

State Library
of Western Australia

KNOWIT
magazine

JANUARY - MARCH 2003 NO.263

Freycinet collection



A line from Claire



Acting CEO and State Librarian
Claire Forte.

I'm delighted to share with readers news of our exciting start to 2003 with a major exhibition staged, an important digitisation project completed and a national collaborative interactive online reference service launched. Also launched earlier this year was the redeveloped Albany Public Library. Members of the Library Board and senior staff enjoyed a great day of celebrations in Albany on 24 January. All involved in the redevelopment project are to be congratulated for the transformation that has occurred to enhance facilities and services.

With such an exciting start to the new year, in late March we were saddened to learn of the passing of former colleague Val Creasey. Val was a tireless and dedicated member of staff for 40 years. Val's work lives on in many aspects of the State Library's services, including the online state-wide catalogue, so integral to accessing the State's collections.



In August 2001 the family of Rodolphe Schenk donated to the Battye Library an important collection of photographs, slides, and archival materials relating to the Mt Margaret Mission.

Front row, L-R: Margaret Morgan, Esther Milnes, Roderick Schenk, and Elizabeth Miller (Rodolphe Schenk's children) Back row, L-R: Keith Morgan, Claire Forte (A/CEO), Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton (President of the Friends of Battye Library Inc.), Stewart Miller, Peter Milnes and his wife Grace Sobejko, Brian Stewart and Maryon Craig (Battye staff), and Ruth Schenk.

Schenk photo donation milestone reached

The images, dating from 1920 to today, are mostly of the Wongi people of the mission and surrounding area. Rodolphe Schenk, the founder of the Mt Margaret Mission, took most of the early photographs, and his children and son-in-law the later ones. The 6-volume collection of about 1,000 photographs is important in documenting the daily life of a very important Aboriginal mission in the history of Western Australia.

As part of the donation, the Schenk family provided almost \$2,700 - comprising a grant given to Rodolphe Schenk from the Western Australian History Foundation with additional money contributed by the family - for work to digitise the photographs so they could be made widely available to the community. A further donation from the Friends of Battye Library Inc. made it possible to complete the digitisation work. Prior to working on the digitisation project, the captions for all the photographs had to be produced and the photos re-housed in proper archival photo albums. Once this work was completed the digitisation of the collection began.

Work on scanning the collection proved more challenging than anticipated. The size of the collection, the varying condition and formats of the images all contributed to its complexity. During 2002 staff worked on digitising the images and managing the workflow. Once the scanning was complete came the problem of how to provide access to images contained on 15 CD-ROMS. The solution was to create 'indexes' for each CD-ROM.

Each index consists of small thumbnail images and their captions for all the image files on the CD-ROM. The indexes allow anyone using each disk to easily browse through the contents without having to open each image file separately. Anyone interested in a particular image can match its unique number given in the index to its filename on the CD-ROM directory. This system allows the CD-ROMs to be used without requiring any additional specialised search software. This was an important consideration because the CD-ROMs are to be made available to local communities.

To celebrate the completion of this project, the Friends of Battye Library marked the occasion with a formal handover of complete sets of the CD-ROMS to the Schenk family and to the Battye Library on 11 March 2003. Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton presented each of Rodolphe Schenk's children - Margaret Morgan, Esther Milnes, Roderick Schenk, and Elizabeth Miller - with a set of the CD-ROMs. Professor Bolton presented two further sets to the Battye Library, one for use of clients and another for preservation.

A set of the CD-ROMs has been sent to the Goldfields Land and Sea Council for the use of the local community. Two further sets will be sent to the Mount Margaret Community Library and the Kalgoorlie Public Library.

Congratulations to everyone concerned in reaching another milestone in preserving and providing access to this historically important collection!





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An enthusiastic crowd greeted the Hon. Sheila McHale, Minister for Culture and the Arts, when she visited the Alexander Library Building to open the Freycinet - Our French Collection exhibition.

Exhibition Freycinet Our French Collection



This is a very special day for me and for all of us who worked together to make sure that items from the Freycinet collection - these precious records of French exploration of Western Australia - were secured for the community Hon. Sheila McHale

Photo above: Hon. Sheila McHale - Minister for Culture and the Arts opens the exhibition. Opposite top: Sheila McHale and Ron Sheen - President, State Library Custodians; Opposite centre: school children with exhibition activity sheets; Opposite bottom: The Freycinet exhibition team: Adam Peterson - Designer, Jennie Carter - Curator, Patrick Moore - Project Leader, Stephanie Bailey - Senior Conservator and Doug George - Manager Public Programs.

It was 9 o'clock on Sunday morning, 23 February, but more than 170 people had responded to an invitation to be among the first Western Australians to see the rare French maps and drawings that had been recently added to the Library collections.

was to see items from the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the Western Australian Museum and the Maritime Museum included in the exhibition. "The agencies in my portfolio have worked together to bring this wonderful result to the community", she said.

For too long the story of European exploration of Western Australia has been told mainly in terms of the great Dutch navigators and then the English. But French involvement in the charting of Australia's coastline was extensive and is reflected in the many French place-names still to be found, particularly on the western and southern coasts of Australia.

The Minister congratulated Jennie Carter on her work as Curator of the exhibition and said how pleased she

Ms McHale spoke of her memory of the excitement in the period leading up to the Christie's auction on 26

September 2002. She was grateful for the passion and commitment shown by those working to raise the funds.

All Western Australians should be grateful to the anonymous donor and the corporate sponsors who came

opens

forward to support the acquisition, the Minister said. She then thanked each of the sponsors and presented representatives with framed facsimiles of the Swan River chart and Freycinet's Observatory at Shark Bay.

The gifts were accepted first by Mr Peter Woods of R.I.C. Publications and Woodside Valley Estate. In addition to their original support, Woodside Valley Estate provided an exhibition information sheet and activity sheets for children visiting the exhibition.

More presentations were made to Ms Kathy Bohn, representing Kerry Stokes and Australian Capital Equity, to Mr Michael Chaney of Wesfarmers, to Mr Harold Clough of Clough Engineering and Shark Bay Resources, to Erica Smyth representing Woodside Petroleum, and to Bret Mattes of BHP Billiton.

The Minister praised the work done by the Western Australian State Library Custodians in co-ordinating the drive to raise funds for the purchase. She thanked the President Ron Sheen and all those involved in what was a magnificent effort. Robert and Helen Muir were thanked for the important roles they had in bidding at the Christie's auction.

The Minister then declared the exhibition 'Freycinet - Our French Collection' open.

Mr Ron Sheen presented the Minister with a framed facsimile of Freycinet's Observatory at Shark Bay as a token of the appreciation felt by the Custodians for her ongoing support. **K**



The State Library of Western Australia was recently involved in the purchase of 18 historic works produced from two voyages Louis de Freycinet made to Australia in the early years of the 19th century. With support from the State Government and private donors the State Library Custodians acquired at auction in September 2002 three maps produced in 1801 from the first visit and 15 artworks dating from Freycinet's second voyage which began in 1817.

Stories from the Freycinet exhibition



- Chart of the Swan River June 1801 by Francois-Antoine Heirisson.
- Chart of the N and NE coast of Garden Island drawn by Henri de Freycinet 1801.
- Chart of Depuch Island showing also Sable Island by Francois Ronsard 27 July 1801.
- The observatory at Shark Bay; watercolour painting by Alphonse Pellion September 1818 and printer's proof (2 items).
- Birds' nest found on Dirk Hartog Island, September 1818. Pencil sketch by Jacques Arago plus an engraver's brown wash by Marais (2 items).
- Marine life: 4 studies by Arago (5 items).
- Five pencil sketches of the camp at the Falklands by Pellion and Arago and a brown wash drawing (6 items) 1820.



These treasures were deposited in the J S Battye Library of West Australian History and conservation work carried out on them. The culmination of this shared endeavour was the recent exhibition 'Freycinet: Our French Collection' which ran from 23 February to 30 March 2003. Displayed with the new acquisitions were selected items from the State Library and with additional pieces kindly lent by the Western Australian Maritime Museum, the Western Australian Museum, the Art Gallery of Western Australia, and Mr Kerry Stokes, the exhibition proved to be the most successful and publicly supported event held in the State Library.

A highlight of the exhibition was the chance to view the many beautiful works on display from the State Library's superb collection of published and unpublished materials. These not only provided the historical context of Louis de Freycinet's voyages to Western Australia but also brought the stories behind the recently purchased maps and artworks to life.



THE FIRST VISIT - BAUDIN'S EXPEDITION 1800 TO 1804

Louis-Claude de Saulces de Freycinet was born into a family with a tradition of naval and political service and when recruitment began for an expedition led by Nicolas-Thomas Baudin, the brothers were quick to volunteer. Louis, then 21, was assigned to the *Naturaliste*, under the command of Felix-Emmanuel Hamelin, and Henri to the *Géographe*, captained by Baudin.

After several scientists and artists deserted the expedition at Mauritius, Baudin appointed two junior officers, Nicolas-Martin Petit and Charles-Alexandre Lesueur as official artists. They created superbly detailed drawings and paintings, many of which feature in the atlases that accompany the official account of the voyage begun by François Péron and completed by Freycinet after Péron died from consumption in 1810.¹

The published histories include reports of the surveys for all three charts. Charles Baillly wrote a particularly dramatic account of his and François Heirisson's adventures during the trip from 17 to 22 June 1801 to explore the Swan River. While Hamelin in the *Naturaliste* carried out surveys of the Swan

River area, Baudin in the *Géographe* was sailing north. He reached the Dampier Archipelago in July where François Ronsard mapped Depuch Island which was notable because it was formed chiefly of volcanic rock covered in iron oxide.²

Separated since early June, it was not until 21 September 1801 that the *Naturaliste* and *Géographe* finally met up at Timor. After almost a year exploring eastern and southern Australia, Baudin decided to send the *Naturaliste* back to France laden with specimens. He purchased the New South Wales built *Casuarina* and placed Louis de Freycinet in charge, bypassing more senior officers. On 17 November 1802 Hamelin returned to France while the *Géographe* and the *Casuarina* journeyed west to King George Sound arriving in February 1803.

After again sailing north to Timor Baudin, by now desperately ill with tuberculosis, made for Mauritius where he died on 16 September 1803. The *Casuarina* was disposed of and the *Géographe* with Pierre-Bernard Milius in charge arrived in France on 25 March 1804. Despite many setbacks and the death of Baudin, the expedition was successful.

Almost 200,000 preserved specimens were recorded from the *Géographe* alone and more than 2,500 were claimed to be new species.

72 live animals, hundreds of live plants and seeds were also brought back to France.



Chart of Ile Depuch and Sable Island. François-Michel Ronsard. July 1801.

¹ *Voyage de découvertes aux terres australes. (Historique) : exécuté par ordre de Sa Majesté l'empereur et roi, sur les corvettes le Géographe, le Naturaliste, et la goëlette le Casuarina, pendant les années 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803 et 1804 / rédigé par F. Péron. Paris, 1807-1816*

² Baudin, Nicolas. *The journal of Post Captain Nicolas Baudin / translated by Christine Cornell. Adelaide: Libraries Board of South Australia, 1974 p.232.*

THE SECOND VOYAGE - THE DE FREYCINET EXPEDITION 1817 TO 1820

In 1811 Louis de Freycinet was promoted to Frigate Captain and over the next five years urged the French Government to mount another scientific maritime expedition to the southern seas. In 1814, at the age of 35, he married 19 year old Rose Pinon. Two years later the Ministry of the Navy gave Freycinet command of a corvette which he named the *Uranie* after the Greek muse of astronomy. Freycinet delayed leaving Toulon until 17 September 1817 to carry out an extensive refit of the ship including enlarging the captain's quarters for an unauthorised passenger, his wife Rose.

of whom mention Rose's presence. It is clear that when news of the de Freycinets' flouting of naval regulations broke in the French press it caused a storm. Some saw Rose as a romantic heroine following her husband and her heart into unknown dangers, but the French authorities were less moved and ordered the governor of Mauritius to send Rose back home when the *Uranie* called in for supplies. The governor, perhaps touched by Rose's entreaties, ignored the order.

Many officers and crew on board also admired 'la jolie commandante' (the pretty commander), although a long voyage cooped up on a tiny ship with an attractive young woman in their

Illustration below: Observatory at Shark Bay, J. Alphonse Pellion, 1818.
... and as published, 1825.
Opposite page: Birds' nest on Dirk Hartog Island, J. Arago, 1818.
... and as published, 1825.

She was also an apple of discord, thrown not just to three goddesses but to a crowd of young men whose jealousies and passions could not fail to be aroused.



Rose de Freycinet wrote a lively account of her adventures on the *Uranie*. Her reason for accompanying her husband on the trip and defying the French authorities was clear:

Life is too short! I wanted to brighten it up as much as possible ... I now look back on my decision with a great deal of satisfaction, whereas had I acted differently, I would have nothing but regret.³

In 1927 Charles Duplomb with the assistance of Charles de Freycinet published Rose's journal⁴ and the State Library's copy was also on display in the exhibition. Rose's story has inspired other authors, notably Marnie Bassett⁵ and Marc Rivière.⁶ Rose's journal gives a quite different perspective of the voyage compared to the official version produced by her husband, or the colourful chronicle written by the *Uranie*'s artist Jacques Arago,⁷ neither

midst no doubt caused tensions. In a book written some years after the Freycinet expedition, Gabriel Lafond noted:

She was also an apple of discord, thrown not just to three goddesses but to a crowd of young men whose jealousies and passions could not fail to be aroused.⁸

Arago was one of Rose's admirers and another friend was Dr Paul Gaimard, a medical officer on the *Uranie* who kept a detailed diary of his impressions and adventures.⁹ The Gaimard journal was purchased in 1987 for the State and deposited in the Battye Library's Private Archives collection.

On 12 September 1818 the *Uranie* reached Shark Bay where Freycinet established a camp and undertook scientific observations. Alphonse

³ Quoted in Freycinet, Rose Marie de. *A woman of courage: the journal of Rose de Freycinet on her voyage around the world 1817-1820* / translated and edited by Marc Serge Rivière. Canberra: National Library of Australia, 1996. p.xxiv

⁴ Freycinet, Rose Marie de. *Journal d'après le manuscrit original, accompagné de notes par Charles Duplomb*. Paris, 1927

⁵ Bassett, Marnie. *Realms and islands: the world voyage of Rose de Freycinet in the corvette Uranie 1817-1820: from her journal and letters and the reports of Louis de Saulces de Freycinet Capitaine de corvette*. London; Oxford University Press, 1962.

Pellion's watercolour painting shows Rose with a little Mauritian boy she was caring for at the door of their tent. It is a peaceful, domestic scene at odds with Rose's opinion of the time:

*That stay on land was not a pleasant one for me, the country being entirely devoid of trees and vegetation. One could only go for a walk on burning sand. When the heat died down a little, I would collect shells, of which I have an impressive collection. I spent the rest of the day in the tent reading or working.*¹⁰

Rose and the boy were omitted from the illustration intended for the official history of the voyage and several other changes were made to the picture

time Pellion and Arago made several sketches of the camp, some of which were also purchased by the Custodians for the Battye Library.¹² Rescue came from an American ship, the *Mercury* whose captain proposed that Freycinet buy his ship after it had offloaded its cargo in Montevideo.

Freycinet renamed the ship the *Physicienne* and eventually sailed for France arriving on 13 November 1820. He was ordered to face a court martial over the loss of the *Uranie* but was promptly exonerated. Despite the furore three years earlier, the judges made no mention of Rose. The second voyage took three years and 57 days and although 18 cases of

⁶ Freycinet, Rose. *A woman of courage* / Marc Rivière, 1996.

⁷ Arago, Jacques. *Narrative of a voyage round the world : in the Uranie and Physicienne corvettes, commanded by Captain Freycinet ... 1817, 1818, 1819, and 1820 ... in ... letters to a friend*. London, Treuttel, 1823. Arago also wrote accounts of his adventures in *Promenade autour du monde* published in 1822 with an English translation *Narrative of a voyage around the world* appearing in 1823, and *Souvenirs d'un aveugle* [*Remembrances of a blind man*] published in 1839. The title is poignant because Arago went blind two years before the book's publication, possibly from venereal disease contracted at one of the ports visited by the



before publication. Other artworks were also altered before being published, an example being the sketch Arago made of a giant osprey nest¹¹ where he depicted himself slumped at the base of a rock whereas the printer's proof shows him posing jauntily with his gun.

The expedition left Shark Bay on 27 September 1818, without visiting any other place on the western coast and headed for Timor. After more than a year exploring the Pacific, including a memorable stay in Sydney, Freycinet sailed for South America. As the *Uranie* rounded Cape Horn, bad weather convinced Freycinet to seek shelter at the Falklands off the coast of Argentina.

On 13 February 1820, the *Uranie* struck rocks near what is now Uranie Bay and gradually sank leaving the survivors marooned on the uninhabited shore for over ten weeks. During this

specimens were lost in the shipwreck, the majority were saved. The expedition also listed vocabularies of indigenous peoples of the areas visited, although only one word, *ayerkade* ('go away'), was recorded from Shark Bay.

Louis de Freycinet spent the next 20 years writing the history of the expedition and publishing the charts and artworks created during the *Uranie's* voyage.¹³ In 1832 Rose died of cholera caught while nursing her husband who recovered. Louis did not remarry after Rose's death and died ten years later of heart disease. **K**

Jennie Carter, Team Leader, Archival Collections

J S Battye Library of West Australian History (Curator, 'Freycinet: Our French Collection'.)

Uranie as Paul Gaimard notes in his journal that he treated Arago for syphilis.

⁸ Quoted in Bassett, M. *Realms and Islands* p.148.

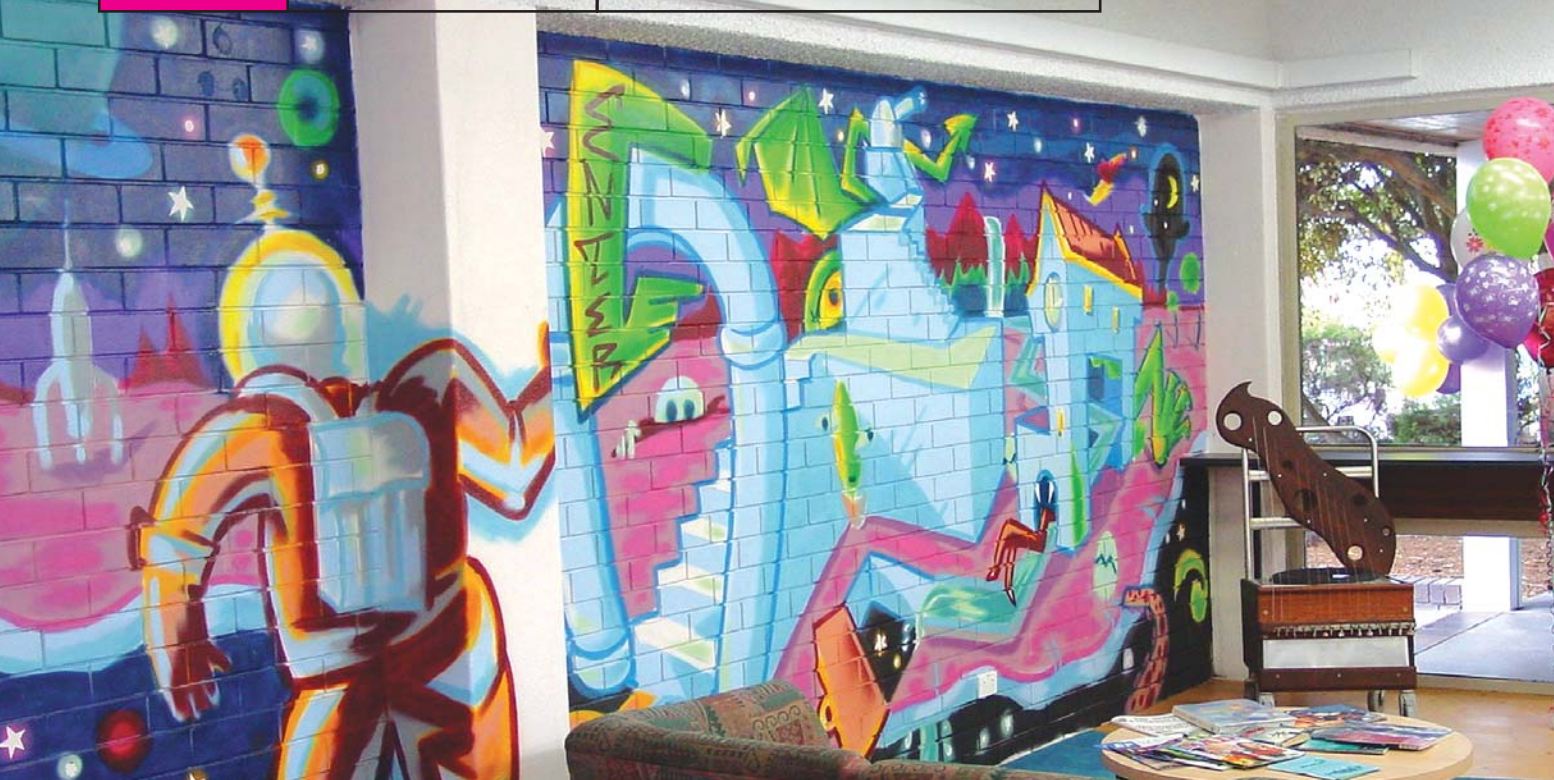
⁹ *Journal Du Voyage de Circumnavigation, tenu par Mr Gaimard, Chirurgien a Bord de la Corvette L'Uranie, September 1817-June 1819*. (Battye Library Private Archives collection MN1188, ACC 3506A.)

¹⁰ Freycinet, Rose Marie de. *A woman of courage*, Translated by Marc Rivière. p.52.

¹¹ The bird is identified as an osprey by the description of its egg which was a buff colour with darker brown splotches.

¹² In 2001 a team from the WA Museum led by Dr. Mike McCarthy examined the wreck of the *Uranie* and determined the site of the survivors' camp from the published drawings of Pellion and Arago. Remains of the wreck and the campsite were formally claimed as a maritime archaeological site for Britain, the Falkland Islands and France.

¹³ *Voyage autour du monde, entrepris par ordre du roi ... Exécuté sur les corvettes de S.M. l'Uranie et la Physicienne, pendant les années 1817, 1818, 1819 et 1820*. 2 vol. Accompanied by *Histoire naturelle : Zoologie, planches*. Paris, 1824.



Albany's new-look public Library...

NEW renovations have brought accessibility and a contemporary edge to the Albany Public Library. The City of Albany held an official opening of the new library on Friday 24 January 2003.



Library Board of WA members enjoying themselves at the launch of the Albany public library re-development. From left to right: Mr Alastair Bryant, Director General, Department Culture and the Arts, Ms Claire Forte CEO State Library of WA, Councillor Nola Waters, Councillor John Walker, Chairman. Mrs Kay Poustie, Councillor Pat Gallaher, Dr Ray Steedman.

The library was pronounced open by Dr Ken Michael, Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, and Cr Milton Evans, Deputy Mayor of the City of Albany. Guests included representatives from UWA and the Library Board of WA.

The public launch of the library was an all-day event in partnership with the Perth International Arts Festival.

A morning tea followed the official opening with guests and library patrons being entertained by the Albany String Trio and the antics of street theatre duo Bizircus. Literary tastes were catered for with readings from local and visiting authors and poets. Kids activities, a youth rock band and internet education filled the afternoon. Celebrations continued into the evening at the library with a dazzling PIAF reception party featuring entertainment by the Denmark Jazz a Cappella Group, Slap My Thighs and Call Me Barbara and the Bardi Dancers from One Arm Point north of Broome.

The \$1.32 million revamp started in 2001 after the City of Albany identified

the need for a major upgrade on the 1960's building. Completed at the end of 2002, the library now boasts 60 per cent more floor space, new facilities and a friendly, welcoming presence on Albany's main street.

At the time of the decision to upgrade the library, the University of Western Australia was establishing its Albany Centre. Instead of building a separate library to service students, UWA joined forces with the City of Albany, contributing substantially to the Albany Public Library renovation which has brought wide benefits for the whole community.

The Local Studies Collection (previously located off-site) now has a dedicated space on the library's first floor. Young adults have a discrete reading area with lounge seating, and for the very young a colorful new children's library with a multi-purpose activity area and a fenced outdoor courtyard. **K**

Jenni Flottmann
Library Manager, Albany Public Library
Website: library.albany.wa.gov.au

Mid West - Geraldton Regional News

Photo top left: The new adult fiction room in the old heritage-listed post office at Dongara.

Photo top right: The results of 'rabbit' storytime at Three Springs Library.

Dongara Library

More space for Dongara library clients! The postmaster would be pleased that his living quarters have been converted into the adult fiction, videos and cassettes room. Thank you Shire of Irwin (population 3,500, located 360km north of Perth)! The other areas of the old post office house the rest of the library, tourist bureau and police licensing facilities.

Three Springs Library

Preschoolers take over Three Springs Library! The first storytime session held in February had a 'rabbit' theme. Parents were invited to "come along with your children and enjoy stories, singing, rhymes and activities - a fun time for all". Congratulations volunteer Michelle and staff at the Shire of Three Springs (population 800, located 300 km north of Perth).



Holiday Reading Program 2003. A mission for children over the summer holidays.

Mission: Seek and Survive

Thousands of children around Western Australia who visited their public libraries during the summer holidays were given a mission - to become a "library survivor" and have a lot of fun in the process. Over 8000 "Mission: Seek & Survive" kits were distributed to 92 libraries towards the end of last year. The kits, funded by the State Library of WA, were produced by Public Library Services and Public Programs staff and consisted of folders, activity sheets, bookmarks and book lists based on the theme of survival. The program is designed to promote the library as a

fun place for children and their parents to visit during the long holiday period and to borrow a wide range of resources. At Riverton Public Library 240 children participated in the program. The library also conducted a series of highly successful related sessions where over 100 children donned camouflage gear, went on crocodile hunts, shouted the secret password "Libraries are Cool" and saved the library from the evil Rennick, a villain intent on destroying the path to truth, fun and adventure. With 60 children collecting kits from South and Port Hedland public libraries, library staff

member Dian Weaver made a few observations about the program's impact on the library and its clients. "Overall I feel the way we were able to use the "Mission: Seek & Survive" program was very successful. We had a positive result with children and parents commenting that they never realised how much our public library offers and now they will use more of the resources available." **K**

I spy with my little eye - Older "Mission: Seek and Survive" participants at the Riverton Public Library.



AskNow! a 12 month pilot project for a nation wide interactive chat reference service was launched in January 2003 in Sydney at the Information Online Conference.



AskNow! team: Gabrielle Reynolds, Carmel McRobert, Justin Fairhead, Andrew Black, Pam Phelan

Ask Now! Answers Online

AskNow! is a collaborative service staffed on a shared basis by reference librarians from the National Library of Australia, the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory and the State Libraries of Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria. The service is available on weekdays from 7.00 am to 5.00 pm WST.

Reference librarians who staff the AskNow! service enjoy and are used to being challenged by the variety of questions to which clients seek answers. Until now most questions have been handled from the reference desk or by telephone but now you can add to the traditional access options the opportunity to connect in real time to chat with a reference librarian via the AskNow! service.

The AskNow! service is currently managing an average of 200 enquiries a day. Reference librarians staffing the service are frequently handling two to three enquiries simultaneously which provides plenty of scope for a cool head, effective searching strategies and clear thinking skills.

Clients of the service can expect a consistent, high quality and professional service with an appropriate response. AskNow! staff will attempt to answer reference questions within 10 minutes. Complex questions or those requiring more time or resources may be referred to an email service for further assistance or a more detailed response.

WHAT SORTS OF QUESTIONS COME TO ASKNOW?

• Quick Facts

What is the population of Australia? The AskNow! software enables the reference librarian to "push" the official website to your computer and assist you navigate the site by co-browsing it with you. Once the site is pushed to you, your screen will follow the navigation leads of the librarian. You also have the ability to chat on screen at the same time.

• Help Me Get Started

What is IPT?

When you need to know information outside your usual knowledge sphere an AskNow! librarian can get you started and often can assist to define or refine your questions for more targeted searching. A page of web search results pushed to you may be supplemented by details of your local or state library holdings to complement the information available on the Internet. The deep web can also be searched and details of sites forwarded. Following every chat question a transcript is forwarded with details of sites visited and resources suggested listed.

• Some Specialist Help Please

What building now stands where Hobart's original Battery Point hospital was built. Have there been any other buildings since the original?

If your question is beyond the time or resources available to the AskNow! staff it will be directed to specialist librarians who will access wider library resources and get back to you by email. The AskNow! staff are in contact with library specialists Australia wide and they are able to refer your specialist question to the right participating library for consideration.

SOME COMMENTS FROM OUR CLIENTS

"Brilliant! It was our first time at this and it was great. Isn't technology amazing?"
"Fast precise and easy ! I'll be back."
"I'm working in Geraldton. I stumbled across this service by accident - it was fantastic. I had no idea where to start looking for an answer to my question but the reference librarian managed to point me in the right direction straight away."

Join others who have already discovered this exciting new way to access the nation's library expertise and information sources.

Connections to the service can be made from links to any of the above library websites. Alternatively you can go to www.asknow.gov.au and log in. The service is free.



Gabrielle Reynolds
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Val Creasey, former Chief Cataloguer and later Director, Collection Management of the Library and Information Service of Western Australia, passed away on 24 March after a long battle with cancer. Val retired as Director on 30 September 1994 after completing 40 years of service with the Library Board on 7 July 1994.

Valerie Creasey (1933 - 2003)

Born in England, Val commenced her long and distinguished career in librarianship at Lincoln City Libraries. After four years at Lincoln, Val emigrated with her family to Western Australia and commenced work as a junior assistant with the Library Board on 7 July 1954 in acquisitions. Not long after, in those early exciting days when Ali Sharr was creating the services of the Library Board, she moved into cataloguing which was to become her career speciality.

During her early days in cataloguing, Val studied part-time for the then Library Association of Australia examinations at the Perth Technical College, and qualified as a librarian in 1962. In 1962, Val was promoted to Assistant Librarian in Acquisitions, then moved back to the Catalogue Branch in 1964 as Assistant Librarian and Editor of Catalogues. When Cyril Drake retired in 1971, Val was promoted to Chief Cataloguer (later Manager, Cataloguing Branch), then located in Henley House, Beaufort Street, and held this position until 1989 by which time the service was ensconced in the Alexander Library Building.

In 1970, before her promotion, Val completed a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Australia (again by part-time study) and also spent a period attached to the British National Bibliography in the UK to gain experience in library automation.

In 1989, Val accepted the challenge of acting in the new position of Director, Collection Management, and was later appointed permanently to that position. Val served six years as Director before

her retirement in 1994. In her career, Val played a leading role in LISWA in the automation of cataloguing and catalogues. Val's loyal and dedicated service to LISWA and the Library Board was noted on her retirement.

Val contributed to the profession by serving as President, ALIA Cataloguers Section Western Australia Group from 1986-1989. She was also active on the national scene, serving as a member of the Australian Bibliographic Network Standards Committee from 1983-1985.

Former colleagues around Australia will remember Val's quiet professionalism and her attention to detail, which is the hallmark of a 'great' cataloguer. Val was highly respected by her colleagues and staff as an expert and dedicated cataloguer, a fair supervisor, who led by example.

After retirement, Val continued to be an avid reader, travelled when she could, and was able to indulge her interest in life-long learning through attending Summer Schools and other short courses. Val maintained contact with the library world through her membership of the Friends of the Battye Library, and her work as a volunteer for the Royal Western Australian Historical Society has been recognised.

Val's courage and friendliness will always be remembered by her friends and former colleagues at the State Library and in the wider WA library community. **K**

Beth Frayne
Battye Bibliographic Services





for selecting Western Australian online publications to be preserved on the National Library of Australia's PANDORA Archive. Her interest and commitment to this project has ensured it has begun on solid foundations and her pioneering role will help ensure the continued existence of important online WA publications.

Glenda has a major role in coordinating indexing activity in the Battye Library. This involves both choosing information to be indexed onto LISWA's Innopac database and training others in how to index and use the indexes. The skill involved in selecting information to index is equal to selecting books and other items for adding to LISWA's collections. Without good indexing staff and clients would not have access to a wealth of information that is kept in the library and much of our library materials, from books to photographs, would be under utilised.

A qualified trainer, Glenda has played a vital role in training staff at all levels from the Battye Library and the State Reference Library. She brings great organisation and enthusiasm to her role as educator and has been exceptionally generous in sharing her

James Hammond Award Presented to Glenda Oakley

The James Hammond Award is presented annually for the attainment of excellence in the fields of book selection and library education.

James Hammond was the Chief Assistant Librarian of the Library Board of Western Australia from 1954 to 1972. He helped Francis Aubie Sharr to inaugurate the state-wide library service and was a 'book person', with an extensive knowledge of, and a great respect for, the written word. James Hammond coordinated stock selection for public libraries and reference collections and was prominent in the field of library education.

The recipient of the 2002 James Hammond Award was Glenda Oakley for her work in the State Library. While her contribution is varied, the award citation covered the aspects of Glenda's work that were relevant to this particular Award and read:

Glenda Oakley has made an important contribution to book selection and library education as a librarian in the J S Battye Library of West Australian History.

Glenda's extensive knowledge of Western Australian authors and literature is a very valuable resource. She has been indefatigable in hunting down rare and hard-to-find titles, through printed and online sources. Her skill and dedication to this task has helped to secure important acquisitions for the Battye Library, particularly in the literature area.

Glenda also has taken up the challenge of selecting publications only available on the Internet. She is the coordinator

knowledge with others. To support her formal courses, she has written several manuals on different aspects of indexing which are models of clarity and thoroughness.

Glenda is a similarly effective presenter to the public. She carries out tours of the Battye Library for clients with the same professionalism and enthusiasm.

Glenda Oakley is a most deserving nominee for the James Hammond Award. Her work in book selection and library education are outstanding and reflect the ideals of excellence in these fields which is embodied in the James Hammond Award. **K**

Long Term Volunteers honoured by the State Library

When the guide to the Battye Library collections, *Worth Telling Worth Keeping* by Leigh Hays, was recently launched by the Minister for Culture and the Arts, the Hon. Sheila McHale, she also paid tribute to the many people who have provided exceptional voluntary service to the State Library of Western Australia and to the Western Australian community. Twenty-three people who had given more than five years service were honoured by the Minister and were presented with certificates and a copy of *Worth Telling Worth Keeping*. All the volunteers were grateful to be recognised in this way. Those honoured and brief details of some of the services they have provided over the years follow.

Jim McKinnon, 5 years

Jim assists in the State Film Archives by running through countless hours of film to describe them. He also assesses the condition of the film to guide preservation decisions.

Tess Thomson, 5 years

Tess has been a key contributor to the conversion of old ephemera card catalogues to online records. Her work ranges from checking the original items to inputting and verifying the online records.

Robin Hukin, Kevin O'Brien & Thelma Stonehouse, 6 years

Robin, Kevin and Thelma are from the Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS). They have guided people in their family history research in the Battye Library and then the State Library's Genealogy Centre.

Margaret McKay, 7 years

Margaret started creating a card index of WA short stories and then converted the cards to an online index to which she continues to add entries.

Herman Blom, 9 years

Herman lists and checks newspapers to ensure accurate microfilming of many significant Western Australian newspapers.

Marilyn Dimond, 9 years

Marilyn was a member of the committee that helped to plan the Genealogy Centre. She has worked as a Centre volunteer and coordinates the volunteer roster. Prior to the establishment of the Genealogy Centre, Marilyn provided family history expertise in the Battye Library.

Charmian Platell, 9 years

Charmian is a WAGS volunteer contributing to family history research and the success of the Genealogy Centre.

Meira Goodard, 10 years

Meira is an indexer who provides users of the Battye Library collections with better access to important sources of information which staff would never be able to index.

Dell Baude, 11 years

Dell assists in making private archives collections available, most of which would have remained unprocessed for years without her work.

Loreley Morling, 12 years

Loreley was another member of the committee who helped plan the Genealogy Centre and now contributes time to the Centre. Previously she assisted family history researchers in the Battye Library.

Elizabeth Rummins, 12 years

Elizabeth is from WAGS also and assists family history researchers and contributes to the success of the Genealogy Centre.

Dorothy Lee, 13 years

Dorothy provides accurate keyboarding for the Pictorial collection. Recently she rehoused more than 1000 prints and reorganised the large collection of prints and negatives of the Fremantle photographer Izzy Orloff.

Moyna Harland, 14 years

Moyna is a WAGS volunteer who helps people trace their family histories, firstly through the Battye Library and more recently in the Genealogy Centre.

Shirley Babis, 15 years

Shirley gives the same marvellous service as Moyna and her other colleagues in the Battye Library and the Genealogy Centre.

Grif Griffiths, 15 years

Grif is an indexer who provides clients with better access to important sources

of information and helps them to use the collections to a much greater potential.

Alan Wahl, 15 years

Alan helped make the State Records Office archival collections more available and sadly passed away in March 2003.

Kathleen Edwards, 16 years

Kath retired as a member of Battye Library's staff 16 years ago and since then has been a regular worker helping to make private archives collections available.

Pam Fraser, 16 years

Pam is helping in Preservation Services contributing to better listings and placing materials in appropriate archival housings. For more than a decade she gave service in the Oral History Unit.

Barbara Judge, 16 years

While Barbara's contribution has spread amongst a variety of Battye's Library materials, recent work has been to reorganise the Postcard Collection. Her research into the published images of the early 20th century photographer Charles Walker in *The Western Mail* has resulted in new understanding and appreciation of these collections.

Alan Campbell, 17 years

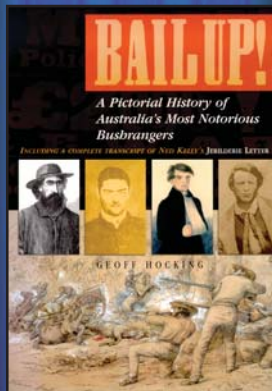
Alan is a volunteer from WAGS who has provided advice on family history research in the Battye Library and now in the Genealogy Centre.

Gillian O'Mara, 17 years

As a WAGS volunteer, Gillian has helped family history researchers. As a committee member for the Friends of Battye Library she has contributed to the overall success of volunteers and written and published guides to help family history researchers. She remains responsible for the Friends publishing program.

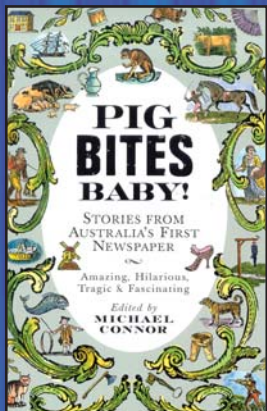
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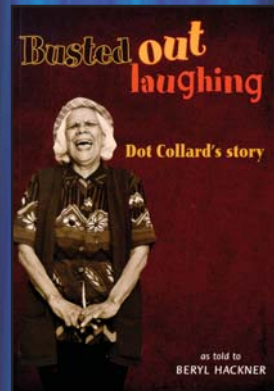
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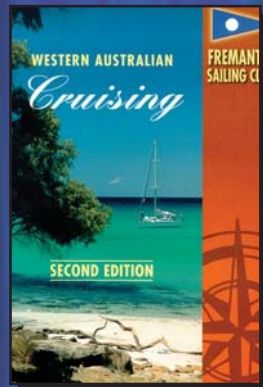
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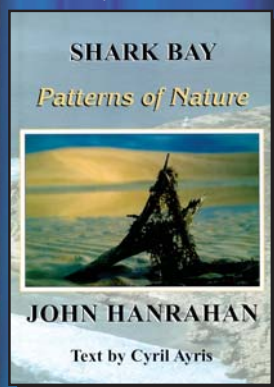
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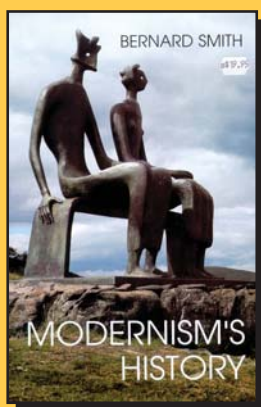


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