

PHA WA



Newsletter

CONTENTS

❖ Note from the Editor:	1
❖ AGM - Advance notice for PHA Members:	2
❖ 'The Business of History' - Professional Development Session:	2
❖ Proposed amendments to WA's Aboriginal Heritage Act:	3
❖ Penelope Hetherington's book <i>The Marriage Knot</i> wins the 2014 Margaret Medcalf Award:	6
❖ Recalling Dr Barnett:	7
❖ Welcome to the Cultural Collections of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG) Community Southern A:	11
❖ Remembering Them - A World War 1 regional project:	14
❖ From the Battye Library:	15
❖ From the Foundation:	18
❖ From the State Records Office:	21
❖ From the National Archives of Australia:	21
❖ Book Note - <i>Drunks, pests and harlots</i> :	22
❖ Book Note - <i>The String of the Last Wreath</i> :	23
❖ Website Note - <i>Nyungar Wardan Katitjin Bidi – Derbal Nara</i> :	24
❖ Item of interest:	25
❖ Next Newsletter Deadline:	26
❖ PHA (WA) Management Committee 2013-2014:	27

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

❖ Note from the Editor:

Welcome to our July eNewsletter. I think you will agree with me that the content of this issue is as interesting as it is varied. I thank all contributors for making this yet another successful edition of PHA (WA)'s newsletter.

As Members are aware, it has been an extremely busy - and somewhat stressful - time for the Management Committee following the resignation of Jennifer Weir as President due to personal reasons. We thank Jen for her important contribution to the Association during this time, including her work on promoting PHA (WA) and on our fantastic new website.

In addition to this, the Management Committee was particularly grateful when Jen generously agreed to stay on as Acting Treasurer. This meant we were able to continue to function with the minimum number of committee members required as per the Rules of the Association. The situation did, however, force the Management Committee to consider the possibility of having to report to the Department of Commerce that we were unable to operate.

With the matter of the Association's survival in mind, the Management Committee urged you, its Members, to consider your responsibility to the future of our organisation. We were incredibly pleased and grateful when five of you agreed to consider roles on the committee.

This does not mean we are out of deep water yet! With only one month to go, the AGM will prove whether PHA (WA) is stable, if at least for the time being. I take the opportunity to remind you that the only way we can guarantee the Association will continue is by our Members being involved, especially in this our 25th year.

Speaking of which, the Management Committee is in the process of finalising our anniversary celebrations in November and will advertise these in due course. In the meantime, renewals will soon be sent out to Members and we would appreciate these being paid as soon as possible.

I also encourage you all to attend our AGM and Professional Development session; the latter on the 'Business of History' is certain to be interesting and challenging.

Warm regards,

Kris Bizzaca MPHA

❖ **AGM - Advance notice for PHA Members:**

Advance notice is given for the 2014 AGM of PHA (WA).

When: 11.45am arrival for 12noon start, **Sunday 10 August 2014**

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

AGM proceedings will be followed a Professional Development session starting at approximately 1pm.

We encourage you to attend this function and take the opportunity to meet the Management Committee of PHA (WA).

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

This year's AGM proceedings will again be followed by a joint PHA (WA) and OHAA (WA Branch) Professional Development session.

When: 1pm arrival to approximately 5pm, Sunday 10 August 2014

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

This year the topic of the Seminar is 'The Business of History' and will showcase three speakers whose everyday lives deal with being custodians of the past and the issue of having to make this history and heritage 'pay for itself'.

The speakers are: Abbot John Herbert of the New Norcia Benedictine Community, Nigel Oakley of Dome Cafes and Garth Kearvell of *Nonna Voce*.

This will be followed by a panel of professionals looking at practical matters associated with the consultancy side of our business.

The people in this Professional Development session will challenge and inspire us in the ways they use and present history as well as discuss their experiences and the various issues involved in their interaction with the past.

Afternoon tea will be provided free of charge. A full program will be circulated soon.

❖ Proposed amendments to WA's Aboriginal Heritage Act:

The Professional Historians Association (WA) is one of a number of groups including anthropologists, archaeologists and Indigenous land councils, which have expressed opposition to proposed amendments by the Barnett Government to the State's Aboriginal Heritage Act (AHA).

Ethno-historian and PHA (WA) member Dr Peter Gifford says the proposed amendments to the 42-year-old Act have been described by the government as aiming to streamline the means by which miners and other developers gain approval to disturb or destroy registered Aboriginal heritage sites.

But Dr Gifford, who has more than 20 years of experience as both bureaucrat and consultant in writing reports and dealing with other aspects of the legislation, says opposition to the proposed amendments rests on the assertion that they will instead effectively disenfranchise Aboriginal people in respect of heritage matters while concentrating the Act's powers solely in the Chief Executive Officer of the WA Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA).

It is on this basis, he says, that *The Australian* newspaper has claimed – correctly in his view – that the new legislation will lead to a 'Stolen Heritage Generation' and deliver the fate of thousands of indigenous sites into the hands of a single bureaucrat. (*The Australian*, 23 June 2014.)

Here's Dr Gifford's take on the background to the dispute.

The Aboriginal Heritage Act was regarded throughout Australia as establishing new ground in terms of extending protection to sacred, ritual and other significant Aboriginal sites, when it was introduced by the Tonkin Labor Government in 1972. What it did in effect was to recognise Aboriginal sites and objects as such, rather than merely part of heritage generally, and to outline how such sites and objects might be both protected and managed.

In particular, the 1972 legislation made it an offence to damage an Aboriginal site even if unregistered or unlisted as such. Sadly, while I know of a number of cases where such offences have occurred, there have been few if any prosecutions – partly because of the 12 month statute of limitations which currently applies to the legislation, but mostly because of a lack of will among bureaucrats and politicians.

This, it must be said, is one area where the amended legislation could actually improve the situation – the amendments provide for an extension of the period in which offenders can be prosecuted to five years, and for substantially increased penalties for destruction of or damage to sites.

An increase in the number of prosecutions would, however, be unlikely when the amended legislation would allow the CEO of DAA effective powers of rubber-stamping development projects without the previous necessity to have potential damage to sites assessed by Traditional Owners through reports compiled by expert and experienced archaeologists, anthropologists and/or ethno-historians, and then reviewed by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC).

This committee, originally administered by the WA Museum trustees but since the 1990s through DAA and its predecessors, was comprised of Aboriginal and expert members such as anthropologists, archaeologists and historians, with a departmental head as chair; they would meet each month and make recommendations to the Minister as to whether sites potentially endangered by development proposals could be damaged or destroyed.

A principal complaint about the ACMC during my time with the WA Museum's Department of Aboriginal Sites in the 1990s and subsequently, was that its Aboriginal members came from throughout the State; this led inevitably to Noongar people from the south-west, for example, being asked to decide on projects outside their home country in areas such as the Pilbara, and vice versa. This could have been at least partly revised by in effect localising Aboriginal committee member deliberations to projects and sites within their own areas, but instead what has happened gradually is that the ACMC itself has been sidelined and its membership diminished in expert terms, to the point where – through the proposed amendments – consulting the ACMC will become merely discretionary on the part of DAA's CEO.

In other words this person – a bureaucrat with no qualifications relevant to Aboriginal heritage – will not need to consult Traditional Owners, the ACMC or consider the reports by expert archaeologists, anthropologists and ethno-historians. This will effectively result in Traditional Owners as having no procedures to transmit their views to the ACMC and higher authorities if necessary.

Such a situation could apply to the Burrup Peninsula, one of the most important rock art sites anywhere in the world, as much as to any other site in Western Australia.

This is what senior WA archaeologist Dr Kate Morse meant by her comment to *The Australian* in June this year that the loss of prehistoric objects and sites of significance was at stake. The newspaper quoted her thus:

It'll become the Stolen Heritage Generation if we don't look out. This is part of our heritage that is being lost and nobody will ever know [the sites] where Aboriginal people lived. (*The Australian*, 23 June 2014.)

The Australian Archaeological Association's president, Fremantle archaeologist Fiona Hook, says her group will seek input from international heritage bodies about the situation, which she says should be going in the other direction rather than removing Aboriginal people and, effectively, the ACMC from the process.

In making its submission to the government opposing the amendments, the PHA (WA) has backed a report by a consultant with wide experience in the area of Aboriginal heritage in several states, but who wishes to remain anonymous to guard against possible repercussions. This report states, correctly in my view, that:

A misguided ideological bias against qualified heritage practitioners and consultants, as well as Native Title Representative Bodies, has been repeatedly expressed by the current CEO and colleagues in the Department of Premier and Cabinet over the last couple of years, apparently in order to divert attention through a convenient scapegoat for systemic shortcomings in heritage management and assessment process in Western Australia. This ideological bias has now been enshrined in the draft amendments ... [which] would result in the opposite effect from that which is claimed for them – it would in fact promote inconsistency and uncertainty in heritage protection and permit approvals; it would hamper development of an enhanced role for Aboriginal Traditional Owners in WA heritage management, and it would inevitably create hasty and ill-informed decisions which would take their toll in confusion, litigation, appeals and poorly-prepared prosecutions. Neither can a handful of DAA staff archaeologists and anthropologists replace the research and reporting roles of dozens if not hundreds of professional heritage consultants, many of them with far greater experience.

The mining lobby group AMEC is reported in *The Australian* as saying that it welcomed the proposed changes, which would increase clarity and certainty for all stakeholders. But, as the author of the report which the PHA (WA) and other groups have backed says:

The resources industry and other development areas such as public and commercial infrastructure projects all rely upon heritage professionals to conduct the essential heritage surveys and Aboriginal Traditional Owner consultation which ensure that these projects have appropriate authorisations and do not damage significant heritage sites and objects, and impact living cultural traditions.

Put another way, when the proposed amendments to the AHA were first mooted, a prominent mining company executive – a man not noted for liberal views on Aboriginal heritage or related subjects – commented that the proposals were 'too extreme' even for him, going as they did against accepted practice and agreements set up with Aboriginal people in Western Australia with much difficulty and over many years.

This man, and others in his industry, have before them the report author's point, that

... the amendments are marred by an approach which is ideological rather than practical, and which seeks to streamline processes through concentrating powers within an arbitrary framework rather than through providing improved accuracy, efficiency and accountability.

At the time of writing, however, it remains to be seen whether that point will be taken and translated into influencing the State Government to change its stance.

❖ Penelope Hetherington's book *The Marriage Knot* wins the 2014 Margaret Medcalf Award:



The 2014 Margaret Medcalf Award presentation, 18 June 2014, showing (from left to right) 2014 Award winner Dr Penelope Hetherington, Annie Boyd (Special Commendation), Margaret Medcalf OAM, Hon. John Day MLA Minister for Culture and the Arts.

The 2014 Margaret Medcalf Award was presented on 18 June 2014 to University of Western Australia history research fellow Penelope Hetherington for her book *The Marriage Knot: Marriage & divorce in colonial Western Australia 1829–1900*. In presenting the Award to Dr Hetherington, the Minister for Culture and the Arts, Hon John Day MLA, said that the book had been meticulously researched and would form an excellent reference work on a topic that little had been written about. *The Marriage Knot* is published by UWA Publishing.

A Special Commendation was also presented to author Annie Boyd for her book *Koombana Days*, which documents the loss of the S.S. *Koombana* in a cyclone off the North West coast in March 1912. *Koombana Days* is published by Fremantle Press.

Since 2003 the State Records Office has hosted the Margaret Medcalf Award which rewards excellence in referencing and research of archival materials. Named after Margaret Medcalf OAM, the second State Archivist for Western Australia (from 1971 to 1989), it honours her valuable contribution to the development of archives in Western Australia. Works nominated for the Award must demonstrate use of archival sources, and substantial (but not necessarily exclusive) use of State Archives held by the State Records Office. The Award is unique in that it enables works, produced by students and amateurs, and in any format, to be considered alongside books by professional authors.

The Award is a prize of \$1000 and nominated works may be fiction or non-fiction, published and unpublished, and may comprise any format (i.e. book, article, conference paper, website, index, etc.). Nominated works may be submitted by anyone, including the author of the work and must have been completed or published during the previous calendar year – this year from 2013.

The judging criteria for the Award comprise; the level of use of the State archives collection including original use of archival material; how well archives are referenced in the work; level of contribution to knowledge and presentation of the work. The judging panel for 2014 included State Records Commissioner Justine McDermott, State Archivist Cathrin Cassarchis, and Professor Jenny Gregory AM from the University of Western Australia.

This year six nominations were received for the Award. Apart from *The Marriage Knot* and *Koombana Days*, the other nominations were:

Phil Bianchi - *Work completed, Canning: a comprehensive history of the Canning Stock Route 1906 – 2010*, published by Hesperian Press.

Michelle Bunn and David J. Gilchrist - "A few good men": public sector audit in the Swan River Colony, 1828-1835', a journal article in *Accounting History*, Volume 18, Number 2.

Cliff Burns and Arlene Collings; with special assistance by Lyn Myles - *Darlington and Surrounds: Historic Structures and Buildings of Darlington 1829 – 1925*, published by the Darlington History Group.

Ingrid van Bremen - *Western Building Construction: Roofs*, published by the National Trust of Australia (WA).

Gerard Foley, SROWA

❖ Recalling Dr Barnett:

The house I have owned in Barnett Street, Fremantle since 1981 is in two parts, the front a stone and iron duplex from the 1890s, built in that buoyant economic period to house workers engaged in various occupations at the port, around the city and on domestic service. At the back of the narrow block, walls and buildings stand from an earlier period, the remains of a stable block built out of limestone rubble and finished with a lime slip. Only the tall rear wall of the two stables remains, the places where the side walls abutted clearly visible, but the coach house was intact, minus the large gates, and the stableman's room still boasted jarrah floorboards and a fire place, the rock hearth bearing markings suggesting an origin as ship's ballast, later confirmed by a heritage assessment which dated the building to the convict era.

We often wondered about the origins of the stables, as we set about renovating them into a semi-detached studio bedroom. Could they have been attached to the house which once stood adjacent to the block on the site where the Fremantle Child Care Centre now stands? When we moved in, the block out the back was limestone bedrock, strewn with rubble and old limestone blocks, probably from a house which was said to have once been Park Bungalow, the home of the family of C Y O'Connor, which when it was built, overlooked the river when it was built. We speculated that at one point, our stable block had been part of the home of the great innovator and engineer, that it may have been the place from which he departed on his fateful ride to South Beach in March 1902 - but then found that the O'Connor family had moved to another larger home in nearby Beach Street in 1890.



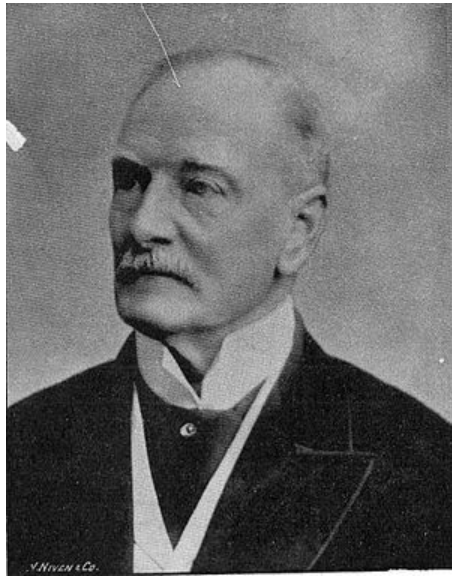
Fremantle Lunatic Asylum, opened in 1864, west façade. Source:
<http://www.mlewiphot.com/v/Australia/Western+Australia/Fremantle/Fremantle+Heritage+Images/SI-55-30102LHML00113A.jpg.html>

There are few historical images of our house that give clues as to the origins of the stables and how they might have once fitted into the slowly expanding port built environment. Images of the nearby Fremantle Lunatic Asylum, convict built and opened in 1864, many of them in John Dowson's pictorial history *Old Fremantle* (2004), show a different local environment from a period before the construction of Fremantle swimming pool and the busy Ord Street. A large walled yard slopes from the front of the large building stretching westward almost to the vicinity of the present day Barnett Street, and it was here, on a small rise next to the Fremantle Park, that Dr Henry Calvert Barnett built his home after he had taken up the post of colonial surgeon and superintendent of the lunatic asylum in 1872.



Fremantle Park showing Barnett's house in the foreground. Source: Fremantle History Centre, Fremantle City Library.

The house that Barnett built still stands, an extensive pre-gold rush bungalow, again in private hands after many years as the change rooms for the local CBC Football and Cricket clubs. A photo from the 1940s shows the house as it once was, fifty years after Barnett lived there, but still with the characteristics of a semi-rural estate home with a large yard and outbuildings. The roof of our house can be seen in the foreground with the twin chimneys, and the stables adjoining it, out of sight in the photo, seem to be connected to the old Barnett house.



Dr Henry Calvert Barnett. Source: W B Kimberly, *History of Western Australia*.

So, who was Henry Calvert Barnett and what did he do? Turning to the ever useful pages of W B Kimberly's *History of Western Australia*, we find that he features amongst the biographies of the colony's prominent men as recorded by the author. In an entry of over 2,000 words, Kimberly records a life story that began in Belfast in 1832 in a well-to-do family which 'had a predilection for the medical profession.' The young Barnett however, was very much imbued by the spirit of the Empire and determined to travel and explore. He left home at the age of 15 for Canada, and over a two year absence, encountered a cholera epidemic in Quebec, and was nearly shipwrecked twice. After returning to Britain, he entered Queens College to study medicine and by 1855 had passed his exams and become a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. Then followed a period as a ship's doctor and surgeon with the P&O Company, and travels around the Indian Ocean as far as Shanghai, Singapore and the Indian ports of Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

He stopped for a while in the port of Foochow where he set up a medical practice, but became embroiled in conflicts with the local people, including pirates, and on one occasion was lucky to escape with his life. All this took a toll on Barnett's health and he decided that it was time to once again travel, and for the next year journeyed though America to California, the gold diggings and the sights of Yosemite Valley and the giant groves of redwood and sequoia trees, before returning again to England, where he settled for long enough to marry and pass more exams to enter the Royal College of Physicians.

And then once again, he was off on his travels, this time on a voyage to Australia, another near miss when the ship almost floundered in the English Channel, and a grand tour through Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Returning again to England, he was 36 when he decided to uproot once and for all, and move his family to York, in the colony of Western Australia in 1868, where he had been offered the post of colonial surgeon. After four years in York, during which he was forced to undergo a leg amputation following a severe knee injury, he moved to the equivalent position at Fremantle, which also included medical supervision of the native prison at Rottnest and the lunatic asylum.

Fremantle thus became the one-legged Barnett's home for his remaining thirty years of life and he became one of its most prominent and learned citizens. He involved himself in every facet of community cultural, educational and sporting life, the cricket and rowing clubs, the Fremantle orchestra, literary societies and libraries. A man of strong opinions who was always prepared to argue about matters of principle, he found himself in court on at least two occasions, successfully defending charges of libel and for threatening a complainant with a firearm. His medical role in the town brought great responsibilities. Not only was he the principal medical officer in the growing port town, he was expected to oversee public health, combined with the onerous responsibility to superintend both the native prison at Rottnest and the lunatic asylum. It was this latter role that came to consume most of his time, as demand for the services of the asylum grew rapidly in the wake of the colony's expansion during the 1880s and 1890s. Barnett endeavoured to bring modern medical methods to his management of the asylum. As Charlotte Bussell wrote when her daughter Josephine Prinsep was temporarily in the asylum in 1880, Fremantle was far preferable to those in England; 'There it is like a safe home, but in England it is like a prison. You cannot see the loved one when you wish, nor can you ask any questions. All is gloom and misery.' Fremantle offered

... such a quiet safe retreat for her, where she would have good nursing, and a kind, judicious, moral attendant in Dr Barnett. The change to the cool sea breezes of Fremantle should also do her an immensity of good. (Charlotte Bussell to Henry Prinsep, 10 March 1880, SLWA AN 1972A/61)

Nonetheless, the asylum became very much the dumping ground for the colony's unwanted and in his final report to Parliament in 1897, Barnett complained of an unprecedented growth in the number of the community's insane, an 'almost incredible increase in lunacy' which had brought conditions of chronic overcrowding at the asylum. There was an urgent need for new accommodation on the site, as the number of assaults by patients on staff and each other had at times made working conditions dangerous. He harangued the government constantly about the need for more facilities which would allow him to separately manage the various populations of mentally ill, but to no avail, 'the poor unfortunate insane were still all herded together in the old asylum.' (*The West Australian*, 18 November 1897)

Some believed that it was this constant worry that contributed to Barnett's death at the age of 65. A eulogy in the local press told of a sudden decline from his customary energy and 'the mental activity and strength' for which he was known, and his death at home despite the attempts of three of his medical colleagues to revive him. His last annual report was published after his death and ended with words that *The West Australian* found prophetic:

For 24 years he has had sole charge of this onerous, responsible and exhausting work which has enormously increased and assistance is necessary so that he may have occasional bodily and spiritual rest (*The West Australian*, 18 November 1897).

So that's the story of the good Dr Barnett, and his part in the restoration of an ability to imagine various historical landscapes emanating from our old stable block, out the back of Barnett Street. Now safely behind walls and firmly connected to the restored gold rush era house, the stables have over their time served various masters, perhaps the great C Y O'Connor from his years in Park Bungalow and Henry Barnett. Every now and again a reminder of past uses and past lives emerges from the ground, a horse shoe, fragments of old dinner plates, forks and spoons, marbles, and more recent reminders of our own 30 year connection - toys lost by the kids, coins dropped - all of them artefacts of a place in which many have lived and where many lives have intersected.

Malcolm Allbrook MPHA

❖ Welcome to the Cultural Collections of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG) Community Southern A:

Part of our series featuring the wealth of material held by local and regional archives and private collections in Western Australia.

The archives of Community Southern A are housed in the St Brigid's Convent in John Street Northbridge. These include the archives of the former Perth and West Perth congregations of the Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia who joined the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea in late 2011.

The Sisters of Mercy were founded in Dublin in 1831 by Catherine McAuley a wealthy heiress who wanted to help destitute women and children. Her House of Mercy was to be the beginning of providing 'educational, religious and social services for women and children who were at risk of homelessness through exploitation and entrenched poverty.' (<http://institute.mercy.org.au/whoweare/default.cfm?loadref=19>)

In 1846 seven sisters, including their leader Sister Ursula Frayne who was just 29, travelled to Western Australia at the request of Bishop Brady of Perth. Sr Ursula, born Clara Mary Frayne in Dublin in 1817, was trained by Mother Catherine and had already been on Foundation to Newfoundland in 1842. (<http://www.mercyworld.org/heritage/tmplt-foundressstory.cfm?loadref=213>)

Ursula immediately set about establishing schools in Perth. By 1847 the sisters had built their first convent and in 1871 a new, much larger convent was built in Victoria Square, after Ursula had left for Melbourne. This convent building is now the Mercy Heritage Centre Perth and is open for public tours each Tuesday. It houses the movable heritage collection of the former Perth congregation including a collection of colonial furniture, some specifically designed for the convent in the earliest days.

The former Sisters of Mercy West Perth were founded from this Convent at Victoria Square on Whitsunday 1896, fifty years after the Convent at Victoria Square and eight years after sisters came over to teach in John Street in 1888. There were six sisters in the foundation group led by the then 28-year-old Mother Berchmans Deane.



Conroy's Cottage in the present day. Source: Annie Q. Medley, Cultural Collections Curator, Community Southern A - ISMAPNG.

Their first 'home' was the four-room cottage that had been left to them by a condemned man. In 1888 one of the Sisters from Victoria Square, Sr Berchmans Deane was paying regular visits to the prison and was greatly taken with a poor unfortunate young man by the name of William Conroy. During the Children's Ball held at the Fremantle Town Hall in 1887 Conroy had shot his relative Councillor Snook. Conroy had argued that evening with Snook and returned late in the night with a pistol and shot him up close in the face. (*The Inquirer and Commercial News*, 27 June 1887.) Councillor Snook, who was in his seventies, never recovered from the shooting and after a painful and protracted illness died three months later. Conroy was charged and convicted of murder. Before he was hanged Conroy promised some land in West Perth to Sr Berchmans Deane who had visited him in jail every day. This land had on it a small four-roomed cottage and Sr Berchmans told William Conroy that she would one day found a Convent of Mercy on the property. The first school blossomed and the congregation went on to branch out into more primary and secondary education and music education, at which they especially excelled.

The current archives were organised in Conroy's Cottage, Northbridge on 16 November 1998 by Sr Norma Scheikowsky who was instrumental in setting up the archives first at Craigie in 1988 and then organising the move when the cottage was made available. Below is part of Sr Norma's account of the process:

In about 1997 we were able to re-purchase St. Brigid's Convent, West Perth or, as it had become in the intervening years, Northbridge. When all was restored, it was decided that the original building, now known as Conroy's Cottage, would house the archives collection... The next step was to make it easy to find information when it was needed. In going through a Leo Ansell's book on Archives, I found many suggested numbering systems. In the end, I chose a system used by the Adelaide Mercy Congregation. I felt it was simple and fitted our set-up. Now we were able to go the next step and more order began to appear.

It is interesting to look at photos in the photographic collection to see these developments. We progressed from the magazine boxes with roughly written list of contents paper clipped on to the boxes to nicely printed numbers stuck on to covered magazine boxes. Most of this tidiness came about with the help of Sr Scholastica, whose printing has been admired by many over the time. Within the boxes the written material had been put into folders. As more material was handed to us it was filed into its correct box.

From early in my time as archivist, I had contact with Sr. Anna Maria O'Shea who was archivist for the Sisters of Mercy, Perth Congregation. As we were founded from this Congregation in 1896, their early history is also ours. Sr Anna Maria and I were able to exchange oral and written material. Sr Frances Stibi, a Presentation Sister, was the Archdiocesan Archivist, so she was also another contact for exchange of information. As well, I was able to talk with other archivists of the different Congregations of Religious in WA. So a little network of archivists was set up. ('History of the Archives of the Sisters of Mercy' by Sr Norma Scheikowsky, 2007.)

Sr Norma's work with the photographic collection was one of her most significant contributions after her retirement. In March 2014 she was still handing over to the archives photographs that she had identified and labelled for the collection. Sr Norma passed away suddenly on 18 June 2014 and will be greatly missed.



Hand Painted Black and White Photograph, WP Album 2.1_0068. Source: Annie Q. Medley, Cultural Collections Curator, Community Southern A - ISMAPNG.

The archive collection includes the papers of individual members and groups of the congregation and of those closely associated with the congregation, congregational and personal memorabilia of Sisters, records created by the administration regarding the Congregation, records of schools, child care and aged care begun and administered by the Sisters, plans and architectural drawings of existing and proposed buildings from the 1800s. As mentioned a substantial photographic collection is included which shows the Sisters at work and at play. Early photographs of the Trigg area; holidays at the beach were and still are part of the life style of the Sisters. There are also black and white photographs hand coloured by one of the Sisters who had an artistic bent.

The music collection houses a cello and many violins used by the Sisters and students, and sheet music. The personal archives of music teacher Sr Therese Murray (1895 - 1973), whose religious motto was 'Love is repaid by love alone' include her notes on students, music books, theory and examination mark books and photographs her adoring students gave her over the years; a fine collection that can be viewed on Flickr. (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sistersofmercywestperth/sets/72157627783770204/>)

The archives are open to researchers and several authors have used them to find information for their research. For example Tony Clack used the archives to research the Sisters of Mercy and their presence in the town of York as part of his book *Glorious Apostle*. (A M Clack, *Glorious Apostle*, Scott Print, Perth WA, 2009.)

Now as part of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea the archives and heritage in Western Australia continue to be a focus of importance to the Sisters. Archives and heritage are a ministry of the Sisters and are recognised as one of the very real ways they can connect with their past and educate and share their stories. A particular challenge at present is the addition of the administration of the Mercy Heritage Centre Perth to the archives and heritage portfolio.

Annie Q. Medley, *Cultural Collections Curator, Community Southern A - ISMAPNG*

❖ Remembering Them - A World War 1 regional project:

The Remembering Them Project was developed to help regional West Australian communities create their own exhibitions to mark the Centenary of World War 1, by telling the stories of how the war impacted on them, in their own voices. It was conceived by the WA Museum and developed with the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and Museums Australia WA Branch. With the support of Lotterywest, 32 regional partners across Western Australia have signed on to participate in this project. The regional centres involved stretch from Wyndham to Esperance, Kalgoorlie to Derby, Bencubbin to Margaret River and Bunbury to Sandstone.

Each regional group will mount an exhibition to tell its local history of the war, both from the war front and on the home front. The various exhibitions will look at the war in several ways including through the themes of loss, gallantry, and survival – at home and in combat – and the effects the war had on those left behind. In particular, the project will focus on the social impact and human cost of the war and its effects on rural areas.

The project will provide a package of infrastructure, as well as curatorial and research support. The exhibition showcase included in the package is a state of the art conservation grade showcase, crafted from the finest conservation and museum grade materials. Also included are text panels, two of which will be set with text developed by the WA Museum and give an overview of World War 1 from a WA perspective. The remaining three panels are for partners to develop their own local content.

Museums Australia WA is managing the administrative side of the project and the Royal WA Historical Society is co-ordinating a team of researchers who are providing answers to research enquiries, and also reviewing panel text before design and print.

The project is an exciting collaboration between local people and groups who retain ultimate responsibility for, and control of, their exhibitions, and museum professionals and historians whose task it is to provide help when requested. And it is proving to be very fruitful.

Exhibitions are scheduled from November 2014 to November 2018. Further information is available on the WA Museum website at www.museum.wa.gov.au/rememberingthem

Naomi Lam, Project Officer & Lenore Layman, Research Co-ordinator, Remembering Them

❖ From the Battye Library:

National Family History Month

August is National Family History Month. The Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) and the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) are presenting a varied program of talks and events throughout the month at WAGS and SLWA. The program includes Getting Started with Your Family History (6 August at WAGS), Genie Chatter at WAGS (11 August at WAGS), Mini Family History Fair (13 August at SLWA), 3 days of talks (19-21 August at SLWA), Family History Open Day (24 August at WAGS) and various presentations (27 August at SLWA).

Highlights from the 19 - 21 August sessions include Discovering Family History by Loreley Morling; Overseas Research by Ian Simon; Managing My Information, Genealogy Software and Genealogy and the Internet, all by Graham Mahony and Chris Loudon; Storylines by Damien Webb (Storylines is an online access point for SLWA's Indigenous heritage collections); Cemeteries – Waking the Dead by Lorraine Clarke; Oral History by Jan McCahon-Marshall; plus various talks by the Family History Subject Specialists, Trish Fairweather and Leonie Hayes and the Battye Library Subject Specialist, Steve Howell.

Memory House Exhibition

This exhibition celebrates the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Victoria Public Library (so named because it was envisaged to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria's ascension to the throne) on 26 January 1889 with 1796 books on the shelves. In the intervening years the collections of the State Library have grown to include serials, newspapers, maps and plans, ephemera, photographs, artworks, objects, oral history, private archives and film, video and DVDs.

Some of the treasures of the Heritage Collection have been used in the exhibition, which invites the viewer to explore Western Australia's diverse history through the sights, scents, sounds, feel and tastes of WA. Items included are a watercolour of the Swan River in 1830 from the Mary Ann Friend journal and various other artworks, a diary written by Raymond Stewart on a toilet roll while he was a prisoner of war during World War 2, handwritten recipes dating back to 1809 and examples from the State Library's vast photograph collection. The exhibition can be viewed at any time the Library is open, from 29 May to 28 September.

Storylines

Indigenous Subject Specialist, Damien Webb, has been involved for the past year in the development of the Storylines database, an exciting and innovative way to allow people to access their Aboriginal heritage. As most of the photographs of Aboriginal people in the Battle Library Pictorial Collection were taken by Europeans, they are largely unidentified. Storylines will assist in the digital return of photos and other materials directly to Aboriginal families, communities and people, and help to identify many of these currently unidentified and unknown photographs. The system is based on Ara Irititja software which allows objects, people, places, stories, plants, animals, events, activities, collections, organisations, language groups and technology to be tagged and linked within the system to create knowledge profiles reflecting the many languages, stories and perspectives of Aboriginal Western Australia. Storylines is uniquely capable of adhering to cultural protocols, and supports media types including video and audio. There is also an interactive map function which allows you to search spatially or geographically.

It is hoped that Storylines will become a central point for Aboriginal people who wish to access the State Library of Western Australia's extensive heritage collections, and a safe place to store the various records of people, place and history. Material identified as sensitive, secret or sacred can be restricted or removed in a flexible and responsive way. As part of the project the State Library will be working with several remote communities to set up community-controlled databases which complement the Storylines system but will restrict access to material deemed secret, sensitive or sacred. These instances will be run by communities according to their own needs and protocols. You can have a look at the database in a limited way by going to the website at: <http://storylines.slwa.wa.gov.au/archive/index.php>.

Interesting Recent Acquisitions

Laurie Allen and Jean Butler report that some interesting material has been added to the collection of the State Library in the last few months. Amongst them are:

Mary Reading Diaries - Mary Campbell Reading (b1871, d1945) was the daughter of James Hill Forrest, brother of John and Alexander Forrest. Her father gave her the orchard property 'Birchfields' (Vasse), when she married Henry Reading in 1899. The property passed to her son Robert and then to her grandson Ross. Mary had seven children and was widowed in 1918. Her diaries cover several periods from 1908 - 1942. They present a picture of her busy family and farming life, and are also a window into the social history of the times. They have been digitised and supplemented by a further donation of family photographs.

Bishop Hale diaries - a serendipitous conversation in London between Rio Tinto's Sam Walsh and Sophie Hale resulted in the 19th century diaries of Bishop Mathew Blagden Hale being lent to the State Library for copying. He was the first Anglican Archbishop of WA 1857-1875, was responsible for the Anglican Church in the state and took a particular interest in missionary work with Aboriginal people. He opened Hale School. His observations on the Anglican Church make for interesting reading. The collection also includes letters written by his second wife, Sabina Molloy. The diaries are being transcribed by the Anglican diocese and are currently not available to the public.

RSL (WA Branch) records - an extensive archive covering the many aspects of the organisation's work and concerns and dating back to the 1920s and 1930s.

Extensive collection of letters of E H B Lefroy – E H B Lefroy was a leading farmer and sheep breeder in the early to mid-20th century. He was involved with CSIR, CSIRO and UWA. He is most noted for his application of the scientific principles of genetics to his merino flock.

Diaries of Adrian Davies - these diaries are a unique record of the daily work of a railway and tramway engineer 1895-1940, a time of immense expansion in Perth (and WA), reflecting the growth stemming from the gold finds in Kalgoorlie and surrounds. The technical nature of the entries will be of value to researchers of engineering, railways and trams.

Photographs of Yealering - 547 digitised photographs, from 1907, compiled by members of the Local History Group, which record the life of the people of Yealering for more than 100 years.

Ken Wildy papers - a collection of original stained glass commissioned works has recently been accepted as an addition to the State Library's holdings of Ken Wildy papers. Born in 1945, Wildy spent 34 years working with stained glass in WA, collaborating with stained glass artist Ian Frith and running a stained glass studio in Myaree. This donation includes watercolour designs to scale, working documents, locations of completed stained glass commissions in architectural settings throughout WA and overseas, photographs, and correspondence.

Birdwood Hamilton Gill photograph album - Birdwood Hamilton Gill was born 16 March 1916, at Pingelly, and enlisted in the 2/28 Battalion. The 2/28th was raised in Perth in July 1940, shipped to the Middle East in January 1941 and was deployed to Libya, Syria and Lebanon. The Battalion took part in the First Battle of El Alamein in July 1942. Photographs include Gaza Cemetery; scenes of Palestine and Syria; Bert and his mate; army horses. Some photos are missing from the album and not all are captioned. The images capture the experience of Western Australians who trained and fought overseas in World War 2.

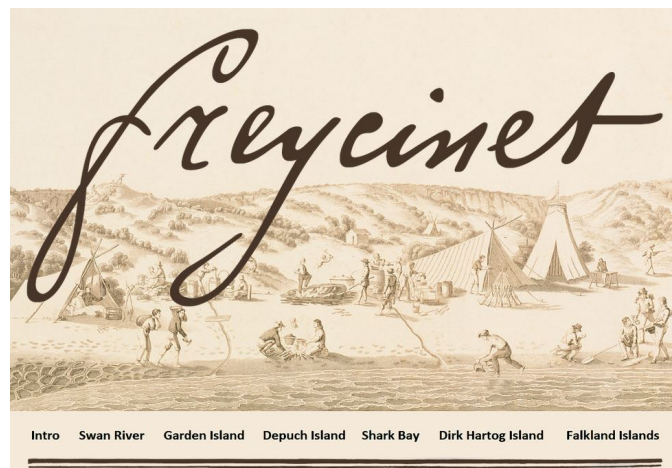
Illustrations Ltd – one of Perth's oldest photography businesses (founded 1920), this extensive collection of photographic material includes negatives, photographs, colour transparencies, CD-ROMs, films, floppy discs, production books, proofs and administrative records. In 1965 the company was purchased by Noel Holly who changed its focus from portraits and industrial work to advertising and commercial photography. The high-quality images in this collection document a wide range of products and services of numerous WA companies, capturing changing fashions, architectural styles, cuisine, transport, business enterprises, and social and sporting events. This comprehensive visual record of social, cultural, and business trends in WA adds to previous donations of material and the State Library now holds the entire body of the studio's work up to 2014.

Papers of Ron Elphick - born 1926, the collection includes biography, family history, speeches and diaries (1951-2012). The diaries record his life in farming, politics and community affairs. He farmed at Watheroo 1942-1973, married Avonwen in 1949 and had six children. He was a Freemason, President of the Miling Zone Council of the

Farmers' Union, member of the Wheat Executive, Moora Shire Councillor, member of the Country Party State Council, State President, Federal Vice President and State Secretary of the Country Party (1960s-1970s). He resigned in 1978 and became heavily involved in fundraising and support for various organisations including Swanleigh and the Arthritis Foundation. Ron published his autobiography *What can I be?* in 1995 and has also written several organisational histories. Ron and Avonwen now live in a retirement village in Kingsley where Ron has been Chairman of the Residents' Committee and editor of their newsletter.

Steve Howell, Battye Library Subject Specialist, SLWA

❖ From the Foundation:



Front page of Freycinet Virtual Exhibition designed by Andrew Bowman. Copyright: State Library of Western Australia Foundation.

Whilst the wonderful drawings, maps and sketches of the significant Freycinet Collection have always fascinated and intrigued scholars, researchers and citizens, the motivation and the people who are behind creating these pieces has not always been apparent.

The various items in the collection represent some of the outcomes of two voyages undertaken by French explorer, Louis de Freycinet; the first in 1800 under Nicholas Baudin and the second in 1817 with Louis himself in command. The purpose of these voyages was not to explore land with the aim of annexing colonies, but was to be purely scientific in order to add to the body of knowledge of that time.

The precious illustrations in the Freycinet Collection are in remarkably good condition given their age, and, understandably, access to the items is therefore restricted. Given these factors, and the potential of the Collection for historical study by students, the State Library of Western Australia Foundation sought funding for a virtual exhibition of the Collection, complemented by insightful and informed interpretation written by Dr Elizabeth Gralton of the University of Western Australia.

Dr Gralton's notes on each item include the context of the drawing/painting/map, the artisan who contributed the item and a comprehensive exposition on the trials, experiences and feelings of those involved in recording their findings. This remarkable piece of work has been supported with extensive research and includes direct quotations from the French crew members including Louis de Freycinet himself.

Inextricably linked to the Freycinet Collection is the magnificent Gaimard Journal, written by Paul Gaimard, assistant surgeon and naturalist on Freycinet's journey to the coast of Western Australia as commander of the *Uranie*. M Gaimard's journal is a comprehensive, often illustrated record of the voyage and activities undertaken during that voyage.



The Gaimard Journal. Copyright: State Library of Western Australia.

Acquired by the State Library in 1988, Gaimard's Journal is one of two volumes written in his native French with a classic handwriting style. For the purposes of this virtual exhibition, Dr Paul Gibbard from the University of Western Australia has translated the 12 pages that deal with the segment of the *Uranie's* journey that comprised a camp at Shark Bay. Sadly, the French visitors' opinion of this location and its surroundings was less than complimentary as proven by Jacques D'Arango's comment:

... an image of nothing but desolation; no stream to relieve the eyes, no tree to attract them, no mountain varies the landscape, no dwelling enlivens it; everywhere aridity and death.

This translated script also features within the virtual exhibition and offers an alternative view of the expeditions undertaken during the sojourn at Shark Bay.

The Freycinet Virtual Exhibition can be found at www.freycinet.org.au and is complemented by an education resource aimed at Year 4 and Year 9 students. This features a wealth of exercises and activities based on this journey to support their study and at the same time will develop important historical and analytical skills.

Arguably the most well-known stories associated with the Freycinet story is how Rose de Freycinet, Louis's wife, dressed as a boy and stowed away on the *Uranie* so she could

accompany her husband on his voyage. By embarking on this amazing adventure, Rose became the second European woman to circumnavigate the globe and the first woman to document the voyage in her diaries. It is also thought that she was the first European woman to set foot on Western Australian soil. This romantic story has been captured in Elaine Forrestal's young adult book *To See the World*; a fictional account of Rose's journey told through the eyes of Rose's companion Jose.



Author Elaine Forrestal with her book *To See the World* with prints of a selection of the Freycinet Collection in the background. Photographer: Richard Watson. Copyright: State Library of Western Australia Foundation.

Both of these Freycinet influenced resources were launched on 1 May at the State Library Theatre. Former State Library Custodian, Richard Hazlewood launched the Freycinet Virtual Exhibition, whilst Honorary French Consul for Western Australia Monsieur Patrick Kedemos launched *To See the World*.

A special highlight of the evening was the Artist in Residence, Dr Georg Corall playing music of the time on his decorative harpsichord. Georg chose the piece he played with care: *Plainte faite a Londres (Complaints made in London)*. This piece refers to the composer Johann Jakob Froberger's travel to London during which he was robbed by pirates and highwaymen and left in a very sorry state.

The Freycinet Collection has been the subject of a number of projects developed and implemented by the State Library Foundation to create public awareness of this part of Western Australia's history. This is supplemented by a considerable body of work currently being undertaken across a number of institutions and agencies which involves many of the early explorers and specifically the French explorers and the Freycinet connection. This work includes: a project through the Maritime Museum of WA involving a field trip to the Falklands to investigate the *Uranie* (the ship that Freycinet used on this voyage) shipwreck site and survival camp; the tie-in with the National Trust of WA's Swan and Canning River Interpretation Plan (the Freycinet Collection includes the first known map of the Swan River) and the possibility of translating the Gaimard Journal in full.

Anne Chapple, Partnership Co-ordinator, State Library of Western Australia Foundation

❖ From the State Records Office:

The State Records Office of Western Australia invites you to our annual series of Lunchtime Seminars.

Featuring a variety of topics, these seminars are designed to inform researchers about the State Records Office, the State Archives collection and historical research based on archival sources. The seminars also provide researchers with an opportunity to meet fellow researchers, learn about members of staff, and provide a forum for questions and discussions in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Lunchtime seminars occur between 12.30 and 1.30pm on the day advertised and are usually held in the SRO's South West Room, next to the SRO's Search Room.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their sandwiches and drinks to the seminars. Tea and coffee are provided.

Proposed dates, presenters and topics for the rest of the year are:

9 July 2014 - Speaker: **Dr Ann Hunter** - Topic: **'A Different Kind of 'Subject': Colonial Law in Aboriginal European Relations in Early 19th Century Western Australia'** - a seminar celebrating NAIDOC week

3 September 2014 (tbc) - Speaker: **Professor Anna Haebich** - Topic: **'Aboriginal people and the Centenary of Western Australia in 1929'**.

20 November 2014 - Speaker: **Gerard Foley** - Topic: **'How to research Colonial Secretary's Office records in SRO'**

These dates, presenters and topics will be confirmed and advertised 3-4 weeks before the event.

❖ From the National Archives of Australia:

Harness the power of the Hive

This is a call to transcribers with a passion for archives.

Learn about archHIVE, the new Archives website where you can transcribe lists of records not yet catalogued and help to make them more findable for you and other researchers.

The seminar will be followed by a tour of the National Archives building, including a display of original and facsimile records.

Date: Thursday 14 August 2014

Time: 10.30am to around noon

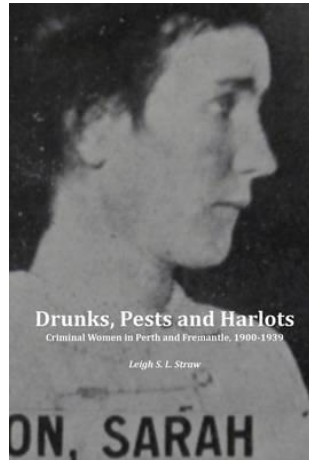
Address: National Archives of Australia, Perth office, 384 Berwick Street, East Victoria Park, WA

Free parking available

Morning tea supplied

Entry is free but booking is essential. To reserve your place please call 08 9470 7530 or contact Vesna at vesna.liso@naa.gov.au

❖ Book Note - *Drunks, pests and harlots:*



Leigh Straw, *Drunks, pests and harlots – criminal women in Perth and Fremantle 1900-1939*, Humming Earth, 2013. In paperback, 260 pages, prices online ranged between \$27.00-\$34.95

This book traces the criminal lives of dysfunctional women through the courts of Perth and Fremantle from 1900 - 1939, with some hard cases featuring regularly throughout most of that time. The case studies focus mainly on the 'Bacchanalian Belligerency' (p 92) of four women – Esther Warden, Mary Ann Sweetman, Sarah Jane Mattson and Esther Miller, although there is also commentary on the 'offensive' behaviour of others.

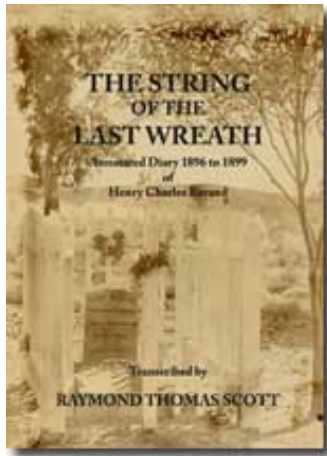
Leigh Straw has used a wide variety of sources to discuss the hitherto unexplored lives of these women, including similar studies elsewhere. The book which is extensively footnoted (1066) and factual, is indexed and has a comprehensive bibliography; it also includes arguments of other historians and researchers. Straw focuses on the women's persistent drunkenness, their tendency to prostitution and the nuisances they became to the police, the courts and the community in which they lived. The author also looks at the way the women were portrayed by the courts and press of that era and compares her findings to the treatment of women by courts and media in the present day. She suggests that as 'fallen women' they are judged more harshly than men because of Society's ideals of womanhood. Women 'fell' from that feminine ideal into crime; men by contrast never fell from masculinity and they 'entered' crime.

Though very readable, the book would have benefited from further proof reading and editing as there are typographical errors and repeated and missing words. Images of the women are mug shots from the *Police Gazette* and though evocative, are consequently grainy.

The book was a well-deserved second in the published works section of the recent Fremantle History Awards. The winner was Steve Errington's beautifully presented and well researched book on *South Fremantle Football Club Southerners forever more: the triumphs and tribulations of South Fremantle's first six decades*.

Heather Campbell PHA (WA)

❖ Book Note - *The String of the Last Wreath:*



The String of the Last Wreath : Annotated Diary 1896 to 1899 of Henry Charles Berand transcribed by Raymond Thomas Scott. Hesperian Press, Carlisle (WA), 2013. Soft Cover, A4, 74 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-85905-553-6, RRP \$22.00.

One of the graves in the Old Halls Creek cemetery in the far north of WA is that of Harriett Sarah Berand who died on 3 June 1890 aged only 37. It is fitting that a photo of her grave should grace this book's cover. Known as Sarah, she was the wife of a local publican and had lived at Halls Creek with him and their two young daughters for three and a half years.

Ray Scott's research has shown that Henry Berand, born in Prussia in 1831, spent several decades in New Zealand and eastern Australia where he is thought to have followed various gold rushes. Henry and Sarah married in Sydney in 1874. Their daughter Ellen Isabella (Bella) was born the following year in the Gulgong district. After moving to Halls Creek, they operated a boarding house and then had the Court Hotel. Their second child, Ruby May, was born in Halls Creek in June 1888.

Losing his beloved wife and trying to look after his daughters in such a tiny and remote settlement crippled Henry. His diary reveals a troubled man, plagued by ill-health and business worries, battling to do the right thing by everyone.

In 1896, when the diary starts, Bella was married with a toddler and about to lose a baby. Ruby had serious eye trouble and was ill from time to time. Henry, painfully aware of how much Ruby's presence helped him to cope with Sarah's death, reluctantly decided that she would be better off living with her late mother's family in eastern Australia. He took Ruby to them late in 1896 and got treatment for her good eye. He didn't know whether he would return to the Kimberley but, after visiting goldfields in New South Wales and Victoria, he went back to Halls Creek at the end of 1897, staying there until September 1898.

Henry's diary, with the help of extensive annotation by Ray Scott, offers glimpses of life in Halls Creek and other places in the second half of the 1890s. It is not comfortable reading and could be seen to have parallels with the writing of Frank Hann (*Do Not Yield To Despair*, compiled and edited by Mike Donaldson and Ian Elliot, Hesperian Press, 1998). Hann's writing, as indicated by its title, is an introspective log of its author's

travel, exploration and prospecting. Another parallel is with the 1886 diary of R T S Wolfe (published in *Kimberley Scenes: Sagas of Australia's Last Frontier*, Hesperian Press, 1991). Wolfe's diary is largely about his work carrying freight between the port of Wyndham and the Halls Creek goldfield. But how much poorer our historiography would be without these terse and often grim diaries.

In this instance, Ray Scott is to be commended for the stamina he showed in providing context that enables the reader to gain maximum value from the entries in Henry Berand's diary. As well as providing public access to a diary that tells of family and social life, business practices, medical remedies, travel, and prospecting, Scott has provided a detailed timeline for the diarist's life. The timeline ends in December 1898. Henry died in 1913.

Cathie Clement MPHA

❖ Website Note - *Nyungar Wardan Katitjin Bidi – Derbal Nara*:

Nyungar Wardan Katitjin Bidi – Derbal Nara

People's Ocean Knowledge Trail of Cockburn Sound and Districts at www.derbalnara.org.au (website design by Sam and Mary Blight of Rangs Graphics and Design, Fremantle)

Research Team: Associate Professor Laura Stocker (Curtin University), Professor Len Collard (University of WA) and Angela Rooney, Research Assistant (Curtin University)

Kaya ... Welcome!

Let's go for a walk down to the Wardan Gega Boodjaralup at Derbal Nara – the sea shore at Cockburn Sound. We would like to lead you along a katitjin bidi – a knowledge trail.

This multimedia website, the first of its kind in Australia, stemmed from a project funded by a Coastwest Grant through Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute and the CSIRO, and supported by the City of Cockburn. It encompasses Cockburn Sound and the Fremantle region, presenting new information and taking the researcher down a 'knowledge trail' using a broad range of sources. These include beautifully illustrated dreamtime narratives, photographs, maps and figures, language glossaries (with audio pronunciation of words) and oral testimony, which present many aspects of life on Derbal Nara, including coastal sustainability and climate change, and linking the old Whadjuk Nyungar stories with new approaches to research and recording history.

There is evidence of exhaustive research with sources fully footnoted and referenced and a variety of links to additional information, including both audio and video presentations. Copyright of artworks and stories is acknowledged and permission is given to use material on the website as long as this is acknowledged

This very attractive, user-friendly website was recently awarded first place in the Fremantle History Awards Multimedia section. The Mayor of Fremantle, Brad Pettitt,

supported the project and indicated that it may be used as a basis for further interpretive signage around the city. It contains something for a wide readership from the academic to those interested in just reading the dreamtime stories and browsing thumbnails of the Derbal Nara coastline.

Recommended browsing!

Heather Campbell PHA (WA)

❖ **Item of interest:**

WAR ON ROTTNEST

'Capturing the Enemy' on WA's holiday island comes to life after dark in July and August.

In a dramatic recreation, set in the very surroundings of this fascinating chapter of Western Australian history, award winning Scooplight Theatre brings to life the people and day-to-day conditions of internees and their guards during World War 1.

At the outbreak of war from 1914 to near the end of 1915, Rottnest Island was commandeered as an internment camp for more than 1000 German and Austrian Slav (mostly Croatian) men – anyone considered of eligible fighting age. They were forcibly taken from their daily routines and incarcerated on the Island; held in basic conditions. Many were to all intents and purposes Australians – having lived here for decades – but by accident of birth were now considered enemies of the British Empire – and therefore of Australia.

Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) soldiers were deployed as guards – themselves as imprisoned on the Island by their commitment to duty as were their confused and disoriented captives. Together they waited as one of the bloodiest conflicts known to man raged so far away. On one of the most beautiful places on earth - today a haven of the simple pleasures of life, together they sat out the days and months waiting for news of their loved ones, as millions of men and women were slaughtered in the wholesale carnage of World War 1. Together they endured captivity as the horrors of Gallipoli and the Western Front became forever etched in the sorry history of human conflict.

Rottnest After Dark – Capturing the Enemy, dramatic theatrical experience run after dark during the winter months: 25 & 26 July; 1 & 2 August

Capturing the Enemy tickets are available through the Rottnest Island Authority Central Reservations Tel: 0894329111 or www.rottnestisland.com/rottnestafterdark

Capturing the Enemy accommodation packages are inclusive of tickets.

Further information:

Media enquiries – Penni Fletcher-Hughes 0419942278

More about Capturing the Enemy:

Patsy Vizents, Conservation Officer, Rottnest Island Authority Tel: 0434 607 787

Helen Munt, Scooplight Theatre Tel: 0417 955 623

❖ **Next Newsletter Deadline:**

We encourage members to submit articles about their current projects or reviews of recent histories for inclusion in the PHA (WA) Newsletter. Copy for the next newsletter is due by the **final week of October 2014** and can be sent to [Kris Bizzaca](#).

❖ **PHA (WA) Management Committee 2013-2014:**

President	Vacant
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary	Teegan Gaunt
Treasurer	Jennifer Weir, Acting
Membership Secretary	Sue Graham-Taylor
Committee Members	Prue Griffin Odhran O'Brien Matthew Ibbitson Sue Graham-Taylor

ACPHA Representative	Kris Bizzaca
----------------------	--------------

Sub-Committees 2013-2014:

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

Annual Membership Fees as from 1 July 2013:

Professional Historian	\$75
Professional Historian (Retired)	\$40
Professional Historian (Associate)	\$60
Graduate Historian	\$40
Historical Researcher	\$40
Joining fee	\$30

Further information:

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

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

© Professional Historians Association (WA) Inc.

This newsletter is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing permitted by the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced without prior permission from PHA (WA).

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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

To set and maintain standards of professional practice.

To act in the interest of Members.

To maintain a register of all Members.

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

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

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

To maintain links with similar organisations.

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