

PHA WA



# Newsletter

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

### ❖ Note from the Editor:

Firstly, I would like to remind members that the PHA (WA) AGM is coming up fast, and urge you all to attend if you can. It is to be held on:

**SUNDAY 19 AUGUST 2012 at 12 NOON, in the MIDWEST ROOM, ALEXANDER LIBRARY BUILDING, PERTH**

In particular, the Management Committee would like you to consider nominating to serve on the Committee. A number of members are retiring over the next few years so there will be vacancies on the Committee. Membership does not require a heavy investment of time, but you are expected to attend Committee meetings and participate in decision making about the affairs of the PHA (WA) on behalf of the members.

The PHA (WA), like many other non-government organisations, depends entirely on the voluntary efforts of its members. It cannot function effectively without this support. **Please!** consider putting your name forward for the management committee.

This July edition of the PHA (WA) eNewsletter has three longer articles that describe history projects with which members have recently been involved. I discuss some of the issues in curating a permanent exhibition in Carnarvon; the recently opened 'Burlganyja Wanggaya' exhibition of history and culture. Lenore Layman provides an insider's perspective on her edited history of the East Perth Power Station, *Powering Perth*, while Neville Green presents a fascinating excerpt from his recent book *Triumphs and Tragedies*. Congratulations to both Lenore and Neville as both books have been shortlisted in the WA History category of the Premier's Book Awards. Congratulations also to member Fiona Skyring whose history of the Aboriginal Legal Service has made the shortlist as well.

Michal Bosworth sends in her regular report from Europe and, in this issue, she provides her observations on the state of major cultural institutions in France and Italy and the increasing involvement of the private sector in cultural heritage interpretation.

My thanks to other newsletter contributors Cathie Clement, Andrew Bowman, Lee Blackford, Steve Howell, Cathy Day and Gaye Nayton.

Happy reading, and please don't hesitate to pass on your comments about any of the stories in this issue. Also feel free to contribute your thoughts, reports, or simply ramblings about matters historical for inclusion in the next issue, due September of this year.

*Malcolm Allbrook MPHA (Newsletter Editor)*

### ❖ PHA (WA) and OHAA (WA Branch) Joint Professional Development Seminar:

This year's AGM proceedings will be followed by a joint PHA (WA) and OHAA (WA) Professional Development session which will explore copyright issues from print to digital.

**When:** Sunday 19 August 2012, 1pm-5pm

**Where:** Great Southern Room, State Library of WA (Courtesy of the State Librarian)

Speakers include: **Adrian Bowen**, who will be speaking about his experience as a State Library Original Materials Librarian; **Faye Clarke** on Creative Commons; and, a **panel of librarians and historians** with an interest in internet research and website development will discuss copyright and access to original materials.

Afternoon tea will be provided free of charge. A full program will be circulated in due course.

### ❖ Hosting the ACPHA AGM:

The PHA's hosting of the ACPHA AGM involves a sequence of events that will be beneficial as well as enjoyable. The perceived benefit is in raising the local profile of ACPHA and the PHA. The enjoyment will come from the visitors socialising with WA's history professionals, being shown places unique to Perth, and seeing something of the city's delightful river setting.

Buildings feature in the plans, with the Alexander Library Building as the focal point. The State Library, as part of its sponsorship of PHA (WA) activities, is providing the Pilbara Room for the AGM. The Library is also providing space for a reception on the evening of Thursday 30 August. At that function, the ACPHA Delegates and Alternates will meet the PHA Management Committee and representatives of the other history bodies with which the PHA has strong alliances. In initiating this approach for the reception, the PHA is reflecting ACPHA's recently adopted PR initiative. Photographs will be taken, articles will be written, and every effort will be made to generate publicity. A call went out to members to help with the reception and the publicity, and it is not too late to volunteer now.

When it came to organising the other outings, Saturday access to interesting buildings proved to be a problem. ACPHA will therefore hold the first part of its AGM on the Friday morning, and spend the afternoon "on tour". The offerings include a visit to the Old Observatory, with a PowerPoint presentation by John Goldsmith (an internationally exhibited astro-photographer), and a tour of the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia. Here, too, efforts will be made to generate publicity.

Some free time will follow this sampling of heritage and culture. Then, on the Friday evening, the PHA dinner will be held at the Windsor Hotel. To get there from the Criterion Hotel, the visitors will stroll through the Stirling Gardens and Supreme Court Gardens, past the Bell Tower, and catch a South Perth ferry. With their incidental glimpse of The Esplanade, the evening could see some animated discussion about the Perth Waterfront development.

The AGM will resume on the Saturday, with the Northbridge location affording scope for good coffee and food during the breaks. An informal evening meal will round out the day. The exodus then begins, with the first Delegate flying out late that night for the long trip home.

An invitation to the Friday evening dinner will be sent to all PHA members within the next few weeks.

*Cathie Clement MPHA (ACPHA Delegate for WA)*

### ❖ PHA (WA) Members shortlisted for WA Premier's Book Awards:

Reforms to the WA Premier's Book Awards in 2010 opened them up to entries from around Australia. While the merits of such a move are debatable, the fact remains that since then WA authors and publishers have been subject to competition from around Australia, particularly as the prize money was also substantially increased at the time.

The shortlist for the 2011 awards reflects this with only a handful of WA authors appearing on it. This includes Gail Jones in the fiction category for *Five Bells*, David Milroy in the script category for *Waltzing the Wilarra*, Tim Winton (with Ellen Fontana) for the script adaptation of *Coudstreet*, and, in the poetry category, Tracy Ryan (*The Argument*) and John Kinsella (*Armour*). Perth's two major publishing houses, UWA Publishing and Fremantle Press, are virtually unrepresented in the general categories. The latter having two of its publications in the shortlist, while UWA Publishing only has one.

The WA History category remains the only one reserved specifically for works by WA historians and WA subjects. Five books made this year's shortlist:

- *A Garden on the Margaret: the Path to Old Bridge House*: Gillian Lilleyman (Gillian Anne Lilleyman)
- *Fremantle Port*: John Dowson (The Chart and Map Shop)
- *Government House and Western Australian Society 1829-2012*: Jeremy Martens (UWA publishing)
- *Justice: A History of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia*: Fiona Skyring (UWA Publishing)
- *Powering Perth: A History of the East Perth Power Station*: Lenore Layman (Black Swan Press)
- *Triumphs and Tragedies: Oombulgurri an Australian Aboriginal Community*: Neville Green (Hesperian Press)

The PHA (WA) congratulates members Fiona Skyring, Lenore Layman and Neville Green for their achievement in making the shortlist and wishes them every success.

Malcolm Allbrook MPHA

### ❖ It's an Honour:

Congratulations are due to Dr Neville Green for his inclusion in The Queen's Birthday 2012 Australian Honours List. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia, with a citation that reads: 'For service to the community as an historian specialising in native title and Indigenous projects, as an author, and to professional associations'.

Neville's career dates from 1962 and, during much of it, he has been involved with Indigenous people and their history. His early role as a teacher saw him serve as Principal of the Warburton Ranges and Forrest River (Oombulgurri) Government Aboriginal Schools in 1966 - 1967. Most PHA Members will know of Neville's published work on Oombulgurri but fewer will know that he wrote two PhD theses. His literary output, as author, co-author or editor, includes ten books with Indigenous themes. Three of those are Aboriginal volumes of the *Dictionary of Western Australians*. Neville also produced a wide range of reports in the native title area in the ten years he was a senior history consultant to the WA State Solicitor's Office.

The announcement of Neville's award enhances the list of PHA (WA) members to be recognised in the Australian Honours lists. The names of others who have received awards originating in Canberra appear below. If any member's receipt of one of these awards has been overlooked, please provide us with the details for inclusion in the next newsletter.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Citation</b>
Bolton, Geoffrey	1984	Officer of the Order of Australia	In recognition of service to education.
	2001	Centenary Medal	For services to the Centenary of Federation celebrations in Western Australia.
Clement, Cathie	2006	Medal of the Order of Australia	For service to the community through the recording and preservation of the history and heritage of the Kimberley region.
Graham-Taylor, Susan	2010	Member of the Order of Australia	For service to conservation and the environment through executive roles with a range of organisations, through the development of protection measures relating to air quality and the management of waste, and as an historian.
Gregory, Jenny	2010	Member of the Order of Australia	For service to the community as an historian and academic and through the promotion and preservation of local and regional history in Western Australia.
	2001	Centenary Medal	For service to the community as President of the National Trust of Western Australia.
MacGill, Gerry	2001	Centenary Medal	For service to the preservation and restoration of the City of Fremantle.
Reynolds, William	2000	Australian Sports Medal	Lifelong involvement in district/country cricket umpiring and WA's foremost cricket historian.
Rogers, Philippa	2001	Centenary Medal	For voluntary service to the community.

*Cathie Clement MPHA*

## ❖ Give your stories a page in history!

'Our Page in History' has been redeveloped to provide the Western Australian community with an online history portal. It is a modern and cost-effective platform that can be used to publish historical content online, including the provision for photographs/images, MP3 audio files, documents and the embedding of video clips.

Users of the site can be individuals, organisations, businesses or schools. There are also town pages for each town and suburb across WA, which can be controlled by local government or an appropriate local organisation. Individual users can sign up and add content without cost, and there is a small charge for organisations, businesses and schools (who can profile themselves and add stories).

## *our page in* HISTORY

[www.ourpageinhistory.org.au](http://www.ourpageinhistory.org.au) is a digital story-telling portal developed by the State Library of WA Foundation. The Foundation was established in 2009 to foster partnerships and projects with the aim of making information and knowledge more accessible, thus enriching the lives of all Western Australians.

Contact: [Andrew Bowman](#), Manager, Our Page in History, State Library of WA Foundation

### ❖ Oral History Records Rescue Group (OHRRG):

Since the Project commenced in December 2010, 3816 oral histories have been digitised for preservation and access. Twenty interviews are currently available on-line through the State Library's catalogue with work progressing towards providing access to many more.

Examples include interviews with [Joan Heenan](#), one of the first women to be admitted as a lawyer in Western Australia and [Jessie Chapman](#) who was only nine years old when PHA (WA) member Heather Campbell interviewed her.

Some of the wonderful stories preserved for future generations of West Australians include:

- A series of five interviews with five generations of the same family, aged from eight to 88 years old. The interviews span the greater part of the twentieth century, from growing up in a Sicilian fishing village in the 1900s to 1920s, emigration to Australia and life as an immigrant family, and childhood in suburban Perth as a third generation Australian. The interviews are interesting for the interactions and influences of Italian and Australian cultures, and the extent to which Italian traditions have been sustained and nurtured within the family.
- An interview with a dancer born in Monte Carlo to wealthy Russian parents at the beginning of the First World War, trained in classical ballet in Paris, who toured all over the world with travelling ballet companies. She subsequently settled in Australia, moved to Perth (to avoid the colder weather of Melbourne), and became one of the founders of the West Australian Ballet Company. The interview covers ballet in general in the early and mid twentieth century, as well as the history of ballet in Australia and particularly in Perth. Of particular interest



are the humble beginnings of the ballet company – the first rehearsals were held in a boat shed by the Swan River!

- One of the first women to be admitted to legal practice in Western Australia; she practiced in the Goldfields for 13 years before returning to Perth and establishing a successful practice with her husband. The interview covers life as a student at UWA in the 1930s, in Kalgoorlie and the perception of a female lawyer working in the Goldfields, the establishment and conduct of the Perth practice and the personalities involved. The interview also references her husband's political career and life as the wife of a politician. The attitudes of the legal profession towards female lawyers are also explored.

Contact: [Lee Blackford](#), Project Manager, OHRRG

## ❖ News from the State Library of WA:

### Digitisation

The State Library is in the process of digitising the John Septimus Roe material, funded by the Friends of Battye Library Inc. His diaries, notebooks, logbooks and bearing logs can all be viewed online. While the digitisation of photographs continues, several new projects are underway. The townsite maps (ca 1,000) are being digitised and all the Western Australian rare maps have been placed on the digitisation program (over 500). We are also planning to digitise the State Library's colourful and beautiful real estate plans (ca 1,000). After these have been completed, there will be about 3,000 maps available for viewing online. We are also digitising Western Australian rare books and more digitised copies have been attached to the catalogue record.

### New to [Trove](#)

Becoming available on the Trove website are the *Southern Advertiser* 1888 and the *Coolgardie Miner* 1911-1913, both of which were funded by Friends of Battye. Other titles being digitised this and next financial year are the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, the *Daily News*, the *Eastern Districts Chronicle*, the *Westralian Worker*, the *Great Southern Herald*, the *Bunbury Herald/Express*, the *Norseman Times*, the *South Western News* and the *Pilbara Goldfields News*. Discussions are under way for another ten titles for digitisation the following financial year. Amongst those suggested are the *Northam Advertiser*, the *Narrogin Observer*, the *Australian Advertiser*, the *Beverley Times*, the *Blackwood Times*, the *Nor West Echo*, the *South Western Advertiser*, the *Swan Express*, the *Collie Mail*, the *Coolgardie Miner* (remainder), the *Evening Star*, the *Laverton Mercury* and the *Southern Cross Times*.

### Important Acquisitions

Significant collections acquired by the State Library in the 2011-12 financial year include: the papers of the Clifton and Eliot families (including Louisa Clifton's original diary 1840-41); the diary of Henry Charles Berand, written in Hall's Creek 1896-99; papers of Flo Hickson relating to her book *Flo: child migrant from Liverpool*, and her experiences at Fairbridge; photographs and anecdotes describing furniture and artefacts passed through seven generations of the Caporn, Cook and Jones families; the papers of Elaine Forestal, including a manuscript of *Black Jack Anderson*; papers and photographs of the Macedonian Australian Associations of Veterans in WA; the Albert John Hall collection of

c. 100 life-size watercolour paintings of wildflowers 1908-30; and a collection of c. 250 glass plates from a Kalgoorlie photographic studio early 1900s. In addition, several interesting maps were acquired: George Vancouver's *Partie de la côte sud-ouest de la Nouvelle Hollande* 1801; Phillip Parker King's *Chart of the intertropical & west coasts of Australia* 1825; August Petermann's *Nordwest-Australien und Timor meer* 1881 and *West Australien* 1875; Henry Wray's *Block plan of new prison, Fremantle, West Australia* 1885; George Phillip's *Western Australia showing the goldfields* 1906 and P D Montague's *Part of North West Australia* 1913.

*Steve Howell, Senior Subject Specialist, Battye Library*

### ❖ Legal Deposit for WA!

A new law preserving Western Australia's published documentary heritage has been passed by State Parliament. Culture and the Arts Minister John Day said the Legal Deposit Act 2012 would ensure all published works - in both digital and physical formats - were deposited with the State Library of WA.

'This legislation puts WA at the forefront in Australia for preserving digital publications for future generations', Mr Day said. 'The inclusion of digital works is very important because by 2020 it's expected that only 25 per cent of all titles worldwide will be published in print alone, while 75 per cent will be available only digitally or in both digital and print forms.'

The Minister said the Act had a broad collecting focus covering documents relating to WA's history in print, music, film and digital formats.

'It was not possible to collect everything published in the State, and for some publications the State Library would collect only a representative sample, as currently happens in the print environment. The State Library will consult widely with groups such as publishers, historians, researchers and librarians to develop regulations that detail which documents are required and how publications will be deposited and accessed.'

### ❖ 'Burlganyja Wanggaya' exhibition by Malcolm Allbrook:

On the 8th June this year, Premier Colin Barnett opened a new permanent exhibition at the Gwoonardu Mia Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre in Carnarvon. 'Burlganyja Wanggaya', which means 'Old People Talking, Listen, Learn and Respect' in Carnarvon's Indigenous Yinggarda language, officially saw the light of day before a large multicultural crowd of Carnarvon and Gascoyne residents. Once the ribbon had been cut, the Premier was guided through the exhibition by members of the Yinggarda, Bayungu, Malgana, Thadgari and Thalanyji community, the five main language groups of the Gascoyne region. This was their culture and history and they were eager to show their connections, to welcome and explain to visitors, to tell stories, to interpret. For the first time, the Aboriginal history of the region was taking pride of place as part of a rich and vibrant history of the Gascoyne, which extends back into the deep, pre-colonial human past.





Gwoonwardu Mia Building in Carnarvon.



Gwoonwardu Mia Centre Manager Justine Lawler at the opening.



The old grindstone from Meedo Station.

I was fortunate to have been a member of the team that produced Burlganyja Wanggaya along with fellow curator Mary Anne Jebb, designer Scott Watson, Centre Manager Justine Lawler, with guidance and advice from Lorraine Fitzpatrick of the Gascoyne Development Commission and Board Chairperson Kieran Kinsella. The project had in fact started four years before when we were appointed to prepare a detailed concept plan with an Aboriginal reference group and designer Scott Watson. Once the concept plan had been completed, it took another two years to secure implementation funding, courtesy of 'Royalties for Regions' and Lotterywest, whose contributions allowed the full potential of the exhibition to be realised.

The Reference group, made up of members from each of the five language groups, took an active role in the content and design of the exhibition. Members wanted the exhibition to present their history and culture, their stories of ancient and continuing connections to the land of the Gascoyne. These had largely been hidden in telling of the history of the Gascoyne, while Aboriginal culture, made up of many different language and kin groups, had never been given the prominence demanded by their long connection to the country. The exhibition was to be a place where they could tell stories, where they could welcome everyone in their invitation to learn about their history and culture.



At work: from left, the late Maureen Dodd, donor Gavin Mason, Mary Anne Jebb and Justine Lawler.

Exhibition spaces were designed to highlight storytelling, in which past and present members of the Aboriginal community communicate information through text, images, sound and film, to explain to visitors the different people of the region, their languages and the lands they are connected to. Sound and visual imagery illustrate Aboriginal stories of the creation of the Gascoyne River, the river that gives the region its character and life, together with the Ashburton, Lyon and Gifford Creek. Visitors are invited to listen to the story about the snake Warlu and the creation of the river, told in 1964 by the late Bob Williams, a Yinggarda man held in high esteem both by the Aboriginal and white populations.

From there, the exhibition moves into a feature we are particularly proud of. We wanted to display the night sky in a way that would allow visitors to learn about how Aboriginal people used the stars as a guide to living and exploiting natural resources, the story of Jangguna, the night sky emu. We found that technology to project a spectacular 'panographic' display of the night sky using 360 degree time-lapse photography was available, but would require a four metre dome, only obtainable at vast cost from Queensland. It was then that local knowledge and the recent technological history of Carnarvon lent a hand. Someone knew of a dome sitting in a friend's back yard. No longer needed by the NASA space tracking station, it was the perfect size and shape to build a dome shaped fiberglass screen for an eight minute presentation by film maker Peter Morse, a vivid and spectacular illustration of the Gascoyne night sky and the story of Jangguna, the emu.

Our initial research located very few historically significant objects, often the central element of an exhibition. One special object was well beyond our reach – a 32,000 year old set of shell ornaments found in the Cape Range National Park by archaeologist Kate Morse in the 1970s, thought to be the first example world-wide of the use of jewellery for body ornamentation. Understandably, the WA Museum was unwilling to donate this highly significant collection! We decided to use a high quality reproduction, which vividly signifies the long history of human habitation of the Gascoyne. A number of other objects were found through the 'Can You help?' column in *The West Australian*. Some had been made years before, given as gifts or simply removed, and others had previously featured in displays and been stored, such as a small collection in a local council shed which had been part of a regional exhibition in the 1990s. A number of long-term Gascoyne residents donated objects, while a Perth couple was keen to return a fine old grindstone which had been taken from Meedo station in the 1950s and come into their possession. This allowed us to mount a display entitled 'They belong to the country', featuring carved shields, a wanna and digging sticks, boomerangs and spear

throwers, collected from the Gascoyne over the past sixty years. Other objects were donated by long-term Gascoyne residents, particularly materials from the pastoral industry and life on the stations, such as horse-shoes, hand shears, a gidgee wood stock fence, wagon wheels, wireless radios and wind-up HMV record players.



Millie Bunbury (nee Priess) took many wonderful photos on her occasional visits to husband Mervyn's Willambury Station at the turn of the twentieth century (Private collection).

The archives of the State Library and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra hold extensive collections of Gascoyne material, including exploration accounts, and the records of the pastoral industry, the police, welfare and missions. Extensive photographic records include black and white prints of the late nineteenth and twentieth century, taken by visitors and residents such as Dr Turnbull and Dr Fairbairn.

The beautiful and evocative photographs of Millie Bunbury (Priess) show her husband Mervyn's station Willambury in the early 1900s, the film records of pastoralist George Gooch show the family and social life at Wandagee station, and collections of images held by the Carnarvon Library and the Carnarvon Heritage Group document the sporting and social life of the town, the buildings, construction of a port railway, a jetty, causeway and sea wall. More recent photographic histories were located in the collections of a former worker at Carnarvon Mission, Audrey Bruton, Ruth Latekefu (Finke), an anthropologist who researched the region in the 1950s, and the medical anthropologist Dennis Gray, whose Kodacolor slides from the 1970s provide a vivid record of the Carnarvon Aboriginal community. Members of the Aboriginal community lent their photograph collections of family life, as well as their records of the past, their citizenship certificates, letters from the Chief Protector, and brushes with the justice system.



A multicultural workforce at the Boodabie out camp on the Burt's Brickhouse Station. Only the European is identified as Joe Pearson (Permission Tomlinson).



An unidentified Aboriginal cameleer at Bidgemia Station (Carnarvon Heritage Group).

Alongside the visual record, the archives of AIATSIS and the State Library hold collections of recorded material, language recordings, songs and oral histories. Recordings by linguists Carl von Brandenstein, Peter Austin, and Terry Klokeld in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, preserve the voices, stories and songs of some of the elders, the generation who grew up as station workers, and only later moved into town. Members of the reference group were keen to present the voices of their departed family members, as they told stories and sang songs about country and life on the stations.

At the same time, they wanted give a contemporary perspective on their histories and cultures, and demonstrate the continuity and strength of their communities as they are today. A program of oral history recording using digital sound and film equipment was needed to create exhibition material, and provide the opportunity for community members to present the stories they wished to tell. These might be of growing up on the stations or in town, being sent to the Carnarvon Mission as children, of work in the fishing industry at Shark Bay, or life on the old Carnarvon Reserve (1919 – 1974) and the present Mungullah Village. The station way of life is remembered and treasured by the members of the older generation who had grown up on stations with only occasional visits to towns.

On the stations they worked hard, but had the time to keep their knowledge of country and its resources alive, and pass it on to younger generations. There were times of great hardship and violence, particularly in the early days when some Aboriginal people continued to live in the bush away from the stations. One such episode took place at Moogooloo Hill on the upper Minilya River in 1882, when a number of Aboriginal people were killed by local station workers. A report by Sergeant Troy, sent to investigate the reported massacre, and a recorded story by Tommy Dodd, a stockman at Middalya Station until the 1960s, re-tell the story of the massacre Tommy had heard from his grandfather. Thus, the exhibition moved onto ground which has often been controversial, but such was strength of the evidence and the determination of the reference group to tell a story many of them had grown up with, that we were able to present a powerful story of one of the lesser known episodes of Gascoyne history.



The search for objects at Wooramel Station. Space did not allow inclusion of this old wagon wheel.

Another exhibit features the Dawson's Burrowing Bee, the B-52 of indigenous bees, indigenous to the clay pans of the Gascoyne. This is indeed a remarkable creature, so much so that it featured in David Attenborough's 'Life' series a number of years ago. Attenborough was interested in the life cycle of this usually solitary insect which, for a short period in late winter and early spring, nests in colonies, the females laying their eggs in burrows. Their society during the nesting period resembles a femocracy, for all of the males have by then fought each other to death for the privilege of promulgating their genes. Yet, Attenborough told only part of the story. The Burrowing Bee is also known as Mungudgurra, and its larvae are a source of sweet food for Aboriginal people, many of whom speak with reverence about the bee and with fondness for the food it gives them. This was a story that needed to be told so, with the assistance of the Fremantle based film project Indigenous Community Stories, Mary Anne produced an eight minute film about the bee and its traditional significance, featuring members of the Reference Group in the Kennedy Ranges and at Meedo Station, speaking about Mungudgurra's traditional significance and the way they prepare its honey as a food source.

The Reference Group was insistent that the exhibition portray Gascoyne Aboriginal people as part of a living, dynamic culture and society and not just as historical relic. It should be a place not only for visitors, but for their younger family members to learn about their history and their people. To incorporate this aspiration, we developed an interactive light table exhibit through a Sydney based company 'Lightwell', who we learned about from their contribution to the Canning Stock Route exhibition 'Yiwarra Kuju' which displayed last year at the Perth Convention Centre and before that the National Museum. Our research had found a very large volume of historic and contemporary photographs, far more than could be exhibited on the panels.

Digital technology gave us a way of using these photographs, and making them accessible through touch screen technology and the ability to manipulate and move images. The exhibit allows visitors to do many things – to photograph themselves, to locate their portrait in various Gascoyne landscapes, and create a group to include their image with those of their ancestors and living family members. In effect, they can produce their own visual family history – and then email it back to themselves so they can keep a copy. It is one of the exhibits that can be built on, as more people bring their images in to the Centre, they can be placed on the hard drive and become part of the



exhibition. It was pleasing to see the excitement of the first visitors, as they responded in just the way we had hoped, using the exhibit to show their children their extended families, telling stories, and creating their own visual history record.

Opening an exhibition is always a moment of mixed emotions for those who put it together. For Mary Anne and I, whose job had largely finished some months before, it was a chance to see how it looked and worked in its physical setting. For the design and construction team, it was the culmination of a frantic few weeks of building, making sure everything fitted and flowed and that the technology worked. For the Reference Group, it represented the end of an important phase in Carnarvon Aboriginal history. As John Oxenham, one of the senior members, told the audience, this was a chance to learn and understand a different perspective: 'If you haven't changed by the time you get to the end', he said, 'you should turn round and go right back through it again.' It was also a time of some sadness as we remembered three older people who had driven the exhibition during the formative stage. None of them lived to see the results of their efforts. Sid Dale, a Bayungu elder who had long been an advocate for the rights of his people, died shortly after we commenced our work. Soon after Ron Crowe, Yinggarda elder and well-known in Carnarvon, also passed away.

A great responsibility fell on the shoulders of Maureen Dodd, who became to us the leading voice and sounding board, the one who greeted us on our visits and kept an eagle eye on the way we went about our job, but also provided warmth and friendship. We did many trips to country together, to her home place Middalya, the Kennedy Ranges, Meedo, Wooramel and short trips around the Carnarvon bush looking out for the Burrowing Bee. Tragically, only a short time before the completion of the exhibition, she became seriously ill from the effects of liver cancer and died in February 2012. She would have loved to have seen this day but just couldn't make it.

Carnarvon is a long way from Perth – over 800 kilometres by road. Many pass through on their way further north, stopping to refuel or perhaps enjoy a frozen mango, but not actually going into and spending time in the town. We came to know Carnarvon well over our many visits, but we too were guilty for many years of driving straight through on our way north to Derby or Broome. We grew to love its geographic setting and climate, to participate at least in a peripheral sense in an active community, to travel to the many wonderful spots in the region ... and that fresh fish! The town is undergoing something of a renaissance, as new developments and attractions make it a destination in its own right, a place to be visited and enjoyed, rather than a mere stop on the way through. It won't be long before another exhibition at the Port Heritage Precinct is opened, and brings another aspect of the history of this fascinating place before a wider audience.

Burlganyja Wanggaya is now a vital part of the town, an exhibition which proudly exhibits Aboriginal life, culture and history. Mary Anne and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.

Burlganyja Wanggaya is at the Gwoonwardu Mia Aboriginal Heritage and Culture Centre in Roberts Rd, the main street going in to town and only five minutes from the centre. As well as the exhibition, the centre has a café featuring local foods, an art and crafts gallery, and an artist in residence program.

*Malcolm Allbrook MPHA*



❖ **Reflections on a collaborative, community project by  
Lenore Layman:**

The beginnings of this project are lost in the mists of time. It was 2004 when we applied for Australian Research Council funding. We completed and launched the book, website and oral history collection (with 125 interviews) in December 2011. We expected also to provide material for heritage professionals to interpret the site for the public. But that contribution lies in the future.

The project resulted from the problematic presence of the power station on both the physical and political landscapes of early 21st century Perth. In this regard not much has changed in over a decade.



East Perth Power Station electrical division's annual Christmas dinner to which all workers were invited, ca 1949-51. Courtesy: Ted Raymond.

The power station is an industrial heritage site placed on the Interim State Register of Heritage Places in 1994 where it remains. After decommissioning in December 1981 the buildings gradually fell into disuse, and became derelict and vandalised. By 2004 structures deemed of insufficient heritage value had been removed, the exterior stabilised and conserved, and the site remediated – its major industrial contaminants (asbestos lagging, oil impregnated soils and residue heaps) removed. The interior remained in its derelict state (as it does today). At the beginning of the project we were taken on a tour which included the impressive turbine hall and frequency changer room. The turbines supplied Perth's power for 40 years or so, spread down the length of the central hall. When the station was operational, the turbine hall was kept clean by shifts of men with mops and buckets, the hall and control room from which electricity was fed into the distribution grid being the only clean parts of a dangerous, dusty, dirty, coal-ridden workplace.

An end-user moving to adapt and re-use the station faces a daunting task. That it is a challenging one is clearly demonstrated by the numerous stalled proposals for the station's revival and re-birth – museums, an art gallery, hotel, performance spaces; none has come to fruition. The site almost became the new headquarters for the Western Australian Museum before a change of government in 2008 put an end to that plan.

We began in 2004 as an informal group, chiefly members of the Society for the Study of Labour History & Engineers Australia (WA)'s Heritage Panel, encouraged from the start by the National Trust. Members wanted to see a full historical research project to enable future heritage interpretations of the site to be based on a comprehensive historical understanding of the place.

All members were critical of the adaptive re-use of industrial sites without historical interpretation of the former life of the site; Tate Modern, once Bankside power station in London, and the Powerhouse Museum, once Ultimo power station in Sydney, are just two examples, wonderful as their re-uses are.

The engineering historians were keen to preserve the surviving engineering heritage (four of the six turbines, the unique frequency changer and the coal conveyor) making the station potentially a world-heritage engineering site. It was Australia's first centralised power station with three eras of power generating technology. The site can tell a twentieth-century history of coal-fired power generation (with a brief excursion into oil).

The labour historians were keen to preserve the workers' history of the site and therefore determined to see an oral history programme instituted. Neil Byrne, president of SSLH Perth and a former apprentice and tradesman mechanical fitter at the station, spoke for us when he said:

Any redevelopment has to maintain the place as a people place that emphasises its heritage, which was people, skills, knowledge and interaction of people. I wouldn't like to see it bulldozed and become a housing estate, particularly houses today where you build a high fence around your house and you put all sorts of gear on to stop anyone coming in and you sit in there and watch TV all day or read a book and you don't know who is around outside. So I think the powerhouse has to be somewhere where people come, want to go, interact and there's a reflection of its history ... The physical side of the powerhouse is only important to understand people's stories, right?

Peter Read in *Returning to Nothing* wrote powerfully of remembrance of 'lost places', places which have been destroyed, demolished or decayed to nothing yet are held alive in people's memories and their loss mourned. A place can be lost, however, yet still be standing intact, much of its core fabric surviving, or even after it has been restored to some semblance of its past shape. This is a lesson that history can teach heritage — that unless the place has its history told (in all its rich complexity & contradictions) it will remain lost.

Re-peopling a place cannot restore it to what it was. The past cannot be reclaimed. Interpretation of any historical heritage site is necessarily a transformation, its capacity to connect to the past only partial and fragile. The connection is rendered even more tenuous if the interpretation is romanticised and depoliticised. This is a lesson that labour history can teach history. Or so we thought as labour historians.

The project roused the interest of the City of Vincent which promotes community-focused programmes, and sees a 'sense of place' as a community good in a rapidly changing inner-urban locality. Therefore the City supported the project in widening its focus to power consumers as well as power generators — to women's and family residential lives as well as men's employed lives.

Elderly local women who participated in the project mostly reflected on the appeal of the new electrical appliances in the 1940s/1950s — clean, modern, attractive. Their memories also, however, sharply pointed up the taken-for-grantedness of both the gender division of household labour and the manual labour involved in that work.

My husband took a lot of convincing. I kept telling him I wanted a washing machine because I had my mother and father I used to look after. I had two kids. There was him. He had dirty clothes, you know dirty work clothes, and I couldn't convince him. He said, "You don't need a washing machine, you're our washing machine". (Dorothy Jenkins)

Many women used the new household technologies to speed up their housework and ease their passage into the paid workforce, either part or full time.

We explored the rise of electricity consumption in the Central Business District, and in industry and commerce, as well as in homes. The power station's history captures the early stages of our society's absorption into an entangling web of power usage. From 1916 to the mid-1950s East Perth Power Station supplied all Perth's electricity needs (industrial, commercial, domestic) with a peak load of not more than 80Mw. Today the South West Integrated System faces a peak demand of 3,800Mw (and has a capacity of 4,500Mw to meet it). So the station's history invites questions of energy usage and sustainability in the 21st century.

The project also illuminated the history of industrial East Perth and the lives of Aboriginal people, migrants and local workers who made it their home. The changing appearance and use of the riverfront is striking although children play in whatever environment they find.

When I was a youth I used to live in Maylands. The power station used to dump their cinders from the coal out on the riverfront and they were then like big mullock heaps. And exactly what the kids are doing today, they're doing these bike pads and ride up over hills, we did the same on both the sides of the river. There was the Rivervale side and the East Perth side, and all the cinders where they dumped the whole lot. (Colin Batten)

Power station workers knew they were employed in an essential industry dependent on one workplace. If the station could not meet demand then Perth stopped — trams, industry, commerce, retail and, to a lesser extent, household life. Station workers were proud of the skilled work they did.

We had our slackers, like you will have in every mode of life, but oh no, they had a good team there. I think so anyhow. A very good team. (Colin Burns)

These men were mostly manpowered in World War II during which they did war work repairing naval shipping and kept the power on while the station often ran at overload. Mechanical fitters resorted to patching patches in order to keep machines running. Unfortunately the deeply conservative strictures of the Anzac Legend prevent these workers' war effort being properly and fully acknowledged.



Peet family picnic at the Swan River near Burswood, 1900. Courtesy: 011482D Battye Library; SLWA.



Pouring molten lead 1925. Courtesy: Western Power.

My particular research explored occupational health and safety at the station. There were only a small number of fatal accidents but they left an indelible impression. General handyman and painters' assistant Paddy Kingdon's death in 1957 in the 66KW switchyard was probably the one which had greatest impact.

We were ordered out of the switchyard by our boss. I was in shock, I went home from work. I could not walk into any switchyard after that. I worked at Cannington. Although the overhead bus-bars were eight, ten feet up and they were crackling, I always used to walk with my head bowed. I was scared that it was going to track across. That lived with me. Luckily or fortunately he died four days later in hospital but he wasn't given a chance ... So, you know, life went on but it was just very, what would you say, a very frightening experience to see your workmate go down. (Barry Goldman, a young electrical fitting apprentice at the time)

Paddy had raised a wooden ladder with metal reinforcements close to a busbar and a bolt of electricity jumped to this metal and electrocuted him. He died from burns. 'Everyone knew Paddy'. He was a popular figure who had worked for most of his nine years at the station pushing the large morning and afternoon tea trolley around the site. Several busloads of workmates attended his funeral, 'as many as the management would allow us to have ... I don't think anyone who was there at the time will forget' (Neil Byrne).



Most of the power station's apprentices in 1951-52. Courtesy: Fred McCulloch.

I could tell you much much more – of the asbestos, the pollution, the coal gangs, the cooking of prawns, the footballers, the jokes and the struggles. But I'll stop.

I won't try to name all the colleagues who contributed to this project because they are so numerous – authors, industry partners, participant interviewees, interviewers and all manner of helpers. The project could not have been completed without everyone's work. Collaborative community history is a lot of hard work but it does provide the richest of rewards.

*Powering Perth*, a book, website & oral history collection of East Perth Power Station and the electrification of Perth, 1916-1981. *Powering Perth* is in libraries and on sale.

Lenore Layman MPHA

### ❖ Proposed internment of northern Aborigines during the Second World War by Neville Green:

Following the raid on Pearl Harbour Japanese forces overran Malaya, Singapore and the Philippines. On 19 February 1942, Japanese aircraft attacked Darwin and in March the residents of Forrest River Mission looked up as Japanese planes flew overhead to bomb Wyndham. Many Australians believed an invasion of Australia was imminent and the proposed line of defence was from Brisbane to Adelaide and the rest of the continent, including Western Australia, would be abandoned to the Japanese.

Between 1942 and 1945, the North Australian Observer Unit (NAOU) referred to as Curtin's cowboys and Stanner's bush commandos was active in Northern Australia. Their commander, Major W.E.H. Stanner, was a noted anthropologist and an expert on northern Aboriginal culture. 'B' Company, with responsibility for the area from the Cambridge Gulf to Victoria River, was headquartered at Ivanhoe Station with an advance camp on Carlton Station (R. & H. Walker, *Curtin's Cowboys: Australia's secret bush commandos*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, p. 28, maps p. xiv & pp. 26-27 of this book). On Sunday 6 September 1942, Lieutenant Shannon and six soldiers arrived at the Forrest River Church of England Mission west of Wyndham, with orders to investigate and report on the Japanese infiltration of the northern Kimberley. The Rev John Best, superintendent and chaplain of the Mission, directed Shannon to Bremlah, a ceremonial site in pre-mission times, located across the river from the Mission. He assigned Horace as their guide. Other guides included Ronald Morgan, Frank Martin, George Bambra and Ernest Unbah, names not acknowledged on the official list of Indigenous army guides assisting NAOU (*Curtin's Cowboys*, pp.138-39).

When an unnamed officer told Best that the Aborigines were a security risk, and implied their extermination was likely in the event of an invasion, he wrote Stanner a cautious letter requesting a meeting when he next visited Wyndham:

I have gathered that the military authorities are very worried about the possible value of the Aborigines to the Japanese. I admit there is quite a danger of this where the Aborigine is left entirely to himself but I am concerned that if there is something constructive being done in his interests the danger is much minimised (Best to Stanner 27 October 1942, (CIAP).

Best told me he discussed the matter with Stanner and, while not denying the existence of such an order, he assured Best that no Aborigines would be shot while he was in charge (Best, PI Neville Green, 1970 and 24 November 1984). I wrote to Professor Stanner in 1977 and he replied: "The purpose of the camp on the Forrest River was to



form part of a forward screen of observation posts and patrols in case of Japanese attack. The main job of NAOU [Northern Australia Observation Unit] was to watch for enemy movements in the exposed parts of the north-west, and to warn HQ NT Force" (Professor W.E.H. Stanner, letter to Neville Green, 5 November 1977).

The military believed that the coastal Aborigines were unpredictable, their loyalty to King and country untested and, if in the event of an invasion they served as guides to the Japanese, they would be a threat to Australian troops operating in the region. Therefore, a removal and internment plan was considered necessary. No reports or correspondence in support of John Best's concerns have been seen but the military plans to remove coastal Aborigines warrants examination. How many coastal Aborigines would be removed?

The variations in Indigenous population estimates that follow reflect the different methods of collecting and collating data. Police reports and estimates published in the Annual Reports of the Commissioner for Native Affairs sometimes combine coastal and inland populations at pastoral stations, towns, settlements and missions and 4,082 is a general estimate of the coastal numbers included in the internment plan. John Best's concern was for the estimated 939 person at Kalumburu, Forrest River, Kunmunya, Munja and Wyndham hospital.

With a Japanese invasion thought likely, the Commanding Officer at the Perth Headquarters of the 3rd Australian Corp wrote to Francis Bray, Commissioner of Native Affairs, with a proposal, already before Prime Minister John Curtin, that an army unit be formed entirely of Kimberley Aborigines (HQ 3rd Aust Corps to Commissioner Native Welfare, 17 November 1942, Native Auxiliary Corps in the Kimberley District, Acc 993, 1032/1942, SROWA). Bray considered the idea ridiculous, 'In the first place it must be realised that the Kimberley native is totally uneducated. Furthermore, he knows nothing about patriotism or loyalty to His Majesty the King and the British Empire as we whites understand the words and virtues of allegiance' (HQ 3rd Aust Corps to Commissioner Native Welfare, 17 November 1942, Native Auxiliary Corps in the Kimberley District, Acc 993, 1032/1942, SROWA). In Bray's opinion, the Kimberley Aborigines were likely to give their support to anyone who offered them food and tobacco, implying that included the Japanese. The Kimberley Aborigines had their place in the Kimberley defined for them by law and it was his job to keep them there, 'in my opinion the natives should be mainly supervised through the agencies of the various station owners and managers' (Bray, to HQ 3rd Australian Corps, 19 November 1942, Native Auxiliary Corps in the Kimberley District, Acc 993, 1032/1942, SROWA).

On 14 January 1943, Major Ednie Brown outlined his plan to remove all Aborigines from northern coastal districts between Shark Bay and Derby to inland internment camps at least 160 kilometres from the coast. Aborigines between La Grange and Derby would be taken to Fossil Downs Station near Fitzroy Crossing and all others would be divided between Warrawagine pastoral station, 210 kilometres south east of Port Hedland, or Marble Bar.

A plan to transfer Indigenous residents of Lombardina and Beagle Bay Missions, including those already evacuated from Broome, to an unnamed eastern destination, did not consider the costs of transfer, construction, maintenance and policing a new settlement to accommodate this number of inmates. Bray refused to allow his staff to



serve as policemen and warders and, unless the army engaged armed guards, the Aborigines would simply wander off (Natives, Northwest areas, Acc 993 102/1943, SROWA). In a memo to his Minister he showed concern at the military's identification of people to be removed:

Taking this aspect, and assuming that our old and infirm natives might be of assistance to an invasion force in the case of a landing here, I consider the element of risk is just as great with the employed natives on the [pastoral] runs. Furthermore, the tribal country of the natives concerned extends for no great distance inland and in my opinion the value of the coastal natives as guides would be of little value to the invasion force" (Bray memo to Minister for Northwest, 21 January 1943, Acc 993 102/1943, SROWA).

These views were passed up the line of command to Brigadier Hoad, the Military Officer Commanding Western Australia, who 'desired' that Bray reconsider his response. The North West Battalion had been unanimous in their insistence that the aged, nomadic and infirm be removed from the coast and furthermore, that 'All working natives, be registered on the station at which they are employed and not allowed to move from this station without a permit from the station owner or manager' (Hoad to Bray 29 March 1943, Acc 993 102/1943, SROWA). When the first groups were settled in the internment camps, the station workers would also be removed to controlled camps on inland pastoral stations which were identified as Fossil Downs near Fitzroy, Warrawagine, Mulga Downs, Ashburton Downs, Bangamall and Milly Milly. Internees would be forbidden to move beyond a proscribed radius from the camp which was one kilometre from Fossil Downs and 34 kilometres from Milly Milly in the Murchison. They would receive rations every four days and any uncontrollable Aborigines would be removed to police custody. Brigadier Hoad asked that in the event of a forced removal the police respond in a discrete manner avoiding unrest amongst the others.

Police Commissioner Hunter considered the plan impractical because civil police could not retain in custody any Aborigines arrested by the army. Furthermore, he doubted that barbed wire would contain any Aborigine who was determined to leave (Bray 7 April 1943, Acc 993 102/1943, SROWA). If the military wanted internment camps they must construct them and supply their own armed guards. The Police Department would not be involved. Bray resented official interference in his domain and told Hoad that the entire proposal 'indicates a lack of deep knowledge of the fundamentals of native characteristics'. Any removals must be the responsibility of the army. He warned against 'nigger hunting' and the arming of troops, and cautioned Hoad, 'If they are, it is possible that innocent and simple natives will be killed in their attempts to elude capture'. If that occurred, he, as their legal protector and guardian, would be bound to take action against the offenders (Bray to Hoad, 10 April 1943, Acc 993 102/1943, SROWA). Bray considered the internment plan stupid and Lieut-General Gordon Bennett the Western Military commander agreed and no further action was taken (Bray to Professor A.P. Elkin, 11 April, 1944, Acc 993, 365/1945 SROWA).

An intriguing feature of the plan and one in line with Best's concerns, is that the most northerly line for removal was Derby with no reference to the removal and internment of the semi-nomadic people of the central north Kimberley or the residents of Kunmunya, Kalumburu and Forrest River Missions. John Best was positive that a secret order of extermination existed, but no evidence of such an order has been seen.

An edited extract from *Triumphs and Tragedies: Oombulgurri an Australian Aboriginal community* (Hesperian Press) the latest book by Dr Neville Green AM and short listed for the 2012 Premier's Book Awards.

Neville Green MPHA

### ❖ Museums, commitment and imagination by Michal Bosworth:

The European economic crisis is serious. Empty shuttered shops, even in prosperous Oxford, point accusing fingers towards it. In Italy youth unemployment is more than 25 percent. Even when a young person finds a job it is often insecure, usually poorly paid and can disappear after a few weeks. Parents are being called upon to do more with less.

Under these circumstances, on a recent trip to Italy and France, it was not surprising to find that some of, what might be called (by cultural barbarians) 'discretionary occupations', are at risk or are in the process of disappearing, as they are in England. Occupations in museums, libraries, art galleries, town festivals and the like are under threat. It appears that paymasters have decided people can live without these aids to the human spirit when times are tough, although in all these countries local people are declaring this is not so. They are fighting back. Yet it was shocking to visit a museum of silk fabrics in Lyon and find there was no display of local industry (Lyon had been a great centre of the silk industry), nor were there captions on many of their large and wonderful silk carpets and other fine objects that told a story, or even gave the provenance of the object. The curator/s had disappeared, to be replaced by one surly security officer. Lyon indeed has a wonderful modern museum of Gallo-Roman remains, and Paris still seems mightily equipped with magnificent museums, but the silk museum remained in my mind as we travelled south into Italy.

There the funding situation for the humanities is fragmented under the more or less watchful eye of the central government department for the Arts. Money in provincial places can still be found as Italian local government and financial institutions continue to accept an obligation to spend a certain amount on public art. Friends drove us to a recently opened wine museum in Barolo in the Langhe district of Piedmont. The acronym chosen for the development oddly enough is wimu, short for wine museum, clearly aimed at English-speakers. The location in a castle, at the heart of a wine growing district, is ideal for the summer tourist and the displays labelled in Italian and English are very accessible. Many have been designed with children in mind. After visiting three floors of concentrated information, the reward for adults is a wine cellar with tastings and bottles for sale. This large undertaking boasts seven funding partners, at least one of which is a bank and two are local government organisations.

In Rome, heart of Italy's museum world, where construction of the third underground railway line is constantly delayed by more finds from the Roman city beneath, we saw an exhibition which was strangely lacking in objects but which more than made up for this by an inventive technological approach. 'Looking East: cities, men and gods of the Silk Road' was displayed in a newly opened wing of the Baths of Diocletian, at the top of the Via Nazionale. Video of animated maps and buildings, people and silk carpets stole



the show. Each vignette was enhanced by moving images of the contemporary world. The first, of four finely carved heads from the time of queen Zenobia, turning slowly on pedestals, showed four women from today's Palmyra on a screen behind them. The abrupt contrast of the distant past with the present was both disconcerting and thought-provoking. This technique was continued throughout the exhibition, although sometimes the objects were no more than hanks of silk or piles of sand and stone. The multimedia approach effectively disguised the lack of a proper catalogue and the paucity of historical objects. In this case imagination and clever technology had solved what must have been a problem in locating and insuring suitable objects for display.

In Western Australia, which is so wealthy, there has been a decided lack of political commitment towards museums. The closure of the history museum in Fremantle was a step backwards, and one which had no obvious justification apart from the policies of neo-liberalism. These policies threaten the world's collections, great and small, but it is clear that ways can be found to combat them. Historians who work in the community can be effective lobbyists in the fight to preserve our pasts.

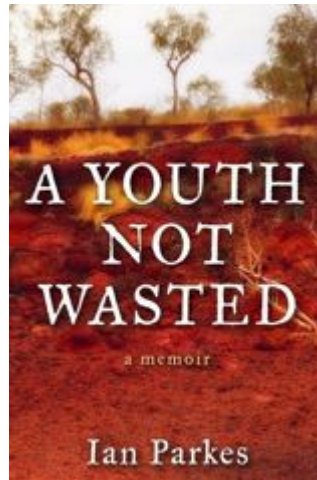
*Michal Bosworth MPHA (Retired)*

### ❖ Book note - *A Youth Not Wasted*:

*A Youth Not Wasted: a memoir* by Ian Parkes. Fourth Estate, HarperCollins, paperback, 352 pp., illustrated, maps. ISBN: 9780732295349. RRP \$32.99. (eBook, 368 pp., RRP \$25.99, ISBN: 9781743095782).

In a short review in *The West Australian* on 10 April 2012, William Yeoman noted that this work was special: 'it's not simply an autobiography, it's an elegy to a lost world'. That world existed on sheep properties in South Australia and Western Australia in the 1950s.

*A Youth Not Wasted* has a glossary but no index. To offset that, the comments that follow were jotted down as the pages turned. Candid and sometimes raw, the memoir discusses people (many with only a first name), work, accidents, arguments, kangaroo shooting, horse racing, drinking, and gambling. It pays tribute to friends and family members who influenced the author and encouraged his love of good literature. It also provides background on several of the properties, which are shown on three clear maps.



Born in Perth in 1934, Ian Parkes saw himself as having been bred to the wool industry. His maternal grandfather was on the land in South Australia, and later in the West; his mother's brother worked on sheep stations in the West; and his father, having tasted that life, encouraged him to pursue it.

'Jackeroo' is Part One of the memoir. The story unfolds at a leisurely pace with the author leaving home at 16 after his parents arranged for him to work as a jackeroo on Koonoona (a merino stud at Burra, north of Adelaide). Such jobs were often granted as favours to families, and the Koonoona manager had been a jackeroo under Parkes' grandfather (the then manager of Koonamore, further north). People mentioned in connection with Koonoona and Winnininnie Station (near Koonamore) include Len Boothby, Bill Moxham and his father Gil, and Ken Wade. Visits to three maiden aunts at Poltoonga (their former private school in Adelaide) are also covered. Parkes returned to WA in April 1952, at the start of a two-year drought, and worked on stations out of Carnarvon. After spending a few months learning the basics of water-boring from Ian Bridson, he went further inland.

Part Two ('Stockman') revolves around the million-acre Mt Augustus Station, its long-time manager Ernest Potts, and other people who worked there. Those mentioned include Maurice and Margaret Parkes (Ian's parents), Pieter den Besten, Bill van Rijn, Andy Johansen, Mitchell and Gilbert Dooler, Snowball, Bluey the outcamp man, Clarrie the dogger, Albie Zilko, and Old Fred. The Yamatji men (the Dooler brothers, Snowball, and Old Fred) are recalled with a mixture of fondness and respect.

In late 1953, the author went to Errabiddy Station where he worked for Tom Steadman for four months. That period is covered in Part Three ('Station Hand'). The people encountered included Kay Steadman (Tom's wife), Gerry Smith (from Mooloogool Station), and an Italian named Luigi (Lui for short). From Errabiddy, Parkes went south-east to Koonmarra Station (halfway to Meekatharra) where his father had taken over the management for Herbert Lee Steere. Three months later, he was off again, going to Belele Station where his uncle Jack Henderson was the manager for Ernest Lee Steere.

The time at Belele occupies the last third of the book—both Part Four ('Head Stockman') and Part Five ('Overseer'). A handy map shows the course of Hope River angling through some of the 30 paddocks that make up the station. The people mentioned include Lindsay Henderson (Jack's wife), Jackie Stevens, Lofty Stevens, Doug Fraser and his son Mervyn, Harry Finlay (the Silver Fox), Norman and Joe Gilla, Alf Sallur and his daughter Lorraine, and David Wilcox. Much of the coverage discusses mustering and

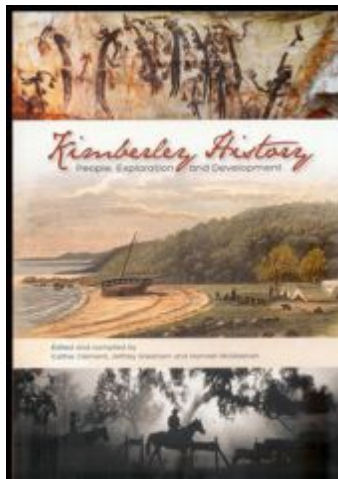
shearing, with some of that activity taking place on Gabyon and Barnong Stations (out of Geraldton). Parkes left Belele seriously ill and received weeks of care from Dr Ekstein and Matron Barbara Smith at Meekatharra Hospital before being sent to Perth. With that, his four and a half years of working with sheep ended.

The memoir provides a warts and all view of life on a variety of properties but, by the time I reached Part Five, I had read enough about gruelling work, harsh conditions, brawls and bluster. It came as no surprise that, despite an affinity for some of the Upper Gascoyne and Murchison country, the author preferred the softer feel of the Lower Gascoyne and, ultimately, the attractions of Perth.

Cathie Clement MPHA

### ❖ Book Note - *Kimberley History, People Exploration and Development*:

Cathie Clement, Jeffrey Gresham and Hamish McGlashan (eds.) 2012, *Kimberley History: People, Exploration and Development*, Kimberley Society, Perth. Soft cover, 240 pp., illustrated (full colour), maps. ISBN 978-0-9587130-2-3. RRP \$49.95.



This volume is a welcome addition to the literature on the Kimberley. In March 2010, the Kimberley Society convened a seminar at the University of Western Australia on the people, exploration and development of the region. The contributions reflect the broad nature of research on the history of the Kimberley by members of the Society, and add considerably to our knowledge about the forces, events and episodes that have shaped the region since colonisation. The editors are to be congratulated for their efforts to turn the proceedings of that seminar into an edited volume and make them available to a wider audience. The history of the Kimberley has attracted a growing literature over the past fifty years, yet there is much to be told. Earlier works by authors such as Bolton, Lowe, Hawke, Crawford, Pedersen and Woorunmurra, Jebb, Choo, Sickert, Blundell and Woolagoodja, and Clement have illuminated the rich and diverse history of the region and its significance to the many peoples who now share it. This historical record played a major role in the listing of the West Kimberley as a National Heritage place in 2011 (see the Australian Heritage Commission's ['West Kimberley Place Report'](#)).



The volume considerably deepens our understanding of Kimberley history, particularly the period of exploration and initial attempts to settle and exploit the region. Chapters by Mark Bin Bakar and Mike Morwood establish the long connection of Aboriginal people to the region, pointing to a deep history of human occupation. The archaeology of the region confirms what Aboriginal people have always asserted: that their ancestors have occupied the land continuously from ancient times to modern. Apart from the work of archaeologists such as O'Connor, Dortch, Balme, Veth and Morwood, we know little either about the ancient past, or occupation during the long period of the Holocene. The area's archaeological potential remains enormous, particularly its capacity to illuminate this ancient history of human occupation.

At the time of colonisation, each part of the land was owned and occupied by Aboriginal people who were prepared to defend their ownership. Much of the early contact, as shown in the chapters by Clement, McGlashan, Quinlan, and Bolton, is set against a background of cross-cultural relationships, the uncertainties and suspicions of first contacts which often culminated in violence, and subsequent moves towards the accommodations of a contact zone. Men such as George Grey, a personal favourite of mine for his vivid account of his Western Australian explorations, and Michael Quinlan, encountered a rough land which they struggled to understand. It was a land defended by its owners, and both men faced the consequences of their unwelcome intrusion, Quinlan meeting his death in an attack by Aboriginal people near Camden Harbour. By contrast, explorers such as Frank Hann, as described by Mike Donaldson and Ian Elliot, were intent on the mining and pastoral potential of the north Kimberley, and kept their distance from the Aboriginal people they encountered. Hann's observations of the rough lands of the Napier and King Leopold Ranges in 1898 were the first step towards opening up the land for pastoral exploitation over the following thirty years.

The volume includes articles on little known aspects of early Kimberley history, such as the extractive industries of guano on Browse and other islands, as told by Tim Willing and Alison Spencer, and the chapter by Phillip Playford on the gold rushes of 1885 – 6. It is surprising, given the profile of Old Halls Creek as a tourist destination and its rich archival and oral record, that more has not been published about Halls Creek, so Playford's article on the events behind the discovery of gold at Halls Creek and the men who drove its development is welcome. Two articles by Kevin Kenneally present intriguing perspectives of the Kimberley, the first discussing the overland exploits of Joseph Bradshaw and others, and the establishment with Aeneas Gunn of a place on Prince Regent River named 'Marigui'; the second, Aboriginal and European perspectives on the contact zone of Marigui. Michael Cusack also writes about the overland exploits of these early explorers. Christine Choo's article on the missions provides important information on an aspect of Kimberley history which had a deep impact both on the Aboriginal people they were designed to help, and the missionaries who went to places such as Beagle Bay, Forrest River, Lagrange and Lombardina. Finally, Bill Bunbury's article on impacts of settlement and development on the people of the region, gives an overview of some of the key processes of Kimberley history, particularly the pastoral industry.

I suspect Bunbury's closing remark about the capacity of the Kimberley to own the people, rather than the other way round, applies to many of the contributors, each of whom has grown to know and love the region over many years. This volume will form a key reference for those interested in the history of the Kimberley, and others who have swum in the Fitzroy River and have the place in their blood. It gives sound direction for



future historical research, and outlines the breadth and nature of research projects currently underway.

The book is presented in an attractive and user-friendly format, and is a pleasure to hold. Beautiful illustrations and informative maps complement the narratives, testament to the care and determination of the editors and the willingness of the Society to take on the responsibility of publishing. And it is nicely printed, care of a Perth based company, Scott Print.

Copies can be purchased from the Kimberley Society, PO Box 8471, Perth Business Centre, Perth 6849.

*Malcolm Allbrook MPHA*

### ❖ 'Historian at Large' – Significance Assessment of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society Collection by Cathy Day:

Sometimes I wonder what encouraged me to move from the built heritage working environment to the museum world. One Thursday in June, I was reminded why. I happened to be in Sydney with three hours to spare. Weighing up going directly to the airport or taking the chance to see someone at the Powerhouse Museum, without an appointment, I took the chance. Which is how I came to spend a very enjoyable and productive hour with Glynis Jones, Curator of Costume, Fashion and Design, discussing the significant items of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society's Costume Collection.

Though Glynis didn't actually say she coveted some of the remarkable gowns, she did say if they were offered to the Powerhouse collection she would welcome them to be added to the already prodigious collection of 30,000 items. Of course the Royal Western Australian Historical Society is aware of their special collection and has been making sure the management of the costumes and textiles meet the National Standards of Australian Museum and Galleries. The collection significance assessment process I have been guiding has revealed some fascinating items, one with an interesting provenance to New Norcia, the Aboriginal girls living there and their delicate, embroidered linen sold to raise money for the Monastery. Working with curious historical collections, active and motivated volunteers and generous staff of leading museums contributes to stimulating consulting work and encourages me to keep taking chances.

*Cathy Day MPHA*

### ❖ Dig Deep for National Archaeology Week at WA Museum:

It was all on at WA Museum, Perth at the start of National Archaeology Week 2012. Over the weekend of the 12th and 13th May, the WA Museum, Perth was bustling with extra archaeological activities all conveniently located together to create a great day out.



On offer for visitors was an archaeological dig on part of the foundations of Old Perth Gaol. Visitors were able to watch an archaeological dig unfold before their eyes and talk to archaeologists about what they are uncovering at Perth Old Gaol. Young aspiring archaeologists even got the chance to sieve for artefacts or try their hand digging under archaeological supervision.

Visitors could wander through an Archaeological Expo of displays and posters showcasing archaeology in Western Australia and talk to the archaeologist, archaeological students and museum personnel manning the stalls and displays. A wide ranging poster display showcased topics such as maritime archaeology, Aboriginal heritage and historic heritage. York Museum created a stall display with items from their museum collection. There were also stalls created on the archaeological heritage of Government House, Cossack and the Peel region. St Mary's Cathedral was represented with two stalls showcasing the heritage and archaeology of the place. As a special treat this display included a living component a museum conservator working on conserving a coffin lid found during the archaeological excavations under the cathedral. For those interested in archaeology as a career there was a stall display on the work of Gaye Nayton's archaeological consultancy and a stall display by the Archaeology Society.



For families and kids there were fun day activities where they could try their hand at excavating their own dig, mapping their own site, sorting artefacts or sticking them back together or drawings them as for a museum display. When they finally had their fill of archaeology, families had the whole of the Perth Museum to explore, making a wonderful day out for all.



*Gaye Nayton Accredited Historical Researcher*

### ❖ 2012 ASHA and AIMA 'Surf and Turf' Conference, Fremantle WA, 30 September - 3 October:

Registration is now open for the 2012 joint ASHA/AIMA conference which is being held for the first time in WA.

The conference aims to draw together the shared interests of researchers in historical and maritime archaeology by linking aspects of land and sea - 'Surf and Turf'. Together, such sites form a holistic landscape that can be documented and interpreted to provide a better understanding of past events, activities and human behaviour.

Areas of interest to archaeologists and historians such as exploration, colonisation, trade and communication have similar conjunctions with no distinction between the low tide mark. Papers and posters will explore the networks and connections between land and sea both conceptually and archaeologically.

The conference's keynote speaker is Christer Westerdahl from the Department of Archaeology and Religious Studies at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. Westerdahl has written extensively on maritime cultural landscapes, with many papers and articles on the topic and related prehistoric cosmology based on the relationship between sea and land, concepts of maritime cultural theory, and how the sea is tied with the inland by transport.

The conference offers three days of paper sessions, a welcome event at the Maritime Museum's Victoria Quay, conference dinner at the Char Char Bull and a series of tours. Sean Winter will be conducting a tour of Fremantle Prison and Fremantle Town. A joint walking tour that area of Perth set aside for government and religion includes discussion of building heritage by Richard Offen, St Mary's Cathedral heritage and archaeology by Robert Cross and the archaeology of the government domain and port of Perth by Gaye Nayton. The archaeology of Garden Island and Peel Town will be demonstrated by Shane Burke, and Gaye Nayton will take you on a tour of historic lime kilns in the Wanneroo area.

Conference registration can be found at: <http://www.ashaaima2012.org/registration.html>

## ❖ Items of Interest from Museums Australia (WA) ezine, 2 July 2012:

Museums Australia (WA) publishes a fortnightly edition of its *ezine*. Please send information and details of events for publication to [anne.chapple@museum.wa.gov.au](mailto:anne.chapple@museum.wa.gov.au).

### Conferences

#### **Museums Australia National Conference 2012 *Research and Collections in a Connected World***

The Museums Australia National Conference 2012 will be held at Adelaide University from September 24 - 28. For more information visit: <http://ma2012.org.au/index.asp?IntCatId=14>

#### **INTERPRETATION AUSTRALIA 2012 CONFERENCE: Future Challenge, Melbourne, 12-15 November**

Registration for Interpretation Australia's 2012 Conference Future Challenge is now open! For more information or to register online, visit <http://www.interpretationaustralia.asn.au/conferences>

#### **History Teachers Association National Conference**

***My History Your History Our History*** will be held at Perth College in Mount Lawley from **October 2-4**, and welcomes presentations from the Museum sector. Visit: <http://www.historyconference.org.au/westernaustralia.html>

### Exhibitions

#### **Desert Psychedelic: Jimmy Pike**

Featuring prints, textiles and fashion garments, this significant exhibition follows Pike's journey from making paintings and prints in prison to becoming the name behind global design icon Desert Designs. Showing at Fremantle Prison Gallery until 19 August.

**Saving Face** at Subiaco Museum, 39 Rokeby Road, Subiaco until October 31.

**Five** an exhibition at Fremantle Prison until October 7.

❖ **Items of Interest from the History Council of WA:**

**HISTORY COUNCIL EVENT – HISTORY IN THE PUB**

**SUNDAY 29 JULY 2012 at 12 noon**

This event is at the end of July, with Lenore Layman and Crienda Fitzgerald, authors of the new publication, *110° in the water bag. Work and Leisure in Leonora, Gwalia and the Northern Goldfields*. This will be a fascinating insight into the stories they discovered through research and oral history interviews. It promises to be an entertaining presentation and a uniquely West Australian one!

After the presentation, Lenore and Crienda will be available to sign their book. A limited number of books will also be available for purchase on the day for \$39.95 (payable by cash or cheque ONLY please).

Drinks will be available for purchase from the bar at the Green Room upstairs and members can purchase lunch at the pub afterwards if they wish.

We will provide a \$5 donation honesty jar in the room for assistance towards the cost of running this event.

Due to the size of the room, audience numbers will be limited and it would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know by email if you would like to attend. Please contact us at [office@historycouncilwa.org.au](mailto:office@historycouncilwa.org.au)

Please note that this is a casual 'pub' event, not an organised lecture. Seating may not be available for everyone. The presentation will be for about 20 minutes so if you really need a chair, please contact us on the above email. However, there are limited chairs, so we cannot guarantee that everyone will be able to request a seat.

**MOUNT LAWLEY SOCIETY PHOTO VIEWING – MONDAY 6 AUGUST 2012**

The Mount Lawley Society would like to invite you to join us at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club **between 7.30pm to 10.30pm Monday 6 August**.

Over the past 3 years the MLS has scanned, catalogued and archived over 1000 historical photographs with the support of grants from the WA History Foundation and Lotterystartwest.

Support on purchasing and using archiving materials has been given to the Society from the Royal West Australian Historical Society.

Many of the photos have been reprinted by Bruno Zimmerman.

Please join us for drinks and nibbles and view the archived photos (some of which are not on the website) and hear about the process and the work that has been undertaken mainly by Ian, Paula, Barrie and Paul.

The bar at the MLBC will be open for you to purchase drinks and nibbles will be provided.

Please RSVP to Beth at [bmckechne@bigpond.com](mailto:bmckechne@bigpond.com) or 0421 545 583 by 3 August.



## WA TV HISTORY

### Portal to Australian and International online News sources

This weblink will take you to a portal for convenient reference of a wide variety of news sites at a new portal page on WA TV History:  
<http://www.watvhistory.com/wp/News/Portal.htm>

### ❖ 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 in September 2012** and can be sent to the editor Malcolm Allbrook on [malcolm@allbrookjebb.com.au](mailto:malcolm@allbrookjebb.com.au).



❖ **PHA (WA) Management Committee 2011-2012:**

President	Kris Bizzaca
Vice-President	Jennie Carter
Secretary	Heather Campbell
Treasurer	Bill Reynolds
Membership Secretary	Lenore Layman
Committee Members	Prue Griffin
	Julie Lunn
	Jennifer Griffiths
	Peter Gifford
	Margaret Hamilton

ACPHA Representative/  
Ex-Officio

Cathie Clement  
[clement@q-net.net.au](mailto:clement@q-net.net.au)

**Sub-Committees 2011-2012:**

Rules & Incorporation	Kris Bizzaca (convener), Jennie Carter
Promotions & Publications	Julie Lunn (convener), Prue Griffin, Jennifer Griffiths, Peter Gifford
Newsletter Editor	Malcolm Allbrook
Credentials	Lenore Layman, Robin Chinnery (co-opted)
Commissioned History	Prue Griffin (convener), Peter Gifford

**Annual Membership Fees:**

Professional Historian	\$85
Professional Historian (Retired)	\$50
Professional Historian (Associate)	\$65
Graduate Historian	\$40
Historical Researcher	\$40
Joining fee	\$30
Newsletter subscription	\$10

**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 Australian Council of Professional Historians in August 2001.

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## OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

To promote the concept of professional history and research in the community.

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To establish, maintain and promote a code of practice.

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To maintain a Register of Members.

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

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

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

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To maintain links with similar organisations.

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