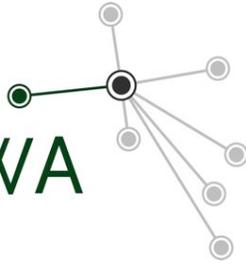


PHA WA



Newsletter

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

❖ Note from the Editor:

This October 2011 edition of the PHA (WA) newsletter includes a number of articles by members, as well as information on a variety of projects, events and achievements. We include tributes to Lindsay Peet and Professor Tom Stannage, both wonderful servants of Western Australian history, who died within days of each other. It is difficult to express just how much these two men will be missed, nor to portray the importance of their contributions to our history.

There is also good news. Fiona Skyring was a worthy overall winner of the WA Premier's Book Award for her history of the Aboriginal Legal Service, *Justice*. We are extremely happy for Fiona and congratulate her warmly. Often simply getting a manuscript one has worked on for years published is reward enough, but to win a state literature award against strong competition is a fantastic testament to her efforts and commitment. In the last edition, I contributed an insider's account of the Burlganyja Wanggaya exhibition in Carnarvon. The exhibition was awarded the MAGNA (Museums Australia Galleries and Museums) National Award for the best new exhibition nation-wide, as well as the award for the best permanent exhibition. Needless to say, Mary Anne and I are extremely

pleased and grateful for the team of Aboriginal people, designer, advisers and managers which helped bring the exhibition to fruition.

Malcolm Allbrook MPHA (Newsletter Editor)

❖ PHA (WA) celebrates its end of the year at Stirling House:



Stirling House. (Courtesy RWAHS)

Thanks to the generosity of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society our end-of-year function will be held at its premises – Stirling House, 49 Broadway, Nedlands from 4 to 6 pm on Sunday 4 November.

The Society has long had a pioneering role in the conservation and interpretation of WA history. We are therefore pleased to advise Val Hutch, RWAHS Councillor and Convenor of the Museum Committee, will be speaking on the day about the significant collection. She will also share stories about some of the interesting objects on display at Stirling House that can be viewed later in the evening.

Another highlight of the programme will be acknowledging the extraordinary contribution Cathie Clement has made to PHA (WA) and ACPHA for nearly 25 years before retiring from the Management Committee in August this year.

The occasion will provide a wonderful opportunity to socialise with the Management Committee and other Members over refreshments and to meet members of the committee of the RWAHS who will be joining us.

We encourage you all to attend this end-of-year function.

RSVP by 12noon on Thursday 1 November for catering purposes:
hgmessina@bigpond.com

Stirling House is located on the corner of Broadway and Clark Street with the entrance to the building off Clark Street.

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

I would first like to thank CEO and State Librarian, Margaret Allen, and her staff for their support of PHA (WA). Because of this, the Association has been able to utilise State

Library of WA facilities for Management Committee, General Meetings and professional development sessions as well as the activities associated with hosting the ACPHA AGM.

Committee

The PHA (WA) Management Committee met 3 times during 2011/2012. The number of meetings was fewer than usual, which meant the majority of the Association's business was conducted between meetings via email. That PHA (WA) has been able to operate successfully during this time is a tribute to the commitment of Committee members.

In addition to the Management Committee's usual responsibilities, I led a review of the Association's administrative practices to allow for more effective and efficient processes. To this end, the Executive, comprising Heather Campbell, Bill Reynolds, Lenore Layman and myself, met to conduct a thorough examination and subsequent rewrite of the Rules, which were adopted at the AGM. Cathie Clement and Peter Gifford provided valuable input at draft stage. I thank all those involved in this important process.

Membership

During the year, our membership reached 64 in comparison to 58 members in the previous year. Individuals who have joined the Association include Alyssa Gilchrist, Kerry King, Brian Shepherd, Jennifer Weir, Odhran O'Brien and Sandy Curtis. Welcome.

Many more enquiries have been received about applying to PHA (WA) and other membership issues, and I would like to thank Membership Secretary Lenore Layman and sub-committee member Robin Chinnery for their work. Lenore was also responsible for initiating the concept of an electronic application form, which has since been implemented by ACPHA.

Newsletter

Newsletter Editor Malcolm Allbrook has again done a remarkable job ensuring that the Association has continued to publish a high-quality and informative newsletter for Members.

I take the opportunity to not only thank Malcolm for his work, but Ronda Jamieson for her assistance in editing and proof reading as well as all those Members who have made regular contributions to the newsletter.

ACPHA

As WA's delegate to ACPHA, Cathie Clement has been awe-inspiring in her efforts to represent not only those professional historians and researchers in WA, but throughout Australia.

Through Cathie, the Management Committee has been heavily involved in ACPHA's promotional endeavours. This has not been as straightforward as one might think and has required liaison and negotiation.

The ACPHA AGM in late August will see Cathie retire from her position as delegate and thus her role as ex-officio on the Management Committee. Cathie has been part of the management of PHA (WA) and ACPHA for nearly 25 years. To say that we are extremely grateful is an understatement and we all owe a great debt to Cathie for her contribution. I am sure I speak on behalf of all Members of Australian PHAs when I say thank you and wish Cathie all the best for a much-deserved retirement.

PHA (WA) is pleased to be able to advise that Jennifer Weir has agreed to be the Association's delegate to ACPHA.

Activities

Besides the much-need review of the constitution, one of the main duties of the Management Committee in 2011/2012 has been to arrange activities to do with hosting the 2012 ACPHA AGM. This has been a mammoth task. A significant amount of time has gone into preparations for the visit, particularly by Cathie Clement and Heather Campbell. Others who have worked to show PHA (WA) in good stead include Margaret Hamilton, Peter Gifford, Prue Griffin and Julie Lunn. My thanks go to all of you.

The Management Committee has also continued to promote PHA (WA), to raise the profile of history in the community and to encourage the employment of professional historians.

Ronda Jamieson has represented PHA (WA) on the Oral History Historical Records Group. Ronda and Heather have spent many volunteer hours lending their considerable expertise to the project for the benefit of present and future historians and researchers in WA history.

Other activities in which the Management Committee has been involved include:

- Organisation of our excellent 2011 PD seminar featuring presentations by Jennie Carter and Tangea Tansley. Thanks to Heather and Julie Lunn for their assistance;
- Organisation of the 2012 PD seminar on copyright and access of material following this AGM. Thanks again to Heather and Julie for their assistance;
- Awarding of subsidies so as to allow individual Members to attend inter-state conferences;
- Transfer of the PHA (WA) website to new host, ACPHA;
- Assistance to a number of clients in relation to their projects by Prue Griffin, the convener of the Commissioned History Sub-committee;
- Review of *Commissioning History: A practical guide to engaging consultant historians* led by Prue, which is now available for free on our website;
- Work undertaken by Jennie Carter in association with the lodgement of PHA (WA)'s records at the Batty Library;
- Representation by Jacqui Sherriff on the National Archives Consultative Forum;
- Administration of group policies for Professional Indemnity and Public Liability insurance by Jennie Carter for the benefit of Members; and,
- Dissemination of information such as work opportunities to all our Members.

Conclusion

It would be remiss of me not to mention the exciting and very welcome news of the passing of WA's *Legal Deposit Act 2012* in May this year. Members may remember that PHA (WA) lobbied for this at the instigation of then President Ronda Jamieson. Much credit goes to Ronda for her involvement in this vital legislation.

Finally, on behalf of all Members of PHA (WA), I would like to thank the Management Committee for its contribution to the Association in what has been an extremely busy year.

On a personal note, the past year has been an extremely difficult one. I, and PHA (WA), am extraordinarily lucky to have such a dedicated member as Heather Campbell in the role of Secretary. Heather's support has been truly remarkable and I am very grateful for it.

I very much look forward to working with her - and with the new Management Committee - in 2012/2013.

Kris Bizzaca MPHA

President PHA (WA)

❖ Vale Lindsay Peet:

The recent death of PHA (WA) founding member and former Committee member Lindsay Peet came as a shock to many of his colleagues, especially those who had seen him looking animated and robust on 3 April 2012 when he was made a Fellow of The Library Board of Western Australia. After his brave battle recuperating from a devastating illness, his death resulting from injuries sustained in a fall was tragic news to most. His funeral service was held at the Saint Thomas Moore Chapel in Crawley on 4 October, followed by a private cremation.

Current and former PHA (WA) members were among the many people who expressed their regret and condolences. Tributes from around the world testified to a man who was not only passionate about history and heritage but also generous in his support of it.

After spending much of his early working life in the family's prominent real estate firm, Peet Limited, Lindsay's retirement led him to focus on his passion in and for cultural heritage and it was through this that many came to know him.

Lindsay was well known for his research into WA military and aviation history, with the pinnacle of that work being his selection as the historian for an 87-minute documentary drama, 'Shady Lady,' which was filmed in WA, Britain and the USA and shown at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2012. *Shady Lady* was an American B-24 Liberator heavy bomber that flew a long-distance WWII bombing raid from Darwin to Borneo and, after surviving an aerial battle with Japanese Zero fighters, had a forced landing on the remote Kimberley coast on its off-course return to Australia. The drama, produced by Fact Not Fiction Films Ltd of West Sussex, UK, is based on the research dissertation the Lindsay submitted at Curtin University in 1995 at the conclusion of his cultural heritage studies.

Other research interests included real estate development in WA (reflecting three generations of the family's contribution to Peet Limited) and early movie photography (tied to his father's hobby, which produced an extensive archive of film). Such interests saw Lindsay join a wide range of organisations including the Australian Museum of Motion Picture & Television, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, Friends of Battye Library, the National Trust of Australia (WA) and, in particular, its Defence Heritage Committee, the Art Deco Society of WA, Young Australia League, the Gliding Club of Western Australia, and the Kimberley Society. He was also a committee member

of and benefactor to some of those organisations, with his generosity helping to preserve WA's heritage (documentary and built environment).

Indeed, Lindsay and his wife Laurel were instrumental in raising funds for various conservation works at New Norcia. He was also a sponsor and committee member of the incredibly successful Historical Records Rescue Consortium whose work preserved an unprecedented number of newspapers, film and photographs at the J S Battye Library of West Australian History. More recently, Lindsay provided the means by which an application could be made to Lotterywest for the digitisation of oral history tapes held in the Battye Library; a project currently underway.

Besides the practical - and very often insightful - advice and assistance he gave to the management of the organisations in which he was involved, Lindsay could always be relied upon for unusual tales about research and historic places. Many stemmed from travel undertaken with Laurel. Their trips included America in 1996, eight UNESCO sites in the Dehli-Agra region of India, Jordan, Morocco and Libya in 2005. In 2006, they visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (formerly North Korea) and we later heard about the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and its focus on demonstrating that the Americans started the 1950 to 1953 war.

Lindsay was recognised by Friends of Battye Library as a "Gem" in 2009 and he is one of only four people to be made both a "Gem" and a Fellow of The Library Board of Western Australia.

A well respected friend, colleague and long time PHA (WA) member; Lindsay James Peet will be sadly missed.

Cathie Clement MPHA & Kris Bizzaca MPHA

❖ Vale Tom Stannage:

The news that Tom Stannage had suffered a major heart attack which led to his death on 4 October 2012, came as a shock to the many people who had been touched by his intellect, humanity and sensitivity over the years. I didn't know him particularly well – I am simply one of many former colleagues and students who will remember him as one of the principal influences in their love of Australian history and subsequent careers. It wasn't as a historian but as a footballer that I first heard Tom's name. After arriving in Perth from newly independent Uganda, I soon took on the language and passion of Australian Rules football, a game which helped immeasurably in my adjustment to the very different world of Perth. My parents, mystified by this new passion, allowed me one night to stay up and watch the black and white TV coverage of the Sandover Medal to decide the best and fairest player of the season – memory tells me it was 1965. With a level of concentration that must have astounded my parents, I watched as the votes were laboriously counted. After about 5 rounds, a player called Stannage from Swan Districts had polled, again from memory, 14 votes and led the field by a long way. The compere, probably long time football journalist Ross Elliot, looked directly at the camera and put out an emergency appeal – 'Tom, if you're watching, please make your way to Subiaco Oval as soon as you can.' Whether he made it I do not know, but that was the end of his run. He did not poll another vote as his teammate Bill Walker went on to win the medal.

Some years later, I came across Tom again when I was given his 1979 book *The People of Perth*. The history Tom wrote was entirely different from anything I had read before.

During high school, the only thing I remembered about history was my teacher's ability to smoke half a cigarette in one drag – unbelievably, it was quite normal for teachers to smoke in class in that period, not that long ago. In my undergraduate years at UWA, I steered clear of Australian and West Australian history, concentrating on mediaeval history with Professor Bert Hallam, the renaissance and reformation with Dr John Tonkin, and Classics and Ancient History with Professor Mervyn Austin and Dr Norm Ashton. To me, this was real history – Western Australian history was insubstantial and boring, a subject best avoided.

The People of Perth changed all that, as I absorbed Tom's compelling and accessible prose which told the stories of the little people of Perth, the ones who had never before made it into the history books. The social history Tom was writing made history interesting and I was hooked. With my partner Mary Anne Jebb, at that time just starting an honours degree at Murdoch, we formed a history reading (aka 'Hysterical Reisling') group which met at our house in Fremantle, the aim to read and talk about Western Australian history – and to drink liberal quantities of wine. With a shifting membership, including Anne Atkinson, Anna Haebich, Wendy Brady, Vicky Tanner, Garry Corr, Howard Pedersen, Andrew Gill, Tom Hogarth and Malcolm Hundley, we argued and drank, drank and argued, and achieved little. But it was fun and Tom was always the standard, the historian we most wanted to emulate.

I enrolled for a Masters at Murdoch to research the history of Castellorizan immigration to Western Australia (which I never finished), and soon got to know Tom. At that time, there was a joint seminar program between UWA and Murdoch, both of which had academics and students actively researching and writing Western Australian history. I gave my work-in-prospect seminar one evening – a terrifying ordeal as I sat before some of the big names in WA history at the time, people such as Geoffrey Bolton, Lenore Layman, Brian de Garis, Pen Hetherington, Trish Crawford and Bob Reece. And of course Tom, the first time I had met him, who put me at ease as we chatted before the seminar, telling me he found my topic interesting and full of potential. Soon afterwards, he and his co-contributors employed me as a research assistant on the WA Parliamentary History Project and, with my fellow researcher Andrew Gill, we would meet Tom over lunch at the old University House to discuss our progress and talk about football.

Sometime later, Mary Anne and I moved to Derby where I had a job with the Kimberley Land Council (KLC). It was the early 1990s and the *Native Title Act* had just been introduced by the Keating government, much to the chagrin of newly elected Premier Richard Court, whose government saw the Commonwealth legislation as infringing the constitutional powers of the States to administer and manage land. The KLC became a respondent to the High Court appeal against the *Native Title Act*, taking a substantial risk given its status as a non-government organisation. We couldn't pay our lawyers and expert witnesses much, but Tom immediately agreed to help out, and moreover allowed meetings to be held in his Chester St home. Arrayed against the battery of Senior Counsels retained by the State government, it was partly the skill of the KLC team, including Tom, which resulted in a decision that went overwhelmingly in the KLC's favour – six judges to one.

I ran into Tom only occasionally after that, but many have been the times I have consulted *The People of Perth* and his 1981 volume (with Brian de Garis), *A New History of Western Australia*. It was only the other day that I re-read his controversial 1985 essay *Western Australia's Heritage: The Pioneer Myth*. Over twenty-five years after they were written, these works still stand up, are still thought provoking and do what history writing

is supposed to do – ask people to think about their past as a way of understanding their present, to see history as a process in which many are involved and contribute, not just those who hold power and influence. Furthermore, they encourage historians to look at their subjects in their full frame, by using photos, diaries, letters, drawings, poetry, even fiction, as well as the material historians have commonly relied on.

I will always be grateful to Tom, not only at a personal level, but for what he has done for history, for football and for Western Australia. To his family and close friends go our sympathies. He will leave a big hole and will always be missed.

Malcolm Allbrook MPHA

❖ **ACPHA's new e-bulletin *Historia*:**

Editors' message from ACPHA's *Historia*, No. 1, August 2012:

The Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations Inc (ACPHA) is the peak body for Professional Historians Associations (PHAs) in Australia.

Welcome to the first edition of ACPHA's e-bulletin *Historia*. *Historia* is distributed to all PHA members so they can find out what Australian historians are doing and share national history issues and events. This e-bulletin has a broader audience as it is also sent to many friends and colleagues who interact with us in our professional work. Librarians, academics, archivists and publishers are just some of the recipients of *Historia*. The newsletter will give the wider history community a better insight into our work as professional historians.

At this stage four editions a year of *Historia* are planned, but this may vary depending on your response. We look forward to contributions. Please include your name and email address, and an image if appropriate. All copy should be sent to newsletter@historians.org.au. We are especially interested in items of national significance.

Pauline Curby, Virginia Macleod PHA (NSW) & Geoff Speirs PHA (SA), ACPHA Public Relations sub-committee

Note: Members are reminded they are able to freely subscribe to ACPHA's new e-bulletin *Historia* by registering on http://www.historians.org.au/acpha/members_resources/index.shtml

❖ **Call for copy for ACPHA's next edition of *Historia*:**

ACPHA is now seeking articles about such topics as recent publications and work, industry news, resources or other useful tools like websites, member profiles, etc.

Written pieces should be approx. 500 words in length and submitted in a word document. Images in a jpeg format are welcome and should be forwarded as separate attachments to an email. Bullet points and hyperlinks can also be included in the article.

The closing date for submissions is **22 October 2012**. Please forward articles or send any questions you might have to newsletter@historians.org.au

ACPHA would very much appreciate the assistance of members to make this initiative as successful as possible. We see it as a valuable tool for sharing information as well as promoting all PHAs and the wider history community.

Many thanks,

Pauline Curby, Virginia Macleod PHA (NSW) & Geoff Speirs PHA (SA), ACPHA Public Relations sub-committee

❖ Introducing new PHA (WA) member Dr Debra Rosser:

'Where are my records?' is the second question asked by people who spent some or all of their childhood in out-of-home care. The first is, 'why was I in care?' Since 1997 I have been involved in tracking down records held in the public and not-for-profit sectors and developing 'finding aids' to help answer these questions. If I am known at all, it is for two major works in WA: 'PHIND, the Personal History Index for former child migrants to Catholic Homes in WA 1938-1965', and 'Signposts: A Guide for Children and Young People in Care in WA from 1920'. Currently, I am a Research Fellow at the Australian Catholic University and am employed as WA's State-Based Historian on the Find & Connect web resource. ACU has no campus in Perth, so I work from home in what I think is the best job going!

The purpose of the Find & Connect web resource is to identify all the facilities which provided out-of-home care in twentieth century Australia, locate and describe the records they hold, and show how to access those records. I am able to work with a relational database developed by the E-Scholarship Research Centre at the University of Melbourne, who are partners with ACU in this Commonwealth-funded project. The structure of the web resource allows us to input the policy, legislation and contemporaneous reportage that give our 'institutional' histories a social context. Importantly, and where this differs from earlier work I have done in this field, the web resource lets us link to the 'voices' of people who were in care - bringing the lived experience onto the historical record. I am greatly enjoying working in the digital environment, writing history for people who are still alive (and who are happy to use the feedback form on the website!). This web resource is a live-work-in-progress, which grows as the historical work develops. With permission from the Department for Child Protection, 'Signposts' was used to create foundation entries for WA, so the site doesn't yet include health-related facilities. I am gradually expanding on these early entries, utilising the excellent research produced by WA historians as well as archival material. Please have a look at the site: www.findandconnect.gov.au/wa and if there's anything you think I should read, please let me know! I am delighted to join the Association and hope to meet members in person...if I can be dragged away from my desk...

Deb Rosser Accredited Historical Researcher

❖ Copyright and Access to Original Materials: a PHA (WA) and OHAA (WA) Joint Seminar:

Once again, PHA (WA) and the Oral Historians Association have joined forces to present an interesting, timely and entertaining Professional Development seminar, hosted by the State Library of WA. Held in the Great Southern Room on the afternoon of August 19, and attended by about 35 members of each organisation, the audience was treated to the collective knowledge of five speakers, who then combined to form a Q & A panel in the final session. The topic is one that we all NEED to address, but invariably shy away from, on the grounds that it is too complex, too boring or just a distraction from our REAL work. Nonetheless, the issue of intellectual property and the protection of creative ideas can result in expensive and complicated legal argument if it is not addressed as a legitimate part of historical research.

PHA (WA) President Kris Bizzaca introduced two speakers from the State Library of WA, **Adrian Bowen** and **Molly Tebo**, to set the scene. Adrian spoke of the current situation under Australian legislation, and the different levels of copyright that apply to different art forms, such as writing, photography, art works or film. In many cases, there are multiple copyrights that apply to media such as film or television productions. However the good news is for many historians that in most cases works, such as photographs produced before 1 January 1955, are in the public domain although, of course, it is sound historical practice to acknowledge the source wherever possible.



Adrian Bowen discussing copyright issues based on his experience working with original materials at the State Library of WA, 19 August 2012. (Courtesy Kris Bizzaca)

Molly Tebo focussed on the relatively new phenomenon of Creative Commons, a copyright management system which does away with the need to negotiate on an individual basis. Molly used many examples of web-based documents and images to illustrate the different levels of Creative Commons licensing. As befits a librarian in the digital age, she left us with a link to a site which provides useful links and resources to her words – bit.ly/QZsc1W. Check it out!



Molly Tebo, eLearning Librarian, State Library of WA, on the topic of Creative Commons, 19 August 2012.
(Courtesy Kris Bizzaca)

Andrew Bowman, webmaster and digital inspiration of the Carnamah Historical Society, then took us through some of the pitfalls of designing and maintaining a site which is dedicated to a local area. The Carnamah site has gained a huge reputation in recent months for its innovation, yet Andrew alerted us to some of the personal copyright issues that he has faced in putting together this resource. Local History Librarian from the City of Perth, **Jan McCahon Marshall**, talked about some of the oral history copyright issues that she, as a member of the OHAA and active practitioner, has faced in her career. She referred to the landmark Boston College case, where classified interviews relating to murders during the Northern Ireland sectarian violence of the 1970s and 1980s, were released to the public under subpoena, despite previously given assurances that they were protected. The ramifications are immense! Finally, **Kris Bizzaca** spoke about her experience working as a consultant historian on the development of an interpretive website; in particular, the nightmarish complications of utilising previously recorded oral histories and having to re-negotiate multiple layers of permissions associated with these; an object lesson indeed.

To wrap up the seminar, Jennie Carter moderated a panel discussion which answered questions from the audience and provided an opportunity for historians to contribute their own copyright experiences and warnings.

Malcolm Traill Accredited Historical Researcher

❖ Western Australian History Foundation Grants 2012 - Recipients:

The Foundation is pleased to announce that it has awarded grants in its 2012 grants round to:

- Malcolm Allbrook for publication of his manuscript currently titled 'Imperial Family: The Prinseps, Empire and Colonial Government in India & WA' as an E-Book in the ANU E Press's ANU.Lives series.
- Andrew Bowman & the Carnamah Historical Society for three Australian Curriculum online education packages on local history.
- Pen Hetherington for publication of her manuscript titled 'The Marriage Knot: Marriage & Divorce in Colonial WA, 1829-1900' by UWA Publishing.

- Isa Menzies & Fremantle Prison for an exhibition on Aboriginal Incarceration.
- Lise Summers & the History Council of WA for an organisational subsidy.

Completion of these projects will add to our knowledge of Western Australian history and disseminate knowledge more widely.

In all 24 applications were received. Many were of high standard and the Foundation regrets that its limited funds restrict the number of projects it is able to assist.

The Foundation hopes it will be possible to run another grants round in 2013.

Queries to: <http://www.wahistoryfoundation.org.au/> or WAHF Secretary Lenore Layman at layman@westnet.com.au

❖ Oral History Records Rescue Group (OHRRG) Update:

The Project to date has seen the digitisation of over 4322 oral histories for preservation and access. Seventy two interviews are now available online through the State Library of WA's catalogue.

Examples include interviews with the artist [Robert Juniper](#), talking not about his own work but his father's connection to the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, and [Walter Browne](#), co-founder of Browne's Dairy.

Here is a selection of some of the rich and diverse stories that have been preserved for all West Australians.

- A photographer who was active in Fremantle in the 1920s and 1940s, later living in Kalgoorlie and the UK, was something of a jack-of-all-trades, involved in aerial photography for mining exploration, film-making, photo-journalism and writing, and running a photo shop, as well as studio photography. The interview provides interesting descriptions of photographic techniques of other photographers operating in Perth and Fremantle, and of social changes during the period. It also includes a candid discussion of the business of studio photography, and why the interviewee "loathed photographing children".
- A physiotherapist from one of the earliest cohorts to be trained in Western Australia, in the 1950s worked largely providing services for disabled people, and was associated for many years with the Cerebral Palsy Association of WA. As well as providing therapy services, she later started sporting initiatives, which eventually led to supporting a number of Western Australians to compete in the Paralympic games which she also attended. The interview is particularly interesting for its coverage of the changing attitudes towards disabilities in Western Australia in the second half of the twentieth century – the interviewee's perspective is all the more interesting because she herself is a polio survivor.
- A long serving principal violinist of the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, who was appointed in 1939 (to the then Perth Symphony Orchestra) and remained in the role until 1976. His only break during this time, when he enlisted in Army Signals before being transferred to Army Education during the Second World War. The interview covers his life and music, musicians and conductors he has worked with, types of music and programs and venues. It also covers the evolution of the parochial Perth Symphony Orchestra to the world-class WASO.

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

❖ **Introducing the State Library of Western Australia Foundation:**

The State Library of WA Foundation (the Foundation) was established in 2009 as the successor to The Western Australian State Library Custodians with the aim of working with the individuals, business and like-minded groups to promote the value of the State Library of WA to the community.

The Custodians were instrumental in the formation of the Foundation and the inaugural board comprised several former members including Mr Richard Hazelwood, Mr Gavin Fielding and Mr Bret Mattes, who is still a Foundation Director. Mr Trevor and Mrs Kay Poustie were also involved, Mr Poustie going on to become a Foundation Director until his death earlier this year. These associations have ensured the Foundation's sound establishment and enabled the transition of the Custodians' collections, including the highly significant Freycinet collection, to the Foundation.

Importantly, like the Custodians, the Foundation is not a subsidiary of the State Library of WA, but a separate entity in its own right.

It is a company limited by guarantee, and has an independent board that oversees the governance and direction of the Foundation's operations. The Foundation Board members bring a balanced mix of skills and experience in corporate governance, business, finance, arts/history/heritage, fundraising and communications. Our founding patron is Mr Sam Walsh AO.



Armadale Public Librarian Kristie Nicholson (and family) after being awarded the inaugural Kay Poustie Scholarship by Philip Hirschberg of the Foundation Board. (Courtesy State Library Foundation)

The Foundation is a Public Ancillary Fund and holds Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status making it an attractive vehicle for private donors. To this end, two of the Foundation's goals are to: assist the Library to gain, maintain, improve and develop its collection of literary and historical treasures; and, raise finance for the acquisition and preservation of objects of historical, educational and/or social interest.

Led by General Manager Jane King, the Foundation has been successful in securing and managing funds sourced from a variety of institutions and private trusts. It is also

building a track record of sourcing gifts from individuals, funding partners and sponsors and, significantly, from the community at large. These funds have supported important acquisitions, literacy programs, National Year of Reading events and the community history project, 'Our Page in History'.



Conrad Crisafulli, A/Chair of the State Library Foundation Board receiving the donated first volume of James Horsburgh's *Directions for Sailing* from Lindsay Peet. (Courtesy State Library Foundation)

In addition to the establishment of the Kay Poustie Scholarship, which provides funding for a librarian to undertake international study, the Foundation, like the Custodians, works to acquire, either by purchase or donation, significant items for the Battye Library and other library collections. This year, due to the support of benefactor Mr Lindsay Peet, the Foundation acquired James Horsburgh's *Directions for Sailing to and from the East Indies, China, New Holland, Cape of Good Hope and the interjacent ports... Part First*, London 1809. This acquisition provided the State Library with the missing volume of the series it already held.

Today, the Foundation is actively exploring raising endowment capital for specific aspects of the State Library's programs including literacy, learning and discovery, and for collecting and preserving the State's significant heritage. Like-minded organisations such as PHA (WA) will be kept updated regarding future projects.

Jane King, General Manager, State Library Foundation of WA

❖ State Library secures rare Fairbairn Collection:

The State Government has acquired a rare historical archive of letters, memoirs and diaries associated with pioneer Resident Magistrate Robert Fairbairn (1841-1922) in the colony of Western Australia.

The State Library of Western Australia this week acquired the collection at auction.

Culture and the Arts Minister John Day said the archive might shed new light on WA's colonial past and would be of particular interest to researchers and historians.

"I am extremely pleased the State Library has secured this valuable archive ensuring it stays in WA in a publicly accessible collection," Mr Day said.

"This archive will add to the story of our State's unique history and be one of the gems in the heritage collection at the State Library."

There are more than 3,000 items in the archive, some of which include:

- Robert Fairbairn's memoirs and letters
- letters and replies from social friends, acquaintances, families and colleagues
- numerous studio and family photographs, including fine-painted miniatures of early settlers
- diaries and other personal items associated with the Fairbairn, Bussell and other WA families.

The Minister said the collection would be preserved on behalf of the community

[Media Statement, 10 August 2012](#)

❖ What happened to the Indians of Australind?:

The Leschenault Peninsula, that long, thin stretch of land over the water from Australind, is today a Conservation Park, a peaceful place full of bird and sea life, with the quiet waters of the inlet on the east shore, and beautiful sea beaches on the west. It is hard to imagine this ever being other than the place it is today, yet for many years it was managed as a pastoral lease, first by the Prinsep family, followed by the Venns and, for a period on the 1970s, a commune. The land was first taken up in 1839, when Calcutta based lawyer and business man Charles Prinsep (1782 – 1864) decided to invest in Western Australian land with the idea of a pastoral estate and horse stud to breed mounts for the British East India Company army. He had a vision of an Indian Ocean trading network, with Calcutta at the centre of a vast 'triple Empire' of India, Australia and South Africa, in which India would supply the capital and tap into its seemingly vast supply of 'surplus' labour to develop the colonies' spread around oceanic region. The new colony of Western Australia, with its immense expanse of land, salubrious climate and proximity to Indian cities of Calcutta and Madras, seemed of offer great potential in these ideas of a transnational trading empire.



Belvidere today, showing the remnant date palms planted by the Indian labourers (Private collection)

Just ten years after the establishment of the Swan River Colony, Prinsep dispatched his friend Thomas Little, an Irish farm manager in Calcutta, on the charter ship *Gaillardon*, along with all the labour, animals and equipment needed to establish an agricultural estate. In February 1839, Little and his family arrived in Fremantle, along with 39 Indian men and women, a small herd of Indian buffalo and cattle, building equipment, and substantial quantities of rice and ghee, including one barrel sent to Governor Stirling as a gift. Within weeks Little had taken up four blocks near Bunbury, Prinsep Park and Paradise stations on fertile lands near Dandaragan, the Henty block north of the Collie River and the Leschenault Peninsula, which he called 'Belvidere', a misspelling of Charles Prinsep's palatial home in Calcutta, 'Belvedere'. Little and his Indian labour force set about building homesteads at Paradise, Prinsep Park and Belvidere, clearing and fencing the land, establishing crops and gardens. Prinsep's 'Adelphi' horse stud in Tasmania, near Longford, supplied horses which were intended to breed a herd which would meet the demand for the sturdy mounts needed in India. At Belvidere, the labourers worked to turn the unpromising land into a lush and productive garden, planting grape vines, figs and date palms, and supplying vegetables to Australind and Bunbury.



Henry & Josephine Prinsep at Belvidere with baby Carlotta, c. 1872. (Courtesy Battye Library MN 771)

Almost nothing is known about the lives of this little community of Indians in their temporary home. We can assume they were on contracts of indenture, under which they were bound on fixed terms of probably five years, after which they would be returned to India. As Marina Carter notes in her book *Voices of the Indenture*, this was the standard period of contract for Indian labourers in Mauritius and the West Indian sugar islands. Immediately after the suspension of the slave trade, by far the greatest demand for their services came from Mauritius and, as the nineteenth century wore on, from Jamaica, Trinidad, Guyana and later Singapore and Fiji. Over half a million Indians left their homelands during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and many of them stayed in the colonies. Few came to Australia, although some landowners in New South Wales and South Australia attempted to import contract Indian labour forces.

Charles Prinsep saw Indian labour as the answer to the labour shortages predicted to accompany the end of the convict system in the Eastern colonies, while in Western Australia, he believed it offered far greater potential than the social and economic 'degradation' that would accompany convictism. As Advocate General of the East India Company and himself an Australian landowner, he was in a good position to get around East India Company regulations on Indian emigration. Both the Indian and Australian

colonial governments demanded that Indian labour forces were to be well maintained by their employers, returned to India at the end of their contract periods, and be employed in rural areas, well away from the cities and centres of population. This appears to have been the situation of the Belvidere labour force, for over their period of residence, they have left almost no historical footprint. Even though Australind bore a name designed to appeal to British Indian investors and settlers, it seems the Indians of Belvidere kept, or were kept, pretty much to themselves.

By the time Charles' son Henry Prinsep arrived to take over management of the estate in 1866, only one Indian was still at Belvidere, a man named Luttah who worked as a stockman and musterer. Prinsep records in his diary that on the day he took control, his farm staff was made up of '5 English, 1 hindoo and 2 native Australians, Coolbool (George) & an object called Nooky. Funny fellows, who would always burst their boilers as it were with two big shouts of laughter for the first 3 days or so that I knew them. It was their way of showing bashfulness to a stranger.' (HC Prinsep 'Diaries', 3.6.1866) Labour continued to be a problem for Prinsep over the next eight years. He complained that English labourers cost too much and were unreliable, while his Aboriginal stockmen, George Coolbul and Charlie Neeribun, who also supplied the homestead with a substantial amount of wild game, went missing for long periods. Luttah alone was always there, yet in 1871, he too returned to India, accompanying Prinsep, his wife Josephine and baby daughter Carlotta on an ill-fated voyage to Calcutta with a consignment of horses.

Despite Prinsep's best efforts, the estate steadily lost money, and in 1874 he was declared bankrupt and disposed of the estates. His father's dream of an Indian Ocean trading empire was to go unrealised. There was no longer the capital flowing from India to keep the estate afloat, and neither had the expected flow of cheap contract Indian labour eventuated. Henceforth, it was to be the life of a civil servant in Perth for Prinsep, who gladly left the problems of the station and settled into a less stressful, more comfortable life in the city. As he wrote in his diary a few days after moving: '[Josephine and I] felt quite happy & comfortable in our new abode. A delightful change from the hard life we have lately led. In the afternoon, we lay down & read (Diaries, 31.1.1874).

Marina Carter's path breaking study of Indian indentured labourers in the sugar colonies demonstrates the difficulties of locating historical records which might illuminate the lives and experiences of those who left their homelands to work in far off colonies. Generally, they only appear at times of 'flashpoint', when they run into trouble with the law or conflicts with their employers. Few of them were able to write letters themselves, relying on scribes or secretaries, and of course personal letters to family and friends are extremely difficult to trace. At Belvidere, apart from Luttah, only two of the 39 Indians in Charles Prinsep's original labour force appear at all in the historical records. One of these, a man called Naseeb, was still living in Bunbury in 1862. He had been forced to leave work when he became blind, and was left behind when his compatriots returned to India, and forced to depend on government relief for his survival. Presumably he died in Bunbury, far from the land of his birth.

Another man named Hookum Chan has a much sharper historical profile, although no less mysterious. Chan had a peculiar life (Westrip and Holroyde 2010, 275). Allegedly spirited out of Calcutta by Charles Prinsep because as a young man he had informed on a plot to attack the British, he spent the rest of his life in Western Australia, fearful that his past would catch up with him and he would be punished by his enemies. He was said to have become 'more English than the English', married an English girl and started a

furniture business from the block in Maylands he had been given by the Government in thanks for his services.

For many years in the late nineteenth century, Hookum Chan supplied colonists such as the Prinseps with high quality furniture using Western Australian woods. Two pieces of his furniture are now held by the National Gallery of Australia. According to his granddaughter who still lives in Perth, each year Chan used to travel to the site of Prinsep's property 'to make his Hindu salaam on the anniversary of the day Charles Prinsep rescued him'. He was said to have been grateful to Prinsep for saving his life, but often expressed regret that he had 'sold his country down the drain', and been forced to live out his life away from his homeland. He died in East Perth in 1903, but his children continued to have contact with Prinsep, his daughters and grandchildren.



Hookum Chan's music stand and desk, which were bought by Henry Prinsep are now in the National Gallery of Australia. (Courtesy NGA)

A visitor to the Leschenault Peninsula will observe little of a history that signifies a little remembered episode in Western Australian history. Echoes of past visions of pastoral enterprise remain in the nearby Buffalo Beach, while a camping ground at Belvidere caters for those prepared to rough it a little, by bringing their own firewood and water. Nothing remains at Belvidere since the homestead Henry and Josephine Prinsep lived in in the 1870s burned down some years ago. Large date palms and fig trees, the only non-indigenous vegetation in the vicinity, constitute a reminder that the area has seen other uses over the period of European occupation.



'A dream garden in this sand' – commemorative signage at Belvidere (Private collection)

One can still look out from the beach and, blotting out the ever-growing suburbia of Australind and the port establishment at Bunbury, easily imagine the Prinseps rowing over to the point near Bunbury, as Henry described so often in his diaries. Interpretive signage around the site recalls the tenure of the Prinseps and the Venns, including a floor plan of the homestead that reveals a reasonably large structure together with farm buildings and yards. One sign invites the visitor to look over the remnant grove of date palms and recalls the efforts of the Indian work force to turn this sandy land into a productive garden, their use of manure and compost, and buffalos to drag their ploughs. We may never know just who these people were, but these reminders of their presence speak clearly of past visions of Western Australia as an Indian Ocean place. They were a part of another, often overlooked, diaspora in the British imperial world, a global network that had both the capacity and motivation to shift large numbers of people to drive the economy of the Empire. Many of the people who colonised Western Australia imagined that Indian labour, tightly regulated and cheap, could fuel the colony's development. This was not to be, as an array of forces, from the Colonial Office in London to metropolitan colonists in Perth, argued that Australia was to be a place for the white man and thus avoid the problems of other colonial spaces around the world. The Indians of Australind came and went, and are easily forgotten. Re-awakening their Australian story reminds us that Western Australia has a textured and complex history in which many people from many countries contributed, often in surprising ways.

Malcolm Allbrook MPHA

(This piece is based on a recent article by the author: 'A Triple Empire ... united under one dominion: Charles Prinsep's schemes for exporting Indian labour to Australia', in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, Sept 2012, Latrobe University, pp. 1 – 21).

❖ **Book Note - Nicholas Freeling, *Cook Book*, Hamish Hamilton, London, 1972:**

Reading cookbooks for fun may seem odd, but reading them as historical documents gives them a serious intent which the authors presumably did not expect. I have on my desk three books dealing with food in three different ways. Two were published in the 1970s, Freeling's *Cook Book* with which this note is largely concerned, Waverley Root's *The Food of Italy*, published in 1971, a massive tome mainly filled with recipes from the northern half of the country and Anna del Conte's *Risotto with Nettles*, published in 2009, subtitled *A memoir with food*. All three could bear that subtitle. All three are of use to the historian of food. Root was an American journalist based in France whose better known work, published in 1958, was *The Food of France*. All three writers cooked and all made their living from cooking and writing about food. Anna del Conte's work described in some detail the difficulty of living in two countries for she married an Englishman after the war, but almost all recipes reflect her deep love for Italian cuisine.

I have written before in this newsletter of Nicholas Freeling, writer of detective novels featuring Inspector Van Der Valk, and a trained chef in his former life. In his earlier non-fiction work about food, *Kitchen Book*, he attempted to show why British food in the post war years was so different from, and abysmally inferior to, French food. His *Cook Book*, published only forty years ago illustrates better than most cookery books of the period might, the gulf that now exists between us and food of the pre-Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Europe. Freeling lived in Alsace when writing this work and he concentrates on largely meat recipes, many from his area or from Holland, a country

where he was clearly at home. He provides around 'thirty simple dishes' which he tried in his own kitchen, asked his own friends to cook also and then wrote down in a brisk, humorous way to capture the reader's interest. The only problem this reader has with such an approach is that many of his ingredients are now all but unobtainable. Beef is possible to buy, yes, but rarely older meat that requires hanging in order to tenderise it. Beef cattle are now usually slaughtered before they reach their fourth birthday in order to minimise the chance of BSE recurring. Young beef does not require ageing or soaking in wine. Australia is and has been free of this disease, but even so it is difficult to find a butcher who will provide the kind of aged beef that Freeling's recipes describe. The same is true of chickens. When did you last see a chicken you bought for the oven with feet or a head? Freeling claims that the feet give away the age of the bird and its age is relevant for the recipes he records. He also suggests brains, now suspected as vectors for various unpleasant diseases, as a breakfast dish. They are generally unprocurable in the UK.

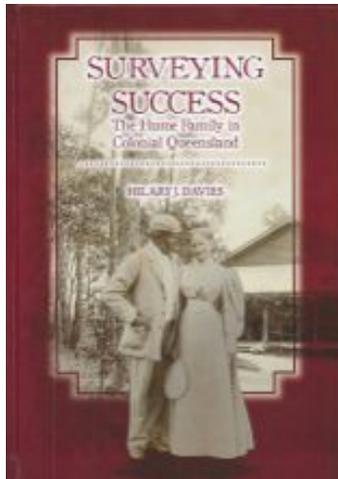
What is perhaps more striking than these important changes in meat production is Freeling's disregard of the Mediterranean diet. He cooks largely in butter, dripping or lard. Olive oil has since replaced these media particularly perhaps in the antipodes. Freeling is scornful of what he calls 'food fads' which include an overemphasis, as he sees it, on high cholesterol and too much protein in the diet. Cookbooks have changed since his time and his must have been one of the last hurrahs for such a cavalier approach to food and health issues. Yet there is much in his book to give us pause because it is best seen as an historical document. His work highlights the difference that an emphasis on meat-eating (think burgers) has made for animal husbandry, but his recipes also illustrate the changed kitchens we are now lucky enough to use. The microwave oven was invented shortly after the Second World War and reached our kitchens during the 1970s. Now, according to Wikipedia, 90% of American kitchens have one and I would hazard that a similar statistic is likely for Australia. In 1972, the year of this book's publication, the microwave would have been news. Freeling, I feel sure, would have scorned it.

Australia is indeed a lucky country when it comes to food. Not only did we avoid the BSE epidemic because cattle are pasture-fed, but also an extensive campaign begun in 1970 successfully rid the country of bovine tuberculosis. (This disease is present in the UK and is currently the cause of a cull of badgers that are said to carry the disease). English cooking today is represented by writers like Jamie Oliver, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Nigella Lawson, all of whom have television programs and regularly produce cookbooks to keep them in the public eye. Australian cooks have wonderful fresh ingredients and a wealth of different cookery cultures to draw from, especially from countries nearer to us, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, China and India. Just a glance at the cookbook shelves in any large book shop assure us of that. Our history will be enriched by acknowledging them.

Michal Bosworth MPHA (Retired)

❖ **Book Note - Surveying success:**

Hilary J. Davies, *Surveying success: the Hume family in colonial Queensland*, (Sydney: Boolarong Press, 2012), x, 246pp. maps, chart, b & w illus., bibliog.



Surveying success is so much more than the story of the Hume family. It is a history of people and events – social, political and economic – in Queensland from 1862 until the early 1900s.

Hilary Davies was fortunate to have access to letters and diaries written by members of the Hume family. Their story formed the basis of her 2004 PhD thesis: *The Hume family of Toowoomba and Brisbane: a case study of middle-class social mobility in colonial Queensland*. The present book is based on this thesis but is certainly no dry academic treatise. The author has skilfully woven the Hume family's personal stories into the background of colonial Queensland.

In 1862, following service in the merchant marine, Walter Hume migrated from England to Queensland, where he trained as a surveyor. Other members of his family followed, including his intrepid fiancée Katie Fowler. After an engagement carried on by correspondence she took the long voyage to the colony in 1866, marrying just two weeks' later. Over the next thirteen years she and Walter had eight children. Katie dealt with the deaths of five of the children and the care of the others, often while Walter was absent on surveying trips. Amazingly, she managed to keep extensive diaries and write descriptive letters to relatives enabling us to have a real insight into her life and conditions in the colony.

While Katie was coping with domestic duties Walter was forging a successful career, holding a number of government offices, including Under-Secretary for Lands. After his retirement in 1901 he and Katie embarked on a trip to England and made a number of other sea voyages, including to Argentina, where their son had migrated. In 1907 they returned to Queensland to visit family. Sadly, Katie died on the return voyage to England. Walter survived her by twelve years.

Surveying success is an interesting story, brought to life by extracts from contemporary writing, and attractively presented, with numerous quality photographs, maps, a family tree chart, extensive endnotes and bibliography.

Loreley A. Morling Accredited Historical Researcher

❖ **Book Note - *The Many Worlds of R. H. Mathews:***

Martin Thomas, *The Many Worlds of R. H. Mathews: In Search of an Australian anthropologist* (Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2011).

I have to confess to a slight feeling of bafflement when asked to review this book, which is essentially a biography of the pioneer Australian anthropologist Robert Hamilton Mathews. Why bother to comment on one whose life and work were concerned almost exclusively with south-eastern Australia, thousands of kilometres from Perth? This admittedly somewhat ignorant view was based on merely peripheral knowledge – a reference here and there in passing – of Mathews' life and work.

It did occur to me, however, that Mathews was a contemporary of Daisy Bates and would probably have communicated with her, since both were interested in Australia's Indigenous people and both were largely self-taught in the then new science of anthropology. Bates of course was both Irish-born and had much to do with the Aboriginal peoples of Western Australia, to the point where no-one these days engaged in native title or other Aboriginal historical research in Western Australia can afford to ignore her work, despite her obsession with cannibalism, for example, and her bigamy and self-invention about her private life, as detailed most recently by Professor Bob Reece.

As for Mathews, he did in fact have Irish connections – while he himself was born in Narellan, New South Wales, in 1841, his family were Protestants who had emigrated from Ulster a few years previously. A check with the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and other historical sources revealed also that Mathews corresponded regularly with like-minded people throughout Australia, including one named Gordon Shaw, proprietor of Errivilla station on the upper Murchison in WA. Shaw supplied Mathews with a number of photographs of Aboriginal people including one of a young Yamatji boy which has been used for the cover of this interesting and well-researched book.

As it happened, Daisy Bates went out of her way to cultivate Mathews, in an attempt as Martin Thomas puts it, 'to systematise her methods and build up scientific standing' in the early years of the 20th century when her life's work among Australia's Aboriginal peoples was just beginning. Thomas, a former ABC Radio oral historian who now holds an Australian Research Council fellowship in the School of History at the Australian National University, devotes several pages to Bates and her work as part of establishing a context for his wider subject. Mathews – a surveyor by profession, and later a magistrate – was one of a group of people including Bates who were commonly known as 'ethnomaniacs', although he did not use the term about himself as Thomas points out, probably because of its connotations with madness. For her part Bates seems to have thought of herself as 'infected by the virus of research', which is true in terms of the effort she devoted to her self-appointed task of recording all she could about a supposedly fast-disappearing race. As Thomas says, on this basis the expression 'mania' is

appropriate, and even necessary. How else to convey the frantic energy? How else to acknowledge the dysfunctional relations between the various workers in a tiny pond? How else to explain the moral paralysis with which our founding anthropologists – and the society which produced them – responded to the diagnosis that their subjects of study were shortly to become extinct?

Dysfunctional relations abounded in the field – Daisy Bates famously fell out with the university-trained A. R. Brown (later Radcliffe-Brown), accusing him of plagiarising her work, while Radcliffe-Brown described her mind as akin to a well-stocked but very untidy sewing-basket. Mathews was apparently on even worse terms with the most eminent

academic anthropologist in Australia, the scientist and university administrator Professor Baldwin Spencer who, according to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, 'questioned his [Mathews'] field methods and his interpretation of data.'

Indeed, the dust jacket of Thomas' book quotes Spencer as saying in 1907:

As to that miscreant Mathew [sic] ... I don't know whether to admire most his impudence, his boldness or his mendacity – they are all of a very high order and seldom combined to so high a degree in one mortal man ...

For the South Australian Museum ethnologist Norman Tindale 50 years later, however, there had been a reconsideration, so much so that 'Despite earlier critics I am coming to believe that he was our greatest recorder of primary anthropological data.'

As someone who quotes Tindale in every ethnographic report I write, and in particular his epic summary of his life's work, *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia* (1974), I believe the same could be said of him, and it is all the greater a compliment to Mathews on that basis.

Thomas' book resulted at least in part from a biographical study of Mathews undertaken for the University of Sydney's department of history. The project overview is worth quoting at some length:

Robert Hamilton Mathews (1841-1918) was an Australian-born surveyor who worked mainly in rural New South Wales. From 1893 until his death he documented Aboriginal customs and beliefs. Now recognised as a founding figure in Australian social anthropology, Mathews studied Aboriginal kinship systems, mythology, rock art, material culture, languages and initiatory practices. He published 2200 pages of ethnographic data in journals around the world. This is the first major appraisal of Mathews since A. P. Elkin's three part biographical article on him, published in the 1970s.

Thomas studied Mathews' published work as well as his unpublished papers, held by the National Library of Australia. His work has also resulted in the Mirranen Archive, an online reference guide to the published papers of R. H. Mathews. Mirranen is the name by which Mathews was known among Aboriginal communities on the South Coast of New South Wales. This project was commissioned by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and is accessible on the Institute's web site, allowing researchers to navigate the vast mass of data published by Mathews.

Each of his 170 publications has been analysed for factual information including tribal and language names, geographical localities, subject matter and names of informants. A detailed abstract has been written for each article. Scans of most articles (those not deemed culturally sensitive) are available for download by visitors to the site, thus greatly improving the accessibility of Mathews' work.

Thomas says his 'search for R. H. Mathews began unwittingly', as he – Thomas – was researching a book about colonisation and myth-making in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney. Thomas

... was intrigued that a surveyor, a man who measured topography for a living, should be drawn into the mysteries of a culture where land has primacy. I thought about the synergy resulting from this mutual interest in country, and how it energised his work. This quality is most noticeable in his documentation of Aboriginal myths. I was captivated by Mathews' retelling of a creation story in which the great valleys and river systems of the southern Blue Mountains area are carved into the landscape by a character who is reminiscent of the famed Rainbow Serpent ... Mathews' rendition of the story is particularly remarkable for its attention to topographical detail. Parts of it describe the

country so intricately that you could find your way through the labyrinthine terrain. That, of course, was the intention.

This passage also explains how it was that a surveyor could also become a leading anthropologist, even during a period when pioneer surveyors and other public servants such as the postmaster Frank Gillen routinely made notes about the Aboriginal people they encountered. Gillen of course was the outback telegraphist whose partnership with the academic Baldwin Spencer produced their book, *The Native Tribes of Central Australia* (1899), which - to quote the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* -

... won them acclaim overseas and influenced contemporary anthropological theory. (Sir) James Frazer became their patron and, following his petition to the South Australian and Victorian premiers in 1900, Gillen and Spencer obtained a year's leave. Next year they crossed the continent and attracted popular interest. Their last joint field-work occurred during a brief trip in 1903, north-west of Lake Eyre. These expeditions were published as *The Northern Tribes of Central Australia* (1904). The success of their anthropological team had depended initially upon acceptance by Aranda elders of Gillen's authority and paternalism.

Clearly both Gillen and Mathews were out of the ordinary ruck of public servants with a passing interest in anthropology, which makes it all the more tragic that there should have been such enmity between Spencer and Mathews, to the point where Thomas describes Spencer as 'the most powerful and vociferous enemy of R. H. Mathews.'

Spencer does not come out of this at all well. As Thomas relates:

There is nothing like an intrigue to whet one's curiosity. But as I excavated what remnants I could find of this queer dispute, it began to sicken me - like fossicking through soiled tissues. Spencer's sublime putdowns are eminently quotable. But they are deceptive if read in isolation. He reserved them for private use only, preferring in public the cooler though highly efficacious technique of simply pretending that Mathews did not exist. Frustratingly for anyone concerned with the roots of the dispute ... Spencer never explained why he objected to what he did or said. In print he mentioned him only once during the surveyor's lifetime.

Spencer also dismissed Daisy Bates as an 'amateur zealot', and caused the Rev. John Mathew's doctoral thesis to be rejected by the University of Melbourne, to the astonishment of eminent overseas anthropologists including Andrew Lang. It is possible to speculate therefore that like other so-called 'experts', trained in universities but without much actual on-the-ground experience, he resented those who like Bates had spent many years among Aboriginal people. Indeed, it is quite possible that without Gillen's practical experience as a basis, Spencer would never have become as eminent as he did in the field of anthropology. For that matter, Gillen too might have been dismissed as a mere amateur by Spencer had not the two met in the field and achieved a rapport based on that personal contact before either had become famous - as anthropologists at least.

At all events, in my opinion Thomas has succeeded in his intention of repairing the 'enormous damage' done to Mathews' reputation during his lifetime by his rivals, and the obscurity into which that reputation slipped following his death, and "from which he has yet to fully emerge." This is the case even though Thomas admits that while he has 'searched and found much, ... I am no more the "discoverer" of him than he the discoverer of the cultures he studied.'

Peter Gifford MPHA

❖ **Items of Interest:**

FROM THE HISTORY COUNCIL OF WA:

Special Tour: WACA Ground & Museum

Tuesday 20 November 2012 4pm to 5.30pm

A special opportunity for History Council members to have a private tour of the hallowed WACA ground before it is closed to the public on 15th November for the Test series. The tour of the grounds and the museum will take about one and a half hours.

After the tour, we will catch the CAT bus to the Grosvenor Hotel for a Sundowner. Tasty platters comprising a mixed variety of food (including vegetarian options) and a drink from the bar are included in the price.

The tour of the WACA ground, museum and Sundowner will cost \$25.00 per head. The event will be ticketed.

Numbers are limited. Register your interest to office@historycouncilwa.org.au asap to reserve a place.

FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AUSTRALIA:

Destination: Australia – your stories

Join the growing numbers who have found themselves or their relatives on our [new website](#) *Destination: Australia – sharing our post-war migrant stories*.

With more than 20,000 photographs of post-war migrants, the site encourages viewers to find and identify people or places they might know.

The photos can be searched using family names, places of origin, migrant hostels, ports of arrival or other terms which may identify a group of friends. We also hope other migrants, not included in the photos, will add their own migration story.

Discover defence records in Perth

The National Archives holds vast defence records in its collection, including some colonial and Boer War records. Discover how to find and use these records at a free seminar and tour at our Perth office on Thursday 8 November from 10.30 am to 12noon. [Bookings essential](#).

Now touring

Max Dupain on Assignment is at the Western Australian Museum in Geraldton until 18 November. *Traversing Antarctica: the Australian experience* opens at the Western Australian Museum in Fremantle on 3 November.

Digital the way to go

The need to limit the creation of paper records was highlighted during a recent tour of the National Archives' Mitchell repository in Canberra by Minister for the Arts Simon Crean. The Minister was told that the small digital repository that is housed in Mitchell already has the capacity to hold ten times the quantity of paper records that currently fill the entire building.

The Archives is currently promoting the need to actively manage information to ensure that it remains accessible and usable for as long as it is needed. A Digital Continuity Plan has been published to provide practical guidance to Commonwealth agencies on the management of digital information.

FROM UWA:

Is Australia going west? Will Perth be the capital of Australia by 2050?

A public forum with Professors Geoffrey Blainey AC and Geoffrey Bolton AO, presented by the UWA Institute of Advanced Studies and Faculty of Arts. Chaired by Geraldine Doogue.

Due to the popularity of this topic we have changed the location to accommodate a bigger audience. Please note that the venue for this lecture is now in the Social Sciences Lecture Theatre not the University Club as previously advertised. Date: Thurs 25 October 2012. Time: 6 - 7.30pm Venue: Social Sciences Lecture Theatre, UWA. RSVP to ias@uwa.edu.au

Two of Australia's most eminent historians, Professors Geoff Bolton and Geoff Blainey, long-time sparring partners, discuss Perth's increasing significance on the national scene. Today Western Australia's booming economy bankrolls the nation. Are there parallels with the past? Were there similar trends during the Western Australian gold boom of the 1890s, when the population of the colony quadrupled and thousands of the unemployed, professionals and labourers alike, fled depressed conditions in the eastern colonies. Today the population of Western Australia is increasing equally rapidly, with a population increase of 2.6%, or 61,000 people, in 2011 alone. In the 1890s the vast majority of new West Australians were male. Is this the case today? And what does it mean for the future? By 2050 will Western Australia's natural resources — its iron ore and natural gas — have generated such vast increases in population and wealth that the economic centre of the nation will have shifted west? Or will our riches have all run out?

FROM THE FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY:

Fremantle Studies Day

When: Sunday 28 October, 2012 (Registration: from 1pm)

Papers: 1.30 – 5.00 pm (afternoon tea included) as well as the launch of vol.7 of Fremantle Studies) Where: Artillery Barracks Burt Street, Fremantle

Cost: \$12 members, \$15 non-members (join on the day for member's price)

RSVP: Essential by 23 October to 9430 6096, 0403 026 096, dianne.davidson@gmail.com

The Reverend James Brown. The Reverend James Brown was Anglican chaplain to the Fremantle Convict Establishment from 1853-55. During this time he issued reports to the Comptroller General that provide insights into the Convict Establishments and the relations between Church and State. The paper will focus on one such report and give background information on Brown and the Establishment. Alex Grose is a philosophy graduate and performing artist with a keen interest in Fremantle History. He has worked at the Fremantle Prison and appeared on ABC Radio for the segment The Big Picture.

Fremantle: port to abeyance. Within hours of the outbreak of World War One in August 1914, Fremantle Harbour became part of the theatre of war in the Pacific. A German merchant ship was shot at, its crew detained, the vessel taken as a prize of war and internment prepared. After using the Esplanade Hotel and the Fremantle Artillery Barracks as interim places of detention, Rottnest Island was chosen as the site of an internment camp, ultimately housing more than one thousand enemy aliens from three German ships, as well as locals of German and Austrian descent. Fremantle became a gateway to months of uncertainty and years of incarceration, putting the lives of many on hold. This paper will cover some of the dramas unfolding in Fremantle in those first few weeks of a long and bloody war. *Alexandra Ludewig*, Professor of German Studies, is Head of the German Department at the University of Western Australia. She is currently engrossed in researching the World War One internment camps at Ruhleben near Berlin and on Western Australia's Rottnest Island.

Negotiating the civic heart of Fremantle: past, present and critical perspectives of Kings Square. This paper will consider the history of Kings Square, the 'civic heart of Fremantle', including associated issues of dysfunction and the many solutions that have been proposed for the space. Much of this research is drawn from a close reading of the *Fremantle Herald* between 2000 and 2010 in addition to observation of King Square and its visitors by the author during 2009 and provides an insight into the representation of Aboriginal groups and individuals in Kings Square and spaces of silence within Fremantle more broadly. *Shaphan Cox* is currently employed as an Early Career Research fellow in Geography at Curtin University. He completed a PhD in March 2012 entitled '*Whose City/whose Fremantle?': Reconceptualising Space for an Open Politics of Place*.

'The Kaiser's spy on Queen Victoria Street', By the outbreak of World War I, German Consul Carl Ratazzi had already been a Fremantle resident for almost 2 decades. Along with his position as Consul, he was an established shipping merchant and representative of the Norddeutsche Lloyd. Accused of being a German spy, he was interned during World War I alongside many other Germans living in WA at the time. This paper aims to provide background information on the German Consulate in Fremantle with a specific focus on one of its most interesting characters, Consul Ratazzi. Furthermore, it aims to investigate whether the accusations of espionage were justified or not. *Sebastian Boch* is an honours student at the University of Western Australia completing a Bachelor of Arts in History and German Studies (Hons).

FROM BELMONT MUSEUM:

Belmont Museum Conversation: A Night at the Museum

Join in our Halloween Night Tour of the Belmont Museum, with eerie folktales by Jenni Woodroffe. Jenni is a former President of the Storytelling Guild of Australia (WA) and has toured the world telling stories. This Halloween she'll be telling stories with artefacts from the Museum collection.

Place: Belmont Museum

Date: Wednesday, 31 October 2012

Time: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Arrive 6pm for light refreshments

Free entry, bookings essential. To book please telephone 9477 7150, email libinfodesk@belmont.wa.gov.au or visit the Belmont Museum in Elizabeth Street, Cloverdale.

FROM FREMANTLE PRISON:

From Convicts to Carrollup: A History of Fremantle Prison Art

Thursday 1 November, 5.30pm

In the late 1970s pioneering art teacher Steve Culley transformed the Fremantle Prison art program from traditional watercolour painting into a course where 'ideas unfold in the mind and lock into the creator's hands, as each pursues his own style of art'. (Shackles prison newsletter, Spring 1984). Jimmy Pike developed his unique style as a pupil of Steve Culley's whilst serving time at Fremantle Prison.

In this evening talk, Fremantle Prison's curatorial staff will speak about the history of the prison art program and explore the richness and diversity of the Fremantle Prison art collection, which encompasses graffiti, murals, painted furniture, and more traditional works on paper and canvas.

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, The University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Cnr Fairway, Crawley.

FROM COTTESLOE RSL SUB BRANCH:

FREDERICK BELL VC MEMORIAL LECTURE PRESENTED BY MR ROB O'CONNOR QC

Friday 9 November 2012 6pm for 6.30pm

Cottesloe Civic Centre War Memorial Hall, 109 Broome Street, Cottesloe

The life and times of Northam's Victoria Cross winner Hugo Throssell has just been highlighted by the publication of his biography *The Price of Valour* by John Hamilton. And, on Friday, November 9, the remarkable valour and gallantry of York's Victoria Cross winner Lieutenant Lawrence Dominic McCarthy will be honoured by the 2012 Lt Frederick Bell VC Memorial Lecture hosted by the Cottesloe RSL sub-branch at the Cottesloe Civic Centre.

RSVP by Monday 5 November to Dr Neville Green AM, Hon Secretary Cottesloe RSL sub branch, email marnev18@y7mail.com, ph 9304 5182 or Sherilee, Events Coordinator, Town of Cottesloe, email cdo@Cottesloe.gov.au, ph 9285 5000.

❖ **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 December 2012** and can be sent to the editor Malcolm Allbrook at malcolm@allbrookjebb.com.au.

❖ **PHA (WA) Management Committee 2012-2013:**

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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.

To establish, maintain and promote a code of practice.

To maintain a Register of 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

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