In this edition

Prelude to National Treasures from Australia’s Great Libraries
From the CEO
State Librarian Margaret Allen.

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
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Over 170 objects which have shaped Australia’s history and culture will be on show when the National Treasures from Australia’s Great Libraries arrives in Perth.

Presented by the State Library of Western Australia in partnership with the Western Australian Museum, this free exhibition will feature iconic treasures such as bushranger Ned Kelly’s helmet and his Jerilderie letter, design drawings for the Holden car, Utzon’s architectural sketches for the Sydney Opera House, Donald Bradman’s favourite cricket bat, Henry Lawson’s pen, and documents of international renown such as Captain James Cook’s journal and the Mabo Papers.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see this acclaimed exhibition of rare and valuable objects from the National, State and Territory libraries, confirming that Australian libraries are not just about books.
James Barker Emery (c.1794–1889)
three fish on page headed 'Abrolhos'
Sketches of Australian fishes 1837–41
watercolours on paper; 5.1.0 x 4.1.0 cm each
Rare Book Collection, State Library of South Australia
An initiative of the Council of Australian State Libraries, the exhibition has brought together the opportunity to see unique cultural heritage icons which tell Australia’s story. Ranging from the everyday to the exotic, and spanning the earliest European depiction of the Southern Cross in 1516 to mementoes from the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, this is a rare and remarkable opportunity to view these original materials.

The exhibition also includes treasures of national significance from the State Library of Western Australia’s own collections. The State Library has eight items on loan for the exhibition, including Ray Stewart’s POW diary on a roll of toilet paper, Billinge’s drawings of Aboriginal artefacts and ceremonies from 1907, Francisco Pelsaert’s illustrated book The Unlucky Voyage of the Batavia, and John Septimus Roe’s 1817 logbook with exquisite watercolour illustrations.

Over 10,000 visitors are expected to visit the exhibition. With many iconic objects on display, supported by the exceptional stories behind them, there is sure to be something to interest everyone. Even the youngest children are catered for, with activity sheets available in the exhibition gallery to keep them entertained. Perth is the last stop on the exhibition’s tour, and with so much to see, visitors may need more than one viewing!

In conjunction with the exhibition, the State Library of Western Australia is also presenting a full range of activities and events. There will be free screenings of historic films relating to the National Treasures themes in the State Library Theatre every Wednesday at 12.30pm for the duration of the exhibition. Teachers can book school tours and activities with the Library’s education specialists. A special exhibition of other Western Australian treasures, ‘Our Prized Possessions – Rarities Revealed’, will also be on show in the Centre for the Book, located on the ground floor in the State Library of Western Australia.

National Treasures from Australia’s Great Libraries is complemented by a beautiful, illustrated souvenir book, featuring essays by Tim Bonyhady, John Clark and Margaret Dent. The catalogue is already on sale in the State Library Bookshop and will be available at the special price of $24.95 during the exhibition. The principal sponsor of the exhibition is AAMI, and major sponsors Qantas, The Sunday Times, Hoyts Cinemas, Animal Logic, Sofitel, SBS and ABC Radio. The exhibition is made possible by Art Indemnity Australia, an Australian Government initiative.
National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries will be on display at the Temporary Exhibition Gallery at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, from 30th June – 26th August, 2007. Entry is free, and the Western Australian Museum is open 7 days a week, from 9.30am – 5.00pm.

Treasures in the Spotlight

Ray Stewart's Toilet Roll Diary
Lieutenant Raymond Stanley Stewart of the 2/28th Australian Infantry Battalion enlisted in Northam, Western Australia in 1940 and was captured on 27 July 1942 at Ruin Ridge, El Alamein, Egypt. He was a prisoner of war of both the Italians and Germans until 1 May 1945 when he was liberated by the Americans.

During his time in captivity he wrote a series of diaries, including one on a toilet roll. The diaries are still in good condition and legible. They were donated to the Battye library by Ray Stewart in 1999, together with a transcript of the toilet roll diary.

Secretly written by Lieutenant Stewart during his captivity and kept hidden in a Red Cross Gift Box, the diary gives a fascinating insight into the routine of the camps and a daily chronicle of confinement as a prisoner.

Drawings by Billingee
A 20-page drawing book, illustrated by Billingee, an Aboriginal man from Jajjala near Broome, was presented in 1907 to Sir Frederick Bedford (Governor of Western Australia, 1903-1909) by noted social worker and anthropologist Daisy Bates.

The drawings of Aboriginal weapons, implements, artefacts and animals are in pencil and coloured crayon. They are rich and vibrant, with bright yellows, greens, pinks, reds and browns colouring shields, spears, wooden vessels, pearl-shell ornaments, nosebones, parrotfish, emus and kangaroos. Each drawing has a pencilled label by Daisy Bates.

Daisy Bates, in her letter to Sir Frederick Bedford which accompanied the drawing book, described this example of indigenous art when she wrote: 'I hope the paintings will interest yourself and Lady Bedford. They are really unique here in WA.'
The State Library of Western Australia has a large collection of photographs dating from 1850 to the present day.
WA’s rich heritage and dramatic changes due to social, economic, political and environmental influences over the years make the images collection a vital resource for researchers and historians.

With this in mind, the State Library and Perth Central TAFE are pleased to announce the inauguration of an important photographic competition. Photographers are invited to submit entries in several categories. Any photograph submitted may be accepted into the Photograph Archives of Central TAFE (PACT), which will be housed in the State Library as an archive of contemporary historical images of Western Australia.

The theme of the competition is cultural and social aspects of Western Australia and includes the following categories:

**Landscape/Architecture**: includes sea, country, rural, urban, town, city or streetscapes; and rural or urban architecture, including buildings, houses, bridges, sheds, stations etc.

**Environmental Portraiture**: where the environment of the person being photographed is included in the image, so that the environment provides information about the subject, giving a context for the portrait. The person being photographed needs to be the main focus in the image, i.e. the photograph is obviously about the person being photographed.

**Cultural and Sporting Events/Social Activities**: includes any aspect of any cultural and sporting public event, and images where people have gathered together both in a private or public context. It is important to note that any images of private gatherings need to have the clearance of the participants.

**Photo Essay**: this category can include any of the subject matter noted above, but consists of an essay of 4 to 8 images, where the images taken together tell a story in a chronological or thematic manner.

The aim of this competition is to enable photographic enthusiasts (including student, amateur and professional photographers) to make a valuable contribution to the documentary history of Western Australia as well as providing an opportunity to share in cash prizes. The judges will be looking for creative or aesthetically pleasing photographs with strong information content about Western Australia.

Entries can be submitted from 2 April 2007 up until 3.00pm 4 May 2007. Entry forms and Conditions of Entry can be obtained from the State Library’s website at www.slwa.wa.gov.au. The winning entries and a selection of images will be on exhibition in the State Library commencing 1 June 2007.
Continuing the drive to provide our customers with greater access to e-information resources, the State Library of Western Australia is delighted to announce that new information resources have been added to our ‘Databases from Home’ webpage. These are available to all WA residents who are registered public library users with a barcode membership number. Recent additions have been new business and health resources and, for fiction-fans, Novelist.

Access Electronic Resources from Home
- a free service from your State and local libraries.

Consumer Health Complete contains full text content from more than 1,000 health related periodicals, covering mainstream medicine as well as complementary, holistic and integrated medicine. The Health and Wellness Resource Centre can provide online health resources ranging from traditional and alternative medicine encyclopaedias, a drug and herb information finder, and the latest medical journal articles and health news from around the world. There is also a drop-down list on popular topics such as diet and nutrition, allergies and diabetes, as well as sections devoted to the differing health needs of women, men, teens and children. You can even register for email updates on health news of interest.

If you’re looking for hard facts and need a reliable encyclopaedia and dictionary, Britannica Library
Edition Online is the place to look. Not only does the database provide access to the online version of the Encyclopaedia Britannica and a link to the Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, but also to special editions of the encyclopaedia for primary and high school students – perfect for homework assignments. Information can be accessed in various formats, from traditional text to video clips and by links to other web pages. This site also has a section called ‘Australia in Focus’, a feature on ‘This Day in History’, and links to prominent daily news services in Australia, America and the UK.

Also available is full text content from Australasian and international magazines, newspapers, and reference books via the Australia / New Zealand Reference Centre. This database holds biographies and a fully searchable image collection, including maps and links to the Video Encyclopaedia of the 20th Century.

To access full text coverage of over 1,100 peer-reviewed business management journals, go to Business Source Elite. This business research resource provides coverage in all disciplines of business, including marketing, management, accounting, finance and economics, as well as national and international company profiles and Datamonitor reports.

Novelist is a resource of fiction works that provides subject heading access, reviews, annotations, author ‘read-alikes’ and feature articles on all your favourite writers. For teachers there is the helpful ‘Schools’ Resources’ section, ranging from early literacy skills to book discussion guides for high school students. You can even enter words that describe elements in a story that you would like to read, such as genre or location, and Novelist will search for related fiction titles for you.

To access the electronic resources, go to: http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/albhome/eres/eres.html
Please be patient as it sometimes takes a short while to connect to the server and verify security details.

In the event that you can’t find the information that you are looking for through our ‘Databases from Home’ webpage, why not connect online to a reference librarian? Visit the website: www.asknow.gov.au and chat to a librarian who can help you with your enquiry in real time. Australia’s National, State and Territory libraries have joined together to provide this online reference service, and it is available Monday to Friday from 7.00am to 5.00pm WST.

Happy searching!
Albany Public Library hosted a series of free writers’ workshops over six weekends in December 2006 to February 2007. The stunning series of story-books created by the ‘One Book Under Cover’ workshop participants was on display in the State Library during March.

“Under Cover” was inspired by concepts taken from Markus Zusak’s The Book Thief - of ‘taking cover’ behind a book; of disguising one’s personal or cultural identity by adopting symbols from another culture; of painting over and ‘rewriting’ history.

Fourteen people took part in the ‘Under Cover’ project, ranging in age from 17 to ‘retired’. Participants in the workshops developed new writing in the genres of poetry, short fiction and picture books with the support of a professional writer and artists. One of the participants commented: “I was overwhelmed by the fabulous workshop. What a buzz! My head is spinning with too, too many ideas.”

Alongside the series of writing workshops, Albany Public Library also hosted other ‘One Book’ events such as a celebrity book club, a book launch and several ‘Meet the Author’ talks.

The ‘Under Cover’ project was presented in association with writingWA and the Albany Public Library as part of the ‘One Book 2007’ Perth International Arts Festival initiative, a partnership with the State Library of Western Australia and sponsored by Chevron Australia.
Lee Griffith won the title with a strong portfolio of four pictures comprising:

- The scene of the Gidgegannup car crash that claimed the life of race car legend Peter Brock;
- A reflection of celebrity Melissa George;
- Jack van Tongeren in the back of a police wagon after his arrest near Boddington;
- West Coast Eagles supporters celebrating their team's AFL grand final victory at the Paddington Ale House.

Griffith's picture of van Tongeren also won him the gong for Best Spot News Photograph. The Sunday Times' Ross Swanborough won Best News Feature Photograph for his portrait of Ernest Bader, Otto Pelczar and Daniel Borisan waiting in the rain at Remembrance Day in Kings Park.

A prophetic photograph of newly-appointed Minister Norm Malborough, months before he was to quit in disgrace over his relationship with former premier Brian Burke, took out the Best Portrait prize for John Mokrzycki of The West Australian.

The West's Trevor Collens' photograph of Australian pole vaulter Kym Howe, in action at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, won first prize for Best Sport Photograph. Collens was also awarded third place in the sport category for his picture of Chantelle Newberry diving at the Australian Open Diving Championships in Melbourne.

Other winners included:
- Best Feature Photograph - Jody D'Arcy of The Sunday Times.
- Best Picture Story - The West Australian's Nic Ellis' photographs of the family of murdered schoolgirl Sofia Rodriguez-Urrutia Shu at her funeral.
- Best Suburban Newspaper Photographer Award - Post Newspapers' Paul McGovern.
- Best Country Newspaper Photograph - Derek Pool from the Busselton-Margaret River Times.

The organisers received 703 images for judging in the State's top press photography awards. The awards are divided into nine categories: News, Spot News, News Feature, Portrait, Sport, Feature (Liftouts), Picture Story, Suburban and Country. The overall and suburban prizes are judged from a portfolio of the entrant's best four images for the year.

An exhibition of the 500 best entries will be on display at the State Library of Western Australia until Sunday May 27, 2007. The awards are sponsored by The State Library of Western Australia, Canon, Team Digital, The West Australian, The Sunday Times and The Community Newspaper Group.
Lotterywest grant of $3,000,000 was received in July 2005 to preserve the most at-risk records of WA’s history, and the project has made great progress to date.

The projected target is to microfilm 700,000 pages of Western Australian newspapers, digitise 75,000 pictorial photographic negatives (with 20,000 images to be made available on-line), and preserve 150 motion picture films from the State Library’s collections. DVD copies of films will be made available to regional libraries for viewing and for loan.

At the end of January 2007, the HRRC team had completed the microfilming of 533,228 pages (76% of the projected target) of the early newspapers, digitised 41,647 images (56% of the projected target). Of these, 26,340 images (132% of the projected target) have been catalogued, linked and made available on-line and 46 motion picture films (31% of the projected target) have been preserved.

Some of the photographic images are now available to the community through the State Library of Western Australian website: http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au
Battye About Books

Belly Dancing for Beginners
Liz Byrski
A warm-hearted, moving and often outright funny story of what can happen when women, and the men in their lives, are brave enough to reveal who they really are.
Macmillan (Pan Macmillan Australia), Sydney NSW, 2006

Girls Don’t Play Cricket
Ena Taylor
Growing up in the Edrich family is not easy when you’re a girl. This is Ena’s story, only sister and youngest sibling of Bill, Geoffrey, Brian and Eric Edrich, a name synonymous with English cricket.
Linellen Press, Oldbury WA, 2006

Too Many Lemons: ‘when life hands you lemons, make lemonade...”
Sue Smith
Told with honesty and humour, this is the true story of Sue Smith’s seven-year ordeal battling a crippling disorder, and the inspiring outcome that offers courage and hope to people who have ever found themselves in the medical “Too Hard” basket.
Self-published, Fremantle WA, 2006

The West Australian Guide to Retirement Planning in Western Australia 2006/07
Nick Bruining CFP (financial planner), Ed. By Martin Stewart
This edition of the WA Guide to Retirement Planning aims to provide a practical explanation of investments, tax, Centrelink, superannuation, property, estate planning, retirement accommodation, health and lifestyle issues to allow retirees to make informed decisions.
West Australian Newspapers Ltd Special Publications Division, Osborne Park WA, 2006

Somewhere Below: the Sydney scandal exposed
John Samuels
People have been asking questions since the Sydney sank off the WA coast in 1941. John Samuels finds answers in evidence that could not be destroyed. From coded transmissions, personal accounts, forensic evidence and records of naval movements, he reconstructs the grim events of 19 November.
Halstead Press, Broadway NSW, 2005

The Travel Writer
Simone Lazaroo
A deeply moving story about people connecting across racial and imperial boundaries, The Travel Writer is compellingly evocative of post-war Malaya and written with a keen sense of epic.
Picador (Pan Macmillan Australia), Sydney NSW, 2006
Looking for central venues and modern facilities for your next Western Australian meeting, seminar or function?

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