



HISTORY WEST

PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

March 2016

GENERAL MEETING

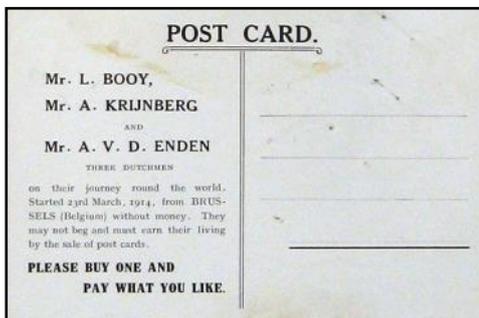
The next meeting at Stirling House is on Wednesday 16 March at 6pm. **Professor Neil Foley** will present a paper entitled **Dutch Connections with Western Australia, 1829-1920**.

Refreshments available from 5.30pm; Bookshop open until 6pm.



Van Den Enden and Krijnberg travelled around the world selling their postcards. Military intelligence in 1915 investigated to confirm they were neutral Dutch and not German spies.

NAA PP14-1\3 Dutchmen postcards van den enden Krijnberg file 16-1-25 PP14-1 BC 751569



Neil Foley's interest in the Dutch in Western Australia was piqued after being told by his grandmother in the 1970s that his great-great grandfather was a Dutchman who 'jumped ship' in the 1850s. Since then he has gathered much information on the Dutch in WA in the period prior to World War I and will present what he has found.

In essence, despite a history of Dutch discovery in WA and the closeness of the Netherlands' most important colony, the Dutch East Indies, there was relatively little interchange of goods or people between the Netherlands and WA. In the nineteenth century a few Dutch sailors, adventurers and gold seekers found themselves in WA, but only the occasional emigrant made the long journey from the Netherlands with the conscious purpose of making it home.

The Dutch in WA were under scrutiny during the Boer War and World War I, although the loyalty of many was proven – seventeen Dutchmen joined as WA Anzacs, three of whom died – one at Gallipoli in May 1915.

Whilst the Dutch made no significant impact in WA up to the war, their story is worth telling in the context of the limited non-British migration to WA during the period.



Happily on holiday!

Neil Foley has worked as a town planner for forty years. Between 1976 and 2009 he was employed in WA state and local government until establishing his own planning consultancy in 2009. Since 2010, Neil has taught part-time in the Urban and Regional Planning program at UWA. He has been a Board member of the Swan River Trust, Presiding Member of the WA Government's South West and Metro South West Joint Development Assessment Panels, and a Board member of the WA Waste Authority. Neil is also a Councillor of the Society and is providing his skills and experience to assist in our Community History Centre project.



GIANT SECONDHAND BOOK SALE ALERT

Support this major fund-raising effort by decluttering your bookshelves to aid a good cause. Come along on Saturday/Sunday 2 or 3 April to pick up those books you always intended to read.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Culture and the Arts**



Council News

At its meeting held on 11 February items of business included the following where Council

• welcomed new members – Dr Louis Evans, Anthony Fego, Peter & Pauline Handford, John Lukin, Dr John Marsden, Patricia Thorn, and new Affiliate, Friends of Donnelly River (Chair Cindy Spight);

- noted that the Society's constitution [Section 23(1)] requires a quorum of 30 members at 5pm on Wednesday 16 March for the Special General Meeting to consider a constitutional change; (a proxy form is enclosed in this issue);
- congratulated members Dr Kerry Smith, Christine Curry and the President Federation of Australian Historical Societies, Prof. Don Garden, on their Australia Day honours awards;
- identified a wish list of space requirements in the planned Community History Centre;
- endorsed the agreement with GAIA Resources and thanked Denis McLeod (Hon. Legal Adviser) and Dr Helen Henderson and her team for their development of the agreement, including Dr Henderson's ongoing willingness to lead the website redevelopment project;
- heard a positive report from Museum Convenor Val Hutch on the progress of the pest infestation control measures;
- resolved that the former Anglican Coat of Arms stone donated from the demolished Diocesan Building be de-accessioned and returned to Perth Diocesan Trustees for their building plans;
- accepted with gratitude the donation of Nick Drew & Pamela Statham Drew to cover the cost of a new sound system in the meeting room, and thanked Lorraine Clarke and Ian Manning for their successful efforts to find and install a new projector;
- nominated Dr Fiona Bush to the planning committee of the State Heritage Office's proposed State Heritage and History Conference 2017;
- acquitted the grant project to digitise and catalogue over 6,000 significant original early-mid 20th century historical photographs, with thanks to Lotterywest and to the Library volunteer team;
- recognised with gratitude the work of Ally Drake Brockman on the Christmas raffle which raised over \$1000 for the Society.

Lennie McCall

Australia Day Honours – Our congratulations to two hard-working volunteers



Christine Curry OAM received her award for service to conservation and the environment. Christine, who lives in North Beach, has worked for nearly half a century to preserve local urban bushland. Her major focus (since 1985) has been on Star Swamp Bushland as a leader in the environmental friends

group, which has become a model for such groups. She has also worked for ten years on the Lake Gwelup conservation effort. And she has been secretary of the Northern Suburbs Branch of the Wildflower Society for ten years. Christine reflects that, to be effective, these campaigns need someone to 'hold everything together ... to take the running'. It is wonderful to see this long-term commitment honoured. Christine also volunteers at the RWAHS Library where her knowledge of Mosaic enables her to scan some of the many photographs in the Collection. Christine began volunteering at 14 years of age and we look forward to her continuing her service for many decades to come!



Dr Kerry Smith AM received her award for significant service to the library and information sectors as an academic and researcher, and to professional organisations. Kerry began nine years of part-time study for her professional library qualification in 1973 at WAIT not long after the birth of her

and Ray's first son. Once qualified, she joined a sequence of professional committees in library and other information associations and sub-groups, including in pursuit of her interest in geoscience information. She also spent time as a local government Councillor for the newly formed Town of Cambridge, including a stint as Deputy Mayor. Once this finished she decided to become, like Christine, more involved in the Wildflower Society of WA (Inc) where she still works. Her involvement with the RWAHS (as a Councillor and Convenor of the Tours & Events Committee) is quite recent. She blames her stint as a Personal Assistant to the Manager and the Accounts Supervisor, Sydney University Medical Society in 1966/67 for her birth into societies and committees. And again, like Christine, Kerry was involved with helping Red Cross as a volunteer when a high school student in Ipswich, Qld. She says she has enjoyed every minute of it all!

Museum News

Family treasures donated

We are delighted to let members know that descendants of the Gallop family have entrusted the Society with several family treasures for safekeeping and display.



One of the items is a silk-lined portable writing case with tiny metal ink casket which belonged to Elizabeth Emily Smith (née Gallop), the sixth surviving child of pioneer settlers James Gallop, who arrived on the *Lotus* in 1829, and his wife Elizabeth (née Spencer), who arrived on the *Calista*, also in 1829. The other items are a jewellery case and a family Bible.



Jennifer and brother Mark Harrison with writing case

These treasures were bequeathed to Jennifer Tucker (née Harrison), now living in Sydney, a descendant of James Gallop through Jennifer's great grandmother, Elizabeth Emily Smith (1857-1931). Jennifer says evidence suggests that the writing case and similar jewellery case were gifts from her father James Gallop, most likely as part of her dowry on her marriage to Captain Henry Smith at Fremantle in 1885.

The Bible was inscribed by James Gallop and presented to his fourth son John in 1878. On John's death two years later at the age of twenty, it was given to Elizabeth, an older sibling. She cherished the gifts and they have passed down through four generations of her family.

The Gallops are one of WA's earliest settler families. James Gallop (1811-1880) began life in the Swan River Colony with his brothers as indentured labourers. By 1838 he was in a position to lease Crawley Park (where the University of WA now stands). He then leased and bought nearby Dalkeith Farm to become a market gardener and wine maker. He married Elizabeth Spencer (1824-1872) in 1843 and nine of their twelve children survived to adulthood, beginning the creation of a large and ever-spreading family.

Heritage Matters Heritage listings and registrations – what does it all mean?

Western Australia is currently waiting on its first revision of the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*. As we eagerly await the changes to our heritage legislation, it is timely to remember how heritage is protected in WA. Prior to the passing of the Heritage Act 1990, the National Trust of Australia (WA) was the main organisation that assessed places (a term which includes buildings) to determine their heritage significance. These places were then added to the National Trust's list of Classified Places. Unfortunately the National Trust had no legal power to protect the places on its list from demolition or unsympathetic alterations.

The passing of the Heritage Act in 1990 changed this situation. It saw the establishment of the Heritage Council, which advises the state government on heritage matters. The Heritage Minister chooses the nine people who sit on this Council for their skills and expertise. The State Heritage Office is a government department that supports the Heritage Council and the Heritage Minister. One of the tasks of the Heritage Council is to maintain a Register of Heritage Places. In the early 1990s, a thematic framework was developed to identify the historic themes of importance in WA's development, and these themes have assisted the Heritage Council in determining which places should be added to the Register. As this Register was for places that were considered to be of state importance, this left vulnerable places that had only local significance. To ensure that community heritage was not lost, the Heritage Act required local councils to compile and maintain an inventory of places of importance to the local community. Many of the places on the Register of Heritage Places today came as recommendations from these municipal inventories. It is the task of local government to ensure that these buildings are protected.

A major defect in the Heritage Act 1990 is that it has no power to ensure that an owner maintains a registered place. Commonly referred to as 'demolition by neglect', this problem will be rectified in the Act's revision.

Dr Fiona Bush, RWAHS Councillor
Chairperson of Classifications Standing Committee,
NTWA
Member of Register Committee, HCWA

Introducing two of our volunteers



If you have visited the Book Shop is it likely that you will have met the charming **Marie-Francoise Scott** who has been a Book Shop volunteer for some time and is now covering for our Bookshop Officer, Glenda Bye, while she is away travelling for five months.

Marie-Francoise worked in the mining sector but, after she finished paid work, she decided it was time to give something back and therefore resolved to do voluntary work. A BA in Arts & Archeology resulted in an interest in history and particularly the history of the place where she now lives – Western Australia. Marie-Francoise enjoys the Book Shop work with its combination of administration and public relations. She says that it is specialised work where there is much to learn. As members, we all benefit from the skilled work of the Book Shop team. Thank you from us all!



Library volunteer **Katie Worth** first volunteered at the beginning of 2014 while she completed her last school year and began studying at UWA, and we are delighted to welcome her back in 2016. Since her first visit Katie has represented Western Australia as a youth ambassador on the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour of Malaysia. Her account of this experience follows.

Much still remains unknown about the Sandakan death marches and the joint British and Australian campaign in Borneo during World War II. However, travelling to Labuan and through Kota Kinabalu and the remote jungle terrain between Ranua and Sandakan, retracing the footsteps of the diggers, submerged us in the historical, cultural and environmental world of the military events that took place on the island. The ten-day trip allowed us to learn about the customs of the local Borneo tribes, including tasting local cuisine and participating in aspects of tribal life. We met with early primary students in the isolated Sabah Tea Gardens and took part in an English lesson at Saint Michael's High School.

One purpose of the tour was to promote the learning of Australian military history, and to better understand the sacrifice and hardship which men and women faced in times of conflict.

It was a privilege to meet veterans, families and people who have been affected by the Borneo campaign and to learn about its emotional impact, rather than simply seeing the campaign as dates, events and statistics. By the time it came to ANZAC Day, held at the Prisoner of War Camp in Sandakan, we were looking through a new light, a light that is encompassed by sacrifice and suffering, yet, in a way makes you proud to be Australian. After journeying to Labuan war cemetery and seeing tombstones, travelling to the places where these men were tortured over half a century ago,

knowing the men and meeting civilians who helped Australians has transformed our perspective on ANZAC Day and the military events that have occurred within the jungles of Borneo.



Back row; Jonathon Kammann, Katie Worth, Izaak Wesson, Michael Taylor, Shiya Tee.
Front row; Eloise Skoss, Ashlee Hooper, Miriam Grundy, Shakira Moulton, Brendan Jackson

Affiliates News

Busselton Historical Society congratulates several of its long-term members and committed workers for the honours they recently received – John and Olive Cannam, and Frank Mouritz.

The Little Bottler, newsletter of the **Colonial Bottle & Collectors Club**, tells us of the Bruce Rock Bottling Works and Cordial Factory which operated from 1915 until after 1954. We are reminded that the production of mineral waters and cordials was one of the most widespread of manufacturing activities in the first part of the 20th century. Every town of any size had its own well-patronised factory. In Bruce Rock's case the firm changed hands many times but was clearly profitably enough to attract another buyer on each occasion. Such small businesses sustained country town life in a way which is no longer the case.

Rockingham District Historical Society is beginning its social activities for the year with a picnic at Naval Memorial Park next to the grain terminal on Friday 11 March at noon. Sounds fun!

Walpole Nornalup & District Historical Society held a successful fund-raiser at the New Year Walpole Markets – its first ever Sausage Sizzle. The Society is planning a stall at the Markets on Australia Day and at Easter.

York Society reports that its Archives is flourishing with a team of researchers answering enquiries on family histories and that of York's many old buildings.

The **Historical Society of the Northern Territory** organises an annual field trip in July based on the Darwin Show Day and is this year considering a trip to Maningrida. Aboriginal history and culture is part of the Society's remit and Councillors believe they should pay more attention to it in the future.

Museum News

Ella Fry's gown

In 1984 the Art Gallery of WA purchased a modern painting *Naked Man with Rat* by artist Lucien Freud. One of only two works by Freud held in Australia, it was considered a bold choice given its subject matter, thought by art critic Robert Hughes to 'bypass decorum while fiercely preserving respect'. With hindsight it was a well-judged investment; bought for the sum of \$78,000, by 2011 its value had risen to \$6.5 million. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees responsible for its purchase was Ella Fry, the first woman to be appointed both Trustee and Chairman of a state gallery in Australia.

Once described as 'someone who got on and got things done', there was more to Ella Fry than this. Born in Brisbane, she trained as both a concert pianist and an artist. She pursued a musical career, broadcasting recitals and concertos with orchestras, and had many art works and portraits hung in galleries across the nation.

After World War II, Ella Fry moved to Perth. She recalled: 'It seemed a long way away. It was a very isolated place then. Friends looked at me with tears rolling down their faces, saying what will you do? There won't even be an orchestra'.

But there was - and is - an orchestra and she gave many concert performances. In 1957, wearing a rose pink taffeta gown, she played Grieg's Piano Concerto with the WA Symphony Orchestra at the Festival of Perth. The occasion was immortalised in a painting by her artist friend Guy Grey-Smith who captured both the pianist's flourish and her vivacious gown - a visual duality of Ella Fry's life, music and art. Her gown is now held in the Society's costume collection.



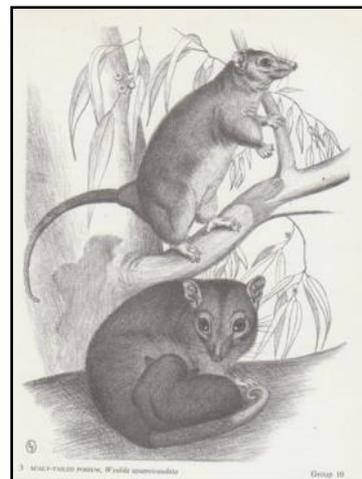
The fashion industry, slow to recover from the traumas of war, revived after designer Christian Dior presented his New Look Collection, which reportedly 'took London's breath away' and cemented his fame with

Royal patronage. His fabulously expensive fabrics - he once asked Princess Margaret 'Does Your Highness feel like a gold person or a silver one?' - glamorous, low necklines, cinched waists and forty-yard ball gowns dominated the fashion scene through postwar decades. Bead embroidered evening dresses inspired by ornate royal gowns were top fashion. One locally made gown (RWAHS collection) with five frothy pink and white layers of tulle embroidered with pink seed pearls was worn to a Royal ball in 1954 and compared by the *West Australian* to 'drifting clouds'.



Ella Fry's bright rose pink taffeta concert gown is more dramatic than poetic, more 'stage than sky', but true to its era incorporates Dior fashion trends: embroidered silver and pearl bead floral sprays on the bodice and long bouffant deep-pocketed skirt worn over a stiffened petticoat to accentuate a narrow waist. Its plunging neckline and wide shoulder straps reflect the highly fashionable 'lingerie-look' worn by cinema's glamorous stars like Ava Gardner.

Rather endearingly, its frayed hem suggests Ella Fry wore her gown on more than just this one occasion.



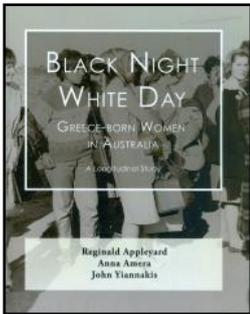
And Ella Fry the artist? In 1964 she undertook a commission to illustrate a book about Australian mammals. She had first-hand experience for the drawings as she looked after live animals in her house in the Perth hills on behalf of the WA Museum. One scaly-tailed possum lived with her for over seven years. Given the freedom to roam around her home, they allowed her true to life observation for making the 126 detailed drawings published in 1970 in *A Guide to Native Mammals of Australia*.

Jo Pearson

The gown and a small number of metal plate and wood print blocks were given to the collection by Ella Fry's beneficiaries, the WA Ballet Company. Her private papers/photographs are held in the Battye Library.

Shelf Help

Reginald Appleyard, John Yiannakis & Anna Amera, *Black Night White Day, Greece-born women in Australia: a longitudinal study, 1964-2007*, Avago Books, Dundas NSW, 2015, 391 pp. SP \$45 MP \$42. In Library.



Why do people shift so far from the place where they were raised and schooled? And why do some return to Europe? Cultural intimacy is one likely reason. Answers to some of these sorts of questions are suggested in this book for which Reg Appleyard, an expert demographer and one of the

Society's Fellows, is one of three authors/researchers.

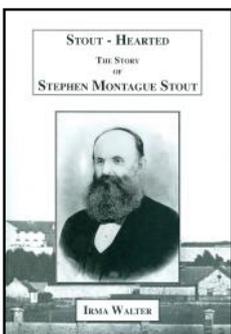
He acknowledges formally the 'courage and sheer grit' of the women who ventured so far without knowing if they would ever see their home hearth again. The title alludes to a 1965 song about migration:

*In foreign factories
I work night and day
With the hope in my heart
To see a white (better) day.*

Book Reviews

Irma Walter, *Stout-Hearted: the story of Stephen Montague Stout*, Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, 2014. SP \$35 MP \$33. In Library.

Reviewer: Ian Berryman



Stephen Montague Stout (1831-1886) is one of the most interesting of the convicts who were transported to Western Australia between 1850 and 1868. He was better educated than most of his fellow-convicts, and after arriving here on 1 June 1858 he pursued a variety of occupations, as a clerk, teacher and photographer. The activity for

which he will be remembered, however, was his association with the newspaper press of Western Australia, both as a journalist and as a founder and proprietor of several newspapers.

I suspect that Irma Walter's well-researched and well-written biography would not have been feasible until a few years ago. Stout is not known to have left any personal papers, so his biographer had the task of reconstructing his life and career from other sources. The main source of information about Stout is the newspapers of Western Australia, but until recently a biography would have entailed spending countless

hours in front of a microfilm reader. However, the digitisation of Australian and British newspapers, and the proliferation of genealogical websites, have made a vast amount of information readily available. Irma Walter has also done substantial research in the State Records Office.

Stout had an unusual background. He was born in France to English parents, and lived there until he was fifteen. After coming to England he worked in various occupations, but also turned to crime. In 1850 he was before the courts twice, on charges of petty embezzlement; he was found not guilty at his first trial, but at the second he was convicted and served a short sentence. In 1856 he faced a more serious charge, of forgery and embezzlement, and was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years.

After arriving in Western Australia, Stout was sent to Bunbury to work as a clerk at the convict depot. Later he taught at a school in Australind, before going to Fremantle where he opened a school in 1861. For some years Stout worked as a teacher; he also operated a photography business from about 1863 to 1873, making him one of the colony's first photographers.

Stout's involvement with newspapers began during the voyage to Western Australia when he helped to produce a newspaper for the convicts. While in Bunbury he became correspondent for the *Perth Gazette*, and later wrote for the *Herald* and the *Express*. From 1878 to 1881 he lived in Geraldton where he was associated with two newspapers, the *Victorian Express* and the *Geraldton Observer*. After returning to Perth he worked for the *Inquirer* and the *Daily News*, but left following quarrels with the owners.

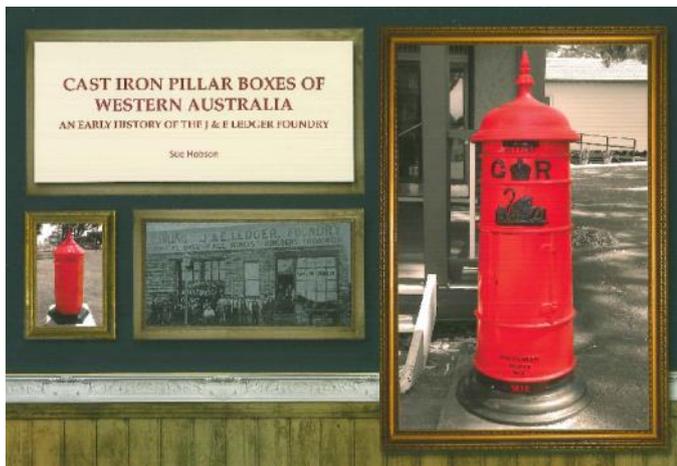
Stout was a colourful figure in the colony, but he was not a good businessman, and heavy drinking exacerbated his problems. He died from heart disease in 1886, aged 55.

The journalists of Western Australia, and the newspapers for which they wrote, have been neglected by our historians. Irma Walter's biography is a welcome addition to the literature on the subject.

Sue Hobson, *Cast Iron Pillar Boxes of Western Australia: An early history of the J. & E. Ledger Foundry, Scott Print, Perth, 2015, 53pp. SP \$20 & MP \$19. In Library.*

Reviewer: Marlene Anderson

As a descendant of the Ledgers who created the company, J. & E. Ledger Foundry, Sue Hobson is well-qualified to record the history of cast iron pillar boxes in WA. A keen interest in both her own family history and Western Australian history has led her to publishing the book.



The early Ledger family history is an interesting one, commencing with a convicted criminal, Joseph Sowden Ledger, being transported to Western Australia in 1863. Included in the book is a copy of a newspaper article from the *Yorkshire Gazette*, describing his crime and subsequent conviction. Copies of other newspaper articles and advertisements help in understanding how the company became a reality. Determined to escape his criminal past, he changed his name to Joseph Sowden and started a small tinsmith business. Strong family support saw the business grow and flourish – ‘Ledger’ became a name to be proud of after his nephew and brother brought their families to the colony.

Although the Foundry initially made products other than cast iron pillar boxes, the book is concerned mainly with the production of the pillar boxes. Several produced between 1891 and 1912 by the Foundry are still in use in Western Australia today. Other defunct pillar boxes have been retained in heritage areas – the Royal Western Australian Historical Society has two at its front door.

Sue Hobson examines the criticism levelled at the design of the pillar boxes built by the Foundry between 1901 and 1912. With war impending, the cap of the pillar boxes was seen by some people to resemble the despised German helmets, the red and black colour of the pillar boxes adding to the aversion. To give a balanced view of community feelings, Sue Hobson has also included letters written by people in support for the pillar boxes.

For over a decade the author has recorded the location of pillar boxes, stretching from Geraldton in the north to Albany in the south and Boulder in the east. Twenty pages in the book have been devoted to photographs of the pillar boxes covering the period from 1891 to 1912. Photographs of some very early pillar boxes manufactured by other companies have also been included; these help in telling the history of pillar boxes prior to the J. & E. Ledger Foundry commencing manufacture in 1891.

The book is particularly attractive in its format. It has a

soft cover and is enhanced by its wide format and colourful bands imprinted with brief extracts of associated text. Framed portraits and a family tree help to trace the members of the Ledger family. The inclusion of endnotes, a bibliography and an index make the book useful for researchers. It is fortunate that an important chapter in Western Australia’s postal history has been recorded.

Roger Underwood, *Fire from the Sky: A personal account of the early days of aerial burning in Western Australia*, York Gum Publishing, Palmyra, 2015. In Library. On order in Book Shop.

Reviewer: Ian Abbott



In the fire-prone forests of south-west Western Australia, there are two stark alternatives. We either treat fire as our servant, or we allow fire to master

us. The Noongar people followed the former strategy and deployed their firesticks to manage the ongoing supply of foods obtainable from forest and bushland. Many of the pioneer settlers, but not the foresters of the early 1920s, also saw the advantages of using fire. Indeed, settlers who didn’t do so lost property to the inevitable summer wildfires and foresters who didn’t use fire allowed the timber resource to be degraded.

In this book, a retired forester with much experience in fighting wildfires and planning prescribed fires deftly weaves together information from archival sources, oral history and personal involvement. This book is an account of how, when and where the Forests Department came to reintroduce low intensity fire to the forest in order to minimise the impact of future wildfires.

The Forests Department and CSIRO in 1959 and 1960 jointly conducted small-scale experimental fires in forest fuels of various age since the previous fire. The wildfires of early 1961 around the town of Dwellingup caused shocking degradation of the jarrah forest. This led the government to establish a Royal Commission to investigate the causes of wildfire and recommend potential remedies. Additional research led to the development of sophisticated burning guides. However, lighting prescribed fires by hand on the ground did not prepare sufficient area of forest to withstand subsequent wildfire. Thus the strategy was developed of setting fires from ignition sources delivered by low-flying aeroplane. Aerial burning was first tested operationally in 1965, and this book provides much

interesting detail about its planning and execution, including mishaps and failures and how these were overcome.

The recollections of bombardiers, foresters, forest workmen, navigators, pilots, and researchers are a strength of this book.

There is little to criticise. The facsimile extracts and quotations from newspapers on pp. 64, 77, 124 and 131 require referencing to date. The 1975 interview by Jean Teasdale of Allan (not Alan) Harris who was the major proponent of prescribed burning, which is available in the State Library of WA, is not cited. Cabinet papers formally approving the introduction of prescribed burning are not mentioned. The extent to which potential impacts on biodiversity were formally assessed during the planning stage of aerial burning, as evidenced by departmental files, is not discussed.

Fire from the Sky is highly recommended for the attention of RWAHS members. It provides a lucid account of the rationale for the use of planned burning in the forest (and subsequently elsewhere in WA) and a history of the development of the delivery of fire from the air.



Mystery Photo

This photo has ‘? Spicer’ written of the back. Can anyone help identify him?

If you have any information, please phone and ask for the Library, on 9386 3841, or email library@histwest.org.au

Diary Dates

Sat/Sun 2 & 3 Apr : Annual Second-hand Book Sale

Mon 11 Apr: Exhibition Opens *Western Land - a journey of discovery and rediscovery*

Sun 1 May: Open Day - Exhibition

Administrative Officer : Lynn O’Hara
Assistant Admin Officer : Lesley Burnett
Editor *History West*: Dr Lenore Layman

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