

newsletter

History Council events for 2005

This year's AGM will feature a lively panel discussion on the Future of History, based on the challenges put forward by Emeritus Prof. Geoffrey Bolton at the 2004 AGM.

For Proclamation Week in October, the History Council will present a 'Great Debate' on History in partnership with other key groups. Please check our website regularly for further information.

Is your organisation planning activities that could be promoted on our website as part of history events?

Please contact the History Council's Executive Officer, Julia Ball, to discuss this.

Fremantle Heritage Festival 2005

29 May – 6 June 2005

Our vision: To make heritage more accessible to the community through promotion, education and participation.

The Fremantle Heritage Festival is a wonderful celebration of the City's colourful past. During the 2005 Festival Week, Fremantle will come alive with events, activities and awards that showcase our City's rich social, cultural, environmental and built heritage.

This year register your interest in Fremantle's heritage by attending our conference, *Fremantle Heritage; A Matter of Interpretation*, on Friday, 3 June 2005.

For more information about our diverse Heritage Festival program and the Fremantle and East Fremantle Local History Awards contact Fre-info on 9432 9888 or visit the Heritage Festival link at

www.fremantlefestivals.com

History Matters

I'm delighted to have the opportunity of addressing members of the History Council of WA in this — our first newsletter. If it seems as if we've been rather silent in recent months, put it down to exhaustion: a great deal of work went into making the History strand of WA 2029: a Shared Journey, the Premier's 175th Conference held in November 2004, such a success.

With the start of a new year, there have been two major initiatives.

Firstly, we have begun to implement the major objectives of our strategic plan developed last year. A sub-committee structure has been put in place, so that now the main Committee meets every second month and the Executive and each of the six sub-committees (Communications, Indigenous History, Community Liaison, Advocacy, Professional, and Membership) meets in the alternate month. This will both help share the load and keep our focus strong. As well it will enable the wider membership to become more closely involved in the work of the History Council. We are very keen to include general members on our sub-committees and to that end some of you who have indicated an interest in having a greater input will soon be approached.

Secondly, we have engaged our first Executive Officer, Julia Ball. She has excellent credentials for the position and will be familiar to many of you.

Our next public event will be Proclamation Week and further information follows in the next newsletter.

Jenny Gregory
President

Contact Us

Executive Officer
office@historycouncilwa.org.au
www.historycouncilwa.org.au
or write to PO Box 1619, West Perth WA 6872

This is a print and online newsletter. Members wishing to receive a hardcopy version should contact the Executive Officer, Julia Ball at the above address or by phone/fax on (08) 9471 9010

Deadline for next issue Winter 2005: 20 June 2005

Please send contributions to the Editor, Jenny Edgecombe, at the email or postal address above.

Meetings of the Committee

The Committee meetings held on 23rd February 2005 and 27th April included the following business items where the Committee:

- Welcomed the new Executive Officer, Julia Ball, who has taken up the position for twelve months
- Regretfully accepted the resignations of Lynley Forgione and Kris Bizzaca, and set in train arrangements to fill vacancies in accordance with the constitution. Margaret Hamilton has joined the Committee as a representative of PHA (WA).
- Endorsed the Executive Sub-committee's recommendation to develop a working relationship with the other History Councils in Australia.
- Arranged wider distribution of History Council brochures.
- The first issue of the newsletter will appear in May.
- A letter drafted by the Indigenous History Sub-committee & Native Title Working Party was sent to the Federal Court seeking information on the flow of records created for Native Title cases in the Federal Court and inquiring about the possible preservation of records generated in the Native Title (NT) process for future research.
- Accepted the report of the Community Liaison Sub-committee on its composition and role in building closer relationships with other organisations.
- Endorsed the recommendation of the History Advocacy SC regarding the establishment of Proclamation Week activities including a public debate on a history related topic.
- Noted concern that the State Records Office was not able to accept any more archival records due to space constraints and discussed possible future action. The issue of storage space for collections including those in the Battye Library is a matter of urgent concern to the Council.
- Noted the successful nomination of professional historians to the judging panel of the Premier's Book Awards and to the State Records Advisory Committee
- Extended deadlines for preparation of Code of Ethical Practice and preparation of policy relating to support for endeavours to obtain funding for history
- Noted that a membership database is being prepared for the use of the Executive Officer and that membership retention is currently running at approx. 89%.
- The History Advocacy Sub-committee prepared a submission on the future of the East Perth Power Station site. Members of the Committee were then involved in the stakeholders workshop facilitated by the National Trust of Australia (WA).
- Noted the successful implementation of the arrangement for Sub-committees to report and make recommendations to the Committee meetings.

Meet the Executive Officer

Julia Ball

Julia Ball assumed the duties of Executive Officer to the History Council of WA Inc in January 2005. The Council is fortunate to have obtained the services of an officer with so much experience in various aspects of history.



Julia has been running her own consultancy business since 1991, specialising in heritage projects. She holds a BA in History and a Post Graduate Diploma in Public History from Murdoch University.

Julia is currently the Secretary of the Professional Historians Association (WA) Inc. and holds Professional accreditation with that organisation. Julia is also a Member of the National Trust of Australia (WA).

Awards and Grants

Lotterywest Grants

Interpretation of Cultural Heritage

Advertised 21 May 2005.
Closing 8 July 2005

Community Events and Celebrations

Closing 1 July 2005

Community Histories

Advertised 15 July 2005.
Closing 16 September 2005

Conservation of Cultural Heritage

Advertised September 2005.
Closing November 2005

For more information see
<http://www.lottery.wa.gov.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=390>

National Archives of Australia Study Grants

One of the National Archives' key functions is to encourage and facilitate use of its collection by promoting archival research in Australia and encouraging scholarly use of its holdings.

Margaret George Awards

The National Archives offers Margaret George Awards annually to individuals interested in conducting research substantially utilising its collection. Applications for the 2005 award close 24 June 2005.

Frederick Watson Fellowship

The National Archives offers [Frederick Watson](#) Fellowships annually to individuals interested in conducting research substantially utilising its collection. The 2005 Frederick Watson Fellow is novelist and essayist Frank Moorhouse. Past Fellows have been Professor Geoffrey Bolton (2004), Mr Garry Woodard (2002), Dr Klaus Neumann (2001) and Dr Michael McKernan (1999). Closing Date 24 June 2005

Further information at

<http://www.naa.gov.au/>

Premier's Book Awards

The History Council was very active during 2004 in lobbying for the inclusion of a history prize as part of the Premier's Book Awards.

The introduction of a new prize for history was announced by the Hon. Sheila McHale, Minister for Culture and the Arts, on 27th October 2004 to coincide with the opening of entries for the 2004 Premier's Book Awards.

Ms McHale said the award celebrated the significant historical work making a major contribution to the understanding of Western Australia's past.

'Historical scholarship is vitally important to the understanding of our cultural identity,' Ms McHale said.

'The Government is delighted to recognise the achievements of local historians in what has been an exciting year of historical celebrations on the State's 175th Anniversary.'

Open to books and scripts either published or performed this calendar year, awards are given in six categories: Fiction; Poetry; Non-Fiction (Two Awards); Children's Books; Young Adults; and Script.

Entries with a historical subject matter will be judged and a winner selected to receive the History Award, sponsored by the Department of Culture and the Arts.

Winners of the History award and each of the six categories are presented with a prize of \$7,500. One of the winners will be selected to receive the Premier's Prize of \$20,000.

The History Council Committee was invited to make submissions and hold discussions regarding the conditions of award for the new prize, indicating a growing recognition of the role of the History Council.

Meet the Committee

We thought you would like to know a little more about the various members of the History Council, so we will feature one or two members in each issue. This time we have profiled the President, although Jenny probably needs little introduction to most members. We have also included the new Executive Officer. Julia is not actually a member of the Committee of course, but we are sure you will be interested in meeting such an important member of the History Council team.

Associate Professor Jenny Gregory President of the History Council of WA



Jenny Gregory holds a doctorate in history and is Director of UWA Press and the Centre for WA History at The University of Western Australia.

She is the author of a number of books on Western Australian history. Her latest is *City of Light: a history of Perth since the fifties* (2003). She is Editor-in-chief of the Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia currently in progress.

She is also President of the National Trust (WA), a director of the WA History Foundation and a board member of the State Literature Office. Previously she was a member of the Heritage Council of WA (1997-2000) and the Fremantle Prison Trust (1997-2001). She is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, member of Australian Historical Association, the Professional Historians Association, the Royal WA Historical Society, Oral History Association of Australia, and ICOMOS.

WA 2029: A Shared Journey

The title "A Shared Journey" was truly reflected in the three history streams organised by the History Council for the 175th Anniversary State Conference held in November 2004. The three days of the conference highlighted just how diverse is the study of history in Western Australia. Music, convicts, Prime Minister Curtin, the influence of the Dutch and French, archives, film, migration as well as the built environment were just a sample of the wide range of topics presented.

Together with keynote speakers Dr Peter Read, Professors Geoffrey Bolton, Brian de Garis and Rob Pascoe the audience was informed, challenged and delighted with what they heard. The 'History Then' and 'History Now' panels highlighted the shared journey' of historians and a presentation of the work of students studying history in our schools shows that the journey is ongoing.

The History Council was responsible for organizing the History strand of this conference, held at the Perth Convention Centre 17-19 November 2004 as part of the 175th Anniversary celebrations for Western Australia.

At the November Committee meeting, it was proposed that the History Council look into performing the role of catalyst in bringing member organisations together to deliver a 'Future of History' conference at some future date. As a peak body our role would be to assist members deliver a conference rather than to be the sole organising body.

Archives Online at the State Records Office

Researchers will be pleased to learn of the new online register of the State Records Office's archival holdings, which goes by the name of [AEON \(Archives Explored Online\)](#).

In the past, the only real way into the archives has been through identifying the government agencies that administered functions relating to a researcher's area of interest and then exploring the record series produced by those agencies. This is still the best approach for a comprehensive study, and AEON will certainly make it much easier to identify the relevant agencies and their record series.

However, the truly exciting feature is that AEON search results may also include titles of individual items. The ability to do this without wading through all the agencies and series could well turn up some of those serendipitous records from completely unlikely sources that can throw new light on research.

Approximately 75% of the archives collection listing can already be searched online through AEON. Many more listings will be added through a major Work Experience project that will be ongoing throughout 2005.

To try this new system, go to the State Records Office website:

<http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/>

Membership Application

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.

News from the History Council of NSW

In March, the History Council of NSW elected a new President, Perry McIntyre.

In July the 20th International Congress of Historical Sciences will be held at UNSW. See and register at : <http://www.cishsydney2005.org>. This is the first time this conference will be held in the southern hemisphere.

The History Council's 10th Annual History Lecture will be delivered by Dr Bruce Scates, Associate Professor UNSW. Bruce formerly lectured at Murdoch University and will be familiar to many History Council of WA members.

Membership Application

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.

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 \$200 pa
(Major institutions including government agencies and universities)
- Corporate Medium \$100 pa
(Medium organisations)
- Corporate Professional \$50 pa
- Corporate Small \$30 pa
- Individual \$20 pa
- Individual Concession \$10 pa
- Donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Method of Payment

I have enclosed a cheque money order

Complete this form and return it with payment to
History Council of Western Australia Inc, PO Box 1619, West Perth 6872

New on our Website

The papers from the 2029 Conference are now available for reading on our website.

Check regularly for updates on History Week, 29 May -4 June 2005.

www.historycouncilwa.org.au

Members' News

The Hon. Phillip Pental, retiring MLA will be guest speaker at the **Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWAHS)** Foundation Day function at 3pm on Monday 6 June 2005 at Stirling House 49 Broadway, Nedlands. He will be speaking on his historical and writing he recently undertook titled *In Praise of Oral History*.

For further information ph: (08) 9386 3841.

The **Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS)** events to July (some require a fee):

30 May: Lunchtime discussion Napoleonic wars.

11 June: Write and publish your family history.

14 June: Researching Australasian records.

19 July: Researching English records.

Head Office and Library: 6/48 May St, Bayswater WA 6053. Ph: (08) 9271 4311.

The **Friends of Battye Library** General Meetings to July:

12 July: AGM. The meeting will feature a presentation from the State Film Archives and viewing of historic footage in the Battye Library.

Contact: PO Box 216, Northbridge, WA 6865. Phone: (08) 9427 3334 and Fax: (08) 9427 3276.