

No. 172



November 2021

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

Our November 2021 meeting
Bill and Jenny Bunbury
Writing Many Maps:



'An animate landscape' (Bill Bunbury)

Tuesday 23 November 2021 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm. 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 (2020-2021)

President	Richard Offen
Immediate Past President	Pamela Statham Drew
Vice President	Jennie Carter,
Secretary	Heather Campbell
Treasurer	Nick Drew
Membership Coordinator	Cherie Strickland
Events Coordinator	Helen Mather (co-opted)

Committee members Shirley Babis, Lorraine Clarke,
Steve Errington, Neil Foley, and Gillian O'Mara.

Ex-Officio Margaret Allen (CEO & State Librarian)
Damian Shepherd (CEO State Records Office)
Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)

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

End of year meeting.

Tuesday 23 November 2021
Great Southern Room, fourth floor
State Library of Western Australia
at 5pm for 5.30pm

Our speakers will be Bill and Jenny Bunbury

Writing Many Maps: Significant Influences and Milestones

Help us celebrate the end of another busy year

After the talk, members and guests are warmly invited to stay on and join us for a special catered two course spit-roast dinner which will be served in the staff dining room adjacent to the Great Southern Room.

**The dinner is still only \$35 per head
which includes wine and orange juice.**

We have kept the cost as low as possible and are grateful to Margaret Allen, CEO and State Librarian, for her generosity in making the 4th floor staff canteen again available to us. Bookings for the dinner must be received by the morning of Tuesday 16 November as we have to provide final numbers to the caterer.

***Please RSVP to Nick Drew by email nickdrew@bigpond.com
or telephone 0409 290 895 before 16 November 2021.***

Problem with the stairs?

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

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About Bill and Jenny Bunbury

Bill, who was educated at Durham University in the UK, came to Australia in 1964 and is a former ABC broadcaster and documentary producer with almost 40 years experience in both radio and television. He has presented and produced *Word of Mouth*, *Verbatim*, *Talking History*, *Hindsight*, *Street Stories*, *Encounter* and the *Science Show* on ABC Radio National. He also presented regular social history segments on ABC 720 and regional radio. Bill is one of Australia's leading oral historians and has received national and international awards over the years for his broadcasting, oral history, and publications. Bill is currently Adjunct Professor, History & Communications at Murdoch University.



Bill is the author of fourteen books on Australian social and environmental history, and has another in production. His most recent publication, co-written with his wife Jenny, is *Many Maps* which was awarded the 2021

Williams-Lee Steere prize by the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, as well as winning a joint Best History 2021 Oral History Association Australia prize.

Jenny attended Durham University at the same time as Bill and graduated with a BA (Hons) in Modern History. She followed Bill to Australia and taught History and English at Perth College. In 1975 Jenny joined the WA Public Service where she worked as a policy officer and manager for 30 years in various agencies. An experienced writer and editor, Jenny wrote reports and policy papers and managed the legislative process for Health, Consumer Affairs and Transport agencies in particular. She also managed regional services for a number of agencies and has a good practical knowledge of issues, including Aboriginal-Wadjela relations in rural and regional WA.

Writing *Many Maps*: Significant Influences and Milestones

Bill and Jenny Bunbury will discuss some of the understandings they gained in researching and writing their book which examines interactions and relationships between European settlers in Western Australia and the First Nations people whose land they occupied.

They will illustrate their talk with audio extracts from some of Bill's original interviews which formed the starting point for the decision to write *Many Maps*. These interviews, as well as documentary sources, highlight the mental maps, and differences in the way two cultures interpret sense of country, spiritual belief and language, both written and spoken. The consequent understandings and misunderstandings that have occurred over nearly two hundred years are all part of this story.



Meeting dates for 2022

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 8 March | Trevor Cross: <i>Scrimshaw</i> |
| 10 May | Kate Gregory and Denise Cook: <i>Collecting Western Australia</i> |
| 12 July | Bevan Carter: <i>Swan River Aboriginal land tenure 1829-1840</i> |
| 13 September | (AGM) TBA |
| 22 November | (4th Tuesday) - End of year function.
To be confirmed. |



President's Piece The Importance of Libraries

Both my eldest daughter and granddaughter, Abigail, learnt to read at around the age of three and from then on became voracious readers.

Until she went to school, the highlight of Abigail's fortnight was the visit to our English village of the mobile library van. Grandma would take Abigail along and she would always select the maximum number of books she was allowed to borrow, returning them two weeks later having read them all from cover to cover. When she was about nine and attending the village primary school, Abigail's teacher informed my daughter one afternoon, "A bit of a landmark today, Abigail has read her way through the school library!" Even today, at fourteen, it is not uncommon to find Abigail with her nose in a book and she still loves the library and bookshops!

That library van played a big part in Abigail's formative years and it made me think about the wonderful community asset libraries are. Our public libraries in Western Australia still play an essential role in providing safe, accessible, free education, and entertainment for every member of communities across the State. According to the *WA Public Libraries Strategy*, which can be read on the State Library's attractive new website (<https://slwa.wa.gov.au>) we have 233 public libraries, with over one million active members who, in 2019-20, borrowed around 11.2 million physical items and some 2.8 million online resources such as e-books and e-audiobooks.

Is reading a book really a dying activity?

Richard Offen



Members' obituaries

Chris Fyfe (16 August 1929 - 15 July 2021)

As a child Christopher Buist Fyfe lived in country WA. After leaving school, he spent his early working life in shearing teams and gained a wool classing certificate. In 1955 he married Shirley, a kindergarten teacher, and in 1971 finished an accounting degree. He worked as accountant and auditor for Elder Smith & Co. It was at this time that Chris began researching his first book, *The Balefillers* (1983), on the State's wool industry. Several other publications about the pastoral industry followed including *Aristocrats on Perches* (1987) and *Gentlemen's Agreement* (1995). He also wrote the biography of Wallace Vernon Fyfe, Surveyor General of WA from 1938 to 1959.



Chris was a meticulous and dedicated researcher, well-known

and liked by staff at the Battye Library. He donated materials for the archives and was an early member of the Friends, contributing to our *Newsletter* on a number of occasions. A fascination for history stayed with him all his life and his contribution towards documenting our State was honoured when he was made a fellow of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.

Chris and Shirley were generous supporters of the Men of the Trees (now Trillion Trees Australia), and gifted land for the organisation to use as a nursery. Chris is survived by three children, daughter Allison, the State Library's former music specialist librarian, his sons Robert and Andrew, and four grandchildren.

Leigh Hays (1966-2021)

It was with a very heavy heart that we received news that Leigh Hays of the State Records Office passed away in the morning of 12 July 2021.

Leigh joined the State Records Office team in December 2002 and had worked previously with Battye Library and John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library. Leigh wrote a history of the Battye Library's collections in *Worth Telling, Worth Keeping* (2001), and researched and produced two Centenary of Federation Projects in *Western Australia and Federation* (1999) and *Western Perspectives on a Nation* (2000).

Throughout his career as an archivist, historian and researcher, Leigh was recognised by staff at the State Records Office, State Library, and the Department of Culture and Arts as a wise and steady hand, supporting people across these organisations at all levels under the most challenging of circumstances. Leigh generously gave this support and guidance with great humility, backed-up with a superb wit and wicked sense of humour that we'll miss greatly.

(Contributed by his colleagues at SROWA)



Members' news

Annual General Meeting 2021

President's report

We are so lucky here in Western Australia that life has returned pretty much back to normal, minus inter-state and overseas travel. Thankfully the Friend's activities have not been impinged upon by the one or two 'snap lockdowns' we have had to endure in the early part of this year, although our *Newsletter* editor and her husband did find themselves confined to barracks in Melbourne for much longer than they originally intended, but they are now safely back with us.

Your committee has met, as usual, bi-monthly throughout the past year, receiving reports from both the State Library and State Records Office on their activities, overseeing the financial situation of the organisation, so ably managed by Nick Drew, looking for new projects to support and ensuring the general meetings go according to plan. It is great that Margaret Allan, Kate Gregory and John Hughes from the State Library, plus Damian Shepherd from the State Records Office also attend our meetings, making communication with both organisations friendly and easy. We thank them for their attendance, which makes it a long working day for them. I am most grateful to all the committee members for working so hard and making my transition into the role of President so easy.

As many of you know, Maude Sholl left a substantial bequest for the use of the Friends of Battye Library Inc. to help fund projects for the Battye Library of Western Australian History. During the past year we have granted \$10,000 for the digitisation of Convict Records and 80 Chain Plans, held in the State Records Office. Following digitisation, the SROWA will make digital copies of these records available through its online catalogue, as well as share them with specific interest groups.

We also made a grant from the Sholl bequest of \$1,000 to supplement funds donated in memory of Diana Wilson the History Librarian at Victoria Park Library. This funding will be used to digitise a photo album of wildflowers, which was donated to the State Library by Dorothy Annie Lee, who had been active in the Victoria Park community. The album chronicles a wildflower tour to Alexander Morrison National Park, Wubin, Koobabbie and New Norcia and is mostly photographs of flowers and scenery, with some photographs of travelling companions and a

shearing demonstration. All photographs are captioned with additional notes on last page of album. This project was considered by the committee to be a very fitting memorial to Diana's life and work.

Our programme of talks for the 2020/21 year commenced with a presentation by Julie Martin on her rookie teacher brother, Brian Hassell who in 1962 started the school year in the Kimberley, with a cave for a classroom for the children of the Aboriginal workers on Gogo Station. Next up was our own Steve Errington, telling us



in his inimitable style facts about the Round House that few of us knew. Finally we had a talk from Angela Heymans and Gwyn Williams, who explained their new website, the *West Australian Military Digital Library*. During the talk, it soon became clear this project was a paragon of how to design and set up a user friendly digital library and those present enthusiastically applauded Angela and Gwyn's efforts.

We are so lucky to be able to hold all our meeting in the comfortable surroundings of the State Library and we are most grateful to Margaret Allan and her team for making us so welcome and providing all the facilities we need, including their own staff room for our Christmas dinner.

I must now pay tribute to your committee which has supported me, suitably clad in 'L-plates' through my first year as President. In terms of conducting business, I think it is one of the most efficient committees I have ever sat on and that is in no small part due to our wonderfully efficient secretary Heather Campbell, our very numerate treasurer Nick Drew and Jennie Carter, who produces our interesting and informative Newsletter. Not forgetting of course, our persuasive membership secretary Cherie Strickland, who ensures our membership records are kept up to date and that your subscriptions come in on time! To these people and the rest of the hard-working committee I offer my sincere thanks for all you do for the Friends of the Battye Library. I also welcome co-opted member Helen Mather who has graciously taken on the duties of events co-ordinator.

Sadly, we are losing one member of the committee. Rob O'Connor has decided to step down for health reasons and we offer him our grateful

thanks for all he has done for the Friends over a great many years.

Richard Offen

[Note: the names of committee members for 2021-2022 can be found on the inside cover of this Newsletter.]

Speaker

At the conclusion of the AGM, Richard introduced our speaker Dr Adam Trainer, who gave a fascinating presentation on the State Library's Screenwest film Partnership. Adam is the Community Engagement Officer for WA Music. He has an academic research and music industry background which have prepared him for his role at SLWA in the Heritage and Engagement Team working on projects that encompass both public programming and collection development, with a particular focus on

West Australian music. Recently the remit of his role has expanded to encompass other areas of creative engagement with the State Library's collections, which has eventuated in exhibitions, performances, audio and video content, and works for virtual reality. *WA Reflections* is the latest of these projects – a partnership with Screenwest that has seen five films commissioned that draw from the State Library's collections in order to tell stories about Western Australian history from a range of perspectives.

Adam's session closed with a viewing of two of the short, five minute or so, films which had our audience enthralled. For those who were not able to attend, they can be viewed on the State Library's website at <https://slwa.wa.gov.au/stories/wa-history/wa-reflections> and I encourage you to check them out as they are very professionally produced and highly entertaining.



A production still from *Murder on the Dance Floor*, Sandbox Productions. The sensational story of the murder of Cyril Ridley at Government House Ballroom in 1925.

Have you a story to tell?

[Celia Miller will be well-known to Friends as the former President of the Swan Guildford Historical Society. Celia has been researching early licensed establishments in Guildford and surrounds.]

Early Drinking Houses in Guildford (based on James Backhouse's writings)

On a visit to Western Australia in 1838, James Backhouse, a Quaker missionary, was shocked by the overindulgence of liquor and spirits and was determined to form a Temperance Society before departing WA. During a short visit to Guildford, he noted the town had three licensed venues.

12th January 1838

We crossed the Swan in a boat and were accompanied on our way toward Guildford by several persons to a little beyond a deserted garden, where we partook freely of figs, the first crop of which was spoiling on the trees; there was also a good crop of peaches, and of grapes on the undressed vines, but they were not yet ripe. Crossing the Helena River by a wooden bridge, we became the guests of Alfred and Elizabeth Waylen, from whom we had received a kind invitation.



James Backhouse
(State Library of Victoria)

Alfred Waylen who had arrived in the colony with his wife on the *Skerne* in January 1830, was at that time residing at Guildford Lot 94, 'Garden Hill'. The property, which had been originally set aside for government use, was granted to a private settler Charles Boyd and became one of two small farms within the town boundaries.

In 1831 George Williams purchased Lot 94 from Boyd for £240. Williams ran a general store and inn, which by 1833 was the site of the Agricultural Society of Western Australia. Meetings were held four times a year, with business following an official dinner. Early in 1834 Williams left Guildford to take up the license of the Perth Hotel and the society then transferred

their venue to Dodd's Cleikum Inn, across the river at what is now Bassendean.

Before moving to Guildford, Waylen had partnered with Lionel Lukin and acquired land known as Pt. Walter where he built a villa which unfortunately burnt down. He rebuilt, but his home was again destroyed by fire in 1833. Waylen later built an inn named the Half Way House and ran a successful business.



Jane Dodds.
Shadow profile portrait.
(Lilian Heal, *Jane Dodds, 1788-1844: a Swan River Colony pioneer.*)

In 1837 Alfred Waylen leased Garden Hill from Williams for a period of five years and at the end of the lease in 1842 bought it for £300. Waylen died in 1856 aged 51 and the property passed to his son Dr Alfred Waylen. Alfred Junior established a vineyard at Garden Hill and Padbury, Loton & Co sold his wine.

An early colonial inn on the Western bank of the Swan River, the Cleikum (mentioned above), named after an inn featured in Sir Walter Scott's novel *St Ronan's Well*, was owned by James and Jane Dodds who had arrived on the Rockingham in 1829 with their five children. James Dodds was

granted 20 acres where he planted a garden, fruit trees and ran stock. The Inn soon prospered.

The ample provision made by Mr Dodds, the proprietor of the Cleikum Inn, for the comfort and convenience of the members gave general satisfaction; the meeting of the Agricultural Society will consequently be held at his house. [*Perth Gazette* January 1834]

Backhouse's diary entry for 13 January 1838:

We called on a pious Welshman, whose parents occupy a house belonging to the Governor, which is licensed for the sale of spirits, and kept open for travellers, for whom it is the principal resort. There are two other houses licensed for the sale of spirits in Guildford, which consists only of scattered houses, seven in Perth and four in Freemantle, besides some others in more remote situations. It is difficult to estimate the ruin that has been brought upon this colony by the sale of spirits.

The Welshman was Abraham Jones, the eldest son of Walter and Tabitha Jones, and operated licensed premises in Guildford, the York

Inn, established in 1835. It also became known variously as Jones's Inn, Woodbridge Inn, Guildford Hotel and the Two Sisters.

By 1837 the Agricultural Society had changed venues for the meetings, relocating from the Cleikum Inn:

A special meeting of the Agricultural Society will be held on Wednesday the 18th instant at Ten o' clock at JONES'S Guildford, to consider the propriety for applying for government permission to charter the colonial schooner to transport wheat to Mauritius, and to discuss other matters connected with the interests of the society. [*Perth Gazette* 14 June 1837]

In March 1843, William Edwards Senior purchased Jones's Inn, Pt Swan location 16 at five acres for £350 from his son in law, Jonathan Jones who was Abraham's brother. Senior gave the property to his eldest daughter Elizabeth, Jonathan's wife. Elizabeth and her younger sister Caroline ran the hotel from 1856 to 1858, renaming it the Two Sisters Hotel

The Guildford Hotel. G R Teede having succeeded Mr Jonathan Jones in the proprietorship of the above Hotel, begs respectfully to solicit the patronage of all gentlemen and others Traversing the Guildford Road, and assures them that every attention will be paid to the wishes and comfort of those who may favour him with their support. The stabling and stock yards are extensive and convenient, and it has been G R T's endeavors to purchase the best hay and corn in the market. [*Perth Gazette* 9 March 1844]

Mr Teede was also selling Pork, beef, sugar, tea, coffee, salt, fustian and velveteen coats, fancy silk handkerchiefs, carving knives and forks and various other articles.

W H Foster was also a proprietor of the Guildford Hotel:

W H Foster, having taken the Guildford Hotel lately held by Mr. Robert Wilson, has to assure those who favour him with their custom, that every attention shall be paid to their comfort and commands. Wines and Spirits, &c., of first-rate quality. The stables will be attended to, conducted on the same liberal principles as heretofore [17 April 1867]

Other licensees were Rummer and Walter Jones in 1874. It is believed the building finally fell into ruin and probably subsided into the nearby clay pit that was being worked by Turton Brickworks.

But back to Backhouse. By 16 January 1837 he was in Perth.

James, after taking tea with Major Irwin, met the inhabitants in the courthouse, and addressed them on the subject of temperance. At the close of the meeting Major Irwin expressed a hope that they should not separate without forming a Temperance Society. A labouring man inquired

how persons like himself should become members of the temperance societies, when masters often paid them to the amount of one-third of their wages in spirits, and the remainder in an order on some store, where little else was to be had. This led to some comments on the injurious practice, which appears to have arisen out of a kind of government order.

This would have been the *Act to regulate the Sale of Spirituous and fermented Liquors by Retail*.

[It is amongst other things enacted, that if any Master or other Employer, shall directly or indirectly pay or agree to pay any Journeyman, Workman, Servant, Labourer or other Person hired or employed by or for him or her in any manner whatsoever, for or on account of Wages, Hire, or Reward for Work or Service, either in whole or in part, in or by any such Liquors as aforesaid, or shall make any set-off against or deduction from such Wage, Hire or Reward for or in any respect of such Liquor, such Master or Employer shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence..

HIS Honor the Lieutenant-GOVERNOR has been pleased to direct the publication of the General Objects of the following Bill, now under the consideration of the Legislative Council. [Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, December 18, 1833]

Was it ever implemented?

Celia Miller

[Cherie Strickland will be known to members as our efficient membership co-ordinator and as a partner in Swan Genealogy. Neil Foley is also a committee member of the Friends as well as being Professor in the School of Social Sciences at the University of WA and an expert in Land and Planning. Both are highly experienced researchers and authors of WA history and family history.]

In Search of the Strickland Family Bible(s)

Family bibles can be of great assistance to family historians, if family events such as births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths are recorded within the bible. One mystery for descendants of Mary and Robert Strickland, who arrived in WA in 1830 on the *Hooghly* with six children, has been the fate of a reputed family bible (or bibles!). There are numerous descendants, many of whom have been tracing the family history, including the writers. The latter have made efforts since the 1970s to trace any extant bibles.

In the late 1970s Neil Foley found newspaper references mentioning Strickland family bible(s) in the Batty Library's newspaper collection. One related to the obituary of son Henry Robert (born 1820 Westminster), and the other to Henry's first son, William.

Henry's obituary stated:

For a year or so the family resided at Fremantle, and then moved up to the Swan River Settlement. This is shown by an entry in a family Bible which reads, "September 14, 1831 – went up the river." [*Western Mail*, 13 July 1907, p.16]

The other article, from 1947, relating to William Henry John Strickland (born 1841), recounts the presentation of a bible to William on the 22 December 1853, as an award for being the first recorded dux of Perth Boys' School, also known as Perth Colonial Boy's School. In 1947, William's daughter Henrietta, who had been left the bible by her father, presented it to the Headmaster of the School. The article [*Daily News*, 12 September 1947, p.6] notes that right up until his death, her father used to conduct family morning prayers from the bible. It further states:

On the flyleaf, he recorded the family tree beginning with John William Hokin (born 1791; died 1831) [Henry Robert Strickland had married Mary Ann Hokin who had arrived on the *Parmelia* in 1829].

It was unclear as to whether these newspaper articles referred to the same, or separate bibles.

Neil was told by other descendants that the bible had been subsequently transferred to the custody of the National Trust and was kept at the South Perth Mill. In November 1980, he visited the mill and found that the bible was housed in a locked, small glass/wooden case. The Trust staff member on duty kindly opened the case to enable inspection. The flyleaf and other front pages were missing. No-one at the Trust head office knew of the whereabouts of the missing pages. Neil thought that it would be unlikely that anyone would discard them, and so they must have been removed for 'safe-keeping' by either staff or a descendant. It was hopefully a waiting game until they turned up.

Patience was rewarded, because in 2007, Cherie Strickland and research associate Lorraine Clarke met descendants of Henry Robert born 1820 and his son David Strickland born 1843. In about 1972 or 1973, they had visited the South Perth Mill and were given permission to transcribe the information on the flyleaves and provided Cherie and Lorraine with

a typescript copy. So at least if the original pages never turned up, then the information was available to family members.

For the Royal WA Historical Society Pioneer Memorial Service, commemorating the Strickland family, in 2007 the National Trust kindly displayed the supposed family bible. This bible however had nothing recorded on the flyleaf nor did it record to whom the bible had been presented.

In June 2020, after more than 40 years searching, Neil decided to re-investigate. He discovered that the South Perth Mill's management had been transferred to the City of South Perth in 1992. On inquiry with the City, Neil learned that in 2018, during some renovation work, the Local History Librarian relocated the bible to the Local History Collection at the South Perth Library, in order that it be more secure and could be kept at a constant temperature and humidity (it had suffered moisture damage at the mill).



Bible bookplate (South Perth Library)

Neil immediately visited the library to inspect the bible. There is now indeed water damage, particularly to its bottom half. However, there was no cover page or flyleaves with the family entries. The bible had a manuscript notation within a bookplate pasted onto the inside cover: 'William Strickland Perth Swan River Western Australia April 14th, 1855.'

Neil again decided to contact the National Trust in August 2020. The email response from the Manager of Interpretation and Collections was:

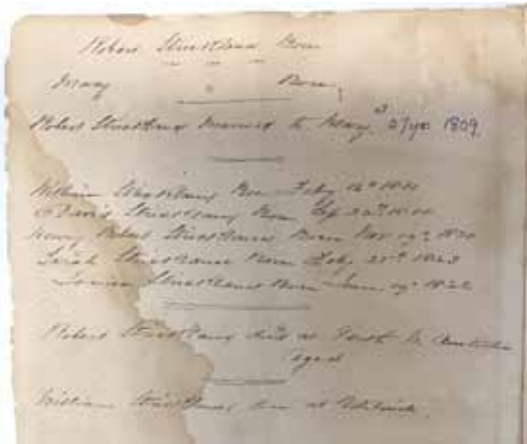
The whereabouts of the Strickland family bible, in its entirety, is a topic that has arisen at least once a year in the 20 years I have worked with the National Trust. Whatever has happened to the fly-leaf pages we do not know and despite all best efforts we have never been able to locate them.

The Royal WA Historical Society did not have the pages either.

This was not, however, the end of the matter. In early 2021, Cherie Strickland was looking through the State Library's catalogue, and made

a very unexpected discovery. Accession 8256A was described as a three written pages fragment of a bible owned by William Strickland. Cherie ordered it and discovered that it matched the typescript copy made in

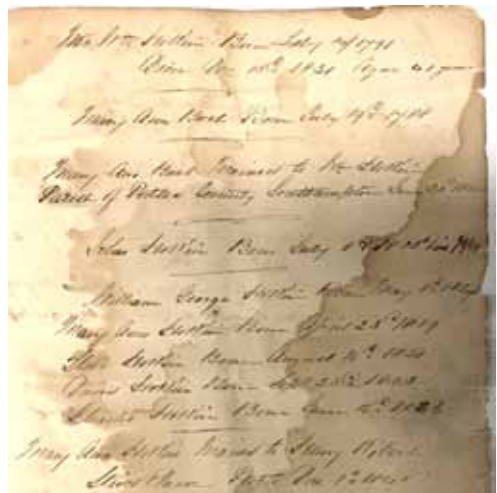
1972/73 (two blue ball-point pen annotations had been added). There was a fourth page – the cover page – which indicated the bible was published in 1851. Like the bible in the South Perth Library, the bottom of the pages were water damaged, and the page sizes also matched. The bible was now finally complete, even if held in two separate repositories. Staff in the Battye Library subsequently advised that these pages have been



Strickland family entries. Extract of flyleaf pages (Battye Library, SLWA Acc.8256A)

catalogued since 2012! They had been dropped off at the State Library by a descendant quite a considerable time before in 2011 Library staff wrote to the donor at the last address they had in Queensland.

What does this story tell us? Have patience. Have hope. And there may still be more to find. The information recorded in William's bible does not include the reference in Henry Strickland's 1907 obituary to 'a family Bible' mentioning the Stricklands' relocation from Fremantle to Perth: 'September 14, 1831 – went up the river.' So, is there another bible out there just waiting to come to light?



Hokin family entries. Extract of flyleaf pages (Battye Library, SLWA Acc.8256A)

Since then, further articles found via the National Library's Trove website, add further to the bible's history. They indicate that the then 94-year-old bible was read from at a memorial and commemoration service to celebrate the centenary of Perth Boys' School on 21 September 1947, at which Premier Ross McLarty unveiled a memorial plaque [*Sunday Times*, 21 September 1947, p.3; *Daily News*, 20 September 1947, p.5, *West Australian* 22 September 1947, p.7]. It is also recorded that the bible was housed in a 'memorial glass showcase' with other items in 1948 [*Daily News*, 18 May 1948, p.2]. In January 1897, the Perth Boys' School moved from St George's Terrace to the newly opened Central Perth Public School in James Street, with accommodation for up to 800 boys and girls [*West Australian*, 19 January 1897, page 3]. The boys section apparently continued to be referred to as the Perth Boys' School.

Cherie Strickland and Neil Foley

[Richard Offen is not only President of the Friends, he is well-known because of his former role as head of Heritage Perth and his many radio broadcasts, articles, and publications about his adopted city. Twenty years ago Richard came to Perth and in his own words "fell in love with the place". Richard is the author of Lost Perth and Perth:Then and Now.]

Western Australia Described

It is interesting to discover how first-time visitors to Western Australia over several centuries have described what they encountered here. Not all of them have been enthusiastic!

On 29 December 1696, Willem De Vlamingh's exploration party landed on Rottneest Island. In his journal he describes the island thus:

The ground is covered with little or no soil, but with white and rocky sand, in my opinion little adapted for cultivation. There are very few birds there and no animals, except a kind of rat as big as a common cat, whose dung is found in abundance all over the island. There are also very few seals or fish, except a sort of sardine and grey rock bream.

In the middle of the island, at about half an hour's distance we found several basins of excellent water, but brackish, and six or seven paces further a fountain of fresh water fit to drink.

William Dampier was one of the first Englishmen to undertake a scientific study of WA's landscape, seas, plants and animals. He spent about three months charting the coast between Shark Bay and Lagrange Bay, south of Broome and was unimpressed with the sandy, dry and barren coast:

The land ... is low but seemingly barricaded with a long chain of sand hills to the sea, that lets nothing be seen of what is farther within land ... The land by the sea for about 5 or 600 yards is a dry sandy soil, bearing only shrubs and bushes of divers sorts.

Nicolas Baudin held a similar view of our land when his French ships 'Geographe' and 'Naturaliste' came here on a scientific expedition:

The whole western coast of New Holland is described as a low, barren, dreary and sandy shore, affording little interesting either in the animal, mineral or vegetable creation.

He may well have considered the place 'dreary' but it is interesting to note that on the expedition's return to France in 1804 (sadly, Baudin died of TB in Mauritius before they got home), Empress Josephine, Bonaparte's wife, had the gardens of their Paris retreat, *Malmaison*, stocked with kangaroos, emus, black swans, and a variety of Australian native plants.



V.eme Vue Du Jardin Des Plantes/Jardin Anglais et derriere de la Serre. The small zoo had been founded in 1795. (Natural History Museum Paris, public domain image.)

Given what others had previously said about Western Australia, Captain James Stirling must have had his rose-tinted spectacles on when he explored the Swan River in March, 1827:

...the richness of the soil, the bright foliage of the shrubs, the majesty of the surrounding trees, the abrupt and red colour banks of the river occasionally seen, and the view of the blue mountains, from which we were not far distant, made the scenery of this spot as beautiful as anything of the kind I have ever witnessed...

He may have thought it beautiful, but the first Swan River Colony settlers, who arrived in 1829/30, were less than impressed with what they found here. Eliza Shaw, who arrived with her family in February 1830, wrote in her diary:

Out of 1,800 souls now come to this Colony in hopes of living, or at least of not being starved to death, there are not a dozen who know what to do or where they are to go.

The people here look actually horror-struck one at another in absolute despair ...

There are some who have been here nine months and have sown different seeds at different times, but they have all invariably died away and there is not one who has been able to raise either potatoes, cabbage or any other vegetable.

That man who reported this land to be good deserves hanging nine times over ... Each side of the river is nothing more or less than sand - white sand - incapable of being made to produce anything for the sustenance of man!



Charles Wittenoom's painting of his brother John driving westwards along St Georges Terrace c1837. (Pamela Statham Drew)

In managing to persuade people to emigrate here, James Stirling probably ranks alongside some of the best modern-day used car salesmen!

Gradually Perth developed into a small country town, which the British author, Anthony Trollope, visited in 1872. He described Perth in the following terms:

Perth I found to be a very pretty town, built on a lake of brackish water formed by the Swan River. It contains 6,000 inhabitants, and of course is the residence of the chief people of the colony, as the governor is there, and the legislative chamber, and the supreme judge, and the bishop.

As pretty as Perth seemed to Trollope's eye, he was very scathing about the state of Western Australian agriculture:

Atrociously bad ...Men continue to crop the same ground with the same crops year after year without manuring it, and when weeds come thicker than the corn, they simply leave it. Machinery has not been introduced. Seed is wasted and farmers thresh their corn with flails on the roads after the old Irish fashion.

He was also not too fond of Western Australian wine:

I will not take it upon myself to say I drank West Australian wine with delight. I took it with awe and trembling and in very small quantities. But we all know that the art of making wine does not arise in a day.

I wonder what he'd think of a modern Swan Valley Chenin Blanc?

Richard Offen

[Robert O'Connor QC is a long-serving member of the Friends committee. Among his many other interests, he is a member of the Nelson Society. To commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar, Rob's article has been drawn from a paper he delivered on 23 October 2015.]

The Life of Admiral Horatio Nelson and The Battle of Trafalgar

Horatio Nelson, the son of a clergyman, was born at Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk England, in 1758 and died in the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar, aged 47. He is Britain's greatest ever naval Admiral and is often referred to as 'The Immortal Memory'.

He was never defeated in battle. His four greatest victories were at Cape St Vincent 1797, the Nile Campaign 1798, the Battle of Copenhagen 1801 and the Battle of Trafalgar 1805.



A 1797 portrait of Horatio Nelson by
Lemuel Francis Abbott.
(Public domain image)

Nelson entered the Royal Navy at age twelve. From his early teens, Nelson was commanding boats with up to twenty oarsmen. From the age of eighteen, he was in charge of a watch and took command of ships taken as prizes. By 21, he was a captain, responsible for hundreds of men. Nelson strove to be a hero and was courageous. He lost his right eye at Calvi in 1794 and his right arm at Tenerife in 1797.

He was very ambitious and the most frequent criticism of him was that he was vain. But he was a

great leader and referred to the captains in his fleets as his Band of Brothers.

Nelson was not satisfied with being overlooked in the official version of the Battle of St Vincent in 1797 written by Sir John Jervis (later Earl St Vincent). Jervis made no mention of the part played by Nelson, although Nelson initiated the main attack and captured two Spanish ships. Nelson remedied this by writing and distributing his own version. His writing style was vivid, colourful, racy and breathless, and peppered with quotations from Shakespeare and the Bible. Nelson became a household name and toured both Naples and England where people flocked to hear him. The British needed to focus on a hero to rally their spirits and at a time of fear of invasion by Napoleon, Nelson was the man of the moment.

Nelson is famous for two main reasons: his victory and death at the Battle of Trafalgar, and his love affair with Lady Emma Hamilton. Nelson first met Emma briefly in 1793. The couple did not meet again until 1798 when Emma was the wife of the much older Sir William Hamilton, British Envoy to Naples. Although both were married, their affair swiftly developed. Hamilton either did not know what was going on or, as a great admirer of Nelson, knew and turned a blind eye to it but the affair scandalised England. Emma bore Nelson's child, Horatia as well as another daughter who died at four months.

The Battle of Trafalgar was fought on 21 October 1805 between the

British on one side and the combined fleet of the French and Spanish on the other. There were 27 British ships and 33 in the opposing fleet. The battle took place off the south-west coast of Spain just west of Cape Trafalgar.

Before battle, Nelson wrote his Will adding a codicil:

“I leave Emma Hamilton therefore a legacy to my King and Country, that they will give her an ample provision to maintain her rank in life.”

Nelson also made a financial request for Horatia, and added: “These are the only favours I ask of my King and Country at this moment when I am going to fight their Battle.”



Lady Hamilton as Circe by George Romney (Public domain image)

At 11.45 am, with the enemy about 1 ½ miles away at most, Nelson had the flags hoisted proclaiming “England expects that every man will do his duty.”

Until Trafalgar, the orthodox strategy was for the fleet to sail parallel to the enemy and attack from there. At Trafalgar, Nelson changed that tactic and instead split his fleet into two divisions, one led by himself, the other by Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood. It produced decisive results. The French and Spanish lost 22 of their 33 ships but Britain lost none of its 27. The respective tolls were as follows: French 1,425 killed, 2,296 drowned, 1,410 wounded - total 5,133. Spanish 1,033 killed, 1,371 wounded - total 2,404 for a combined total of 7,535. British deaths were 458 and 1,208 wounded - total 1,666.

During the battle, Nelson walked around the deck of the *Victory* in full uniform and shining medals, showing leadership by example. He was shot by a French sniper at 1.30 pm and taken below deck where he lingered for three hours. Learning that victory had been achieved he replied that at least he had done his duty. He uttered the words “Kiss me Hardy” and died at 4.30 pm.

It was the practice that any sailor killed in battle, including senior officers, were buried at sea. Nelson whispered to Captain Thomas Hardy: “Don’t

throw me overboard, Hardy” to which Hardy replied “Oh, no, certainly not.”

On board there was no lead for a coffin so a leaguer, the biggest cask, was filled with brandy and Nelson placed inside it standing on his head. The Victory sailed for Portsmouth, arriving on 4 December. Nelson’s body had been preserved perfectly, transferred to a coffin, and lay in state for three days at Greenwich with 15,000 people filing past and many more unable to gain admission.

The funeral took place on 9 January. The 2km procession to St Paul’s Cathedral took two hours, and tens of thousands of spectators watched the street parade.

Parliament did not accede to Nelson’s wishes that Emma be given a pension and although Nelson had made several bequests to Emma in his will including a life interest in property, she died in poverty in Calais in January 1815, aged 49.

Nelson will always be held in Immortal Memory. His victory at Trafalgar spectacularly confirmed the naval supremacy that Britain had established in the 18th Century and maintained for the following century.



Voices that Should be Heard

[Ronda Jamieson’s popular column, which she has written for the last seven years, will return in our March issue. In the meantime we thought that new members might enjoy reading the first in her series based on the oral history collections of the Battye Library.]

Ethleen Walton, OH292

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

After finding the person chosen for my first attempt was no longer able to be interviewed, the second choice was someone whose work experience had some parallels with my own even allowing for the decades in

between. Her name was Ethleen Walton (nee Moore) who was born in 1905 and who was aged 73 when I interviewed her. She worked as a shorthand-typist for nine years before her marriage in 1932, mostly as secretary to the editor of the *West Australian* following work at the Church of England office. I joined the ABC as secretary to the editor of its radio and television news service in March 1960 – before the ABC's first television broadcast on 7 May.

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

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

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



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

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

Ethleen described the duties of the various staff members of the *West*, the attitude to women journalists, training of journalists, new technology for printing and the *West's* role in book publishing. She recalled Sir Paul Hasluck joining the staff as a journalist in 1923 and the regular contributions from such people as Katharine Susannah Prichard, Fred Alexander, John K Ewers, Leslie Rees, Walter Murdoch, Henrietta Drake-Brockman, Arthur Upfield, Dom Serventy, James McCartney and Molly Skinner. There was also one from Daisy Bates. It made you realise how important the *West* would have been in providing an outlet for the talents of such people as well as the very different newspaper the *West* was when compared with today.

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

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

The interview revealed another issue that would increasingly trouble me over the years. Due to genuine interest in the story of the person being interviewed and their preparedness to tell you things they did not always tell others, a close relationship is quickly established if more than one interview session is involved. After the death of her husband, Ethleen

often asked me to ‘pop in’ so we could have a good chat, even though she lived a very long distance from where I lived and my life as wife, mother, oral historian and community volunteer left little spare time. I often felt guilty about having to decline.

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

Ronda Jamieson



Treasures from Trove

[Heather Campbell is not only our Society’s marvellous Secretary, she is also a skilled researcher, historian, and author. This article is the fifth in her series on delving into the wonders of the NLA’s ‘Trove’ database of Western Australian newspapers.]

Using Dr Battye’s Public Library in 1921.

The Public Library

To the Editor [*Daily News*, 17 January 1921, p.2]

Sir,— Of all the public libraries in the Empire, I should say that the one here is in most need of a shaking up. How many men and women spent, say, one hour in it during the year 1920? One cannot expect Perth to boast a library like the handsome well equipped one in Melbourne, but in some respects it compares unfavourably with the public library in Adelaide.

Three months ago I wished to convince a sceptical Irishman that sterilisation of criminals is practised in at least a dozen of the States of the American Union. I asked an attendant where I could find some works on ‘Eugenics.’ ‘Eh – what?’ was the reply I received, The word had not apparently been used in the library before, although it is now a good many years ago since Francis Galton coined it. I tried for over two hours to find evidence to satisfy my Irish friend, but failed. I could have removed his doubts in five minutes in either Adelaide or Melbourne.



Inside Hackett Hall, main reading room of the Public Library of Western Australia (later State Library of WA) Battye Library, SLWA I013894PD: .

I should say that very few new books have been put on the shelves during the last ten years. Many old books are extremely interesting, but they don't help me to find out how many infants under the age of one year died in the Commonwealth in 1919. Maybe the library authorities would be well advised to introduce

moving pictures or even to apply for a liquor licence. It would be less of a 'white elephant' than it appears to be at present . Yours, etc, CANTO. Perth, January 14 [1921]

Perth Prattle [*Sunday Times*, 27 February 1921, p.7]

'House Builder' writes:

Desirous of acquiring knowledge of a type of house to build suitable to the climate; I sought information from books stored at the Public Library. Dunno how long since the stock has been replenished, but my search made it evident that it badly needs being brought up to date. The best I could find was an ancient publication depicting an old English style of house with a spire and a capacity of rooms running into three figures. Will the Public Librarian please note?

'My Office Window' (By Argus) [*Western Mail*, 5 May 1921, p.21]

Mr J S Battye has been lecturing on "Bolshevism." I wish he would lecture on the necessity for periodically shifting the positions of the books in the Public Library. These seem to me to be in a chronic state of re-arrangement. One has no sooner discovered to one's satisfaction whereabouts certain volumes are to be found than they are freshly disposed and the search has to be gone through

anew. The game of general post - if it must be played - should be played at the General Post Office, not the Public Library.

To the Editor. [*West Australian*, 13 May 1921, p.8]

Sir, - Wishing to peruse an Act of the Parliament of this State, passed in 1919, I visited the Public Library, during an evening this week. After a careful search among the neatly compiled statutes of Western Australia, the latest I could find were those passed in 1918 and the early part of 1919.

Thinking it strange that nothing later in the way of Parliamentary Acts were on the shelves of the library of the State, I interviewed the attendant on duty, who most courteously informed me that, if they were not on the shelf allotted to the State statutes, they had not yet been bound and consequently were not available. Upon my expressing amazement that a citizen of the State wishing to obtain important information from an Act passed two years ago by the Parliament, that annually votes the necessary supplies that enable the administrative expenses to be met, the young gentleman expressed regret that he was unable to procure me the necessary reference which I required.

Seeing that copies of Western Australian statutes can be purchased from the Government Printer, immediately after the Royal assent, I fail to see why such a delay should take place in rendering them available for reference to these who desire them. To visitors it would certainly not give the best impressions to find that they were unable to obtain from the shelves of the State Library, legislative enactments passed since 1919.-Yours etc.. D C Perth, May 6.

Preservation of Old Newspapers. [*Sunday Times*, 11 December 1921, p.12]

The Public Library officials are to be congratulated: on the reforms now progressing in connection with the large, but hitherto badly arranged and cared for collection of bound newspapers in the "locked" newspaper room.

The practice has grown up of all and sundry entering the room where the papers are stored, through the swinging doors from the general newspaper room, though on the doors "No Admittance" is

displayed, and taking from the shelves any newspaper they desire to read.

Now the staff is engaged in over-hauling all the bound newspapers, and in future those who require them must ask for them and read them in the general room.

The old newspapers published in Western Australia cannot be replaced, and it is sad to see how many of them are mutilated, or with the binding become so old and worn that copies at the beginning or end of some volumes have been worn out or destroyed.

The Library authorities should also forthwith cover the windows of the bound newspaper storeroom, which is on the ground floor, with 'Cyclone' woven wire, netting to protect the valuable public property in the room. At present there is only a pane of glass between a would-be vandal and these valuable WA records.

Many of us will be able to empathise with the library users of 1921 to a greater or lesser extent, however today we are far better off. We even, as Canto suggested, have moving pictures and on occasions do drink liquor on library premises.

Heather Campbell



News from the State Library

Events, exhibitions, projects, acquisitions

Professional Learning on Community Engagement

State Library have partnered with Awesome Arts to deliver Professional Learning on Community Engagement to public library teams in regional WA including Dandaragan Shire and Katanning. Kate Akerman has been the intrepid staff member embarking on these well received visits.

Rolling Through Time

The last of the very successful *WA Reflections* film screenings will be held on Thursday 14 October 2021 at 6:00pm. *WA Reflections* brings

the State Library's collections to life through five innovative documentary short films. *Rolling Through Time* takes Sir Frederick Samson's personal film collection and transposes it over 21st century Fremantle as explored by a skater. This screening and panel discussion explores the legacy of Samson's film collection and the ways in which it was harnessed by the filmmakers to merge old and new.

Dr Kate – ABC Afternoons History Repeated and 6PR Remember When

The Dr Kate ABC radio segments on WA Afternoons with Christine Layton continue to provide great exposure for our collections. In September Kate focused on our collection of material relating to the ARTEMIS Women's Art Forum which in the late 1980s raised the profile of women in the arts. Our collection contains some of the organisational archive, photographs and newsletters related to artists like Jo Darbyshire, Penny Bovell, Michelle Elliot, Tania Ferrier amongst many others.



Margaret Feilman (1921-2013)
(West Australian Newspapers)



Sir Frederick Samson with his 16mm movie camera. (Samson Family History Group <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au>)

Earlier in the month the legacy of Margaret Feilman's work as a town planner, architect and heritage conservationist was explored on both the ABC's Afternoons program and with 6PR's *Remember When*. The State Library holds a large collection of Feilman's work including town plans, architectural drawings and correspondence.

On the Friday before the AFL Grand Final at Optus Stadium,

John Hughes filled in for Dr Kate to talk about WA football great Graham ‘Polly’ Farmer and highlight the collection at State Library.

XR:WA Festival

From 17-19 September the State Library partnered with other Perth Cultural Centre organisations to deliver the XR:WA virtual and augmented reality festival which comprised of conference and exhibition content showcasing the latest in local Virtual Reality. The programme included the *Reflections of Iwanoff* interactive VR experience, produced as part of *WA Reflections*, which ran from September 10-18 and saw dozens of clients experience the Harrison House in 3D.

New State Library Website

The State Library has successfully launched its new website, with very few adverse comments. The new website presents SLWA in a new and fresh dynamic way and we hope that it will help to engage new library explorers as well as making information easier to find for our existing clientele.

Florette

Recent visitors to the State Library have had the opportunity to explore Mae’s Garden as featured in the popular children’s book *Florette* by Anna Walker. COVID-19 has prevented Anna coming from Melbourne to meet Western Australian children, but we are hoping that this will happen in the near future – in person or by digital technology. Meanwhile children of all ages are creating art and stories in the interactive space.



Podcasts

Three podcasts commissioned by the State Library and created by Latitude Creative will shortly be appearing on our new website - *Culture, Catchers and Keepers: Rare Stories from the West* features musings on the Swan River / Derbarl Yerrigan, Fanny Balbuk, Freycinet, Mary Ann Friend and then moves onto gender and identity in contemporary Western Australia.

Storylines

The team behind the State Library Aboriginal archive - *Storylines* - have been busy visiting Casuarina Prison in September to talk to Aboriginal prisoners about tracing and understanding their family tree, to help facilitate their rehabilitation back into the community. Director of Library Services Liz Spencer and Indigenous Community Liaison Officer Denien Toomath presented to the West Australian Local Government Association about the work of *Storylines*, which generated a lot of interest as it informed local governments as they continue their reconciliation journey.

New Acquisitions at the State Library

Navy Auxiliary Patrol, Perth Division records

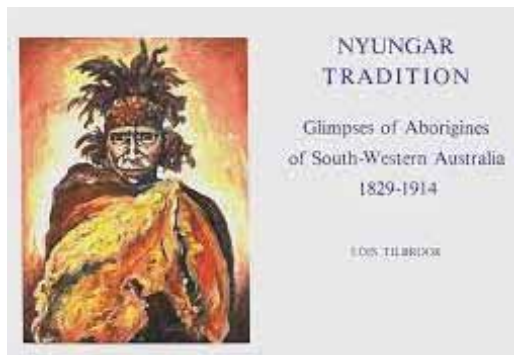
Colville Oliver Parslow's Naval Auxiliary Patrol logbook - 1942. The Royal Australian Naval Auxiliary Patrol was formed at the start of WWII using privately owned craft manned mainly by volunteers. The Perth Division was responsible for patrolling the Swan River and adjacent waters. Parslow enlisted in February 1941 and was discharged August 1943. In January 1951, he fell from a Tiger moth plane into the sea near Rottnest Island in an attempt to rescue three people aboard his lugger, the Alana. His body was not recovered.

Nirvana Social Club Records and Photographs

In 1967 a small group of eight or ten people formed a social club for single people, with ballroom dancing its main activity. At its peak the Club boasted over 700 members. Initially members resigned their membership when they married, but over time this restriction faded. The Club folded in 2020 due to declining membership.

Lois Tilbrook Collection

Collection of around 250 photographic copies that were part of the 1978 exhibition South West Aboriginal Studies (SWAS), a travelling exhibition of photographs and genealogical charts displayed in Mount Lawley, Albany, Narrogin and Bunbury. SWAS



was established by Lois Tilbrook through a large grant from Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, via the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Trautman family photographs and papers

Gustav Adolph Trautman was born in Latvia around 1877. Gus was a seaman, plying the route from the Baltic Sea to Southern England, and later secured work with timber milling company Lewis & Reids who had a milling operation 9km north of Collie WA. Their first accommodation was a tent near a creek in the native forest and later the company allowed them to build a house. Gus developed a passion for photography and he recorded images of the mill, community and activities in the area. The Trautman family papers include family history documents and autobiographical accounts.

Yacht Surveys

Six rare original yachting surveys of WA. hand drawn by Lionel Cecil Lawrance of South Terrace Como for Yachting Surveys of WA. This series of charts were drawn for small craft including yachts, originally in the late 1950's to the mid late 1960's. Includes: Rottnest Island, Thomson Bay, Fremantle to Rottnest, Cockburn Sound and Safety Bay.

Duncan Wright Collection

Digital images that capture "the Sharks" football team, Club members, and spectators during the final season prior to a \$20 million redevelopment of the East Fremantle Football Oval. The images provide an important documentary record of the Club premises, the Merv Cowan grandstand, a mural, the scoreboard, and the playing field. The East Fremantle Football Oval, situated between Moss Street, Fletcher Street, Marmion Street and Allen Street, has great cultural value in East Fremantle.



State Records Office - News from the Archives

Facebook page

SRO has a Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/StateRecordsOfficeWA>. It is certainly worth browsing the site to discover interesting stories revealed by the records held in the State Archives collection which are regular features.

Website issues;

Some problems had been experienced by those trying to access the SRO website hosted under wa.gov.au. The issue was resolved some weeks ago, but you may need to clear the cache in your browser if you are still trying to find sro.wa.gov.au and ending up at wa.gov.au.

You could also just visit <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/state-records-office-of-western-australia> and bookmark this as the new SRO website.

Margaret Medcalf Award

Winners of the Award will be announced on 19 November. New podcasts included a new series of podcasts with local producer Sarah Tout, in which previous winners of the Award were interviewed about their research. The first of these was available for download on the SRO website. Sarah Tout had also interviewed Dr Leigh Straw on her book *After the War: Returned Soldiers and the Mental and Physical Scars of World War One*. There was now a podcast version of the Geoffrey Bolton Lecture using a different approach based on the *Ancestors' Words* Project.

State Cabinet records

To mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information on 28 September, State Cabinet records from 1990 are now available to access online through the State Records Office of WA. A new Guide to the papers, also available online, was developed by talented student, Ms Mulan Wai, who joined the SRO as an intern for a few months earlier this year through the McCusker Centre for Citizenship.

SROWA Newsletter

It is published every quarter and the SRO team were active on social media, ABC radio 720 and 6PR with Harvey Deegan. These stories are available via the website at *Stories from the Archives*.

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

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

We need a completed form for our records, so please return it either by post or as an attachment to an email to **membership@friendsofbattye.org.au** with your online receipt number.

Afterwords

The mysterious Mr Beasmore

In September, 'Gem of Time' and former Battye staffer Steve Howell addressed the Royal Western Australian Historical Society on the three diarists who arrived at Swan River in January 1830 on the *Wanstead*, Mary Ann Friend, William Jay, and Jane Roberts. The Revd Wittenoom and Dr Milligan were other notable passengers, and also aboard, travelling with a ticket paid for by the British government, was John Beasmore, the onetime Armourer Sergeant of the 17th Regiment of Foot.

Beasmore was probably the 'Old Sergeant' pressed into service when Jay and their fellow passenger William Riley spent

two demanding weeks exploring the country south of Fremantle in February 1830. Each took a knapsack with biscuits, matches, tea, tobacco, a bottle of water and a tin to boil it in. And 'one thing extra the Sergeant was blessed with, a spade to dig for water'.

Beasmore left other traces in official records. In August he was listed to be a witness at the trial of four men charged with a Fremantle robbery, but Lt Governor Stirling sent them off to Van Diemen's Land without waiting for a trial. In October Beasmore emphasised his years of service to His Majesty and the recommendation of Sir Henry Hardinge, Secretary at War, when applying to Stirling for a licence to keep a Victualling House. Stirling was blunt in his refusal.

By January 1831 he was begging Stirling for £6 to make up the sum needed to retrieve his tools or, failing that, assistance to find a passage to some other port. Stirling declined to help. When, in April, the captain of the *Edward Lombe* offered him a passage 'by working', there was a hitch - Beasmore owed money around Fremantle, and John Duffield requested that Colonial Secretary Brown stop him from leaving.

Now Stirling stepped in, approving Beasmore's departure and issuing instructions to Government Resident Captain Bannister to pay Beasmore £7/10s – or what was left when Duffield was paid and William Dixon received 14s, George Leake £1/10s, William Smithers 5s8d, and William Steele 2s3d.



Advertising card from the Beasmore file in the UK National Archives, Kew

So, in the end, Stirling paid to see him go. But why did the British pay to send him here? The circumstances emerge from a fat file held by The National Archives in Kew, London [WO 43/428].

He was what we would now call a 'whistleblower', exposing fraudulent behaviour by headquarters staff of the 17th Regiment, but it is difficult to assess his own probity. There were certainly problems with the 'oil and emery' funds under his control as armourer including reports of forged vouchers.

But he later revealed the private work he had done for paymaster Allsop in March 1826. Allsop secured an open-ended pass for Beasmore, and sent him off to surreptitiously follow Mrs Allsop around Scotland. He was reimbursed £10 in expenses. For other private business for the paymaster in July 1827 he received £25.

A dispute over 'pricker and brush' purchases saw him lodge complaints against senior officers. They were cleared but Beasmore was referred to a Garrison Court Martial for insubordination, imprisoned and discharged from the Army.

Beasmore petitioned Sir Henry Hardinge, Secretary at War, without response but then approached radical Tory MP Joseph Hume who was campaigning about government waste. Hume convinced Hardinge to hold an August 1828 Court of Enquiry at which Beasmore was the chief witness.

A forensic examination of a Regiment 'description book' revealed numerous improper erasures and alterations, confirming that some men were drawing extra pay to which they were not entitled while other discharged men were drawing higher pensions than they were entitled to.

Hardinge showed his gratitude by generously compensating Beasmore for his time and attendance at the Enquiry, and for hardships he had suffered. In October 1828 he promised Beasmore 100 guineas and a passage to Swan River for himself, his wife and their two children. He was given £43 worth of tools (including £1/13s for garden tools which presumably included a spade) and armourer's tools. Secretary for the Colonies Sir George Murray asked Stirling to find Beasmore a half-acre 'close to town' so he could start a business. In the end, his wife could not join him, but Joseph Hume organised a weekly payment for her.

It probably ended badly for Beasmore – in 1837 he was still petitioning Queen Victoria for assistance.

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 5 February, 5 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 Website www.slwa.wa.gov.au

Email: info@slwa.wa.gov.au

Specialist staff: Dr Kate Gregory (Battye Historian)
 Mr John Hughes (Team Leader Senior Subject Specialist)

State Records Office

The SRO Search Room has co-located to the Battye Library, third floor of the State Library, Alexander Library Building. To access these materials in the Leah Cohen Reading Room a Researcher's Ticket will still be required.

Retrievals

As per usual times for SRO retrievals.

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

The Genealogy Centre

Opening hours- The hours that the Genealogy Centre will be accessible will remain the same as Battye Library opening hours on the third floor.

Volunteers from Family History Western Australia, formerly the WA Genealogical Society (WAGS), are available to assist researchers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

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