

# newsletter

History  
OF WA  
Council

## Old Treasury Tour and Sundowner

History Council members were treated to an exclusive tour of the old Treasury and Titles Office Buildings in central Perth on 29th November.

The striking three storey complex is currently being refurbished. Over many years it had been converted to office space by government departments, and the original spaces had been obscured by the installation of numerous false ceilings and partitions. These have now been removed, and members were treated to a viewing of the building's former glory.

The building was constructed in three stages, 1874, 1877 and 1887. Richard Roach Jewell designed the two storey Barrack Street frontage. Around 1887 Chief Architect George Temple Poole designed the St Georges Terrace section and added a third storey to the earlier part of the complex.

The bricks are handmade, laid in the variegated chequer pattern brickwork typical of the colonial period. The shingled roof is high and steeply sloping, with dormer windows, projecting pilasters and some Victorian classical ornament around the higher windows.

For a glimpse of the building in its glory days, both before and after the third storey was added, see our **Websites of Interest** section for directions to online photographs held by the Batty Library and other institutions.

After negotiating the many stairs of the Treasury building, members willingly repaired to the impressive surroundings of the Western Australian Club for a convivial end-of-year Sundowner.

The Western Australian Club began life as the Exchange Club in 1893. Its current site has been associated with banking in WA since 1887, and elements of the former banking hall were much admired on our visit, so it was truly an historic afternoon's outing.

## History Matters

The Afternoon of Review held by Committee in late 2006 was an opportunity to reflect on the role and achievements of the History Council. The Committee and our broad membership have worked effectively and we have a creditable list of achievements.

However, our Review highlighted the need to streamline and consolidate our structure, revising our objectives in order use our resources effectively and to move the work of the History Council forward. Some duplication had emerged in the activities of the Sub-Committees and we have now established a new structure that will be trialled over the next twelve months.

The new Sub-Committees are Advocacy, Communications and the Indigenous Sub-Committee, which will overlap the other two. We will be establishing working parties to deal with particular issues as they arise, as we have done with the History in Schools Working Party. An Issues Advisory Panel will be established for longer term and fast moving issues. Convenors for the new Sub-Committees have now been elected. Involvement of the broader membership in Sub-Committees is very important to the work of the History Council, and any members with an interest in one of these should contact the Executive Officer.

We have a busy year ahead in terms of advocacy and support for history and heritage. We will be working on a new Strategic Plan and we have a range of interesting events organised.

History and heritage play a key role in shaping our community and as we start the year there are some positives. The Premier has recently responded to our concerns about the State's archives by indicating that a new archives storage facility for State records is on the agenda. We will work to ensure that this promise is not forgotten! However, there is still a range of ongoing threats, one in particular being the imminent destruction of ancient rock art on the Burrup. I urge you all to get involved with our activities in whatever way you can.

2007 promises to be an exciting year.

**Sue Graham-Taylor**  
Vice- President



Julia Wallis and Marolyn Hamilton enjoying the History Council's November Sundowner at the Western Australian Club.

## CONTACT US

Executive Officer  
[office@historycouncilwa.org.au](mailto:office@historycouncilwa.org.au)  
[www.historycouncilwa.org.au](http://www.historycouncilwa.org.au)  
or write to:  
PO Box 1619, West Perth 6872

**Deadline for next issue:  
18<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

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

## Meetings of the Committee

The Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December included the following business items where the Committee:

- Heard that the History Council was represented at the Golden Anniversary of the Batty Library on 14 December by Sue Graham-Taylor.
- Planned further action to set up the new sub-committee structure proposed at the Afternoon of Review.
- Agreed that Working Parties would be convened on an 'as needs' basis with a six months review as regards permanency.
- Approved the development of a membership badge and acquisition of a pop-up banner using wording earlier agreed on.
- Approved the development of a policy statement regarding the quality of tourist information being disseminated through various tours.
- Recommended that 10 local government bodies be approached about becoming members of the History Council.
- Moved that representatives of the History Council attend a Celebrate WA workshop on 1 February, to discuss the reintroduction of week-long celebrations in October 2007.
- Approved the proposed events programme for 2007, including the 'History in the Pub' evening for Friday 30 March 2007 at the Hyde Park Hotel (see advertisement in this issue).

## History Council of WA Your Committee and Secretariat

### Executive

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

### Councillors

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

### Executive Officer

Julia Wallis

## STOP PRESS!

### Invitation: Meet the authors of 'Cleared Out: First Contact in the Western Desert'

The History Council invites you to a February Sundowner. Hear a short talk presented by Sue Davenport and Peter Johnson, two of the authors of 'Cleared Out', which won the coveted WA Premier's West Australian History Book Award last year (see item on p. 4).

Meet with the authors & fellow History Council members in the beautiful surroundings of the Old Observatory building.

**DATE:** Friday 23rd February  
**TIME:** 5.00pm to 7.00pm  
**VENUE:** National Trust Building  
The Old Observatory  
4 Havelock Street  
West Perth 6005  
**COST:** \$10 members  
\$15 non-members  
(includes drinks and nibbles)

**RSVP essential if attending** —  
contact Julia Wallis at  
[office@historycouncilwa.org.au](mailto:office@historycouncilwa.org.au) by  
**Wednesday 21st February 2007**

## Awards and Grants

### Lotterywest

#### Grant Information Seminars

##### Next Metropolitan seminar:

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> March

##### Next Regional seminar:

March 2007, Leonora/Laverton.

For information on these and other future seminars contact:

Marlene Walker

[walker\\_m@lotterywest.wa.gov.au](mailto:walker_m@lotterywest.wa.gov.au)

### Lotterywest Grants

#### Interpretation of Cultural Heritage

Closing July 2007

#### Community Histories

Advertised July 2007

Closing September 2007

Further information:

<http://www.lottery.wa.gov.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=394>

or call: (Metro) (08) 9340 5270  
(Country) 1800 655 270

### State Records Office

#### Margaret Medcalf Award

Works must demonstrate use of the State archives collection, held by the State Records Office.

Closing 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007

#### Further Information:

State Records Office: 08 9427 3360  
or <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/>

## Websites of Interest

### Online Photographs of the Old Treasury Building

Many institutions now publish items from their image collections on their websites. Note that these are subject to the customary copyright and reproduction restrictions.

A search on *treasury perth* at the Picture Australia site below will produce several photographs of the Treasury Buildings, including one held by the Noel Butlin Archives of Business and Labour at ANU, showing the building in the 1890s:

<http://www.pictureaustralia.org/>

Another photograph held by the J S Battye Library of WA History shows the building in 1910. Note the addition of the third storey:

[www.liswa.wa.gov.au/images/010023P.html](http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au/images/010023P.html)

This wikipedia photo of 1931 shows the building in the streetscape of the time:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Depression\\_in\\_Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression_in_Australia)

### The Royal Society

Some of the podcasts and audio sessions available here are of interest, eg

"Into the Blue: voyages of discovery 1700-1850."

"Bill Bryson – A Short History of Nearly Everything."

But be warned – some of the download files can be quite large for those on limited internet access.

<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/podcasts>

### Dampier Rock Art Campaign

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

### Draft Cossack Master Plan

Still of interest, even though the submission date is past.

<http://www.dhw.wa.gov.au/cossack/index.htm>

**Please note** that while the website addresses here are published for the information of members, material on the sites does not necessarily reflect the views of the History Council.

# History OF WA Council

## Invitation

### "Entertaining History"

**DATE:** Friday 30 March 2007  
**TIME:** 6.00pm  
**VENUE:** The St James Room, Hyde Park Hotel,  
331 Bulwer Street, West Perth

#### NO DOOR CHARGE

*Food and drink will be available for purchase at the bar.*

presented by the  
History Council of WA

#### Introduced by

Associate Professor Jenny Gregory,  
President, History Council of Western Australia Inc

#### SPEAKERS

Dr Grant Stone  
Dr Toby Burrows

Quirks in Australian Comic Books  
The History of Rock Music in  
Western Australia  
The History of the Maj Collection

Mr Ivan King

RSVP by 21 March 2007: [office@historycouncilwa.org.au](mailto:office@historycouncilwa.org.au)

## Caught on the Wire

### Exhibition: Australians on the Western Front 1916-1918

The Army Museum of WA and the Military Historical Society's Western Australian Branch have joined with St George's Cathedral to mount a spectacular display in April to help save the Burt Memorial Hall.

The Burt Memorial Hall is situated on St Georges Terrace in the St George's Cathedral Precinct and stands as a memorial by Septimus Burt to commemorate the service and sacrifice of his two sons in the Great War.

The exhibition is part of the campaign to restore St George's Cathedral and the Cathedral Precinct. A further \$5 million is needed to complete the task, including the restoration and repair of the Burt Memorial Hall.

The exhibition will increase the public awareness of the role of Australians on the Western Front, particularly Western Australians. It will highlight St George's Cathedral as the location of many memorials to individual Western Australians and as the custodian of the Victoria Cross awarded to Lt. C.W.K. Sadler 51st Bn AIF and the unique 51st Battalion's Villers-Bretonneux Cross.

This will be a comprehensive exhibition of World War 1 objects, uniforms, weapons and images. The main display theme will concentrate on the Australian Army involvement in the campaigns of the Western Front 1916 – 1918, with particular emphasis on the Western Australian contribution. Other themes will include the importance of the Christian Chaplaincy in providing spiritual support and comfort to the troops, the departure from Albany, the Burt family and Villers-Bretonneux.

The Opening Night is on Friday, 20 April, and the exhibition runs from 21 April - 3 May 2007 at the Burt Memorial Hall.

For more details contact Jo Malone on:  
[appeal@perthcathedral.org](mailto:appeal@perthcathedral.org) or phone 9325 5766.

## Premier's West Australian History Award

### *Cleared Out: First Contact in the Western Desert*

The announcement of this award was made on Friday 9 June 2006 by the Minister for Culture and the Arts, Hon. Sheila McHale. The book *Cleared Out*, which tells the story of the first contact between a group of Martu women and children and white Australia in 1964, won the \$20,000 Premier's Prize in the 2005 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards. Written by Sue Davenport, Peter Johnson and Yuwali, this publication also won the West Australian History Award.

In 1964 the British and Australian governments were about to test the British 'Blue Streak' rockets across remote South and West Australia. They considered this area to be empty desert, but to one seventeen-year-old woman and her family, this was 'home'.

This book tells the story of the removal of the small group of Martu Aboriginal women and children from the Percival Lakes region of Australia's Western Desert – a group which had not previously had contact with European society. The story of the encounter and removal is told by Yuwali (that same seventeen-year-old), and two patrol officers, one of whom, Walter MacDougall, was later condemned 'for having placed the affairs of a handful of natives above those of the British Commonwealth of Nations.'

Besides presenting Yuwali's compelling recollection of events, the authors place this first encounter within the context of the political outrage, the public outcry, and the battles in the corridors of government at the time, 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.

**Your opportunity to meet Sue Davenport and Peter Johnson at the History Council Sundowner on 23<sup>rd</sup> February – see notice on page 2.**

## Looking Forward

History Council Committee members, as well as a number of others who have served on Sub-Committees, gathered on the glorious sunny afternoon of 6 December 2006 for the Council's Afternoon of Review, a fore-runner to preparing the next Strategic Plan.

The current Plan will be in effect until the end of the 2006/2007 year.

Felicity Morel-EdnieBrown, one of our versatile Councillors, proved to be a most effective facilitator, inexorably moving us on (in the nicest possible way!) through a consideration of the Council's achievements to date, its strengths and weaknesses, ongoing needs and future directions. The end result was a restructuring of the sub-committees, refining them to just three, with some useful ideas emerging in preparation for the next round of strategic planning.

Those attending were offered refreshments on the delightful upstairs balcony of the National Trust building afterwards as a reward for their labours.



History Council members admiring the proportions of the original chambers of the old Treasury building, revealed by the ongoing renovations during the November tour.

## Women's Roll of Honour

Planning has started for a new Western Australian publication sure to be of wide interest - the *Women's Roll of Honour*. It will recognise women who have made a contribution to the Arts in WA.

A Roll of Honour Consortium Workshop was held recently on 31 January to discuss the project, intended for publication in 2008.

Pam Ryder, project facilitator, and Judith Parker AM, the Vice-President of the International Council of Women, head the two working parties formed as a result of this consortium workshop.

## James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellowship

In honour of the 50th Anniversary of the Battye Library, the Library Board of Western Australia has established an award which will be known as the James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellowship. The aim of this fellowship is to foster research and publication on aspects of Western Australia based on the unique collection of the Battye Library. The establishment of this new award was announced at the Golden Anniversary celebration held on 14 December.

The fellowship, up to the value of \$20,000, has been established through the Leah Jane Cohen bequest. Leah Jane Cohen was an avid supporter of the Library. Her generosity will enable others to use the Battye collections to further our understanding of Western Australia. More details on the Fellowship will be available later in 2007.

## SRAC/SRC retirements

It was with great regret that archivists and recordkeepers recently farewelled two long-standing members of the State Records Commission, as they moved on to fresh fields in their 'day jobs'.

First was the former Auditor General, Des Pearson, in late 2006, and last week it was the turn of Deirdre O'Donnell, State Ombudsman.

These Commissioners served at a crucial period in the history of the State Records Commission, whilst it was overseeing the implementation of the ground-breaking State Records Act 2000.

The State Records Office held farewell functions for each of the departing Commissioners. Speakers commented that all of the Commissioners since the Commission's inception in 2001 have worked extraordinarily effectively together, given that they approach the oversight of government recordkeeping from such widely different perspectives. This is one of the strengths of the legislation, demanding input and involvement at the highest level from all relevant agencies.

The State Records Commission membership is comprised of the Information Commissioner, the State Ombudsman and the Auditor General as ex-officio members, and a Governor's Appointee.

In future issues of the newsletter, there will be features on how the State Records Act ensures that governments and their agencies create adequate records and the process of selecting essential records for long-term preservation – areas of enormous importance for all historians.

## The Biggest Book Thief in the West!

### There's still time to 'win'!

*(It's not strictly historical, but historians will surely be winners if some of those hard-to-find items come home!)*

During the 2007 Perth International Arts Festival, the State Library of Western Australia is asking for help to rescue all overdue library books as part of the 'One Book' program. They are asking people to return their overdue books to any public library in Western Australia, and be in with a chance to win a \$50 book voucher courtesy of Public Libraries Australia, a signed copy of *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and a library gift pack.

Taking place over four weeks from Monday 29th January to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2007, 'The Biggest Book Thief in the West' seeks to track down books in the following categories:

1. Most overdue book
2. Most travelled book (the original lending library can be interstate or even international!)
3. Best 'excuse' story for an overdue book

The winners will be announced on Friday 2nd March, 2007.

## Make a Donation to the History Council of WA

Your attention is drawn to the new format of the membership/donation form on the back page. This resulted from suggestions by members that the form should give more prominence to the option of making a donation to support the activities of the History Council.

Remember that Members are welcome to forward copies of this newsletter electronically to others who may be interested.

## Fremantle Festival

The organisers of the 2007 Fremantle Heritage Festival have called for applications from participants who wish to create a special event associated with Fremantle's significant heritage. Festival events may include exhibitions, talks, performances, public art and heritage walks, tours of heritage buildings and places as well as workshops and seminars.

The festival will be held from 27 May to 4 June 2007 inclusive, and deadline for submissions is **Friday 16 March 2007**.

Submission forms can be obtained from

Kris Bizzaca,  
Festival Co-Ordinator  
**Mob:** 0417 090 476 **Email:**  
[kristy@sbdservices.com.au](mailto:kristy@sbdservices.com.au)



Some of the elaborate ornamentation on the old Treasury building seen by our members in November – look up next time you pass by.

## History Council Program for 2007

February	Sundowner to meet winner(s) of Premier's West Australian History Award.
Friday 30 March	'Entertaining History' - History in the Pub – Hyde Park Hotel, 6pm – see advertisement in this issue.
June	Seminar to assist small organisations in the preparation of Lotterywest Grant Applications. Date to be announced.
Thurs 16 August	History Council AGM
WA Week (14-21 October) Date to be announced.	Event to mark the 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum which removed phrases that discriminated against Aboriginal people from the Constitution.

## Support your History Council: Join or Donate

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 or making a donation:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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  Corporate Medium organisations \$100 pa

(including government agencies and universities)

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

## Members' Events

### The Royal WA Historical Society Inc

Research Papers are read at the monthly meetings. Visitors welcome.

21st February, Dr Robert Pearce: 'A Medical School for Western Australia - the First Fifty Years', 6 pm at Stirling House, 49 Broadway, Nedlands.

### History In The City Program

The usual monthly talk has been arranged by the RWAHS Women's Auxiliary to be held at 2 p.m. on 7 March in the Conference Room, Citi-Place, Community Centre, Perth Railway Concourse. Entry fee \$5.00. **Speaker:** Mr Arthur Davies will speak on 'A Short History of Pocket Money'.

### Historic Campus Walk

The RWAHS has organised a walk- UWA Claremont Campus - on Sunday 18 March. Bookings 9386 3841.

### Further Details on any of these events:

RWAHS. tel: 9386 3841

<http://www.histwest.qit.com.au/index.htm>

### National Archives of Australia, Perth Office

21 February 2007, 10.30 am.

### General Introductory Seminar and Tour.

Learn about records relating to immigration, defence, shipping and aircraft passenger arrivals, communications and much more. Morning Tea included.

Limited Numbers - booking essential. Ph 9470 7500 to reserve your place.

### Further Information:

384 Berwick Street, East Victoria Park, WA 6101.

## Publicise Your Organisation's Events

Is your organisation planning a seminar, conference or other special event likely to be of interest to History Council members?

Contact us through:

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

or write to:

PO Box 1619, West Perth 6872

**Deadline for next issue:**

**18<sup>th</sup> May 2007**