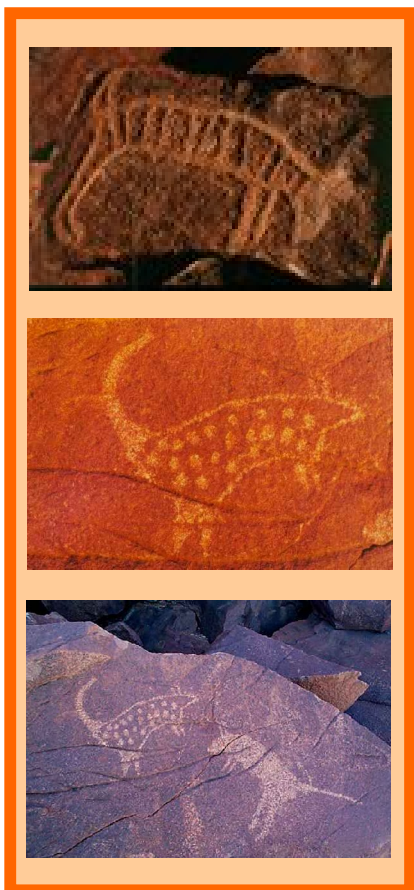


# newsletter

History  
OF WA  
Council



## History Matters

### Dampier Rock Art Precinct

A wide range of history matters comes to the History Council for consideration. Most recently we have agreed to support the campaign to preserve the Dampier Rock Art Precinct, near Karratha.

The precinct contains the largest concentration of petroglyphs (rock art carvings) in the world. They are between 6,000 and at least 20,000 years old. It also contains the largest collection of standing stones in Australia, many of great antiquity. By way of comparison the standing stones at Avebury and Stonehenge in England, both world heritage sites and major tourist attractions, are only 4,500 years old.

Although some studies have been undertaken, there is no comprehensive inventory of the whole precinct. It is estimated, however, that the Burrup Peninsula alone contains around one million petroglyphs, of which at least ten thousand have already been destroyed. The whole precinct has recently been placed on the World Monument Fund's List of the 100 most endangered places in the world.

There are many different styles of engraving amongst the petroglyphs, each of which may represent different periods of formation. Amongst the most remarkable are images of thylacines and other extinct animals. These engravings document an extensive history of human ritual and artistic endeavour, and are thought to be amongst the earliest human art extant in the world.

These remarkable artefacts are under extreme threat. Emissions from industry appear to have already caused damage. Yet the State Government is actively promoting further industrial development in the area. There is grave concern that inappropriate development may cause irreversible loss for future generations.

The History Council of Western Australia supports the National Trust in its call for holistic research into the heritage values of the whole of the Dampier Rock Art Precinct, endeavours to find a 'win/win' solution for both heritage conservation and development, and to have the precinct placed on the National Heritage List.

See <http://www.burrup.org.au/> for further information.

Jenny Gregory  
President

## Invitation to members

### History Council of Western Australia National Trust of Australia (WA)

Joint Presentation  
28<sup>th</sup> May 2006: 2pm-4.30pm

A presentation and behind-the-scenes look at the way Woodbridge House, Guildford, has been interpreted. It involves the stories of two West Australian ANZACS, Gresley and Wilfred Harper, who lived at Woodbridge and died at Gallipoli. A tour of the house and afternoon tea is included in the entry fee of \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Places are limited, and cheques made payable to National Trust of Australia (WA) at PO Box 1162 WEST PERTH WA 6872 should accompany bookings.

Enquiries to 9321 6088 (Zoe) or to [trust@ntwa.com.au](mailto:trust@ntwa.com.au).

**Waitlist:** If there are sufficient additional bookings, the presentation will be repeated 2 weeks later on Sunday 11 June at the same time.

## CONTACT US

Executive Officer

[office@historycouncilwa.org.au](mailto:office@historycouncilwa.org.au)

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

or write to:

PO Box 1619, West Perth 6872

**Deadline for next issue:**

**16<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

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

## Meetings of the Committee

The Committee meeting held on **22 February & 26 April** included the following business items where the Committee:

### 22 April

- Agreed that the Great Debate transcript would be made available on the History Council's website.
- Resolved to hold a panel discussion during Foundation Week (subsequently replaced by joint event with National Trust at Woodbridge, advertised this issue).

### 26 February

- Heard a presentation on Dampier/ Burrup Rock Art issues. Resolved to obtain and distribute information to History Council members, advising them on the action they can take on this matter.
- Discussed the possibility of recruiting additional members onto Sub-Committees to assist with the greater workload resulting from increasing History Council activity and the higher profile the Council is achieving.
- Resolved to formulate a History Council response to the new Years 11 and 12 Curriculum, 'History – Ancient and Modern'.
- Received a report on a meeting with Anna Bonython, consultant for the Kimberley Archive Project.
- Discussed the issue of Ethics Clearance processes for Lotterywest Community History Grants and planned follow-up activities on the issue.
- Received with regret the resignations of the Executive Officer and of Committee Member Tony Caravella.
- Resolved to streamline the Executive Officer's routine expenditure through use of a credit or debit card.

## STOP PRESS

**At a Special meeting held on 9 May 2006 to consider the proposed Year 11 and 12 curriculum, 'History - Ancient and Modern', the History Council resolved:**

— to call on the Minister for Education to delay the implementation of the proposed curriculum so that a full review can be undertaken;

— to call for the reinstatement of Australian history as a mandated course of study;

— to express concern about the combination of Ancient and Modern History in a single curriculum; and

— to encourage the development of a broad chronological understanding of Australian history in Years K-10.

## Awards and Grants

### Lotterywest Grants

#### Interpretation of Cultural Heritage Grants

Advertised: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006  
Closing Date: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006

#### Community Histories Grants

Advertised: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2006  
Closing Date for Expressions of Interest: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2006

Further information:

<http://www.lottery.wa.gov.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=394>

#### Royal WA Historical Society Inc 2006 A E Williams History Prize Closing: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006

For original historical writing on an aspect of Western Australian history.

Conditions and further information:  
RWAHS Executive Officer,  
Ph 9386 3841, Fax: 9386 3309:  
Email [histwest2@qit.com.au](mailto:histwest2@qit.com.au)

#### The National Library 2006 Community Heritage Grants

Grants of up to \$10 000 are available to incorporated community groups around the country to preserve locally held nationally significant cultural heritage collections for future generations. Applications close 9 June 2006.

Further Information:  
[www.nla.gov.au/chg/](http://www.nla.gov.au/chg/)

## Meet the Editor

### Jenny Edgecombe



*In our continuing series on members of the History Council of WA Committee, we feature Jenny Edgecombe, Editor of the Newsletter.*

Jenny has been a History Council Committee member since 2004. She taught History in NSW secondary schools for many years, then completed a diploma in Archives Administration at UNSW before moving to WA.

The WA experience has been fascinating and varied, including work on photograph collections, Supreme Court records, local government

Recordkeeping Plans, UWA Guild Archives and a number of years as Records Manager then Archivist at UWA.

Jenny has been active on local and national Councils of the Australian Society of Archivists Inc. and is a long-standing member of the State Records Advisory Committee, which she regards as a vital arena for community input into the retention of government records.

A recent move to occasional contract work was supposed to leave more time for pursuing her own historical research interests in the Toodyay area, but this remains to be seen!

## Keeping the Census Records: our future history

The next Australian census will be conducted on the night of Tuesday 8 August 2006. The census retention question (Q60) is not compulsory and reads: 'Does each person in this household agree to his/her name and address and other information on this form being kept by the National Archives of Australia and then made publicly available after 99 years?'

If this question is ignored, it will be treated as a NO.

The Census Information Legislation Amendment Bill (2005) was passed in February 2006 and awaits Royal assent to become law.

The Bill ensures that name-identified information collected in all future Australian censuses will be preserved for such purposes as future genealogical research.

Some 51 per cent of Australians answered 'YES' to the retention of their forms in the 2001 census survey. This was in effect a national referendum of the Australian people and a majority voted that our history matters.

The Australasian Federation of Family History Organizations (AFFHO) is working closely with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the National Archives of Australia to assist in the national public education campaign prior to census night.

Further Information may be found on the AFFHO website:

<http://www.affho.org/>

## Forum: History & Education in WA

The March forum maintained the combination of entertaining and informative debate, excellent catering and the opportunity to mingle with colleagues that we have come to associate with History Council functions.

The panel was comprised of Meredith Southee, a practising History teacher, Associate Professor Lenore Layman and Emeritus Professor David Black, who provided academic and curriculum development viewpoints, and Mark Brown, Director of Curriculum at the Curriculum Council, who faced the difficult task of encapsulating the philosophy and structure of the new course in ten minutes before discussing the forum questions on History in Secondary Schools.

### ***'Should History be taught as a structured narrative?'***

There was a wide range of viewpoints, as might be expected, but there were some common threads and concerns. A number of speakers contended that the study of History does require specific knowledge, that, 'the facts of history are like bricks of a house', and that it is best told through stories.

There was a strong feeling that good teachers will do a good job whatever, but that history teachers need to be trained specifically in history, rather than a generalist background.

The majority of speakers and audience members appeared very concerned about the new history curriculum, believing the lack of coherent narrative content, would lead to patchy, uncontextualised knowledge.

### ***'Should Australian History be mandated in Years 11 and 12?'***

There was less agreement here, but some of the thoughts expressed were:

In 2005 approximately 3,000 of the 12,000 TEE students studied History. All were required to study twentieth century Australian history. In the curriculum proposed for 2007 Australian history will no longer be mandated.

Yr 12 students vote the year after leaving school and they should understand something of Aust history .

Others believed that students should leave school with a sense of Australia as part of the wider world, therefore Aust history should not be mandated.

Our thanks to all participants for a useful and thought-provoking session.



Above: Members and guests at the March History Council Forum on the Teaching of History in Secondary Schools.

## East Perth Cemetery: 52<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day Ceremony, 28 May

At 2.30pm on Sunday morning 28 May, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, in conjunction with the Swan River Pioneers Special Group (1829-1838) and the Genealogical Society, will be conducting the 52<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day ceremony at St Bartholomews Chapel in the East Perth Pioneer Cemetery. The Reverend Ted Doncaster will preside. A citation, honouring pioneers buried in unmarked graves, will be presented by Ruth Marchant James. Afternoon tea will be served in the Beau Rivaqe Room at Gloucester Park for a gold coin donation.

## Shortlist for Western Australian Premier's Book Awards

The [Shortlist](#) for the 2005 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards (for books/scripts that were published or produced in 2005) has been announced. This includes The West Australian History Award. See <http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au/pbk05shlst.html> for details.

There was a very good response, with the record number of 134 entries for the 2004 Awards being equalled for 2005. The Winners will be announced at a dinner on 9 June 2006 at the State Library of WA.

## 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.

## Foundation Day Address

The President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, Emeritus Professor R. Appleyard, will deliver the 2006 Foundation Day Address at 3pm on Monday, 5 June at Stirling House, Nedlands. The lecture entitled 'Putting Western Australia on the Map' will cover significant voyages made by Dutch vessels between 1616 and 1628, which resulted in the mapping of a large section of the western and southern coasts of Australia. Professor Appleyard's paper will also discuss later voyages and outline the interest displayed by European powers in the future annexation and settlement that occurred after the unveiling of the Great South Land. An admission of \$12, payable at the door, will include afternoon tea.

**Further Details:**  
RWAHS. tel: 9386 3841  
<http://www.histwest.git.com.au/index.htm>

## Australia on the Map 1606-2006

Here are some of the upcoming activities associated with this year-long celebration:

May 22 – September 30, [Exhibition Invisible Dutch Perth](#) at Fremantle History Museum.

May 6-June 11, [Odyssey Quilt Project](#), Fremantle Arts Centre.

May 6 – June 11, [Floating exhibition](#), Fremantle Arts Centre.

May 20 – July 23, 2006 - [Port of Call Art Exhibition](#), Collection Gallery, Fremantle Arts Centre.

May 8-September, **Lace Makers Demonstration**, Fremantle History Museum.

May 28, [Dutch Cultural Festival](#), City of Gosnells.

**For further information, see the website at**  
<http://www.australiaonthemap.org.au/wa/wa.htm>

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

If/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

## Members' Events

**The Oral History Association  
W.A. Branch Inc.**

**Annual State Conference  
Telling stories of Country:**

**Mining the Past**

Kalgoorlie 7<sup>th</sup> October 2006

**Further information:**

Jan McCahon Marshall

08 9470 4026 work or

08 9353 5069 ah

[jmccahon@vicpark.wa.gov.au](mailto:jmccahon@vicpark.wa.gov.au)

**The Royal WA Historical  
Society Inc**

Research Papers are read at the monthly meetings, Stirling House, Nedlands. Visitors welcome.

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – Foundation Day:

Emeritus Professor R Appleyard

'Putting Western Australia on the

Map.'

21<sup>st</sup> June, 2006 Ms Anja Brok

'The CIB in W A 1919-1939'

**History In The City Program**

Citiplace Conference Room

Top of escalator, Perth Railway

Station. 2 pm. Donation of \$5.00

at the door includes afternoon tea.

Wed 7 June. Ron Bodycoat: What Happened to Perth's Historical Buildings?

Wed 5 July. Nonja Peters: Dutch Influence in Australia 1606-2006.

**Further Information:**

RWAHS. tel: 9386 3841

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

**National Archives of Australia  
Perth Office**

10.30 am 16th August, 2006

Free introductory seminar on using archival records to help with family history & other research.

Time:

1384 Berwick Street, East Victoria Park, WA 6101.

Please phone 9470 7500 to reserve a place.

**The Western Australian  
Genealogical Society  
National Family History Week  
30 July - 5 August 2006**

Help us celebrate with a Library Open Day at Bayswater on 30 July.

The week includes Presentations & Lunchtime Discussions covering all aspects of family history. The State Library of WA will also be participating with a static display. Further information contact Janet Revill or Ian Scott on 9271 4311.