

State Library of Western Australia

KNOWIT *magazine*

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Special edition
Historical Records
Rescue Consortium
(HRRC)

From the CEO



State Librarian Margaret Allen.

Libraries all over the world are faced with a significant challenge to the preservation of their rich and unique heritage collections. Collections all over the world are under threat, not due to neglect or mistreatment, but because of decay.

The problem lies in the chemical nature of the materials on which these collections are based and their gradual break down over time, usually leaving the content of the item totally unusable.

The State Library of Western Australia's collections are similarly at risk and the Library directs significant resources to preserving Western Australia's unique heritage materials, however it is a huge task. Newspapers, films and photographs recording both special events and everyday life of Western Australians over the last 175 years hold immense value for researchers and family historians as a record of our history. As many of these records are unique, their decay would mean they would be lost to future generations.

Thanks to the efforts of the Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) and Lotterywest these efforts will receive a significant boost over the next two years.

The HRRC was born from concern for the future of the irreplaceable collections held by the State Library and a desire to do something concrete and substantial to assist.

This issue of KNOWIT focuses on the story of the HRRC and its campaign to raise funds for the preservation of materials for the benefit of current and future generations of Western Australians. You can also learn more about the processes involved in the preservation of the heritage collections.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the HRRC for their support of the work of the Library and also for the financial support of HRRC by Lotterywest. I particularly wish to acknowledge the work of Dr Pamela Statham Drew, who led the HRRC over nearly two years and Dr Ronda Jamieson, former Director, Batty Library who's knowledge of and passion for preserving heritage collections supported the HRRC to achieve this wonderful outcome.

Cover image:
Illustrations Ltd Winfred Wells on her
return from her journey across
Australia, 16th January 1951.
[234761PD]



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Hon. Premier Dr Geoff Gallop and Dr Pamela Statham Drew.

On Friday 16 September 2005 the Hon. Premier Dr Geoff Gallop officially launched the Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) project. Dr Pamela Statham Drew, President of the HRRC committee, accepted the \$3m cheque from Lotterywest that will fund the rescue of significant historic records for future generations.

An historic moment

In his remarks to launch the project, the Premier commented that history belongs to all of us. Being able to trace our particular story - whether it's our family, our community or our state - is something very precious and important. No one has understood this better than those who have worked to build up the Batty Library's remarkable collection of historical records, including newspapers, books, maps, photographs, films and oral histories. This wonderful collection encapsulates our past in words, pictures and voices. It is a terrible irony, that having worked so hard to collect and save this material for future generations, much of it will be lost forever very soon unless something is done. Not through neglect or mistreatment but simply through decay.

Saving these records is a huge task and it's a race against time. It would be easy to despair and resign ourselves to the inevitable loss of these records. Thankfully, there are people who refuse to allow Western Australia's heritage to be lost and who are prepared to fight to save it. And

with the support of the Western Australian community and Lotterywest, they have literally mobilised a rescue mission.

The launch, held at the State Library of WA, provided the perfect occasion to celebrate the efforts of the HRRC committee in securing Lotterywest funding and to acknowledge the generosity of Lotterywest and the Western Australian community for their support. The event served as a milestone to mark the beginning of this groundbreaking project. The Premier also launched a website which will allow the community to follow and participate in the progress of the rescue mission of our historic records.

Celebrating at the launch were the members of the HRRC committee, Lotterywest staff, including Clyde Bevan, Chairman and Jan Stewart, CEO, Margaret Allen, State Librarian, and Jennie Carter, Director, J.S. Batty Library of West Australian History, and many friends and supporters from the Western Australian community. 

An interview with the President

Dr Pamela Statham Drew is President of the Historical Records Rescue Consortium and has been active in fighting to save our historical materials. She spoke to Jennie Carter, Director of the Battye Library, about the grant the consortium received from Lotterywest and how it will benefit present and future researchers.



Members of the Historical Records Rescue Consortium from Left to Right: Jan McCahon-Marshall, Lindsay Peet, Pat Griffiths, Lennie McCall, Jennie Carter, Nick Drew, Pamela Statham Drew, Margaret Allen, Ian Scott, Ronda Jamieson, Marilyn Dimond, Cherie Strickland, Gillian O'Mara. Front: Kristy Bizacca.

Jennie : The \$3 million grant received from Lotterywest is the culmination of a long campaign to rescue deteriorating Western Australian newspapers, photographs and films. It is a wonderful achievement so could you tell us what the project aims to achieve over the next two years?

Pamela : We are conscious that we cannot do everything, and although \$3 million sounds like, and is, a lot of money, it really is only a small part of what is required to preserve every item currently held in the Battye Library. I

must mention, of course, that the existence of deteriorating heritage materials is not unique to Western Australia, it is a global issue and no government, library or archives in the world has been able to solve the problem within its own resources. The Premier and the State Government are very supportive, but there are so many competing demands on resources.

We have to concentrate on the most at-risk and in-demand materials and in determining what these are, have been guided by the community's response to an extensive consultation process which was held in 2004.

Top of the list is newsprint, so a large part of the project will be to microfilm major daily and regional newspapers. It has been estimated that this project will microfilm over 700,000 pages of newsprint. People might wonder why we choose to microfilm rather than digitise newspapers and provide electronic access to researchers. The reason is that microfilm is a stable, long-lived medium which is easily preserved and reproduced and the new polyester based microfilms are expected to last for up to 500 years. At present it is also quicker to digitise from microfilm rather than scan each original newspaper page, and it is hoped that

sometime in the near future we will be able to provide online access to our major Western Australian newspapers.

It is also crucial that we save photographs, and in particular, deteriorating negatives, which are being lost through a process known as 'vinegar syndrome'. When acetate based plastic negatives decay, they give off a distinctive vinegar smell which is often the first clue that deterioration has set in. If not checked, the negatives become distorted or 'channelled' and eventually the image is lost completely.

The only way to save such negatives is to copy them to a more stable polyester base, which is a very slow process, or to digitise them on sophisticated scanning equipment and save the resultant image files on digital storage servers provided by the State Library and the Department of Culture and the Arts. Over the next two years, the project will scan 75,000 photographs and provide online access to 20,000 selected images through the State Library's catalogue.

The final items to be saved by the HRRC project will be 150 unique Western Australian films. These films range from documentaries through to personal home movies and give a fascinating glimpse of our society in the 20th century. We have not included commercially produced feature films as the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) in Canberra is responsible for preserving these types of film. The films we hope to save will be selected by State Library staff as the most at-risk and sent to a specialised laboratory in Sydney for copying to archival quality film because there are no comparable facilities here in the West.

Once preserved, DVD copies will be made of the films and these will be accessible to the community either by viewing in the State Library, or by request through the Statewide public library system. Films of particular interest to some regions, for example footage of the Kimberley or of the Goldfields, will be provided as DVD copies to the relevant

regional library to make them more accessible to country people.

Jennie : The consortium has worked hard and done a wonderful job in alerting the community to the potential loss of historic records. Can you tell us about HRRC and the organisations represented on it?

Pamela : It all started when the former Director of the Battye Library, Ronda Jamieson, approached the Friends of the Battye Library (Inc.) for assistance in publicising the crisis of deteriorating materials and applying for a substantial grant to help save them. Ronda has worked tirelessly in setting up the rescue operation and assessing the size and seriousness of the task ahead of us all. The Friends committee was well aware that there are members of other groups and societies who would be just as concerned about the potential loss of precious records, so we called a meeting of the executives of all the 'history' type groups we knew about and from that meeting the Historical Records Rescue Consortium was born. We chose the executives of these organisations, so that if someone stands down, there will always be someone else elected to the position.

The HRRC members are currently drawn from the Friends of Battye Library, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, the Western Australian Genealogical Society, the History Council of WA, the Professional Historians Association, the Oral History Association, the Ethnic Communities Council, and the Australian Mining History Association. Also involved were representatives from private donors, the State Library Custodians, and the Indigenous community. When we first got together on the evening of 18 August 2003, we represented some 6000 members of our various societies and I was confident that we could demonstrate to Lotterywest that we had extensive support for the rescue effort! To prove that we were not just preaching to the converted, Lotterywest asked us to produce evidence to show wider support and helped with a grant to

employ community consultants who conducted surveys, interviews, and focus group sessions with a wide variety of people. It was a marvellous exercise and because of it, we could prove that the community cared deeply about Western Australia's documentary heritage and were concerned about its possible disappearance.

Jennie : There has been a lot of community interest in the lead up to the announcement of the Lotterywest grant. How will people find out more about what is happening as the project progresses?

Pamela : Now that the project is established, a smaller management committee has been formed which includes the President of HRRC and two vice-presidents drawn from the other organisations, the secretary and the Friends of Battye Library treasurer. Also included as non-voting members are the Project Manager, and the Director of the Battye Library. There is also a quarterly meeting of the full Consortium. Detailed reports on progress will be submitted monthly to the management committee and a summary provided each quarter to the full Consortium. In addition we have set up a HRRC website, the details of which are provided elsewhere in this edition of Knowit. We will be posting progress reports on this site at least each quarter. We welcome any comments, questions and feedback from the community through the email address on the web-site.

Halfway through the project we will have a viewing of films and a special function, to celebrate progress to date and at its completion we will have another special celebration. Throughout the next two years I expect that Lotterywest will issue media releases and we hope to interest the press in what is being achieved. As mentioned, DVDs of saved films and microfilms of regional newspapers will be made available through the system of State public libraries for members of the public to access.

All I can say at this point is 'Watch this space!' Interesting and exciting times are ahead of us.



Working to save our heritage

Preparing newspapers to a standard suitable for microfilming is immensely challenging work. High quality preparation is essential in producing the best possible microfilm. Preparation involves a variety of different tasks, some of which are described here.



Fiona Caratozzolo assessing negatives.
Inset: Conservator Jonathan Schmidt washing newspapers

The poor condition of originals, including poor print and paper quality may cause difficulties in filming. Each page is checked and, where there is more than one copy available, the best copy is chosen. In some cases it is not possible to obtain a 'perfect' image.

Stripping is the removing of the newspapers from their bindings so that individual pages are separated. Stripping is necessary so each page can be laid flat for filming and to enable a set to be compiled from more than one set of a newspaper. *Cleaning and repairing* includes washing and ironing pages to remove old repairs such as old tissue, repairing tears and restoring pages that are creased or crumbled. While pages cannot always be restored to their original state, the cleaning and repairing provides the best possible copy for filming. *Collating and reel allocations* take place once the newspapers are cleaned and repaired. The best copies are gathered together, prepared in chronological order and separated into the amount allocated to each reel. The title pages and notes which are to be filmed with each reel of prepared newspapers are then prepared.

Before filming, a series of exposure tests are performed to determine the correct density for specific pages. This ensures an even exposure throughout the reel no matter what the newspapers' variations in colour, texture and paper quality. Filming requires a high level of concentration and dedication because of the fragile nature of the newspapers. After filming and processing each reel is carefully checked to make sure the film density of the frame background and the base meet the standards. At the beginning of each reel of film there is a test chart and a microscope is used to measure and record fine detail of the resolution (sharpness) test chart to check that the images on the reel are clear and sharp.

The master film will be stored in a controlled environment which will extend the life of the film to an expected 500 years. The original



Marina Gray preparing newspapers for filming

newspapers will be carefully packed and sent off for safe storage in a temperature and humidity controlled environment to ensure they too last as long as possible.

Pictorial digitisation:

The Battye Library Pictorial Collection holds an estimated 500,000 negatives and transparencies. It is proposed to digitise the most at-risk of these which have the greatest research value.

Assessing and selecting what are the priorities for saving is a time-consuming task, involving a high level of skill and knowledge about the collection and WA history. Many of the materials, such as glass negatives, are extremely fragile and require delicate handling. Specialist conservation staff will prepare the selected images and ready them for scanning. The images selected for digitisation will be scanned on the special high-end scanner equipment and the digital image which is created will be stored with metadata details (information about the digitising of the images) for long-term preservation. This ensures that important part of Western Australia's heritage and culture will have been rescued and saved for future generations in an electronic format.

A selection of the digital images will be linked to the State Library's online catalogue and available to anyone with access to the Internet. The images can

be printed or saved from the catalogue for personal and business research and for use in educational institutions at all levels of education.

Motion Picture Films from the State Film Archives:

Motion picture films from the State Film Archives pose difficult and expensive preservation issues. Most of the collection is at serious risk because the deterioration of acetate stock, used from the 1920s until the 1980s, will result in a complete loss of images without preservation work. The films to be rescued are ones considered of significant research value and where tests have shown that deterioration has commenced giving the film a death sentence.

The selection of films to be saved involves the careful examining and recording of each one's condition. For some films, there are different film components to be assessed. The films will be sent to a specialist preservation laboratory in Sydney and, after consultation about the best method to use, will be copied to a stable polyester film base. Once preserved, the films will be available for all time to be enjoyed by Western Australians. Digital copies of the preserved films will be made so DVD copies will be available to view in the State Library and by loan.

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All the news: Preserving the record of WA's history



Donna Strickland, Collating Co-ordinator, showing the Hon. Premier Dr Geoff Gallop and Clyde Bevan, Chairman of Lotterywest work on the newspapers

Newspapers chronicle the day-to-day events of Western Australia's past and their pages provide a record of contemporary comments on the cultural, social and sporting life of a community.

They are significant research sources for historians, researchers, local and family historians, writers, students and anyone interested in the past. No other source is so rich in the information or so revealing about the details of the everyday lives of West Australians.

The Batty Library holds the most complete collection of Western Australian newspapers in the world. The nearly 1000 separate newspaper titles, both current and ceased, represent complete sets of almost all newspapers issued since 1830, including a few rare

issues in manuscript form. The collection is the most heavily used of all collections in the Library. For most titles only one copy of the newspaper is available. The poor quality of newsprint means it becomes brittle and discoloured over time to the point where pages can no longer be handled or read. Regular use inevitably will damage and speed the process of deterioration. Without microfilming the information will be lost for all time.

All at-risk newspapers should be microfilmed. Preparing newspapers for microfilming is a painstaking and time-

consuming process. The best copy of each issue needs to be found, where necessary conservation treatments done, and then the newspapers filmed. Every frame of microfilm is checked to ensure that filming and processing meets international and Australian standards. These steps are necessary so that when the newsprint of what could be the only copy in existence finally disintegrates, there is certainty that the microfilm copy will survive and that the information has not been lost forever.

Microfilm is an ideal way to preserve newspapers and the Batty Library has been microfilming for over 50 years. With constantly improving technology some of the earliest filmed newspapers need to be re-filmed. Because these papers were filmed and only the microfilm copy has been used, the original newspapers can be retrieved from their special storage areas, properly prepared and re-filmed. Microfilm is relatively cheap to produce, and comparatively easy to reproduce. Correctly processed and stored, the archival master should have a life span of 500 years.

The HRRC project aims for newspaper preservation are ambitious. In just two years about 2000 reels of microfilm, well over one million pages, will be produced. The newspapers to be done represent all of the most at risk regional and metropolitan newspapers identified as important during the community consultation.

A further vital aspect of the project is improved access. Microfilm copies of regional newspapers will be provided to regional libraries to allow greater access to local communities.

There is the added advantage that microfilm can be digitised in future. This means that every page captured on microfilm can be made available online and accessible to anyone with access to the Internet. Recent developments will enable keyword searching of digitised newspapers; a real boon for researchers. This will allow people to search for names of family members, locations or subjects and retrieve pages in seconds, compared with the hours it takes to search for the same information on microfilm.

Images of the past



Sir Frederick Samson, Mayor of Fremantle,
greeting HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother,
1 April 1966. [85,334P]

The Battye Library's Pictorial Collection is a major beneficiary of the HRRC project and work is underway to digitise at-risk images from both the negative and print collections.

Negatives are the true original photographic image and their preservation is very important. Digitising of deteriorating negatives and prints, allows us to obtain the best quality image through the scanning process. There are three distinct negative collections requiring preservation: nitrate; acetate; and glass.

The earliest mass-produced negative images were on glass. Glass negatives are fairly stable if they are properly stored but can become brittle with age and are naturally prone to breakage.

The first flexible photographic film was on a nitrate base. It was introduced in 1889 and made photography accessible to the mass market. Subsequently, acetate-based film was introduced in the 1930s to replace nitrate as the common film base. Millions of negatives were created on nitrate and acetate up until the 1950s.

Unfortunately, both nitrate and acetate films have proved chemically unstable. As they break down, nitrate negatives become sticky and then brittle before turning to a brownish powder. Deteriorating acetate negatives have a strong acidic smell that is referred to as 'vinegar syndrome'. These negatives shrink, becoming warped, brittle and channelled with a network of lines where the base and image have separated. All nitrate and acetate negatives have to be considered at-risk because of their chemical instability.

The Pictorial Collection has received many donations of photographic prints that do not have surviving negatives. The chemical process used in the production of prints can be the agent of the deterioration of the images although other factors such as prolonged exposure to light, poor storage conditions, incorrect handling, insect damage and atmospheric pollution can accelerate image loss. There are many prints in the collection with faded images or chemical reaction occurring and these too, require digitising to ensure the future availability of the image.

Colour prints and transparencies are more at risk than good quality black and white as the colours can fade or begin to take a green or blue tinge. People who have old 35mm colour transparencies may well have seen this problem in their own collections. The computer software being used in the HRRC project will enable the staff to restore colours to the scanned images

so they will be very close to how the original transparencies would have looked when new. Rescue of the library's colour images is a priority.

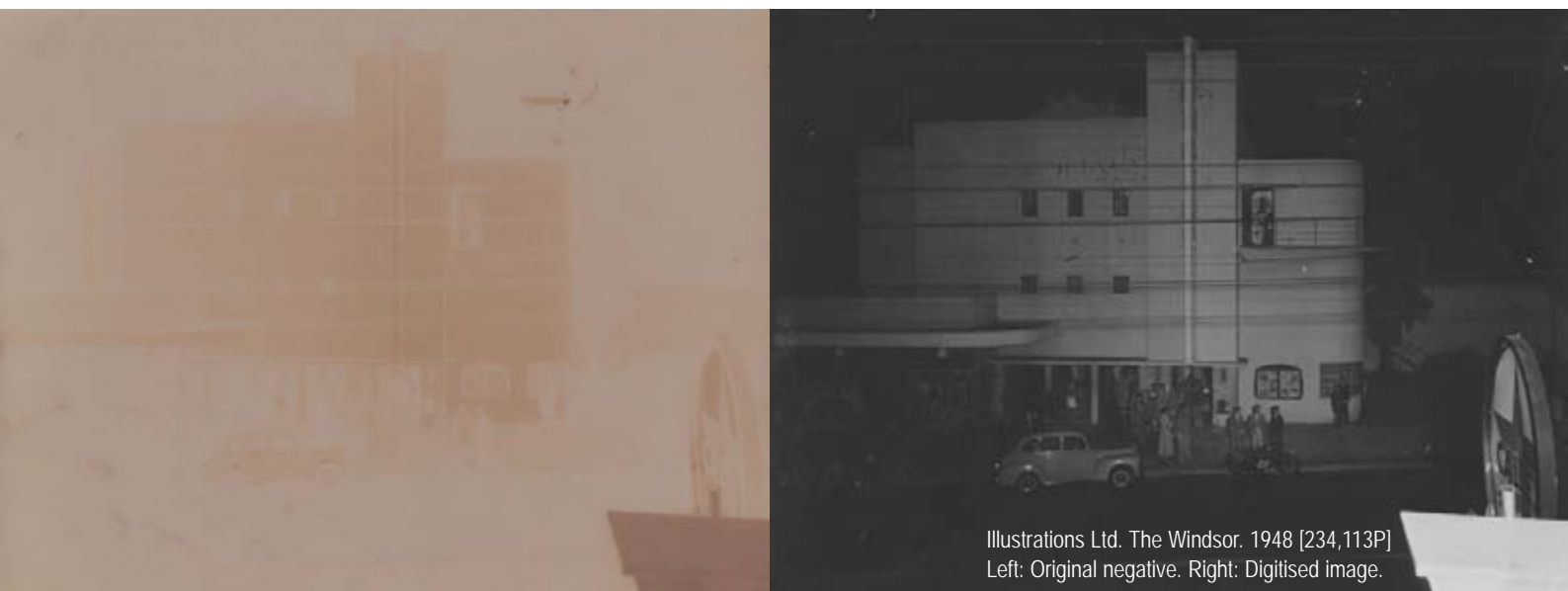
A major effort to prepare collections for scanning is underway. Two processes will provide a continual throughput of work for the HRRC project staff. The first is to go through master lists of the glass, nitrate and acetate negative formats scattered throughout different collections. Metadata on each negative is compiled so that when an image is scanned all relevant information is available and a full catalogue record can be made. It is

available through the bound image volumes in the Battye Library reading room or by viewing the originals in the researchers' room. Very few have been made accessible online previously. The equipment and software provided through the HRRC project will enable new scans to be made to a much higher resolution and quality, with image enhancement where appropriate.

As staff prepare images for the project, they face challenges about the best way to scan the negative and 'best practice' guidelines are being devised. These include instructions on what to do when

How should these be treated? There are many other complex questions. Assessing pictorial material certainly isn't just a matter of continually scanning one image after another!

While Battye Library staff will be heavily involved in the HRRC project, the project will have its own staff including librarians, library technicians, specialist imaging and conservation technicians. The new staff will be appointed for two years to undertake much of the preparation of material for scanning and they will work closely with the Battye Library Pictorial and Private Archives



intended that batches of each format will be regularly fed into the project. The second process is for complete individual collections to be appraised, many of which have never been properly processed and made available to the

an original negative has been 'masked' to crop details that were not wanted on the original print, for example such things as photographic studio props. There are also cases where one negative can contain two or more

Collection staff. Project staff will also provide the online catalogue records which will give the public access to the images which have been scanned and preserved.

Metadata on each negative is compiled so that when an image is scanned all relevant information is available and a full catalogue record can be made.

public, and images selected from them for scanning. In any collection there can be images that are unsuitable or inappropriate for scanning and appraisal staff will select the unique and best quality images that reflect the history and diversity of Western Australia.

Some images which will be scanned in the HRRC project already have been

images. Should the whole negative be scanned as one image or should each image be scanned separately or should the negative be scanned in its entirety and then each image alone? Studio portraits have been found to be touched up. There may be a negative with the 'true', untouched portrait, and one with the 'improved' portrait, which perhaps makes the subject look years younger.

The Battye Library's Pictorial Collection has always been a major source of images for publications and displays, personal interest and research, and gifts. The HRRC project will provide access to a large proportion of the collection never before available and unlock treasures from our past for all Western Australians to see and share.



Film for the future

The State Film Archives, one of the Battye Library's unique archival collections, identifies, collects, preserves and makes accessible Western Australia's motion picture heritage.

Several years ago staff of the Battye Library realised that our collection of mainly 16mm safety film was deteriorating. The evidence for this was obvious. The collection was literally 'on the nose'.

Almost all of the films in the State Film Archives are made on acetate film, a type of film that was considered a very safe alternative to nitrate and commonly referred to as 'Safety Film'. The State Film Archives has lots of it. Nitrate film is reputed to be dangerous (it will spontaneously combust in the right conditions) and caused very bad cinema fires until it was phased out in the 1940s. Safety film was invented to replace this very unstable, mainly silent era, nitrate film. Although acetate film is far from dangerous, it has been known for some time now that, unfortunately, it holds within its chemical makeup the seeds of its own destruction. Over the decades it began to be noticed that safety film, made from acetate, started giving off a very distinctive 'vinegar' smell. When acetate films begin to degrade acetic acid is released. This is exactly the kind of acid that makes vinegar smell and taste like vinegar.

This became known as 'Vinegar Syndrome' and it is the main sign of physical deterioration. Usually some sort of shrinkage, image and colour fading also accompanies this. Vinegar Syndrome is a chemical process, that once started is unable to be reversed. The release of the acid into the air in the film's canister begins a rapidly accelerating process of film

degradation that can only be stopped by copying onto modern polyester film. Unfortunately for the State Film Archives, we have a large amount of this deteriorated film.

It has literally taken years of the Battye Library's Curatorial and Preservation staff time to investigate and work out up-to-date strategies of what to do to preserve these vital moving image archives of Western Australia's history. The scale of the problem had to be measured and the condition of all the films in the State Film Archives have had to be assessed and the amount of deterioration ascertained. A lot of work has gone into identifying unique Western Australian footage, inspecting it and recording its physical frailties. Vinegar Syndrome affected films have been identified and strategies have been put in place to save them. This work is ongoing.

At risk films date from the 1920s and include those depicting Western Australia's celebrations, settlement, economic development, the North West and the Kimberley regions, tourism promotion, changing attitudes also include very rare 'home movies' depicting our landscape and unique Western Australian lifestyle. Some of the more recent films dating from the 1960s and 1970s, especially those depicting Western Australia's mining boom, are in danger of being lost forever

because some of the film stock used to make them, is now in dire condition 40 years later. These at risk films are a unique historical resource. The Battye Library has slowed the rate of deterioration by storing the films at low temperatures and appropriate humidity, but ideally, deteriorated films should be repaired and transferred to more stable polyester film stock. From these new films the Battye Library will be able to also create digital access to our moving image history.

Under proper storage conditions polyester film has estimated to have a life expectancy over 200 years. Acetate films older than about 30 years, are displaying severe vinegar syndrome degradation and therefore it is imperative to save our Western Australian film heritage before it is too late. Unfortunately the processes involved in properly preserving these films can no longer be carried out in Western Australia and are very expensive, as is the provision of appropriate digital (DVD) access.

Funding from HRRC will mean that Western Australia's moving image history from the 20th Century will be transferred to stable film stock that we won't have to worry about for at least 200 years. Through the provision of digital and DVD access these fascinating depictions of Western Australian life will be available to a 21st Century audience.

Acetate film affected by vinegar syndrome.

One of the key outcomes of the HRRC project is to provide access to the collections for the community.

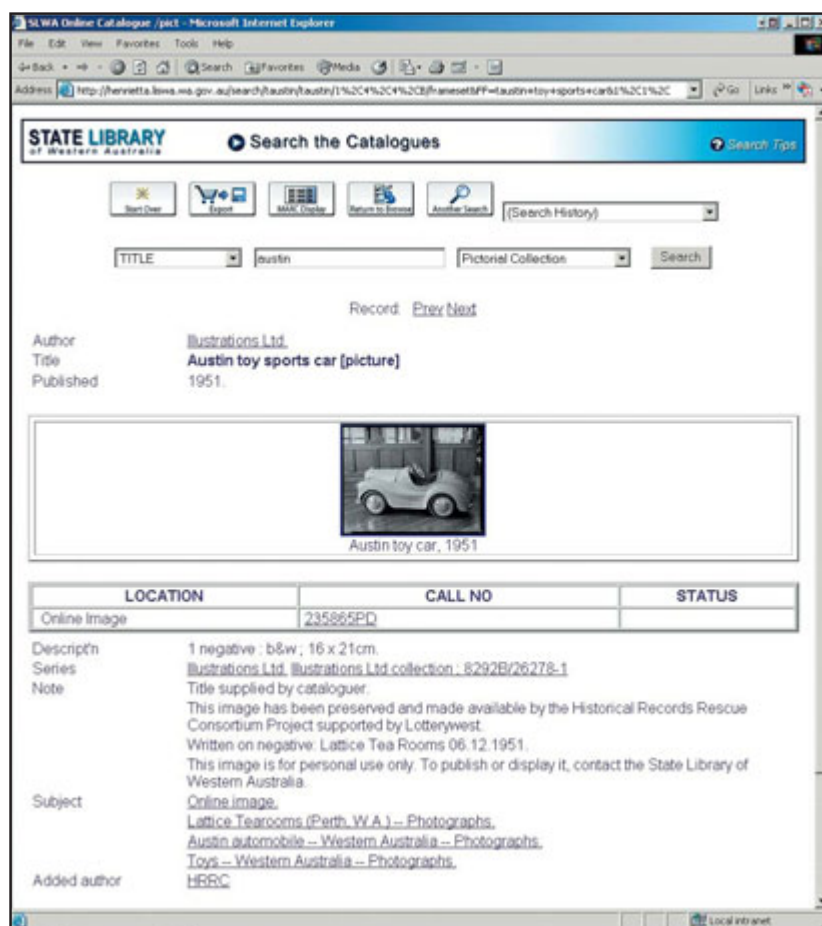
Resources rescued by HRRC are described and made available for viewing through the State Library's online catalogue, the National Bibliographic Database and, for the pictorial collections, via PictureAustralia to ensure that the broader Australian community can access these wonderful treasures.

Each photographic image, newspaper and film is described according to international standards and recorded on the library catalogue of the State Library. The catalogue records and linked images are available for viewing both within the library, and remotely via the Internet. Members of the public can search the State Library's online catalogue to discover links to resources saved by HRRC.

The catalogue record for each image saved by the project includes a statement acknowledging the support of the Historical Records Rescue Consortium project. This allows the community to limit their catalogue search to those resources saved by HRRC and, in doing so, to view the growing collection saved as a result of HRRC.

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Searching, access and description of collections



An example of a catalogue record and linked image

How to discover links to online photographic images saved by HRRC

Albany R&R Team at the Women's Surf Carnival, 1961. 006847D



1. Go to the homepage of the State Library of Western Australia at: <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au>
2. Click on: **Search the catalogue**
3. Click on: **Pictorial** to limit your search to the pictorial collection
4. Click on: **Keyword**
5. Enter: the keyword of your choice (eg. Bathing suits)
You will see a list of resources containing your keywords
6. Click on: the title of a record (or the text '[more information](#)') to view more details
7. Click on: the thumbnail image (or the text '[view photograph](#)') to see the full image.

Note: For images saved by the Project, add **Historical Records Rescue Consortium** or **HRRC** to your keyword search. This will limit your search to specific records saved by HRRC.

Want to know more about the Project?

The Hon. Premier Dr Geoff Gallop launched the Historical Records Rescue Consortium website on Friday 16 September 2005. The website is available at <http://www.fobl.org.au/hrrc/>.

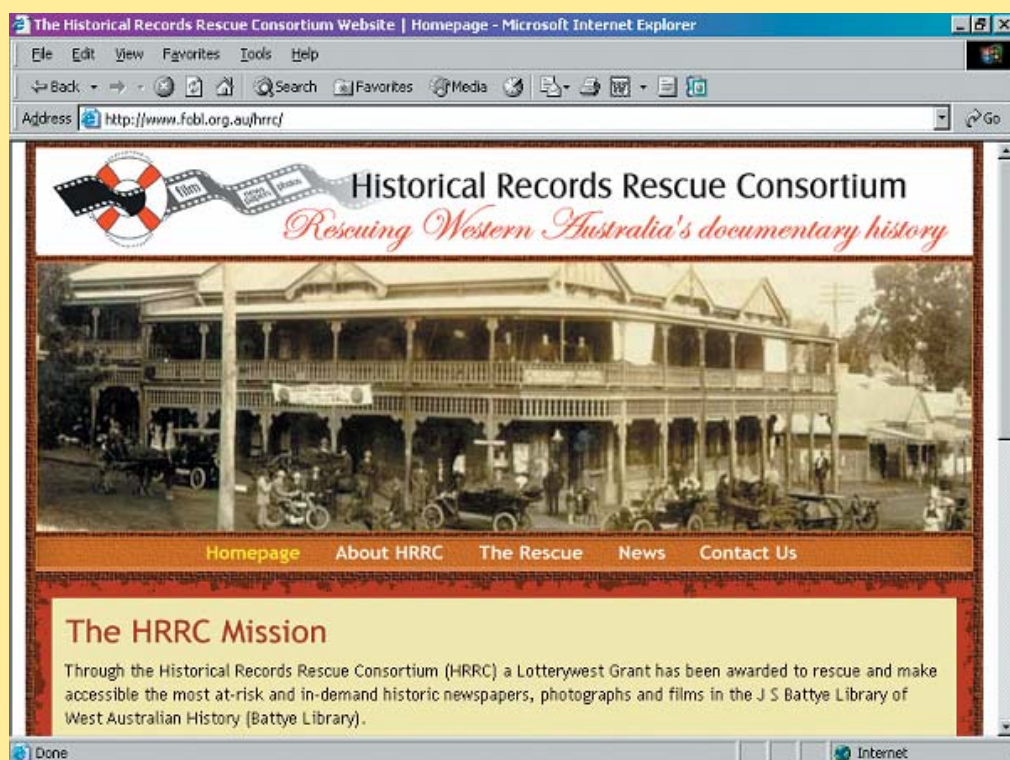
The HRRC project is a result of broad community support and enthusiasm for preserving WA's heritage. The HRRC website provides an overview of the HRRC project and will allow the community to continue to participate and keep up to date with important milestones and exciting achievements over the next two years.

On the website you can find out about the project aims and about the many different groups and individuals who are involved. This information is on the 'About HRRC' and the 'Rescue' website pages. Here you will find out why saving these records is so important and details of the members of the Consortium.

The website will also include regular updates on the 'News' page. A special feature will be the 'Treasure of the Day', examples of some of the unique items that have been rescued. New treasures will be added to the site regularly so don't forget to visit often to keep up-to-date on the project.

You can register your support for the project or provide feedback and comments via the 'Contact Us' section.

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Treasure of the day



One of the images rescued: 'Mother and Daughter', Jean Gore, wife of photographer Stuart Gore, with one of their twin daughters c1935. [041254PD]



Every time you play, you help make a dream come true, and Lotterywest's dream is that our State's diverse heritage be kept alive for future West Australians. That's why projects that help us conserve or understand our natural, built and cultural landscape are supported through Lotterywest Heritage Grants. All Lotterywest grants come from the money you spend on Lotterywest games.

lotterywest