

BUY A MILLENNIUM CERTIFICATE....AND A PLACE IN OUR STATE'S HISTORY IS YOURS!



The "Save Our Century Fund" kids (Battye 27817P)



Jenny Underwood (LISWA) with calligrapher Margaret Catchpole sell the Millennium Certificate in Myer's city store prior to Christmas

The calendar has just ticked over to the magic 2000. To commemorate this milestone and raise money for the Save Our Century Fund, the WA State Library Custodians have printed a special Millennium Certificate. Produced on high-quality paper with gold embossed artwork, the Certificate proudly captures the essence of Western Australia and the people of our State poised as we are on the brink of both a new century and new millennium.

The certificate is a perfect keepsake for family, friends or expatriates. Priced at just \$10 (plus \$2 postage and packing) a personalised Millennium Certificate is a special, no-fuss gift or souvenir.

Whilst blank certificates are available for purchase from the State Library Discard Bookshop, the option to have your Millennium Certificate 'personalised' will enshrine your name in history. All names will be recorded in a Millennium Book which will be kept in the State Library's collection.

By purchasing a Millennium Certificate you will be helping to save WA's 20th century stories. All money raised will go towards the Save Our Century Fund, a \$5 million preservation plan for our fragile documentary heritage within the collections of the the State Library.

Pick up an order form in the Alexander Library Building, at any public library in WA, or on the Internet at LISWA's web site (www.liswa.wa.gov.au). Bulk orders from schools and corporate entities are welcome, and discounts may apply for orders over 100.



The Library & Information Service of Western Australia

The Mission Statement

To provide and promote equitable access to information resources and services which support the intellectual, economic, cultural, social and recreational needs of the people of Western Australia.

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THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Alexander Library Building,
Perth Cultural Centre, Perth WA 6000

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..... Lynn Allen

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J.S. Battye Library Ronda Jamieson
State Records Office Chris Coggin
Strategic Support & Development Peter Lambert

OPENING HOURS - ALB

Monday 9.00am - 9.45pm
Tuesday 9.00am - 9.45pm
Wednesday 9.00am - 9.45pm
Thursday 9.00am - 9.45pm
Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 10.00am - 5.30pm
Sunday 10.00am - 5.30pm

LISWA's web site:

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

**DEADLINE FOR ISSUE No. 246
(Mar / Apr '00) - 11 February 2000**

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A line from Lynn

Welcome to our first edition of *knowit* for 2000. Whether or not you subscribe to 2000 or 2001 as the dawn of a new millennium, we can all agree on it being a new year. Best wishes to all our readers for a happy year, full of good things - especially good books!



There have been quite a few changes at LISWA since our last edition. We have farewelled Hon. Peter Foss, QC, MLC as our Minister after seven years. We thank him for his support and wish him well. We welcome our new Minister, Hon. Mike Board, MLA. Mr Board has the portfolios of Employment and Training as well as Youth, so we at LISWA are keen to work co-operatively in these areas since their clients are also ours.

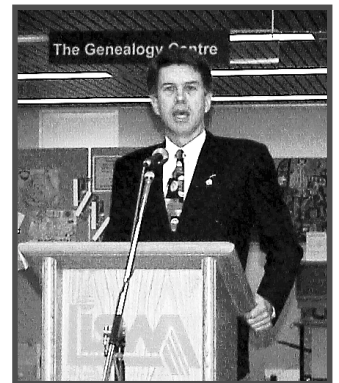
Our annual report has been published and is being distributed. We hope you will enjoy reading what is a very comprehensive document. Typically, we get very little feedback on our year's activities. It would be good to get some, negative or positive, so please obtain a copy and let us know how we can serve you better.

Again, best wishes for the new year and may it bring to you what you hope for.

Lynn Allen

Minister launches LISWA's new Genealogy Centre

On Tuesday 7th December, at a ceremony held in the Alexander Library Building, Minister for the Arts, The Hon. Peter Foss QC MLC, officially opened The Genealogy Centre and launched the publication *The Genealogy Centre Resource List: Australasia*.



Arts Minister Peter Foss

The State Librarian, Lynn Allen, introduced the speakers and spoke of her enthusiasm for the development of the Genealogy Centre. Lyn Coy, president of the Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS), spoke of the long term links between her organisation and LISWA. WAGS is a dynamic organization with a membership of 3,200 and a number of active special interest groups. The Minister expressed his interest in genealogy and mentioned the family research his sister has been conducting.

LISWA's new Genealogy Centre (cont.)



WAGS volunteers access the online resources available in the new Genealogy Centre

The Genealogy Centre has been established as a focus point for researchers wishing to trace their family tree. The Centre is located on the 1st Floor of the Alexander Library Building, and operates as a partnership between LISWA and WAGS. Volunteers from the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc. provide greatly valued assistance to researchers on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 1pm.

The Genealogy Centre Resource List: Australasia lists the resources held within the Genealogy Centre relating to each of the Australian states and New Zealand. This publication is available for purchase at \$18 and is particularly useful to researchers planning a visit to the Genealogy Centre. The resource lists are also available through the Family History Information Gateway on LISWA's website.

Sue Sondalini
Genealogy Librarian, LISWA

State Librarian
Lynn Allen talks
about the new
Genealogy Centre
to Channel Ten
News



What's on in the Alexander Library Building...

EXHIBITION - *All that Glitters... The Story of Diamonds, Gold and Pearls in WA.*

Centre for the Book, Ground Floor,
Alexander Library Building
Open until mid-January - entry is free.

EXHIBITION - *Now & Then: Images of WA 1900 and Now*

Centre for the Book, Ground Floor,
Alexander Library Building
Opening late January- early February

WEDNESDAY MATINEE

2000 season commences on 2 Feb.
Alexander Library Building Theatre
Contact: State Film & Video Library
(08) 9427 3159

Records Management Course

4 February. Contact: Martin Fordham
(08) 9427 3360

Perth Writers' Festival 4 - 13 Feb

For details, see the Perth International Arts Festival program.

Multicultural Aged Care - Polish Films

Sunday 6 February 1pm-5pm
Alexander Library Building Theatre
Contact: Anna Harrison (08) 9271 2036

Diabetes Management seminar series

No.1 - Nutrition and Diabetes

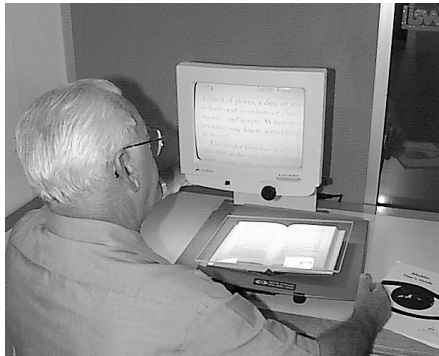
Monday 7 February
Alexander Library Building Theatre
Cost: \$5 (free for members of Diabetes Australia)
Contact: Francesca (08) 9325 7699

LiveSmart Weight Loss Courses (10 weeks)

10am, 12.10pm, 1.10pm & 5.15pm sessions
Alexander Library Building Theatre
commencing 15 February - bookings essential.
\$149 (earlybird and seniors discount: 10%)
Contact: Kym Fowler (08) 9458 1553
Fax: (08) 9358 5120 email: livesmart@smartchat.net.au

LISWA clients have the Reading Edge

New adaptive technology in the Alexander Library Building allows people with print disabilities to access the vast collections of the State Reference and Battye Libraries. LISWA has just installed a Xerox Reading Edge Text to Speech Scanner, and an Aladdin Closed Circuit Television enlarger to replace obsolete equipment which was failing to meet current needs.



The Aladdin CCTV magnifies small print to assist people with visual limitations

The Reading Edge Text to Speech Scanner scans the printed text of a book, converting it into synthesised speech which it reads out to the user.

David Gribble, Manager Technology and Training at the Association for the Blind, said "The device is simple to operate, includes high quality speech output, and has extremely accurate recognition across a wide range of document types."

The disk drive allows scanned documents to be saved as text files on standard floppy disks, enabling clients to take a copy of the document home.

The Aladdin CCTV is an electronic print magnifier which focuses on text placed on a moveable table and projects it onto a screen. It has simple controls and is ideal for use by older people with vision impairments.

Both the Aladdin and Reading Edge are located in the Arts and Literature Library on the Ground Floor of the Alexander Library Building. Bookings are required for the Reading Edge and can be made by telephoning Reception on 9427 3104.

For more information, contact Yvonne Morant, LISWA's Consultant: Special Needs, on 9427 3166 or email: ymorant@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au.

Hanging out with the locals!

On 12 and 13 November 1999, the Second National Local Studies Conference entitled *Post Haste the Millennium: Opportunitites and Challenges in Local Studies* was held at the Rose & Crown Hotel in Guildford. LISWA attendees included Lise Summers (State Records Office and conference organising committee member); David Whiteford and Julie Martin (Battye Library); Isabel Smith (State Records Office) and Sue Sondalini (Genealogy Librarian).

Delegates were welcomed by Mort Hansen of the Nyungar people and Mayor Charles Gregorini of the Shire of Swan. The opening plenary session was Dr Alan Bundy's *Progress and potential : local public libraries and Australia's cultural heritage at century's end*. Dr Bundy spoke of the value of public libraries and their progress in developing local studies collections.

The conference provided three streams of papers, each session lasting 45 minutes with a total of 33 sessions available over the two days.

Friday's topics included *Preserving and Accessing Sensitive Material; the Midland Westrail Workshops History Project; Guildford Grammar School Archives; Telling the Boans Story; and Anniversaries and Celebration : Commonwealth records of local interest*. Isabel Smith of the State Record Office presented a well received paper entitled *Managing electronic records for the future*.

Saturday provided more interesting papers covering genealogy on the Internet; the centenaries of The Perth Mint and WA Suffrage; how to make a local history service popular; and providing outreach programs on a shoestring by speakers from the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library.

The closing plenary session was presented by Professor J. D. Hendry entitled *Local history at the millennium: priorities in the United Kingdom*, which provided an interesting overview of the work of the Millennium Commission in the United Kingdom.

The Second National Local Studies Conference was a wonderful opportunity for LISWA staff to make and renew contact with others working in this area, and the sessions attended were interesting and informative. The Rose & Crown Hotel was a lovely springtime venue and the historic surrounds of Guildford most appropriate for a gathering of local studies enthusiasts!

Sue Sondalini
Genealogy Librarian
LISWA

Awarding the "Connecting All Ages" Writing Competition

LISWA celebrated the International Year of Older Persons through the "Connecting All Ages" Writing Competition, with intergenerational relationships as the theme. The competition was launched in March 1999 by the Arts Minister, Hon. Peter Foss QC MLC, and entries closed at the end of August. During September and October, three judges were hard at work judging approximately 600 entries. The judges were Wendy Birman, a past chairperson and member of the Library Board; Alwyn Evans, a writer and children's book editor at Fremantle Arts Centre Press; and Stephen Scourfield, assistant editor of *The West Australian* and author.



L-R Alwyn Evans, Stephen Scourfield and Wendy Birman - judges in the "Connecting All Ages" competition

section and Dane Mair (winner of the Christobel Mattingley award for young writers) presenting awards in the open section. The presenters enthralled the audience with their readings of the winning entries.

The Office of Seniors' Interests made special funds available for the International Year of Older People, and LISWA received a grant to fund the writing competition's major prizes. Special prizes were generously sponsored by Mosaic Books, Bookcaffe, The Well Book Shop, Child Education Services and West Books, and LISWA thanks

them for their support.

The competition culminated with the presentation of awards on Thursday 4 November during Seniors' Week. Over 100 people attended the awards presentation. All winners were notified that they had won something in the competition, however everyone was kept in suspense until the presentation for the announcement of the overall prize winners in the school and open sections. State Librarian Lynn Allen was MC for the ceremony, with Persephone Arbour from the Intergenerational Foundation presenting awards in the schools

This competition provided a practical opportunity for LISWA to encourage writers of all ages and recognise and acknowledge talented writers from across Western Australia. LISWA wishes to congratulate all winners and thank the hundreds of participants who took the time and effort to write such wonderful and moving stories. We enjoyed reading them all!

Ruth Balding
Consultant: Seniors Services
Public Library Services

Schools Section - Category Prize Winners (\$100 book voucher)

- Category A: Lower Primary**
 Non-Fiction - Chloe Pendlebury (Mt Hawthorn Jnr Pmy)
 Fiction - Alexandra Mould (Mt Hawthorn Jnr Pmy)
- Category B: Middle Primary**
 Non-Fiction - Stephanie Brown (Riverlands Sch, Whiteman)
 Fiction - Brodie Stewart (Gingin District H S)
- Category C: Upper Primary**
 Non-Fiction - Kathleen Tracey (Whitford Catholic Pmy)
 Fiction - Holly Richards (Geraldton Grammar Sch)
- Category D: Lower Secondary**
 Non-Fiction - Sinead Burton (Newman College)
 Fiction - Hilary Wheaton (St Mary's Anglican Girls Sch)
(Judges did not award in Category E: Upper Secondary)



School section winners

The Winners

Schools Section - Overall Prize Winners

- First prize: \$250 book voucher**
 Non-Fiction - Chloe Pendlebury (Mt Hawthorn Jnr Pmy)
 Fiction - Holly Richards (Geraldton Grammar Sch)
- Second prize: \$100 book voucher**
 Non-Fiction - Kathleen Tracey (Whitford Catholic Pmy)
 Fiction - Alexandra Mould (Mt Hawthorn Jnr Pmy)

Schools Section - Special Prizes (\$50 book voucher)

- Katrina Bowen (Riverlands Sch, Whiteman)
 Alyssa Dawes (Ballajura Community College)
 Zachary Fried (Riverlands Sch, Whiteman)
 Megan Kitley (Riverlands Sch, Whiteman)
 Hanif Kuthubutheen (Willetton SHS)
 Roseanne Murray (Laverton Sch)
 Alistair Sisson (Mt Hawthorn Jnr Pmy Sch)
 Jordan Tana (Mt Hawthorn Jnr Pmy Sch)
 Emily Webb-Smith (Dongara District HS)

Open section winners L-R Danielle McNamee, Lynette Triffitt, Denise Culloden-Booth and Pamela Grant

Open Section

- First prize: \$500 book voucher**
 Non-Fiction - Denise Culloden-Booth (Kalamunda)
 Fiction - Pamela Grant (North Pinjarra)
- Second prize: \$250 book voucher**
 Non-Fiction - Danielle McNamee (South Perth)
 Lynette Triffitt (Morley)

Open Section - Special Prizes (\$50 book voucher)

- Frances Hutt (Beldon)
 Cheryl Rogers (West Swan)
 Carmen Stewart (Gingin)



Children's Festival was just AWESOME!

Once again the Alexander Library Building was host to activities for young people during the Awesome International Childrens' Festival in November 1999. Graffiti workshops and film screenings were programmed for the week. Booked school groups attended workshops run by Western Australian film maker Brigitta Hupfel. Brigitta gave the young people attending the workshops the opportunity to create their own "tag" on recycled, bleached 16mm film and to have an experience with film that differed substantially from their usual experiences of television and "Hollywood blockbusters".



Filmmaker Brigitta Hupfel conducts film-painting workshops in the Alexander Library Building for "Awesome".

The film screenings, held over one day, were described in the Awesome Festival programme as "a compilation of cute contemporary French footage, hilarious animation and experimental films selected by Brigitta Hupfel and screened at the State Library."

Films were borrowed from the Aubon Film Festival collection, The State Film and Video Library, Cine Media, and a French film maker through Alliance Francais. The programme was sponsored by LISWA and The Film and Television Institute.

Michelle Gherghinis
Library Advisory Services
Public Library Services

Divas delight all in Seniors' Week grand finale

As part of LISWA's programme of events for Seniors Week 1999, a recital featuring prominent Perth ensemble The Windbags, took place in the Alexander Library Building.

Four women, all in fine vocal form with uvulas quivering and tongues firmly in cheeks, delivered a program of classical and nostalgic favourites. From the fine balance of quiet anthems by the likes of John Rutter to the feisty one-upmanship of Irving Berlin's "Anything you can do I can do better", The Windbags surprised a delighted audience with quality vocals and knock-about humour.

The final moment of glory, it must be said, was reserved for the pint-sized femme fatale seated at the piano, who had played so tenderly and sympathetically throughout the programme, ebbed and flowed rhapsodically at the keyboard as the vocalists crescendoed toward the apex of Puccini's soaring aria "Nessun dorma". And then,



The Windbags (l-r) Chris Fillis, Elspeth Binckes (pianist), Ann Robinson, Allison Fyfe (LISWA) and Cathy Santarelli

without signal or explanation, she lifted her hands from the keyboard and stood to face an astonished audience. The performers, agog at the hiatus at this most critical of moments, watched helplessly as their accompanist drew a deep breath and issued forth with what can only be described as a top B flat amplified by an afternoon of pentup tension - a final note so throbbing with vibrato and so piercing with emotion that none who heard it was unmoved. The audience broke into spontaneous and prolonged applause at this point.



Elspeth Binckes tinkles the ivories for The Windbags' Seniors' Week concert.

Thus ended an afternoon recital of unexpected comedy and fine musicianship. The audience retired to the foyer for afternoon tea and biscuits.

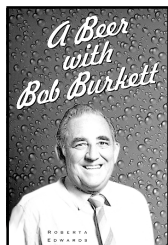
The ensemble was last seen pushing forcibly upon the lid to the grand piano from which wriggled a pair of glossy black court shoes (size 5) struggling desperately to break free.

Brian Dawson
Team Leader: Music & Performing
Arts, LISWA

Battye about books

A Beer with Bob Burkett

Roberta Edwards



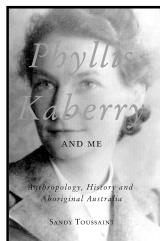
Bob Burkett, hotelier, racehorse owner, hotel broker and mining entrepreneur, lived an extraordinarily full life before his untimely death in 1992 aged only 61. He is still remembered

throughout the North-West as the popular proprietor of the Potshot Resort Hotel and, at one time, Shire President of Exmouth. This witty biography by his daughter, peppered with anecdotes by business and racing friends, presents a vivid word picture of an ebullient man and other "Wild West" characters who made the heady days of the 1970s boom time possible.

Access Press, Bassendean WA, 1999

Phyllis Kaberry and Me

Sandy Toussaint



Phyllis Kaberry was one of an early - and largely forgotten - group of women anthropologists in Australia. Her pioneering field work, later published as

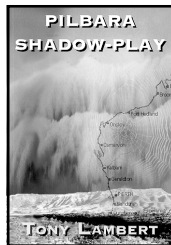
Aboriginal Women: Sacred and Profane (1939), led to a distinguished academic career in London, where she died in 1977.

Fifty years later, Sandy Toussaint undertook her own field work in some of the same communities, where she found people who still remembered Kaberry. In revisiting and re-evaluating Kaberry's work and intellectual legacy, Toussaint also caught glimpses of the private person behind it - eccentric, a little mysterious, with a restless, passionate mind. With energy and originality, this remarkable book explores past, present and future relationships between anthropologists and the people among whom they work.

Melbourne University Press, Carlton VIC, 1999

Pilbara Shadow-Play

Tony Lambert



Before the fall of South Vietnam, certain Saigon gangsters filtered large sums of money out to Australia and established the main conduit for the South Pacific drug trade.

Hidden behind a maze of business fronts, the lethal traffic flourished down through the years with senior law enforcement officers and high ranking politicians receiving massive payoffs to conceal the rot.

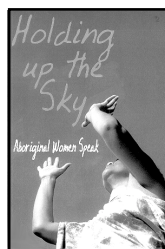
At the dark heart of this web of evil, one man wields absolute power; his protection so tightly wrapped as to make him untouchable. Until a veteran of the war, along with a top CIA official decide to act... in a "Pilbara Shadow Play".

Tony Lambert, Cervantes WA, 1999

Holding up the Sky: Aboriginal women speak

"Those were beautiful days. How else could I describe them?"

Everything was so green, the days were sun-filled, the smell of ti-tree and smoke in the air and family all around. Most of all, to me, my mum and aunties were beautiful young women with waist-long hair, black, wavy and shining."

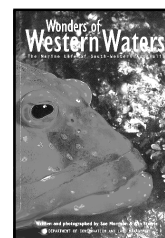


In this unique collection, nine Aboriginal women from around the country recount their lives. These are ordinary women - mothers, grandmothers, workers - with extraordinary life experiences. Their stories vary widely, but all touch in some way on what it has been to grow up as a black woman in white Australia. Heartfelt, funny, courageous, disturbing, poignant, angry - *Holding up the Sky* is a testament to its contributors' spirit, strength and fortitude.

Magabala Books, Broome WA, 1999

Wonders of Western Waters: the marine life of South-Western Australia

Written & photographed by Sue Morrison and Ann Storrie



Western Australia's temperate waters are alive with amazing and diverse marine life. There are leafy sea-dragons resembling pieces of floating seaweed, brightly coloured sea slugs that feed on

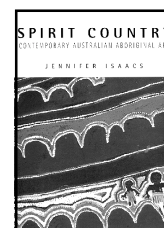
corals, crabs with pieces of algae and sponge growing on their backs for camouflage, and colourful cuttlefish that can change colour and texture in an instant. *Wonders of Western Waters: the marine life of South-Western Australia* contains descriptions and photographs of many marine inhabitants, and gives insight into their natural history and relationships with other plants and animals within their ecosystems.

Department of Conservation & Land Management, Como WA, 1999

Spirit Country: Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art

Jennifer Isaacs

Spirit Country explores the vibrant contemporary Aboriginal art of northern and central Australia, with its diverse regional traditions - from the finely cross-hatched



bark paintings of Arnhem Land to the mesmerising dotted canvases of the Central Desert; from the elaborate Pukumani poles of the Tiwi Islands to the broad fields of ochre in contemporary works from the Kimberley. While the extraordinary abstract qualities of these works have caught the eyes of the Western art world, for those who make them they are also religious documents, maps, personal histories and title deeds to land.

Hardie Grant Books, South Yarra VIC, 1999

All of these books can be found in the J S Battye Library

Glitterati mix it with diamonds, gold and pearls

A special viewing of LISWA's exhibition *All that Glitters...The Story of Diamonds, Gold, and Pearls in Western Australia* was organised on 12 November 1999. Guests included many of the people featured in the exhibition - Artisans of the Sea jewellery designers Simon Henderson and Phillip Noakes, mining entrepreneur Mark Creasy, Argyle's diamond cutter David Burger and John Watson "the Gold Purer" from The Perth Mint.

In her welcoming speech, State Librarian Lynn Allen outlined the many achievements of the diamond, gold and pearling industries of WA and the success stories that have been accumulating since the first nuggets of gold were discovered in the early days of our state's history.

The exhibition is open to the public until mid-January in the Centre for the Book (on the Ground floor of the Alexander Library Building). You can view the exhibition at any time during library opening hours, and admission is free.



L-R Mark Creasy, Mrs Creasy and Ron Sheen (president of the WA State Library Custodians)



David and Stella Burger



L-R Virginia Rowland (LISWA), Simon Henderson, Glenice Matthews and Phillip Noakes (Artisans of the Sea)



John Watson ("The Gold Purer") and Anthea Harris (Records Consultant) from the Perth Mint

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PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP

The Western Australian Premier's Book Awards Dinner

The announcement of the winners of the Premier's Book Awards will take place on
Friday 10 March
at a gala dinner in the Alexander Library Building celebrating the past
Premier's Book Award winners.

To be sure of your invitation to the dinner phone (08) 9427 3330.