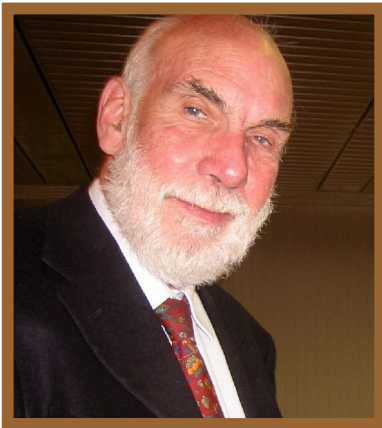


newsletter

History
OF WA
Council

Historian Chosen as WA Australian Of The Year



Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

How wonderful it is for raising the profile of History in the state to see an eminent member of our profession chosen as the Western Australian Australian of the Year! Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO was the recent recipient of this prestigious Award.

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton was recognised for his contribution to the community as a professional academic and a communicator of ideas. He has long been known as one of Australia's foremost historians and socio-political commentators. He is the author of 13 books and has contributed to many more.

Geoff Bolton is a frequent guest on the ABC, bringing Western Australian history to life and raising awareness of the importance of our past. He is an engaging speaker who is willing to go anywhere at any time to discover or explain what it is that has made us what we are.

He has been a keen supporter of the History Council of WA from its inception, always most willing to participate in our events, and regularly offering suggestions for future directions.

He is well-known as a great educator, fostering an enduring love of History in his

History Matters

Scarcely a week seems to go by without mention of history and schools in the media. In WA late last year we had the controversy about the outcomes-based curriculum, and the decision to drop mandatory Australian history from the upper secondary school curriculum. And now, in his Australia Day speech, the Prime Minister has called for a 'root and branch renewal of the teaching of Australian history in our schools'.

While many would disagree with his characterisation of history in Australian schools as 'a fragmented stew of "themes" and "issues"', leaving politics aside, many would agree that 'Too often history has fallen victim in an ever more crowded curriculum to subjects deemed more "relevant" to today.' An excerpt from his speech is worth repeating:

Part of preparing young Australians to be informed and active citizens is to teach them the central currents of our nation's development. The subject matter should include indigenous history as part of the whole national inheritance. It should also cover the great and enduring heritage of Western civilisation, those nations that became the major tributaries of European settlement and in turn a sense of the original ways in which Australians from diverse backgrounds have created our own distinct history. It is impossible, for example, to understand the history of this country without an understanding of the evolution of parliamentary democracy or the ideas that galvanised the Enlightenment.

In the end, young people are at risk of being disinherited from their community if that community lacks the courage and confidence to teach its history. This applies as much to the children of seventh generation Australians or indigenous children as it does to those of recent migrants, young Australian Muslims, or any other category one might want to mention.

With such an interest in Australian history the History Council has decided to hold a forum on 'History and Secondary Education' on 22 March 2006 to update members on changes to the curriculum and consider their implications. A flyer is on its way.

A short General meeting will be held prior to the forum to give members the opportunity of bringing matters requiring attention to the notice of the committee.

Jenny Gregory
President

students and always willing to help and encourage them.

Although he is now officially retired, his national and international profile will be maintained through his writing, while as Chancellor of Murdoch University he continues to play an invaluable role in linking the University with the community that supports it.

Emeritus Professor Bolton, the History Council of WA congratulates you on being chosen for this honour: Western Australian Australian of the Year 2006.

CONTACT US

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www.historycouncilwa.org.au
or write to:
PO Box 1619, West Perth 6872

Deadline for next issue:

5th May 2006

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

Meetings of the Committee

The Committee meeting held on 21st December 2005 included the following business items where the Committee:

- Agreed that the 'Great Debate' transcript would be made available on the History Council's website.
- Resolved to prepare a document presenting the case for government support of the History Council for presentation to the Minister for Culture and the Arts and to the Premier. It is necessary to relate the History Council's Strategic Plan to the State Government's 'Better Planning Better Services' Strategic Plan.
- Noted that securing on-going funding is a priority for the History Council, in conjunction with consideration of future accommodation.
- Decided to purchase Pop-up banners featuring the History Council's logo and other appropriate wording. These will promote recognition of the History Council's identity at public functions.
- Agreed to produce a multi-purpose certificate of recognition to enable the History Council to present these in appropriate circumstances. This furthers recognition of the Council, and the cause of promoting History.
- Decided to hold a General Meeting in March to enable the wider membership of the History Council to interact and provide input into the Council's activities.
- Discussed a Winter School for Young Historians and other events as possible History Council activities for Foundation Week.

At the meeting held on 22nd February 2006 the Committee:

- Decided to hold a panel discussion during Foundation Week in June, entitled, 'Using and Abusing History'.
- Resolved that the idea of a School for Young Historians required further planning but should remain high on the agenda for a later date.

Meet the Treasurer

Robert Mitchell



In our continuing series on members of the History Council of WA Committee, we feature the Treasurer, Robert Mitchell.

Robert Mitchell holds a BA (Honours) in History from the Royal Military College of Canada, and also an MA in International Relations and War Studies from Kings College (London) and the London School of Economics.

He has 35 years of senior management and executive experience in public and private practice and a wide range of published work in the areas of defence policy, peacekeeping,

regimental heritage and volunteer practice as well as extensive volunteer experience as editor, heritage guide and youth leader.

Robert is currently the Manager, Community Services, National Trust of Australia (WA). He is also Treasurer of Museums Australia (WA Branch) and Chair of the Members (Friends and Volunteers) Special Interest Group of Museums Australia. He is an active guide with the Rottnest Volunteer Guides and the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society.

What's New on the Website?

'The Great Debate'

The transcript of that extremely entertaining Oct 2005 History Council event is now available on the History Council website.

Prime Minister's Australia Day speech

Jenny Gregory refers to this speech in 'History Matters' on page 1.

www.historycouncilwa.org.au

Awards and Grants

Lotterywest Grants Interpretation of Cultural Heritage

Closing: 20th May 2006

Further information:

http://www.lottery.wa.gov.au/asp/ind_ex.asp?pgid=394

National Archives of Australia

Ian Maclean Awards

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

Closing: 10 March 2006.

Further information:

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

Royal WA Historical Society Inc 2006 A E Williams History Prize

Closing: 30th June 2006

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

Conditions and further information:

RWAHS Executive Officer,
Ph 9386 3841, Fax: 9386 3309:
Email hlistwest2@qit.com.au.

2006 Heritage Council Award

This is for outstanding commitment and ongoing contribution to heritage conservation and interpretation in WA.

Closing: 14 April 2006.

Further Information: Jayde Little on 9220 4147 or jlittle@hc.wa.gov.au

Celebrate WA

WA Citizen of the Year Awards

Closing: 12th April 2006

Further Information:

<http://www.celebratewa.com.au>

PO Box 7681 Cloisters Square

PERTH WA 6850

Telephone 08 9481 8066

Fax 08 9481 8077

'Australia on the Map 1606 – 2006'

The year 2006 marks the 400th anniversary of the beginning of Australia's documented history. The concept of 'Australia on the Map' encompasses more than the fact that Australia has been put on the world map in a geographical sense, it also acknowledges the way Australia has been noticed through achievements of human endeavor. During these 400 years, Australia has gained international recognition in many areas.

A special organization 'Australia on the Map 1606 – 2006' (AOTM) has been set up to encourage people throughout Australia to organize events during 2006. This year there are many planned events that will recognize in different ways not only the early explorers, but also those who followed them to give cartographic presence to Terra Australis incognita.

In Western Australia over 30 events have already been planned. A key event will be the voyage by the replica sailing ship Duyfken. The Duyfken, a VOC ship, (under the command of Captain Willem Janszoon) is recorded as being the first ship in 1606 to chart a part of the Australian coast.

The AOTC website for Western Australia gives access to the planned events as a starting point for anyone who would like to participate

<http://www.australiaonthemap.org.au/wa/wa.htm>

Further Information: *Australia on the Map 1606 – 2006* WA office on (08) 9420 6098

History Council of Western Australia Invitation to members General Meeting

Followed by a Forum: 'History & Secondary Education in WA'

Where: The Constitutional Centre
Havelock St, West Perth
When: 22nd March 2006
Time: Meeting 5.00pm, Forum 5.30 -7.00pm
Light refreshments will be available

The Value of Exchange Programs

International exchange programmes can reinforce and challenge existing approaches to valuing heritage. During 2005 Joy Lefroy, Education Coordinator with the National Trust of Australia, WA, and Dr Sharon Goddard, National Education Policy Advisor with the UK Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), each spent a month with their respective exchange organisations sharing experience and insights. Joy describes the experience below.

In the UK Joy's itinerary was developed in association with HLF, and their support in making contacts, organising meetings and giving a professional overview of heritage education issues added considerably to the exchange. She was introduced to the concept of *learning* being at the heart of HLF funded projects. HLF has established strategic aims that drive its grant making and of these all applications for funding have to demonstrate how they 'make sure everyone can learn about, have access to and enjoy their heritage'.

Most heritage agencies in the UK have moved away from the use of the term *education*, preferring the terms *learning*, *access* and *discovery* to represent an approach focusing on *inspiring*, *enabling* and *empowering* people of all ages to interact with their heritage.

During Sharon's visit to WA the National Trust set up meetings for her with representatives from the state government, funding bodies, museums and heritage agencies. Through these she was able to gain a greater understanding of the size of our State and some of the issues relating to heritage learning, management and interpretation.

Sharon visited National Trust properties, museums and agencies throughout the metropolitan area, the south-west and Broome region. Her experience and practical advice has encouraged the National Trust to look at how people can be actively involved in their heritage encounters. Putting people at the centre of heritage learning helps make heritage places relevant to a wider community. It enables diverse stories to be told and in so doing promotes a sense of pride in place, helping to transform and support communities. The story of the past is what makes places special, and this deserves to be an inclusive story heard by everyone.

Post Office Directories 1893-1949

These directories are an invaluable resource for genealogists and historians and are among the most heavily used materials held in the Battye Library. Now for the first time, you can browse them from your own desktop!

Thanks to a generous benefactor, the Post Office Directories were digitised so that images of the pages may be viewed online. To make them easy to navigate, the Friends of Battye Library (Inc) through the Maude Sholl Bequest funded the creation of online tables of contents to each digitised volume. Currently there are 51 directories up to 1942 and they can be accessed from the State Library's website at http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pdf/battye/pods/Post_Office_Directories_Contents.htm. It is expected that the remaining directories to 1949 will be available online by June 2006.

The Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia

Associate Professor Jenny Gregory, Editor-in-Chief, has provided this update.

The encyclopedia is now at a very exciting stage. Most of the entries are in, have been reviewed, and are gradually being sent back to contributors for final changes!

It has become a wonderful community effort — a real People's Encyclopedia. Some statistics. We have received 818 entries from an astonishing 488 contributors, many of whom are members of the History Council. Jan Gothard, HEWA's general editor, and our 171 expert readers have now reviewed 726 entries and I am now doing a final review of each entry. Virginia Rowland, our research associate, is undertaking the final liaison with contributors regarding revisions and checking of facts, and updating entries where necessary.

The quality of entries is extremely high and the content is fascinating. The HEWA team has learnt so much about aspects of WA history that we didn't know before. Did you know that Continental nights with mixed bathing were held at the Fremantle Sea Baths early in the 20th century? Or that there was a horse race on Garden Island in 1829? Or that the first Miss Australia in 1926 was Geraldton girl Beryl Mills? Or that feral pigs were first reported near Perth in 1831? Or that POWs were temporarily housed at Karrakatta in 1943?

We expect the final manuscript will go to UWA Press in a few months and that the encyclopedia will be published in mid 2007 (on Foundation Day if we can make it!)

Preserving the past

The Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) has been formed from the executive members of key groups keen on the preservation and access of historical materials. The HRRC project was launched last year and aims to rescue and preserve 700,000 newspaper pages which will be microfilmed, digitise 75,000 photographic negatives and restore 150 historic films kept in the J S Battye Library of West Australian History.

A Lotterywest grant of \$3million has helped fund a team of specialist staff and the State Library purchased equipment and provides support services needed for the two year project.

The project is well underway and already has microfilmed the *West Australian* to 1954 and added more than 3,000 images to the State Library's online catalogue. For more information please see

<http://www.fobl.org.au/hrcc/index.php>

Notice of Change to Newsletter Distribution

From the Autumn 2006 issue, newsletters will be distributed only by email, except for members who do not have email facilities.

Newsletters are also available on the website:

www.historycouncilwa.org.au

Members are welcome to forward newsletters electronically to others who may be interested.

Membership Application

You can support the work of the History Council in its pledge to make history a vital part of community life in Western Australia by becoming a member.

Prefix First Surname

Organisation

Address

Postcode

Work Tel Home Tel

Email

Are you/your organisation Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Yes No

Please state the number of members in your organisation _____

I/we would like the following type of membership:

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

Corporate Medium organisations \$100 pa

Corporate Professional organisations \$50 pa

Corporate Small organisations \$30 pa

Individual \$20 pa

Individual Concession \$10 pa

Donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Method of Payment

I have enclosed a cheque money order

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

Upcoming Events

The Oral History Association W.A. Branch Inc.

Annual State Conference Telling stories of Country: Mining the Past

Kalgoorlie 7th October 2006

Further information:

Criena Fitzgerald

crienafz@iinet.net.au

or Jan McCahon Marshall

jmccahon@vicpark.wa.gov.au

The Royal WA Historical Society Inc

Research Papers are read at the monthly meetings.

Visitors welcome.

15 March: *The Mystical, Magical
80 Mile Beach.*

19 April: *The History Behind the
Guildford Grammar School
Chapel.*

History In The City Program

Citiplace Conference Room

Top of escalator, Perth Railway
Station. 2 pm. Donation of \$5.00
at the door includes afternoon tea.

Wed 5 April: *Guide Dogs—the
Seeing Eyes*

Wed. 3 May Robert Muir: *WA
Books Ephemera*

Further Details:

RWAHS. tel: 9386 3841

[http://www.histwest.qit.com.au/ind
ex.htm](http://www.histwest.qit.com.au/ind
ex.htm)

National Archives of Australia, Perth Office

17 May 2006, 10am sharp.

Seminar on records about the
Dutch in the NAA collection with
examples from WA. Includes tour
of building.

1384 Berwick Street, East Victoria
Park, WA 6101. Limited Numbers.
Booking essential. Ph 9470 7500
to reserve your place.

The Western Australian Genealogical Society

Family History Seminar

Saturday 27 May 2006

State Library of WA Lecture
Theatre.

Michael Gandy of London:

'Records of our City Ancestors'

'Wills and Probate Records'

Robyn Hukin & Loreley Morling:

'Preparing for a Research Trip'

'Do I Really Need a Researcher?'

Further details Ph 9271 4311 or
email genealogy@wags.org.au

Friends of Battye Library

Tuesday 14 March – 5.30-7pm.

Room 2.9, Alexander Library

Building. **Carnarvon Space**

Tracking: a part of our history –
Jim Gregg. All welcome.