

newsletter

History
OF WA
Council

History Matters

a message from your President

The History Council has been so busy since our last newsletter that it is difficult to know where to start!! As peak history body in the State we recently organized and coordinated two forums of stakeholders interested in the National History Curriculum. Participants included a wide range of interested groups – primary and secondary school teachers from both independent and government schools, University academics in history, education and indigenous studies and professional historians. Professor Stuart Macintyre agreed to come to Western Australia to present and answer questions at our second forum and as a result of this full consultation, the Council prepared a submission on the National History Curriculum Framing Paper. The History Council will remain involved with this important issue as the process of syllabus development begins. Please contact us for a copy of our Submission.

Following our Battye Library Users' Survey, we continue to work with Friends of Battye Library, the Professional Historians Association of WA, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and the Western Australian Genealogical Society to ensure that the Battye Library remains a world class specialist library with superior research facilities and unparalleled specialist knowledge. The Survey indicated that at present users do not consider this to be the case. We have been told that a range of changes is taking place at the Battye. Some, in particular the proposed new third floor Research Room, sound positive. However, we will await the results of those changes being made on the ground floor that we are told will reduce the numbers monopolising Battye computers for email and internet. We are requesting some express catalogue terminals to assist those who wish to access the catalogue and we continue to stress the need for informed staff on desk. We urge you all to request a Researcher's Ticket if you do not already have one, so you can make full use of the new Research Room when it opens.

Sue Graham-Taylor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's column	1
Heritage policy initiative	2
Legal Deposit legislation	2
WA History Teacher of the year	3
History Council Sundowner	5
Swan River Pioneers dinner	5
WA courses and training	5
State Records Office notice	5
Websites of interest	6
Meetings of the Committee	7
Northbridge Studies Day	7
History in the pub	8
Vite Italiane: Italian lives in WA	8
SRO Lunchtime seminars	9
Grant opportunities	10
Members events	11
NSW History Awards	11
Conferences in 2009/10	12
Some new books	14
History in the news	15
Application form	16
Awards and grants	16

CONTACT US

Executive Officer
office@historycouncilwa.org.au
www.historycouncilwa.org.au

or write to:
PO Box 1619, West Perth 6872

Deadline for next issue:

10 May 2009

Please send contributions to the Editor by email at: wa.research@gmail.com
or at the History Council email or postal address above.

Heritage Policy initiative welcomed

Since its inception, the History Council has been concerned with the need to protect and adequately fund heritage protection in Western Australia. We have lobbied hard for the protection of heritage, both built, natural and cultural. In Western Australia we are losing significant heritage to the pressures of economic prosperity. We are still seeing a decline in the condition of many significant places and a lack of recognition of and protection for, important aspects of heritage such as landscapes. There is a need for a strong regulatory framework, increased funding for heritage protection and some tougher penalties for heritage destruction, such as demolition by neglect. At present the role of government in conserving our heritage is fragmented, divided between various departments and agencies and there is a need for greater streamlining and coordination of processes.

There have been many reports written on the issues and the previous Minister for Heritage held a Heritage Summit in 2008. We know what is needed to protect our heritage in Western Australia so it is important that we move forward. The National Trust recently invited a History Council representative to a workshop comprising interested groups, to discuss the preparation of a State Heritage Policy, for presentation to the Minister for Heritage. The meeting discussed the need for and the scope of such a Policy, the definition of heritage and the principles that must underpin effective regulatory processes in the identification, conservation, interpretation and management of cultural heritage values. The workshop was valuable and the History Council is supportive of the initiative. However we do not wish to see yet another document shelved.

The History Council will work to ensure that the State Heritage Policy forms the basis of a broader strategy to update Heritage legislation and ensure that our heritage is recognized and protected for future generations. If you wish to be part of a small group working on this issue, please contact Julia, our Executive Officer by email at office@historycouncilwa.org.au

Legal Deposit Legislation and WA's history

[Following is the text of a letter signed by the President of The History Council which was sent to the Hon. John Day, Minister for Culture and the Arts.]

The History Council of Western Australia, the peak body for Western Australian historians, is concerned that Western Australia is the only State or Territory that has no legal deposit legislation, and has been in this situation since 1994. The previous legislation, which required Western Australian publishers to deposit a copy of all their publications with the State Library, was repealed when the State Government, in the process of tidying up obsolete legislation, repealed the *Copyright Act 1895*. In 2005 the problem was exacerbated when the Government repealed the *Newspaper Libel and Registration Act 1884*, which had provided for the legal deposit of West Australian newspapers.

Without such legislation, the State's cultural and literary heritage is at risk. The Library has to rely on the goodwill of newspaper and other publishers both large and small to voluntarily deposit copies of their publications, and the protection afforded by the Premier's Circular 2003/17, which covers government publications only. Publications that are not deposited in this manner, must be purchased. In these financially troubled times, this is not an insignificant issue.

Such legislation would require all publishers in Western Australia to donate one copy of every new publication, both printed and in electronic media, for preservation by the State Library. It would provide the basis for innovation and research for both current and future generations, across a range of interests, from industrial development to family history. Not only that, but it would allow State Library staff to monitor local publications, and place orders for the extensive public library network.

The History Council has been monitoring this situation since the Council's inception and has written on a number of occasions expressing our concerns to the Minister and Premier of the day. To this end we enclose a copy of one such letter, written in November 2006.

There has been a great deal of consultation conducted by the Library Board of Western Australia in 2007 for Western Australian publishers, authors and other stakeholders, including the general public, as to incorporating some legal deposit requirements into an amended Library Board Act. We recommend instead that the State consider the implementation of a separate piece of legislation, such as that passed in the Northern Territory in 2004.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further.

Signed: Dr Sue Graham-Taylor

WA History Teacher of the Year award

Rosinda Seara is the Head of Department, Society & Environment at Hamilton Senior High School and was the proud winner of the 2008 West Australian Teacher of the Year Award.

Rosinda tells us that Hamilton Senior High School is a great multicultural school with many students from migrant backgrounds. The school has a sub-school system in place to ensure most students are taught the same subjects by the same teacher in both years 8 and 9 and sometimes they will have that teacher in year 10 as well. This allows great pastoral care and attention to detail which means relationships are built and fostered among students and teachers. Rosinda has had the pleasure of teaching some students Society & Environment in year 8 to 10 and then History in years 11 and 12 and comments that the school has a diverse range of literacy and numeracy levels so teaching can be challenging and rewarding depending on the classes taught.

Many of the students are successful in competitions. Hamilton Students have won places in the Sir Charles Court leadership program in five of the last six years the school has nominated students. They have had State finalists in the National History Challenge in the last four years, sometimes in multiple categories. In the past two years students have represented the State in Adventure in Citizenship in Canberra and this year another Hamilton history student will be participating in the Federalism forum. As Head of Department, Society & Environment, Rosinda enters students for this competition with the collaboration of the Society & Environment staff. Every year students participate in the United Nations Mock Assembly forums and many others.

We asked Rosinda the following questions:

1. *How long have you been teaching?*

I started my teaching career at Hamilton Senior High School in 1989. So twenty years

2. *Did you teach in the country as well as metro?*

No. I asked to be sent to the North West but was given Hamilton Senior High because they needed a Society & Environment and Computing teacher. I had completed a double major with History and Computing as my two major areas. In October of 1989, the department sent me a letter telling me that the following year I would be transferred to the country. Lee Moore the then principal wrote to the department requesting that I stay at Hamilton as I was needed to continue teaching Computing and Society & Environment as I was a valued member of staff. I was placed on probation and in 1990 was made permanent. Since then I have had several leadership roles in the school culminating with Head of Department Society & Environment, a position I won on merit select in 2006.

3. *When did you start to teach history?*

In years 8, 9 and 10 I have always taught at least one unit which is History-based, be it Ancient History in year 8, and Australian History in year 9 and Aboriginal Studies both in years 8 and 9, with a more global approach to History being taught in year 10 concentrating on Conflicts. I first taught History as a discreet subject in 1994. I started with year 11's and in 1996 started teaching both year 11's and year 12's.

4. *What background did you have in history?*

I completed a Bachelor of Arts at Curtin Uni majoring in History, Politics and Anthropology. I covered a wide range of units studying History from all continents.

5. *How do you use history to inspire the children in the classroom?*

Link past events to everyday life by citing past examples or situations so students can see for themselves the relevance of knowing their own history. Being well prepared and knowledgeable about my subject so that I am passionate and it shows. Making the link between the past, now and what might happen in the future depending on the path that is taken. Many investigations and "What if's?" are played, debated and discussed so students can see how the course of History can be altered by the actions taken or not taken by individuals, communities and society as a whole.

6. *What do you regard as important to convey when teaching history in schools?*

Ensure students are aware of their own past History. Make students appreciate the importance of knowing one's own history to determine one's fate and consequently teach students about the notable people, places, events that have shaped our world. One question I often ask is, had Hitler succeeded as an artist would World War 2 have happened and, even if it did happen, would there have been a driving force behind the Holocaust? Knowing the History of one's land is important and making sure that all perspectives are taught is also very relevant and important in this day and age of globalisation.

7. *How do you feel about a national curriculum in history?*

I agree with the principle of a National curriculum. However we still have issues of students starting school at different ages, year 7's being part of High Schools in some states and in WA all sectors have year 7's as part of

High School but that it is not common. So making decisions on what is taught will depend on where states and schools are at with the above. I am all for History to be taught to all students after all as I have said, one needs to know one's own history to be able to understand and make sense of the world which is moving so fast and there is so much information to take in that one must know one's place, understand others and their perspectives to build a more unified future that will benefit all. I was only thinking today when I started school I wrote on a chalk board with chalk in my first year. The teachers tied my left hand to the chair so that I had to write with my right hand after all being left handed was evil. How the world has changed, now that perspective is not tolerated. My only concern is on an Eastern state based history course being fostered on WA as we have our own rich History that should be taught and acknowledged. Also the geographical dimensions and remoteness of Western Australia may mean that not all students are on the same level in terms of literacy so the content that is derived at needs to cater for the different learning ranges that we have in WA.

8. *What units do you teach, eg. Russian revolution. China, Japan etc?*

In year 11 I teach or rather taught USA between the wars because this was the start of the new technologies and the start of the motor vehicle that changed the social structure of where and how families lived not forgetting the Great Depression etc and Nazi Germany because of the impact that World War 2 had on the different ideologies of the world and how the world actually separated into East and West over political ideologies which in turn influenced society and contributed to the continued wars by the desire of man to be the victor at all costs. In year 12 I love teaching Australia 1900 to 1945 as this is the start of the new nation. I am enthusiastic about this new nation and all its History and its role in shaping the 20th Century. I also teach the Russian Revolutions because of the impact the new ideologies had on the economic, political and social history of the 20th Century.

9. *What does the award mean to you?*

Personally it is a great acknowledgement of all the hard work and hours I have devoted to my teaching and students over the last 20 years. I never expected to be honoured in this way because to me teaching is a vocation not a job. You have to enjoy and be knowledgeable in your subject as well as enjoying a good rapport with students to be an effective teacher. Respecting young adults, listening to their view points is important so that they in turn also respect you and your teaching. It is a great accolade for a History teacher to be acknowledged for teaching History.

10. *What makes a successful teacher?*

Love of teaching, enjoying the company of children or young adults depending on the year group you teach. I was a Pre Primary teacher's aide for 10 years before becoming a high school teacher and loved every minute. However recognising when it is time to change, challenging your own safety zone, so you keep learning and through learning develop new pedagogy to improve your methods of engaging students in learning and developing their special talents. Caring for each student and sharing with them their goals so that they do reach their potential. Always having high standards and maintaining your standards so that students always aim high. A successful teacher makes learning fun and innovative so that students remain engaged in this world of high technology. Incorporate life lessons, make it relevant to every life and the students will enjoy the lessons and consequently will attain the results they need to be successful students.



Rosinda Seara and Year 12 History Students, Hamilton Senior High School, October 2008

(Images courtesy Rosinda Seara)



Rosinda Seara and Year 11, History Class on excursion to the Holocaust Centre, Yokine, 10 September 2008

History Council sundowner

Wednesday 29 April 2009

The History Council Executive would love to meet with members at 6.15pm on Wednesday 29 April 2009 at the UWA Club on Hackett Drive. It will be very casual, just come and food and drink will be available at the club at quite competitive prices. There is no need to RSVP – just turn up if you can. See this weblink for location

http://www.universityclub.uwa.edu.au/uniclub/the_club/location

Would you like to help us?

Several of our members have offered to volunteer to help us out with certain tasks e.g. becoming involved in a working party or sub committee, speaking at an event, serving on a government body or other administrative tasks. Unfortunately, we have not had the time to follow this up as yet.

In addition, we have several new members join us this year and it would be nice to meet you and for you to meet some of the other History Council members. Perhaps you also have ideas for events or social functions or have contacts or information that you would like to pass on.

Julia Wallis

WA courses, training opportunities, and events

State Library of Western Australia

What's on for researchers – SEaK Battye

Learn how to make the most of our unique WA heritage collections with these information sessions.

Uncover Battye:

Find out what you need to know to start your research

Discover the wealth of information in the Battye Library and how you can access it.

When: 2.00 - 3.00pm

Tuesdays: 21 April; 26 May; 23 June

Where: Battye Library, 3rd Floor

Resources for Aboriginal Research

An introductory tour highlighting the range of information and resources we have available for you to access and how to find them.

When: Wednesday 22 April & Thursday 25 June

10.30 - 11.30am

Where: Meet in the foyer by Reception.

Enquiries and bookings 9427 3111

From the Royal Western Australian Historical Society

18th April 2009

Walk - East end of Perth - Queen's Gardens to Heirisson Island and return - (Cost: \$20 members)

24th May 2009

Pioneers Memorial Service East Perth Cemeteries Honouring the Pensioner Guards

Contact the office on (08) 9386-3841 for further information or see the RWAHS website at: <http://histwest.org.au>

Swan River Pioneers 1829-1838 Annual Foundation Day dinner

Parmelia Hilton
Saturday 30 May 2009
7pm for 7.30pm

The Swan River Pioneers group of the Western Australian Genealogical Society has invited History Council members to attend the Annual Foundation Day function which this year celebrates 180 years since the foundation of the Swan River Colony.

Pre dinner drinks will be held in the foyer at 7pm and the dinner commences at 7.30pm. The cost of the three course dinner and drinks is \$87 per person for non members of the Swan River Pioneers and \$75 per person if members of SRP.

**Please RSVP to Lyn Coy, Convenor
SRP by 30 April.**

Ph: 9296 9520, Fax 9296 9546.

Or email Lyn at lcroy@bigpond.com

State Records Office notice

The State Records Office of Western Australia (SRO) wishes to advise clients and visitors that the State Library of Western Australia will be undertaking building works in the area immediately adjacent to the SRO for a period of approximately four months. As a result there may be noise and associated works issues. Entry to the SRO during this period will be via the SRO's own front door in the cultural centre at the South west end of the Alexander Library building.

There will be some minor works between the SRO and the State Library which will affect the microfilm area. As we become aware of the timetable for these works we will advise our clients accordingly.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Lise Summers
Senior Archivist

Online news and websites of interest

From the State Library of Western Australia

Creating and Keeping your Digital Treasures

Creating and Keeping Your Digital Treasures: A User Guide provides guidelines on quality, file formats and best practice for creating, naming and storing digital objects. The guide has been written for a non-technical audience and is based on the minimum file format and quality standards at the State Library. We hope this document proves to be useful for anyone who collects digital objects, from individuals creating personal collections of digital photographs to organisations building their own digital archives.

The document is freely downloadable via our website http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/digital_treasures. We would appreciate your feedback on the document using our standard feedback form: (http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/about_us/contact_us/feedback_and_complaints/feedback), or by emailing info@slwa.wa.gov.au

From the National Archives of Australia

Australia's Prime Ministers

All you wanted to know about our 25 prime ministers from Edmund Barton to Kevin Rudd. <http://primeministers.naa.gov.au>

Western Australia – now & then

"This is a new independent website all about Western Australia. It has been in development for many years and is now finally available free for all to view on the internet.

The site is currently located at: <http://www.nowandthen.noadsfree.com>

If you have any comments, corrections or additions you would like to make please let us know. We hope you enjoy finding out more about the best place on earth. Marc & Rosabelle Glasby"

2009 Western Australian Grants Directory

The 2009 Grants Directory lists more than 110 grants available to local governments and community groups. Every grant program listed in the directory provides information on the funding amounts, who can apply and closing dates for submitting applications.

Now available online at: <http://grantsdirectory.dlgrd.wa.gov.au>

New history project for ABC television

The ABC has just launched an online social history project called 'The Making of Modern Australia' and the next part of the project is to make a social history documentary series – with the same name, The Making of Modern Australia – spanning the post-war period, from 1945 to now. See <http://www.makingaustralia.com.au>

The ABC is looking for stories that are particularly interesting, unusual, uplifting and perhaps heartbreaking. Stories of romance & relationship, faith and religion, parenting and childhood, and the Australian home/a sense of place – all set against the broader picture of Australia's changing social history.

Anyone who wishes to be considered for the documentary should get in touch with Elissa McKeand at elissa.mckeand@essential-media.com by mid April 2009. Or people can indicate their interest on the website and add their story by mid April.

JC

Meetings of the Committee

The Committee meeting held in March 2009 included the following business items:

- In February the President of the History Council, Sue Graham-Taylor, President of the Friends of the Batty Library, Pamela Statham Drew, and the Royal West Australian Historical Society's Chairman of Council, Lennie McCall, were part of a group involved in an interesting and worthwhile discussion with the CEO and State Librarian, Margaret Allen on matters earlier raised about a survey of users of the J. S. Batty Library of West Australian History.
- A successful forum led by Professor Stuart McIntyre, a consultant to the National Curriculum Board on the National History Curriculum, was held at the Hale Meeting Room at the Constitution Centre when a selected group of involved members met to discuss the National History Curriculum. The meeting was later followed by a pleasant dinner at the UWA Club.
- The History Council nominated three members for appointment to the State Records Advisory Committee with an understanding that the accepted member and the deputy member will submit reports to the History Council Committee on meetings attended.
- Sue Graham-Taylor has accepted an invitation to speak at the Fremantle Prison Descendants Day function on Foundation Day 1 June 2009.
- A letter has been forwarded to the Cottesloe Town Council regarding the proposal to remove former Prime-Minister John Curtin's House in Jarrad Street. The History Council has offered to chair a meeting of interested parties to discuss the viability of maintaining the property in situ.
- It was noted with interest that an inaugural meeting to form a Western Suburbs Heritage Society was held on 12 February at Mrs Marie-Louise Wordsworth's residence in Peppermint Grove. Invited guests, among others interested in local heritage included the Minister for Local Government and Heritage, John Castrilli, Peppermint Grove Shire President, Brian Kavanagh, Guest Speaker Prof Jenny Gregory, John Dowson, Ruth Marchant James and the organisers, Ceri Hong-Tang and Julian Burt. The aims of the proposed society are: (1) to increase community awareness and appreciation of our local heritage, (2) to encourage a historically and sympathetic and economically viable approach to the redevelopment of heritage properties, (3) to work together with the State Government and Shire Council and other interested parties, (4) to participate eventually in our heritage in the wider community, especially in the neighbouring suburbs of Cottesloe and Claremont and the rest of the western suburbs.
- Future History in the Pub events will be held following a well-attended gathering and lunch at the Albion Hotel in Cottesloe on 18 January 2009.

Ruth Marchant James

Northbridge History Studies Day Sunday 24 May 2009

**Central TAFE Lecture Theatre
1 Museum Street, Northbridge**

We are delighted to present the Third Northbridge History Studies Day.

We have a fascinating programme with a diverse range of presenters – Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi, Adjunct Professor Richard Walley, Ms Diana Warnock, Dr Elaine Dowd, Adjunct Professor Ian Ker, Ms Jo Darbyshire, Professor Samina Yasmeen, Mr Alan Lloyd, Mrs Tanya Newport-Edwards, Mr Ross McCallum, Mr Barry Strickland and Dr Lise Summers.

Places are limited, with payment and RSVP essential. Details are available on the brochure. Please remember to send your registration form with your payment so that we can secure your seat.

To request an e-mail brochure or a printed brochure to be sent by mail, please contact us at history@dpc.wa.gov.au or 9222 9305.

Northbridge History Project Team

History in the Pub

A Celebration of the Premier's Book Award for History Prize:

Despite an extremely hot day, the combination of a popular speaker, a fascinating venue and a topic of wide appeal attracted well over 100 members and friends to the Albion Hotel in Cottesloe on 18th January for the latest in our 'History in the Pub' series. This was a special occasion, featuring one of our very own History Council Committee members as the speaker.

Ruth Marchant-James, author of *Cottesloe: A Town of Distinction*, the winner of the West Australian Premier's Book Award for History in 2008, gave a lively and entertaining presentation about the gems she discovered while researching her book.

Following an introduction by Dr Sue Graham-Taylor, President of the History Council, Ruth's talk covered aspects of the development of Cottesloe, her search for the answers to some puzzling questions on the area, the difficulties of dealing with 'rival histories' supplied by local families and her satisfaction in being able to produce more of a social history than had been possible with her earlier book on Cottesloe.

The venue was a most appropriate one, with stained glass windows, beautiful old wood panelling and some fascinating wooden-bladed overhead fans running on a belt system. It is believed that there was an inn of some kind on the site from the 1860s, although the current building dates from the early 1900s.

Ruth included some amusing anecdotes of the site's past, including the visit by an escaped convict, Tom Calvert, when the inn there was known as the Halfway House. This enterprising fellow paid with his own suspiciously pristine counterfeit money, and was subsequently re-captured after the arrival of Constable Campbell and an exciting chase into the nearby bush.

Following the talk, Ruth was kept busy signing copies of the book and chatting with the many people present who had their own Cottesloe connections and stories. A number of those attending also enjoyed lunch in the historic surroundings to complete a very successful History Council event.

Jenny Edgecombe

Ruth signing copies of her book at the History in the Pub event – Albion Hotel.

(photo courtesy Jenny Edgecombe)



Vite Italiane; Italian Lives in Western Australia

Town of Vincent Library Forum Celebrating Harmony Week

I attended a presentation by Dr Susanna Iuliano at the recently opened Town of Vincent Library and Local Studies Centre on 25 March 2009. About 50 interested people (including many of those who had been involved with the project) packed the Research Room. Dr Iuliano told her rapt audience about the project inception and the research strands that were pursued. She then proceeded to tell us a little about what had been discovered – where the migrants had originated from in Italy, why they came, who they were and what they did; their experiences of Australia and how the cross cultural fertilisation affected life in Australia in the 1950s and 60s.

A book is currently being written and will be published by UWA Press next year.

The archive materials can be found in the State Library of Western Australia [www.slwa.wa.gov.au]. An educational and public outreach resource and display kit featuring Italian migrant stories (including a DVD) is available for loan. More information about this and the project can be found at <http://www.italianlives.arts.uwa.edu.au>

I would encourage History Council members to consider using the facilities at the Town of Vincent Local History Centre at 244 Vincent Street (Cnr Loftus Street), Leederville. There are a wealth of resources and publications at your disposal to be found, including many texts about Perth and the local suburbs. Access to the Ancestry databases is available in the research room and the friendly staff members are willing to assist. Best of all, there is three hours free parking!

More information can be found at http://www.vincent.wa.gov.au/1/51/24/local_studies__pm

Julia Wallis



Susanna Iuliano at the Town of Vincent Local History Centre.

(photo courtesy Julia Wallis)

Before Siam: Anna Leonowens in Western Australia

State Records Office of WA Lunchtime Seminar To be held on 7 April 2009

7 April 2009 is the 10th anniversary of the opening of the SRO Search Room and you are invited to attend this celebratory SRO Lunchtime Seminar. The speaker will be Gerard Foley, Senior Archivist, State Records Office of WA

Few people know that in the 1850s, the 'real' Anna Leonowens, the woman portrayed as the quintessential English governess in the Broadway Musical and Academy Award winning film *The King and I*, lived for 4 years in WA with her husband Thomas. Gerard will set forth the true story, revealed in archival sources, about the Leonowens family's years in WA, a story as good as any for display on the silver screen.

Venue: Great Southern Room, 4th Floor, State Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre.

Date and Time: Tuesday 7 April 2009, 12.30-1.30pm.

Please bring your sandwiches. Tea and Coffee will be provided.

Numbers are limited so Bookings are essential at the State Records Office or phone 9427 3360. You can also register your attendance by email at sro@sro.wa.gov.au.

Each year the State Records Office of WA offers a series of Lunchtime seminars featuring a variety of topics. These seminars are designed to inform researchers about the State Records Office and the collection it houses and also about the research carried out by researchers using the archives in the SRO. These Seminars provide researchers with an opportunity to meet fellow researchers, learn about staff members of the SRO, and they also provide a forum for questions and discussions in a relatively informal setting.

The program of 2009 SRO Lunchtime Seminars is available on the SRO website at: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/whatsnew/events.asp>.

Details for each Seminar will be confirmed closer to each event.

Gerard Foley

Senior Archivist: State Records Office of WA



Image of Anna Leonowens
Sourced from
www.bloggang.com

"Many years a thief"

Report on the SRO Lunchtime Seminar Held on 18 February 2009

In the initial 2009 seminar, David Hutchison spoke about John Gavin, the first European executed in WA. He was only 15 at the time of his hanging in 1844, and he was a delinquent sent out from England as part of the Parkhurst Boys scheme. (The title of the talk is taken from Gavin's description in official records).

This project saw approximately 230 boys – previously in prison - arrive in WA over a ten year period: 18 were in the first batch, disembarking from the ship the *Simon Taylor* in August 1842. The juvenile were placed as apprentices and in agriculture and the scheme was mostly successful: Only a third re-offended. . Costs were met by a number of parties such as the Colonial Office. Surprisingly only one lawyer, John Schoales, was appointed to manage the settlement of all the boys. He acted as guardian and superintendent, and monitored their health and cared for their monies earned until they came of age. Consequently he travelled frequently and widely throughout the state, and his own legal practice was neglected.

John Gavin arrived in 1843, and it is noted he suffered physical ailments which produced a distorted skull, impaired his development and caused difficulties with his sight. (Subsequently queries arose as to whether he could have been fully responsible for his actions, but he did confess his crime to both a priest and to Schoales).

He was assigned to the Pollard family, but murdered the eldest boy on Ash Wednesday in 1844. Punishment was swift: His hanging at the Gallows of the Roundhouse in Fremantle was on Easter Saturday. His body (which had to be weighted down to ensure death) was interred without rites or ceremony in the southwest part of the courtyard. There are rumours that his ghost haunts the vicinity.

Various theories exist as to John Gavin's motivation for the killing, including that the Pollard family mistreated him, or that his target was Mrs. Pollard, but her son intercepted him.

Many years a thief is also the name of the book concerning these matters which David Hutchison recently wrote. It is available in a number of stores, including the State Library Bookshop, and today Hutchison generously offered to sign copies.

Six lunchtime events are scheduled for 2009 – visit the SRO website for details <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au>

Leith Robinson

Grant opportunities

Community Heritage Grants

The National Library is calling for applications for the 2009 Community Heritage Grants. Grants of up to \$15 000 are available to community groups around the country to help preserve and manage locally held, nationally significant cultural heritage collections for future generations.

Community organisations such as historical societies, museums, public libraries, archives, Indigenous and migrant community groups which provide public access to their cultural heritage collections are eligible to apply.

A wide range of projects may qualify for grants, including: significance assessments; preservation needs assessments; conservation and preservation activities and collection management training.

Applications close on 5 June 2009.

For further information, please visit <http://www.nla.gov.au/chg> or phone the CHG Coordinator on 02 6262 1147 or email chg@nla.gov.au

WA History Foundation grant

The Western Australian History Foundation's Objects are to:

- encourage interest in and knowledge of Western Australian history;
- promote the teaching of Western Australian history at all levels of education;
- promote research into Western Australian history, particularly from within the State's tertiary education institutions;
- assist with the production, publication and distribution of teaching materials based on research and linked to curricula for use at all levels of education;
- raise, manage and distribute funds for the furtherance of these objectives.

The Foundation utilises the interest money on its investment funds to foster its Objects. It is committed to financial support for the History Council of Western Australia. The money available to the Foundation to distribute in grants is limited and will fluctuate depending on the state of the investment market. In accordance with these Objects and this financial situation, the Foundation has established the following grants programme.

Any individual or organisation with a project which falls within the Foundation's Objects (as stated above) is eligible to apply for a grant. An application must demonstrate that it:

1. meets one or more of the Foundation's Objects (as stated above);
2. will result in some public outcome which encourages, promotes or assists Western Australian history; and
3. will produce historical material (or other public outcome) of good quality.

Successful applicants must make appropriate acknowledgement of the assistance of the Western Australian History Foundation in the grant's public outcome. The amount of Grant is normally to a maximum of \$5,000. Applications for larger amounts will be considered in exceptional circumstances.

The Foundation will consider applications once a year. The deadline for submission of applications for 2009 is: 30 April 2009 For an Application Form or for further information: Contact the Secretary, Dr Lenore Layman, 108 Second Avenue, Mount Lawley WA 6050, email: L.Layman@murdoch.edu.au phone: (08) 9271 3751 mob. 0411 373 608.

Fremantle and East Fremantle Local History Awards

See website <http://www.fremantlefestivals.com> Entries close on 5 May 2009.

Members' events

The Royal WA Historical Society (Inc.) RWAHS:

History in the city program

Monthly talks arranged by the RWAHS Women's Auxiliary are held in the Conference Room, Citi-Place, Community Centre, Perth Railway Concourse.

Entry fee \$5.00.

Further Details on any of these events:

RWAHS. tel: 9386 3841

<http://www.histwest.git.com.au/index.htm>

Friends of Battye Library

The meetings for the Friends of Battye Library for 2009 are:

10 March

12 May

14 July

8 September

24 November

These take place on the 4th floor of the Alexander Library Building at 5pm for 5.30pm start. Please support WA's premier research library. All welcome. For information contact: bevnjen@gmail.com or nickdrew@bigpond.com.

National Archives of Australia,

Perth Office

384 Berwick Street,
East Victoria Park, WA 6101.
Free parking at the door.
Ph: 9470 7500

Details of NAA programs are on the website: www.naa.gov.au.

The Friends of NAA have an online newsletter. Subscribe to friends@naa.gov.au for information about forthcoming events, exhibitions as well as interesting items in the NAA collections.

JC

NSW History Awards and Fellowships call for nominations

2009 New South Wales Premier's History Awards

2009 New South Wales History Fellowship

2009 New South Wales Archival History Fellowship

The NSW Premier's History Awards are national awards, made to Australian historians in recognition of distinguished achievement in scholarly writing and publication and in the presentation of history in non-print media.

The 2009 awards, each valued at \$15,000, are:

- The Australian History Prize for a book on Australian history
- The General History Prize for a book on international history
- The NSW Community and Regional History Prize for a book which contributes to the understanding of community, institutional, urban or regional history in New South Wales
- The Young People's History Prize for a book or audio/visual presentation which increases the historical understanding of children and young adults
- The Multimedia History Prize for the presentation of history utilising non-print media (including film, television, radio, CD-ROM, DVD or website)

Closing Date for the 2009 NSW Premier's History Awards*: **Friday 17 April 2009.**

Eligibility period: Works first published or produced between 8 March 2008 and 27 March 2009. Entry Fee: \$ 40.00 (incl. GST) per nomination (exemptions apply)

The NSW History Fellowship (\$20,000) and the inaugural NSW Archival Research Fellowship (\$15,000) are open only to people living in New South Wales who are working on subjects relating to New South Wales. Closing Date for the Fellowships: **Friday 8 May 2009.** There is no entry fee.

Guidelines and nomination forms for the Premier's History Awards and the Fellowships may be downloaded from the Arts NSW website, <http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au> or obtained from Arts NSW, PO Box A226, Sydney South NSW 1235, ph. (02) 9228 5533, or email: mail@arts.nsw.gov.au

History in the Pub – coming soon

The History Council is planning to hold another of our popular History in the Pub sessions at Victoria Park during the winter months. Further details will be sent to you soon.

Midland Railway Workshops

We are disappointed to note that the Midland Railway Workshops Interpretation Centre where we held our end of year function in December 2007 has now closed. We hope to bring you an article about this in the next newsletter.

JW

Conferences and seminars

Australian Historical Association Constructing the past

30 June–3 July 2009

The 2009 Australian Historical Association's conference will be held at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

The conference theme is 'Constructing the past', encouraging reflection on the dynamic connections between the past and the present; the roles of historians and others engaged in the practice and presentation of history; and the ways in which individuals, organisations and communities have sought to preserve or change their societies, yearned for a lost past or imagined a different future. Keynote speakers include Professor Raymond Evans, Dr Jackie Huggins and Associate Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington. A draft conference program is available for review.

To be held in conjunction with the 'Constructing the Past Conference', is 'The Girl in History' – a conference organised by the Network for Research in Women's History. This conference will be held on Wednesday 1 July 2009, at the University of the Sunshine Coast. See the conference website at :

<http://www.usc.edu.au/University/MediaPublications/Events/EventsHidden/ConstructingThePast.htm>

(Un)loved Modern Conference 2009

Sydney 7-10 July 2009

Registration is now open for the (Un)Loved Modern Conference 2009 on conserving 20th Century heritage. At Sydney Masonic Centre, Sydney, New South Wales, <http://www.aicomos.com>

Keynote speakers include Theo Prudon (US), John Schofield (UK), Phillip Goad (Aus) plus more than fifty other papers. More details see. <http://www.aicomos.com/program>

Register NOW to take advantage of early bird registration rates.

https://secure.conexion.com.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=81&s=_0QS0LGD7U For more information please contact the conference secretariat: conference@aicomos.com

Between Past and Future: Oral History, Memory and Meaning

**XVI. International Oral History Conference in Prague, Czech Republic
7 to 11 July 2010.**

Papers are invited from around the world for contributions to the XVIth International Oral History Conference hosted by the International Oral History Association in collaboration with the Czech Oral History Association and the Institute of Contemporary History of the Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic.

This year our attention will focus on finding and making meaning of the past and human identity through oral history. We encourage scholars all around the world and all those who have worked with oral history in a wide range of settings such as museums, heritage agencies, academic institutions, law courts, radio and television, performing arts and community projects to participate in XVI International Oral History Conference in Prague, Czech Republic. See <http://www.ioha2010prague.com>

Oral History Association of Australia (OHAA), Islands of Memory: Navigating Personal and Public History

Launceston, Tasmania, 17–20 September 2009

The Oral History Association of Australia (OHAA), with support from the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, the Launceston City Council and the University of Tasmania, will hold its 16th biennial conference in Launceston, Tasmania, 17–20 September 2009. The conference will bring together oral historians and those interested in oral history from around Australia and beyond.

Sub-themes include:

- navigating truth and memory
- navigating through generations
- navigating new technologies

See <http://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/oralhistoryconference>

Conferences and seminars (continued)

Second Global Studies Conference

Zayed University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
30 May to 1 June 2009

The Global Studies Conference and Global Studies Journal are devoted to mapping and interpreting new trends and patterns in globalisation from many points of view, many locations in the world, and in a wide-angle kaleidoscopic fashion. We invite you to respond to the Conference Call-for-Papers. Presenters may choose to submit written papers for publication in the fully refereed Global Studies Journal. If you are unable to attend the Conference in person, virtual registrations are also available. The deadline for the next round in the call for papers (a title and short abstract) is 11 September 2009. For details of the Conference, including an online submission form, see: <http://www.GlobalStudiesConference.com/>.

The Heritage Theatre: The dynamics of cultural heritage in a globalizing world

Rotterdam Conference on Globalisation and Cultural Heritage, May 13-15 2009
Subthemes will be the impact of tourism and the internet on cultural heritage and the institutional arena
http://www.fhk.eur.nl/english/globalisation_and_cultural_heritage/ Contact Prof. Dr. Marlite Halbertsma
<mailto:halbertsma@fhk.eur.nl>>.

Migrating Minds: Imagined Journeys -- Imagined Homecomings

14 to 15 May 2009, Aberdeen, Scotland

The conference will explore the impact that journeys and homecomings have had on the Irish and Scottish imagination Website: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/riiss/migratingminds.shtml>

Australia, Asia and the Pacific: Imaginaries, Histories and Futures

National Museum of Australia, 29 May 2009.

The conference is a joint initiative of the Centre for Advanced Studies in Australia, Asia and the Pacific at Curtin University of Technology and the National Museum of Australia. It addresses significant issues relating to the past, present and future of Australia's regional relations.

Website <http://research.humanities.curtin.edu.au/centres/casaap/focus.cfm>

The Talk about Town: Urban Lives and Oral Sources in 20th Century Australia

27-28 August 2009, at the State Library of Victoria and Melbourne Museum

Researchers working with personal sources in fields such as oral history, life history and immigration, are encouraged to look at the way that urban settings have shaped the stories they have been told".

Website: <http://arts.monash.edu>, Email talkabouttown@gmail.com.

Dragon Tails: Re-interpreting Chinese-Australian Heritage

9-11 October 2009, Sovereign Hill, Ballarat, Victoria Sovereign Hills Museum Association.

Themes include Chinese goldseekers and their legacy, perspectives on heritage Chinese precincts, mapping historical connections between Asia and Australia and biographies and oral histories of Chinese-Australian 'pioneers'. The conference also addresses how these stories might be interpreted in the classroom, and at cultural heritage sites and museums, and attendees are expected from wide range of disciplines, including history, archaeology, tourism, cultural studies, education, and museum/heritage studies.

Website http://www.dfat.gov.au/acc/programs/dragon_tails.html

Seventh International Conference on the Book

The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 16-18 October 2009

The beautiful and historic city of Edinburgh is the home of the world's largest book festival and oldest literary award. The Book Conference examines the past, current and future role of the book and not only considers the book and other information technologies, but also examines other key aspects of the information society, including publishing, libraries, information systems, literacy, and education. Authors, publishers, printers, librarians, IT specialists, book retailers, editors, educators, and academic researchers and scholars from all disciplinary traditions are welcomed.

Presenters may submit written papers for publication in the fully refereed *International Journal of the Book*. If you are unable to attend the Conference in person, virtual registrations are available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication. The deadline for the next round in the call for papers (a title and short abstract) is 16 April 2009. Full details including an online proposal submission form, are to be found at <http://book-conference.com>

JC & LR

Some new books

- Baldwin, Myles. *Period gardens: landscapes for houses with history*. Sydney: Murdoch Books, 2008.
- Basarin, Vecihi and Basarin, Hatice. *Beneath the Dardanelles: the Australian submarine at Gallipoli*. Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2008.
- Beresford, Q. *The godfather: the life of Brian Burke*. Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2008.
- Brasch, Nicolas. *Australia's convict past: jobs and industries*. Port Melbourne, Vic.: Heinemann Library, 2008.
- Day, David. *Andrew Fisher: prime minister of Australia*. Pymble, N.S.W.: HarperCollins, 2008.
- Dibble, B. *Doing life: A biography of Elizabeth Jolley*. Perth: UWA Press, 2008
- Erickson, Dorothy, *A Joy Forever The Story of Kings Park and Botanic Garden*. Perth, 2009.
- Grattan, Michelle (Ed.). *Australian prime ministers*. Chatswood, N.S.W.: New Holland, 2008.
- Hocking, Jenny. *Gough Whitlam: a moment in history: the biography. Volume 1*. Carlton, Vic.: MUP, 2008.
- Mawson's Huts Foundation. *Mawson's huts: the birthplace of Australia's Antarctic heritage*. Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2008.
- Mayne, Alan (Ed.). *Beyond the black stump: histories of outback Australia*. Kent Town, S.A.: Wakefield Press, 2008.
- McMaster, Noel. *The Catholic Church in Jaru and Gija country: reworking a context of evangelisation in the Kimberley*. East Kew, Vic.: David Lovell Publishing, 2008.
- Paterson, Alistair. *The lost legions: culture contact in colonial Australia*. Lanham, Md.: Altamira Press, 2008.
- Pendal, Phillip. *Continuity in change: the journey of Catholic education in Western Australia from 1843 to 2008*. Inglewood, W.A.: Victor Publishing, 2008.
- Pendal, Phillip. *Royal Perth: a history of golf in Australia's west from 1895 to 2008*. Inglewood, W.A.: Published for Royal Perth Golf Club by Victor Publishing, 2008.
- Perkins, Leslie Howard. *From a swagman's diary: life on the road during the Great Depression, May 1930 to May 1931*. Strathfieldsaye, Vic.: Jeff and June Grubb, 2008.
- Sawer, Marian and Radford, Gail. *Making women count: a history of the Women's Electoral Lobby in Australia* / Marian Sawer. Sydney: University of New South Wales Press, 2008.
- Schedvin, Boris. *Emissaries of trade: a history of the Australian Trade Commissioner Service*. Barton, A.C.T.: Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2008.
- Smith, B. *Australia's birth stain: the startling legacy of the convict*. Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2008.
- Wurth, Bob. *1942: Australia's greatest peril*. Sydney: Pan Macmillan Australia, 2008.

And coming soon

- Historian David Hough is soon to publish a history of the Boans store in Perth, which operated 1895 to 1986.
- The National Trust of WA is launching John Dowson's book *Old Albany*, which has photographs and narrative covering early days of Dutch exploration to European settlement.

LR

History in the news

"From the city to the country, traces of our convict past," *The West Australian*, 26/03/09, p. 18

A PhD student is researching the many buildings constructed by convicts in WA. History Council member Pamela Statham-Drew commented on the past policy and on some of the buildings.

"Unearthing sunken treasures," *The West Australian*, 16/03/09, p. 16

Almost two dozen boats, barges and crane lie in Perth riverbeds, and plans for a tourist wreck trail will intrigue and inform the public of a little-known aspect of WA history.

"Mount Lawley landmark receives heritage listing," *Stirling Times*, 10/03/09, p. 30

The 1909 Mount Lawley Memorial Gardens and Recreation Reserve is being placed on the State Register.

"Bonnet blessing remembers convicts," *The West Australian*, 9/03/09, p. 18

Bonnets commemorating convict women brought to Australia were blessed at Fremantle's St Patrick's Basilica as part of International Women's Day events.

"Renovation aims to restore 173-year-old first farm to its glory," *The West Australian*, 26/02/09, p. 13

The National Trust will soon undertake a renovation of Albany's Old Farm at Strawberry Hill, including replacing the slate roof and installing protective drainage.

"St Mary's Cathedral restoration is just the ticket," *The West Australian*, 23/02/09, p. 17

Many artefacts have been found as the restoration progresses, including a ticket to the Cathedral's opening in 1865.

"Cheers to the country pub on the rise again," *The West Australian*, 17/02/09, p. 15

The popularity of the Quindanning pub - first built in 1900 - has recently increased, with more visitors from Perth joining locals for meals and accommodation.

"Heritage boss goes with shot at political masters," *The West Australian*, 02/02/09, p. 18

Retiring Heritage Council of WA director Ian Baxter suggested Heritage decisions be made by people independent of government.

"It's no run-of-the-mill bargain," *The West Australian*, 27/01/09, p. 2

The Katanning Flour Mill - built in 1891 - is for sale for \$1, but many conditions are attached to the deal, including the retention of machinery and pipes from its days of operating.

"Facelift just reward for 140 years serving York," *The West Australian*, 27/01/09, p. 13

The co-op store in York - built in 1872 - is to be restored, including the re-attachment of verandas.

"Swing on for a set of trad jazz with pizzazz," *The West Australian*, 19/01/09, p.3

A jazz cellar in Mount Hawthorn continues to be popular after 70 years of operation.

"The little church with a very big heart," *The West Australian*, 16/01/09, p.17

The tiny St Nicholas Church in Australind was originally a pioneer cottage, and has been staunchly supported by the community since its consecration in 1915.

"Beverley builds reputation with its architecture," *The West Australian*, 15/01/09, p.7

Seven Heritage-listed buildings and a 1930s picture garden are attracting tourists keen on historic locations.

"Curtin home should stay in Cottesloe, Premier told," *The West Australian*, 8/1/09, p.5

Colin Barnett has been advised by heritage groups that the 1923 house of the former Prime Minister should not be relocated to Curtin University.

"The 1908 battery Heritage Council wants saved," *The West Australian*, 31/12/08, p.3

Conflict has arisen between the North-eastern Shire of Sandstone and the Heritage Council after the demolition of the Sandstone building was halted.

"A fitting tribute to sheep pioneers," *The West Australian*, 20/12/08, pp.68-69

Resident Owen Griffiths has collected many records of Port Hedland's history and hopes a museum will be opened.

"History of WA left on canvas," *The West Australian*, 15/12/08, p.19

On Friday 12 December 2008 the WA portrait painter Owen Garde died. His subjects include Sir Charles Court and Herb Elliott.

LR

History Council program

Newsletter publication dates 2009

6 March, 5 June, 4 September, & 4 December.

If the date of the AGM is in September next year, the newsletter will be published afterwards so that details of the incoming committee can be included.

Deadline for copy will be the 10th of the previous month - 10 February, 10 May, 10 August (depending on AGM) & 10 November..

29 April. Sundowner – UWA Club – 6.15pm

Publicise your organisation's events

Is your organisation planning a seminar, conference or other special event likely to be of interest to History Council members?

Contact us through:
office@historycouncilwa.org.au
or write to:
PO Box 1619, West Perth
6872

**Deadline for next issue:
10TH May 2009**

Awards and Grants

LOTTERYWEST

Submissions accepted year round.

Ph 9340 5270 or 1800 655 270
www.lotterywest.wa.gov.au For grant seminars see the website for dates, times and venues.

AHA/CAL POSTGRADUATE PRIZE

The second AHA/CAL prize is now open for entries. Primarily funded by CAL, this Prize is aimed at fostering important historical research and writing amongst Australian postgraduates, and encourage them on to further publication.

The prize is \$4000 cash and the winning entry will also be published in *History Australia* - the journal of the Australian Historical Association published both online and in print by Monash University ePress. Up to three shortlisted articles may also be published in *History Australia*, at the editor's discretion.

Eligibility: The Prize is for an unpublished article-length work of historical research in any area of historical enquiry, produced by a postgraduate student enrolled in an Australian university during the year 2008. Entrants from all disciplines are encouraged and those enrolled in cross-disciplinary areas.

The word limit is 6000 words including references and bibliography. Submissions can use any form of referencing and bibliography recognized in the humanities and social sciences.

How to apply: Entries should be submitted in hard copy to:

AHA/CAL Postgraduate Prize
Professor Mark Peel
School of Historical Studies
Building 11, Clayton Campus
Monash University VIC 3800

Due: Entries must be submitted by 31 May 2009.

For further information contact:
Susan Grist (Monash University,
School of Historical Studies):
susan.grist@arts.monash.edu.au
Telephone: (03) 9905 2164

Or, The AHA Executive Officer
at: theaha@unsw.edu.au

Support your History Council: Join or Donate

You can support the work of the History Council in its pledge to make history a vital part of community life in Western Australia by becoming a member or making a donation:

Name: _____
Prefix First Surname

Organisation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Work Tel _____ Home Tel _____

Email _____

Are you/your organisation Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Yes No

Please state the number of members in your organisation _____

I/we would like the following type of membership:

Corporate Large organisations \$200 pa (including government agencies and universities) Corporate Medium organisations \$100 pa

Corporate Professional organisations \$50 pa Corporate Small organisations \$30 pa

Individual \$30 pa Individual Concession \$15 pa

Donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Method of Payment

I have enclosed a cheque money order

**Make a copy of this form, complete and return it with payment to:
History Council of Western Australia Inc, PO Box 1619, West Perth 6872**