

*Images of
Western Australia - new photographic
collections donated to Battye Library*





Claire Forte (Acting CEO and State Librarian)

It's hard to believe we are almost at the end of 2001. This has been a particularly busy and challenging year for all of us at LISWA and my thanks go to all staff for their hard work, support and commitment.

There were a number of special awards presented to staff during the last couple of months, including the inaugural Mollie Lukis award for outstanding achievement in archival services, and the Megan Sassi award for excellence in reference librarianship. Congratulations go to the recipients of these awards, all of whom are very deserving of special recognition. The winners are featured in this issue.

We were delighted with the special announcement made on 16 September by the Hon. Sheila McHale, MLA, Minister for Culture and the Arts regarding the funding of \$4 million over 4 years the government has made available for additional resources for public libraries. In addition, LISWA has commenced a project to enhance the timeliness of supply of resources to public libraries. We are pleased to be working in collaboration with our partners on ways of improving services to public libraries.

There are many challenges ahead for us next year and we look forward to keeping you up to date with news of our services, programs and celebrations.

On behalf of everyone at LISWA, I wish all our readers a very happy and safe festive season.

what's on @ THE STATE LIBRARY

Calligraphy Guild of WA's "More Than Words" exhibition

The Calligraphers' Guild of WA Inc. was formed in 1982 to "encourage, assist and extend the craft and art of calligraphy". Every year, the Guild holds a free public exhibition of members' works. This year's exhibition has attracted 82 works, and are on display in the Alexander Library Building's Centre for the Book until 22 November. In conjunction with the exhibition, Guild members are also on hand to demonstrate calligraphic techniques and provide additional information for anyone interested in learning more about this fascinating art form.

At the official opening of the exhibition, Mr Haruhisa Handa (sponsor of the Calligraphers' Guild and calligraphic artist) from Japan presented prizes for the top three works in two categories - the open, and the advanced. The winning works are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| OPEN | ADVANCED |
| 1st - Edna Holloway (<i>Letters</i>) | 1st - Gaye Godfrey (<i>Cloud Cat</i>) |
| 2nd - Olga Mawhinney (<i>In Shadow and in Sunshine</i>) | 2nd - Anne Mead (<i>WorkRestPlay</i>) |
| 3rd - Barbara King (<i>Keep</i>) | 3rd - Anne Mead (<i>My Daughter</i>) |

The Calligraphers' Guild currently has approximately 110 members, and meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Loftus Community Centre, Leederville. They also run regular classes and workshops on calligraphy and related arts. For further information, contact the Guild on (08) 9315 1195.



Gaye Godfrey (1st Prize, Advanced) with Mr Haruhisa Handa in front of her winning entry "Cloud Cat". The "More Than Words" exhibition is open until 22 November in the Centre for the Book, Ground Floor, Alexander Library Building.



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COVER: Two images from the Walker Collection: top - Aberdeen Street Perth, c.1905; bottom - The James Street State School c.1904. Full story on Page 4.

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3 New funding and initiatives for public libraries

Minister announces \$4 million over four years commitment to public libraries and \$500,000 for an enhanced electronic infrastructure within the Library and Information Service of Western Australia.

The City of Canning's Riverton Public Library was the venue for Culture and the Arts Minister, the Hon. Sheila McHale, to announce that the State Government will deliver an election commitment to provide an additional \$4 million over four years in support of public libraries. She also announced that \$500,000 will be made available for the provision of enhanced electronic infrastructure for resource provision for the Library & Information Service of Western Australia.

Representatives from the Western Australian Municipal Association, the Western Australian Local Government Librarians' Association, the Library Board of Western Australia and staff from the Department of Culture & the Arts and the City of Canning were present at the Minister's announcements.

Ms McHale said, "the extra \$4 million will be used to purchase the resources necessary to develop a wider and more comprehensive collection for public use and will see an increase in print and electronic products expanding community access to educational and recreational resources in public libraries."

Ms McHale also said her Department



L-R The Hon Sheila McHale (Minister for Culture and the Arts), Ricky Burges (CEO, WA Municipal Association), Councillor Faye Morgan (City of Canning) and Graham McEachran (Chairman, Library Board WA) at the Riverton Public Library.

will make \$500,000 available for a project to develop enhanced electronic infrastructure within LISWA.

Ms McHale said the project will result in:

- significant benefits to stakeholders and delivery of a high level of service to clients;
- cost efficiencies and increased services to public libraries across WA;

- the fostering of an electronic interchange that will enable local and State government agencies to work more in an e-commerce environment.

Ms McHale said that a steering committee will be established from key stakeholder groups to take responsibility for the overall governance of the project.



Preserving your family archive

Stephanie Baily showing the group some of the material that comes to Preservation Services for treatment.

Some members of the group had brought with them some of their personal treasures, one book dating back to 1836. They were steered in the right direction with information provided in one of LISWA's brochures called *Caring for your Collections*.

As part of the 2001 Seniors' Week program at LISWA, Preservation Services provided two sessions to the public on *Preserving your family archive*. After an induction by Pat Griffiths, Manager Preservation Services, the groups were handed over to LISWA's Senior Conservator, Stephanie Baily.

The session focused on items likely to be found in a family archive such as

paper documents, photographs and negatives. Information included:

- How paper and photographs are made and what causes them to deteriorate.
- How this deterioration can be prevented or at least slowed down.
- How to store and handle collections.
- How to deal with material that is already damaged or degraded.

The session concluded with a tour of the conservation laboratory where people could see items in the process of being repaired or stabilised. They were also shown a simple test, which could easily be carried out in the home, for identifying PVC, a plastic that should be avoided when storing archival collections.

Everyone thoroughly appreciated the information gained and went home to eagerly sort through their own albums.

Preservation, access or both?

The Charles Walker Collection



Ian Walker (great-nephew of photographer Charles Walker), Stephanie Baily (LISWA) and Barbara Judge (Battye Library volunteer).

When working with heritage collections, the dual objectives of preservation and access are foremost in the minds of curators. These objectives are never more difficult or challenging than when working with pictorial materials. How to ensure that the material will survive the ravages of light, heat, dust, handling, chemicals and insects, and at the same time, how to bring the visual and intellectual information contained in the images to the public, wherever they might be?

A recent donation in the form of a collection of images taken in Western Australia by Charles Walker, early 20th century professional photographer, is a perfect example of this dilemma, and of the time and teamwork necessary to achieve both objectives without compromising standards.

Walker, the son of an undertaker, was born in Kiama, New South Wales but in common with many young men, he made the journey west in the 1890s lured no doubt by the economic boom brought on by the discovery of gold. Initially operating out of premises at 80 Stirling Street, Perth, he soon became a photographer of note.

In addition to his private work, it appeared that he had a contract to

supply *The Western Mail* with photographs of people and events, and every week from 1898 through to the start of the Great War, Walker images appeared regularly in the newspaper, providing locals with a visual record of what was happening around their State. Inexplicably, his photos ceased to be published towards the end of 1914. When he died in 1920 he was earning his living as a market gardener in Osborne Park.

Over the years, the Battye Library has received small numbers of his photographs scattered throughout various donations, but there has not been any substantial donation of Walker images. That was until Ian Walker, a great nephew of the photographer, brought a small dusty suitcase, which had been stored for over forty years in a garage, into LISWA. The contents of the case was both a collector's dream and a preservation nightmare containing as it did approximately 100 photos taken by Charles Walker, most of which were curled to the extent that it was impossible to view them. Wisely, the family had not tried to unroll the images, which would almost certainly have caused them to crack and disintegrate.

The initial work on the collection had to be carried out by LISWA's Preservation

Services for, until the images had been relaxed, uncurled and cleaned, they could not be appraised and listed. Head Conservator Stephanie Baily took the collection into her care.

The first step was to remove loose dirt and dead insects from the surface of the photographs using a soft brush. A moist swab was used to remove more firmly adhered debris. The cleaned photographs were humidified between sheets of Gortex so they could be unrolled without causing further damage. They were then placed between thick blotters to dry. Some photographs had damage such as tears or detached corners which were repaired using a fine Japanese tissue and starch paste. They were then mounted on acid free card or mylar, inserted into polypropylene sleeves and filed in archival albums.

With preservation measures completed, access to the physical items and their assessment was now possible. While documenting the collection, it soon became evident that less than 2% of the images were captioned and it was almost impossible to identify most of the people and scenes portrayed. There seemed little point in having these photographs if we could not determine what they depicted!

Barbara Judge, a long time volunteer in the Pictorial Section, was intrigued by the images and the puzzle they presented and offered to trawl through *The Western Mail* in the hope that some of the unidentified photographs might have been published, along with their captions. Many mornings were spent viewing sixteen years of microfilm and creating a comprehensive index of published Walker images as well as cross matching these images with the original photographs. At the end of her endeavours, almost 90 per cent of the images have been identified, including one photograph of what appeared to be a snow-covered street (see page 5), which we thought could not have been taken in WA. However this same photo was published in *The Western Mail* on 15 July 1905 and was in fact



Aberdeen Street, Perth, c. 1905 - yes, really!

taken in Aberdeen St, Northbridge after a particularly heavy hail storm. As a result of her efforts, access to the information provided in the images is now available.

Battye Library librarians and technicians will now take over the final stages of providing visual and intellectual access to this important collection.

Digital copies of the collection's important and unique images, available as a result of the input of the Preservation staff, will be made and attached to online image records. These records will be created using the information found by Barbara in the newspapers of almost a century ago.

People around the State and the world with Internet connections will be able to search the LISWA catalogue to look at a major proportion of the Walker images, or search by keyword and find images in this collection. The Walker family can also be assured that the work of their ancestor will endure and that his contribution to the States' visual heritage will be appreciated by generations yet to come.

Julie Martin
Librarian: Pictorial Collection

Schenk photo donation a researcher's dream

On 28 August the family of Rodolphe Schenk donated an important collection of photographs, slides, and archival materials relating to the Mt Margaret Mission to the Battye Library. The images are mostly of the Wongi people of the mission and surrounding area and date from 1920 to the present. Rodolphe Schenk, the founder of Mt Margaret Mission, took most of the early photographs and his children and his son-in-law took the later photographs.

The 6-volume collection of about 1,000 photographs, which includes a detailed listing of the images collection on computer disks, demonstrates the daily life of a very important Aboriginal mission in the history of Western Australia. It will be a vital collection for Aboriginal researchers compiling their family histories and other researchers studying aspects of WA history.

The Mt Margaret Aboriginal Community has generously granted permission to make these images, including those of deceased persons, as widely available as possible. This permission was arranged through Margaret Morgan, one of the daughters of Rodolphe Schenk.

This collection, important in its own right, has been made even more valuable because Margaret Morgan has written a history of the Mount Morgan Mission entitled *Mt Margaret: a Drop in a Bucket*, in which some of the photographs have been reproduced, and which provides the background and context of the images.



Members of the Schenk family: L-R Philip Schenk (grandson), Grace Sobejko (granddaughter) and her husband Andrew, Esther Milnes and Margaret Morgan (Rodolphe's daughters) and Margaret's husband Keith. The collection was donated at a handover ceremony on 28 August.



L-R Claire Forte (A/CEO of LISWA), Ronda Jamieson (Director, Battye), Margaret & Keith Morgan view some of the donated photos.

The generosity of the Schenk family includes a donation of money to be used toward the digitisation of the images so they will be available online from the LISWA website. In 2000, the Western Australian History Foundation made a grant of \$4,000 to Roderick William Schenk for work on the Mt Margaret photos. A further donation from the Friends of Battye Library Inc. will allow the project to be finished. Copies of the images will also be provided on CD to the Goldfields Land Council, Warburton Community Library, and the Kalgoorlie Public Library.

The Battye Library thanks the Schenk family for its valuable donation and the Mt Margaret Aboriginal Community for allowing the images to be made available. The collection will provide a rich source of information to a variety of researchers.

Mollie Lukis Award for Excellence in Archival Services

The Mollie Lukis Award was approved by the Library Board of WA in August 2001. It is presented annually for the attainment of excellence in archival practice, and the award is open to an individual or work team at any classification level in LISWA for an outstanding contribution to any aspect of appraising, collecting, arranging, preserving and making available materials which reflect the cultural heritage of Western Australia.

The inaugural (2001) Mollie Lukis Award has been shared between a LISWA team and an individual archivist. At a ceremony held in October 2001, Miss Mollie Lukis presented State Records Office archivist Tom Reynolds and the Battye Library's COMAP team with their awards.

TOM REYNOLDS

In the more than 20 years in which he has worked in the State Records Office, Tom Reynolds has directed his energies and skills to the attainment of those aspects of archival work which are the subject of the Mollie Lukis Award. He is well known to State and local government agencies for his helpfulness in appraising records for agency purposes and to assist in transferring collections to archival custody.



Tom Reynolds (Archivist, State Records Office)

Scores of collections in the State Records Office are accessible because of Tom's role in ascertaining they are properly ordered and documented. He takes an active interest in preservation issues to ensure that SRO has a strategic preservation plan.

Tom Reynolds is a popular and sought-after reference archivist, with considerable knowledge shared generously and effectively. He has written and published on archival source materials, including identifying records of interest to indigenous Australians and researchers. The range and depth of primary cultural materials in LISWA would be very much the poorer without Tom's deeply committed work.



The COMAP team: L-R Gail O'Hanlon, Beth Frayne, Gerard Foley, Robyn Edwards, Brian Stewart, Maryon Craig, Michael Price, Brenda Ellen (Leigh Hays & Angela Don not pictured)

COMAP TEAM

Late in 1998, over 50 per cent of the collections in Private Archives were stored in an area known as COMAP (Collections of Materials Awaiting Processing) creating a backlog which resulted in problems with location, assessment and availability of materials.

Archivist Leigh Hays proposed a project to organise these collections and

streamline processing. Leigh, Michael Price and Gerard Foley trained specially chosen volunteers to assist in collection appraisal. Brenda Ellen oversaw the creation of Manuscript Notes (MNs).

Beth Frayne, Robyn Edwards and Brian Stewart wrote a data entry manual so that staff could search for COMAP materials and assist researchers. Angela Don, Maryon Craig and other staff keyed the bulk of the data into LISWA's online catalogue, while Brenda Ellen and Gail O'Hanlon checked that all collections were correctly shelved and housed according to minimum preservation standards.

Thanks to the team's effort, materials processing has been streamlined, there is a greater knowledge of Private Archives collections, client access has improved, retrievals are easier, and setting priorities is based on accurate data.

The Megan Sassi Award 2001

The 2001 Megan Sassi Award for Excellence in Reference Librarianship was awarded to **Russell Hamilton**.

Russell's commitment to achieving high levels of service coupled with his far-reaching knowledge of the collections has often brought his work to the attention of clients.

He is acknowledged as an expert on two very complex subjects - "Government" and "Law" - and has made a major contribution to the Information Gateways on the LISWA website on these subjects. Russell is also a key member in a team

assessing items in Core Stack which might be transferred to the State Reference Library, based on his considerable knowledge of the qualities and composition of SRL's stock, and clients' information needs.

Russell willingly shares his knowledge as part of his commitment to reference services. He trained staff on the law collection, demonstrating the expertise he has acquired in this area.

These qualities and the delivery of excellent reference service embody the spirit of the Megan Sassi Award.

Bringing recordkeeping expertise to the regions

Whilst it may be relatively easy for clients residing in Perth to visit the State Records Office, the Battye Library or the National Archives to conduct research or to utilise the services of these institutions, it is a little more difficult for people who live in regional areas. There is also uncertainty about the role of each institution.

In May 2000, the three institutions joined forces and organised a visit to Katanning and Albany, and in November a visit to Geraldton. The main purpose was to raise awareness of each institution's collections and services. The team gave presentations to public librarians as well as to the general public. The presentations were enthusiastically received and there are

plans to take this travelling road show to other parts of the State.

State Records Office Recordkeeping Services staff (Isabel Smith, Anne Gill and Martin Fordham) have taken training courses and workshops on records management to the regions.

The State Records Office is keen to promote best practice recordkeeping widely and provides training workshops every year. Due to the State's immense size, the cost to send agency officers to Perth for training can be prohibitive. Hence, when requested, the SRO endeavours to send staff to regional centres to present training courses.

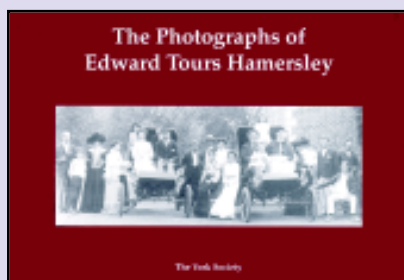
Martin Fordham
State Records Office of WA



Peel: home by the sea
Graeme Bond

Home by the Sea is a portrait of the Peel region of Western Australia. A cottage-style coffee table book, with photographs, original fine art, seafood, recipes, short stories, Peel wines, and historic prints.

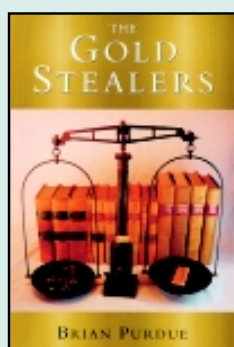
Graeme Bond (self-published), Mandurah WA, 2001



The Photographs of Edward Tours Hamersley
Edward Tours Hamersley

Edward Tours Hamersley recorded many lively portraits, family and social gatherings, work and farming life in WA in the late 1800s - early 1900s. About 400 of his photographs survive today, and many have been reproduced from the original glass plates to create this fascinating photographic history.

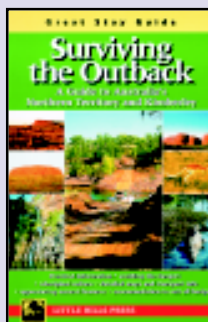
The York Society, York WA, 2001



The Gold Stealers
Brian Purdue

In 1926, one of the most diabolical murders to ever take place in Western Australia was committed. This book reports all the known facts of the case. There are no imagined histrionics or manufactured conversations, and some of the photographs have never been previously published or even seen before, except in court.

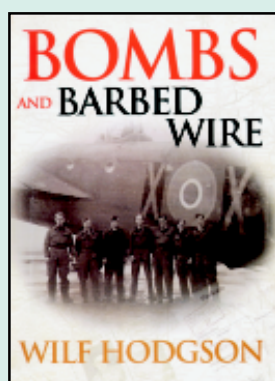
Hesperian Press, Victoria Park WA, 2001



Surviving the Outback: a guide to Australia's Northern Territory and Kimberley
Malcolm Gordon

Surviving the Outback covers over 170 towns, settlements and natural features in the Northern Territory and Western Australia's Kimberley region. Use the author's travel advice to orient yourself confidently and safely in this remote and rugged territory.

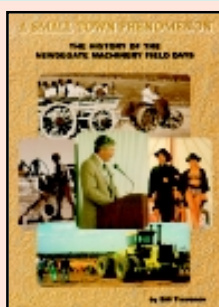
Little Hills Press, Sydney NSW, 2001 [?]



Bombs and Barbed Wire
Wilf Hodgson

These are not memoirs in the true sense but a faithful reproduction of notes made by Wilf Hodgson on board the SS *Orion* while returning to Australia, after being shot at, shot down, captured by the Gestapo and eventually ending the war at the age of 21 as a prisoner of war in enemy territory.

Benchmark/Cygnets Books, VIC/WA, 2001



A Small Town Phenomenon: the history of the Newdegate Machinery Field Days
Bill Trevenen

When the first Newdegate Field Day was held in 1973, some patrons demanded their money back, claiming there was nothing to see. Since these humble beginnings the event has grown. This book is an account of the lifestyle and aspirations of rural people in the final quarter of the 20th century.

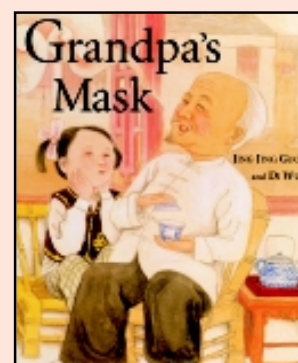
Bill Trevenen (self-published), Newdegate WA, 2001



The Guruma Story: told by Guruma Elders group led by Peter Stevens

The harsh, beautiful landscape of Western Australia's Pilbara region has been home to the Guruma people for thousands of years. In this book, Guruma elders share stories of the land, traditional ways, customs and Dreamtime.

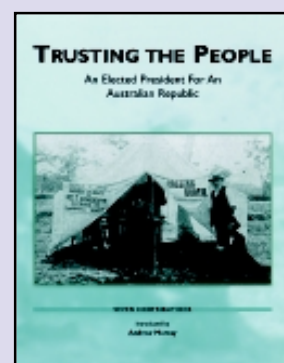
Jukurpa Books (IAD Press), Alice Springs NT, 2001



Grandpa's Mask
Jing Jing Guo & Di Wu

A young Chinese girl shares with her grandfather a love of Peking Opera. Her memories of the colourful costumes and exquisitely painted faces remain vivid after the family moves to Australia. One day, when Grandpa falls asleep while babysitting, his face becomes a canvas for her imagination.

Benchmark/Cygnets Books, VIC/WA, 2001



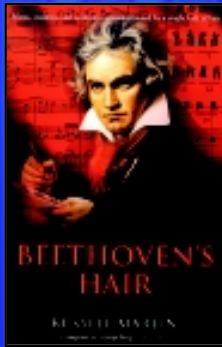
Trusting the People: an elected president for an Australian Republic

A collection of essays by notable Australian "republicans" compiled by Senator Andrew Murray, in the hopes that it will make "a contribution to the achievement of an Australian republic with a directly elected head of state".

Andrew Murray (self-published), Cottesloe WA, 2001

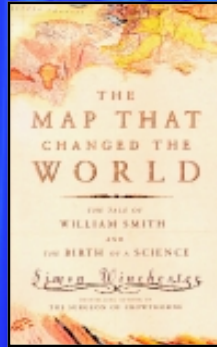
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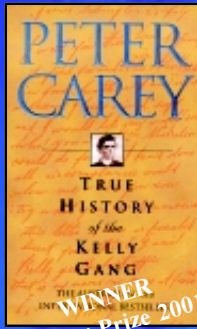
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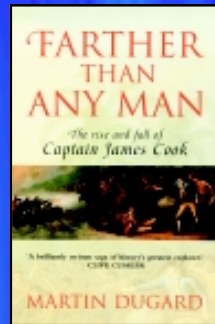
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Booker Prize 2001

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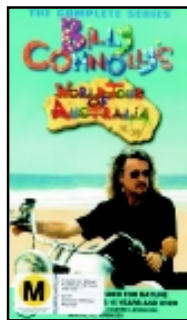
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