

State Library
of Western Australia

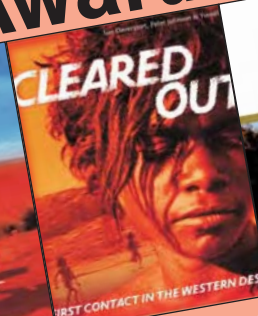
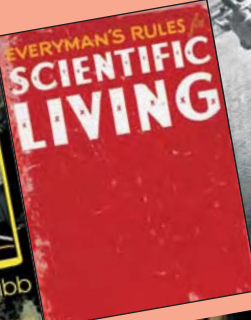
KNOWIT magazine

APRIL - JUNE 2006 NO.276



In this edition

Premiers Book Awards





From the CEO

State Librarian Margaret Allen.

The Western Australian Premier's Book Awards is the State Library's foremost literary event of the year, and the winning entries for the 2005 awards were announced on 9 June at a gala presentation. From the 134 entries received, judges had the unenviable task of short-listing only twenty-seven books, then choosing eight of those books for the seven category prizes and overall Premier's Prize winner. Congratulations to Sue Davenport, Peter Johnson and Yuwali for *Cleared Out: first contact in the Western Desert*, the compelling story of the first encounters between the Martu people and Europeans which won both the WA History and Premier's Prize.

One of the challenges facing the State Library is equity of access to its

services and resources across the state. The recent purchase of a state-wide subscription to *Libraries Australia* will avail anyone with internet access to a prolific range of information. *Libraries Australia* facilitates searches across entire collections housed within national, state and university libraries, as well as most public, research, government, health and other specialist libraries. *Libraries Australia* contains information on over 40 million books, journals, newspapers, pictures, maps and much more, located in 800 libraries across Australia. Over 600,000 of these resources are currently available online.

Another generous donation of heritage documents was received by the State Library for inclusion in our State's historical collections. Along with portraits and other memorabilia loaned by family members, the donated papers of Henry Maxwell

Lefroy were displayed in the Centre for the Book as a tangible way of showcasing the unique and remarkable talents of a West Australian pioneer.

The school holiday fun continued in April with a new theme of "Monsters @ Your Library". Many 'monstrous' activities were organised for children and parents, including crafts, storytelling, quizzes and animated films. The State Library is now an integral participant in the Children's Culture Club and, in partnership with the Art Gallery and Museum, will organise activities during each school holiday period.

Back Issues

KNOWIT Magazine is the official newsletter of State Library of Western Australia. It includes news about what is happening at the State Library and items of interest from public libraries throughout Western Australia.

Back Issues of **KNOWIT** are available by contacting the State Library of Western Australia. **KNOWIT** is also online in PDF format at: www.slwa.wa.gov.au/knowit.html



Cover Image

Premier's Book Awards:
This year's Premier's Prize winning authors, Sue Davenport and Peter Johnson at the awards dinner.
Full story on page 4



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Government of Western Australia
State Library of Western Australia

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KNOWIT is a quarterly magazine published in April, July, October and January.

Deadline for issue no. 277 (Jul - Sep 06) 11 Sep 2006
KNOWIT reserves the right to edit all articles. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of **KNOWIT** or the State Library of Western Australia.

ISSN 1328-7176



THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PREMIER'S BOOK AWARDS 2005



Top: L-R **Sue Davenport**, **Margaret Allen** (CEO & State Librarian), and **Peter Johnson**.

Bottom: **Elaine McKewon** (shortlisted author) with **Maryanne Kenworthy**.

Overleaf: Top Left: **Wendy Binks** (winner, Children's Book award) with **Annette Frazer**.

Middle Left: **Ron Moran**, (winner of the Poetry award).

Middle Right: **Reg Cribb**, (winner of the Script award with Arts Minister, **Sheila McHale**).

Top Right: **Kirsty Murray** (winner, Young Adults award).

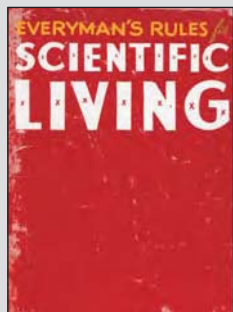
Historic recollection wins prestigious book award

Western Australian Premier's Book Awards

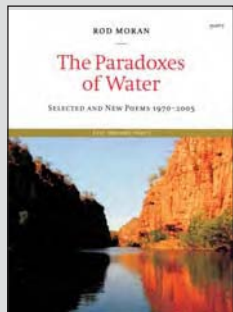
The 2005 Premier's Prize winner in the Western Australian Premier's Book Awards is a book about the first contact between a group of Martu women and children and white Australians in 1964.

Authors Sue Davenport, Peter Johnson and Yuwali received the \$20,000 prize at the Awards presentation dinner held at the State Library of Western Australia on 9 June for their book "Cleared Out: First Contact In The Western desert". Presenting the award on behalf of the Premier, Culture and Arts Minister Sheila McHale said, "The authors have produced an extraordinary story that portrays events from different viewpoints and shows how misunderstandings have arisen from the first time Aboriginal people and white Australians made contact."

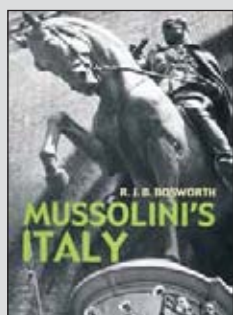
The book contains a recollection about the removal of a small group of Martu women and children from the Percival Lakes region of the Western Desert. This was done because the Martu, who had no previous contact with European society, were within the Woomera firing range, used to test Britain's Blue Streak rockets.



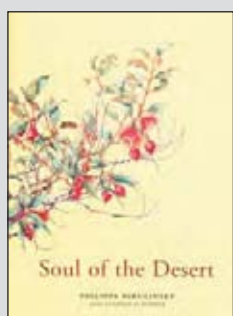
Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living
by Carrie Tiffany



The Paradoxes of Water: Selected and New Poems, 1970-2005
by Rod Moran



Mussolini's Italy: Life Under the Dictatorship
by Richard Bosworth



Soul of the Desert
by Philippa Nikulinsky and Stephen Hopper

"Cleared Out" also won the West Australian History category.

Winner of the Fiction Award was 'Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living' by Carrie Tiffany, which was selected for the 2006 Perth International Arts Festival's One Book program.

Category winners in the 2005 Premier's Book Awards each won \$7,500:

Fiction

Carrie Tiffany for 'Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living'

Poetry

Rod Moran for 'The Paradoxes of Water: Selected and New Poems, 1970-2005'

Non Fiction

Richard Bosworth for 'Mussolini's Italy: Life Under the Dictatorship' and Philippa Nikulinsky and Stephen Hopper for 'Soul of the Desert'

West Australian History

Sue Davenport, Peter Johnson and Yuwali for 'Cleared Out: First Contact in the Western Desert'

Children's Books

Wendy Binks for 'Where's Stripey?'

Writing for Young Adults

Kirsty Murray for 'A Prayer for Blue Delaney'

Script

Reg Cribb for 'Last Train to Freo'

The Western Australian Government inaugurated the awards in 1982 to honour and celebrate achievements in Western Australian writing. A total of 134 entries were received for the 2005 awards, with 27 works short-listed.

Excerpts from the Judges' Report

Carrie Tiffany, *Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living*. (Picador)

From its faux-shabby cover to the faded photographs within to the shabby tale it tells, *Everyman's Rules* is quirky, sardonic and engrossing.

Rod Moran, *The Paradoxes of Water*. (Salt Publishing)

A strong collection of his selected and new work from the past thirty-five years, Moran's poems have perspective of politics and history, ...of how history is a snapshot of politics at a particular moment and from a particular point of view.

Richard Bosworth, *Mussolini's Italy: Life under the Dictatorship 1915-1945*. (Allen Lane/Penguin)

A carefully constructed analysis of the forging and ultimate destruction of Italy's interwar fascist society... skilfully combines national, regional and local perspectives, while also introducing ordinary Italians' experiences of life during Mussolini's dictatorship.



Philippa Nikulinsky and Stephen D. Hopper, *Soul of the Desert*. (Fremantle Arts Centre Press)

Hopper explains the history of the land, its geology, wildlife and people; Nikulinsky brings it to life through her exquisite paintings of the flora and fauna. Together they dispel the myth of deserts as barren lands devoid of life.

Sue Davenport, Peter Johnson and Yuwali, *Cleared Out: First Contact in the Western Desert*. (Aboriginal Studies Press)

Besides presenting Yuwali's compelling and amazingly accurate recollection of events, the authors place this first encounter within a political, bureaucratic and social context, forcing us to consider not only the consequences for the Martu of removal from the desert, but also the wider issue of indigenous people's relationship to their lands.

Wendy Binks, *Where's Stripey?* (Stunned Emu Design)

With hilarious expressions of the emu, a lively text begging to be read aloud, and two concluding pages of "interesting emu facts," this book is both informative and highly entertaining.

Kirsty Murray, *A Prayer for Blue Delaney*. (Allen & Unwin)

All characters, relationships and events are well realised through the linking theme of loss of family which runs powerfully through the book.

Reg Cribb. *Last Train to Freo*. (Sue Taylor Media)

Well-wrought characters, fast-moving dialogue and tightly framed setting ensure the tension remains high until the shocking denouement.

The full Judges' Report and further Premier's Book Awards information, such as past winners and entry guidelines, is available on the State Library's website: <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pba.html> **K**

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PREMIER'S BOOK AWARDS 2005 WINNERS

Fiction

Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living by Carrie Tiffany

Poetry

The Paradoxes of Water by Rod Moran

Writing for Young Adults

A Prayer for Blue Delaney by Kirsty Murray

Children's Books

Where's Stripey? by Wendy Binks

Script

Last Train to Freo by Reg Cribb

Non-Fiction

Mussolini's Italy by R.J.B. Bosworth

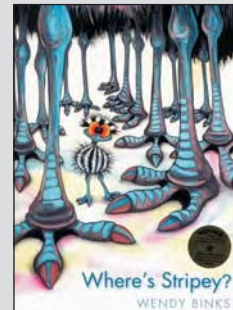
Soul of the Desert by Philippa Nikulinsky & Stephen D. Hopper

WA History & PREMIER'S PRIZE

Cleared Out by Sue Davenport, Peter Johnson & Yuwali



Cleared Out: First Contact in the Western Desert by Sue Davenport, Peter Johnson and Yuwali



Where's Stripey? by Wendy Binks



A Prayer for Blue Delaney by Kirsty Murray



Last Train to Freo by Reg Cribb



Launch of Libraries Australia at Geraldton Public Library. L-R, **Andrea Jones** (Regional Librarian, Geraldton), **Dr Warwick Cathro** (Assistant Director-General, Innovation), **Tony Boston** (Assistant Director-General Resource Sharing), **Fran Wilson** (Director, Collaborative Resources) and **Kay Poustie** (Chairman, Library Board of Western Australia).



Guests at the launch navigate the Libraries Australia resources online.

Libraries Australia

— an e-ticket to a world of information

A revolution has taken place for information seekers. The new service, Libraries Australia, will enable anyone with an Internet connection to select from more than 40 million items held in over 800 libraries across the nation.

This innovative service is an Australian first, opening up the collections of Australia's libraries to the public.

Libraries Australia, an initiative of the National Library of Australia in partnership with Australian libraries, is an e-ticket to a world of information consisting of books, journals, newspapers, theses, pictures, music, manuscripts, maps and much more. Many online resources such as digitised images and full-text government publications can also be accessed immediately online.

Underpinned by cutting edge technology and data contributed by the nation's libraries, Libraries Australia makes it easy to search for information across the collections of the national, state and university libraries and most public, research, government, health and other

specialist libraries. Libraries Australia changes the dynamic of how people use libraries. Once an item has been found, they can borrow it, copy it or purchase it. All this can be done from home or work, using the Internet.

Margaret Allen, CEO and State Librarian said that all Western Australians, whether in regional areas like Geraldton or suburbs like Girrawheen, would have the same access to the database. "It's equity of access for all Western Australians, either at home using the Internet or searching at their local public library. You even get an option to purchase through an internet-based bookstore".

Some features of Libraries Australia include the ability to instantly access many digitised items; borrow from a local library or order from another library; copy selections of items at a small price; buy from online

bookshops; and find library locations nationwide.

In Western Australia, 239 local public libraries will have access to the enhanced version of the Libraries Australia service. The subscription incorporates additional features including advanced searching, alerts, personalisation (providing remote access for their users) and records for cataloguing.

Public libraries will be able to add details of the contents of their local studies collections, often containing unique items, onto the Australian National Bibliographic Database. This will enable access to these collections by libraries and individuals throughout Australia.

To access Libraries Australia, go to www.librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au



The Alexander Library Building came alive with the comings and goings of children and families attending our April school holiday activities. The State Library shared a "Monsters" theme with the Museum and Art Gallery under the banner of the Children's Culture Club.

Monsters @ Your Library



Robyn Weir entertains children attending "Monster" activities at the State Library during the April school holidays.


The activities were designed with an emphasis on readers' theatre. Several stories were told at each session and children (and some enthusiastic parents) then made up and acted out their own monster stories. Local performer Robin Weir conducted three sessions, and staff of the State Library led other sessions. 'Monster Rhymes' was a memorable activity in

which children composed their own poems using 'monster' words, resulting in many amusing creations.

All children who attended the activities were encouraged to follow the 'monster trail' throughout the State Library. Displays on each floor included *Monstrous Mozart*, *Fabulous Beasts* and *Monsters in Art*, *the Rainbow Serpent*, *Australian Monster Businesses* (animatronics companies with interesting websites), *Animatronics and Robotic Monsters*, and *Monster Facts about Western Australia*.

To encourage them to look closely at the displays, children had to complete quiz sheets in order to be in the running for great book prizes. They were also given a book list, *More Monstrous Books*, with further suggested reading accessible from their local public library.

An hour of cartoons and short animated films from the State Film and Video Library were also screened each day over the two weekends of the holidays.

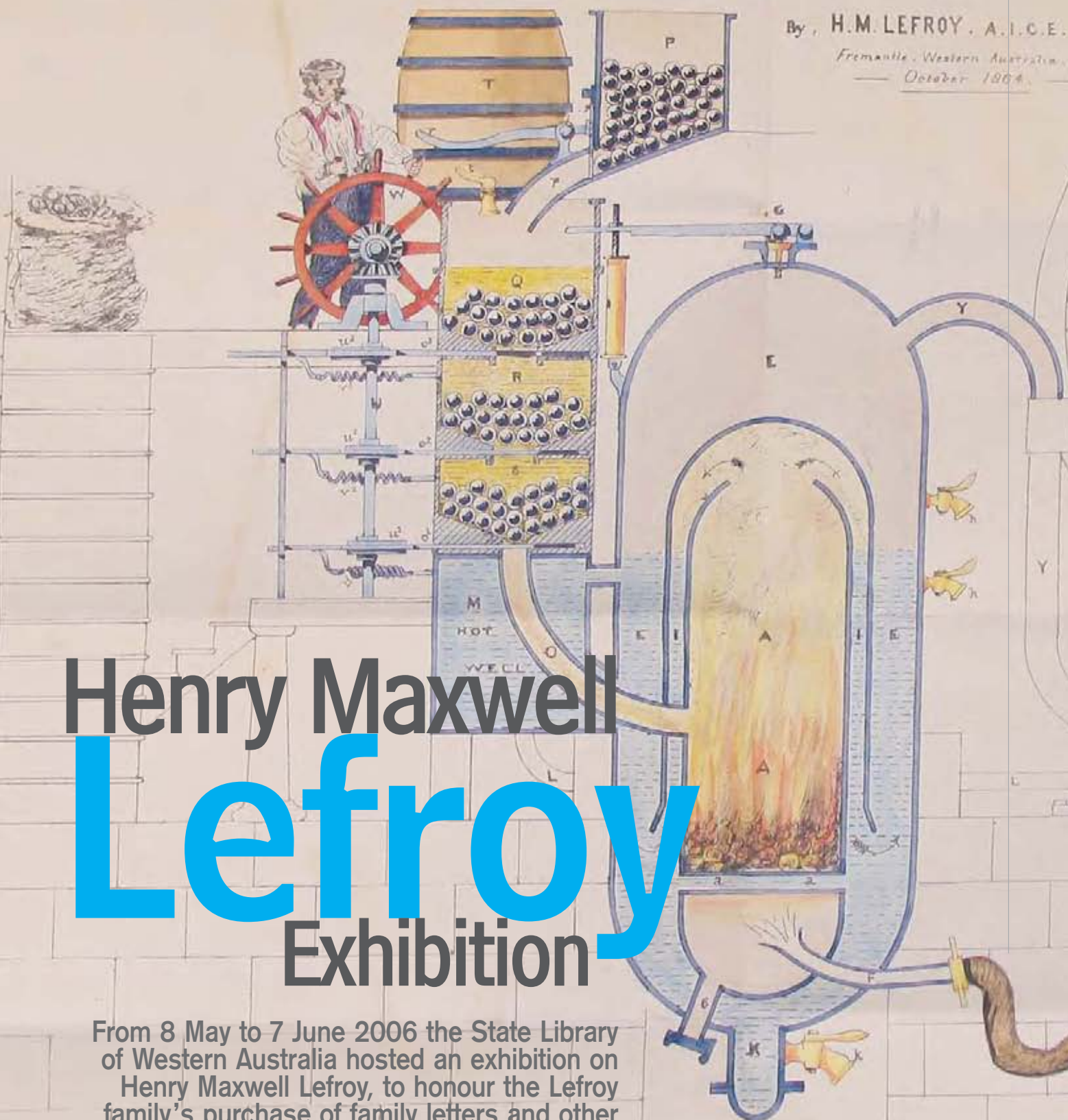
Children and families were thoroughly entertained by all the activities. SLWA staff were pleased to note that many families who had fun with the 'Narnia' activities during the summer school holidays had returned to enjoy further library experiences. There are similar activities planned for the July school holidays. For further information on school holiday activities please contact lucia.ravi@slwa.wa.gov.au 

THEM of HIGH PRESSURE COMBUSTION OF FUEL for MECHANICAL POWER PURPOSES
and of the Utilization of the Elastic Forces of the Gases thereby generated

By, H.M. LEFROY, A.I.C.E.

Fremantle, Western Australia,

October 1864.



Henry Maxwell Lefroy Exhibition

From 8 May to 7 June 2006 the State Library of Western Australia hosted an exhibition on Henry Maxwell Lefroy, to honour the Lefroy family's purchase of family letters and other documents and oil paintings of Henry Maxwell and Annette Lefroy and their subsequent generous donation of them to the State Library.

Annette Roberts, a direct descendent of Henry Maxwell Lefroy, assisted State Library staff with text for the exhibition and organised to borrow items from various family members for display. Annette also gave an informative, witty and moving speech at the opening of the



Top Right: Henry Maxwell Lefroy's great-grandchildren attended the exhibition launch.
 Left to Right: Max Lefroy, Annette Roberts, Dr. George Lefroy, Mrs. Margaret James, Mrs. Jeannette Lewis, Mrs Elizabeth Mair.

exhibition, which made the whole audience wish they had been able to know him personally. About 150 guests, many of whom were Lefroy family members, attended the opening. Margaret Allen, CEO and State Librarian, responded for the Library and expressed her gratitude for this generous and important donation of records.

Henry Maxwell Lefroy, farmer, scholar, explorer and inventor was descended from a Huguenot family and was born on 3 August 1818, the youngest of four surviving sons of the Reverend John Henry George and Sophia Lefroy. After his father's death he was brought up by his mother on a family estate, Ewshot, near the village of Crondall in Hampshire. He commenced his education at the King Edward VI Grammar School in Guildford, Surrey. While there he seems to have met the Stirling family. Whether he met Captain James Stirling is not known, but this association may have turned his thoughts to Western Australia.



In August 1840, having graduated with a B.A. from Oxford, he sailed for Western Australia, arriving on 10 January 1841. The following month he leased land at York, but misfortune soon struck. After purchasing 27 head of cattle, four died immediately and two were lost in the bush. When a fire destroyed valuable hay and corn, he was forced to sell the remaining cattle at a considerable loss. Despite this he went on to purchase the property in June of that year.

In January 1843, in company with Henry Landor and three Aboriginal trackers, he left York and proceeded south-east in search of a large inland water thought to exist in the heart of the continent. In fact, they reached Lake Dumbleyung, but did not discover any arable land or fresh water. The expedition lasted about 14 days and covered some 500 kilometres.

Lefroy returned to England in April 1844, and soon after became an instructor to midshipmen in the Royal Navy, which profession kept him busy in the Atlantic and the Caribbean for eight years. Despairing of future prospects he again sailed for Western Australia in December 1853, accompanied by his new wife Annette (nee Bate), the daughter of a Royal Navy surgeon. Taking the only post offered, that of Assistant Superintendent of the Convict Establishment in Fremantle, he was

promoted to the rank of Superintendent in 1859, a position he occupied until his retirement in 1875.

A less likely candidate to fill such a position is difficult to imagine. Lefroy was of a scholarly bent, an idealist and reformer with liberal sympathies and humane values, a dreamer of dreams whose fertile mind was constantly devising new and better inventions for the mechanical age. Indeed, a confidential report of 19 February 1863 stated that he was “eccentric, visionary, and wanting in the administrative talents required for an official practical superintendent of convicts; but very conscientious, and anxious to discharge his duties in a proper manner.”

As his official duties took only a small portion of his time, he bought land near Fremantle in 1856, and planted an orchard and vineyard, at one stage employing a dozen men to tend his 6,000 fig trees, 2,000 other fruit trees and many vines. He also retained his property at York, purchased more land in Fremantle at what is now Hilton Park, together with 60 acres at Serpentine, including Serpentine Falls.

In 1863, he led a party sent out from York by the Colonial Government at the request of the York Agricultural Society to assess pastoral prospects to the east, having taken a leave of absence from his official duties. The

expedition lasted 85 days and covered some 1,500 kilometres, passing over country which later became the “Golden Mile.” Lefroy saw a bright future for much of the land traversed, and his foresight was proven.

Henry Maxwell Lefroy had an inquiring and active mind, and among the ideas he came up with were a digging machine, a gas generator, a squirt mechanism for propelling ships, a pneuma-hydraulic propellor involving the use of highly compressed and superheated air to act directly on the water without the intervention of any piston plate, and a water lifting apparatus based on similar principles.

After his retirement in March 1875 he spent his time working at his vineyard and orchard, and as Chairman of the Fremantle Roads Board and the Education Board. He died on 18 July 1879, just short of his 61st birthday, survived by his wife Annette who died on 28 July 1920.

Henry Maxwell Lefroy was an interesting personality, kindly and possessing a great intellectual curiosity coupled with originality of ideas. He had a strong sense of family and considerable moral courage. In the latter years of his life he became an energetic advocate for responsible government, becoming Vice-President of the Reform League.





Australian Library Week

To celebrate Australian Library Week this year, the State Library produced several displays based on themes from the *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries* touring exhibition. These displays were set up on all floors within the State Library building.

One of the themes from the National Treasures exhibition is entitled *Innovation & Industry*, which features the Holden motor vehicle. The Library Week display set up in the Science and Technology area of the State Reference Library showcased the items in the State Library's collections relating to Holden vehicles over the decades, and included models of Holden vehicles, posters and memorabilia.

The displays were designed as a preview of the National Treasures exhibition, due to arrive in Western Australia in July next year, as well as to showcase the highly regarded and well written book on the exhibition. **K**

from Australia's Great Libraries
NATIONAL TREASURES

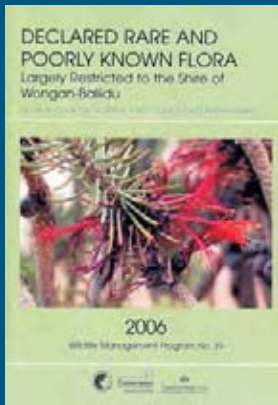
State Library of Western Australia
30 June - 24 August 2007

Free admission 9427 3150 nationaltreasures.nla.gov.au

CASL AAMI

A Travelling Exhibition from Australia's National, State and Territory Libraries 2005-2007

Battye about Books

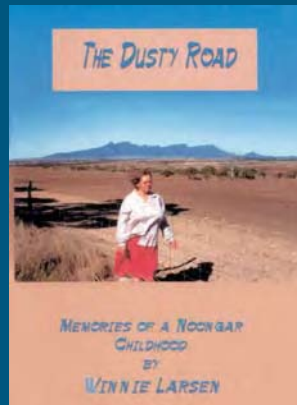


Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora: largely restricted to the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu (Wildlife Management Program, no. 39)

Gillian Stack, Nicole Willers, Mike Fitzgerald and Andrew Brown

Currently, 362 extant Western Australian plant taxa are listed as Declared Rare Flora and a further 14 listed as Presumed Extinct. This Wildlife Management Program publication collates the available biological and management information for rare and threatened plants within the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu.

Dept. of Conservation and Land Management, Bentley WA, 2006

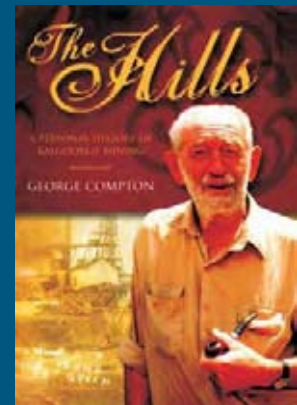


The Dusty Road: memories of a Noongar childhood

Irene 'Winnie' Larsen

"I was in my 50s when I first started to go to the Great Southern College of TAFE to improve myself by learning how to read and write. Without any education, it made my life hard. I was encouraged to write about my life." - Winnie Larsen.

Self-published, Kalgan WA, 2005

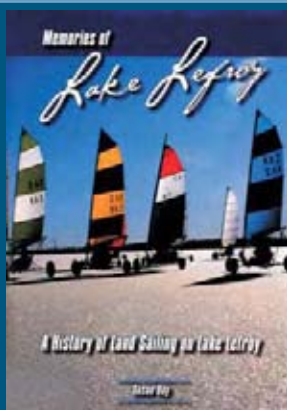


The Hills: a personal history of Kalgoorlie mining

George Compton

This book is a fascinating and expert insight into the history and technology of mining around Kalgoorlie. George Compton is well known as a consulting geologist, and has amassed a huge body of knowledge, skill and experience in his 60 years of searching for precious metals.

David Reed, West Perth WA, 2006-08-03

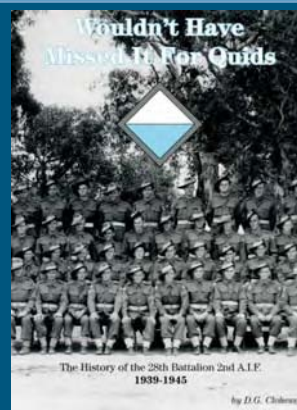


Memories of Lake Lefroy: a history of land sailing on Lake Lefroy

Susan Day

A pictorial journey of land sailing on Lake Lefroy, from the early sailors of the Viking land yacht of 1898 through to modern times, this book is an illustrated history of a fascinating sport.

Self-published, Kalgoorlie WA, 2006

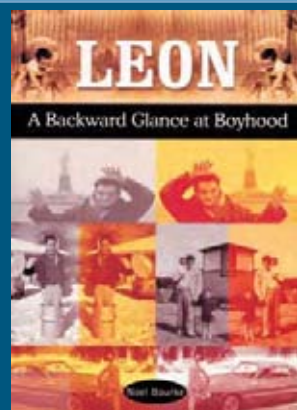


Wouldn't Have Missed It For Quids: the history of the 28th Battalion 2nd A.I.F., 1939-1945

Daryl G. Clohessy

"It is a warts-and-all story that has not been sanitised as have some of the histories available. Mistakes were made and these have been included in an effort to be truthful...and provide an honest account for future generations." - Daryl Clohessy.

Self-published, Bassendean WA, 2005



Leon: A backward glance at boyhood

Noel Burke

This is the story of a young boy growing up in a large extended family on the outskirts of inner-city Perth. With memorable moments involving such luminaries as Don Bradman, Herb Elliot and Bill Cosby, he even claims to have given Woody Allen a significant lift during his career.

Jay Bee Books, Maylands WA, 2005



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