

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES INC

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1) Death of Western Australia's first State Archivist

Western Australia's first State Archivist, Mollie Lukis, died on Saturday 1 August 2009 at the age of 98.

She was appointed in 1945. At that time the position was part of the combined Public Library, Art Gallery and Museum and the first Archivist's role was to oversee the identification, preservation and presentation of the State's archives. Her appointment was made at a time when women were rarely given positions of any note in the public service. She is acknowledged as the first female State Archivist in Australia. She was the pioneer of archives work in Western Australia, studying in Washington in the 1950s under Dr Schellenberg, she returned with the most up-to-date knowledge of the management of archives at that time.

A funeral service was held for her on at St Margaret's Church in Tyrell St, Nedlands.

For further details about Miss Lukis see the State Records Office webpage at: <http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/about/MollieLukis.asp>

(Source: A Mailing List for Australian Archivists – 4 August 2009)

2) Historical archaeology fieldwork manual

The Light Railway Research Society of Australia Inc has recently published a fieldwork manual, specifically directed at post bushfire surveys in Victoria. It contains extensive information appropriate to archaeology anywhere.

The manual is freely available for download on the internet website:

http://www.lrrsa.org.au/Lrr_downloads.html

under the heading "Black Saturday 2009".

The author is Peter Evans who has identified and assessed archaeological sites.

(Source: ticcih-in-oz@googlegroups.com - 7 July 2009)

3) Value of business archives

Below is a link to an interesting article specifically about the value of business archives. Despite the economic downturn, the *Financial Times* states that archivists are a valuable profession:

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/00166816-85f1-11de-98de-00144feabdc0.html>

(Source: Aus-archivists@archivists.org.au – 13 August 2009)

4) Perth heritage house

A heritage listed house became the centre of a controversy in Perth in July. A complaint has been lodged by heritage campaigners to the Crime and Corruption Commission and which has since been referred to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. It follows Parliamentary approval for the removal of a heritage listing for a house on *The Cliffe*, a Peppermint Grove residence.

Nick Evans of *The Mining News* published an extensive summary of the issue and is quoted with acknowledgement here. It illustrates how heritage issues may stimulate debate in widely dispersed professions.

‘A MINING identity’s \$A38,000 stake in a tiny Western Australian biotech company, a heritage listed house and the WA premier have become the focus of a political drama after a complaint to the state’s powerful Corruption and Crime Commission.

Western Australian micro-cap Freedom Eye (formerly Solbec Pharmaceuticals) has found itself at the centre of public attention this week, after WA Premier Colin Barnett announced he and the company were the subject of a complaint to the Crime and Corruption Commission, whose investigations led, in part, to the downfall of the previous Labor government.

Barnett, whose son Russell is the chairman of Freedom Eye, announced yesterday that a complaint had been made to the CCC over the removal of a house from the state’s heritage register last year.

The house is owned by famous prospector Mark Creasy, who is Freedom Eye’s largest shareholder, holding a 4.8% stake through his personal company, Yandal Investments.

Creasy has been involved in a 14-year battle to win permission to demolish the 115-year-old property in Perth’s western suburbs.

His battle has attracted a vocal band of opponents and it is understood that a member of this group lodged a complaint with the CCC about the premier’s conduct in lobbying to help Creasy win permission to demolish the house.

The premier – then an Opposition backbencher – first raised the issue in the WA Parliament in August 2007, a month after his son became a director of Freedom Eye (then Solbec Pharmaceuticals). Last year he successfully convinced both houses of Parliament to pass a bill that removed the property from the heritage list.

In a press statement yesterday [13 July], Barnett said the CCC complaint, the full details of which have not been made public, suggested that his lobbying on Creasy’s behalf was somehow designed to benefit his son and Freedom Eye.

Both Barnett and the company yesterday strenuously denied those allegations, with Barnett saying he had “only become aware of this association since this complaint has

been made and knew nothing of it at the time of taking action” in relation to the property.

He described the complaint as “spurious, bordering on the bizarre” and said he was merely raising a matter on behalf of a constituent.

Russell Barnett and Freedom Eye also rejected the allegations, releasing a statement yesterday agreeing with the premier’s characterization of the complaint and denying involvement in any wrongdoing.

Creasy holds less than 5% of the company – just over 12.5 million shares, worth around \$38,000 at the company’s current share price.

Russell Barnett told the *West Australian* overnight that he had not personally spoken to Creasy in more than 20 years and had never discussed the property.

Until it released a prospectus this month, Freedom Eye had not conducted a capital raising since 2007 and Creasy has not varied his shareholding in the company.

Freedom Eye said it was considering its legal options in regard to the complaint.

The matter currently rests with the Speaker of the WA Legislative Assembly and the Privileges and Procedures Committee, which will decide whether to refer the matter back to the CCC for investigation or conduct its own hearings.’

(Source: Mining News 14 July 2009; Australian Financial Review 16 July 2009 p.10)

5) Basic paper conservation workshop, Wednesday November 9th

Caring for a paper-based collection can be greatly enhanced with a few basic paper conservation skills. This is a one-day workshop in simple paper conservation treatments that will greatly assist in the preservation of your collection. Paper objects can include items such as documents, maps and plans, books, and works of art on paper.

Due to popular demand another Care of Photographs Workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday November 21st.

The workshops cost \$350 per person (with a 10% discount if two are booked) and are held in Sydney.

For all booking information, and more detail regarding the workshops, please visit website www.preservationaustralia.com.au or contact Preservation Australia on 1300 651 408.

(Source: aus-archivists@archivists.org.au – 25 August 2009)

6) 4th edition of the *Small Museums cataloguing Manual*

Museums Australia (Victoria) has published the *Small Museums Cataloguing Manual* (4th edition), the industry-standard reference for community museums wishing to start or develop their collections cataloguing. This essential practical tool is now FREE to download.

This user-friendly, full-colour edition has been fully revised to include guidance on using cataloguing software on computers, 'how to' examples of worksheets and up-to-date lists of useful resources.

The Small Museums Cataloguing Manual accords with Benchmark A2.4.2 of the [National Standards for Australian Museums & Galleries](#) and links to Museums Australia (Victoria)'s [Community Collections Training program](#).

This edition was supported by sponsors, Arts Victoria and Heritage Victoria with in-kind support from Museum Victoria for production of the full-colour images used throughout.

Further information & download: Museums Australia (Victoria)
<http://museumsaustraliavictoria.createsend4.com/t/r/1/ikurit/dtqthj/o>

(Source: A Mailing List for Australian Archivists – 11 August 2008)

7) Local history – Timber Creek Museum

The Timber Creek Museum building is currently being opened by the Timber Creek Police Officers. They undertake cleaning and basic care of the museum and welcome visitors. The building is the former police station and the museum contains an extensive array of police memorabilia along with items demonstrating the role of the cattle industry in the area and the history of Timber Creek settlement. The museum was established by the National Trust of the Northern Territory.

(Source: Personal visit – 17 August 2009)