

No. 164



March 2019

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

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*Our March 2019 meeting*

**Andrew Green**

*Paradise Defiled...Paradise Defiant*  
*British and Australian soldiers' visions of Great War*  
*pastoral landscapes.*



Supporting troops of the 1st Australian Division walking on a duckboard track near Hooze, in the Ypres Sector 5 October 1917.

(Photographer Frank Hurley, Australian War Memorial no. E00833.)

Tuesday 12 March 2019 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. *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

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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.

# March Meeting

Tuesday 12 March 2019  
Great Southern Room, 4th floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5pm for 5.30pm

**Our speaker will be Andrew Green**

*Paradise Defiled...Paradise Defiant*  
*British and Australian soldiers' visions of Great War*  
*pastoral landscapes.*

**Details of Andrew'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.

## **Contents**

About our speaker	4
Meeting dates for 2019	5
A message from our President	5
Members' information	6
'Have you a story to tell?'	
Lorraine Clarke	9
A find in the catalogue	11
Bevan and Jennie Carter	12
Voices that should be heard- Ronda Jamieson	14
News from the State Library	18
State Records Office - News from the Archives	24
RWAHS Book sale	27
Subscriptions form	28
'Afterwords' - Steve Errington	29

## **Andrew Green's talk**

One of the most striking features of Great War soldiers' testimony is how closely many of them identified with the pastoral landscapes and natural life of the Western Front.

In his talk, Andrew Green will dip into the large body of such material to shape a narrative of how the countryside was disfigured by the appalling conflict...and then healed itself. There will be extracts from the letters, diaries and autobiographical writings of British and Australian soldiers, combined with a large body of photographs which help tell the story.

## **About Andrew**

Andrew Green recently retired after more than three decades as a freelance radio producer and presenter for various BBC networks... chiefly Radio 3, Radio 4 and the World Service. Andrew's main interests as a broadcaster were in making music and history programmes, but he also worked in the areas of sport, politics and religion. He continues to operate as a music journalist and as a Fellow of the University of Hertfordshire, where he specialises in running oral history projects. A major thrust of his personal research involves examining various aspects of the eye-witness testimony of Great War soldiers on the Western Front.



Andrew is a regular visitor to Perth, where he has family. From 2014 to 2017 he was involved in running a joint oral history project between UWA and the University of Hertfordshire. This gathered memories of migration from the UK to WA and recollections of family members left behind.



**Meeting dates for 2019**

- 14 May** - Michelle McKeough: *Western Australia and the bubonic plague.*
- 9 July** - Alex Aitkin and Trevor Tough - *Outback Graves*
- 10 September** (AGM) - Peter Ellery - *WA Mining history*
- 19 November** (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function  
Richard Offen - *Lost Perth* (TBC)



**President's piece**

Dear Friends

A Happy and Healthy New Year everyone.

As set out in our Newsletter, 2019 promises to be a busy year. The State Library is off to a splendid start with an exhibition featuring the work of Shaun Tan a very gifted artist in a number of media. His oil paintings, clay sculptures, sketches and book illustrations present a feast for the eye so do try to visit it on the ground floor.

We have now acquitted the big Lotterywest grant awarded to the Friends to update and improve the East Perth Cemeteries website, and many of you were able to attend our launch and unveiling late last year. It is a website to be proud of and has won much acclaim from historians here and in the East. Other cemeteries are now going to follow our lead, which is a huge feather in Lorraine's and Cherie's caps!

Hopefully your committee will put together another largish proposal for Lotterywest funding this year. Lord knows the Library, and especially our Battye Library collections, really need help with the Government's continual and savage cuts to the non-performing arts sector!

Looking forward to seeing many of you again at our March meeting

With very best wishes Pamela



## Members' information

### Australia Day honour for Phil Bianchi

We were delighted to read in this year's Australia Day announcements that one of our members, Phil Bianchi, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his services to community history.



Members might recall that Phil was shortlisted for the Margaret Medcalf Award in 2014 for his book 'Work completed, Canning': a comprehensive history of the Canning Stock Route 1906 – 2010, which was published by Hesperian Press.

Phil Bianchi.  
(<http://www.philbianchi.com.au>)

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### Vale Bill Henderson

We were grieved to learn last year of the passing of one of our long term members, Bill Henderson, and would like to extend our sincere condolences to Bill's wife, Helen Henderson, and their family.

The following obituary first appeared in *History West* and is reproduced here with appreciation to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.

#### **Bill Henderson (1928-2018)**

We noted with sadness the death of our member, volunteer, former Councillor and Treasurer. Bill helped the Society wherever there was a need with skill, good cheer and gentlemanly kindness. The support he provided was invaluable, most notably when he stepped in as Treasurer at a difficult time.

William George Henderson LS, FISA, was born in West Perth and undertook his survey cadetship under F G Medcalf in Albany. As a surveyor in the WA Lands and Surveys Department he carried out many surveys across the State, his career culminating in the position of Surveyor General from 1984 to 1986. He made a significant contribution to the mapping of Australia and will be particularly remembered for the part he played in pinpointing the desert triangle where the Northern Territory, South Australia and Queensland meet.

After retirement in 1986 Bill developed a protea plantation at Toodyay which he operated until 1997. Most recently he worked with his wife Helen to research and write the biography of Augustus Oldfield, a 19th century botanical collector and ethnographer about whose collecting trips not much was known. Bill mapped Augustus Oldfield's travels and, with Helen, retraced the routes. In the process they have added greatly to knowledge and have produced a splendid book, *A Greater Prize Than Gold*, which will be the go-to reference for any queries on Oldfield or related topics in the future.



### **Introducing Dr Chris Owen, Acting Battye Historian**

Chris was with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and was involved in the Single Noongar Claim (SNC) native title litigation (2005-8) that established native title over Perth. His book *"It's still in my heart, this is my country": the Single Noongar Claim History* UWAP, 2009, co-written with John Host, won the 2010 Australian Human Rights Award for non-fiction as well as the Margaret Medcalf Award for that year.

Chris is currently Acting Battye Historian and a Honorary Research Fellow in the School of History at the University of Western Australia. He has been researching Aboriginal history for more than twenty years, and has published articles which have won several awards.



Chris's research interests, primarily using archival records of the State Records Office, include colonial policing (specifically the Kimberley), Aboriginal policy and governmental administration, and the social conditions at the frontiers of colonisation in Western Australia.

In 2016 he published '*Every Mother's Son is Guilty*': *Policing the Kimberley Frontier of Western Australia 1882-1905*. This book is based his PhD which won the UWA Board of the Graduate Research School Dean's List 'In recognition of an outstanding thesis.' His PhD also received a special commendation at the 2015 Margaret Medcalf Awards.



### **Update of Friends of Battye Library publication**

Our little book, *The convict records of Western Australia: a research guide*, which is on our website, has been extensively updated and will soon be in print again. This comprehensive guide builds on Gillian O'Mara's popular publication which was first published by the Friends in 1990.

The *guide* has been revised and expanded by Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland of Swan Geology. It is an unparalleled reference source and the online version on our website [www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au](http://www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au) is already proving a boon to researchers and family historians.

Lorraine and Cherie have travelled the road of convict research themselves so they know all the pitfalls and twists and turns in researching convict history and their experience can now help you.

#### **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.



## Have you a story to tell?

*[Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland, who are two of our committee members were responsible for information and setting up the East Perth Cemeteries website. The project, which was funded by Lotterywest and supported by the Friends of Battye Library, was launched late last year and it is already proving to be a very valuable resource.]*

### **New website for the East Perth Cemeteries**

The East Perth Cemeteries has gone through many changes over its 189-year life span.

Location R, the burial ground for the Perth district was non-denominational although Reverend Wittenoom, a Church of England minister, was the chaplain responsible for most early burials. During the earliest years of colonial settlement no one appeared to be responsible for the operations of the burial ground, until 1842 when the land was granted to Trustees of the Church of England to administer as a public cemetery. Cemeteries for other religious denominations were gradually allocated as required. The Roman Catholic church was allocated Lots T41 and T42 in 1848, the Independent Congregational and Wesleyan Methodist faiths were each were granted Lots T39 and T40 respectively in 1854, and in 1867 the Jewish congregation was granted Lot E72. The Presbyterian church acquired Lots E70 and E71 in 1881, and the Chinese community obtained Lot E69 in 1888. An eighth cemetery Location, E73, was assigned for the burial of felons in 1867.

The new website will ensure that we can capture the unique Western Australian stories of the individuals who are buried at the cemeteries and how the small colony worked and played. The site will enlarge over time and enable descendants of those buried there to capture individual anecdotes and share them with the world through the online FREE platform.

Visitors can take a virtual or real walk amongst the Imperial convicts who were sent to the colony to build infrastructure and provide much needed farm labour. A search of the burial database will uncover 779 hits for the word 'convict', currently there are 35 headstones for convicts and the convict walk tells the story of six of the lesser known ones. Or you can take a walk in the shoes of our pioneer women. So many stories can be

found about men of the Swan River Colony, but many women also left an indelible mark on our early history. Or how about taking a different walk and find out about six individuals and how they met their grizzly deaths.

Images of headstones have been digitised and memorial Inscriptions transcribed. An interpretation of the symbols on graves are now included, and the what and why of these symbols help the reader learn more about those buried within.

If you have an ancestor who is interred in the East Perth Cemeteries and would like to share their story, please get in contact and we would love to help you share it.

The Friends of Battye Library and National Trust Western Australia launched the new East Perth Cemeteries website, thanks to Lotterywest. The new site has a mapping interface which enables visitors to see the cemeteries in a whole new manner. The website enables us to take virtual walks amongst villains, famous men, interesting women, convicts, publicans and/or people who have been murdered. We are now able to engage the public and tell many more stories in a unique and groundbreaking way. Do take a moment or two to check out:

[www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au](http://www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au)

Lorraine Clarke



## An interesting find in the State Library's catalogue

Sometimes, when trawling through the wonderful online photographic images in the Battye Library we come across some gems. In this case a true Gem of Time, our own Fr Ted Doncaster, who has done so much to document and record the history of the Anglican church in Western Australia. These two photographs of Fr Ted at work in his ministry were taken in 1959 and are part of a series photographed for the filmstrip *We call on the Rector* made by Lily Best, affectionately known as 'Tiger Lil'.



Rev. Ted Doncaster, Rector of St. George's Anglican Church, Bluff Point rings the bell for morning service.

(Battye Library, SLWA 335048PD)

Rev. Ted Doncaster conducts a religious instruction class at Bluff Point Primary School.

(Battye Library, SLWA 335050PD)



The very informative catalogue entry also includes a script for the film, which was written by Fr Ted.

Photographer Miss Lily Best was brought to Western Australia by the Bishop of Kalgoorlie, Rt Rev'd Cecil Muschamp. This filmstrip was based on the daily life of a priest centred on the sacraments and seasons. Bluff

Point, Wonthella, Northampton and Nabawa churches are all depicted as well as other locations of ministry. The Rector of Bluff Point, Rev. Ted Doncaster, who appears in many of the images, wrote the script which was approved by the photographer before being committed to reel-to-reel tape, which was played with every showing of the filmstrip. The filmstrip was produced by E.C.E. in Maidenhead, U.K. using Lily Best's Kodachrome transparencies which were developed by Kodak.

Lily Best later went on to Papua New Guinea to film the missionary work being undertaken there by the Anglican church.

We are indebted to Fr Ted for preserving these photographs and the script and for donating them to the State Library in 2005,

(Jennie Carter, ed.)

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### **Commemorating the end of Transportation**

*[The final entry in this series is a list of all the convict ships that came here and the number of male convicts who disembarked in Fremantle between 1 June 1850 and 9 January 1868. In compiling this list, we are indebted to the ground-breaking research work carried out by Gillian O'Mara and Charles Bateson.]*

### **Convict ships arriving at Fremantle 1850-1868**

The ships on this list all sailed from Britain unless noted in square brackets as being sent from another country.

The number of convicts who disembarked at Fremantle is shown in parentheses after the ship's name. Ships coming from India carried British military prisoners who had been court-martialled in that country, and as far as can be ascertained, all 38 of them came ashore in Western Australia.

1850 *Scindian* (75), *Hashemy* (100)

1851 *Mermaid* (208), *Pyrenees* (293), and *Minden* (301)

1852 *Marion* (279), *William Jardine* (212)

- 1853 *Dudbrook* (228), *Pyrenees* (293),  
*Robert Small* [Ireland] (303), and *Phoebe Dunbar*  
[Ireland] (285)
- 1854 *General Godwin* [India] (15), *Sea Park* (304),  
*Ramillies* (277)
- 1855 *Guide* [India] (6), *Stag* (224), and *Adelaide* (259)
- 1856 *William Hammond* (249), *Runnymede* (248)
- 1857 *Clara* (262), *City of Palaces* [India] (4)
- 1858 *Nile* (270), *Caduceus* [India] (1), *Lord Raglan* (268),  
*Albuera* [India] (11), and *Edwin Fox* (280)
- 1859 *Sultana* (224), *Frances* [India] (1)
- 1860 no convict ships arrived
- 1861 *Palmerston* (293)
- 1862 *Lincelles* (304), *Norwood* (290), and *York* (299)
- 1863 *Merchantman* [Bermuda] (191), *Clyde* (320),  
and *Lord Dalhousie* (270)
- 1864 *Clara* (301), *Merchantman* (257)
- 1865 *Racehorse* (278), *Vimeira* (280)
- 1866 *Belgravia* (276), *Corona* (305)
- 1867 *Norwood* (253)
- 1868 *Hougoumont* (279)

**Total 9676 convicts**

The total number of convicts given above excludes 61 convicts who were either removed from their ships before arrival in Fremantle (such as the few taken off at Gibraltar), or who died on the voyage. See Charles Bateson *The convict ships 1787-1868* Artarmon NSW, AH & AW Reed, 1974. A complete list, which includes the court-martialled convicts from India omitted by Bateson, is in Gillian O'Mara *Convict records of Western Australia: a research guide* Northbridge, Friends of Battye Library (Inc.), 1990 pp.49-50. O'Mara lists the number of convicts who embarked on the voyages.

Bevan and Jennie Carter



## Voices that Should be Heard

*[Dr Ronda Jamieson is one of Australia's most well-known oral historians. This article is the twelfth in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library. The quotes from Haworth's interview reflect the language of his time.]*

### **Eugene George Haworth (1902–1985) – OH 338**

Born in Norseman, Eugene George Haworth moved with his family to Ravensthorpe in 1909 when he was aged seven. His father, James, was a miner who had moved from Victoria to Coolgardie in 1894 and mining was the dominant activity in the Ravensthorpe district at the time. The family's first house there was of wood and hessian with a galvanised iron roof added next; their third house was entirely iron.

Eugene described a town with a few small sheep farms in the district and where hay was grown for the 'hundreds of horses' that were needed to cart ore and wood. Residents could run cows on the town commonage to provide milk for their families. The town had four hotels, and he recalled the different attitude of publicans with one taking advantage of men who were drunk ensuring an even greater supply of beer, and another who would refuse to serve anyone in that state. There was a code of honour about how women were treated and talked about, particularly during the First World War. The same with miners and prospectors:

The whole town was more or less built around miners and prospectors and ... they're free and easy, and easy spenders ... but one miner every day is trusting his life to the mate he's working with. It's an unwritten law; you never hurt anybody else. You don't worry about yourself, but make sure you never hurt anybody else.

The First World War meant the enlistment of virtually every eligible young man, despite the town voting against conscription. It brought the town's residents closer together with letters from serving family members being shared by placing them on the town's notice board.

There was a charity for war going all the time, the Red Cross and all sorts of things. Everybody was putting every penny they could scratch up into the darn thing. All the women were knitting socks.

In 1916 Eugene left school aged fourteen and worked with his dad, James, on the Marion Martin mine. His strongest memory of that time was the number of working bees that town people joined in to help 'any soldier's wife', to harvest a crop and build a haystack. Due to the war,

copper was in heavy demand and the practice was for the mines to be worked for three months. A horse was used to 'pull the ore' to the top where 'it went through a screen' to separate the 'fines' and the 'roughs'. When enough ore had been accumulated, smelting then took place.

Eugene and his dad later joined 44 other men to work on the government smelters: 'We didn't get any pay until we smelted the darn stuff. While the war was on the Government was squealing for copper, they needed the copper bad.' Again there was a caring attitude. When the manager's wife died in childbirth, a collection was taken up for him even though he was the highest paid man on the smelters.



Men gathered outside the Ravensthorpe Smelter c.1900  
{Mines Department Collection Batty Library, SLWA 090607PD}

Eventually James and Eugene took over running the smelters. He described in graphic detail the dangers involved in the process which could see forehearths blow up. One such incident led him to be considered 'a bit of a hero; I was the only man that didn't run away.' He reckoned the reason he didn't run was because the amount of dust in the air after the

blasts meant he couldn't see a thing. A second blast followed and the whole works were wrecked. 'When the smelters blew up like that there was no use going in the mine any more. If you couldn't smelt the ore well there was no use getting it. So the whole work stopped.'

Eugene was another to describe the difficulties experienced with government payments. Advance payments were made on the anticipated value of the copper and gold with the final payment held until the ore had been smelted and sold. He found that final payments could take 'donkeys years', which kept Eugene and his father 'broke for flaming years'. Cases were taken up in various courts, ending up in the Privy Council, a process that 'whittled and whittled' the value of their claim away over a five-year period: 'instead of being about three thousand pounds, he got three hundred pounds'.

With the closure of the smelters, mining in the Ravensthorpe area ceased at the end of 1918 and James and Eugene left to go 'overland with a horse and buggy' to find work. Sadly he described how 'Every able bodied man who wanted work had to leave Ravensthorpe.' After finding work on the way, Eugene and James ended up working at Shotts mine in Collie. Eugene's 'excellent pay' was largely sent back to his mother who remained in Ravensthorpe. He described her as a 'lovely' and 'capable' woman who was 'always happy.' She used it to buy land in the Ravensthorpe area wanting to have a farm but her sudden death after getting pneumonia, meant the family needed to pay the rates and taxes, which they stopped doing during the Depression and all of the land was lost.

After leaving Collie, Eugene became a sleeper cutter at Brunswick Junction using a broadaxe and crosscut saw which he described as 'pretty tricky work.'

You could tell a good sleeper cutter. You could slide over the blooming sleepers and wouldn't get a splinter in you at all, he cuts so cleanly, but mine had enough splinters on them to fly.

He remembered only cutting three sleepers on his first day while the expert in the team squared 30. He then helped build a saw mill.

Not wanting to work in the saw mill, which he described as drudgery, Eugene moved to East Kirup where Millars had a saw mill and went falling.





Sleeper cutters in the South West c.1920.  
(Battye Library, SLWA 078688PD)

The faller's the king of the bush. It's the best game in the bush; highest pay and the best, cleanest. You're your own boss, you work when you like, how you like, and where you like.

Eugene had an amazing capacity to describe every aspect of mining and smelting in detail and set out the differences in local ores which needed adaptations made to the process. He did the same with each of the jobs that followed, and never hesitated over a name.

I often wondered why when I visited Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun on holidays in my youth, I never saw an Aboriginal person. According to Eugene, the reason for this was because the first farmers in the district were the four Dunn brothers who arrived 'in the late '70s or early '80s'. One of their shepherds was speared: 'John Dunn shot the native and the native speared Dunn and they both perished'. Other incidents occurred and the Dunns were unhappy about how such episodes were dealt with by the police in Albany, the nearest police presence at the time. Following an incident that saw one of the Dunn brothers concussed after a confrontation with local Aboriginals, Walter Dunn loaded a pack horse with 'tucker and ammunition and poison and he shot everything that moved that was black, man, woman and kid'. The story went that



seventeen Aboriginal people were shot. The Bremer Range, where they mainly roamed, was dry and Dunn knew where all the gnamma (rock) holes were where water could be found and 'where a white man daren't follow'. Walter travelled deep into the dry area:

On the way back he poisoned all the gnamma holes ... When the tribe came to that gnamma hole and drank the water, they died, but before they died they had time to put their signs up that the water was poisoned ... And from that day on no tribal native ever walked past that line ... It's still taboo. Natives still don't come to Ravensthorpe.

Ronda Jamieson

Walter Dunn, Ravensthorpe 1921.  
(Battye Library, SLWA 024524PD)



## News from the State Library

### Staffing matters

On 23 August 2019 Dr Susanna Iuliano (Battye Historian Strategic Projects) left the State Library and Dr Kate Gregory remains on maternity leave until June 2019. In early October 2018 the role of Battye Historian was taken up by Dr Chris Owen in an Acting capacity. Dr Owen has over twenty years' research experience and particular interest into Aboriginal history (see information about Chris on page 7). In early November 2018 Adrian Bowen took over Steve Howell's role as Senior Subject Specialist after Steve retired. Adrian has worked with the State Library's heritage collections for more than eleven years, including roles in cataloguing, acquisitions, collection development and digital collections management. He was heavily involved in the Friends of Battye Library sponsored OHRRG project, which digitised 17,500 hours of unique oral history recordings. From 2014 Adrian has been responsible for coordinating the

collecting and management of Western Australian archival and original material and brings a deep knowledge of the Battye Library's collections to his new position.

### **From another view**

In January 2018 the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) began work on *From another view*, a project to reinterpret the 1874 trek from Geraldton to Adelaide by explorer and later Western Australian Premier, Sir John Forrest, exploring it from different creative and community perspectives through artworks, regional displays, public programs and educational resources. The project is a partnership with the Mindereroo Foundation and will culminate in free exhibitions at two locations in Perth and at a third location in Geraldton in 2019.

### **Forthcoming events and exhibitions at the State Library**

The exhibition at the State Library will unpack the history and meaning of 'exploration', 'colonisation' and 'Country', from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal perspectives and feature historical archival material from SLWA's collections. The exhibition will run from 7 May to 20 July 2019 in the State Library's ground floor exhibition space.

In 2019 the State Library has been running a series of Western Australian focussed historical and literary talks. In January Chris Owen spoke at a



Mounted police patrol escorting Aboriginal prisoners in chains in the Kimberley, 1922, (Battye Library, SLWA BA2596/1/163)

well-attended State Library Theatre event on his book *'Every Mother's Son is Guilty': Policing the Kimberley Frontier of Western Australia 1882–1905*. This talk revealed how records from the Batty Library and the SROWA collection were utilised. An audio of the talk is available here <https://soundcloud.com/statelibrarywa/every-mothers-son-is-guilty>

On Tuesday 19 March 2019, respected Western Australian historians Dr Charlie Fox and Dr Bobbie Oliver will give a presentation on their edited volume *Radical Perth, Militant Fremantle* (also edited by Dr Lenore Layman). Here you will hear fascinating stories of radical moments in the cities' past. From the 1890s and as recent as Occupy: "Bloody Sunday" on Fremantle Wharf, the Chinese community's fight for survival, Perth's Red Dean and his rock masses, bodgies and widgeys at Scarborough's Snake Pit, women's apron parades in the 1950s, Fremantle's Rajneeshees, the Point Peron Women's Peace Camp and many more.

### Recently Acquired Material

- ***Murray Johnstone collection*** relating to oil and gas exploration in WA, ca. 1948-1999. Murray Johnstone (1928-2010) was a well-known Australian geologist who played a key role in the search for oil in Western Australia in the 1950s-1970s. He was a keen photographer and amateur film-maker and kept well-organised records of his travels to remote parts of the state. The material Murray accumulated over his career includes personal correspondence and memorabilia, geological reports, presentation scripts from talks he did to schools and organisations, slides, photographs, and films including a 45-minute film of the Rough Range 1 oil discovery in December 1953 - the first significant oil discovery on mainland Australia. This is an important collection documenting the search for oil in WA and providing insight into the life of one of Australia's leading petroleum geologists of the second half of the 20th Century
- ***Papers and recordings of John Exton***. John Exton (1933-2009) was a notable Western Australian composer, who emigrated to Perth in 1966 to take up a position teaching music at the University of Western Australia. Exton taught composition, twentieth century music and performance, and during his time at UWA he was fundamental in developing the UWA electronic music studio and the Student Chamber Orchestra. Exton retired in 1988, but continued to teach music privately. Over his career he composed 56 complete works, including five works for orchestra or large ensemble, eight string quartets,

nine works for tape and a range of works for solo performance. The collection includes original hand-written scores and notes for many of Exton's works, recordings of his works on sound reels, personal documents relating to his tenure at the university, scrapbooks and archives of his writings and performances of his works, and writings from after his retirement. The collection is an important record of the professional and creative life of one of the most influential figures in the development of Western Australian new music composition.

- ***Early records of the Chung Wah Association.*** The Chung Wah Association is the state's oldest and most established Chinese community organisation. These valuable early records contain a considerable amount of information both in the first Minutes of the Association which date from 1909 (the foundation year) and in detailed applications for membership and the membership certificates of the Kuomintang (KMT) Nationalist Party, which was a major political force in China from the 1920s to 1949, and subsequently became the ruling party of Taiwan. The records were lent for copying (digitisation) by the Chung Wah Association as part of the SLWA and Chung Wah Association Partnership 2017-2018 with assistance from the Office of Multicultural Interests.
- ***Poseidon Nickel photographs*** and slides and transparencies 1970s-1980s, including the Mt Windarra mine site, South Windarra, Laverton, power house crusher construction and commissioning photos, and the effects of Cyclone Trixie. The nickel deposits at Mt Windarra were discovered in 1969 by Ken Shirley, a prospector with Poseidon Limited who then pegged some 40 claims in the area for the company. At this time nickel was in high demand and low supply world-wide and the discovery led to one of the largest mineral booms the Australian Stock Exchange had ever seen. The early photos in this collection are dated 1970-1975 and document the nickel mine during this period of high expectations. Unfortunately, by the time Poseidon actually started producing nickel the price had fallen and in 1976 the company was delisted and taken over by Western Mining who ran it until 1991. The collection includes digital images by Darryl Peroni Photograph taken in September 2005 after Niagara Mining had acquired the mine. In 2007 the company was renamed Poseidon Nickel Limited.



View of headframe and plant at Windarra Nickel Mine.2005.  
(Darryl Peroni, Poseidon Nickel collection. Battye Library, SLWA BA3014/388:

- ***Images of the East Kimberley*** including the Bungle Bungles, Frog Hollow, Halls Creek, Kununurra, Mabel Downs Station, Warmun, and Wolfe Creek Crater, recording photographer Darren Clark's fourth trip to north-east WA, July-September 2018. This collection provides insight into both traditional and contemporary life in the East Kimberley. Photographs of dreaming sites, ancient rock art, and indigenous families collecting bush medicine and white ochre contrast with photos of modern, well-equipped educational and health care facilities and the Warmun Art Centre, one of Australia's leading Indigenous art centres.

During his time in Warmun Darren got to know several of the local Gija artists and was able to gain a deeper understanding of how they connect to and represent their country. Clark's evocative documentary photographs are accompanied by written commentaries on issues facing the Gija people today – ongoing threats to their ancestral lands, the loss of traditional culture and language, drug-taking, suicide, and domestic violence. This purchased comprises 362 digital images in total, including 27 aerial shots of the Bungle Bungles taken from a helicopter.

- **Andrée Hayward papers**, dated 1922-1978. Charles Wiltens Andrée Hayward was born in 1866 in England and arrived at the WA goldfields in 1894 where he became a leading figure among a group of goldfield writers. He started his journalist career with the *Geraldton Express* and later worked for the *Murchison Advocate*, *Kalgoorlie Sun* and the *Perth Sunday Times*. In 1922 Andrée moved to Sydney and joined the *Bulletin*, writing satirical verse and social commentary under various pseudonyms. He died in 1950. This collection includes certification for the Bar of the Inner Temple in London where Andrée qualified as a barrister before emigrating to WA; correspondence relating to his career at the *Bulletin*; verses penned by Andrée and signed by various pseudonyms including “T the R” (Thomas the Rhymers); condolence letters written after his death in 1950 including a letter from Blanche D’Alpuget (pioneer woman journalist in Sydney, great-aunt of Blanche D’Alpuget who married Bob Hawke); letters to Andrée’s daughter Lucie including requests from Margaret Medcalf requesting the papers for the Batty Library. This small collection of papers provides insight into one of WA’s most influential poets.

- **Three Lefroy family portraits**
  - Francis Egerton Lefroy ca. 1937, Elizabeth Grace Lefroy ca. 1923, and a copy of a daguerreograph of Henry Maxwell Lefroy, pre-1840. These photographs add to the significant Lefroy collection of letters, diaries, maps, drawings, paintings, and other items already held by the State Library which provide a fascinating historical record of the family and the development of the Swan River Colony.



Portrait of Henry Maxwell Lefroy c.1860.  
(Batty Library, SLWA 5001B/58)

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

### **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

State Records Office staff have been involved in committees relating to the State Government announcements on 27 June 2018 relating 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. The SRO is also a member of the WA Redress Implementation Working Group, which is working to ensure key WA Departments, such as Communities, Education, Health, WA Police, etc., are prepared to respond to request for information from the scheme, and implement appropriate policies, protocols, and procedures, etc.

Additionally, SRO has been invited to participate in a number of working groups across government, to provide advice on the identification of relevant records.

### **Perth Metro Plans Update**

The State Records Office has completed geo-referencing its historical set of 'sewerage' plans for the Perth metropolitan area. These plans – which comprise 2,202 individual surveys from the early to mid 20th century – show a high level of detail for individual properties, both public and residential. The plans typically provide more detail than historical sets of aerial photography and, in any case, many of the plans pre-date the sets of aerial photographs of the metropolitan area that are available. As such, they provide a unique insight into Perth's built environment from many decades ago and document how much the city has changed over the last hundred years.

The high resolution digitisation of the plans was kindly funded by the Friends of Battye and the SRO has subsequently been geo-referencing each plan (akin to adding in latitude and longitude co-ordinates) with assistance from trained volunteers. Geo-referencing 2,202 plans for a specific project such as this may count as a new world record?





An example of one of the Perth Metro plans SRO

The SRO is now focussed on building the web mapping interface to make the plans available by location or address. Public clients will be able to freely download individual plans through the interface as well as use other options such as 'fading' the plans to compare the historical imagery against modern satellite imagery.

This type of capability also sets up the SRO with the ability to add in other types of plans to the interface in time. As many readers will be aware, the SRO holds many other sets of maps and plans that would benefit from being accessible via a modern mapping interface.

The SRO is currently on track for making the mapping interface available in mid 2019 at which time it will publicise the initiative. As many residents in Perth will be able to view their property from many decades ago (even up to 100 years ago), it is expected there will be very strong public interest in the outcomes of this project.

The SRO wishes to thank the Friends of Battye Library once again for their support of this project and their patience in having it completed.

Damien Hassan, Senior Archivist

### **2019 Margaret Medcalf Award**

The SRO has called for nominations for the annual Medcalf Award. Any work completed or published in the 2018 calendar year is eligible to be submitted for nomination, and anyone, including the author of the work, may submit a nomination.

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.

Nominations for the 2019 Margaret Medcalf Award should be addressed to the State Archivist, State Records Office of WA by 4pm Friday, 5 April 2019.

### **The 2019 Lunchtime Seminar Program**

The 2019 program will commence on Wednesday 12 March with a presentation by Dr Lise Summers and Dr Michael O'Connor on upgrades to the AtoM catalogue and the release of a Zotero translator, which is a piece of open source referencing software.

The next planned seminar is scheduled for 16 April 2019 with Dr Leigh Straw, Senior Lecturer in Aboriginal Studies and History, Notre Dame University speaking on the topic *After the War: World War One and Returned Soldiers in Western Australia*.

Arrangements for a seminar during NAIDOC week, 7-14 July, are to be confirmed.





**2019**

Saturday 6 April - 8:30am to 5pm

Sunday 7 April - 8:30am to 5pm

AUCTION at 10:30 Saturday

Noon Sunday - All books HALF PRICE

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

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

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

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

Account Name – Friends of Battye Library (Inc)  
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In the payment description section, please type your initial and surname as well as 'subs' or 'donation' to ensure that your payment can be identified.

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

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

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

## Afterwords by Steve Errington

### Convict 4027 writes a letter home

Not many letters written home by our 9600 convicts have survived. But in 1967 a Xerox copy of one written in Fremantle Prison in 1856 found its way into the safe hands of the Mitchell Library in Sydney.<sup>1</sup> It was written by Griffith Boyer, a 20 year-old who had arrived in Fremantle on the convict ship *Runnymede* in September.

Under the rules convicts could write home every two months. On 21 November, he wrote his second letter, opening in the formal way he had been taught:

I once again embrace the opportunity of addressing these few lines to you hoping they will find you all at home in good health as they leave me here . . . .

The letter was sent to John and Elizabeth Boyer in Church Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire enclosing a lock of his hair plaited on a card.

Griffith was born in his ancestral village of Barnton, Cheshire and was baptised in nearby Little Leigh on 7 August 1836. After schooling he had taken up his father's trade of platelaying. Platelayers were employed by railway companies to lay and repair the rails on which their trains ran (the early version of rails were called 'plates'). Remarkably, in Fremantle Prison Griffith was able to practise his trade:

Dear parents I am working at my own trade platelaying in and about the prison yard with wooden rails.

Before the convicts built the prison they built a wooden tramway down what became Fairbairn Street to deliver the excavated soil and stone into the town.

In his letter Griffith wrote 'I like this colony very well' but he also proclaimed his innocence:

I am sure you too often trouble yourself about me knowing that I have been transported away from you innocent.

Griffith was sentenced to transportation for fifteen years for manslaughter. His father John would have had better knowledge than most parents about whether their son was innocent or not – he and Griffith's brother William were at the crime scene.

It was nearly midnight outside the 'Bunch of Grapes' pub at Silkstone, near Barnsley on 14 August 1854. William and a miner named George

Turton had a fight in which Turton was stabbed. Turton walked away but John and Griffith made a life-changing decision: they followed him. Griffith had a knife and in the fight that followed he stabbed Turton three times. The injuries proved fatal but Turton survived long enough to make a deposition before a magistrate, naming Griffith as the one who stabbed him.

Griffith received his ticket-of-leave in July 1858, his Conditional Pardon in August 1861 and settled in the Toodyay area. In 1861, at Dumbarton near Toodyay, he married Isabella Lucas. Together they had four daughters and raised two, Elizabeth and Louisa, to adulthood.

Griffith never went home and it is not known if he remained in touch but, in September 1867, the Fremantle *Herald* published a query from England requesting his address, should he still be in the Colony.

In August 1872 his name re-appeared in the same newspaper when he helped save another Toodyay resident from drowning in that winter's disastrous floods. Mrs Shea was taking two pigs to Newcastle in her one-horse trap. Water had covered the road to a great depth and her young horse had panicked and broken free. Mrs Shea spent several hours standing on the side of the trap in water above her waist until Griffith and another man swam to her rescue.

On 8 June 1880 Louisa Boyer married Charles Ellery in Toodyay and on 17 December that year Elizabeth married Edward Stone in Wesley Church, Perth. Sadly, neither Griffith nor Isabella lived to see their daughters married.

Isabella had died in 1875 and early in 1880 Griffith was at Williams River, probably looking for sandalwood, when he was taken ill. A visiting doctor recommended that he be transferred to Perth Public Hospital (now RPH) and it was there that he died on 15 January. He is buried in an unmarked grave at the East Perth Cemeteries.

Steve Errington

1. MLDOC 1110, Mitchell Library. Rica Erickson quoted a few lines from the letter in *The brand on his coat*, see p.14.

## **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](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)*

or write to:

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

## J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

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

**Specialist staff:** Dr Chris Owen (A/Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165

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

### State Records Office

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

#### Retrievals

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

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

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

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

### The Genealogy Centre

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

**Specialist staff for Family History:** for Family History information call Tuesday to Thursday on 08 9427 3247 or email [info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto: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. 165



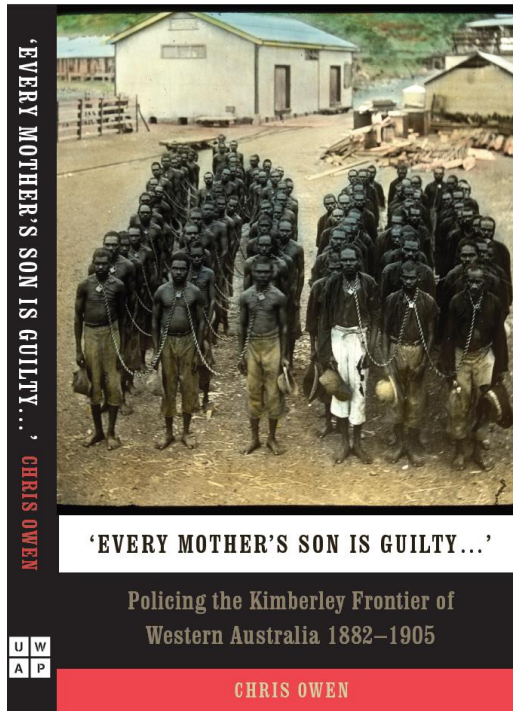
July 2019

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

ABN 571625138800

*Our July 2019 meeting*

*Dr Chris Owen, Acting Battye Historian, will talk about the history of Kimberley policing, as detailed in his book, 'Every Mother's Son is Guilty: Policing the Kimberley Frontier of Western Australia 1882-1905'.*



Tuesday 9 July 2019 at 5 pm for 5.30 pm. Please see details on pages 3-4.

## Objectives

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

**Patron** Mrs Ruth Reid AM

## 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) Mr Leigh Hayes (Acting State Archivist, SRO) Dr Chris Owen (Acting Battye Historian)
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Newsletter editor	Ms Jennie Carter
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Volunteers Ring	(08) 9427 3266 or email: <a href="mailto:volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au">volunteers@slwa.wa.gov.au</a>
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All correspondence to:  
The Secretary, PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865.

ISSN 1035-8692

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

# JULY MEETING

**Tuesday 9 July 2019  
Great Southern Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
State Library of Western Australia  
5 pm for 5.30pm**

**Our Speaker will be Acting Battye Historian, Dr Chris Owen**

The history of Kimberley policing, as detailed in his book:  
*Every Mother's Son is Guilty: Policing the Kimberley Frontier of Western Australia 1882-1905*

**Details of Dr Owen's talk are 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.

## **Contents**

Our July meeting	3/4
Meeting dates for 2019	5
President's Piece	6
State Records Office	8
Letters to Editor	10
Members' information	11
Wesleyan Cemetery Grave No. 087	12
Railway Heritage WA	14
Voices that should be heard	18
Unexpected joys of family life	23
Anzac Day 2019	26
News from the State Library	29
'Afterwords' – Steve Errington	32

## **Dr Chris Owen's talk**

### ***Every Mother's Son is Guilty: Policing the Kimberley Frontier of Western Australia 1882-1905.***

Acting Battye Historian Dr Chris Owen will talk about his history of Kimberley Policing as detailed in 'Every Mother's Son is Guilty: Policing the Kimberley Frontier of Western Australia 1882-1905. UWAP, 2016.

The year 1882 was when police were introduced into the Kimberley and 1905 was the year Dr Walter Roth submitted the 'Royal Commission on the Condition of the Natives' – the first public enquiry into the workings of the WA police system since the establishment of the Swan River colony in 1829. This report generated national and international headlines with Roth infamously calling the police and criminal justice system in the Kimberley 'a brutal and outrageous condition of Affairs.' Dr Owen will detail the value of the Battye Library and the SROWA collection in the research for this book.

### **About Dr Owen**

Dr. Chris Owen is currently the Battye Historian at the State Library of Western Australia and an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of History at the University of Western Australia. He has been researching Aboriginal history for over twenty years, and his published articles have earned him research and archive awards. His research interests, utilising primarily archival state records, include colonial policing (specifically the Kimberley), Aboriginal policy and governmental administration and the social conditions at the frontiers of colonisation in Western Australia. He lives in Perth, Western Australia with his wife and twin daughters.

Every Mother's Son is Guilty: Policing the Kimberley Frontier of Western Australia 1882-1905 (released Nov 2016). The PhD on which this book is based won the UWA Board of the Graduate Research School Dean's List 'In recognition of an outstanding thesis.' The preeminent historian of Australian policing Mark Finnane said, 'From his deep reading of the police and political archives Owen defines the history of policing a region in what I think is the most thorough and satisfying interpretation of colonial policing on a rapidly changing frontier that we have to date.'

Henry Reynolds said it 'was a very thorough and competent work which makes a valuable contribution to Australian History'. The PhD also won a 2015 special commendation for excellence in research and referencing from the State Library of Western Australia.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Meeting Dates for 2019

**10 September (AGM)**

Peter Ellery – *WA Mining history*

**19 November (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)**

End of Year function  
Richard Offen – *Lost Perth*

\*\*\*\*\*

## General Meeting dates for your 2020 diary

Tuesday 10 March

Tuesday 12 May

Tuesday 14 July

Tuesday 8 September (AGM)

Tuesday 17 November

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Guest editor for this issue of the newsletter**

Jennie Carter is away on holiday. As Heather Campbell is responsible for this issue you may notice some things are a little different. Don't panic, Jennie has assured us she will return in time for the next newsletter.

## President's Piece

Dear Friends,

It was good to see so many of you at the May meeting where Michelle raised as many questions about the bubonic plague in WA as she answered. It was a fascinating talk about the number of cases in various towns and the timing of the spread of the disease. Spread was attributed to rats but discussion afterwards challenged this, as no rats were apparently present in Kalgoorlie, where the source was traced to fleas in old hessian bag that came up on the train from Fremantle! A chicken and egg argument maybe but clearly sanitation was highly imperfect!

The Library at the moment has a wonderful exhibition on the Forrest Expedition of 1874, where the two brothers, John and Alexander, hit out from just above Geraldton travelling hundreds of miles inland until they hit the overseas telegraph line which had just been completed from Darwin to Adelaide. Called *From Another View* the exhibition traces the flora and fauna found by the explorers and highlights the role played by two of their Aboriginal guides Tommy Windich and Tommy Pierre, whose families are still present in Perth today. Financed by Twiggy Forrest's Minderoo Foundation this exhibition is well worth a look-see.

Your committee is planning another application to Lotterywest to fund the digitisation of various Church registers that are held in Battye Library. As you are no doubt well aware, the Government will not allow free access to their Registers of Births Deaths and Marriages insisting on individual requests and a fee for each one. As the Anglican Church was practically the only church in the early years access to their records is almost be as good as the Government's. And the Anglican registers still contained the majority of births, deaths and marriages till 1900 and we propose to digitise all of these. If there is enough money we could also digitise the unrestricted Marriage registers from the Churches of Christ and the Presbyterian Church.

Another aim is to help with the conservation of the Frank Slee collection of photographs.

Frank Slee was a commercial photographer who worked out of a studio in Claremont from 1950 until the early 2000s. He specialised in weddings, parties and other events, portraits and street photography and his all-of-career archive was acquired for the State Library in 2007. It is estimated to contain between 300,000 and 400,000 photographs taken between 1950 and 2006 but is particularly strong from the 1950s to the 1980s. Overall, the collection is a very rich document of social history in the mid-20th Century, capturing both changes in social traditions and rituals, fashion, formal events and even architecture. But the collection is currently unprocessed and has substantial conservation requirements. Full processing of the collection has been estimated to require millions of dollars. However, an initial investment would allow the library to establish the best way to start conserving, identifying, contextualising, housing and providing access to the images within the collection. This would enable much more accurate costings to be developed to help further fundraising to support the preservation of and access to this significant collection.

So a large task ahead – we will keep you posted!

With very best wishes to you all

Pamela Statham Drew

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## STATE RECORDS OFFICE

### **The State Records Office of Western Australia**

Cordially invites you and your guest to the presentation of the 2019 Margaret Medcalf Award for Excellence in Referencing & Research

to be presented by Hon. David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and The Arts

Thursday 27 June 2019 at 10am. Please be seated by 9.50am

State Library Theatre, Ground Floor, State Library of Western Australia, Perth Cultural Centre.

Morning tea will be served following the presentation.

RSVP to Gillian Hodson by 4pm, Friday 21 June 2019  
(08) 9427 3636 | [gillian.hodson@sro.wa.gov.au](mailto:gillian.hodson@sro.wa.gov.au)

### **Cathrin Cassarchis**

On 10 May 2019 Ms Cathrin Cassarchis ceased being WA's State Archivist and Executive Director State Records. She is the fifth person to permanently hold the position of State Archivist, and was in the position for 11 years, following in the footsteps of Mollie Lukis, Margaret Medcalf, Chris Coggin and Tony Caravella.

In 2008, she came to this role with a varied working background, including time in the UK as fundraising advisor and manager in the not for profit sector, including for the UK's National Council on Archives. She later became the Head of Public Affairs at the National Archives UK. Moving to WA in 2002 she was the Director of the WA Museum Foundation before being appointed to lead the State Records Office in 2008.



The State Records Office is WA's public records authority with responsibility for managing, preserving and providing access to the State's archives. In consultation with the State Records Commission, the role of the Director State Records/State Archivist is outlined in WA's *State Records Act 2000* and involves leading the strategic direction of government in the management of the State's paper and digital information assets, overseeing compliance by State and Local Government agencies with the State Records Act, and ensuring the community has access to the State Archives collection, which is the largest archival collection in WA.

Cathrin lead the office through a period of great technological and structural change in WA government, dealing with various challenges along the way. Cathrin always encouraged access to State archives in new, different and interesting ways. This included memorable activities such as 'Eating the Archives' – a contemporary reinterpretation of formal banquets using menus in the State Archives Collection - as part of the festival for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth in 2011; the 'City of Light-50 years in Space', an event which in 2012 marked the naming of Perth as the 'City of Light' 50 years earlier by the orbiting American Astronaut John Glenn; and in 2015 a semi-permanent facsimile display of State Archives in Parliament House to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Magna Carta*.

Cathrin has not retired but has returned to the not-for-profit sector managing a charitable medical research organisation.

Gerard Foley

-----OO-----

Cathrin has always been a strong supporter of the Friends of the Battye Library and her enthusiasm, wise counsel and professionalism will be missed from our committee meetings which she attended regularly. We wish her well in her new career direction.



## Letters to the editor

At a time when we are assailed by so much negative news in the various media -- against a backdrop of shrinking government patronage - it is always refreshing to read the Newsletter. I have just done that, from cover to cover. The March issue reflects graphically the drive and activities of both the Battye Library and of the State Records Office in a tone that is consistently optimistic. The efforts of the editor and the contributors in continuing to provide such good reading are to be warmly applauded. That of course must apply to the Committee as well for seeing to the effective furtherance of projects appropriate for the two entities. I look forward to further happy issues of the Newsletter.

Chris Coggin

PS In its contribution, the SRO implies setting a record in the digitization stakes as far as the geo-referencing of plans is concerned. Perhaps we can look forward to validation, in due course, by the Guinness Book of Records!

\*\*\*\*\*

More letters to the editor would be welcomed! To send them, or 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)  
PO Box 216  
Northbridge WA 6865

## MEMBERS' INFORMATION

### Margaret Hamilton



At her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration  
Taken from a photo by Jan McCahon Marshall

Long-time member Margaret turned 98 over the June long weekend and celebrated at a gathering of family and friends. She has lost none of her sharp wit and used it to great effect on son, Kevin, during his endeavours to propose a toast.

### Bevan and Jennie Carter: Honorary Freepeople of the Town of Bassendean



L to R Her Worship the Mayor, Councillor Renée McLennan, Jennie Carter, Bevan Carter and John Gangell, current councillor and former Mayor. Photo: Janet Megarrity

At a function on Monday 27 May, Friends of Battye Library stalwarts, Bevan and Jennie Carter, each received the Title of Honorary Freeperson of the Town of Bassendean in recognition of their 'exceptional service to the Council and the community'. Jennie was a councillor from 1987 to 1990 and from 2011 to 2015 and Bevan was a councillor from 1991 to 2005, including Mayor from 1997 to 2001. Congratulations to you both for a very well-deserved award.



St Bartholomew's Church c. 1940, from the western side  
Source: <http://innopac.slwa.wa.gov.au/record=b1987754>

## **EAST PERTH CEMETERIES**

### **Wesleyan cemetery in Grave No 087 - William Bufton Convict No. 1032**

William's brush with crime started later in life, when he was married with five children and working as a foreman in a factory in Portsmouth. In August 1850 William Tilly, owner of the soap boiler factory on Prospect Row, completed a routine stocktake; Tilly found that 222lbs of soap had disappeared.

During the court case on 28 October 1850 evidence was presented that William Bufton, Edward Masters and others had taken the soap from the premises during mornings, whilst Mr Tilly was bathing, or in the evenings during dinner time. They then sold the soap; the money from the sale was distributed among the staff involved, or spent at a beer house.

The trial was short with a member of the factory, Bowker, turning Queens Evidence and a lady - Elizabeth Spiller - witnessing Masters receiving a parcel containing soap. Masters and Bufton both received ten years penal servitude.

After William's arrest, trial and imprisonment, his wife Hannah was living in a workhouse in Portsea with their children - William 1839, Rachel 1841, Mary Hannah 1844, Elizabeth 1847 and Edwin 1849.

Masters and Bufton and coincidentally my great-great grandfather arrived in Fremantle on 30 January 1852 on the *Marion* from Pentonville. William spent the first eighteen months working from the Convict Establishment in Fremantle; he received his ticket of leave 28 June 1853.

During the first half of 1853 William applied for his wife and their five children to be reunited with him. The application was granted and Hannah arrived in the Colony - exactly when is unclear - however it could have been on the *Clara* which arrived in Fremantle on the 3 September 1853. Their daughter Susannah was born in Perth in 1854. Their family was further extended by George, born at the end of 1856, who died at the age of only four months. He is buried at the cemetery, but unfortunately not with his parents. William and Hannah went on to have three more children, all born in Perth - Harriet in 1858, Sarah in 1861 and Emma in 1863, making 10 children in all. During this time they lived in Marfleet Cottages.

In September 1860 William was fined 7 shillings and 9 pence for allowing a cow to graze in St Georges Terrace and in 1861 was again fined - this time 5 shillings - for drunkenness.

Little can be found on the Bufton family during this period, but it is known that William was up and down the coast from Geraldton to Fremantle. He died on the 14 February 1870 and is buried in the Wesleyan Cemetery.

Hannah died ten years after William, meeting a tragic end. She had gone to vote in the Perth Mayoral elections at the Town Hall and was returning home in a horse and cart. She fell from the cart catching her head between the spokes of the wheel. The driver did not hear her screams and her injuries were so extreme that she died the following morning.

Her death is recorded with a short paragraph in the *West Australian*, not to note her life but rather to shock the public about the manner of her death. Fortunately, her children could afford to memorialise their parents with a headstone erected in their honour.

What happened to Edward Masters is not known. He received his conditional pardon in December 1853 and then vanished into history.

Lorraine Clarke

## RAIL HERITAGE WA



Rail Heritage WA is a not-for-profit incorporated society, established in 1959, and the founder of rail heritage preservation in Western Australia. It was originally known as the Australian Railway Historical Society (WA Division). The business name Rail Heritage WA was adopted as it was descriptive of the purpose of the organisation and much easier for people to remember (and say). It is an independent entity and receives no recurrent funding but has undertaken many activities including operating tour trains to fund the Railway Museum and its development.

### **Railway Museum**

Rail Heritage WA's main location is in Bassendean where it owns the land on which the Railway Museum was created. Opened in 1974 the Museum not only cares for the physical heritage of locomotives and rollingstock, along with the associated infrastructure, but also for historical records and photographs mainly donated by the people of Western Australia. As such it is a central hub for the dissemination of information and resources.



The Railway Museum Overview Photo: G J Higham

Throughout this time its work has been undertaken by volunteers, without the assistance of paid staff, and it has achieved much to ensure our railway heritage has not been lost. The Railway Museum is testament to its efforts and determination to meet the challenges associated with the preservation of large and small items without any ongoing funding. It has adapted to a changing world and new audiences and will need to continue this to remain relevant. The collection is highly significant as it is the only one in Western Australia that aims to tell the story of all railways across the state.

The vision of Rail Heritage WA is 'to facilitate access for present and future generations to the history of railways in Western Australia'. It does this by diverse means including, but not limited to:

- collecting, restoring, maintaining and interpreting Western Australian railway items;
- encouraging and promoting an interest in the history of WA Railways;
- providing public access to the railway history of WA, including through research (answering many family history enquiries) as well as the Museum;
- supporting other organisations and communities around WA to preserve and share the railway history of their local area;
- assist with the preservation of highly significant items across WA eg providing advice on traditional methods of carriage maintenance especially to regional groups;
- preparation of displays for various public and community events;
- undertaking special projects such as the database of Railwaymen Killed on Duty;
- providing online public access to its digitised photographic collection which captures the railway history of WA on its website (over 22,000 so far);
- promotion of key events in railway history eg 100 years of Railways in WA, not only through activities but in social and mainstream media; and
- develop educational materials to assist schools in their curriculum work, thus providing educational experiences for school students and others.

## Archives, research and publications

An active group of volunteers maintains our archives and undertakes historical research which has resulted in many publications as well as displays and responding to enquiries.



RHWA Archives  
Photo: Philippa Rogers



Selection of RHWA publications  
Photo: Philippa Rogers

## Traditional skills

In the skills area Rail Heritage WA (RHWA) has specialised in the restoration and reconstruction of railway carriages using traditional skills and with due regard to the heritage and significance. Research and a conservation plan have been the mainstay of the planning for major projects such as the restoration of the first railway carriage ever built for the Trans-Australian Railway.



## **Into the future**

Though we are acquiring fewer large items these days we will be receiving Australia's first mainline diesel, GM1, with standard gauge carriages including several from the beginning of the Trans Australian Railway. Interestingly when the Museum was established the Founders of Railway Preservation in WA did not expect to preserve diesels and now we are discussing the preservation of electric trains.

To protect our large exhibit collection, we need to continue the program of roofing the museum that was started in the 1990s as without roof cover the weather has a significant impact on the collection.

The South-West Railway and Heritage Centre in Boyanup is our major regional activity and one that has the potential to bring tourism benefits to that region. There we are planning a new museum building housing displays and the necessary museum facilities in conjunction with the local community. We are also working with the Shire of Dowerin on the ongoing development of their Wheatbelt Heritage Rail Discovery Centre.

## **2019 State Heritage Awards**

A highlight of our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday year was our recognition at the 2019 State Heritage Awards.

**In his letter of congratulations, the Hon David Templeman, Minister for Local Government, Heritage, Culture and Arts wrote:**

*The Judges' Award is only offered to an individual or organisation who has displayed an outstanding contribution to heritage, and Rail Heritage WA is a very deserving winner of this award for their dedication to preserving the history of railways in WA.*

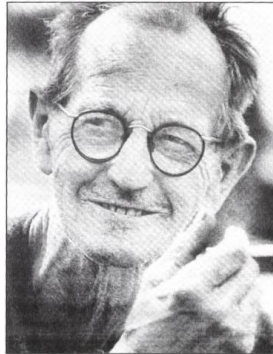
*Without commitment, passion, dedication and extremely hard work of people like yourself, our heritage would not have such a bright future. On behalf of all Western Australians I thank the volunteers at Rail Heritage WA for their efforts.*

**Philippa Rogers, Rail Heritage WA**



## Voices that Should be Heard

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



(Photograph by Reg Morrison)

### **Gordon Dudley Halbert, 1903 – 1990**

After 40 years of interviewing and many hundred hours of tape recorded, it is intriguing how some people and events stand out more than others. One of the most memorable was Gordon Dudley Halbert, who was interviewed in my first year as an interviewer. His appearance and memories are as clear to me now as they were in December 1978.

Another reason the interview was a memorable one was because Gordon Halbert was born in Kundip in 1903, a town which was established after the discovery of gold in the area. It was also the site of one of my grandfather's stores. Francis Edgar Daw established the first general store in Ravensthorpe and as mining expanded in the area, branch stores were opened at Kundip, Elverdton/Desmond and finally Hopetoun. Kundip emptied in 1923, but further mining activities brought it to life again in 1936. Today it is one of the many ghost towns scattered throughout mining fields.

In 1899, Gordon's father, Albert Miller Halbert and Paddy Pendergast, were the first to find alluvial gold near what became the town of Kundip. A year later, the Dallison brothers found further gold and opened the first mine. In the years ahead, gold, silver and copper were mined. First called Dallison's Find, Kundip was officially gazetted in 1901 with a population of 89.



The town was roughly half way between Hopetoun, on the coast, and Ravensthorpe which was 40 km inland. Gordon's earliest memory was of the team of 40 donkeys that brought supplies from Hopetoun. His next memory was of the first pub built of iron and on stilts, followed by the school. The first houses were built from the Gimlet timber which grew nearby, with walls of hessian and galvanised iron roofs. The mines' batteries were driven by kerosene and empty tins were flattened and used for building walls on other houses. Local quartzite was also used.

Many of the men working on the mines stayed short term and some would buy goods 'on tick'. They would then leave without paying what they owed, never to be seen again, much to the distress of business owners.

There were eight children in the Halbert family, two of them born in Coolgardie and the rest in Kundip. Gordon was the first baby born there with his mother assisted by a midwife; there was no doctor in the area. The school had the one room and he rated highly and remembered fondly the mainly female teachers. Teaching was to sixth standard

which was considered enough education at that time in such a town. A common school activity was to press flowers found in the bush and there were competitions to see who had the best ones.

The town's social life mainly consisted of community picnics, usually on river banks with bower sheds being built for participants. Weekly dances were also a feature with Tom Edwards playing the accordion. Later a piano was bought to add to the music. There was a rifle range, and cricket and football were played with the latter being of a high standard because of the number of miners from Victoria who were better players than the locals, in Gordon's opinion. Running and bicycle races had cash prizes with bookmakers operating. Horse races followed.

In describing the nights where people gathered in the local pub to drink and socialise, Gordon recalled an incident where a local's favourite place was near the big stove which was behind the bar to keep people warm. One night to his disgust, someone else had dared sit in what he considered 'his' chair. When he was told to move because it was the other man's favourite place, the reply was, 'It's a free country. I think you can sit anywhere as long as you pay for your grog.' Nothing was said by the local who went back to his camp and wrapped gelignite paper around a cake of soap in which he inserted a detonator and fuse. He returned to the pub, lit the fuse and dropped it behind the recalcitrant.

I think there was about 20 in this tap room and the old bloke behind the bar seen it and everyone seen this thing fizzling and they didn't wait to see whether it was dynamite or not. They had a terrible turnout. They knocked the fire over and set fire to the pub. The bloke behind the bar seen it, and he went straight through the other side and out through the window. Some other bloke jumped through the window and landed flat on his belly in the bar. He laid flat on the floor waiting for the explosion to go off. And this bloke has to put the fire out with a bit of water, and then he sat in his place. When they all come back eventually, one at a time, looking around the corner, he was sitting in his usual place having a warm. That's one way of getting a warm!

Gordon was 13 when he left school in 1916, and a clear memory was how deserted the town and mines were because so many of the young men left for the war. When asked what effect the war had on the town, he answered:

It took all the life out of it, all the young life away. The young blokes working on the mines, they nearly all went. There wasn't many left. All the older men come back into work to keep the place going. ... They never come back, many of them young blokes.

He also recalled the nightmares some of the men who returned had after what they had experienced during the war.

Gordon joined Gem Consolidated mining after he left school, first working in the Assay office for a year where his teacher was Charlie Grant, my maternal great grandfather, who Gordon rated a very good teacher who taught him a lot which helped him in later years. He then went underground and was responsible for the trucking out of ore on the underground railway that had been built. In the Assay office his pay was six shillings a day which became ten shillings when he became part of the mining team and the working week was 5 and a half 8-hour days.

Other memories were of suicides, which Gordon blamed on gambling debts, and the number of men making good money shooting kangaroos. They were averaging two pounds a day – four times what he was earning on the mines.

Gordon was 17 when he left the district and moved to Esperance to work on the railway being built to Salmon Gums where his pay doubled. Survey work followed at Margaret River and Salmon Gums. He remembered that time fondly with 'Good conditions. Getting good money, and good cooks mostly, and I lived a lot better.' He was mostly driving wagons and doing compass work. 'We used to average about 15 mile a day, sometimes 20, on foot. Every day. You got used to it. It was quite easy. Take me about a fortnight now to walk one 15 mile I think!' He also recalled how 'young blokes' sharing this work would build tennis courts 'out on the clay and build them from white ant hills ... They made beautiful tennis courts.' Rackets were made out of boards.

Later work at Southern Cross led to a memory of it being ‘the worst district we were in. It was too cold. It froze up all the time. About 10 o’clock in the morning you’d still be walking on ice out there in the winter. Terrible place.’ With some of the survey work, water had to be carted for miles. Cooks accompanied the crews and ‘some of them were chefs. Come from Perth. They couldn’t save money in Perth, and they used to come out on them jobs for five or six months and go home with a good few quid.’

After two and a half years on survey teams, time on shearing teams followed and Gordon remembered the cooks still being good but not able to make bread. He was in charge of all the shearing shed machinery, making sure ‘the combs and cutters were ground, sharp’. He had learnt this in Perth and sat for an exam.

I was put through a school there. In the height of the wool boom there was no experts to go around. And if you had knowledge of the machinery well there wasn’t too much in it. ... I was in it over ten years.

As is typical when trips were made to country towns to conduct interviews, one interview session was all there was time for and Gordon’s led to only 90 minutes of tape being recorded which meant only part of his story could be covered. You can therefore imagine my delight when checking the internet to see what might be online about him to find a detailed story written by Pamela Bryant, a great granddaughter of his parents. It included two photographs of Gordon and one of living members of the Bryan, Halbert, McMillan, Perrin families. The article contained quotes from my interview with him, as well as much more information about what happened after he left Kundip. Apparently his nicknames were ‘King of Kundip, ‘Kangaroo Jack’ and ‘Post Hole Jack’. He went on to be part of major mining ventures and spent some time salmon spotting, but returned to the Kundip area to spend the rest of his life on an 8-acre property and was credited with finding much more gold.

Ronda Jamieson

## **Unexpected joys of family history by Bevan Carter**

On our last visit to England in 2016 we took a holiday with the family on Boxing Day to places from a list of 'want to see' created over our Christmas festivities. While our son's motorhome was a 6-berth vehicle we chose B&Bs while they camped rough. After visiting friends in York and a distant relative (descended from a primitive Methodist preacher cousin of convict Robert) in Thirsk, Mead ancestor country around Whitby, we reached a spot on Hadrian's wall where a lone tree featured in a film, loved by granddaughter Alyssa. Leaving there for our journey to Whitfield, our next designated stop, we came across the remains of an old Roman fort, which turned out to be Vindolanda, a site still being excavated. Oh, for more hours in the day! The museum is something to see.

At Whitfield Jennie and I with son Matt visited the grave of Thomas Hobbes Scott and after some time removing moss, were able to photograph a legible headstone. This very famous first clergyman in the Swan River Colony spent the last hermit-like 38 years in this very remote small parish.



Whitfield Church where Scott's grave is located

While there wondering what to do on New Year's Eve, Matt found, via his electronic device, a most unusual ceremony happening at a

neighbouring village. It was advertised as a must-see for those wanting something different. It was. The men of the village at 11.45pm start processing around the village of Allendale with tubs of burning tar on their heads, with a band before and aft which we all marched behind, and on the stroke of 12 threw the burning contents onto a prepared pile of wood and created an immense bonfire. The symbolism escaped me but it was different!

Next day our party broke up with Matt and me travelling to Wales with the motorhome and the rest returning home. On our way south we stopped at the highest altitude pub in England before starting to follow the trail of the convict I was then researching, one J Rowland Jones, the state's first Hansard reporter. He was a journalist for the Wrexham Advertiser; the town had lost many of buildings from the 1860s, so we continued on to Ruthin. It was a magnificently preserved town.

The building, where Jones was first convicted in the Quarter Sessions, was a bank bearing a plaque of its previous history.



The bank building where the Quarter Sessions took place

The building where he was convicted a second time at the summer Assizes, now the library, was also well preserved and had the customary plaque giving its history. The Ruthin prison where he spent four months contemplating his future and writing verse – published in the Carnarvon Times – about a penitent prisoner, is also well preserved. The plaque above the portal reads: “The magistrates sensible of the



miserable state of the antient prison in compassion to the unfortunate caused this building to be erected in the year MDCCLXXV.” Jones initially spent four months in the building, returning after the Assizes for a further 2 months, before travelling to Fremantle via Millbank and Portland prisons. Matt and I then travelled South-West, he to climb a Welsh mountain and I to search for the house where Jones grew up. There were 15 houses in College Green, Towyn, which Matt photographed, and my queries about which of the houses used to be a Chemist shop drew only vague responses. The pub we visited was noisy so we retired to a restaurant Matt had photographed for our evening meal. My query of the waitress to which house in the street was likely to have been a drug shop resulted in the owner having a chat with us. Scott Patterson suggested his place was the best bet because when he purchased the building three years previously there were invoices for drugs dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, stacked in the attic. He offered to email scans of some. He did and they confirmed that Jones grew up in that very building.

The only more memorable family history event was the christening of my English grandchildren in 2011 in the church where my criminal ancestor, Robert Carter, had his children baptised. While my great grandfather, also Robert Carter, was on page 41 of the Baptism register, dated 26 July 1846, the final two names on page 89 were Alyssa and Robert Carter, dated 10 April 2011. The 200 year old register which has a Carter baptised 15 September 1813 on page 1, is now archived with only one blank page remaining.

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## ANZAC DAY 2019 AT COTTESLOE – DAWN SERVICE – COTTESLOE RSL SUB-BRANCH

Speech presented by His Worship the Mayor of Cottesloe, Philip Angers, written by freelance speechwriter Bronwen Sciortino and kindly provided by Rob O'Connor.



Philip Angers, Mayor of Cottesloe

I am privileged to stand here this morning as we remember the honour and sacrifice that has been given and continues to be given on our behalf by hundreds of thousands of young men and women determined to answer their country's call.

On this day, every year, we are called to stop, reflect and remember.

Today is ANZAC Day – but it is about so much more than the events that occurred on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915.

It is, of course, the anniversary of the battle of Gallipoli – and while this wasn't the first battle that Australians had fought in, the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1915 was the day that Australia stepped into its first major battle that it fought as a nation.

Soldiers from all over the newly-federated nation of Australia stepped up, volunteered and fought. In the face of adversity, the Australian Diggers would demonstrate beyond any doubt that our blood is infused with the virtues of duty, courage, teamwork, resolution and self-sacrifice. The sheer scale of casualties from this war seared the ANZAC spirit into the very soul of our nation.

We choose this date to remember because it was the day that the loss of war first scarred the consciousness of a young and newly-formed federation.

The pride and grief of Australia following Gallipoli formed a bond so strong that it made a statement to the world that we had come of age and that our armed forces and our people were truly of one nation. By

coming together on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April each year, this spirit of national unity is rekindled.

ANZAC is not a battle. It is not a place.

ANZAC is a collective – an acronym for a group of people. ANZAC Day gives us time and the space to think as individuals. It gives us the opportunity to acknowledge and remember the ordinary Australians serving their nation in times when we have seen our way of life threatened to such an extent that it has been necessary for us to go to war.

We think of those who served. Those who stepped forward, joined together and became a part of the formidable fighting force for which the Australian Defence Force is now renowned. We salute the values of fellowship and courage that underpin the way Australians serve.

We salute the endurance and strength of the families that stayed behind. We think of the prisoners of war and those who were wounded. We acknowledge the scars – those that are visible and the ones that are carried inside.

Above all, we acknowledge and honour the ultimate sacrifice of those who died for us, for our nation, for our way of life and for peace.

There is a line that connects us to all of those who lived in Australia over 100 years ago. We're connected to the lives, the hopes and the dreams of millions of Australians who have lived since then. This line is infused with our cultural richness, our diversity and our ability to draw people to our nation from all over the world.

In this excerpt from Eric Bogle's Song 'And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda' I am reminded of the importance of all of us stepping up and continuing to carry the torch:

*And so now every April, I sit on me porch  
And I watch the parades pass before me  
And I see my old comrades, how proudly they march*

*Reviving old dreams of past glories  
And the old men march slowly, old bones stiff and sore  
They're tired old heroes from a forgotten war  
And the young people ask, "what are they marching for?"  
And I ask myself the same question*

*But the band plays Waltzing Matilda  
And the old men still answer the call  
But as year follows year, more old men disappear  
Someday no one will march there at all*

*Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda  
Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?  
And their ghosts may be heard  
As they march by that billabong  
Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?*

THAT is why we remember them – the first ANZACs and all of the brave men and women who followed them.

They left us a legacy and a life with an identity that firmly sits on a foundation of generosity, integration and kindness. It's up to us to make sure that we honour the life that they gave us – to show them that we haven't forgotten and that in the face of an unknown future we too can be courageous, compassionate, resolute and resilient.

For our tomorrow – they gave their today. No greater gift could we have received than the life that we are now privileged to live.

Today in Cottesloe, we honour the service of those who have gone before us and we step forward - remembering the past with pride and solidarity whilst looking forward with a sense of purpose and a determination to be part of a driving force that creates a better world.

Lest We Forget.

## News from the State Library

### Recently acquired material

- Bon Scott autographed letter, 1978 – Ronald Belford “Bon” Scott was a singer, songwriter and instrumentalist, best known for being the lead vocalist and lyricist of Australian hard rock band AC/DC. Bon moved from Scotland to Australia at the age of six with his family, eventually settling in Fremantle in 1956. He joined AC/DC as lead singer in 1974. AC/DC’s 1979 album *Highway to Hell* was an international bestseller. Bon died in February 1980 in London at the age of 33 from acute alcohol poisoning and is buried in Fremantle Cemetery. AC/DC’s subsequent album *Back in Black*, a tribute to Bon Scott, became the third best-selling album in history. The three-page letter to his childhood friend Valerie Lary was hand-written whilst on tour in Pittsburgh in August 1978. He writes of his live album, gruelling tour schedule, alcohol consumption and money trouble. This significant acquisition adds to the music recordings, photographs, books, posters, and newspaper and journal articles of Bon Scott in the heritage collection.



Bon Scott Memorial Entrance Gate, Fremantle Cemetery  
Photo: Heather Campbell

- Roe 8 protests collection – This is a contemporary collection capturing the story of protest against the intention of the state government to build a highway – an extension of the Roe Highway – through wetlands in Beeliar. Protests against the extension had been ongoing for years but became intense when a legal challenge to the High Court to stop the work, failed in December 2016. Being cognisant that official government documents would be readily available for future reference, a group within the protesters deliberately set out to collect items generated by the process to ensure that the story could be told later using original materials generated by the protestors. According to a spokesperson, the collection was to show the many and varied ways people protested and to show that they were not a homogenous group. They included in their ranks ‘ordinary’ people from all walks of life. The collection includes documents, photographs, homemade posters, ephemera and realia from various groups and individuals involved in the Roe 8 protests, including ‘Rethink the Link’, ‘Save Beeliar Wetlands’ and ‘Road to Rail’.
- Collection of Yaja Hadras photographs of WA Aboriginal fashion – 48 x digital images including silk scarf designs by Broome artist Sally Bin Demin, 2005-2007; and three of the four WA brands selected to participate in the inaugural Australian Indigenous Fashion Week in 2014; Desert Designs, AARLI, and Ticia Designs. Desert Designs pioneered the application of Aboriginal art to textiles and the ‘Together Towards the Water’ images feature Jimmy Pike’s vibrant texta drawings. AARLI’s ‘Urban Warriors’ collection represents the work of Perth visual artist and designer TJ Cowlshaw who creates textured fabrics out of recycled plastic bottles. The Ticia Designs images showcase the work of Letticia Shaw who received high acclaim at the runway show for her sequined goanna gown, worn by supermodel Samantha Harris. This beautiful collection provides an important record of Western Australian Aboriginal fashion designs and models (summarised as ‘designs inspired by country / modelled on country’) which have been under-represented to date in the State Library’s pictorial collection.
- 11 portraits of Western Australian music icons from the Sydney Morning Herald photography archives, ranging from 1947 to 1993. The photographs are of Eileen Joyce, Carl Vine and One Man Band, Grace Knight and The Eurogliders, Hoodoo Gurus,

Innocent Bystanders, Triffids, Christie Allen, Baby Animals, and Johnny Diesel.

- Ledgers from Theo's Music shop – Theo's Music was established in 1965 by jazz musician Theo Henderson (1936-2017) at premises in Stirling Street, Perth. In 1999, the business moved to Southport Street, West Leederville. They sold new and second-hand musical instruments and accessories, and print music. Theo's sons Miles and Reid and later his grandson Scot were also involved in the business. For a time, circa 1975-1990s, they ran a music school, Hendersons Music School. After the Hendersons ceased to be involved, the music school continued for a time with other principals. The ledgers which comprise this collection show the extent and wide variety of material imported, the companies which it purchased from and the cost in \$AUD as well as foreign currency. With the advent of the internet, people could order many items directly and this eventually affected the viability of the business. It closed in 2018 after 53 years trading as a family business and specialist music enterprise.

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## A WALK BY THE RIVER



Cyril Jackson's Daylesford House c. 1920 as  
seen from South Guildford  
Ref P361 Bassendean Memorial Library

Free guided community walks covering art, architecture and local history are provided on a regular basis at the Town of Bassendean. The next River Walks are on 4 June and 4 July from Point Reserve to Success Hill Reserve, Bassendean and return to Point Reserve. The next Historic Homes walk is on 6 August from West Road, Bassendean around local streets and return - duration 2 hours. No bookings required, bring comfortable shoes, a water bottle and weather appropriate apparel. Enquiries to Bassendean Memorial Library 9279 2966 [baslib@bassendean.wa.gov.au](mailto:baslib@bassendean.wa.gov.au)  
<http://library.bassendean.wa.gov.au/services/local-studies.aspx>

## Afterwords by Steve Errington

### Who was the 1830 forger?

Increasing numbers of people carry no cash with them, relying instead on a plastic card to make even tiny purchases. In 1829-30 citizens of the Swan River Settlement also carried no cash in their pockets or purses. They had no choice – sea captains took all the gold, silver and copper coins away as payment for their cargoes, and there was no bank to issue banknotes.

In January 1830 Lt Governor James Stirling wrote to London asking for more hard cash as well as appointment of a Colonial Treasurer. But what was to be done in the meantime? Stirling and Colonial Secretary Peter Brown hatched a plan: they would issue promissory notes on behalf of the local government, promising to redeem them 'on demand' with coins or Treasury Bills.



A £5 note issued in Perth on 20 September 1830. But are the signatures genuine? (SROWA)



There was no printing press in the colony so the task was given to clerks in Brown's office. They wrote out notes for £1, £5 and £10 which were numbered, signed by both Brown and Stirling, and listed. The first notes went into circulation in February 1830.

The Colonial Office in London agreed to fund a Colonial Treasurer and appointed John Lewis, a commissariat veteran. Lewis arrived in December 1831 bringing with him £5000 in British silver coins. He was under orders to do away with the local notes so he began calling them in, issuing silver coins and Treasury Bills in exchange. In doing so he unveiled a major fraud: many of the numbers were duplicated. The local government had been cheated of £288, a large sum given that a clerk's salary was £100 a year.

In February 1830 there were two clerks in Peter Brown's office, James Knight who had just married Mrs Brown's maid Mary Ann Smith, and Arthur Price. But there was a high staff turnover: Knight resigned in May 1830 and was replaced by George Stewart who resigned in November and was replaced by Richard Wells. Price was sacked in June 1830 and replaced by Benjamin Dyer who was sacked in June 1831.

So, who was the forger: Knight, Price, Stewart, Dyer or Wells? In 1833 Stirling was in London and had to explain to Treasury officials what had gone wrong. Despite their careful control he had to admit that his and Brown's forged signatures were so good that they couldn't pick the genuine ones. Naturally both men knew who the fraudster was because they would have recognised his handwriting on the duplicates.

They didn't name him but Stirling provided a clue to solving the crime: the man had *quitted the Colony before its detection*. The Knights left for Sydney in June 1830 but returned in 1835. Price waited around until April 1831, Dyer until December 1833. Wells stayed to become manager of the Western Australian Bank in 1841. Which leaves George W. Stewart.

In his resignation letter of 16 November 1830 Stewart regretted 'misrepresentations met with regarding my having kept low company'. He advised Brown that he planned to leave for England in two or three weeks, and did so.

Confirmation that Stewart was the forger came in July 1831. In London someone presented for payment Treasury Bill No. 95 dated 24 November 1830, purporting to be drawn by Stirling in favour of George Stewart, for £147 12s. Treasury officials, having received Stirling's official list of Bills, knew that the genuine No. 95 was made out on a different day to someone else for a different sum, and refused to pay.

It wasn't Stewart who presented the forged Bill. He had died at sea 'off the Cape' on about 4 March 1831. Could it have been a 'low company' accomplice pretending to be his widow? In December his sister wrote to Peter Brown from London checking whether Stewart had died a bachelor.

## **Steve Errington**

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## **Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.)**

### **Meetings**

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, September (AGM) and November (also end of year function). They are held at the State Library of Western Australia and usually begin at 5 pm for 5.30 pm and conclude before 7.00 pm except for the November function which finishes about 8.00 pm.

### **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 the Battye Library website:  
<http://www.friendsofbattyeibrary.org.au>

## Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) Membership Form

From 1 July to 30 June (each year)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

### Annual Membership

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$15
Joint Concession	\$30
Corporate	\$50
Donation (Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible) \$	

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

If you require a receipt, please tick here

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name or Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive emails about forthcoming meetings or events? (please circle) YES NO

How would you like to receive your Newsletter (please circle) POSTED 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 WA. 6865

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

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

In the reference section, please use 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](mailto:membership@friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au) with a note of your online receipt number.

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

## **J S Battye Library of West Australian History**

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

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

**Specialist staff:** Dr Chris Owen (A/Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165  
**State Library shop:** Mon/Fri 10.00am-5.00pm. Sat & Sun 12.00 noon-5.00pm.

### **State Records Office**

The SRO Search Room on the Ground Floor is open for enquiries and use of material Tuesday to Friday from 10am-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.

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

### **The Genealogy Centre**

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

**Specialist staff for Family History:** For information call Tuesday to Thursday on 08 9427 3247 or email [info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto: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. 166

December 2019

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

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*A happy, safe, and joyful Christmas to all our  
Members and Friends.*



Murray Street decorations for the Empire and Commonwealth Games and Christmas 1962. Battye Library, SLWA 231952PD.

## Objectives

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

**Patron** Mrs Ruth Reid AM

## Committee (2019-2020)

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

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

ISSN 1035-8692

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

# November Meeting

Was held on Tuesday 19 November 2019  
in the Great Southern Room  
State Library of Western Australia

## Members and guests celebrated the end of the year in style.

Our speaker was Richard Offen whose gave  
a highly entertaining presentation discussing  
Perth's

### *Heroes, Villains and Vagabonds*



At the meeting, Steve Howell was awarded our 'Gem of Time' in recognition of his decades of service to Western Australian history research and his role in building and promoting the collections of the Battye Library and the State Records Office.

Afterwards we moved to the dining room adjacent to the Great Southern Room where a special catered two course dinner was served. Our grateful thanks to Margaret Allen, CEO, and staff of the State Library of WA in making the venue available to us.

#### Contents

Our November meeting	3
Richard Offen	4
Meeting dates for 2019	4
A message from our President	5
'Gem of Time' Award to Steve Howell	6
Obituary - Dr Lise Summers	8
Introducing Damian Shepherd	9
'Have you a story to tell?' Heather Campbell	11
Jennie Carter	15
Voices that should be heard- Ronda Jamieson	17
News from the State Library	22
State Records Office - News from the Archives	26
'The boy who told stories - new book' Errol Seymour	28
Subscriptions form	31
'Afterwords' - Steve Errington	32

## About Richard

Perth's history is littered with wonderful characters who shaped the city in a multitude of ways. Richard Offen tells the stories of some of those most prominent in our history. He is the author of best-selling books *Lost Perth* and *Perth, then and now*. He is heard regularly on radio speaking on topics related to history and heritage in a wonderfully engaging and informative way.



### Meeting dates for 2020

- 10 March** Damien Hassan *SRO mapping geo-cache Project*
- 12 May** - Peter Ellery *The Discovery and Development of the Pilbara Iron Ore Fields*
- 14 July** - TBA
- 15 September** (AGM) - TBA
- 17 November** (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function. Julie Martin *Gogo Station in the East Kimberley 1962-64.*





## President's piece

Dear Friends

Another year has passed and if it seems not much has been achieved, behind the scenes we have been very busy. Following the September AGM, we now have two new committee members, Shirley Babis, who has been a friend almost since we began and who hails from Bayswater, and Steve Errington who is currently the President and Chair of the Royal WA Historical Society and one of our recent speakers. Both will add new ideas and a fresh look at the issues the committee deals with on your behalf.

I think you all know those who serve on this committee - Jennie Carter who does such a sterling job on our newsletters (but would love someone else to take over!) Heather Campbell our amazing secretary who organises and minutes not only committee meetings but all our general meetings as well...(tho' she too would like a change). Heather deserves special thanks for the terrific work she did on editing and compiling the previous newsletter. Gillian O'Mara – who has been with the Friends longer than I have as she took over when I had a secondment to Canberra in the late 1980s, Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland – a dynamic duo who have added so much since they joined the committee and whose research skills are legendary, Rob O'Connor whose legal eye has helped us in a number of sticky situations, and most valuable of all my wonderful husband Nick Drew who manages our money, keeps us solvent and ticks all the necessary boxes for our Society to be acknowledged as a well-functioning not-for-profit organisation. I am deeply grateful to all these marvellous people for their support and commitment to the Friends' ideals.

Congratulations to our newest Gem of Time, the marvellous Steve Howell. Although he has now retired from the Battye Library, he will keep his link with the Friends and has promised to keep researching aspects of our early history and present a talk sometime soon.

I am also so pleased that so many of you keep coming to our meetings and supporting us. With the increasing traffic and transport delays it is an effort to get to the library and we really do appreciate the fact you come – some of you long distances. The Coles come in from Kellerberrin, over 100 kilometres away, and the Hoffmans come from South Yunderup, some members make the journey from Toodyay, and others travel similar distances.

The coming year promises to be even better in terms of both general meetings and projects begun. I am looking forward to seeing many of you again at our March meeting

I and your committee wish you all a joyful and safe festive season and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2020!

Pamela Statham Drew.



*[At the meeting our Gem of Time award was presented to Steve Howell, who retired last year as senior subject specialist for the Battye Library, State Library of WA. Steve has been instrumental in looking after the Battye Library and providing help and information to researchers for more than four decades. The following citation was read by Pamela to warm applause.]*

## **Gem of Time 2019**

### **Steve Howell**

Steve has had a long and distinguished career working in the JS Battye Library of West Australian History and with its unique collections. He joined the State Library in March 1977 and soon built a formidable reputation as a foremost expert on the materials and research sources in the Battye Library. His retirement in January 2018 brought the curtain down on 41 years of dedicated service to the Western Australian public.

One of Steve's greatest boons to family historians was his book *Dead reckoning: how to find your way through the genealogical jungle of Western Australia* which was published by the Library Board in 1997. With funding from the Friends of Battye Library's Sholl Bequest, Steve's work was updated as an online publication and remains an essential source for researchers. He has also compiled numerous subject specialist guides which have served to make the Battye Library accessible to everyone from novice researchers to the most eminent historians.

Steve has written and given lively presentations on diverse topics in our early history and often little known aspects of the lives of well-known

pioneers. Many of Steve's articles have been published in specialist journals as well as the Friends of Battye Library Newsletter. He has also curated important exhibitions and mounted historical displays which have showcased the collections of the State Library and State Records Office. Crucially for researchers, he was responsible for liaising with the National Library over digitisation of selected WA newspapers for Trove.

As a reference librarian, Steve was unfailingly gentle and patient with people seeking help with their research and will be irreplaceable as the go-to Battye Library expert for staff and researchers alike.



Steve Howell accepting his Gem of Time award from Friends President, Pamela Statham Drew. (Photo Cherie Strickland.)

Colleagues who were privileged to work with Steve over the years have wonderful memories of his companionship, generosity, commitment, incisive wit, and dreadful puns. He is a gifted wordsmith and his wickedly witty and incisive poems delighted, and on occasion scandalised, his colleagues and audience. At the 60th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Battye Library in December 2016, the recitation of Steve's Ballad of the Battye Library was a highlight.

Steve's influence on Western Australian research is an enduring one and although we wish him a wonderful retirement, he will still be very much missed by all who benefitted from his expertise, breadth of knowledge, and kindness.

The Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) would like to add to Steve's many achievements and show our appreciation of his contribution to Western Australian history by listing him as a 'Gem of Time', an award that celebrates living treasures who have had a long-term and significant commitment to the Battye Library and the State Records Office. The list

of Gems will last to acknowledge the contribution of outstanding men and women to the recording, collection, and preservation of Western Australia's history.

In honour of Steve's award, Patrick Cornish (Journalist and author) penned the following poem which was recited at the November meeting.

### ***Ode to our Steve***

For the future we must relish the past  
And seek sources whose range can be vast.  
For wily Steve Howell, as wise as an owl,  
Our respect and affection will last.

Looking long back over the years  
We need guides who stand out from their peers  
When it comes to a reference  
Steve Howell was our preference  
For knowledge, for wit, give three cheers.



### **Obituary**

#### **Dr Lise Summers (1959-2019)**

We were saddened to hear that SRO's senior archivist, Dr Lise Summers died on 9 August after a long illness.



Photo Curtin University

As well as being a brilliant and innovative professional archivist, Lise was a gifted historian who was awarded a PhD from the University of Melbourne with her thesis on the history of parks and public spaces in Perth, and also taught archives and conservation part time at Curtin University. Lise was Convenor of the Western Australian branch of the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA), and, for several years, President of the History Council of WA

Lise will be very much missed by her many friends and colleagues at the State Records Office and Batty Library and by all of us who were privileged to know her. Our heartfelt condolences to her husband Jay and children, Elin, Alexandra and Madeleine.



## **Introducing Damian Shepherd Director State Records Office**

The State Library and State Records Office have now come under the control of the newly formed Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC). Damian Shepherd is the recently appointed SRO Director and has kindly answered questions about his appointment.

### ***What's your background?***

I joined the team at the State Records Office and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in early July this year after eight years with Landgate. In my last gig I had an opportunity to spend time in several of the executive roles – which was a great opportunity to learn something new every day. My focus at Landgate was customer service and cross-government data sharing – a journey I'm continuing with the State Records Office. Before that I worked in natural resource management after starting my career as a botanist. As a born-and-bred sandgroper, that was a great way to explore WA – with plenty of adventures along the way. Definitely character building!



### ***What do you love about your new role? How do you feel it contributes to the community?***

The State Records Office and Director State Records was established under the State Records Act 2000 and is responsible for supporting the State Records Commission and broader WA public sector to meet the

requirements of the Act for government record keeping. A key aspect of that is recording decision-making in the interests of transparent governance. I've joined the Department at a really interesting time in terms of the need to connect record keeping with digital transformation, which will be a focus for my team. I'm pretty excited about the opportunity to make the information we're creating today, and information from our past, more discoverable and accessible to our customers – the WA community. I look forward to working across the public sector, and in consultation with our customers to get that done.

*[The Friends of Battye Library also look forward to working with Damian and staff at SRO to continue the task of preserving and promoting our priceless State records.]*



### **Proposed amalgamation of WA Arts and Culture agencies**

We have been informed that the merger of agencies which had been discussed at a meeting with Duncan Ord (Director General of the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) held in the SLWA Boardroom on 12 August 2019 will not be going ahead. A question on this proposal was published in Hansard.

**Question On Notice No. 5282** asked in the Legislative Assembly on 6 August 2019 by Mr A. Krsticevic

*Question Directed to the: Minister for Culture and the Arts*  
*Minister responding: Hon D.A. Templeman*  
Parliament: 40 Session: 1

#### **Question**

I refer to the statement by Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Director General Duncan Ord in Assembly Estimate Committee B on 21 May 2019 that a study of cultural institution legislation is under consideration, and ask:

(a) Will the Art Gallery Act 1959, Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951 and Museum Act 1969 be transferred to

a new single Act:

(i) If yes, when;

(b) Will there be consultation before the amalgamation of the Acts:

(i) When does the consultation period commence; and

(ii) Who will oversee the consultation; and

(c) What are the benefits of amalgamating the Acts?

***Answered on 17 September 2019***

(a) No

(b-c) Not applicable

The various Culture and Arts agencies will remain separate and under their own Acts of Parliament, at least for the foreseeable future.



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

*[Heather Campbell, the author of Messina news published in 2003, is a professional oral historian, historian and researcher, occasional editor of this newsletter, and secretary of the Friends committee. She, like so many others, frequently use the National Library's Trove database and finds some fascinating details about WA's history. Following on from Michelle McKeough's talk on the plague which hit Western Australia at the turn of the 20th century, here is Heather's find on the incidence of bubonic plague in Perth and Fremantle.]*

### **Treasures from Trove**

**The Bubonic Plague In Fremantle  
from *The West Australian*, 10 April 1900.**

**'The Bubonic Plague Outbreak in Fremantle. Two cases reported. A third suspected. One death.**

From viewing the outbreak of bubonic plague in Sydney with that more or less languid interest with which people are wont to regard danger at

**THE BUBONIC  
PLAGUE.**  
—  
**OUTBREAK IN FRE-  
MANTLE.**  
—  
**TWO CASES REPORTED.**  
—  
**A THIRD SUSPECTED.**  
—  
**ONE DEATH.**

a distance, the public of Fremantle were aroused to a state of intense excitement yesterday when the news was bruited abroad that a case of the dreaded scourge had occurred in the Fremantle Hospital: It was some time before the intelligence outgrew the rumour stage, but the public had accepted the outbreak as a fact long before the scientific tests had lifted the matter out of the region of doubt. The first intimation which was obtained of the presence of the destroying agent was that a young man named Campbell presented himself at the Fremantle Hospital on Saturday afternoon and complained of being ill. ...

There is so little of Dr. Haffkine's serum in the colony, and a considerable period may have to elapse before the order for a larger supply, which has been sent away, can come to hand.

### **The first victim. His death in the hospital. A short illness.**

When the news of the plague first got abroad at Fremantle yesterday morning, the report was spread that a lumper named Shannon had succumbed to the disease. On enquiry at the hospital, however, it was ascertained that Shannon was suffering from typhoid fever, and had no symptoms of the plague, but that a man named William Campbell had died on the previous evening from what was believed to be the plague. It appears that Campbell, who was only 19 years of age, visited the hospital early on Saturday evening, and complained to Dr. O'Meara, the resident medical officer, of feeling unwell. The doctor examined him, and found that he was in a feverish condition, but the man refused to remain in the institution. He then went away, but returned about 6.30, and expressed a desire to be admitted for treatment. He was placed in one of the wards, and during the evening his temperature rose to 104 deg. On the following morning his temperature was normal, but he complained of headache and slight diarrhoea. During Sunday afternoon swellings developed in the right groin, and the patient fell into a kind of stupor. His condition rapidly became worse, and after falling into a state of collapse, the man died at half-past 9 in the evening. The sudden nature of Campbell's





Fremantle Hospital c1905. (Battye Library, SLWA 009722PD)

death, and the suspicious symptoms at tending his illness, caused Dr. O'Meara to communicate with Dr. Harvey, the Acting-Principal Medical Officer in Perth. Acting under instructions from Dr. Harvey, Dr. O'Meara summoned Dr. Anderson, who has been appointed special plague officer at Fremantle, to view the body. Dr. Anderson at once proceeded to the hospital, where at 12.30 a.m. he made a post-mortem examination of the body. The result of his investigations led the doctor to believe that death was due to the bubonic plague, and he immediately forwarded a report on the matter to his superior officer in Perth. Dr. Harvey at once sent a message by telephone to Dr. Anderson to isolate the hospital and quarantine the house in which the patient had lived. These instructions were promptly carried out. In order to definitely ascertain whether the case was one of true bubonic plague Dr. Anderson had portions of the glandular swellings on the body of Campbell removed and forwarded to the laboratory at the Perth Public Hospital for microscopical examination.

### **The burial arrangements. Insufficient precautions.**

In order to minimise the danger of contagion in dealing with the body of Campbell, three stout sheets were obtained and saturated with disinfectant, and it was directed that the body should be tightly wrapped in these three cloths. This wise precaution does not seem to have been carried quite far enough, because the undertaker and his two assistants were permitted to enter the hospital and swathe the body in the disinfected material. They then placed the body in a coffin, screwed it down, and drove off to the Government steam launch Waratah. The

coffin was placed on board, and Captain Watson, who was in command, steamed out to sea, taking a course through the Challenger Passage and then south-west, until 20 miles off Fremantle, when Captain Watson read the burial service, and the coffin, which was weighted with 2cwt of lead, was committed to the deep in 19 fathoms of water. Prior to launching the coffin into the water holes were bored in the coffin, so that air might readily escape and the descent of the coffin into the depths be as swift as possible. The Waratah returned to port at once and reached the wharf about 8.30 p.m. No attempt was made to disinfect the undertaker or his assistants, and they were permitted to return to their homes.

### **A second case. Appearance in South Terrace. Patient in a serious condition. Isolation of the premises.**

The excitement which prevailed in the town consequent on the report of the first outbreak of the plague was intensified later in the day when a rumour was circulated to the effect that a second case had been found. The correctness of the report was quickly ascertained, for Dr. Anderson, on being seen, stated that a young man living in South-terrace had developed what appeared to be unmistakable symptoms of the dread disease. The patient's name was Sydney Wilson, about 26 years of age, a store hand in the employ of G. Wood, Son and Co., merchants, of Cantonment-street. Wilson, who lives with his mother and two sisters at 129 South-terrace, was taken ill suddenly at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon. He was morning, and there being no signs of improvement in his condition, Dr. Dermer was called in. The man rapidly developed suspicious symptoms and Dr. Dermer lost no time in consulting Dr. Anderson in the case. Both gentlemen visited Wilson during the afternoon, and from the man's appearance and condition Dr. Anderson is satisfied that the case is one of true plague. The symptoms in Wilson's case are said to be most marked. When he was visited by Dr. Anderson the man's temperature was high, and there were swellings under the right arm and in the right groin. The patient himself was hardly conscious, being in a condition of stupor, and his case has been pronounced to be very serious. The house occupied by Wilson has been isolated, and, as in the Bay-street case, a policeman has been stationed outside the premises to see that the quarantine regulations are enforced.

### **Strict quarantine precautions. 96 People isolated.**

The house in which Campbell had been residing has been, as already stated, placed in quarantine, and none of the inmates are allowed to go

out. A man has been placed in charge, and he will prevent any attempts to leave the premises. There are in the house the owner (Ferri Matinelli), his wife (Mrs. Matinelli), and their son (Jack Matinelli), as well as the following lodgers-Thomas Hinchcliffe, Paulino Peirre, Nareno Pierre, and Lombardo. In the house where Wilson is lying ill the only inmates, besides the patient are his mother and two sisters. At the hospital there is a much larger list, for in addition to the Resident Medical Officer (Dr. O'Meara), and the secretary (Mr. E. J. Nicolson), there are 55 patients and 28 orderlies. The list may be summarised as follows: In the house where Campbell resided 7. In Wilson's house 4. In Fremantle Hospital 85. Total 96. For the purpose of carrying out a thorough system of isolation, Coxswain Hopkins, of the water police, has enrolled 12 extra constables, whose duties will be to mount guard over any houses to which they may be directed, and to prevent any ingress or egress.'

Heather Campbell

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[*Editor's note: I also found this while researching something else entirely.*]

### **Trawling through Trove again. For sale - one wife!**

When the first colonists from Britain arrived at the Swan River settlement in 1829, they brought with them some long-held beliefs and odd customs - was this one of them?

**BOY TOM.** A few days ago a woman known by the name of *Boy Tom*, was knocked down by her husband --- by public Auction, *without reserve and with all faults*, for the small sum of **TEN** pounds. The *fair* bargain is said to be perfectly satisfied with her *haltered* situation. It may be as well to remark that this price is by no means to be taken as a criterion of the market, which has been indifferently well supplied; and females of first *chop* meet with ready purchasers at remunerating prices.

from the *Perth Gazette, and Western Australian Journal*  
9 March 1833.

Although rare (and definitely frowned upon by the authorities), incidences of wife-selling in the rural areas of Britain was not unknown. That other wonderful resource, Wikipedia, notes.

Wife selling in England was a way of ending an unsatisfactory marriage ... when divorce was a practical impossibility for all but the very wealthiest. After parading his wife with a halter around her neck, arm, or waist, a husband would publicly auction her to the highest bidder. ... Although the custom had no basis in law, the attitude of the authorities was equivocal ... there were cases of local Poor Law Commissioners forcing husbands to sell their wives, rather than having to maintain the family in workhouses.

Wife selling persisted in England in some form until the early 20th century.



The *Perth Gazette* article is maddeningly short on detail and does not give names, a date, or even a place. Could it really be that such a practice found its way to our shores?

Jennie Carter



## Voices that Should be Heard

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

### **John Charles Pollard (1907- 1979) – OH384**

Born in Ballarat, John Charles Pollard moved to Melbourne in 1942 to join the staff of the News Department of the Australian Broadcasting Commission as a journalist. In 1946 the Ben Chifley Labor government amended the Broadcasting Act to establish an independent news service for the ABC following a recommendation from its Broadcasting Committee. Its chairman, Senator Stanley Amour, expressed the view that 'listeners all over Australia were entitled to the latest and most authentic news compiled by journalists whose only obligation was to serve the public.' From June 1947, ABC staff became responsible for gathering and processing news within Australia. It was to be independent of newspaper or press agency sources for Australian news, and became the first such service in the world.

The decision led to John Pollard moving to Perth to establish the service in Western Australia and he continued to act as its News Editor until his retirement in 1972. There were national, State and specialist regional news bulletins, aided by the services of country correspondents in an amazing number of small and large country towns who were paid differing rates for items used in regional, state and national news bulletins. The ABC ended up with 8 regional stations with those located in country towns having their own journalists to prepare local bulletins. As John Pollard put it, 'Right from the very outset, it was laid down by



JC Pollard. (Ronda Jamieson)

the Commission that we must provide a comprehensive news service for country people.' When he retired, there were 250 country correspondents feeding stories into various news rooms.

Before the establishment of the independent service, 'There was a form of news service which consisted of scissor and paste cuttings out of the newspapers ... read by announcers' who often selected items. One of the problems with this arrangement was that the way items were expressed on radio needed to be different from written language. As John Pollard expressed it, there was a need for 'short, to the point sentences, the fluent flowing on of thoughts, so that a person listening would not have to try to remember what had been said just before.'

Style notes were developed to guide journalists in how to best express items on radio. A memorable one was a cryptic note from Wally Hamilton, as the ABC Editor-in-chief, in which he said: 'Anyone wanting to use the word shambles should first look up a dictionary.' At the time, 'shambles' only meant a slaughter house and not 'a place of confusion and disorder' as it became very many years later.

An interesting decision was made to demonstrate to the WA Premier and Ministers the good faith and accuracy of ABC news by sending them the 'yellows', which were carbon copies of relevant items. So popular was this idea that organisations such as the Trades and Labor Council, political parties, and others asked to be sent copies of pertinent items in the same way. Besides ensuring staff were more conscious of the need for accuracy in their stories:

our humble "yellows" were being produced on the floor of the Parliament and quoted by members in terms of the facts that we disclosed, and at no time did we ever receive from the Parliament an objection or a complaint that what we had broadcast was not accurate.

The practice was still in place when John Pollard retired in 1972.

A major innovation occurred for the 1953 State election when the WA News Department introduced for the first time in Australia a radio panel discussion to look at the election results as they were coming in on a direct line from the electoral office. The then Premier, Ross McLarty, Deputy Premier and Country Party leader, Arthur Watts and the incoming Premier, Bert Hawke, were on the panel. The discussion went direct to air, and as Pollard recalled:

[Was] helped enormously by the loquacious attitude of Mr Hawke and his

ready wit and good nature in the discussions and it was obvious that there was a good feeling between the three leaders which made the whole thing a pleasurable experience and an interesting experiment. It was the first time the News Department had taken part in a direct to air broadcast of this kind.

The introduction of ABC television news in WA in 1960 saw many new developments, including the use of television news cameramen and the building of a film library. It also led to the combined radio/television newsroom being open for 18 hours a day.

Television news brought different problems when potential stories were captured on film. The film had to be processed before any story could be written and decisions made as to which parts of the film to show. Scripts then had to be written so that the number of words did not exceed the length of the film. In addition, 'Announcers who were in the habit of reading radio news bulletins had to learn to adjust their reading speed to suit the speed of the film.'



The first newsreader on ABW2 television Perth was Jim Fisher. L-R: Ian Beatty, Jim Fisher, Earl Reeve c1960. (<http://watvhistory.com/>)

In the interviews, John Pollard gave detailed descriptions of communication processes used in journalism and the policy and style of the News Service. Then there were relationships with government and other agencies. Coverage of State and Federal elections brought distinct problems, especially in the days when graphic artists prepared figures which were posted on boards so the results could be filmed for viewing by the TV audience. Later, independent commentators were engaged from the University of Western Australia and WAIT to discuss results. The introduction of computers meant percentages could be calculated and Pollard recalled: 'We in the ABC were the people who introduced the process of assessing results by means of percentages.'

A strong memory for Pollard was when Sir Charles Court was Premier. He did an enormous amount of work in Perth and the far north and north west.

He had a particularly keen spot for the communities in those far distant parts, and he seemed to feel that because we transmitted shortwave news bulletins to those places, we were kindred spirits. And so any help that we wanted at any time in regard to events or our efforts in the North, he always went out of his way to smooth the way for us and open doors where previously they may have remained closed.

The News Department had to cope with daily phone calls complaining about a story included or missed. The most regular of these was when the ABC decided to stop broadcasting BBC News. As John Pollard put it, 'There was a tremendous outcry from the English population in Western Australia, they were terribly upset about it.'

Then there were leaders of political parties who complained that their party had not received as much coverage as another one, which meant counting up the lines in bulletins and usually finding they were wrong. As Pollard put it:

By sitting down and methodically counting the lineage devoted to the various parties in each of the bulletins, we discovered there was hardly any difference between any of the parties.

Obviously in the course of gathering news, news that might have some impact on government had to be dealt with impartially and fairly and given to the public as we found it. And, of course, we endeavoured to ascertain the government point of view ... to get two sides to a question.

And further:

Another test was to consider the comments that reached us from the general run of West Australian citizens who perhaps felt they wanted to say something about the prominence given to one party or another. And the outcome of that was that the criticism was negligible, indicating that we were so close to being completely impartial in our coverage of political events that no party really had any room at all to complain.

John Pollard spoke passionately about the need to be fair and balanced in the coverage of news items, and referred to operating under the axiom of 'when in doubt leave out.' He went on to say:

You can't be proceeded against for exercising that kind of discretion. You certainly can't be punished for a breach if you haven't committed it. And so as far as I was personally able I endeavoured to have excluded from news stories anything that pointed in a defamatory way to an individual



that would in any way lower his standing in the community or among his immediate fellows.

In summary, Pollard considered his role in ABC News had been

A very rewarding career. It entails a great deal of dedication and application, a great deal of study to make all the facets of the calling work the way you would want them to and it provides a career with a long ladder of progress to be climbed, if you develop the skill and know-how to succeed in the calling.



ABC studios 1961, Illustrations Ltd.  
(Battye Library, SLWA.114803PD)

I had the great privilege of joining the ABC News Service as John Pollard's assistant in 1960, three months before TV news started. He was an amazing man. He badly wanted help with some major financial work which I had no confidence in doing having left school aged 14 and always remember him saying, 'What you don't know, I will teach you.' He turned out to be the most patient of teachers enabling me to master some extremely complex financial calculations because of the incredibly varied nature of the journalists' award, including different rates of pay depending on the day of the week and the hours worked. Worth noting is that ABC female journalists were paid at the same rate as their male counterparts.

You can well imagine why I felt he was worthy of being interviewed. There were 36 hours of tape taken from a man who did not repeat himself and answered questions in a straightforward manner without exaggeration and any unnecessary commentary. It was a remarkable experience to interview him, especially as he was very ill at the time and died not long after the interview was completed.

Ronda Jamieson



# News from the State Library

## Forthcoming events and exhibitions at the State Library

### **Marissa Verma – ‘Bindi-Bindi Dreaming’:**

6.00pm–7.30pm Tuesday 10 December, State Library Theatre. FREE.  
Bookings required

Marissa Verma, Managing Director of Bindi Bindi Dreaming has created a successful Aboriginal business to bring about awareness of Aboriginal people and culture. Come and hear Marissa talk about topics such as Totems, Language, native plants, bushfoods and medicines. Hear how she uses them to help promote health and healing with schools, community groups, workshops for women and guided tours on country to share and bring people on the journey of Aboriginal culture.

<https://slwa.wa.gov.au/whats-on/events-exhibitions/marissa-verma-%E2%80%98bindi-bindi-dreaming%E2%80%99-aboriginal-culture>

### **Aboriginal Family History Sessions**

3.30pm–6.30pm Wednesday 18 December

FREE | Geographe Room, Ground Floor

Join State Library staff from the Storylines program to learn more about Aboriginal family history resources in the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History. To reserve your place call **9427 3111** or email [storylines@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:storylines@slwa.wa.gov.au)

### **Family History Talks and Tours**

11.00am–12.30pm Wednesday 18 December | FREE | Level 3 Bookings required.

Join the State Library’s Subject Specialist for tours of the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History. Discover key resources available for exploring family history and re-imagining stories. To reserve your place **call 9427 3111** or email [info@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@slwa.wa.gov.au).

### **Western Australian Premier’s Book Awards**

The Western Australian Premier’s Book Awards supports, develops and recognises excellence in Western Australian writing.

Entries for the 2019 Awards will be open in the beginning of December 2019.

These Awards are funded by the Western Australian Government, and are managed by the State Library of Western Australia.

The Daisy Utemorrah Award for Indigenous Authors is administered by Magabala Books. Consult the Magabala Books website for details.

Direct any queries to: Email: [premiersbookawards@slwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:premiersbookawards@slwa.wa.gov.au) or Phone: 08 9427 3173

A call for Judges for the 2019 Awards has not yet been made. If you are interested in becoming a judge, subscribe to the Premier's Book Awards eNewsletter to keep up to date.

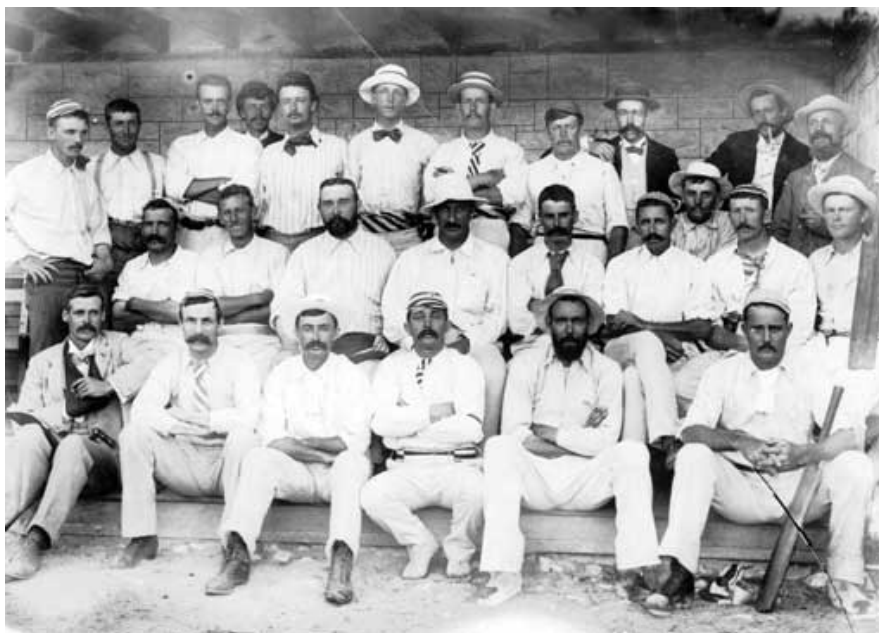
### Recently Acquired Material

- **Emily Ker Clifton collection:** Digitised diaries of Emily Ker Clifton written between 1906 and 1978; Digitised writings of Isabella Clifton. Emily Ker Clifton (1891-1990) was born at 'Alverstoke' near Brunswick Junction in Western Australia. Her parents were Algernon Francis Clifton and Augusta Dorinda (nee Ker). Emily Ker Clifton was the third daughter and fourth child. She relieved the teacher at Clifton School in late 1910, received a permanent appointment the next year and remained teaching there for 37 years. 'Alverstoke' was a working dairy. After their mother's death in 1939, Emily and her older sister Cecile received title to the farm but their father remained at 'Alverstoke' until his death in 1948. Emily remained at 'Alverstoke' until 1974 when she moved to 'Elanora Villas', Bunbury. Isabella Clifton was their aunt. Personal diaries like these show the day to day concerns and activities of the writer and at the same time help illustrate the period in which they were written. These digital items add to the extensive material already held in the library about the Clifton family.



Emily Ker Clifton in 1969.  
([www.harveyhistoryonline.com](http://www.harveyhistoryonline.com))

- **Fremantle Cricket Club:** Account book 1865-1885; Minutes of Special General Meeting 14/12/1868 and Notes of Annual Meeting (undated). The Fremantle Cricket Club was formed in 1852. First games were played on the 'Green', now the site of E Shed and the Old Customs House. The games were transferred to Fremantle Park in the 1880s, then to Fremantle Oval and, since 1968, are played



Fremantle Cricket Club members 1894. (Battye Library, SLWA 007121D)

at Stevens Reserve. The Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) was formed in 1885 and Fremantle joined in 1886. The account book, 1865-1885, records the players and members many of whom have well-known Fremantle names. Expenses incurred by the club also make interesting reading such as a cost for tobacco for prisoners who were rolling the ground. As cricket itself was in its infancy in the colony, to have this item is all the more important. It is intriguing to consider that convicts were still being transported to Fremantle up to 1868 and at the same time, in other parts of the port town, free men were organising themselves for the playing of a sport also transported from England.

- **Darren Clark collection of photographs.** Photographs of the East Kimberley (digital images x 265), 2018-2019, including the Warmun Art Gallery's 20th anniversary celebrations and some of Australia's leading indigenous artists at work and at home. Of particular interest are a series of images showing artist Charlene Carrington collecting sap from Bloodwood trees in order to brew her secret mixture of resin and ochre, and then using this special technique to create a large painting called "The Tree of Life" especially for the State Library.

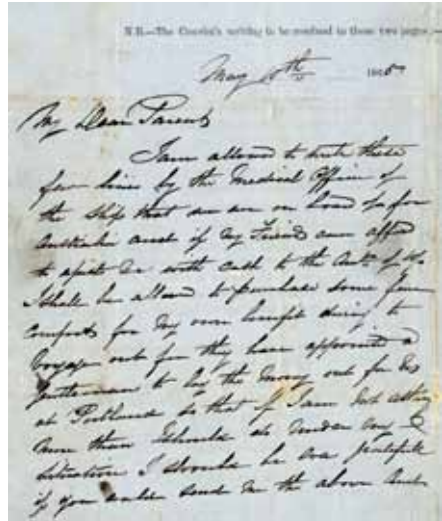
Although the collection is centred upon the Warmun Art Gallery facilities and community of Gija artists, it also captures trips to country with indigenous elders: Bow River (Juwurlinji community), Violet Valley (Paperbark Dreaming), and an unexpectedly arduous, overnight experience visiting Texas Downs' sacred rock art site, a



Charlene Carrington applying the first layer of her secret bloodwood sap and ochre mixture, garilwan, to her painting. Warmun, October 2018. (Darren Clark Photographs collection Battye Library, SLWA BA2840/1159.)

life-changing experience for the photographer. Darren immerses himself in the communities he visits and is prepared to go the extra mile and off the beaten track to make the most of opportunities that come his way. He spends time and effort building trusting relationships with the elders and their families who open their hearts and homes to him. His photographs are more than just striking visual images accompanied by descriptive narratives – they provide a deeply insightful and evocative documentation of contemporary indigenous life in a remote part of Western Australia.

- **William Henry Kerlake letters.** William Henry Kerlake (1842-1922) was a Devonshire bricklayer who was convicted at the Exeter Assizes in July 1863 of 'carnal knowledge of a girl under ten years'. He was sentenced to transportation to the penal colony of Western Australia for 14 years, and was one of 279 prisoners who arrived at Fremantle on 10 August 1865 on board the *Racehorse*. There are four unpublished manuscript letters written by convict William Henry Kerlake from Chatham Prison (Kent) and the ship *Racehorse* (Portland Roads) to his parents in Tiverton, Devon, 1864-65; 4 bifolia, small quarto (each 230 x 190 mm), on official 'Convict Establishment, Chatham' blue writing paper, each with printed instructions to first leaf recto. Kerlake was illiterate, so his letters were all dictated and are written in a clerical hand across the two internal pages of each form (two letters bear his autograph 'mark'); the second leaf verso of each has a manuscript address, tied with



Kerslake letters. (Battye Library, SLWAACC 10086A)

a penny red postage stamp and with Chatham and Tiverton postal markings; the letters are dated July 29 1864, March 17 1865, May 6 1865, and May 10 1865 (the latter being written from the transport ship *Racehorse*); all were folded for posting (fold lines remain); one letter (July 29 1864) has separated along the main vertical fold and has one corner excised (no loss of text), otherwise the letters are very well preserved and legible. There are also typed transcripts of the letters. The contents pertain to his requests for assistance from his parents to petition on his behalf to try to prevent his transportation. He is to be transported so he next requests some money so he can buy some things to make his journey out more comfortable. He sends affectionate greetings to family and some others. These letters make an interesting addition to a Kerslake letter held in the collection which was written after he arrived in WA.



## State Records Office - News from the Archives

### Geoffrey Bolton Lecture

*Truth-telling, Archives, and Human Rights* was the topic of the 2019 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture, delivered by Professor Jane Lydon, Wesfarmers

Chair in Australian History at the University of Western Australia, on Monday evening 14 October 2019.

The lecture commenced by a Welcome to Noongar Boodjar delivered by Noongar Elder Mr Nick Abraham. Mr Damian Shepherd, Director State Records and State Archivist, introduced this year's speaker, and Professor Jane Lydon commenced the lecture by talking about her first encounter with Geoffrey Bolton paying tribute to his generosity and lack of pomposity. She also noted his championing of archives as sources for empirical evidence.

Professor Lydon went on to discuss the recent rise in interest in the history of human rights, and she described "the now axiomatic view" that a country building its nation and democracy is confronting its difficult past. Truth Commissions, public apologies, and monuments are examples of the outcomes of confronting painful history. The integral role of archives in an international human rights framework was described, but she alluded to some of the inadequacies in this framework, especially in instances where human rights abuses have occurred in the private sphere, and the Irish Magdalene laundries and some Australian churches were provided as examples.

The transformation in meaning of archives through the inclusion of diverse forms of evidence was explored. For example some police records were made to police and manage Aboriginal people, but now their meanings have been radically revised, becoming a precious heritage resource. Western Australian Aboriginal Protectors' files



Carol Bolton (left) and Jane Lydon. (SROWA)

have been mined by Aboriginal researchers for their own purposes and help reveal stories about struggling with state policies. Government files have also been used as evidence alongside photographs, oral testimony, objects and art. Archives created by Aboriginal people provide another layer of evidence and sometimes challenge the deeply colonial framework of government archives and libraries.

Professor Lydon concluded by referring to the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* and its call for truth-telling. She stated that “as George Orwell pointed out in his dystopian novel, archives are the foundation of our public truth, but we should acknowledge that the truth is made in the present, and it changes according to who tells it. Yet unlike in 1984, for us archives are a precious trace not to be destroyed, that can reveal the untruths of Big Brother and the abuse of power in human rights violations. Using the archive ... those pursuing historical justice may give voice to the silenced, and fill the absences and mis-representations that have shaped our past” but that those “telling their stories (should have) acknowledgement and respect, as the basis for a flourishing and just Australian future.”

To read the full lecture see <https://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/geoffrey-bolton-lecture/2019-geoffrey-bolton-lecture-jane-lydon>

[From State Records Office WA website.]

### **The 2020 Lunchtime Seminar Program**

Arrangements for these seminars are to be confirmed. Further details will be available on SROWA's website and in the March issue of this Newsletter.



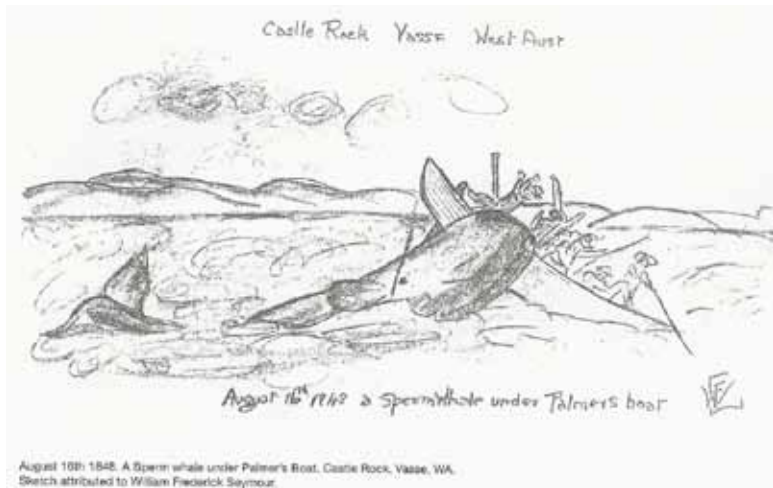
### **The boy who told stories**

(New book on the history of Dunsborough)

[*One of our members, Dr Errol Seymour, has written a book which has drawn upon William Frederick Seymour's early whaling diaries held in the Battye Library. Errol has kindly provided the following information about his book.*]

As the start approaches of this season's whale watching tours in Geographe Bay, a fascinating new book on the history of Dunsborough and the former Castle Rock whaling station was released in July. The first white settler of Dunsborough was William Frederick Seymour who managed the nearby whaling station. A little over 173 years ago, William recorded in his diary: "1846. *The Castle rock waling (sic) company*





commenced 1<sup>st</sup> June with 2 boats.....saw the first wail culd (sic) get no chance on her.” His valuable diaries, now in frail condition, are housed in the Battye Library; rescued by a descendant when William’s farm cottages were torn down in the 1980s as the Dunsborough township developed. These diaries contain the only detailed written record of early shore-based whaling in Western Australia. The new book, written by Errol Seymour, great grandson of William Frederick, releases previously unpublished material from the diaries, and as well tells the stories, unrecorded until now, of this pioneering family.

Errol recounts that: “for well over 100 years, the Seymours were recognised as the leading family in the Dunsborough community. William Frederick, who arrived from England as a whaler in 1838, started his Dunsborough farm just before 1850. He married Mary Scanlon, a bride ship girl from famine-stricken Ireland. Mary had the first white child born in Dunsborough, and then eight more children. For ten years William and Mary enjoyed an idyllic lifestyle on their new farm, next to the gorgeous Dunsborough beach. Then disaster struck. During the following few years, they lost their three eldest daughters in tragic circumstances. And William was charged with the murder of one of his employees and faced trial in the WA Supreme Court. He died not long after, at the age of only 54. Mary survived her husband by 45 years, astonishingly raising her young family while successfully maintaining the farm.”

Out of this family crisis arose the leader of the next generation of the Seymours; second son Robert John, who was only four years old when

his father died. He expanded the farm onto adjacent property resulting in the Seymour dynasty owning over 400 priceless acres with extensive beachfront. This land entirely encompassed the area now occupied by the Dunsborough shopping and business precinct; today some of Western Australia's most sought after real estate outside the Perth metropolitan area. Robert John built the first Dunsborough store and the first bakery as well as starting the first garage; initiating the birth of the present township. He foresaw the tourism potential of the area, building and managing holiday cottages on the beach.

But Errol continues: "disappointingly, Robert John's visionary achievements were not carried forward. Not long after his death, the entire farm and businesses were sold off. Little of the Seymour presence now remains; a small park and a street in the shopping precinct; and headstones in the local cemetery." This book places on record the stories of a remarkable family whose contribution to so much of the history of Dunsborough now goes unnoticed. The author draws on private family archives collected over more than twenty years. A long standing mystery surrounding the Seymour name is exposed, as are family secrets which had been withheld from later generations.

The author grew up on the Seymour farm until he was nine years old when his parents moved to Perth. He was educated at the University of Western Australia and Harvard University in the USA before joining the international oil and gas industry, finally moving back to Perth in senior roles in Woodside Energy's North West Shelf gas project. Errol includes his own story in the book, showing the striking changes in technology over just one generation, from when his father used horses on the farm before tractors arrived, to his own involvement in extracting fuel from off Western Australia's coast; in a somewhat different way to his great grandfather who supplied whale oil to light lamps.

This is a handsome hardback book, nearly 700 pages, printed on art paper, case bound with dust jacket. It can be ordered online from the publisher's website: **[www.vividpublishing.com.au/theboywhotoldstories](http://www.vividpublishing.com.au/theboywhotoldstories)**



**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	\$ _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Afterwords

### An 1830 visitor

I've been to the Mitchell Library again. I had the privilege of sitting in on a meeting of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies in Parramatta. It was held in an irresistible venue, Hambledon Cottage, built in 1824 and once the home of our Revd Hobbes Scott.

Equally irresistible was the opportunity to visit the Mitchell Library, the New South Wales equivalent of the Battye Library, and holder of much early material on Western Australia.

What I found this time was the travel diary of a young man called John Pocock who spent three months here in 1830. 166 years after his visit his jottings were published in London under the title *Travels of a London Schoolboy 1826 – 1830: John Pocock's diary of life in London and voyages to Cape Town and the Swan River Settlement*. The Battye Library doesn't have a copy [hint].

Our man arrived on the *Medina* an unlucky ship that ran aground on arrival. After spending a night on Carnac Island with some offloaded cargo he came ashore at the South Bay on 26 July 1830.

Pocock was servant to Dr Thomas Carter ('Mr C' in the diary). Fellow voyagers included John and Mary Ann Bateman, their five children and Mary Ann's sister Harriet Benningfield. Also Henry Vincent who would soon be the Fremantle Gaoler (also William Green who Vincent would lock up on several occasions).



The merchantman Medina of London off Dover. Painting by 'Tho Whitcombe 1820. (Silentworld Foundation)

Pocock wasn't impressed with Fremantle or 'Fleamantle', a 'mere assemblage of wooden houses, tents, and two or three erections of stone' with its neighbourhood 'nothing but white sand.'

Having survived a near shipwreck himself he was fascinated to see the *Marquis of Anglesea*. 'upright on the rocks, one of which is complete through her timbers' and in use as a prison. On 19 August he walked around Arthur Head and discovered the foundations for a new prison [the Round House] just laid. He was puzzled by priorities; 'Surely, the governor should have blessed the place with a church before spending so much money upon a prison?'



Jane Eliza Currie 'Panorama of the Swan River Settlement' watercolour drawing. Note the wreck of the ship at the left of the painting. (Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, ML827/ IE10433528.)

Now and again he had to make up pills or replace bandages but mostly he visited friends or made new acquaintances in their tents and portable houses. One of the latter, made by Mannings of Holborn, was sold at a profit by Dr Carter. Another was put up by a patient, the troubled Captain Lionel Ripley Pearce, who ran amuck with his sword which he rammed through the bakehouse. In quieter moments he and Pearce visited the serang of the *Ellen* whose lascar crew had found a way to make curry from a local wild herb.

Young John went beachcombing for shells and went shooting in the forest where he saw wallabies (possibly quokkas) but leant his gun against a 'Black Boy' (grass tree) and couldn't find it again.

He recorded gossip: 'Mr Lewis is very attentive to Miss Benningfield, the old coquette who tried France, England etc., for thirty-five years in vain

for a husband' [Harriet Benningfield married Richard Lewis the following February].

On 12 September Dr Carter told him he could have 3 or 4 days off to visit the country, and on 20 September he left for Perth. He liked what he saw:

Perth is by far more pretty than Fremantle and much larger. The houses have a very comfortable and neat appearance. So thick are the trees here, that one can hardly see two or more houses at a time except by the Governor's Residence where they have been cleared away.

He thought there were 'about 40 domiciles of one kind or other' and saw 'several pretty gardens in a flourishing state and well stocked with vegetables.' He might have discovered our first library – he 'peeped in at a room called the Reading Room near the jetty' and was surprised at the advancement of the place.

Out walking with a friend, he saw the Governor's house where he also saw Captain Stirling. He saw the Revd Scott's rush church, 'an imposing clean little structure with the bell hoisted up in a tree which grows close to the door.'

After a few more weeks spent shooting, fishing and caring for Captain Pearce our diarist sailed away on 19 October aboard the *Skerne* for South Africa, where he settled.

Steve Errington



### **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.

## **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](mailto:bevnjen@gmail.com)*

or write to:

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

## J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

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

**Specialist staff:** Dr Chris Owen (A/Battye Historian) (08) 9427 3165

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

### State Records Office

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

#### Retrievals

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

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

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

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

### The Genealogy Centre

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

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