

**State Library**  
of Western Australia

**KNOWIT**  
*magazine*

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2006 NO.277



In this edition



**Let the games begin:**  
A pictorial history of the VII<sup>th</sup> British Empire  
and Commonwealth Games



# From the CEO

State Librarian Margaret Allen.

It is an exciting period for us at the State Library as we enter into a new era having launched our Strategic Directions 2006 - 2008 and a restructure that commenced in July. Most staff participated in workshops to design the best options for the Library to meet the demands of its clients and also meet our obligations to State and Local Governments. The new-look Library comprises only three directorates: Client Services, Resource Services and Strategic and Corporate Services. I wish

to thank all our staff for their effort in helping the organisation restructure itself and in the coming months and years ahead, look forward to seeing the benefit of our efforts come to fruition.

We were fortunate to have been donated hundreds of negatives that are a complete photographic journey of the 1962 Commonwealth Games held in Perth. It is thought that the negatives were supplied to Sivvers Photography for processing public orders after the

Games. This collection has been digitised and added to our catalogue.

We are thankful to the generosity of David Booth and his family for donating a facsimile of the Penny Edition Domesday Book. The book is now available for all Western Australians to view and appreciate one of Britain's greatest treasures. It is through bequests like this that benefits our collections for all to share now and in the future.

## Back Issues

**KNOWIT** Magazine is the official newsletter of State Library of Western Australia. It includes news about what is happening at the State Library and items of interest from public libraries throughout Western Australia.

Back Issues of **KNOWIT** are available by contacting the State Library of Western Australia. **KNOWIT** is also online in PDF format at:  
[www.slwa.wa.gov.au/knowit.html](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/knowit.html)



# Cover Image

Let the Games begin:  
A pictorial history of the VIIth British Empire and Commonwealth Games.  
Full story on page 8



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# ***MOVING INTO***

## Changes at the State Library

# **THE FUTURE:** of Western Australia

The State Library of Western Australia has developed its Strategic Directions 2006-2008 (available online at <http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au/sdir0608.html>) to guide its future direction.

The *Strategic Directions* defines the mission of the State Library of Western Australia as:

**"To enrich the lives of Western Australians by:**

- enabling access to resources for information, learning, enterprise and recreation
- collecting and preserving our social and documentary heritage for current and future generations."

For the first time the State Library has identified collecting and preserving a significant set of Western Australian material as one of its three stated major outcomes. This recognizes the State Library's unique role and responsibility as a collector and custodian of the State's documentary heritage.

As part of the Strategic Directions implementation, the State Library has recently gone through a major restructuring process as part of the process of transforming its operations and services to successfully achieve its aspiration to be an information and library service of the twenty first century. The new-look State Library comprises three directorates: Client Services, Resource Services, and Strategic and Corporate Services.



High school students learning how to use the State Library's online catalogue

As befits the State Library's client service focus, the new Client Services directorate will bring together expertise and services to meet the information needs of Western Australians, no matter where in the State they may reside. The philosophy underpinning the service will be to '*help people to learn to help themselves*' using both the resources of the State Library and other high quality sources. A key part of the transformation will be the development of in-house specialist services, for example in the areas of genealogy and business information, driven by user demand.

The State Library continues to recognize the unique and powerful partnership that it enjoys with the public libraries in the State in delivering services to the Western Australian community. A shared vision with Local Government exists of a sustainable and responsive network of vibrant, connected, well-resourced, free public libraries that are hubs of community life. The State Library will work with local government to look at future directions for the WA public library network to ensure that future activities build a dynamic partnership for the greater good of Western Australians.

Resources Services will manage the acquisition of and access to the range of information sources that are available to clients through their State Library, including the public library

network. Resources imply both materials that are owned and held by the State Library, as well as other materials that can be accessed through the State Library either physically or electronically. Finite financial resources mean that the focus will be on developing heritage collections of specific Western Australian importance. Other heritage and specialist collections will be maintained, but will not necessarily be added to significantly. In addition to our heritage and specialist collections, the State Library will continue to acquire reference material as is deemed appropriate driven by factors such as the need for easy local availability, or usage levels. The State Library will continue to play a key role in the provision and management of public library resources in partnership with public libraries.

Strategic and Corporate Services will lead and manage corporate services for the State Library. This area will support public programs such as marketing, exhibitions, publications and events, as well as Facilities Management which coordinate venue hire and building maintenance. A key new area created in the re-structure is Digital Services which will lead the innovative development of the State Library's information technology environment, including Web 2.0 technologies, to provide resource and information services suited to the twenty-first century.



# Singing Western Australia: highlighting WA Musical Memories Online and MusicAustralia.

In celebration of Senior's Week in WA, the State Library recently presented a concert that gave the audience access to the Western Australian sheet music collection, both aurally and visually.

**S**inging Western Australia was devised by Allison Fyfe and Kylie Smith to both entertain and educate and, by all accounts, it did just that. The hour-long concert, presented by baritone Robert Hofmann and pianist Tommaso Pollio, contained 11 pieces from the sheet music collection. Most of this material was digitised on either WA Musical Memories Online (the WA portal to MusicAustralia) or on MusicAustralia itself. The repertoire included Fair Western Land, a stirring Elgar-esque anthem written in celebration of the State's centenary in 1929 (a real candidate for a National Anthem should WA ever secede!), and The Gallant Light Horse, celebrating the contribution of the 10th Light Horse Regiment, formed during the First World War when it was realised that an entire mounted regiment could be composed of West Australians.

The performances were enhanced by projected images from the State Library's pictorial collection, and created a nostalgic and patriotic look at WA. Photos such as the old Boan's

building lit up for the centenary, various eras of beachgoers at Cottesloe, and the caravan park at Esperance elicited continuous murmurs of recognition from the audience.

Kylie Smith gave a brief overview of the State Library's Historical Records Rescue Consortium, (a project to rescue and make available the most at risk and in demand historical records held in the collections of the State Library of WA), WA Musical Memories Online, and MusicAustralia. Allison Fyfe delivered a short discourse on the services available direct from the State Library to the music-loving public. The State Library's music collection was formed as a separate collection over 40 years ago, and has remained one of only two public music libraries in Australia.

Allison then joined Robert in singing a few droll little numbers such as The Narrows Bridge, written for the opening of the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1962; and Beautiful River Swan, a ballad evoking

images of a love affair developing on a lazy twilight sail on the Swan River, which was published in the United States. Wildflower of Western Australia was a quaint melody played to accompany a slide show of intricate colour drawings by famed Western Australian botanical artist Rica Erickson. Everyone joined in to sing the refrain of It's a long way to Western Australia (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.music12348088>) after sitting in silent contemplation of scrolling images of soldiers who had fought in the First World War.

An added bonus was the serendipitous presence of Ron Willis from the National Library, who was visiting WA and able to record the whole concert for posterity. The State Library is grateful for his generosity of time and expertise.

This memorable event garnered very positive feedback from audience members, with many commenting on how much they learnt about both the Library and the State's history.



Kylie Smith and Allison Fyfe with Robert Hofmann and Tommaso Pollio at the concert.

# Let the



A tightly wound roll of 611 negatives donated to the Battye Library by Sivvers Photographers has turned out to be the official photographs of the 1962 Commonwealth Games when unrolled and treated.

The roll began with the opening ceremony and finished with the closing ceremony, with all the sporting action in between. Each negative has a stock number on the image, but as the numbering starts at 120, it is not known if negatives numbered 1-119 still exist.

Prince Philip declared open the VIIth British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth on 11 November 1962 and the closing ceremony was on 1 December. The opening day was also when competition began. The temperature that day reached 105 degrees, the effects of which can be seen in the photographs of a collapsed soldier and athletes drinking water and

sheltering from the sun. Eight hundred and sixty three athletes from 35 countries competed. Australia had the highest medal tally with 38 gold, 36 silver and 31 bronze for a total of 105, followed by England with a total of 78 medals.

According to *The Official History of the VIIth British Empire and Commonwealth Games, 1962*, photography at the Games was handled by a pool arrangement with the main partners being the Australian daily newspapers. All partners of the pool had access to all the photographs. To meet public demand for Games photographs, a local photographer was supplied with copy

Opening ceremony march out parade  
[257100PD]

220

# (Commonwealth) Games begin



negatives of each photograph taken and they arranged distribution and sale. As the donated negatives were not originals, it is thought that the collection now in the Battye Library is the negatives supplied to Sivyers Photographers for public sales.

Many of the photographs were published in the three local newspapers of 1962; the West Australian, the Daily News and The Sunday Times. Some were published in the Sydney Morning Herald, and possibly all of the major Australian newspapers. Many are also published in the two official publications of the Games; *The Official History of the VIIth British Empire and*

*Commonwealth Games, 1962 and A Pictorial Record of the VIIth British Empire and Commonwealth Games.*

All the photographs in this collection (BA1621) have now been added to the State Library of Western Australia's catalogue, with a digital image attached. Identifying each photograph has been challenging. Published photographs have the published caption as the title of the photograph in the catalogue. If it is published in several sources, the caption with the most information has been used as the main title, with other captions noted as sources. In some cases, identification has been possible from the logos and numbers on the

competitor's clothing and the order of individuals in the photographs. As an example, a photograph of a medal presentation for male athletes (with gold to New Zealand, silver to Jamaica and bronze for Australia) can only be Peter Snell, George Kerr and Anthony Blue, who were finalists in the 880 yards race. In another photograph depicting the English rowing team, the State Library was fortunate enough to make contact with silver medallist Bill Barry in England, who was able to identify the other team members.

A wonderful mixture of formal, informal and action photographs, all 10 Commonwealth Games sports are represented in the collection: athletics,



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boxing, cycling, diving, fencing, lawn bowls, rowing, swimming, weightlifting and wrestling. The star shots of the collection are ones of the athletes in action, receiving medals, celebrating their performance or grimacing in pain. This was the Games where Antao Seraphino won Kenya's first athletics gold medal, New Zealand's fencer Melody Coleman won the first gold of the Games and 10 world records were broken in the swimming events. Australian star performers include swimmers Dawn Fraser and Murray Rose, and runners Betty Cuthbert and Ken Roche. Notable Western Australians include swimmer David Dickson and field athlete Ian Tomlinson, who was the first Western Australian to win gold at Perry Lakes Stadium for the hop, step and jump.

The collection is also a useful record of the Games venues, such as the newly built Perry Lakes Stadium, the Beatty Park Aquatic Centre and the Lake Monger Velodrome. The fencing events were held at the Victoria Park Army Drill Hall, and the Canning River near Canning Bridge was where the rowing events took place.

This collection of photographs from the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games portrays the excitement and the enthusiasm of what became known as the 'Friendly Games'.

K

Image 1: Brenda Cox crosses the finish line. [257525PD]

Image 2: Jamaica's Wellesley Clayton jumps 25ft 4.5 in. [257525PD]

Image 3: RAAF and RAF sabres and vulcans fly over the closing ceremony. [257598PD]

Image 4: Prince Philip officially closes the Games. [257596PD]

# Domesday Book

**Thanks to the generosity of Mr David Booth and his family, the State Library of Western Australia is now the custodian of a special limited edition of the Domesday Book.**

The Domesday Book was commissioned in 1085 by William the Conqueror. Having invaded England in 1066, William wanted to know the value of all property in the land in order to administer and apply taxes. Over the next year he sent his men all over England to survey and assess landholdings and livestock. The Domesday Book is therefore a very detailed record of property and resources in England in the Middle Ages. It was said that "there was no single hide nor a yard of land, nor indeed one cow nor one pig which was there left out..." The name "Domesday" was the medieval spelling of "Doomsday", and the title was intended to reflect the authority of the assessors in this ambitious undertaking. The Domesday Book is Britain's earliest surviving public record, fore-shadowing the census records of the 19th century. The original copy, now over 900 years old, is held at the National Archives in Kew, Surrey.

In 1986 this document was taken apart for restoration work and Alecto Historical Editions was invited to make facsimile copies. The binding was removed, each folio was laid flat, and an overhead camera, reputedly the size of a small car, was used to photograph each page. The whole undertaking took nine months but the copying process was so exact that every little blemish is faithfully reproduced.

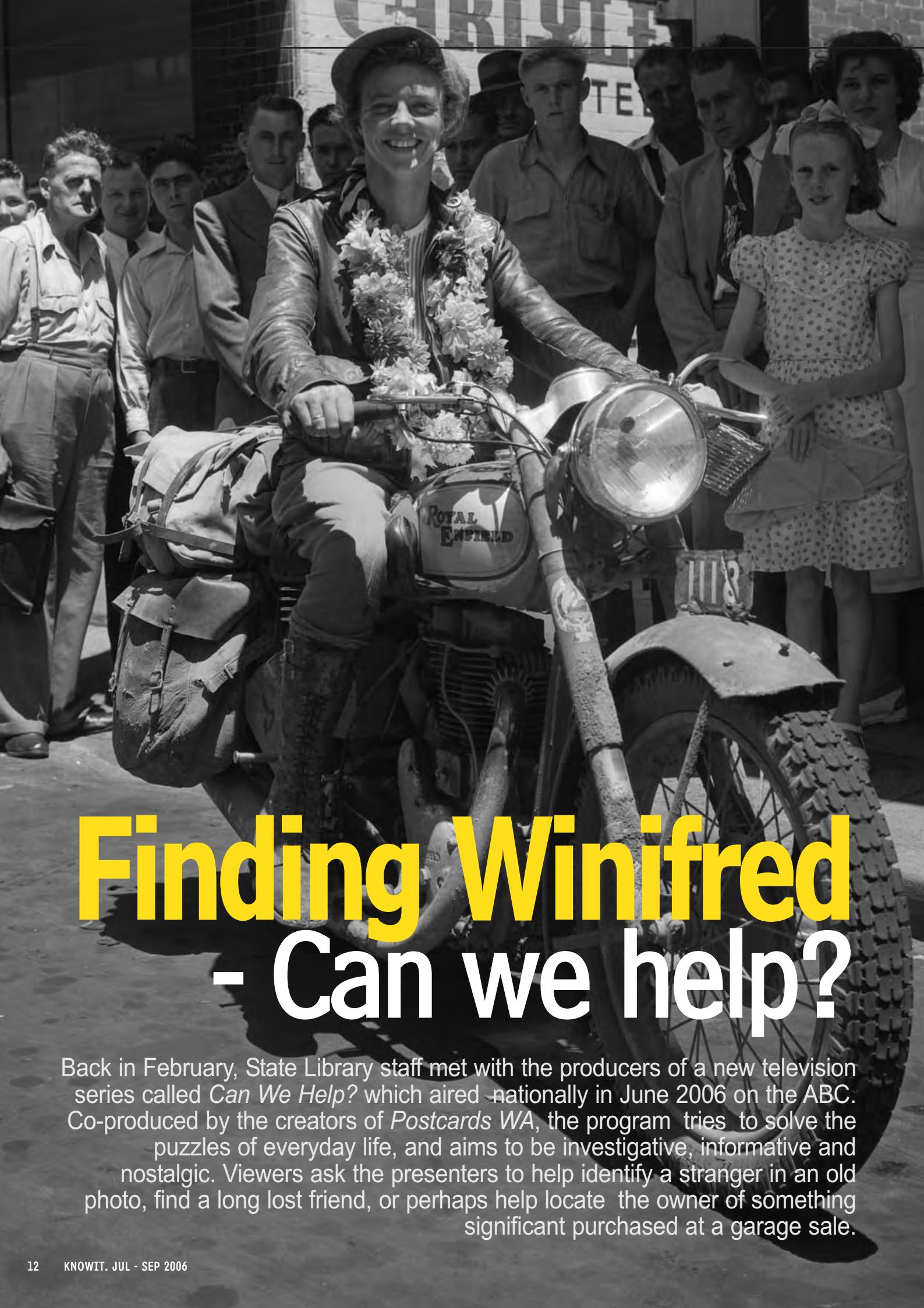
Only 250 copies were produced. The Domesday 'Book' is actually a collection of material: two exact replicas of the Latin folios, and two exact modern English translations (laid out on the page to match the Latin original), an Introduction and explanation for the set, an Explanation of the historical context of the Domesday Book, and two large boxes of County maps with indices. The Domesday surveyors created maps for each of the counties they visited and each facsimile copy has been overlaid with modern County borders. The indices list the places and personal names in the counties included in the Great Domesday survey and most of these can still be traced today, revealing fascinating



Top: The inserted coins within the front cover of the Domesday Book.  
Below: Alison Sutherland accepts the Domesday book from David Booth

details about village life in England 920 years ago. Each of the volumes, like the original, is bound in medieval oak boards with a white leather spine.

The original Domesday Book was a remarkable achievement, which remains one of Britain's greatest treasures. The State Library is very grateful to Mr. Booth for making this beautiful Penny Edition facsimile available to the people of Western Australia. It can be viewed by arrangement at the State Library of Western Australia. **K**



# Finding Winifred - Can we help?

Back in February, State Library staff met with the producers of a new television series called *Can We Help?* which aired nationally in June 2006 on the ABC. Co-produced by the creators of *Postcards WA*, the program tries to solve the puzzles of everyday life, and aims to be investigative, informative and nostalgic. Viewers ask the presenters to help identify a stranger in an old photo, find a long lost friend, or perhaps help locate the owner of something significant purchased at a garage sale.



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

**C**an We Help? is hosted by Peter Rowsthorn (of *Kath and Kim* fame), and fronted by three panelists; Verity James from ABC Perth local radio, Robin Napper, a forensics expert from the University of Western Australia and former Scotland Yard detective, and Grant Stone, a librarian and archivist from Murdoch University. The show is filmed in the Perth ABC studio, and State Library staff provided information on enquiries relating to Western Australia.

One of the stories they asked the Library's help was that of Winifred Wells. Readers of *Knowit* may remember the July-September 2005 edition was devoted to the Historic Records Rescue Consortium, and the cover featured the photograph of a young lady on a Royal Enfield motorcycle. This young lady was Winifred Wells and she had just returned to Perth (on 16 January 1951) from a motorcycle trip to Sydney and back. It is believed that she was the first woman to complete this feat. This photograph attracted the interest of the *Can We Help?* producers. They asked if there was any other information on Winifred, as it may be of interest to viewers to see the research trail which led to her.

A search of the newspapers of the day showed that she was 22 years old when she made the trip, and she lived in Shenton Park. A check of the *Electoral Rolls* provided her full name, Winifred Alison Wells, and the names of her parents, George Fernan and Joyce Wilson Wells. Further searches unearthed she had not married up to 1965 (when marriage indexes cease), she was not listed under her maiden name in the current Western Australian *Electoral Rolls* and she was not included in the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board (MCB) Index as having died (she would now be about 77 years old).

The focus then shifted to her parents. George Fernan Wells had died on 5 May 1964 aged 69, but his death notices did not give any indication that Winifred was married. Joyce Wilson Wells had died on 5 May 1980 aged 85 and her death notices showed that Winifred was now Mrs Beveridge. However, she was not listed in the current Western Australian *Electoral Roll*, nor the MCB index. A check of other States' *Electoral Rolls* unearthed a Winifred Alison Beveridge living in Dromana, Victoria and a look at the online *Telephone Directory* provided her telephone number. The producers of *Can We Help?* rang her, and found her lively and active and thrilled that her epic ride was still of interest.

Many of the questions answered for the program never went to air, as the producers of the show had far more enquiries than they could hope to feature during the show's first season. The most common enquiry involved the tracing of people, which was done with some degree of success. Other enquiries involved ghosts at Guildford, the drowning of a boy at Yallingup and the naming of a park in Mosman Park after the incident, and the tracing of the history of a medal awarded for a shipwreck rescue which, although the ship had the name of one wrecked off the coast of Western Australia, turned out to be the wreck of another ship of the same name off the coast of Scotland. State Library Conservator Jonathon Schmidt was interviewed on how to preserve photographs, while librarian Sue North answered the question on the origin of "Goodie Two Shoes".

The *Can We Help?* series has been extended for another season of 40 episodes, due to commence in February 2007, and the State Library looks forward to assisting the producers in answering questions which relate to Western Australia. **K**

# There are Bunyips @ your library!

The Cultural Centre's July school holiday activities centred on the indigenous perspective, and the National Library's "Bunyips" travelling exhibition, which was on show in the Centre for the Book, provided the focus for the State Library's holiday activities.



"**B**unyip" trails led children to explore various indigenous displays on other floors throughout the Library, and the lure of prizes in the form of Australian children's books, science and natural history puzzles encouraged them to complete a quiz based on those displays.

To encourage children to look closely at the displays, the State Library produced several activity sheets to add to those provided with the Bunyips travelling exhibition, as well as the quiz sheet for the competition. A take-home booklist was also produced. Entitled *Winter Reads*, the booklist included a great mix of titles to encourage children to explore their local public library.

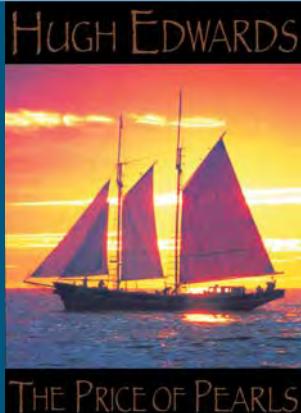
'Art of Fun' was employed to provide art classes to children 6 years and older. The children made Bunyip pictures using techniques taught during the sessions. Younger children were provided with materials to make pictures and collages on the same theme, with each session preceded by storytelling.

January's holiday activities promise sporty summer fun. To tie in with the WA Museum's "Ashes" exhibition, the State Library is presenting sports-themed displays, quizzes and prizes over the summer school holidays. Howzat! **K**



# Battye about Books

**bookswa.com.au**  
The website promoting Western Australian books and WA publishing,  
for authors, publishers, libraries, and readers.

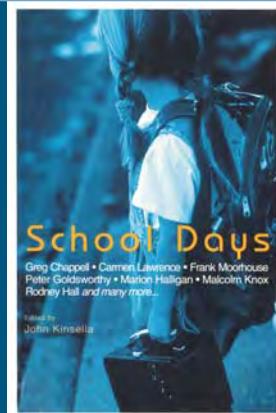


### *The Price of Pearls*

Hugh Edwards

An emotional roller-coaster of a journey which goes deep into the history of Aboriginal life, British upper class society, the tradition of Japanese whaling and the gritty reality of the pearl industry which thrived in the late 19th century. A quintessential blend of accurate history and gripping narrative.

Tangee Publishing, Kalamunda WA, 2006

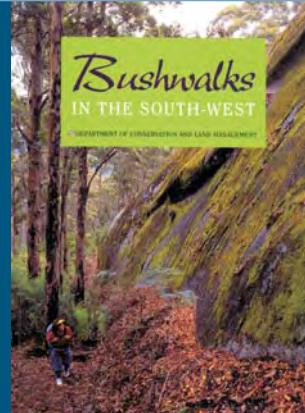


### *School Days*

Edited by John Kinsella

This intriguing collection provides a glimpse into how some well-known Australians (including Greg Chappell, Carmen Lawrence and Peter Sculthorpe) have been influenced by their school days. The stories give insights into the ways school days can define how, as adults, we connect to our parents and friends, communities and society.

Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle WA, 2006

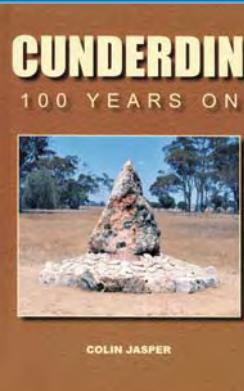


### *Bushwalks in the South-west*

Department of Environment and Conservation

The third in a series of walks books, Bushwalks in the South-west contains maps and descriptions of 49 walks, ranging in length from a few hundred metres to 15 kilometres. This revised and updated edition explores the jarrah, karri and tingle forests, mountains and sea cliffs of the South-west from Mandurah to Esperance.

Department of Environment and Conservation, Kensington WA, 2006

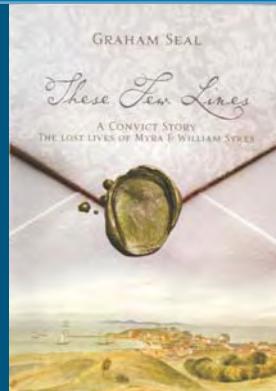


### *Cunderdin: 100 years on*

Colin Jasper

A family history of the Jasper family, from its origins in Cornwall to farming in Cunderdin, this book is also a history of the Cunderdin district over 100 years and of the people who developed it.

Access Press, Bassendean WA, [200-]

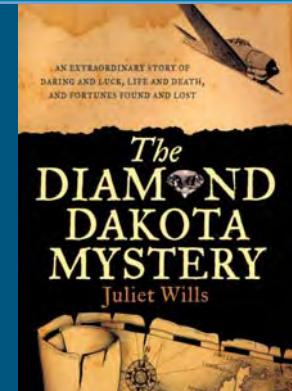


### *These Few Lines: a convict story*

Graham Seal

Graham Seal has written a fascinating historical detective mystery from the letters and journals of William and Myra Sykes. From the poaching expedition to its tragic consequences, William's trials, imprisonment and journey to Australia, his life as a convict there, and Myra's heartbreaking struggle against poverty and loss back in England, their tale will not fail to move readers.

ABC Books, Sydney NSW, 2006



### *The Diamond Dakota Mystery*

Juliet Wills

The true story of an ill-fated DC-3 refugee rescue flight shot down by Japanese fighter planes in 1942, its crash-landing on a remote beach north of Broome, the survival and eventual rescue of the passengers and pilot, and a mysterious brown package on board which contained a fortune in diamonds.

Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest NSW, 2006



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