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May 2015

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

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Centenary of ANZAC Day issue

Our May 2015 meeting

Shannon Lovelady

Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia



*16th Battalion rising sun recovered from Bloody Angle in 1919.
(Image courtesy Australian War Memorial.)*

The meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 May 2015 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.

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

May Meeting

Tuesday 12 May 2015
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Shannon Lovelady

Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia

The Western Australian Genealogical Society's website notes: "Presbyterian Ladies College Archivist Shannon Lovelady learned in early June 2013 that the exact number of Western Australian men who died at Gallipoli is not known, but estimated at between 900-2500. In preparation for the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, she invited WAGS WA Special Interest Group and others to collaborate on a project to determine the exact number of deaths." Shannon will discuss the progress of the project and details of some of the project team's and volunteers' research.

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.

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About our speaker - Shannon Lovelady



Photograph courtesy Rob O'Connor QC

Shannon has a background in computer training, IT and database administration, and in 1995, in the internet's early days, fell accidentally into family history.

Through that she found a love of social history and unearthed a real talent for research. She has had a quiet heritage research consultancy for 20 years which began with the research and writing the histories of old houses and the families who've lived in them. She also conducts detailed family history research and helps others break through brick walls in their own research.

A recent case was discreetly uncovering the 85 year old mystery of what happened to a friend's great grandfather. She found him living under a false name in a different State, bigamously married to a much younger woman, with two more children, about 40 years younger than the first four he deserted!

Another, was two old baby photographs found in a box at Matilda's Antiques in North Fremantle. She thought, with just 'love Rhelma' written on one, and 'Lynette Spry' on another, she could track down the families and return them. It took just 10 minutes. A few weeks later she learnt Rhelma and Lynette were sisters and heard how they had laughed when catching up, and each told the same story of how their baby photos had been returned!

But that's just for fun. For her work, Shannon is Archivist, Curator and Historian at Presbyterian Ladies' College where she looks after the school's records and builds the archival collection. She also writes for the school's Blackwatch magazine, finding interesting research material wherever she turns.

Last year, one of PLC's 99-year-old Old Girls, made the chance remark to someone else that one of her classmates had been a spy. Finding this irresistible, Shannon had soon unearthed the classmate - Roma Craze,

a PLC Old Girl from 1932 and one of the first five women seconded to Bletchley Park in 1939. Roma was one of those responsible for shortening WWII by up to three years.

She likes facts and it is her belief that there are certain things we should just know. It is that, that led her to embark on the Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia project.

Meeting dates for the rest of 2015

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 May – Speaker Shannon Lovelady.

The Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia project.

14 July - Speaker Bill Edgar.

The Convict Era in Western Australia, It's Economic, Social and Political Consequences.

8 September (AGM) - Speaker - Dr Sue Summers.

A charity or a right? Treatment of disabled ex-servicemen in Western Australia following World War 1.

17 November - Speaker - Julie Martin.

The ghost of a moment in time: The story behind the photograph of the 11th Battalion on the Pyramid of Cheops, January 1915.

Meeting dates for 2016

8 March - Speaker Steve Howell.

I'm a celebrity: what the hell am I doing here?

10 May - Speakers - Heather Campbell, Jan McCahon-Marshall, and Jenna Lynch (City of Perth History Centre).

Treasury, Land and Titles Office oral history project: dungeons, maps, rats and the people who worked with them.

12 July - Speakers - Jennie and Bevan Carter

Considerable travail: the centenary of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women.

13 September - (AGM) - Dr Nonja Peters:
The Dutch in Western Australia.

22 November (4th Tuesday) - End of year function - Speaker TBA.

A message from the President

Dear Friends,

Those of you who came to our first meeting of the year saw that I had had a cataract operation on one eye. Well it was an eye opener as the difference in colour and the brightness of white from my 'done' eye was quite remarkable when compared to the 'undone' eye. Now they are both fixed and my sight has improved enormously. But the treatment I had is similar to the effect of restoration of some of the library's treasures – their panoramas – 20 of which have recently been restored by funds made available by our society. Hopefully some of these panoramas -taken from varied vantage points at different periods in our history - will be on display at our meeting in May.

This edition of our newsletter commemorates the centenary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli. Most of the articles so generously provided by members and supporters chronicle some aspects of the First World War period and its effect on our community.

I trust that many of you will have looked at the *Camp Chronicle* on Trove and have seen for yourselves why this particular treasure just had to be top of our list for digitisation. An acknowledgement of the Friends has been included on the site and we received this message from the National Library of Australia.

“I am writing to let you know that the Friends of the Battye Library's great contribution to Trove in supporting the digitisation of the *Camp Chronicle* (1915-1918) has now been publicly acknowledged with an acknowledgment statement on every page and article view in Trove.”

Other newspapers will be appearing as soon as the National Library can get around to finalising the films that have been processed with the money we were awarded from the Federal Government's Anzac Grants. Ronda Jamieson has been busy organising these grants and

you can find more information about them on page [] of this newsletter.

Our other projects are to digitise and restore photographs in the E L Mitchell and Schenk Family collections – both of which were identified by the State Library as really needing attention that they could not afford. This is the key criteria we use in distributing the funds the Friends receives from the Sholl bequest.

The Mitchell Collection - photos taken by Ernest Lund Mitchell who migrated to Australia in 1899 and set up a photographic studio in Perth at 264 Murray Street - consists of 640 photographs of Perth buildings; business premises and window displays; country towns; ships; motor vehicles; plants; aerial views of Perth and special events. A remarkable pictorial chronicle of the times.

The Schenk collection stems from the work of the Reverend Rodolphe Samuel Schenk (1888-1969) and his wife Isobel at the mission they established at Mt Margaret, between Leonora and Laverton, in 1921, under the auspices of the Aboriginal Inland Mission (later the United Aborigines Mission). The mission was visited by well known anthropologists and researchers such as Norman Tindale and Joseph Birdsell. The Reverend Schenk's "interference with traditional practices" attracted criticism and resistance from Aboriginal elders and others, but Isobel's work in Aboriginal welfare was rewarded with an OBE. Many Aboriginal children were taken to the mission, which had a children's home and a hospital, and mining and pastoral related work was carried out there. A number of photographs in the collection needed extensive conservation work and detailed cataloguing which we have been able to fund through our Sholl Bequest.

Although the Friends of Battye Library is a small society, it punches above its weight in helping to protect and make available the State Library's vital Western Australian historical resources. And we will become more important as the Government's budgetary tightening continues to fall hardest on the Arts sector. So we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our popular general meetings – your membership fees, donations, and raffle money all goes to a vital cause!

With best wishes Pamela

[Editor's note: *Members of the Friends of Battye Library are very aware of the importance of the Battye Library and the State Records Office in collecting, preserving and making available the documentary history of Western Australia. It is the reason our society exists and why we as an organisation as well as individually have contributed so much over the past 35 years and more. I thought members might be interested in the following comment in support of the library which was sent to me at the end of last year.*]

Crucial Importance of the J S Battye Library of West Australian History.

The Nelson Society of Australia recently held an event at the State Library at which the Library's Freycinet Collection was exhibited. The State Library Foundation co-sponsored the event, providing the venue and speakers Steve Howell (Battye Library Specialist librarian) and Richard Hazlewood (inaugural Foundation Chairman and a Custodian at the time of the acquisition of the Freycinet Collection). Guests at the event included the Foundation Chairman Conrad Crisafulli and a Foundation director Kris Bizzaca.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the State Library Foundation and speakers Steve Howell and Richard Hazlewood, event organiser Rob O'Connor quoted the following words published by Dame Marie Bashir, the recently retired Governor of New South Wales on the occasion of the centenary of the Mitchell Library-

"I have always thought that, if ordered in the most catastrophic of times imaginable to save just one man-made structure in Australia from destruction, I would immediately nominate the Mitchell Library with all its contents. Australia is indeed fortunate to have such a library, built on the collection and vision of David Scott Mitchell, who truly erected a monument 'more lasting than bronze'."

Rob O'Connor praised the wonderful acquisitions and work done by the State Library of WA Foundation in relation to WA history and heritage. He said that he would like to see Western Australians describe the importance to them of the State Library of Western Australia and the J S Battye Library of West Australian History in words similar to those used by Dame Marie about the NSW institution. It gladdened the heart to hear the audience greet that comment with strong applause.

and organisations seeking to draw upon his encyclopaedic knowledge of the early years of Australian civil aviation. He was also a keen pilot for many years.

Throughout his life, Phil had a thirst for knowledge, was a voracious reader and a lover of books generally. He would sometimes joke that his library was slowly squeezing him out of his house, and that every time he brought a new book home through the front door one would fall out the back. Our sympathies to Phil's family.

Norma Biggs

Norma died on 30 November 2014. She was a member of the Friends for more than ten years and was always happy to volunteer her time and expertise in family history research. She was also a stalwart member of the WA Genealogical Society. Norma will be missed by her many friends and we send our condolences to Norma's family.

Patricia Gallaher OAM

Pat was a strong supporter of the Batty Library, firstly as a member of the Friends for more than twenty years and after retirement, as a volunteer assisting in Private Archives. Having been one of this State's most respected public librarians she was able to bring a wealth of expertise and perception to her voluntary work for the State Library.

She worked in libraries in Paraburdoo and Karratha, and then moved to Geraldton and was the regional librarian for 20 years. While at Geraldton Pat established the extensive local studies collection and in 1989 set up Randolph Stow Young Writers Award. After she retired from the library she served four years as a councillor on the Geraldton City Council to 2006. In 2003 Pat was awarded an OAM for services to arts and the community. She was also a member of the Library Board and in 2011 was made a Fellow of the Board in recognition of her commitment to libraries and regional WA. After a long battle against cancer, Pat passed away on 11 December 2014. We will miss her gentle wit, cheerfulness, and compassion for others. Our condolences to Pat's family .

An honour for the Friends.

At the National Trust of Australia (WA) Annual General Meeting on 12 November last year, the CEO of the National Trust presented Pamela Statham Drew, President of the Friends of the Batty Library, with a

“Certificate of Appreciation” award in recognition of the Friends’ support of and involvement in the East Perth Cemeteries project.

Digitisation of World War I Newspapers

Thanks to the Friends of Battye Library and many special people, the most important Western Australian newspaper produced during the War, the *Camp Chronicle*, has been digitised by the National Library and can be accessed through Trove at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/844>. It was produced from 9 December 1915 to 1 August 1918 from Blackboy Hill Camp located at the foot of the Darling Ranges, east of Perth — the birthplace of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in WA. Over 32,000 men passed through the camp before leaving for various overseas battlefields. The *Camp Chronicle* will be of wide interest because it contained interesting articles about the men going through the camp and what happened to them overseas.

The marvellous thing is that more WWI newspapers will follow.

To start at the beginning, in 1913 the Department of Veterans’ Affairs announced the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program to assist community organisations that wished to apply for funding in any of the 150 Federal Electorates. Organisations could not apply direct but could ask a federal member to seek money for activities to commemorate the First World War.

The Friends of Battye Library approached five federal members of Parliament and three of them agreed to forward applications. They were the member for Perth, Hon. Allanah MacTiernan, the Member for Durack, Hon. Melissa Price and the Member for Pearce, Hon. Christian Porter.

Unfortunately decisions about the grant were not finalised until December last year. All our applications were successful and covered country and metropolitan newspapers. With money added by the Friends of Battye Library, the following newspapers are being scanned by the National Library and will be live on Trove in June.

Labour Vanguard 1911-1916

Sparks Fortnightly 1916-1919

The All British 1916

Harvey Chronicle 1915-1916

Nor-West Echo (Broome) 1914-1918

Collie Mail 1914-1918

Eastern Recorder (Merredin and Kellerberrin) 1914-1918

We are particularly grateful to the specialist staff of the National Library who have been generous with their advice, support and expertise, and Steve Howell and Susanna Iuliano of the State Library of WA.

Ronda Jamieson

Have you a story to tell?

The following articles have been kindly submitted by Fr Edward (Ted) Doncaster, Heather Campbell, and Bevan Carter.

[Fr Ted Doncaster, who has written extensively on the history of the Anglican Church in Western Australia, is a regular contributor to this newsletter. He was honoured by the Friends with a 'Gem of Time' award in 2008.]

Blackboy Hill and Beyond

If you haven't visited the site of the former Blackboy Hill Military Camp on Innaminka Road in Greenmount then you really should try to do so. If you are not aware of its history then here are a few pointers followed by two poignant stories.

Blackboy Hill was established as a Training Camp (No. 56 Army Depot) for enlisted men heading off to fight in the first World War - more than 32,000 of them all told. Church services were held regularly in the camp by Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic chaplains and among the latter, the famous Fr Fahey. It is not generally known that the two first named Christian bodies provided church halls for the use of the troops and offered facilities besides opportunities for worship. Both buildings were later relocated in the Greenmount area where they served for many years. A history of the Camp at Blackboy Hill is soon to be released by The Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers Centre.

Two of the enlistees at the Camp had been befriended by my maternal grandmother, Mrs L H Daly, who lived at Gosnells in those days and who handed on to her family two items of particular interest in this Anzac Centenary year.

The first was a letter from Basil Kelley who was involved with orchards in Gosnells where met my grandmother. He enlisted early in 1915 and was at the Blackboy Hill camp before sailing for Egypt and onto Gallipoli where he spent ten weeks in the trenches. He wrote In November

1915 from St Patrick's Hospital in Malta to which he had been admitted suffering from catarrhal jaundice.

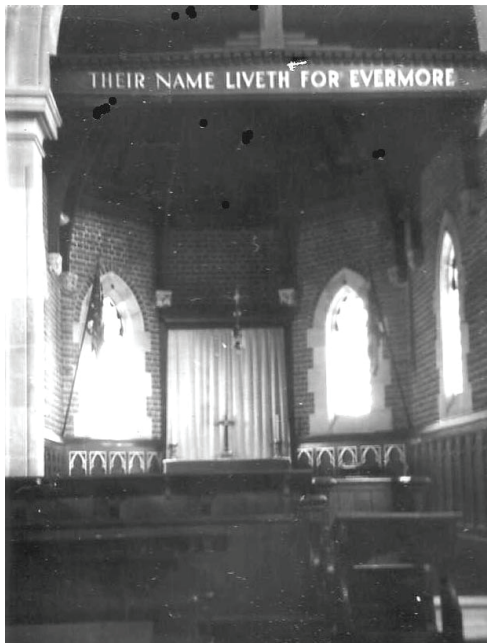
"I candidly admit I am not sorry to get away from the shrieking and bursting shells & the everlasting noises of modern warfare. No one can possibly imagine what warfare is today until he has actually experienced it. Our battalion had not, up to the time I left the Peninsula, partaken in any heroic charges but I can assure you, Mrs Daly, that they will keep up the fair name of Australia if they are required to do so."

After his recovery from illness Basil returned to Egypt with later moves to France and Belgium on the Western Front. It was there that he lost his life on 10th June 1918, having been a Sergeant for most of the previous three years. His name is recorded on the Gosnells War Memorial.

The other person was Keith Murray who was a student at the Anglican Theological College in The Cloisters and who helped at All Saints Church in Gosnells in between his studies. The College closed down during the War as most of the students had enlisted and there is a plaque in the Soldiers' Memorial Chapel in the Cathedral commemorating three of them who were killed in Europe. [*Editor's note: Jack Honniball discusses the Soldier's Memorial Chapel further in his 'Jack's back' column at the end of this newsletter.*]

Keith wrote from Blackboy Hill on 27th June 1917:

"Just a line of farewell. Am really embarking this time, most probably tomorrow, certainly by the 30th. Will drop a line from Pommie land & if possible try and take a trip to see Charlie's people. Kind regards to all old friends & fellow workers & wish them a hearty au-revoir from me and tell them all I am looking ever



The Soldiers' Memorial Chapel in St George's Cathedral. (Photograph courtesy Fr Ted Doncaster).

forward to the day of my return to little Gosnells when the world again, pray God, shall be at peace & rest. Keep our little church of All Saints firm & strong. Thanking you for your many past kindnesses & wishing you & yours the best of health & happiness. I say for a short term au-revoir. Ever yours sincerely in Christ's fellowship - Keith Murray 'the Curate'."

Keith saw service as a signaller with A Company of the 11th Battalion, 3rd Brigade of the AIF in the Somme in France. Tragically he was killed on 9th September 1918, not many days before the War ended, aged 26. His son, Owen Keith, was born in Perth just two months later and so grew up without ever knowing his father. He later worked with the West Australian Newspapers and the *Albany Advertiser* and was the author of several books. One that is well worth reading is *Beloved Teacher* in which he tells the story of his mother Dorothy's life. An excellent obituary was published in *The West Australian* on 11th August 2010 - it told of the son's unsuccessful search in France for his father's grave. However, he did see his father's name inscribed on the Wall of Remembrance at Villers-Brettoneux.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them"
- with thankfulness.

Fr Ted Doncaster

[Editor's note: *The Lieutenant-Colonel in charge of Blackboy Hill was Charles Battye, the brother of James Sykes Battye. Charles often arranged for educational talks and entertainments for the recruits and occasionally roped in his brother to help out. From the Camp Chronicle 16 December 1915. Page 3.*

"An interesting and instructive address was given by Mr J S Battye LL.B of the Perth Public Library, at the "Talks to Men" last Monday evening in the presence of a great crowd. The speaker, who has a graceful style of delivery, traced the development of Western Australia during the last 90 years, recounting many stirring incidents of the hardships encountered and endured by the pioneers of the early days, and paid a tribute of praise to those men who so bravely faced the untold difficulties which had confronted them, and whose faith in the country had never wavered. At the close of the address three lusty cheers were given for Mr Battye."

[Heather Campbell is an accomplished oral historian and researcher. She is one of a group of historians and researchers providing research services to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWAHS) as part of the Remembering Them project that RWAHS is running in conjunction with the Western Australian Museum, Museums Australia, and Lotterywest. See: <http://museum.wa.gov.au/research/development-service/remembering-them>. Heather's article has been reproduced with kind permission of the Remembering Them project Courtesy: History West, monthly newsletter of the Royal WA Historical Society.]

Trench Art

Trench Art is the name given to decorative objects made during or after wars, by soldiers, ex-servicemen, local civilians and commercial firms. The art was made from anything easily available on or around a battlefield – artillery shells from scrap heaps, bullets and bullet casings, shrapnel, cartridges, wood, ox and horse bones or soft stone.

Most objects were produced behind the lines but tools to create this art were found around trenches and supply depots – crude welding equipment, knives, nails and sharpened pieces of metal for etching. Soldiers also carved or whittled wood in dugouts and in shell craters where they were forced to take cover.

For the soldier of the First World War who spent only 15% of his time actually fighting, making trench art relieved the boredom between battles and military routine. Apart from helping to pass the time, soldiers at war and those wounded and recuperating, made artworks for their personal use, to give



Chess Set. John 'Jack' Blake from Ravensthorpe crafted these chess pieces with bullets collected on the battlefield. Jack served with the 10th Light Horse before being transferred to 4th Division Artillery during World War I. He returned to Australia and died in 1931. His wife, Bessie Blake, donated the chess pieces to the WA Museum in 1932. Courtesy: WA Museum

to loved ones or to barter or sell to make money to buy food or other desirable commodities.

Those on active service made pieces related to smoking – cigarette cases and lighters, matchbox covers, tobacco boxes – using bullets, scrap metal and brass or steel scrap. Not surprisingly they also made writing paraphernalia – writing sets, letter openers and pens and pencils. Many of these items were inscribed or decorated. In the field some soldiers scored their names and unit numbers on their aluminium mess kits and canteens with a nail or penknife, and on occasions these also carried a record of a man's war service. Gas mask carriers were sometimes embroidered or inscribed with appropriate wording and 'tin hats' painted with a variety of camouflage designs. Wood was fashioned into walking sticks and letter holders. Ornaments included miniature aeroplanes, tanks and military hats. Repousséd decoration (created by hammering) made cartridge cases into vases. Paradoxically crucifixes were made from bullets. There was no limit to inventiveness and some were transformed into beautiful objects.

Soldiers also made items of personal adornment – for themselves or for loved ones at home. Rings were made mostly from steel or brass, while locket and brooches were fashioned from scrap metals, defused bullets and cartridges. Bracelets and wristbands were made from scrap, as were photo frames. 'Sweetheart jewellery' was made by both soldiers and commercial firms to maintain the bond between the soldier and home, with 'sweetheart' brooches often showing the soldier's colour patch. A soldier's girlfriend or wife wore the jewellery as a symbol of pride, support and love.

Civilians in regions devastated by battle made trench art as souvenirs for sale. It became a cottage industry. Thousands of pieces were brought home by returning soldiers and also by tourists and those visiting the battlefields after the war. The items were kept as household ornaments – as mementos of loved ones and of war. Their role and impact depended on whether the serviceman returned safely home. Some objects, originally sent home as souvenirs by soldiers, became symbols of loss for the family if the serviceman did not return. As mementos of war service they were reminders not only of the horror of war but of pride and achievement.

Although once familiar and valued, the symbolism and meaning of many of these war relics has faded with time and their provenance has been lost. In a twist of fate numerous pieces of trench art were returned to



Wytshaete before the war
(courtesy <http://www.delcampe.>)

away. In the morning while walking to a small village some three kilometres distant he was challenged by British soldiers guarding the road and taken into custody. He was locked into a room with several other prisoners “where they took my boots, my belongings and my cigarettes away”.

After a few days he was handed over to a guard escort from his Battalion but on the march back to his unit he resolved to escape. A letter from him on his service record explained his thinking.

And after the battle of Messines Ridge. (Courtesy <http://anextractofreflection.blogspot.com.au>)

“Now you [meaning the authorities] have put me in this place for a thing that I could not very well avoid, now I will give you something to put me in for, might as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb...”



Merv started running and was fired at, dodging the bullets but didn't get far being felled by a British soldier who hit him over the head with a piece of wood. Merv Carter was charged with desertion and breaking escort – he denied the first, but admitted to the second charge, yet was found guilty of both charges and sentenced to seven years' hard labour. His sense of grievance was acute:

“Although I explained as best I could in Court that I had no intention of coming out of the line and that it could not be avoided, they did not consider it at all, nor did they consider my two years previous good service.”

Merv remained in a harsh military prison at Calais for a year until 19 August 1918 when he was released and told to rejoin his Battalion. Instead, he made his way to a railway station and simply attached himself to a party of 800 Anzacs who were being repatriated to Australia. He then stowed

away on the troopship *Devon*, clearly with some assistance from the other soldiers.

Merv arrived in Western Australia in November 1918 and after only two weeks found work, settled back down in his home town of Northam, married and raised three daughters.

“I left Australia as a volunteer with a big heart until the military prevented me from going straight any longer. Had they at my court martial considered my case more carefully, they would have seen that I had played the soldier for two years and that my trouble at Wytschaete was merely accidental ... I swore then never would I soldier again.”

The AIF only discovered his whereabouts in Australia when he applied for an official discharge from the army at the beginning of 1920. His service record reveals that Merv’s refusal to confess to his crimes at his court martial had been marked as a guilty plea and a note on his file dated 27 February 1920 stated; “He shall suffer the same forfeitures, and the same deductions from pay as if he had been convicted by a District Court.”

Unaware of this decision, Merv continued his quest to have the war medals he believed were his due sent to him; writing in 1922, 1930, 1967, and 1971. The response was always a brusque “not eligible” and the army refused to reconsider his case. Mervyn died in 1992 aged 97. Bevan Carter



Merv and Eva Carter c.1950. (Courtesy Clarice Collins (nee Carter))

Voices that should be heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is the author of several works and before her retirement was Director of the Battye Library. Previously she headed the Library’s Oral History branch. This is the third article in this series.]

Gordon Dudley Halbert OH337

With this edition of the newsletter having a WWI theme, I have chosen to share something of the story of Gordon Halbert interviewed in December

1978. He was born 20 kms south of Ravensthorpe in Kundip in 1903, which came to life with the discovery of gold in the Phillips River district in 1900. In its heyday Kundip included a hotel, 43 businesses and private homes, shops, school, churches, hall, assay office and recreational facilities. By 1923 few people remained and despite a brief resurgence in 1936 only an occasional chimney provides evidence of its existence.

Gordon was a third generation prospector with little education and when Kundip held no future for him, he worked on the railways in the Esperance area and with a shearing team. Later he returned to the Phillips River area to try his luck again and was still prospecting at the age of 75 when he was interviewed. I am sure he would have continued to do so until his death in 1990 aged 87.

When Gordon was asked about what effect the First World War had on Kundip he gave an answer which would have reflected what happened in many country towns:

“It took all the life out of it, all the young life away. The young blokes working on the mines, they nearly all went. There wasn’t many left. Just enough to run the place and that’s all. They never come back, many of them young blokes.”

In light of the knowledge that now exists about the effects of serving during a war, Gordon’s recall of a returning soldier is germane. He was ‘an old bloke who put his age back a good way to get away’ and it took



Locals wait outside Kundip Hotel to welcome Premier Scaddan 1915. (Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA no. 217003PD)

four days after his return for him to be persuaded to remove the 'leggings' and 'big spurs' he was wearing on his return and which he slept in. He was given accommodation in the Kundip 'pub' and went to bed in the early hours of the morning after a welcome home.

"The old public was roused up toward daylight and terrible commotion ... he was back on the Western Front ... imagining he was galloping these horses into the front line again ... and he was spurring the horse along, but he was spurring the mattress. He tore the mattress all to ribbons and his mate on the other side of the room, he woke up in a delirium. He was an infantry man. He was coughing and coughing and couldn't see ... He was in a trance, and everybody got out in the finish and there was a terrible commotion ... everyone was smothered in kapok ... he had to go home to his camp the next day. I think four days afterwards some blokes were game enough to go up and got him half shot and they took his spurs off."

My favourite story from that interview is one Gordon told without any sign of emotion, not even a grin. I asked him if there were 'any brawls outside the pub' and the reply was:

"Oh generally, there was one every Saturday night. There was one there that ... caused a bit of a hurried exit from the pub. [It was] a very cold night and they had this big stove going behind the bar ... and everyone come in there to get warm.

This fellow couldn't get in. He used to have a favourite place there where he used to get his grog and he'd sit there and keep warm. Someone else sat in his place. And he went in and said "now that's my place you're in you know." [The reply was]: "It's a free country. I think you can sit anywhere as long as you pay for your grog."

So he didn't say anything. He went down to his camp and got his detonators and his fuse and he got the paper off the gelnite and put it around soap and made a plug hole and he fetched it up and dropped it behind [the person who had taken the seat]. Lit the fuse ... And I think there was about 20 in this tap room and the old bloke behind the bar seen it and everyone seen this thing fizzling and they didn't wait to see whether it was dynamite or not. They had a terrible turnout. They knocked the fire over and set fire to the pub. The bloke behind the bar seen it, and he went straight through the other side and out through the window. Some other bloke ... laid flat on the floor waiting for the explosion to go off. And this bloke has to put the fire out with a bit of water, and then he sat in his place.

When they all come back eventually, a little one at a time, looking around the corner, he was sitting in his usual place having a warm. That's one way of getting a warm."

My dad Courtney Daw grew up in Ravensthorpe and used to take deliveries from his father's shop to Kundip. I knew how fond he was of the characters he met during his rounds and through work he did at the mines. When I recalled Gordon's story to him, my dad laughed and said he remembered it well and had been assured by others that it was not just a tale but really happened.

Ronda Jamieson

[The following is an article written by Chris Loudon, Project Manager for the 11th Battalion project of the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc. (WAGS) which has been reproduced with permission.]

Together 100 Years Apart

Captain Charles Edward Barnes was a career soldier. He would have been very much aware when signing up for service with the 11th Battalion AIF in August 1914 at Blackboy Hill in Guildford, that the likelihood of his returning to his home in Australia after the war was a somewhat tenuous

proposition. None the less he, like so many other young men in Western Australia at the time, did not hesitate and jumped at the chance to serve his country in the war which had been declared just weeks earlier.

On 10 Jan 1915 while undergoing training in Egypt, Capt. Barnes wrote in a letter to his mother: '

After Church this morning the whole Battalion was marched up to the Pyramid (Old Cheops) and we had a photo took or at least several of them.'

Little did he, or any of the other 703 men in the resultant photo, realise that 100 years later to the hour and day that his relatives and some 800



Capt. Barnes in 88th Infantry uniform.
(Courtesy Australian War Memorial.)

descendants and relatives of the soldiers in the now famous “11th Battalion Pyramid Photo” would gather at the Flame of Remembrance and State War Memorial to honour their service and sacrifice.

Capt. Barnes, along with his younger brother Gordon Howard Barnes, was indeed among the men who did not return from the war, but he and his comrades in arms would have been proud that so many of their descendant families, including members of his family, had gathered together in their name 100 years later on 10 Jan 2015.

His Uncle, J H Barnes, a renowned English actor, wrote a fitting tribute to his nephew, *My Brother's Son*, part of which reads;

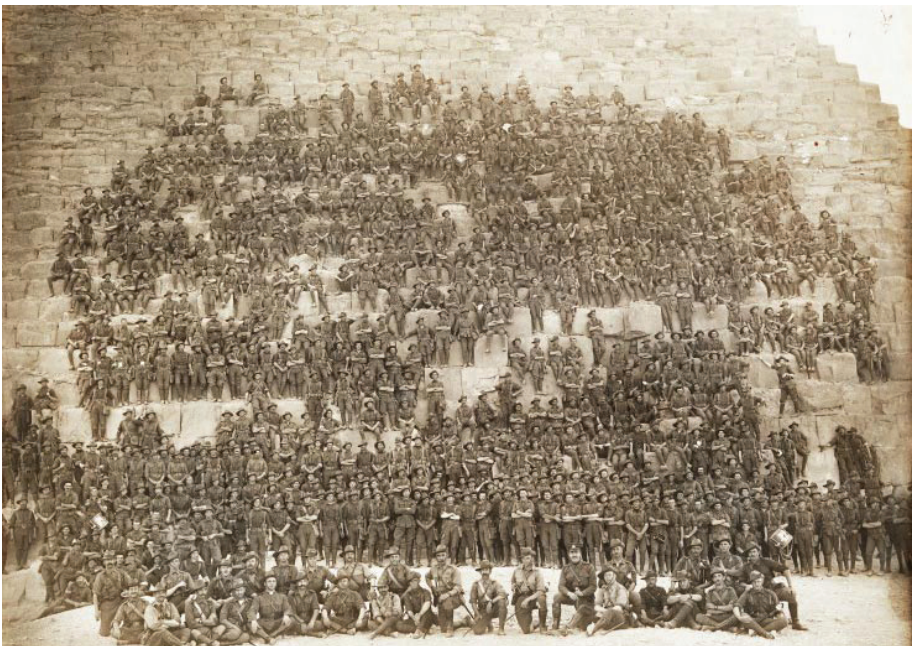
‘When the guns have ceased to thunder and the cruel war is done,
And the story told of nations and what each has lost and won,
Will those who write the record ever pause to note the loss
Of the many thousand heroes who did not get the cross?’

Captain Barnes and many others are featured on the WAGS 11th Battalion dedicated website at: <http://11btn.wags.org.au>. If you have a soldier who was in the 11th Battalion, please contact WAGS at vigilans@wags.org.au.

Lest we forget.

Chris Loudon

Book review

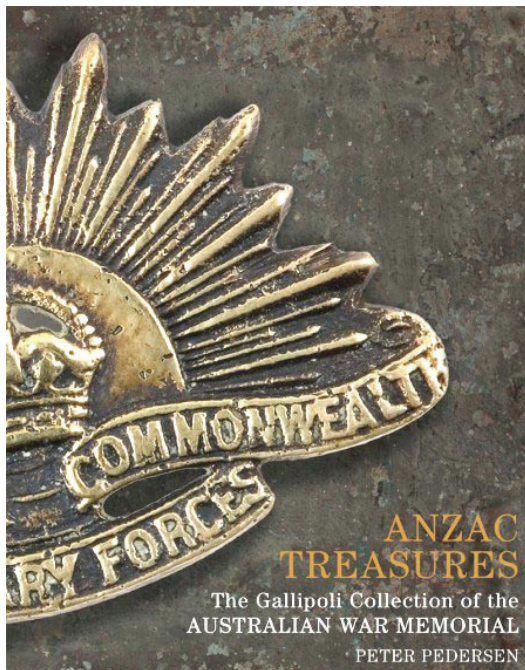


11th Battalion A.I.F. on the steps of the Great Pyramid in Egypt, 10 January 1915.
(Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 4496B)

by Rob O'Connor QC

Anzac Treasures – The Gallipoli Collection of the Australian War Memorial, by Dr Peter Pedersen, published by Murdoch Books, 2014.

The Australian War Memorial, Canberra, has produced this magnificent book written by Dr Peter Pedersen (one of Australia's finest military historians and a gifted writer) as the Memorial's principal publication to mark the Anzac centenary on 25 April 2015. It conveys the Gallipoli experience through the priceless relics, photographs, documentary records and works of art that the Memorial has displayed over the years since it was opened in 1941.



The numbers of each nationality killed were as follows: Australia 7,594, New Zealand 2,431, British Empire (excluding ANZAC) 22,000, France 27,000, India 1,700, Turkey 57,084.

Dr Pedersen sums up the Gallipoli campaign in these words: “Blunder after blunder marred the conception and conduct of the campaign.” The campaign which cost so much on every score was a dismal military failure. However, occurring only 14 years after the establishment of the federated Australian Commonwealth in 1901, the enthusiasm, inner strength, and magnificence of the courageous contributions displayed by the Australian forces created an Australian national identity which was recognised worldwide.

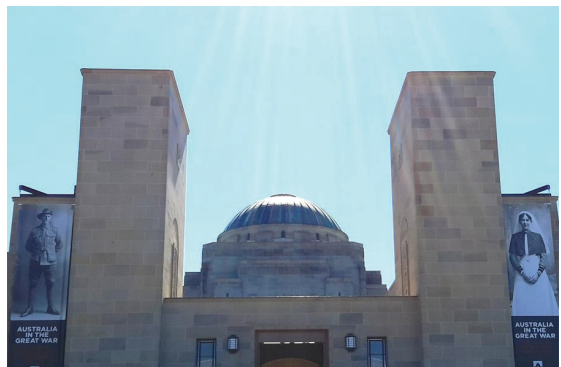
The book's 400 pages and hundreds of photos very successfully explain the details of the military battles which took place in the campaign and why the Gallipoli legend has been over the last century, and for evermore will be, a defining point in the Australian nationhood. This book covers all aspects of Anzac and Gallipoli, including extensive accounts of the military actions at the Landing, the Nek (where the charge of the 3rd Light Horse

became one of the AIF's most significant actions in the campaign), the August Offensive, resting and nursing on Lemnos, 100 km from Anzac Cove (apart from hospital ships, this was the closest Australian female nurses came to Gallipoli) and the evacuation of the final 10,000 men on the night of 19/20 December 1915 which was a phenomenal success as no Australian lost his life in that huge exercise, and only two were wounded.

The book also contains Forewords by the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson, now Director of the Memorial, and Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG. It provides the answers to most questions any reader would want to ask about this essential chapter in our history.

The Memorial was the brainchild of Charles Bean, the official historian for Australia in World War I. Bean was not required to be part of the fighting force, but he decided to immerse himself in the thick of the action. In April 1915, Bean landed on the far side of the Gallipoli peninsular with the Anzac forces and, as part of them, chronicled virtually every day of their eight-month campaign. The first two volumes (published in 1920 and 1924) of Bean's authoritative and well-known 12-volume series titled Official History of Australia in the War of 1914 - 1918 are devoted to covering the Gallipoli campaign. Bean also reported on the rest of the War until 1918. Two months later, Bean led a 15-man party, which had the task of retrieving from Gallipoli as many of the relics of the Gallipoli campaign as they could find.

Details of relics found were recorded and tagged for shipment to Australia and the materials collected amounted to seven tonnes. They include two ships' lifeboats, holed by bullets and shell splinters, found on the beach (both about 8.5 metres long and have become the most evocative symbols of the Gallipoli campaign in the Memorial's collection), and a 4.7 inch gun. The collected materials were first displayed temporarily in the memorials in Sydney and Melbourne prior to the construction of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.



Front entrance of the Australian War Memorial.2015. (Courtesy Jennie Carter.)

Strenuous efforts were made by Bean and John Treloar (who subsequently became the long-time Director of the Memorial), to get soldiers who served at Gallipoli or their families to donate their relics from Gallipoli to the Memorial. Many photographs taken at Gallipoli by the soldiers were lent to the Memorial for copying and return of the originals to the soldiers who had taken them.

Some 30 indigenous Australians fought at Gallipoli. At least 12 of them died there. Indigenous soldiers were treated as equals and were paid the same as white soldiers. Up to 1,000 Indigenous Australians eventually joined the Australian Imperial Forces and one-third of them became casualties.

My favourite sculptures at the Memorial are Water Carrier (page 266), Defence of Anzac (page 269) and Evacuation (page 377), all by Wallace Anderson.

The contents of the book will be appreciated by persons who have a specialised interest in the military history of Gallipoli or with a general interest in Australian history.

News from the State Library

Battye Fellow 2015

Author and scholar Ian Reid has been awarded the J.S. Battye Memorial Fellowship for 2015. Reid's project, *History's Grist and Fiction's Mill*, will explore the challenges and opportunities for creative writers who blend fiction with fact.

Outgoing Battye Fellow Clint Bracknell will deliver his final presentation "Noongar Songs of the South West" on 6 July 2015 at State Library Theatre (during NAIDOC week).

Anzac 2015

SLWA is open Anzac Day long weekend with a series of talks, events and exhibitions.

Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

Giza to Gallipoli

This exhibition features some of the personal stories of selected members of the 11th Battalion AIF, identified as part of a project by the Western Australian Genealogical Society.

When: Saturday 25 April - Sunday 17 May 2015

Where: The Nook, Ground Floor

Perth Heritage Festival Talks

14 May 10-11am Great Southern Room: *Some Stood Up – Dissidents in WWI*, A/Prof Bobbie Oliver.

14 May 1-2pm Great Southern Room: *Conflict & Compassion, Western Australia's War*, Professor Deborah Gare.

Launch of WA New Music Archive at State Library Theatre 20 May 2015 as part of New Music Symposium (20-22 May).

Exhibition

Bounce Down: History of Women's Football in Western Australia 22 May to 30 July.

Western Australia Day: 1 June

- Memory House Regional Images display in Discovery Lounge
- New Music Installation and State of the Art Festival Music Performances
- Photographic display of iconic WA places in the Place.

Digitisation of World War I Newspapers

In total, there were 76 newspapers published in Western Australia during the war years. Some of these were added to *Trove* in the first run of newspaper digitisation by the National Library from 2009. Over the last year or so we have been consciously putting newspapers published in World War I up for digitisation. When the current batch come on line (in the latter half of the year), it will mean 50 of the 76 will be completed.

This includes some that have been funded by the Friends of Battye Library Inc. - the *Coolgardie Miner* 1913-1917 and the *Camp Chronicle: the soldier's paper* 1915-1918, as well as other papers paid for by the Friends from special grants, the *Labor Vanguard* 1911 & 1916, *Sparks Fortnightly* 1916-1919, the *All British* (1916), the *Harvey Chronicle* 1915-1916, the *Nor-West Echo* 1914-1918, the *Collie Mail* 1914-1918 and the *Eastern Recorder* 1914-1918. Over the next few years we hope to get all of them done.

Digitisation of other World War I Material

Trish Fairweather has been leading a project to digitise World War I material held by the State Library. Many photographs of individual soldiers, such as those in the Dease Studio digitised for the “Adopt a Soldier” project and the collection of “in memoriam” cards, have already been completed, as have the oral histories with World War I soldiers held in the Battye Library. Trish has been going through the collection to find other photographs, manuscript material (letters, diaries and postcards), serials (such as the *Cygnets* and the *Port Hacking Cough*), books, ephemera and maps relating to the conflict. Recent donations or material lent for copying relating to the war have also been digitised.

However, World War I material may be hidden in collections, so new material is always turning up, meaning such digitisation is a long, slow process.

War webpages at the State Library

Trish Fairweather and Leonie Hayes recently constructed a new web page which highlights some of the digitised material in the Heritage Collections relating to World Wars I and II. The web page can be found on the State Library’s website under Family History – Heritage – War (http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/guides/family_history/heritage_online/war).

Leonie Hayes has been producing a *Collection Highlights* section for the front page of the State Library’s website. Featuring 25 iconic images selected from photographs, postcards, ephemera, newspapers and the like, with a brief summary of each item, the page will continually scroll through giving viewers a snapshot of the State Library’s large and varied collection of materials relating to World War I.

Steve Howell has also constructed a subject guide to World War I material held in the Heritage Collections, both digitised and original. This will provide access to material relating to Western Australia’s role in World War I. It includes references to books, serials, newspapers, maps, ephemera, private archives, oral histories and photographs, as well as other agencies which could hold appropriate records. Material highlighted includes battalion histories; embarkation nominal rolls; letters, diaries and postcards; honour rolls etc. The links within the guide take you to the catalogue record, the digital record or a website. It is hoped this guide will be live by Anzac Day.

Some Recent World War I Acquisitions

Jean Butler and Laurie Allen report the following material relating to World War I deposited with the Library:

▶▶ ***Diary of Joseph John Talbot Hobbs*** (1924) and scrapbook (1914-1929) with cuttings about him. Although not strictly a war record it relates to a very distinguished Western Australian soldier and architect. The diary relates to the time he spent at the 1924 London Exhibition and includes information about potential migrants who he was interviewing. It gives a general impression of his life and contacts in the UK. The comments about the migrants reflect who WA was looking for at the time. The scrapbook (1914-1929) contains newspaper cuttings about Hobbs, including the War.



Lieutenant General Sir Joseph John Talbot Hobbs KCB, KCMG in 1919. Lafayette Studios. (Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA. 011114D.)

▶▶ ***A collection of approximately 150 letters written by (5394) Quarter Master Sergeant George Percy Manners*** to his wife and children in East Victoria Park.

Manners was a 28 year old brick-layer when he enlisted in the 16th Battalion AIF on 17 April 1916. The letters were written between May 1916 (a scribbled note on leaving Blackboy Hill Camp) and May 1919 (the last letter written before leaving England for demobilisation). The 1916 letters are written in pencil, while letters from about April 1917 are in ink. Most are in original envelopes with Field Post Office date stamps. The letters are mainly concerned with family matters as Manners wrote:

“I don’t much care for talking of my experiences, pleasant ones are the only ones I like to remember.”

Manners was hospitalised with shell-shock in mid-1916 but returned to duty and in 1917 and 1918 rose steadily through the ranks. While sergeant he won the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 4 July 1918. The ribbon was sent to his son on 8 Jan 1919 and is included in this comprehensive private collection of correspondence between a soldier father and his wife and children in a time of war.

▶▶ ***World War I letters from Lt Frederick Edmund Trotter*** to his brother R F O Trotter describing the first landing at Gallipoli, his wounding and convalescence on Lemnos, and his return to other fronts (1915-1919). His first lengthy and detailed letter regarding the landing at Gallipoli on 25

April 1915 was published in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* 31 July 1915.

Although his brother was in Western Australia, Trotter was born in Tanunda, South Australia on 13 June 1888 and enlisted in the 6th Battalion in Melbourne on 19 August 1914 and received the Military Medal for bravery at Ypres on 4/5 October 1917. He married Florence Ruby Lawrence in London on 23 August 1919 and returned to Melbourne on 13 December 1919 on the *Wahehe*. He and his wife lived in Queensland after that and he served in World War II as a Captain and press officer on Northern Command Headquarters. He wrote many articles, published in Queensland newspapers, in his capacity as press officer, on various aspects of warfare. The collection also includes letters from John Vincent (1916-1918); thank you letters for Christmas puddings sent by West Boulder State School (1917); photographs; and family history information.

►► ***A collection of World War I diaries, letters and a photograph album*** owned by Geraldine Rice-Howlett nee Howlett (1897-1984) – prior to the War Geraldine worked with Cecil Rice in Boans Bros department store and they became romantically involved. Cecil joined the AIF in May 1916 and the couple were soon separated by the war.

The letters and diaries tell the story of their developing relationship and provide insight into life on the home front in Perth. Geraldine was one of ten children and two of her sisters also worked at Boans. Her diaries record socialising with friends at Albany Bell's cafe, her pastimes of drawing and painting, and her success in winning Perth's 'Most Popular Girl' competition

in 1917. Cecil returned to WA with significant disabilities in 1918. The couple married in 1923 and spent their entire married life in Mt Lawley.

These letters and diaries are only a small portion of those that survived. Other Howlett material was used by Geraldine's niece in a publication titled *Boans to the Battlefields*.



Albany Bell's residence and confectionery works Guildford Road Mt Lawley. (Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA E L Mitchell collection 001720D)

Other recent Acquisitions

▶▶ ***Gaye Nayton collection:*** For 25 years Dr Nayton worked as one of the very few consultant historical archaeologists in WA. She worked on numerous projects in Perth and throughout regional Western Australia. She was the appointed archaeologist for Government House and worked there for many years, and did pioneering research in the Pilbara port town of Cossack. Her work at Cossack was recognised by the awarding of a PhD through publication from the University of Western Australia. She attended many national and international conferences and gave many papers representing the archaeology of Western Australia on the world stage. The documents in this collection provide a wealth of historical accounts contextualised by the excavation, documentation and curation of physical archaeological remains. There are sketches, working notes, photographs and reports. Records are in digital and analogue format.

▶▶ ***Hastwell family papers:*** This collection of papers was passed down through the Hastwell family. It includes letters of the Bussell family from the 1830s, a nineteenth century rainfall diary for Vasse and two photographs from the 1920s - a 1929 soccer team and the unveiling of the Bussellton Soldiers' Memorial in 1920. Together, the papers provide more information about the nineteenth and early twentieth century of the southwest of the state. The Bussell letters will add to the considerable collection already held by the library. Detailed rainfall records are now of great interest to those interested in the changing environment.

▶▶ ***Bert Fawcett's letters:*** These letters were written from Arrino by Bert Fawcett to his family in Kapunda, SA from 1926-1941. Bert was aged 21 and had moved to WA intending to go to the Kimberley to pursue a career in cattle. However at Arrino, near Three Springs, he was offered a job as acting manager of Woopenatty Station and stayed there instead. The contents provide a social history of the time with topics including tractors, foxes, dances and sport. Bert's brother Robert Norman Fawcett was killed at Murchison Station on the first commercial aerservice in Australia on 5 December 1921. The collection includes a copy of a letter written by RN Fawcett to his mother on 1 December 1921.

▶▶ ***Records of Belele Station 1903-1947*** donated by the Aboriginal Legal Service WA (Inc): The letterbooks and correspondence provide an excellent record of the needs & concerns of this Murchison station when letters were the main form of communication over distance. Topics include machinery parts, supplies and interpretation of legal regulations regarding

Aboriginal people on the station. The dates range from 1903 to 1947. There is also a small ledger with the names of some Aboriginal people and details of financial transactions.

▶▶ **Warwick Rowell - Rosneath Farm, Dunsborough:** This collection of papers tells the story of an alternative energy, strata titled village/farm and the legal battle to keep it going. Unfortunately the legal battle was lost so the collection also contains that process as well as details of alternative technologies, strawbale building, permaculture and the other component parts of the eco village.

▶▶ **Slides from JS Beard's book The Plant Life of Western Australia:** The slides are illustrations from JS Beard's seminal 1990 book *The Plant Life of Western Australia*. The book is still in demand and is to be reprinted using digital versions of these slides which capture much West Australian flora as it was 25 years or more ago. As the climate and environment changes, images such as these are of great value to researchers and the public alike.

▶▶ **Ship certificates:**

(1) *Kingfisher*, one of the oldest iron ships to be wrecked on the coast of Western Australia, was a Scottish iron vessel, built at Renfrew in 1854 by J. W. Hoby & Co. The wreck is now visible at low tide and is an attraction for snorkelers at Princess Royal Harbour, Albany. A heavy storm in 1905 drove the iron barque ashore, south of Melville Point and at the western end of Princess Royal Harbour. *Kingfisher* was a clincher (a vessel with overlapping hull planks), with three masts, 120 feet in length, and weighing about 164 tons. All of this information is of interest to those who dive off Albany as well as to those interested in the ship before she was wrecked.

(2) Thomas Brooker Sherratt built the first recorded vessel in the region in 1842, and named it *Chance*. *Chance* sank on its way to Java, and Sherratt built the next ship, the *Emma Sherratt*, along with William Jenkins and Thomas Gill out of jarrah (*Eucalyptus Marginata*). The vessel was named for a daughter of Sherratt's. Sherratt was one of the early settlers of Albany, who arrived on the *James Pattison* from England in 1836. The vessel was used for whaling in the 1840s, and transported cargo between Perth and other Australian ports; she also sailed to Mauritius, Capetown, London, and Hong Kong. In 1850 she was wrecked near Singapore, on a reef. The three owner names listed

for the *Emma Sherratt* on this certificate are Hugh McDonald, James Harding and John Hassell. Sherratt became ill after the *Emma Sherratt* was built but before it was registered, and as this builder's certificate shows, his name is not listed here as one of the owners. Sherratt appealed in Civil Court, and half the ownership was transferred to him. This document is an important link to the very early maritime history of the State.

▶▶ **Pratt/Wreford papers:** This is a collection of several generations of family letters, photographs and other memorabilia linked together by a handwritten journal describing life in South Perth in the early years of the twentieth century. Social mores and details of day to day life, travel and working lives are illustrated by this collection. Lent for copying - family wish to retain the originals.

State Records Office - News from the Archives

SRO Lunchtime Seminars for 2015

27 May 2015 - Speaker: Dr Francesco Gerali, Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia

Oil and archives. What sources reveal the history of the petroleum industry in Australia?

8 July 2015 - Speaker: Professor Anna Haebich, Curtin University
'Unearthing a Treasury': Noongar Letters, 1860s-1960s

17 Sept 2015 - Speaker: Gerard Foley, SRO

Lives in Archives

(Note: this talk will be at the City of Joondalup Library)

18 November 2015 - Speaker: Damien Hassan, SRO

Perth Metropolitan Plan Project

From time to time SRO Lunchtime Seminar speakers provide their presentations for future reference. See: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/lunchtime-seminars/sro-lunchtime-seminar-presentations>

Friends of Battye Library are welcome to make suggestions for next

year's Lunchtime Seminar program. Please contact Gerard Foley at the SRO if you have any suggestions for speakers next year.

Margaret Medcalf Award 2015

Nominations closed on 10 April for the 2015 Margaret Medcalf Award and 9 nominations were received. These are currently being assessed against the basic award criteria and will be forwarded to judges shortly. An award presentation will be made at a morning tea on Wednesday 24 June 2015 and Friends of Battye Library members are invited to this event. More details will be provided to members nearer to the date.

Parliament House Display

SRO has been working on a display based on State archives at Parliament House. Recently the place for the display was moved from the 2nd floor foyer of the Public Gallery of the Legislative Assembly, to the ground floor front entrance of Parliament House, giving better exposure for the display and SRO. There will be a 'soft' launch for the display in late June. On the theme of 'Representing the People of Western Australia' the display highlight State archives which tell the story of the development of WA's Parliamentary democracy also revealing some treasures of the State archives collection.

Perth Metro Plan Project

SRO is grateful for the funding from Friends of Battye Library for this project which is to digitise, geo-reference and place online Perth's Metropolitan Plans, most of which date from the 1920's.

As an update to the project, the SRO has recently been allocated capital works funding to purchase new microfilm equipment as part of a broader initiative to digitise its complete microfilm holdings. The SRO will assess the digitisation of its microfiche copies of the Perth Metro Plans using this new equipment and whether this option will provide adequate resolution for these detailed architectural plans. This option would reduce project costs, but is dependent on whether the digital copies, made from the fiche, is suitable.

As some Friends of Battye Library members have enquired about this option, the SRO will provide further information following the assessment, including samples of digitised copies made from the fiche vs copies made from the original plans.

Isabel Smith

A/State Archivist and Executive Director State Records

Retrospective cataloguing - records on AEON

SRO's second Work for the Dole (Work Experience) Project (WEP) commenced on 13 August 2014 with partner MAX Employment's project supervisor starting work within SRO. The project team is involved in retrospective collection processing and as at 31 March 2015 almost 25,000 entries have been created for AEON and over 28,000 names have been indexed for an alphabetical finding aid to WA divorce records of the 1960s and 1970s. Collections worked on include Legislative Assembly and Council Tabled papers; Main Roads Department; Mines Department; Local Government Department; and Department of Health.

A good example of the value of the collections processed is The Coal Mine Workers' Pension Tribunal. Founded in 1944 the scheme relied on worker contributions that would then form a pension on their retirement. Contributor cards and files record names, dates of birth, next of kin, the company, mine and length of time the person worked for, and sometimes other details such as changes of name, accidents, death, and illness. When the scheme began in 1944, there were men who joined who were born in the 1870s and were soon to retire. As well as the personal records of over 5,000 coal industry workers, the collection also is an indicator of changing times. This collection was accepted by SRO in 2013 and is of importance for family history research and also for social and industrial research.

Accession 553

These are "Documents relating to nominated immigrants, 1891-1898, including application forms, Agent General's letters, files formerly kept in Education Department, and general correspondence."

This collection was brought to my attention as needing processing and what a treasure of a collection it is. I and the WEP team are still working on it but more than half the documents are now in the online catalogue. The register description doesn't even note half the archive series found in what is now Consignment 553. Here is a summary of each document series (you can do an 'Advanced' catalogue search by 'Series number' for full details of the documents in our catalogue accessible through www.sro.wa.gov.au).

Series 1810 - Registers and returns - Prisoners - Fremantle

Shows returns of prisoners confined in Fremantle Prison at 21 June 1911, listed by categories of male or female prisoners (white and others)

not including Aboriginal natives; Aboriginal Native Prisoners (male and female), and by length of sentence remaining.

Series 4650 - Nominated Immigrants - files 1891 – 1896

Application forms for nominated emigration to Western Australia (including assisted passage), completed at the office of the Agent General for Western Australia, London. The forms give applicants address, place and date of birth, vaccinations, religion, employment history, and character references.

Series 4787 – Passage guarantee forms 1876-1877

Forms signed by immigrants taking free government sponsored passage to Western Australia guaranteeing to remain in the colony for three years, or in leaving within that period to pay Colonial Treasurer the sum of 18 pounds per passage.

Series 4794 - Assisted Immigrants - correspondence 1890s

Letters, forms and documents regarding Western Australian colonial government assisted immigrants in the 1890s, including requests from WA residents for staff, and employment engagement forms.

Series 4795 – Sheep inspection returns 1881-1882. Scab Act, 1879 schedule F.

Returns of inspections and of license fees received by the Inspector of Sheep for various districts in Western Australia. The inspections list the names of property owners and the property, number, description, and state of health of the sheep.

Series 4796 – Prisoner parties distribution returns 1877-1878

Forms giving the distribution of all work parties of prisoners - listing party (location or assigned duty), officer, category of prisoners. Includes females under control of Matron. Some correspondence and detailed reports on individual parties are included.

Genealogists will be aware of the big gap in 1890s passenger records from overseas into Fremantle. The records in Series 4650, 4787, and 4794 in this collection go some way to filling that gap with details of domestic servants, agricultural labourers and many others. The shipping details of all arrivals are not necessarily known, but at least we now know how many of the 1890s immigrants came to Western Australia and have details of their origins. Supporting documentation also gives more information on people already living in Western Australia. As at 10

April there were 760 catalogue records within those three series and all individual names are indexed. There are still many documents to be added to the catalogue and this is proceeding.

Bankruptcy records

Consignment 3560 (series 165) consists of over 3,500 bankruptcy case files 1892 – 1928 deposited by the Supreme Court. When first entered into the online catalogue they were only listed by surname which was of little value for a researchers faced with perhaps hundreds or even thousands of SRO catalogue records (remembering that searching for HILL will find Phillip; Broomehill; Hills; Churchill and many others).

I've been working through the files to add the full names to the catalogue record and also the location of the bankrupt, which is usually relative to the cause of the bankruptcy. This is most interesting, with Afghan cameleers, goldfields boarding house keepers, farmers, politicians, pearlers and all manner of other occupations represented. One of the most poignant is the file for: ORSATTI, Emilio Andrew (Hotelkeeper, All Nations Hotel, Kalgoorlie - formerly Tasmanian Hotel, Boulder. Details of racial riot against Italians 1919). His is not the only file located with links to racial riots on the goldfields.

Where these files contain interviews with the bankrupt, or associated people, the detail of their lives and businesses can be incredibly informative. As at 10 April I've about 450 files still to check, but will be doing some further work on earlier files.

Assistance from BOCS staff

From December 2012 into 2014 SRO hosted staff from BOCS Ticketing after the privatisation of that government service and together with permanent SRO staff they have achieved great things in retrospective cataloguing of many consignments not previously accessible. In particular files of Main Roads Department, Local Government Department, Minister of Environment appeals, PWD coastal management, State Development Department, and Police Station occurrence books, are now available through AEON. There are restricted records among these (occurrence books and appeal files, for example) but at least researchers will be more aware of our holdings.

I am very pleased to report that all Probate files - **Cons 3403 (series 34)** - are now listed by each name to 1947 when our holdings cease. There is a 75 year restriction on probate files so only files up to and including

1939 are 'open access'. Ongoing work with Colonial Secretary's Office files is putting files from 1900 and 1901 on the system, and also working back from 1918 to 1913 has been completed, particularly important with the centenary of the 1914-18 war.

We have also been correcting many spelling errors, an example being the many catalogue entries for Carnavon and Wyndam now showing the correct spelling (it's amazing what you can find when you type in an error when searching AEON). But there have also been smaller errors such as two Lands Department files on telephone exchanges at Truton and South Kununurra being proved to be Treeton and South Kumminin.

Anyone finding what is suspected to be an error is encouraged to contact me and it will be checked. It is important to note that we can't alter original file titles that may contain an error, but we can add corrections in [brackets]. Finally, a search hint. Because AEON searches a letter string, whether a whole or part word, any search for Kulyalling / Kulyaling could be entered as Kulyal and will bring up both spellings. This won't work as well for Morowa / Morawa because Mor is far too common (Morley, Morton, mortgage to name just three) but can be a very useful search strategy for many other names.

New items in the Archives

While we are still unable to accept large consignments, we have had some donations of State archives from private sources.

CONS 7470. Eucla Telegraph Station log book Aug – Dec1899.



Eucla Telegraph
Stn operators
1890s.

Collection of
photographs
from the Royal
Western
Australian
Historical
Society ;
BA1886/526.

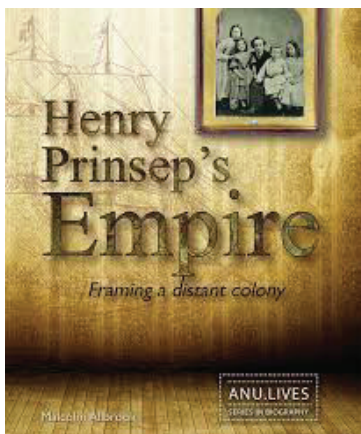
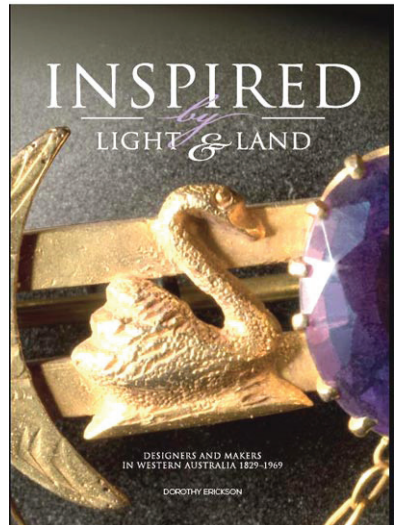
(Courtesy
Battye
Library, SLWA
024589PD.)

CONS 7469. No. 1 State Prospecting Party photograph album 1922.
Compiled by J.W. Jones, leader of the party. Includes images of Rutter's Grave, Rutter's Soak, Mount Gill, Langs Rock, Tampa.

David Whiteford
Senior Archivist.

Two new Western Australian books

Dorothy Erickson's *Inspired by Light and Land: Designers and Makers in Western Australia 1829-1969*, an endeavour some 40 years in the making, is an introduction to the work of the artist-crafts people, designers and makers who drew their inspiration from this western land. It is the first coverage of this wide ranging topic and an essential companion for anyone interested in Western Australian art, design and heritage. Published by the WA Museum. [Ed. Dorothy tells me that her previous work *Gold and Silversmithing in Western Australia* sold out after 18 months is now selling on the rare book market for over \$2000 dollars.]



The biography, *Henry Prinsep's empire: framing a distant colony* by Malcolm Allbrook had its Western Australian launch at Stirling House, the home of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society on 15 April. This evocatively written and beautifully illustrated book comprehensively details Prinsep's life from India and England to Western Australia where he became a leading civil servant and the first Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Sir John Forrest government. Published by ANU Press.

**Friends of Battye Library (Inc) Subscriptions form
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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: Their Name Liveth for Evermore

In our last *Newsletter*, I got in early by mentioning subjects associated with the First World War. One was the popular music it generated and referring specifically to the entertainers called the Anzac Coves. The other concerned the creation of the Burt Memorial Hall, which stands on the south side of St George's Cathedral in Perth. Tying in with the latter then, I now focus on the Soldiers Memorial Chapel which forms part of the cathedral itself on the other side. It opens northwards off the sanctuary through a broad archway, where its own rood beam shows the words from Ecclesiasticus (which I use for the title here).

Originally it was expected that the foundations at this corner site would later give rise to a chapter house, i.e. meeting quarters for the cathedral's governing body. However, the area long remained vacant and other options came to be considered for it. The chapel that eventuated in 1923 was primarily inspired and fostered by Archbishop C O L Riley, who had served in the war as the Anglican Chaplain-General of the Australian Imperial Forces.

A large panel in the west wall tells that the chapel was erected in honour of the Anglican members of the AIF from this State who fought and fell in the Great War. About 20 smaller plaques are set against both side walls as specific memorials. On a pedestal near the entrance a glass-topped case contains an open Book of Remembrance which records alphabetically the names of some 2,000 members of the Anglican Church in Western Australia who lost their lives in the war. Alongside each name is number, rank, unit and cause of death, and the page on view is turned successively each week. Rising on high are 15 furred ensigns and colours that have been laid up by various units.

Of especial note and prominence is the Villers-Bretonneux Cross, which was acquired and attached to the east wall in 1956. It is inscribed to



Archbishop Charles Owen Leaver Riley c.1920. (Courtesy Batty Library, SLWA 3543B)

the memory of the members of the 51st Battalion who fell in the heroic battle for the little town in northern France on Anzac Day 1918. Carved out of wood from a ruined church there, it originally marked a temporary common grave for the fallen.

The chapel has seating for 20 and, as well as for special occasions, is often used for the cathedral's regular small-scale services on weekdays. It is also specifically sought out by many a visitor. A full account of the chapel's contents is given in a 20-page pamphlet that is available from the bookstall at the west door.

Jack Honniball

State Library Bookshop discount for members

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

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

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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary \$25

Joint \$35

Pensioner / student / junior \$15

Corporate \$50

Meetings

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, August or September (whenever is the Annual General Meeting), and November (also the end of year function). 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 this year in April, September, and November (flyers will be sent out in March and July). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 10 March, 10 August, 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 (a/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 on weekdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

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

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

Telephone (08) 9427 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: Tricia Fairweather ((08) 9427 3395), Leonie Hayes (08) 9427 3247. Email: family.history@slwa.wa.gov.au

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

NO. 153



September 2015

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.) NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

Our Annual General Meeting 2015

Bobbie Oliver and Sue Summers
What kind of democracy is this?



First stretcher case of a wounded soldier from the war entering the new Hollywood Military Hospital, 4 December 1941.

(Image courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 046839PD.)

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 8 September 2015 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.

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Emeritus President Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

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Committee members Ms Heather Campbell, Ms Jennie Carter, Ms Lorraine Clarke, Mr Neil Foley, Dr Ronda Jamieson, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, Dr Nonja Peters, and Ms Cherie Strickland.

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

Newsletter editor Ms Jennie Carter

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

All correspondence to:

The Secretary, PO Box 216, Northbridge WA 6865.

ISSN 1035-8692

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

September Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 8 September 2015
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

**Our speakers will be
Associate Professor Bobbie Oliver and Dr Sue
Summers**

*What kind of democracy is this?
Conscientious objectors, repatriation of disabled ex-
servicemen and other marginalised histories*

This talk is based on the research of the Australia at War and Peace Research Group at Curtin University and their 2014 publication: *Lest We Forget? Marginalised Aspects of Australia at War and Peace* co-edited by Bobbie Oliver and Sue Summers.

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.

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About our speakers



Associate Prof. Bobbie Oliver above and Dr Sue Summers below. Courtesy Sue Summers.



Dr Bobbie Oliver is Associate Professor of History at Curtin University, where she teaches and researches Australian history and politics. Bobbie is the author of books on conscientious objectors to military service, Western Australian history and the labour movement.

Dr Sue Summers is Managing Editor of Black Swan Press at Curtin University. She has a background in broadcast journalism and a PhD in Anthropology. She brings these skills – together with a keen interest in photography and design – to the Press. She is co-editor of *Changing Facts, Changing Minds, Changing Worlds* (2013) and of *Enter at Own Risk? Australia's population questions for the 21st Century* (2010).

“The key issue at the thrust of their research is: what is being ‘remembered and what is being ‘forgotten within Australian war history? In raising this critical question, the seven contributors examined the experiences of disabled ex-servicemen, of conscientious objectors, of workers ‘manpowered’ during the Second World War, of the people of Lemnos largely excluded from the Gallipoli story, of women’s marginalised participation in Anzac Day marches and

ceremonies, and the ongoing commemoration of Anzac.

Bobbie Oliver will provide an overview of the research outcomes plus detail of her own chapter, ‘What kind of democracy is this? Conscientious objectors to the National Service Schemes, 1950–1972’. This will build on her SLWA talk earlier this year which focused on those people with strong convictions – whether grounded in religious, socialist or humanist beliefs – who steadfastly opposed the war in WWI. In particular, she discusses the experiences of the young men who opposed conscription

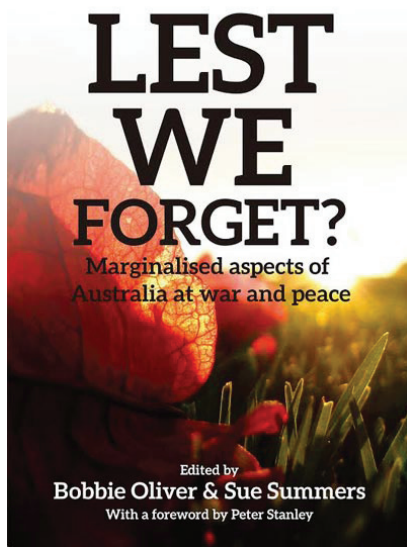
and Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Some of these spent periods in prison; others were in hiding for months in order to escape the law. Unlike the earlier wars, when objectors had essentially sought their own personal exemption from active service, during the Vietnam War, the Draft Resisters Movement refused to comply with the system, which meant not applying for exemption. This and other differences that set the draft resisters apart from earlier generations of conscientious objectors will be discussed.

Sue Summers' research – published as 'A Charity or a right? Repatriation of disabled ex-servicemen in Western Australia, post World War 1' – explores the troubled plight of disabled ex-servicemen. The government promised much to its expeditionary forces, yet the war-injured on their return found themselves subject to lingering 19th century attitudes of 'deserving' and 'undeserving' with the underlying view that the war pension – like the invalid pension that preceded it – was a charitable handout or a gift to the indigent sick. This was compounded by prevailing masculine codes of conduct based on stoicism, fortitude, self-help, manly independence, and a culture of silence on the part of the men involved. Despite lasting and serious injuries, there was an expectation that men 'recover their self respect and usefulness' to become 'normal useful citizens' and return to civil life.

Deputations of ex-servicemen and ex-service organisations insisted that repatriation was not a 'charity' but a 'right', yet all too often men found their claims to be trivialised or dismissed, their activities placed under surveillance, their health status subject to ongoing medical examinations, and their pensions subject to ongoing revisions and reductions.

This discussion will focus on survival on the home front following the Great War: the challenges faced by disabled ex-servicemen, occupational retraining and employment opportunities and the dearth of dedicated medical facilities in WA.

Lest We Forget? Marginalised Aspects of Australia at War and Peace was



published by Black Swan Press, with a foreword by Peter Stanley and contributions – in addition to those from Sue and Bobbie – from Lenore Layman ('I was manpowered': The personal impact of labour reservation in World War II), Robyn Mayes and Graham Seal (Anzac Day media representations of women in Perth, 1960–2012), John Yiannakis (Lemnos and Gallipoli: Towards redressing a marginalised history), and John Stephens (Forgetting the wars: Australian war memorials and amnesia).”

Meeting dates for the rest of 2015

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.

17 November - Speaker - Julie Martin.

The ghost of a moment in time: The story behind the photograph of the 11th Battalion on the Pyramid of Cheops, January 1915.

Meeting dates for 2016

8 March - Speaker Steve Howell.

I'm a celebrity: what the hell am I doing here?

10 May - Speakers - Heather Campbell, Jan McCahon-Marshall, and Jenna Lynch (City of Perth History Centre).

Treasury, Land and Titles Office oral history project: dungeons, maps, rats and the people who worked with them.

12 July - Speakers - Jennie and Bevan Carter

Considerable travail: celebrating 100 years of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women.

13 September - (AGM) - Dr Nonja Peters:

The Dutch in Western Australia.

22 November (4th Tuesday) - End of year function - Speaker TBA.

A message from the President

Dear Friends;

Half the year gone already, time seems to fly by. I think I mentioned in an earlier letter that Nick and I were going to our nephew's wedding in Provence in June – he and his bride had studied in France so were very fluent in the language. It was a wonderful experience, even though the heavens opened on the bride and groom just as the service started! Everyone ran for cover and things went on beautifully – the rain just made it more memorable.

Of course we could not go to Europe and not see my co-author Jacqueline O'Brien whom some of you may remember. She lives just outside Dublin and had arranged a fascinating tour of old Dublin for us, including a guide who had numerous history degrees. The whole visit was a treat but the last place on the itinerary nearly blew us away. It was the Marsh Library – I had never heard of it but it is one of the oldest libraries in the UK. Ireland also has of course the Trinity College Library which houses the Book of Kells, but the Marsh Library is not part of a University and is open to the public. It took its first book (of a large collection) in 1707 and the last in 1747. The chief librarian is known as the Keeper, and people visit from all over the world. We were shown some of the treasures, there was a book dated in the early 1600's - not long after the invention of printing –which had an uneven page. It had been deliberately made to look like a parchment manuscript to overcome fear of the printed word!

Interestingly the first Keeper of the records was Dean Jonathan Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*. We were shown a couple of very old books where he had written in the margin – “abomination to the Scots” and other such defamatory remarks wherever the Scottish people, and particularly Presbyterians, were mentioned in the text.

I wish we had had more time, but do put the Marsh Library on your list of things to see if you get the chance to go to the Emerald Isle.

Our news this month is mainly about the completion of the WW1 newspaper digitisation project. The papers are now online at Trove and I really urge you to look at these items of living history...the advertisements are as interesting as the news. Our speakers in September – the AGM meeting – will also be discussing the War years. The many ways of looking at this dark period in our history is truly fascinating.

Another reminder that subscriptions are now due. Our little society can

only function through the generosity of its members. All proceeds go to supporting the Battye Library and the State Records Office.

I look forward to seeing you in September.

Pamela Statham Drew

Letters & emails to the editor

To Jennie in particular but to all contributors, especially Heather, Rob, Steve and David, what a fantastic newsletter. Thank you all.

A source of unexpected interest was Heather's article on 'Trench Art'. The Jack Blake who made the chess set featured on p.15 worked for my grandfather in his Ravensthorpe shop.

Regards to all Ronda

[Ed. *Thanks Ronda. Just proves what a small world it is in WA.*]

An honour for one of our members.

Queens Birthday Honours in June 2015

I am delighted to learn that a long term member of the Friends of Battye Library, Dr Patricia (Trisha) Kotai-Ewers has been awarded a Medal (OAM) in the General Division for her services to literature in WA and to people with Alzheimers.

For many years Trisha has been a staunch supporter of the Battye Library. She has also donated, organised and described the extensive archive collection of her father, one of Australia's most eminent authors, John Keith Ewers.

Our warmest congratulations to Trisha on her well-deserved award.

Have you a story to tell?

[Bevan Carter, who volunteers at the State Library's Genealogy Centre is the author of several publications including Norfolk poacher to Northam farmer: the life, times and descendents of Robert Carter and Phoebe Oxbury. Jennie and Bevan are currently working on the history of King Edward Memorial Hospital.]

Another famous WA woman we have never heard of - Jean Kahan

While researching the work of Dr George Kelsall, honorary haematologist at King Edward Memorial Hospital, who was in 1945 the first in Australia and one of the first in the world to successfully perform a blood exchange transfusion on a Rhesus negative newborn infant, the name Jean Kahan appeared. Kelsall relied on Jean's skill and expertise for his research into rhesus antibodies and she worked on blood studies of rhesus monkeys at the Perth Zoo which included carrying out transfusions.

Jean Kahan's grandfather Samuel, a Russian born watchmaker, had come to Australia to judge clocks at the 1880 Melbourne exhibition. He liked Australia so much that he married there and then moved to Western Australia during the Goldrush. Jean's father, Raoul, had a successful career at the Perth Mint after a stint in Johannesburg where Jean was born.

Jean graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1938 and, unable to find a job in her field, took up teaching mathematics at Kobeelya in Katanning and the following year taught at St Mary's in West Perth. To assist the war effort she volunteered after hours to help Dr Cyril Fortune, the pioneer of the WA Blood bank, to collect and perform blood grouping tests on servicemen. Keen to be employed in the science research field, she applied for and was successful in obtaining a position at Maribynong



Jean Catherine Kahan. Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA, MN 1396.

Munitions Laboratory in Victoria to work on mustard gas, and travelled east in February 1941. Fortune was keen to get her to stay and continue her work with him and had tried to persuade her that she was sure to get a position in the soon to be established Army Blood and Serum Unit unit but to no avail.

In October 1941 she received a telegram from Fortune: "Resign immediately, the Blood and Serum unit is to be formed in Perth." She did so but before returning, spent some time at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories at the Walter and Eliza Institute learning about the manufacture of serum. She inspected the Army's Sydney laboratory and then armed with as much information as she could obtain, purchased equipment for the planned Perth unit, including a cream separator¹ then used to extract blood cells from plasma and a direct transfusion machine. Jean returned to Perth by rail bringing with her in her personal baggage all the equipment she had painstakingly gathered.

To take up Dr (Major) Fortune's job offer, she was required, like him, to enlist in the Army Medical Corps. Jean's enlistment record reveals she was a member of the 5th Australian Blood and Serum preparation unit and had enlisted at Karrakatta on 17 September 1942. Her occupation is recorded as laboratory technician with a University Science degree and permanent address 15 Ridge Street, South Perth. She was given the rank of Lieutenant.

The pathology laboratory at Hollywood military hospital was made available to them and it was here Kahan set up the equipment for the manufacture of serum. Materials were difficult to obtain and Jean experimented with making some in the laboratory after hours with the help of a patient who was an expert glass blower. In 1943 the unit was moved to Malcolm Street, West Perth and it was here the Red Cross took over the work. Some of Jean's staff left the army to work with the Red Cross. When she was satisfied she had passed on the necessary expertise Jean moved to the 2nd Blood and Serum unit in Sydney where she taught staff of hospital ships to blood group and cross type before giving blood transfusions. She returned to Perth on compassionate leave to assist her Aunt, who had raised her from the age of five after her mother died, to look after her Aunt's dying mother.

She returned to work as Officer in charge of the 1st Blood and Serum Unit in Brisbane in 1945. At the end of the war the Brisbane unit was taken over by the Red Cross and again Jean supervised the transfer

of the business to new accommodation and when running smoothly she returned to Perth to be demobbed. Jean's last job in the science field was as a demonstrator in the Zoology department at the University of Western Australia. In her spare time she helped to establish the Children's Library in South Perth.

In 1948, after a brief failed marriage, she moved to Melbourne where work proved difficult to find. While waiting the result of a job application in the Forestry Department, she took a temporary position in Myers as a clerk in the Mail Order Department. The work was hardly challenging for someone with her intellect and ability, but being Jean she began to ask a lot of questions about how the department, which employed 200 people, functioned. Queried by the senior manager if she wished to continue working in Myers, she answered "not in this job". "No" he said "I've another plan for you". She was asked to work in each of Myer's departments and then suggest improvements and, with the support of management, train staff to implement them. She turned down a job offer at the Forestry Department and remained at Myers for four years as a junior executive, attending lectures on management techniques and time and motion studies at night school.

After a stay in England and employment in a University library, Jean returned to Perth where she spent the remainder of her working life at UWA library.

Jean died on 18 May 2013 aged 96. She left a generous bequest to the University and founded a scholarship in memory of her father Raoul, one of the first UWA graduates in Chemistry. She donated her family papers to the Battye Library where they are catalogued under MN 1396.

Jean was a truly remarkable woman and it is interesting to speculate what her career would have been had she been born in a later era.

(¹ The cream separator she brought to Perth was used for more than 35 years and is displayed at the Blood Bank's headquarters in Wellington Street.)

Sources:

1. Kahan Family papers MN 1396 Battye Library, SLWA.
2. *Not for Glory: A century of service by medical women to the Australian Army* by Susan J. Neuhaus and Sharon Mascall-Dare. (Moorooka, Qld.; Boolarong Press, 2014.).
3. University of Western Australia <http://www.campaign.uwa.edu.au/impact/donorstories/jean-kahan>.

Voices That Should Be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is well known to most of our members, having been Director of the Battye Library before her retirement in 2005. This is the fourth in her fascinating series based on oral history.]

Patricia Gallaher and Oral History

It is appropriate to use this column to add to the tributes to Pat in the most recent edition of the *Newsletter*. I valued her as a personal friend and as a firm believer in the importance of local history collections and of oral history.

When I joined the oral history staff in 1978, on rare occasions staff members set off on what I called 'raiding parties' to extend the collection beyond the metropolitan area. A week would be spent in a country town conducting short interviews. After I introduced courses in oral history I reasoned that if I spent a day in a town teaching community members how to interview, they could continue interviewing and would do a better job because of their local knowledge.

Margaret Medcalf approved of this idea and some of the oral history groups set up as a result still exist which has meant decades of interviews rather than days and projects being conducted as well as individual interviews.



Pat Gallaher. Courtesy State Library of WA.

After Pat was appointed Regional Librarian for the City of Geraldton in 1981 she wanted to include oral history in the local history collection. She contacted me to see if I would conduct interviews in Geraldton which she could then use to persuade the Geraldton Council to the cause to set up her own program. If she succeeded, she would then get me to run one of my courses.

I spent four days in Geraldton in September 1981 and conducted eight interviews with

people Pat had carefully selected to reflect the stories of Geraldton and its surrounds. They represented farming, the fishing industry, local government, sport and music; there was a milliner, a WAGR fitter and details of the Aboriginal and Chinese communities.

Many valuable stories were obtained; four interviews rate a special mention. All were conducted in people's homes and you can imagine how I felt when, without being told the situation, I arrived at the home of the man who had worked for WAGR all his life. He was bedridden and connected to breathing machines due to advanced emphysema caused by his heavy smoking. I felt I was being unfair to disturb him but he insisted the interview continue because he was so anxious to tell his story and those of his WAGR mates. There were times when we needed to pause for some minutes so he could get his breath – and he also smoked throughout the interview. He could see no reason to 'give up now' as the damage had been done.

Phil Miragliotta was able to trace the fishing industry over three generations from the days of wind-powered wooden boats to high-powered fibreglass ones and from no restrictions on fishers to careful control. William Moy had worked in Sydney Fong's grocery store from 1927 and had exceptional knowledge of the Chinese community.

As is often the case with older women, Clara Benzie, born in 1899, told me she did not understand why she was being interviewed because she had done 'nothing'. She then brought to life the family farm at Mt Erin and provided clear pictures of early Geraldton and the relationship between its various communities. In describing her lifestyle growing up, she referred to there being strict rules when you went swimming in the ocean that meant the girls had to swim on one side of the jetty and the boys on the other. Someone kept a look out for the local policeman so that the two groups could swim together, separating quickly when the warning was given. You can imagine how much I enjoyed learning that such restrictions ever existed.

While Clara knew why she was being interviewed, it was not until she received a copy of the transcript that she realised what had been recorded. Knowing it was due to be lodged in the Geraldton public library as well as in the Batty Library she told me it needed to be closed until after her death because information she had shared must be kept secret. While all interviewees had the right to make such requests, I always tried to gently persuade them otherwise or to agree to an edited transcript

being available in the meantime. As there had been nothing 'shocking' in Clara's interview in my opinion, I first asked her why. The response was the 'scandalous' story of breaking the rules and swimming with the boys. It was difficult to keep a straight face as I argued that it was marvellous to learn how life really was and that I valued what she had shared with me throughout the interview. After some hesitation Clara agreed that the transcript could go into the Battye Library but not the Geraldton Library because she did not want local people to find out how 'bad' she had been. Pat reluctantly agreed to this request though we were later able to persuade Clara to change her mind.

Pat was able to get the support of the Geraldton Council and so my next visit was in May 1984 to conduct courses to teach how to interview. She was not content with that, however, and persuaded me to do six further interviews for her collection – to 'justify' the long trip – her words.

Until her retirement from the Geraldton public library in 2001, Pat and I continued to have contact on ways to extend the oral history program into other centres and how to resolve some of the problems that arose. When she and Ken moved to Perth, I was honoured to count them both as friends and to continue that friendship with Pat after Ken's death.

Thank you Pat for enriching my life and those of so many others through your dedicated services to the community.

Ronda Jamieson

Stories from the East Perth Cemetery

[Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland of Swan Genealogy have been working on the East Perth Cemeteries project in partnership with the National Trust of Australia (WA), and the Friends of Battye Library. It is an amazing project and the resulting website www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au is well worth a visit. This is the first of what we hope will be a series of occasional articles on the stories behind some of the grave sites at the cemeteries.]

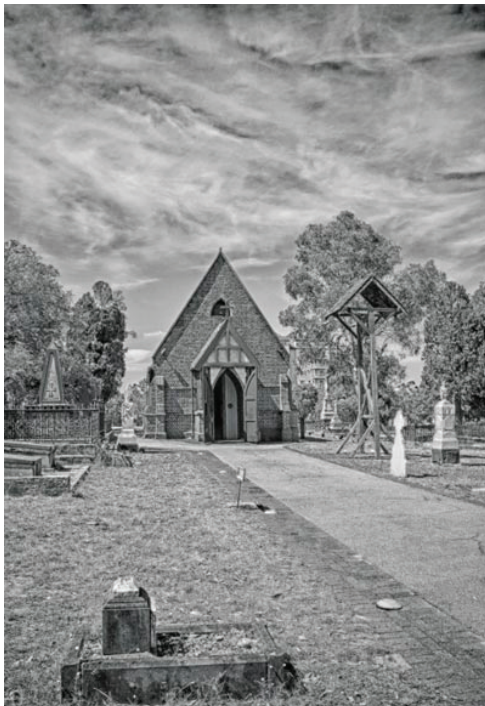
By the time you have received this newsletter the East Perth Cemeteries will have been officially launched. Nearly 9000 stories have been

uncovered the following is one we found most interesting.

A beautiful summer's day in the January of 1894 was to turn the city on its head. Three siblings went crabbing near the William Street Jetty only two returned home.

Victoria Hilda Chipper, known as Hilda, was found drowned at one o'clock the following morning, what tragic events had taken place?

Hilda was the daughter of John Charles Chipper and Grace Gertrude nee Albert, their daughter was only seven years of age when she sadly died on the 20th January 1894. The story of her death filled the papers in the colony for some months to come.



St Bartholomew's Church and East Perth Cemetery. StudiaPhotos (<http://studiaphotos.com>)

Originally it was thought that Hilda had fallen off the William Street jetty and drowned, however her two brother's stories started to differ. A couple of men had been aboard a boat in close vicinity to the three children who had been crabbing and generally playing, they had not heard either splashing or any cries for help. Charles Chipper Hilda's half brother it seems had been the cause of his sister's death, the siblings had been arguing and Hilda threw a jellyfish at Charles and it hit him in the face, Charles then slapped his sister on the face and pushed her in the back from the steps of the jetty into the water. Charles had refused to give or seek any assistance for his sister.

An inquest was held, during which evidence was heard from Joseph Willis, Henry Pearce, William Whitsaw, as well as the police. The witnesses all told the court that the boys had not asked for any assistance nor had they heard Hilda cry for help.

Charles Chipper, was 16 years of age, he gave evidence to the Coroner

The Drowning of a Girl in Perth.

A SAD DROWNING CASE.

The Inquirer and Commercial News
26 January 1894

that he had been crabbing with his sister Hilda and brother Willie, during the afternoon, Hilda had caught two jellyfish in her net she threw one on the jetty the other in his face. Charles then went on to tell the court that he hit his sister on the back and she fell in the water, she disappeared and then came up near the steps of the jetty. He then went on to say that there was shallow water nearby, I went up

the steps wound up my line and went home. He also deposed that he walked up the steps because he was frightened, he hit her because she threw the jelly fish at him, he had not meant to throw her in the water. He had not told his parents because he was frightened that his mother would give him a whipping. He stated that he had hit his sister earlier because she would not do as she was told.

The Coroner summed up by saying that all involved were incredibly affected by what they had heard, he regretted that the newspapers had published reports on the sad death and that there was no means of preventing them publishing such information.

Charles was charged with manslaughter. At a trial in April of the same year he was found guilty and sentenced to two years imprisonment at Rottnest.

Lorraine Clarke & Cherie Strickland
www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au

Information for our members

The Western Australian Biographical Index Cards

Virtual Volunteers have transcribed the 70,000 cards of the WA Biographical Index. The Friends have contributed funding for the project.

The West Australian Biographical Index (WABI) was compiled by Rica Erickson and her helpers in the 1970s. The index's cards, on people who

lived in WA before 1914, contain information from passenger lists, church registers, WA almanacs, government gazettes, early WA newspapers and contributions from the community. The 70,000 cards were digitised with support from the Friends of Battye Library.

In late 2013 arrangements were made for the digitised cards to be transcribed online through 'Virtual Volunteering', a website created by the Carnamah Historical Society & Museum.

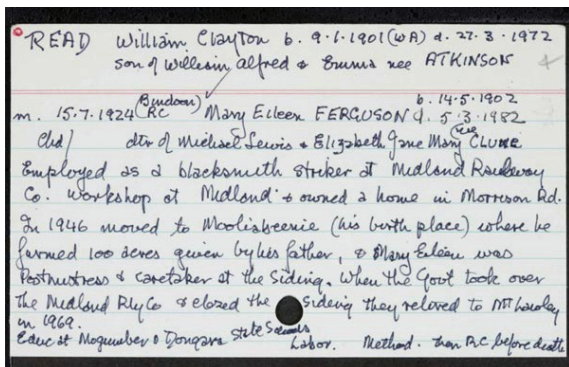
Over the following 20 months all of the 70,000 cards were transcribed by thousands of online helpers. Some gave a little time and transcribed a few cards while others contributed much more substantially. The transcriptions are being double-checked and once finalised, will be used by the library to create a text-searchable online database. This was previously unimaginable with handwritten text spread across so many thousands of cards.

The transcription of the cards has also provided some fantastic societal benefits. Many individuals who might normally not take part in volunteering, such as stay at home parents or those with health problems, were able to take part from home as often or as little as they liked, and whenever it suited them best. There was also a group of dedicated physical volunteers who made their way to the State Library each week to use library computers to contribute to the project.

Virtual Volunteering is now hosting the online transcription of First World War diaries from the library's collection in addition to content from the local history collections of the Carnamah Historical Society, City of Swan and City of Kwinana.

If you're associated with a collection or organisation that might like to utilise Virtual Volunteering, I'd be pleased to hear from you by phone on 0457 911 984 or by e-mail to andrew@carnamah.com.au

Andrew Bowman-Bright
Project Officer, Virtual
Volunteering



One of the cards from the Erickson WABI collection. (Courtesy Andrew Bowman) <http://www.virtualvolunteering.com.au/volunteer>

Remember Me: The Lost Diggers of Vignacourt

Don't miss this moving exhibition of superb photographs and the stories behind them. The exhibition finishes on Sunday 30 Aug 2015 and is open daily 9:30am – 5:00pm at the Western Australian Museum in Perth.

“The small French village of Vignacourt was always behind the front lines. For much of the First World War it was a staging point, casualty clearing station and recreation area for troops of all nationalities moving up to and then back from the battlefields on the Somme. Remember me: the lost diggers of Vignacourt tells the story of how one enterprising photographer took the opportunity of this passing traffic to establish a business taking portrait photographs.

Captured on glass, printed into postcards and posted home, the photographs made by the Thuillier family enabled Australian soldiers to maintain a fragile link with loved ones in Australia. The Thuillier collection covers many of the significant aspects of Australian involvement on the Western Front, from military life to the friendships and bonds formed between the soldiers and civilians. The exhibition showcases a selection



An image from the 'Lost Diggers of Vignacourt'. Courtesy Australian War Memorial.

of the photographs as handmade traditional darkroom prints and draws on the Memorial's own collections to tell the story of these men in their own voices."

Oral History Association of Australia Conference

Fast Forward: Oral History in a Time of Change

The 2015 Oral History Association of Australia Conference Oral History, Fast Forward: Oral History in a Time of Change is being held at the Library from 9-12 September.

The conference has a number of themes including capturing memory and the recording of history; recording the history of disasters and the right time to interview survivors; the relationship between history and therapy including consideration of trauma, dementia and dealing with terminal illness; the use of oral history in museum displays, performance, plays, theatre, radio, internet, cinema and television; technology and oral history, including the provision of access via websites, plagiarism and the protection of intellectual property; digital technology and current state of the art equipment; and community and Indigenous oral history projects.

The State Library is providing the venue (State Library Theatre and Geographe Room) free of charge for the event and two staff members (Adrian Bowen and Susanna Iuliano) are giving papers. The Conference's full program can be found at: <http://www.ohaa-wa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/15.07.01-Draft-5-Conference-Programme-2015-Conference-1.pdf>.

Steve Howell

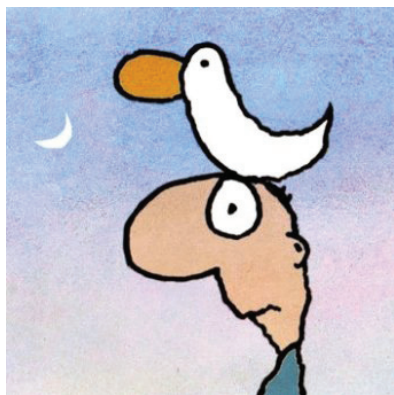
News from the State Library

Exhibitions

A photographic exhibition relating to the Vietnam War entitled *Behind the Wire: images and stories of Vietnam Veterans* opened in the Ground Floor Gallery of the State Library on 7 August.

Susan Gordon-Brown spent three years photographing and interviewing more than 50 Vietnam veterans from across Australia. She asked them about their pre-Vietnam training, daily tasks while over there and their life after return to Australia. Included in the exhibition are 12 Western

Australian veterans of all ranks and with a variety of jobs, such as cooks, dental assistants, truck and tank drivers, scouts, riflemen, nurses etc. This highly acclaimed national exhibition is free and will run to 27 September.



© Michael Leunig. Courtesy ABC.

Disrupted - Festival of Ideas

This popular festival will be held over two successive Sundays, 6 September and 13 September in the State Library. Sunday 6 September features a program about land and is divided into 3 sessions, with speakers including Carmen Lawrence, Anna Haebich, Ruth Morgan, Graeme Martin, Vicki Laurie, Sabrina Hahn and a performance from Andrew Winton. Sunday 13 September features a program about people, also divided into three sessions, with speakers including Michael Leunig,

Ted Snell, Liz Byrski, Greg Sheridan, Akram Azimi, Elena Douglas and Nicholas Johnson. For a more in-depth look at the program and speakers see <http://slwa.wa.gov.au/disrupted/program.html>.

Western Australia New Music Archive (WANMA) performance series

On Friday 21 August the first in the series of Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts lunchtime performances of music from the WANMA begins with acoustic guitarist Eduardo Cossio in the Discovery Lounge. This will be followed by the New House Collective (Jazz) on Friday 17 September. Three additional monthly performances are scheduled through to December. Performances will take place at lunchtimes in the State Library Theatre (when recording or large equipment is required) or the Discovery Lounge.

Western Australian Newspapers coming online soon

The State Library of Western Australia has sent the following titles to the National Library of Australia (NLA) as part of NLA's commitment to digitise a certain number of newspaper titles for each State for free each year: the *Beverley Times* 1905-1977 (note: the copyright holder has given us permission to digitise it all), the *Truth* 1903-1931, the *Swan Express* 1900-1954, the *Southern Argus & Wagin-Arthur Express* 1905-1924, the

Southern Cross Times 1900-1940, the *Moora Herald & Midlands District Advocate* 1914-1930, the *Black Range Courier & Sandstone Observer* 1907-1915, the *Laverton Mercury* 1899-1919, the *Meekatharra Miner* 1909-1918 and the *Evening Star* 1898-1921.

As well, the State Library is funding the digitisation of the following titles in this financial year: the *South Western Times* 1917-1929, the *Primary Producer* 1916-1921, the *W A Sportsman* 1914-1918, *The Call & W A Sportsman: Western Australia's Sporting, Dramatic & Motion Picture Journal* 1918-1920, *The Call: Western Australia's Critical, Sporting, Dramatic, Motor, Society & Motion Picture Journal* 1920-1927, the *Call News Pictorial* 1927-1931, the *New Call* 1931-1934, the *New Call & Bailey's Weekly* 1934-1940, the *Call & Bailey's Weekly* 1940-1945, *The Call* 1945-1954, the *Geraldton Express* 1906-1919, the *Bruce Rock Post & Corrigin Guardian* 1917-1924, the *Bruce Rock Post & Corrigin & Narembeen Guardian* 1924-1948, the *Bruce Rock-Corrigin Post, Narembeen-Kondinin Guardian* 1948-1954, the *Gnowangerup Times* 1912-1918, the *Tambellup Times* 1912-1924, the *Daily Telegraph & North Murchison Gazette* 1918-1920, the *Daily Telegraph & North Murchison & Pilbarra Gazette* 1920-1947, the *Nungarin Trayning Mail & Kununoppin Advertiser* 1917-1922, the *Westonian* 1915-1920, the *Reformer* 1906-1919, the *Local Option Advocate* 1919-1927, the *Fremantle Herald* 1913-1915, the *York Advocate* 1915, the *Victorian Express* 1878-1894, the *Murchison Advocate* 1898-1912 and the *Australian* 1907-1908.

All told this means that nearly 242,000 pages of digitised Western Australian newspaper content will be added to the Trove database this financial year.

Steve Howell

Recent Acquisitions

Saltwater Country Collection of original photographs, paintings and working drawings: photographer Sally Mayman and artist Dale Kentwell spent time with the Indigenous people of the Dampier Peninsula in 2009, taking photos, painting, and listening to the concerns of the community about the proposed gas hub. This led to an exhibition called Saltwater Country aimed at promoting understanding about the Stolen Generations and Indigenous connections to country. The exhibition was launched by

Saltwater Community elder Albert Wiggan, and ran from May to June 2010 at the Manly Art Gallery & Museum in NSW. It was later exhibited in The Rocks, Sydney as part of the Head On photographic festival and as a slide show for the Walkley Awards in 2011. This collection has high visual appeal and tells an important WA story about complex Indigenous issues. Sally's notebook and Dale's sketchbook are included in the collection and provide insight into how the exhibition evolved from their visit to the Saltwater Country community.

EL Mitchell collection of photographic plates and prints 1890s-1950s: about 600-650 images of Indigenous communities, shipping, shearing, Claremont, Fremantle, Rottneest, Jarrahdale, Albany, Kimberley, Bruce Rock, Murchison, and Karalee water supply. This significant acquisition complements existing Mitchell holdings which visually document the people, activities and landscapes of WA. Mitchell travelled constantly from 1909 to the late 1920s and took high quality images of many country towns which will help address the Perth-centric bias in our collection.

Harry and Wilma Venville photographs of Forrest River Mission, 1958-59 (180 colour slides): Harry and Wilma were both 22 year old teachers when they were posted to Forrest River Mission School. Their photographs capture the people, buildings, everyday activities, transport, and landscape of this remote Indigenous community. The record of this community, later known as Oombulgurri, is all the more important since it was closed in 2011. Harry and Wilma also kept a weekly journal which was published in 2000 as *Dadaway: our two years at Forrest River Mission School 1958 & 1959*. Some of the photographs are included in this book. The slides are captioned and will be digitised for online access via the State Library catalogue and Storylines.

Philip Gostelow collection of photographs: 142 digital images of 28 communities in the Mid-west and Wheatbelt including photographs of Ballidu, Bindi Bindi, Bolgart, Buntine, Calingiri, Carnamah, Coorow, Culham, Dalwallinu, Gidgegannup, Kondut, Latham, Marchagee, Miling, Mingenew, Morawa, Piawaning, Perenjori, Pithara, Three Springs, Toodyay, Watheroo, Wongan Hills, Wubin, and Yerecoin. Gostelow's high-quality photographs of homes, businesses, churches, schools, and sporting facilities document social and agricultural activities in country towns in 2015 as well as changing streetscapes where some of these rural communities are in decline.

Alex George collection of photographs: 16 x slides of Indigenous rock art including Bradshaw Figures, Solea Falls, Drysdale River, Beegull, Canning Stock Route Well 35, Tugzila Rockholes, Walter James Range and Aboriginal boys at Warburton.

Three small collections recently acquired at auction: 2 World War II photographs attributed to William Robert Robson of the 2/7 Field Regiment; a 1950 Claremont Football Club team photograph with the names of players and associated staff; and a collection of Western Australian motorcycle racing photographs and ephemera relating to Mervyn Brooking, 1920s-1930s.

Memoirs of ex-Inspector J McDonald: this memoir of a police trooper about his time in the goldfields soon after gold was discovered in the 1890s is valuable for the contemporary account of his own experiences and observations. It is an entertaining read, politically incorrect by modern standards but lively with vivid descriptions.

Early bush recordings of Aboriginal music and song: these recordings are exceptional as they are field recordings c1960s. They include traditional music and ceremonies, 'story' songs including one about the first time a truck was seen by local Aboriginal people at Mulga Downs and another about the bombing of Broome. They were originally given to the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) by the recorder, John Hutchinson.

In May 2015, a Ceremony of Appreciation was jointly hosted by the NFSA and the Library in the State Library Theatre to recognise John's remarkable contribution of field recordings to collecting institutions. At that ceremony, John gave a copy of the Aboriginal recordings to the Library and to representatives of the Aboriginal people from the area where they were made. The Library also holds an extensive collection of John's field recordings of bird song. Sadly, John passed away in early August.

Records of Habitat Herdsman: this group was formed in 1977 when it was realised that the wetlands of Herdsman's Lake had mining leases granted over them. The founders were Noelene Hartley OAM, Otto Mueller and Barbara Churchwood. They worked to ensure that the area would be a self-sustaining protected wetland.

The records show the valuable work done by committed volunteers, the

extensive research they undertook and their observation of the wildlife at the lake. The progress of their lobbying efforts can also be traced as successive governments gradually began to pay more attention to scientific and environmental concerns. It is an interesting archive of community activism. The group officially disbanded in 2008.



Princess Margaret visiting Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Perth, October 1972. Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 326916PD:

Women's Auxiliary, Princess Margaret Hospital:

these records show the work of the Women's Auxiliary from 1925 and through them can be gleaned a social history of children's health, needs and the role of women. The extensive scrapbooks also constitute a social history of the hospital. The volume of cuttings shows the level of interest in children's well-being and the esteem in which the hospital was held. The collection also contains papers and photographs

relating to Matron Judith Butt, later Lady Court. She was a very significant figure at the hospital during her long career.

Thomas Hodgson Collection: this collection is primarily comprised of the diaries of Thomas Hodgson of Hillcrest Farm, Dalwallinu. This was a soldier settler farm and the collection records the development of a block beginning in the era of the horse. Detail is supplied of the building of the house, of dams and the development of the crops and animals of the farm. The transition to modern times of mechanisation in various ways can be traced. Old documents, maps and instruction booklets complement the diaries and photographs. The diaries span the 1920s to 1950s with a few later ones. Thomas Hodgson was born in 1892 in Yorkshire, UK, served in WW1 in the Australian forces, took up the farm in 1922 and died in 1982.

Stone James Collection: while this is not a new acquisition, it is very pleasing that this highly significant collection of over 400 legal documents dating from 1829-1917, has been formally gifted to the library by King

and Wood Mallesons. It has been at the library since 1958 on 'indefinite loan' but is now a permanent part of the Library's heritage collection.
Jean Butler and Laurie Allen

State Records Office - News from the Archives

SRO Lunchtime Seminars for 2015

17 Sept 2015 - Speaker: Gerard Foley, SRO

Lives in Archives

(Note: this talk will be at the City of Joondalup Library)

18 November 2015 - Speaker: Damien Hassan, SRO

Perth Metropolitan Plan Project

From time to time SRO Lunchtime Seminar speakers provide their presentations for future reference. See: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/lunchtime-seminars/sro-lunchtime-seminar-presentations>

Friends of Battye Library are welcome to make suggestions for next year's Lunchtime Seminar program. Please contact Gerard Foley at the SRO if you have any suggestions for speakers next year.

Geoffrey Bolton Lecture 2015

The 2015 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture will be delivered on Tuesday evening 6 October by Mr Kim Williams AM at the Government House Ballroom. Mr Williams is one of Australia's foremost media, arts and culture executives, and is also a composer. He has led a wide range of prominent organisations including Musica Viva Australia, Foxtel, the Australian Film Commission, the Sydney Opera House Trust and News Limited and last year he released a book *Rules of Engagement*. His topic for the 2015 lecture is *Cultural Futures in an Age*



Kim Williams AM. (Courtesy SRO)

of Digital Disruption and his lecture will address the challenges for the media, cultural institutions and the arts in what has been described as an era of pervasive digital disruption.

New Online Catalogue and Archival Management System

The SRO's new online catalogue will be launched on 17 August 2015. Over the last year the SRO has been working on replacing our old online catalogue, which is now well over a decade old, by developing enhancements to the International Council on Archives (ICA) Access to Memory (AtoM) Archival Management System (AMS). In developing the new AMS the SRO will be able to offer an enhanced and improved online catalogue for clients. Clients will be able to locate archives online with greater ease; for example they will be able to search through series and consignments of archives for archival materials, and they will also be able to order these items online.

One of the enhancements undertaken by the SRO has been to adapt AtoM to the Australian Series System. The new system will also allow the SRO to move to a platform with much needed digital preservation capabilities; provide improved support capabilities with ongoing enhancements scheduled; and enable the SRO to be part of a worldwide community of archives using this software. In recent months the SRO has developed internal training materials and some information for the public in using AtoM and conducted training for staff and users.

Exhibition of State Archives at Parliament House

On 23 June 2015 an exhibition of some of Western Australia's most important and evocative archives went on show in the ground floor foyer of Parliament House to mark the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta. Called 'State Archives and Parliament' the exhibition draws the link between the State's founding, constitutional and historical documents and the Magna Carta, the ultimate archival document from which Australia's parliamentary system and the rule of law originates. Through eight display panels and facsimile archives, the story of the development of WA's parliamentary democracy, economy and society is revealed. An online version of the exhibition is also available through the SRO's website at <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/parliament/>.

The response to the exhibition from the Presiding Officers and MPs has been very positive, and the exhibition is highlighted on the front page of

Parliament's website. Originally planned to be located at Parliament House for 6-8 weeks, it is now likely to be in place until at least October. The exhibition will be returned to the SRO for use in the Search Room, once the exhibition is completed at Parliament House.

GovHack 2015

SRO participated as a mentor organisation at GovHack 2015 in Perth, 3 - 5 July. 140 individuals registered for the event, with some working solo and others combining into over 20 teams. GovHack involves programmers, designers, entrepreneurs, archivists and librarians, and enthusiasts with all kinds of backgrounds to work with government data. The aim is to grow Australia's technical and creative capacity, connecting citizens with government and the public sector, and about building on the social and economic value of open data published by government. The range of themes included indigenous stories, main road intersection design, cycle paths and environmental & energy issues.



Exhibition at Parliament House.
(Courtesy SRO)

The Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) sponsored a prize for “Best use of Arts and Culture data” and the winner of this prize was “Yes we ckan” by team Bangers n’ Mashup who used data to produce a CKAN installation to discover data about the Beelihar Wetlands. This team was advised on Beelihar resources held by SRO including digitised historic maps and plans listed on our online catalogue. SRO’s Meg Travers was very proactive in talking to the teams about their project and if, and how, SRO data could be used, and she was awarded Mentor of the Year for W.A.’s GovHack 2015.

Government Recordkeeping

On the State Recordkeeping/Information Management side of the SRO’s operations, we can report the following:

- The SRO is developing a Sector Disposal Authority for agencies within the Mental Health Sector.
- The General Disposal Authority for Local Government Records is

currently under review and expected to be published by the end of 2015.

- The busy schedule of review / revision of agency Recordkeeping Plans and Retention and Disposal Schedules continues.
- ORDA (Online Retention and Disposal Schedule) continues to be well populated by agencies and recent upgrades have proved useful.
- The SRO continues to provide Induction sessions to University Guild members and the Elected Members of local government.
- SRO staff continue being busy in decommissioning projects for sectors of the Health industry.

Margaret Medcalf Award 2015

The 2015 Margaret Medcalf Award was presented to Dr Kerry King for her PhD thesis *A lesser species of homicide - manslaughter, negligent*



and dangerous driving causing death: the prosecution of drivers in Western Australia, 1946-2011, by the Hon. John Day MLA, Minister for Culture and the Arts, on 24 June 2015. A Special Commendation was also presented to Dr Chris Owen for his PhD thesis: 'Weather hot, flies troublesome'. Police in the Kimberley District of Western Australia 1882 – 1901. Over 90 invited guests attended the event at the State Library's Theatre, which was followed by morning tea.

Dr Kerry King at the Margaret Medcalf Awards function. (Courtesy SRO)

The Judges for this year's Award were State Records Commissioner, Justine McDermott; John Curtin Distinguished Professor Anna Haebich, Curtin University; and the State Archivist and Executive Director State Records, Cathrin Cassarchis.

Guide to State Cabinet records

An online Guide to the 1984 State Cabinet records was released to mark Western Australia Day on 1 June 2015. The Guide generated a news

story in The West Australian newspaper about the issues addressed by State Cabinet over 30 years ago, highlighting the role of the SRO in preserving and making these records accessible.

Centenary of Anzac Project - Soldiers' Wills

In May and June a contract archivist was employed to identify the wills of Western Australian military personnel who died in the First World War, within the probate files in the State archives collection. A total of 3612 'soldiers' estates' were identified and relevant details of each service person has been placed in a database. This database includes name, original WA address, place of death, regiment/battalion, former occupation, and other relevant information about each soldier, as well as giving an indication if there are interesting documents in the will files (e.g. letters from the front, etc.). It is planned that this database will be the foundation for the development of some of the stories of those who died in this conflict 100 years ago, and with funding it is hoped this this will be shared in an appropriate online reflective space on the SRO's website.

Membership subscriptions are now due.

This is a gentle reminder that membership subscriptions for 2015-2016 are due. Sincere thanks to those members who have already paid.

Your membership of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) is crucial in enabling us to undertake important projects to assist in preserving and making available Western Australian materials in all formats. We have had a very successful year, but we could not have accomplished what we have without the support of our wonderful members.

A membership form is included on page 31 and it lists various ways of making your payment. Or you can renew your subscription at our AGM on Tuesday 8 September 2015. Membership brings many benefits, not least is the State Library's 15% discount on new book purchases.

On Behalf of the Friends committee, our grateful thanks for your

continued interest.

Nick Drew, Treasurer.

Notice from South Australia

The Friends of the State Library of South Australia (SLSA) sent us the following information about the Australiana Publications program which is the main fundraising activity for the SLSA Friends.

“Since 1995 we have been publishing limited editions of records of Australian exploration - in facsimile, translation and compilation. .. We publish deluxe editions in short runs, with leather bindings, attractive endpapers and even, for some special editions, fore-edge paintings. ... We are keen to make these attractive and informative works more available to a wider audience.”

The SA Friends catalogue is on the website:

australianapublications.org.au

Members of the Friends of Battye Library have been extended the same discounted price on these lovely books as is enjoyed by members of the

State Library Bookshop discount for members

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

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

SLSA Friends.

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 Bunch of Dates of Historical Significance

Within the vast realm of recorded history, round-numbered anniversaries and longevity records are often awarded due prominence and active public observance. Several such occurrences of particular note have been sprinkled throughout the middle months of the current year.

On and around 25th April, virtually every Australian must have been well aware of the Anzac Centenary that was fittingly marked by a host of national and local commemorations and their ample coverage by the media. We of the Friends played our part with an Anzac theme to our very substantial Newsletter for May and at our next general meeting. On 6th August, Lone Pine was another of the famous encounters of the Gallipoli campaign of which we at home were reminded when its centenary was solemnly marked in situ. And no doubt a lot more is yet to follow arising from World War I.

The Second World War has also been widely recalled of late, especially by the media, with well warranted reference to the seventieth anniversary of its ending. A pleasing aspect of various commemorative functions has been the honouring of the thinning ranks of its veterans who have survived to a ripe old age. Television is able to make good use of contemporary film footage to show how joyfully the public reacted on the original VE Day (8th May) and VP Day (15th August). And nor was the world allowed to forget the first use of the atomic bomb in warfare on 6th August 1945.

During June another two anniversaries drew attention to earlier events of wide-ranging and long-lasting significance. The first was the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta by King John at Runnymede in England on 15th June 1215. That famous document drew up a stable framework of law, becoming a revered symbol of liberty and eventually a part of the common political heritage of the whole English-speaking world. The great charter was accorded due honour in addresses that large audiences heard from two of Perth's legal luminaries of today. The first was delivered at the Constitutional Centre on 3rd June by Nicholas Hasluck, and the second at a service in St George's cathedral on 14th June by Wayne Martin, Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor.

Then on 18th June the focus was on the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo that ended the long Napoleonic wars in 1815 and left Europe at peace for the next 40 years. Here, in response to a suggestion from the Army Museum, the victory was made the theme of their annual

festive dinner by the Swan River Pioneers 1829-1838, a vigorous special-interest group of the WA Genealogical Society. Seven of Swan River's earliest colonists had fought at Waterloo, and happily some descendants of all seven combatants were present at the dinner. Moreover, it was largely owing to the general economic malaise in post-war England that young Western Australia attracted many others of its first settlers.



Waterloo campaign medal belonging to Swan River Pioneer settler Captain John Molloy, husband of Georgiana Molloy. (courtesy Bernice Barry *The mind that shines*. <http://georgianamolloy.com>.)

Following these great events of the past, this discourse turns to a remarkable historical record whose achievement is expected in the very near future. For, midway through the 64th year of her reign,

Queen Elizabeth II will become the longest-serving monarch in British and Australian history. On 9th September, at the age of 89, she will surpass the present record that Queen Victoria left when she died at the age of 81 on 22nd January 1901.

It was in September 1896 that Victoria broke the previous record set in 1820 by her grandfather, King George III. At that stage however, the regard for her longevity had begun to focus on the 60th anniversary of her accession to the throne that was due to occur in June 1897. The Diamond Jubilee Year therefore became virtually synonymous with 'the record reign', and was further moulded into a celebration of the British Empire at its zenith. For colourful pageantry, its climax, on 22nd June, was the Great Jubilee Procession through London to St Paul's cathedral, and in this the Queen was joined by a fine array of notables in their coaches and detachments of both home-based and colonial defence forces. Two days later John Forrest was one of the premiers of the self-governing colonies who assembled in formal conference. In his biography

of Forrest, Frank Crowley has said of the Jubilee, 'No event since the Battle of Waterloo had so deeply stirred the English-speaking peoples'.

In Queen Elizabeth's case, her Diamond Jubilee Year came three years earlier than her record and was warmly celebrated throughout the Commonwealth realms in 2012. Now standing alone, so to speak, the new record reign will probably be relatively subdued in its public impact. The Queen herself has said she would not want much fuss or cost involved in it. Nevertheless, there are sure to be a host of appropriate salutes, congratulatory messages and celebrations worldwide. Here, in honour of the Queen, a festal Evensong service will be held at St George's cathedral on Sunday 13th September, at which there will be strong emphasis on the splendid music associated with royal occasions. It will be followed by a Reception at Government House designed in part as a fund-raiser for the highly regarded Royal Flying Doctor Service. The joint catchphrase for these two co-ordinated functions is: Vivat Regina!

Jack Honniball



Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on her visit to Australia in 1954. (Courtesy <http://www.expatch.org>)

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

Life membership \$500

Annual membership

Ordinary \$25

Joint \$35

Pensioner / student / junior \$15

Corporate \$50

Meetings

General meetings are held each year in March, May, July, August or September (whenever is the Annual General Meeting), and November (also the end of year function). 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 this year in April, September, and November (flyers will be sent out in March and July). Articles from members and supporters are very welcome and the deadline for copy for the newsletter is 10 March, 10 August, 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 (a/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 on weekdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

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

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

Telephone (08) 9427 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: Tricia Fairweather ((08) 9427 3395) Email: tricia.fairweather@slwa.wa.gov.au, 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, & Thurs from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

NO. 154

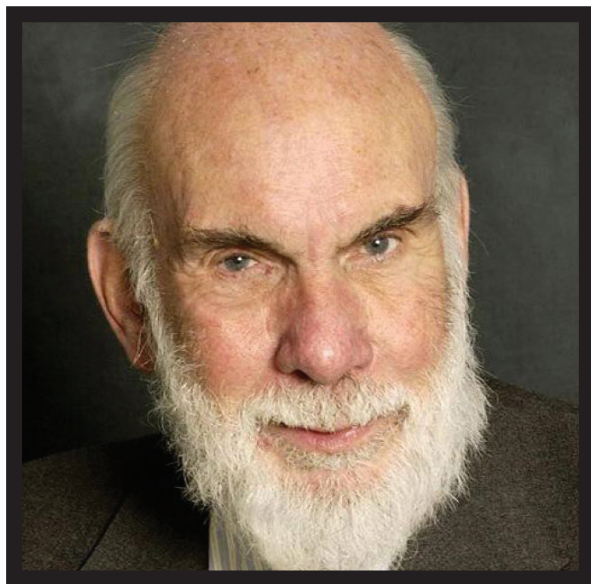


November 2015

FRIENDS OF BATTYE LIBRARY (Inc.)
NEWSLETTER

ABN 571625138800

*Farewell Emeritus Professor
Geoffrey Curgenvan Bolton AO
(5 November 1931 - 3 September 2015)*



(Image courtesy State Records Office of Western Australia.)

Our end of year meeting 2015 will be held on Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Great Southern Room, 4th floor State Library of Western Australia. Speaker - Julie Martin.

This meeting will be followed by a catered dinner.

Bookings essential - please see details on page 3.

Objectives

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

Patron Mrs Ruth Reid AM

Emeritus President Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO (dec.)

Committee (2015-2016)

President Dr Pamela Statham Drew

Vice President Mrs Gillian O'Mara

Secretary Heather Campbell

Treasurer Mr Nick Drew

Committee members Ms Jennie Carter, Ms Lorraine Clarke, Mr Neil Foley, Mr Robert O'Connor QC, Dr Nonja Peters, 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 WA, or the State Records Office.

November End of Year Function

Tuesday 17 November 2015
Great Southern Room, 4th floor
State Library of Western Australia
5pm for 5.30pm

Our speaker will be Julie Martin

*A ghost of a moment in time:
The story behind the photograph of the 11th Battalion
on the Pyramid of Cheops, January 1915.*

Part 'ghost story', part 'who dunnit it', this presentation looks at the context of the 'Cheops photograph' and the events at Mena Camp in Egypt leading up to the 10th January 1915. Using primary and secondary sources, the fascinating story behind the photograph begins to develop.

After the meeting, members will move next door for a fully catered meal including wine and orange juice. We have managed to keep the price the same as last year - just \$30 each. But bookings in advance are essential and are required to be made to Nick Drew on 9384 8154 or by email at nickdrew@bigpond.com by Monday 9th November to secure your place.

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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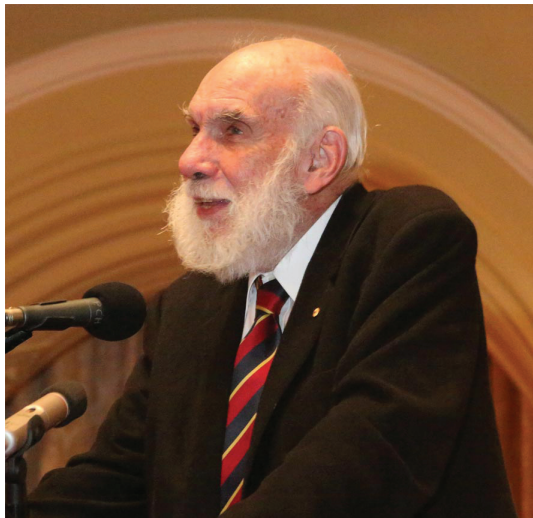
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Dear Friends

It was a great sadness to learn of the death of the Friends of Battye Library's Emeritus President, Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO. Geoff was a towering figure in Western Australia and throughout the years has brought his intellectual rigour, amazing memory, breadth of historical knowledge and quizzical sense of humour to a deeper understanding of our past. He was passionate about the Battye Library, President of the Friends of Battye Library for several years, and remained a constant supporter and mentor to all of us.

For those of us who were fortunate to be one of his students, a colleague, or a friend are only too aware of what an wonderful privilege it was to know him and to be enlightened, challenged and delighted by such a remarkable, urbane and deeply caring man who was the indisputable master of his craft.

Jennie



(Image
courtesy
SROWA)

[Professor Bolton's memorial service was held at St George's Cathedral on 5 October. At the service a moving tribute to her husband was given by Geoff's wife Carol. Carol has very generously given her permission to include her eulogy in our newsletter.]

For Geoffrey

A couple of days before Geoffrey died I asked him if he was afraid. He said “ No because there is so much love around”.

Geoffrey himself loved many things: he had an enthusiasm for exploration and connection with the living world. He loved the landscapes of Australia, outback and desert as well as the forests of the South West. He loved the starlit night sky which you can see in the bush. He wished that he knew more botany and astronomy and hoped one day to learn a bit more. He was always learning a bit more about everything. He packed a great deal in but always reached out beyond that. He loved music, both classical and such things as Australian bush ballads. He wished he could have been a really competent jazz pianist. He wrote lyrics for the student revue when he was an undergraduate. He had a fine line in parody and a splendid memory for songs of many kinds.

He had an appetite for life and communication which informed all that he did. He was at home in conversation with people from all walks of life. He was passionate about what the poet Yeats called “ monuments of unageing intellect.” To seek wisdom was what he thought universities should do and what they should teach students to do. He was a brilliant teacher because of his engagement, passion and narrative ability. From time to time someone would come up to him and tell him how much they had enjoyed his history lectures back in the 1970s. This gave Geoffrey immense pleasure. I think he saw his job as an historian as being to hold up a mirror to society so that it could better understand itself.

That narrative capacity and zest for life of course showed itself in his relationship with his friends and family. He was my best friend and a wonderful companion. His knowledge and understanding enriched all my experience. Recently we went to the exhibition of Chinese painting at the National Gallery of Victoria. Before we went I asked him to put that period of Chinese history into context for me. There followed a fascinating survey of Chinese history from about 600 BCE to the present day, placing the paintings perfectly in context . What a pleasure and privilege to travel with him.

He loved and was very proud of his two sons, Patrick and Matthew, always concerned about their wellbeing and interested in their ways of thinking about the world. He loved his daughters in law, Nicola and Karen and appreciated what they brought to the family. He also loved

his grandchildren, Jed, Bleys, Arielle, Felix and Lucie and followed their growing and development with enthusiasm, Many of my memories of him with both his children and grandchildren are about his capacity to play with them. He played everything from snap to chess by way of monopoly and scrabble and seemed to be very available for such activities. He also told wonderful stories which all the children enjoyed. The hero of these stories was a cockatoo called Cocky Feathers who had many adventures, often in the form of time travel which enabled him, and hence the children, to become acquainted with ancient Rome or medieval England. The stories were first told by Geoffrey to his little brother so they have been loved by three generations of children who acquired some historical perspectives along with an entertaining narrative. This is fitting because it is perhaps as a teacher that Geoffrey would most like to be remembered.

When we were discussing what he would like to be said on this occasion he told me that there are some words from an Old English poem called *The Battle of Maldon* which expressed something very important to him. There is an elderly knight who is surveying very powerful invading forces as they prepare to fight. This is what he says:

“Mind must be harder, heart must be stouter, the spirit be stronger as our strength grows less.”

That was how he lived the end of his life and we honour and love him.

Carol Bolton.

[A long time colleague, Dr Lenore Layman, wrote a fine memoir of her friend for the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and kindly let us reprint it here.]

Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO (1931 – 2015)

Remembering with affection a fine scholar, teacher and friend.

... they will maintain the fabric of the world;
And in the handiwork of their craft is their prayer.

(Ecclesiasticus 38)

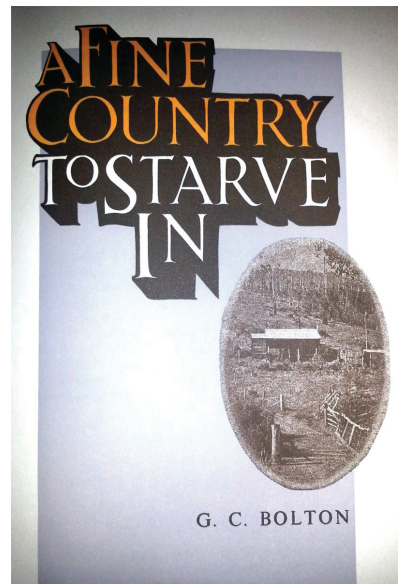
Geoff had an illustrious academic career. After first class honours and

an MA degree at the University of WA, he won a Hackett Studentship to Balliol College, Oxford, where he completed his doctorate. He returned to Australia to take up a research fellowship at the Australian National University, followed by a senior lecturership at the newly established Monash University before being appointed to his first Chair of History at the University of Western Australia in 1966. He took up the Foundation Chair of History at Murdoch University in 1973, later becoming head of the Australian Studies Centre at the University of London, Professor of Australian History at the University of Queensland and then Professor of History at Edith Cowan University. In retirement he served as Chancellor of Murdoch University and in 2006 was named WA Australian of the Year.

Geoff devoted his life to history. It was of unceasing interest to him and, in turn, many histories flowed from him in books, articles, interviews and talks – at least fifteen books as well as a great many other publications of all sizes in which he assisted. His output was abundant and continued until his death, with his authoritative biography of Paul Hasluck (2014) his last major work. Few scholars could claim such a prolific and varied output, one that testified to his intellectual ability, energy and dedication.

Like other leading historians of his generation he spanned imperial and Australian history, a man of wide knowledge which he always wore lightly and with wit. He has been Western Australia's leading historian of his time and will be sorely missed.

Open-minded and ever alert to new approaches to history, Geoff pioneered many new areas in Western Australian historical writing. His 1953 MA thesis, 'A survey of the Kimberley pastoral industry from 1885 to the present', and his first book, *Alexander Forrest. His Life and Times* (1958), were path-breaking regional and biographical studies. *A Fine Country To Starve In* (1972) tackled the devastating impact of the 1930s depression on a primarily agricultural state, drawing on oral interviews to capture the personal experience of the catastrophe. He became an early practitioner and leader of the oral history movement.



Spoils and Spoilers: Australians Make Their Environment, 1788 to 1981 (1981) introduced environmental history. *Daphne Street* (1997), his close-grained biography of the street where he grew up, was another departure into new (and personal) territory. He wrote on Aboriginal-settler relations with sensitivity. His biographical studies, both lengthy and brief, captured the characters and influence of a multitude of past West Australians. He was central to the life of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, writing 86 entries over the years. He made major contributions to the State's political history, notably in the form of collaborative biographical dictionaries. Following in the footsteps of Kimberly, Battye and Crowley, his brilliantly-titled *Land of Vision and Mirage: Western Australia since 1826* (2008) was his endeavour 'to summarise and interpret the history of Western Australia since British occupation and settlement' for his generation. In all these ways he shaped the understanding of WA history.

Geoff was a brilliant lecturer with such an encyclopaedic knowledge and prodigious memory that he could step into any breach at the last minute and deliver an erudite and entertaining talk. Some amazing talks were delivered from the back of an envelope! He rarely said no to the continuous flood of requests for lectures, book launch speeches, interviews on diverse topics, after-dinner speeches, committee memberships or chairing, and so forth. He seemed to enjoy making himself available and giving his time and considerable authority to worthwhile enterprises. If his support could help, he provided it. His intellect and the speed of his mind enabled him to undertake far more than others could. He collaborated on so many projects at the same time that it would have been difficult for anyone else to keep track!

He mostly had admirers, but listened carefully to those who occasionally disagreed and was always a kind and supportive senior historian. Geoff was not only respected but also held in great affection. He was warm and friendly, a favourite with students. His histories are widely read because he could engage his readers with knowledge, charm and a splendid turn of phrase.

Although Geoff was already in his 80s, he had numerous histories in the planning stage in his head and intended to keep writing. We will never learn about these topics, alas, or read the fascinating memoirs he planned. And there will be no more interesting talks or endless flow of anecdotes and aphorisms; no more nuggets of information instantly recalled and appropriate to the occasion. It is very hard to believe that

such a wealth of knowledge and such a lively mind have gone. We will miss him so much!

Lenore Layman

About our speaker - Julie Martin

Julie's career in libraries has spanned 44 years, during which time she worked with collections both within the State Library of WA as well as West Australian government agencies.

For the last twelve years of her professional working life she curated the Battye Library's collection of historical photographs. An initiative of hers, *Adopt a Soldier*, which successfully raised funds from the public to preserve a collection of 780 original glass negatives of portraits of West Australian WWI soldiers won her a Special Achievement award from the State Library of WA. She was also the inaugural winner of the Megan Sassi Award for Excellence in Reference Librarianship.

She has contributed chapters and articles to professional publications and was the author of *Soul searching: a guide to WA Electoral Rolls* produced as a result of a research grant from the Friends of the Battye Library.

In retirement, Julie has been engaged as a consultant to Local Government authorities providing advice and support in the management of their historical photographic collections. In addition, she recently took on the voluntary position of Librarian at the WA Genealogical Society.

It was her association with WAGS and fascination with historical photographs that led to her involvement in the 11th Battalion-Cheops project. She has been researching and editing the stories of the men who featured in the photograph as well as exploring the context of the photograph itself.

A 'ghost of a moment in time':

Finding the context of a century old photograph.

January 2015, marks the passing of 100 years since a camera froze in time, the images of 704 men of the West Australian 11th Battalion as they arranged themselves over the Great Pyramid of Giza (Cheops).

Why was this photo taken and by whom? The answer is more complex than it may seem at first glance.



AIF soldiers of the Western Australian 11th Battalion on the steps of the Great Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt 10 January 1915.

[Section of photograph.]

(Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 4496B)

Meeting dates for 2016

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.

8 March - Speaker - Bill Bunbury

The warmth, wit and wisdom of Geoffrey Bolton.

10 May - Speakers - Heather Campbell, Jan McCahon-Marshall, and Jenna Lynch (City of Perth History Centre).

Treasury, Land and Titles Office oral history project: dungeons, maps, rats and the people who worked with them.

12 July - Speaker Steve Howell.

I'm a celebrity: what the hell am I doing here?

13 September - (AGM) - Dr Nonja Peters:

The Dutch in Western Australia.

22 November (4th Tuesday) - End of year function - Speaker TBA.

A message from the President

I was personally devastated to learn of Geoffrey Bolton's last illness and passing. Geoff was a great friend of mine and has always been an anchor ever since he taught me British History at Monash in 1962. I will miss him more than I can say.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 8 September 2015. At the AGM elections were held for officer bearers for the coming year and a report on our activities over the last year given.

This last year has been dominated by the preparations to celebrate, and the actual celebration of the centenary of Gallipoli. As you are aware we decided that our society could contribute best by funding the digitisation – and on-line accessibility – of the World War 1 newspapers held by the Battye Library. Member and past Director of Battye library, Ronda Jamieson, took the lead in this and gave us a list of the newspapers that would be involved – both city, suburban and country papers. And to save our meagre funds for in-house projects we decided to take advantage of the grants given by the federal Government to each electorate to help them properly celebrate the centenary. We were successful in three applications to Western Australian politicians – Allanah McTiernan in Perth gave us \$5000, Christian Porter of Pearce \$2206, and Melissa Price of Durack \$8285.

This enabled us to digitise the following papers (costs were calculated on a per page basis).

Camp Chronicle - \$2,206

Labour Vanguard – (1916) \$44

Sparks Fortnightly \$613

The All British \$75

The Harvey Chronicle \$888

The Collie Mail \$2822

The Nor-west Echo \$5292

The Eastern Recorder \$3055

All are now available on Trove for viewing on your own computer. We think the most exciting is the *Camp Chronicle*, the paper produced by

diggers in training at Blackboy hill. In fact your committee had decided to fund the digitisation of this paper even if we were unsuccessful in obtaining Federal funding – but thanks to the generosity of our politicians, we were.

Our finances are very stringent at the moment as the trust that manages the Sholl Bequest has increased its fees substantially – just at a time when returns on investments were also falling sharply. So where in the past we have relied on a yearly payment of \$5000 to \$6000 we can now expect less than \$2000 to \$3000. It means your incoming committee is going to have to be more adventurous in seeking new forms of funding to continue to support Battye and the State Records Office as we have been able to do in the past.

This was all in the future when we had our End of Year meeting and dinner last November. If you recall John Viska talked to us about colonial kitchen gardens and I was very pleased to hear during his talk that the plan of his house and garden by Alfred Stone, featured in Jacqueline O'Brien's and my book, was one of the earliest garden plans in Australia.

In March Annie Medley spoke to us about the Sisters of Mercy and their work in WA, especially in Education. They not only taught the three R's but included needlework, music, dance and foreign Languages in their curriculum and very many Perth girls attended – not just Catholic schoolgirls.

By May our Gallipoli celebrations were well in hand and Shannon Lovelady delivered an inspiring talk on how she and helpers tracked down every Western Australian who died at Gallipoli. She had been astounded to find that no-one knew how many WA men died in that terrible war and set out to set the record straight – and she now knows the name of every man who gave his life on that peninsular.

In July we had Bill Edgar talk about the Western Australia's convict past and he actually managed to surprise a couple of us, especially in his discussion of where convicts came from.

In September Bobby Oliver discussed the work she and Sue Summers had done on what is not usually remembered about the effects of war - ranging from the First World War to Vietnam.

At our AGM it was my pleasant duty to thank the committee who have worked very hard on your behalf throughout the year. We meet every

month that is not a General Meeting and there has hardly been an absentee. Our ex-officio members, Cathrin Cassarchis from the SRO and Margaret Allen from the State Library attend as often as possible. When not available Cathrin always sends a substitute so this year we have had input from Gerard Foley and Tom Reynolds. The acting Battye Historian Sussana Iuliano has been a very welcome contributor to our meetings and we very much appreciate her enthusiastic support. We have also had a couple of fleeting visits from Steve Howell who is very highly regarded by all who have researched in the Battye Library.

I am sorry to say that Ronda Jamieson decided not to re-nominate due to other responsibilities. We will miss her immensely, she always brought insightful and positive comments as well as very good ideas to our meetings and this year took on the majority of the work to get the Anzac Grant project off the ground. She deserves our grateful thanks for her dedicated contribution to the Friends, not the least as a regular contributor to our newsletter. I am sure Ronda will continue to support our organisation as she has always done.

And now to your elected committee members for 2015/2016 – my sincere thanks to them all.

Two new members from last year, Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland, have proved their worth and I am very pleased they are going to continue. Rob O'Connor QC is a stalwart who never misses a meeting and has always provided a valued contribution. Neil Foley is passionate about the library and takes a keen interest in policy changes, we need him. Nonja Peters brings an extra dimension to the committee as she is on the board of the National Library and is very involved with planning for the 400th year celebration of the Dutch Discoveries. Heather Campbell, who also joined last year, agreed to be our Secretary and is doing a splendid job – we are exceedingly lucky to have her. Gillian O'Mara our long-standing Vice President has been such a support to us all for many years and was recently awarded the Friends 'Gem of Time' award for her contribution. Jennie Carter has single-handedly turned our little newsletter into one of the most interesting history publications in the State. Her past experience at the Battye Library is absolutely critical in our committee decision making.

And last but not least my beloved husband Nick Drew who is the best Treasurer around (he looks after quite a few other organisations as well) and wonders why no-one ever puts a hand up for his job! His skill has

seen our finances extrememely well managed for such a small if vital organisation such as ours.

Another reminder that subscriptions are now due. Our little society can only function through the generosity of its members. Every cent raised goes to supporting the Battye Library and the State Records Office.

I look forward to seeing you at our end of year dinner - and please get those RSVPs in early.

Pamela Statham Drew

Letters & emails to the editor

Jean Kahan

In the last newsletter, I enjoyed reading about my dear friend Jean Kahan who was a very well loved (and known!) lady. She is fondly remembered and missed by many in the Western Australian community.

Ruth Reid AM

(Patron of the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.)

[Ed. *Thanks Ruth, Jean's story was certainly a fascinating one.*]

<><><><><><><><><><><><>

State History Conference - Geraldton 4-6 September 2015

I would just like to acknowledge what a great weekend it was. The 51st Conference of Historical Societies at Geraldton. One hundred and fifty delegates from all over WA, including Broome, Albany and Kalgoorlie. I put a face to several people I'd corresponded with over the years, some from the Friends of Battye Library, the WAGS Pensioner Guards Group, many historical Societies and others. Great venue and places to visit. The HMAS Sydney Monument, RSL museum and a tour of St Francis Xavier Cathedral with Father Cross as guide. Two large buses were required!

Our President, Rita Stinson, planned to perfection and her helpers did it to perfection too. Perhaps the highlight was the presentation to the Royal WA Historical Society of Mrs Mary Farrelly's lace frock and cape. Mary was one of the founders of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWAHS) and died in 1943. Her frock will grace the Society's display.

Regards to all

Stan Gratte OAM
(Geraldton Historical Society)

[Ed. *I attended the conference and can vouch that a great time was had by all.*]

An honour for one of our members.

Beth Frayne

We were delighted to learn that a long term member of the Friends of Battye Library, Beth Frayne was awarded the 2015 Premier's Active Citizenship award for Toodyay for her work with the Toodyay Historical Society and her community work for the town. Our warmest congratulations to Beth on her well-deserved award.



Have you a story to tell?

[*Dr Steve Errington retired as head of Curtin University's Department of Chemistry in 2009. Since then he has indulged his fascination for WA history and published a number of works. He has written several articles for this newsletter and has edited the RWAHS journal Early Days.*]

Our own London newspaper

In the 1840s Londoners could read a monthly newspaper devoted entirely to the affairs of the Swan River Colony. It was called *The Swan River*



(Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 003117D.)



Edward W Landor.

Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 025571PD

News and Western Australian Chronicle, and it came into being as a consequence of a meeting held in Perth in May 1842 when our leading citizens were outraged at the bad press the colony was then getting in Britain.

Typical reports quoted at the meeting included 'no settlement that the English have formed in recent times, has failed so completely'; 'many of the settlers had perished with hunger'; 'The description ... of the appearance of the country ... cannot be read without feelings of horror.'

Their response was to form the Western Australian Society with Governor John Hutt as patron, Colonial Secretary Peter Brown as chairman, and barrister and author Edward Landor as secretary. Within months they had appointed London agents and made the key appointment of Alexander Andrews as Corresponding Member of the Society.

By June 1843 Andrews' 'zeal and talented advocacy' was already benefiting the colony, and the Society had 'reaped a glorious harvest': a newspaper dedicated exclusively to the colony was about to appear. The first issue of the *Swan River News* appeared on 1 January 1844. It was edited by

Andrews as it would be for the next four years.

Issues typically had extracts from the *Inquirer* and the *Perth Gazette* and also of private letters from Swan River, necessarily about four

THE SWAN RIVER NEWS,

AND

Western Australian Chronicle.

No. 1.

LONDON, JANUARY 1st, 1844.

{ PRICE 5s. PER ANNUM—
OR 6s. 6d. POST FREE.

OUR PLANS AND INTENTIONS.

NEARLY fifteen years have revolved since an Act passed the Legislature for the Colonization of Western Australia, and although the scheme received considerable attention and

position than it does—a position higher than the best of them. In defending our colony from the aspersions which have been so unwarrantably but industriously flung upon its name, we shall indulge in no high-flown commendations of advantages to which it does not

months old. The paper covered the shipping news and picked up births, marriages and deaths. There were also English correspondents like Henry Reveley, our first Civil Engineer and Architect. Sadly, there were never any illustrations.

The paper featured regular reviews of aspects of Western Australian life such as climate and seasons, Aborigines, botany, vines and olives, timber and wool etc. These were later revised, consolidated and published separately as a guide for those contemplating emigration.

In November 1846 they delayed publication to announce, in a free supplement, that coal had been found near the Murray River. A month later news arrived of the discovery of copper ore near the Avon River – it had taken only 79 days from Fremantle to reach the newspaper office. In February 1847 the paper began serialising the fascinating reports ('sketches of scenery and society in the colony') of George Webb, Deputy Assistant Commissary General in Perth.

At the end of 1847 Andrews abandoned publication and went off to manage the Abridge Brewery in Essex. In 1853 he would sever his connection with the brewery, resume as an agent for Western Australia and remain a friend of the colony for years to come.

Publication resumed in January 1849 under the editorship of JWF Blundell with the stated aim of procuring a labour supply for the colony. In June Blundell renamed his journal *The Western Australian* with the motto 'Free trade – self-government', but with his aim achieved and the British Government about to despatch the first batch of convicts, publication ceased with the December 1849 issue.

All 60 issues can be found on the Australian national Library website at <http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/issn/14605996.html>

Steve Errington

[Steve Howell is the specialist senior librarian at the State Library of Western Australia and, as many of our members know, he is the authority on the collections of the Battye Library.]

The Bells, the Bells... the mystery of the State Library Bell

For those of you who used to frequent or work in Hackett Hall in the old State Library building, you will remember the ringing of the bell which signified the closing of the Library. The origin of this bell has remained a mystery, and after reading this article, you may be none the wiser, as there are several conflicting statements as to which bell it is.



**Hackett Hall
1960.**

(Courtesy
Battye
Library,
SLWA
231990PD)

I have been unable to find any details of where the bell came from or its manufacture. It has the Government broad arrow and the date 1844 stamped on it. The Government broad arrow had been used to indicate government property from the 17th century and was used by some colonial governments as well. So it may be that the bell was produced for the British Government, possibly for a ship, in 1844. The bell is similar in size and shape to the Trusty bell used by the Wesleyans in Perth in the 1920s (021316PD). I am presuming this means it was the bell from the ship *Trusty*, which brought early Wesleyans to Australind in 1842 and 1844.

The *Mirror* of 23 October 1937 mentions that before the advent of the bell now resident in the State Library's Board Room a hand bell was

used to warn readers of the Library's impending closure: "The hand bell which was used was not always heard by readers who ran a risk of being locked in." The larger bell was certainly in use by 1927 as *The West Australian* of 5 March 1927 has a piece about the Public Library which mentions the noise of the bell driving some people to leave the Library before closing time to avoid hearing it. The bell is described as "a hideous bell, it saws into your mental rest and goes through you like a jagged sword."

The *West Australian* of 19 August 1932 stated "the two bells which are rung at the closing time at the Public Library and the Museum have not always been used for that purpose. In the early days when prison camps were situated in the vicinity of Northam and Cannington, these bells were used to ring in the prisoners. When the camps were closed down the bells were housed at the Museum as historical relics, and later used for the happier purpose of ringing people out."

Alison Crompton, in her *History of the Toodyay Convict Depot: a tale of the convict era of Western Australia* talks about the curfew bell used at Toodyay. She mentions that "the first bell of the morning will be rung half an hour before the time specified in the regulations for the men to go to work" and "when the second bell rings the men will fall in according to their working parties" and "the bell will be rung five minutes before the hour appointed for leaving off work to enable parties at a distance to reach the depot." She also mentions that the ringing of the bell could be heard all over the valley and became a reliable means for settlers to tell the time. A new town, Newcastle, was built near Toodyay and the convict depot was re-established there. It closed in 1872. In 1910, Newcastle was renamed Toodyay and the former Toodyay became West Toodyay.

However, the State Library's bell is unlikely to be the Toodyay curfew bell. In the *West Australian* of 19 December 1934 an article about the old curfew bell from Toodyay states that it was being sent to the Police Museum by Constable Miller and gives a short history of the bell. The bell was made of brass with an excellent tone. For years it was used to summons the road labourers and others to work and was later erected at the cross roads of Clinton and Fiennes Streets where it was rung nightly at 9.00pm to let people know it was bed time and again at 11.00pm for the hotels to close. This ceased on 28 August 1885 and the bell was then lent to the Anglican Church until it bought its own bell. When rescued by Constable Miller in 1930, it was being used as a dinner gong at the Toodyay Hotel.

Nor is it likely to be Northam's curfew bell as the *West Australian* of 22 January 1936 mentioned that Northam's bell was believed to be in St Joseph's Convent in Northam. The bell was said to have been cast at Fremantle Gaol and was received at Northam Police Station on 17 August 1868.

The *West Australian* of 24 March 1928 has a photograph of an old bell which was used as a curfew bell at the York Convict Depot around 1855-1856. The bell was then in the Museum grounds. However, as the Library bell was in use at least as early as 1927, it is unlikely to be this bell (perhaps this is the bell the Museum used).

The most likely candidate for being the State Library bell is that of the Old Perth Gaol. The *Mirror* of 22 August 1936, in an article about the remodelling of the gaol, claimed the bell was once the curfew bell which sounded at the Old Perth Gaol: "All day they laboured on Government buildings, dreading the lash or the punishment that was often unnecessarily meted out to them. At sunset the curfew bell tolled – the curfew bell which now rings the readers from the Library every night at 10 – the prisoners downed their tools, climbed the wooden stairways to the cells and waited another day when the heart-breaking routine would begin again." However, in an article in the *Mirror* of 23 October 1937, it is mentioned that the Library bell was once a curfew bell, which rang at 10pm every night to warn ticket-of-leave men to return to their masters. Any found on the streets after the stipulated hour was taken back to gaol. According to the *Mirror* "some years ago it was mounted on a crude frame and placed in the reserve gallery of the Library." However, this article does not say the bell was from Old Perth Gaol.

Another less-likely candidate for being the Library bell was mentioned in the *West Australian* of 22 June 1925. "I know of another bell with a history. This bell was first hung in the convict settlement at Fremantle to call the convicts to work or to rest. It was afterwards transferred to Perth and was hung in the Barracks at West Perth. At the founding of St Andrew's Mission, in Hay Street Subiaco, it was placed on the church where it remained until the building of the parish church of St Andrews, Barker Road, in 1896, where it did duty until 1914. In that year it was transferred to St Hugh's Mission Church, Jolimont, where it now hangs. The bell clearly shows the broad arrow and the year of its make, 1844. Its dimensions are 11 inches across the bottom, 10 inches deep outside, and 9 inches inside." The description and the markings on this bell would make it identical with the one now in the State Library's Board Room, but

I have been unable to uncover anything about this bell being transferred to the Library.

So it would appear that the most likely candidate for being the State Library bell is the curfew bell which once hung in the Old Perth Gaol, but that depends on how much you trust the reporting of the *Mirror*, a renowned scandal sheet of the period.

Steve Howell

Voices That Should Be Heard

[Dr Ronda Jamieson is well known to most of our members, having been Director of the Battye Library before her retirement in 2005. This is the fifth in her series based on the extensive oral history collection of the Battye Library.]

Charles Moir OH290

We know in broad terms how difficult it was for some people to survive through what have been described as the 'hard times' which prevailed until the last decades of the 20th century. I found it fascinating to listen to the experiences of a true battler – one who 'refuses to admit defeat in the face of difficulty', just as his parents had done.

Charles (Charlie) Moir was born in 1889 and died when he was aged 90. His father (William) had worked in whaling and as a shearer before taking up 57,000 acres of land at Fanny's Cove, 80 kms west of Esperance where Charlie was born. It became a sheep farm and wheat and oats were grown for feed. The occasional ship called to collect wool and brought some supplies but in order to survive the family became very self-sufficient.

According to Charlie his father could 'build or make anything' and was an expert blacksmith and wheelwright who could even make bolts and taps. Convicts helped in building the house and shearing shed and lighting was provided by kerosene lamps and 'old slush lamps'. These were described as being good lights which used to smoke and smell. There were made from

“a jam tin half full of sand and a stick with a bit of rag tied round it and then filled up with fat ... the fat used to melt and go up in the

rag and used to burn the old slush light.”

Wheat was made by using a shillelagh:

“That’s two sticks tied together they used to swing and belt it on the floor. That was hard work. Take you all day just threshing out about three bags of wheat.”

William even made his own whisky distilled out of the sweet and sugary white heart of what are now called grass trees.



The ship *Grace Darling* being loaded with wool in Fanny Cove, Esperance 1890s. Esperance Museum and Historical Society collection of photographs. (Battye Library, SLWA BA49/22.)

Charlie’s mother Eliza was noted for her generosity to travellers from Esperance going to the Phillips River area, 192 kms to the west. Gold had been discovered there in 1892 but it was not until auriferous quartz was found in 1899 that prospectors moved into the area. ‘Tramps and swaggies’ used to call into the homestead and Eliza never refused anyone a meal. She made clothing for herself and her children using a treadle sewing machine.

Ravensthorpe was gazetted as a town in 1901 which led to shops being

established there. Later William and Eliza moved into the town so their younger children could be educated at the local school and William opened a butcher's shop supplied from his station which was then run by two of his sons.

Charlie did shearing and 'odd jobs' after leaving school and work for local butcher Fred Bow added to the family's income as did water carting and taking paying passengers to Lake Grace. Then in his words, 'the place went bung'. The town emptied with the close of mining: 'Ravensthorpe was very dead. You'd hardly hear a dog bark around the place a couple of years after; it all pretty well got cleaned out'. He described how the shopkeepers 'all went down, they couldn't carry on.' They were owed 'big lots of money ... I reckon they did a marvellous job them stores in Ravensthorpe, how they carried the prospectors ... that's including myself too.'



A camel team outside F J Daw's store at Ravensthorpe 1906 (lantern slide). Daw family collection of photographs. (Battye Library, SLWA. BA1807/23.)

There was still no work in Ravensthorpe after the First World War and Charlie's jobs included fencing, clearing and gravelling roads. Following the example of his parents he built a flat-bottomed boat out of white pine flooring boards to go fishing. It could carry eight people. He recalled two friends blowing their hands off using dynamite to catch fish at the 12 mile beach west of Hopetoun with one of them also losing an eye.

Charlie then raised salt near Esperance for which he was paid 12 shillings a day. He joined the Main Roads Department in 1935 and worked for them for 19 years becoming a ganger and foreman. He travelled 'all over' including to the Eucla, Esperance, Merredin and Wiluna. He was a grader driver for the Boulder Council for the last of his working years which finished when he was aged 67.

The way people helped each other was a common theme throughout the interview including when he talked about prostitutes whom he first met when two of them set up large tents three kms away from Ravensthorpe which Charlie visited when dropping off wood supplies. The tents were divided inside into separate rooms. He was working for Main Roads when he met the prostitutes operating in Norseman:

“They used to come along they'd pick up all our mail and take it and deliver it or if you wanted anything done, business done in town, they'd do all the business for us. We wouldn't go into town at all. They'd bring all our receipts and things, everything back to us when they come back. ... No cheating the money either.”

There was a trace of envy in Charlie's voice as he recalled being told the prostitutes earned \$28,000 each per year. When you find the average annual earnings of the time were \$750 this seems an incredible amount. Was this a gross exaggeration or an accurate reflection of the times? I'll leave you to judge.

Ronda Jamieson



Remains of the Moir Homestead Fanny Cove, Esperance. (Courtesy Dept Parks and Wildlife <http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/site/moir-homestead-ruins>.)

Book Review

[Rob O'Connor QC is a long-serving member of the Friends Committee. Rob has a deep and wide-ranging interest in British, Australian and American history on which he has written many fascinating articles.]

Separate Lives: The Story of Sir George and Lady Grey by Gwen Chessell, published by Hopping Mouse Press, 2014.

Sir George Grey (1812 – 1898) was an explorer in the North of Western Australia when he was in his twenties, having had an earlier military career. He succeeded the deceased Sir Richard Spencer as Resident Magistrate at Albany in 1839. Two months later Grey, aged 27, married Sir Richard's daughter Eliza, aged 16. Grey was appointed Governor in South Australia. The couple's son George died aged five months in July 1841. Grey blamed Eliza for young George's death. Until then, the couple were regarded as an ideal match, but thereafter their relationship was never the same again. Grey increasingly ignored Eliza and spent a lot of time away from her, causing her to feel lonely and neglected. They did not have any further children. Grey was later appointed Governor in New Zealand and the Cape Colony (South Africa).



Sir George Grey.



L. Sir George Grey c.1850. (Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 000824D.)

R. Lady Eliza Lucy Grey, painted by William Gush in 1854, and photographed by Bartlett & Co. (Courtesy National Library of New Zealand (public domain image) PA2-0194.)

In 1860 Eliza had a flirtatious fling with Sir Henry Keppel which was discovered by Grey when he found compromising love-notes under the doors of the cabins of Eliza and Keppel. There was no evidence of any adultery occurring, but Grey's pride was hurt and he was relentless in exposing the couple and obsessive in his revenge against them. Grey and Eliza separated immediately. They remained so for the next 36 years, but never divorced. Grey became Governor of New Zealand again and later Prime Minister there. Eliza did charitable work in the United Kingdom and converted to Catholicism. Grey retired to the UK. He was in poor health. After 36 years apart, the couple cohabited again but the reconciliation was not successful. Eliza (75) died a fortnight before Grey (86) died.

Grey is regarded as the fourth top history-maker to have lived in New Zealand (after physicist Sir Ernest Rutherford, suffragette Kate Sheppard and mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary).. He was given an impressive funeral in London at St Paul's Cathedral where he was buried in the crypt.

Gwen Chessell has written earlier books on Western Australian colonial history about Sir Richard Spencer and the first Colonial Surgeon Alexander Collie. As was the case with those books, this book on the Greys is meticulously researched. It gives full and detailed accounts of the governmental and administrative issues which existed in Albany, South Australia, New Zealand, the Cape Colony in the Victorian era, and perceptive social histories of those times at those places and in the UK. It heavily relies on the contents of private diaries and correspondence as well as official files. The absorbing and engrossing story is magnificently told.

The characters of Grey and Eliza are subjected to excellent analysis and reasons are given as to why their marriage was flawed and failed.

Compared with earlier biographies of Grey, this book adds a new dimension to the personal life of Grey by revealing the extent of his neglect of Eliza and his vengeful treatment of her (and of Keppel). The life of Eliza is examined more closely than has previously occurred. It is thoroughly recommended and further enhances Gwen Chessell's stature as a gifted author of books on early Australian colonial social history.

Rob O'Connor QC

News from the State Library

Exhibitions

Running in the ground floor gallery of the State Library of WA from 3 October 2015 – 27 January 2016, The Lynley Dodd Story is an exhibition of original illustrations from the world-renowned author and illustrator of the Hairy Maclary and Friends book series. This exhibition is free to visit and is available to view at all times the Library is open.

Lynley Dodd graduated from the Elam School of Art in Auckland with a Fine Arts diploma, majoring in sculpture. She taught art and after having a family worked as a freelance illustrator, collaborating with Eve Sutton on *My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes*. She then went on to write and illustrate her own books for children.

Showcasing more than 60 original artworks, this exhibition features favourite characters including Hairy Maclary, Slinky Malinki, Schnitzel von Krumm, as well as lesser known characters such as Sam Jam Balu and the Dudgeon. The Lynley Dodd Story traces the evolution of Dodd's work revealing the magic behind her process. Discover how Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy continues to capture the hearts of children across generations.

Mapping Memory Online

In 2011 the State Library hosted an exhibition curated by Wendy Lugg in her role as an artist in residence at the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. In the exhibition Wendy brought to life her family history using historical documents and artefacts, juxtaposed with her own contemporary artworks inspired by her family's stories. This award winning exhibition is now presented online (<http://slwa.wa.gov.au/mappingmemory/>) to engender interest in family history and encourage exploration of how family stories connect to and enrich broader Western Australian history.

The online exhibition was launched on 27 August at a special presentation as part of Family History Month. Wendy Lugg spoke about her motivation and the rationale behind the exhibition, David Whiteford and Steve Howell gave presentations on State Records Office plans and Battye Library maps respectively and Dr Susanna Iuliano spoke about her experiences in carrying out oral histories.

Digitisation

Recently the State Library sent across to the National Library for adding to Trove the *Swan River Guardian*. This unassuming little paper, edited by William Nairne Clark, the lawyer who fought a duel with William French Johnson, ran from 1836-1838 and was, until the advent of the *Inquirer* in 1840, the only counterpart to the *Perth Gazette*. What is different about this is that it is the first newspaper sent which is not being digitised from microfilm. It has been digitised in-house and the digital files have been sent to the NLA as a trial. If successful, we will be digitising more newspapers in the future as a preservation measure and uploading them to Trove.

Some newspapers which are already, or will be coming, online in the next few months are the *Meekatharra Miner* 1909-1918, the *Beverley Times* (1905-1977), the *Black Range Courier & Sandstone Observer* (1907-1915), the *Laverton Mercury* (1899-1918), the *Evening Star* (1898-1921), the *Southern Cross Times* (1900-1940), the *Moora Herald & Midlands Districts Advocate* (1914-1930), the *Southern Argus & Wagin-Arthur Express* (1905-1924), the *Swan Express* 1900-1954 and the *Truth* 1903-1931). The *Truth* is particularly interesting, being something of a scandal sheet with a penchant for long alliterative headlines such as the following gem: "Art Gallery and Museum. State Subsidy Scandalously Squandered. Instances of Incompetence at the Institute. Woodward's Woeful Weakness Causes Wicked Wanton Waste".

<p>DRINK Castlemaine "Penguin" Stout</p>	<p>This Issue— Stockman of the Never Never</p>	<p>"Truth" Editions are: Early City, 8 p.m.; City, 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 a.m. EARLY CITY Truth Next Week Murder on the Golden Trail</p>	<p>By all means get a Packet! The Improved-Perfected "GOLDEN WEST" CIGARETTES. Locally Made. Buy—Smoke—Compare—6d. per Packet</p>
<p>No.1371 Registrar at the General Post Office, Perth, for transmission as a newspaper.</p>		<p>PERTH, W.A. SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 1930.</p>	
<p>87552- ON THE TRAIL OF THE GOLDEN PAST</p>			
			
<p>STOCKMAN OF THE NEVER-NEVER Blazer of Lonely Trails, Succorer of the Dying, Undertaker to the Thirsty Dead, Discoverer of Gold, Lives to Feel His Country's Gratitude "TAMBO" TAYLOR'S REWARD</p>			
<p>A WAY in that vast inland Never Never, where the cannonading flies smack the cheek with the sting of a spending bullet, and only the finest cheese cloth barricades out the sucking mosquitoes; where women are as rare as pulley chairs on Ninety-</p>			

I also stumbled across the following interesting paragraph about the Library: “Since *Truth* offered a suggestion, a drinking mug has been placed in the lavatory at the Victoria Public Library. It is a mug of uncertain temperament and erratic habits, and a light chain attachment might persuade it to remain longer in the place where it will be most appreciated. Further, the Chief Librarian is hereby advised to heighten the guard fence round the latrines. At present users of the theologian section – chiefly ladies by the way – can scarcely avoid overlooking the interior of the latrines, whilst breezes waft strange odours through the windows.” Further articles about the drinking mug and the smell of the toilets can be found – the *Truth* seems to have a bit of a fixation about them.

We have also begun digitising the three series of Almanacks which were published in Western Australia in the last half of the 1800s. They were, in essence, a forerunner to the Post Office Directory. The three series are those produced by Stirling and Sons for the *Inquirer* (1853-1889), those produced by Arthur Shenton (1849-1867 incomplete) and those produced by James Pearce for the *Herald* (1873-1885). Some of these contain a directory of residents at the time.

Steve Howell

Storylines – from Damien Webb

The Storylines project aims to provide a central access point for the State Library’s vast Aboriginal heritage collections. This central archive helps a broad range of Western Australians connect with Aboriginal cultural heritage and knowledge, and assists the Library in the digital return (and identification) of photographs and other material to Aboriginal families, communities and individuals. The program also empowers regional and remote communities to develop community databases to promote and strengthen information literacy and community memory. In 2014, the Library partnered with Mowanjum



Mary Bear tagging people using Storylines at Mowanjum Community in 2014. (Courtesy SLWA.)

(Derby) to develop the first community database (Wurnan Storylines), followed by the second community database (Mangara Storylines), which went live in Broome with the Yawuru Corporate Group in early 2015.

An assessment of the Wurnan Storylines program undertaken by Dr Inge Kral from the Australian National University shows that the project has had a number of positive impacts on the community including: increasing community awareness of local heritage materials; support for cultural and heritage preservation at a local community level; assisting the sharing of community memories, traditional language and personal histories; directly contributing to cultural revitalisation; and helping to encourage and improve digital literacy.

Recent Collections received

More papers of Professor Fred Alexander - these papers and photographs, donated by his grandson Andrew Blanckensee, add to the collection of the remarkable Professor Fred Alexander. The papers are mainly personal letters to Mr Blanckensee as well as letters written by Professor Alexander to his wife from Berlin during the 1930s. There are also copies of speeches, some photographs of a young Fred Alexander and scenes of Perth and surrounds. A personalised artistic tribute to Professor Alexander's work in adult education, compiled by students who attended the 21st Summer School at UWA, is included. This donation underlines the great contribution made by Professor Alexander to political, artistic and intellectual life in WA as well as showing some of the personal side of the man.



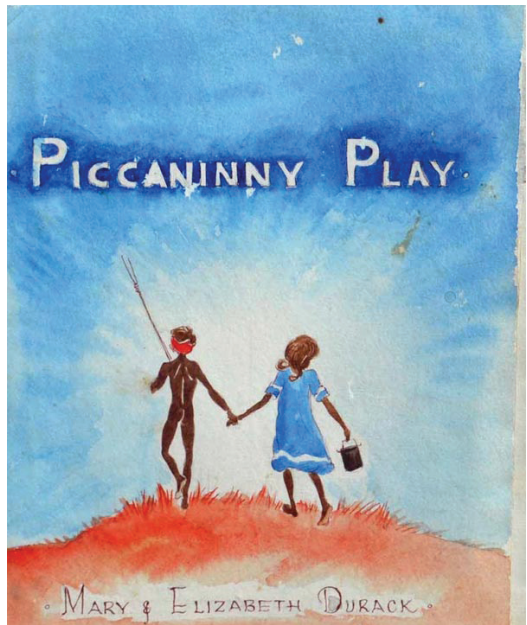
Professor Fred Alexander.
(Courtesy SLWA)

Certificate of British Registry for the *Chance*, 20th October, 1842, Albany - manuscript certificate of registry on vellum for the first ship built and launched in Albany, and as far as can be ascertained, in WA. Signed by Governor John Hutt the certificate begins: "This is to certify that in pursuance of an act passed in the

Fourth Year of the Reign of King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act for the Registering of British vessels", T B Sherratt, of Albany, in the Colony of Western Australia, Merchant, having made and subscribed, the Declaration required by the said Act, and having declared that he is the sole Owner of the Ship or Vessel called the "Chance" of Albany, King Georges Sound ... " This is a rare and valuable document of interest to researchers of shipping and the development of Albany.

Institute of Materials Engineering Australasia Ltd, Western Australian Branch - this organisation began in 1943 as the Institute of Australian Foundrymen, West Australian Branch with a primary objective of 'advancing knowledge of Foundry Practice in its widest sense'. Education and research were other aims. It changed its name several times over the years: West Australian Foundry and Metals Institute (in 1950), Australian Institute of Metals, Perth Branch (in 1957) and is currently the Institute of Materials Engineering Australasia Ltd, WA. The minutes donated cover 1943-1970. The first president was Sir Frank Ledger. As would be expected, the minutes highlight the interest of the members in research and education including input to technical education.

Mary and Elizabeth Durack unpublished illustrated manuscript: *Piccaninny Play* circa 1942 - 10 double pages plus single page cover, pen and watercolour. Each page shows activities of the children against a backdrop of different Kimberley animals and natural phenomenon (frogs, kookaburras, kangaroos, whirlwind). The delightful scenes were painted by Elizabeth with narrative text by Mary, representing a fine collaboration between the two sisters. This acquisition adds to the significant collection of Durack family material already held at the State Library.



Western Australian Club - this collection of records (1898-2010) traces the history of the Western Australian Club almost from its beginning as the Exchange Club in 1893. Formed to create a meeting place for men working for the growth and betterment of WA, some of WA's most prominent citizens such as John and Alexander Forrest were among the founding members. The name West Australian Club was adopted soon afterwards (1897) and it was generally known as the WA Club. In 1948, the name was changed to the Western Australian Club. In 1995, the club decided to admit women members. As many of WA's most prominent men met at the club, major discussions were held there concerning the decision of WA to become part of the federation of Australia. A close reading of these records may reveal that other important decisions were taken among its influential members.

Papers of Dr Dorothy Erickson - Dr Dorothy Erickson, like her late mother Rica Erickson, is a prolific researcher and author on WA topics, mainly in jewellery, art and design. Dorothy has published four major books and this collection contains drafts and background information about the process of publication as well as personal letters and information about her work as an art critic. In addition, there are more papers and photographs to add to the Rica Erickson collection. A 1981 Craft Council commissioned report by Sally Robins plus all the original images collected for the report entitled *Colonial Crafts of Western Australia from c1829 to c1930* are also included in this collection.

Collection of military photographs - WWII photograph of the 2/7th Field Regiment with 'WX3295' number and various signatures verso, attributed to William Robert Robson, E. Sampoy Studios, Perth (the 2/7th Australian Field Regiment was formed in April 1940 with 13 Battery from South Australia and 14 Battery from WA and served in Palestine, Egypt, North Africa, Syria, Lebanon and Borneo before disbanding in January 1946); WWI photograph of a Digger with 'Nixon Fremantle' studio label, number 3996 on verso; WWI group photograph of Diggers on camels at Alexandria. These photographs document the experiences of Western Australians at war, providing details of uniforms, headwear, and transport, as well as showing the individual members of particular regiments.

Papers of Ern Camden: digital copy of *Gallipoli 1915* verse work - Ernest George Camden was born in London in 1896, and came to WA with his

elder brother Reg in 1910. They farmed at Wokalup before enlisting in the AIF. Ern was part of the landing at Lone Pine by the 12th Battalion on 6 August 1915. The August Offensive began with a 4.30pm landing and aimed to take peaks in the Sari Bair Range: Chunuk Bair and Hill 971. Ern's poem may describe the night of 6 August and the morning of 7 August. He lost an eye there, and was sent to hospital on Lemnos Island, then to Malta and London before being discharged from the army in WA in September 1916. He moved to NZ where he married in 1926 and died in 1959. He and Reg both have descendants living in WA.

The early days of Perth by H J Mortlock, 1964 – this short treatise describes the conditions existing after the discovery of gold in Coolgardie in the early 1890s, Harold's experiences as he travelled the state working his agencies, and the establishment of Mortlock Bros (motor cycle dealership) with his brothers Sidney and Charlie in 1898. An original typescript of 29 pages, it provides details and commentary on a wide range of subjects including early Fremantle and Perth streets and boarding houses; the cost of living; the house he built in Claremont; transport (Cobbs Coach,



Mortlock Bros Ltd, car sales showroom, 1016 Hay Street, Perth, 1931. (Courtesy Batty Library, SLWA 100406PD.)

railway, trams); the Federation movement; royal visits; personages of the time including Percy Armstrong (Armstrong Cycles), W G Brockman, T F Quinlan, T G Molloy, and various Mayors; and the City Council and Road Board up to 1926. A of 14 silver gelatine plates and ephemera purchased at auction in December 2014 also relates to Mortlock Bros.

Digital copies of 25 wildflower paintings by Lady Edith Hobbs, c.1904 - the original paintings are on thin layers of wood and are with Edith's granddaughter Ann in Oxford, but she would like to donate them to the State Library (pending family discussions). Edith Ann Hurst was born in London in 1865 and moved with her family to Perth in 1881. The household included Joseph Hobbs, a family friend who was articled to Edith's father, John. In 1890 Joseph and Edith married and they went on to have seven children. They built 'The Bungalow' in Peppermint Grove and Edith established extensive gardens but her real passion was for the beauty of WA wildflowers. According to notes in the book by Edith's daughter, the wildflowers were gathered by friends and prominent WA botanists and sent to Edith who painted them with great skill and talent. Each botanical specimen is accurately represented and named, and each painting is signed "E H."

Collection of 44 Shaw Brothers glass plate negatives – these were mainly taken by James Henry Shaw, 1855-1908. They provide rare early documentation of the South West in the late 19th century: private houses; public buildings; businesses; timber mills; railways; weddings; portraits; group photographs of musicians, hospital staff, local residents and aboriginal families; landscapes and streetscapes in and around Bunbury, Albany, and Fremantle; and swimming at Busselton jetty.

Jean Butler and Laurie Allen

State Records Office - News from the Archives

SRO Lunchtime Seminars for 2015

Proposed dates, presenters and topics for the remainder of 2015 are as follows.

18 November 2015 - Speaker: Diane Oldman,

Topic: *From the Crimea to Western Australia:
Veterans of the Battle of Balaclava,*

Venue: South West Room, SRO, Ground floor.

From time to time SRO Lunchtime Seminar speakers provide their presentations for future reference. See: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/lunchtime-seminars/sro-lunchtime-seminar-presentations>

2016: The Program for next year's Lunchtime Seminars is under development. Friends of Batty Library are welcome to make suggestions for next year's Lunchtime Seminar program. Please contact Gerard Foley at the SRO if you have any suggestions for speakers.

Geoffrey Bolton Lecture Series

Each year the State Records Office hosts a lecture in honour of the distinguished Australian historian, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO, who sadly passed away on 3 September 2015. The Lecture series recognises Professor Bolton's long period of use and promotion of archives, his service on various committees of the State Archives, and his overall contribution to the promotion of Australian history and culture. The SRO is very proud to host the lecture series which has become a fitting tribute to a great Western Australian.

The stated aims of the Geoffrey Bolton Lecture are twofold: to encourage the expression of ideas and debate about the meaning and nature of history, culture and society, grounded in archival research; and to provide archival and historical context to national debate on contemporary issues. Since 2004 the lecture series has lifted the profile of archives, record keeping and history in Australia, and promotes debate about the use and interpretation of archives, in what is now a nationally important forum.

2015 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture - Cultural Futures in an Age of Digital Disruption

"Do Not Be Bland!" and "Back to the Bold!" were refrains repeated by attendees after the 2015 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture. A fascinating and inspiring address by Mr Kim Williams AM, delivered in the Government House Ballroom on the evening of 6 October 2015, his speech also

included firm predictions about our digitally empowered future. Mr Williams spoke on the topic Cultural Futures in and Age of Digital Disruption, pointing out that “in an era of digital disruption it is essential that we respect our duty of intergenerational care and acknowledge the need for national ground up policy and institutional review to ensure a healthy, vibrant and dynamic cultural landscape. One which is innovative, connected, ambitious and challenging”.

Kim Williams is one of Australia’s leading media executives and arts and culture administrators. He is also a composer and the author of Rules of Engagement, published in 2014 by Melbourne University Press and described as “a candid, up close and very personal account of the exercise of power in the nation’s leading boardrooms, political parties and media organisations”.

The Hon. Nicholas Hasluck AM QC gave the response to Kim Williams’ address reflecting on the present and future challenges revealed in the lecture, also alluding to Geoffrey Bolton’s reactions and rejoinders to these lectures in times past.

To read the text of Kim Williams’ 2015 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture in its



Kim Williams, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO, Governor of Western Australia, and Hon. Nicholas Hasluck at the 2015 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture. (Courtesy SROWA)

entirety, please view the SRO's Geoffrey Bolton Lecture webpage: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/events/geoffrey-bolton-lecture>. The lecture was also recorded for podcast and broadcast by ABC Radio National's *Big Ideas* program.

New Online Catalogue and Archival Management System for SRO

The SRO's new online catalogue was launched on 17 August 2015. It allows researchers to order archives online and many of them have taken to this functionality quite readily. SRO Search Room staff members have also been discussing improved ways of working with clients given the advent of the new system.

Exhibition of State Archives at Parliament House

The SRO's exhibition of State Archives installed in Parliament House in late June to assist it with the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta commemorations has been extended until at least November. Called 'State Archives and Parliament' the exhibition draws the link between the State's founding, constitutional and historical documents and the Magna Carta, the ultimate archival document from which Australia's parliamentary system and the rule of law originates. An online version of the exhibition is also available through the SRO's website at <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/parliament/>. The exhibition will eventually be returned to the SRO for use in the SRO's Search Room.

2014/2015 SRC Annual Report and SRO Operational Report

The State Records Commission's (SRC) 2014/2015 Annual Report was tabled in Parliament in September. The SRC's functions are set out in the *State Records Act 2000* and include: monitoring the operation of and compliance with the Act; monitoring compliance by government organizations with their recordkeeping plans; and inquiring into breaches or possible breaches of the Act. Under the Act the SRC is responsible for establishing principles and standards to govern recordkeeping by government organizations, and is required to produce guidelines outlining the requirements for government organizations' recordkeeping plans.

The SRO's Operational Report was also published at the same time and provides an overview of the operations of the SRO throughout the 2014/2015 financial year.

Both Annual Reports can be located online at: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/news-events/news/src-annual-report-sro-operational-report-2014-15>

Government Recordkeeping

On the State Recordkeeping/Information Management side of the SRO's operations, we can report the following:

- The SRO is developing a Sector Disposal Authority for agencies within the Mental Health Sector.
- The General Disposal Authority for Local Government Records is currently under review and expected to be published by the end of 2015.
- The busy schedule of review / revision of agency Recordkeeping Plans and Retention and Disposal Schedules continues.
- ORDA (Online Retention and Disposal Schedule) continues to be well populated by agencies and recent upgrades have proved useful.
- The SRO continues to provide Induction sessions to University Guild members and the Elected Members of local government.
- SRO staff continue being busy in decommissioning projects for sectors of the Health industry.

Centenary of Anzac Project - Soldiers' Wills

In May and June a contract archivist was employed to identify the wills of Western Australian military personnel who died in the First World War, within the probate files in the State archives collection. A total of 3612 'soldiers' estates' were identified and relevant details of each service person has been placed in a database. This database includes name, original WA address, place of death, regiment/battalion, former occupation, and other relevant information about each soldier, as well as giving an indication if there are interesting documents in the will files (for example: letters from the front, etc). It is planned that this database will be the foundation for the development of some of the stories of those who died in this conflict 100 years ago, and with funding it is hoped this this will be shared in an appropriate online reflective space on the SRO's website.

Gerard Foley

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500

Annual Membership

Ordinary	\$25
Joint	\$35
Concession (pensioner / full time student)	\$15
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If paying by cheque, please print this form, complete it, and send with your cheque to:

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

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

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

Account Name – Friends of Battye Library (Inc)
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: From Bazaar to Bolton at Perth's Waterfront

As announced a year ago, and lately repeated in the *West Australian* (16th October, page 14), the new street running along the northern foreshore of Elizabeth Quay is to be named Geoffrey Bolton Avenue. This is indeed a fitting recognition and worthy honour for our late Friend who contributed so much to the study and promulgation of our local, state and national history.

It is well known that Elizabeth Quay is the latest in a long series of major changes to Perth's shoreline connected basically with 'reclamation' work. In the very earliest years of the Swan River Colony, the chief focus was on the jetty at the foot of William Street and on the adjacent land on which boats from Fremantle unloaded their cargo. Importers were able to spread out and sell their merchandise there on the spot pending their creation of adequate shops in the new streets above. So a primitive shopping mart along a necessary footpath gave rise to Bazaar Street.

The first official plan for Perth marked out no allotments on the southern side of central St George's Terrace between William and Barrack Streets, thus offering an open view there to the river below and without any street along its mudflats. However, this bold idea was abandoned during



Small grandstand on the Esplanade, Bazaar Terrace in the background, 1906-1907. (Courtesy Battye Library, SLWA 207332PD.)

Governor Stirling's absence in 1834, and the long stretch of fast sloping land was divided up. At its base a former Bazaar Street developed right across to Barrack Street. This lower street eventually became known as The Esplanade after reclamation work of the 1880s produced the huge Recreation Ground to the south of it.

Westward of William Street as far as Spring Street, Bazaar Street - or Terrace - kept the name until it was absorbed in the long Mounts Bay Road in 1909. More remarkably, as the annual Post Office Directory shows, it also extended eastward beyond Barrack Street too, serving the earlier Supreme Court and Police quarters that occupied the former Commissariat building until 1902.

To round off this story, suffice it to add that our readers will be well aware of the further physical barrier that long separated city and river so decisively in the form of the busy arterial roadway called Riverside Drive.



Geoff Bolton's prolific output in print has included a concise account of the foundation of Perth at its riverside setting in a comprehensive work that was put out by Cambridge University Press to mark Australia's Bicentenary. This is Chapter VII, 'Perth: A Foundling City', in the book, *The Origin of Australia's Capital Cities*, which, along with Introduction and the companion Chapter VI, was edited by Pamela Statham.



Also very relevant to our topic is an equally substantial volume that appeared just a little earlier. Containing a wealth of detail and numerous illustrations for a longer time-span, it is *A City and its Setting: Images of Perth, Western Australia* by George Seddon and David Ravine (Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1986).

And hot off the press just last month is another commendable work that treats of the changing waterline even more fully and right up to date. Put out by UWA Publishing, it is *Take Me to the River: The Story of Perth's Foreshore*, by Julian Bolleter.

Jack Honniball

State Library Bookshop discount for members

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

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

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 on weekdays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. A Researcher's Ticket is required.

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

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

Telephone (08) 9427 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: Tricia Fairweather ((08) 9427 3395) Email: tricia.fairweather@slwa.wa.gov.au, 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, & Thurs from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.