

newsletter

History
OF WA
Council

History Matters – a message from your President

We can look back with pride on a very busy year. I thank you all for your assistance in helping the Council to promote the importance of history and heritage in Western Australia. We have attempted to broaden our membership and take history to the community with our popular History in the Pub events. We have written letters, lobbied politicians and had input to both Federal and State governments on a range of issues relating to heritage and history.

In October 2009 we held a public meeting in the Town Hall to give voice to widespread concern amongst our membership at the lack of recognition for the key role of the Arts, history and heritage, in our community. The three speakers were impressive and the large audience unanimously agreed to take the issues raised at the Forum to the Minister for Culture and the Arts and the Premier, in the form of a delegation. The meeting also called for an immediate strategy to remedy the defects in the system and a vision and an action plan to address the needs in the area of culture and the arts to 2029. This will be a key issue for 2010 and we start what should be an exciting year with a meeting with the Minister for Culture and the Arts, John Day. Our website will keep you informed of progress and I urge you all to continue writing to Members of Parliament and contacting your local newspapers.

Thank you also for your input over the year. In response to requests, you will notice that this online Newsletter now contains hyperlinks to websites.

Sue Graham-Taylor

We wish all our members a happy and peaceful festive season and a healthy and rewarding 2010.

President and Committee,
History Council of WA

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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 February 2010

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

Membership Surveys

Thank you to those members who filled in our membership surveys.

We would welcome more ideas for seminars and events as well as possible topics and speakers.

Perhaps some of our corporate members would like to co-host seminars/forums with us? If so, please get in touch with our Executive Officer office@historycouncilwa.org.au. We will also give some thought to holding a regional event.

Everyone who responded to the surveys indicated that they were satisfied with the newsletter. Newsletter items most enjoyed were those concerning forthcoming events; reports on events held and other information. One respondent requested that we consider inserting hyperlinks to web pages to save cutting and pasting. There was also a request for more bios on Council members and on the general membership and articles on history items not related to WA history.

*Julia Wallis
Executive Officer*

I am pleased to announce that Marolyn Hamilton is the winner of our Newsletter suggestions survey which was run earlier this year and has received a nice bottle of red. Congratulations Marolyn. (Ed)

The History Council of Western Australia gratefully acknowledges the support of the Western Australian History Foundation.



Corporate members

If it is appropriate and you would like to organise a tour or special event for History Council members at your establishment, please let the Executive Officer know on office@historycouncilwa.org.au

History Council of Western Australia, 2010 meeting dates

Committee Meetings are held at 4.30pm at the Constitutional Centre on the last Wednesday of the month, except for December.

Executive Meetings are held at 4.30pm at National Trust HQ, West Perth on the last Wednesday of the month, beginning in January.

Public Holidays for 2010

Australia Day	Tuesday 26 January
Easter	2-5 April
Queen's Birthday	Monday 27 September

Views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the History Council Committee or its membership.

History Forum 19 October 2009

More than 170 people representing a wide range of organisations attended the public Forum organised by the History Council at the Perth Town Hall on 19 October. Well publicised through the press and radio, three eminent speakers presented salient arguments as to why cultural facilities and the arts must be prioritised in Western Australia.

The panel of speakers included Director UWA Cultural Precinct, Ted Snell, Carol Innes, Manager, Policy and Projects at South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and prominent historian Geoffrey Bolton. The panel was chaired by Peter Holland. Ted Snell emphasised the need, rather than just desire for, well funded heritage and cultural facilities. Many studies show that cultural centres enhance creativity, empathy, our common humanity and appreciation of beauty within a community. He also emphasised the importance of these facilities in building knowledge about the indigenous culture and experiences.



Carol Innes reminded the audience of the vital role of indigenous culture in contributing to Australia's identity. She referred to Germaine Greer's 2003 work, *Whitefella Jump Up*, where Greer argued that Aboriginal heritage has shaped the distinctive Australian national character. The recognition of this heritage as well as the renaissance of Aboriginal music, art, film and poetry in recent years must be showcased for the whole community. Aboriginal culture, dating back over 30,000 years, should be promoted to encourage tourism and more significantly for all Australians to understand and acknowledge. The proposed Swan River waterfront museum featuring Noongar culture must not be delayed but needs to be promoted and developed with Aboriginal guidance.

Geoff Bolton reminded the audience of historical examples during boom periods when Western Australian civic leaders enriched the cultural landscape. John Forrest and John Winthrop Hackett channelled some of the State's wealth from the 1890's boom into museums, a public library, UWA and the Perth Zoo. While funds from the 1960's -1970's iron ore boom were utilised to create such landmarks as the Concert Hall, WA Museum, refurbishment of His Majesty's Theatre and Murdoch University.

As for the 1990's mineral and gas boom funds were used to build the Fremantle Maritime Museum, the Convention Centre and even the Bell Tower.

Bolton lamented the current 'shabby picture for prosperous WA' with history collections being stored away, closed down, many arts facilities understaffed and buildings such as the old Treasury and East Perth Gasworks left vacant. Culture and the arts must be given more emphasis in the future. Bolton suggested that an action plan be prepared for the enrichment of Western Australian cultural facilities over the next 40 years.

Some comments from the floor included:

- A deputation to the Premier and John Day with submissions from interested parties
- Forum participants email their local member of parliament
- A resolution from the Forum be publicised
- The papers from the panel be sent to the Premier and placed on the History Council website
- A culture plan be developed for the 2029 WA bicentenary celebrations.

Merredith Southee

Arts Forum - Motions from the floor

1. The meeting agrees to take the issues raised by both the speakers and the audience in the Town Hall meeting of 19 October 2009 to the Minister for Culture and the Arts and the Premier, in the form of a delegation.
2. That this meeting calls for an immediate strategy to remedy the defects in the system and an action plan to address the needs in the area of culture and the arts to 2029.

These motions were carried unanimously.

Outcome

Arts Minister, Hon. John Day MLA, has agreed to meet with a delegation from the History Council of WA on 20 January 2010. Please see the History Council website which has much more information and is updated frequently www.historycouncilwa.org.au

Monument and Masons

In November, I attended the official launch of *Monument and Masons: Cemeteries at Karrakatta Fremantle Guildford Midland* by Metropolitan Cemeteries Board member and History Council member, Dr Leonie Liveris.

The launch was conducted in the Garden Chapel at Karrakatta and the open air location was beautiful and tranquil and is perhaps reflective of the more recent trend to commemorate our loved ones in a garden setting such as Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, Peter MacLean was Master of Proceedings and after an official welcome by the MCB Chairman, Ross Bowe, Dr Lenore Layman presented the review and commendation of the book. Dr Layman made the important point that monuments facilitate memory and serve as both physical reminder and a place for us to honour our dead. Following Leonie's acknowledgement and response to Dr Layman's hearty commendation of her work, the book was officially launched by the Hon John Castrilli MLA.

The book pays homage to the craft of the monumental mason and is a beautifully illustrated work of over 150 pages and 350 images. Many faiths are covered in this exploration of monumental work across four of Perth's cemeteries. The book retails for \$59.95. Payments can be made by cheque, Mastercard and Visa through the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board on 1300 793 109 or email mcb@mcb.wa.gov.au The website is www.mcb.wa.gov.au

Julia Wallis



Beautiful examples of the skill of the monumental mason - a dying craft.
Photographs courtesy Leonie Liveris.

History in the Pub – Victoria Park

On 27 September the Victoria Park Hotel was the venue for an amusing and informative presentation on aspects of Victoria Park's history by Victoria Park Councillor and amateur historian John Bissett. The title of his talk was aptly named *Meandering around the Park*. Through the use of photos and anecdotes we were taken on a gentle journey through various stages of Victoria's Park's development. We saw and heard how people had worked and played and how the various buildings in the town had changed over time. His stories and pictures of the Victoria Park Hotel were of particular interest as we looked around and saw what had changed and what remained the same. John concluded his presentation with a movie which encapsulated many aspects of the town's history. Some members of the audience were amused and a little nostalgic when they saw themselves in old school photographs.

'History in the Pub' is proving to be popular with members of the History Council and the emphasis on local history will be continued in 2010 with History in the Pub events being planned for Armadale and Guildford.

Moira Mulligan

End of Year Function: Wednesday 2 December 2009

Thirty five History Council members and guests enjoyed wine and cocktail food at Mount Eliza House, Kings Park. Although it was a windy night, we had a pleasant evening as we socialised and contemplated the stunning view across to the Perth CBD. At about 6pm, History Council President Sue Graham-Taylor gave a short speech thanking everyone for their support during the year and wishing everyone the compliments of the season before introducing our guest speaker, Nick Turner. Mr Turner is Principal Engineer, Water Source Planning at the Water Corporation and he gave an informative and entertaining address on a new scheme to use recycled water to replenish groundwater as a future drinking water source. Nick Turner was quite impressed with the knowledge of our members and the pertinent questions we asked after his presentation.

Julia Wallis

Truth versus Folklore

I am sure many of our families have folklore passed down through the generations and like the Phillips/Roe family, my own family folklore was far from the truth.

Toodyay's Federation Square displays a plaque stating Sophia Roe was the first white child born in WA (Swan River Colony). Unfortunately, this is incorrect and she was not even the first female born in the colony to the early settlers.

A statement such as Sophia Roe being one of the first white children born in the Swan River Colony would be more accurate and acceptable. Sophia Roe was born 25 December 1829 in the Swan River Colony. It is generally conceded that the first male child born in the Swan River Colony was Joseph Mitchell, who was born at Cockburn Sound on 10th June 1829 to the 63rd Regiment's Bugler John Mitchell and his wife Jane. The reputed first female child born in the colony was Sophia Dent, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth who was born on the beach at Fremantle 1st September 1829.

As proof, I refer to an article written by Dr Rica Erickson for the Royal Western Australian Historical Society's *Early Days*, 1979, Volume V111, Part 111, – "Those Fabled Firsts of the Swan River Colony". Also, the Battye Library's Private Archives collection ACC 399A gives births and baptisms from the colony's first church records showing many boys and a couple of girls born and baptised prior to Sophia's Roe's birth.

In October 2008, on finding the plaque was still displayed with the same incorrect data, I contacted the Toodyay Shire Record Officer, Moss Wilson. Mr. Wilson decided to research the origins of the plaque with the obvious conclusion that members of the Phillips family paid full costs for the display. Any alterations or replacement would have to be made by the same family at their own cost. The family declined and I have been informed the plaque will remain as is and the case is closed.

I am seeking as much support as possible from anyone who agrees with my stand to have the plaque corrected or removed, would you please contact the Toodyay Shire at PO Box 96, WA 6566.

Lorraine Evans

Co Convenor, and Certificate Registrar Swan River Pioneers. Email: hevansabove@iprimus.com.au

New publication - A History of Trayning -

by Reg Appleyard & Don Couper

"This book tells the story of the development of a typical shire in the wheatbelt of Western Australia. It tells of the exploration, surveying and development of the land into grazing and farming properties. It tells of the courage, determination and ingenuity of the early settlers as they strove to turn the virgin bush into farms and towns, to develop sporting and cultural facilities, and it tells of the current struggle to maintain such amenities with a declining and ageing population. The authors have a personal interest in the history of Trayning, both of their families being among the early pioneers who played a valuable role in the development of the Shire." Trevor Lamond, President, Shire of Trayning.

Reg Appleyard AM is Hon. Senior Research Fellow and Emeritus Professor of Economic History at UWA. He has written and edited many books on migration and settlement. Walter (Don) Couper grew up in the Trayning region. His father Wally and Uncle Bill were partners on a farm at Kununoppin. He has an intimate knowledge of Trayning's history and culture. President of the Trayning Council (1986 to 1996) and lived all his working life in the region.

This fine new history is available at UWA bookshop or the Shire of Trayning. \$49.95, UWA Publishing. See also www.ahistoryoftrayning.com.au

National Curriculum for History

A revised (ie from the May 2009 'Shaping Paper') draft of 'content descriptions' for History K-10 has now been developed by a team of writers.

The History curriculum is still not in its final form; this document was prepared for a curriculum development workshop in late August and I assume further writing has taken place from September to now. In its final form, the document will include content elaborations, achievement standards and work samples.

For History Council members, it is important to note that public consultation on the full History National Curriculum package will take place in the period between January and April 2010.

The implementation of the National Curriculum into WA schools will be carried out by the State Government, probably commencing in 2011. We still await the state government initiated Andrich Report which will provide some advice on how the National Curriculum will be fitted into WA's Curriculum Framework structure.

Broad Structure of this Document

- Each year K-10 has a set of 'History Knowledge & Understandings' in table form. In Years 7-10 these include some 'Depth Studies'.
- Sets of History skills to be taught are set out, also in table form, in two year blocks: Years 1-2; 3-4; 5-6; 7-8; 9-10.
- The broad sweep of content from Year 1 to Year 10 is from family to local/community to regional to state histories (Year 1-4); Indigenous/settlement/multicultural history (Year 5); Australian Government and links to Asia-Pacific (Year 6); Ancient History (Year 7); Ancient to Modern World History (Year 8); Modern World and Australia 1750-1901 (Year 9); Australia and the Modern World from 1901 (year 10).

Issues

- The guidelines of class time for teaching the History curriculum have been reduced to one hour per week in Primary and two hours per week in Years 7-10.
- The balance between the focus on Australia's British and European heritage and links with the Asia-Pacific region; and between depth and breadth (incorporated through overview and bridging documents in the Shaping Paper) studies.
- Less evidence of the inquiry learning and flexibility that were emphasised in the Shaping Paper.

Glen Bennett.

Local History Practitioners' Seminar

On Friday 6 November more than 50 people attended the Local History Practitioners' Seminar at the State Library of WA. The theme was "Bringing history out of hiding: Going digital and sharing your local history collection", and the comprehensive program spanned current and future trends, technology and management.

Susan Ashcroft, the SLWA Client Services director, opened the event by noting the challenge facing all in the collecting sector in making holdings accessible. She listed the advantages of digitisation as overcoming time, geographical and item fragility barriers, and that it entices new audiences to an institution.

Dr Mark Brogan (of Edith Cowan University) was the keynote speaker, and his topic was "Beyond the social web: New possibilities for cultural heritage collections online".

Mark urged the sector to work collaboratively to leverage new technologies. He emphasised the importance of social media, especially to reach the X and Y generations. Mark provided examples of the creative possibilities enabled by mobile devices such as mashups with GIS and heritage data, and pointed to Duke University in America and the Powerhouse Museum as pioneers in providing innovative ways of accessing collections. For a horizon of 4-5 years and beyond, Mark predicted libraries and archives would continue to expand their activities in virtual worlds.

Following morning tea, Lise Summers (Senior Archivist) advised of the State Records Office's aims and digitisation projects. The types of records available include heritage, house, family, legal and native title information.

Bronwyn Lewis from the State Library Foundation gave a 2 part speech: First she explained her recently-created organisation's purpose was to raise funds to aid the SLWA, and that recently there has been a shift in philanthropy to targeting small contributions from many people. Secondly – and at greater length – she described the exciting project *Our Page in History* (www.ourpage.org) which is “Genealogy meets Facebook”. Anyone in the state (and eventually the nation) can post material online, view other text and images and comment. Registration is inexpensive, users keep copyright and can make their galleries private or public. It is a project for individuals, families, groups and businesses and all receive unlimited space. There will be PC booths set up in every public library in WA (200+).

Next was Marjorie Bly from the National Archives of Australia (www.naa.gov.au) who gave an overview of accessing Commonwealth material. She demonstrated how to use the online search tool, and pointed out how the description shows if an item has been digitised. Even if it hasn't, the on demand scheme means people may request certain items to be sent to them in electronic or print format simply by following a website link to an e-commerce section for ordering and payment. The companion scheme (or proactive scheme) is of what records the NAA is focussing on – at the moment it is passports from the 1920s and 1930s, and also naturalisation records. They aim for 30 000 pages per year. So far only 10% of the 29 million items at the NAA are done.

All the speakers were enthusiastic, encouraging and informative. The diverse and interesting content meant the audience was eager to ask questions as each session concluded, and was grateful for an additional opportunity before lunch.

The seminar resumed with David Ong's overview of the SLURP project: This intriguing acronym means the State Library's Limber and Useful Reformatting Application, which is a strategy to catalogue, index, store and retrieve digitised materials. It has undergone concentrated development in the past 18 months. SLURP's priorities for processing are assigned according to two criteria: User demand and internal requirements.

The final session was a panel discussion comprising some of the previous speakers, plus new people representing Museums Australia WA and the merged Cottesloe / Peppermint Grove / Mosman Park library.

The State Library generously provided refreshments during breaks, and the seminar itself was free to attend. Many participants reported that the day advanced their knowledge, and that they hope to attend similar future events.

Leith Robinson

New National Cultural Policy

On Tuesday 27 October 2009 at the National Press Club Peter Garrett, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, launched the new national cultural policy. He stated it had developed from ideas at the 2020 Summit and advice received from the *Creative Australia Group*, and he identified 3 key themes:

- 1) Keeping culture strong. In particular, maintaining and developing cultural institutions like museums, galleries, and libraries, with specific support for Indigenous culture.
- 2) Engaging the community. Especially ensuring each national collecting institution remains relevant to the changing population.
- 3) Powering the young. For example, via new funding for emerging artists.

Mr. Garrett noted the recent changes not only in understandings of arts and culture, but also of the relationships between the organisations and all people involved. He emphasized the role that the private sector can play via volunteering, workplace giving and the establishment of foundations.

The cultural framework's discussion document indicated that Australian culture connect the past with future visions, speaks to our identity and enriches our quality of life. Statistics provided were that the cultural industry is worth \$32 billion (3.5% of GDP) annually, and supports 474 000 jobs in 102 000 enterprises.

Mr. Garrett urged bipartisan action in tackling the challenges facing the sector, and he welcomed the prospect of Opposition party help. He also called for infighting between arts bodies to cease.

The new policy is a work in progress, and consequently the departmental website has links to a forum enabling suggestions from citizens. Postings include setting up residency programs connecting artists with institutions and communities, and increasing the focus on cultural events in rural and outer metropolitan

areas. The website link is nationalculturalpolicy.com.au

Leith Robinson

Closure of National Archives in Hobart, Darwin and Adelaide

By now many members will be aware of news of the planned closure of the National Archives offices in Darwin, Hobart and Adelaide over the next two and a half years. This disadvantages researchers in those areas, and may cause distress to postgraduate research students in those centres. In addition, the planned removal of Northern Territory documents to Sydney will effectively deprive local Aboriginal communities of access to documents which concern them. This matter is of serious concern. Members can express their concerns by e-mailing the Director of the National Archives, Ross Gibbs at this address: ross.gibbs@naa.gov.au

The History council wrote to Ross Gibbs on 30 November 2009

Dear Mr Gibbs

Proposed closure of the National Archives offices in Adelaide, Darwin and Hobart

The History Council of Western Australia is concerned at the news of the proposed closure to the National Archives offices in Adelaide, Darwin and Hobart.

The aims of the History Council of Western Australia are to promote the study, preservation and use of history in Western Australia and we represent about 13,000 historians and interested parties throughout the State. Our membership is wide ranging and includes academics, professional historians, librarians, museum professionals, archivists, family historians and a number of corporate groups. As an organisation we seek to raise the profile of history at all levels of government and the community and to provide advocacy for history and heritage collections. We seek to ensure that Arts related agencies such as the State Records Office, the State Library and the WA Museum are adequately funded. We also seek to achieve greater recognition of the value of historians' professional knowledge in heritage, education, government processes and the value of historical studies both at school and at University.

At a time when interest in history has never been stronger it seems a puzzling move to deprive both researchers and members of the public of the opportunity to conduct personal research in a location close to home. Furthermore, we are of the view that this move would impact even more adversely on indigenous members of these three communities. A need to know who you are and where you have come from is imperative to us all. The apologies to the stolen generation and child migrants are meaningless if those individuals impacted are unable to research their histories and connect with their cultural heritage.

The History Council of Western Australia wishes to add its voice those of historians, researchers and archivists across Australia who see the decision to close the National Archives Offices in Adelaide, Darwin and Hobart as a retrograde step that will adversely impact on the history and heritage of our nation.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sue Graham-Taylor, President

More on the National Archives Closure from Felicity MorelEdnie-Brown

This is a précis of information given in a telephone call between Dr Stephen Ellis, Assistant Director General, Operations and Preservation and the NAA Consultative Committee in Perth on 30 November 2009. In response to concerns raised by the Perth Consultative Forum, Mr Ellis cited several reasons for the closure of the NAA offices in Darwin, Hobart and Adelaide. The following is a summary of the call:

- The NAA has been asked to find savings of approx 700k per annum for the next 3 years, representing a \$2.1m cost saving.
- The collections in Darwin, Hobart and Adelaide represent 4% of the NAA archives
- The offices cost some 720K to run. This includes staff, leases and running costs.
- Lineal metre costs are in the vicinity of \$90/m. Sydney costs approx \$20/m. Therefore the offices are deemed uneconomic.
- Leases for the offices are coming up for renewal in 2010, therefore closing the offices will coincide with the final dates of the current leases.
- Records will be digitised; however, it is impossible physically or temporally to digitise all records.

- Records selected will be those which are currently heavily requested.
- Records that are deemed to have 'significant local importance' will be identified and devolved to state organisations.
- Staff will be offered redeployment or transfer or redundancies.

These last three points are of key concern.

Records will be digitised; however, it is impossible physically or temporally to digitise all records. Records selected will be those which are currently heavily requested.

There is no protocol for the selection of records to be digitized, other than those records which 'are most commonly requested or are likely to be requested in the future'. This methodology is quintessentially self referential and significantly slanted towards popularist genealogical research. It neither encompasses (nor gives thought to) the need for ongoing historical research in areas not yet identified as 'popular' or administrative research of government itself, quite apart from new fields of enquiry by researchers not yet identified. It neither addresses the current lack of adequate identification of records that exist (coupled with lack of sufficient contextual explanation in the online catalogues) nor the self evident flaw – that those outside the NAA are not necessarily even aware of the records that are held by the NAA. Of concern, is that this, of itself, creates opaqueness for future investigation of the national record.

There is also an arrogant assumption that everyone uses a computer – and a computer with an internet connection to boot! Certainly, this is an issue for the Darwin office – how many indigenous communities have access to the internet, let alone individuals and families.

Records that are deemed to have 'significant local importance' will be identified and devolved to state organisations.

This is a classic case of cost shifting by the Commonwealth to the states as there is no funding to be provided for this 'devolution'. As we know, there will be little potential for taking on responsibility for NAA records by state bodies without funding. It also begs the question, once again, of the identification, selection and process for devolution of such records.

From collections perspective – NAA has legacy documents from its takeover of state functions from 1900 – 1920s approx. In WA this includes passenger lists, and colonial lighthouses, postal and telegraph records (including plans of same), patents records, etc. It is likely that there are similar records in the other states. While repatriation of these records to the relevant State authorities would no doubt be appreciated, it would need to be in a staged manner – with the records properly listed and described – so that the states can allocate resources for storage and maintenance. One to three years is not going to be enough, unless they solely focus on the NAA transfers.

As a background, NAA has been looking at reducing its collections in the states and territories, other than the ACT, for over ten years. This may in part have been prompted by the sell off of the various regional repositories, but also by a focus in the NAA on the most 'used' collections (used being equated with valued). Statistically, these are the records used in family history – large, discrete, easily identified series of records, such as naturalisation papers, war service records and immigration lists.

In order to focus on 'used' records, NAA commenced a de-accessioning, reappraisal exercise, circa 2002. This caused considerable angst and was the direct catalyst for the NAA customer focus councils. One area where de-accessioning was particularly opposed was in Queensland when the repository at Canon Hill was to be closed. The Federal representative for the area, K. Rudd, spoke out against the closure.

Staff will be offered redeployment or transfer or redundancies.

Not having personnel assumes two things: a) that the online archive is complete and that within it the records are adequately described for a person to self guide; b) that a researcher is aware of all of the records that might be available for their particular research. As we know, historical research is an iterative process and researchers often discuss their work with archivists to be guided to resources of which they were hitherto unaware.

Time to pick up your pens and write to Mr Rudd about the closure of the office without sufficient forethought!

Felicity MorelEdnie-Brown

See the History Council website for updated information about the NAA closures.

State Library News

Swan River Stories - new website

Swan River Stories provides a fascinating look at the social, political and environmental history of Perth water, as told through the use of original photographs and text specifically written for the site.

Developed by Sue Graham Taylor, inaugural James Sykes Batty Memorial Fellow.

“The Swan River links suburbs and regions, the hills and the sea and has created and allowed the growth of Perth. It has been a food source, a transport route, a sewer, a rubbish dump but also a place for reflection and recreation, a spiritual place. It has been a great leveling force in society allowing rich and poor, male and female, Aboriginal and European to live on its shores, to walk its banks or to enjoy its waters for food, for personal contemplation or for recreation.

Rivers are an integral part of human landscapes both real and mythical. The successful management of rivers and water in general has often defined the success of a civilization and a culture. No one would deny the importance of rivers, yet despite this, rivers have generally been seen as the backdrop to history, rather than a vital and living part of that history.

In 2004 the Swan River was awarded the status of Western Australia’s first heritage icon. This award recognized the River’s immense cultural, recreational and environmental significance to the people of the State, both Indigenous and non Indigenous. It is important to understand the past, to know what has occurred and why, in order to contribute to planning for the future and to ensure that this icon is preserved and restored for future generations.”

Visit this highly informative new website at www.slwa.wa.gov.au/swan_river

Jennie Carter (information extracted from SLWA website)



Children fishing near South Perth, 1972. Stevenson Kinder Scott (courtesy Batty Library 347245PD)

Dead Reckoning Online

The eagerly awaited web version of Steve Howell’s popular *Dead Reckoning: how to find your way through the genealogical jungle of Western Australia* is now online at www.slwa.wa.gov.au/dead_reckoning.

This fully revised publication has drawn on the resources of the Batty Library and the State Records Office to produce the most comprehensive guide available for researching Western Australian topics. As an online resource it can be regularly updated and kept current. Links to forms, Google maps, other websites, etc. are available for a more comprehensive search. For those without their own computer access, you will find computers available at local libraries and Telecentres throughout the State.

For further information please contact: Sarah Brown; Tel: (08) 9427 3217, Email: sarah.brown@slwa.wa.gov.au, or Linda Frederick; Tel: (08) 9427 3151 Email: linda.frederick@slwa.wa.gov.au

Jennie Carter (information extracted from SLWA website)

Launch of Oral History Digitisation Project

This exciting new project was launched by the Hon. John Day MLA, Minister for Culture and the Arts on Tuesday 15 December. An initiative of the Friends of Battye Library in collaboration with the Oral History Association of Australia (WA Branch), the project has been funded by Lotterywest with support from the State Library of WA. The project will preserve 7,500 hours of oral history interviews held in the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History and 200 voices will be made available on the State Library's website. All the digitised voice recordings will be accessible to the public.

The grant will be managed by a stakeholder group, the Oral Historical Records Rescue Group (OHRRG). Members of OHRRG represent the Friends of Battye Library (Inc), the Oral History Association of Australia (WA Branch) inc, the Professional Historians Association (PHA), the Royal West Australian Historical Society (RHWAS), and the Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS).

Mary Anne Jebb (Convenor, OHRRG)

Lindsay Peet honoured

At a function held on 17 November, the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) honoured Friends of Battye and History Council member, Lindsay Peet, with the 'Gem of time' award which is conferred to acknowledge the contribution of outstanding men and women to the recording, collection, and preservation of Western Australia's history. Lindsay is a generous supporter and contributor to the State's heritage collections. Over many years he has donated important and valuable collections of original materials, including personal papers and photographs to the Battye Library and State Records Office archives. In addition he has contributed enormously to the Library's published works, ephemera, and map collections.

Lindsay has researched and written authoritatively on aspects of World War Two as well as the history of real estate development in Western Australia. He was instrumental in the establishment and management of the highly successful Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) Project which with a \$3million grant from Lotterywest, preserved historic newspapers, photographs and films held in the Battye Library.

Jennie Carter

A Celebration of the Life of Rica Erickson AM, D.Litt. Cit.WA (Arts)

Hundreds of friends, colleagues and admirers gathered on a beautiful sunny morning at the Water Garden Pavilion, Botanic Garden, Kings Park on Wednesday 9 December to join Rica's family in presenting a fitting tribute to this remarkable Western Australian. Eulogies were presented by Geoff Bolton, Alex George, Pamela Statham Drew, Lennie McCall, Dom Chris Power, and other friends and colleagues. Rica (1908-2009) will be long remembered and revered for her many contributions to Western Australian history, botany, environmental preservation and community service. At the celebration, it was announced that plans are underway to make one of her most distinguished achievements, the Dictionary of Western Australians, available online.

Jennie Carter

Cultural Ministers Council ceases funding Collections Council of Australia

The Cultural Ministers Council met in Adelaide on 9 October 2009, and one of the outcomes was the decision to end its funding of the CCA. Whilst money will be provided for a transitional period and a working group will oversee the collecting sector in future.

The Collections Council of Australia was established in 2004 with the vision of "ensuring Australia's collections will always inspire, amaze, inform and delight Australians and the world". Its aims included communicating common issues to the government, fostering collaboration and development in the sector, promoting high standards of performance and efficiency via education and training, and formulating benchmarks and standards. Key achievements were holding a summit on Digital Collections in 2006, releasing National standards for Museums and Galleries in 2008, and creating the assessment tool Significance 2.0.

This decision was met with surprise and dismay by the CCA, and criticised by the Opposition.

Leith Robinson

Forthcoming events

Kim Beazley to speak at the State Library

Kim Beazley talks about "Father of the House" and other anecdotes on life and the universe at the State Library of Western Australia. He will discuss his challenging role recording the audio version of the book titled "Father of the House: the memoirs of Kim E Beazley". The book was written by his father and is an inside story of one of Australia's longest serving and most influential Ministers in Federal Parliament.

In addition to his many accomplishments in the political arena, Kim Beazley spent nine weeks with a member of the Association for the Blind of WA Audio Production team recording and finalising the audio for the novel.

Where: State Library of Western Australia
Address: 25 Francis St, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth
Location: State Library Theatre on the ground floor
When: Friday January 8th, 2010
Time: 12:30pm start
Cost: FREE
RSVP Recommended: Phone: 9427 3151, or, events@slwa.wa.gov.au

For further information please contact: Sue North; Tel: (08) 9427 3206, Email: sue.north@slwa.wa.gov.au or Linda Frederick; Tel: (08) 9427 3151 Email: linda.frederick@slwa.wa.gov.au.

RWAHS Annual book sale - books wanted

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society's (RWAHS) next popular second-hand annual book sale will be held on Saturday 27 March 2010. Donations of books are greatly welcomed. They can be brought into Stirling House, or arrangements can be made for some to collect them. The booksale is an excellent opportunity to discover treasures and find yourself a bargain.

Friends of Battye Library - meetings and speakers for 2010

9 March - Dr Pamela Staham Drew and Jacqueline O'Brien - *The Wittenoom story*.

11 May - Prof Bob Reece - *Discovering Robert Menli Lyon*.

13 July - Oral History Records Rescue Group (OHRRG) - *Saving our oral history heritage*.

14 September - June Caunt - *Post war migration experiences*.

23 November - Jennie and Bevan Carter - *Writing the history of Armadale*.

Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc events

10 January	Convict Group	1.00 pm
17 January	South West Europe Group	1.30 pm
	Irish Group	2.00 pm
6 February	Master Genealogist Group	11.00 am
8 February	Lunchtime discussion <i>Floods, Famines & Pestilence</i>	12 noon
9 February	Education - Beginners course	9.45 am
13 February	Computer Interest Group	11.00 am
14 February	LIBRARY OPEN	1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
20 February	Victorian Group	10.00 am
21 February	South Australia Group	2.00 pm
27 February	Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group	10.30 am
28 February	Scottish Group	2.00 pm
6 March	London & Home Counties Group	11.00 am
8 March	Lunchtime - <i>Famine orphans</i>	12 noon

Publicise Your 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: 10 February 2010

Oral History Courses

The Oral History Association of Australia (WA Branch Inc) will be conducting oral history beginners' interviewing courses at the National Trust Headquarters, West Perth from 9am to 4.30pm on the following Saturdays during 2010:

- 13 February;
- 13 March;
- 8 May
- 14 August and
- 13 November.

These courses provide the foundations for those wishing to set up an oral history project whether it be for a family history, a community history; or for the purposes of a research project. The Beginners course covers the importance of ethical practice and informed consent when undertaking interviews and gives participants practical information and tips for setting up the interview, conducting the interview and finalising the interview.

Participants have the opportunity to conduct a practice interview in pairs and to discuss the interview experience. Where possible, practice is given on digital recording equipment. However, please note that this is a beginners' course and not a digital equipment workshop.

The cost of the full day workshop is \$88 and this includes notes, the Oral History Association Handbook and a DVD. Coffee and tea is provided but participants must BYO their own lunch. There is parking available at the venue.

For an application form and/or further details, please contact Doug Ayre on Mob. 0430 405 633 or email: history@westnet.com.au

Historical Trips and Tours

At this time of year many History Council members will have visitors from overseas, interstate and intrastate and it is a good opportunity to explore our city and surrounds. If members have experienced a tour that they would recommend to other History Council members, perhaps you could let us know? You might even want to write a short article for our next newsletter.

Similarly, if you have been part of a tour that you feel presented information that was not historically accurate, then perhaps you could let us know and we can write to the tour company.

Unfortunately, the notice for our Two Feet and A Heartbeat Walking tour of East Perth was too short to get the required numbers. We hope to run this on a Sunday next year – perhaps in February or March. If you are interested in joining History Council members, friends and family for a walking tour of East Perth, please register your interest with our Executive Officer at office@historycouncilwa.org.au

Here is some information provided on the Two Feet tour of the Perth city:

Two Feet & a Heartbeat Walking Tours are a fantastic way to explore Perth. The walk is an entertaining and informative insight into the city, led by an outgoing guide who is passionate about Perth.

We specialise in evening walks to take advantage of the cool weather and to give outstanding photo opportunities. Not to mention showing off the City of Lights at night! The tour begins at the Perth Town Hall and winds its way through the CBD and finishes in Northbridge at Rosie O'Grady's, with a free drink to help you kick on. You also get a free unique Two Feet & a Heartbeat souvenir!

Your tour guide provides you with a running commentary on historical, cultural, architectural and abstract stories that have shaped modern day Perth.

The Two Feet Tour will leave you extremely satisfied, whether you are visiting from over east, overseas or even if you a local who wants to dig a little deeper into our rich history.

For more information, visit www.twofeet.com.au

Julia Wallis

Websites of interest

Friends of Battye Library Inc.

The new Friends of Battye Library website is now online and is well worth a visit.

www.friendsofbattyelibrary.org.au

Western Australia Now & Then website update

If you access the *Western Australia Now & Then* website please note that it is moving to a new, easier to remember web address. www.wanowandthen.com The site will be fully uploaded by 5 December 2009.

Marc, Rosabelle & Dorothy

Trove

A new search initiative from the National Library of Australia. Trove is a new discovery experience focused on Australia and Australians. It supplements what search engines provide with reliable information from Australia's libraries, archives and museums. Records in Trove are a copy of the records in the Australian National Bibliographic Database (including the Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts, and Music Australia), Picture Australia, Australian Research Online, Australian Newspapers 1803-1954, PANDORA and Australia Dancing . Some external data sources will also be available. If you are researching in the fields of the social sciences, literature, local or family history, or need inspiration for your school assignment, then this is the tool for you. trove.nla.gov.au/

Living Histories Volume 2

This free e-book containing 564 WA seniors' personal stories and pictures about their lives in WA in the 1950s is now available online. This new edition has been further enhanced with original photographs from the State Library of Western Australia's collections. www.seniorcard.wa.gov.au/livinghistories/ .

The move to the e-book format for Volume 2 enabled all 564 contributors to be included in the new edition and allows them to share their memories directly over the internet with family, friends, all Western Australians and even the rest of the world, including relatives overseas. Copies of the e-book on CD-ROM are also available for loan at all local public libraries. The Living Histories program is an initiative of the Department for Communities in partnership with *Have A Go News*, as a tribute to all Western Australia's seniors.

Jane Jones

Community Liaison Librarian, State Library of Western Australia

Creating and Keeping Your Digital Treasures: A User Guide

Working with digital objects such as Word files and photographs has become a part of daily life for almost everyone. 'Creating and Keeping Your Digital Treasures: A User Guide' produced by the State Library of WA provides guidelines on quality, file formats and best practice for creating, naming and storing digital objects. We hope this document proves to be useful for anyone who collects digital objects, from individuals creating personal collections of digital photographs through to organisations building their own digital archives. The document is freely downloadable via our website http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/digital_treasures and feedback would be appreciated: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jPHpSmSUdQ7EYa50hNruww_3d_3d . The form should take no more than five to ten minutes to complete.

Western Australian Place Names and Addressing

Western Australian place names reflect the state's diverse history and culture. The Geographic Names Committee, supported by Landgate, administers the naming of towns, suburbs and roads, plus geographical features such as hills, rivers, and lakes. Place name information is held within the GEONOMA data set, which is updated on a daily basis. Covering the entire state, the data set includes information on the position, origin, meaning and classification of a name. The information can be provided either in hard copy or digital, report or plot form, using roads, topographical features or administrative boundaries as selection criteria. www.landgate.wa.gov.au/corporate.nsf/web/Western+Australian+Place+Names+and+Addressing

Picture Australia's slideshow trails

The new trails blaze a path through vast tracts of Australia's visual heritage: you can travel Antarctica with Mawson, see some of Australia's finest cartoonists, discover how advertising has changed over time and find out about racing in Australia. Check out the trails at www.pictureaustralia.org/trails/slideshows.html Created in partnership with The Learning Federation (TLF), each trail is accompanied by educational text that builds resources for the upcoming national curriculum.

This national collaboration addresses the fact that the digital age and new technology have eroded the boundaries that previously separated schools from cultural institutions and have opened up new opportunities for collaboration. Picture Australia contributors who have supported this pilot project include: the Australian War Memorial, State Library of South Australia, State Library of Tasmania, State Library of New South Wales, State Library of Western Australia, State Library of Queensland, Australian National University, National Archives of Australia, Swinburne University of Technology and the National Library of Australia.

Contact Fiona Hooton fhooton@nla.gov.au for further information.

Vanish

Computing and communicating through the Web makes it virtually impossible to leave the past behind. College Facebook posts or pictures can resurface during a job interview; a lost or stolen laptop can expose personal photos or messages; or a legal investigation can subpoena the entire contents of a home or work computer, uncovering incriminating or just embarrassing details from the past.

This program was developed by the University of Washington Computer Science & Engineering. The research seeks to protect the privacy of past, archived data. As with the original prototype, we stress that we are releasing the prototype for research purposes. The Vanish prototype should only be used for experimental purposes, and we encourage researchers to analyze and improve upon it. vanish.cs.washington.edu/index.html

[These sorts of programs are a highly disturbing challenge for archivists and historians of the future! For a different view see the news items below - editor]

International Collaboration to Close the Digital Curation Gap

Washington, DC-Scientists, researchers, and scholars across the world generate vast amounts of digital data, but the scientific record and the documentary heritage created in digital form are at risk -- from technology obsolescence, from the fragility of digital media, and from the lack of baseline practices for managing and preserving digital data.

The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) School of Information and Library Science, working with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and partners in the United Kingdom are collaborating on the Closing the Digital Curation Gap (CDCG) project to establish practices for the storage, maintenance, and preservation of digital data to help ensure their enhancement and continuing long-term use.

The Digital Curation Manual, which is maintained by the DCC, will be updated and expanded www.dcc.ac.uk/resource/curation-manual/chapters and the Digital Curation Exchange web portal will receive support (digitalcurationexchange.org). Through these efforts, the CDCG project will lay the foundation that will inform future training, education, and practice. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.

Conservation and Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Washington, DC-On October 31, 2009, 59 cultural heritage leaders from 32 countries, including representatives of Africa, the Middle East, South America, and Asia, unanimously passed the Salzburg Declaration on the Conservation and Preservation of Cultural Heritage (ims.gov/pdf/Salzburg_Declaration%20.pdf). The declaration was the culmination of "Connecting to the World's Collections: Making the Case for Conservation and Preservation of our Cultural Heritage," the Salzburg Global Seminar (SGS) held October 28 - November 1, 2009 under the auspices of the U.S. federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and SGS.

Compiled by Jennie Carter

Conferences, seminars and workshops

The third Australasian History of Social Welfare Workshop

18-19 February 2010. University of New South Wales, Sydney.

We invite proposals for papers in any aspect of Australasian welfare history – including its intersections with the histories of gender, war, race, childhood, medicine, religion, volunteering and philanthropy. The workshops are open and lively gatherings of scholars from fields including history, politics, social work and social policy. The first workshop was held in Melbourne in February 2005, the second in Wellington, NZ in November 2007. Post-graduate students have made an important contribution and are very welcome. The workshop will feature a special plenary session reflecting on social welfare history in the 21st century featuring three of the founding Australian scholars in the field: Professor Stephen Garton, Professor Jill Roe and Professor Brian Dickey. Please send abstracts of 250 words max with your name and affiliation to A/Prof Melanie Oppenheimer or A/Prof Anne O'Brien, by 30 Oct 2009. See www.theaha.org.au/newsletters/2009/newsletter18.htm#WORKSHOP

'Isolated cases? 100 years of Australian medical research'

20 to 21 February 2010. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Sydney.

Thanks to the wide publicity that the conference has garnered, we now have an outstanding faculty of historians and researchers speaking at the meeting. This event comprises a one-day medical humanities conference and a one-day seminar marking 100 years of medical research in Australia. To submit a medical humanities abstract, download a flyer (www.cs.nsw.gov.au/rpa/museum/) or contact Claire Hooker (claireh@med.usyd.edu.au or 0430 116117). To view the comprehensive programme for the medical research conference, visit the website or contact Peter Hobbins (peter_hobbins@bigpond.com or 02 9569 5561) or Kathi Hillier (khillier@mail.usyd.edu.au or 02 9515-9201).

Kimberley History: People, exploration and development - The Kimberley Society (Inc) seminar

27 March 2010 - University Club, University of Western Australia

The Kimberley has a rich and varied history including over 50,000 years of Aboriginal occupation, epic tales of early European maritime exploration, frontier conflict, extreme hardships endured by the first European explorers and settlers, aborted settlements, gold rushes, cattle drives and Christian missionaries. This seminar covers them all.

For further information contact:

Hamish McGlashan (08) 9381 1698 or Jeff Gresham (08) 9388 0780. www.kimberleysociety.org

Outback & Beyond - The Future Of Historic Towns, Industrial Heritage And Pastoralism

22 – 25 April, 2010, Broken Hill, Australia

The three Conference Themes are Management of Historic Towns (general management issues in addition to local, national and world heritage listing of historic towns and associated protective mechanisms); Industrial Heritage (the management challenges of industrial infrastructure); Remote Pastoralism (the changing cultural landscapes and the technology of pastoralism). See website www.aicomos.com/2010-conference/

World heritage and tourism: Managing for the global and the local,

3-4 June 2010, Quebec City, Canada

900 sites are on the World Heritage List, which results either in greater promotion, with a management challenge of protection, conservation and dealing with increased numbers of tourists, or designation has not brought anticipated expansion in tourist numbers and associated investments. Some Conference themes:

- Community involvement in Site management
- Relations between intangible cultural heritage and Site management
- Shaping local, regional and national identities through Site inscription
- Legal rights and notions of 'ownership'
- Methods of Site evaluation

- Managing spiritual values and biodiversity
- The role of UNESCO and the political economies of designation

For further details on the conference at a later stage please visit www.tourism-culture.com OR www.fsa.ulaval.ca/tourisme.

Heritage 2010 - 2nd International conference on Heritage and Sustainable Development

22-26 June. City of Evora, Portugal

The Green Lines Institute is organising the international event 'Heritage 2010.

For further detailed information, please visit the conference Website at <http://www.heritage2010.greenlines-institute.org>. For further information on the Scientific Committee, please visit www.heritage2010.greenlines-institute.org/

Education and Empire—Sixth Galway Conference on Colonialism

24-26 June 2010. National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

Call for Papers: "Education and Empire." The aim of this interdisciplinary conference is to explore the role of education in shaping, promoting, and challenging imperial and colonial ideologies, institutions and processes throughout the modern world. We invite papers that address the role of educational institutions in shaping imperial, colonial and global processes; the relationship between imperialism, colonialism and the development of modern knowledge systems; education and the creation of professional diasporas; types and patterns of knowledge transfer; the insecurities or failures of imperial and colonial educational and knowledge practices; and transitions in educational practice. Please submit an abstract, of not more than 300 words, to Fiona Bateman and Muireann O'Cinneide before January 31, 2010. See www.conference.ie. email: heathd@tcd.ie.

19th Annual World History Association (WHA) Conference

24-27 June 2010. San Diego, USA

The 19th Annual WHA Conference will be held at the Handlery Hotel and Resort in Mission Valley, San Diego, thanks to the generous patronage of several area colleges and universities. The two themes of the conference will be "Gender in World History," and "The Pacific in World History."

The World History Association invites proposals from scholars and teachers around the world for panels, single papers, and roundtables on topics related to the conference's themes, "Gender in World History" and "The Pacific in World History." The Program Committee encourages mixed panels composed of K-12 teachers, university professors, and independent scholars in which cutting-edge scholarship is presented and then discussed as to how it might be introduced into the classroom, as well as panels devoted to research in progress and sessions dealing with the current scholarship of "big issues" in world history and how these issues might be brought to the classroom. Further information will soon be available at www.thewha.org.

XVI. International Oral History Conference in Prague, Czech Republic

7-11 July 2010. Prague

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. 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. See www.ioha2010prague.com

Australian Historical Association Biennial Conference - (Re)Viewing History

5 to 9 July 2010 - University of Western Australia and University of Notre Dame.

Registrations and the call for papers are now open. See the website www.ahareviewinghistory.com/. The AHA is seeking submissions of:

- * individual papers (20 minute presentation plus 10 minutes for questions)
- * panels of three related papers preferably with a nominated chair
- * '1000 words in a picture' - short papers (10 minute presentation time plus 5 minutes for questions) that interpret an image, artefact or place as an historical document.

Deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 March 2010.

(Re)Viewing History invites historians to assess the state of History. What are the debates? What are the challenges? How are academic historians responding to challenges?

The theme also invites discussion about popular interest in History as explored through films, literature and 'reality' documentaries. Do these modes challenge academic historians?

There are many sub-themes and presenters are encouraged to consider their area of interest from the perspective of ReViewing History. As the conference coincides with NAIDOC Week, papers dealing with Indigenous issues are especially welcome.

Compiled by Jennie Carter and Leith Robinson

History in the news – Did you see these stories?

"Celebrating 100 years", Western Suburbs Weekly, 3/11/09, p.12. Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club celebrates its centenary in December.

"Homeowner cleared over illegal demolition ", Western Suburbs Weekly, 3/11/09, p.12. The Town of Claremont's case against Deryck Foulner's demolition of his Federation home in Victoria Avenue was rejected.

"Singing praises of historic tune ", Western Suburbs Weekly, 3/11/09, p.20. Students from St Hilda's Anglican School recorded an 1831 anthem "Western Australian for me", plus 4 other tracks on a CD which will be released by the Swan River Pioneers 1829-1838 genealogical group.

"Mentors bring history to life," Subiaco Post, 7/11/09, p.32. Mentors from the School Volunteers Program will read with student stories from Living Histories, a collection of memories of 564 WA seniors.

"Wearne: A duchess's dream come true," Subiaco Post, 17/10/09, p.34. Meath Wing at the Wearne hostel in Cottesloe celebrates its centenary on October 24. Wearne hostel is listed on the register of heritage places, and the duchess of Meath was a prominent benefactress.

"RAC shares its cartographic heritage", Horizon, Issue 14, October-November 2009, p.11 The RAC has donated its old maps, guides and photographs to the Battye library, to be made available to the public for research.

"SAS lifts veil of secrecy on triumphs and tragedies," The West Australian, 9/10/09, p.9 The historical precinct at the Campbell Barracks in Swanbourne has a collection covering the operations of the SAS since its inception in 1957.

"Learned history of bush schools," The West Australian, 9/10/09, p.14 Book launches of the history of the schools in Mt Marshall Shire.

"Time to reminisce over school's 75-year history," Stirling Times, 29/09/09, p.4 Scarborough Primary School celebrates 75 years since it's opening on October 24.

Leith Robinson

Some new books

Black, David and Sone, Sachiko (Eds.). *An enduring friendship: Western Australia and Japan: past, present and future*. Crawley : Westerly Centre, 2009.

Curthoys, Ann and McGrath, Ann (Eds.). *Writing histories: imagination and narration*. Clayton, Vic.: Monash University ePress, 2009.

De Vries, Susanna. *Females on the fatal shore: Australia's brave pioneers*. Brisbane, Pirgoss Press, 2009.

Fitzgerald, Ross. *Under the influence: a history of alcohol in Australia*. Sydney : ABC Books, 2009.

Keneally, Thomas. *Australians. Volume 1, Origins to Eureka*. Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2009.

Melleuish, Gregory. *The power of ideas: essays on Australian politics & history*. North Melbourne : Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2009.

Oliver, Bobbie (Ed.). *Labour history in the new century*. Perth : Black Swan Press, 2009.

Remembering the Wars: The importance and care of Western Australian War Memorials. Black Swan Press: Bentley, 2009.

Russell, John, Kirkpatrick, Rod and Isaacs, Victor. *Australian newspaper history : a bibliography*. [electronic resource] Middle Park, Qld.: Australian Newspaper History Group, 2009.

Seal, G. & Smith, S. *Place and people: New dimensions in regional research*. Bentley : Black Swan Press, 2009.

South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council, Host, John and Owens, Chris. *'It's still in my heart, this is my country': The single Noongar claim history*. Crawley : UWA Press, 2009.

Stephens, Tony. *The last Anzacs: lest we forget*. North Fremantle : Fremantle Press, 2009.

Leith Robinson

Some dates in WA History

DECEMBER

- 5 December 1938 Karrakatta cemetery opens.
- 9 December 1892 Trades and Labour Council of WA formed after a false start in 1891.
- 11 December 1834 First wool export from WA to the UK (3 440 kgs); Indigenous trackers used for the first time to find a boy lost in bush in Fremantle.
- 19 December 1885 The weekly newspaper *Western Mail* begins publication (in 1955 it becomes *The Countryman*.)
- 19 December 1897 First publication of *The Sunday Times*.
- 24 December 1904 Opening of His Majesty's Theatre with production of 'Forty Thieves'.
-

JANUARY

- 1 January 1830 First liquor licenses issued.
- 1 January 1887 The first race meeting contesting the Perth Cup.
- 3 January 1911 Joseph J. Hammond makes the first powered aircraft flight in WA at Perth.
- 5 January 1833 First issue of *Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal* (later *The West Australian*)
- 6 January 1830 First recorded burial in East Perth cemetery – John Mitchell of the 63rd regiment.
- 13 January 1903 Dame Nellie Melba's first concert in Perth.
- 14 January 1856 Last public hanging takes place in front of Perth Gaol.
- 18 January 1830 Possibly the first marriage in WA – of James Knight and May A. Smith
- 28 January 1851 Swan River Mechanics Institute founded – President J.S.Roe.
- 28 January 1902 Claremont Teacher's College opens.
- 29-31 January 1934 Race riots in Kalgoorlie.

FEBRUARY

- 2 February 1832 Chipper's leap at Greenmount: John Chipper and Reuben Beacham are attacked by Aborigines. Beacham is killed but Chipper escapes death by leaping from a rock.
- 3 February 1869 Arrival of first Royal visitor, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, aboard HMS *Galatea*.
- 7 February 1832 First meeting of WA's Legislative Council
- 7 February 1914 The Crawley Baths open.
- 18 February 1869 Convict John Boyle O'Reilly escapes from Bunbury aboard the American whaler *Gazelle*.
- 20 February 1836 First issue of the weekly Government Gazette.
- 27 February 1830 First issue of the newspaper *Fremantle Journal and General Advertiser*
- 28 February 1911 Perth Modern School opens as the first state secondary school in WA.

Leith Robinson from various sources