

PHA WA



# Newsletter

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***The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the PHA (WA).***

### ❖ **Note from the President:**

This is the last edition of the PHA (WA) eNewsletter for 2014. I think you will find it interesting reading on a wide range of topics by Members and contributors; from the article by Robyn Taylor with regard to the 2009 Toodyay Bushfire history project to Anne Chapple's recounting of the story of her grandfather's house, ANZAC Cottage.

At the AGM, I reported on the work of the Management Committee during 2013/2014 in what had been difficult circumstances. I take the opportunity to again thank them for their contribution to the Association, in particular Teegan Gaunt, Jennifer Weir, Odhran O'Brien, Sue Graham-Taylor, Prue Griffin and Matt Ibbitson. PHA (WA) too owes its thanks to Jennie Carter for her work administering the group insurance policies on behalf of Members and to Lenore Layman and Malcolm Allbrook for their assistance with the newsletter.

Odhran, Teegan, Jen, Sue and Prue renominated in 2014/2015, which was warmly received by those at the AGM. We also welcomed new Management Committee Members Kerry King, Ann Hunter, Chris Owen and Cathy Day.

This is a reinvigorated Management Committee with a number of fresh ideas for providing opportunities for Members, including the introduction of a second Professional Development session to our annual calendar. Further information will be disseminated in relation to this in the New Year.

In addition to the notice below, Members will have received an email about our End of Year Function on 28 November. We encourage you to attend this event and join the Management Committee in celebrating the 25th anniversary of PHA (WA). I hope to see many of you there.

Finally, I wish you all a safe and prosperous holiday season and New Year.

Warm regards,

*Kris Bizzaca MPHA*  
*President*

### ❖ End of Year & 25th Anniversary Function:



❖ 'The Business of History' - Professional Development  
Session:



Abbot John Herbert OSB at PHA (WA) & OHAA WA Joint Professional Development Session, 10 August 2014. Photo: K Bizzaca.

Firstly on behalf of the sub-committee, I would like to thank all those who attended the Professional Development Day. If you have any suggestions of a theme or speaker for the next session please send me an [email](#). I have included a summary of the keynote address below.

During his presentation Abbot John Herbert OSB (Fr John) provided an overview of New Norcia's foundation as a Benedictine monastery and its ongoing operation with a focus on his efforts and those of his predecessor, Abbot Placid Spearritt OSB, to make the town and monastery a sustainable business. Fr John has the dual role of religious superior of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia and Chief Executive Officer of the Town which is owned by the Community. As the abbot of the Benedictines, Fr John's primary role is to provide spiritual leadership for the monks. However, the monastery and associated Town have become an important cultural and historic site for Western Australia with a much broader purpose.

New Norcia's rich history began with the establishment of the monastery and its mission to the Aboriginal people in 1847 by the Spanish Benedictine monks Dom Rosendo Salvado OSB and Dom Jose Maria Benito Serra OSB. Since that time, it has also played a major role in providing primary and secondary schools for the region, although the last school on the site closed in 1991. From 1867 until 1983 the monastery also had the unique status of being a Territorial Abbey. This meant it was an independent abbey-

diocese and that the abbot-bishop was in charge of both the monastery and the Catholic population in the small diocese, approximately 42 kilometres surrounding the monastery, allocated to him by Rome. This made the abbey completely independent of the Perth Archdiocese. An abbey-diocese or more properly an Abbey Nullius is an ecclesiastical structure used rarely by the Catholic Church in current times, but was prevalent in Europe prior to the nineteenth century when the Rome gradually stopped creating new monastic centred dioceses. As both bishops and abbots, the monastic superiors of New Norcia were important Christian leaders in nineteenth and twentieth-century Western Australia.

The challenge for Abbots Spearitt and Herbert has been to maintain the monastic tradition at New Norcia and to transition the town from a mission and place of education into a sustainable business which would support the upkeep of the large number of predominantly Spanish-style buildings that have been built on the site since 1847. According to Fr John, the key to doing this successfully has been to embrace the history of the place in all its historical complexity. The business of the monastery is guided by an overarching strategic plan. All of the town's departments are managed by a committee, of which the abbot is a member, guiding their operation towards a common goal. The town has a diverse range of activities that embrace its monastic origins, including spiritual retreats, studies in Benedictine monasticism, archival research, museum exhibitions, farming and wine, bread, beer and olive oil production. In line with the Rule of St Benedict, the monastery also provides hospitality to anyone who visits its guesthouse for which it asks them to make a donation.

I think one of the key points from Fr John's presentation is that in order to remain a sustainable heritage business the Benedictine Community has unlocked its history and made it available to the Western Australian people. The springboard for this process has been allowing scholars and researchers access to its archives and recognising both the successes and failings of its past. Making this information available, maintaining the monastic tradition at this place and telling the story of New Norcia has sparked an interest in the town that will no doubt continue to grow into the future.

*Odhran O'Brien MPHA*



Garth Kearvell on the subject of his inspiring business, *Nonna Voce*. Photo: K Bizzaca.



Panellists Jennie Carter, Heather Campbell and Clare Menck discussing practical issues associated with consultancies. Photo: K Bizzaca.



## ❖ Documenting the 2009 Toodyay Bushfire:



Notice board outside Memorial Hall evacuation centre. Photo: Beth Frayne, December 2009.

Heeding our Editor's plea for a contribution to our newsletter, I thought I would write something about the December 2009 Toodyay Bushfire Project I embarked on a couple of years ago. This involved documenting the devastating and controversial bushfire, which at the time was considered to be the worst in WA's history in terms of property damage.

Thirty-eight homes were destroyed, 70 severely damaged, and another 100 homes suffered a degree of damage. Sheds and other structures, farming equipment, tools of trade, and a commercial olive grove were severely damaged. And there was the heartache of burnt stock, pets, and wildlife, and the impact these deaths and injuries had on their owners and the fire fighters and rangers who had to deal with the consequences.

I knew this wasn't going to be an easy undertaking. Raw emotion is encountered in the community to this day. However the Toodyay Bushfire Projects Group that formed in 2010 realised this significant event in Toodyay's history had to be captured before too much time elapsed. It wasn't just about collecting materials relating to the bushfire, but also the very important recovery process and how this was managed.

The massive response from the WA public by way of donations of money and goods, and organised events, took everyone by surprise. Managing all this required full time volunteer effort with good systems in place. And there was the cleanup in the firezone that had to be organised through the Shire's recovery committee.

There was no debriefing after the event. In large part this was because the recovery went on for so long and people simply wanted to return to normal life. This fact made it more important to secure the documents relating to the management of recovery and talk to those involved.

Initially this project (we considered the possibility that other projects may follow) was to be based within the Shire museum, but circumstances meant a shift in emphasis and we came under the umbrella of the Toodyay Historical Society. I was contracted as the historian and we successfully applied for a Lotterywest grant. I began collecting news coverage, photographs, official reports, aerial surveys, personal and Shire productions of CDs, DVDs and Power Point presentations. I met with survivors and photographed the mementoes they gathered from the ashes of their homes.

Apart from one couple I knew personally, who had lost everything, I limited my oral history interviews to those involved in the recovery process. I was acutely aware of the dangers of refreshing bad memories and trauma and not being qualified to deal with such situations. An excellent professionally made video recording of several families had been undertaken by producer Gerald Ashcroft (of 'Stories to be Told') immediately after the fire, but the stories of the volunteers still needed to be captured.

Before this project I had minimal experience at producing oral histories, and it showed. Sometimes, often, I talked too much, and I felt sorry for the transcriber when I interviewed two or more people at the same time. Partners tend to talk over each other, or finish each other's sentences. This isn't so obvious while interviewing; and when listening to the tapes the discussion sounds lively. On paper it looked a shambles. Some heavy editing was required. However the original recordings remain intact. Copies will be lodged with the Battye Library.

It should be stated that this project wasn't undertaken without public consultation or awareness. The groundwork needed to be done first.

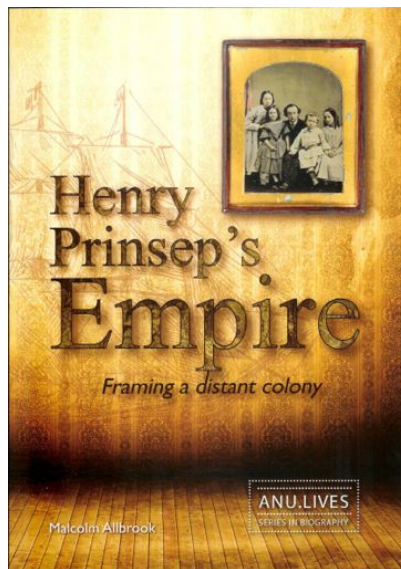
In 2010, we held a public meeting in the town hall to gauge community interest and ask what people thought would be an appropriate way of commemorating the event. The Shire was involved and a local MP gave us a generous donation. We also organised the first anniversary with a morning service held in the firezone followed by displays of bushfire relics and speeches in the town hall. A barbeque lunch held in the main street was organised by the Men's Shed. These events including a conservation workshop and monthly articles in the local paper, helped to establish a rapport with the community and a willingness to share their stories, photos, personal albums and collections.

During the life of this project there have been other catastrophic bushfires in WA. In January this year while we were finalising the report another fire was burning in the Parkerville-Stoneville area with property damage exceeding that of Toodyay. We have to learn from these events, not only how to protect ourselves, but what to do when faced with an emergency and how to begin the recovery process.

Two copies of the project documentation and covering report will be lodged with the Shire Museum and the Toodyay Historical Society. Adding the report to the 'Our Page in History' website is also being considered as a good way of making this story available to the public.

*Dr Robyn Taylor MPHA*

❖ *Henry Prinsep's Empire - framing a distant colony:*



For the information of members, my book *Henry Prinsep's Empire: framing a distant colony* is now published. It was launched in October by Professor Heather Goodall at a National Centre of Biography function at ANU House in Canberra. I am planning a Perth launch early in 2015.

Henry Prinsep is known as Western Australia's first Chief Protector of Aborigines in the colonial government of Sir John Forrest, a period which saw the introduction of oppressive laws which dominated the lives of Aboriginal people for most of the twentieth century. But he was also an artist, a horse-trader, member of a prominent East India Company family, and everyday citizen, whose identity was formed during his colonial upbringing in India and England.

As a creator of Imperial culture, he supported the great men and women of history while he painted, wrote about and photographed the scenes around him. In terms of naked power he was a middle man, perhaps even a small man. His empire is an intensely personal place, a vast network of family and friends from every quarter of the British imperial world, engaged in the common tasks of making a home and a career, while framing new identities, new imaginings and new relationships with each other, indigenous peoples and fellow colonists. The book traces Henry Prinsep's life from India to WA and shows how these texts and images illuminate not only Prinsep the man, but the affectionate bonds that endured despite the geographic bounds of empire, and the historical, social, geographic and economic origins of Aboriginal and colonial relationships which are important to this day.

*Henry Prinsep's Empire* is the culmination of eight years' research on the extensive private archives of Prinsep and his widely dispersed kin, much of it held by the State Library of WA, which covers in rich documentary and pictorial detail, the Western Australian lives of the Prinsep family after Henry's arrival in 1866. It started life as a PhD thesis through Griffith University, but required substantial revision to turn it into a book. A three year doctoral project allowed only a superficial examination of the archive, but

further research has considered more broadly the transnational networks of family and kin from the gaze of a Western Australian family. Prinsep, his family and kin were intimately involved in the Western Australian colonial venture, but they were still active participants in the British imperial world. In every way open to them, they sought to stay in touch, through the constant exchange of letters, gifts and pictures, networks of information that criss-crossed the globe. Henry Prinsep's empire is a place of constant movement and mobility and Western Australia, far from being remote and distant, is very much a part of the imperial world.

The book includes over 100 images, many in colour. Prinsep, one of the colony's most productive and active artists, was following a family tradition by painting, drawing and photographing all that he saw around him. As with his artistic uncles William, James and Thomas Prinsep in India, and his 'aunt', the Victorian portrait photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, Prinsep both drew and wrote about his Western Australian life. Thus, in the book, there was the opportunity to present a parallel narrative of family life in which the pictures and the words illuminate one another, lending visual strength to the biography of a family.

*Henry Prinsep's Empire: framing a distant colony* is published by ANU Press, Canberra. It is available both as a free download and as a print on demand book at a cost of \$33 plus postage. The ANU Press link is:

<http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/henry-prinseps-empire/>

Malcolm Allbrook MPHA

### ❖ Introducing New Member Anne Yardley:



To be honest I'm surprised to find myself here. Yes, I studied history but my working life has been spent pootling along in television and radio production. Until one day I found myself casting about for a new way to make a living, the ABC having run out of jobs for me.



I'd studied a unit in oral history as part of a graduate diploma and loved it. Without any great expectations I contacted my then lecturer, Jan Gothard, and asked if it was possible to work as an oral historian. Somewhat to my surprise her answer was yes and she referred me to Heather Campbell. Heather, bless her, has spent the last two years putting up with my very silly questions and patiently explaining the obvious to me.

Now my working days are spent packing up my Marantz and heading out to listen to the endlessly fascinating stories of perfectly ordinary people's life. It's called oral history.

*Anne Yardley*

### ❖ **My Grandfather's House - The ANZAC Cottage Story:**

In the midst of a quiet suburban street in Mount Hawthorn sits a unique and significant Cottage, the host to a story that pays homage to the strength of community spirit and the sacrifices made by the gallant service men and women who fought in the fateful landing at Gallipoli in April 1915.



Private John Porter. Courtesy: Williams Family Collection.

Private John Porter of the 11th Battalion was one of the first men ashore on 25 April 1915 but his war was to be a short and painful one. On that very first day he was wounded and records show his wound was not treated for 4 days, with the result that the injury virtually caused him to become lame and he was subsequently invalided out of the army.

Meanwhile, the Mt Hawthorn Progress Association, a group of concerned citizens who had originally come together to fight for the extension of the tramway system to this new suburb, were inspired by the tales trickling back from overseas and decided to erect a memorial to the brave souls who had taken part in the Gallipoli landing. It was whilst plans for this were underway that John Porter arrived back in Western Australia at the

end of July 1915 and returned to his wife and young daughter who were living in rented accommodation in the fledgling suburb.

A neighbour visiting the veteran learnt of his injuries and that they would prevent him from working at his trade thus leaving no means to support his small family, or pay the rent. The neighbour approached the Mt Hawthorn Progress Association and suggested that the proposed war memorial take the form of a home for a wounded soldier and his family. The Association received this suggestion enthusiastically.

Mount Hawthorn is going to do something big-it is going to erect a monument- a monument to the honor [sic] and glorious memory of those gallant and fearless representatives of Australia who brought imperishable renown to this young nation... It is to perpetuate the memory of Australia's gallant sons who took part in this historic landing that the Mount Hawthorn Progress Association are appealing for funds to erect a practical monument. (*Westralian Worker*, 27 August 1915.)

The announcement was greeted with a rush of activity by the public and donations of money, building materials, labour and skills soon came flooding in. This resulted in the original plan to build a modest timber with metal roof cottage being abandoned and a revised plan in the shape of a brick and tile home designed by architect Alfred Levido, who gave his skills and time voluntarily, was put in place.

The Mt Hawthorn Progress Association capitalised on the interest and support of the Western Australian public by orchestrating the construction of the Cottage with more than a touch of the dramatic.

The first steps toward construction took place on 29 January 1916 when 30 men armed with axes and saws cleared the block in Kalgoorlie Street, a street that at the time was sparsely populated and covered in native bushland. These men attacked the foliage that covered the block until about 4pm, when the Ladies Guild 'regaled them with afternoon tea' in preparation for felling of the last tree, appropriately nicknamed 'Lone Pine'.

The next week, 5 February 1916, saw an amazing procession of some 70 drays laden with bricks, mortar, timber, tiles and all manner of building materials wend its way through Perth from the railway station yards to Kalgoorlie Street. The procession led by Mrs Charlie Roberts, the Soldier's Queen in her Model T Ford, laden with the Metters stove, was cheered by crowds lining the route.

Then on 12 February the big day arrived. A town crier awoke the good citizens of Mt Hawthorn at 4:30 am, the time that the ANZAC landing began, by ringing his bell and announcing 'Arise, arise, ANZAC Cottage is to be built today'.

Two hundred men had volunteered their skills to be part of the construction and they were all there, bricklayers, carpenters, tilers, tuck pointers and all manner of workmen. The men toiled in considerable heat (it was 98°F on this day) encouraged by a crowd of 4,000 onlookers. Apart from donations for the construction, food was generously given to feed the workers. An army of volunteer women from the neighbourhood ably carried out this task. As a result by the end of that busy day, ANZAC Cottage was constructed. In following days internal works were completed and eventually on 16 April 1916, the Cottage was handed over with great pomp and ceremony to Private Porter and his family.

The Porter family lived in the Cottage until the 1960s when both Private Porter and his wife, Annie, died. The Cottage subsequently was lost to the family in the 1970s after which sadly it became derelict and was on the verge of demolition. It was offered to the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (WA branch) in 1992. The men and women of this organisation set about restoring the Cottage, aided by community representatives, mirroring the Cottage's beginnings.

These people worked for ten years with the assistance of Lotterywest funding to restore the Cottage to its former glory.



Anzac Cottage 90th Anniversary: The Cottage as it looks today. Courtesy: Williams Family Collection.

ANZAC Cottage is now owned by the City of Vincent and is open to the public on the first Sunday of each month, with special ceremonies and commemorations every year on ANZAC Day when a sunset service is held, on Remembrance Day, Vietnam Veterans Day and on 12 February honouring the Cottage's anniversary.

In February 2016, a special weekend of events will be held to celebrate the Cottage's centenary and it is hoped to re-enact some parts of its story.

Whilst the horror and loss of World War I is acknowledged and well documented, this heart-warming tale reveals not only the strength of community spirit but also the regard and respect that service men and women were, and still are, afforded.

*Anne Chapple, Granddaughter of Private Porter*

### ❖ 'Perth's Passing Parade' - 2014 RWAHS Affiliated Societies Conference:

The annual state history conference of affiliated societies was an opportunity for members from afar to get together, exchange stories and network. It included societies

stretching from Albany to Geraldton, the Royal WA Historical Society, the Francis Burt Law Museum, the Military History Society, and, of course, PHA (WA).

RWAHS President Sally Anne Hasluck congratulated the 230 delegates from 40 affiliated societies on achieving the 50th milestone. The subsequent talks at the State Library Theatre comprised a smorgasboard of topics to cater for all historical tastes.



Professor Geoffrey Bolton answering questions about his talk on the Government House Ballroom Murder.  
Photo: K Bizzaca.

Geoffrey Bolton began with the fascinating story of the Government House Ballroom Murder to the backdrop of a photo of the Ballroom. He provided an account of the murder that took place in the ballroom on 27 August 1925. Audrey Jacobs was 20 years of age, and studying at Perth Technical Art School when she shot 25 year old Cyril Gidley with a pistol at a ball in front of a room full of revellers. At the inquest into Cyril Gidley's death, she was charged with wilful murder. The question of how she could be found not guilty in the subsequent trial was the focus of the talk.

Audrey had been engaged to Cyril Gidley, a ship's engineer, but the engagement had been broken off. At the trial her barrister, Arthur Haynes, successfully portrayed his client as an innocent youngster and the victim as a predator. The prosecutor was Hubert Parker who relied on the testimony of a main witness to the event and friend of Audrey Jacobs, Annie Humphries.

Geoffrey referred to Judge John Northmore's impartial summing up which made it clear that that it made no difference whether Gidley's character was good, bad or indifferent. Northmore summarised that four verdicts were possible: wilful murder, murder, manslaughter or acquittal. Geoffrey outlined how this played into the defence's hands. Northmore instructed the jury that the alternative of manslaughter need not trouble them because it indicated a killing carried out in the heat of passion, and there was no evidence brought to point in that direction. This left the jury with two findings: murder or

acquittal. The jury took less than three hours to return a finding of not guilty. The media interest must have been intense as the *Mirror* newspaper set up a subscription for funds to further Audrey Jacobs' artistic studies. She married an American businessman and died in Texas in 1970.

Richard Offen, Executive Director of Heritage Perth, regaled us with a lively historical virtual tour of Perth. Commencing at the Kings Head Inn at the top of the Terrace, Perth's first hostelry and the place to be in the 1800s, the tour included the Pensioner Barracks, the Palace Hotel, the Adelphi, London Court, the Gledden Building, the AMP building, the Ambassador cinema and the Esplanade. Presented with wit and, for one who only arrived in 2008, an amazing knowledge of Perth's heritage supplemented by with evocative archival footage comparing yesterday and today, the talk had us spellbound. As some of these buildings or their remnants were still standing in the living memories of many, if not most, of the audience, it made for a good dose of nostalgia. None, of course, would remember the building of the Pensioner Barracks, as the footings were laid 150 years ago. However, as Richard reminded us, the demolition of the Barracks in the early 1960s provoked a huge controversy. The government eventually bowed to public opinion and retained the Barracks Arch, an edifice that Richard overheard one local describing to a tourist as Perth's *Arc de Triomphe*! Whilst Perth's earlier penchant for retaining heritage façades left him unimpressed, he did concede that the Palace Hotel (now Bankwest) retained some of its grandeur. With no expense spared the Palace featured Italian marble, the first lift and electric lighting in Perth. Likewise the 1910 AMP chambers featured magnificent jarrah panelling and a 3.7 metre high bronze statue comprising four figures atop the building. This item survived demolition but ended up in private hands and now sits in the back yard of a suburban house. While the post-Depression era brought a surge in art deco buildings such as the Adelphi Hotel, only a few such as the Gledden Building have survived. However, not all is gloom and doom as the rebuilt Claremont Town Council building is to retain its art deco style and the revamped old Treasury Buildings will retain 93% of their heritage. At one stage Perth had 14 cinemas and none more exuberant than the 1928 Ambassadors cinema with its elaborate interior, orchestra pit and Wurlitzer organ. Moving down to the Esplanade with its ongoing and chequered history of reclamation, Richard made the point that transplanted buildings tended to lose their heritage status and in his view transplants rarely worked out well.

Jenny Gregory's stimulating and thought provoking presentation revisited the main themes of her 2003 book *City of light : a history of Perth since the 1950s* commencing with the claim that 'things stay the same and all change'. Her updated recital of 'stories of light and dark' used four juxtaposed themes of celebration versus protest, city versus state, heritage versus development and equilibrium versus disorder.

Two major celebrations were the Queen's visit in 1952 and the winning of the America's Cup in 1980s. Two major protests were the 1930s unemployed men's protest and the Anti-Vietnam War protests. Have things stayed the same or changed? Jenny's verdict was that Perth still knows how to celebrate with fireworks (light) on Australia Day and still knows how to protest as demonstrated by the National Union of Students protest against higher university fees and the anti-mining tax protest led by Gina Rinehart and Andrew Forrest. She concluded with a surprisingly upbeat assessment albeit with some caveats. As regards heritage versus development the city still retained some of its fabric, though, St Georges Terrace once 'a street you could live in' had become a wind tunnel. This



development came after World War II when veterans returned home with a strong belief in progress and a rebuilding mentality influenced by European ideas of modernism and progress. Old buildings were seen as rubbish. Whilst some old buildings remained, only a few survived the overriding planning imperative to cope with a surging population and to put the past behind us. From the mid 1950s, following the engagement of Professor George Stephenson from the University of Liverpool, the Stephenson plan remains the blueprint today. Main roads engineers influenced by US ideas accepted the dominance of private over public transport and freeways multiplied.

Unfortunately the City of Perth has limited decision-making power, which makes it easy for the state to mandate its plans. The building of the casino in the 1980s is but one example. More recently, the development of the Esplanade into Elizabeth Quay is another. This open space, once deeded to the people of Perth for their enjoyment and leisure forever, looks likely to become the private province of 5 star hotels. Not a lot has changed in the city versus state arena. Despite this, Jenny cited a number of changes for the better in the transition from the gracious lotus land city of the 1950s-70s to the dullsville of the 1980s and 1990s and the subsequent boom town. Boom town has brought opportunities such as repopulation of the inner city, better music, entertainment and theatre and a livelier feel. She juxtaposed equilibrium and disorder in terms of positive changes in the government's attitude and action on heritage and negative aspects of over-regulation as opposed to the disorder that allows creativity to flourish. Promising signs of flourishing creativity includes public art as in the laneways project that encourages graffiti.

Jo Pearson, Curator of the RWAHS costume collection, gave a stimulating talk on the history of costume in WA from 1829 showing the British influences on the Swan River Colony. With research from settler diaries and writings and pictures she showed how settlers strived to keep fashionable despite the different conditions of the colony, and interestingly how they made certain adaptations in a climate; for instance, where Fremantle sands and winds affected the eyes – cover everything from heat and sand.

Society judged people by the clothes they wore. The first European settlers wore Georgian costumes in 1829; settlers like Georgina Molloy wore low cut gowns with voluminous sleeves. Settlers enjoyed dressing up. Lt Governor James Stirling hosted balls where the gentry entertained new gentry. Lady Stirling set fashion standards for the colony – dressing for dinner in a tent where gloves and stockings were worn. Visitors from India were astounded by the standards of balls until dawn and dining which 'would do credit to any part of the world'. Government uniforms were regarded as attractive, and blue coats and white trousers copied military style for weddings. There was a shortage of shoes which did not last because of the conditions. Flannel was scarce and prized. Clothing was regarded as a tradeable commodity and convicts courted with clothing items. Young servant girls worked for clothes and school children won clothes for prizes. Settlers often improvised and sewed and reseeded clothes - remodelling and remaking clothes from existing gowns. Young girls employed as dressmakers could make 30 shillings a week.

Jo outlined the different trends in ladies fashion in Europe. In the 1850s this included cages to support the shape of the dress, which also kept fabric away from body and was cooler than layers of petticoats. This style was later replaced by the bustle that was tied at the back to give shape. Later Amelia Bloom modelled lightweight pantaloons (labelled

at the time as a moral threat to the superior role of men) but they made little impact in the Swan River Colony. Lighter dresses without the restrictiveness of corsets became popular in the latter part of the nineteenth century.



Panellists Mike Galvin, Patrick Cornish and Ruth Marchant James. Photo: K Bizzaca.

Patrick Cornish, Mike Galvin and Ruth Marchant James participated in a panel that marked the end of the day.

Patrick Cornish spoke of Perth in a highly entertaining way to which words do not do justice. He asked whether it was Dullesville or Delightful? Perhaps the label of dullsville was dispensed with once and for all. He examined what may have been the reason for Perth being called Dullsville in the 1980s. He then dispelled it with examples such as the lavishly endowed beaches and lively music scene. Patrick used the word Dullesville as the basis for describing Perth's progress through time: D for Dreary, U for Unpoliceable, L for Lacking variety, L for Lax restrictions on political behaviour, S for Straight jacketed thinking, V for Virtually everything open now, I for illumination (city of lights), L for lavishly endowed, L for lively music scene, E for exuberant. Indeed, he believed that Perth has shed a skin, thrown off restrictions and entered a new era.

Mike Galvin talked about the AIF and highlighted the significant role that WA played in World War 1. He reminded us that Australia in those days still saw itself as inseparable from the United Kingdom and, as part of the British Empire, it had an obligation to support the Mother Country. This year marks the centenary of the beginning of that war and the government's commitment to fight it to 'the last man and last shilling' with an army of volunteers. The existing Army comprised just 1,200 permanent soldiers and, as they were required for home service, the solution was to raise a volunteer army named the Australian Imperial Force. Western Australia was given a quota of 1,400 recruits but when the order to mobilise was given on 7 August 1914 over 5,000 volunteered on the first day. In all, Western Australia supplied 32,231 volunteers. "A" company of the 11th battalion started out with 150 men and only 11 returned. Of the 56 men from York who enlisted in the August to December period of 1914 and 17 did not return. As more than 330,000 Australian soldiers served overseas Western Australia supplied more than their share of volunteers, including the famous 10th Light Horse Regiment.

Author and historian Ruth Marchant James taught us how serendipitous research can be with her account of archival travels in Ireland researching the 100 year old history Congregation of Presentation Sisters. She gave a compelling account of the rich rewards of research, but how being open to serendipity is important with qualities of patience, dedication and curiosity.

All in all, the 50th RWAHS Affiliated Societies Conference was a highly successful, interesting and stimulating session enjoyed by everyone.

*Report by Ann Hunter MPHA & Ian Duckham MPHA*

## ❖ From the State Library:

### **New Acquisitions**

An interesting large black and white photograph entitled “A record removal job for the State – 1927 – Steel Barge, 25 tons, 40ft x 18ft, drawn by 12 horses. George Maloney, Contractor.” The image depicts the barge in Wellington Street outside Eagle Globe and Steel as the load began its trip to the river. George Maloney is sitting on the left of the sulky and his son George is seated and holding the reins. The barge was originally made at Hoskins Foundry.

A letter, dated 17 August 1888, from Arthur Anderson in Beverley to William Worthy Free in Queensland. The letter describes Arthur’s work surveying for the West Australian Land Company for a railway near Albany; the soil, climate, vegetation and forests of the area; difficulties with the man sent out with him; a fatal accident involving the son of the Managing Director; and passengers and events on the *Parramatta* (Anderson met Free on the *Parramatta* while travelling from England to Australia in 1887).

Papers of Nathan and Rosa Golinger (both born in Palestine), consisting of order books, wage books and accounting records 1947-1959 & 1965-1971, relating to the Golinger family, tailoring and women’s fashion in Perth. Nathan arrived in Perth as a teenager, and worked for the Austral Manufacturing Company, the Equity Clothing Company and Goode, Durrant & Co, learning the trade and suit making. After their marriage Rosa established her own business, becoming the first female proprietor in the fashion business in Perth. After World War II they established several tailoring businesses and women’s fashion shops in Perth before retiring, Nathan in 1960 and Rosa in 1970.

A Baptist Marriage Register 1911-1921, covering areas such as Gnowangerup, Broomehill, Hopetoun, Ravensthorpe and Dangin. Many of the weddings were not performed in churches but instead were held in private homes, schools or other secular buildings. The register was kept by Edward J Clugston, and was passed down through the minister’s family. It should be a valuable resource for family historians and those interested in local history.

A collection of photographs taken by Phillip Gostelow on a trip from Roleystone to Mount Barker in June 2014, including scenes of Beverley, Brookton, Pingelly, Popanyinning, Cuballing, Narrogin, Highbury, North Bannister, Bannister, Williams, Arthur River, Wagin, Woodanilling, Broomehill, Tambellup, Cranbrook and Tenterden.

A Wayside House Licence application from Thomas Sorenson to the Yalgoo Goldfields Warden in about 1896.

Memoire of Charles Hearle-Woodroffe describing his experiences with the 44th Battalion, from leaving Blackboy Hill Camp on 15 October 1916 to his arrival at Ypres on 10 October 1917. The memoire was written after his return to Australia after the war and includes descriptions of the send-off from Fremantle; life on board the *Port Macquarie*; shore leave at Durban, Capetown and Freetown; arrival at Plymouth; bomb instructor training at Lyndhurst; and arrival at France where he was posted to the 9th and 10th Field Ambulance and commenced duties as a stretcher bearer.

Diary of Beresford Bardwell, spanning April to September 1915 in the Dardanelles - during this time he was promoted from Lance-Corporal to Corporal, then Second Lieutenant, and was wounded. This clearly written diary evokes the drama of war, the everyday events of life in that arena, his time in hospital, his friendships and losses.

Letter, from 18 year old Private Oscar Stahl of the 11th Battalion, dated 26 May 1915, to his mother in Kalgoorlie. The missive is written on a rare YMCA letter sheet with photograph. Stahl was in training at Blackboy Hill Camp at the time and asks in the letter if there is any news about his wounded brother Fred who was serving at Gallipoli. Both brothers fought at Pozieres in mid-1916. Oscar was badly wounded and was carried out by his brother Fred but died of his wounds on 25 July 1916 and was buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme, France. Fred was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty' for another action at Pozieres.

*Jean Butler & Laurie Allen, Collection Liaison, Acquisition & Description, State Library of WA*

## ❖ From the Foundation:

### Library Celebrations Highlight History

The State Library of Western Australia Foundation, through the generous support of Lotterywest, has been able to assist the State Library to celebrate its 125th anniversary with a stunning program of events. These are aimed at informing the general public about the services offered by the library and building awareness of its vast heritage collection.

2014 has seen a number of events with strong links to the history and heritage of Western Australia. These events have been designed to engage audiences and inspire them to explore their own history or research the topics that have been presented.

The recent "Perth Stories" presented two very different points of view to a packed theatre in the library. Speakers, David Whish-Wilson and Warren Duffy, handled the topic in keeping with their own philosophy and reasoning. Thus the audience was presented with a very philosophical and somewhat analytic approach to the city from David Whish Wilson who has painted his picture of the city in words. Warren Duffy, on the other hand, has looked at our city through a collection of items including buildings, advertisements and photographs.

Both speakers were concerned with "Lost Perth"- some of the features, the stories and the people who have been forgotten in the rush to construct new buildings following trends in other cities.

Chaired by Richard Offen, director of Heritage Perth, this session provided much food for thought with the audience reflecting on their own feelings and reactions to Perth, its past, its present and its future and perhaps what has been lost along the way.

For those who were not able to attend, the audio file of this presentation and others in the "Be Inspired " series, will soon be available on the State Library's website at [http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/whats\\_on/audio\\_and\\_video](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/whats_on/audio_and_video)

Coming on 2 December is an event entitled "The Future of History". This will involve a discussion about the current and future challenges in collecting, studying, teaching and promoting West Australian history. Guest speaker, President of the Australian Academy of Humanities, Professor Lesley Johnson AM FAHA, will discuss the challenge for libraries in engaging with the history sector.

A panel of well-known historians will consider the topic and invite the audience to contribute their ideas on the subject.

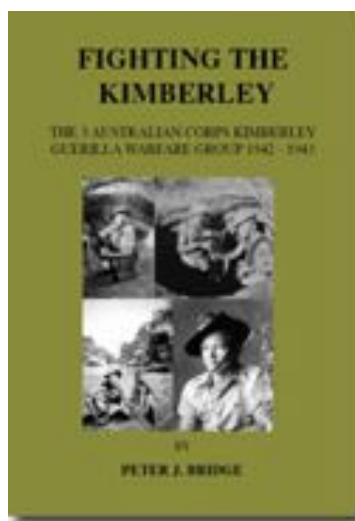
In keeping with the "future" trend, current graduate students working on WA related history topics will be competing in a 3 minute thesis competition and the audience will be involved in choosing a winner.

On Saturday, 6 December the State Library's 125th anniversary celebrations culminates with "hiLIGHTS", a night of family friendly events, including large scale photographic projections on the library building, to showcase the State Library's journey to becoming a vital cultural institution which is visited by more than 1.4 million people every year.

*Anne Chapple, Partnership Co-ordinator, State Library Foundation*

### ❖ Book Note - *Fighting the Kimberley*:

*Fighting the Kimberley: The 3 Australian Corps Kimberley Guerilla Warfare Group, 1942-1943* by Peter J Bridge. Hesperian Press, Carlisle, 2012, soft cover, A4, 356 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-85905-501-7, RRP \$60.



Over the years, many yarns have surfaced about clandestine activities that took place in the Kimberley during the Second World War. Some, especially those that told of



Japanese landings on the coast, sounded questionable. Others relating to the provisions made to detect and deal with such landings often had a ring of truth.

The massive amount of material presented in this book removes all doubt as to how Australia handled the ongoing fear of WA's far north being invaded. Diaries, letters, reports and reminiscences tell of the deployment and activities of men who were responsible for protecting the Kimberley. Many of the men also appear in the multitude of photos.

While primarily concerned with Major G D Mitchell's 3rd Australian Army Corps Guerilla Warfare Group, the book also discusses that group's predecessor—the Special Independent Company—and other units. The latter were: the 101 Field Security Section; Liveringa Commando VDC (part of the 11th North West Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps); the 29th Garrison (Derby); and Special Duties groups.

The book proceeds chronologically, with the sections titled: 'The attack on Broome'; 'The defence of Broome'; 'Major Mitchell's first foray'; 'The Kimberley Guerilla Warfare Group'; 'Brief biographical notes and reminiscences of the GWG and associated men'; 'Men of the 101 Field Security'; 'Dissolution of the Guerilla Warfare Group'; 'Arms dumps in the Kimberley'; Donkey Patrol, King Leopold Ranges, May – June 1992 by Mac Jensen'; and 'Nominal Roll'. The donkey patrol, undertaken as a commemorative event, endeavoured to follow the route of a 1942 patrol.

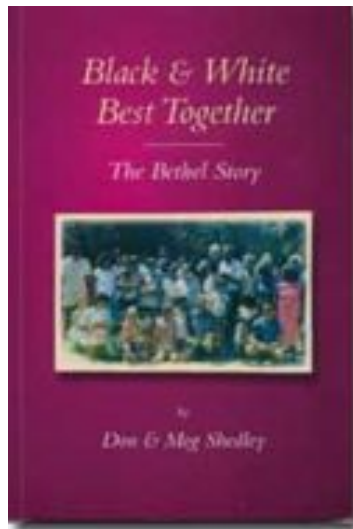
For me, the most interesting segments of *Fighting the Kimberley* are the contemporary reports. Major Mitchell's often jaundiced assessments of the locals (missionaries, stockmen, station owners, etc) are revealing, as are his casual comments about arms and ammunition, e.g. '3,000 rounds' left with Harold Reid at Munja. Also of interest are reports and letters that tell of the impact of the military on the locals, including the use of houses and other buildings, requisitioning of equipment, and "booking up" of fuel, oil and other essentials. War correspondent Cyril Longmore's diary and notes (13 March to 7 August 1942) provide snippets about a trip through the Kimberley with Major Mitchell and others. At Fossil Downs Station, he wrote admiringly of the owner, William N M MacDonald, who 'for months has toured the Kimberleys at his own expense, organising the VDC'. Longmore was also a strong advocate of forming a Native Auxiliary Corps at Liveringa Station, and his correspondence about that with Prime Minister John Curtin is included in the book.

The people mentioned in *Fighting the Kimberley* are listed in an index, and most of the army personnel are also listed in the nominal roll. The roll, having been compiled for this book, should not be taken as a full list of people who served in the Kimberley. More than 100 other Kimberley men also served in the local VDC. The nominal roll is useful for finding the groups to which men belonged, and thus for finding information and biographical notes relevant to a specific group. Places mentioned in the text are not indexed but a series of maps at the front of the book is useful for gaining a sense of where most of the events occurred. The book's structure therefore allows it to be read as a whole or searched for information.

*Cathie Clement MPHA*

❖ **Book Note - *Black & White Best Together - The Bethel Story*:**

*Black & White Best Together: The Bethel Story* by Don & Meg Shedley. Hesperian Press, 2007. Soft Cover, 276 pages, illustrated, maps, ISBN 0 85905 405 5, RRP \$35.00.



On 2 June 2014, Megan Ruth Shedley passed away. The death notice inserted in *The West Australian* by her family described her as the loved wife of Don, mother, grandmother and great grandmother of multitudes. *The West's* online Guest Book held a photo of Meg and Don in Kununurra in 1974.

Kununurra events are discussed at length in *Black & White Best Together*. The book commences with the early part of Don Shedley's life. Born in 1922 and educated in Perth, he served in the RAAF during the Second World War and then did a degree in Agricultural Science at the University of Western Australia. Meg Dolling, born in 1923, was a school teacher in South Australia before she married Don in 1946. Several years later—his studies completed—he joined the Entomology Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

After working extensively with insect pests in Perth, Don was sent north in December 1964 when Kununurra began growing cotton commercially. The posting was initially worrying because he and Meg were not only active in the Churches of Christ and the Applecross Christian Endeavour Society but also provided a home for Aboriginal girls who came from the country to the city for secondary education. As it happened, the feared disruption did not eventuate. In Kununurra, Don heard of more Aboriginal students who needed Perth accommodation, and that led to the formation of an independent mission known as Bethel Incorporated.

*Black & White Best Together* tells the story of Bethel, which, between 1965 and 1985, had three student homes in Perth and four properties in Kununurra. Meg and Don Shedley went north 'without a denominational tag' but saw Don's Department of Agriculture posting as a calling 'to minister to the aboriginal people'. The book tells of

the successes and failures encountered in that calling. It is candid in its discussion of conflict created by religious affiliations, departure from church policy, and enticement of people away from Catholicism.

Of particular interest in the book is the listing of people who lived in Bethel homes. Basil Green from Halls Creek, for example, boarded in one of the Perth homes from 1966 to 1970 before doing a law degree in Queensland and becoming a barrister. He is now known as Ribner Green. Maria (Marianna) McCarthy from Fitzroy Crossing boarded in Perth from 1973 to 1975. Now known as Marmingee Hand, she has two tertiary degrees and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2001 for service to the development of sport in remote Indigenous communities. Other former boarders contributed stories to the book, telling of their schooling and later careers.

More than half of *Black & White Best Together* is devoted to coverage of Kimberley events, mostly in or around Kununurra. Some small sections discuss Aboriginal families and communities while others discuss activities that include farming and broom making. The book ends with notes made by the Shedleys as they drove from Kununurra to Perth in October 1999, bringing their years in the Kimberley to an end.

In reading this book, the thing that stayed with me was the realisation that Bethel, by enabling many Aboriginal children to pursue further education, strengthened the communities to which those children belonged. The comprehensive index of names allows the reader to identify both those children and many of the other people who worked with, or had contact with, Bethel between 1965 and 1985.

*Cathie Clement MPHA*

### ❖ Items of Interest:

#### **Some Forthcoming Events at the State Library of WA by Susanna Iuliano, acting Battye Historian:**

##### *November*

3-30 November - New Norcia exhibition in the SLWA nook space for the bicentennial commemoration of Dom Rosendo Salvado's birth.

13-14 November – New Norcia 'Ways of Telling' Symposium to be held in the State Library Theatre.

##### *December*

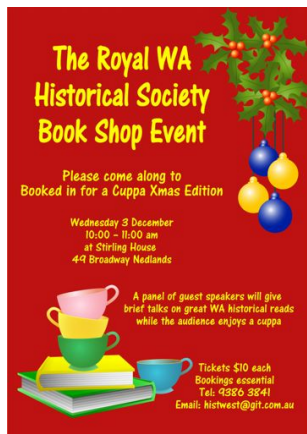
2 December: The Future of West Australian History, State Library Theatre 5-7pm

President of the Australian Academy of Humanities, Professor Lesley Johnson will speak on how libraries can engage more effectively to promote the collection, study and teaching of history and chair a panel discussion on the challenges ahead for key sector groups involved in collecting, researching and teaching WA history. As part of the event, graduate students from all five WA universities who are working on some aspect of WA history will be invited to distil their magnum opus into a 3 minute parvum opus for a chance to win an iPad Air (overall winner) or iPad mini (people's choice award).

6 December: HiLights, State Library 4-9pm

Throughout 2014, the State Library has been celebrating 125 years of helping Western Australians treasure their stories. The celebrations culminate on 6 December when the Library will host 'HiLights', a night of family friendly events including large scale projections which showcase the State Library's journey to becoming one of Western Australia's most vital cultural institutions.

**RWAHS:**



Royal WA Historical Society's upcoming Bookshop event "Booked in for a Cuppa" to be held on Wednesday 3 December 10:00 – 11:00am at Stirling House 49 Broadway Nedlands.

This is an event whereby a panel of authors and special guests present brief and engaging talks about great WA historical reads while the audience enjoys a cuppa and takes an interest in purchasing a copy of the books discussed. Key speakers include Carole Perry *Northcliffe: The Town that Refused to Die*, John Dowson *Off to War*, Sue Clarke on children's books and Patrick Cornish as MC. The event takes place in the Society's Museum which has lovely new theme displays for you to enjoy.

Tickets are \$10 each and include morning tea. Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting the office on 9386 3841.

Everyone is welcome and this is a great opportunity to buy some special Christmas gifts for family and friends.

❖ **Next Newsletter Deadline:**

We encourage members to submit articles about their current projects or reviews of recent histories for inclusion in the PHA (WA) Newsletter. Copy for the next newsletter is due by the **final week of January 2015** and can be sent to [Kris Bizzaca](mailto:kris.bizzaca@apha.com.au).

❖ **PHA (WA) Management Committee 2014-2015:**

President	Kris Bizzaca
Vice-President	Odhran O'Brien
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Teegan Gaunt & Jennifer Weir
Membership Secretary	Sue Graham-Taylor
Committee Members	Prue Griffin Chris Owen Ann Hunter Cathy Day Kerry King

ACPHA Representative                      Kris Bizzaca

**Sub-Committees 2013-2014:**

Rules & Incorporation	Kris Bizzaca, Jennifer Weir
Promotions & Publications	Sue Graham-Taylor
Newsletter Editor	Kris Bizzaca
Credentials	Sue Graham-Taylor, Robin Chinnery (co-opted)
Commissioned History	Prue Griffin

**Annual Membership Fees as from 1 July 2014:**

Professional Historian	\$85
Professional Historian (Retired)	\$50
Professional Historian (Associate)	\$65
Graduate Historian	\$40
Historical Researcher	\$40
Joining fee	\$30

**Further information:**

Membership applications, the Rules of the Association, the Register of Consultants, and advice regarding consultancy fees are available on request to the [Secretary](#), PHA (WA) Inc., GPO Box 8381, Perth Business Centre, Perth WA 6849.

Members of PHA (WA) adhere to the Code of Ethics and Professional Standards endorsed by the Professional Historians Australia in August 2001.

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## OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

To promote the concept of professional history and the status of Members of the Association in the community.

To set and maintain standards of professional practice.

To act in the interest of Members.

To maintain a register of all Members.

To advise Members and prospective clients on desirable terms of employment.

To collect and disseminate information of professional and general interest to Members.

To encourage further professional development by such means as seminars, workshops and publications.

To maintain links with similar organisations.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (WA) INC**  
PO BOX 8381 PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE PERTH WA 6849  
<http://www.professionalthistorianswa.org.au/>