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July 2018

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

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Our July 2018 meeting

Neville Marchant

Poison plants and Swan River personalities



Heart-leaf poison
in *Curtis' Botanical
Magazine* vol. 48,
illustration 2212,
(1821).

Tuesday 10 July 2018 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room 4th
floor, State Library of Western Australia.

Please see details on page 3.

Objectives

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

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

July Meeting

Tuesday 10 July 2018
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Dr Neville Marchant

Details of Neville's talk are on page 4.

After the meeting, members are very welcome to join us for a meal at a nearby Perth restaurant. Nick Drew will take bookings on the night.

Problem with the stairs?

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

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Neville Marchant's talk

Poison Plants and Swan River Personalities

One notable aspect of the rich plant diversity of south west Australia is the unusually high number of toxic species that have evolved in response to animal grazing pressures over many millions of years. The first European settlers to the Swan River in 1829 were not only confronted by an unfamiliar environment, they also had inexplicable stock losses. There are around 40 species of the legume genus *Gastrolobium* alone that are now thought to be toxic at certain times of the year. Two species of this genus were responsible for stock losses around Guildford, and a number of other species caused problems in certain seasons on the York Road.

This illustrated talk will discuss how the strongly contrasting methods of plant specimen collecting, and the characters of resident botanist James Drummond and visiting natural history collector Ludwig Preiss, engaged with the ideas of various colonists to slowly advance knowledge of the plants responsible for stock deaths. Controversy abounded over the recognition of what native plants were toxic, involving for example, William Nairne Clark, the fiery editor of the notorious *Swan River Guardian*.

It took many years before Latin names could be applied to the culprit plant species. This delay was surprising, as specimens of species thought to be toxic had been sent to British botanists for taxonomic study not long after the Swan River Colony had been founded, and despite some of the toxic species being described and illustrated in books published prior to 1829.

About Neville

Dr Neville Marchant AM, was born in Perth and began his botanical career as a 15 year-old Herbarium Assistant to the WA plant taxonomy guru, the Government Botanist, Charles Gardner. Neville studied evenings for University entrance and then attended UWA, majoring in Botany. After his first degree, Professor Brian Grieve appointed him as a Graduate Assistant at the Botany Department before Neville went overseas to gain higher qualifications. An Australian Legacy Fellowship enabled him to study for a PhD at Cambridge University. After completion of his PhD studies he then returned to a botanist post at the WA Herbarium. Later, he was appointed Head of the Herbarium before retiring a decade ago. He is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

For many years Neville was a part-time advisor for UNESCO botanical activities in southeast Asia and through this agency, and others, he was able to travel to overseas herbaria to study plant specimens that had been gathered by collectors like James Drummond in Western Australia in the 1800s. This, along with field studies in WA, and his teaching experience, gave him first hand opportunity to gain a deep appreciation of the great botanical diversity of south western WA as well as knowledge of the indefatigable plant specimen collectors who came to live in, or were short term visitors to, the Swan River Colony.



Meeting dates for 2018

11 September- (AGM) - Dr Susanna Iuliano. *Preserving the history of mining in WA.*

20 November (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function - Peter Du Cane. *Archive on the brink: the race to save WA's endangered video heritage.*

President's Letter: Winter 2018

Dear Friends

I am the fortunate recipient of a new right knee and those of you who have been through the same amazing procedure will sympathise as it takes weeks to really feel normal. My wonderful husband, your Treasurer, has been cook, bottle-washer and driver and everything in-between for the past couple of months - I think he deserves a medal.

With plenty of time to read I have been looking through some of the marvellous material that has come out on the First World War with the 1914-1918 anniversary. How quickly the four years have gone, it only seems yesterday that we were funding the digitisation of the *Camp*

Chronicle, the newspaper produced from 1915-18 for the soldiers in training at Blackboy Hill.

The next big celebration will be our own WA Bi-centenary. Your committee would be very interested to hear your ideas on how we should commemorate 200 years since the establishment of the Swan River Settlement. For instance, many of us feel that something should be should be done to rectify the shocking state of Governor James Stirling's grave outside St John's church at Stoke in Guildford UK. The WA Government has had \$40,000 earmarked for a new gravestone or statue for the past ten years or more but the church officials and relatives cannot agree on the position or nature of such a memorial. It is time one of our State leaders resolved the issue and that could be one of our aims. But do let us know, by email to our website or a note to our post box, ideas you might have to commemorate the foundation of our great state. Any ideas are welcome, for instance my brother thinks a big fountain like the one in Canberra set in Perth Water would be great. What do you think?

Closer to home, we need your support for our new Constitution. The Government has posted a model constitution for all non-profit organisations - to make sure that all had the same rules re the handling of money, equity of decisions etc so we had to re-do our constitution to meet the new requirements. Our eagle-eyed Rob O'Connor QC has made the necessary changes to our Constitution and it now needs your approval. We will circulate it to all of you who have email and I will have it available at the Annual General Meeting when I shall call for a motion to adopt the new Constitution.

The AGM will be held on 11 September and we encourage members to nominate for the committee as well. A nomination form is included in this issue.

In closing, I would like to pass on the congratulations and very best wishes of the committee to Dr Margaret Nowak, Chair of the WA Library Board who was awarded an AM in the recent Queen's Birthday honours.

My very best wishes to all our members and supporters.

Pamela



Vale Bruce Devenish

We record with regret the recent death of an esteemed member whose research and writings have added to our knowledge of Western Australia's past – Bruce Devenish. Following his retirement from a lifetime's career in teaching, Bruce joined both the Friends of Battye Library and the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and further developed his keen interest in local history. His first publication was a biography of his pioneering forebear – the builder, public official and churchman, Henry Trigg (*Man of Energy and Compassion*, 1996). He went on to present papers at general meetings on three diverse subjects – on the town of Bulong, Premier H B Lefroy and the Revd Dr Louis Giustiniani. All are in print in *Early days, the journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*. His last major publication was a biography of Sir James Mitchell, Premier and Governor of Western Australia (Hesperian Press, 2014). Bruce also produced several useful indexes to historical publications for the Battye Library.

(With thanks to Jack Honniball, sourced from *History West* June 2018.)



Members' information

Jack Honniball

Jack, author of the popular column 'Jack's Back' has decided to retire after 31 years of delighting readers with his well-researched articles on the many, often quirky, facets of Western Australian history, highlighting the collections of the Battye Library. As was noted in the last *Newsletter*, Jack has penned 115 stories for his column since 1987. His wonderful contribution to the Friends and to WA history in general, saw him awarded our *Gem of Time* in 2006. We are sure he will enjoy his very well-earned rest, but hope that he may feel inspired to pen the odd article once in a while. Warmest thanks and best wishes to you, Jack, for all your long and dedicated service to the Battye Library and the Friends.

He's back! David Whiteford rejoins the State Records Office

We are delighted to announce that David Whiteford, our Gem of Time for 2017 is back working as Archivist at the State Records Office. He is

ready and more than willing to respond to all your thorny questions to do with Western Australian Government records.

State Library staffing

Steve Howell, Senior Subject Specialist in the Battye Library and Leonie Hayes, the Family History Librarian retired recently. Recruitment for both these positions is underway and the successful candidates will be announced soon.

Dr Kate Gregory will be on maternity leave from 18 June. Dr Susanna Iuliano will assume all responsibilities for the Battye Historian role during Kate's maternity leave. Congratulations to Kate and best wishes on the birth of her baby, a brother or sister for Sebastian.



An honour for the Chair of the WA Library Board

In the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours, Emeritus Professor Dr Margaret Nowak has been made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for "significant service to education in the discipline of business studies and economics and to community and charitable organisations". Warmest congratulations to Margaret from the Friends of Battye Library.



Newspaper digitisation – breaking news

The CEO, Margaret Allen, informed us at the June Committee meeting that the State Government has approved a diversion of unspent funds from the State Library's acquisitions budget to newspaper digitisation projects. This is great news as normally, unspent allocations have to be returned to government coffers.

In late 2016 State Library staff estimated that approximately \$2million was needed to finish the digitisation and loading to TROVE of all WA

newspapers up to 1955. These include titles already microfilmed and those that needed to be digitised from the original due to poor quality microfilm or having never been microfilmed. Over the years, the Friends of Battye Library have assisted in a small way through the Maud Sholl Bequest and member donations to fund the digitising of some early papers, such as the *Camp Chronicle*.

Margaret said, “We know our newspapers are of vital importance and interest to researchers as evidenced by the 3.6 million page views of WA newspaper content in TROVE last financial year”.

WA Heritage Film Appeal (14 March to 11 May)

Members may remember that the State Library managed a public appeal from 14 March – 11 May (60 days) to raise funds for digitisation of film in the State Library’s collections. A crowdfunding target of \$10,000 was set and the campaign implemented via ‘Pozible’, an online crowdfunding platform with focus on arts and culture projects. A communications plan was implemented throughout the 60 day campaign and included engagement with print, social media and television. Media coverage included:

- An article on the campaign featured in the Saturday *West Australian* newspaper (24 March 2018)
- Story aired on *Today Tonight* (30 April 2018)
- Radio interview on Curtin Radio FM (12 April 2018)

On completion of the 60 day campaign, the target was exceeded and final Pozible pledge total of \$10,500. An additional \$8,000 funding was secured from Screenwest. At the April Committee meeting, the Friends of Battye Library agreed to provide \$7,000 in funds to the appeal from the Sholl Bequest.

Planning is underway to digitise selected films and for a WA Heritage Film Showcase to be held at the Library on 21 October 2018, which will highlight a wide range of films digitised.

The State Library wishes to thank the Friends of Battye Library for their fantastic support for the Film Appeal.

Margaret Allen
CEO & State Librarian

Western Australian History Foundation Grants 2018

The Foundation's grants round this year is scheduled as follows:

Closing date for applications – Friday 3 August.

Announcement of grant recipients – Wednesday 7 September.

A small number of grants will be made, normally to a maximum of \$10,000 in any one grant. A project must fall within the Foundation's Objects to be eligible to apply for a grant.

For guidelines and more information, see the Foundation's website: <http://www.wahistoryfoundation.org.au>.

The Secretary is available to answer further questions by email.

Lenore Layman [Dr], Secretary, WA History Foundation Inc. layman@westnet.com.au.



Commemorating the end of Transportation

Here is another article in our series marking the 150th anniversary of the cessation of transportation of British convicts to anywhere in the world. The last convict ship, the *Hougoumont*, arrived in Western Australia on 9 January 1868.

[Bevan Carter has written several articles on convicts and family history.]

The *Hougoumont's* convicts

At the close of 1867, the *Hougoumont* was nearing the coast of WA. On board were 62 fenians among the 279 criminals and consternation ensued among the governing class of the Swan River Colony. There was much adverse press both here and in South Australia with one correspondent warning, "I inform you of the arrival here of the 'floating hell' *Hougoumont*". Such dire pronouncements prompted an indignant response from Captain Cozens, of the *Hougoumont*.

I was surprised and vexed to see the South Australian papers copying such trash. The fellow who wrote it ought to be kicked. He knows nothing about the discipline of a convict ship. We were supposed to have a very bad lot, and yet no attempt was made to take the ship, nor were the prisoners kept below like a lot of

wild beasts. On the contrary, they were on deck every day from daylight till dark, and gave not the slightest trouble. The Fenians conducted themselves in the most satisfactory manner, and only two of the other fellows had to be flogged.” [*Fremantle Herald* 11 April 1868]

I have yet to find who the two flogged non-fenian convicts were, but the dates of their punishments are 8 October 1867 and 2 January 1868.

The fear and furore was unwarranted. Some thirteen months after arriving in WA, all civilian fenians were pardoned by the House of Commons and most of those men either left the colony to return home, or made their way to other states. John Boyle O’Reilly, a military fenian, managed to escape and later helped organise the daring rescue by the *Catalpa* of some of his fellow prisoners. By 1900 there were only a handful of fenians left in Western Australia.

Most of the *Hougomont’s* other convicts, however, remained here. One of them was William Anderton who made his home in York.

Anderton was first convicted in Preston, Lancashire, as a young man for petty offences - 20 March 1861, stealing a purse, 2 months; 17 December 1861, killing game without a licence, 2 months; 28 May 1862, stealing a ferret, 1 month. His crimes escalated and he was convicted in October 1862 for burglary and stealing jewellery and sentenced to four years penal servitude. [SROWA Cons 1156R/16] He spent the duration of his sentence at Wakefield and Chatham prisons. Normally, prison registers record facts and dates, and personal observations are rarely made. But in the Chatham register; against William’s name and the description of his various tattoos is the comment “smart looking fellow”. He must have impressed the recording clerk.

After serving his four years, and presumably soon after his release, Anderton was captured attempting to break into a house of Mr Slinger and after his arrest was also charged with breaking into the shop of Mr C Hill, watchmaker and jeweller. At the Preston sessions of 20 February 1867, Anderton’s sentence of fourteen years, caused a drama in the court house when “a female in court exclaimed, ‘Oh, my God’, and the prisoner left the dock laughing.” Mr Hawthorne, his lawyer, asked “that the property in possession of the prisoner should be handed over to his wife, but Mr Addison [prosecutor] said he had no wife.” [*Preston Herald* 23 February 1867] The Pentonville prison entry noted that Anderton “states he is married”. [HO 24/18]

Fremantle prison register records that he was 26 years old (although his UK prison records gave his age as 28), a literate blacksmith with a 23 year old wife, Margaret. It seems he was transferred to Albany prison for his record reveals him being given three months hard labour at Depot for being “drunk & violently resisting officers”. This appeared to be his only indiscretion, for a series of remissions follows this entry with the first on 25 January, 1852: “36 days [for] good conduct 13 mile camp Albany Road”. While his original ticket of leave date was 5 July 1874 he was discharged nine months early on 23 September 1873 and his first employer was Robert John Wheeler of York who paid him 6/- per day. From 30 June 1874 he worked on his own account until the end of 1876.

William married 21 year-old Alice Ashworth in the Wesleyan Church at York on 24 June 1875 and gave his age 29. (Apparently in the seven years from his arrival in WA William’s age had only increased by three years. William continued his trade as blacksmith and only one more brush with the law marred his record. In 1881, Anderton, Charles Mead,

William Proctor, and James Devine were convicted of being drunk and fined 5s. each with costs. A few years later James Devine was to die after being punched by publican James Craig and hitting his head on the ground. Craig was found not guilty of manslaughter.

William and Alice had six children, the first five in York and the last in Fremantle in 1888 after William had secured work at the WA Government railways works. They lived in Thompson road, North Fremantle, probably on one of the original Pensioner Guard lots. Twenty years later in 1907 William passed away after a heart attack. His



Alice and William Anderton. c.1895.
Courtesy Beryl Hoffman.

death certificate gave his age as 60, but he would have been nearer 70. Judge for yourself if he remained a 'smart looking fellow' all his life.



Have you a story to tell?

[Jennie is the editor of the Friends of Battye Library Newsletter. Before her semi (very semi!) retirement she was employed as Librarian/Archivist for the State Aboriginal Affairs department for thirteen years and at the Battye Library for a further ten years where her final job title was Battye Historian/Librarian.]

The genesis of the Aboriginal Family History Program

Martu elder, Daisy Kadibil, one of three girls who ran away from the Moore River Native Settlement in 1931 to make an epic 1,600 kilometre journey back to their home in Jigalong, died recently at the age of 95. The escape of Molly, the eldest at fourteen years, Gracie who was ten, and Daisy, the youngest at seven years old, was a remarkable feat of endurance, tracking skill, and determination on the part of the three children. The girls' story was told by Molly's daughter, Doris Pilkington (Nugi Garimara), in her award-winning book *Follow the Rabbit-proof fence*, which was later made into an acclaimed film.

I met Doris in 1986, not long after I started work as librarian/archivist at the State Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (AAPA). Doris had been taken from her mother as a young child and was brought up at the Moore River Settlement and at the Roelands Mission near Bunbury. She later studied journalism at Curtin University. Doris came to see me because she was interested to find out if details of her family were recorded in the archival files of the former Native Welfare Department. Co-incidentally, several other women were also beginning to research their family history. The requests for information from people, many of whom had been removed from their families and lost contact, led to the formation of the Aboriginal Family History Program.

When our program began early in 1986 it was only the second service of its kind in Australia, and the first to be administered by a State Government agency. Professor Peter Read, who coined the term 'stolen generations', had co-founded Link-up in New South Wales in 1980 to assist people to reconnect with their families.

The records

The vast bulk of Western Australian Aboriginal affairs records are stored in the State Records Office (SRO). In 1972 the AAPA was formed after the Native Welfare Department (NWD) was abolished. Responsibility for the records of the former NWD were split between AAPA and the new Department of Community Welfare (DCW). AAPA had control over administrative records of State Aboriginal affairs agencies dating from 1886 and DCW took over personal records of Aboriginal people created by those bodies. In truth the split was hardly clear-cut as a great deal of personal information was included on earlier administrative files, particularly those dealing with the various Aboriginal missions, settlements, pastoral stations, and town reserves.

All State Aboriginal records had been closed sometime before 1982, but after protests from academics and researchers, the Brian Burke Labor Government which came to power in February 1983, promised to re-open them. The amount of personal information on the files, however, meant that a system of reviewing them to determine suitability for access needed to be instituted.

The first person appointed to develop guidelines and assess administrative files before release to researchers was Mary Anne Jebb in 1984. Three months after I joined AAPA in November 1985, I took over the task. With the help and guidance of Chris Coggin and Tom Reynolds of SRO and Ann Molloy at AAPA, I developed a system of reviewing information in accordance with criteria detailing amount and type of personal information and recording decisions made about each file in a separate register. The aim was to provide as wide an access as possible to records, while at the same time managing confidentiality for Aboriginal people who might have intrusive personal details recorded, often without their knowledge.

Stored in the SRO stacks were also a collection of large format index cards which had not been accessioned, and I was asked if AAPA wished to take responsibility for them as well. Information on the cards dated from 1916 to the 1950s and contained a wealth of personal information about Aboriginal families and individuals that had been compiled from personal and administrative files, and from reports submitted by Aboriginal 'Protectors'. Being alphabetised, the family history cards, as they became known, were an extremely valuable resource for people searching for their immediate families' details as many of the file numbers on the cards related to existing personal files. In 1986 John Priestley of

DCW was in charge of managing personal records, for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, and we developed a referral system to assist those seeking family information.

The challenge

A concurrent task was to develop a policy of access in consultation with Aboriginal researchers, such as Doris Pilkington, as well as Indigenous staff members at AAPA, among them Roni Ellis, Leslie Forrest, Ed Brown, and Norm Harris, who were generous in giving their time to help develop, refine and test draft policy documents. Sue Lundberg (later Gordon), appointed as the first Indigenous Commissioner for Aboriginal Planning towards the end of 1986, gave her full support for the initiative. As did her successor, Cedric Wyatt. Both were acutely aware of the importance of the program having themselves been brought up in Sister Kate's home for Aboriginal children.

Once word got around, the demand for access to family information grew rapidly and it became clear that the records needed at least a simple index to help people find relevant information. The AAPA were willing to increase my hours of work and I compiled separate indexes for personal names, missions and settlements, and pastoral stations. These early indexes are still available in SRO and the Battye Library.

In 1990 I contacted the South Australian Museum enquiring about access to detailed WA genealogies which had been compiled by Perth-born anthropologist Norman Tindale from 1926-1954. Dr Philip Jones, of the Museum's Anthropology Department generously offered to transfer copies of the genealogies and accompanying photograph albums to our Family History Program.



Dr Norman Tindale.
Courtesy South Australia Museum.

Eventually, the position of a full time Aboriginal Family History Officer was created and I was pleased when, Rose Mitchell, the AAPA's library assistant who had accompanied me to Adelaide to view the Tindale papers, was appointed to the role. When I left the renamed Aboriginal



Rose Mitchell
in the AAPA Library 1991.

Affairs Department (AAD) in 1998 to join the Battye Library, the Aboriginal Family History Program was firmly established as a vital part of the State's responsibility to address the consequences of the widespread removal of Aboriginal children from their families.

On 26 May 2017, Ben Wyatt, Treasurer and Aboriginal Affairs Minister, (Cedric Wyatt's son) announced that all State records containing Aboriginal family information were to be brought under one umbrella. The recently formed Aboriginal Culture and History WA unit now occupies part of the second floor

of the State Library building and continues the crucial work begun more than 32 years ago.

Jennie Carter



Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is one of Australia's most well-known oral historians. She is also the biographer of Sir Charles Court. This article is the tenth in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

Robert Burns Moore, 1905–1987, OH329

Robert Burns Moore, the son of Amelia and Robert Moore, was born at Yundamindera in 1905 and was interviewed in 1978. His father was aged 16 when he arrived from Ireland in 1897; he qualified as a Winding Engine Driver in 1902. The family moved to Anaconda where Robert took over the Crown Cordial factory, carted sandalwood and bought two hotels. His son started school there. A short time at Malcolm and then Kalgoorlie followed before the family left for Esperance in 1915 where Robert carted salt from Pink Lake. Twin boys were born in 1917, William

Henry and Lindsay Auburn. A move to a market garden at Jandakot followed a year later which was sold so the family could move to Perth. The many changes meant Robert Burns ended up hating school and admitted to regularly playing 'hookey'.

Robert Moore bought a freight business and a home in Short Street. A contract carting for the Vacuum Oil Company followed and a newspaper delivery business added on behalf of various newspapers including the *West Australian*, the *Daily News* and the *Sunday Times*.



Robert Burns Moore. Courtesy Moore family.

Unable to buy parts for their trucks, an automotive engineering business was started in 1920. According to his son:

The engineering side became an absolute necessity ... we just had to make our own parts ... so we bought a lathe and a milling machine and we also got the best foreman and tradesman in Western Australia at that particular time, Jack Wild, and he taught me my trade ... This foreman was so good that he would get anybody out of trouble. And we got a terrific name around Western Australia.

Other truck owners had the same problems and went to Moore's when they had a broken gear, gearbox or differential:

We used to keep a stock of these various breakable parts ... and then we gradually built that up and from there on we put in crankshaft grinders, cylinder grinders and reboring equipment. They'd bring in the sample and we'd duplicate it to get the chap on the road again.

Initially Robert was in a partnership with Jim Ellis and the company was Moore and Ellis until becoming R Moore probably in 1922. In 1925 Robert Burns married Agnes Ridd and two years later R Moore & Son was formed after he paid 200 pounds for a quarter share. Father and son

worked well together: 'I never did anything without conferring with father and we were always in very good agreement on what was going to be done.' He bought land at Wannamal in 1932 and defied the experts who said clover could not be grown there: 'we had about four thousand acres of beautiful clover,' along with sheep.

The automotive firm was successful, even in the Depression, and employed eighteen others and offered apprenticeships. William (Bill) and Lindsay (Lin) joined their brother in the partnership in 1944 when the firm became R. Moore & Sons. During the Second World War, munitions work was carried out and contracts signed to make Bren and Bofor gun and Tiger Moth aircraft parts. There were also service contracts with the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force and with the American Navy.

In 1947 the Britannia coffee palace in William Street was bought and changed into a hostel with over 100 rooms; it was sold in 1968.

This was obviously a hard working and enterprising family. Besides their automotive engineering business, the family diversified into whaling in 1949 which led to the formation of the Nor'-West Whaling Company with Robert Moore as the managing director. It operated from Point Cloates



Reconditioning harpoons at the Nor' West Whaling Company, Carnarvon in 1951. (Battye Library, SLWA 008438D)

from 1949 to 1955 and from Carnarvon from 1956 until 1963 after the purchase of the Australian Whaling Commission station.

Norwegians had operated the Point Cloates station until it was devastated by a cyclone in 1944. Robert Burns recalled: 'I took over the organising of the whaling company itself; again with conferring with Dad and I was given the job in the finish to get the thing going'. The station was found to be 'one hell of a mess frankly, with all this twisted iron and girders all laying all over the place'. Harold Martin became manager in 1950 and Robert Burns was the operations manager based in Perth. Brother Bill became Marine Superintendent and Lindsay was Works Engineer.

For the first season the catch was 190 whales with 950 tons of whale oil was produced. For the second, 347 whales were caught followed by the full allocated quota of 600 in 1953 and 1954. According to Myra Stanbury, it was one of the most successful of Australia's shore-based stations.¹

There were moves for Nor-West Whaling to take over the Cheynes Beach Albany operation, but this did not eventuate. In 1956 the Commonwealth Government decided to sell the whaling station at Carnarvon, which the Moore family bought for nearly a million pounds. By then the two whaling stations had a quota of 500 whales a year which meant 1000 could be caught. The loan to buy the company was paid off in three years and was 'the most lucrative business we'd ever been in', according to Robert Burns Moore. A quarter of a million pounds was spent on improving the station and yet a 30 per cent dividend could be paid to shareholders. Again major work had to be done to the Carnarvon station; the Point Cloates station was closed. The full quota of whales were caught initially but eventually the whales were smaller in length and fewer in number, making it more difficult to operate profitably. In 1963 the decision was taken to stop whaling.

A further diversification saw the start of prawning from Carnarvon in 1962 by the Moore family. Michael Kailis is given credit for starting prawning in the area, but the Moore's started the year before him. Nor'-West Whaling was sold in 1965.

Returning to the automotive engineering side of the firm, it expanded into Brisbane in 1958, followed by Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Hobart. At the time of the interview, turnover was around \$2 million a year. Robert and Bill's sons moved into the business in various roles; Lindsay had two daughters.

Robert Moore died in 1957 and was much admired by his son, who said:

I don't remember anything that my father went in for that wasn't a successful project, I really don't. Even the farm, the vegetables, or market garden, he bought it and sold it at a profit ... we all worked hard, but again everything that he took on he made a success of by calculated risks, which he calculated right down to the last penny ... He was a marvellous man really ... I can't say enough about my dad.

Future activities included a tractor parts division in Redcliffe and Diesel Engine and Trucks Division. Other franchises were held in New Guinea, New Caledonia, New Hebrides and Fiji, but most were not successful. A branch was opened in Bunbury in 1964.

When asked what he considered his greatest achievement in his working life, Robert Burns Moore replied:

I would think ... the organising of the whaling ... and the prawning and the particular political side of it. Of achieving getting a licence to whale, that would be one of my big ones. And achieving the ability, which I always felt beyond me, to get the team together and get the whaling going.

Few would disagree. The story is an amazing combination of seeking expertise about whaling the family knew nothing about and persuading politicians to support the application for a whaling licence. Then there were the complications of staffing and operating a station in such an isolated area. Many problems were faced and overcome. The automotive engineering side is also remarkable, however. My overall impression was that ego was never a problem with the Moore's; they had the sense to recognise where their expertise lay and where the expertise of others was needed.

R Moore and Sons still exists today carried on by two of Robert Moore's grandsons, Warren and Neil. According to its website it is 'Australia's leading diesel engine cylinder block and crankcase remanufacturer'.

Ronda Jamieson

1. Myra Stanbury, Norwegian Bay Whaling Station, WA Museum 1983, p.8.



News from the State Library

Forthcoming events and exhibitions

World Track Laying Record – The Nook (May 8 to July 15)

This display, presented in collaboration with the WA Museum, is a celebration of the contributions of Thursday Islander track workers to building the Pilbara railway network. Specifically, the display looks at how Thursday Islander workers helped set the world record for track laying in 1968 in building the Mt Newman railway. The record was achieved amidst the heat and isolation of the Pilbara. It explores camp life and the camaraderie that developed as a community worked to retain their identity while being separated from their land, islands, and families.

See My Hat – Story Place Gallery (10 April – 11 July)

Featuring photographs and picture books from the Library's collections, this exhibition is designed especially for children and their families. Dress hats, uniform hats, military hats and fancy dress hats are some of the many millinery styles to explore. Children and their families have the opportunity to make a hat and share a picture book together.

Disrupted Festival of Ideas – Ground Floor Discovery Lounge (Saturday July 28)

The annual Disrupted festival will take place on Saturday 28 July. In 2018, the theme is disruption and technology with discussions and workshops with creative thinkers exploring this theme. The full program is forthcoming.

Un/nature - Ground Floor Discovery Lounge (August 9 -23 September 2018)

Un/nature is a photographic exhibition exploring Richard Woldendorp's photographs held by the State Library of Western Australia. The exhibition exposes the diversity of Woldendorp's photographic documentation of the WA landscape, both natural and cultural. Unnature is an obsolete word that means to change the nature of, or to invest with a different or contrary nature. Woldendorp's images reflect the way in which the Western Australian landscape has been made or remade over time.

Projects

***From Another View* – Minderoo Foundation partnership project**

In January 2018, State Library staff began work on *From Another View* in partnership with Minderoo Foundation. This project seeks to reinterpret the 1874 trek from Geraldton to Adelaide by explorer and Western

Australian Premier, Sir John Forrest. The project explores the historic trek from different creative and community perspectives through artworks, regional displays, public programs, educational resources and a major exhibition at the State Library in 2019. It runs from Jan 2018 to August 2019 and involves three major components: community engagement; artistic engagement; and research. The State Library is using its *Storylines* program and archive as a tool for community engagement to explore First Peoples connections to the lands travelled by Forrest and his team in 1874. The four main Aboriginal communities in the Yamatji and Western Desert areas that are the focal points for community engagement are Geraldton, Wiluna, Laverton and the Ngaanyatjarra Lands (from Warburton to Wingellina).

Over the past few weeks, staff from State Library staff have been out in the field from Geraldton to Laverton conducting *Storylines* workshops and sharing information about the historic trek. Visit the From Another View State Library blog to keep track of the team's progress: <https://fromanotherview.blog/>

Sharing our Diverse Heritage – partnership project with Office of Multicultural Interests

In 2017, OMI and SLWA OMI began a partnership project *Sharing our Diverse Heritage* to provide language teachers with 'authentic' locally produced community language heritage materials and make them digitally available to community language teachers.

The project's aims are to:

- Assist with the collection, preservation and promotion of non-English language materials produced in Western Australia that representing and tell the stories of local communities;
- Increase engagement and public awareness of Western Australia's diverse multicultural history;
- Help celebrate language learning as a vehicle to promote social cohesion, increased intercultural understanding and improved language and literacy skills among citizens
- Celebrate the learning of all languages, whether it is in mainstream school programs, community language schools or tertiary institutions.
- Promote and develop the use of libraries and their resources by the community.

The twelve month project includes the following activities to be undertaken by SLWA:

1. Identification, collection and processing (description, conservation and reformatting) of heritage materials that document the lives and stories of Asian and European migrants in Western Australia;
2. Liaison and consultation with community language schools and community organisations to identify and select suitable materials for digitisation;
3. Development of lesson plans and education material using the identified and digitised multi-lingual resources;
4. Promotion of the resources to the target community language and school sector language teachers during Languages week 2018.

Collecting the West

Dr Denise Cook, a post-Doctoral Fellow on the *Collecting the West* ARC funded project, is undertaking collections research to update and expand on *Katijin*, the excellent guide to SLWA Indigenous Collections by Heather Campbell, produced with Friends of Battye Library support in 2003.

Denise will be working on focused case studies to help map key collections and the changing approach to how Aboriginal documentary heritage has been collected by the State Library over time.

WA Women

Do visit the State Library's online celebration of 183 WA women at <https://slwa.wa.gov.au/wawomen/>

Selected recent acquisitions

Sam Lovell collection - Private Archives.

This collection provides an important visual record of recent history in the Kimberley as well as Sam's own extraordinary life. Sam (1933-) was removed from his family and sent to Moola Bulla station for "half-caste" kids near Halls Creek when he was just four years old. He became a boundary rider and stockman and worked on cattle stations all along the Gibb River Road. During this time Sam started taking photographs with an old box camera, documenting the cattle industry, mustering camps, the landscape, and the people he met. He became known as "Mr Kimberley" and his deep knowledge of the country served him well when he started running bush tours with his wife in the 1980s. Sam is also an acclaimed musician who plays at Tamworth Music Festival each year. In 2003 Sam was awarded an OBE for his services in developing indigenous tourism. Sam Lovell is a high profile Western Australian who

has made an enormous contribution to the state and to indigenous affairs more nationally, and his personal archive of photographs will be a highly significant addition to the pictorial collection as well as to Storylines.

Paul Cole album - Pictorial collection.

The Palace Hotel photograph album, leather embossed with 'The Palace Hotel 1895' on the front, containing 18 large colour photographs (mostly by Whitfield-King, also Bevan Williams) taken to promote the hotel's function rooms, 1970s. The photographs provide an important visual record of the hotel's architectural features, décor and furnishings, table settings, staff uniforms, and wedding fashions of the time. The album is accompanied by loose photos; ephemeral items such as hotel postcards and letterheads, invitations, coasters, and a matchbook; and newspaper clippings relating to the closure of the hotel and the campaign to save the building from being totally demolished and replaced by a modern office building.



Palace Hotel in 1967. Photographed by Fritz Kos.
Battye Library, SLWA 340904PD.

Samantha and Mathew Kelley - Film archive.

Secret Fleets camera, archive and research tapes.

Toodyay Historical Society - Oral History.

Interviews and associated documents related to the Toodyay Bushfire Project.

Anglican Diocesan records - Private Archives.

24 Registers of the Anglican Diocese.

Daw family archives - donated by Ronda Jamieson.

Various miscellaneous papers and correspondence of historical interest.

Kay Campbell Friends of the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

photographs and papers - Pictorial Collection.

John Bennett letter - Private Archives (Purchase).

Written in Fremantle Prison to Robert Rowles, Wongamine near Northam, 10 May 1899, Bennett thanks Mr Rowles (Bob) for his kindness in writing previously and asks if Mr Rowles could raise seven or eight pounds to assist him to engage a lawyer who can attest to his 'antecedents and character' to a jury. His arrest had taken place at Malcolm on 10 April 1899. He says that Dan Horan at Murrin Murrin knows the details if Mr Rowles would care to write to him. The letter is an interesting artifact and although it raises more questions than it answers, it will be of interest to those researching the families or districts involved, or crime and imprisonment in Western Australia at the turn of the twentieth century.

Mark Wilson artworks (Purchase).

Seven original illustrations for the book *Stranded*, by illustrator Mark Wilson, plus preliminary drawings, reference photographs and notes.

Stranded, written by Jan Ramage and illustrated by Mark Wilson, is based on two real-world rescues of stranded whales near Busselton, Western Australia.

Western Australian postcards, 1910-1916 (Purchase).

Two Western Australian postcards sold as a single lot. The first is political advertising for John Forrest and Commonwealth Liberal Party Senate candidates for the 1910 Federal elections. The second commemorates the opening of the Soldiers' Institute, which opened on St George's Terrace in October 1916.

Gary Peters photographs - Pictorial collection.

Digital images of the aftermath of a massive fire at Inglewood Bunnings store on the intersection of Eighth Avenue and Beaufort Street, 26 February 2018.

Eastern Goldfields Historical Society Inc - Private Archives.

Letter – WA Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women's Association; Photographs of Perth buildings.

State Records Office - News from the Archives

The Architecture of the Archive project

Earlier this year, the SRO entered into a new collaborative project with the University of Western Australia's School of Design. Intrigued by the type of records held in the State Archives Collection, and the challenges in storing, preserving and making accessible our State's official archives, UWA Lecturer Mark Sawyer suggested using the SRO as a "case study" and to have his first year architecture students develop proposed designs for a new SRO Search Room. This type of architectural modelling is a key requirement for architecture students as part of their course work.

Damien Hassan

(Reprinted from SRO blog 30 May 2018.)



SRO Lunchtime seminar - Tuesday 10 July 2018

Speaker: Dr Robin Barrington, Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Curtin University

Topic: 'The Story of Jaal'.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have played a major role in revealing Indigenous stories and perspectives on history, based on the use and interpretation of archives. Dr Robin Barrington is a Badimia Yamatji woman and will speak about Jaal, a lawman from the Murchison region, who lived over 100 years ago. For NAIDOC Week commemorations.

An invitation:

If any Friends of Battye Library members wish to present at a SRO Lunchtime Seminar on a research topic related to the State Archives Collection in the second half of this year, please email gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au with your proposal.

Cathrin Cassarchis

State Archivist and Director State Records

Newsletter format

The Friends of Battye Library *Newsletter* is currently published three times a year and posted out to all members. The State Library of WA generously provides the postage and membership fees cover the printing costs. Over the past couple of years postage and printing charges have risen dramatically and, given that the vast majority of our members have access to email, it is opportune to review our practice.

Thank you to the members who have responded to the request in our last issue - you will now receive your copy by email as soon as it is printed.

If other members would be happy to receive the newsletter electronically, please let the editor, Jennie Carter, know by 30 May 2018. Email Jennie at wa.research@gmail.com or drop her a line at:

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



State Library Bookshop discount for members

Don't forget that 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 Friends of Battye Library publications which are sold at an already discounted rate.

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership (please circle)

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

post code _____ Email _____

Tel: _____ mobile _____

If you require a receipt, please tick here

Do you wish to receive emails about forthcoming events? YES NO

How would you like to receive your Newsletter (please circle) Post : Email

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 **membership@friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au** with a note of your online receipt number.

[Jack Honniball has retired from writing his regular column. We will miss Jack's knowledge of the esoteric and wonderful details of WA history as well as his gentle wit, but are pleased to announce that Steve Errington, who readers will recognise as a regular contributor to these pages, has agreed to continue Jack's tradition of producing an article for the final pages of the Newsletter.]

Afterwords: Steve Errington

When I received my first copy of the *Newsletter* after joining the Friends in 2006, I discovered 'Jack's Back', in that issue was a discourse on the Thomas Coombes, father and son. For over thirty years Jack Honniball filled the last two pages of this newsletter, contributing 117 articles. In the last two issues he wrote about shoe shops: now he has invited me to step into his shoes.

What's in a name? Part 1 Tranby House

The National Trust of Western Australia has been busy changing the names of some of its prime properties. 'Old Farm, Strawberry Hill' in Albany is being re-signposted 'Strawberry Hill' with 'The Old Farm' as a subsidiary name. And 'Tranby House' in Maylands has slowly become 'Peninsula Farm (Tranby)'.

When I first visited the old house in Maylands in about 1980, it was called Tranby House. Not totally surprising because it was built in 1839 by Joseph Hardey who had arrived in 1830 on the brig *Tranby*. A 1929 plaque on the wall identifies it as Tranby House. A 1940 *Western Mail* series on Historic Homesteads called it Tranby House. My 1980 copy of the National Trust brochure called it Tranby House (see photo opposite).

The problem is that Joseph Hardey, a Wesleyan lay preacher, a founder of Methodism in WA, and a successful farmer, had never called it Tranby House. He always gave his address as Peninsula Farm, the name also used in advertisements and news stories. Not that all of Peninsula Farm was his – it was a group settlement of *Tranby* families.

But back in 1830 there had been a Tranby House. This was a three - room prefabricated wooden house brought out on the *Tranby* and erected in Fremantle soon afterwards. Joseph and his expectant wife Ann lived in it and it was also used for religious services, both Wesleyan and Church of England. After Joseph and Ann moved to Maylands it was rented out for £78 per year for use as a coffee shop.¹ In October 1831 it was sold to young businessman Phillip Dod.²

One hundred years later another Tranby House appeared. In 1906 WJ Cotton had built a warehouse and coffee palace at the corner of King and Wellington Streets, Perth. In 1938 it emerged as Tranby House, the scene of regular euchre contests with cash prizes, admission 1s 2d including supper.

During World War Two the building was a recruiting centre for the Women's Land Army and the WRANS. In 1948 it was resumed by the Commonwealth government and the name disappeared.

In the 1950s it was the place where males turning eighteen went for their National Service (Nashos) medical exam.

By 1957 the need for Army recruits was falling, a 'birthday ballot' was introduced and in 1959 my birthdate was pulled out of the barrel. Passing the medical would have brought me 140 days of army training.

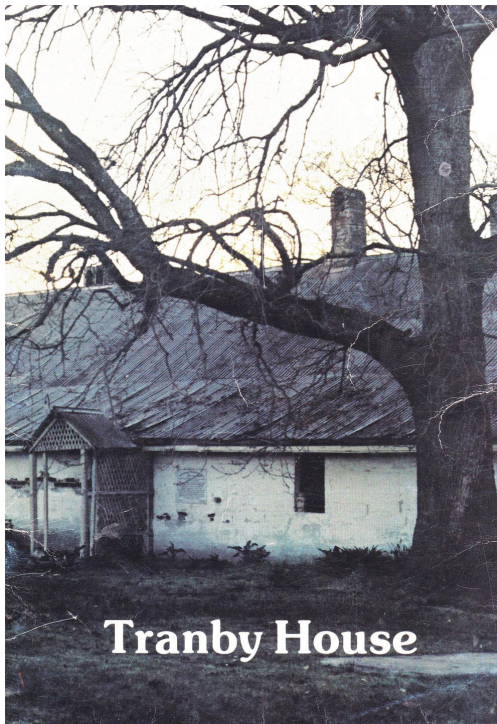
It was not to be - a childhood eye injury and asking "what chart?" when doing an eye test without my spectacles settled the matter. I was told that in an emergency I would be asked to fill sandbags.

The building still stands. It has always had two addresses - 90 King Street and 575 Wellington Street. And it has a coffee shop right on the corner.

My connection with the old house on Peninsula Farm is of much longer duration: I'm now a voluntary guide there with the National Trust. We are open Fridays to Sundays 12.30 – 4.00 pm (but closed during July). It is well worth a visit and you must pop over to the adjacent Peninsula Tea Gardens – they also do coffee.

Steve Errington

1. Ian Berryman, Swan River Letters, vol. 1, p.195.
2. SDUR/D1/93-95, SROWA.



National Trust brochure, circa 1980.

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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary \$25

Joint \$35

Pensioner / student / junior \$15

Corporate \$50

Meetings

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

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

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

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

Specialist staff: Dr Susanna Iuliano (Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165

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

State Records Office

The SRO Search Room on the Ground Floor is open for enquiries and use of material Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4.30pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

Retrievals

On the days that the Search Room is open (Tues-Fri) archives held onsite are retrieved twice a day: before opening at 10am and at 12pm midday with items available by 1pm. Requests received after midday and before 4pm will be retrieved the following working day by 10am. Online and email requests made after 4pm will be available from 1pm onwards the following day if the Search Room is open. No retrievals occur on weekends, Mondays or public holidays.

Clients wishing to view archival records held at the State Records Office should still submit requests in advance. Requests can be made online at any time by registering as a researcher on the SRO's catalogue. Requests can also be made by telephone on (08) 9427 3600 or in person at the SRO during opening hours.

Materials held offsite (eg. most maps and plans, and most consignment numbers greater than 5237) will continue to be retrieved and made available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

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

The Genealogy Centre

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

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

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

No. 161



March 2018

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

Our March 2018 meeting

Bill Bunbury OAM

You can hear the ants breathing:

*The power of memory, land and language and the
Aboriginal and European sense of country*



Bill interviewing at Goomalling. (Courtesy Bill Bunbury.)

Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room
4th floor, State Library of Western Australia.

Please see details on page 3.

Objectives

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

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Committee (2017-2018)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Ms Jennie Carter,

Secretary Ms Heather Campbell

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Ms Kris Bizacca, Ms Lorraine Clarke, Mr Neil Foley, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, Mrs Gillian O'Mara, and Ms Cherie Strickland.

Ex-Officio Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)
Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO)
Dr Susanna Iuliano (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 Western Australia, or the State Records Office.

March Meeting

Tuesday 13 March 2018
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Bill Bunbury

*You can hear the ants breathing:
the power of memory, land, and language, and the
Aboriginal and European sense of country.*

Details of Bill's talk are on page 4.

After the meeting, members are very welcome to join us for a meal at a nearby Perth restaurant. Nick Drew will take bookings on the night.

Problem with the stairs?

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

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Bill Bunbury's talk

You can hear the ants breathing

Bill discusses the power of memory, land and language and the Aboriginal and European sense of country. Expressed through Oral History, allowing us to hear and share personal experience, and, in this context, attachment and response to land, which, for both original and more recent Australians, is deeply interwoven into both our past and our present.



Bill interviewing Jenny Hill near Busselton for an Oral History project with Community Arts Network in 2017. For the Busselton Aboriginal community. (Courtesy Bill Bunbury)

About Bill

Bill Bunbury BA, (Hons) Lit. Dip Ed. D.Litt Hon. is currently Adjunct Professor History & Communications, Murdoch University. He was recently awarded an Order of Australia Medal, General Division for services to Broadcasting and Indigenous Communities.

Bill Bunbury is an ABC broadcaster and documentary maker with 40 years experience in both radio and television. In that time he presented and produced *Background Briefing*, *Word of Mouth*, *Verbatim*, *Talking History*, *Hindsight*, *Street Stories*, *Encounter* and *The Science Show* on ABC Radio National. He also presented regular social history segments

on ABC 720 and Regional Radio.

He has received five international and national awards for his radio documentaries including:-

- 1986 United Nations Australia Peace Prize for his documentary on the Vietnam War, *The war rages on.*
- 1996 New York Radio Festival Gold medal for Best History Documentary *Timber for gold: The Woodlines of WA's Eastern Goldfields.*
- 1997 Inaugural NSW Premier's Media Prize for his six part radio series *Unfinished Business, the Republic, Federation and Reconciliation.*



Bill is also the author of twelve books, expanding material from his *Social History* features. His most recent publication, *Invisible Country* is an environmental history of South West Western Australia.

Meeting dates for 2018

- 8 May** - Dr Sue Graham-Taylor. *Rubbishing Western Australia: the history of waste in in the west.*
- 10 July** - Prof Neville Marchant. *Poison Plants and Swan River personalities.*
- 11 September-** (AGM) - Dr Susanna Iuliano. *Preserving the history of mining in WA.*
- 20 November** (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function - Peter Du Cane. *Archive on the brink: the race to save WA's endangered video heritage.*

President's piece

Dear Friends

In November we held another very successful end of year meeting and catered dinner. More than 50 friends and guests attended and we made a small profit which was donated to the funds we hold to support and promote the collections of the Battye Library and the State Records

Office. The unsuspecting David Whiteford, our Guest speaker on the night, was awarded the 2017 *Gem of time*. And Jack Honniball was gifted with a printed collection of many of the 'Jack's Back' columns he has written for us over the years.

The Friends sent our warmest congratulations to the CEO and State Librarian, Margaret Allen, who was awarded a Public Service Medal in the Australia Day Honours. Further details about Margaret's award can be found on page 8.

The Friends of Battye Library was recently invited to contribute to a focus group on the new 'Strategic Directions' being planned for the State Library. Meetings were held on 31 January and we were represented by Gillian O'Mara and Jennie Carter at separate sessions. A brief report on the outcome of the meeting is on page 26.

Our Treasurer Nick Drew and committee member Rob O'Connor QC, are working on revising our constitution as the WA Government's Department of Commerce has new guidelines for non-profit associations that must be complied with by 2019. The Friends new constitution will be presented to members at either a general meeting or at our AGM in September.

Our first speaker of the year is the acclaimed oral historian, Bill Bunbury OAM. He has been invited to give a presentation of his address, *You can hear the ants breathing* to the University of Hertfordshire in April so we are privileged to hear it first. We also have a interesting group of speakers for you this year who I am sure you will find engaging and informative.

On a personal note, Nick and I were fortunate enough to attend an evening event at the historic Gallop House on the Nedlands foreshore. The House is now a National Trust property and they have turned it over to a trust that manages homes for young composers. The lucky lass who is living in the house this year is Kate Moore who won the scholarship on the basis of work she did in the Netherlands for her PhD. She has incorporated didgeridoos into her orchestral music which she hopes conveys a strong sense of the Australian bush. You can hear her music at <https://katemoore.org>. It was great to see history, heritage, and art combine in such an interesting initiative.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy year to come and look forward to seeing you on the 13th of march.

Pamela Statham Drew

Gem of Time award for 2017

The Friends of Battye Library has awarded David Whiteford with its honour of *Gem of Time*. The following citation was read out at November's meeting where David was also our speaker. It was with great pleasure that the Friends Committee congratulated David on his achievements.

Citation

David has more than forty years experience as a dedicated custodian of Western Australia's important published and archival heritage. His knowledge of the collections of both the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and the State Records Office is unparalleled.

David began work at the State Library in 1975 as a cadet directly from high school and worked in various sections of the Library for more than a year. During 1976-1978, he completed his degree at the Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT, now Curtin University), while working at the State Library during his holidays.

David joined the Battye Library on 3 January 1979, and worked chiefly with maps, monographs, serials, archives and private archives, becoming senior librarian and manager of the Battye and State Reference Libraries' map collections. He took on the responsibility of Senior Librarian for the Published Materials team in 1997 and in 2002 became Senior Archivist.

After the restructure of the State Library in 2006, David was made Team Leader Archives. During his time in this role, he was seconded to the State Government's Redress agency as Chief Researcher. David left the State Library in 2012 to join the State Records Office as Senior Archivist until late 2016. He then took up a role in the newly constructed Perth Public Library.



David - 21 November 2017.

Apart from David's extraordinary knowledge of the Battye Library's collection, he is an authority on trains and railways and WA maps. He was lead researcher and coordinator of a team of volunteers responsible for the compilation of the *WA map bibliography, Perth and districts* which was published by the Friends of Battye Library in 2002.

David is outstanding in his ability to patiently help researchers, drawing on his knowledge of Western Australian heritage collections and research techniques. He is generous with his time and expertise and has been an enormous support to his colleagues at the Battye Library and the State Archives. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him and the speed with which anything was done was amazing. He joined the Friends of Battye Library very early in its history, has served on the committee, and has always been a loyal friend to all who know him.

The Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.) would like to add to David's many achievements and show our appreciation by listing him as a "Gem of Time" – a list that will last to acknowledge the contribution of outstanding men and women to the recording, collection, and preservation of Western Australia's history.



Margaret Allen - Australia Day Honour.

At this January's Australia Day Honours Margaret Allen was awarded the Public Service Medal, the only one given to a Western Australian public servant. Margaret's award was granted "For outstanding public service to the libraries sector in Western Australia". Her citation is published on the Governor General's website.



Ms Allen began her career in a public library where she was involved in developing a library management system. Subsequently she was appointed to the position of Associate Director and then Acting Director at the State

Library of South Australia where she transformed the organisation as it transitioned to new accommodation and included the development and implementation of a new service delivery model.

In 2004, she was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) and State Librarian where she is responsible for the strategic leadership of library services in Western Australia, the operation of the SLWA, and its partnership with local governments for the delivery of public library services.

During her time in the role she has demonstrated a strong commitment to early childhood reading and literacy as illustrated by her leadership of the highly successful 'Better Beginnings' program. The program has been run by the SLWA since 2004 in partnership with the State Government, local governments and industry partners. 'Better Beginnings' now reaches over 60,000 families each year throughout Western Australia.

She has also actively participated in the Australian copyright reform debates and remains committed to the objective of reforms that ensures fair access.

Ms Allen's work in the fields of literacy, Indigenous heritage, copyright, and her support of library and information science education and emerging leaders is well above the norm."



Members' information - Jack Honniball

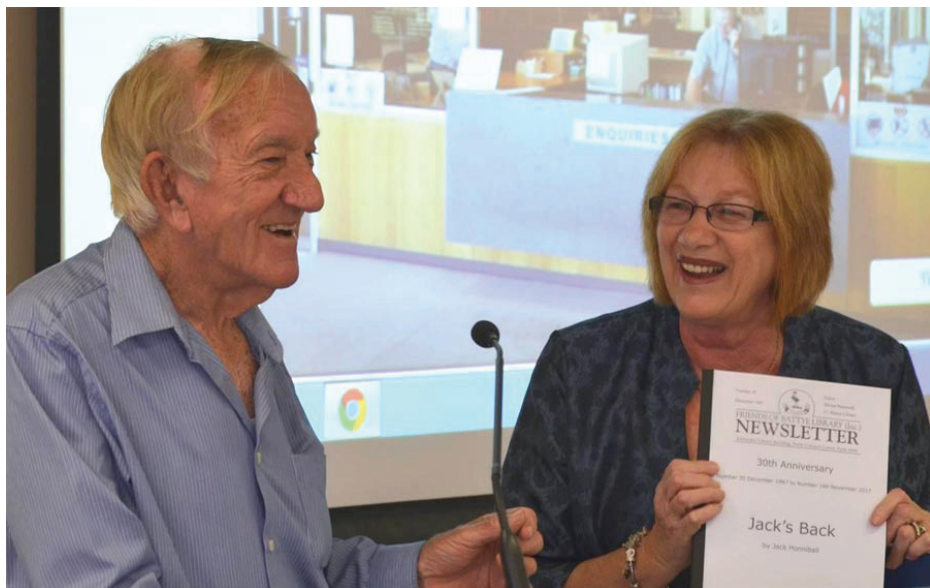
Also at our November meeting we honoured the contribution of Jack Honniball to the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) and this *Newsletter*. Jack has been our most prolific and longest-serving writer and his marvellous column 'Jack's Back' has delighted our members for many years. Cherie Strickland brought together many of Jack's articles in a printed and bound volume and completely flummoxed him with a formal presentation of the collection.

Cherie also read out the following tribute to Jack on behalf of the Friends of Battye Library.

Jack Honniball joined the State Library of Western Australia in 1958, which was then located along with the Museum and Art Gallery

in James Street, in 1985 the State Library moved into its current location in the Alexander Library building. Jack was employed for most of his working career in the State Film Archives and at his retirement in 1989 was Head of the Archive. His knowledge of all the collections in Battye Library is extensive and impressive, and his tenacity and research skills are renowned. He has written more than ten articles for the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.), which in 1986 conferred on him their highest honour – Fellowship of the Society.

A member of the Friends of Battye Library Inc. since its inception and a passionate supporter, Jack became editor of the Friends *Newsletter* in October 1983. His last newsletter as editor was in September 1987 with Edition No. 29, in the very next edition 'Jack's Back' was born.



Jack Honniball being presented with 'Jack's Back' a collection of his historic articles for the Friends of Battye Library Newsletter by Cherie Strickland. 21 November 2017. (Courtesy Wendy Lugg.)

Michal Bosworth took over the role of editor from Jack and he noted that he may have relinquished his post as editor, but he is allotted a page, and sometimes more, where he will continue to

keep us informed about diverse matters of general interest.

In 2006 the Friends of Battye Library Inc. added to his many honours, by listing him as a Gem of Time – a list that will last to acknowledge the contribution of outstanding men and women to the recording, collection and preservation of Western Australia's history.

The chatty 'Jack's Back' page for many years has been a regular and much appreciated contribution. Jack has written 115 stories only missing 14 editions over the 30 year period.

Friends of Battye Library Inc would like to congratulate Jack on his contribution and thank him for his time and lasting memories.

Cherie Strickland



Commemorating the end of Transportation

The 9 January this year marked the 150th anniversary of the cessation of transportation of British convicts to anywhere in the world. The last convict ship, the *Hougoumont*, arrived in Western Australia with 279 prisoners on board. The Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS), the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWAHS), and members of the Friends, particularly the indefatigable Lorraine Clarke organised a successful series of events to mark this historic anniversary. Over the course of this year we will feature articles on the Western Australian convict system.

[On Sunday 11 February our President, Dr Pamela Statham Drew, gave a fascinating presentation on the Western Australian Convict System and the end of transportation to a standing-room-only audience at the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. The following article is an abridged version of her talk.]

Why did the transportation of convicts to Western Australia stop?

There had been rumours before 1868 that transportation would be discontinued. In 1857, for example, there were grave fears (founded in

fact) that British Authorities had just that in mind, causing the Friends of Western Australia in London to lobby hard for the retention of transportation to WA.

So why did it stop in 1868? Three reasons are usually given for the decision.

1. **A change in English attitudes.** Attitudes towards transportation had become negative, partly due to the influence of the recent anti-slavery campaigns, and partly to the shortage of labour for local infrastructure construction. At that time Britain had a number of very large infrastructure projects in the pipe-line, and was experiencing for the first time a lack of men to do the work.

2. **Reaction to the 1867 Inquiry** into Governor Hampton's treatment of convicts which showed that both the Governor and his son, who he had appointed Comptroller of Prisons in 1866, had used excessively harsh treatment of the convicts under their care. For example the number of lashes assigned for various offences was double that which the law allowed; the instrument (ie the cat-of-nine-tails) used to inflict them was illegal, and that men had been kept in solitary confinement and irons for more than nine months which was also illegal.

3. **The Eastern Colonies threat of a trade boycott** if Britain did not cease transportation to the West.

The Eastern Colonies of NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia complained bitterly from about 1860 that ex-convicts from WA were flocking there. New South Wales, Tasmania, and Queensland had long ceased accepting convicts and Victoria and South Australia had never officially agreed to take them. In the wake of the gold rushes Victorians, in particular, were distressed that ex-convicts were infiltrating their colony. A strong Anti-Transportation League was formed which sent voluminous petitions to London demanding the end of transportation. Other colonies were encouraged join in refusing to allow any ship that had docked in WA to land. If successful this would have amounted to a trade boycott, which would have lowered Britain's revenue from duties. The colonies, however, could not agree to conditions of the boycott so it never eventuated, but the threat had effect. The Secretary of State for Colonies, Lord Edward Cardwell, admitted that "the interests and feelings of the neighbouring communities has weighed materially" in the decision to discontinue transportation.

But there was another, a fourth and never before mentioned, reason for the decision.

It is found in a letter from Cardwell to the Governor of New Zealand, Sir George Grey dated 26 November 1864 stating that “The immediate occasion for this decision [to end transportation] has been the necessity for the issue of regulations for the disposal of Crown Lands in the newly explored district of WA”.

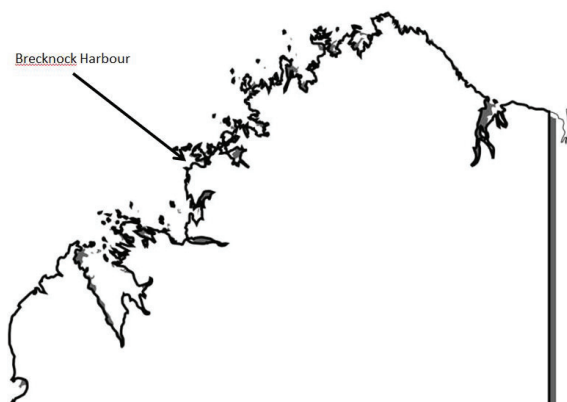
This followed a report that had been received from Frederick Panter, a relative of Governor Kennedy (and the same Panter who was speared later that year with Goldwyer and Harding), that his expedition northwards had discovered 5.5 million acres of good land inland from Brecknock Harbour capable of carrying 3.5 million sheep.

Hampton wanted to open the land for settlement and in October 1864 begged Caldwell for appropriate regulations. Caldwell could see a profitable venture but only

if Western Australia was free of convicts, and as no colony could have two opposing systems operating at the same time, transportation had to cease.

Slowly all government processes to end transportation were completed and the last British convict ship to anywhere in the world, arrived in Fremantle on 9 January 1868. The convicts who disembarked were only starting their sentences – and the shortest sentence of those on this ship was some seven years. Many were up for life, although this could always be remitted for good behaviour. So there were convicts in the system for 20 or more years after the *Hougoumont* reached our shores. In fact, according to Gillian O’Mara, the last transported convict died in 1939.

Pamela Statham Drew



Brecknock Harbour region of the Kimberley.

[Bevan Carter has written several articles on convicts and family history.]

Some of the *Hougoumont's* 'aristocratic' passengers

During the 70's, High street, Fremantle, was a highway of shopkeepers, the majority of whom were on their ticket-of-leave. ... Many of them rose to be entities of considerable tonnage in the life of the State's second township. They had in the main been selected by some of the best of English judges for citizenship in Australia. [*Daily News* 26 August 1924.]

Not all the men transported to Western Australia during the years 1850-1868 for various crimes were the 'scourings of English gaols', some were well-educated, had a privileged position in life, and were independently wealthy.

William Oliver, born in 1820, was a qualified chemist who set himself up as a stockbroker in London without a licence. He had married Bertha Mount, a wealthy woman in her own right, in 1854 and they had no children. In 1858 he was accused of fraudulently appropriating £5000 which a Miss Dance had instructed him to invest in specific Canadian bonds. Dance became suspicious that she was being cheated after Oliver sent her the first dividend and she demanded evidence that her money had been invested as she had requested. From all accounts Miss Dance kept a close watch on the stockmarket and had a good idea of likely returns. Oliver's refusal to provide paperwork caused her to refer him to the Guildhall for examination of her complaint and when more of Oliver's clients came forward with similar accusations he was detained for a trial in the Old Bailey. With the game up, Oliver pleaded guilty to five fraudulent transactions and was sentenced to twenty years penal servitude.¹

On 29 July 1859 he was moved from Pentonville prison, where his occupation is recorded as a chemist, to Chatham and then shipped to Bermuda in 1860. When imprisonment on the Bermuda hulks was abolished in 1862 he was transported to Western Australia to complete his sentence and arrived on the *Merchantman* in February 1863. It seems the prison records did not travel with him for the charge on the Fremantle Register has him convicted for forging a cheque and his occupation given as 'surgeon'.

His stay in Fremantle prison was short, presumably because he reported at least once a week to the sick bay, and he was clearly not an experienced

tradesman or manual worker. 'Doctor' William Lemon Oliver opened a pharmacy on receiving his ticket of leave in 1864 and a year later his wife joined him in Fremantle. Bertha, whom the *Daily News* described as 'attractive', established a ladies' seminary on the corner of High and Cliff streets. She ran her 'school for young ladies' for six to eight years until William died in 1873 at the age of 53. Bertha then closed the school to the consternation of her students and their families who were full of praise for her. She sailed for London on January 8, 1874 on the Fitzroy. In London Bertha ran an asylum for elderly or 'lunatic' women until her death in 1904, leaving a considerable estate.

Another of our convict aristocrats was Lionel Holdsworth described as being being six foot tall with a "patriarchal look" and a "commanding" presence.² He and Thomas Berwick, both master mariners based in Liverpool, cooked up an insurance scam that provided them with thousands of pounds courtesy of London insurance companies. After a five day trial at the Old Bailey the pair were convicted in 1867 of sinking the ship *Severn* bound for China. It was a well-planned scuttling by a complicit captain with no loss of life. Holdsworth and Berwick who were each given a twenty years' sentence, arrived in Fremantle on the *Hougoumont* in 1868. Lionel Holdsworth received his ticket-of-leave in 1876 and was joined in 1879 by his Irish-born wife Margaretta.



Thomas Berwick (standing) and possibly, from his physical description, Berwick's partner Lionel Holdsworth (seated). (Battye Library, SLWA b1904311_4)

Thomas Berwick had to make do with a teaching position at Jarrahdale after his wife and seven children refused to join him in the fine house he had built for them. Holdsworth worked for the Adelaide Steamship Company before acquiring two ships which he used

at Cossack in the flourishing pearl shell industry and used the profits to invest in land in Fremantle. He built Braeside on Monument Hill where Margaretta died in 1886 and Lionel in October 1901. The couple had no children and the Holdsworth properties were put up for sale in 1905. Lionel himself is commemorated in Fremantle's Holdsworth Street.

Bevan Carter

1. *Essex Standard* 5 November 1858, *Morning Chronicle* 28 October 1858.
2. *Daily News* 26 August 1924.



Have you a story to tell?

[Regular contributor Steve Errington has a son, Ben, who loves all things old. When Ben was strolling through Salter Point in 2016 he spotted on a verge boxes marked 'Free. Help yourself.' A family clearing out a house had resisted the temptation to throw all 'old and useless' stuff into a green bin, hoping that others might appreciate objects that they had looked after for decades. Ben rescued two objects which intrigued his father. In a previous Newsletter Steve wrote about one of the objects, this is the other.]

Things People Throw Out, part 2

Does anyone remember Kasely's Ltd? No one I've spoken to does, but thanks to my son Ben I now own a 1953 clear glass bottle with a Bakelite screw top belonging to 'Kaselys Ltd, Perth WA'. He found it on a Salter Point verge along with the rare 1941 single sheet street directory of Perth which I wrote about in the March 2017 issue.

Kasely's first appearance coincides with the start of the American milk bar craze in Perth and Fremantle in 1934-35. Milk bars served malted milk with chocolate or strawberry syrup mixed in an electric blender with vanilla icecream. The drinks became known as milkshakes.

The first Fremantle milk bar was opened by Culley's in Atwell Arcade in October 1935. They soon had a rival in Rex's Milk Bar in High Street which, in December 1935, boasted 'Kaselys Syrups exclusively used'. Steve's American Milk Bar also used Kasely's syrups when it opened in

Murray Street, Perth in November 1936. Presumably others did too.

The syrups were then available from Kasely's, 'syrup and cordial manufacturers' of 328 Hay Street, Perth. This was the address used when Kasely's Ltd was registered at the Supreme Court as a new company in October 1937. By October 1938 they had moved to 23 (later renumbered 223) Stirling Highway, Claremont with Fred Hebditch as manager.

By this time they had also moved into margarine manufacture under the West-Vale brand. Margarine manufacture was then strictly controlled with WA manufacturers limited to seven tons per week. Of this, Meadow Lee was allocated 4½ tons leaving West-Vale with a quota of only to 2½ tons a week. This was sold in packets and tins.

During World War Two Kasely's won many contracts to supply tins of boiled carrots to the Army. Between March 1943 and July 1945 they supplied one million cans of boiled carrots, as well as juices, syrups and cordials.

After the war when butter was rationed Kasely's was still restricted to only 2½ tons of West-Vale margarine a week for shoppers to compete for. But they exported hundreds of cases of cordials to Singapore, and proudly displayed their wares in their stand at the 1951 Royal Show. In 1954 they were still recruiting 'strong youths' for their Claremont factory.

I don't yet know what became of Kasely's but the Battye Library's collection of old Perth phone books reveals that they were listed in the 1961 edition but were absent from the 1962 edition.

Steve Errington



Kasleys Perth WA bottle. (Steve

Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is one of Australia's most well-known oral historians. She is also the biographer of Sir Charles Court. This article is the ninth in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

Gerald (Gerry) Ledsam Throssell, 1902–1984, OH330

Gerry Throssell worked for the Department of Agriculture from 1921 to 1965 during which time he was involved in a remarkable number of trail-blazing activities. When I contacted him in 1978 about a possible interview, I was told the biography he was going to write would cover the things I was interested in. On learning in the 13 years since his retirement not a word had been written, I suggested the interview was still a good idea because it could actually help him with the biography; happily, he agreed.

What followed were the remarkable recollections of a man with an amazing memory, a fascinating life story and a determination to not let health or injury problems deter him. There were also memories of well known Western Australians involved in politics and agriculture. Grandfather George Throssell had been a member of John Forrest's ministry, for example, and had a brief period as Premier in 1901.



Gerald Ledsam and Lancelot Ledsam Throssell aged three, 1905, (Battye Library, SLWA image BA1580. Throssell Family Collection.)

Gerry and his twin brother, Lancelot Ledsam, were born in Northam in 1902, two of the four children of Isabelle and George Throssell. Having been the deputy matron of Adelaide Children's Hospital before her marriage in 1896, Isabelle was credited with being 'very energetic in working towards the foundation of a children's hospital' in Perth which opened in 1909. George was the proprietor of a pioneering agricultural firm which imported machinery from the Eastern States and overseas to assemble in Northam; the 1914 drought left him bankrupt.

In 1921 Gerry was appointed the Department of Agriculture's first cadet. A lasting memory were the words of a 'very great personal friend of our family', Sir James Mitchell, Premier and Treasurer. The cadetship had been his idea and he impressed on Gerry that he should not spend his 'time grizzling and growling about wages and conditions ... hop in and work, make yourself indispensable and worth twice as much'.

The studies Gerry undertook at the University of Western Australia between 1922 and 1927 led to a Diploma in Agriculture and appointment as an Agricultural Adviser based in Merredin. A year later he was sent to the Salmon Gums research station and worked on preliminary soil and plant surveys for the proposed 3,500 farms scheme. It was a time when plagues of rabbits affected the viability of farms, adding to the many hardships created by the Economic Depression. Farmers used to be paid in advance by merchants for their wheat at less than the expected price. In the first year of the Depression.

farmers had already agreed to sell on an advance of three and six a bushel expecting the wheat to go to five shillings, but instead it fell down to one and six a bushel ... quite a number of farmers who had a thousand or more acres under wheat going eight and nine, ten bags to the acre [had] ... to pay out two shillings to two and sixpence a bushel to the wheat merchants; a lot of them went broke.

Appointed to Geraldton as an Agricultural Adviser in 1933, Gerry supervised the Chapman Valley Research Station and inspected wheat and flour for export. Six years later a new appointment took him to Moora where he was involved in copper deficiency experiments and pasture improvement.

During World War II, Gerry served in the Middle East from 1941 in a machine gun battalion (which led to major hearing loss); he was also an intelligence officer for the 2/11th battalion. Forced to return to Perth in 1943 because of health problems, he was then transferred to

Darwin to 'knock the Japs back' and was in charge of six ambulances. He developed a gangrenous infection which took him eventually to Hollywood Hospital because the infection would not heal. Then came the instruction that all men over 40 had to be medically examined. To what Gerry described as his 'tremendous sorrow' he was declared unfit and discharged. He served on the Northam and Geraldton District War Agriculture Committees, responsible for rationing manpower and resources after the war and was a corporal in the Citizen Military Forces from 1949 when the first company was formed in Geraldton.

It was not until 1948 that Gerry married Mary Hooper, a theatre sister at the Geraldton Hospital and, according to her husband, 'we've lived happily ever afterwards'. This was obviously true because when I asked Gerry what he viewed as 'the greatest achievement of your working life' he replied 'Getting married.' Mary took a great interest in Gerry's interview and wanted to sit in which I could not agree to after finding she answered the questions I asked Gerry. I explained she could add anything she wished to after she had read the transcript which, as it happened, she did not feel was necessary. I can well imagine her pleasure at reading what he had to say about her.

In 1945 Gerry was appointed the Geraldton District Agricultural Adviser and in the 20 years until his retirement, was involved in tomato growing and export, the eradication of footrot in the district and formation of Pasture Improvement Groups. Other activities involved ley farming and research into trace elements. There were tests for TB in dairy herds and work as a noxious weeds inspector. An association with Allan Millington led to the discovery of a new strain of clover in 1950, later named Geraldton clover, which proved much more productive than other clovers. Before his retirement he was involved in a major cropping project in Mullewa.

For 10 years from 1954, Gerry and other Agricultural Department officers ran a successful radio program, 'Here's Your Answer'. In 1959, he unsuccessfully stood as the Liberal Party candidate for Geraldton, managing to greatly improve the vote against the sitting Labor member, William H Sewell.

On his retirement, Gerry was given a civic reception which led to the presentation of a plaque by the then mayor, Charles Eadon-Clarke, who said it was 'in appreciation of your efforts to make this district better and our lives easier.'

Gerry remained very active in his retirement playing bowls several times a week, doing voluntary work for Meals on Wheels, being a member of the Repatriation Committee of the RSL and being associated with Torchbearers for Legacy. He expressed being

very lucky that another colleague of mine, Dr Laurie Snook, invites me to go down with him whenever he wants any work done, especially with sheep, crutching or shearing. He has a most delightful property four miles this side of Margaret River, which in my opinion is as near to paradise as you can possibly get.

After the interviews were finished, Gerry regularly asked me to 'pop in'. He donated much appreciated archives from his personal collection to lodge in the Battye Library covering the period from 1917 until 1978 as well as 22 photographs.

Transcripts of interviews were not given titles other than to identify the person interviewed. In Gerry's case, I added the title he had chosen for his autobiography, 'Seeds in my Sox', which he never did get around to writing.

Ronda Jamieson



News from the State Library

Forthcoming events and exhibitions

Rothschild Prayer Book Exhibition

Discover the secrets of the Rothschild Prayer Book, one of the world's most important medieval illuminated manuscripts. In partnership with the Kerry Stokes Collection, the State Library is hosting a small exhibition in the 'Nook' (Perth Cultural Centre entrance) entitled, 'Illuminating the World of the Rothschild Prayer Book'.

The illuminations are presented page by page using the most detailed digital reproduction techniques. Accompanying the interactive digital display is a showcase of handmade books and printed publications, with several very early printed bibles from the State Library's collection.

The exhibition follows a successful and well attended public lecture and masterclass on medieval manuscripts held at the State Library on 23 and



24 January with Professor Michelle Brown. Professor Brown is the former Curator of Illuminated Manuscripts at the British Library and now Professor of Medieval Manuscripts at the University of London.

Battye donation and visit

On 22 January, Mr Greg Battye of Canberra, grandson of the late James

Sykes Battye, visited the State Library to gift a selection of materials belonging to his late grandfather. The material gifted included a book of handwritten notes on Shakespeare prepared by JS Battye, and his CBE medal and citation, awarded in 1950. State Library CEO Margaret Allen was pleased to receive the material and delighted to meet with one of the few remaining members of the Battye family.

James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellowship

Applications for the James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellowship close 5:00pm Friday 16 February 2018.

The Fellowship honours the legacy of librarian and historian James Sykes Battye, Chief Librarian of the State Library of Western Australia from 1894-1954. Established through the Leah Jane Cohen Bequest, the Fellowship aims to enhance understanding of Western Australia through research based on the State Library's heritage collections, particularly the Battye Library.

From Another View

Late last year, the State Library announced a new partnership with Andrew and Nicola Forrest's Minderoo Foundation for a project that retraces and re-imagines John Forrest's 1874 trek from Geraldton to Adelaide. The project, 'From Another View', engages artists, researchers and Aboriginal communities along the trek route to broaden perspectives on West Australian exploration history. The eighteen month project has three main components:

- Community engagement – the State Library's 'Storylines' model of digital repatriation and reinterpretation of documentary heritage will be used to engage with Aboriginal communities along the trek.

- Creative Interpretation – indigenous and non-indigenous artists will re-interpret the expedition that was led by Forrest and guided by two Aboriginal trackers.
- Research – further investigation into private and public papers relating to Forrest’s expedition will be undertaken to contribute to the greater understanding of collecting legacies around exploration history.

SLWA’s involvement in the project aligns with its mandate to collect and treasure the stories of Western Australia and with its strategic goal to work in partnership with Aboriginal people to collect and restore community memory. The project will culminate in a major exhibition at the State Library in 2019.

Selected recent acquisitions

Two manuscript copies of the biography of John Septimus Roe – Not an Idle Man by JL Burton Jackson. These two manuscripts show the evolution of the biography of Roe which was published in 1982 .

Records relating to Serpentine Cottage – Lefroy family

The property was originally taken up in 1849 by John Giblett and Stephen Longbottom and sold in 1861 to Bishop Hale who had a cottage built in 1862. In 1866, Henry Lefroy purchased the property. The cottage passed through several family members and over time had some structural alterations and additions. The surrounding land was gradually sold or resumed by the government so that now only the cottage block remains. In 2000, the cottage was carefully restored by the then owner, George Lefroy. This restoration included retention of much of the early furniture. The cottage remains in regular use by the family. The collection of papers, primarily correspondence, shows the land transactions, the renovations, the uses and potential uses of the property and much else. It is a remarkable history of an early West Australian property which so far has remained in the Lefroy family for over 150 years.

John Thomas Tunney photographs (digital copies) of Tunney family members and farming activities at ‘Gracefield’, their property near Kojonup as well as Aboriginal people taken during Tunney’s collecting trips around the state for the West Australian Museum. The Tunney collection provides an important visual record of colonial and indigenous life at the turn of the 20th century which will also be of interest to *Storylines*.

Bell Bros. operations in WA

Charles Barnett Phillips photographs of Big Bell Mine, 1936-1980 (1 album). This collection documents the beginning of Big Bell town which was established in 1936. Black and white photos include views of the open cuts, the miners' compound, hospital, hotel, railway station, mess and swimming pool.

A prisoner with the Turks, 1915-1918, by R.F. Lushington

Reginald Francis Lushington was one of only four Australians captured by the Turks at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. This memoir relates the remarkable story of his four years in captivity, which were spent in the San Stefano Prisoner of War camp outside Constantinople and in harsh conditions in the mountains of southern Turkey, where Turkish prisoners were used as forced labour. This unique copy bears the ownership inscriptions of Lushington's mother, and contains 35 additional manuscript illustrations in pen and ink by the author himself.



Retirement of Steve Howell

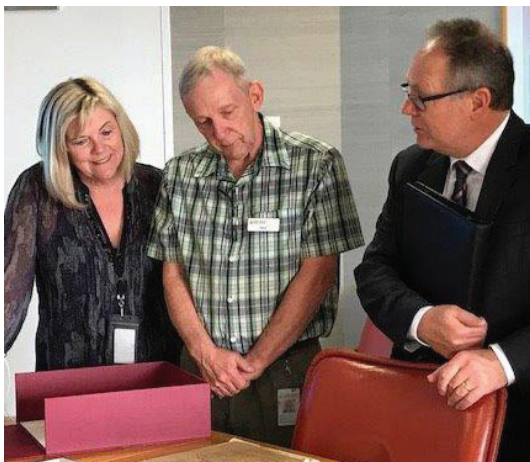
I am sure there will be more than a modicum of dismay at this news. Steve Howell will be familiar to many of our members who have researched in the Battye Library over the years. He has an amazing knowledge of WA history and knows the collections like nobody else. Those of us, like me, who were privileged to work with Steve have wonderful memories of his companionship, kindness, commitment and devilish wit. He is an accomplished wordsmith and has often delighted his colleagues and friends with wonderful 'pomes' that poked shrewd fun at all sorts of pomposity. We will miss seeing Steve in Battye but wish him a wonderful, fulfilling, and well-travelled retirement.

Jennie Carter

Margaret Allen also pays tribute to Steve.

Senior Subject Specialist Steve Howell announced his retirement from the State Library in January. Steve began his career at the Battye Library in March 1977. In his forty one years of public service, Steve

has provided assistance to many thousands of Western Australians, answering all manner of research queries in a professional, accurate and thorough manner. He is the author of many subject guides to the Batty Library as well as the publication, *Dead reckoning: how to find your way through the genealogical jungle of Western Australia*. Over his long career, Steve has written and presented research papers and curated exhibitions on a diverse range of topics from the Durack dynasty to the story behind the colony's first printed book. His professionalism, broad knowledge of the Batty collections and wicked sense of humour will be sorely missed by colleagues and clients alike.



Steve Howell (centre) with Library Board Vice Chair, Deborah Hamblin and David Templeman, Minister for Local Government, Heritage, Culture and the Arts, 2017. (SLWA)

Margaret Allen PSM, CEO and State Librarian.



State Library - building works on Level One

The State Library has announced that Level One will be closed for refurbishment. To prepare for an upgrade, the collections on the floor will be moved and bookshelves will be emptied. If members have trouble finding items you are looking for please speak to a staff member on the Ground Floor or Level Three.

Sections of the first floor will be inaccessible until May while painting and carpeting is being undertaken. SLWA look forward to welcoming us all back to Level One when work is completed.



State Library of WA - Strategic planning

The Library Board of Western Australia is developing its next strategic plan to guide its policies and programs up to 2022. As part of the task of consultation with the community, the Friends of Battye Library, along with other organisations was invited to two focus groups which were held on Wednesday 31 January. Gillian O'Mara and I represented the Friends - I attended the morning session and Gillian the afternoon one. As well as people from history organisations, including the History Council, Professional Historians Association and the Friends, representatives of State Government agencies, Curtin and the University of WA, reading and literacy programs, and Indigenous and multicultural affairs.

We were limited to an hour, but the session I was in extended beyond that time as many issues were hotly discussed. Almost immediately it was clear that the Western Australian collections of Battye Library and the State Records Office were uppermost in the thinking of the majority of those present. Several suggestions were made to improve the promotion of our State's history, and comparisons were drawn with the prominent emphasis given to an area's materials and heritage in other institutions in Australia and around the world. Gillian reported that her session was similar in its concern for the Battye Library and WA stories. One man from a government department (unfortunately I didn't catch which one) made a very astute observation that with the revitatisation of the Perth Cultural Centre and the soon to be opened Yagan Square that the State Library was in a key position to showcase its collections and entice visitors to experience WA history on the ground floor. This sparked several comments on how this could be done. The session went by very quickly and it will be interesting to see how the concerns raised by the various focus groups are incorporated into the State Library's forthcoming strategic plan.

One concern raised was how the strategic plan would impact or guide the work of the State Records Office. The Director of the SRO, Cathrin Cassarchis, has since clarified, that under the Act, the State Records Office produces its own strategic plan.

At our February Friends of Battye Library Committee meeting, our President expressed appreciation to the CEO, Margaret Allen, for the opportunity to be involved in the consultation and we are looking forward to hearing more about the progress of the plan in due course.

Jennie Carter

State Records Office - News from the Archives

Geoffrey Bolton Lecture 2017

Emeritus Professor Stuart Macintyre from Melbourne University delivered the 2017 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture on Thursday evening 14 November 2017, at the Government House Ballroom in St George's Terrace, Perth. 'From Bolshevism to Populism: Australia in a Century of Global Transformation' was the topic of his address and approximately 160 people attended the event. The Hon. David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts officiated at the event by introducing this year's speaker and other dignitaries included H.E. Kerry Sanderson AC, the Governor of Western Australia. Like previous years ABC Radio National recorded the lecture which was broadcast on 23rd January 2018 – the first Big Ideas program for 2018. It is also available for podcast on ABC's Big Ideas website. Work is in progress to secure a speaker for the 2018 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture, which will occur in the second half of this year.



SRO Lunchtime Seminar - Tuesday 8 May 2018

Speaker: Dr Andy Kaladelfos, Senior Research Fellow with 'The Prosecution Project' at Griffith University Criminology Institute.

Topic: *The Prosecution Project: digitising Australia's crime and punishment records*. This seminar is presented as part of the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival.

An invitation:

If any Friends of Batty Library members wish to present at a SRO Lunchtime Seminar on a research topic related to the State Archives Collection in the second half of this year, please email gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au with your proposal.



Introductory Workshop for the Ancestors' Words/Noongar Letters Project

On 24 and 25 October SRO hosted a visit and provided a workshop for a group of 19 Noongar elders and people from the South West of Western Australia led by Darryl Kickett. They were accompanied by

three attendees from the Curtin University's Ancestors Words Project Team, led by Professor Anna Haebich. The workshop was essentially an introduction to SRO and the State Archives Collection. It also focused on ways of researching State Archives at the SRO, and remotely, by using the online catalogue and other online and in-house finding aids. The primary aim of the Ancestors' Words project is to locate Noongar voices in the State Archives and other archival collections. The workshop included a brief tour of SRO.

Notre Dame/SRO Workshop: Lives in Archives - using archives at the SRO

Also in late October 2017 Senior Archivist Gerard Foley led a workshop for 12 people organised by both Notre Dame University and SRO titled 'Lives in Archives: using archives at the State Records Office of Western Australia'. A session was also provided at Notre Dame University in Fremantle. The workshop covered the essential skills required to research and critique State Archives.

Perth Metro Plans Project

Work is continuing to finalise the geo-referencing of Perth's sewerage plans and to complete this project in 2018.

Consultations

The SRO continues to be involved in meeting with and advising agency representatives regarding appropriate practices during the substantial Machinery of Government changes. An SRO MOG officer has been seconded to SRO from the Department of Communities for 12-18 months to assist in this process.

State Records Commission

The State Records Commission met on 8 December 2017. The Commission acknowledged the work of SRAC and SRO staff in what was a challenging year.

Cathrin Cassarchis

State Archivist and Executive Director State Records



Margaret Medcalf Award 2018 - Call for Nominations

Since 2003, sixteen researchers and historians, creating works on various Western Australian subjects, have won the Margaret Medcalf

Award. Recognizing excellence in referencing and research using State Archives held by the State Records Office of Western Australia (SRO), the award honours Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM, Western Australia's second State Archivist, for her valuable contribution to the development of archives in Western Australia.

Any work completed or published in 2017 is eligible to be submitted for nomination, and anyone, including the author of the work, may submit a nomination. Unlike book awards, nominated works need not be published, and may include student dissertations and theses. They may be fiction or non-fiction, and be presented in any media.

To submit a nominated work please complete a 2018 Margaret Medcalf Award Nomination Form (see following page) and post or email it to the SRO. If published online please provide a web link. One copy of nominated and winning works will be retained permanently by the SRO.

The judging criteria for the Award are:

- Level of use of the State Archives Collection;
- Proficient and consistent use of referencing;
- Level of contribution to knowledge (historical, cultural, heritage, etc.);
- Original use of the State Archives Collection;
- Presentation.

For further details including more information about the judging criteria for the Award, see <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/margaret-medcalf-award> or contact Gerard Foley by email gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au or by phone on (08) 9427 3641.

Completed nomination forms and three copies of the works must be received by 4pm Friday, 6 April 2017. If more copies of the form are required please contact Gerard Foley of the SRO.



Margaret Medcalf Award 2018 - Nomination Form

This annual Award recognizes excellence in referencing and research in the use of State archives held by the State Records Office of Western Australia (SRO). It honours Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM, Western Australia's second

State Archivist, for her valuable contribution to the development of archives in Western Australia. The winner of this Award receives a cash prize of \$1000, or shares this prize if there is more than one winner. Works nominated must demonstrate the use and accurate referencing of State archives.

Nominated works need not be published, may be fiction or non-fiction, and in any media. Nominators should supply three copies of nominated works to the SRO, to enable further consideration by the judging panel. If published online please provide a web link. One copy of nominated and winning works will be retained permanently by the SRO.

For further details including information about the selection criteria for the Award, see <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/margaret-medcalf-award> or contact Gerard Foley by email gerard.foley@sro.wa.gov.au or by phone on (08) 9427 3641.

Eligible nominations: Any work completed in 2017 is eligible to be submitted for nomination, and anyone, including the author of the work, may submit a nomination. Nominations for the Margaret Medcalf Award are to be made to the State Archivist, State Records Office of WA, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth, WA 6000, by 4.00pm Friday, 6 April 2018.

Author/Researcher	
Mailing Address	
Email Address	
Title of Work	
Type of Work	
Brief Description of Archival Research	

Thank you for your submission.

Newsletter format

The Friends of Battye Library *Newsletter* is currently published three times a year and posted out to all members. The State Library of WA generously provides the postage and membership fees cover the printing costs. Over the past couple of years postage and printing charges have risen dramatically and, given that the vast majority of our members have access to email, it is opportune to review our practice.

Thank you to the members who have responded to the request in November's issue - you will now receive your copy by email as soon as it is printed.

If other members would be happy to receive the newsletter electronically, please let the editor, Jennie Carter, know by 30 May 2018. Email Jennie at wa.research@gmail.com or drop her a line at:

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



State Library Bookshop discount for members

Don't forget that the State Library has generously offered members of the Friends of Battye Library a 15% discount on new book purchases. To be eligible for the discount, members must show proof of name when making their purchases so staff can confirm that you are a current member.

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ post code _____

Tel: _____ mobile _____

Email _____

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

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 Back: A Further Focus on Footwear

It certainly came as a complete surprise to me when I was called from the audience at our last general meeting to be presented with a printed and bound collection of some of the 'Jack's Back' articles I had written over the years. Here I again express my sincere thanks to the Friends Committee for initiating the project and to Cherie Strickland for the actual work of producing it so admirably. It is also timely to record my appreciation to the editor of our Newsletter, Jennie Carter, for having obtained many of the pertinent illustrations enlivening it that have been drawn from Battye's extensive collections. It is from the last photo in this work that I am now inspired to enlarge upon what I wrote for this column in our November issue. It shows the façade of Moana Chambers at 618 Hay Street in Perth, with its strong focus on the shoe store of Ezywalkin Pty Ltd.



Moana Chambers. Battye Library, SLWA 099569PD.

Founded at Boulder in 1899 by two partners, Gaze and Cookes, their firm went on to establish branch shops in Perth, suburbia, other country towns and in the eastern states, and so grew to be the largest boot and shoe manufacturers and retailers in Australia. From 1923 to 1955 their chief place of business was at the Moana site, where their colourful displays were said to have dominated the street. Some major alterations were made to the building after that, as shown in architectural drawings that are also part of the historical account now on display there. It seems that the shoe store was of lesser stature thereafter, and presumably another factor in such decline must have been the strong competition from nearby rivals in the trade.

One such rival, Betts and Betts, originated in Perth in 1912, and established a shop a few doors west of Ezywalkin's in about 1932. This outlet expanded in 1961 to take over most of the ground floor of the massive Savoy Hotel. Its proprietors then claimed it to be the biggest shoe store in the world in respect of the floor space it occupied, having surpassed the acknowledged record previously held by Lilley and Skinner at Oxford Street in London.¹

Next we learn from the research done by the Museum of Perth's team that the giant retail empire of Coles entered the footwear business by purchasing Ezywalkin in 1981, and the business was sold to the American Payless Shoe Company in 1988. Then only last month the press reported that Betts and Betts, which had also expanded nationally, will shortly close nearly 70 of their 170 stores, this caused by the rapid growth of online shopping recently.²

Thus some superlatives and fluctuating fortunes have been notable features of the local footwear trade over the past century or so. The effects of changing fashions in costume would be another interesting matter to explore, but I am pleased to end with just one little foray into this realm. I often recall an item about menswear from the wealth of fascinating information in Sir Paul Hasluck's lively book of 1955, *Mucking About: An Autobiography*. At page 125 of his chapter entitled 'Young Men About Town', he records: 'In daytime we wore boots and it was not until about 1926 that the fashion of wearing shoes in daytime became general.'

Jack Honniball

1. *The West Australian*, 11 November 1961.

2. *The West Australian*, 2 February 2018.

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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

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

Meetings

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

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

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

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

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

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

State Records Office

The SRO Search Room on the Ground Floor is open for enquiries and use of material Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4.30pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

Retrievals

On the days that the Search Room is open (Tues-Fri) archives held onsite are retrieved twice a day: before opening at 10am and at 12pm midday with items available by 1pm. Requests received after midday and before 4pm will be retrieved the following working day by 10am. Online and email requests made after 4pm will be available from 1pm onwards the following day if the Search Room is open. No retrievals occur on weekends, Mondays or public holidays.

Clients wishing to view archival records held at the State Records Office should still submit requests in advance. Requests can be made online at any time by registering as a researcher on the SRO's catalogue. Requests can also be made by telephone on (08) 9427 3600 or in person at the SRO during opening hours.

Materials held offsite (eg. most maps and plans, and most consignment numbers greater than 5237) will continue to be retrieved and made available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

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

The Genealogy Centre

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

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

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

No. 163



November 2018

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

Our end of year function 2018

Shannon Lovelady

Western Front Dead from Western Australia



Legacy Club
wreath, State War
Memorial, 1959.

(Battye Library
SLWA Norman
Wylie Collection
BA1686/123)

Tuesday 20 November 2018 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. Our meeting will be followed by a catered dinner. *Please see details on page 3.*

Objectives

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

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Committee (2018-2019)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Ms Jennie Carter,

Secretary Ms Heather Campbell

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Membership Sec. Ms Cherie Strickland

Committee members Ms Kris Bizacca, Ms Lorraine Clarke, Mr Neil Foley, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, and Mrs Gillian O'Mara.

Ex-Officio Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)
Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO)
Dr Chris Owen (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 Western Australia, or the State Records Office.

November Meeting

Tuesday 20 November 2018
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Shannon Lovelady

Western Front Dead from Western Australia

Help us celebrate the end of the year!

After Shannon's talk members and guests are warmly invited to stay on after our last meeting for the year, where we will be moving to the dining room adjacent to the Great Southern Room where a special catered two course spit-roast dinner will be served.

We have kept the cost as low as possible and are grateful to the CEO & State Librarian, Margaret Allen, for again making the venue available to us.

The cost is only \$35.00 which includes all wine and orange juice

Bookings for the dinner are essential as we must advise the final numbers to the caterer by Monday 12 November.

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

Problem with the stairs?

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

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Shannon Lovelady's talk



Shannon will be speaking about the *Western Front Dead from Western Australia* and touch on similarities between this project and her earlier one, *Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia*.

Her research, writing and presentations about this significant project to remember those who died in the First World War has resulted in some important initiatives, for instance the discovery of new names to be added to the State War Memorial. Shannon will also speak about some of the men whose lives she has documented over the years.

About Shannon

Shannon Lovelady is a Perth-born writer and historian who is the Archivist, Curator and Historian for both Presbyterian Ladies' College and Museum of Perth.

Outside both of these roles, she launched both the Gallipoli (2015) and Western Front (2018) Dead from Western Australia projects to determine the number of Western Australian men who died in these theatres of war. That number was unknown and thought impossible to determine but, together with a team of 70 volunteers, a Medical Forensic Team and a Higher Assessment Panel, we now know the answer. Next year the much smaller Middle East component will be completed, meaning Western Australia is the only state which will know the number, and the names, of their men who died because of WWI.

During 2014-2015 Shannon wrote the series 'Gallipoli Remembered' for *Post Newspapers*. It is now in the curriculum and she was a finalist for Best Columnist in the 2015 WA Media Awards. She is now completing her second series for *Post Newspapers*, 'Western Front Remembered', which she wrote because, like her earlier column, for nothing more than because she wanted to.

Meeting dates for 2019

- 12 March** - Andrew Green: *Paradise Defiled...Paradise Defiant. British and Australian soldiers' visions of Great War pastoral landscapes*
- 14 May** - Michelle McKeough: *Western Australia and the bubonic plague.*
- 9 July** - TBA
- 10 September** (AGM) - TBA
- 19 November** (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function - TBA.



President's piece

Dear Friends

We are coming to the end of another year for the Friends and I gave an update on our recent activities at the AGM in September. It was lovely to see so many of you attending and it was terrific of Steve Errington to step in at the last minute to give us a fascinating talk on early pre-convict era Perth. Elections held at the AGM returned unopposed the following members to the Friends of Battye Library Committee for 2018-2019.

President	Dr Pamela Statham Drew
Vice President	Ms Jennie Carter,
Secretary	Ms Heather Campbell
Treasurer	Mr Nick Drew
Membership Sec.	Ms Cherie Strickland

Committee members: Ms Kris Bizacca, Ms Lorraine Clarke, Mr Neil Foley, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, and Mrs Gillian O'Mara.

Ex-Officio members are: Mrs Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian) Ms Cathrin Cassarchis (State Archivist, SRO), and the new Batye Historian who we have learnt will be Dr Chris Owen replacing Dr Susanna Iuliano.

We are also pleased to announce that our Patron continues to be the amazing Ruth Reid.

I am delighted to report that the Friends new constitution has been

approved by the Associations and Charities, Registration Section of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Consumer Protection. Many heartfelt thanks to Rob O'Connor QC, Neil Foley and of course, Nick Drew, finalising the work involved. The constitution will soon be on the Friends website for all members to view.

Your committee is happy to report that all our projects are continuing satisfactorily such as East Perth Cemeteries web site and the Metro Sewerage plans on-line for SRO. The Battye Library project to digitise the Forbes and Fitzharding Architectural plans has now been completed.

You may have seen that the Library has mounted a major project to digitise as many of their old films as possible. A crowd-funding exercise was set up aiming to hit \$10,000. Your committee decided to contribute \$1,000 to kick off the project which was greatly appreciated by the CEO Margaret Allen. The Library's target was well and truly reached and Nick and I attended a showing of some of the restored and digitised films in the Alexander Lecture theatre. Screenwest had assisted the rescue project and our Minister for Arts and Culture, Hon David Templeman, especially mentioned the help of the Friends. By then your committee had also approved \$7000 from the next Sholl Bequest round to go to this vital project, so no wonder he was impressed with our contribution.

Your committee really wants to manage another big project to help Battye Library and so is looking forward to the completion of the East Perth project so that another application can be made to Lottery Waet – you will recall that we got a grant of some \$70,000 for that project and it is not good form to apply for another grant until the one you have is acquitted!

Now that 2018 is nearly over so the official First World War remembrances will be winding down – but not until we have heard from the one person who knows more about Western Australia's WW1 war dead than anybody else - Shannon Lovelady who will be speaking at our end of year function on 20 November.

Following Shannon's talk, I am really looking forward to seeing many of you at our in-house dinner to be provided by the Spit-roast Co. which has been serving us lovely meals for the last 13 years. It is incredible value for \$35 so do come and support us. Hopefully we will see you then, but if you cannot make it, best wishes for a very merry and safe festive season and a happy New Year.

Pamela Statham Drew

Members' information

Obituaries

We were saddened this year to learn of the deaths of two of our long term members, Dr Lyall Hunt and Mr Robert Sharman. The following obituaries first appeared in other publications and are reproduced here with appreciation to the authors.

Lyall Hunt MA Dip Ed FRWAHS (1933-2018)

The Society regrets the passing of an esteemed Fellow - teacher, oral historian, researcher, editor and author. A student of Professor Frank Crowley, Lyall strove to follow in his footsteps as a historian. As a teachers' college and college of advanced education lecturer, he worked to pass his enthusiasm for history on to his students. He was active in the formation and early years of the Oral History Association and was a well-published author. His most significant books are *Yilgarn: good country for hardy people: the landscape and people of the Yilgarn Shire, Western Australia* (1988), and *Towards Federation: why Western Australia joined the Australian Federation in 1901* (2000). As well, he wrote a number of entries for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, and edited *Westralian Portraits* for the series of official publications marking the sesquicentenary of Western Australia.

Lyall joined the Royal Western Australian Historical Society in 1976 and became a Councillor (1992-93), a member of Readings & Publications Committee, an editor of *Early Days*, and a judge of the Lee Steere and A E Williams Awards. We greatly appreciate the work Lyall undertook for the Society and, even more importantly, his lifetime's contribution to the study of Western Australian history and its dissemination throughout the education system.

(Reprinted from *History West*.)

Robert Charles (Bob) Sharman, Fellow ASA, (1928- 2018).

Robert Sharman was the first State Archivist in two states, Tasmania 1951-1959, and then Queensland 1959-1970, before joining the ANU as its Archives Officer in 1970. From 1972 to 1976 Bob was Assistant State Librarian of South Australia and from 1976 to 1988 State Librarian of Western Australia.



Former State Librarian, Robert Sharman 1987. (Battye Library, SLWA 370100PD)

Bob was a founding member of the Australian Society of Archivists and the Sharman Award was created in 2000 to acknowledge his long contribution to fostering learning. In 1960 he was President, later Secretary, Archives Section, Library Association of Australia, and 1971-1972 President of the Library Association of Australia (now ALIA). From 1991 to 1993 Bob served as ASA Treasurer. Bob was ASA Managing Editor from 1995 to 1997 and in 1996 was Convenor of the inaugural Mander Jones Awards Committee. In 1994

he was awarded a Fellowship of the ASA with the citation published in *Archives & Manuscripts* Vol.25(2) 1994.

(Reprinted from Federation of Australian Historical Societies *eBulletin* No. 182, 16 September 2018.)



A farewell to two State Library of WA staff members A personal note from Ronda Jamieson

Two very special people who did amazing work in their respective fields to the benefit of all Western Australians, retired from the State Library recently: Pat Beament (Griffiths) and Steve Howell. I had the great privilege of being Manager, Preservation Services, when Pat joined the staff in 1995 to set up and manage our own micrographic team and became Manager Preservation Services when I became the Director of the Battye Library in 1998. Steve Howell was a Battye Library team leader responsible for various collections and along with David Whiteford, the most knowledgeable person about the contents of the Battye Library collections. He could help researchers find material others did not know existed. Both Steve and Pat were passionate about the work of the Battye Library and gave more time than they were paid for to assist

colleagues and clients. I remain grateful for the opportunity I was given to work with them, along with all of the exceptional managers, team leaders and staff of the J S Battye Library of West Australian History.



Have you a story to tell?

[*Friends member and popular contributor to these pages, Fr Ted Doncaster has written extensively on the Anglican Church in Western Australia.*]

The blessing of the bonnets

Obviously it's never too late in life to have a new experience, for when I was invited by Anthea Harris of the Nedlands Library to bless some bonnets I had no idea what it was all about! It has since occurred to me that Friends of Battye might be interested to hear of the matter too.

My sharp learning curve took off on Sunday 29th July at the Fremantle Prison when about a hundred people gathered for the 'Blessing of the Bonnets' ceremony. But what is it all about? It is part of Dr Christina Henri's *Roses from the Heart* Memorial project which commemorates over 25,000 women transported from the United Kingdom to Australia between 1788 and 1868. The Government of the day thus seized the opportunity of emptying England's overcrowded gaols. They were denied their rights, often forsaken and abandoned - banished to the 'ends of the earth' - because, in the main, they were impoverished, with no prospect of support. Project volunteers stitch bonnets to symbolise the lives of these women and send them in to Dr Henri for commemorative displays.



The story of Ann Harper and Hannah O'Malley was re-enacted by some of the participants.



Anthea Harris, Fr Ted Doncaster and Fr John Sebastian prepare for the Blessing of the Bonnets.

In a symbolic gesture for the descendants of those transported women, the Blessing of the Bonnets ceremony helps in bringing healing to families grieving over the treatment their ancestors endured, as well as other women they may have chosen to value. The ceremony offers participants a chance to offer their sorrow on behalf of the intolerant society that deemed these women (and their children) as 'less worthy'.

The bonnet tributes presented on the day are all part of the *Roses from the Heart* project. And a new aspect was launched this year! It is the *Irish Roses* project which looks in particular at the Irish women who migrated to WA between 1850 and 1889 in response to the call from the Swan River Colony for young single women.

The person behind all this is Dr Christina Henri, a Tasmanian artist, whose interest was aroused through a visit to the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site in Hobart in 2003. She has organised gatherings in several parts of the world since then and was present in Fremantle this year to share her enthusiasm with those gathered for the Blessing Ceremony. To date she has received 25,066 bonnets from across the globe, a number of them being created by descendants of convict women.

by Fr Ted Doncaster

[Peter Du Cane, who was to have been our speaker this month before having had to regretfully cancel, is a noted award-winning film maker striving to save WA's endangered video tape heritage. He speaks with authority having produced and broadcast documentaries over the past 45 years. Peter highlights the urgent problem we face in locating and preserving this vital material before it is lost forever.]

Crisis looming for WA's video tape archive

Even tapes of heritage value stored in ideal conditions in the SLWA are not safe.

The State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) houses a growing collection of WA audiovisual heritage, parts of which are progressively being digitised. Unfortunately, there is one important area that appears to be slipping through the net and is in danger of being lost forever - a large pool of magnetic video camera tapes produced whilst making WA-related documentaries. The tapes in question are those that effectively bridged the divide between documentaries that captured footage on film and those now recording on digital formats. There is significant overlap at both ends of this gap as tape initially replaced film and more recently was itself replaced. As a result we are talking about more than three decades of recordings from the 1980s to relatively recent times.

At a certain point SLWA began to acquire copies of most finished WA documentaries, but what it usually didn't receive were original camera tapes from which the finished program was constructed. To illustrate the problem, we can look at a simple case study – the 1995 historical documentary *Secret Fleets* based on the book by Lynne Cairns. The 55-minute film concerns the secret American, British, and Dutch submarine fleets based out of Fremantle during World War Two. Featuring remarkable colour shots of the submarines, there are interviews with many of the submariners involved and also WA locals who were impacted by their presence. It was critically well received when aired on the ABC and sold to Discovery's Learning Channel for broadcast across North America. The producers have recently digitised the film and donated the master tape to SLWA. The important thing to realise is that they are only prepared to do this because they now have a digital version.

Secret Fleets



The untold story of the Fremantle submarine base during World War II

Extract from a flyer produced for the documentary *Secret Fleets* 2016.
(Courtesy Submarines Association Australia <http://www.submarinesaustralia.com>)

It is worth noting that due to broadcast running time constraints, the finished program might only contain, say, a minute or so of content from a one hour eye-witness account of an American submariner, or that of a local who married one, or maybe interviews with historian Tony Barker, or author Lynne Cairns. The original video camera tapes of the interviews, archive, and other elements used in making such films might not have been donated with the Master tape. Why not? Quite simply, the problem is that under the current system, film and tapes donated to SLWA are rarely digitised and so extremely difficult to access once placed in climate-controlled storage. As a result, the owners of tapes prefer to hold on to them in case they may need them later on. So why don't they digitise their tapes themselves? Often it is a simple matter of cost. To professionally digitise a one hour video tape could cost more than \$100 (the National Film and Sound Archive quotes a figure of \$160 an hour). *Secret Fleets* used about 40 tapes, so the cost of digitisation might be \$4,000 or more, which for most documentary makers can be prohibitive.

The critical problem is twofold. Firstly, the storage conditions of materials kept outside of SLWA are often less than ideal, and the costs of long term climate controlled storage mean many may be lying around in the heat of WA's summers, leading to accelerated degradation. Secondly, the equipment and expertise to play and/or digitise these materials is disappearing at a more rapid rate than many realise.

Having been alerted to the situation of the *Secret Fleets* tapes, SLWA has now allocated precious funds to store and digitise them and has given the owners a digital copy. Good news indeed. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. It is certain that there are still thousands of hours of video tape of crucial significance to WA heritage. Much has already been lost, more are critically endangered, but the State Library has nowhere near the funds to cope with such a quantity of material.

One solution might be to try to identify those items of particular interest and prioritise them. The problem is that this process would be very labour intensive and may not achieve the desired result. I think of it as similar to most diamond mining operations. One can scratch around in the alluvial dirt hoping to get lucky, but by far the most effective method is to sort large quantities of likely dirt to extract the prized gems. I believe we need to assist SLWA to collect as much of this video material as possible, as quickly as feasible, and at the same time bring together the people, institutions, facilities and funding to save these materials. Identifying the heritage gems we know will be hidden within the material is almost secondary to the urgency of saving these tapes.

One last warning however, recent US and European studies on the preservation of video tapes are unanimous that even tapes stored in optimum conditions in libraries but which have not been professionally digitised are not safe. Degradation of equipment, loss of personnel expertise, and other factors make this a virtual certainty.

The remarkable efforts of the \$1million Oral History Records Rescue project, funding for which was obtained by the Friends of Battye Library, is a possible template for action.

Rough estimates suggest the cost of digitising significant at risk video tape might be between \$400,000 and \$540,000. But to put it in perspective, this is equivalent to the cost of 15 to 20 seats at the \$1.6 billion Optus Stadium, or 3 or 4 metres of the now suspended Roe Extension. Or less than a quarter of one percent of the estimated cost of an F-35 jet.

There are multiple other considerations involved in such a venture, including copyright, but all are manageable with appropriate will and effort on behalf of WA's priceless video heritage.

Peter Du Cane
19 July 2018

Commemorating the end of Transportation

On 9 January 1868 the last convict ship, the *Hougoumont*, arrived in Western Australia with 279 prisoners on board.

[*Bevan Carter has written several articles on convicts and the following two round up our commemorative series on the cessation of transportation.*]

Transportation's long, slow, demise

It is commonly understood that transportation of criminals to Australia came to an end on 12 October 1867 as the *Hougoumont* sailed away from British shores. But there is more to the story than a simple clean break heralding a kinder future.

Transportation to New South Wales ceased in 1842 in response to the report of the 1837-38 House of Commons select Committee Inquiry into Transportation chaired by Sir William Molesworth. The committee boasted some familiar names such as Fremantle, Russell, Grey, Peel, Barrett-Lennard and Hutt. Officially the last ship to discharge prisoners in Sydney was the *Eden* on 18 November 1840.

Victoria, then known as Port Phillip, was at the time still part of NSW and between 1844 and 1849 received eight ships of pardoned 'exiles' who were men conditionally pardoned in England before boarding ship and so ostensibly not convicts. Overlapping this period and beginning in 1842 was the transportation to Western Australia of nearly 300 boys from Parkhurst juvenile prison who were sent here before convicts 'officially' arrived in June 1850.



Transportation to Tasmania did not come to an end until 26 May 1853 when the *St Vincent* discharged 207 men. A commemorative medallion was produced to mark the occasion.

With only WA, Bermuda, and Gibraltar still accepting convicts, an Act of Parliament in 1853 ruled that transportation to another country could not be imposed for minor offences. Four years later the *Penal Servitude Act*

1857 went further and decreed no British criminal could be sentenced to transportation for any reason at all. This law was sometimes tacitly ignored as a further 5,621 male convicts disembarked at Fremantle after 1857. Admittedly, between 1858 and 1861 only a single ship each year arrived, but from 1862 to 1867 two ships each year left England bound for Western Australia. The prison registers after 1858, however, show no inmates had received official sentences of 'transportation' with all being sentenced to 'penal servitude'.

Besides transportation not ceasing when it was ruled illegal, there were some other anomalies. Millbank Prison register for the early part of 1857, before the second Act came into force, shows Malachi Meagher, engineer, being sentenced to eight years penal servitude for forging and uttering while James Townsend Saward, barrister, was to be transported for life for the same offence. Yet in an odd twist Meagher ended up being sent to WA while Saward remained in England.¹

The prison hulks at Bermuda closed in 1862 and prisoners with unexpired sentences were transferred directly to WA on the *Merchantman*, or



Painting of a prison hulk at Bermuda.

(Courtesy Bermuda's Dockyard at Ireland Island, a Royal Navy base from 1815 to 1950s by Keith Archibald Forbes <http://www.bermuda-online.org/rnd.htm>)

were returned to Britain. One Bermuda convict sent back to Britain was William Gentle who had been convicted of burglary in 1851. He was shortly afterwards transported to WA, arrived on the *Clyde* in 1863, and was granted his ticket of leave, eventually settling in York.²

In 1862 with more criminals serving their sentences in England before being released into the community, the press sensationalised cases where such men committed crimes after their discharge from prison. Despite public clamour, the resultant Royal Commission into the operation of the penal servitude acts did not recommend the reintroduction of transportation, but the British Government ignored the Royal Commissioners' findings while WA was willing to accept criminals as cheap labour. As one British newspaper reported; "Happily there is still a colony which offers to absorb as many of our convicts as we have to dispose of. Western Australia is ready with open arms to welcome our moral sewage, which is to fertilise its soil".³

Between 1863 and 1868 Western Australia remained the only place in the world to officially accept British criminals and when transportation to WA ceased, Britain needed to find new ways of dealing with its criminal element.

1. Saward spent ten years in Dartmoor prison, became an invalid and died at Lambeth in 1875. Meagher received his ticket-of-leave not long after he arrived in WA, became a successful landowner, businessman and hotelier and at one time was Chairman of the Swan Road Board. He died at Bridgetown in 1906.
2. After not seeing her husband for eleven years while he was incarcerated in Burmuda, Gentle's wife, Ann, was able to visit him for the short time he was in prison in England. A year after he was sent to WA, Ann, their two children and son-in-law, John Endersby, joined William in York.
3. *Standard* 13 August 1863.

More glimpses of the *Hougoumont* convicts

In 1868 when news filtered through from Fremantle that the *Hougoumont* counted fenians among the convicts aboard, the *Inquirer* trumpeted:

[T]hey have sent us desperate fenians, Irish rebels! The Yankee brotherhood will make a raid upon us and rescue them.¹

On arrival, Captain Cozens of the *Hougoumont* was so incensed with the reports he read in the press he penned a letter to the *Perth Gazette*:

The fellow who wrote it ought to be kicked. He knows nothing about the discipline of a convict ship. The fenians conducted themselves in the most satisfactory manner, and only two of the other fellows [ordinary prisoners] had to be flogged."²

Thirteen months later most of the civilian fenians were quietly pardoned by the House of Commons although word only reached the Swan River in April 1869. Most of these civilian fenians left the colony before year's end leaving only about a dozen to make their lives in WA.

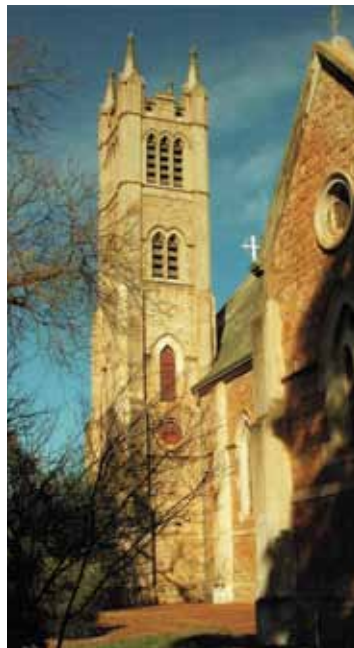
Among the fenians who stayed was Joseph Nunan, architect and builder, who, initially with Hugh Brophy, was responsible for many of Western Australia's finest buildings, among them the Sisters of Mercy convent (1871), St Patrick's Catholic Church York (1877), Perth Boys School West Perth (1878), and St John's Anglican Church Fremantle (1882).³

Nunan died from tuberculosis in 1885 aged 42.

Among the non-fenians, were our first Hansard reporter, John Rowland Jones, after whom Rowland street in Subiaco is named; Lionel Holdsworth who made a fortune in the North West pearl shell industry and who had Holdsworth Street named in his honour; Daniel Marsh who introduced electricity generation to WA at his Geraldton Emporium; David Gaffin who farmed in Jarrahdale and was a member of the Road Board. Also in Jarrahdale was Thomas Berwick, Holdsworth's partner in crime, who ran a school and taught until he died in 1891.

In contrast to some of the success stories, the *Hougoumont* also had several vagrants convicted of petty crimes who were transported contrary to the 1853 *Penal Servitude Act* and who remained vagrants here. William Scarrh (Scully) convicted of stealing a cloak and Obedeom Mitchell stealing a goose, are two examples.

1. *Inquirer* 22 January 1968. Although given the later Catalpa rescue, the paper was surprisingly prescient.
2. *Perth Gazette* 20 March 1868.
3. *Inquirer* 12 July 1882. London architect William Smith has been given the credit, but



St Patrick's church at York WA built by Joseph Nunan.

(Pamela Statham Drew and AM Clack *York WA: a documentary history*. Claremont; Pandorus Publications, 2018 p.333.

his design was deemed too expensive and Nunan commissioned to create new plans for the church.



Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is one of Australia's most well-known oral historians. This article is the 11th article in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

Raymond Clive Daw OH339 (1892–1983)

Raymond (Ray) Clive Daw was born in Maitland, South Australia, in 1892, the 10th and second last surviving child of Francis and Pollie Daw. (The parents of Francis had arrived in South Australia in 1838.) Francis was the town's storekeeper and butcher. With no fertilisers and a rabbit plague destroying crops, he despaired of there being a future for him and his large family in Maitland.

With news of major gold finds and production in Western Australia, he decided to travel there in 1894 in the hope of finding a better place to live. Ray recalled his father saying how, on his way to Perth, he 'heard some people talking about Esperance ... which is just being opened and is being rushed because of its nearness to the Norseman gold mine companies.' After visiting Perth, which did not impress him, Francis travelled to Esperance and fell in love with it. He was reassured about its future because a railway was planned to link it to Norseman. He decided to move there with his family, first returning with his eldest son, Francis Edgar at the end of 1894 when he opened the first general store in what was to be the town. According to Ray, 'They were so rushed that they didn't even have time to put their goods on the shelves ... as fast as the goods were opened, they were grabbed and were gone.'

Ray's earliest memory of Esperance was 'Crawling about on the ground ... playing in the sand,' and later 'playing marbles' on the street in front of his father's shop. Goods were carried to the goldfields by teams of camels being driven by Afghans who offered local children rides. The sailing ship Grace Darling regularly brought supplies and allowed children on board where they could do 'just as they wished'.

During 1895 the Esperance population reached 1500, serviced by 42 small businesses; 2000 men were on the Norseman gold field. With the opening of the railway between Perth and Kalgoorlie in 1897, Esperance port declined, and in 1898 when then Premier, John Forrest, declared no railway would be built between Esperance and the goldfields, the town emptied. Francis was one of the very few who remained in business to service what became a population of just 182.

Francis Daw bought land at the Dalyup in 1897 where he grew vegetables and established an orchard and vineyard to supply his shop. Ray recalled 'not quite a thousand vines of various kinds and 750 fruit trees'. He and his brothers collected 60–70 cases of fruit and used a six-horse team to cart them to Esperance through sand 'nearly all the way ... It used to take us two days to get in that 25 miles.' Another venture to ensure the family's survival was to buy a property where horses were bred.

With news of gold discoveries in the Phillips River area, Ray's oldest brother, Francis Edgar, went to open a store in Ravensthorpe in 1900, followed by two branch stores.

Ray was not happy at school and really struggled until teacher, Jane Gibson, took him under her wing:

We kids were so fond of her because she did such a lot for us and I think of her so well that she is just like a mother really ... she made me actually ... because she took me apart from the whole school and just taught me and otherwise I don't know how I'd have got on.

Even so, Ray left school aged 14 and refused to return. While he would have preferred to help with breeding horses, that task was given to an older brother, Fred, who wanted nothing to do with the shop so Ray was working in the shop, along with his brothers, when his father asked him to go to Ravensthorpe: 'Edgar's overcrowded and he can't get a man suitable for his job. "Well" I said "I'm not a man, not yet"', to which his father replied he was as good as, so Ray agreed to go. 'When I got there, I banged into a business about ten times the size of what I'd been used to handling'. He later returned to Esperance.

Ray clearly loved and admired his parents and was very touched when 'an old chap' came into the shop which was clearly a new experience for him. When he left Francis realised the man didn't have money to buy anything so he asked Ray to make him up a parcel of goods: 'tinned meats, a tin or two of fruits and odds and ends'. Ray was then sent to



Premier Scaddan's party view pumpkins and melons outside Esperance Institute, Dempster Street 26 March 1915.

From left: Ray Daw, F.J. Daw, Edward (Ned) Hannett, Esperance (Eppie) Hannett, E.J. McCarthy, John Scaddan, Tommy Walker; Mrs Scaddan and Mrs Walker at right. .(Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA LE Shapcott collection BA1104/301)

chase him down the street to give him the parcel much to the stranger's delight. Ray spoke of how thoughtful his father was. 'He was a very generous old chap by Jove he was. A bonus father.'

Ray's oldest brother, Len, spent time working with Francis Edgar in Ravensthorpe where they formed a partnership in 1911. It was dissolved in 1923 as Ravensthorpe emptied and Len returned to Esperance to take over his father's store and businesses along with Ray as L and R C Daw. 'We got on well together, all of us', Ray said.

Esperance remained in the doldrums for several years but Ray never thought of leaving. He recalled how business improved when people from Norseman travelled to Esperance for summer holidays.

It became so good that for quite a long time it was lasting nearly six months of the year. And the business we could get in those six months was as much as we would get in twelve months ... Then of course we had our orchard and vineyard ... and horse trading. We used to overland horses and sell them out at Katanning.

The Esperance branch of the family had opened stores at Red Lake and Grass Patch which were closed during the economic Depression. Another at Norseman survived. Ray spoke about how other businesses were charging too much so Daws brought prices down by operating on

a 25 per cent margin. Ray eventually ran into trouble trying to maintain Norseman: 'I spent half my time up there and half my time in Esperance and I got sick and tired of going up and down and going into hotels to live'.

Initially, and for many years, Ray was not paid a salary; he helped himself to anything he needed from the shop, mostly clothing and food. Eventually it became necessary to draw wages with children coming 'so we decided on a pay the same as if we were working for somebody else. And it worked quite well'. When son Vince came into the business, he was paid a salary.

In 1956 a company was formed, Daw's Property Limited. New premises were acquired where drapery was sold along with airlines and shipping offices; the grocery section stayed in the old store. It was all closed in October 1975.

Ray was a member of the third generation of country storekeepers from his family, and his sons became the fourth generation involved, but his grandchildren wanted nothing to do with the business.

Ronda Jamieson

[Editor's note: In Ronda's article on Robert Burns Moore, 1905–1987, OH329 in the July edition of the Newsletter, I incorrectly captioned the photo which was not Robert Burns Moore but the founder of the business Robert Moore. My apologies.]



Book review

A Passion for Collecting - Sir William Dixson

by Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian, 2013.

It seems that this book was published at the time an exhibition honouring Sir William Dixson was held at the Mitchell Library, Sydney, in 2013.

The State Library of New South Wales has had two principal benefactors: David Scott Mitchell and Sir William Dixson who have made the Mitchell

Library the premier library for the study of the history of Australia. Both benefactors were bachelors and had no children or grandchildren to inherit their estates; instead the Library, and through it the people of Australia, were the most fortunate beneficiaries.

Mitchell died in 1907 and the bequest of his collection was the foundation of the great Mitchell Library. Dixon died in 1952 at the age of 82.

It is unclear whether Mitchell and Dixon ever met, but Mitchell knew of Dixon as a competing collector. Dixon wrote to Mitchell in 1904 giving him a transcription of John Oxley's 1827 diary which Dixon owned. Dixon showed his true collector's selfishness of ownership by telling Mitchell that he knew that Mitchell would like to own the original diary, but he was not willing to sell it.

Dixon was the oldest surviving son of the ten children of Sir Hugh and Lady Elizabeth Dixon who were generous philanthropists in Sydney. William's grandfather had founded the very successful business of Dixon & Sons, which later merged with the The British Australasian Tobacco Company Pty Ltd which manufactured tobacco products.

Dixon was both a passionate collector of Australiana but also a very detailed historical researcher. He excavated a basement at his home at Killara to accommodate his overflowing collections. His leisure hours were given over to the consuming pursuit of building one of the richest and most extensive Australiana collections in the nation.

There are three aspects of Dixon's benefaction and generosity to the Mitchell Library: his continual providing to the Library of items from his own collection or his purchase of items expressly for the Library, his creation of the Dixon Galleries by the gift of his historical paintings in 1929, and the bequests on his death in 1952 of the residue of his collections and a very large investments portfolio.

Dixon was encouraged by the proprietors of Angus & Robertson to become the successor of Mitchell as a collector of national scope and importance. Dixon acknowledged that he was inspired by both the work of, and gift by, Mitchell of his collection to the Mitchell Library. In the 1910s and 1920s Dixon spent at least £50,000 on books, medals, pictures and manuscripts with Angus & Robertson alone.

During his lifetime, Dixon made many significant gifts to public institutions including the Mitchell Library and the Dixon Galleries. For example, in

1912 Dixon donated 944 Aboriginal artefacts to the Australian Museum. He continued to gift material to the Australian Museum until 1951. In 1914 Dixon gave the now State Library a portrait bust of explorer Charles Sturt. In 1916 Dixon commissioned Lionel Lindsay to copy as etchings some quick personal sketches of Mitchell made in 1893 by Walter Syer and Dixon formally presented the copies to the Mitchell Library in 1916.

Dixon was aware that under the terms of the bequest from Mitchell the trustees could not spend any of the estate's endowment income on paintings and Dixon decided to remedy that by donating 195 of his own Australian paintings to form the Dixson Galleries in 1929, which Dixon had first offered to the Library in 1919 (it took five years for the Government to even acknowledge his offer). By 1943 Dixon had gifted another 150-odd paintings to the Galleries.

In 1929 Dixon bought Joseph Lycett's watercolour *North View of Sydney* and gave it to the Dixson Galleries in 1930. His gifts of the 195 paintings to the Dixson Galleries in 1929 included the Frederick Garling watercolour *Southerly Buster* and Conrad Martens's *Part of Sydney From the Colonnade Bridge Street*. He bought Joseph Lycett's *Corroboree at Newcastle* in 1937 for the Dixson Galleries in 1938.

Under his cultivation by William Ifould, Principal Librarian of the Mitchell Library, Dixon bought many items with a view to their being donated to the Mitchell Library within a short time. Ifould also got Dixon to privately fund the large expensive brass doors of the new Mitchell Library building and the three Chaucer stained glass windows on the east wall of the now Mitchell Library Reading Room.

Dixon also gave generous gifts to the now University of New England in the late 1930s (which honoured the gift by naming the building the Dixson Library), the NSW Home for Incurables in 1940, and the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in 1941.



Detail of one of the Chaucer windows in the Mitchell Reading Room.
(Courtesy State Library of NSW)

In 1951 he began the process of transferring his collections from his house to the Mitchell Library.

On his death in 1952 he bequeathed his immense collections, including the ten very special items listed at page 38 of this book, to the Library. He also left investments of £115,000 which he directed to be spent on making primary historical documents more accessible through publication, by facsimile reproduction, accurate transcription or translation. The current day value of that bequest would be \$4.2 million. The bequest was used to create the Sir William Dixson Foundation which published 16 books.

Dixson's aim was to build on Mitchell's achievements but he wanted his own work to be separately recognised and he identified areas such as paintings which Mitchell had not dealt with. Author Richard Neville, Principal Librarian, states that so vast were the collections given by Dixson that anyone writing the story of Australia writes it on the foundation provided by Dixson's collections.

Two questions arise from the above. First, what is the story behind the naming of the JS Battye Library of West Australian History? Secondly, what will happen to our own personal library collections when we die?

Rob O'Connor QC



News from the State Library

Forthcoming events and exhibitions at the State Library

Homecomings, 1918

Monday 12 November 2018 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm Great Southern Room. FREE event.

“When the last bugles of empire sounded in November 1918, the experience of war was far from over for most Western Australians. The logistics of returning troops to Australia was, in itself, a mammoth task. Once complete, communities struggled to face the loss and the enduring costs of war. In this fascinating talk, Notre Dame historians,

Deborah Gare, Leigh Straw and Paul Reilly, will share some of the most extraordinary moments of the war's end." Please contact the State Library of WA for further details or bookings.



Servicemen convalescing at Wooroloo Sanatorium 1918

(Battye Library, SLWA 007570D)

Recently Acquired Material

- Journal of a Voyage from Plymouth to Western Australia: Nov – 1851, to Feb - 1852' written by Dr William Farrant Merson, ship's surgeon on the *Will Watch* a ship engaged by the 'Sidney Herbert Female Emigrant Society' and the 'London Assurance Colonization Company'. The journal includes entries about the three weeks of his sojourn in Perth before he was to embark on the *Louisa* to travel to Victoria. There are mentions of other early settler families. George Turner and his wife and John Turner (sons of James Woodward Turner of Augusta) sailed with Dr Merson on the *Louisa* from Fremantle.
- 1916 farm diary kept by Stephen Alexander Lundy (1893-1973). He was managing two farms in the Cunderdin area while his father, John Sinclair Lundy (1871-1961) was serving in WW1. The properties were Tiddy Widdy (later Kenmore) in Cunderdin and Honi Moni in

North Cunderdin. There is a daily record of the farms providing a picture of early twentieth century wheat belt farming in the era of the horse. The names of many of the early settlers in the district are mentioned making this diary also valuable for local family history.

- *Our Trip to Augusta* 1921: Illustrated handwritten book by KE Shenton. This is a very attractive illustrated hand written, cloth covered book made in 1921 by Katherine Emma Shenton (1886-1945). She was the daughter of Edward and Charlotte Shenton. The small book contains a brief account of a sketching trip to Augusta in which at least two people participated. It is a series of sketches with some very brief descriptions of the scenes sketched and how the artists spent their days.
- Letters of Rosalind Dickins-Davies 1932-1950; and transcription (analogue and digital). Rosalind Davies was born in Melbourne 8 August 1876 and died in Perth on 22 October 1952. She married Lionel George Percy Dickins in Perth on 18 January 1898. They moved to Albany for some years then back to Perth where Lionel died in 1918. When Rosalind was widowed in 1918 with little money and three children a friend lent her money to take over the management of a working men's lodging house and The Cloisters (the eastern half). Her social life returned and she played a lot of bridge (for money) and also seemed to have had success gambling on the horses. In 1932, she married her cousin, Joshua Davies, a clergyman in Wales. They separated after three years, but never divorced. Rosalind returned to Perth. The letters are personal and loving but at the same time, give glimpses of life in mid-century Perth for the reasonably well-to-do. Comments about Rosalind's help in the house, friends, social events, food eaten, and the weather are all there. Probably most interestingly, her real estate dealings are discussed in some detail.
- Digital manuscript: *Capt. David Dring 1801-1877: His Life and Smithers Family Relationships*. Captain David Dring (1801 - 1877), with his second wife Emily and daughter (also called Emily), came to the Swan River Colony in 1831. His first wife Sarah died in 1827 after only two years of marriage and his daughter from that marriage (also Sarah) was left in England. He apparently arrived in the colony with some capital, established a farm - Goodwood - and became involved in sealing, the whaling industry, shipping and as a trader. By the 1840s, he was credited with opening up trade and passage to Swan

River. This manuscript by Wayne Jackson has some interesting insights into Captain Dring's life and colonial life in general.

- Views of a 16-year-old": Walter Howse photographs of Albany and Perth, 1946-1953. Wally was a keen photographer from a young age. While a student at Albany High (1947-49) he captured exterior views of the school buildings, interior views of classrooms, and staff and students in various educational, theatrical and sporting activities. Wally was still 16 when he started university and turned his photographer's eye to the grounds and architectural features of UWA, Claremont Teachers College as well as Perth city landmarks. His collection documents the facilities, uniforms and activities of three different Western Australian educational institutions in the mid-C20th.
- Collection of photographs of British Group Settlements at Manjimup and Peel Estate circa 1920-1929 (26 x photos)
- Three rare photographs featuring Albany in 1886, Kalgoorlie gold escort, 1896 and Blackboy Hill Camp, 1915.
- One colour screen print of a defunct Western Australian band, The Dugites, formed in the late 1970s and recorded three albums in the early 1980s. They combined elements of power pop, new wave and electronic genres. In 1982 they released the mini-album *No Money*, illustrating the album cover with this image.



Dugites albums *No money*, and *Cut the talking* which features lead singer Linda Nutter on the cover. (Courtesy Linda Nutter)

State Records Office - News from the Archives

At the AGM last month, an annual report on the activities of SROWA was presented. Here are some highlights from that report.

State Records Commission

The State Records Commission went through a number of membership changes during 2018. The Auditor General, Colin Murphy, retired and Ms Caroline Spencer was appointed in May 2018. The Information Commissioner, Sven Bluemmel, was appointed to Information Commissioner of Victoria and Ms Catherine Fletcher is currently WA's Acting Information Commissioner.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

On 15 December 2017 the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse presented its final report to the Governor-General, the culmination of a five year inquiry into institutional responses to child sexual abuse and related matters. Volume 8 of the final report examines the records, recordkeeping and information sharing of institutions that care for, or provide services to, children and contains 23 recommendations.

The Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities (CAARA) Royal Commission Working Group, which includes the SRO, continued its work during 2017-18 advising the Royal Commission on matters relating to recordkeeping and the custody of its records. Since the release of the final report, the Working Group's focus is on the implementation of the recommendations outlined in Volume 8, particularly Recommendations 8.1 to 8.5.

As part of the implementation of the recommendations, on 5 April 2018, the State Archivist and Executive Director State Records issued a disposal freeze for government records relating to children. The freeze applies to all Western Australian State and local government organizations, and outsourced agents creating or maintaining relevant records for these organizations.

On 27 June 2018, the State Government announced its response to the Royal Commission's 409 recommendations, in which it accepts or accepts in principle all 23 recommendations related to recordkeeping and information sharing.

The SRO is a member of the Royal Commission and Related Inquiries Sub Group, a committee of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's Directors General Implementation Group, for implementing the Recommendations.

Disposal Authorities (DAs)

Three new Sector Disposal Authorities (SDAs) were developed and approved during 2018, being the SDA for Reviews, Investigations and Special Inquiries (covering the records of any review, investigation or special inquiry established by the WA Government), an SDA for Racing, Gaming and Wagering, and Liquor Regulators and an SDA for Water Services Corporations. As well, the SRO issued 3 fully revised SDAs for Port Authorities, Cemetery Boards and university Student Guilds.

Online Record Keeping Plan Module

During 2017-18, the SRO oversaw the development of a new software module that will form part of the SRO's existing Online Retention and Disposal Application (ORDA). ORDA is a web-based system that allows government agencies to draft and submit their disposal authorities to the SRO for review and associated approval processes. The SRO developed and commenced using ORDA in 2012. Since then, agency Disposal Authorities have been prepared via this system instead of using traditional document-based submissions.

The new module will allow agency Record Keeping Plans and associated information to be developed, submitted and revised through ORDA. Importantly, this also means Record Keeping Plan information will be in a database form that can be better analysed and reported upon across government sectors. Government agencies will also have the ability to benchmark their recordkeeping capabilities against a broader framework, such as measuring how they compare to whole-of-government or their sector.

Digitisation Projects

During 2017-18, the SRO continued geo-referencing 2,202 survey (sewerage) plans of the Perth metropolitan area dating from the first half of the 20th Century. The plans show considerable architectural detail of individual properties across most of the Perth metropolitan area and often document 'lost' or demolished parts of Perth's built environment. This initial digitisation of the plans was made possible through funding from the Friends of Battye Library Inc. and the subsequent geo-referencing work relied heavily on voluntary assistance. The geo-referencing stage

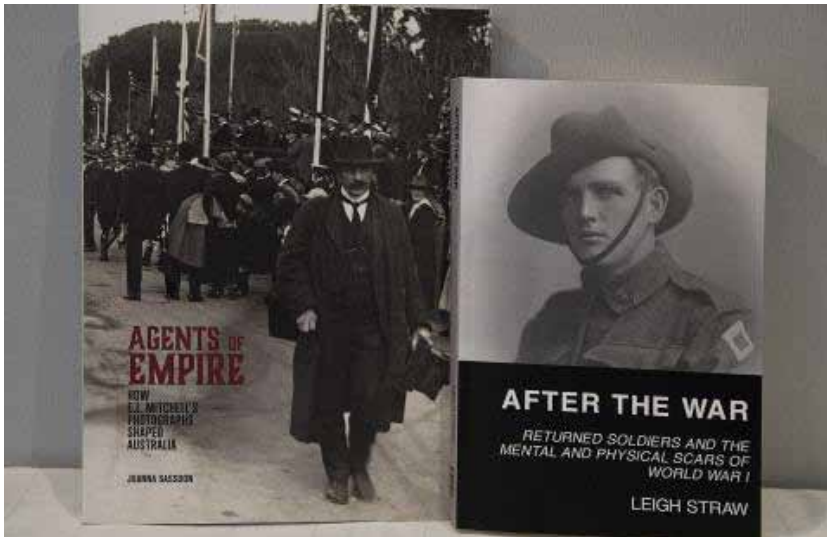
has recently been completed and the SRO is now working toward making the plans publicly available through a web mapping interface and searchable by location. The SRO is extremely grateful to FOBS for their ongoing support of SRO that has enabled this and other projects to be delivered.

Introductory Workshop for the Ancestors Words - Noongar Letters Project

On 24 and 25 October 2017 the SRO hosted a visit and provided a workshop for a group of 19 Noongar elders and people from the South West of the State led by Darryl Kickett. They were accompanied by 3 attendees from the Curtin University Noongar Letters Project Team, led by Professor Anna Haebich. The workshop was essentially an introduction to the SRO and the State Archives Collection. It also focused on ways of researching at the SRO and remotely, by using the online catalogue and other online and in-house finding aids, to enable the location of Noongar voices in the collection. It included a tour of storage areas.

Margaret Medcalf Award

The 2018 Margaret Medcalf Award was awarded jointly to Dr Joanna Sassoon and Dr Leigh Straw for their books *Agents of Empire: How E.L Mitchell's Photographs Shaped Australia*, and *After the War: Returned Soldiers and the Mental and Physical Scars of World War 1*.



The Judges for this year's Award were State Records Commissioner, Justine McDermott; Winthrop Professor Jane Lydon, Wesfarmers Chair of Australian History at the University of Western Australia; and the State Archivist and Executive Director State Records, Cathrin Cassarchis.

Cathrin Cassarchis
State Archivist and Executive Director State Records



State Library Bookshop discount for members

Don't forget that the State Library has generously offered members of the Friends of Battye Library a 15% discount on new book purchases. To be eligible for the discount, members must show proof of name when making their purchases so staff can confirm that you are a current member.

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

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Afterwords by Steve Errington

What's in a name Part two: Strawberry Hill and Gooseberry Hill

Western Australia's first farm was the government farm established in 1827 at King George's Sound in what became Albany. Now in the hands of the National Trust, the property has recently been re-badged as 'Strawberry Hill' with 'The Old Farm' as a subsidiary name.

Why 'strawberry' hill? Were strawberries involved at all in its naming? In a metropolitan parallel, were gooseberries key to naming the hills suburb?

What we do know is that strawberries were being grown in Albany as early as 1831. When control of the settlement at the Sound was transferred from Sydney to Perth in March 1831 Dr Alexander Collie was made Government Resident. Writing to his brother George in a letter started on 20 October 1831, Collie reported:

*Our strawberries are ripe since the last week of October. They are of a large size and well flavoured.*¹

According to Collie's biographer Gwen Chessell, Collie was then living in a hut at the government farm and supervising its development. Collie had a four-room cottage built at the farm for Governor Stirling's extended visit starting November 1831.

In March 1833 Collie was recalled to Perth to be Colonial Surgeon. His successor, Sir Richard Spencer, arrived in September that year. Governor Stirling had told Spencer that he could buy the government farm and its four-roomed cottage.

By then the site of the farm was clearly known as Strawberry Hill as the name was used in correspondence about the purchase. As acting Resident Lt Donald McLeod and Assistant Surveyor Alfred Hillman wrote to Spencer in November 1833:

*In reply to your letter dated 1st October last requesting us to value the Government Cottage & Garden on Strawberry Hill ...*²

Were strawberries then spreading on the hill? Probably. But was there already a precedent in England where strawberries grew wild? Strawberry Hill is an affluent locality in Twickenham with a famous house (since 1776) and a railway station (since 1873). Strawberry Hill House or just Strawberry Hill was built by Horace Walpole, man

of letters, gothic revivalist, author of *The Count of Otranto*, and son of former Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole.

In May this year I made a quick visit to Walpole's Strawberry Hill, just long enough to buy the guide book and fridge magnet and take a photo. Walpole built it around a much older building called 'Chopped Straw Hall' but found the name Strawberry Hill in some lease documents in 1749.

Until 1970 Perth had its own Strawberry Hill, in Adelaide Terrace, a house once the home of the Burt family. Walpole's famous house could well have suggested the name though Ruth Marchant James has recorded how young Alice Stone (1848-1929) picked strawberries on its hillside terraces as a child.



The original Strawberry Hill House, at Twickenham.
(photo the author).

What of Gooseberry Hill? According to 'An early Settler' writing in 1833, both strawberry plants and Cape gooseberry bushes were then 'very abundant' at Swan River.³ It is hard to imagine that gooseberries weren't responsible for the name. Gooseberry Hill 'near Guildford' was an established geographical feature by 1876 and rapidly became an area noted for its fruit production, including gooseberries.

The pioneer of the area was William Henry Mead who took up 40 acres in 1873. In their history of Kalamunda, John Slee and Bill Shaw offer an explanation of how the name came into being: they report a story that Mead's wife Eleanor named the hill after some Cape gooseberry bushes growing wild on the side of the hill.

1. Acc. 332A, Battye Library.
2. Acc 36 30/152, SROWA.
3. *Perth Gazette*, 9 March 1833.

Steve Errington

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

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

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

or write to:

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