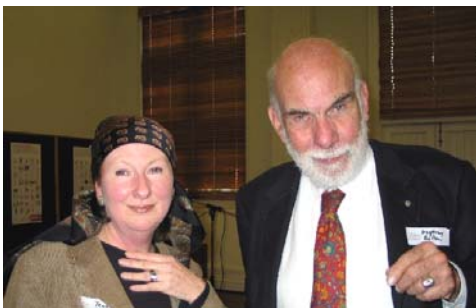


# newsletter

History  
OF WA  
Council

## Answering Back: A Response to Geoffrey Bolton's Challenge



A/Professor Jenny Gregory speaking with Em Professor Geoffrey Bolton at the AGM

The recent AGM of the History Council was well-attended, and those present were treated to a stimulating discussion flowing from the challenges raised by Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton at the 2004 AGM. In his 2004 address, Professor Bolton listed directions in which he felt that WA history could usefully go forward.

This year's panellists, Professor David Black, Professor Philippa Maddern, Dr Bobbie Oliver and Dr Natalie Lloyd explored how these challenges are being met. Some of the many aspects covered included David Black's enthusiastic description of the Perth Modern School project and Bobbie Oliver's differing approach in suggesting that the isolation of WA, was not necessarily a cohesive force in areas like labour history. Areas explored by Natalie Lloyd included the potential uses for computer tools developed by other disciplines, while Philippa Maddern discussed ways in which WA History could be making a place for itself on the world stage.

In his reply to the panel, Professor Bolton issued a new challenge directly to the History Council, to pursue the funding of a 'Lotteries House' for a group of cultural organisations.

## History Matters

The last few months have been very active for the History Council. Concerned that our membership has little opportunity to interact in an informal setting, we have reintroduced the Sundowner. Those of you who were in Perth in the 1970s will well remember drinks after work at a Sundowner, though the word has a longer history. In the 1840s a Sundowner was a swagman who made a practice of arriving at a station about sundown under the pretence of seeking work, so as to obtain food and a night's lodging. We can't provide free food or free lodging but we can promise good company. Our first Sundowner was held on 14 July at the new and spectacular University Club of Western Australia, to celebrate the institution of a separate History Award in the WA Premier's Book Awards and give members the opportunity of meeting the inaugural winner, Tony Barker. We were delighted that Premier Geoff Gallop interrupted his hectic schedule to join us and spend some time talking history with fellow members of the History Council.

The mega CISH conference was held in Sydney in July and as so many historians were attending from all over Australia (and the world), the History Council of NSW suggested that it would be an opportune time for the inaugural meeting of the History Councils of Australia. Our Executive Officer Julia Ball, Committee member Margaret Hamilton and I attended the meeting at UNSW on 7 July. We were impressed to hear of the level of annual government funding received by both the History Council of NSW, through the Ministry of Arts, and the History Council of Victoria, through the Education Department, and to hear of the differing focus of each council.

This year's History Council AGM was held on 24 August at the Constitutional Centre. About 60 members attended and we were very pleased to see so much interest. I again pay tribute to the work of retiring members, particularly Associate Professor Lenore Layman and Ms Lennie McCall. Both served on the initial working party that set up the Council and Lenore played a pivotal role in our establishment. Although we've lost some, we've gained some, and our new committee contains a great deal of expertise. I look forward to robust and fruitful discussions at our meetings over the coming months.

**Jenny Gregory**  
President

A further challenge for the History Council of WA emerged from the discussion – to promote the wider sharing of new historical research by facilitating joint seminars involving the universities and bodies like the RWAHS which reach a different audience.

Enthusiasm for this approach ended the discussion on a positive note, with many expressing a hope that the History Council will take up this challenge.

## CONTACT US

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www.historycouncilwa.org.au  
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6872

**Deadline for next issue: 31<sup>st</sup>  
October 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 27<sup>th</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005 included the following business items where the Committee:

### 27<sup>th</sup> April

- Resolved to participate in developing and promoting the Shared Position Statement developed at East Perth Power Station - Stakeholder Workshop
- Appointed Margaret Hamilton to fill the casual vacancy left by the resignation of Kris Bizzaca
- nominated Dr Cathie Clement, with Dr Neville Green as her alternate, for a position on the State Records Advisory Commission
- Planned to increase visibility of the History Council of WA, eg seeking inclusion of History Council name on invitation/launch lists for relevant government institutions

### 29<sup>th</sup> June

- Resolved to write to the Minister for Culture & the Arts, requesting that History Council of WA be kept informed of progress on the feasibility study on archival storage facilities for state records.
- Heard the President's report of a positive meeting with the State Librarian and decided to request that History Council of WA be involved in strategic planning for the Battye Library and matters relating to customer focus.
- Decided to propose to the State Librarian that a practising historian be appointed to the Library Board.
- Resolved that all History Council organised public events/functions include an Acknowledgement of Country.
- Heard a report on meeting of the President and Vice-President with Barbara Scott MLC to discuss advocacy issues.
- Established an Events Working Party to organise events planned for the remainder of 2005.
- Decided to write to the relevant parliamentary committee expressing concern that Australian History is not mandatory in the new post-compulsory course of study.
- Resolved to write a letter of concern to the Minister about heritage and Heritage Council matters.

## Meet the Vice-President

### Dr Sue Graham-Taylor

*In our continuing series on members of the History Council of WA Committee, we feature the Vice-President, Dr Sue Graham-Taylor.*

Sue Graham-Taylor has a PhD in History from Murdoch University and has worked as a professional historian and researcher for many years. She is at present employed at the Western Australian Museum as a History Curator and also deals with sustainability issues across the Museum and across Government.



Sue sits on a range of government and industry committees including the Sustainability Round Table. She has undertaken research for both Government and industry and has published on aspects of Western Australian social, environmental, industrial and political history. In her life outside history she is the immediate Past President and now Senior Vice President of the Conservation Council of Western Australia.

## Awards and Grants

### Lotterywest Grants

#### 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/incd\\_ex.asp?pgid=390](http://www.lottery.wa.gov.au/asp/incd_ex.asp?pgid=390)

### National Archives of Australia

#### Ian Maclean Awards

Offered to individuals interested in conducting research that will benefit the archival and historical professions in Australia Closing 10 March 2006.

### National Archives Summer Scholarships

Aimed at university students enrolled in 20th century Australian history or a related field.

#### Further information at

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

### City of Perth Heritage Grants Program 2005/2006

**Contact:** For information on the 2005/2006 Heritage Grants Program please contact the City of Perth Strategy Unit on 9461 3333.

### Federation of Australian Historical Societies (Inc) 2005 Merit Awards

Constituents of the Federation may nominate individuals who are making an exceptional contribution to the understanding of Australian history through the historical society movement in the areas of research, publication and leadership.

#### Closing 30 September 2005

Further Details:

<http://www.history.org.au/index.htm>

## AGM Election Results

Congratulations to the new and returning members elected to the Committee of the History Council of WA at the AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> August:

**President:**

Assoc. Prof. Jenny Gregory

**Vice-President:**

Dr Sue Graham-Taylor

**Secretary:**

Dr Bobbie Oliver

**Treasurer:**

Robert Mitchell

**Committee Members:**

Moira Mulligan

Jennie Carter

Dr Jean Chetkovich

Felicity Morel-Ednie-Brown

Margaret Hamilton

Dr Helen Henderson

Blaze Kwaymullina

Glen Bennett

Gail Barrow

Mary Ann Jebb

Tony Caravella

Jenny Edgecombe

## Historical Records Rescue Consortium Receives Grant

The Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) comprises representatives from nine incorporated bodies, including the History Council of WA. It was set up in August 2003 to submit an application to Lotterywest for funding to rescue and make available the most at risk and in demand historical records held in the Batty Library.

Late in June 2005 it was announced that Lotterywest will provide a \$3million grant to undertake a two year project to preserve films and photographic negatives, and to microfilm newspapers. More information about the project can be found at:

<http://www.fobl.org.au/staging/>

## History Council Proclamation Week Event: The Great Debate

The History Council's next event will be the Great Debate, to be held at 6.00 pm at the State Library Theatre on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

Refreshments will be served.

The debate is titled 'Is History Relevant?'

Teams will be announced closer to the date. Check our website for details.

Following the very successful panel discussion at the AGM in August, this promises to be a stimulating and provocative debate. Don't miss it!

### Other Proclamation Day Activities:

Check these websites for further Proclamation Day activities and information.

**Constitutional Centre** <http://www.ccentre.wa.gov.au/index.cfm>

**Celebrate WA** <http://www.celebratewa.com.au/>

## An Oral Historian's Overview of the CISH, AHA & OHAA Conferences, Sydney 2005

*Committee member Margaret Hamilton attended the OHAA and AHA conferences held in conjunction with CISH, the International Congress of Historical Sciences, at the University of New South Wales in July:*

The CISH program was enormous, attracting over 1200 delegates from 72 countries. It was quite an experience to attend some of the thought-provoking sessions of the 'Myth in History' strand, before moving on to the Oral History Association of Australia conference which was my major interest.

The 'Talking Communities' strand of the OHAA conference featured some innovative uses of oral history including the Tram Track Trail in Victoria Park. I took part in 'Oral History and its Challenges', speaking on the challenge of achieving a National Accreditation program for oral historians without using academic qualification as a primary criterion.

'Oral History and Technology' presented the challenges of using multi-media, including digital photography and digitalised video recording, with impressive examples.

Of particular interest to historians attending the final panel on 'Handling Ethics and Ethics Committees' were the proposed new NHMRC guidelines for research project ethics approvals, including the suggestion regarding the discarding of tapes after 7 years.

The AHA conference also provided a wide range of interesting sessions, from Jewish Holocaust Survivor Testimonies to developments in native Forest Protest in Western Australia and Rewriting History through a Gendered Perspective. Overall, a fantastic and satisfying three day event.

## History Council Involvement in Lotterywest's Community History Grants

This Grant has been offered for nearly six years and has resulted in many published works and collections of oral histories, as well as videos and CDs on aspects of the history of Western Australia's many communities. Projects selected for funding may detail the history of a place, tell the story of a community of interest, or look at local experiences of a significant event.

This year the History Council has been involved in nominations for the technical panel which examines and makes recommendations on the many applications received by Lotterywest for this grant.

The next round of applications for the grant closes on 16 September and information can be found on the Lotterywest website at <http://www.lottery.wa.gov.au/corporate/homepage.htm>

## Winner of 2004 West Australian History Award

This new category in the 2004 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards was added as a result of representations by the History Council.

The award is for a significant historical work that makes a major contribution to the understanding of Western Australia's past.

Tony Barker was this year's winner with *Behind the Play*. This book is based on an examination of the politics of football in the context of Western Australia's social history. Anthony was the guest of the History Council at the Sundowner held in July.

Entries for the 2005 Awards (for books and scripts published/produced in 2005) will be called for in October 2005.

## Pioneers Memorial Service: East Perth Cemetery

To mark the occasion of the State's 176<sup>th</sup> foundation the Royal Western Australian Historical Society held its 51<sup>st</sup> Pioneers Memorial Service in the East Perth cemetery on 29 May 2005. A church service in St Bartholomew's chapel, conducted by the Revd Brayden Short, included a citation by Kaylene Poon which commemorated the Fong family and described the contributions made by the Chinese community in Western Australia. Following the church service, Buddhist nun, the Revd Cheh Chu, performed a brief ceremonial ritual in the presence of more than 100 guests gathered around a significant Chinese Monument in the churchyard.

## 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.

## Royal WA Historical Society: Foundation Day Address

On Monday 6 June, the Hon. Phillip Pandal, retired MLA, was guest speaker at the annual Foundation Day address.

He gave a thought-provoking address covering the value of oral history and discussing the emergency plans put in place during World War II to safeguard the continuance of parliament.

Noticed among the audience was the Society's vice-patron, Premier Geoff Gallop.

### 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 organisations \$200 pa  
(including government agencies and universities)

Corporate Medium organisations \$100 pa

Corporate Professional organisations \$50 pa

Corporate Small organisations \$30 pa

Individual \$20 pa

Individual Concession \$10 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

## On the History Council Website

We will be expanding the website in the coming months with new features and up-to-date information on History Council activities.

[www.historycouncilwa.org.au](http://www.historycouncilwa.org.au)

## Members' News

HISTORY COUNCIL OF WA

Proclamation Week Debate

'Is History Relevant?'

Details: page three this issue

STATE RECORDS OFFICE OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
Sandwich Seminars  
2005

Monday 17 October – Cultivating the sources: agriculture, horticulture and landscape in the State Records Office  
Southwest Room, Ground Floor, Alexander Library Building.  
12.30 – 1.30pm.

THE ROYAL WESTERN  
AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Upcoming Public Talks:

19 October: Dr Neville Marchant  
*Documenting a flora: a history of the WA Herbarium and its collections*

16 November Mr Chris Fyfe  
*Wartime wool appraisements in WA*

Further Details:

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

STATE HISTORY  
CONFERENCE OF AFFILIATED  
HISTORY SOCIETIES  
16-18 SEPT

Fremantle: A Place of Contact

- for people, between people and their physical environment and as a point of contact with the past.

Len Collard: *A Nyungar Interpretive History of the country of the southern suburbs*

Michelle Morrison: *Health & Sanitation: The Black Plague in Fremantle*

Sally May: *People, Places and Spaces of Fremantle's Fishing Industry*

Kris Bizzaca: *Community and Heritage: an opportunity for contact.*

Contact: Bob Woollett 9386 7451