

NO. 158



March 2017

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

Our March 2017 meeting

Speaker Dr Fiona Bush OAM on St Ronan's Well

***The Battye
Library's diamond
anniversary!***

On 14 December 2016, celebrations were held at the State Library to commemorate 60 years since the formation of the J S Battye Library of West Australian History. (More information inside.)

(Vacuuming incoming records for cleaning and ridding of pests, Battye Library 1969. SLWA 319505PD.)



Our meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room, 4th floor State Library of Western Australia.

Please see details on page 3.

Objectives

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

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Committee (2016-2017)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary Ms Heather Campbell

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Ms Kris Bizacca, Ms Jennie Carter, Ms Lorraine Clarke, Mr Neil Foley, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, and Ms Cherie Strickland. Co-opted: Dr Nonja Peters,

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

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

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

ISSN 1035-8692

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

March Meeting

Tuesday 14 March 2017
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Dr Fiona Bush OAM

St Ronan's Well: when fiction becomes historical fact.

“For nearly 100 years St Ronan's Well, York assisted in the development of the agricultural districts to the east of Perth's coastal plain. It was regularly and heavily used by travellers using the York Road, from the earliest days of settlement until motorised transport reduced the need for regular watering holes as time spent on the road was significantly reduced.” (*Register of Heritage Places, Permanent entry. Assessment documentation.*)

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

Problem with the stairs?

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

Contents

About our speaker	4
Meeting dates for 2017	4
A message from our President	5
Australia Day honours for two of our members	6
Gems of Time	6
New book - <i>Australia's last convicts</i>	8
'Have you a story to tell?' Fr Ted Doncaster	9
Steve Errington	11
Bevan Carter	12
'Voices that should be heard' - Ronda Jamieson	15
Celebration of 60 years of the Batty Library	18
News from the State Library	29
State Records Office - News from the Archives	34
New book on WA photographer E L Mitchell	38
RWAHS secondhand book sale	39
Subscriptions form	40
'Jack's Back' - Jack Honniball	41

About our speaker - Fiona Bush

Dr Fiona Bush has had a wealth of experience. She obtained a degree in archaeology from Sydney University and then went on to study Building Conservation at the University of New South Wales. She and her husband migrated west in 1984 when her husband took up a lecturing position at UWA. It was at this point that she discovered that her heritage skills were of no particular use in this State at that time. Undaunted, she joined the National Trust and their Built Environment Committee in 1985 and began to learn about Western Australia's building heritage and history. She has remained on the committee ever since – although the name has changed over the years. She became Chair of this committee in 2002. Heritage work gradually picked up and she has worked as a private consultant in this field for 30 years.

She has a broad spectrum of heritage interests but her passions are industrial heritage, lighthouses and vernacular buildings. Her doctoral thesis concentrated on vernacular colonial buildings and this was when she realised that during her 25 years working in heritage she had become a building archaeologist! In recent years her research interests have turned to investigating stained glass artists in Western Australia and the role of sustenance workers in the development of John Forrest National Park.

She is a member of several heritage organisations including Mundaring & Hills Historical Society and is a Councillor with the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. She has sat on the State Heritage Office's Register Committee for over 10 years. In January 2017 she received an OAM for her services to community history and heritage preservation.

Meeting dates for 2017

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month (except the November meeting which is on the third Tuesday) and begin at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. We apologise for having to rearrange the order of some of our talks. Our March meeting was to have featured Yvonne Geneve and Ron Facius, but we are sad to report Ron's recent passing and we extend our deepest sympathy to Yvonne and to Ron's family. Fiona Bush, who was to speak later in the year has very generously agreed to step into the breach.

9 May - Dr Anne Scrimgeour (Battye Fellow 2016).

The Pilbara Aboriginal movement of the 1940s and 1950s.

11 July - Speaker - Dr Ronda Jamieson.

Servants of the People and e-Book publishing.

12 September - (AGM) - Speaker Dr Peter Burke.

CY O'Connor and the WA Press: Who Wrote Those Terrible Things?

21 November (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function

Speaker - TBA

President's piece

Dear Friends

It seems only yesterday I was telling you that Bill Bunbury was going to address our first meeting of the year with a talk on 'The warmth, wit and wisdom of Geoffrey Bolton' – but here we are again coming up to the first meeting of the year. Many of you, however, were at Murdoch University on February 21st for the Dedication of the Geoffrey Bolton Library. It was a tribute he would have really appreciated.

On March 14th Fiona Bush will be speaking about St Ronans Well- well known to the many bullockys and cart horses who travelled the Perth to York Road. Fiona is a live-wire and her talk will be most interesting. Both these speakers were honoured in this year's Australia Day Awards – see details on page 6. We feel very privileged indeed.

Your committee has more speakers arranged for your pleasure at future general meetings, and are busy planning various projects for the year. This newsletter will give you details of some of these ideas.

I look forward to seeing you at our first meeting for 2017 and wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous year ahead

Pamela Statham Drew

Members' information



Australia Day honours for two of our members

We were delighted to learn that two of our active members, Bill Bunbury, and Fiona Bush were awarded Medals of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day Honours. William Hedley (Bill) Bunbury received his for service to the broadcast media, and to the Indigenous community of Western Australia. Fiona Lee Bush was awarded hers for service to community history and heritage preservation. Both Fiona, who is our speaker this month and Bill, who spoke so movingly last year at the commemoration of the life of Professor Geoffrey Bolton, have been wonderful advocates and supporters of the Friends of Battye Library. They have contributed so much to the history and heritage of this State and we send heartfelt congratulations to them on their well-deserved honour.



Gems of Time

The Friends of Battye Library's Gem of Time award acknowledges Western Australia's living treasures who have made a long-term and significant commitment to the history of Western Australia and the aims and objectives of the Battye Library and/or the State Records Office.

Since the award was first conferred in 2002 there have been 19 recipients, some of whom have been very well-known in their field along with others who are almost unknown. All have been vital to the understanding of our State's history. A list of the Friends 'Gems' can be found on our website: www.friendsofbattye.org.au

Rob O'Connor reminds us that our society's award is valued and appreciated.

Gem of Time Award Meant a Lot to Leslie Marchant

The late Professor Leslie Marchant's wide interests included French, Chinese and indigenous Aboriginal history and culture. He wrote widely in all those fields, including the geography and cartography of the Indian-Pacific region. He spent many years in the United Kingdom and Europe, locating and reading archival material relating to the exploration of Australia.

After retiring from the University of Western Australia, Leslie became Visiting Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle. He was the Director of Centre for the Study of the South Land and Resident Scholar, State Library of Western Australia.

He was made a Gem of Time by the Friends of Battye Library in 2003. His widow Gunhild has revealed that Leslie, on arriving home after the conferral ceremony, broke down and cried tears of joy, and said: "The French President created me a Chevalier in the Ordre National du Merite, and I have been honoured by many countries around the world, but this is the only honour granted to me in Australia."

Well done, Friends of Battye Library!

Rob O'Connor QC



David Whiteford

Many of our members will remember David who was for decades a senior librarian at the Battye Library and the resident expert on maps and all things railway related. A long-term member of the Friends of Battye Library, David wrote the *Western Australian map bibliography, Perth and districts* with Barbara Judge and Joy Jones which was published by the Friends in 2002. He also worked for a number of years at the State Records Office. Just recently he has taken up a position

with the City of Perth History Centre with responsibility for customer service and preserving and maintaining the History Centre Collection. Congratulations David on your new role.



New book - *Australia's last convicts*

The Friends of Battye Library Inc. in association with the State Records Office of Western Australia have just published an important new history book *Australia's last convicts: reprobates, rogues and recidivists* which was compiled and written by Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland of Swan Genealogy.



The book features photographs taken between the late 1880s to 1912 of 74 men who had been transported to Western Australia and who, after serving their original sentences, ended back in Fremantle prison for a variety of crimes. Lorraine and Cherie have meticulously researched the lives of these men and the result is a fascinating collection of biographies. As Pamela Statham Drew noted in the book's Introduction, "It is quite remarkable to have photographs of actual convicts who were transported from Britain between 1850 and 1868" and concluded:

The Friends of Battye Library are proud to have been associated with this outstanding project undertaken by Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland. It grew out of their work on the Guide to convict records which was sponsored by the Friends and launched on our website early in 2016.



Historical photographs

Members may be interested in this relatively new online site for WA photographic collections held in local history collections in Western Australia. Some wonderful images that are not in other collections.

<http://imageswesternaustralianhistory.weebly.com/explore-a-local-history-collection.html>

Have you a story to tell?

[Fr Edward (Ted) Doncaster, is an acknowledged expert on the history of the Anglican Church in Western Australia, about which he has written extensively. Fr Ted was made one of our Gems of Time in 2008 and shares a special anniversary with that of the Battye Library of West Australian History. Here he gives a brief rundown of his remarkable life. Congratulations Fr Ted.]

Something personal

Towards the end of December 2016 I had been a clergyman for sixty years and what wonderful years they have been. Someone at the Friends asked me to tell a little about my life's work so here goes.

Before I was made a Deacon in 1956 the Archbishop asked me where I would like to be sent and I suggested Leederville – he immediately asked “Why there?” and I told him that as I had worked in that suburb as a postie during vacations from Theological College, at least I already knew where everyone lived! He sent me to Victoria Park where I had grown up, so at least I knew where many of the faithful lived – but, of course, they all knew me too, and may have remembered what a tyke I had been earlier in life! They were good years and I learnt a lot about ministry and I was forgiven many mistakes.

After that I became the first full-time Rector of Bluff Point and its beautiful church of St George and the Chapman Valley together with Northampton, as it was without a priest then. Sue and I were married in my third year in that parish. Five years there followed by six in Carnarvon where for a time I also served as the Archdeacon of the North West. I just loved the work in the bush – visiting station properties – pioneering the church's work in Exmouth – taking the first services on Barrow Island, visiting Onslow once a month as well as Shark Bay and Gascoyne Junction. Don't ask me for mileage figures though! We were even present at the opening of the Tracking Station in our first week at Carnarvon as well as the opening of the United States Navy Communications Station at Exmouth in 1967. I honestly think the phrase “a state of excitement”



The commissioning of the United States Navy Communications Station (later named after Harold Holt.) 16 September 1967. (Courtesy Fr E Doncaster)

would have covered our time in the North West.

Then we moved down to the parish of Southern Cross where my wife and I founded branches of the Girls' and Boys' Brigades, she worked at the kindergarten and I was involved with Apex and Rotary. The little brick church had a 63 year-old "temporary" wooden east-end which we managed to replace with a brick frontage through the help of many people – the doors came from S. George's Cathedral in Perth and the architect, Bruce Williams, donated his time and skills. At Westonia there was a



The Anglican Church of S. Luke at Westonia in 1970. (Courtesy Fr E Doncaster)

little wooden church which had been railed over from Naretha on the Trans Line in 1918 and re-erected in this former mining town.

From there to Mundaring with five services every Sunday – all in different places, as well as chaplaincies to Parkerville Children's Homes, Hillston Boys' Reformatory and the Wooroloo Prison! Talk about

going round and round the mulberry bush – but we did get some mulberries in the form of a great response from the people and many good, lasting friendships. Congregations even grew in size and generosity.

Then we went down hill to the suburbs – to Floreat – a one church parish at last, with the car not having to leave the garage on Sundays – what a treat! We were there almost ten years in which time the large debt was paid off through the generosity of parishioners. Sue taught in the school at the children's hospital to help fund our children's education and I became a Canon and then an Archdeacon again so there was plenty for us to do. The parishioners were just so responsive and caring.

After that we were called over to South Australia in 1985 for thirteen years of ministry which was a great experience for us both. Port Lincoln, Willunga and Renmark were where we served and found people ever so responsive there too.

Then age came into the question! In "retirement" we came back to the West where my mother and our daughter still lived but I came back

as a priest in the Orthodox Church with the responsibility of founding a parish within the Antiochian part of Orthodoxy. As this covered Perth and Bunbury, we kept on travelling!

Age and health came back into the picture and so in a second retirement I was able to pursue my interests in the Hotham Valley Railway and the history of the Anglican Church in Western Australia. The latter was recognised when I was made a Gem of Time by the Friends of Battye Library in 2008 and last year I was honoured to be made a Life Member of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. My late wife used to tease me about “Church on Sundays, Hotham Valley Railway (where I was membership secretary) on Mondays, and history on Tuesdays – the rest of the week is with me!”

So I can truthfully say that I have had a full life and a wonderful one at that, met many beautiful people both within and outside the Church, and I close by saying that “I wouldn’t have missed it for the world”. God be praised and may you be blessed.

Fr Ted Doncaster



[Regular contributor Steve Errington has a son, Ben, who loves all things old. When Ben was strolling through Salter Point last year he spotted on a verge boxes marked ‘Free. Help yourself.’ A family clearing out a house had resisted the temptation to throw all ‘old and useless’ stuff into a green bin, hoping that others might appreciate objects that they had looked after for decades. Ben rescued two objects which intrigued his father.]

Things People Throw Out, part 1

I love maps, the older the better. My oldest copy of the *Metropolitan Road Guide* is the fifth edition from 1955. I consult it often but wish it was older, preferably the first edition from 1944. Like my 1955 copy this was published by the Department of Lands and Surveys.

For the ninth edition in 1968 they changed the name to *Metropolitan Street Directory*. By 1990 it was *Streetsmart Street Directory* and the publisher had become the Department of Land Administration, DOLA. By their fiftieth (and last) edition in 2009, it was Landgate supplying the data but WA Newspapers were the publishers.

An object which some thoughtful people in Salter Point recycled via their front verge last year has now taken me back beyond the first edition.

But not to the beginning. From 1933 the growing band of Perth motorists were able to buy a street directory to keep in their glove box with their motoring gloves. This was *The Imperial Map Directory of Perth, Fremantle and Suburban Streets*. It was published by the Imperial Printing Company (now Snap). Their maps were compiled by Hope and Klem Surveyors, of Barrack Street.

Imperials produced eleven editions between 1933 and 1962 then sold out to Universal Business Directories (UBD) who issued the twelfth edition in 1964 and dozens more since. In 1988 Gregory's entered the Perth street directory market with a hardback which they irresistibly labelled 'Collectors 1st edition'. In 24 years Gregory's published 16 editions.

Since 2013 UBD Gregory's have produced *Perth and Surrounds Street Directory* (edition 59, 2017).

What my son Ben found on that Salter Point verge was the *Road Map of Metropolitan Area Perth Western Australia*, a single sheet 76 cm by 100 cm, published by the Lands and Surveys Department in August 1941. The Battye Library doesn't have a copy. What it does have (912.9411 IND) is the related index, *Index to the Road Map of Metropolitan Area Perth, Western Australia, 1941*.

Clearly, in 1944, someone in Lands and Surveys had the excellent idea of dividing up the map and printing the small sheets and the index together. The result was a modest paperback called *Road Maps with Index*. I'm still looking for my copy.

Steve Errington



[*Bevan Carter has been a WAGS volunteer at the State Library for almost 18 years. He has an abiding interest in genealogy and convict history. This story came to light on a recent visit to the UK and prompted him to carry out further research.*]

Might there have been a Harrods of Hobart?

The London newspaper *The Standard* reported on 18 May 1836 that Richard Moran, a Dublin born labourer, aged 38, was indicted for stealing 100 lb. (over 40 kilos) of currants, the property of John Healey Booth

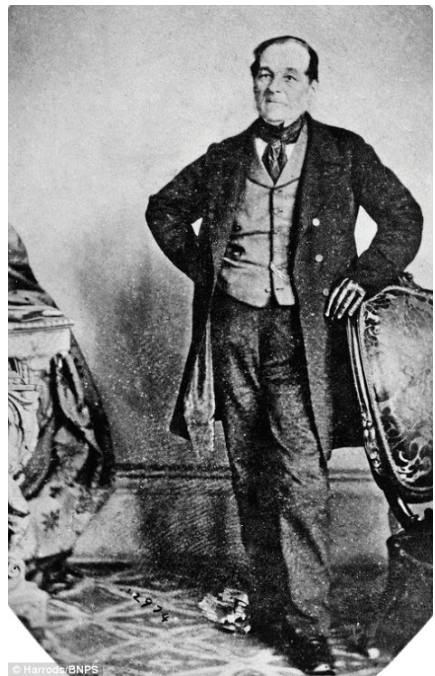
wholesale grocer of Thames Street. A fellow grocer and tea merchant, Charles Henry Harrod, aged 37, was charged with “feloniously receiving”¹ the stolen consignment of dried fruit for resale in his shop in Cable Street in London’s notorious Whitechapel.

The jury determined that Harrod and Moran colluded in the theft, and indeed had a long standing arrangement to purloin goods for Harrod’s shop. Both men were found guilty as charged and sentenced to seven years transportation. Records show that Richard Moran was duly shipped off to Van Dieman’s Land on the *Sarah* on 22 December 1836.

Charles Harrod’s name, however, does not appear on the list of felons sent to Tasmania because, unlike the hapless Moran, Harrod had influential friends. A search of the convict records in London revealed that more than 65 supporters and business acquaintances petitioned the Home Office to ameliorate or set aside Harrod’s sentence.² The petitioners highlighted Harrod’s standing in the community - it was claimed, despite evidence to the contrary, that he “has always borne an unblemished character”. Dwelt upon was Charles and his wife Elizabeth’s sickly constitutions; “He has a wife in delicate health and two small children”. Harrod’s own health was thought to be so poor that “a lengthy confinement would greatly endanger his life”.

Surprisingly, given the seriousness of the original charge, the petition was successful and Charles Henry Harrod was released after serving just a year in a London prison. While Charles was incarcerated, his wife and his brother William successfully ran the business together.

Harrod, after narrowly escaping transportation to Australia, went on to prosper. While still living in Cable Street another three sons Charles (1841), Henry (1843), and Joseph (1847) were born. In 1849, “to escape the vice of the inner city” and to cater



Charles Henry Harrod c.1880.
(Courtesy Harrods Ltd Archives public domain image.)

for the increase in trade expected from the planned Great Exhibition, Harrod purchased a small shop in Brompton Road Knightsbridge and his general store became popular with well-off customers because of its close proximity to the world famous 1851 exhibition building.

Harrods grew in size and its proprietor in respectability. After the death of Elizabeth in 1860 Charles Henry sold the shop to his 20 year old son, Charles Digby Harrod, who developed it into a thriving department store offering a variety of high-quality goods. With business booming, Charles junior had little trouble in clearing the debt to his father in just three years.

A setback occurred when around one o'clock in the morning on 7 December 1883, a fire broke out and the four storey establishment was burnt to the ground. While some stock was saved, it was remarked upon that Charles Digby Harrod had made heroic efforts over the next couple of weeks to source replacement merchandise so that all Christmas orders could be fulfilled and his customers kept satisfied. The business continued to operate in nearby Humphries Hall while the present majestic building, designed by architect Charles William Stephens, was constructed on the original site.



Harrods

In September 1884, less than a year after the fire, the iconic Art Nouveau styled Harrods of London opened its very imposing doors to an appreciative public. Prominently carved in stone above the entrance is the proud motto *Omnia Omnibus Ubique* (all things for all people, everywhere).

Charles Harrod senior died at Gunnersbury on 3 March 1885 aged 85. His son sold his interest in the store for £120,000 via a stock

market float in 1889 and the new company became Harrods Stores Limited. Charles Digby Harrod purchased the stately Morepath Manor in Devon and died in 1905 after a distinguished late career as a British liberal Member of Parliament.³

So ends the fascinating tale of a British convict who, but for the advocacy of his associates, would have been transported to Tasmania. Australian visitors to London who view the sumptuous tourist attraction might reflect upon the fact that we will never know whether Charles Henry Harrod could have exercised his obvious talent for retail entrepreneurship in this part of the world and opened a Harrods down under.

Bevan Carter

References:

1. *The Standard* 18 May 1836 (online).
 2. Home Office 17: petitions to the Home Secretary. UK National Archives.
 3. History House Essex online research portal <http://www.historyhouse.co.uk/articles/harrods.html>
- [Authors note: Robin Harrod has written a book about his ancestors and the origins of Harrods which is due for release sometime this month.]

Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson, who, before her retirement, was for many years Director of the Battye Library, is one of Australia's most well-known oral historians. She is also the biographer of Sir Charles Court. This article is the seventh in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

Maeva Boucher Roe OH316 1891–1990

There were two interviews with Maeva Roe, conducted in 1978 when she was aged 87. The first went very well but she was nowhere near as coherent in the second one. After one of her daughters read the transcript she contacted me to say her mother had not been well between the two interviews and was it possible to edit the transcript of the second one to make it more understandable. Anyone listening to the tape recording would understand why I agreed to do so particularly as I was not being asked to edit both.

Maeva was one of the seven children of Eleanor and Arthur Hassell and was born in Perth on 27 July 1891. The family moved to the Swan Valley in 1905 and lived at 'Rainsworth' for a year before her mother moved to South Guildford after the death of Arthur.

After describing the Adelaide Terrace house the family lived in, Maeva referred to being spoilt and living in luxury. A favourite memory was being taken shopping on Saturday nights 'by our cook and nurse'. Her mother was dissatisfied with what was available in Perth shops and her Irish family sent boxes of clothes from Belfast including: 'shoes, berets ... everything for the whole family'. Another happy memory was giving concerts for her parents.

Maeva's father had racehorses and although he started married life with plenty of money, he seems to have lost most of it which led to the move to 'Rainsworth' when Maeva was 14. Servants were no longer employed and Maeva and her two sisters helped their mother: 'My mother was pretty helpless, she wasn't much of a manager in any way and she'd had this gay life up till date ... and it was a bit hard on her being left with seven children.' Arthur Hassell died in 1906 and his wife later took in paying guests to survive.

John Frederick Roe (son of John Septimus) worked in a bank in Perth and at the Lands Department but owned Sandalford in the Swan Valley where he spent weekends. He first proposed to Maeva in 1907 when she was aged 16 but her mother told him he had to wait until Maeva was 18. As a regular visitor, John brought flowers and fruit from plants he had planted. He and Maeva were married in 1909.

A house had been built on the Sandalford property before their marriage. Maeva remembered entering it with all its new furniture and being 'terrified I'd scratch it or break it because I was still a teenager'. Having been a 'tomboy' growing up, Maeva found John and his mother 'pretty strict' and admitted to being scared of them both initially. Although it took her years to adjust to her new life she also recalled never being unhappy. 'I really had a very good life and ... my husband treated me well. He was a good man ... I really hadn't anything to complain about except I couldn't do exactly as I liked.' Another restriction was that he did not trust her to handle money because he worried she would be 'recklessly extravagant'. Local Aborigines did the family's washing and ironing and lived in tents in bush paddocks.

According to Maeva, John Septimus had bought Belele Station and thought his son would want to live there but it had no appeal to John Frederick. He didn't like horses for a start and preferred to spend spare time on Sandalford. He liked gardening and the first vines he planted were table grapes, some of which John Septimus had chosen. There were also

grapes grown to be dried for currants and sultanas. Table grapes and prize winning dried fruits were sent to Perth markets.

John and Maeva's first child, James Arthur Roe, was born in September 1910 and she remembered being 'horrified' when she found she was pregnant. She was also upset that due to her mother's insistence James was born at her house instead of at Sandalford, particularly as he was the eldest son of the eldest son. Despite her initial reaction to her pregnancy, she was thrilled when she had a son who she thought was beautiful. John was 40 by the time she returned home with James.

Maeva and John had 10 children. Patricia and Dorothy followed James, but there were also two babies who died. 'I think I must have been very neglectful, because they were lovely little babies and they both died soon after birth'. She still felt guilt as to whether their deaths were her fault: 'I was pretty young and stupid ... and I was pretty sick when those two little babies were born.' Her child bearing stretched over 21 years but she never contemplated not having so many children. 'We loved all the children just the same.' She described her husband as being a loving father who enjoyed being with his children and taking them crabbing, fishing and for walks in the bush.

John started making wine 'about 1942 ... We had an old Slav [Jack Rudan] working for us.' Originally from Dalmatia Jack knew a lot about wine making. John and Jack 'used to roll the grapes in a mangle. It was very primitive.' Early wine making was controlled: 'we took a barrel and had it filled with spirits to put into the grapes. And you were only allowed so much ... They had an excise officer to watch.' John died in 1957.

My strongest memory of the interviews with Maeva was that despite having other children, she still mourned her two baby sons and was deeply saddened by the death of three of her adult children.

Ronda Jamieson



Mrs J F Roe in 1965.
(Battye Library, SLWA 086564PD)

**Celebration for the anniversary of 60 years of the
J S Battye Library of West Australian History
14 December 2016**

Steve Howell, who has been the Battye Library expert for more than three decades, is also a noted versifier of wit and humour. He penned the following commemorative ballad. As Steve was overseas on the date, Elizabeth Spencer, Director of Community, Learning and Discovery at the State Library of Western Australia at the close of speeches read this poem and delighted the audience.

The Ballad of Battye Library

His name was Jim and his sight was dim
by the winter of Fifty Four
He'd lost his vim, wasn't sound of limb
by July he was no more

But back in his prime, Battye was a collector sublime
who'd travelled all over the State
He deemed it a crime, not to grab at the time
documents of importance great

Records of the CSO, manuscripts from high and low
newspapers, maps, books and serials
Battye Library's seeds did he sow, although this he wasn't to know
but at least he got the materials

Battye began the State Archive, way back in 1945
but it didn't go far enough
under Mollie Lukis it would thrive, and for a time she would strive
to collect Government stuff

Battye's replacement was Sharr, who was to become a star
although he started off green
but he raised the bar, and he would go far
in the WA library scene

So Sharr had a thought, for which he long fought
to reorganise the old place
Enthusiasm he brought, which would have come to nought
if he couldn't revamp the space

All through 1956, old SRL they did fix
and on 14th of December
it opened with a good mix, of sundry subject topics
which we're here today to remember

In honour of old JSB, records of WA history
all came together at long last
to recognise the role that he had played in provision of free
access to WA records past

Thanks to Lukis, Medcalf and McCall; Allen, Jamieson, Carter and all
who ever over the years gave their best
the staff always had a ball and they never hit the wall
working hard for the people of the West

So that's the Battye story and if I've been too laudatory
I'm sorry but that's just the way I think
It's been sixty years of glory, from many people contributory
so let's all salute them with a drink

By Steve Howell,
Senior Subject Specialist, Battye Library.



To begin the official part of the anniversary celebrations, a Welcome to Country ceremony was performed by Noongar elder, Matthew McGuire. Margaret Allen, CEO and State Librarian introduced each guest speaker and also spoke about the importance and value of the Battye Library and its role in collecting, preserving and making available the stories of West Australia. The speakers were:

- The Hon John Day, Minister for Culture and the Arts,
- Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM,
- Dr Amanda Curtin, author and academic.

We are grateful to Margaret, the distinguished speakers and Steve for generously allowing us to include their words in this newsletter.



Mr Matthew McGuire
(www.thenewpilbara.com.au)

Hon John Day MLA



In 1956, the then State Librarian Francis Aubie (Ali) Sharr oversaw the reorganisation of the Public Library of Western Australia into the State Library of Western Australia with a new section devoted to West Australian materials: the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History and State Archives.

The word West instead of Western in the name was deliberate, signifying that the collection covers materials from earlier than 1829 when Western Australia officially came into existence, and includes Indigenous history and the visits of

various Dutch, French and English explorers from the early 1600s.

The Battye Library, as it came to be known, was named to honour Dr James Sykes Battye who commenced duty as Librarian in 1894 and who died aged 83 having been in charge of the Library for 60 years.

Dr Battye was a historian and author who compiled several books on the history of the State. Early in his career he recognised the importance of recording and celebrating our unique history, and was an avid collector of manuscripts, printed documentary records, art works, maps and photographs.

Significant material collected early on included those associated with Pelseart's voyage of the Batavia, which was wrecked on the Abrolhos Islands in 1629, and the Zeewyck, wrecked in 1727. Around 1903 a rare book of Pelseart's account of the Batavia, published in Amsterdam in 1647, was donated to the Library. That book has now been digitised and is available to anyone online.

Dr Battye also recognised the importance of archival records and was responsible for the establishment of the Public Records Committee, which he chaired, to ensure that archival and printed materials were acquired and preserved, eventually leading to the formation of the Archives Branch of the Library in 1945.

Since the enactment of the *State Records Act* in 2000, the government archives have been the responsibility of the State Records Office, which continues the vital work of managing government records.

After 60 years this Library is a testament to Dr Battye and all former and current staff - of which I understand there are many here today - that have worked to collect, preserve and make available this unique collection.

Today as a part of the State Library of Western Australia, the Battye Library holds a vast and ever-growing collection.

- The Battye Library collection includes:
- over 100,000 book titles;
- 25,000 serial and newspaper titles;
- over 30,000 maps;
- 12,000 films and videos;
- 8,000 sound recordings, including over 16,000 hours of oral history recordings; and
- 700,000 images.

The collection tells the story of our State; our people and places; our cultures and our lives.

I wish to acknowledge those that have supported the Battye Library in its endeavours. Since 1981 the Friends of Battye have promoted the interests of the Library through the acquisition, preservation and use of archival and documentary materials. The support of the Friends of Battye has been invaluable and is gratefully acknowledged.

There have also been many other generous collaborators, benefactors and donors that have made a valuable contribution and to whom the Library and the Government is grateful.

As a part of these 60th anniversary celebrations the State Library has produced a brochure that gives a glimpse of some of the remarkable items in the Battye Collection, from beautiful original flora illustrations by Rica Erickson AM, to images of everyday Western Australians. There is also a large scale decal that has been installed on the ground floor windows celebrating the Battye collections.

While we celebrate the past today, the future looks just as bright, and I hope for a further 60 years of success for the Battye Library and the State Library.

Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM



The Battye Library has been an essential part of my life for nearly forty years. It was an intrinsic part of the making of me as an historian.

My first memory of the Battye Library was in 1980 when I was researching for my history honours dissertation. I can still remember experiencing the extraordinary magic of Hackett Hall – a magnificent Edwardian library reading room with cast iron spiral staircases in each corner leading to the book shelves at each level of balcony and the superb lantern windowed ceiling

way up above. And this was just the entrance to the treasures of the Battye Library off to one side of the hall.

A little later when I was researching middle class suburbia for my doctorate all the council records of the suburbs I was investigating – most of which came under the Claremont Roads Board – were held in Battye as the State Archives were housed there. Then when I went on to research the history of Scotch College in the late 1980s again Battye was responsible for the records, though many were housed in the College Archives. By then conditions in Battye were super modern with air-conditioning and computers in the new Alexander Library Building. Its 1980's colour scheme was fresh and invigorating as if to dispel the image of the traditional library as dark timbers and dusty records. It always reminded me of pink and grey cockatoos, though silence continued to reign. Later, in the mid 1990s, both I and my assistant, Kate O'Shaughnessy spent many hours poring over the records in both State Records Office and the Battye Library for the research necessary to write a history of twentieth century Perth.

Battye was also vital to me as a publisher. As Director of UWA Press for eight years, I was privileged to publish many fine path-breaking books on aspects of Western Australian History. Battye and its extensive collections covering so many aspects of our history were essential to our authors.

Battye has also been vital to me as a teacher. I have taught Western

Australian history and heritage at UWA for many years. And for many of those years my students developed research papers on Western Australian history – where did they do the research? Where else but the Battye?

Lastly, Battye Library has been vital to the continuing work of the University of Western Australia's Centre for WA History. The Centre was established just over thirty years ago and in that time has been responsible for the research and writing of more than thirty books as well as the annual journal *Studies in Western Australian History*. Battye was an integral partner in the development of the *Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia*, edited by Jan Gothard and myself at the Centre. It could not have been written without the vast wealth of knowledge about Western Australia contained in Battye Library and the superb staff who assisted with countless enquiries from several hundred researchers who worked on the *Encyclopedia*.

Now the Battye Library will play a similar role in an exciting new landmark research project. Together with the WA Museum and the Art Gallery of WA, it will play a major part in the development of *Collecting the West* a study of the history of collecting in WA which will provide a new and distinctive lens on our understanding of Western Australian history.

Without the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and the staff who have served it so well over sixty years and the support of the Friends of Battye Library, our knowledge of Western Australia's past would be immeasurably poorer.

Happy birthday Battye!

Dr Amanda Curtin

The staff at the Battye Library saw a lot of me in the first half of 2016. I am writing a work of creative non-fiction about the artist Kathleen O'Connor, and I spent about four months of this year here, in the reading room, working through collected papers.

One day someone asked me about what I was doing and seemed surprised that I do all my own research. While it's true that somewhere in the world there do exist those rare and endangered writers who can afford to commission others to put in the hours, I'm not one of them. But what's more important: even if I were, I would still have been practically living in the reading room this year.



I can't even imagine how I would brief someone else to do my research. While researching, I am not only gathering what I set out to find; I am also discovering what I could not have imagined was there. I am slowly, incrementally, forming impressions that guide what else I might do. I am making choices. I am asking myself questions. I am beginning to make connections between disparate things. For me, the threads of research and creation are sometimes so enmeshed that they can only be disentangled with the benefit of hindsight.

An example: one of the stories in my collection *Inherited* (UWA Publishing) begins with a young woman, Paige, who becomes obsessed with the watercolour paintings of an artist referred to in the story only as 'The Famous Politician's Wife'. Western Australian readers may recognise her as Margaret Forrester.

My interest in Forrester began when I edited the late Frank Crowley's biography of her husband, John Forrester. Noting that Margaret Forrester was an artist, I was intrigued by this creative woman of a very different time, and came to the Batty Library to find out more.

In the manuscript collection are original letters written by Forrester. The experience of handling those fragile letters in her handwriting was profound; it was a physical connection to the dead. Those letters, cross-written across the page to conserve paper, told me things about who she was, and helped to contextualise the world in which she lived.

In the stacks were biographical articles that contributed fragments to the pictures I was building in my head. And then I found a piece of ephemera: a catalogue for Forrester's only exhibition, which reproduced many of her beautiful watercolours. One painting particularly enchanted me: there was something ethereal about it. I was unfamiliar with the botanical specimen, a *Byblis gigantea*, but after more research, I discovered that the mauve of the flower in Forrester's painting meant that it was fading,

close to dying. It was that small piece of information that, in a circuitous way, created the framing character of my story, Paige, who, like the flower, is fading from life.

Circuitous is the right adjective to describe what I do here. I try to think how I could have made the leaps of imagination that transformed an interest into that story some other way than by being here, hands-on, and I can't.

All libraries, all archives, are important to creative writers. This year I have also worked in the National Library of Australia and libraries in London, Bath and Paris. I have relished these experiences; I have been inspired by them. But this library means more to me because its purpose is to preserve our heritage, and while I often make creative forays into places and histories unconnected to me, I will always be a writer fascinated by the stories and people of my place.

I have several more projects that I am itching to begin, so the library staff is going to be seeing a lot more of me.

Thank you, Battye Library, and Happy Anniversary.

Margaret Allen

The State Librarian, Ms Margaret Allen, closed the proceedings by reflecting on past achievements and outlining future plans for the State Library.

We are here, not only to celebrate 60 years of the J S Battye Library of West Australian History, but also to consider the new directions for the Library. The Hon. Minister Day, Professor Gregory and Amanda Curtin have spoken about the history and value they have found in the Library.

I would like to particularly acknowledge the many staff who have worked in the Battye Library in the 60 years since its creation. The Battye Library has benefited from the stewardship of many noted names in Australian library and archives practice including Mollie Lukis, Margaret Medcalf, Lennie McCall and Ronda Jamieson as well as numerous dedicated and talented



staff. There have been many supporters who have given generously of their time as volunteers and have donated collections which have added to the richness of the materials in the collections.

I would add my thanks to that of the Minister to the Friends of Battye Library – they are true believers and passionate supporters of the Battye giving generously of their time and energy including securing two significant grants from Lotterywest to support the preservation and digitisation of at risk materials including some 14,000 hours of unique oral history recordings collected since the 1960's.

I would also like to acknowledge the Minister's support for the creation of the *Legal Deposit Act 2012* which not only reinstated lost legal deposit provisions for print materials – but importantly included digital legal deposit provisions which are crucial for the future of the Battye Library as so much of WA's documentary heritage is now only published in digital form.

I would now like to take a moment to address the future. The State Library continues to actively invest in new programs and partnerships to invigorate and grow the Battye collections and its contribution to Western Australian and Australian history.

So much of our world is digital and this has changed the way in which we collect, preserve and make available Western Australia's documentary heritage. Digital has changed the way in which researchers work, their expectations about how materials will be made available and what they can do with them. Digital continues to change the way in which we collect, how we preserve our history, the skills of our staff and our services.

Through the *Storylines* program, the Library is working directly with communities in new ways to share and develop Aboriginal heritage collections. *Storylines* is an online platform and community engagement program that has enabled the repatriation of digital collections to Aboriginal people across Western Australia. Through its pilot sites, *Storylines* has already demonstrated its capacity to be a driver of change, stimulate creative practice, foster tourism enterprise, harness multi-generational engagement as well as create new skills in communities while preserving culture, language and history. This deep engagement with Aboriginal people and their culture and history is an essential part of the Battye Library and its future. Through *Storylines* we have discovered new



State Library's *Storylines* Project — Ron Williams as a 16-year-old. He went on to become a travelling storyteller, preacher and custodian of Aboriginal grassroots history, so loved that he was accorded a State funeral in Canberra in 2003.

knowledge about existing material, added to our collections but most importantly connected Aboriginal people with their stories.

The Library is also engaged in other contemporary collecting initiatives, such as the Mining and Energy WA project, and the Western Australian New Music Archive. Both of these projects support the preservation and ongoing community access to these important aspects of Western Australia's social and cultural heritage. The focus on digitisation and digital access ensure that these materials will be available to people all across the state, and beyond. These projects enable the Library to work with specific communities within WA and develop and maintain partnerships with key stakeholders. Our contemporary collecting will become the historical records for future researchers.

The Library is also keen to promote and encourage creative uses and interpretations of the WA heritage collections. In 2016 the Library created the inaugural J S Battye Creative Fellowship with funding from the Copyright Agency Limited, alongside the research focused J S Battye Memorial Fellowship. The Creative Fellowship aims to enhance engagement with the Library's heritage collections and provide new experiences for the public through the development of creative works. The Library was delighted to support Creative Fellows, Nicola Kaye and Stephen Terry, and looks forward to seeing the culmination of their work in March 2017.

Through the *Collecting the West* project, the Library is also supporting research that will help better contextualise and understand the Battye

collections in relation to other WA collections. *Collecting the West* is an Australian Research Council funded Linkage project which runs until 2020. The project will explore how practices of collecting and display have created knowledge about Western Australia and produced its identity in Australia and overseas from pre-colonial times to the present. This exciting new partnership project brings together researchers from the University of Western Australia and Deakin University, with collecting institutions including the State Library, the WA Museum, the Art Gallery of Western Australia and the British Museum. *Collecting the West* will help inform a new vision around contemporary and future collecting and display practices that will help redefine the role and relevance of collecting institutions.

Alongside these exciting initiatives, the Library continues to support and provide access to WA collections, both online and in the building. Each year, staff at the Library assist many thousands of family historians, researchers and general members of the public with a range of enquiries. In 2016, Library staff responded to over 7000 enquiries related to the heritage collections. We look forward to working more closely with key users in the history sector to understand the changing needs of our clients and developing new and improved opportunities for sharing our collections.

Thank you for joining us today to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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.

News from the State Library

Forthcoming events and exhibitions at the State Library

Matt Otley Teacups Exhibition: 20 Jan to 24 March

This is one boy's story of leaving his homeland, presented as an exhibition of the original illustrations from the picture book *Teacup* written by Rebecca Young, illustrated by Matt Ottley. The original illustrations depicted in the exhibit form part of the State Library's Peter Williams Collection, a collection of original picture book art.

Creative Fellowship Exhibit

Tableau Vivant and the Unobserved: 31 March to 19 May

The inaugural J S Battye Creative Fellowship awarded to Perth based collaborative artists Nicola Kaye and Stephen Terry. The artists will present their immersive interactive digital artwork project on the Ground Floor Gallery of the State Library of Western Australia from Tuesday 4 April – Sunday 14 May 2017. "Tableau Vivant and the Unobserved", is an interactive video installation with an online component, detailing Nicola and Stephen's creative response to the collections of the J S Battye Library of Western Australian History. Layering diverse contemporary and historical imagery to reflect Perth's social history, the exhibition evokes an immersive and interactive experience for the public through visually questioning how history is made, commemorated and forgotten.

The following events will support the exhibition.

Reimagine your Story – In Conversation with the Battye Creative Fellows Thursday 6 April 6:00pm – 7:30pm Free at the State Library Theatre.

Artist Floor Talk - Thursday 27 April 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Free in the Ground Floor Gallery

Right Wrongs, 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum - 27 May to July 2017

Location: Ground Floor Gallery, State Library of Western Australia.

Right Wrongs reimagines our understanding of the 1967 Referendum and its impact on who we are, and what we can become, through the voices and stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Fifty years later, the deeply symbolic victory of the 'Yes' vote remains a key

moment in the long and ongoing fight for equality. The exhibition features oral histories, images and stories from the State Library's collection. Presented by the State Library in partnership with the Western Australian Museum and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. This exhibition is complemented by the online exhibition:

NSLA Exhibition: Right Wrongs (National and State Libraries Australasia Online exhibition)

This online exhibition will feature 50 stories from around Australia and is led by the Indigenous Project Group, in partnership with ABC and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

Library talks

Reimagine your Story:

SLWA Subject Specialists are giving talks on first Wednesday of each month 11 am, Ground Floor Gallery, followed by tours of the Genealogy Centre and Batty Library. The talks and tours are for novice family historians. They will highlight some of the key resources available for exploring family history and re-imagining stories.

State Heritage & History Conference 2017 : 11 & 12 May Perth Concert Hall (Theme 'Connections')

SLWA will be presenting at the conference on a range of papers to promote and facilitate 'connection' to the State Library's heritage collections.



Projects

Digitised architectural plans

Now digitised and described. Forbes & Fitzhardinge series of 160 architectural plans of public buildings and private residences in Perth, Fremantle and various country towns dating from 1895 to 1920s. These 160 plans relate to about 90 buildings.

Storylines

The *Storylines* archive now contains more than 5000 photographs with 500 photos identified for the first time and nearly 1000 photos returned to families and communities. More than 9,000 users have accessed the archive.

Mining and Energy WA

As part of its commitment to progress the goal highlighted in Strategic

Directions 2013-2017 to “create a special archive that preserves and makes available the rich history of resources and mining in Western Australia.” Work is progressing on an oral history program, on processing and digitising the Rio Tinto Collection, and on planning with Foundation Council for work ahead in 2017.



Recent acquisitions

Private Archives

Australia Post: Seven boxes of archival photographs and documents.

Gavan Bromilow: ‘Memoir of a Very Naughty Boy’.

Llewellyn David: Mary Westwood papers: 2 nursing/midwifery notebooks.

Alan Finlay: Papers and photographs relating to Dunlop WA.

Bruce Haynes: Sally Thomas’ photographs; Minnie Winch schoolbooks; Charles Dortch papers; papers relating to the publication of WA Aborigines 1622-1972.

Marie Rodgers: Records of Stages WA.

Peggy Westerman: Memoir ‘A Flying Fish Childhood’.

Tagebuch über die Reise nach Australasien und Nord-America in den Jahren 1895/6. Written in German, this is the original journal kept by German government geologist and mining engineer Karl Schmeisser during his tour of Australia and North America in 1895-96. The journal formed the basis of his important published work *Die Goldfelder Australasiens* (Berlin, 1897), which was translated into English as *The gold-fields of Australasia* (London, 1898). This unpublished journal, represents a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the Western Australian gold rush of the 1890s.

Kanowna – 1 x 1906 Garden Competition certificate; 3 x Miner’s Rights, 1905-1907. Deep alluvial gold was discovered at Kanowna in the Eastern Goldfields in 1897. A secure water supply to the goldfields, the Goldfields Water Supply, was completed in 1903. This lovely certificate was awarded to a Mrs Ogilvie of 573 Mercer Street, Kanowna for winning first prize in the Class B Kanowna, Garden Competition of 1906. The sponsoring body was the Goldfields Water Supply Administration. As men greatly outnumbered women on the goldfields, the encouragement

of a gardening competition suggests an attempt to make conditions more attractive in the harsh environment of the goldfields and to encourage or perhaps reward efforts to create some beauty made possible by the recent provision of adequate water pumped from Mundaring Weir in Perth.

Ledger accounts book - Mumberkine Farmers Association (later Mumberkine, Tindale Rd (between Toodyay and Goomalling), 1896-1943 The ledger, which commenced in 1896 with the formation of the Mumbekine (later changed to Mumberkine) Farmers Association, records the fundraising aspirations for the building of an Agricultural Hall, funded by the membership subscriptions and government grant for £250 received in 1896-97. The building was opened by the Commissioner,



Mumberkine Hall.

(Courtesy Goomalling Visitors' Centre)

George Throssell in 1898 and is the oldest extant building in Goomalling. The Minutes, which accompanied the ledger, documented an active rural community working together and which had a sufficient population to support a wide variety of social, sporting, educational and religious activities from 1896 to 1908.

Pictorial Collection

Margaret Le Fevre: 9 Bickley Reserve photographs, 1954 and 1956.

West Australian postcards, circa 1905-1915 This set of 44 Western Australian postcards features various scenes around Perth, Fremantle, the Goldfields, Albany, Balingup, Kalgoorlie, Mt Morgans, Murrin, Newlands, Northam, Rottnest and Yallingup. It documents views and landmarks that have greatly changed over the last 100 years.

“Semi-official” postcards - Western Australia: Government Lithographer Perth promotional cards, circa 1908. Twelve lithographic postcards in black showcasing aspects of Western Australia. One of the postcards has the handwriting of Emily F. Prinsep, (second daughter of Henry Charles Prinsep) which she posted from Marseilles en route from England back

to Australia in 1908. SLWA also holds the papers of the Prinsep family which also included sketches by Emily who was an artist.

Oral History

Bill Bunbury, 8 interviews undertaken for the program *Right from Red Dirt: Air Beef in the Kimberley 1949-1964* – interviewer Bill Bunbury.

Film

Elijah Doughty Rally, 2016 Elijah Doughty rally filmed, edited and narrated by John Bannister was first published on YouTube by Goggle Boy Productions. Indigenous people came to the Perth Cultural Centre on 5 September 2016 to commemorate and protest the death of 14-year old Elijah Doughty in Kalgoorlie, who was killed when he was allegedly run down by a car driven by a white man. His death led to a riot on the streets of Kalgoorlie and calls for justice by the wider indigenous community.

Rare Books

Landscapes by Molly Coy and Claire Bolton. Artwork and binding by Molly Coy, letterpress and free printing by Dr Claire Bolton, Cowaramup. Published by The Alembic Press, Oxford, UK. Winner of the first prize in the City of Busselton Art Award 2016. *Landscapes* contains artwork of southwest landscapes and integrates text and image. The hand-crafted pages are printed on a variety of papers, using many different illustrative techniques; collagraph, etchings, linocuts, leaf prints, metal and wood type (both printed and blind embossed) with hand-painted pages. Limited edition of 12 numbered copies, signature sewn and bound in full leather and presented in a leather wrap case. Our copy, number 2, signed by Molly Coy and Claire Bolton.

Earth (large atlas): 800 colour illustrations and 154 colour maps. In box, total weight 28.8kg, dimensions 69 x 52 x 14cm. Imperial Gold edition, in leather-bound hardback, leather-bound clam-shell case with gold foiling, gold corner protectors and gilded edging. This special limited edition of *Earth* is number 4 of only 1,000 Gold copies printed. Published by Millennium House, Sydney. Contains political, social and environmental landscapes, geological records, and country profiles. Purchased for the Reference Collection, intended for display in the Leah J. Cohen Reading Room. Accompanied by a DVD-ROM.

State Records Office - News from the Archives

Margaret Medcalf Award

Each year the State Records Office (SRO) recognizes excellence in referencing and research using the State Archives Collection. Nominations for the 2017 Margaret Medcalf Award will close on 4.30pm Tuesday, 4 April 2017. Please see page 37 for further information.

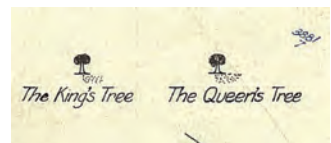
Perth Metro Plans Project

Via the Sholl Bequest, the Friends provided the SRO with funding to digitise its collection of historical Sewerage Plans (comprising 2,202 individual plans). The digitisation has been completed and the SRO has been geo-referencing each plan. So far, approximately half of the plans are now geo-referenced. When completed, the geo-referenced plans will be viewable via a modern mapping interface and searchable by current street location. Finding the right plan has always been a cumbersome, manual process so this new initiative will significantly improve the process. The SRO has called this initiative the Perth Metro Plan Project.

The sewerage plans held by the SRO cover large parts of the Perth suburban area and remain in regular use by heritage planners and members of the public interested in the history of their own house. They contain considerable detail for individual properties and the built Perth environment for the early-mid 20th Century. Over the past year, they have been invaluable to UWA archaeologists researching Gallop House in Dalkeith and to officers from the Perth Zoo establishing where early water bores were placed as part of current earth works.

In studying the sewerage plans for the Perth Zoo (dated 1937), it was noted

there was a King's Tree and a Queen's Tree in the centre of the zoo grounds (circled). The SRO would be interested if any readers can provide any more information



about these trees (and are they still standing?). Responses can be sent to: sro@sro.wa.gov.au

Through this digitisation and geo-referencing project, the SRO is creating a new, permanent State resource that will have broad public appeal and will assist many researchers into the future. Further information about the project is available on the SRO's website at: www.sro.wa.gov.au/blogs/perth-metro-plans-project

The SRO warmly thanks the Friends of Battye for supporting this important project.



2016 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture

Commissioner Andrew Murray of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse delivered the 2016 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture on Thursday 24 November 2016 at the Government House Ballroom, St Georges Terrace, Perth. Commissioner Murray spoke on the topic Children in need: why records are central to identity and justice. Illustrated with the stories of survivors of child abuse while they were in out-of-home care in Australia, the lecture included Commissioner Murray's own personal reflections as a child migrant in Fairbridge children's home in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) along with his own search for information. It was a very moving and sometimes heart-rending lecture that attendees will long remember. The lecture can be read on the SRO's website at: www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/geoffrey-bolton-lecture. It was broadcast on ABC Radio National's Big Ideas program on 14 February 2017 and can be listened to on podcast at their website: www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/geoffrey-bolton-lecture/8080898



2017 State History and Heritage Conference

SRO will be involved in the 2017 WA State History and Heritage Conference which will be held in the Perth Concert Hall on 11 and 12 May. Involvement will include a paper presentation on the items held in the archives collection that are weird, wonderful or simply not known about and a tour of the SRO for delegates.

Exhibition of State Archives at Parliament House

Since June 2015 an exhibition of facsimiles of some of Western Australia's significant State archives has been on show in the main foyer at Parliament

House. Called 'State Archives and Parliament' the exhibition is also available through the SRO's website at www.sro.wa.gov.au/parliament/. Initially the exhibition was placed in Parliament House for 6-8 weeks, to be returned to SRO, but the response by Parliamentary officers, MPs and the visiting public, has been so positive that the exhibition remains in situ. Since December 2016 researchers from Parliament House have been reviewing State Archives and working with SRO staff to update the content of the exhibition with a view to installing changed design, text, images and facsimiles by the end of June.



SRO Lunchtime Seminars

The 2017 program for Lunchtime Seminars has not yet been finalised, but will be published on the SRO's website by the end of February 2017.



Online Recordkeeping Compliance Application

The SRO is progressing the development of a new web-based software application for developing, assessing and approving agency Recordkeeping Plans. All State and local government agencies are required to have in place an approved Recordkeeping Plan that sets out in detail how each agency manages its records. This new system will improve the efficiency in preparing and reviewing Recordkeeping Plans, as well as ensuring the information in Plans is in a form that improves analysis across whole-of-government. This new system will complement the Online Retention and Disposal Application developed by the SRO in 2011 and now in use in other Australian jurisdictions.

Consultations

Significant information management consultations:

- Council of Australian Archives and Records Institutions (CAARA) Working Group on arrangements for the custody of records of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;
- CAARA National Bodies Working Group is dealing with issues associated with the management of records of National Bodies (e.g. Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency); and
- Australian Digital Records Initiative (a CAARA working group),

Western Australian government agencies and Aconex, regarding Aconex's project management system which is widely used for major projects in WA.

Continuing consultations regarding the management of recorded information during Administrative Change, relating to:

Princess Margaret Hospital for Children (PMH) to ensure State records are captured and managed prior to the move to the new Perth Children's Hospital, including PMH archives to be transferred to the State Archives Collection as an emergency transfer; and Screen West.



2017 Margaret Medcalf Award: Call for Nominations

This annual award recognises excellence in referencing and research using State Archives held by the State Records Office of Western Australia (SRO). It honours Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM, Western Australia's second State Archivist, for her valuable contribution to the development of archives in Western Australia. The winner receives a cash prize of \$1000, or shares this prize if there is more than one winner. Works nominated must demonstrate accurate referencing and use of State archives.

Any work completed or published in 2016 is eligible to be submitted for nomination, and anyone, including the author of the work, may submit a nomination.

Nominated works need not be published, may be fiction or non-fiction, and in any media. To submit a nominated work please complete a 2017 Margaret Medcalf Award Nomination Form and send it along with 3 copies of nominated works to the SRO at the address provided below. If published online please provide a web link and email a completed nomination form. One copy of nominated and winning works will be retained permanently by the SRO.

The judging criteria for the Award are:

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

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

Nominations for the 2017 Margaret Medcalf Award should be addressed to:

The State Archivist
State Records Office of WA
Alexander Library Building
Perth Cultural Centre
Perth, WA 6000.

Completed nomination forms and 3 copies of the works must be received by 4.30pm Tuesday, 4 April 2017.

A new book on a Western Australian pioneer photographer


Dr Joanna Sassoon is well known to historians, librarians and archivists in WA. During her time as the Pictures Collection Librarian in the Batty Library for much of the 1990's, she was proactive in collecting a number of significant collections from Indigenous and migrant groups, along with salvaging one of the major collections of glass negatives and prints taken by Ernest Lund Mitchell.

Joanna received her PhD with distinction from UWA on the work of E L Mitchell. For the past 20 years she has worked in several cultural institutions in Western Australia and Canberra and taught at a number of universities.

The E L Mitchell photograph collections in the State Library are amongst its most prized, and this book showcases these alongside materials held in private collections internationally.

Agents of Empire is the first book to track Mitchell's life and work around WA and in other Australian states, and has been published with support from the Western Australian History Foundation, the State Library and Curtin University.





2017

Saturday 1 April – 8:30am to 5pm
Sunday 2 April – 8:30am to 5pm


BARGAINS ALL WEEKEND
Midday Sunday – All books HALF PRICE
From 3pm – Fill a box for \$10

Nedlands at 49 Broadway (corner Clark Street)
Parking entry 55 Broadway

- ✓ Specialist categories – West Australiana, Australiana
- ✓ Large selection of fiction and ALL other subjects
- ✓ DVDs, LP records, CDs, magazines, maps

Our Bookshop is OPEN during this sale

Cash, Visa, Mastercard and EFTPOS accepted



Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.)
 Telephone 9386 3841
 Email: admin@histwest.org.au

2017

Sponsored by Mervil Douglas of iPrintPlus, Dabornie Park. Designed by Joanne West Cornish.

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society will be holding its very popular secondhand book sale on Saturday and Sunday 1 and 2 April this year. There are bargains aplenty and also included is a good collection of Western Australian books, rare and interesting publications as well as a range of important fiction and non-fiction works. Come along and bag a treasure or ten. Further information can be obtained from the RWAHS website: <https://www.histwest.org.au/activities/second-hand-book-sale>

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ post code _____

Tel: _____ mobile _____

Email _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you require a receipt, please tick here

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

Jack's Back: A challenge to our long-established nomenclature

It was front page news in the *Sunday Times* in December last when the paper reported a controversial proposal that seeks to rename certain prominent features at Rottnest, so reflecting the aim of stirrers to re-write our history. This prompted me to revisit a relevant article I had read long ago in the Western Australian Church of England Magazine of March 1864 which is held in the Battye Library's rare books collection. The piece was written by Frederick Barlee who had come to Perth with Arthur Kennedy in 1855 to be Colonial Secretary and Governor respectively. Prior to that, the pair had held the same posts in Sierra Leone, Britain's colony of very unhealthy repute in West Africa. In particular, Barlee was comparing the condition he saw in the two colonies in regard to their native prisoners.

One of Kennedy's earliest actions in Perth was to send the numerous Aboriginal offenders over to Rottnest, which had been their place of confinement in Governor Hutt's time. Latterly they had been marching about and working in chain gangs on the public streets, so displaying the one aspect of discipline that had initially dismayed Barlee in the convict colony to which he had come. As he said:

I had been accustomed to similar scenes in Africa, when such arrangements were deemed to be necessary, and where the warders were negroes and carried with them small whips to stimulate those under them to work. There however, the being* in the chain gang was hardly looked upon among the negroes as a disgrace, and they might be heard laughing and shouting, and when the overseer's eye was off them, talking to their acquaintances ... Here, the weary, listless, miserable look of the natives, as they trudged along, dragging their heavy irons after them, brought very different feelings to bear. Never did the late Governor do a more humane action than when he sent these poor creatures to Rottnest, where, with all necessary discipline and efficient means of restraint, they can be worked without irons and enjoy the freedom of their limbs.

The well-experienced Henry Vincent was reappointed as Superintendent of the island penitentiary and issued with formal instructions in April 1856. His prisoners were to perform such useful work as to raise produce, gather salt, quarry limestone and erect new buildings, with the result that the establishment was hailed as self-supporting within

three years. Meanwhile, on the mainland the labour for road works and buildings was amply supplied by the continuous arrival of felons from Britain.

*In old-fashioned grammar, “being” is here a noun in the form of a gerund, and meaning “the fact of being” Retaining its use as intended by the writer, it should not be taken to mean ‘creature’ or ‘human being’.

[Editor’s note: Rottnest Island was for much of the period 1838 to 1931 a prison for Aboriginal men and boys – ranging from as young as eight to more than 70 years of age. In all, just under 3,700 Indigenous males were incarcerated on the island during that time and more than one in ten died there and were buried in unmarked graves. The period 1855 to 1902 were designated by historian Neville Green as “the grim years” because of the harsh treatment meted out to the prisoners. Ref: Far from home: Aboriginal prisoners of Rottnest Island 1838-1931/ Neville Green and Susan Moon. Dictionary of Western Australians Volume X.]



Aboriginal prisoners at Rottnest Island 1893 (part image).
(Battye Library, SLWA 001287D)

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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary \$25

Joint \$35

Pensioner / student / junior \$15

Corporate \$50

Meetings

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

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

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

Opening hours

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

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

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

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

State Records Office

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

Retrievals

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

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

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

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

The Genealogy Centre

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

Specialist staff for Family History: Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247. Email: leonie.hayes@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. 159



July 2017

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

Our July 2017 meeting
Speaker Dr Ronda Jamieson



F J Daw's Esperance store 8 April 1896.
(Courtesy Ronda Jamieson.)

Our meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 July 2017 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room, 4th floor State Library of Western Australia.

Please see details on page 3.

Objectives

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

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Committee (2016-2017)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary Ms Heather Campbell

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Ms Kris Bizacca, Ms Jennie Carter, Ms Lorraine Clarke, Mr Neil Foley, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, and Ms Cherie Strickland. Co-opted: Dr Nonja Peters.

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

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

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

ISSN 1035-8692

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

July Meeting

Tuesday 11 July 2017
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Dr Ronda Jamieson

Why did I choose e-book publishing for my latest book, Servants of the People?

Servants of the People, covers the story of five generations of storekeepers in isolated rural areas in South and Western Australia. This work has been recently published as an e-book.

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

Problem with the stairs?

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

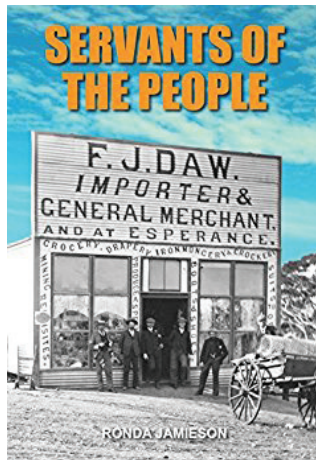
Contents

About our speaker	4
Meeting dates for 2017	4
A message from our President	5
Members' information	6
Jim Quinn obituary	7
Margaret Medcalf OAM	8
'Have you a story to tell?' Steve Errington	10
Graeme Johnson RSL	12
'Voices that should be heard' - Ronda Jamieson	14
News from the State Library	17
State Records Office - News from the Archives	23
'History around the State'	26
Subscriptions form	28
'Jack's Backup' - Steve Errington	29

Dr Jamieson's talk

Ronda's latest work, *Servants of the People*, covers the story of five generations of storekeepers in isolated rural areas in South and Western Australia.

The storekeeper was an essential part of life and crucial to the survival of many towns including Esperance and Ravensthorpe beset by fluctuating mining fortunes and the struggles to establish farms. This service often meant that a huge burden of debt was typically the lot of the country storekeeper. Due to a remarkable set of family archives, the story can be told in a way that is rarely possible around the world.



About Dr Ronda Jamieson

Since her retirement as the Director of the J S Battye Library of West Australian History, Ronda Jamieson has been doing voluntary work



Ronda with Margaret Medcalf and Lennie McCall when Ronda was made a Fellow of the Library Board in May 2016. (Courtesy Julie Ham.)

helping students, refugees and migrants with English and has produced two books, *Charles Court: I Love this Place* and *Servants of the People*. Her talk will be comparing producing a book for conventional printing and as an e-book.

Remaining meeting dates for 2017

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

12 September - (AGM) - Speaker Dr Peter Burke.

CY O'Connor and the WA Press: Who Wrote Those Terrible Things?

21 November (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function

Speaker - David Whiteford.

Slides of the Seventies – and beyond.

David will show a selection from his slide collection that will include the old Battye Library and images of bygone Perth of the 1970s and 1980s.

Meeting dates for 2018

Our speakers' program is being finalised. Details will be published in the November 2017 Newsletter.

13 March - first meeting of the year.

8 May

10 July

11 September- (AGM) -

20 November (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function

President's piece

Dear Friends

Nick and I are travelling overseas, but I am pleased to say that we will be back just in time to make the meeting on 11 July.

We are looking forward to the Margaret Medcalf Award ceremony and members will have received an online invitation from the State Archivist, Cathrin Cassarchis recently. It is always fascinating to see the line-up of new works which rely so much on the wonderful collections of the State Records office in telling the stories of our State and its people. The award, of course, honours our very own Margaret Medcalf OAM who was the second State Archivist as well as being head of the Battye Library. Further information about Margaret is on page 8.

Naidoc week is from 2-9 July and there are a number of activities planned to commemorate the event. The theme this year is *Our Languages Matter* and celebrates the role that Indigenous languages play in linking people to their land and water and in the transmission of culture through story and song.

Your committee has been involved in a number of important projects. Funding from the Maud Sholl Bequest has enabled the digitisation of a series of historical architectural plans from the firm of Forbes and Fitzhardinge which are in the Battye Library and further digitisation of State sewage plans from the State Records Office. Both these sets of records contain a wealth of information for researchers and more details about these projects are elsewhere in this newsletter.

We were disturbed to learn of the recent changes made at the City of Perth Library and its very popular History Centre which was so ably managed by Jan McCahon Marshall. Jan's position has been abolished and information is intended to be provided through the 'Found Perth' website which is far from complete and probably will not be so for some years. The Friends of Battye Library has joined other history and heritage organisations to support a protest being organised by the History Council of WA.

Members are indeed fortunate to have Ronda Jamieson as our speaker this month. Many of you will remember Ronda when she was Director of the Battye Library. Online publication of manuscripts and books is an interesting possibility for many researchers working on Western Australian history topics as well as their own family histories.

Pamela Statham Drew

Members' information



Fr Ted weds

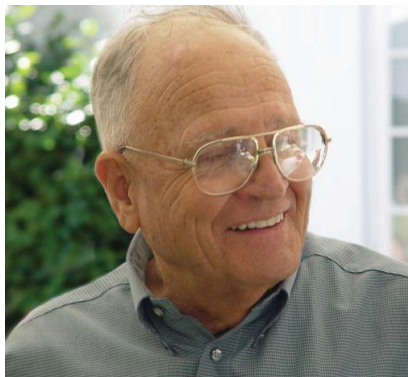


We are delighted to inform our members that long-term member and regular contributor to the pages of our *Newsletter*, Fr Ted Doncaster, married Yvonne Paterson on 20 April. It was a lovely ceremony at St George's Cathedral on a bright April morning and the happy pair tied the knot in the company of their respective children, their families, and close friends. Our warmest congratulations to Fr Ted and Yvonne and best wishes for a joyful life together.

Vale James (Jim) Quinn

It is with sadness we learnt of the passing of Jim Quinn on 26 October last year. Jim was a valued supporter of the Friends of Battye Library for more than 25 years and he and his wife Mardi regularly attended meetings. Before this Jim served on the Library Board of Western Australia for some time.

Born in East Fremantle on 18 December 1924, Jim was a diligent student and gained a scholarship to Modern School and later attended Claremont Teachers' College. During the war he enlisted in the Air Force and went to England for his training. Afterwards he resumed a career as a primary school teacher and was posted to country schools.



Jim Quinn (1924-2016).
(Photo courtesy of Jim's family.)

As a young teacher in Moora Jim met and fell in love with local lass Mardi, whose father owned a Merino sheep stud. The young couple were married in 1951 and moved to a small house in Attadale. Apart from eight years working in the country, notably at Bridgetown and Derby Junior High School, they remained in their Attadale home where Mardi still resides. As Mardi put it, "Our house grew with our expanding family" as they raised their four daughters, Elizabeth, Janet, Susan, and Joanne.

Jim became Superintendent of Schools and then worked in the head office of the Department of Education. After he retired Jim was appointed Pro-Chancellor of Edith Cowan University and was involved in the reorganisation of teacher training in Western Australia. He also pursued his many interests, among them the Retired Superintendents and the 467/463 Squadron associations.

A proud and loving grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of six, his was "a good life well lived."¹ Our sincere sympathies to Mardi and family.

1. *West Australian* 28 October 2016.



Margaret Medcalf OAM

[The 2017 Margaret Medcalf Award for excellence in referencing and research was announced at a ceremony at the State Library on 28 June. Margaret has had a distinguished career in Library and Archives. The following article is an extract from the Public Sector Commission's oral history project Reflections of the Public Sector. The projects original oral histories and transcripts are in the Battye Library.]

Miss Margaret Medcalf OAM BA Dip Ed FLAA was born in Albany, Western Australia, in 1926. After attending school in Albany and Perth she went on to complete her BA Dip Ed at the University of Western Australia before travelling overseas.



On her return in 1955, Margaret joined the Archives Branch of the State Library and rose to become State Archivist and Principal Librarian of the Battye Library in 1971. She was made a Fellow of the Library Association of Australia in 1986 and retired in 1989. In 1999 she received the Order of Australia for services to history.

Margaret got her start in archives through meeting Miss Mollie Lukis (State Archivist from 1945) and recalls how she came to be fascinated by the material in the archives, papers “really written in 1829 with Stirling’s signature”. There were very few staff and no-one had any formal training in archiving. Miss Lukis was a mentor to her and later Ali Sharr (State Librarian from 1953 to 1976) was also a great support.

In 1956 the Battye Library was formed by bringing the Western Australian printed material from the State Library together with the material in the Archives Branch. The Library collection had been built up through legal deposit since 1895 and Westraliana collected over the years. So the staff had roles of both librarian and archivist.

Under a Premier’s instruction, Government agencies were not permitted to destroy records without permission from the State Archives and the archivists spent many hours in departments making individual decisions

on every file. One of the highlights of this labour was seeing the files she managed to save from destruction by the Department of Native Welfare now being much used by Aboriginal people.

Rumours about a Commonwealth move to get some control over state archives in the 1970's provided the impetus for State legislation. But the 1974 Act did not require departments to deposit records - transferring them was voluntary, departments tending to send files to archives only when they ran out of space.

From 1977 onwards there was some specialisation of responsibilities with the appointment of an archivist to be responsible for official records and a librarian responsible for printed material. Records management was promoted in departments. A cadet conservator was appointed.

The formation of the Friends of the Battye Library in 1981 brought moral support and volunteer labour to the library. However space had run out and much time was spent in planning for a new building, particularly while Margaret was acting State Librarian in 1984. The new Alexander Library Building opened in 1985.

During her career, Margaret travelled widely learning a lot about how archiving was done in other places. In New Delhi, she was introduced to laminating in 1962. In Koblenz, the West German archives were in a "terrible mess" because many of the records had been reorganised in America after WWII by the military, and then by Intelligence, and then by a historian. She had a "lovely time" working for the London County Archives and recalls records back to the 13th century.

In 1970 Margaret went to the US to see what they were doing with computerised indexing and was not particularly impressed with what looked like spoon feeding researchers. However, there was no avoiding technology and, in 1974, Margaret was at the University of Sussex to do a course on automatic data processing (and playing croquet on the lawn after lectures!)

Some of her memorable times were in the 1950s and 1960s when staff went out to country towns. She recalls being stuck in the pub at Agnew when they blew a tyre on their way to Sandstone. By the time they got to Sandstone the policeman who was to meet them had been waiting all afternoon in the pub and "he was not too good the next day when he was supposed to be helping us with the records."

<https://publicsector.wa.gov.au/about-us/what-public-sector/reflections-public-sector>

Have you a story to tell?

[Friends member and RWAHS vice president Steve Errington has made three visits to St John's in Stoke (Surrey) in search of the burial site of James and Ellen Stirling. This was lost in 1977 when builders smashed and dumped their gravestone and others while building a new rectory and a wooden fence.]

Finding the Stirlings' grave

On Monday 5 June, WA Day, the *West Australian* ran a story 'WA founder's remains discovered in churchyard'. The churchyard is the western churchyard of St John's church in Stoke, near Guildford in Surrey. The story was accompanied by a photograph of four men standing in front of the gravesite.

Two of the men were gravediggers who, in 'a small exploratory excavation', had found a vault containing the coffins of Sir James and Lady Ellen Stirling. This occurred on 31 May, the day before our old Foundation Day.

This only became possible after a change of attitude by the church and the Stirling family 'senior representative' Edward Buckley: for years they



Repaired pink marble cover stone of Stirling's grave. (Courtesy Rosemary Morgan.)

had maintained that the Stirlings had been exhumed and reburied across the road near the church, either under their repaired cover stone or under the adjacent Stirling Centre.

In January 2015 all remains in the eastern part of the western churchyard [shaded area on map opposite] came under threat when St John's announced plans to sell it to a developer (the western half had already been deconsecrated to build the rectory). The RWAHS and many WA citizens lodged objections and the matter went before the Church of England Pastoral Committee at a meeting held in London on 22 April 2015 (the 150th anniversary of James's death).

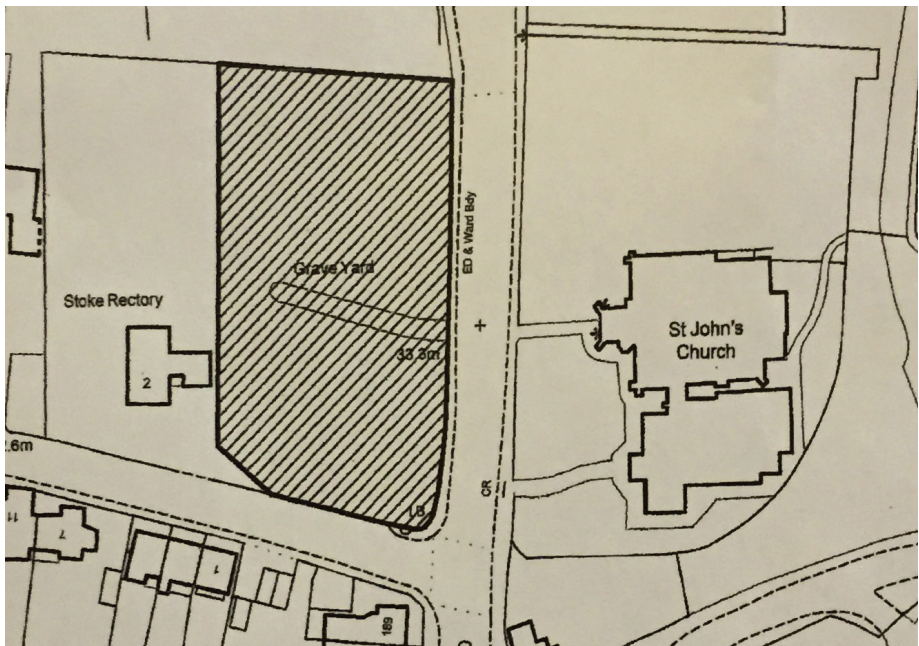
The presence of the Stirlings somewhere in the threatened graveyard

was a side show but I was given five minutes to speak on their behalf. Local opposition was well-organised, the church's case was weak, and the Pastoral Committee decided that the scheme was 'not to proceed.'

Even before the committee met, local campaigners found a set of Memorial Inscriptions for the entire western churchyard. The MIs were recorded by Maureen Shettle for the West Surrey Family History Society in 1977, just before the rectory was built. This located the Stirlings in the southern part of the graveyard near the wooden fence. Ellen's brother and sister-in-law, Ross and Harriet Mangles, were buried in the same area and their memorial had survived.

The West Australian reported that Stirling was buried in this graveyard 'on the side of a hill', even though it was flat. But in researching James and Ellen's connections with St John's I had discovered that James had been buried 'side of Hill'.

City Beach man Sid Breeden had meticulously researched the history of the western churchyard, the building of the rectory and the near-miraculous discovery of the smashed Stirling gravestone. Local



Detail of a map showing St John's Church, the graveyard opposite, and the rectory. The Stirling grave site is on the border just north of the rectory. (Image posted on Pinterest by Rosemary Morgan <https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/573083121308545706>.)

campaigner Donna Collinson, who lives down the road from the rectory, and Guildford genealogist Rosemary Morgan, joined him in the search for clues.

After the hearing I returned to the graveyard and made a 'mud map' of surviving gravestones. Donna and Rosemary later scrambled under an unkempt hedge and identified one as that of Hannah Clare.

On the morning of Friday 10 July 2015 I sat with down St John's burial register on ancestry. By lunchtime, with the aid of the location descriptors in the register, I had the sequence

Hannah Clare - Harriet Mangles 'side of Mrs Clare' - Mary Junes 'side of Mrs Mangles' – Nathaniel Hill 'second from Mrs Mangles' – Sir James Stirling 'side of Hill'.

The Stirlings were buried three graves south of the Mangles, along the fence under that hedge. A worry emerged: Donna measured the distance from the next row of gravestones and the fence at only seven feet. On 30 July Sid warned that the head of their grave might be under the fence line.

On 31 May 2017 there were found three graves south of the Mangles, under the fence.

Steve Errington.



[Rob O'Connor QC attended an ANZAC Day commemoration on 6 April at Cottesloe Primary School and shares with us the address given by Graeme Johnson, Cottesloe RSL Sub-Branch Service Member to the children.]

The ANZAC digger compared with the digger of today (2017)

Almost 102 years ago (on 25 April 1915), thousands of young Australian and New Zealand soldiers went ashore on the beaches of Gallipoli. They were to become known as ANZACs and, in the case of the Australians, also as diggers. Their courage and bravery determined the tradition, and legend, of the Australian Military Forces. The soldier of today also displays these worthy characteristics, but in a different setting, with recent conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and other areas of the Middle

East. The original ANZACs on the Gallipoli Peninsular were subjected to harsh conditions including extreme weather and a determined enemy.

The ANZACs going ashore at Gallipoli were equipped with basic and heavy weapons. At times, ammunition was in short supply and the soldiers had to devise different methods of confronting the Turkish enemy. This included such devices as “jam-tin” bombs, which involved explosives placed inside used jam tins. Larger weapons such as artillery guns needed about six soldiers to fire their shells. Today’s soldier has weaponry which is very sophisticated, high powered and light in weight. The artillery of today is often guided by computer programs operated by only one or two soldiers. As a result, the shell-fire is much more effective than the artillery guns of World War 1.

A well-known saying is that “An army marches on its stomach!” Not literally, of course, but you all know that eating nutritious food gives you plenty of energy to play and learn, and it is the same for soldiers. The first ANZACs survived on tinned food such as ‘bully-beef’ (which is like corned beef in a tin). To go with the beef were hard biscuits, tea (to soften the biscuits) and sometimes jam, cheese and condensed milk – all of which came in tins. There was very little fresh food such as fruit and vegetables, with the result that many of the casualties were due to malnutrition and other diseases caused by a poor diet. The modern-day soldier in the field has a nutritious and varied diet which comes in the form of a ration pack (commonly known as a “rat-pack”). One of these packs contains enough food for one person for one day. They have been designed to provide high-energy, balanced and sustaining meals in stressful situations. The meals are either vacuum-packed, tinned or in sachets and the packs also include a few treats such as chocolate bars or even M&M’s!

The uniforms worn by WW1 soldiers were very basic in their style, often uncomfortable to wear and not suitable to the extremes of the weather. Modern day soldiers have custom-designed uniforms made from special fabrics that are hard-wearing. They have what is called a layered approach, ie. you add another jumper or jacket to keep out the cold, depending on the conditions. The bedding provided today, while not as good as your bed at home, is much better than earlier times and usually consists of a blow-up camping mattress, a sleeping bag and a plastic cover for shelter. The WW1 soldier was issued with a bed-roll (like a flat mattress), a woollen blanket and an overcoat.

Despite these physical differences between the soldier of 1915 and the soldier of 2017, the character of Australian service personnel has not changed. The Australian Department of Defence has set down some specific values which all members of the military strive to achieve. These include professionalism, excellence, loyalty and integrity to do the right thing, courage to stand up for your beliefs, physical courage or bravery, and perhaps the most important, teamwork. The original ANZACs displayed these qualities and successive generations have done the same. For over 100 years, our military members have shown resourcefulness, determination, compassion and commitment to their tasks. I am sure that the diggers of 1915 would be proud to know that the traditions they established have been carried forward to the present day. Lest We Forget.

Graeme Johnson



Voices that Should be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson, who, before her retirement, was for many years Director of the Battye Library, is one of Australia's most well-known oral historians. She is also the biographer of Sir Charles Court. This article is the seventh in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

Nora Veronica Chidlow OH381 1897-1986

Seven months after starting my adventure in oral history in January of 1978 I was asked to spend a day in Northam doing two interviews, the first with Nora Veronica (Vera) Chidlow aged 81. So interesting was her story that two further interviews were conducted the following year during her visits to Perth.

Vera was born in Perth in 1897. Her parents had arrived from South Australia in 1894 where her father, Patrick Thomas Daily, was born. After training as a mounted trooper, Patrick was appointed Senior Constable at Southern Cross. His wife, Nora Donovan, had been born in Country Cork Ireland. Both had come from farming communities and Nora found

life on the goldfields very hard, including having to live in a small three-roomed hessian house and dealing with constant heat and shortage of water. After Patrick's second bout of typhoid fever, he was told to leave the goldfields and was assigned a job in Perth.

Three years in Albany followed before he was transferred to Northam in 1901. He left the Police Force the following year and rented 5000 acres on the Guildford Road to run a dairy and grow fruit trees. Vera loved riding horses to help her father bring in the cows. Milk was delivered straight from the farm and fruit was marketed in Northam.

At St Joseph's Catholic school Vera claimed to have 'learnt everything except for painting and fancy work' and including shorthand, typing and bookkeeping. She thoroughly enjoyed school particularly the music lessons which started on the piano when she was seven. Six months were spent on playing the mandolin. Organ lessons were added when she was ten and for the violin when she was 12. She was 15 when she finished school.

Music was an important part of Vera's life. She was only 11 when she was asked to play for a wedding at St Josephs Church and remembers battling to reach the organ pedals. (Later she became the official organist until her retirement aged 75.) Her first paid engagement was three years later. She played for social functions (described as 'wonderful') and dances in Northam and areas closer to Perth such as Jennapullin and Brimsmead and further afield at Meckering, Cunderdin and Goomalling. Sometimes she played on board P and O liners during their visits to Fremantle and for a brief time for silent pictures. The Anglican Church engaged her to 'play for the bread and butter' dance series. As she put it: 'I loved playing for dances because people were so grateful for anything that I played'. For at least four musical engagements a week she was paid 25 shillings from 8.00 pm to 1.00 am and five shillings an hour thereafter. She became part of a three piece orchestra when joined by a cornet player and violinist.

Vera started teaching three years after gaining a certificate for piano teaching when she was 18 but preferred playing. She worked as a bookkeeper from 9.30 am until 5.00 pm earning 15 shillings a week initially, finishing with a wage of 4 pounds. After her marriage, she applied to do a fellowship at Trinity College, London, but the birth of her first baby brought studies to an end. Nevertheless she gained a licentiate of the London College of Music and a special certificate of merit from Trinity College.

In the interviews, Vera brought Northam and its people to life. She described roads made of crushed stone and sand and the many ways in which



Avon River at Northam with black and white swans.
(Western Australia Government Photographer collection
Battye Library, SLWA 816B/C/42.

the Avon River was enjoyed for sports and recreation. She rowed in an 'all woman's crew' when she was 16—which consisted of three woman and a man. Then there was the Northam Town Band with its 36 members, and a Salvation Army Band.

Several factories were established, among them a bacon and butter factory

which 'couldn't make a do of it' with competition from Hutton's. There was a brewery; a slipper factory went well for about five years and then had to close. A cool drink factory lasted 'many years'. As Nora put it: 'It's such a shame when one thinks of all the factories that were started here years ago and Northam was booming and the town was much better and everybody was happier in my opinion than what they are today.' She also vividly remembered the antipathy between York and Northam: 'York and Northam never got together to do anything.'

The strongest memory I had of the interview was when Vera explained that she had been taught that it was 'infra dig' for a lady to be seen carrying a parcel in the street, especially if it was wrapped in brown paper: 'it may be only two reels of cotton ... it was very bad form to carry a parcel.' Shopkeepers made deliveries. She remembered the names of stores and storekeepers; in fact she never hesitated over a name.

There was sadness about the number of local men killed and injured during the First World War, which included her future husband, Aubrey Septimus Chidlow. His left foot was badly injured at Gallipoli and then in 1918 he lost an entire leg in France. The artificial leg supplied was 'awful', according to Vera; made of wood it weighed 5.5 kilos and was attached with a leather strap.

In 1921 Vera and Aubrey were married and they had three children. She helped him in his business mainly with bookkeeping. He started by selling furniture, crockery, hardware, linos and a 'better class' of china. Later he held Nicholson's agency for the sale of pianos and other musical instruments, and books, sheet music and radio sets were also sold. Aubrey maintained his business until 1938 when he left to take up a position as a clerk in the Water Supply department. He retired in 1952 and died in 1969.

Besides her close ties with the Catholic Church, Vera was associated with several Northam organisations including the RSL Women's Auxiliary where she served as hon. secretary for several years and was its president from 1939 to 1946. Other fundraising included for the Red Cross and she ran a musical eisteddfod.

In unsuccessfully searching for a photograph of Vera online, it was lovely to find her family had donated money to establish the Vera Chidlow Scholarship of \$500 for a secondary student from any Catholic School considered the best pianist in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival.

Ronda Jamieson

News from the State Library

Forthcoming events and exhibitions at the State Library

Right Wrongs Exhibition

On 27 May 1967 a Federal referendum was held, in part to determine whether two references in the Australian Constitution, which discriminated against Aboriginal people, should be removed. The people of Australia voted in favour of their removal by the highest Yes vote ever recorded in a Federal referendum, with 90.77% voting for change. *Right Wrongs: '67 Referendum – the WA Story* is an exhibition running on the ground floor of the State Library of Western Australia from 27 May to 3 September 2017. The exhibition reimagines our understanding of the 1967 Referendum and its impact on who we are, and what we can become, through the voices and stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people. Fifty



Aboriginal Advancement Council float in the Perth Labour Day procession, Perth, 1966.
Battye Library, SLWA 381895PD:

years later, the deeply symbolic victory of the Yes vote remains a key moment in the long and ongoing fight for equality. The exhibition reveals decades of activism through personal stories and powerful objects. For more information visit: www.slwa.wa.gov.au. Right Wrongs is presented in partnership with the NSLA, AIATSIS, ABC, The

Western Australian Museum and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Access the *Right Wrongs* Online exhibition at: <http://www.abc.net.au/rightwrongs/>

Botanical Wonderland Exhibition

The State Library of Western Australia, in partnership with the WAMuseum and the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWAHS) is mounting a small exhibition in the Nook on the ground floor of the State Library from 8 August to 24 September 2017. Called *Botanical Wonderland* the exhibition will showcase some of each institution's collections relating to wildflowers. The Museum is showing fabric and wire flower sculptures



of Thelma Knox and wildflower painted china by Helen Creeth; the RWAHS is showing seaweed albums and a collection of material featuring wildflowers (matchboxes, pennants, badges, bookmarks, doilies etc); and the State Library is showing photographs of wildflowers hand painted by Hilda Wright, watercolours of wildflowers by Albert John Hall, pressed wildflower art by Lilian Wooster Greaves and a book presented to Governor Bedford upon his departure from WA in 1909 featuring artworks by school children, many of which were depictions of wildflowers.

Hilda Wright was elected an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, the only woman in Western Australia at that time to be so honoured. The award was for her images of WA wild flowers. (The *West Australian* 1/12/1939 - Courtesy WA Camera Club. http://www.siep.org.au/General/WACC_1920.html)

Recently Acquired Material

Ingetje Tadros images of Indigenous communities in the Kimberley:

180 digital images by award-winning documentary photographer

Ingetje Tadros, showing the stark realities of daily life in some of WA's most impoverished and disadvantaged communities. The collection includes confronting and provocative images of displacement, alcoholism and ill-health, gambling and fighting, grief and despair but also conveys strong family ties across multi-generations. Photos include bush camps, family homes, traditional arts and crafts, corroborees, weddings, funerals and repatriation ceremonies, cultural celebrations (Mowanjum Festival, Shinju Matsuri Festival), sporting events (Cable Beach Polo), and the Anti-Gas political campaign.



Detail from 'Derby Rodeo' by Ingetje Tadros. Battye Library, SLWA BA2865/106.

Stanley Preston Walker photographs of missions: scanned copies of photographs 1918-1970s but mostly taken in the 1940s-50s while Preston and his wife Kathleen were doing missionary work with Aboriginal people at Mt Margaret Mission, Sunday Island, Roelands Mission Farm, and Fitzroy Crossing. These images document the localities, people, and activities of the northwest in the mid-20th century and contribute greatly to the record of mission life in WA. They also provide a more personal record of this evangelical couple who went on to have six children. The photographs of indigenous staff and children at the Mission schools will also be of interest to Storylines.

Archive of Sir Malcolm Fraser, 1852-1898: English-born, civil engineer and administrator, Sir Malcolm Fraser (1834-1900), was the second Surveyor General; Colonial Secretary; Government Administrator and Lieutenant Governor of Western Australia; and later Agent General for the Colony in the United Kingdom. These papers are an important archive of documents and correspondence, 1852-1898. Prior to his 1870 appointment as surveyor-general in WA, Sir Malcolm held several positions in New Zealand. According to Frank Crowley's entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Fraser was a most efficient and



Sir Malcolm Fraser KCMG
(1834–17 August 1900)

able contributor to public administration in the colony. The collection consists of documents and correspondence which relate to his New Zealand and Western Australian appointments and some which relate to his professional qualifications.

Recently Digitised Newspapers

The National Library has recently added 11 Western Australian newspaper titles to their digitised newspapers on Trove. Funded by the State Library of Western Australia and the Western Australian Library Foundation, these titles are: the *Albany Mail & King George's Sound Advertiser* 1883-1889, the *Collie Miner* 1900-1916, the *Coolgardie Mining Review* 1895-1897, the *Goldfields Morning Chronicle* 1896-1898, the *Group Settlement Chronicle & Margaret-August Mail* 1923-1930, the *Magnet Mirror & Murchison Reflector* 1928-1935, the *Manganese Record, Peak Hill, Nullagine & Marble Bar Gazette* 1928-1941, the *Menzies Miner* 1895-1901, the *Mt Leonora Miner* 1899-1910, the *Murchison Times & Day Dawn Gazette* and the *Yalgoo Observer & Murchison Chronicle* 1923-1941. This brings the total number of digitised Western Australian newspaper titles on Trove to 137.

Family History Month

The State Library of Western Australia, in partnership with the Western Australian Genealogical Society, will be presenting a series of events for Family History Month throughout August. The main event is on 8 and 9 August at the State Library. *Grow your Family Tree* features talks such as Getting started; WAGS, Family History WA and beyond; DNA for Genealogists; Success Stories; Australian Research; Using the Internet for your Research and What's not on the web; Let's try Plan B: maps useful for Family History; Manorial Records; The lives of frontier families of the Northwest and What's New at the National Archives. Presenters include Leonie Hayes, Ian Simon, Cate Pearce, Ray Smith, Loreley Morling, Edwina Shooter, Julie Martin, Trish Fairweather, Steve Howell, Geoff Barber, Jenni Ibrahim, Kate Gregory and Marjorie Bly. To book a talk, email nfhm@slwa.wa.gov.au or call 9427 3111. To find other events check the Family History Month program on the State Library's website.

Forbes & Fitzhardinge Plans

The State Library has recently digitised a collection of Forbes & Fitzhardinge architectural plans, some drawn by Sir John Joseph Talbot Hobbs. There are 177 plans in the collection, covering 78 buildings such as churches, commercial buildings (banks, hotels, theatres etc), halls and private residences. The dates range from 1877-1946. Many of these plans are as much works of art as they are plans, so please take the opportunity to look at them online. The digitisation was kindly paid for by a grant from the Friends of Battye Inc.

An Amusing Rant

Recently I received a query about Edward Millen House. More specifically the enquirer wished to know about Nurse Elizabeth Baillie, who began Edward Millen House as the Rotunda Hospital in Victoria Park.

In the course of research I found Nurse Baillie had qualified as a nurse at Sefton Hospital in Melbourne in 1911, so I searched in Victorian newspapers and came across a gem of an item relating to another Nurse Baillie, Nurse Helena Baillie, who'd been indicted on a charge of deliberately burning down her house in Tatura in May 1910. The *Numurkah Leader* of 29 July 1910 reported on the case:



Rotunda Hospital East Victoria Park 1919. E L Mitchell collection.
Battye Library, SLWA BA1271/215.

Witnesses testified that the prisoner had admitted the arson, whilst protesting that she was incited to the indiscretion by a local clerk named Hobday; but Hobday, whilst admitting his intimacy with the nurse, who had insured her furniture and effects in the office he represented, swore that he had nothing to do with the conflagration. Also he had produced an alibi in proof of his innocence. Nurse Helena Baillie gave evidence for herself on oath. She swore that Hobday came to her house a 2.00am, and insisted on setting it ablaze in two places with the aid of kerosene and that after this she told the police she was the culprit in order to shield the clerk whom

she later proceeded to give away.

Judge Eagleson summed up the case adversely to the prisoner, and then the Eaglehawk jury, in full view of the fact that the young woman was a reckless liar on her own admission, found her not guilty. Whereupon the audience raised a storm of applause, and the judge said that the applause was a disgraceful ending to a disgraceful case. Which was the same thing as charging Shepparton (Vic) in general with an all-round conspiracy to roll the law in the mud. A disgraceful jury had given a disgraceful verdict in favour of a disgracefully unfortunate young woman, and the local public had gloried in their disgrace. All things considered, it seems advisable for the law to assert its majesty in Shepparton by setting fire to the local court of General Sessions, and raising pigs on the site.

One gets the impression that the judge was a tad angry.

As for Nurse Elizabeth Baillie, she came to an unfortunate end. She died about 18 October 1939 aged 76. Apparently she was cooking and died in her kitchen, but her body was not discovered until about two weeks later by her sister. In the interim her two parrots had starved to death in their cages.

Steve Howell

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.

State Records Office - News from the Archives

Margaret Medcalf Award

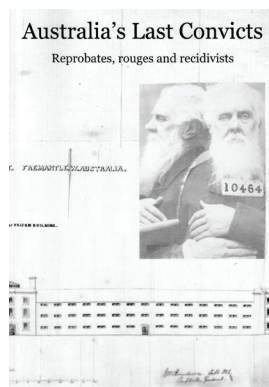
Each year the State Records Office (SRO) recognizes excellence in referencing and research using the State Archives Collection. The winner of the Award receives a cash prize of \$1000, or shares this prize if there is more than one winner. 10 entries comprising various forms of work were received by the closing date for nominations, 4 April 2017. After an initial analysis ensuring the entries met the basic award criteria they were forwarded to the judges; the judging panel this year comprising State Archivist Cathrin Cassarchis, State Records Commissioner Justine McDermott, and Professor Jane Lydon, Wesfarmers Chair in Australian History, Centre for Western Australian History at UWA.

Judging has been completed and the award winner will be announced at a presentation event at 10am on Wednesday 28 June 2017 at the State Library's Theatre in the Perth Cultural Centre.

Members of the Friends of Battye Library were invited to this event.

Australia's Last Convicts

Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland's book *Australia's Last Convicts*, about convict photographs in the SRO and published by the Friends of Battye Library, received extremely good publicity in *The West Australian* newspaper and on television in April. This publicity culminated in a well-attended Lunchtime Seminar in the SRO on 28 April 2017.



WA State Heritage & History Conference 2017

The SRO provided free public seminars at its office, including behind-the-scenes tours of the State archives collection, as part of events associated with the WA State Heritage & History Conference 2017. The SRO also gave a presentation at the Conference on historical oddities and unusual items held in the State Archives Collection.

Perth Metro Plans Project

Geo-referencing of the sewerage plans is well progressed with over ¾ of the 2,202 plans now geo-referenced. The Friends of Battye Library

has supported this project and the SRO has enlisted additional help in carrying out this labour-intensive task through a work placement.



SRO Lunchtime Seminars, 12.30-1.30pm

Wednesday 5 July 2017 – NAIDOC Week

Talking about Aboriginal Family History

Staff of the State Records Office (SRO) will talk about researching Aboriginal family history in the State Archives Collection. Sometimes family history research is involved and time consuming, but this talk will describe how to navigate your way through the SRO's catalogues and finding aids.

The venue for both Seminars is the South West Room, State Records Office of WA, Perth Cultural Centre

Numbers are limited so you need to book to attend this Seminar. Please email sro@sro.wa.gov.au or phone 94273600 to reserve a place.

Lunchtime Seminars for the remainder of 2017 are in development.



Western Australia Day

The State Archivist Cathrin Cassarchis was interviewed by ABC Radio about Captain James Stirling's Proclamation of the Colony as part of Western Australia Day events. The SRO holds Captain Stirling's original Proclamation along with other WA founding documents in the State Archives Collection.

Online Guide to 1986 State Cabinet Records

Each year, as part of WA Day activities, the SRO produces a guide to State Cabinet records that have been made public after 30 years. This year the online guide features the 1986 State Cabinet records.

Electoral reform; equal opportunity for disabled people; a review of liquor license fees and more flexible trading hours for hotels; future training needs for mental health nurses; the future of the Old Swan

Consultations

SRO has recently been involved some significant consultations. These include:

- Machinery of Government changes.
- Participation in two Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities (CAARA) Working Groups. One group is dealing with the custodial arrangements for the records of the (joint) Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The other group is involved in the development of a Retention and Disposal Schedule for the functional records of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Practitioners.
- Department of Health and Health Service Providers on development of a sector- wide Disposal Authority for Health Services operational records, excluding patient / medical information.
- Kwinana Power Station assessing a collection of historical government photographs, before the decommissioning of the station.
- Assisting the Western Australian Local Government Association educate local government procurement officers about recordkeeping matters associated with the outsourcing of functions or services.
- State Records Commission.
- The next meeting of the Commission will be held at the City of Bunbury on 11 August. The Commission endeavours to hold a meeting in a regional city each year to provide the Commission the opportunity to meet with state and local government officers in the region.

History around the State

[Editor's note: Several WA Local History Libraries and Historical Societies support the Friends of Battye Library, so we have begun a new series to recognise their importance to their local areas. Please contact me if you would like information about your society included in the Newsletter.]

Bassendean's historic Pensioner Guard Cottage turns 120

The oldest building still standing in Bassendean is a tiny two-roomed cottage on Surrey Street which was built for Pensioner Guard John Law-Davies (a former private in the East India Company) and his new wife, Amelia, in 1857. It was one of four brick homes built on two-acre blocks facing Surrey Street which had been set aside late in 1854 for

a Pensioner Guard 'village'. Lieutenant Edmund Du Cane of the Royal Engineers, who was in charge of organising convict labour for public works in the Guildford district, oversaw the building. By June 1857 all four dwellings were ready for their new owners. The Pensioner Guards assigned to the cottages could claim ownership of the



lot and the house on it after seven years' occupation and on 28 November 1864 the title of Crown Grant lot P114 was transferred to Davis for an annual peppercorn rent.

Eight children were born to John Law Davis and his wife Amelia (nee Wood). John died in July 1870 and Amelia remarried in 1873 to John Bates. The couple continued to live in the cottage and two more children were born. In 1893, Amelia sold the block to Edmund Brockman who onsold it to his daughter Frances and her husband Aubrey Brown. The Bassendean cottage, which is believed to be the only intact Pensioner Guard cottage in the metropolitan area, is on the Heritage Register and is open to visitors on the last Sunday in the month from 1.30pm to 4pm.

Jennie Carter



[And across the river...]

Guildford colonial gaol relaunch

The Swan Guildford Historical Society has reopened the Guildford Colonial Gaol after a \$250,000 renovation program carried out by the City of Swan. The colonial gaol is a fine example of colonial architecture largely built by convict labour and is significant as an example of a public building dating from the early decades of colonial settlement in the State. It lies at the heart of of Guildford's Heritage precinct - both the gaol and its neighbouring courthouse are on the register of Heritage Place. ... The gaol is looked after and opened to the public 10am to 2pm Tuesdays to Saturdays. The Society has developed a new exhibition for the building that reveals much about law and order in the early days of settlement.

Celia Miller (President SGHS) 4 April 2017.

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ post code _____

Tel: _____ mobile _____

Email _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you require a receipt, please tick here

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

Jack's Backup: Not dollars and cents, dollars and rupees

[*Jack Honniball has elected to give his trusty typewriter a rest for this issue and asked Steve Errington to fill in.*]

'Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!' In this famous utterance from *Treasure Island* Long John Silver's parrot Captain Flint was actually talking about a big silver coin which was a vital part of Swan River Settlement currency.

The coin was known world-wide as the Spanish dollar but it was officially an eight real piece, the real being the basic unit of Spanish money. Spain had started minting the 'pieces of eight' in newly conquered Mexico in 1535 using silver from that country's fabulously productive mines.

Over the next three hundred years the Spanish dollar became the basic global currency. In the 1820s the Bank of New South Wales in Sydney even issued banknotes in Spanish dollars. The coin was accepted as being worth five shillings but in February 1825, after an assessment of the silver content, the British Treasury ruled that its true value was 4 shillings and 4 pence.

The word dollar derives from the Joachimsthaler, a large silver coin also minted in the sixteenth century from silver mined in St Joachim's valley in what is now the Czech Republic. 'Thal', now 'tal', is German for valley. The name Joachimsthaler became shortened to thaler which gradually morphed into dollar.



An 1807 'piece of eight' or Spanish dollar.

The 1807 specimen shown features King Charles III of Spain on one side and the Pillars of Hercules on the other. It is widely believed that

the \$ sign originates from this design which shows a banner wrapped around each pillar.

In January 1829 when Lt Governor James Stirling was loading up the *Parmelia* and the *Sulphur* for his expedition to Swan River the British Treasury gave him £1000 in silver and copper coins for use in the colony. The sixteen boxes included one containing £200 in Spanish dollars similar to that shown, lifesize, in the illustration.

Rather surprisingly, the Spanish dollar was not the only exotic coin used at Swan River. The Indian rupee also circulated widely and was accepted by shopkeepers and publicans as the equivalent of two shillings. So useful was the rupee that in 1835 Perth labourer and onetime tinsmith John Woods minted some poor imitations. At the January 1836 quarter sessions he was convicted of forgery and sentenced to seven years transportation to Van Diemen's Land.



Bengal Presidency sicca rupee from 1793-1818.

In August 1838 the new Bank of Western Australia reduced the value of the rupee to 1 shilling and 8 pence. From December that year, acting under instructions from the British Treasury, the Bank refused to accept any more Spanish dollars

The idea of five shillings being a dollar was long lasting in Australia. Friends whose memories go back beyond 1966 to the era of pounds, shillings and pence will remember that in Australian slang five shillings was a 'dollar' (a pound was a 'quid', a shilling a 'bob' and sixpence a 'zac'). This all changed in February 1966 when ten shillings officially became one dollar, and cents replaced shillings and pence.

Steve Errington

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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary \$25

Joint \$35

Pensioner / student / junior \$15

Corporate \$50

Meetings

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

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

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

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

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

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

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

State Records Office

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

Retrievals

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

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

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

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

The Genealogy Centre

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

Specialist staff for Family History: Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247. Email: leonie.hayes@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. 160



November 2017

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

Our end of year function 2017

David Whiteford

Slides of the Seventies - and beyond



The Battye Library Map librarian, David Whiteford, supervising the move of maps and plans from an Art Gallery store room to the Edward Street annexe in East Perth in November 1984.
(Courtesy David Whiteford.)

Tuesday 21 November 2017 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. Our meeting will be followed by a catered dinner. *Please see details on page 3.*

Objectives

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

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Committee (2017-2018)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Ms Jennie Carter,

Secretary Ms Heather Campbell

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

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

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

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

All correspondence to:

The Secretary, PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865.

ISSN 1035-8692

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

November Meeting

Tuesday 21 November 2017
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be David Whiteford

Slides of the Seventies - and beyond

Help us celebrate the end of the year!

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

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

The cost is only \$35.00 which includes all wine and soft drinks

Bookings for the dinner are essential as we must advise the final numbers to the caterer by Monday 13 November.

Please RSVP to Nick Drew by email nickdrew@bigpond.com or telephone 0409 290 895 before 13 November.

Problem with the stairs?

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

Contents

About our speaker	4
Meeting dates for 2018	4
A message from our President	5
Changes to the SRO	6
Members' information	7
Important notice re Newsletter	8
'Have you a story to tell?'	
Steve Errington	8
Heather Campbell	10
Bevan Carter	14
Lorraine Clarke & Cherie Strickland	16
Voices that should be heard- Ronda Jamieson	17
Book review - Rob O'Connor QC	20
News from the State Library	22
State Records Office - News from the Archives	24
Subscriptions form	28
'Jack's Back' Jack Honniball	29

David Whiteford's talk

David will show a selection from his slide collection that will include the old Battye Library and its staff, Museum Street as it was before the Alexander Library Building was started, and many other images of bygone Perth of the 1970s and 1980s.

About David

David was appointed as one of six Library Board of WA cadets early in 1975 and spent an orientation year working in the Battye Library. Three years of study at WAIT was followed by a permanent appointment to the Board staff, starting as the map librarian for the Battye Library. David's career saw him curate most of the material types in the library and become one of the library's senior librarians, then Team Leader : Archives. He spent a year away from the library as Historian for the government's Redress project, a year developing inter-library loans online systems, then over four years as a Senior Archivist in the State Records Office of WA. David has a strong interest in WA railway history. He has had many articles published and is author or co-author of a number of books. David is especially interested in 'quirky' railways such as those at quarantine stations, lighthouses, jetties, and in industries varying from manganese mining to poultry farms.

Meeting dates for 2018

- 13 March** - Dr Joanna Sassoon: The WA photographer E L Mitchell.
- 8 May** - Dr Sue Graham-Taylor. *Rubbishing Western Australia: the history of waste in in the west.*
- 10 July** - Prof Neville Marchant. *Poison Plants and Swan River personalities.*
- 11 September-** (AGM) - Dr Susanna Iuliano - preserving the history of mining in WA.
- 20 November** (3rd Tuesday) - End of year function - TBA.

President's piece

Dear Friends

We are coming to the end of another year for the Friends and I gave an update on our recent activities at the AGM in September. It was lovely to see so many of you though I do know that the cold wet weather discouraged a lot of Friends from making the journey into Perth. Elections held at the AGM returned unopposed the following members to the The Friends of Battye Library Committee for 2017-2018.

President	Dr Pamela Statham Drew
Vice President	Ms Jennie Carter,
Secretary	Ms Heather Campbell
Treasurer	Mr Nick Drew

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

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

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

Our current Battye Library project is to digitise some of the priceless Architectural plans starting with the Forbes and Fitzharding plans. These have been chosen as a do-able package and date from 1880. The plans cover many important buildings including the Swan Boys' Orphanage; St George's College (Crawley); the Perth Tramway Company and various banks and churches. Ron Bodycoat, a recent member and distinguished heritage architect has reminded us that architectural plans can show us not only what was actually built, but all the wonderful dreams that were never built – which tell a story of their own.

Probably the most important thing we have done this year – or more correctly committee members Rob O'Connor and Nick Drew have done - is to get the handling of the Maud Sholl Bequest, which is one of our major source of funds, re-assessed to obtain a much greater financial return. By reworking administration fees we can save almost \$1000 a year to invest in other worthwhile projects, so many thanks again Rob and Nick and to the Trustees for their cooperation.

We are also asking you to tell us how you would like to receive the Newsletter in future. Please respond to the survey, details of which are on page 8.

I am really looking forward to seeing many of you at our End of Year function, which for the 12th year running will be followed by our in-house dinner. It is incredible value to be able to provide a meal and a drink for \$35 so do come and support us. One of our members has asked us not to have a history quiz this year so we will humour him – but there will still be something to ‘exercise the little grey cells’ on each table. Till then very best wishes.

Pamela Statham Drew



Changes to the SRO

Following the State Government election, we were perturbed to learn that the State Records Office of WA will now become a part of the State Library of WA rather than remain a separate agency, and questioned what this would mean for the independence of the SRO.

The following information was provided to staff across the Culture and Arts portfolio by the Director General of the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries, Duncan Ord, and we have been given permission to pass on the statement to our members.

Administrative Placement of SRO

The State Records Office (SRO) became part of the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) from 1 July 2017 as a part of the Machinery of Government changes. This was an administrative arrangement with no changes to the legislation of either organisation. As a directorate within the State Library structure, the SRO is in the portfolio of the new Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and continues to support the State Records Commission and function in accordance with the *State Records Act 2000*. The State Archivist and Executive Director State Records is reporting to the CEO and State Librarian, and the functions required under the *State Records Act 2000*

continue to be administered with the current SRO resources. This administrative change has been decided in the best interests of Western Australia and the two institutions.

The SROWA website also includes the assurance:

There will be no disruption to services and clients of the State Records Office and State Library will continue to access their respective collections and services via the existing arrangements and their respective websites - www.sro.wa.gov.au and www.slwa.wa.gov.au. Should you have any questions regarding this change, please direct your enquiries to sro@sro.wa.gov.au or info@slwa.wa.gov.au.



Members' information

The Margaret Medcalf Award for 2017 was won by Dr Criena Fitzgerald for her book *Turning men into stone* which is a ground-breaking analysis of the history and effect of silicosis in Western Australia. Our warmest congratulations to Dr Fitzgerald who has been a member of the Friends of Battye Library for many years. More information about the Award can be found on page 24.

We are pleased aslo to announce that long-term member and supporter of the Friends and volunteer with the State Library's Genealogy Centre, Shirley Babis, was presented with a merit award by the WA Genealogical Society. The award honoured her for her many years involvement with WAGS and her leadership of the European Special and South Australian Interest Groups within the Society. Congratulations Shirley.

Graham Bown, another stalwart of the Friends, was also honoured by WAGS being made a life member in recognition of his 36 years involvement with that society. Graham is known for his meticulous research into WA history and is the author of several important works held in the Battye Library's collection. He was also our 2013 'Gem of Time'. Again, congratulations Graham.



<<<<<<<<< **important notice** >>>>>>>>

Newsletter format

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

We would like to know if our members would be happy to have the *Newsletter* sent to them by email. One advantage of this would not only be a reduction in costs, but that members will be able to read the articles accompanied by colour photographs and illustrations rather than them all having to be in black and white.

Please let the editor, Jennie Carter, know by 1 December 2017 whether or not you would be prepared to have the newsletter sent to you by email or would prefer to continue to receive a printed version through the post. Email Jennie at wa.research@gmail.com or drop her a line at:

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

Members' views will be collated and considered by your Committee at the first meeting in February 2018.



Have you a story to tell?

[Friends member and RWAHS vice president, Dr Steve Errington is a regular and very welcome contributor to these pages. He often writes on little-known aspects of our colonial history.]

Louiza Hearn and the three jail Marys

As a voluntary guide in Fremantle gaol (the 'Round House') I get lots of questions and relish the ones I cannot answer. Both men and women were locked up in the Round House and a few months ago I was asked who the first woman prisoner was. Evidence held in the State Records Office points to it being Louiza Hearn.

Records for our first prison, our very own 'prison hulk' the *Marquis of*

Angelsea, reveal that it held 27 short-term prisoners between December 1829 and 1 July 1830, but there was no woman among them.

The Round House replaced the *Marquis of Angelsea* in January 1831 but early records of inmates are patchy. The oldest surviving list is the gaol superintendent's monthly report for July 1831. And right at the top is Louiza Hearn who had been in the gaol in June and wasn't released until 2 July.

Account of Prisoners rec^d into and disch^d from Fremantle Gaol for the month of July 1831

<i>when rec^d</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>when disch^d</i>
<i>Germany, boat</i>	<i>Louiza Hearn</i>	<i>July 2. 1831.</i>
<i>Small</i>	<i>Charles Lewis</i>	<i>" 1.</i>

We don't know anything about Louiza, not even why she was locked up. But chances are that she was guilty of 'misconduct as a servant' or 'leaving her master': Twenty of the first 50 inmates on surviving lists were in gaol for such offences. In November 1829 Lt Governor Stirling had issued a proclamation which, among other things, contained a summary of the law of Master and Servant and a warning that insolence, negligence and disobedience could be punished by fines or imprisonment.

1 July 1830 was the day of the first of the Quarter Sessions where 'serious' case were heard, and these outcomes are well recorded. The proceedings of the Petty Sessions held in between are not so well documented. The next three women known to be gaoled were all called Mary: Mary Dalton in 1831, Mary Cook in 1832 and Mary Burgess in 1833.

Mary Dalton (nee Smith) arrived on the *Protector* in February 1830 as a servant to retired army officer James Birkett and his wife Josephine. Mary married William Dalton on 16 August 1831 but on 9 September she was locked up in Fremantle gaol for 'leaving her master', and remained there for six weeks before being freed on 21 October.

Mary Cook and her husband Jeremiah (and ten children) arrived on the *Drummore* in February 1831 as servants to William Tanner. Jeremiah died shortly afterwards and in November that year Mary stole from Tanner four quarts of wine (value five shillings) and two pounds of butter (six shillings). She was arrested and sent to Fremantle gaol pending trial at the January 1832 quarter sessions. She pleaded guilty and was given six months with hard labour.

Mary Burgess, born Mary Hood in Shepton Mallet in Somerset, married Henry Burgess of that parish in June 1820. They arrived at Swan River



The Round House, Fremantle. Stevenson, Kinder & Scott photograph collection Battye Library, SLWA. 363230PD.

on the *Britannia* with four sons in May 1830. At the quarter sessions held 1 October 1833 Mary was tried for stealing a carpet bag containing clothes and a clasp knife, the property of Nat Shaw. Found guilty, she was sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour 'suited to her sex'.

Offenders convicted at the quarter sessions received either a fine, several dozen lashes, imprisonment or transportation to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Custodial sentences were almost invariably with hard labour. For Mary Cook and Mary Burgess this probably meant washing all prison clothes and baking bread in the bakehouse below the Round House landing.

Steve Errington



[*Heather Campbell, our Secretary, is a leading WA oral historian and the author of Messina News which was published by Hesperian Press in 2003.*]

Christmas 1918

A time of mixed emotions seen through the prism of Trove

West Australian, 1 Jan 1919, p 4 - 'THE YEAR OF VICTORY'.

"The year just closed will ever be memorable as the period of Victory. After more than four years of terrific and unexampled fighting the forces of Right prevailed over the strength of unbridled Ambition. To-day we look, forward anxiously but hopefully to a happier era. 1918 opened doubtfully. ... During more than three months all the might of Germany, concentrated to smash, once and for all, opposition to her arms, was thrown against the Allies on the Western front. ... The Australians held up the foe before the gates of Amiens. Foch struck on the right flank of

the enemy salient on the Marne, and, in a moment, the whole, aspect of the war was changed. ... For us, 1918 began at the closing of the second conscription campaign. Bitterness of spirit divided many sections of the people. ... The year has passed ... Western Australia has gone on its way supplying men to its battalions: ploughing and sowing, and reaping and mowing. There is so much which might have been done in the State, so little that has been accomplished. ... Look back on last year and one looks back upon a futility that almost makes us despair.”

Call and WA Sportsman, 27 Dec 1918, p 3 - ‘ROTTNEST RUMOURS’

“Christmas week sees the island just wallowing in bliss and joy and other things that generally go hand-in-hand with Rottneest holidaymakers. The bungalows are all grabbed and the popular hostel is, like Johnny W, going as strong as ever.

To get the crowds over, boats have been running every day since Tuesday and will continue to make daily trips until the 1st January. The Westralian, by the way, had rather a rough trip again last Sunday, but was beautifully handled, as usual, by Skipper Strue.

The campers have just rushed the isle this year, and have established quite a canvas city. Yachtsmen, too have all the week been hard put to find suitable anchorages in Thompson Bay, there are so many of them.”

Midlands Advertiser, 27 Dec 1918, p 1

“Boan’s window was packed with cards that were to mark the greatest victory ever known. There were Victory cards and Liberty cards. Then there were endless designs with flags of the Allies, the British bulldog, and the beautiful little shamrock. Last Christmas people mostly did not feel like sending cards, but this year they gave a whoop and a joyous shout and send them in dozens and hundreds.”

West Australian 2 Jan 1919, p 5 - ‘THE FIRST DAY IN QUARANTINE’.

“A dreadful silence reigns, broken only by strangled coughs and choked breathing as the boys are carried in and put into beds that have been prepared by skilful loving hands. They know they are “home,” but they do not speak. More boys come, some carried, some walking, some stumbling on the arms of comrades, but they do not speak - not yet. But they cough, poor lads; they cough and breathe heavily as they try to undress and get between sheets, those who are not so bad that they have not had to be carried there. Tent after tent is filled up, little inadequate ward after ward, and white clad masked figures run from one to another and minister to their great needs. Presently you may hear a whisper, “this is

only flu we've got, sister, isn't it? We'll be better tomorrow?"

***Chronicle*, 28 December 1918, p 27, Death notice**

PHILLIPS.— On the 16th December, at Quarantine Station, Fremantle, of pneumonic influenza, Private Harry Herbert Phillips aged 25 years....

***Sunday Times*, 22 December 1918, p 10. 'Christmas in the Shops!'**

"A firm which invariably makes a fine display at this festive season of the year is that of Boans Limited, whose huge emporium, occupying more than six acres of floor space and running through from Wellington to Murray streets, has for some years past been one of the show places of the city. Though the war has naturally interfered a good deal with the importation of goods, the firm's display this year is a highly creditable one and speaks volumes for the foresight of the management which enabled it to be made. The toy department is naturally the main draw at this season of the year, and both old and young will find that section of the establishment full of attractions. There was never yet a boy or girl born who did not have a love for toys of one kind or another, while the silver-haired may renew their youth and at the same time be better men and women for giving delight to the young, such delight as will ever give them pleasant memories of Christmas and the mysterious nocturnal visits of Santa Claus. ... No visitor to Perth should miss a trip to this high-class emporium. From Wellington to Murray streets and from the boot department to the roof restaurant it is right bang up to date."

***The Midlands Advertiser*, 20 December 1918, p 1**

"At Boan's, Father Christmas in his bright red robe, and fur cap is delighting the hearts of the troops of youngsters who gaze up at him in shy wonder. Some of the more confident ones who look on him as an old friend, lose no time in having a chat with him and plying him with questions. These he answers with untiring good humour, and telling them if they have been good boys and girls he will come and see them on Christmas Eve."

[The best Christmas present of all]

***West Australian*, 31 December 1918 p 5 'RETURNING SOLDIERS TO ARRIVE TO-DAY.**

"Notification has been received that the soldiers on list "B" will arrive at Fremantle by train from Albany about 6 a.m. or 7 a.m. today. Soldiers on list "Q" are expected to disembark at Fremantle at 10 am. to-day. ... TO DISEMBARK TO-MORROW. Soldiers on Lists "0" and "1" are expected to disembark at Fremantle on January 1 at 7 am."



Boans Ltd lit up to celebrate the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. Batty Library, SLWA Izzy Orloff collection ; BA1059/1630-1634

Daily Telegraph, 20 December 1918, p 2 - CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR : GREETINGS.

“According to time-honored custom we wish to express to our readers our best wishes for their happiness during the festive season and their prosperity during the coming year. And this is only in accordance with the eternal fitness of things. The Creator has wisely placed within our hearts the noble wish for the happiness and well-being of our race, and it is a poor specimen of the human genus that fails at this special season of the year to wish his neighbour all the happiness that earth can afford. The chimes of peace are at last sounding in our ears and for this boon we should at least have thankful hearts, although we in this far renowned country can scarce be said to have felt the ill effects of the war at all. Nevertheless, we are interested in the welfare of all the world of the human race. And so we wish our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year while the chimes ring on. PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TO MEN!”

**And so say all of us associated with this edition of
the Friends of Batty Library *Newsletter!***

Heather Campbell

Commemorating the end of Transportation

Next year marks the 150th anniversary of the cessation of transportation. On 9 January the last convict ship, the *Hougoumont*, arrived in Western Australia with 279 prisoners on board. The Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS), the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWHS), and members of the Friends are busy organising a series of functions to mark this historic event.



The *Hougoumont* 1868.

(Courtesy <https://crimeanwar-veteranswa.com/ships/hougoumont>)

[Bevan Carter has written several articles on convicts and family history. His article on John Rowland Jones of Subiaco, another Hougoumont convict, appeared in the November 2016 issue of this Newsletter.]

Some of the Hougoumont's reluctant passengers

Sixty two of the 279 criminals sent to WA in 1868 on the *Hougoumont* were Fenians – members of a secret nationalist organisation seeking an independent Irish republic – who were considered a threat by the British government. Some convicted Fenians were in the British armed forces and deemed to be traitors and originally sentenced to be drawn and quartered.

On 25 February 1869, thirteen months after arrival in WA, 34 Fenians, all civilians, were released by order of the British House of Commons. Twenty eight of them sailed from Albany for New South Wales on the *Rangatira* on 21 September 1869. The trip was seemingly organised by

John Keneally who can be found in celebrated Australian author Thomas Keneally's family tree. John Keneally had made his way to Victoria a few months after being freed, but when his identity was revealed to the authorities in Melbourne, Keneally was ordered to leave the colony within seven days. He challenged that decision but the Supreme Court ruled against him.

Keneally's next attempt to live in South Australia met with a similar response. The decision of the authorities to prevent him from setting foot on South Australian soil attracted publicity and the attention of a large crowd eager to see a "real live Fenian."¹

Keneally returned to WA but during his travels had collected sufficient funds from well-wishers to assist most of the pardoned Fenians, himself included, to relocate to NSW. Eventually, like many other Fenians, Keaneally left Australia and migrated to America.

John Keneally was living in Los Angeles when in 1904 he penned a letter to Thomas Duggan, one of only ten fenians to remain in WA. In the letter he reminisces about their time together 35 years previously.

Only a few of our companions remain to think over our opossum night hunts on the banks of the Swan River ... Looking over the past and the humble part we played, it is some consolation for our failure to feel that our cause was just and our motives and actions honourable.²

John Keneally's friend, Thomas Duggan, made a life for himself here and wrote many articles and letters on Fenian issues and daily life in WA. A 43-year-old school teacher when he was arrested for his part in the 1865 Irish uprising, Duggan continued his occupation in WA at the Slater homestead in Goomalling and lived in the district for thirty years. He never saw his wife and six children again as they remained in Ireland. The National Trust has restored the Slater homestead, including the school building.



Another *Hougoumont* convict was Daniel Marsh. Convicted in Derby for manslaughter and sentenced to fifteen years he settled in Geraldton where he established the ambitious Geraldton Emporium which grew from its beginnings as a blacksmith shop. Marsh also introduced electricity

generation to Western Australia in 1888. Two celebrated Western Australian sportsmen, brothers Rod and Graham Marsh, today bear his name.

1. The *Protestant Standard* 25 September 1869.
2. The *Record* 20 August 1904.

Bevan Carter



[*Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland of Swan Genealogy have researched many of WA's early convicts. Their book Australia's last convicts written in collaboration with the State Records Office was published by the Friends of Battye Library in 2016.*]

The sad tale of Alexander Gordon

Alexander Gordon who also arrived on the *Hougoumont* was not a Fenian. He was convicted of arson and attempted arson for which he received 21 years' penal servitude and transportation to WA leaving behind a wife and two young children. After his arrival Gordon worked as a shipwright, carpenter and boatman. He received his ticket of leave on the 26 October 1874 and was employed on piece work until May 1881 when he is arrested for being drunk and disorderly for which he received seven days' hard labour. On 19 May 1886 his sentence is remitted and he is essentially a free man. Ten years later Gordon finds himself in front of Fremantle Resident Magistrate Fairbairn for drunkenness and this is where his life takes a decided turn for the worse.

Gordon spends the next four years in and out of Fremantle Prison for charges of drunkenness, obtaining drink whilst on probation list, unlawful possession, being idle and disorderly, vagrancy, and larceny, stealing two bottles of beer. His punishment is varied with the longest time spent in prison being six months with hard labour. His charges for theft are petty crimes with light sentences bestowed upon him.

Where Gordon goes after his release in January 1901 is unknown however he does not have any serious brushes with the law until January 1912 where he receives a fine or 48 hours' imprisonment, he elects prison, whether due to the inability to pay or choice it is unclear.

Alexander Gordon died in the Old Men's Home on 14 July 1916 aged 79 years having been in the colony 48 years. He is buried in the Presbyterian section of Karrakatta Cemetery.

Lorraine Clarke & Cherie Strickland.

Voices that Should be Heard

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

Christopher Edmondson OH371 (1885-1984)

Chris Edmondson was 93 when he was interviewed in Northam in August 1978. Nearly three hours of tape was recorded and the note I made about him after I left was: 'Excellent memory. Remarkable man.' And so he was. Not once did he hesitate over a name and his knowledge was exceptional, including his work in the building industry from 1900.

Chris was born in South Australia in 1885. His family moved to Perth two years later where his father Edward worked for Bunning Brothers as a workshop foreman. After becoming ill with asthma and bronchitis his doctor ordered him to leave Perth for a drier climate. 'Around 1890' the family settled in Northam where Edward worked for building contractors Byatt and Cody. He then became a joiner and cabinet making, building his own workshop with a galvanised iron 4-roomed house attached for his wife Alice and their children.

A vivid early memory for Chris was the crowds passing through Northam in the 1890s on their way to the Goldfields. There were:

hundreds and thousands of people. I've seen that main street that thronged; you could hardly walk up it with people going through. They were in wheelbarrows, carts, bicycles ... camels by the hundreds and Afghans. Wonderful sights mind you; marvellous sights. There was so many people about and everything sprung up ... that made Northam to start.

Chris was seven when he started school and left when he was eleven after his father gave him the chance to do so if he preferred to work. Edward died soon afterwards and Chris got a job in Toodyay in a vineyard and piggery which included 'tramping' grapes into a 'mass of juice'. Still unable to find work in Northam, his next job was in the Swan Valley on Minchins' pig farm and vineyard where he was paid two shillings a week and keep, and sent all earnings home. He mainly looked after the pigs and cut and packed grapes some of which were sent to the goldfields. Then there was driving into Perth by horse and cart to deliver fruit. 'There was no brakes on the cart and you had to hang on to the horse for all you were worth. Put your feet on the front board to keep it from flying down.



Sir James Mitchell House, originally known as Bona Vista, is on the corner of Duke and Hawes Streets. This was constructed in 1905 for Sir James Mitchell and his wife Clara. Northam - James Mitchell House <http://www.mingor.net/localities/northam.html>

It was a terrible job; I was terrified.'

Just before his 15th birthday, Chris moved back to Northam to work for building firm Millington and Brabazon. Having made gates among other things when working for the Minchins, his employers recognised his abilities, made him an assistant to tradesman Charlie Bentick, and increased his 10 shillings a week pay to 30 shillings on condition he did not tell

fellow workers. In the last 6 months of his apprenticeship Chris worked on what he described as a 'beautiful job' building Sir James Mitchell's two-storey English manor house. It had marble fireplaces, 'fancy plaster mouldings and jarrah floors. He stayed to do fencing and other jobs for the Mitchells after the house was finished and considered Sir James 'a very fine chap ... Lady Mitchell was a wonderful woman.'

Aged 20, Chris joined with his older brother Frank to form Edmondson Brothers, Builders, which was a successful enterprise employing twelve men and training apprentices. The brothers built 'dozens and dozens' of houses in Northam and plenty of shops in the main street as well as every petrol station. They sold glass and Frank ran the timber yard and workshop for the State Saw Mills. When Frank died in 1940, Chris set himself up in business. Through 'bad management', Frank's illness and 'perhaps tendering too low' the business finished with debts after 38 years of work. When asked if he felt sad about how the business ended, he replied: 'Oh I did for a while but I got over it. I got a living. Brought up the family OK. There was nothing to regret about it.' He finished working when he was 78. Son Bill stayed in the business doing renovations and then went out on his own with his father helping where he could.

In 1912 Chris had married Elsie Cutts, a Northam girl, following a long

engagement because of his mother's insistence that his older brother should be married first. 'We hung on and hung on and he still didn't get married. Last of all we said, we will get married and she was very annoyed about it, she never got over it'. Chris built a home in Selby Street of weatherboard on jarrah stumps, with walls and ceilings lined with lath, plaster and cow hair. Their first child died soon after birth. Five children followed: Ron, Bobbie, Jean, Bill and Denzil. Ron was 21 when he was killed in a motor accident and Bobbie and Elsie died of cancer.

In describing building methods and materials used over the decades, Chris talked of building 'dozens of schools' throughout the district, including 'tent' and pavilion schools (jarrah, canvas and weatherboard). Each school had a thousand-gallon tank stand and cattle-proof fencing. The larger schools built in Goomalling, Dowerin and Cunderdin were made of brick. Farmers were granted a school if a place could be found for the teacher to board. According to Chris, 'The whole thing always ended up in the schoolmistress marrying the wealthiest farmer's eldest son.'

Police stations were of four rooms with a chimney in the middle to provide heating in each room. The weatherboard was lined with asbestos and there was jarrah flooring and an iron roof. The jail was separate as were the chaff house and stables. Houses on farms were mostly brick, some of four rooms, with front and back verandas and big sheds.

Some jobs involved carting material in wagons and four horse teams. Elsie and their children often accompanied Chris, camping in a tent, with local farmers carting water for them. Both Chris and Elsie 'enjoyed it thoroughly'.

Chris described his pleasure about being able to build things for his grandsons and granddaughters as they married, including cupboards, rocking horses, toy chests and chairs.

And how did Chris sum up his life: 'I had a very good life, couldn't be better. Yes, I've had a wonderful life.' Chris Edmondson died on 3 July 1984 at the age of 98.

Ronda Jamieson



Book review

***A Tumultuous Life* by Brian Burke, RRP \$29.99**

Reviewer: Rob O'Connor QC.

A Tumultuous Life is the autobiography of former WA Premier Brian Burke and, unsurprisingly, it is his life as seen through his own eyes. Nevertheless, it is an extremely interesting book which will be of great interest not only for persons with an involvement in the State politics of WA but also most citizens of WA who have lived here for the past 35 years.

One of Burke's greatest assets is his communication skills, honed as a journalist, and his book, despite its length of 564 pages, is very readable.

The best part of the book is the analyses of the character and political performances of the many individual persons he came across as colleagues or foes in his political life. As to be expected, he criticises Liberal leaders Sir Charles Court, Bill Hassell and Barry MacKinnon.

But his Labor colleagues do not escape criticism. In this regard, he makes some revelations not previously publicised about Joe Berinson, Carmen Lawrence, Stephen Smith and Kevin Rudd.



He devotes chapters to several of the big business players in those heady days : Denis McInerney, Ric Stowe, Laurie Connell, Alan Bond, John Roberts, Dallas Dempster, John Horgan, Kevin Reynolds, Warren Anderson, Robert Holmes a'Court, Lang Hancock, Gina Rinehart, Rose Porteous, Alan Burns and Andrew Forrest.

The mechanics of the two Rothwells rescues and the PICL deal were certainly very complicated. Burke insists that he had no involvement with the second Rothwells rescue which took place under the premiership of Peter Dowding.

A Tumultuous Life

Brian Burke

He also makes unfavourable comments about several legal and judicial figures including George Sadleir, Kevin Hammond, Brian Martin, John McKechnie, Geoffrey Miller, John Quigley, Wayne Martin, Michael Buss and Len Roberts-Smith.

However, he is complimentary of David Malcolm, Malcolm McCusker (as his Senior Counsel and as Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission), Chris Steytler and Michael Murray (as Parliamentary Inspectors of the CCC), Grant Donaldson and Stephen Lemonis.

In commenting on the characters of individuals, Burke invariably sets out some praise for the person before damning the person by making the adverse opinion. For some unstated reason, Lang Hancock, for whom Burke worked for a period, is always referred to as “Mr” Hancock.

The book expresses great praise for Burke’s wife Sue and their family. The most uplifting part of the book is the reference to his “considerable support group” which consisted of the 32 family members in the photograph taken at Christmas 2015

Burke blames his conviction for making false travel expenses claims on his legal representatives who advised him to agree to allow copies of the crucial travel claim documents to be tendered as evidence after the Prosecution mysteriously lost the originals of those documents.

Burke’s tales of his time in jail, such as his treatment and some of the events which occurred, make interesting reading.

One of the strongest parts of the book is Burke’s analysis and criticisms of the operations of the CCC. To my mind, his views are well-founded. He claims that he and Julian Grill should never have been investigated for their lobbying activities as they were not public officers. The CCC wrongly believed that it had the power to prosecute, but the Court of Appeal ultimately held that it did not. Its Act gives it excessive investigatory and hearing powers which are contrary to the rules of natural justice. The CCC acted poorly in giving very late warning to a wife that a man about to give evidence to the CCC was contemplating suicide, and the man did end his life before the wife could communicate with him. 23 allegations, some of serious criminality, were made by a Parliamentary Inspector against officers of the CCC, but have never been satisfactorily dealt with.

The book is the first autobiography by a former WA Premier and is an invaluable part of WA history.

Rob O’Connor QC

News from the State Library

Forthcoming events and exhibitions at the State Library

The Life and times of Scarface Claw: 30 September to 1 November.
Exhibition featuring Dame Lynley Dodd's character Scarface Claw, presented in partnership with Awesome International Arts Festival.

In Plain Sight (October 17 to 5 December) – The Nook

Imagines what queer relationships might have looked like in Western Australia's past through historical photographs from the State Library of Western Australia's heritage collection.

Bird Song (6 November to 31 January 2018) The Story Place Gallery
Sounds from the State Library's collection of the John Hutchinson Bird Recordings are paired with scientific Illustrations of Western Australian birds to create an interactive and sensory experience.

Alternative Frequencies: 40 years of RTRFM

Explores four decades of the "sound alternative" in this retrospective exhibition dedicated to the history of Western Australia's first FM radio station, community broadcaster RTRFM.

We are 10 (7 December to 28 January 2018) The Nook

We Are 10 shows Western Australia through the eyes of 8,000 children in a unique multi-media exhibition. *We Are 10* marks ten years since Western Australia appointed a Commissioner for Children and Younger People and celebrates the Commission's function to consult with and promote the views of 589,000 children and young people.

Talks

Curator's Talk for 'Alternative Frequencies: 40 Years of RTRFM 1 December 1pm – Ground Floor Gallery, .

Recently Acquired Material

Several collections have been received and or processed for the Battye Library collection. Among them are:

- Additional papers for JA McCumiskey collection
- Collection of plans for residential properties throughout Western Australia, drawn by PS Hatch.
- Certificate from Stanley School of Dresscutting and Design, awarded to Muriel Jessie Knight on 25 June 1948
- Rocky Bay Incorporated Records of the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of WA

- Valerie Saxton - Poem and short story - *One Thousand Trees*. Both will be made available online.
- Malcolm Wells Manager's Diary, Mt Magnet Branch, Western Australian Bank, 1910-1920
- Records of the Mandurah Organ Society
- Ian Robert Harrington photographs of civil construction projects in WA, 1976-1991.
- Photographic negative of Mary Ellen Gibbons with Sir John and Lady Forrest outside Walker's Hordern Hotel, Narrogin, 9th May 1913.
- Pilbara 2017 photographs: seven digital images taken in and around Karratha, June 2017.
- Photographs of Ellenbrook (two digital images)
- Digital image of the entrance to the Tyler farm on Forrest Highway after the Waroona bushfire in January 2016.
- Roy Weir photographs
- Family register of six pages from the John Richard Gray family bible; and album of Gray family photographs. [Lent for copying]
- Gray family photographs : four opalotypes including John Richard Gray, his second wife Maria Wickliffe, and their daughter Elizabeth Minnie Gray
- Interviews conducted by Mr Bill Bunbury.
- Collection of interviews with war veterans for the project 'Australia Remembers' that were carried out by senior students of the Craigie Senior High School.
- Noongar Boodjar Language Cultural Aboriginal Corporation, oral histories. Rose Whitehurst Collection of recordings.
- Oral history interview with Dr Jim Barrow undertaken in 2016 with Mrs Bernadette Waugh, as part of the CSIRO oral history program.
- State Library of Western Australia Foundation Records of the State Library of WA Foundation

New Mining and Energy Archive

Mining has played a vital part in the development of Western Australia and its people.

Over the last century, Western Australia has exploited its diverse mineral and energy resources in ways that have shaped our state's economy,

society and environment. The State Library of Western Australia holds a wealth of materials, from photos to documents, that forms an archive into all aspects of Western Australia's mining and energy industries.

Through the Mining and Energy WA project, the State Library is working with organisations and individuals to record and preserve the history of the sector for the benefit of current and future generations of Western Australians.

Dr Susanna Iuliano
(Battye Historian)

State Records Office - News from the Archives

Margaret Medcalf Award

Each year the State Records Office (SRO) recognizes excellence in referencing and research using the State Archives Collection. The winner of the Award receives a cash prize of \$1000, or shares this prize if there is more than one winner.

At a function held in the State Library Theatre on 28 June the 2017 Award was presented to medical historian Dr Criena Fitzgerald for her book *Turning Men into Stone: a social and medical history of Silicosis in Western Australia from 1890 to 1970*.

This year's award, which includes a prize of \$1000, was presented by Culture and Arts Minister, Hon. David Templeman MLA. Criena Fitzgerald's book traces the history of silicosis in WA mining and its effects, not only upon the miners but also their families. It is an important work revealing an overlooked story in the history of mining in this State and is sensitively and soberly told. The book displays substantial use of State Archives and is a deeply researched study.

Silicosis was a major epidemic in the mining industry in WA in the 20th century. Often obscured by tuberculosis, it was only after it was found that miners were twice as likely to suffer from respiratory illness, than the general public, that it was realised that they were suffering from a completely different disease. A terrible affliction, the title of the book refers to the way in which these men's lungs would solidify with dust and eventually become like tombstones in their own bodies.

Dr Fitzgerald is an honorary research fellow at the University of Western Australia. She has researched and written books and articles about the history of people in WA's mining areas, especially relating to their working conditions and occupational health. 'Turning Men into Stone' is published by Hesperian Press.



Dr Criena Fitzgerald and Ms Cathrin Casarchis at the Margaret Medcalf Award function.

The annual Margaret Medcalf Award honours the second State Archivist, Ms Margaret Medcalf OAM, and has been presented since 2003. It rewards excellence in research and referencing using the

State Archives. Documenting the history and development of the state since 1829, the State Archives Collection is Western Australia's largest archival collection, and is preserved, managed and made accessible by the State Records Office.

The judging panel this year consists of State Records Commissioner, Ms Justine McDermott, Professor Jane Lydon, holder of the inaugural Wesfarmers Chair in Australian History at the University of Western Australia, and State Archivist and Executive Director State Records, Ms Cathrin Cassarchis.

(from the SROWA website: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/margaret-medcalf-award/turning-men-stone-wins-2017-margaret-medcalf-award>)

Perth Metro Plans Project

The SRO has engaged a new volunteer and recent history graduate, Kate Arnautovic, to assist in the geo-referencing of the final sets of sewerage plans.

DAA Digitisation Project

Through a partnership with and funding provided by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA), on 30 June 2017 the SRO completed digitisation of all files in the State Archives Collection from the various departments

responsible for Aboriginal affairs since 1898. Approximately 15,000 files have been digitised resulting in over 1 million images. The SRO is developing access protocols to the digitised content.

Consultations

Significant consultations:

- The SRO continues to be heavily involved in meeting with and advising agency representatives regarding appropriate practices during the substantial Machinery of Government changes.
- Participation in several Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities (CAARA) Working Groups. One group dealing with the custodial arrangements for the records of the (joint) Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Another working with vendors for the development of effective recordkeeping requirements within software products utilised for strategic projects across government and a group involved in the development of a Retention and Disposal Schedule for the functional records of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Practitioners.
- Sector Disposal Authority's for Strategic Projects and for Investigations, Commissions and Inquiries are nearing completion. Once published they will be utilised by the whole of government for the legal disposal of recorded information (both hard copy and digital) relevant to those topics across government.

State Records Commission

A State Records Commission meeting was held on 24 October 2017. The Commission recently farewelled Mr Sven Bluemmel who is taking up a post in Melbourne. Ms Su Lloyd will be the Acting Information Commissioner and State Records Commissioner in his stead.

Geoffrey Bolton Lecture

'From Bolshevism to Populism: Australia in a Century of Global Transformation' is the topic of the 2017 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture.

One of Australia's most eminent historians, Professor Stuart Macintyre, will deliver the 2017 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture on Tuesday evening 14 November 2017 at 6pm, at the Government House Ballroom in Perth.

It is 100 years since the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia sparked the spread of revolutionary Marxism around the world. The significant political and social upheaval of the Revolution challenged the established order of world capitalism and profoundly changed the course of world history. Its effects were felt across the world for years to come, including in Australia. In 2017 it could be argued that another global transformation is happening with the rise of populism. What has been the impact of these transformative movements in Australia over the last century? What does history reveal about the effects of these kinds of political and social changes on our society?

Professor Macintyre is Emeritus Laureate Professor of the University of Melbourne and is Professorial Fellow of its School of Historical and Philosophical Studies.

All members of the Friends of Battye Library are invited to this event. Please email events@sro.wa.gov.au to secure your place at the lecture.

Cathrin Cassarchis

State Archivist and Executive Director State Records



State Library Bookshop discount for members

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

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

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

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

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ post code _____

Tel: _____ mobile _____

Email _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you require a receipt, please tick here

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

Jack's Back: History and Heritage Clearly All the Rage!

In recent months many among the Friends and indeed in the general community have enjoyed a succession of well-organised occasions and programs focusing on our State's history and heritage.

Thus for a month or so in April/May we had the 2017 Australian Heritage Festival assembled by the National Trust (WA) as one of that ilk in a new partnership with the Australian Government – for the necessary funding, presumably. With the theme 'Having a Voice', this embraced 92 functions and exhibitions in Perth and 26 in country centres as distant as Albany, Roebourne and Coolgardie.

Then in mid-May there followed a two-day conference of the highest standard which the State Heritage Office conducted at the Perth Concert Hall. Flagged as 'Connections', this 2017 WA State Heritage and History Conference drew 375 participants, with 75 presenters, in four concurrent streams of multiple themes and was deservedly hailed an outstanding success – if rather exhausting!

Next, in early September, a weekend was devoted to the State History Conference which the Royal WA Historical Society holds annually for interaction with its affiliated societies who now number 78. This year Wanneroo Historical Society was its co-host to well over 100 participants who, inter alia, learnt a lot about the early history and present activities in this thriving district.

Just lately in mid-October, Heritage Perth offered the public a wide array of free events, activities and attractions for Perth Heritage Days 2017, their ninth such annual fixture. The presentations included guided tours of specific precincts, exhibitions, formal talks, musical treats, and open days at a range of noteworthy buildings, at about 70 locations in all. Luckily, it was a weekend when sunshine prevailed.

Personally, as a long-time resident of Perth, I felt I was familiar enough with most of the venues advertised, so I decided to visit one old building I had never been into at all. This was the Moana Chambers, at 618 Hay Street, next building but one to Barrack Street in the heart of retail Perth. Since it was built in 1908, the three-storeyed structure and its basement has held a variety of shops and small businesses. Most notably, the Ezywalkin shoe store occupied the whole ground floor from 1923 to 1955, while its large first floor has successively accommodated prestigious dining, tea and coffee rooms, sometimes as clubs run by several colourful proprietors.

I was very pleasantly surprised when I beheld an 8-metre stretch of panel boards giving an excellent history of the place in sectioned text and photographs. This welcome feature flanks the main passageway leading from the entrance lobby to the broad staircase, and so I can now recommend it to any of our readers who may have an opportunity to pause in that vicinity while on a visit to the city's centre. It acknowledges too that Moana's history here was commissioned by the growing Museum of Perth. History and heritage are being well served by this active group from its present base in the Atlas Building at 8 The Esplanade, Perth.

[Note: Jack gave us an introduction to this new museum in our first Newsletter last year (no. 155)]



Moana Chambers. Battye Library, SLWA 099569PD.

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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

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

Meetings

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

Newsletter

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

Contact details

Friends of Battye Library website:

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

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

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

or write to:

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

J S Battye Library of West Australian History

Opening hours

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

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

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

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

State Records Office

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

Retrievals

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

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

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

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

The Genealogy Centre

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

Specialist staff for Family History: Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247. Email: leonie.hayes@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.