framed map showing the area around Albany which wished to secede from WA in 1900, more photographs by Frederick Flood (mainly of the south-west, the University of WA and the Supreme Court), some 1962 Commonwealth Games material, a transcribed diary of John Gregg (carpenter) while on board the convict ship *York* and the records of the Friends of Childhood Museum.

National Year of Reading 2012

Next year is National Year of Reading and around Australia libraries are forging partnerships with writers, booksellers and publishers to offer some wonderful programs and events.

First off in the lead up to the year is ‘One Country Reading – Our Story’. This is your chance to rediscover the joy of reading by selecting from a variety of books that describe what it means to be Australian. People in each state will vote for one of 6 shortlisted books; and the winning 8 titles will together paint a picture of the Australian people and the land we live in.

Go the love2read website <http://www.love2read.org.au> and click on WA to see the six selected books – borrow them or buy them and settle down for a good summer read. Voting on the ABC website (with links from the National Year of Reading webpage) begins on 1 November 2011, and ends on 6 January 2012.

Keep your eyes and ears peeled for projects throughout the year – there's something for everyone!

East Perth Cemeteries Project - report from Project Managers

Having completed the compilation of the available published East Perth Cemeteries records it is now time to locate and include any additional biographical information that may relate to those inhabitants of the East Perth Cemeteries.

It is also time to locate new records for those pioneers who died in the Perth region between 1829 and 1916 and may be interred in the East Perth Cemeteries.

Where to start?

Family burial plots – A husband without a wife; a wife without a husband; deceased children.

Case study - where is Margaret?

Margaret Drew and Richard Gallop were married in the Swan River Colony in November 1842 and between 1843 and 1857 had a total of six children, namely Richard, Mary, Anne, Thomas, John and Walter.

Richard was a successful business man and established an orchard in Palmerston Street, North Perth, he later moved to Brisbane Street where he died in 1898 as a widower and was buried in the Roman Catholic section of the East Perth Cemeteries. The question is what happened to his wife Margaret?

With no mention of her death in the Bicentennial Dictionary, searches were then conducted on the few Roman Catholic burial records available, Richard Gallop's private archive in the Battye Library and available digitized newspapers. These searches only found one mention of the death of Margaret Gallop. The Sydney Morning Herald on the 17th February 1882 amongst the news from Western Australia mentioned that "Mrs. Richard Gallop is dead." **Clue 1.**

The Registrar General Index indicated a death of a Margaret Gallop in 1882; however no parents or place of death was recorded. If this was indeed Margaret Gallop, had she died in Perth or elsewhere in the state? **Clue 2.**

Fortunately a lucky find in the State Records Office gave us the information we required; a listing of deaths in Western Australia. By cross referencing records it was possible to confirm that Margaret Gallop died in Perth on the 12th February 1882. **Clue 3.**

Finally, the National Library's 'Trove' online newspaper archive's digitised copies of the *Inquirer* and *Commercial News* produced an article on the 15th February 1882 that stated that Mrs Richard Gallop had died suddenly and that her funeral was held on the 13th February 1882 in the Roman Catholic section of the East Perth Cemeteries. **Case solved.**



Headstone for the Adams Family. (There is no surviving headstone for Richard and Margaret Gallop). Image courtesy Swan Genealogy.

Do you have a historical photograph of a headstone from the East Perth Cemeteries with the memorial inscription intact? If so, we would appreciate a digital copy, some of the headstones that are of interest are:

- Bayly Maycock; Robert and John Thomas Jackaman; Mary, Mary Ann and John Daniel Manning; Ann and Walter James Rea; Jane Campbell; Gabriel, Grace and Harry Avery Adams also in same grave Mary Ann and John Watson.

Cherie Strickland and Lorraine Clarke
eastperthcemeteries@iinet.net.au

Friends of Battye Library projects - as at 30 September 2011

Projects currently funded for the State Library:

Conservation of J S Roe papers - \$20,000 (General Fund)

Digitisation of Lands & Surveys Chain Series maps - \$11,400 (Gift)

Conservation of James Henry papers - \$300 (General Fund)

Newspapers digitisation: *Coolgardie Miner* 1913-1917 - \$1,277 (General)
Southern Advertiser 1888 - \$844 (General Fund)
Digitisation of WA Biographical Index cards - \$9,260 (Sholl Bequest)

for the State Records Office:

Digitisation of Surveyors Field Books - \$10,6000 (Sholl Bequest)

And

East Perth Burial database (joint agencies project) - \$10,000 (General)

Have you a story to tell?

[Committee member Rob O'Connor QC, has kindly submitted the following article on the topic of a famous letter, purportedly written by President Abraham Lincoln. Rob has a long held interest in Abraham Lincoln and this era of American History.]

Abraham Lincoln's letter to Mrs Bixby

During his speech at the recent 10th anniversary commemoration of the "9/11" terrorist attacks at the World Trade Centre at New York, USA President George W Bush read the letter of sympathy sent by President Abraham Lincoln to Mrs Bixby who claimed to have had five sons killed in the USA Civil War. The letter is regarded as one of Lincoln's three great pieces of writing which show his power and skill in the use of language, and "a masterpiece of both composition and compassion". The other two are Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (19 November 1863) and Lincoln's Second Inaugural Speech (4 March 1865).

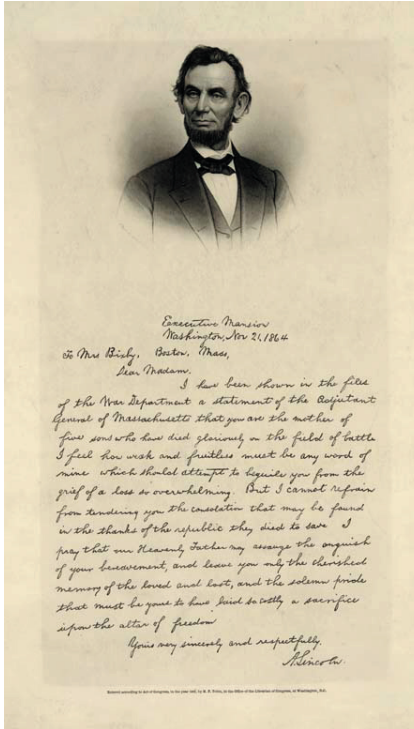
The letter reads:

"Executive Mansion, Washington, Nov. 21, 1864.

To Mrs Bixby , Boston , Mass.

Dear Madam

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously in the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anger of your bereavement, and leave



[Photo of Lincoln and facsimile of letter. Image Courtesy: <http://www.redhousecollection.com>]

you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully
A. Lincoln”.

This matter has been the subject of much research over the years and the following observations show that there are doubts about the accuracy of some parts of the story.

The five sons were not killed in the war

Mrs Lydia Bixby did have five sons who served on the Union side in the Civil War. Two of her sons (Charles and Oliver) were killed in the War, but one (Arthur) deserted, another (George) possibly deserted, and another (Henry) was honourably discharged.

Years after the war, Arthur, George, and Henry were still alive. Mrs Bixby was a brothel madam and was described as “perfectly untrustworthy”. Her false claim that her five sons were killed in the War was an attempt to cheat the Government into paying financial compensation.

Whether Lincoln composed and wrote the letter

At the time of the date of the letter, 21 November 1864, Lincoln had just won the election which saw him elected for his second term. He was so inundated with paperwork that it was doubted that Lincoln would have had the time to compose the letter and hand-write it. Years later, John Hay, Lincoln’s assistant private secretary at the time of the letter, confided that he himself had composed the letter and that Lincoln had signed it; Hay told the recipient of that information not to tell anyone until Hay had died.

Michael Burlingame, author of the 2009 two-volume biography of Lincoln (the first multi-volume biography of Lincoln for 80 years) accepts this version as being the truth. Burlingame refers to the matter twice in the biography. In Volume 1, at the Author's Note at page ix, Burlingame states:

“Did Lincoln actually write the Bixby letter? The letter, as I have tried to show, is No. John Hay, Lincoln's gifted assistant personal secretary, composed it for the President's signature.”

In Volume 2, at pages 736-8, Burlingame said that, at the time, Lincoln was “unusually preoccupied” and the crush there then was “beyond endurance”. His conclusion is: “The Bixby letter is beautiful indeed, but it was written by John Hay, not Lincoln.”

William Schouler, the Massachusetts Adjutant General, hand-delivered the letter to Mrs Bixby on 25 November 1864 and provided copies to newspapers, which gave it wide distribution. It was published on the same day in the *Boston Evening Transcript*. Mrs Bixby “was born in Virginia, sympathised with the Confederacy, and disliked Lincoln so much that she apparently destroyed the letter in anger.” A granddaughter of Mrs Bixby has said that she was surprised when her mother told her how much Mrs Bixby resented receiving the letter from Lincoln.

In 2000 Burlingame had published *At Lincoln's Side: John Hay's Civil War Correspondence and Selected Writings* in which, at pages 169-184, in the segment titled “The Authorship of the Bixby Letter”, he had made out a strong case for concluding that Hay was the author of the letter. The letter contains a number of words and phrases which indicate authorship by Hay and not Lincoln. Among others, these include “beguile” (which was used more than 30 times in Hay's recorded writings but never in Lincoln's writings), “our Heavenly Father”, and “cannot refrain from tendering”, which are common to Hay's writings and the Bixby letter.

In his 1940 autobiography, Nicholas Murray Butler revealed a conversation between Hay and White House guest John Morely in 1904, as follows:

“Morely expressed to Hay his great admiration for the Bixby letter, to which Hay listened with a quizzical look on his face. After a brief silence, John Hay told Morely that he had himself written the Bixby letter. ... Hay asked Morely to treat this information as strictly confidential until after his (Hay's) death. Morely did so..”

Hay is also said to have told Walter Hines Page and W C Brownell.

Later in his illustrious career, Hay served as US Secretary of State for President Theodore Roosevelt who described Hay as “without exception, the best letter-writer of his age”.

Burlingame’s View that Hay Composed the Letter

Hay died in 1905 and donated most of his papers to Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island (of which he was a graduate). Hay’s papers included a scrapbook of 110 pages which contained Hay’s poems and clippings of reviews and commentaries on his various writings. Burlingame discovered in that scrapbook a pasted clipping of the Bixby letter. Burlingame validly questioned why Hay would have kept that letter in his scrapbook if he were not the author of it.

Steers’s View that Lincoln was the Author of the Letter

However, in 2006 Jason Emerson , a historian and biographer, uncovered six letters written on the subject of the Bixby letter by Lincoln’s son Robert Todd Lincoln to Isaac Markens, also an historian and biographer. Author Edward Steers Jr, in his book *Lincoln Legends, Myths, Hoaxes and Confabulations Associated With Our Greatest President*, (on page 101) concluded his analysis of the matter as follows :

“In a letter to Markens dated February 17, 1917, Robert put an end to the debate with the following statement: ‘Your suggestion that neither Nicolay or Hay probably had any special knowledge of the [Bixby] letter at the time is correct. Hay himself told me so..”.

So here is a definitive statement by Hay himself, albeit through Robert Lincoln, that he had no knowledge of the letter at the time it was written. “While the real author of the Bixby letter never intended a hoax, he did help to inadvertently create a myth that can safely be put to rest in Lincoln’s favor.”

The second paragraph of that quotation is rather strangely worded. There is no doubt that Steers sees Lincoln as the “real author“. I presume that by saying “he did inadvertently help to create a myth“, he is merely saying that the myth that Hay wrote the letter is about a letter which was written by Lincoln (this being “the help”). The title of Steers’s book includes the words “hoaxes” and “myths”, and the second paragraph of the quotation above appears to be an ungainly and inelegant way of incorporating them into this story.

Conclusion

Unfortunately, Burlingame's verdict in his 2009 Lincoln biography that Hay was the writer of the Bixby letter did not address the opposite conclusion reached by Steers based on the 1917 letter from Robert Lincoln to Markens. President George W Bush was content to accept at face value that the letter had been composed and written by Lincoln . Whether he was correct in doing so remains an open question.

Sources

Burlingame, Michael, Volumes 1 and 2 *Abraham Lincoln : A Life*, John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 2009.

Steers, Edward Jr, *Lincoln Legends, Myths, Hoaxes and Confabulations Associated With Our Greatest President*, University Press of Kentucky; Vachon.

Sarah, *The Fells*, www.thefells.org/stories/storyReader

Bixby letter, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bixby_letter 25 September. Wikipedia.

Robert K O'Connor QC

Catch-Up on Gwambygine

Last time I spoke about the old Gwambygine homestead we had had restored with the help of the River Conservation Society and a Federal Job Stimulus grant, it was to tell you of the damage wrought by the huge storm that went through York in January this year. We cried! It ripped off the whole roof and shingles underneath and did a lot of damage to the inside, but now it has all been fixed.



The back of Gwambygine on a rainy afternoon.

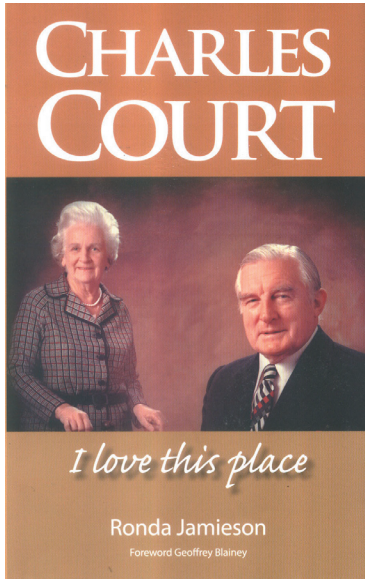
Luckily the building was covered by insurance and our wonderful York tradesmen have worked hard to get it back to its original pristine condition. In the meantime the weeds grew like jack-and-the-beanstalk with all the rain we had in September – again requiring a huge amount of effort to control them. There is always something to do!

Our last Open Day for the year is on Saturday November 12 and if any of you would like to come up do ring us on 0409 290 895 you will be most welcome.

Pamela and Nick Statham Drew

Books written by our members

On 22 September, Dr Ronda Jamieson, was key speaker at a private launch of her recently published book, *Charles Court: I love this place*. Many members will remember Ronda for her groundbreaking work first as head of the Battye Library's Oral History Unit, then later as Director of the Battye Library. After she retired from the Library in 2005, Ronda accepted the commission to write Sir Charles Court's biography.



Cover photo is of Sir Charles and Lady Rita Court. Portrait taken by John Whitfield-King.

The book is based on many hours Ronda spent over the years interviewing Sir Charles, as well as interviews with family, senior civil servants, politicians and prominent citizens who knew Charles Court well. The oral sources are backed up by thorough documentary research and the resultant biography is detailed, well-referenced and absorbing.

Book launch - invitation

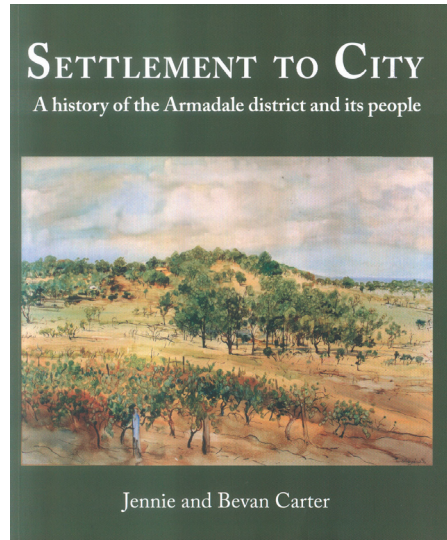
On Friday 4 November 2011, a public launch of the biography will be held in the State Library Theatre and members are warmly invited. The starting time will be 5pm for 5.30pm and refreshments will be served. Members of the Court family will be hosting the launch in conjunction with the Friends of Battye Library. If you would like to come along to the book launch and

hear Ronda speak about her work, please RSVP by 31 October to Nick Drew either by email at nickdrew@bigpond.com or telephone 9384 8154 or mobile 0409 290 895. Ronda will be on hand to sign her book which will be available for purchase on the night at the discounted member's price of \$38.25 for all who attend, Friends of Battye Library members or not. It will also be sold at the regular price of \$45 in the State Library Bookshop but our members will be entitled to their 15% discount.

Members Jennie and Bevan Carter have completed their local history, *Settlement to City: a history of the Armadale district and its people*, which was commissioned and published by the City of Armadale. Co-

incidentally the Carters' book was also launched on 22 September at a function in Armadale. To take co-incidence even further, Jennie took over from Ronda as Director of the Battye Library in 2005 before she too retired from the Library to take up the contract to research and write the history of Armadale in partnership with husband Bevan.

Settlement to City takes the history of the district from its first beginnings as an isolated military outpost set up at Kelmscott in 1830. Before European settlement, the land which now encompasses the Armadale district was at the junction of the land belonging to three major Aboriginal family groups. Over the years the area became slowly settled and the Indigenous residents were displaced. Many colourful and interesting characters made their home in the district which became known for its orchards, vineyards and small farms. But it was not until after the Second World War and the influx of migrant families that Armadale became the sprawling, populous suburb it is today.



Book cover featuring a painting by William (Wim) Boissevain OBE of the old Derry NaSura vineyard in Armadale.

Canning Stock Route exhibition

Members and friends may be interested in a free exhibition beginning in November at the Perth Exhibition Centre. This exhibition is usually housed in the National Museum but is being brought to Perth for CHOGM.

“It tells the story of the Canning Stock Route’s impact on Aboriginal people, and the importance of the Country that surrounds it, through the works of senior and emerging artists and the stories of traditional custodians. It is a story of contact, conflict and survival, of exodus and return, seen through Aboriginal eyes, and interpreted through their voices, art and new media.” It has been designed to engage children and adults alike. See details at: www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/yiwarra_kuju.

New volume to be launched

Issue number 27 of *Studies in Western Australian History*. “Environmental Exchanges” edited by Andrea Gaynor and Jane Davis will be officially launched by Barbara York Main at 5.00pm on Monday 7th November 2011 at the Patricia Crawford Courtyard, Arts Building, University of Western Australia, Hackett Drive Nedlands. See <http://www.uwa.edu.au/campus-map>.

Two of the contributors to the new volume are our own Battye Historian, Dr Sarah McQuade of the State Library, and Dr Lise Summers of the State Records Office. Sarah’s piece “explores the ways in which various understandings of environment informed the planning and development of Perth’s post-1970s suburban landscapes” and Lise’s article “traces the development of legislation to protect native flora in Western Australia from 1911 to 1975.”

Other authors include Sue Graham-Taylor (inagural J S Battye Fellow), Jane Davis (also a J S Battye fellowship winner), Jenny Gregory, Tony Hughes-d’Aeth, Ruth Morgan, Ron Chapman, Brooke Fowles and Andrea Gaynor. For further information, please email Jane Davis at jane.davis@nd.edu.au

An invitation to an important forum on the Perth Esplanade

The History Council of Western Australia has invited Friends of Battye Library to a public forum on the Perth Waterfront on Thursday 10 November 2011.

The Forum will be held on the 9th Floor of The New Perth Esplanade Hotel, 18 The Esplanade, Perth which has superb views over the waterfront area.

Please attend at 5pm for registration and networking. Light refreshments will be served. The Forum will commence at 5.30pm.

Cost: \$15 per person (History Council members) and \$20 per person (Non Members and late registrations). The event will be chaired by Tom Perrigo, Chief Executive Officer of the National Trust of Australia (WA) and there will be 3 speakers.

Dr Lise Summers, President History Council of Western Australia will speak on the topic of Reclamation for Recreation. Dr Gaye Nayton, Historical archaeologist will address the topic “Foreshore Treasure: the

potential archaeology of the Port of Perth” and Julie Lunn will talk about the importance of the site for public assembly and commemoration.

The proposed Perth Waterfront project will have a significant impact on the State Registered Esplanade Reserve. While the History Council is not opposed to development as such, we wish to draw attention to the heritage status of the area, which we believe has been a missing part of the discussion to date and the fact that it is a community asset of immense importance.

For more details please contact office@historycouncilwa.org.au
Telephone: 0421 477 034.

Newsletter - changes coming in 2012

Next year there will only be three issues of our newsletter published and posted to members. Publication dates will co-incide with the March, July and November general meetings. A brief flyer will be sent out to publicise the meeting for May and the AGM in September (please see page 4 of this newsletter for details). We intend to use our email list for news of events and other happenings. We are planning on a revamped newsletter with more pages and welcome suggestions and/or contributions from our members.

Important - Membership renewal

Do not forget that your membership subscription became due on 1 July.

Your membership of the Friends of Batty Library is crucial in enabling us to undertake important projects to assist in acquiring, preserving, and making available Western Australian archival and documentary materials. Another of the Friends' key roles is to help publicise and promote the collections of the J S Batty 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 we are pleased to offer an online payment facility, for those who use internet banking, to make paying your subscription even easier.

For those who have already sent in their subs, a sincere thank you for your continued support of the Friends of Batty Library.

**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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you require a receipt, please tick here

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

Jack's backup

[Steve Errington is kindly filling in for Jack Honniball who has been travelling overseas.]

John Morgan, marine – storekeeper - author

As I write this, Jack Honniball is away in Canada where my subject also spent some time and is where he wanted to settle. His name was John but maybe his friends called him Jack.

John Morgan (1792 – 1866) was on board the *Parmelia* when she staggered into Cockburn Sound on 2 June 1829. John, his wife Rebecca and their daughter Rebecca were three of the 81 souls - colonial officials and tradesmen, their wives and children - who arrived to start building the Swan River Colony.

Morgan was the government storekeeper with charge of the salt beef, ship's biscuit, flour, dried peas and beer that they were all to live on until they could grow their own food. The *Parmelia* people lived in a temporary settlement on Garden Island that winter before moving to Fremantle or Perth. But the Morgans remained on the island for three years until there was nothing left in the store but a little cocoa and tobacco.

Lt Governor Stirling then made John a JP and (unpaid) Government Resident for Perth. It was in the latter capacity that in May 1833 he had to supervise the execution by firing squad of Aboriginal leader Midgegooroo near where the old Deanery now stands. Then, in November 1834 he left on the *Eagle* for Tasmania where he would spend the rest of his life. His friends had found him a £300 p/a position as a police magistrate.

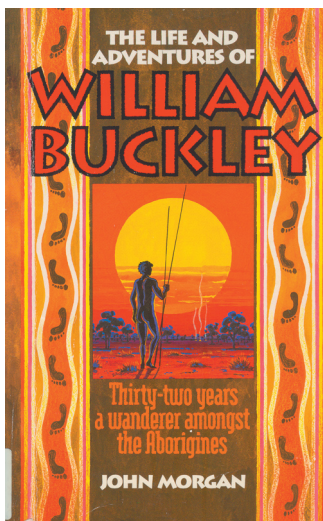
In his younger days Morgan had been a Lieutenant in the Royal Marines and had seen action in the Peninsular War. In July 1812 America invaded Upper Canada (basically southern Ontario) and, early in 1813, Morgan's unit was transferred from Spain west to Bermuda then on to the blockade of Chesapeake Bay near Washington. By May 1814 he was on Lake Ontario and led the marines from HMS *Princess Charlotte* in the capture of the batteries of Fort Oswego in New York State. He was wounded in a later night raid and, after recovering in Kingston hospital, served on the Quarter Master General's staff before returning to England.

When the Napoleonic Wars ended Morgan went on half-pay but, in 1823, asked to be moved to the reserve list so that he could migrate to Canada. The Morgans set off for Quebec but abandoned their journey mid-channel when Mrs Morgan became seriously ill. Instead

of emigrating he wrote a 348-page book *The Emigrant's Note Book and Guide with Recollections of Upper and Lower Canada during the Late War*, published in 1824. In 1826 he was appointed by the Canada Land Company as its agent in Swansea.

After his move to Tasmania Morgan spent only three years as a magistrate then edited several newspapers. This was not very lucrative and he worked hard to get his marines half-pay re-instated. When he returned briefly to Perth in March 1858, he introduced himself in a newspaper advertisement as 'John Morgan HP Royal Marines', suggesting that he had succeeded.

His advertisement was soliciting orders for a book he was writing on his recent overland trip from Albany and also covering the foundation years of WA. Unfortunately the book was never published. But the advertisement caught my eye because he also described himself as author of *The Life and Adventures of William Buckley: Thirty-two Years a Wanderer Amongst the Aborigines of the Unexplored Country Round Port Phillip*.



The 1991 paperback edition of John Morgan's 1852 book on William Buckley.

Buckley was a convict who had fled the ill-fated 1803 settlement of Victoria. He lived with the Aborigines in the area centered round modern Geelong before making contact with members of John Batman's advance party in July 1835. This book, first published in Hobart in 1852, remains the standard work on Buckley – and is still in print.

UWA library has a first edition, and at least five later editions are available from libraries around Perth. The best is the 1967 Heinemann edition which, under the splendid new lending rules, I was able to borrow from the State Library. This has an excellent introduction by C E Sayers. The latest, the 2002 paperback from Text Publishing (reprinted 2009) is still available but has Tim Flannery's name on the cover in place of Morgan's on the strength of Flannery's long introduction on Buckley.

Steve Errington

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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary \$25

Joint \$35

Pensioner / student / junior \$15

Corporate \$50

Meetings

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, 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 per year - 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.friendsofbattyselibrary.org.au>

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

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

or write to:

The President

Friends of Battye Library (Inc)

P O Box 216

Northbridge WA 6865

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

Retrievals Every half hour during opening hours.

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

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

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

State Records Office

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

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

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

Telephone (08) 9427 3360, website www.sro.wa.gov.au, email: sro@sro.wa.gov.au

The Genealogy Centre

Opening hours- as per Battye Library opening hours.

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

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.