

# newsletter

History  
OF WA  
Council



Professor Bosworth speaking with Jenny Gregory, President of the History Council of WA

## 'Doing Europe from Australia: an idiosyncratic historian's journey'

This was the title chosen by Professor Richard Bosworth for his address following the recent History Council AGM.

His wide-ranging address reminded us that the History Council's Charter is not limited to the field of Western Australian history. A proudly atypical Australian, 'whose mind is always in Europe', he treated the audience to some forthright views that ranged from the current standards of Australian tertiary education, the parlous state of research funding and pithy observations on Australian politics since the 1970s to the vicissitudes of becoming an international authority of note on Italian fascism while based in Australia.

Read the full text of the address at <http://historycouncilwa.org.au/Publications>

## History Matters

### The Australian History Summit

Recently I attended the Australian History Summit called by the Federal Minister for Education, Hon Julie Bishop MP. Held in a committee room in Parliament House Canberra on 17 August, it was an intense and productive experience.

The day of the summit began with consideration of an excellent paper by Assoc. Professor Tony Taylor. The paper and its 200-page appendix provided a survey of the state of history teaching up to Year 10 in schools across Australia. It made grim reading. Only in NSW and, recently, Victoria is there a discipline-based approach to History. In all other states it is part of a mishmash of knowledge in Society and Environment.

Summiteers came to the unanimous decision that 'the study of Australian History should be sequentially planned through primary and secondary schooling and should be a distinct subject in Years 9 and 10.' To this end we decided to develop a series of open-ended questions and a chronological framework to guide further curriculum development. We got a long way towards completing this task, but time defeated us and we established a working party, chaired by Dr John Hirst, to refine the questions and the framework. These will be finalised by October.

The Minister has now commissioned a research project to develop a programme of study (Years 3–10) as the basis for a model curriculum to support the teaching of the questions and the chronological framework in schools. The project will include wide consultation across Australia. Interested organisations and individuals are invited to send submissions on how to strengthen the teaching of Australian History in all schools. The Minister's web site (<http://www.dest.gov.au/ministers/bishop/>) provides details, as well as the Summit communiqué and a full transcript of the Summit.

Jenny Gregory  
President

History  
OF WA  
Council

## Invitation to members and guests

### A Panel Discussion: Mapping Western Australia's History

**DATE AND VENUE:** 22 October 2006: 3pm, State Library Theatre

**COST:** \$10 non-members, \$ 5 concession, Members free!

- SPEAKERS:**
- ◆ Mr Glen Stasiuk — *Boodjah – the Diversity of Nyungar Cartography*
  - ◆ Dr Phillip Playford — *Explorers and Shipwrecks: the early Maritime History of Western Australia*
  - ◆ Felicity Morel-Ednie Brown — *Mapping Modern Perth*
  - ◆ Steve Howell — *Resources and Archives*

*Light Refreshments will be served following the panel.*

**RSVP** by 16 October: [office@historycouncilwa.org.au](mailto:office@historycouncilwa.org.au)

## Meetings of the Committee

The Committee meeting held on **28 June & 30 August** included the following business items where the Committee:

### 28 June 2006

- Heard a report on the Forum on the Heritage Values of the Dampier Rock Art Precinct attended by some History Council members and recommended future actions to the Advocacy Sub-Committee.
- Noted that M Mulligan and B Oliver are to represent the History Council as members of the K-10 History Reference Group.
- Passed a resolution deploring the current lack of storage for State Archives and urging that a purpose built facility be provided.
- Heard that the WA History Foundation will provide some ongoing assistance towards the administration costs of the History Council.

### 30 August 2006

- Heard a presentation given by Margaret Allen on current changes to the State Reference Library.
- Welcomed new Committee members to the History Council.
- Heard a report on the History Council's 'Sunriser' event at the Treasury Building Precinct.
- Noted that letters had been sent to relevant politicians and other interested parties re the Treasury Building Precinct and Foundation Park.
- Decided to introduce a cover charge for non-members attending certain History Council events.
- Resolved to place the possibility of raising individual membership fees before a general meeting of the History Council at a later date.
- Agreed to hold a half-day review in October of the functioning of sub-committees, *Strategic Plan and Conduct of Business Policy*.

## CELEBRATE WA

Celebrate WA held two well-attended public forums at the Constitutional Centre on 14 and 15 August 2006 to evaluate a proposal to reintroduce WA Week, which was originally held between 1972 and 1996. The aim was to highlight the benefits of living in this State and to promote Western Australian based businesses, events and organisations.

To provide an opportunity for regional Western Australia to participate, a question and answer session will be telecast on 22 August 2006 on Westlink Satellite Network into local Telecentres and TAFE Colleges in major regional centres.

The inaugural week-long event will be held in October 2007 and Celebrate WA, which is in partnership with the Government of WA, will offer small grants to assist wherever necessary.

This year, Celebrate WA will also sponsor a photographic exhibition entitled 'My Place WA', featuring landscapes, buildings, people, icons, events and activities. There will be three categories: Under 18, Adult and Professional, and entries close on 26 September. Contact:

<http://www.celebratewa.com.au>

## Websites of Interest

### Dampier Rock Art

Progress of the campaign to save the ancient rock art of the Dampier Archipelago and a listing of all media coverage can be found at:

<http://www.dampierrockart.net/Media/>  
and <http://www.ntwa.com.au>

### 'History Matters'

Details of the UK's 'History Matters: Pass It On' campaign can be found at:  
[www.historymatters.org.uk](http://www.historymatters.org.uk)

See also Stephen Fry on 'Why history matters':

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,,1815961,00.html>

## Farewell Julia, Greetings Julia!



### New Executive Officer:

#### Julia Wallis

*Sadly, at our June Committee meeting, we farewelled Julia Ball, who has been a tower of strength as the History Council's Executive Officer since early 2005. The smooth functioning of the Council's business owes a great deal to the systems she put in place. Thank you, Julia, for all your assistance, and we wish you all the best for your new life in Albany.*

*Happily, in the same breath, we are delighted to welcome the new Executive Officer, Julia Wallis, who is already hard at work!*

Julia has a BA Hons in History from UWA and a Postgraduate Diploma in Heritage Studies from Curtin University, has done some heritage and oral history consulting work, and is keen to build her credentials in history/heritage. She was a part time mature age student and has a strong secretarial background.

Julia's special interests are social history, women's history, environmental and Aboriginal history. She has been involved with several community projects including Midland Westrail Workshops, Yarloop Community History and is presently co-ordinating the oral histories for the East Perth Power Station project.

## Winner of History Award takes Premier's Prize at Book Awards

At a Foundation Week dinner held at the State Library to celebrate the 2005 WA Premier's Book Awards, members of the History Council were delighted to see two history books triumph. Richard Bosworth's *Mussolini's Italy* (Allen Lane/Penguin 2005) won the non-fiction category and Sue Davenport, Peter Johnson and Yuwali's *Cleared Out: first contact in the Western Desert* (Aboriginal Studies Press 2005) won the WA History category.

*Cleared Out* then went on to win the overall Premier's Prize, which was presented by the Hon Sheila McHale Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Tourism, Culture and the Arts. Apologizing for the Premier's unavoidable absence, she assured us of his deep interest in the importance of books and the written word — as he told her 'I loved writing, so I went into journalism'.

*Cleared Out* traces the story of the removal of a small group of Martu Aboriginal women and children in 1964 from part of the Western Desert that was within the Woomera firing range. The book is based on Yuwali's recollections. She was then seventeen and had never seen a whitefella.

Sue Davenport, originally trained in anthropology and Aboriginal studies at ANU, has been working on Martu oral histories since 1987. Peter Johnson, who has degrees in law and philosophy, has also been working on Martu history, but is especially interested in the gap between government policy and the reality of front-line implementation.

They have woven Yuwali's amazingly accurate memories with accounts from patrol officers' journals and other historical sources. Concluding their report the judges write 'this first encounter is placed within a political, bureaucratic and social context, forcing us to consider not only the consequences for the Martu of removal from the desert, but also the wider issue of Indigenous people's relationship to their lands.'

This year 134 books and scripts were submitted to the awards. Shortlisted for the WA History Award was Elaine McKewon's *The Scarlet Mile: a social history of prostitution in Kalgoorlie 1894-2004* (UWA Press 2005), Kim Scott and Hazel Brown's *Kayang and Me* (FACP 2005) and *Western Australian Exploration vol.1 1826-1835* (Hesperian Press 2005).



History Council members enjoyed an evening out at the Foundation Week dinner to celebrate the 2005 WA Premier's Book Awards

## Critical Situation in Archives Storage

How many readers are aware that the State Records Office (SRO) has been unable to accept new transfers of archives since July 2001? It is unable to fulfil its obligations under the groundbreaking State Records Act 2000, which was, in part, a response to the government record keeping problems revealed by the WA Inc Royal Commission.

While agencies are being pressed to produce and operate the Retention and Disposal Schedules which identify archival records, the SRO is unable to complete the process by accepting them into custody. This situation places a burden on cash-strapped agencies, such as small local government bodies, to look after these records adequately, in regard to such requirements as security and special environmental controls. It also restricts research access to a large volume of government archives.

The State Records Commission (SRC), the statutory body which oversees the process, has made strong representations on this matter in every Annual Report since its formation.

The following statistics were included in the SRC's 2002-2003 Annual Report:

Over 31,000 linear metres of State archives were being held in government agencies, more than twice the size of the State archives collection. There were enough archives in government agencies to cover two football ovals. If placed in boxes end on end, those archives would stretch from Perth to Mandurah. If they were stacked in boxes on top of each other they would make a tower fifty kilometres high.

In the intervening years, the SRO, backed by the SRC, has prepared numerous reports, submissions and business cases representing a number of possible solutions, including use of other existing buildings belonging to the Ministry for Culture and the Arts, temporary use of space at the National Archives repository in Victoria Park, and the construction of a purpose-built State Archives Repository.

While the government agrees that there is an urgent need for a solution, the matter has still not been addressed in this year's budget, and more recently, it appears that even the proposal for temporary use of National Archives space has fallen through.

Western Australia compares poorly with other states in its provisions: The Council of Australian Archives and Records Authorities (CAARA) Survey in 2003-2004 indicated that WA was the only state with a shortfall in archival storage capacity, and only the Northern Territory had a smaller storage capacity. Figures for 2004-2005 were similar.

Recently the History Council of WA has made representations to the government on the urgency of this matter, considering it vital that action be taken to protect the state's documentary heritage.

## UPDATE ON THE DAMPIER ROCK ART

Recently I was privileged to visit Karratha and the Dampier Archipelago. It is an extraordinary place with some of the oldest rock art in the world. The 'archaic face' and the 'climbing men' seen in the images on the right are amongst the oldest engravings.

One of the valleys I visited is near the site of the Flying Foam Massacre of 1868 and is only accessible by helicopter. The number of petroglyphs was extraordinary. There were images carved into almost every piece of the tumbled blocks of granite on the valley sides.

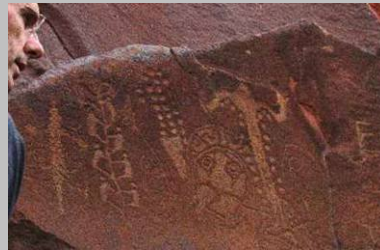
The State Government has now decreed that 60 per cent of the Burrup Peninsula will be protected. However there are grave fears for the remainder of the rock art on the Burrup and on the islands of the archipelago. They have not been protected and are still threatened by development.

The National Trust has now held forums in Perth, Canberra, Karratha and Sydney, all designed as public education, to present all aspects of the

situation and encourage a win-win solution. The History Council has been active in lobbying both Federal and State governments.

A decision on national heritage listing is expected in September.

Jenny Gregor



## Upcoming Conferences

**State History Conference of Affiliated Societies: Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc.)**  
**WA College of Agriculture, Cunderdin 29 September - 1 October**

The town is proudly celebrating its centenary and an interesting program has been arranged, commencing with a civic reception and official welcome on Friday, 29 September at 6.30 pm.

Papers to be given on the following day will explore aspects of the history of Cunderdin and related areas, including the historic aerodrome, the history of co-operative bulk handling and Judith Anketell speaking on the life of R J Anketell.

On the Sunday morning before departure a coach tour to sites of interest has been planned for those who wish to take advantage of the offer.

**Further details:** Mrs K Beard, (08) 9635 1113

**'Pushing Boundaries':  
2006 National History Teachers'  
Conference**

**Notre Dame University 6<sup>th</sup> - 8 October**

**Speakers include:**

Matt Price ('The Australian'), documentary maker  
Olivia Rousset, Christian Kerr (*crikey.com*) and iconic cartoonist Paul Rigby: their role as writers of the first draft of history.

Professor Femme Gaastra, from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands: the legacy of the VOC (Dutch East India Company) – the world's first global organization.

*Who DID put Australia on the Map?* - Panel members arguing the French, Dutch, British and Asian point of view.

Mackinoly/Fitzgerald Memorial Lecture: This will be delivered by Dr Cathie Clement on *The Humpty Dumpty factor in the "discovery" of Australia.*

Michael Caulfield (television series 'Australians at War') presents his film, *Voices of War* – a unique archive of veterans revisiting war in their own words.

**Further Information:** [www.htawa.org](http://www.htawa.org)

Phone: Helen Wills-Johnson on 9325 7857,

Email: [hwj@vianet.net.au](mailto:hwj@vianet.net.au)

**Australia ICOMOS National Conference  
2006  
Challenge & Change in Ports, their Towns and  
Cities.  
Fremantle , WA November 9-11**

This conference will explore the many challenges and changes in port cities, including the often competing interests of operating modern ports while conserving the social, building, engineering and archaeological records of their history.

Keynote speakers include Dr Brian Shaw from Australia, Jonathan Coad from the UK and Dr Jacek Dominiczak from Poland who will be supported by a diversity of speakers from around Australia and internationally.

**Further information**

<http://www.promaco.com.au/2006/icomos>

Email: [agnieshkak@fremantle.wa.gov.au](mailto:agnieshkak@fremantle.wa.gov.au)

**Indian and Pacific Crossings:  
Perspectives on Globalisation in History  
Western Australia Maritime Museum,  
Fremantle, 12-15 December 2006**

Edith Cowan University and the Western Australian Museum invite you to join us for a four day exploration of cross cultural and transnational issues around the Pacific and Indian Ocean basins.

Current plenary speakers include Imtiaz Ahmed, International Relations specialist (University of Dhaka), Jerry Bentley, co-editor of the *Journal of World History* (University of Hawai'i), Dan Potts, Professor of Archaeology (University of Sydney), Stephen Sidebotham, Professor of Maritime Archaeology (University of Delaware), and Samina Yasmeen, International Relations (University of Western Australia).

**Further Information:**

<http://www.ecu.edu.au/ses/icc/conference2006/home.html>

Email: [i.pcrossings@ecu.edu.au](mailto:i.pcrossings@ecu.edu.au)

## History Council Committee for 2006-2007



### Executive, l to r:

Jenny Gregory (President), Sue Graham-Taylor (Vice-President), Bobbie Oliver (Secretary), Robert Mitchell (Treasurer)

### Councillors:

Glen Bennett	Ruth Marchant-James
Jennie Carter	Felicity Morel-Ednie Brown
Jean Chetkovich	Moira Mulligan
Jenny Edgecombe	Maureen Perkins
Margaret Hamilton	Glen Stasiuk
Mary Anne Jebb	Lise Summers
Blaze Kwaymullina	

### RWAHS Events

Research papers are read at the General Meetings of the Society on the third Wednesday of each month from February to November at 6 pm Stirling House, Nedlands.

20 September: AGM

18 October: Dr Mary Anne Jebb: *Jack Wherra Kimberley Boab Nut Carving as Historical Narrative*.

15 November: Mr Geoff Miller: *Charles Conway: Pioneer Pharmacist of Geraldton and Wagin*.

#### History In The City Program

Citiplace Conference Room,  
Top of escalator, Perth  
Railway Station. 2 pm.  
Donation of \$5.00 at the door includes  
afternoon tea.

Wed 4 Oct: Albert W Lane: *Preserving the Australian Flag*.

Wed 1 Nov. Chris Jeffery: *Child Migration to Fairbridge*.

Wed 6 Dec Bishop Brian Kyme: *Six Archbishops of Perth*.

#### Further Information:

RWAHS. tel: 9386 3841  
<http://www.histwest.qit.com.au/index.htm>

### Can You Help?

As you can see, the newsletter has grown in size for this issue, reflecting the rapidly increasing activity of the History Council.

We need assistance in producing the newsletter, especially in locating information about members' activities and events of interest, and also in preparing the final layout.

If you have some spare time, ready Internet access and modest computer skills using Microsoft Word, the Editor would be delighted to hear from you! Some additional training would be given if necessary.

Contributions of articles are always most welcome.

If you think you may be able to help, please contact:

The Editor:

[office@historycouncilwa.org.au](mailto:office@historycouncilwa.org.au)

### State Records Office Community Seminars

**Tuesday 26 September:** *The Madams of Roe Street*, Sheryl Milentis.

**November/December:** (date to be confirmed): *End of Year Review*

12.30 pm on the dates stated, in the South West Room (Grd Flr), Alexander Library Building, Perth. Bookings essential – Ph. 9427 3360.

### National Archives: Perth Office Seminar on Defence Records

8 November 2006  
10.30am – 12.00pm  
Seminar in the National Archives followed by a tour of the building.  
General Public Admission, Free. Places limited.

**Bookings essential**  
**Contact:** (08) 9470 7500  
National Archives of Australia  
384 Berwick Street,  
East Victoria Park WA .  
(Free parking on site)

## Order of Australia Awards

The history community was delighted to learn that Cathie Clement was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006. The award was for service to the community through the recording and preservation of the history and heritage of the Kimberley region. Congratulations, Cathie!

Margaret Hamilton, a History Council Committee member and Convenor of the Events Working Party, also had reason to celebrate. Her husband Guy (Dr Guy Livingston Hamilton) also received an award for his service to people with disabilities, particularly through the development of educational and support services.

## Awards and Grants

### Lotterywest

#### Dates for approaching grants rounds:

[Community Histories](#) Closing date for Expressions of Interest 15 September 2006.

[Conservation of Cultural Heritage](#) Advertised 16 September 2006; Closing: 10 November 2006

[Community Events and Celebrations](#) Rolling grant rounds throughout the year. Next round closes 1 November 2006.

[Trails](#) Advertised January 2007; Closing date March 2007.

#### Further details and information on other types of grants:

<http://www.lottery.wa.gov.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=390>

### Heritage Council: Heritage Grants Program

Applications are open for the 2006/07 Program. This program aims to encourage private owners to conserve built places of cultural heritage significance

Information: [http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/d\\_grants.html](http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/d_grants.html)

or call (08) 9221 4177 or 1800 644 177 for a copy of the brochure, *Your Guide To Heritage Assistance*.

### National Archives of Australia

#### National Archives Summer Scholarships

Aimed at university students enrolled in 20th century Australian history or a related field. Applications for 2007 Summer Scholarships close 31 October 2006.

Further information: <http://www.naa.gov.au/>

## ‘Research, Write, Publish’: PHA Seminar

### Margaret Hamilton reports on the PHA Seminar held at the Constitutional Centre on 18 June

Criena Fitzgerald and Lenore Layman spoke on their respective current projects which include some publishing outcomes other than books.

Criena's project concerns family and working life on the Eastern Goldfields, focusing on Gwalia. She visited Italy in the course of the project, where she conducted interviews with Italians associated with the mine.

A film, "Hoover's Gold", has been made and was shown on SBS in July, tracing the history of the mine and the career of the young geologist who eventually became President of the United States.

Lenore mentioned that many research difficulties and restraints were common to both these ARC Linkage grants. Oral History constitutes a large part of Western Australia's first Power Station history and its interpretation. Partners and contributors are varied, ranging from industry and universities to the East Perth Redevelopment Authority and East Perth Football Club.

An extensive web site is

planned, with a series of essays providing lines for heritage interpretation. Lenore described the end result as providing an empirical as well as a big picture.

Cathie Clement outlined her writing approach of forming her resource base and gradually building it up. Her catalyst was her interest in the Kimberley. Cathie has kept all her notes on cards for many years. In commissioned work she may change her approach and format according to the expected outcome

In one example, she mentioned that although in *Whitewash* she took care to concentrate on the Kimberley and did not mention the Tasmanian context of Keith Windschuttle, nevertheless she later received some scathing comments as though she had done so. Her motto is, 'say what you mean and mean what you say'.

Andrew Gill and Jenny Gregory spoke on two publishing methods, Andrew on self-publishing and Jenny on the commercial approach.

Andrew publishes under the name of Blatellae Books. As a self-publisher, the emphasis is on cost. His chief difficulty is in marketing, since only a few

booksellers will accept self-published works with relatively low sales volumes. Andrew relies on newsletters for review and advertises through libraries. His next book will be entitled *Prison Bars* and he will continue his practice of publishing in A4 size and with simple plastic comb binding.

Jenny Gregory was Director of the University of WA Press during the last 8 years. Early fine arts studies resulted in her looking on publishing as an art work.

She outlined the publishing process, beginning with the question 'Why should this be published?', through market assessment and fascinating insights into editing and book design, followed by an account of printing and marketing. She said that publishing in WA was very difficult financially because of the small market, and booksellers required a high percentage of the retail price. Jenny finished with some advice to writers: limit your submission to a short synopsis and a contents page, and in your covering letter address the questions — why should this be published? who will buy it?

## Sunriser: commemorating the Foundation of Perth

Prompted by the recent controversy over the proposed infill development within the Treasury Buildings precinct and the realisation that the date of the foundation of Perth, 12 August 1829, fell on a Saturday this year, the History Council held a Sunriser on that morning.

Despite inclement weather, some 25 members came along to listen to three short talks, tour the Town Hall, and get together over coffee after the event.

We began with an evocative talk by Dr Neville Green, who used his extensive knowledge of early Nyoongar history to paint a picture of Nyoongar life in the area at the time of colonisation. Ruth Marchant James then brought the foundation of Perth to life with her description of the founding ceremony and early European activities in the precinct — originally a cantonment — bounded by St George's Terrace, Barrack, Hay and Pier Street. Jenny Gregory then brought the history of the site up to date with a description of later building activity, describing the precinct as a palimpsest of nineteenth century history of Western Australia, telling of our history like the rings of an ancient tree tell of its past.

We were then treated to a fascinating tour of the magnificently restored Town Hall by the City of Perth's Facilities Manager, Colleen Dixon.

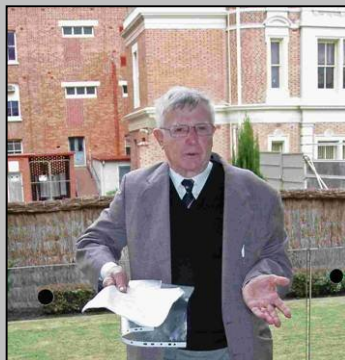
The History Council is calling for the State Government to enlarge the existing small Foundation Park to encompass the whole area between the Treasury Buildings and the Town Hall.

We can imagine a landscaped urban space, bordered by lively cafes, bars and shops in the ground floor of the historic buildings, with an arcade linked to the magnificent hall within the Treasury building and thence to the Terrace, and a landscaped walkway east to the Cathedral precinct. We also believe that it should include a contemplative area to commemorate the multiple stories of the past that are held within this historic precinct.

We urge you to make representations for an enlarged Foundation Park to the Premier!



Ruth Marchant James (left) and Dr Neville Green (right) speaking at the Treasury Buildings Precinct Sunriser.



## 1975 Cabinet Papers Released Selected Papers Available Online

Each year, the State Records Office releases from their 30 year access embargo the records of State Cabinet. This event symbolises an important democratic principle: community access to the public record.

State Cabinet records are historically significant papers which record the decisions made by the government of the day. Such decisions affect the lives of all West Australians, present and future. Cabinet records are the primary-source documents for information about all of the issues raised at Cabinet meetings.

The 1975 Cabinet Papers were released from their 30 year embargo on Foundation Day 1 June 2006 by the Hon. John Hyde MLA, Member for Perth, at a special event held in the Alexander Library Building. Professor David Black provided the historical context at the release. In special attendance at the event were three former Ministers of the 1975 Cabinet; the Hon. Ian Medcalf, the Hon. Peter Jones and the Hon. Neil McNeill

This year, the State Records Office has digitised selected Cabinet papers and is making them publicly available through their web page. Substantial background information has been provided.

The digitised papers provide a 1975 Western Australian perspective on such issues as:

- Cyclone Tracy
- Medibank
- The Whitlam Dismissal
- The Tronado Machine
- Mineral Sands Agreement

### Further Information:

<http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/whatsnew/Cabinet-1975.asp#tronado>

## State Library of WA – Strategic Directions

A key goal of the State Library of WA's Strategic Directions 2006 – 2008 is to strengthen its role in collecting, preserving and making available Western Australia's documentary heritage. State Library CEO, Margaret Allen, reiterated the importance of this goal recently when she addressed the committee of the History Council of WA.

She assured History Council members that J S Battye Library of West Australian History, which holds such a special significance for historians and researchers, will continue to be a vital part of the State Library. The aim is to build upon the wonderful work that has been done to build the collections and to promote public awareness

of their richness and uniqueness.

Ms Allen outlined how, at the beginning of the library's strategic planning process late last year, members of history groups and stakeholders in Western Australian heritage were invited to participate in consultations. The outcomes of those meetings guided the direction taken to ensure that WA heritage will be given greater prominence and also improved resourcing in the course of the Library's restructure.

From comments made during the consultative process it was determined that the current structure of three separate libraries competing for increasingly finite resources was not effective. It was also recognised that researchers needed greater access to the experts in the Battye Library, that more resources must be directed to cataloguing Western Australian

materials, that the Library needs to be more active in seeking and acquiring WA materials, and that schools, teachers and students needed to be engaged more actively.

Margaret Allen emphasised that the staff restructure is only one element of the three year project and is essentially about the State Library being organised as effectively as possible to achieve its objectives.

Members were interested to learn of the appointment of a number of subject specialists and an Archival Field Officer to improve the provision of expert assistance to library users. It is also hoped that the Field Officer will assist in identifying potential archival material that might otherwise be lost, an area that has long been of concern to historians in this state.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You can support the work of the History Council in its pledge to make history a vital part of community life in Western Australia, simply by becoming a member.

Use the form on this page or download the form from our website:

[www.historycouncilwa.org.au](http://www.historycouncilwa.org.au)

### CONTACT US

Executive Officer:  
office@historycouncilwa.org.au

or write to:  
PO Box 1619, West Perth 6872  
**Deadline for next issue:  
27<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

Please send newsletter contributions to the Editor, Jenny Edgecombe, at the email or postal address above.

Website:  
[www.historycouncilwa.org.au](http://www.historycouncilwa.org.au)

#### Membership Application

You can support the work of the History Council in its pledge to make history a vital part of community life in Western Australia by becoming a member.

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organisation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you/your organisation Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Yes  No

Please state the number of members in your organisation \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like the following type of membership:

- Corporate Large organisations \$200 pa  
(including government agencies and universities)  
 Corporate Medium organisations \$100 pa  
 Corporate Professional organisations \$50 pa  
 Corporate Small organisations \$30 pa  
 Individual \$20 pa  
 Individual Concession \$10 pa  
 Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment

I have enclosed a  cheque  money order

**Make a copy of this form, complete and return it with payment to**  
History Council of Western Australia Inc, PO Box 1619, West Perth 6872

### A E Williams Essay Award

The winner for the AE Williams Essay Award for 2006 has been chosen from a larger than usual number of entries.

The announcement will be made at the Royal Western Australian Historical Society's AGM which is to be held on 20 September 2006, after which the winner will present the selected paper.

### Australia on the Map 1606-2006

Here are some of the upcoming activities associated with this year-long celebration:

#### Curtin Mapping Exhibition:

6-8 October 2006

#### Exhibition: Invisible Dutch Perth

22 May – 30 September 2006

#### Exhibition: Invisible Dutch Albany

25 September – 20 October 2006

Don't forget to keep checking the Australia on the Map website for new activities and further information.

<http://www.australiaonthemap.org.au/wa/wa.htm>