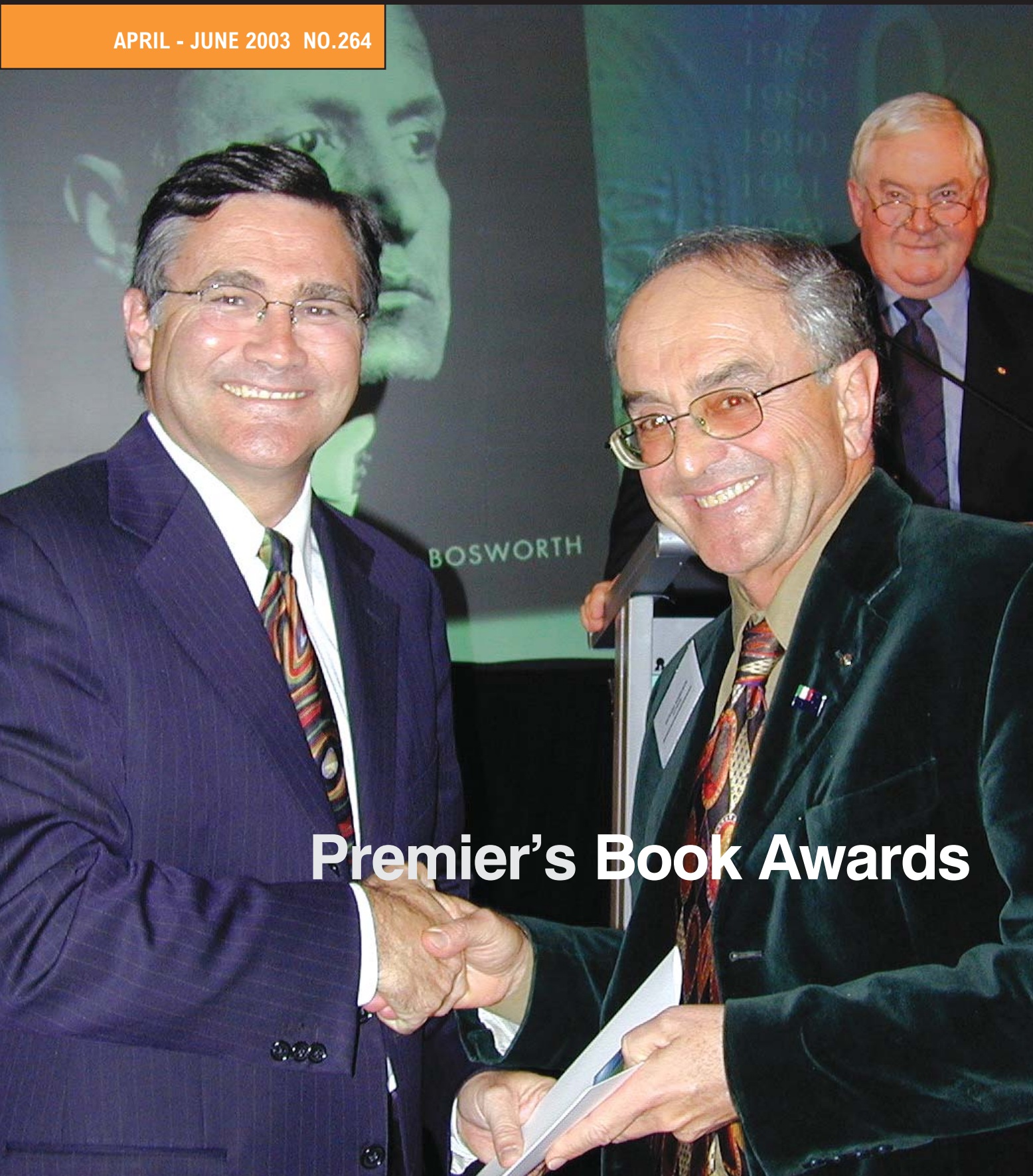


State Library
of Western Australia

KNOWIT
magazine

APRIL - JUNE 2003 NO.264



Premier's Book Awards

Comment from Claire



Acting CEO and State Librarian
Claire Forte.

The presentation of the WA Premier's Book Awards is always an exciting event and we were delighted to welcome 180 guests to the State Library on 13 June for the presentation of the 2002 awards. We were particularly pleased to welcome the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop, Premier of Western Australia to present the awards and the Hon Sheila McHale, Minister for Culture and the Arts, to also speak of the importance of the awards. With a record number of 126 entries, the judges have had a particularly big task this year and we commend them on their work. Our congratulations go to Richard Bosworth for being awarded the Premier's Prize, to the 2002 category award winners and to all those short-listed.

We were also very pleased to welcome the Minister to launch the completion of a special project to microfilm early Western Australian newspapers dating from pre-Federation to 1905. This project was enabled through a grant to the Friends of Battye Library from the Lotteries Commission (now Lotterywest) and has resulted in quality microfilmed copies being accessible at the State Library and the relevant Regional Library.

This is the second issue of the new look knowit. We have recently had some very positive feedback from some of our readers both locally and overseas, who enjoy learning about our new initiatives and catching up with significant events. We hope you are continuing to enjoy our quarterly magazine and would be pleased to receive your feedback. If you would like to drop us a line please write to apeterson@liswa.wa.gov.au

KNOWIT. APR - JUN 2003



Libraries are Alive!

Many public libraries organise speakers to talk on topics of interest to their community. At Coolbellup Public Library they have gone one step further and invited the speakers to demonstrate their art, craft and even musical talent that one does not often see in a library setting.

Following consultation with their community about the sorts of things they would like to see in the library and topics that they would like more information on, they have established a program that provides a mixture of learning and entertainment. A brass

band even managed to squeeze into the library much to the delight of the audience. Coolbellup has not baulked at having what some may see as "messy" equipment and machines set up in the centre of their library for a hands on cooking demonstration or even a woodturning demonstration.

Coolbellup is another example that libraries are alive and great places for people.

Ruth Balding
Consultant: Public Library Services



Happy Birthday

On Wednesday 21 May 2003, The State Library Shop celebrated its second birthday.

Congratulations to Alyson De Souza and the Business Development team for their unrelenting effort in establishing the shop and positioning it within the market as the shop to go to for Western Australian and Australian published material. Customer feedback on the high level of customer service

The State Library Shop is 2 years Old

provided by the shop's team during the its first 2 years of trading has been very positive and supportive and sales have continued to grow through the expansion of the shop's loyal customer base.

The State Library Shop will continue to support Western Australian publishers and writers and looks forward to another year of sales growth and niche market penetration.



Cover image:
Premier's Book Awards; The Hon. Geoff Gallop
congratulates R.J.B. Bosworth, winner of the
Western Australian 2002 Premier's Prize Award.



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Government of Western Australia
State Library of Western Australia

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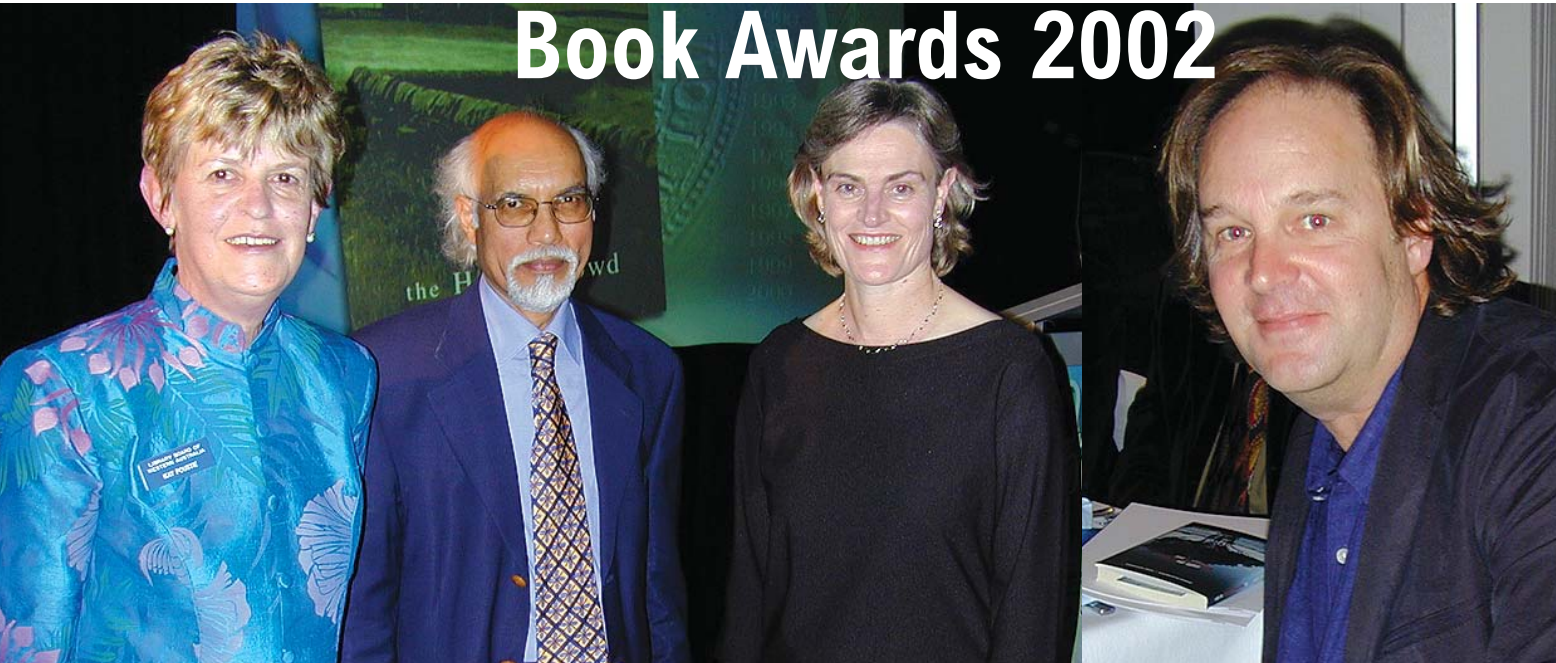
ISSN 1328-7176

The Hon Geoff Gallop, Premier of Western Australia, announced the winners of the 2002 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards on Friday evening 13 June 2003.

Richard Bosworth won the \$20,000 Premier's Prize for his book *Mussolini* at the presentation dinner in the Alexander Library Building.

works of extraordinary variety and levels of complexity, as they often do given the varied backgrounds of writers (from experienced and established scholars, poets and novelists to near novices) and the range of publishing houses (from private, individually financed outlets and small publishers to some of the largest in the world). Once again the judges had to balance absolute literary worth against a range

The Western Australian Premier's Book Awards 2002



Book Awards 2002: Left - Right: Kay Poustie, Vijay Mishra, Claire Forte, Mark Greenwood, The Hon. Geoff Gallop, Gail Jones, Hellie Turner, Andrew Hocken, Barbara Temperton

This year's awards attracted a record 126 entries in the 6 categories, with 24 works shortlisted. This is the 21st year since the Government inaugurated annual literary awards and many of Western Australia's finest writers have been celebrated during this time. The Premier noted the importance of encouraging writers to develop their creative talents. "Creativity is valuable to a culturally rich society and can be a powerful source of competitive advantage", he said. "These awards acknowledge excellence in our local product, and I am delighted to be able to present them".

The judges considered works in six categories: fiction, poetry, young adults, children's books, script, and non-fiction. With almost half of the entries each year falling in the non-fiction category, the wisdom of awarding two prizes for this section is again evident. As usual the various sections threw up

of factors such as originality, contribution to a particular field, experimentation with form and the writer's own triumph over a range of adversities. The choice of the winning entries for any given category reflects any number of these attributes. This year the judges were struck by the high quality of books in the non-fiction section, many of which were both major contributions to scholarship and exceptionally readable. As in the past, the vibrancy of Western Australian literary output generally was once again evident in the many books. Regardless of the category for which they were submitted, a number of books stood out as works of quite exceptional literary merit.

The 2002 Judges

Dr Simon Adams
Mr Zoltan Kovacs
Professor Vijay Mishra (Chairperson of the Judging Panel)
Ms Suzanne Wyche

Judges' Report

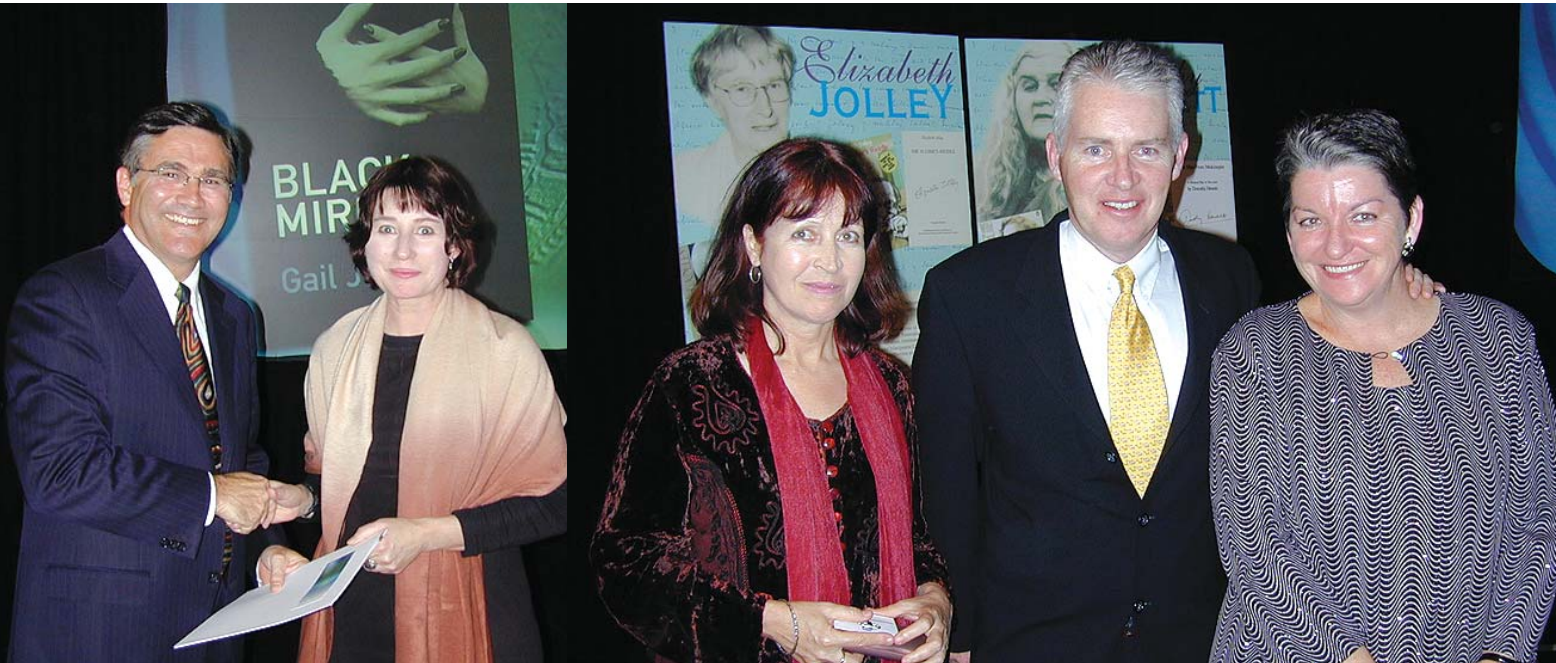
FICTION

Under a Tin-Grey Sari by Wayne Ashton

The playful, often light-hearted and sometimes mischievous tone of this delightful novel serves to underscore the complexity of relationships and social hierarchies under challenge in a changing society in Chittagong, East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1967. This is a story of love and

reconstruction of a shipwreck and its aftermath _ not quite *A Fringe of Leaves* but evocatively written nevertheless with a strong feel for character and landscape. Sarah Hay skilfully combines an imaginative appreciation of the history of early settlement in Western Australia with the novelist's gift for bringing characters to life to tell a story of survival in the face of privation, threat and a sometimes hostile environment. The story of sisters Mary and Dorothea (with brother Jem and others)

of place and the plot works to draw the various other links of their lives together through the language of both painting and the written word. Here is a complex, delicately layered work which explores the nature of love, art and the emotional forces that fashion the lives of her characters. Dazzling, rich in metaphor with prose often rendered with the cadence of verse, and demonstrating a superb mastery of art criticism as well, this novel is destined to become a major work by a Western Australian writer.



aspiration told with a deft touch by an author with a talent for using humour and wistfulness to explore the depths of human yearning. The narrator's Rushdie-like sense of magic realism helps create a rich tapestry of human emotions and actions even as the characters live in a chaotic, mystical world. Wayne Ashton's postcolonial narrative mimics colonial absurdities and then undercuts them with quiet, ironic force. He has re-created a world both with child-like wonder and a carefully nuanced sense of social responsibility. While the novel has a notional plot - the search by a young chef for his tandoor oven - this is a rollicking, lyrical tale of saga-like proportions. It is peopled with numerous larger-than-life characters, and it is through the clever device of the letter writer that their stories are revealed.

Skins by Sarah Hay

This is an exceptional first novel with a compelling plot and memorable characters. It is a wonderful

shipwrecked on Middle Island after Jansen's cutter the Mountaineer runs aground is handled with great control, with Dorothea's relationship with a little-known historical figure, the Afro-American sealer (and whaler) Black Jack Anderson, at the centre of the plot. The author shows a profound knowledge of and affection for the harsh landscape of Middle Island off the southern coast of WA, the setting for this story of sealing in 1835.

Black Mirror by Gail Jones

In this debut novel Gail Jones has produced an outstanding work of archival recovery and artistic recreation set in Paris, London and the Western Australian Goldfields. The protagonist Anna Griffin progressively discovers her own identity as she researches the life of a fellow Australian and surrealist artist, Victoria Morrell, for a biography. These two emotional and intelligent women, Victoria and her biographer Anna, share an obvious background

The Home Crowd by Graham Kershaw

Graham Kershaw's protagonist is caught between the seductive allure of sunny Perth and the bleak landscape of the English north of his birth. This is a stark rendering of a search for emotional identity and belonging, of a haunting dilemma of the migration experience arising out of the complex politics of living here and emotionally belonging elsewhere. The ensuing emotional conflict makes for a theme that touches the very depths of one's soul. The author uses a spare, almost blunt, style to build tension and drive his narrative to a resolution. *The Home Crowd* resonates with experiences common to many Australians who are re-discovering their connections to their 'homeland', and the importance of belonging.

POETRY

My Days Were Fauve by Alec Choate

Alec Choate's seemingly effortless verse stands as a monument to a

lifetime of dedication to poetry. It is fitting that he should tell the story of his life through poetry, the art and craft of which, in its range of moods and nuances, he has mastered to telling effect. Autobiographies in verse require engagement with the descriptive as well as the conversational, narrative as well as ideas, and, in English at any rate, are always written in the shadow of Wordsworth. *My Days Were Fauve* is informed by the conventions of autobiographical narrative in verse and its self-evident intertext; its great

necessary ('The Bombing', 'The Failure of Speech') and humour and compassion elsewhere ('The Frog-Memory'), Mateer's poems show an unusual facility with words and ideas.

Going Feral by Barbara Temperton

'Feral cat, surrounded by angry birds, has the deck stacked against her.' These are two representative lines from Barbara Temperton's title poem that signal, immediately, the forthright style of this poet. Temperton has produced a captivating collection of

his boyhood home in the Kimberley in search of his childhood friend, Frances. In this coming-of-age story he not only finds his friend, but also matures psychologically and the Aboriginal wisdom he can draw from serves him well. On arrival in the coastal town, Matthew joins up, somewhat reluctantly, with Jeff Baxter, a character whose marriage has failed and who is grieving for his wife, his young family and his failed dreams. The stories of these two characters run parallel against the harsh and



charm lies in the ease with which life and times are created unencumbered by the weight of tradition and written with quite remarkable clarity and poetic force. Alec Choate has written a long poem which is often tender, sometimes sad, but never despairing of life.

Loanwords by John Mateer

John Mateer is an uncompromising poet, at once intensely lyrical and politically proactive - a tough binary to uphold for anyone but Mateer's talent lies in the manner in which he is able to combine the two. *Loanwords* is both a journey of understanding (why the world is what it is) and a meditation on the triumph of the human spirit. Here is an accomplished poet, a master of metaphor and the telling phrase, sometimes even a prophetic voice or the detached sage, the poet as social conscience as well as a voice in the wilderness. Exhibiting 'a poetic of anger' where

poems notable for their arresting imagery and a strong sense of place. The poet touches us with the intensity of her attachment as people and places are memorably recalled as 'explosion(s) of grief/ and feathers'. The collection engages the reader by virtue of its accessibility and the exhilarating sense of participation one gets in lines that give the impression of being written with quite effortless ease. Here is verse at once immediate and tender ('Christmas') and frighteningly prescient ('I remember Wittenoom'). Temperton writes with an unusual (but not too obvious or declared) mastery of her public and private worlds.

YOUNG ADULTS AWARD

Feeling the Heat by Pat Lowe

Award winning Pat Lowe has crafted an assured and accomplished novel. Nineteen-year-old Matthew Scott returns from years of living in Perth, to

beautiful landscape of the Kimberley region. Station life, small town isolation and nurturing, Aboriginal culture, both traditional and suburban, all come within the purview of this story. The cultural values of Aboriginal and white peoples are cleverly juxtaposed. There is no neat, happy resolution here as not all characters gain what they want. This is real life and we are all the richer for having shared their journey.

TeV by Brendan Murray

Young Tevita Martin (TeV), of Tonga-Aussie parentage, is sent to spend the summer holidays with his maternal family in Tongatapu (Tonga). As he learns to interact with his extended family, there is ample scope for the novel to explore Tongan life style and culture. This tale takes us to one of our Pacific neighbours, a part of the world little known to most of us. While Tev finds a culture which is exotic and a people who are very welcoming, he realises that they too grapple with the

same issues, questions and concerns as occupy the energies of us all. Tev experiences the death and burial of his grandfather, a damaging cyclone, the mysteries of ceremonial kava drinking, and a sensual awakening with his first love for his 'frangipani princess', Siale. Brendan Murray integrates the Tongan language into the text and provides the reader with a valuable glossary of Tongan words and phrases.



Western Australia's antiheroes, the bushranger Moondyne Joe, is told with directness and is beautifully illustrated by the immensely inventive Frané Lessac. The gouache paintings are a delight, the bright, strong colours and 'naive' figures complementing perfectly the straightforward text. Mark Greenwood creates a narrative with pace, does not seek to judge his subject and conveys a great deal of factual information about the convict system in Western Australia, the way justice was dispensed and life

of the young soldiers caught in their own hell. The story is told without sentimentality and its message is achingly clear. A fine interplay between text and illustration is achieved, with the pictures showing minute, authentic detail. The work is multi-layered and a young child could learn much with the sensitive assistance of an adult sharing the story.

***Harry and Luke* by Glyn Parry and Caroline Magerl (ill.)**

Harry's bed develops feet and as he traverses the city he meets a new friend, Luke, out riding his elephant late at night. The two become great friends, go fishing together, camp out in the back yard, enjoy a family barbecue under the stars and go to the movies. This imaginative and inventive tale is about belonging, being part of a group, a family and its exploration of these ideas is handled with great sensitivity and fun. Harry's parents are a delight, so receptive of his wild musings, so ready to be a part of his adventures. The line drawings emphasise the joy in this work and their appeal to children is clear.

SCRIPT AWARD

***Mavis Goes to Timor* by Angela Chaplin, Katherine Thomson and Kavisha Mazzella**

Here is a powerful theatrical statement of our time. Through drama and song, this play draws attention to the plight of the East Timorese and the alliance of compassion formed by East Timorese and Australian women to help the dispossessed and vulnerable. Undaunted perseverance typifies Mavis and her small band as their humanity reaches out to alleviate the suffering of the Timorese women devastated by long years of upheaval and war. The chorus works to underscore the collaborative nature of the relief plan. It is a clever device, where the songs serve to carry the story and to highlight the Timorese focus. The particular emphasis is the cost of war as it affects women facing the loss of husbands, fathers, brothers and children. The loss robs them of a strong workforce and plunges them into economic chaos. This is the stuff of which destitution and despair are made but the writers of this play broach them without a heavily didactic

Book Awards night: Left - Right: Alastair Bryant, Estelle Blackburn, Eirlys Richards, Mona Chuguna, Frané Lessac, Cathy Campbell, Richard Hazelwood, Helen Muir, Robert Muir

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

***Nathan Nuttboard Hits the Beach* by Anthony Eaton**

Anthony Eaton has made a successful transition from writing for the Young Adult market to entertaining the younger reader. The story is the familiar one of a family tackling a camping holiday on the coast. As Nathan sets out with his parents and his older sister, his observations of family dynamics, his father's misplaced optimism, his mother's 'moods' and his sister's self-centredness reveal him to be a reliable and perceptive narrator. Strong, realistic dialogue carries the plot forward as Nathan finds new friends, learns to bodysurf and dispatches Wayne, the bully. Positive family models are realised with humour and sensitivity.

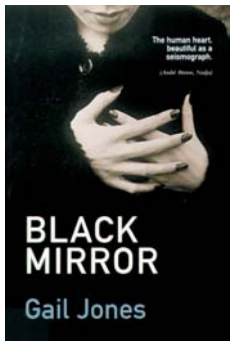
***The Legend of Moondyne Joe* by Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac (ill.)**

This work detailing the life of one of

generally in the early days of the colony. The glossary and the endpapers add to the appeal of this book and underscore the attention to detail in the publishing. The work is a strong testament to making our history fun and accessible to young people.

***In Flanders Fields* by Norman Jorgensen and Brian Harrison-Lever (ill.)**

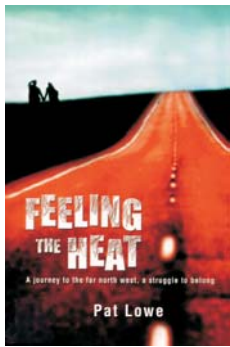
The straightforward text and representational illustrations in this superbly produced work, never belie the powerful, human story being told. The tale is set in the trenches of France during World War I. A young soldier uses the 'cover' of a white silk scarf received in his Christmas parcel to venture into no man's land to rescue a small robin caught in the barbed wire. A moment of truce is reached as the parallel worlds of the Allied and German trenches are revealed. The sepia drawings evoke the period as do the timeless, haunting faces



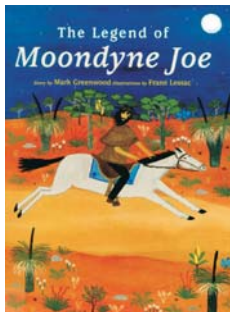
Black Mirror
by Gail Jones



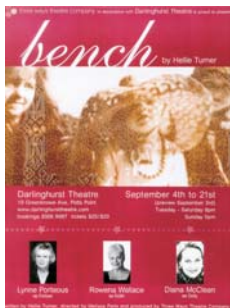
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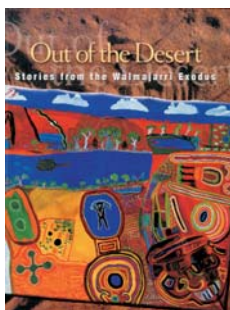
Feeling the Heat
by Pat Lowe



The Legend of Moodyne Joe
by Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac (ill.)



Bench
by Hellie Turner



Out of the Desert
by Walmajarri Storytellers.
Edited by Joyce Hudson, Pat Lowe and Eirlys Richards

tone. What surfaces is redemption by the little things in life, by the strength of belief in oneself and in one's community.

The Shark Net by Ian David

This is a seamless translation to television of Robert Drewe's superbly structured book based on his youthful experiences in Perth. Ian David has captured the essence of the book in a sensitive and lively adaptation, without compromising its themes. He has brought to life, and at times even embellished through the immediacy of the dramatic text, a sleepy fifties and sixties Perth faced with the threat of a killer whose menacing presence changed forever the erstwhile serenity of this isolated metropolis. This is indeed a very strong adaptation that dramatises the behaviour of people living in a city racked by fear. Ian David's script retains the essential focus of the narrator, Robert Drewe, and successfully weaves, as in the original, the narrator's life with that of the murderer Eric Cook.

Bench by Hellie Turner

Hellie Turner has created an absorbing play in telling the stories of three damaged women's lives through their meetings at a park bench. This is moving and provocative theatre, tightly written yet widely suggestive of women's resilience in the face of emotional adversity. While the individual stories of the three protagonists are bleak, there is a poignancy about the situation where their aloneness draws them together. In the sharing of the bench and their 'dark secrets' there is a growing honesty between them which carries its own epiphany. While there is no real dramatic climax, the individual stories carry an inherent drama. There is a strong feminist agenda which reaches its ironic height in the final scene, with the women sitting naked on the bench.

NON-FICTION

Swan River Letters Volume 1 by Ian Berryman (ed.)

Here is an invaluable contribution to our understanding of the founding and early history of the Swan River Colony. Ian Berryman has spent years seeking out and collecting correspondence in contemporary newspapers by settlers about the new colony. The letters offer

a rare insight into how the 'Swan River Colony' was perceived by those who visited, or settled in, Western Australia during the 1830s. Detailing colonial life from the mundane (the price of shoes) to the extraordinary (first contact with local people), these letters reveal the difficult origins and establishment of a settler community. The result is a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the Swan River colonists as letters home capture the travails of living in this at first alien antipodean world. By drawing these letters together, Berryman has compiled an important resource that will be used by generations of students of Western Australian history.

Mussolini by R. J. B. Bosworth

This is a major literary accomplishment, as well as an extraordinary biography of a perplexing and paradoxical personality, and an internationally significant contribution to an understanding of Mussolini's role in history. It is a massive work of substance, of historical research and analysis, and yet is readily accessible to the lay reader. The work may well enter the lore of works that become a yardstick by which other biographies are measured. Drawing upon original sources, in both English and Italian, Bosworth's book is a triumph of scholarly research, human endeavour, extraordinary commitment and passionate belief in the power of historical narratives. It is a hefty book that will nevertheless emerge as something of a bestseller among those interested in Fascism, the Second World War, and the dynamics of power. Its Western Australian author has already been acknowledged as making an immense contribution to the international debate on the meaning of Mussolini to twentieth-century politics.

Digital Hemlock by Tara Brabazon

This is a work of energy and conviction that raises critical questions about the condition and direction of Australian universities currently in the thrall of online teaching as an apparent panacea to the structural and pedagogical problems caused by a decade of cutbacks and underfunding. Tara Brabazon's vigorous and compelling arguments, based on experience and dedication to teaching, demand attention from anyone who is interested in higher

education and its future. Written with passion, and always grounded in a clearly declared authorial position, this book is simultaneously a work of critical cultural studies and critical pedagogy. Brabazon has achieved something rather unusual: an academic book that reads like an urgent narrative about the consequences of a too facile adoption of digital culture. This is a book that anyone interested in online teaching and the future of education ought to read.

***Verticordia (Subtitled The Turner of Hearts)* by Elizabeth A. (Berndt) George, illustrated by Margaret Pieroni**

This beautiful book is a work of passion, excellence and community service. Hundreds of dedicated lovers of the species were involved over twenty years in the collection, identification and recording of specimens, many new and hitherto unrecorded, throughout Western Australia. The result is a comprehensive guide to this wildflower, superbly illustrated by Margaret Pieroni, and distinguished by its highly accessible layout, a comprehensive index and attention to botanic detail which facilitates recognition and identification by the amateur and professional alike. It is a work that succeeds in being immensely informative and aesthetically appealing.

***Out of the Desert* by Walmajarri Storytellers. Edited by Joyce Hudson, Pat Lowe and Eirlys Richards**

The storytellers of the Walmajarri people of the Great Sandy Desert have preserved elements of their recent history in this splendid bilingual publication. They have done so in a unique way: by combining traditional-style art, photographs and written accounts in both Walmajarri and English they have produced a book marked by attention to detail and quality of production. Generations to come will have a vibrant cultural and historical record of the Walmajarri move from the desert and its effects. It is an important work which establishes a picture of a people whose practical focus is on the provision of food, water and shelter. Beyond this the storytellers take us through to their first, often unhappy, contacts with white people, and to a situation where their original culture is almost lost. The stories chronicle

the slow disintegration of a traditional life-style and culture, the Walmajarri people's resignation to white dominance and finally acceptance of some of the positive features of that encounter. Although the stories will resonate with those familiar with the history of colonisation of indigenous people, there is something wonderfully unique, personal, and engaging here. For the Walmajarri people themselves, the very act of telling these stories captures and gives voice to a past that has been so often denied them.

***Blood, Sweat and Welfare* by Mary Anne Jebb**

This work stands as a model for contemporary Western Australian historical research and writing. Mary Anne Jebb has combined her extensive collection of oral history with detailed archival research to tell the story of the effects of pastoralism on Aborigines of the Kimberley region. The use of oral research, however, is firmly embedded in the analytical commentary, each reinforcing the other. As a consequence, here we have a major book that is also alive to the voices of the subjects who, collectively, constitute the informants of the author's research. Mary Anne Jebb has succeeded in writing a rare book, and one that would be seen by other writers as a touchstone for historical writing about the racial dynamics governing aspects of Western Australian pastoral life in the Kimberley from colonisation to the social dislocation of the 1970s.

***The Making of the Australian Literary Imagination* by Richard Nile**

The mode of production of the literary text is often rendered in a style accessible only to those familiar with a general understanding of the sociology of the text. Richard Nile is a cultural historian who understands the nature of text-production extremely well, but does not write about it for the specialist reader alone. Here is a work of scholarship that delves into Australian literature and publishing in the twentieth century and raises some intriguing possibilities or theories in a manner that is engaging, analytical and accessible. In the process, Nile has written an elegant book that tackles issues of national culture by bringing together the role of the writer and the place of the critic as both producer of and participant in that culture.

***Under the Wintamarra Tree* by Doris Pilkington/Nugi Garimara**

After the successful *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence* has come this moving autobiography of Doris Pilkington/Nugi Garimara as an important addition to Western Australian Aboriginal literature. The story of the author and her family reflects the Aboriginal experience of the last century, from traditional society to settlements, pastoral stations and missions to contemporary life. Written in a style that combines Aboriginal story-telling devices with Western understanding of the linear flow of narrative, this is a book that goes over a painful past with, understandably, enormous anxiety but not with acrimony or the imposition of guilt. It has a redemptive quality about it, as the act of writing is also seen as a mode of forgiveness and coming to terms with one's own traumatic past.

K



Mussolini
by R. J. B. Bosworth

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PREMIER'S BOOK AWARDS 2002 WINNERS

Fiction

Black Mirror by Gail Jones

Poetry

Going Feral by Barbara Temperton

Writing for Young Adults

Feeling the Heat by Pat Lowe

Children's Books

The Legend of Moondyne Joe by Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac

Script

Bench by Hellie Turner

Non-Fiction

Mussolini by R.J.B. Bosworth
Out of the Desert: Stories from the Walmajarri Exodus by Walmajarri Storytellers. Edited by Joyce Hudson, Pat Lowe and Eirlys Richards

PREMIER'S PRIZE WINNER

Mussolini by R.J.B. Bosworth



Access to Early WA Regional Newspapers: Pre-Federation to 1905

In 2001, the Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) received a grant of \$169,508 from the Lotteries Commission (now Lotterywest) to microfilm major WA regional newspapers from pre-Federation to 1905.

This project grant was the second received from the Lotteries Commission and followed on from the highly successful earlier *Access to WA Historical Newspapers Project 1833-1901*, a project to microfilm important pre-Federation Perth metropolitan newspapers which was completed in 1999.

The project *Access to early WA regional newspapers: pre-Federation to 1905* began in October 2001 and was completed by December 2002. The newspapers which were microfilmed came from the Battye Library's unique and well-used collection of over one thousand newspaper titles, from the manuscript newspapers of the 1830s to the current day, published anywhere in the State. When necessary, if an issue was missing or in poor condition, copies of papers were borrowed from interstate if such copies were available.

Preserving these newspapers is a matter of urgency because their survival is at risk due to the poor quality of newsprint and its alarming high acid content, which accelerates the deterioration. Once microfilmed, the content of the newspapers will last for centuries, whereas the life of the newsprint is very much shorter.

Newspapers are a wonderful means of finding out about our history and, at times, are the only source of much information. They document the cultural, social and sporting life of the community and are significant research sources for historians, genealogists, writers,

students and anyone interested in the past. Some of the newspapers filmed as part of the project were short lived and depended on the fortunes of the locale, such as mining towns where the printer might have packed up and moved on when the gold ran out. Some have become well-established regional newspapers with over 100 years of continuous publication, such as the *Kalgoorlie Miner* and the *Albany Advertiser*. Other regional newspapers filmed were published in Bunbury, Coolgardie, Geraldton, Pilbara, York, and Perth.

The project has enabled 272 reels of microfilm to be produced. A key aim of the project was to make copies of the microfilm available in the relevant regional library. Now users in regional areas will have access to significant newspapers of the era in their region through the microfilm sets being distributed to the regional libraries. They will now be able to access information about their local area and history without having to travel to Perth.

At the launch celebrating the completion of the project on 6 March, 2003, the Minister for Culture and the Arts, The Hon. Sheila McHale, commented that, "The successful conclusion of this project reinforces the value to the community provided by the working partnership between the Lotteries Commission, the Friends of Battye Library, the State Library of Western Australia and the State Government. I know the State Library of Western Australia is hoping that other such projects will follow to help deal with the many newspapers in need of filming before deteriorating further. I congratulate and thank all those who have given many hours of dedicated service, both voluntary and paid, to make this project possible and the Lotteries Commission for the grant that enabled its completion."

The Newspapers:

The newspapers microfilmed as part of the project are:

Southern region:

Albany Advertiser 1897-1901
Albany Mail 1883-1889
Albany Observer 1890-1891
Bunbury Herald 1892-1902

Central region:

Daily Advertiser 1890-1893
Eastern Districts Chronicle 1877-1905
Western Mail 1885-1901

Goldfields region:

Coolgardie Miner 1894-1909
Hannans Herald 1895-1896
Kalgoorlie Miner 1895-1903
Kanowna Democrat 1896-1897
Western Argus 1894-1905
Victorian Express 1878-1894

Mid-West region:

Geraldton Advertiser 1893-1905
Geraldton Observer 1880-1881
Southern Cross Herald 1894-1896

North-west region:

Pilbarra Goldfield News 1897

Microfilming in the Battye Library

The Battye Library has been microfilming Western Australian newspapers since the early 1950s. This has enabled old and fragile newspapers to be withdrawn from daily use in the library, thus preventing further wear and tear. Even with the best of care, the original newspapers, most of which are printed on newsprint made from wood pulp, will not survive for any extended period.

Refilming has become necessary because there have been many problems associated with the early filming, for example, many pages were out of focus making it difficult to read. Additionally damaged pages were not repaired and no attempt was made to locate and include missing issues.

There have been many advances in microfilm technology since the 1950s. Australian and International Standards are now in place for newspaper microfilming. Microfilming is still the most appropriate technology to preserve the newspaper page. When correctly prepared and stored, the microfilm has a life expectancy of approximately 500 years.

The Battye Library does not have sufficient resources to microfilm all the newspapers that require filming, let alone refilming. Based on the current rate of filming, it is estimated it will take approximately 52 years to film or refile the rest of the

newspapers published up until the year 2000.

It is only through special projects such as this one that the Battye Library can refile newspapers to modern standards.

Thanks

The Friends of Battye Library (Inc), the J S Battye Library of West Australian History, and the State Library of Western Australia would like to thank the following for their assistance with the project Access to Early WA Regional Newspapers: Pre-Federation to 1905:

- State Library of Victoria for the loan of:
 - Coolgardie Miner 1894-1909*
 - Victorian Express 1886-1892*
- State Library of South Australia for donating copies of:
 - Albany Mail 1883-1889*
 - Western Argus 1896-1905*
- State Library of New South Wales for donating copies of:
 - Western Mail Dec 1897-1901*
- Hocking & Co, publishers of the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, Hannan St Kalgoorlie, for donating copies of:
 - Western Argus 1896-1897*
 - Kalgoorlie Miner 1896-1897*

Without such co-operation a significant and invaluable historical resource would have been lost to future generations.

The Friends of Battye Library (Inc) wishes to thank the Lotteries Commission of Western Australia, the State Library of Western Australia and the staff of the J S Battye Library of West Australian History for enabling this project to be successfully completed.

For more information on this project see the full project report on the State Library website at:

<http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au/pdf/prefedpapersfeb03.pdf>

Information on the first project is available at:

<http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au/nprrep.html>



Playground swings, bathroom design and car turning curves are all covered in standards documents held in the State Reference Library.

Swings and curves with standards

HB52—2000



THE BATHROOM BOOK

Have you ever wanted to feel like a child again and give fun to other kids?

Playground Equipment for Parks, Schools and Domestic Use AS 1924 Part 2 1981 may be just what you need to consult. Section 3.3 *Design requirements for swinging apparatus* has the following:

"All seats should have a ground clearance of not less than 350mm" when "laden in accordance with the masses specified in the tables". The tables give the weights of children applicable to various items of playground equipment for children of different ages. Any swings built, not in accordance with these standards, can make organisations and parents open to the risk of legal prosecution if accidents occur when children are playing on the equipment.

Most of us have enjoyed singing in the shower. The Handbook published by Australian Standards that helps in designing and reworking a bathroom may give more practical enjoyment - within required construction guidelines of course.

The Bathroom Book AS HB52-2000 is issued "to complement the requirements and information on bathrooms and showers contained in Australian Standards and to provide guidance to tradesman, renovators and home owners on reliable techniques for bathroom construction". Discussion includes bathroom construction, tiling and hot water systems and the handbook gives reference to 12 Australian standards that must be consulted.

Do you want easy access to your front drive and carport? *Design Vehicles and Turning Path Templates SAA HB72-1995* enables you to design a curved drive that meets the minimum requirements of your car. For a 5.0m car there are turning templates for 8.0m and 12.0m radius at scales of 1:250 and 1:200. Turning path templates are also given for service vehicles of 8.8m up to triple road trains of 53.0m.

Standards are useful and authoritative documents. The application of the information in them is often legally required. They cover not only technical specifications for engineering products, such as nuts and bolts, but also methods, processes and concepts.

Standards are issued by many independent bodies, and each standard is prepared by a committee that consults widely within the professions and the community to produce a document that has broad support.

Within Australia the chief standards body is Standards Australia (Standards Association of Australia) which is completely independent of government. The committees of Standards Australia that draft and agree on the standards produced include representatives of federal, state and local governments, industry groups and professional and consumer associations.

The State Reference Library has a complete set of current and withdrawn Australian standards (total some 60 metres of shelving). Withdrawn standards are frequently used by clients visiting the State Reference Library - for example, engineers recording what requirements were set when something was made, and lawyers finding out what was required at the time that an accident occurred.

Some international standards are adopted in Australia and the Standards Australia numbering designation indicates this. For example *Quality management systems - Guidelines for performance improvements AS/NZS ISO 9004:2000* indicates that the standard is issued jointly in the year 2000 by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand and is identical with, and has been reproduced from, an International Standards Organisation standard.

Sets of standards from other national standards bodies such as: *American National Standards Institute (ANSI)*; *British Standards Institution (BSI)*; are also held in the State Reference Library.

Many specialised professional standards bodies produce standards, codes and specifications that are accepted internationally. Examples of specialised bodies whose standards are held in the State Reference Library are as follows:

American Association of Cereal Chemists - AACC Approved Methods;
American Concrete Institute - ACI Manual of Concrete Practice;
American Oil Chemists Society -

AOCS official Methods and Recommended Practices;
American Petroleum Institute (API);
American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM);
Australian Building Codes Board - ABCB Building Code of Australia;
Australian Design Rules for Motor Vehicles and Trailers (ADR);
Australian Gas Association (AG);
Australian Paint Approval Scheme - APAS Specification Manual;
Institute of Petroleum - IP Standard Methods;
Society of Automotive Engineers - SAE Handbook.

Pages from the standards may be copied within the constraints of the Copyright Act. Many of the standards in the State Reference Library are held nowhere else for public viewing in Western Australia. Consequently, overseas standards are not available for loan, however, all Australian Standards are available for loan through your public library.

Australian Standards can be purchased from Standards Australia who will also give a quote of the cost for ordering any overseas standards that a client desires. The *Catalogue of Australian Standards and other products 2003* lists all the Australian standards available for purchase. They are also listed on the Standards Australia website at: <http://www.standards.com.au>

If you wish to consult a standard it is worth contacting the Science and Technology Library of the State Reference Library on 9427 3218 to check if the standard is available before you visit the library. Staff can then have it ready and waiting for you to consult when you visit. **K**

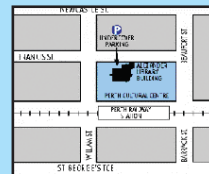


Family History Fair

Sunday 14th September
2003

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

STATE LIBRARY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
ALEXANDER LIBRARY
BUILDING
PERTH
CULTURAL
CENTRE
PERTH WA



A joint initiative between the State Reference Library, the Battye Library of West Australian History, the State Records Office, the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc. and the National Archives of Australia (WA).

Come to the Family History Fair and find out how to trace your ancestors, their history and where they lived.

We will also be joined by many local, special interest and family history groups who will combine to make your family history come alive.

Highlights:

- Lectures on Genealogy
- Free Tours of the Library
- Free tours of State Records Office
- Books - genealogical and historical
- Special interest groups: Swan River Pioneers. Enrolled Pensioner Guards
- Door prizes And much more

ALL TOURS ARE FREE.
PLEASE BE AWARE THE LIBRARY HAS A "NO LARGE BAGS" POLICY.

LIMITED LOCKER SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE (REFUNDABLE FEE OF \$1).

Programme currently being finalised. Please contact the people below regarding queries:

Lesley DuBois -
Telephone (08) 9427 3175
E-mail: ldubois@liswa.wa.gov.au

WA Genealogical Society -
Telephone: (08) 9271 4311
Email: genealogy@wags.org.au

James Butterfield -
Telephone (08) 9470 7531
E-mail: jamesb@naa.gov.au



WALGLA Awards Night

The WA Local Government Association held its second annual Awards Night on 28 May.

The Service Excellence Award for a clerical officer who has at least seven years service in public libraries was presented to Kerry Burnett; recognises Michelle Ledger (Manager, Library Services, Town of Cambridge) summed up a glowing citation in saying 'Quite simply, we couldn't do without her'. Certificates of Service Excellence were presented to nominees Joanne Van Boeyen (Stirling) and Susan Gray (Armadale). WALGLA was delighted to welcome

as special guest, Jean Ryding, who presented the Jean Ryding Award for 2003, which recognises both the performance and the potential of a librarian in the first six years of practice in public libraries, to Justine Skeet from Morley Library (City of Bayswater). A certificate of nomination was presented to Kelly Butun (Joondalup). Further congratulations to Justine who has just won the position of Branch Librarian, Inglewood, with the City of Stirling.

Awards night: left - right: Judi Willmott, President of WALGLA; Susan Gray Armadale, winner of a certificate of Service Excellence; Claire Forte, Acting State Librarian; Judi Willmott, Kay Poustie, Chair of Library Board; Jean Ryding, Judi Willmott; Joanne Van Boeyen, Stirling, winner of a Certificate of Service Excellence; Jean Ryding, Justine Skeet, winner of Jean Ryding Award, then at Bayswater, now at Stirling; Michelle Ledger, Manager, Lib Services Cambridge; Kerry Burnett, Cambridge, winner of the Service Excellence Award; Luisa Salvatorelli, Branch Librarian, Joondalup; Kelly Butun, Joondalup, nominee, Jean Ryding Award

Judi Willmott
Library Manager, City of Canning

Writing Workshops for Young People

A Story with a difference

Thirty five young people aged 8 - 14 gathered on the mezzanine floor of the Nedlands Library on Sunday 13 April for a Writer's Workshop with Victorian author Justin D'Ath.

While writing workshops are often held in WA public libraries, this one was unique - for the first time, children with a hearing impairment had an opportunity to participate, with a volunteer from the Deaf Society of WA signing the entire session. For Justin, an old hand at providing his audience with amusing and inspiring anecdotes and hints on writing, this workshop was a very special experience. Justin D'Ath's books are easy to read, funny and appeal to both sexes. As a teacher of creative writing, he has the skills to get his message across to young people. Justin spoke about his books, including *Why did the Chykkans cross the Galaxy?*, *Astrid Spark Fixologist* and *Humungous* as well as delighting his audience with a personal anecdote about his great grandfather's alteration to the family name. (Hint : there used to be an E where the apostrophe is now!)

After a short break for a stretch and snack, the kids spent half an hour writing to a theme set by Justin and then eight of the bravest read out or signed their story for the group to share.

This very successful event was the result of a partnership between Robyn Tsapazi, Education Services Coordinator from the Deaf Society of WA (inc), Deborah Stanton, Manager, Community Access at the City of Nedlands and Margaret Kett, Young People's Services Librarian. For some years, the Nedlands Library has been involved in the promotion of writing through workshops and this year they are hosting the northern zone of the Nestlé Write Around Australia Program. Robyn was keen to promote these events to hearing impaired young people, for whom English is a second language.

Seven of the children participating in

the session were hearing impaired and Robyn interpreted the presentation in Auslan.

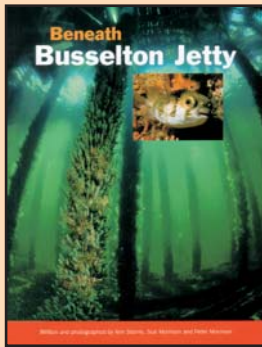
Several parents lingered to hear the presentation and sought out library staff to thank them for hosting the event. One parent rang the next day to say that her nine-year-old son was still writing his story!

Participants will now be able to submit their writing to Nestlé Write Around Australia, The Tim Winton Award for Young Writers and the Dorothy Shaw Young Writers Competition for deaf and hard of hearing young people. The library plans to have a follow-up workshop later in the year so that participants can work on developing their stories further.

Margaret Kett
Young Peoples Services Librarian
Nedlands Public Library



Battye about Books

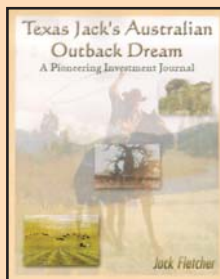


Beneath Busselton Jetty

Anne Storrie, Sue Morrison & Peter Morrison

Historic Busselton Jetty is the longest wooden jetty in the southern hemisphere. Effectively a huge artificial reef, it is a magnet to visitors, divers, in fact anyone with an interest in the marine environment.

Dept of Conservation & Land Management, South Perth WA, 2003



Texas Jack's Australian Outback Dream: a pioneering investment journal

Jack Fletcher

A story of great human interest with memorable characters, intrigue, failures and successes, all wrapped up in the ceaseless and intense pursuit of one Texan to fulfil his dream to help feed the world.

American University & Colleges Press, Salt Lake City USA, 2001

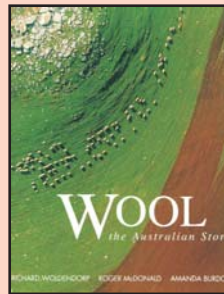


West Australian Symphony Orchestra: celebrating 75 years

Marcia Harrison

From the humble beginnings of the Perth Symphony Orchestra in 1928, orchestral members have struggled for financial security and recognition. This is their story and the story of the people who helped them on their way.

WASO Holdings, Perth WA, 2003

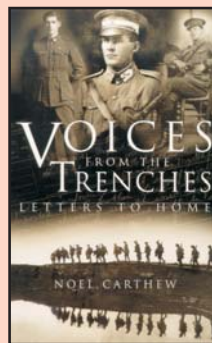


Wool: the Australian story

Richard Woldendorp, Roger McDonald & Amanda Burdon

This book is one of those rare amalgams of leading writers and an outstanding photographer, which captures the human, animal and resource elements in our national and wool story.

Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle WA, 2003

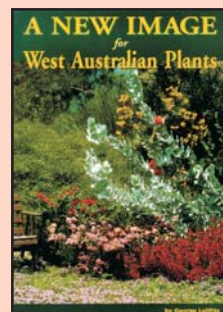


Voices from the Trenches: letters to home

Noel Carthew

The story of three brothers, Charles, Fred and James Carthew, told through letters they wrote from Gallipoli, North Africa, Palestine and the Western Front to their mother and sisters back home in Victoria. It is a story all Australians should carry in their hearts.

New Holland Publishers (Australia) P/L, Sydney NSW, 2002

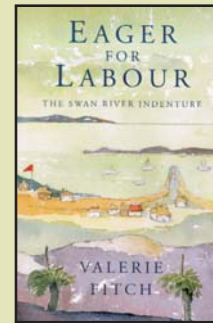


A New Image for West Australian Plants

George Lullfitz

Books previously written on Australian plants are predominantly presented with close-up photographs. In this book you will see gardens showing the potential of West Australian plants in producing a colourful, bird friendly and water wise garden.

Self-published, Perth WA, 2003

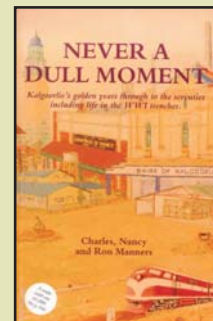


Eager for Labour: the Swan River indenture

Valerie Fitch

Eager for Labour traces the recruitment of labourers from the parishes of southern England to the colony on the Swan River, where government strategies and private enterprise schemes to obtain a cheap labour force to work there went horribly awry.

Hesperian Press, Victoria Park WA, 2003

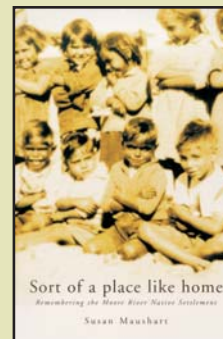


Never a Dull Moment

Charles, Nancy and Ron Manners

Kalgoorlie's golden years through to the 1970s, including life in the WWI trenches, *Never a Dull Moment* presents a graphic picture through the preserved writings of three generations of the Manners family.

Hesperian Press, Victoria Park WA, 2002



Sort of a Place Like Home: remembering the Moore River Native Settlement

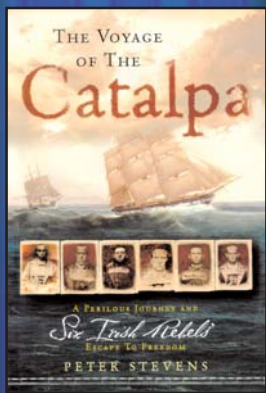
Susan Maushart

Making extensive and imaginative use of oral resources and hitherto unseen documents, *Sort of a Place Like Home* paints a vivid and intimate picture of the life experience of thousands of Aboriginal people at the Moore River Native Settlement in Western Australia.

Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle WA, 2003 (rev. ed.)

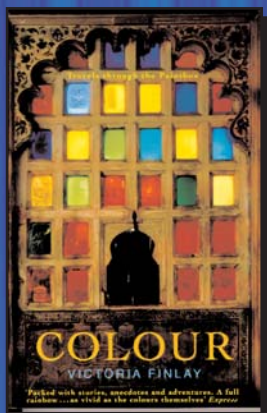
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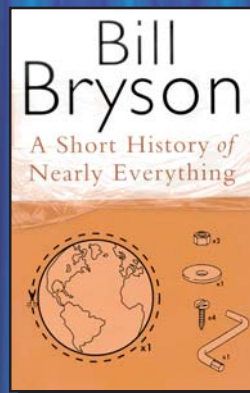
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\$24.95



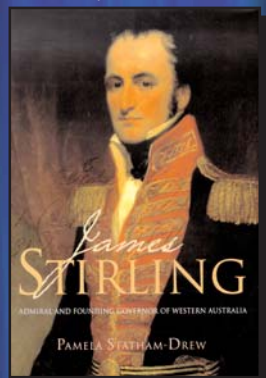
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\$54.95



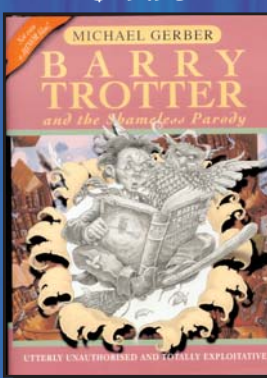
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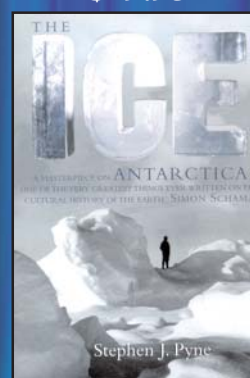
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Hardback

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