



# NEWSLETTER

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## Note from the President:

Hello and welcome to our final eNewsletter for 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to add a special 'hello to you all' as your new President and also extend a welcome to the new and returning management committee members. A huge thank you to Kris Bizzaca, who has served so diligently and tirelessly as President (and in many other roles), and who has provided enormous support and patience to me in the handover. I also acknowledge the other outgoing committee members, Teegan Gaunt, Kerry King and Chris Owen.

After an absence of several years, during which time I served on other various committees and boards, it is fabulous to be back with PHA and to see both new and familiar faces. I hope to build even further upon the great efforts of Kris and the committee on maintaining and extending the 'professionalism' of our organisation as well as its reach and relevance to those who work in the industry, to the community who draw upon our services and in the many sectors that we touch upon. In particular, attracting new members and keeping existing ones is an area the committee will be focusing on and developing further strategies. Having recently attended the Interpretation Australia national conference where this very matter was raised, I am acutely aware we are not alone as an organisation in having membership high on our radar. The current economic climate is no doubt affecting decisions on which organisations members choose to join and which memberships to maintain so we need to ensure we achieve and maintain a place on the top of people's lists.





The professional development PHA offers is certainly something that provides appeal as well as the opportunity to meet with other professionals and prompt some lateral and creative thinking around our profession. The speakers at our recent AGM were no exception and Robyn Taylor has kindly reflected on their presentations in this newsletter.



At Heathcote: Anne Brake (MAWA) and Jacqui Sherriff (PHA (WA) & MAWA) (L - R). Photo: H Munt.



Matt Ibbitson (PHA (WA)) and Bill Reynolds (PHA (WA)) (L - R). Photo: S Graham-Taylor.

But it's not all about 'business' and another important part of who we are comes from the opportunities to socialise and celebrate together. For those of you who were able to attend our end of year function at Heathcote with our fellow MAWA friends, I'm sure you will agree it was a lovely evening. Thanks especially to Cathy Day and Chrissy Rutz for organising. The City of Melville was very generous with providing staff to help out for the evening and it was obvious that the City was delighted to be able to showcase its wonderful venue. May this combined celebration signal the start of even more collaboration, participation and engagement in the year ahead.

As you may be aware, a decision was endorsed at the AGM to now produce two newsletters annually so I confidently predict a vast array of articles to be forthcoming to fill the quota for the first edition in the new year. I guess I will be obliged to lead by example, so... let's all make a commitment to start thinking about what contributions we can make for the next time. To those of you who have contributed to this edition – great work and thank you!

*Helen Munt APHA  
President*

## The Business of History Version 2.0 - 2015 PD Session:

Those of you who stayed after our October 2015 AGM were treated to a very energizing and uplifting talk about how we can promote ourselves as historians using the high tech world of digital technology.

I confess I don't have a website, use Facebook or Twitter, or look at other forms of social media apart from networking through email and, very occasionally, LinkedIn.





Jo Hawkins on the topic of 'The Entrepreneurial Historian', October 2015 PD Session. Photo: K Bizzaca.

The keynote speaker at our Professional Development Seminar, shared with members of OHAA (WA Branch), was Jo Hawkins. Jo is a former marketing manager who is completing her doctorate in Australian history, specifically on the influence of consumer culture on the Anzac legend. The title of Jo's talk got me in: 'The Entrepreneurial Historian: How to sell yourself and why it isn't selling out.'

The workplace is getting tougher for the self-employed historian, and if we want to keep working we may well have to embrace the new technologies if we haven't already done so. To quote from the seminar flyer: 'As demand for history and heritage continues to boom, it has never been more important for professional historians to communicate the value of what they do'. Jo discussed online tools that can be used to promote ourselves, and examples of other historians such as the political commentator and professional historian Dan Carlin who has two podcasts, Common Sense and Hardcore History. Creative Commons was mentioned as a useful site to go to – just Google Creative Commons. Jo has her own website: [www.historypunk.com](http://www.historypunk.com), which is worth having a look at to see how she goes about promoting herself.

Jo was followed by our past President Kris Bizzaca who talked about what aspiring consultant historians need to know. There was a Q&A panel discussion with Kris, Jenny Carter, Heather Campbell and Bridget Curran from the City of Belmont's museum who talked about oral history projects, budgeting and other highly relevant topics.

PHA is to be congratulated for organising this thought provoking seminar.

*Dr Robyn Taylor MPHA*

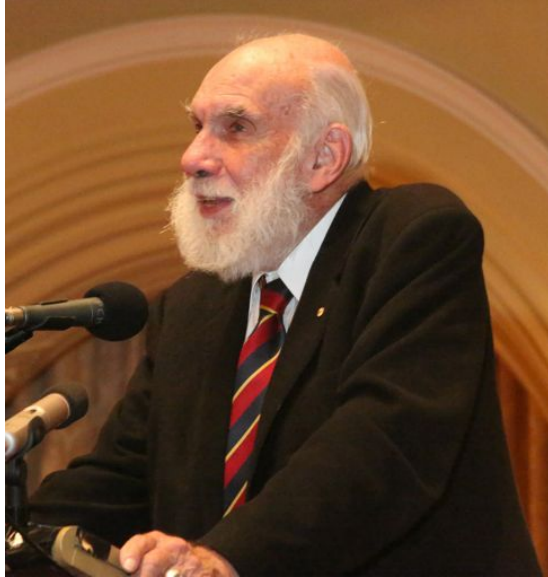
## Vale Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton:

On 3 September 2015, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Curgenvon Bolton AO died peacefully at home with his family. Born in 1931, he attended Wesley College on a scholarship and then went to the University of Western Australia. There, his research and writing set the high standard for which he would become known. His Honours thesis was on the explorer Alexander Forrest. His 1953 Masters thesis was titled 'A survey of the Kimberley Pastoral Industry from 1885 to the





Present'. The research for it took him through the Kimberley region—the far north of WA—and some of the people he met there became lifelong friends.



Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO. Image provided courtesy of the State Records Office of Western Australia.

Geoff's other achievements are too numerous to list here. He wrote 15 books, and co-authored others. Among the earliest was *Alexander Forrest: His Life and Times*, released by Melbourne University Press in 1958. His other books include national, regional, local, institutional, and environmental histories. There were also biographies, the most recent being *Paul Hasluck: A Life* published last year. Earlier biographical subjects included Sir Edmund Barton.

Many committees, working parties and groups benefited from Geoff's knowledge, charm and connections. In 1959, Frank Crowley recruited him to the provisional WA working party for the ADB and, in the decades that followed, Geoff remained strongly committed to that project. As well as helping with the selection of entries for WA people, he penned 86 of his own. Parallel work saw him co-author, with Ann Mozley, *The Western Australia Legislature 1870–1930*, and then, with David Black, the two-volume *Biographical Register of Members of the Parliament of Western Australia*.

Geoff's teaching career included appointments as Senior Lecturer at Monash University (1962–1965); Professor of Modern History at University of Western Australia (1966–1973); Foundation Professor of History at Murdoch University (1973–1989), with a break of several years in which he established the Australian Studies Centre at the University of London. He was then Bicentennial Professor of Australian History at the University of Queensland (1989–1993); and Professor of History at Edith Cowan University (1993–1996). Geoff also served three terms on the Senate at Murdoch and he was Chancellor there from 2002 to 2006.

At Murdoch, I was fortunate to have Geoff supervise my initial postgraduate study in the early 1980s. Inspired by the great work that he and Mary Durack had done on the Kimberley's early settlement and pastoral activity, I set out to see what I could add. Geoff's supervision involved showing interest in my findings, offering comments about where some of the settlers fitted into the bigger picture, and, perhaps best of all, endorsing an empirical approach to historical research and writing. His photographic memory and even-handedness were impressive, and his integrity was beyond question. Those things, coupled with his ability to deliver engaging lectures, made him popular with both students and colleagues.







In the wider community, Geoff's involvement with people, groups and causes endeared him to many. Recognition of his enormous contribution to history included being made an Officer of the Order of Australia (1984), Fellow of the Royal WA Historical Society (1997), Honorary Life Member of the Oral History Association (2003), and WA Australian of the Year (2006). His name has graced the State Record Office of WA's annual lecture since 2004, and, for many years to come, people will stroll along Geoffrey Bolton Avenue in the new Elizabeth Quay precinct in Perth.

Despite his high standing and busy life, Geoff seldom declined requests to present papers or talks, launch books, open exhibitions, or write chapters, forewords, and letters of recommendation. I was among those who appreciated that side of his nature, having had him speak at the launch of the Kimberley Society in 1993 and again at its history seminar in 2010. At the seminar, six decades after writing his Honours thesis, Geoff captivated the audience with an off-the-cuff account of 'Alexander Forrest's expedition 1879 and early development of the cattle industry'. Published in the seminar proceedings *Kimberley History: People, Exploration and Development*, that 'paper', like much of Geoff's other writing, carries an echo of his voice. In that regard, he will live on for those who knew him because, in reading his prolific work, we will continue to hear the raconteur who brought so much life to history.

Geoff is survived by his wife Carol, sons Patrick and Matthew, and five grandchildren. His funeral was private, with burial at Fremantle Cemetery. A State Memorial Service took place in St George's Cathedral, Perth, on 5 October.

*Dr Cathie Clement OAM MPHA*

## New Member Profile - Jenna Lynch:

What I find most appealing about the field of history is that it is immeasurable – there will always be a new facet to question, explore, record and share.

I received my BA (History and Japanese) from UWA in 2008, with a major focus on Australian, American and Asian histories. Since then I have worked in the not-for-profit arts sphere and for local governments where I have been involved in art collections and galleries, libraries and local history collections.

My current position at the City of Perth History Centre as Assistant History Librarian has a great emphasis on community engagement. You can find me assisting people with their research queries, making the centre's collection accessible and enticing, creating and delivering educational history sessions and workshops for people of all ages and backgrounds and recording the City's history.

A key project in which I am involved at the City of Perth History Centre is the Land Titles Office and Treasury Precinct Oral History Project. Staff and contract oral historians have been busy interviewing, transcribing, indexing and compiling the final transcripts and audio for presentation to participants. An acknowledgement event for all contributors will be held in the new City of Perth Library, scheduled to open in early 2016.

My main research interests are local and Western Australian history, with an evolving interest in the history of animal/pet ownership in the early days of the Swan River settlement. My current focus is on refining my oral history interviewing technique and to learn about emerging technologies that can be used for historical interpretation projects.

*Jenna Lynch, Graduate Historian*





## 'What is Toodyaypedia?' - Robyn Taylor:

Over the past year I have been researching 25 Toodyay identities for Stage 2 of a Wiki Town project called Toodyaypedia. Stage one covers historic buildings and these are identified by a QR (Quick Response) code plaque placed on or near the building or site's existing plaque, if there is one, or close by.

Visitors to town can obtain a copy of the 'Living History' brochure from the Visitors Centre and use this to navigate their way around Toodyay to locate the plaques. If you don't already have this app, the QR Reader can be downloaded onto your smart phone or iPad, and the brochure tells you how to do this.

So far Fremantle and Toodyay are the only two places in Australia where the Wiki Town project has been undertaken. Ours is a collaborative effort between the Shire of Toodyay, the Toodyay Historical Society and Wikimedia Australia.

My job has been a fascinating adventure into Toodyay's past. I began by identifying people who represented a diverse range of occupations and time periods. Narrowing down the number to 25 was a challenge requiring research to decide who could be excluded, if there was enough material for those at the top of the list, and if they could be linked (on the web) to other significant people, places, or events. People already covered by Wikipedia could not be included, unless I provided significant new material.

The project was jointly funded by the Shire and Lotterywest and required the inclusion of people connected with the Toodyay Convict Depot. I chose two Resident Magistrates, two convicts, and three Enrolled Pensioner Guards. There are several EPG cottages remaining in the main street. Reverend Charles Harper and Canon Raffaele Martelli were obvious choices to cover the Anglican and Catholic churches. I was fortunate a book with Martelli's transcribed letters, written in Italian during the mid 1850s to Bishop Salvado at New Norcia, had recently been published by John Kinder and Joshua Brown. There are doctors, a Chinese market-gardener, a bootmaker, vigneron, a returned WW2 soldier and long serving volunteer fire fighter, a manufacturer of carriages, and pastoralists who became politicians.

I was able to give some gender balance with an account of the indomitable Sister Angela Brown at the Sisters of Mercy Convent. That lady knew how to organise great fund-raising balls. Also Nurse Doris Durlacher, and Annie Stack, a local Aboriginal woman who organised the men in her camp to collect fleece and undertake labouring jobs for farmers. A brief account is given of Constance Ellery, a bootmaker and decorator of specialty cakes.

My draft stories have been passed on to the Perth based Wiki team who edit and arrange in the Wiki house style. Needless to say, one of the exciting aspects of the research has been to find links between people and events of which I had never been aware.

*Dr Robyn Taylor MPHA*

## Old Halls Creek Post Office Ruins - Cathie Clement:

A recently finished project has demonstrated what can be achieved by a private owner, a community group, and a local government authority working together. It involved fifteen years of fundraising and three lots of on-site work.





In April 2000, Rosemary Rosario and I, with funding provided by the then Heritage Council of WA, completed a conservation plan for the Old Halls Creek Post Office Ruins. Rosemary is known to quite a few PHA (WA) members. Several of us have undertaken a range of projects with her over the years while others have worked with her in the local government sphere.



The tree visible in this 2015 photo of site is also visible in a 1940s photo on interpretation panel no. 2 (see below). Its size has barely changed in the intervening decades. Photo courtesy: Rosemary Rosario.

The historic townsite in which the ruins stand was classified by the National Trust in 1977. The ruins were then heritage listed at the national level in 1985 and at a state level in 1998. They were the only above ground remnant of an early building in the townsite.

The mud brick building, constructed in 1889, first served as a post and telegraph office with a courthouse, quarters, detached kitchen, and stables. After a post office opened in the new town of Halls Creek in 1952, Beryl and Robert Moody lived in the old building. They provided auxiliary postal services until they took over the adjacent Kimberley Hotel in 1954. By that time, rain and wind had almost demolished the kitchen, bathroom and laundry, and termites had eaten out a lot of the timbers, but Mrs Moody bought the old post office from Commonwealth Government. Part of it was still habitable but half of the roof had gone. A few years later the rest went.

In 1977, the Taylor family, who owned a store in the new town, purchased the ruins and the land on which they stand. Attempts had been made, and were again made, to generate funds to build a parasol roof over the ruins. But the prohibitive cost prevented anything being done until 2002. At that time, thanks to a concerted joint effort made by the Taylors and the Kimberley Society, enough money had been raised from donations and Federal and State grants to undertake stage 1 of the conservation and interpretation project. The roof, which follows the lines of the original, enables visitors to envisage how the place looked in days gone by.

Coming after three hard years of fundraising, the erection of the roof was cause for celebration. But it took the Kimberley Society almost four years to raise additional money for the finishing touches – the third gable (left out at first to save money) plus louvres set into all three open gables (to keep the rain off the mud brick). After that, the Society continued to run raffles and seek donations to fund the interpretation.







While all that was happening, workers from the Halls Creek Shire depot slashed the grass around the site as part of their maintenance of the old town. The Shire had already contributed to the project in 2002 by providing the cyclone mesh security fencing that protects the ruins from vandalism and other damage.



Errol and Aaron installing the first panel while Ivan finishes digging the holes. Photo courtesy: Rosemary Rosario.

Once the money was available for the interpretation, I prepared text and images for seven panels; Rosemary dealt with the technical and heritage aspects; and the Shire again came to the party. Infrastructure Assets Manager Phil Burgess liaised with Rosemary, took delivery of the panels, and met Rosemary and me at the end of September to discuss the job. Errol Munro, assisted by depot workers Ivan Bridge and Aaron Bradshaw, handled installation. The ground was hard; the heat fierce; and the desire for a perfect job all too clear! But the crew cheerfully dealt with those things as they embedded the posts supporting the panels in small, beautifully aligned concrete bases.



Panel no. 2, with a fireplace and remnants of walls visible in the background. Made by Metal Sign & Label Pty Ltd in Brisbane, the panels have black and greyscale print on a silver background embedded into the anodic layer of the highest quality anodised aluminum. That surface, selected to withstand local conditions, resists abrasion. Photo courtesy: Rosemary Rosario.



Heritage practitioners enjoying the shade beside the newly installed panels. Rosemary on the left. Photo courtesy: Rosmaria Eastman, Shire of Halls Creek.





The first panel presents a map of the old town while the next five comment on the building, the staff, the telegraph line, and local events. The last panel in the line acknowledges the agencies, groups and people who made the project possible. The late Lindsay Peet, a founding member of PHA (WA) and a strong supporter of history and heritage, was prominent among those people.

The smiles on the faces at the end of the job said it all. Everyone was hot and sweaty but, after waiting so long to complete the project, it was fantastic to see such a great outcome.

*Dr Cathie Clement OAM MPHA*

## From PHA (WA) - Management Committee Report 2014/2015:

I would first like to thank CEO and State Librarian, Margaret Allen, and her staff for their support of PHA (WA). Because of this, the Association has been able to utilise State Library of WA facilities for our Management Committee meetings, the Annual General Meeting and the professional development seminar.

### Committee

The PHA (WA) Management Committee met four times during 2014/2015 with a good amount of the Association's business being conducted via email. In October 2014, a separate meeting was held to discuss PHA (WA)'s activities and to identify any issues to be targeted during the year, including the establishment of a history prize and the development of a flyer/poster for promotion at like-minded organisations and institutions.

PHA (WA) operated successfully despite the position of Secretary being vacant. This is a credit to the Management Committee. Items of interest were still regularly disseminated to Members and Prue Griffin, Sue Graham-Taylor and Teegan Gaunt assisted with the preparation of minutes of meetings.

Due to personal reasons, Odhran O'Brian and Ann Hunter were forced to resign during the year and I thank them for their contribution.

### Membership

In 2014/2015, our membership totaled 55 people with the majority being Professional Members. We also welcomed two new Members to PHA (WA); Anne Yardley and Jenna Lynch.

A membership drive will be a focus in the upcoming year. The Management Committee will be asking all Members to assist with promoting membership to others working in the history and heritage industry in WA.

### PHA

I served as WA delegate to our national body, Professional Historians Australia, in 2014/2015 with Sue Graham-Taylor as my alternate. In reality, Sue and I were co-delegates with Sue attending all of the teleconferences throughout the year as well as the recent general meeting held in Tasmania. As at September, Sue became the WA delegate. The Association and I are hugely indebted to her for this work.





In 2015, PHA funded and initiated its national employment bulletin. This was developed in consultation with the various states and territories and will be reviewed in 2016. Feedback from WA Members to date has been very positive.

## Activities

In 2014/2015, the Management Committee's activities included:

- the publication of three editions of our eNewsletter with special thanks to editor Chris Owen, to Malcolm Allbrook and Lenore Layman for their editorial assistance, and to regular contributors Cathie Clement, Heather Campbell, Damayanthie Eluwawalage, Peter Gifford, Robyn Taylor, Dorothy Erickson and Debora Rosser;
- the launch of a new design of the eNewsletter to bring it in alignment with PHA (WA)'s other business collateral;
- the review and adoption of the Association's Management Committee Manual together with the update of the Register of Consultants by Prue Griffin and the development and management of a promotional poster/flyer by Kerry King;
- Cathy Day's attendance at the State Heritage Office's heritage management seminar;
- Ian Duckham and Ann Hunter's representation of PHA (WA) at the 50th RWAHS Affiliated Societies Conference;
- the organisation of the Association's 25th anniversary celebrations at Freshwater Bay Museum in November 2014 with special thanks to Odhran O'Brien and the sub-committee of Sue Graham-Taylor, Prue Griffin and Cathy Day;
- the preparation of submissions/feedback to the draft strategic plan of the History Council of WA, to the regulations for digital legal deposit and the future direction of the General Reference Collection and Service of the State Library of WA, and to the draft policy for the disposal of records following digitisation of the NAA;
- responding to enquires re: commissioned histories from such groups as the City of Cockburn and the WA Justices of the Peace organisation by Prue Griffin and myself;
- the administration of the group policy for Members for Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance by Jennie Carter;
- the management of the payments for memberships and insurance shares by Jen Weir;
- the monitoring of issues of interest to PHA (WA) and the dissemination of information like work opportunities to Members; and,
- the planning of the Joint PD seminar with OHAA (WA) on the topic of the 'Business of History'.

## Conclusion

It is important to note the recent passing of friend, colleague, mentor and fellow PHA (WA) Member, Geoffrey Bolton. A remarkable and influential academic and advocate of West Australia's histories, Geoff's loss will be greatly felt for many years to come.

On behalf of all Members of PHA (WA), I acknowledge the work of the 2014/2015 Management Committee. To Jen, Sue, Prue, Cathy, Kerry, Chris and Teegan, you have the Association's thanks.

Finally, as I retire from the Management Committee after serving on it for 15 years including three terms as President, I take the opportunity to thank all of those who have worked with me and who have supported me during this time. PHA (WA) has had such a significant role in my working and voluntary life and I am deeply appreciative of that experience. Thank you.

*Kris Bizzaca MPHA*

*President, PHA (WA) 2014/2015*





## From Members:

*In this edition, we have a number of important insights from Members about PHA (WA) and working in the history industry. We welcome and encourage others to share their experiences for the interest and benefit of all Members.*

### A note for early-career historians on PHA (WA) resources

As an early-career historian, I have benefited in a number of ways over the last few years from my membership of the Professional Historians Association (WA). To assist other new members I decided to reflect briefly on some of the resources that I have utilised.

Joining PHA (WA) has enabled me to meet other historians who have a wealth of experience in historical research and writing as well as in public history. Through the generosity of such members, I received advice about accessing primary source material for my biography on the missionary who built St Mary's Cathedral, titled *Martin Griver - Unearthed*, which was published earlier this year. A very recently retired president of the association was even kind enough to provide some editorial comment on the galley proofs - reflective of the community spirit within PHA (WA)!

When employed by the Town of Claremont, I also received professional guidance from historians within PHA (WA) that enabled me to complete the final stage of a review of the Council's Local Government Inventory. The historians I consulted were able to provide feedback on practical aspects of this process such as expected timeframes, funding requirements and public engagement possibilities.

Aside from mentoring support, more recently I have utilised the document, *Commissioning History: A practical guide to engaging consultant historians*. This document can be downloaded from the 'Commissioning History' tab on the organisation's website. The comprehensive eighteen-page guide provides essential information on fees, contracts, project management and copyright. For many early-career historians, the idea of submitting a tender and then, with luck, writing a commissioned history can be daunting. Created by a group of established members, and regularly updated to reflect industry standards, the guide is an ideal starting point for this process. I commend the guide to members establishing themselves in the field. It is easy to digest and informative. There are a series of other useful documents under the 'Commissioning History' tab including the National Standard for Accreditation, Scale of Fees and the Model Contract documents.

I hope that my brief reflection provides some useful information about resources that PHA (WA) provides for its members as part of its commitment to professionalism within the practice of history. If you have any feedback please contact me at: [odhranobrien@outlook.com](mailto:odhranobrien@outlook.com)

*Odhran O'Brien APHA*

### A personal observation on the merits of mentoring in oral history

I know I've said it before but it's worth repeating: without a knowledgeable and generous mentor I would not now be happily working as an oral historian.





It was a post-graduate unit with Dr Jan Gothard and Bill Bunbury that sparked my interest in oral history when I needed a career change. But one unit of study does not a career make and, while I could have continued with academic studies, at the time I needed to be back in the workforce.

So how do you find work? Who employs oral historians? What do you charge? What are you expected to deliver and how? What are the ethics? Copyright and consent expectations? The questions just kept coming.

Many of us are free lancers - sole traders - with the responsibility to pay tax, market our skills and so on; essentially to understand the running of a small business.

I was fortunate to be put in touch with the wonderful Heather Campbell. She has fielded my queries and bolstered my confidence with endless patience and good humour over the past two years. Her support, whilst invaluable, is voluntary and ad hoc.

It seems to me that the field of oral history would benefit from a more formal system of mentoring. This is not to ignore the short courses in interviewing and technical matters offered by OHAA (WA Branch).

But for those of us more accustomed to having colleagues nearby, the solitary work of an oral historian can be daunting. At the swivel of my office chair I'd always had colleagues to ask: 'how do you ... ?' Now there's only my dog in the office and he hasn't proved very helpful.

Short courses and university studies are unlikely to answer the myriad day-to-day workplace queries. It's here that an experienced mentor can make the difference between success and failure.

I can only be grateful I met Heather who, I should add, tells me one novice oral historian on her doorstep is quite enough... for the time being.

*Anne Yardley, Graduate Historian*

## Answering historical questions

Hello PHA (WA) Colleagues,

I just wanted to drop a line of appreciation for all energy and efforts that go towards continuing PHA (WA). From a once interactive member, I've have gone through different phases of contact with members of PHA over time - partly because of my workplace (limited publishing allowed once you're on public service payroll!) and the various changes in family life that see my energies taken in different directions (mainly Scouting and Autism support groups).

Starting in Oral History and aspects of social and geographical history, then from a foray into heritage on to a 'Government' historian (post Neville Green's contribution), I've been ensconced in the industry of Native Title over some 20 odd years now.

Our 'non-legal' research team prepares for Native Title claims addressed by the State Solicitors Office. Our role is diverse and includes requests for historical fact checking and context to address a broad range of queries, reliance upon the discovery of all possible documentary records ('citable evidence'), and endeavouring to maintain professional standards in







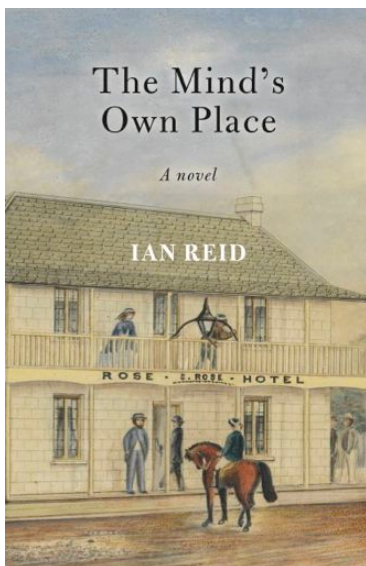
delivering reliable results, to assist in government decision making and to contribute to better understanding of historical influences and past government processes.

A significant point is that answers to historical questions can come from any source and sometimes those answers can take a lot of delving (months/years as we all know). Over time it has been my pleasure to collate, review, cross check as many of these sources as possible to be ready for whatever question may be asked. The PHA (WA) newsletter has been a brilliant guide to areas of history which may not seem to have an obvious association to our work, but the process of discovery is never ending. The mysteries in history continue.

I've thoroughly enjoyed the insightful book notes from all members over the years and the many aspects offered for Professional Development. Congratulations to all for your contributions during this last year (and all previous as well) - and best wishes for the 2016 world of history in the making.

*Sandi Bowins MPHA*

## From the Battye Fellow - History's Grist and Fiction's Mill:



Anyone who pursues research into Western Australian history knows what a treasure trove the Battye collections of our State Library contain - from private archives to official records, from photographs to newspapers, from maps to ephemera, along with a multitude of published books. An opportunity to make intensive use of that range of resources and to receive not only practical assistance from Library staff but also a generous stipend is a researcher's dream. That is what the James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellowship provides and I am grateful to be the fortunate recipient of this award for 2015.

The Fellowship, which honours the legacy of the man who was Chief Librarian of the Public Library of Western Australia for a remarkable sixty years from 1894, aims to enhance understanding of this state through research based on the heritage collections of the Battye Library and related material.

The title of my project is 'History's Grist and Fiction's Mill: researching and amplifying stories of Western Australia.' Its focus is on the processes and problems of writing serious historical fiction set in our region with particular reference to the scope of Battye holdings. It draws on my experience as an author both of 'pure' history (various books and journal articles) and of historical fiction. Two of my novels, *That Untravelled World* and *The Mind's Own Place*, take place largely in Western Australia and for both of them my preparatory research made considerable use of Battye resources supplemented by information in the local history collections of other libraries.

Fiction-writers who put imaginary characters and episodes within a factual framework from times past (as I do) are often asked what exactly they are trying to achieve. This recurrent question incorporates others. What constraints, challenges and opportunities should such a writer recognise? Why include invented content anyway? Why not stick to facts? If a





narrative goes beyond the historical record, what research protocols are necessary to convey a credible sense of authenticity?

I approach this topic with due respect for the discipline of traditional historical research having tilled that field productively myself. But a responsible writer may explore the past in other ways as well. Creative fiction, if grounded in a proper respect for fact, can introduce a larger readership to the wealth of Western Australian stories.

My project title alludes to the Old Mill in South Perth, constructed for William Shenton in 1835 to grind flour and ambitiously redeveloped in 1880 by Thomas 'Satan' Browne (architect, engineer, artist and expirée) as a balconied resort hotel, the 'Alta Gardens'. This figures substantially in my newly released book *The Mind's Own Place* (UWA Publishing). Some of the groundwork for this novel involved delving into the Battye collections. The story incorporates a range of events, places and personages from the colonial period in this state. Its characters include fictional counterparts of Satan Browne, Alfred Letch (aka 'A De Leech'), and their wives; John Boyle O'Reilly; John Wroth; Henry Seeligson; and Detective Sergeant Thomas Rowe - all with their names unchanged.

I see the Old Mill's chequered evolution as representing emblematically the way in which things, happenings and people from earlier times continue to lend themselves to new uses and interpretations. The past can always be incorporated into new stories, including stories that are mainly fictional. Using as a point of departure the Battye Library's abundant photographic material on the Old Mill's changing phases, I have been developing an illustrated essay that discusses my own work along with examples by other writers of research-based historical fiction set in Western Australia, clarifying similarities and differences between pure and fictionalised history. In a recent public lecture under the auspices of the State Library, I explored tensions associated with the history/fiction nexus and the issues I raised were then taken further by a panel of respondents: Winthrop Professor Jenny Gregory, Dr Amanda Curtin and Dr David Whish-Wilson.

There are obviously tangible rewards for any individual lucky enough to be appointed a Battye Fellow. In my case I've been able to make progress on my next novel, which (like *The Mind's Own Place*) is set both in England and in Western Australia. But I hope, without getting unduly grandiose about it, that my tenure of the Fellowship may also bring some benefit to others as well - to the State Library, to the Battye itself in particular, to history researchers in this state and to the general public - through an increased awareness of the diversity and depth of the Battye resources and of their relevance not only to professional historians but also to a broader literary community of writers and readers.

*Ian Reid, James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellow*

## From WAGS:

The Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) is pleased to announce the creation of a new Military Special Interest Group (SIG) and are looking at the possibility of having a Genetic Genealogy Special Interest Group (SIG).

SIGs focus on a geographic area, a significant group of people or advanced skills in genealogy research. WAGS now has 16 SIGs supporting the research of members in their areas of interest - Computer, Convict, Eastern Australian, Enrolled Pensioner Guards, European, India and South East Asia, Irish, Legacy Users, London and South of England, Military, North of England, Scottish, South Australian, Swan River Pioneers (1829/38), The Master Genealogist and Western Australian.





## Military SIG

The new military group is interested in all things military, including but not limited to Militia, army, airforce, navy, any country, any battle, active service, peacekeeping, resistance; service is not restricted to Australia or Western Australia, or in any specific time frame. It is a self-help group aiming to improve general knowledge about things military; from a genealogy or family history perspective, and to help members navigate the minefield of military research. Members will also spend time looking at successes, problems and queries.

The first meeting of the WAGS Military SIG will be held on Saturday 20 February 2016 at 1:30pm at Unit 4, 48 May St Bayswater. At this meeting you will hear about Military resources to help with your family research and have a chance to ask questions.

## Proposed Genetic Genealogy SIG

The use of DNA test results, in combination with good archival practices, is becoming an increasingly important and valuable tool in the genealogist's toolkit. A number of WAGS members have expressed interest in forming a Genetic Genealogy Special Interest Group to collaborate and help one another to interpret and apply their DNA results: helping to confirm their family tree lines, break down "walls", explore other family connections as well as being involved in international surname projects and encouraging further exploration of DNA tools. Would you be interested in supporting this proposed group and attend their quarterly meetings?

For further information on either Special Interest Groups, or WAGS in general, check out the WAGS website [www.wags.org.au](http://www.wags.org.au) or contact Liana Fitzpatrick [pr@wags.org.au](mailto:pr@wags.org.au)

*Liana Fitzpatrick, President, Western Australian Genealogical Society*

## From the State Library Foundation:



Perth Baroque performing in the Government House Ballroom. Copyright State Library of Western Australia Foundation. Photographer Chris Hyland.

The beautiful Government House Ballroom was the perfect setting for the haunting 'Freycinet Suite' that premiered on 30 August 2015.





This evocative suite of music was an original composition by Artist in Residence, Dr Georg Corall, whilst at the State Library of WA during his recent residency. The inspiration for the music came from the significant Freycinet Collection; one of the prides of the State Library's Heritage Collections.

In a departure from the usual interpretation of such collections, the State Library of WA Foundation chose to use music as the medium to tell the story of the two voyages made by Louis de Freycinet to the coast of Western Australia. The choice of this vehicle was based on the premise that music is a common language that can reach and affect people of different cultures and ages. It can also evoke an emotional response which leads to a greater understanding and appreciation of the items in the Collection.

Dr Corall, being an Early Music specialist, was familiar with the musical styles and instruments used in the early 1800s and brought his harpsichord on several occasions to the State Library to entertain and inform audiences about this era and how the music of the time has influenced modern music of today. He engaged in extensive research of the Freycinet Collection and of the contemporary music before linking these elements together in his composition.

The Suite, performed by Perth Baroque, captured the mood and essence of the journey made by de Freycinet and his crew. This journey encompassed many countries, but Dr Corall chose to concentrate on the interaction that de Freycinet and the artists, botanists and scientist on board the *Uranie* had with the Western Australian coastline and in particular the camp that they set up at Shark Bay as the focus for his work.

The main purpose of de Freycinet's voyage was to document the flora and fauna observed on his travels and, accordingly, the Freycinet Collection is comprised of a number of drawings, paintings and sketches of unique Western Australian fauna. Dr Corall has used music to create the perception of awkwardness, wonder and intrigue that the voyagers must have felt upon encountering the, to them, strange and unique landscape so different from what they had experienced previously on their various explorations.

From time to time during their investigations, the Frenchmen came across and were fascinated by the indigenous inhabitants, a reaction that was reflected by the native people's amazement at these unusual visitors. During Dr Corall's research, he found the transcription of an indigenous melody in one of de Freycinet's diaries and used this as inspiration for one of the movements to represent this important aspect of their voyage.

The rise and swell of the ocean and subsequent uneven movement of the ship on the voyage is also captured in this interpretive work. The knowledge that the ship's crew would have used music and song to accompany their work and lessen the monotony of their labours is also part of the message contained in the Suite.

A standing ovation from the audience at this premiere recital endorsed the quality and success of Dr Corall's interpretation of the Collection. The Suite, played by an ensemble of musicians all skilled in Early music on Early musical instruments, was universally lauded by those present.

A selection of the Freycinet Collection was featured as a temporary mini-exhibition in the Ballroom complementing the musical recital. This enabled the audience to familiarise themselves with these art works prior to the recital and to use this knowledge in their response to the Freycinet Suite.

The Freycinet Suite Recital's program contained some interesting articles that give a greater insight into the Collection and the original composition. Dr Elizabeth Gralton from The University of Western Australia wrote an article describing the result of the extensive research she conducted into the origins of the 18 items that comprise the Freycinet Collection. This





article reveals the motivations, the challenges and the outcomes of each artist who created the drawings, paintings and maps.

Dr Corall has also contributed an article that follows his 'journey' in the research and investigation that influenced him in this composition and also the philosophy with which he approaches his work.

This innovative project broke new ground both for the State Library and the State Library Foundation and its success will hopefully inspire others to explore more unusual methods of interpretation to bring our history to life.

*Anne Chapple, Partnership Coordinator, State Library Foundation*

## From the State Library - Deb Rosser:

The State Library of WA (SLWA) has digitised a large number of annual reports from the departments responsible for child welfare in Western Australia. Two main reporting eras are covered:

1. Child Welfare Department 1927/28 to 1971/72 at [http://catalogue.slwa.wa.gov.au/record=b1417803~S7#.Vj\\_jfa4rKL4](http://catalogue.slwa.wa.gov.au/record=b1417803~S7#.Vj_jfa4rKL4)
2. Department for Community Welfare 1972/73 to 1983/84  
at [http://catalogue.slwa.wa.gov.au/record=b1410539~S7#.Vj\\_jMa4rKL4](http://catalogue.slwa.wa.gov.au/record=b1410539~S7#.Vj_jMa4rKL4)

Thanks to Leonie Hayes, Subject Specialist Family History SLWA, for the update on this project which was initiated in 2013 by Kate Gregory, Battye Historian and Steve Howell, Senior Subject Specialist SLWA to help with the Find & Connect web resource project (<http://www.findandconnect.gov.au>).

These reports represent an invaluable source of information about child welfare, family welfare and related policies, legislation and attitudes. The online holdings make the reports easily accessible with admirable visual clarity in most instances. Chasing up copies of these reports was probably not as straightforward as the catalogue implied, but I think it's certainly been worth the effort!

Through the annual reports, we can see how the issues facing families and children in WA were identified, described, valued and acted upon by government over time. Fostering ('boarding out'), institutional placements, 'service children', the work of the Children's Court, adoption, 'outdoor relief' and the assistance provided by community volunteers are all documented. Issues such as 'delinquency', child abuse, parental responsibility, glue sniffing, homelessness, education and training for children in care are covered, along with information about administrative systems, development of professional social work, legislative change and the ever-present budget and resource constraints.

These reports will provide an ongoing useful resource for students and researchers. Potentially, though, they can provide even greater benefit in helping to explain why and how things were done in the twentieth century when many WA children were placed in out of home care. I hope the reports will be well-used by people who were in out of home care, their families and support organisations; record-holders who seek to complement their own organisational histories and put them in a legislative/government policy context; and current and future Departmental staff.

*Dr Deb Rosser, Historical Researcher*







## Book Note - *The Western Suburbs at War*:

Published by the Freshwater Bay Museum, *The Western Suburbs at War* is based on a number of sources including photographs from the Army Museum of WA, [anzacsonline.net.au](http://anzacsonline.net.au) and the Australian War Memorial. Newspaper articles from the *Western Mail*, *Daily News* and *Geraldton Guardian* are used as well as contemporary personal and official letters and several individual accounts.

'Old Bill's Thousand' were said to be the best disciplined battalion that ever left the State. Led by William Mansbridge ('Old Bill') the 44th Battalion was raised in Claremont in early 1916. A truly western suburbs group, they were supported by the local community and trained around Claremont presenting 'an inspiring sight of khaki'.

They received further training on Salisbury Plain and went on to France where they took over front-line trenches, suffering 'rats in plague proportions... Lice, dirt and pungent body odour (sic)...'

Major battles followed including Ypres in October 1917, then on to Belgium and the Battle of Hamel where 'they had to shout to make themselves heard... [with the] rat-tat-tat of the machine guns and... the screaming and bursting of shells'. Finally they assisted in the breach of the Hindenburg line and the final defeat of Germany.

You travel with the men from the time the battalion was formed to their discharge and beyond. Photos are of excellent quality, peeling back layers of history - soldiers at the showgrounds, by the beachfront at Cottesloe, sitting on stones around Stonehenge - clearly showing faces that could have belonged in your family or mine. Contemporary newspaper clippings, personal and official letters, and a timeline giving perspective reinforce this sense of familiarity.

Individuals are highlighted such as the above-mentioned 'Old Bill' whose distinguished career included the award of a DSO. Post-war as Resident Magistrate in Broome, he maintained high standards of spit and polish by having '17 pairs of white shoes so that his footwear was always clean'. Harold Walker was less fortunate. Despite being wounded Gallipoli, he forfeited pay and his AIF career for erasing an entry in his military paybook. William Bawden won the French Croix de Guerre for bravery, rescuing wounded workers from a French factory under shellfire. He paid a high price losing his right eye, having impaired sight in the left and dying prematurely.

Even in these days of 'Anzac fatigue' it is hard not to be moved by this engaging and professional publication.

*The Western Suburbs at War* is available online at <http://www.freshwaterbaymuseum.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/War-in-the-Western-Suburbs-Freshwater-bay-Museum44thy.pdf> or via the museum website at <http://www.freshwaterbaymuseum.com.au/exhibition/western-suburbs-at-war/>.

*Heather Campbell, Graduate Historian*

Courtesy RWAHS, *History West*, December 2015.



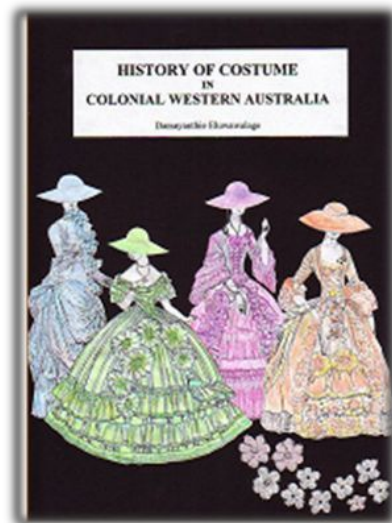


## Book Launch - History of Costume in Colonial WA:

**The Swan Guildford Historical Society (Inc)**  
extends an invitation to the launch of the book

### **History of Costume in Colonial Western Australia by Damayanthie Eluwawalage PhD, MPHA**

3pm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the Mechanics Institute  
(next to the Post Office) Meadow St, Guildford.  
The keynote speaker will be Dr Janice Ryan, Honorary  
Professor at Edith Cowan University, Mt Lawley Campus.



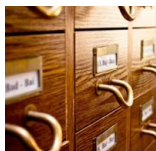
The well illustrated book is a total of 226 pages and discusses the economical, sociological and cultural aspects of fashion and clothing in colonial society in order to explain how clothing was used socially and economically to establish class, status and power in the colony of Western Australia. It also analyses the major social and geographical impacts on early Western Australian clothing, the extent to which Western Australian colonial clothing reflected the social structure, standing and inheritance of Victorian Britain; the industry of clothing, resources and materials and their impact on the economy of the colony and examines whether colonial clothing negotiated gender boundaries.

Dr Damayanthie Eluwawalage is Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin- Stout in the USA, a Professional Historian, a researcher, an author, a Private Pilot and is a Perth girl who comes home when she can.

Copies available on the day at \$25. Light refreshments will be served.

For further information contact Paul Bridges,  
Curator SGHS on 9379 1829 or 0419 830 033





## Centre for Western Australian History - Special Offer for Members:



Centre for Western Australian History

### *'Tom Stannage: History from the Other Side'*



### *Studies in Western Australian History*

[www.cwah.uwa.edu.au/publications/journal](http://www.cwah.uwa.edu.au/publications/journal)

to purchase online

**Deborah Gare and Jenny Gregory (eds.), *Tom Stannage: History from the Other Side*, *Studies in Western Australian History* vol 29, 2015**

This academic journal contains articles by:

Geoffrey Bolton  
Shane Burke  
Bobbie Oliver  
Katharine Massam  
Carolyn Wadley Dowley

Richard Nile  
Lenore Layman  
Jenny Gregory  
Jill Roe  
Deborah Gare

RRP: \$35 (includes GST and postage within Australia)





Tom Stannage (1944-2012) was well known throughout Australia as a fine historian. He brought a social conscience to the telling of Western Australia's history, had things to say that mattered, and he inspired hundreds of students at the University of Western Australia where he taught from 1971 until his appointment as Dean of Humanities at Curtin University in 1998. He wrote as he spoke, zealously and passionately. He wrote of self-determination, youthful rebellion, justice and freedom. He sought wisdom, truth and beauty and defended the values of community to his end.

This issue of *Studies in Western Australian History* is dedicated to the memory of Tom Stannage. It assesses, explains and places on record the extraordinary contribution he made. It includes biographical articles, articles that discuss the role of the historian as a social activist, Stannage's contribution in the public arena, the synergies between his work and that of labour historians, his legacy as a university teacher, as well as historiographical interpretations of his work.

#### **SPECIAL OFFER FOR PHA MEMBERS**

Order your copy of *Tom Stannage: History from the Other Side* and receive a free volume of *Studies in Western Australian History*.

You can choose either Volume 27: *Environmental Exchanges* or Volume 28: *Western Australia in the Indian Ocean World* as your free copy.

To claim, visit: [http://payments.weboffice.uwa.edu.au/cwah/books\\_cart](http://payments.weboffice.uwa.edu.au/cwah/books_cart)

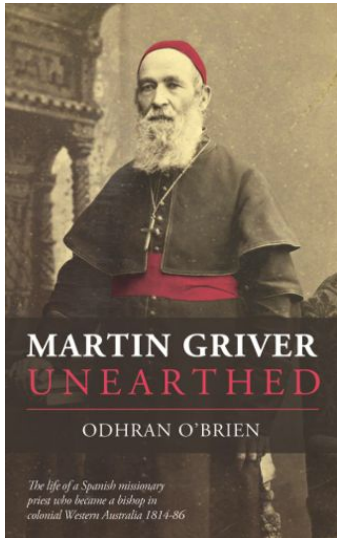
When completing checkout, simply add 'Vol 27' or 'Vol 28' after your name to receive your free additional copy.





## Items of Interest:

### Review request - *Martin Griver - Unearthed*



*Martin Griver - Unearthed* was published by St Pauls Publications in April this year.

While primarily a biography of Perth's second Catholic bishop, it also provides a social-historical perspective on the early history of Western Australia's Catholic community. The work is based on sources collected from religious archives in Australia, Ireland and Rome.

If you are interested in writing a short book note for the PHA (WA) newsletter, please contact [odhranobrien@outlook.com](mailto:odhranobrien@outlook.com) to organise a complimentary copy.

### The National Museum of Australia

The National Museum of Australia has published a set of videos online as part of its '100 Defining Moments in Australian History' project. The videos are on the Museum's YouTube channel and can be accessed here:

[http://www.nma.gov.au/online\\_features/defining\\_moments#bc=Home-defining](http://www.nma.gov.au/online_features/defining_moments#bc=Home-defining)

The videos relate to objects allied to the 100 defining moments. Topics covered include Captain Cook's exploration of the east coast of Australia, the introduction of rabbits to Australia, the Gold Rush of the 1850s and the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth.

There are also 'vox pops' videos in which people 'on the street' in Sydney and Melbourne share their opinions on defining moments in Australian history.

*Mitch Preston, Adult Digital Outreach Programs Coordinator, Learning Services and Community Outreach Section, National Museum of Australia*







## Documentaries associated with the *Mad Men* TV series

I would like to draw your attention to the use of short documentaries accompanying the *Mad Men* series (dvd). The short documentaries were produced by Single Mom Productions to accompany the episodes of the US television series featuring specific social, political and economic changes in the US during the 1960s. The documentaries are done through the eyes of those who worked for the Madison Avenue (i.e. *Mad Men*), which controlled the advertising on the social media at that time.

Especially interesting are:

Season 3, Disc 3, 'The History of Cigarette Advertising' (Parts I & II) and 'We Shall Overcome: The March On Washington' (Martin Luther King's speech 1963 as the overlay/soundtrack for photos of the event).

Season 5, Disc 3, 'The Party of the Century' - Truman Capote's black and white ball (a limited and broad spectrum guest list with social prestige associated for those invited).

Season 6, Disc 2, 'Tune On. Tune In. Drop Out.' - The story of Dr Timothy Leary, Harvard Professor, who initiated the psychedelic counter-culture of the early 1960s through his experiments with LSD.

Season 7 (Part 1), Discs 1 & 2, 'Gay Rights' (Parts 1 & 2) - The commencement of the Gay Rights movement in the United States during the 1960s.

Season 7 (Part 1), Disc 3, 'The Trial of the Chicago 8' (Parts 1 & 2) - A history of the arrest and subsequent trial of some of those who, allegedly, disrupted the 1968 Democrat Convention, Chicago, USA. The group did not know each other, but represented the anti-Vietnam War, Black Panther, and Yippies (cultural hippies) movements. The documentary includes interviews and commentaries by some of those involved.

*Kaylene Heard, Graduate Historian*

## Next Newsletter:

At PHA (WA)'s AGM, it was decided to produce two newsletters each year. Once these publication dates have been set, Members will be advised of this information. Emails encouraging the submission of articles about current projects, etc for the PHA (WA) eNewsletter will be sent closer to the date as per usual practice.





## PHA (WA) Management Committee 2015-2016:

President	Helen Munt
Vice-President	Robyn Taylor
Secretary	Ian Duckham
Treasurer	Jennifer Weir
Membership Secretary	Sue Graham-Taylor
Committee Members	Prue Griffin
	Jenna Lynch
	Cathy Day

PHA Representative	Sue Graham-Taylor
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### Sub-Committees 2015-2016:

Rules & Incorporation	Helen Munt, Kris Bizzaca
Promotions & Publications	Cathy Day, Sue Graham-Taylor, Prue Griffin
Credentials	Sue Graham-Taylor, Robin Chinnery (co-opted)
Commissioned History	Prue Griffin, Jenna Lynch
Newsletter Editor	Kris Bizzaca

### 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 via [info@professionalhistorianswa.org.au](mailto:info@professionalhistorianswa.org.au).

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.

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