

# newsletter

History  
OF WA  
Council

## President's column – Sue Graham-Taylor:

Professor Kim Beazley's presentation at our AGM was a powerful start to our new year, providing inspiration and much food for thought. He clearly highlighted the importance of history and history studies and confirmed the History Council's important role as we move into 2008/09. Although my past year as President has been challenging, it has also been enjoyable.

The support and hard work of Councillors and also the members of our three sub committees, has been fantastic. I thank you all and take this opportunity to particularly thank those who are stepping down. Dr Bobbie Oliver, Jennie Carter, Glen Stasiuk and Associate Professor Jenny Gregory have all played key roles over a long period and will be missed. All have offered their continued support.

There will be several new faces on the Committee: Nick Drew will take over as Treasurer from Robert Mitchell who remains on the Committee, Sue Hart will be Secretary, Professor Ed Jaggard and Julie Lunn are new Councillors and our new Indigenous representative is Shauna Hill.

I urge you all to take part in the Council's activities over the coming year as we have some exciting events planned. Should you wish to join any of our Sub Committees please contact Julia Wallis, our hard working Executive Officer.

### History Council calendar

September to December 2008

**October 17 History in the Pub (Hyde Park Hotel)**

**October 29 Committee meeting**

**December 3 Christmas party at Heathcote**

**December 10 Committee meeting**

**December 12 Newsletter published**

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## 6th Annual General Meeting of the History Council of Western Australia

**Tuesday 2 September 2008 at 5.00pm**

Ground Floor Lecture Theatre, State Library of Western Australia  
Perth Cultural Centre, Northbridge



This year the History Council of Western Australia was thrilled to have Professor Kim Beazley as their AGM speaker. The title of Professor Beazley's talk was "The influence of good history studies on a career in public life".

Professor Beazley graduated with a BA (Hons) from the University of Western Australian in 1973. He then studied at University College, Oxford as WA's Rhodes Scholar, graduating with a Masters in Philosophy in 1976. A more recent graduate from the same course is Chelsea Clinton.

Professor Beazley's talk centred around his studies at Oxford University during the Cold War and the influence of his revered tutors on his future career as Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence from 1983-1984 and then Minister for Defence from 1984-1990. During the period of the Cold War, there were two schools of thought: one was that the West should enhance their nuclear war fighting capabilities in order to combat any threat (especially that perceived by Russia and other communist countries); the other (favoured by his tutors) was that it was not an acceptable outcome to use nuclear weapons and that diplomatic discourse should be used to control the spread of nuclear weapons.

Professor Beazley explained that the second approach concentrated on studying behavioural and functional processes – the need to know how people would react and why. This was tied up with understanding who these people were, where they had come from and their experiences. It was Professor Beazley's view that a successful diplomat required an understanding of history and politics in order to negotiate with different countries and governments.

In the second half of his talk, Professor Beazley explained the use of Australian intelligence gathering satellite tracking stations such as Pine Gap and Narunga, how they helped the United States and how they gave Australia some diplomatic leverage.

It was heart warming to the audience to hear that history was important in recording memory and that it was crucial for a diplomatic to have a good knowledge of historical antecedents. Furthermore, Professor Beazley strongly advocated the writing of decent histories and decent history teaching.

A short period for questions was followed by refreshments in the Kimberley Room.

Julia Wallis

## State Records Office Lunchtime Seminar

### “The Clarence settlement”: Presentation by Dr Shane Burke

On Tuesday 10 June a large crowd gathered for the third of the State Records Office’s 2008 lunchtime seminars. Dr Shane Burke was to speak of the records he used in relation to his discovery and excavation of the early WA settlement site of Clarence. Dr Burke, an archaeologist from the University of Notre Dame Australia and his team had recently featured in the media, due to their success. His claims have generated some debate, if not controversy, and all these factors coalesced in attracting a full-house.

He explained that occupation of Clarence (geographically near present day Mt Brown) occurred between late 1829 and late 1830. The SRO’s records show many prominent names in WA’s past are connected to Clarence’s brief history, including Parker, Keats, Tuckey, Leeder, Sutherland (who did surveys) and Smythe and Austin (who both did maps).

The existence of two places named Clarence – at Mt Brown and Woodman Point only 5½ kilometres apart - had confused other researchers (although Dr Shane also noted the southernmost area was referred to as ‘Peel town’). Before his breakthrough in locating the camp near Mt Brown, he had been frustrated by the complete dearth of artefacts in an area that supposedly had 500 people at the Woodman Point ‘Clarence’.

Dr Burke described some of the features of the town when it was operating – for instance tents rather than buildings were most often erected, but these were very large and hard-wearing: They were made by Edgington’s of London who was also the official British Army manufacturer. He and his team had found hearths or cooking places at the site, and records showed it also had a “dead house” or morgue. Such a requirement along with settler’s letters and Colonial Secretary Office papers revealed things were not going well: Dr Alexander Collie reported dysentery and scurvy occurred, and people wanted to leave. However they lacked funds to return to England. When the site eventually proved too inhospitable (and after many colonists died) the remaining residents moved to Perth and some to Guildford.

The site was granted a protection order from the government in May 2008, and the registration of its 40½ hectares is one of the biggest in WA’s history. Whilst walkers cannot be stopped from entering the area, fines of up to \$10 000 apply if there is unofficial digging. So far a vast quantity of artefacts has and is being unearthed, and the 15 to 20 000 items include ceramics, keys, pins, scissors, brass thimbles and military buttons.

Dr Burke’s talk featured photographs and maps and reproductions of SRO records, and he spoke in a knowledgeable yet accessible manner. Time flew past, and it was with surprise and regret that the audience realised the session was soon to end (All are limited to 1 hour). Dr Burke finished his speech promising more information about the site now and in future as the dig and research progress. Question time closed the event, with queries ranging from the demographics of the settlers to the options for displaying the artefacts found. It is likely that the library at Notre Dame will showcase them, but he acknowledged the importance of allowing all West Australians the opportunity to view the collection.

The organisational efforts of the SRO – in particular Senior Archivist Gerard Foley – are greatly appreciated by staff, students and the public alike. All are welcome, and History Council members are reminded that two of their fellow members will soon be speaking: Jennie Carter on Thursday 11 September and Dr Jean Chetkovich on Tuesday 21 October 2008.

**Postscript:** In July 2008 The Historical Society of Cockburn, custodians of the Azelia Ley Museum in Manning Park, Hamilton announced the opening of their new exhibit of the Clarence artefacts. The Azelia Ley Museum is open to the public on Sunday afternoons from 1.30 – 4.30pm. Group viewings during the week can be arranged by ringing the museum on 9418 6648, Monday to Wednesday between 9.00am – 4.00pm The cost is \$1.00 adults and 50c children.

Leith Robinson

## **The Enigma of Clarence**

### **Address to the RWAHS by Dr Pamela Statham Drew and Ruth Marchant James**

The issue of the whereabouts of the early settlement at Clarence was also the topic of a paper entitled *The Enigma of Clarence : Woodman's Point or Mt Brown* which was presented on 18 June 2008 at the Royal Western Australian Historical Society headquarters at Stirling House in Nedlands. According to the authors Pamela Statham Drew and Ruth Marchant James., it is generally accepted that evidence exists for the fact that at one stage two Clarences existed in 1830. Pamela and Ruth's paper acknowledged both sites but advanced a case in favour of Woodman's Point being the original site of the short-lived town of Clarence.

It appears that as early as 16 December 1829, the Survey Department reported that surveys were being made at Woodman's Point for the reception of Mr Peel's immigrants. Surveyor General Roe's Map of 1829 which was published by the Admiralty in 1831, shows the waters around the Mt Brown Site to have been unsurveyed while the water around Woodman Point had been surveyed and showed deep water. Pamela and Ruth argued that Captains of the *Gilmore* and the *Hooghly* would not knowingly have ventured into unsurveyed waters.

Also discussed was the naming of Lake Munster behind Woodman's Point. As the Duke of Clarence was also the Earl of Munster the two names are linked. From this, the speakers reasoned that the Town of Clarence and Lake Munster, would therefore have been close together at Woodman's Point.

The final point made in the talk was that many of the maps Pamela and Ruth used to illustrate their paper, and which were drawn over the period 1830 to the 1960s, put the town of Clarence at Woodman's Point. Copies of the maps can be viewed in the Royal Western Australian Historical Society's library.

The speakers concluded by welcoming further debate on this subject as part of the continuous quest for answers to riddles that sometimes arise in the course of historical research.

Jennie Carter

## **“The City and the River: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow”**

On Monday 9 June 2008 the State Library of Western Australia hosted a public forum about the controversial issue of developing Perth’s Swan River foreshore. This event arose from the awarding of the inaugural Battye Fellowship by the State Library as part of the Battye Library’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations. The mission of the library and hence the award is to encourage excellence in research, and in particular, WA work. The winner was Dr Sue Graham-Taylor, our History Council President, and her topic “Swan River: History of a Community Icon”.

The evening was opened by State Librarian Margaret Allen, and was to showcase a number of different views, drawn from various parties involved in the history, care and planning of the river. The audience would have the chance to voice their opinions later in the night.

There was a large turnout, demonstrating the importance of this issue to WA at large. The theatre was almost full, and attendees were an equal mix of men and women, with a range of ages and backgrounds apparent. Many pamphlets were offered at the door, including tips on how to keep the Swan and the Canning Rivers healthy when fishing or boating and in everyday life – for example, use phosphorus-free detergents.

Sue quickly outlined the program before first speaker Dr Noel Nannup gave a “Welcome to Country”. He then proceeded to give the Aboriginal view of the River. He explained his people’s connection, such as where you are born determines your responsibility for that tributary. He urged the community to include his people in future planning in recognition of the wisdom they may offer.

Next was Russell Kingdom, an urban developer from the City of Perth. He described the numerous plans and concepts that had been made for the foreshore, spanning the years 1991 to 2008, and the various foci of each. He also outlined historical activity - covering pre-European settlement to the 1963-67 reclamation for the freeway – to give the plans context.

Russell’s presentation was followed by that of Rod Hughes, representing the Swan River Trust. He told that the issues affecting the Swan had multiple causes, including conditions that fostered algae growth, waste going into the river, and the creation of Fremantle Harbour and the subsequent altering of water currents. There had been periodic health warnings issued for people and animals since early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Rod spoke of the Government programs, funds and laws aiming to bridge the present-day situation to the desired one, and ended by indicating all parties and elements are ready to go forward.

A combined lecture followed, begun by Ian Hocking, heritage consultant and architect planner working for Landcorp’s Waterfront Project and Phil Slater, the Director of Landcorp’s Project for Perth Water.. Understandably, Ian’s content was slanted to the heritage side, in contrast to Phil’s emphasis of modern aspects. However, both mentioned the need to tame roads and connect the entire district from the Cultural Centre to the foreshore. Phil provided details of the State Government’s and ambitious proposal, which features a swan-shaped island, a sky garden and a cable car.

Lastly, Sue Graham-Taylor herself gave an update on the progress of her research. She highlighted fascinating aspects of the area’s history, such as the use of Perth wharves and the existence of a fairground at the foot of William Street after World War 1.

Most of the presenters used extensive aids - usually PowerPoint slides of photographs, maps and plans. Additionally, quite a few had personal anecdotes – for instance Ian Hocking remembered prawning in the

Swan River. Nearly all said now is a chance to get things right: The phrases “connect” and “activate the city and the river” were commonly used, along with “commemorating heritage” in the process.

All speakers reappeared for a panel discussion (Note Russell Kingdom was replaced by his colleague Tracey due to his other commitments). The questions often queried the height of the development, with people wanting to know if high-rise buildings seen as the only option or had staggered levels been considered. Plus attendees wondered were the consequences of climate change prepared for (e.g. rising water levels), and with the domination of the motor car, had this been incorporated into the plans also? Most answers were fielded by Phil Slater.

The forum was somewhat abruptly and regrettably concluded due to time and venue constraints. Sue Graham-Taylor advised that similar discussions would be scheduled in the future. She welcomed being contacted about the project, and indicated her next stage was to record oral histories.



State Library of Western Australia

*Langley Park looking west, 1930s, Image courtesy Battye Library, 031645PD.*

Leith Robinson

### **Make it a date!**

The History Council’s popular ‘History in the Pub’ is on again at the Hyde Park Hotel on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 6.30pm. Come along and hear Glenys McDonald and Wes Olsen, who have both written books on the subject, talk about locating the wreck of the *Sydney* and their involvement in its discovery.

## **The Australian Historical Association Conference**

A large contingent of Western Australian historians attended the Australian Historical Association biennial conference held in Melbourne from 7 to 10 July 2008. Many from our state presented, including Associate Professor Sandra Wilson and Dr Ann Hunter from Murdoch, Dr Bobbie Oliver and Dr Sian Supski from Curtin University, and Dr Peggy Brock from Edith Cowan University. Dean Asko from Murdoch University and Dr Felicity Morel Ednie-Brown of the Council and from the Northbridge History Project gave papers too, while the University of Western Australia contingent was strong, with five postgraduate students - Jane Davis, Sue Hart, Cindy Lane, Ruth Morgan and Sarah Brown (now working at both UWA and the State Library of WA) - all presenting.

Additionally, Emeritus Professor Norman Etherington from the University of Western Australia spoke at the book launch of *Evangelists of Empire? Missionaries in Colonial History*. (Published by the eScholarship Research Centre in collaboration with the School of Historical Studies, the University of Melbourne, July 2008 <http://msp.esrc.unimelb.edu.au/shs/missions>.)

The theme of the conference was 'Locating History' and participants were invited to look for meaning in history in unusual places, and to think geographically about the past. The keynote speakers engaged with the idea of place, from Dr Grace Karskens' 'Lost Geographies of Aboriginal Sydney', Professor Alexandra Walsham's 'The Reformation of the Landscape: Religion, Identity and memory in Early modern Britain and Ireland' to Professor Mae Ngai's 'Illegal Immigration to the United States: Origins and Consequences'. However, there was a general feeling that many other speakers did not address the theme directly. Nevertheless, the conference was enjoyable, with many opportunities to socialise with friends and interact professionally with colleagues.

Importantly for Western Australia, the next biennial conference will be held in Perth at the University of Western Australia in 2010. Hopefully Western Australian historians will be out in force to speak and listen at the conference.

### **Concurrent Session at AHA Conference: Meeting of all state councils**

During the conference the History Council of New South Wales hosted a meeting of state History Councils. (I represented our organisation). Various issues were discussed, including the perennial topics of funding and the role that History Councils have to play in promoting history matters. Difficulties of access to records, especially birth, death and marriage records also engendered lively debate. Delegates were interested to hear of the activities of the History Council of WA, especially the History in the Pub and other social functions.

It was agreed that all Councils would benefit from a closer relationship with each other. Jill Roe, President of the NSW Council, requested that the President of the WA Council send the WA newsletter for circulation to all states. NSW, as the senior Council, with considerable administrative capabilities, would investigate the best means by which Councils might remain in contact and aware of each other's activities and concerns.

Sue Hart

### **Heritage Penalties Ministerial Announcement**

In June, the Minister for Heritage, Hon Michelle Roberts MLA, made an important announcement regarding proposed changes to the range and scope of penalties available to protect heritage places and values. This announcement was timely given the general consensus of the Heritage Summit on 28/29 May that the rapid rise in land values and potential profits had diminished the effectiveness of both existing penalties and incentives.

In summarising the current situation, the Minister noted that penalties for illegal works on heritage-listed places in Western Australia were extremely low, and offered little deterrence to deliberate unauthorised destruction. Currently, under the Planning and Development Act the maximum penalty for an illegal works including demolition is \$50,000. Under the Heritage Act, the maximum penalty for unauthorised works on a State-Registered place is \$5,000.

Most heritage observers would agree that penalties in themselves are only one strategy but are an area meriting immediate action. If heritage penalties are not stringent and reflective of current property realities, as a community we continue to risk losing more of Western Australia's important heritage stock. Property values have escalated rapidly over the past decade, overtaking a penalty regime that was devised in the 1980s. Illegal demolition has generally been fairly limited in recent years, but there is the potential it will become more common given escalating land and property values.

The announcement by Minister Roberts gives hope that the new penalties will provide an effective deterrent. In particular they will bring WA into line with penalties provided in other states. (SA and Qld fines up to \$1.2million; Vic and NSW fines up to \$1.1million). Importantly there will be a range of penalties, not just monetary fines for example the placing of a moratorium on the site to stop development for a set number of years.

Penalties for State-Registered places will be provided under the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*.

- A monetary penalty up to \$1,000,000 and a daily penalty for continuing offences of \$50,000;
- A development moratorium up to 10 years; and
- Repair work (whereby the offender is obliged to make good the unauthorised works).

Penalties for heritage-listed places listed in town planning schemes will be 50% of the penalties that apply to places listed in the State Register.

Town planning scheme penalties will apply under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*.

- A monetary penalty up to \$500,000 and a daily penalty for continuing offences of \$25,000;
- A development moratorium up to 5 years; and
- Repair work (whereby the offender is obliged to make good the unauthorised works).

It is important to note that the new *Planning and Development Act* penalties will only apply to places listed in a Heritage List that form part of a town planning scheme. That is, the protection will not apply to places on a Municipal Inventory (MI) unless the place is also listed in a town planning scheme. MIs do not have statutory protection in themselves. From the perspective of procedural fairness it should also be noted that penalties applied will not be linked to the value of the property. It will be up to the courts to decide what is the appropriate penalty for a given situation.

While we appreciate the need for increased penalties, there are also many other aspects of our heritage legislation that need review. One is 'demolition by neglect'. The fact that the historic property The Cliffe, an 1894 wooden mansion, was recently removed from the State Heritage Register by State Parliament is a symbol of the fact that Western Australia needs a complete review of its heritage legislation.

Robert Mitchell and Neta Gill

### **Case Study – demolition of 5 Victoria Avenue, Claremont**

In August 2007, the historic Federation house (1907) located at 5 Victoria Avenue, Claremont, was demolished on a Sunday afternoon without approval. The house was listed in the Town of Claremont's heritage inventory and protected by the heritage provisions in the Claremont town planning scheme.

(Note: It was not in the State Register.) The house was in very good condition having been extensively restored in the 1990s by the previous owner.

The demolition appeared to have been carried out in the full knowledge that an application for approval (if sought), would likely have been refused. The maximum penalty that could be imposed of \$50,000 was small when compared with the value of the land, which was estimated at over \$3 million. The illegal demolition of 5 Victoria Ave caused a public outcry with calls for penalties to be increased.

### **History Teacher's Association of Australia - National Curriculum Update**

*On 27 June the National Curriculum Board (NCB) held its first forum, for 200 stakeholders, in Melbourne. HTAA was represented by its President, Paul Kiem. Thank you to Councillor Merredith Southee, herself a teacher, for forwarding his summary:*

By early 2009 the development of national courses in history will become an increasing focus of attention for all of those concerned with the future of our discipline.

There are some encouraging aspects of the early stages of the national curriculum development process. The NCB appears to be made up of well-qualified individuals who should be capable of providing the sort of educational leadership that will be required. The board members have made a point of making themselves accessible. The NCB's Development Paper uses some reassuring language: 'the curriculum should make clear to teachers what has to be taught', 'the curriculum needs to be feasible', 'the curriculum needs to be flexible' and 'the curriculum needs to be developed collaboratively'. Most importantly, there will be a lengthy period of consultation. There seems to be a genuine desire at the outset to engage with those who will be ultimately responsible for implementing national curriculum. This can only help to engender goodwill.

While it is clear that the 27 June forum was a necessary first step in the consultation process, the diversity of the 200 stakeholders represented and the lack of any clear parameters meant that the discussion was very wide-ranging. Smaller, more focused groups and the NCB's plan to produce a Position Paper and subject Framework Papers should greatly assist future discussions. What the 27 June forum did do was to offer many groups the opportunity to raise concerns or promote particular aspirations for national curriculum.

It is now time for the NCB to focus the discussion by clarifying some of the issues. Are we talking about the traditional discipline of history? Does 'national' mean 'mandatory' and will courses be prescribed for particular years of schooling? How many hours will national courses take up? Will history be able to offer additional electives or will the national courses themselves be electives? Some of these questions will already have been answered at the political level, presumably on 'evidence-based' criteria.

Not surprisingly, within the history teaching community we do not have absolute agreement about what we want. However, the challenge of presenting some form of reasonable consensus at a national level may be quite achievable. Most would agree, for example, on the need to improve the status of Australian history, the need to introduce more Asian history and the need to retain (or perhaps pool) the best of our senior courses. Very few would be seeking to impose hundreds of hours of history on primary school timetables and many would react with horror at the prospect of mandatory history in the senior years. All would agree on the need to apply expertise, vision and imagination to the creation of new courses (or the adaptation of existing courses).

It is hard not to see how a national approach to history curriculum does not present a great opportunity for primary and secondary teachers to work together, particularly for the benefit of Australian history. This would come from communication, resource sharing and, most urgently, the scoping and sequencing of topics and skills development.

Some of the anxiety surrounding national curriculum may arise out of the government's commitment to go ahead with the development of national courses in subjects other than Maths, English, Science and History. This may contribute to a jostling for perceived status and timetable space and fears about a crowded curriculum. It could reasonably be asked why we need more national courses beyond the four subjects already nominated. There is no reason, for example, why state developed courses could not operate beside national courses without there being any concerns about status or quality.

It needs to be emphasised that we are in a long stage of consultation. While the NCB will be issuing statements and conducting forums over coming months, it may be well into next year before any firm decisions are made. Teachers are encouraged to make submissions to their state HTAs and to keep in touch through the National Curriculum section of HTAA's website: <http://www.historyteacher.org.au>

### **Websites of interest**

#### Historic Australian Newspapers 1803 to 1954

The National Library of Australia in partnership with the State and Territory libraries have digitised and are placing online fully searchable early newspapers. At present, those for WA are the *Perth Gazette* (to date from 1833 to 1860) and the *West Australian* (to date from 1870 to 1900). More editions are being uploaded regularly. The National Library invites comments from users of the site to improve the service. <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

#### Archive CD Books

Provides access to rare print material for family and local historians, with Australian, New Zealand and international content: Facsimiles of original books and other records including social histories, electoral rolls, government and police gazettes, and biographical volumes.

See: <http://www.archivecdbooks.com.au>

#### Arrow Discovery Service

Searches 140 000 sources of Australian research produced by universities and other bodies

<http://search.arrow.edu> [Site hosted by National Library of Australia]

#### Convict Transportation Registers database

This database has been compiled from British Home Office (HO) records 1787-1867

Details over 123,000 out of the estimated 160,000 convicts sent to WA, NSW, Tasmania, Norfolk Island And Moreton Bay including soldier convicts.

<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts>

### **WA Post-graduate students report on their studies:**

#### *From Chris Owen*

I am currently working on two projects that relate to Western Australian History. Firstly, I am a part time Ph D student at UWA and my thesis is “*Weather hot, flies troublesome*”: Police in the Kimberley District 1882 – 1905”. This is a study of the implementation and role of police in quashing Aboriginal resistance (and indeed often their presence) in the Kimberley District during European colonization of this area. This thesis, based on a large amount of archival research, shows that the needs of the pastoral industry always

took precedence over Aboriginal welfare and how the Western Australian Government used the police to achieve these ends.

Secondly, through my work at the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, I have been editing what was the 'Expert History Report' by Dr John Host and myself used in the Native Title case commonly called the Single Noongar Claim. This claim supported the Native Title rights and interest of the Noongar people of the South West of WA, and a book is being published by UWA press in early 2009 as "*It's still in my heart this is my country*": The Single Noongar Claim History". I gave a paper on this matter at the recent Native Title Conference held in Perth, which can be viewed at:

<http://ntru.aiatsis.gov.au/conf2008/papers.html>.

### **Heritage Tourism In Australia: A Guide for Historical Societies By Dianne Snowden**

In May 2008 the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) published its most recent guide for members of Australian historical societies. Unlike previous guides, this 'book' has been published exclusively on the web and is available to everyone free of charge.

It is *Heritage Tourism in Australia: a guide for historical societies*. It is available on the FAHS website <http://www.history.org.au>

The FAHS commissioned Tasmanian author and genealogical researcher Dr Dianne Snowden to write the book. It was published with financial assistance from the New South Wales Heritage Council. (Department of Planning Heritage Branch, New South Wales, under its Heritage Incentives Program).

This publication reflects the growing interest in heritage tourism in Australia, and the vital role that the nearly 1000 local historical societies already play in facilitating access to local heritage, and will increasingly play in the future. Historical societies are major repositories of local knowledge and memory and through their collections, museums and advice do a great deal to make history and heritage available to both locals and visitors.

This guide is intended to assist them to work in partnerships with local authorities and tourist groups to develop local heritage in the promotion of tourism, and in the use of tourism to promote heritage.

This publication offers guidance and instruction on the following aspects:

- Developing recognition that heritage has become a major part of tourism in many regions of Australia
- Sourcing materials, information, expertise and guidance from other historical societies with special mention of *My Connected Community*
- Guidance to sensitising local societies to their capacity to contribute to local heritage tourism, such as publications, museums, heritage walks (both guided walks and pamphlet guides), heritage tours, signposts and plaques etc
- Working with local councils, tourism authorities etc to promote the heritage of the locality
- Devising heritage walks and other heritage activities for visitors
- Promoting the heritage of the local community and region
- Running historical museums and preparing heritage displays
- Publishing pamphlets and other heritage materials for tourists
- Producing heritage signs

Where possible or appropriate, bibliographical sources are included. <http://www.history.org.au>

(Promotional article submitted by Dr Helen Henderson, President, Federation of Australian Historical Societies Inc.)

## News from the State Records Office Of WA

Gerard Foley and the State Records Office of WA have kindly permitted the reproduction of the article below (from *Western Archives July 2008*)

### Richard Hartley - Margaret Medcalf Award 2008 Winner

On Wednesday morning 14 May 2008 at a ceremony in the State Library Theatre, Mr Chris Field, Western Australian Ombudsman and State Records Commissioner, announced Dr Richard Hartley as the winner of the Award. Richard won the Award for his book *River of Steel: A History of the Western Australian Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply 1903-2003*. He was presented with the prize of \$1000 by Chris Field and Margaret Medcalf.

The Margaret Medcalf Award honours the achievements of the second State Archivist and gives recognition to the hard work and dedication of Western Australia's community of researchers, historians and writers. The Award recognises the role they play in exploring, educating, debating, communicating and helping Western Australians understand our communal memory. At the ceremony the new Director of State Records, Ms Cathrin Cassarchis said that "in the context of our not only keeping archives, but using them, the criteria of the Margaret Medcalf Award give an important emphasis to how State archives have been used to offer new understandings of Australian history and society."

Nominations are for any work completed in the previous calendar year. Nominated works were judged against several selection criteria including the level of and originality of use of the State archives collection, how well archival sources were referenced and the level of contribution to knowledge. There were seven nominated works this year and the standard of entries was very high. The judges awarded two commendations in addition to the Award. These were:

Criena Fitzgerald for her article 'Compensating the Tubercular Miner: An Occupational Health Solution to a Public Health Problem' published in Volume 25 of *Studies in Western Australian History* and to Kellie Abbot and Celia Chesney for their article 'I am a poor woman': Gender, Poor Relief and the Poorhouse in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Western Australia' published in the same volume of *Studies in Western Australian History*.

The winning publication is *River of Steel* said by the judges to provide new insights into the work and lives of those who worked on the Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply scheme from 1903 to 2003. The judges agreed that this book makes a significant contribution to historical, cultural and engineering heritage knowledge.

The judges also commented that while the work contains a great deal of technical detail, they commended the author's very lively treatment of the subject matter. Well written, the author integrated the personalities of people into the story giving it great appeal for both the historian and the general reader, and indeed to an international audience.

*River of Steel* is published by Access press for the National Trust in association with the Water Corporation.

## Federal Budget: Some implications for the Heritage Sector

Performance targets include

- Place/Area listing (submitting for consideration one as world heritage, six as Commonwealth Heritage and ten as national heritage.
- Cooperative projects (three to be established with neighbouring countries)
- Funding management (All historic shipwreck programs implemented; thirty funded to conserve Indigenous Heritage )

Ongoing conservation, outreach, and interpretation in relation to

- Old Parliament House & National Portrait Gallery sites and collections

Achieving

- Equitable Geographic spread of exhibitions of significant Australian and international cultural material

New initiatives and provisions for

- The themes of Building Australia, Caring for Our Country and Better Regions
- Buying and promoting moveable heritage
- Some sites and buildings including PNG's Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges, Canberra's Albert Hall and Kakadu National Park.

Overall however, less funds have been allocated (Output Group 1.4 Conservation of natural indigenous and historic heritage subtotal), \$45 067 000 compared to last year's 47 785 000 - in particular the National Heritage Investment Initiative (NHII) is in its last year of operation and funds are even further reduced (this year \$200 000 versus last year \$3 450 000).

See <http://www.budget.gov.au/2008-09/index.htm>,

Summary compiled by Leith Robinson

## **2008 Heroes of Heritage**

### **Winners of the Heritage Council of WA's Heritage Awards for 2008.**

#### **Categories**

*Individual:* Mr John Viska

*Organisation:* Rockingham Museum and Rockingham District Historical Society Inc

*Conservation and or Interpretation of a Heritage-listed Place:* Caves House Yallingup

#### **June Australian Honours list**

*Medal (OAM) in the General Division:* Ms Valerie Anne Milne, for service to the community of Albany, particularly through the preservation of local history and heritage.

## Minutes of meetings

**JUNE:** Sue Graham-Taylor welcomed Doug Ayre, who was co-opted on to the History Council Committee until the AGM in September.

Committee member Bobbie Oliver tendered her resignation and informed Council that Julie Lunn had been nominated by the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History (Perth Branch) to replace her.

An invitation was received from Jeremy Dawkins, Chairman of the Western Australian Planning Commission, for a member of the History Council to attend a meeting of the Victoria Quay Planning Committee. Dianne Davidson agreed to represent the Council.

An invitation to represent the History Council of WA at the meeting of History Councils, held during the AHA Conference was accepted by Sue Hart.

A decision was made to develop a draft policy in relation to the issue of promotion, sponsorship and co-badging.

The theme for the 'History in the Pub event will be based on different aspects of the discovery of HMS *Sydney*. The three speakers will be Mike McCarthy, Glenys McDonald and Wes Olsen.

Felicity Morel-Ednie-Brown expressed her appreciation for the assistance given by History Council volunteers at the recent successful Northbridge Studies Day.

**AUGUST:** The History Council of WA continues to lobby for funds for the Government to provide a new and improved Archives Repository, and adequate funding for the Battye Library.

Material sent by the Northbridge History Project alerted History Council members about the Irish Open Day on 21 August.

Details of WA State Conference in Bunbury, to take place on 10-13 September, were forwarded by Jane King, Executive Officer, Museums of Australia.

An invitation was received from the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc) to attend the presentation of the Feasibility Study Recommendations for a proposed History House to be held on 20 August 2008.

After the election of committee members and office bearers at the AGM, Sue thanked retiring members, Robert Mitchell, Dr Bobbie Oliver, Jennie Carter and Associate Professor Jennie Gregory for the enormous contribution they have made to the work of the History Council of Western Australia.

The retiring treasurer, Robert Mitchell presented the audited statements for 2007/08 and reported that the History Council of WA was operating within budget. Robert reported that the new website is now operating.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to Lindsay Peet by members of the History Council.

History Council representative, Sue Graham-Taylor reported on her July attendance at the Northern Development Taskforce Workshop in Broome.

The history award segment included in the Premier's Book Awards will be announced on 21 November 2008.

*Summary compiled by Ruth Marchant James*

## **The new dark age – will digital records survive for historical research?**

Members might be interested in this article about the USA's disappearing digital records. It is alarming to note that the situation is no better here and despite the efforts of the State Records Office, there is still no digital records repository in Western Australia.

### **In Digital Age, Federal Files Blip Into Oblivion By Robert Pear**

Extracted from *The New York Times* 13 September 2008

WASHINGTON — Countless federal records are being lost to posterity because federal employees, grappling with a staggering growth in electronic records, do not regularly preserve the documents they create on government computers, send by e-mail and post on the Web.

Federal agencies have rushed to embrace the Internet and new information technology, but their record-keeping efforts lag far behind. Moreover, federal investigators have found widespread violations of federal record-keeping requirements.

Many federal officials admit to a haphazard approach to preserving e-mail and other electronic records of their work. Indeed, many say they are unsure what materials they are supposed to preserve.

This confusion is causing alarm among historians, archivists, librarians, Congressional investigators and watchdog groups that want to trace the decision-making process and hold federal officials accountable. With the imminent change in administrations, the concern about lost records has become more acute.

“We expect to see the wholesale disappearance of materials on federal agency Web sites,” said Mary Alice Baish, the Washington representative of the American Association of Law Libraries, whose members are heavy users of government records. “When new officials take office, they have new programs and policies, and they want to make a fresh start.”

Richard Pearce-Moses, a former president of the Society of American Archivists, said, “My biggest worry is that even with the best and brightest minds working on this problem, the risks are so great that we may lose significant portions of our history.”

The Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency lists more than 50 “broken links” that once connected readers to documents on depletion of the ozone layer of the atmosphere.

At least 20 documents have been removed from the Web site of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. They include a draft report highly critical of the civil rights policies of the Bush administration.

To view the full article go to:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/13/us/13records.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/13/us/13records.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

Jennie Carter

### **Did you see these stories? History in the media**

“Princely plan for a northern colony”, *The West Australian*, 1/9/08, p.3

An 1862 plan by John Hall sent to Queen Victoria's staff suggested beginning a new city and settlement in the upper third of WA.

“Acid threatens to wreck the wreck”, *The West Australian*, 1/9/08, p.11

The Batavia timbers are deteriorating badly despite the efforts of WA Museum Shipwreck Galleries staff.

“Japan invasion plan envisaged subdued, defeated Australia”, *The West Australian*, 29/8/08, p.3

In September 1942 Japan’s prime minister expected to be occupying Perth within 4 months.

“Pioneering literary riches to be public treasures”, *The West Australian*, 28/8/08, p.3

The Mary Durack collection of letters, journals, maps and research has been purchased by the State Library of WA for \$890 000.

“Terrace heritage buildings to be refurbished in City Square project”, *The West Australian*, 26/8/08, p.10

Newspaper House, the WA Trustees Building, the old Perth Technical School and Royal Insurance Building will be restored in Brookfield Multiplex’s redevelopment.

“Outback explorer’s trail found”, *The West Australian*, 16/8/08, p.11

1890s explorer David Carnegie’s route and wells used during inland treks seeking gold and arable land in WA have been rediscovered by Scarborough resident Alan McCall.

“Insights into early WA fail to sell at auction”, *The West Australian*, 14/8/08, p.11

Not all items were sold at a recent auction, including letters between Captain James Stirling and the British government, and the first published map of the Swan River. However, old photographs and paintings were purchased.

“A fortunate life, says child migrant”, *The West Australian*, 13/8/08, p.52

It is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first child migrants in WA, sent by the Catholic Church.



Melbourne Hotel 1955, Image courtesy Battye Library, 103129PD

“Office towers planned for heritage hotel sites”, *The West Australian*,

29/7/08, p.5

Plans have been submitted for approval to build office towers at the rear of both the Grosvenor and Melbourne hotels

“The battle for York”, *The West*

*Australian*, 18/7/08, p.54 & “Historic racetrack fights to finish for survival”,

*The West Australian*, 19/7/08, p.3

Officials have closed the historic York racetrack due to the track being unsafe. York opened in 1843 and is Australia’s oldest course.

“Housing plans for historic farm”, *The West Australian*, 16/7/08, p.17

Balladong Farm, the first inland farm of the Swan River colony [established in 1832], was bought by a developer with plans to divide for housing and a retirement village.

“\$700 000 in Federal grants to preserve WA indigenous heritage places”, *The West Australian*, 9/7/08, p.14. Fourteen projects including preserving mission buildings at Kalumburu and finding graves in Albany have won National funding.



State Library of Western Australia

*Kalumburu Mission, c1980, Image courtesy The Battye Library, 216361pd*

“Historic wheatbelt school has 100 years of memories”, *The West Australian*, 8/7/08, p.13  
New Norcia school celebrates its centenary.

“Days of drive-ins, dummies and damned hard times”, *The West Australian*, 26/6/08, p.13

“Heritage stays right on track”, *The West Australian*, 20/6/08, p.17  
The Midland Railway Workshops have been added to the WA Heritage list.

“Freo rewards conservation efforts”, *The West Australian*, 11/6/08, p.77  
The city’s heritage awards recognized work done to the Basilica of St Patrick (in Adelaide Street), the Union Bank of Australia (in High Street), homes in Wray Avenue and in the nearby suburb of White Gum Valley, and the gourmet deli of Galati & Sons (est. 1958) was commended for its contribution to social history.

### **Courses**

Curtin University of Technology: Built Environment Art & Design - Cultural Heritage

- Masters Degree (three semesters full time)
- Graduate Diploma (two semesters full time).

Full or part-time loads; on-campus or distance mode (on-line).

email Dr Jennifer Harris at [jennifer.harris@curtin.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.harris@curtin.edu.au).

[http://futurestudents.curtin.edu.au/course\\_overview/PG/cultural-heritage#xa495](http://futurestudents.curtin.edu.au/course_overview/PG/cultural-heritage#xa495).

### **UWA History Newsletter**

The University of WA’s 2008 Annual History Newsletter is online and now available from <http://www.history.uwa.edu.au>.

## Some dates in WA History

- 6 September 1940 Opening of Canning Dam
- 29 September 1791 George Vancouver RN formally claimed WA for Britain at Possession Point
- 14 October 1968 Meckering Earthquake
- 26 October 1616 Dirk Hartog landed at Cape Inscription
- October 1957 Women granted equal status with men as jurors
- 21 December 2007 Death of former WA Premier Sir Charles Court



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*The Meckering Hotel after the earthquake (000812D)Image courtesy The Batty Library.*

**Course repeated – note new date:**

**ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

**W.A. BRANCH Inc.**

## **Beginners' Oral History Interviewing Workshop**

**Saturday 8 November 2008**

9:00 am until 4:00 pm

Cost \$55

National Trust Headquarters, Old Observatory

Havelock Street, West Perth

**Further details from**

**Doug Ayre email: [history@westnet.com.au](mailto:history@westnet.com.au)**

**Mobile 0409 205 130**

## New books

*Echoes of Irish Australia : rebellion to republic : a collection of essays* / edited by Jeff Brownrigg, Cheryl Mongan, Richard Reid.: St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, 2007.

*Making Australian history: perspectives on the past since 1788* / Deborah Gare: Thomson Learning Australia, 2008.

*Heartsick for country : stories of love, spirit and creation* / edited by Sally Morgan, Tjalaminu Mia, Blaze Kwaymullinu. North Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle Press, 2008.

*Australia's pioneers, heroes & fools : the trials, tribulations and tricks of the trade of Australia's colonial explorers* / Peter Macinnis. : Pier 9, c2007.

*New legend: a story of law and culture and the fight for self-determination in the Kimberley* / [text: Monique La Fontaine].: Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre, 2006.

*Orphans of the living : growing up in 'care' in twentieth-century Australia* / Joanna Penglase. North Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle Press, 2007.

*Invading Australia : Japan and the battle for Australia, 1942* / Peter Stanley. Victoria. : Viking, 2008.

*A thousand miles and more : a tramp through the Coolgardie Goldfields* / Duke Stewart, Victoria Park : Hesperian Press, 2008 .

*Strangers on the shore : early coastal contacts in Australia* / edited by Peter Veth, Peter Sutton and Margo Neale.: National Museum of Australia Press, 2008.

*Pirates, prostitutes and pullers : explorations in the Ethno- and social history of Southeast Asia* / James Warren.: UWA Press, 2008.

## Conferences

Connecting the rational with the emotional to create more powerful visitor experiences, Hearts and minds: Interpretation Australia National Conference, 27 – 29 October 2008, Adelaide South Australia, Email: [iaa2008@sapro.com.au](mailto:iaa2008@sapro.com.au); Website: <http://www.sapro.com.au/IAA.htm>

Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory (CHAT): CHAT 2008 – Heritage CHAT, 14 – 16 November 2008, University College, London  
Hosted by Atkins Heritage, English Heritage and UCL Centre for Museums, Heritage and Material Culture; contact Charlotte Frearson ( [charlotte.frearson@atkinglobal.com](mailto:charlotte.frearson@atkinglobal.com) or Sarah May [sarah.may@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:sarah.may@english-heritage.org.uk))

ICOMOS Thailand International Conference 2008 and ICOMOS Thailand Annual Meeting  
“Conservation and Management of Sacred Places”, 29 November–1 December 2008, Bangkok, Thailand.  
Seeks current trends and issues concerning cultural resource conservation and management. The linkage between spiritual and physical qualities has made the sacred place (e.g. temples, shrines, places of worship, and holy areas) a unique kind of cultural heritage. See [www.icomosthai.org](http://www.icomosthai.org).

Pacific History Association Conference, 8-12 December 2008, Suva.  
Libraries, Archives and Museums in Oceania: resources for Pacific history - recognition and access.

Themes include Professional issues: training, preservation, access, repatriation, etc.; Institutional issues: recognition and funding; Resources: focusing on collection content; Status of Pacific Islands' national legislation or policies on Public Records or Freedom of Information Act.

[mailto:fong\\_e@usp.sc.fj](mailto:fong_e@usp.sc.fj)>[fong\\_e@usp.sc.fj](mailto:fong_e@usp.sc.fj)

Legacies 09, Public Memory Research Centre 2009 Conference, 13 -14 February 2009,

University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba.

Themes include Culture, retrieval and revival; Memory and the practice of everyday life; History, ideology and refashioning the past; Colonialism and its aftermaths; Indigenous, ethnic and multicultural memories; Public memory and national identities; Memory and myth; Public memory as false consciousness. Contact Dr Brian Musgrove, phone 07 4631 1043 email [musgrove@usq.edu.au](mailto:musgrove@usq.edu.au)

Collections characters and communities, Ninth Australian Library History Conference, 25 - 27 June 2009,

Prahran campus of Swinburne University. Abstracts due by September 2008 – send to

[centre.forthe.book@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:centre.forthe.book@arts.monash.edu.au)

(Un)loved Modern, Australia ICOMOS Annual Conference, 7-10 July 2009, Sydney, Australia

Aims to examine developments and trends in identifying, managing and conserving 20th Century heritage places, providing opportunities to participate in the current debate about heritage values and places of the last century, and their conservation, management and interpretation. Call for Papers: Send to Scott Robertson at: [rharch@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rharch@ozemail.com.au).

Deadline for one page abstracts: 28 September 2008

## **Contact us:**

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**The primary editor for the September issue was Leith Robinson. Jennie Carter was responsible for the final draft. (Any items not attributed were compiled by Leith).**

**For copy for the December issue, please email Jennie at [wa.research@gmail.com](mailto:wa.research@gmail.com)**