



# HISTORY WEST

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

August 2017

## GENERAL MEETING

**The next meeting at Stirling House is on Wednesday 16 August at 6pm when Jennie and Bevan Carter will present a paper on 'The challenges of writing a commissioned history'. Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.**

Some RWAHS members are academic historians who write on topics of which they are recognised experts. Others are skilled amateurs who find fascination in a wonderful variety of different historical themes, and genealogists and family historians bring to light and life their bygone relatives' stories. Some are fortunate to be paid for the thrill of exploring and documenting the past, but researching and writing a commissioned history brings its own set of challenges. Commissioned histories are often lengthy undertakings and the relationships between commissioning groups or bodies and historians require give and take on both sides.

With examples drawn from three published histories, Jennie and Bevan will examine the process of obtaining a contract, determining what can reasonably be offered, hunting for sources, guiding the work through the publication process, and dealing with the expectations of those commissioning the history. A particular difficulty is writing about recent history or controversial events while keeping to the fore the importance of remaining professional and honest about what the research reveals and the story that needs to be told.



**Jennie and Bevan Carter** are partners in Historical Research & Publication Services. Jennie has qualifications in history from the University of WA, and archives and librarianship from Curtin University. She worked at the State Aboriginal Affairs department for many years and later at the Batty Library, from where she retired in 2008. She is the author of *Bassendean: a social history 1829-1979*. Bevan has a Bachelor of Science degree and a Diploma of Education from Sydney University and, after retirement from teaching, has written and published works on family history, Indigenous history, and conservation. Together they have produced *Settlement to City: a history of the Armadale district and its people*, and *King Eddies, a history of Western Australia's premier women's hospital 1916-2016*. They have been married for 47 years, and have five children and eight grandchildren.

### Appeal for 'olden day' items

The Society is establishing a collection of items that could be taken out to schools as part of its education program concerning the 'olden days'. Do you have any old school sewing models, books or other small school or domestic items, which you would like to donate for this purpose? We would be very grateful to receive them.

Many thanks

Susan Clarke



Welcome to new volunteer Cath Plowman who has joined the Bookshop team. Pictured with Michelle Urban.

### Library Volunteer Wanted

The Library needs volunteers who are able to provide clerical back-up and input records into the catalogues and indexes. If you are interested, please contact **Jill Maughan** by phone on 9386 3841 or by email on [library@histwest.org.au](mailto:library@histwest.org.au)

### CORRECTION - apologies

On page 4 of the July issue of *History West* the advertisement for the 2017 State Conference has Margaret Cockman's email incorrect.

The correct address is:  
[margaret@Lnet.net.au](mailto:margaret@Lnet.net.au)



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Culture and the Arts



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At its meeting held on 13 July business included the following where Council

- welcomed new members – James Barrett, Richard & Helena Coles, Rhuwina Griffiths, David Lilburne, Hon. Martin Pritchard MLC, Dr Jim Rowlands, Patrick Smythe, Josyln Summerhayes;
- warmly welcomed Danielle Dines from START Consulting Pty Ltd to listen to a presentation by Sally Anne Hasluck on the Society's plans to discuss the *pro bono* refurbishing of the foyer, meeting rooms and kitchen to enable the Society to function more effectively in the immediate future;
- thanked Dr Steve Errington for his service as the Society's representative on the Council of National Trust WA and for his willingness to serve for a further term;
- applauded the success of the recent *Booked in for a Cuppa* event with authors Lena Elliott, Steven Marcuson and Anna Wyatt;
- noted that, with the retirement of Honorary Auditor, members are called on to search for another volunteer to take that role;
- endorsed with gratitude the bequest from the Jennifer Mary Wright Estate and resolved to name the Costume project The Jennifer Wright Costume Preservation Project;
- thanked Nick Drew for his work in obtaining a Lotterywest grant to assist regional Affiliates' members to attend the State History Conference ;
- supported the granting of heritage status by the State Heritage Office for the Wesley Church Group at Albany;
- recorded with regret the recent death of member Dr Phillip E Playford AM distinguished national and international geologist and historian;
- reaffirmed its support for an independent State Records Office of WA.

Lennie McCall

## RWAHS Refresh Project

The Society is facing great challenges and planning for the future. We have outgrown Stirling House and building a Community History Centre here is our future goal. In the interim, we must not let our headquarters be visually rundown. The Society needs to provide a vibrant, welcoming and supportive environment.

**STARTConsulting** Pty Ltd is giving us the opportunity to improve our in-situ environment. This will be at no cost to the Society and any change will not be to the detriment of volunteers or staff.

To achieve this we will work as a team on a ten-week program to:

- Reconfigure work spaces to better optimise volunteer and staff time;
- Re-access storage space;
- Revitalise tired spaces with new carpet and paint.

We will keep you informed as the project proceeds.

## History in the City

Our talk on 5 July was given by Graham Seal, titled 'These few lines – the lost lives of Myra and William Sykes'. The story began in 1865 when William and some companions were caught poaching in Silver Wood which was close to William's home in the north of England. A fight broke out and a gamekeeper was killed. William was found guilty of manslaughter and sent to the Swan River Colony.

Myra was now alone with four children to raise, not only without sufficient resources but also without help from William's family. Myra wrote frequently to her husband, beginning her letters: 'I rite these few lines to you...' Through her letters to William, she showed great courage facing life alone with her young children and with frequent hostility from William's family. William's eldest son also wrote to his father when he was old enough.

Graham showed us copies of some of the letters and these brought home Myra's struggles and courage as she faced life without her husband and with a young family to support. It was a heart-warming insight into a small part of our history.

Our September talk will be given on Wednesday 6 September by Dr Danielle Brady on Reimagining Perth's Lost Wetlands.

Lorraine Tholet

## Heritage Corner

The Society recently supported the placing of the **Quarry Amphitheatre, City Beach**, on the State Register of Heritage Places. The place comprises a 556 seat open-air amphitheatre located in a bushland setting on Reabold Hill with panoramic views of Bold Park looking towards Perth city. Constructed in 1986/7, it was the idea of former ballerina Diana Waldron and her architect husband Ken, and became an important venue for concerts, ballet and other cultural and community events. The area is within a former limestone quarry from where limestone was obtained for many early Perth buildings, including the Town Hall.



## Diary Dates

**Fri 8, Sat 9 & Sun 10 Sep:** RWAHS 53rd Annual State History Conference of Affiliated Societies

**Sun 17 Sep:** Walk: Cathedral Square, Treasury Building to include the new Perth City Library

August Members' Discount code for eShop: Hutttag7

## Census time – the town of Perth in 1848

On Friday 7 July **Dr Steve Errington** presented a *Western Land floor talk on pre-convict Perth which attracted an over-flow audience. Here is a taste.*

In 1848 new Colonial Secretary Dr Richard Madden organised the first detailed census of Western Australia. This revealed that on 10 October Perth had a population of 1148 which included 450 children under 14 and 69 officers and men of the 96<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Shopkeeping occupied 38 people, there were 31 tradesmen and the same number filled the civil service.

The census-takers separately counted Aboriginal people in the areas settled by colonists. No figures are available for Perth itself but they recorded 553 men, women and children in Perthshire, encompassing the first four towns – Fremantle, Guildford, Kelmscott and Perth. Of the 553, 162 were recorded as either casually or regularly employed.

What physical facilities did the little town have? There was a hospital for the poor, four primary schools, a post office, a bank, a court house, a gaol and four churches or chapels together with shops and hotels. All these were located on or near St George's Terrace, usually called the high street.

When the court house wasn't needed for petty- or quarter-sessions it served as Perth Boys School under the direction of headmaster Dacres Williams. Perth Girls School conducted by Catherine Lambley was temporarily located on the ground floor of Martha Crisp's house in Hay Street. The Sisters of Mercy had a thriving girls' school in a 'lean-to' that can still be seen in Victoria Avenue (then Lord Street), and lay teacher Terrence Farrelly conducted the Catholic boys school in a nearby rented cottage.

Citizens could attend the quarter sessions and see how Judge William Mackie and a jury dealt with offenders; at the October sessions, new governor Captain Charles Fitzgerald took a seat on the bench next to Mackie to see for himself. They could also watch the great and good in action at Legislative Council meetings. The Council included appointed members George Leake, Samuel Moore and Richard Nash, and the chamber in the Public Offices included a bench for the public.

The post office was situated under the Council chamber. Although Britain had its 'penny black' stamps from 1840 the colony's 'penny black swans'

wouldn't arrive for another six years. But postmaster Anton Helmich could advise that letters for Perth addresses would be delivered for one penny.

While visiting the Public Offices the public could check their pocket watches against the official time shown by Perth's only public clock.

For an update on local events (and months-old news from abroad) residents had a choice of newspapers: the *Inquirer*, edited by William Sholl, came out on Wednesdays, and the *Perth Gazette* (Arthur Shenton, editor) appeared every Saturday for sixpence.

English gold, silver and copper coins were used in the shops but the Western Australian Bank, located at the corner of Pier Street and the Terrace, issued £1 banknotes, each signed by managing cashier Francis Lochee.

The census revealed the major religious groups as Church of England 607, Wesleyan Methodists 174, Roman Catholics 126 and Independents (Congregationalists) 99. All had their own churches or chapels: St George's church in the Terrace (Revd John Wittenoom), the Wesleyan chapel in William Street (Revd John Smithies), St John's church in today's Victoria Avenue (Bishop John Brady), and the Independent chapel in William Street (lay preacher Henry Trigg).

The town had clay and rubble footpaths but the roads were still sandy tracks. The Perth Town Trust with James Purkis as elected Chairman was doing its best with limited rates money and working parties of prisoners from the gaol.

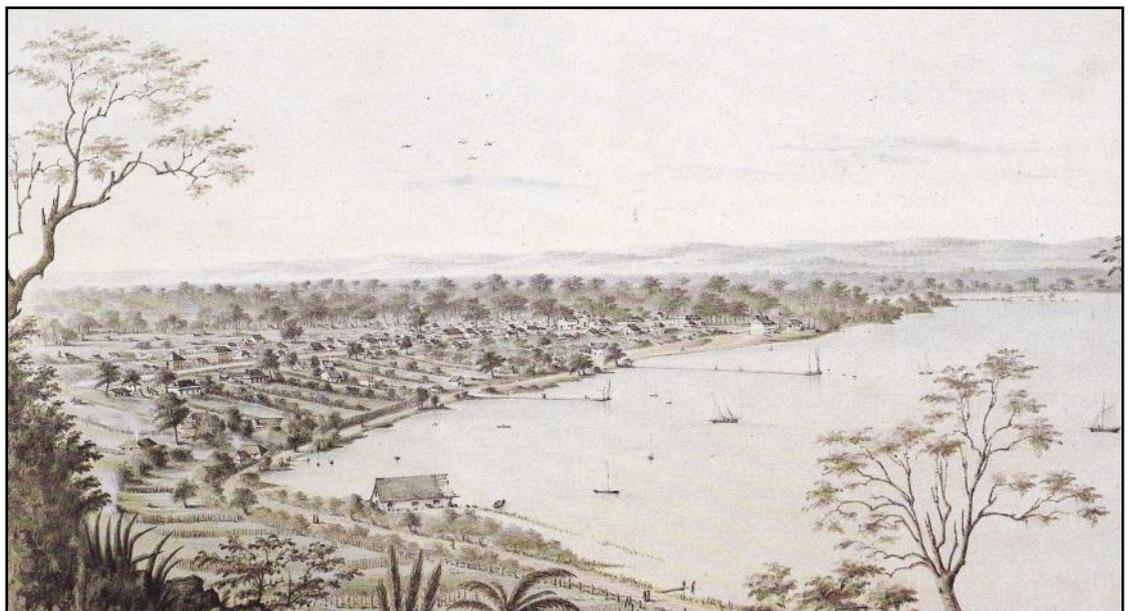
The Freemasons and United Service hotels offered meals and accommodation. There were no police but part-time constables John Chipper and Thomas Salkild kept order on the streets.

For those who enjoyed a beer James Stokes had just built his Stanley Brewery in Spring Street and invited anyone interested to call for a free tasting of his pale ale. You could buy some for 1s 6d a gallon – unless you had joined the new Total Abstinence Society.

Shopkeepers Frederick Croft, the Habgood brothers, Mary Okeley and George Shenton could supply most needs though green tea at three shillings a pound and sausages at one shilling a pound seem like luxuries.

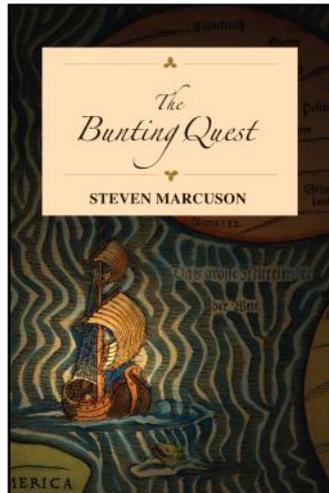
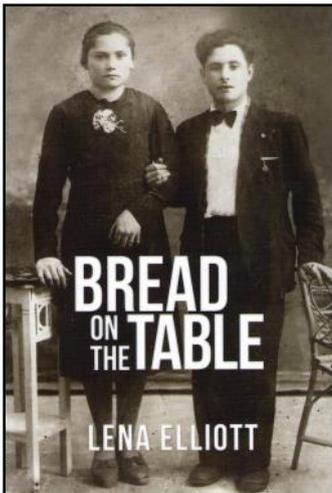
**Steve Errington**

This view of Perth, painted by draughtsman Horace Samson from Mount Eliza in 1847, shows the Mill and William Street jetties, the commissariat and court house, with uncle Lionel Samson's premises and St George's church the most prominent buildings on the Terrace.



## Booked in for a Cuppa

The house was full on the morning of 14 June to hear Lena Elliott, Steven Marcuson and Anna Wyatt talk about their books. Lena Elliott spoke of *Bread on the Table*, which tells the story of her parents Vincenzo and Caterina Macri who migrated from Sicily in the early 1950s and of the family's early struggles. She captured vividly the Italian migrant experience and its importance in WA history. [See the June issue of *History West* for Marlene Anderson's review recommending *Bread on the Table*.]



Steven Marcuson, owner of Trowbridge Gallery, an antique map and print business in Claremont, explained how his historical fiction, *The Bunting Quest*, grew from his long-standing fascination with Heinrich Bunting's 1581 map of the world.

*It was a crude representation of the world, far less detailed than the renowned cartographers of the period. Furthermore, it failed to depict Madagascar, discovered by Europeans in 1500, and oddly, turned the boot of Italy around the wrong way. However, and surprisingly in the bottom right corner was a landmass looking strikingly similar to the coastline of Western Australia. This representation was incredible since Australia had still not been 'discovered' and this coastline would not appear on any map until 1640.*

From these factual beginnings Steve wove an entertaining talk to recommend his lively book to his listeners.

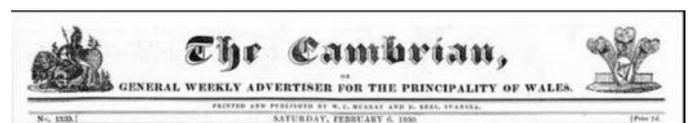
Finally Anna Wyatt spoke movingly about the Aboriginal men who were Gallipoli veterans – *They Served with Honour: Untold Stories of Western Australian Aboriginal Servicemen at Gallipoli*. We might have thought that all parts of the Gallipoli story

have been recounted; not so, Anna told us. The saddest part of her story concerned the experience of these ex-servicemen on their return home. After being treated equally as soldiers, they returned to discrimination and exclusion; a bitter legacy.



## A Welsh research tip from a reader

Member David Lewis enjoys the Welsh National Library's 'Newspapers On Line'. (See – <http://newspapers.library.wales/>) and recommends the website as an excellent source of information about all sorts of historical events. David decided to search for 'Swan River Settlement' and found a number of articles, including a copy of a letter from Captain Dance written in the first months of British settlement to Horace Twiss, Under-Secretary of State for War and Colonies, published in *The Cambrian* on 6 February 1830. He found it fascinating and thought that we might also. Here is an interesting excerpt. Thank you David.



*...our indefatigable and persevering Governor has not lost an hour that could be employed in forming and forwarding a settlement. For the first two months the settlers have remained on Garden Island, in huts made from timber, of which there is here abundance, and thatched and closed in by brushwood, which is likely to be had here in any quantity. Within the last month...we have removed to the mainland, where, at the entrance of the Swan River, we established a town, to be called Freemantle, and about eleven or twelve miles up the river, and immediately above Melville Water, on the left side, on the Swan River, the town of Perth. By the bye, the laying of the first stone of this town, which took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, and on which occasion we made as much noise and rejoicing as our limited means would allow, was performed by Mrs Dance, she being the only lady who could be persuaded to venture so far into a savage country...*

## Affiliates & Other News

**Albany Historical Society's** newsletter tells the sad story of two-year-old Jim Dawson who died on Mt Clarence after becoming lost in August 1928. There is also an interesting early history of Queen's Jubilee Park.

*Koorabup*, produced by **Denmark Historical Society**, is full of district news, including an account of the life of local newspapers – *Albany Advertiser* and *Denmark Bulletin*.

**Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society** reports on the ongoing popularity of the History Village. 'The Education Program is continuing to amaze, one only has to look at the Whiteboard in the Office which shows the bookings month by month. The School Holiday event catered for around 100 children and was very successful.' With around 100 active volunteers, the organisation is a busy one!

**Maylands Historical & Peninsula Association** is asking for feedback on its draft new website. The Association hopes to go live with the new website at its 25th year celebrations in October, but before then, needs your opinions on how user friendly you find it, what you like, what you don't like and anything you believe should be added.

**Mundaring & Hills Historical Society** has an interesting exhibition scheduled (from 12 August to 14 February 2018) titled 'Hoofprints in the Hills'. Since 1830 when exploration parties, accompanied by pack-horses, first ventured over WA's Darling Range in search of greener pastures, horses' hoofprints have made a mark on the Hills landscape. Whether used for ploughing, warfare, transportation, entertainment or therapy, horses have been integral in shaping and enriching the Shire of Mundaring's past and present. This exhibition celebrates the horse, and the many and varied ways humans have interacted with these magnificent creatures over the years. The newsletter also reminds of the importance of roadside stalls in our history, telling the story of Harold and Flo Edwards's stall at Chidlow which sold produce from their small orchard and flower farm. Drinks and lollies were also available.

If you are interested in the life of the man behind the Butterworth Buildings in Hay St, consult the **City of South Perth Historical Society's** newsletter. Jeremiah (Jerry) Butterworth was an interesting character who left his city property to the Perth Wesleyans.

**Walpole Nornalup and District Historical Society** is planning the establishment of a museum in Pioneer Park Walpole, working with the Shire of Manjimup and Walpole Nornalup Tourism Association.

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**An exhibition not to miss:** Mandurah Community Museum invites you to visit a travelling exhibition on *Shackleton: Escape from Antarctica* during the month of August.

Did you know that the **WA Genealogical Society** has adopted a new name – **FamilyHistoryWA?**

**Mount Lawley Society** newsletter warns of the threat to the district's historical buildings of demolition by neglect and reports that the City of Stirling is taking action. 'Demolition by Neglect' laws have been introduced into the City's planning scheme and it is establishing a watch list of properties in danger within the Heritage Protection Special Control Areas in Inglewood, Mt Lawley and Menora. Also in the newsletter are two interesting historical articles by Peter Conole – one on Major General Edmund Alfred Drake-Brockman, the district's most senior warrior of World War I, and the other on the Glick family who became Mt Lawley residents after stints on several goldfields; they were venturesome and successful Jewish immigrants from Austria.

The May newsletter of the **Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society** tells an interesting story by Rose Raymen about the detective work which uncovered the lost genealogy of Pnina Berkman who was the first victim of serial killer Eric Edgar Cooke and whose origins were unknown to her son Mark who had migrated to Israel. It is pleasing to read a case of historical research serving such beneficial ends.

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### **Copyright Amendment Bill: good news for all researchers!**

The Parliament of Australia has passed the Copyright Amendment (Disability Access and Other Measures) Bill 2017. From 1 January 2019, unpublished materials will be out of copyright 70 years after the death of the creator.

The changes enabled by the Copyright Amendment (Disability Access & Other Measures) Bill 2017:

- Simplify the statutory licences for education and make it easier for students to access material and extend the exception for exams to online exams.
- Simplify and update provisions that enable libraries and other collecting institutions to make 'preservation copies' of material in their collections such as manuscripts.
- Introduce a fixed term of protection for unpublished works (that are currently covered by copyright indefinitely) making it easier for libraries to exhibit material to the Australian public.
- Simplify and update the provisions that allow accessible format versions for people with disabilities.

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# More Tales from the State Archives Collection

History West, August 2017

In November 1962, Perth was host to the VII British Empire and Commonwealth Games. The State Records Office holds many government files relating to the organisation of these Games which were attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Included in these records is one file that documents what was then a pressing issue for government officials and Games organisers: fly control. Games organisers were very concerned that house flies and bush flies might be nuisance for spectators at sporting events and for athletes staying at the Games village unless steps were taken to reduce their numbers.

Metropolitan fly control was already being tackled more broadly by a government Fly Control Committee which had been established in 1956, chaired by the Public Health Department. The work of this committee was largely educational, with successful public campaigns to reduce fly numbers being run for several decades.



● Looking for breeding spots in rubbish bins (below), compost heaps, incinerators and fowlyards is part of her job. Hence her washable beach hat, sandals, no stockings and fresh-daily "tubbable" gingham frock.

Fly Control Officer at work, 1969. Courtesy: *Daily News*

For the Empire Games, however, it was decided a new Committee for fly control was required to focus on Games venues. The new Committee comprised representatives from the Perth City Council, Department of Public Health and Government Entomologist.

In the lead-up to the Games, the new Committee considered different methods to combat fly populations, including aerial spraying over Games venues. The Commissioner of Public Health wrote to the US Department of Agriculture to seek advice on aerial fly control using Dibrom sprays. This method of fly control was quickly abandoned after it was determined that aeroplanes dispensing sprays would need to fly at very low heights over the metropolitan area. Other control methods such as fogging and ground spraying using insecticides were chosen instead.

Local businesses, such as the appropriately named Flick

and Co. Pty Ltd, wrote to the Committee to offer their services and suggest methods of tackling fly populations. Such was the concern prior to the Games that the matter was raised in Parliament, with questions about combatting 'the fly menace'. By October 1962, the Minister for Health could confidently report the range of measures being undertaken, including:

- educating householders and Shire Councils 'through a movie film, leaflets, exhibitions, lectures and radio talk';
- training selected personnel in methods of fly control (including) up to 100 auxiliary Fly Control Officers;
- control of flies in public parks and gardens, market gardens, abattoirs and stables; and
- a special insecticide fogging machine purchased for the Games with two senior Health Department inspectors assigned full-time to the task of coordinating day-to-day activities.

The file documenting these measures details the scale of fly control operations. For example, at Perry Lakes Stadium and the surrounding area, 3,900 acres of land were fogged with 2,191 gallons of DDT solution, requiring 392 man-hours at a total cost of £1,500. Beatty Park Swimming pool was fogged on each occasion before use as well as sprayed with a total of 3 gallons of insecticide in specific areas. All Games venues and the Athletes village were subject to heavy fogging and spraying prior to events.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT AT FOLLOWING VENUES.	
1. <u>EMPIRE GAMES VENUES - FOGGING</u>	
Treated area	= 950 acres.
Total acreage fogged	= 3,900 acres.
Insecticide (3% D.D.T. 1% WP in PT)	2,191 gal. @ 11/- per gal. = 1,205 1.0
Man hours (2 men)	391½ hrs. @ 8/11 per hr. = 174.11.0
Mileage travelled	1,255 mls. @ 10.9 = 57. 0.0
T.I.P.A. running time	123 hrs. @ 10/- per hr. = 64. 0.0
	1,500.12.0

*Handwritten notes:* 36 DDT + 1 1/2 BHC in "Manure PT" solvent oil (as carrier)

*Handwritten notes at bottom:* 1/2 mile radius 2 machines

Extract from government file showing amount of insecticides used at Games venues.

The subsequent report of the Committee at the conclusion of the Games records the successful outcome of these measures: 'control was achieved and the prevalence of flies did not reach nuisance levels'. The report notes that the only problem was at the Dalkeith Bowls where 'bush flies were a nuisance on certain days despite the measures taken'.

The Special Committee was disbanded soon after the Games concluded but the Metropolitan Fly Control Committee continued its work into the 1980s.

## References

SROWA, Cons 1003, item 1962/1144 and Cons 3127, item 1965/1463

*Daily News*, 20 January 1969

**Damien Hassan, Senior Archivist  
State Records Office of WA**

*This is just one of the many thousands of stories waiting to be told from the State archives collection.*

## MUSEUM NEWS

### ‘MURDER AT SWAN RIVER’

This was a headline that greeted the readers of London’s *Morning Post* on 8 January 1833. A young man from Gloucestershire had been speared to death in an unprovoked attack while trying to make a new life for himself at the Swan River settlement. The RWAHS museum holds a tangible link with this tragedy in the form of some carpentry tools then owned by the victim. He was William Gaze, a 31-year-old carpenter who had been fatally speared on Thursday 14 June 1832 by Yagan in the newly gazetted town of Kelmscott.



A marking gauge (engraved ‘W. Gaze’), a set square and three gimlets, brought to Swan River by William Gaze in 1829. (MAA2007.193a-e)

Gaze was born in 1800 or 1801 in the Gloucestershire village of Hucclecote, the first child of carpenter Emanuel Gaze and his wife Mary. He was baptised in the family church of St Bartholemew, on a hill above nearby Churchdown on 18 January 1801.

He came to the colony with Thomas Peel, arriving on the *Gilmore* in December 1829. Gaze severed his connection with the hopelessly unorganised Peel: he and five others appeared before a bench of JPs in Fremantle on 14 July 1830 and all were released from their indentures.

Gaze then put his skills to work for new settler John Butler who had been given an innkeeper’s licence for his grant (now Peppermint Grove). Butler put up a two-storey stone structure east of present day View Street on the track from Fremantle to Perth. It was fitted out with jarrah and called the Bush Inn, sometimes the ‘half-way house’.

In March 1832 Gaze was allocated 20 acres on the Canning on the recommendation of Kelmscott Government Resident Theophilus Ellis. He left boxes of clothes and most of his tools with Butler and departed for the Canning where he built a crude hut for himself.

On Thursday 14 June 1832 he was working his block with help from 17-year-old John Thomas (1815-1907). We can piece together what happened next from statements made by Thomas, settler Christopher Wright and Government Resident Ellis, and from a newspaper interview given by attending surgeon Nicolas Langley.

After having lunch in the hut, Gaze and Thomas were clearing land some distance away when they heard Gaze’s dog yelp. The dog had been speared in the head by a man later identified as Yagan. About twenty Aborigines who were between them and the hut rushed towards Gaze and Thomas who immediately ran for their lives, making for a fallen log that crossed the river. Thomas got across but Gaze was speared in the back by Yagan. He staggered on for three or four yards and fell before being speared again by Yagan who snatched a spear from one of his comrades.

Thomas had no option but to run to the military barracks about a mile north. When he returned with soldiers Gaze was still alive but Thomas had to cut off five spears so they could carry him back to the barracks. Nearby settler John Phillips sent to Fremantle for Dr Langley. Knowing he was mortally wounded, Gaze dictated his will to another settler in Robert Wigan. After Langley removed the spear heads Gaze rallied briefly before dying late on Saturday. On Sunday he was buried on ‘church hill’, recently located at the eastern corner of the intersection of Canning Mills and Tranquil Roads.

The shocking news was published by two local newspapers – Charles MacFaul’s manuscript *Observer* on 25 June, and William Graham’s *Western Australian Colonial News* on 30 June.

There was no inquest but the several sworn statements identified the killer as Yagan. Lt Governor Stirling proclaimed Yagan an outlaw and he was killed a year later by William Keats who also died in the affray, leaving his brother to collect a £30 reward.

Gaze’s will required his possessions to be sold and the proceeds sent to his father in Hucclecote. Some of his tools were acquired by John Thomas, as maritime historian Rod Dickson discovered while writing *Captain John Thomas Esq: from tragedy he triumphed*. Rod acquired the five tools shown in the photograph from a descendant and in 2007 he donated them to the Society.

**Steve Errington**



Our next **Second Hand Book Sale** will be held on 7-8 April 2018. Please bring any books you no longer want to Stirling House or call the Office on 9386 3841 to arrange a pick up. Many thanks in anticipation.

## Telling Yagan's Story

Neville Green, *Yagan: A Different Kind of Hero 1833*. Focus Education Services, Clarkson, 2016; 53 pp. In Library. SP \$15 MP \$14.

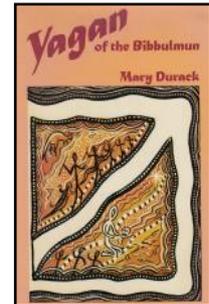
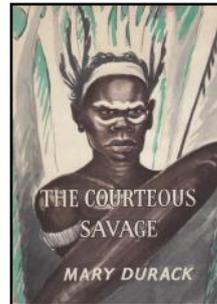


Neville Green traces Yagan's story as it has been told and re-told from newspaper reports and official records of the colonists' first encounters with him in 1831-32 through to this publication last year. These accounts are gathered together to show that presentations of Yagan have changed over time but that there has always been a sense of an exceptional man, a

warrior leader. As this book title states, the author sees Yagan as a historical hero of a different kind – a hero of his people – and a Western Australian who deserves his place in the cavalcade of history.

The documentary sources relating to Yagan, both primary and secondary, have been listed and discussed, and the text has extensive references and bibliography. It identifies the various views of early colonists who met up with him and then cites influential 20<sup>th</sup> century writings, notably by Alexandra Hasluck in *Early Days* (1961) and Mary Durack's children's book, *The Courteous Savage* with illustrations by Elizabeth Durack (1964), re-published in 1976 as *Yagan of the Bibbulmun* with illustrations by Revel Cooper. The author also recounts the controversy surrounding the erection of a statue of Yagan, placed on Heirisson Island in 1984, which brought home the diverse opinions about Yagan held at that time, and an account of location, exhumation and repatriation of Yagan's head from England and its burial in 2010. This small

book is therefore a ready reference for anyone with an interest in this important Western Australian.



### Volunteers wanted to work with the Museum Committee

Working in the museum is varied and rewarding! We are seeking new volunteers to join us with data entry, accessioning new donations, researching the artwork collection or working with the costume collection. Just 4 hours a week would be very valuable and anyone with an interest in any of these areas is asked to contact **Val Hutch** through the Office: [admin@histwest.org.au](mailto:admin@histwest.org.au) or 9386 3841.

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