

# Useful books for History Teachers

Created by Community Liaison Librarian, SLWA: Joanna Andrew

## ***Western Australian History***

\*\*\* Starred authors are West Australian. Copies of all these titles are available at public libraries – if your local library does not have a copy, it can be requested on inter-library loan from another library.

### **\*Helen Bell                    Idjhil: and the land cried for its lost soul**

Idjhil is the moving story of a Western Australian Aboriginal boy who, at the age of nine, is taken from his family in accordance with the official government policy of the time. Although written as fiction, it is based on the memories and experiences of people still alive today.

### **\*Valerie Everett            The house that was built in a day: Anzac Cottage**

Based on the amazing and moving true story of a community that built a house in one day for a soldier returned from Gallipoli. Anzac Cottage still stands to this day in Mount Hawthorn. See more information at <http://www.valerieeverett.com.au/anzac.html>

### **\*Warren Flynn            Return ticket**

A time slip book about modern teens getting stuck in the past – can they live without computers, washing machines and Coke? Warren was inspired by someone on the radio saying: 'If we forget our past or we don't know it, it's like we're a person with no memory - we don't know who we are and we've lost our way.'  
<http://members.iinet.net.au/~wgm/>

### **\*Elaine Forrester        Black Jack Anderson**

Ruthless, passionate, charismatic and complex, Black Jack Anderson made a living by raiding passing ships off the southwest coast of Australia. The massive African-American was notorious in his lifetime, but this towering figure in Australian history has been forgotten... until now. For older readers.  
<http://www.elaineforrester.com.au/books/black-jack-anderson/>

### **\*Elaine Forrester        Straggler's Reef**

Fictitious account of the Lancier shipwreck and treasure lost near Rottnest Island.  
More here: <http://www.elaineforrester.com.au/books/stragglers-reef>

### **\*Michelle Gillespie      Sam, Grace and the Shipwreck**

Fictitious account of Grace Bussell's famous rescue of passengers and crew from the Georgette with Sam Isaacs. Illustrated by Sonia Martinez. More here: <http://www.fremantlepress.com.au/books/1271>

### **\*Mark Greenwood        The legend of Moondyne Joe**

Moondyne Joe was not known for blazing gunfights or robbing banks. It was the convict bushranger's amazing ability to escape every time he was placed behind bars that won him fame and the affection of the early settlers. <http://www.markgreenwood.com.au/moondyne.html>

### **\*Mark Greenwood        Fortuyn's ghost**

In 1724 the Fortuyn vanished after leaving the Cape of Africa. The Dutch East India Company ship was bound for Batavia. Fortuyn's Ghost imagines that voyage's end on WA's treacherous Shipwreck Coast.  
<http://www.markgreenwood.com.au/fortuyn.html>

### **Libby Hathorn            Georgiana, woman of flowers**

Georgiana Molloy is 23 years old and newly married when she arrives in the new settlement of Augusta. This is the tale of her contribution to the development of the settlement of Augusta and the Vasse region and to the knowledge of the flora and fauna of the area.

Teachers' notes here: [http://www.libbyhathorn.com/pdf/georgiana\\_teaching\\_notes.pdf](http://www.libbyhathorn.com/pdf/georgiana_teaching_notes.pdf)

### **\*Norman Jorgensen      Jack's Island**

An adventure story set on Rottnest Island off the Western Australian coast during the expected Japanese invasion of World War II. <http://www.normanjorgensen.com.au/books/index.html>

### **\*Joy Lefroy                The pipeline C Y O'Connor built**

A lively celebration of the legendary C Y O'Connor's gigantic endeavour to build the pipeline from Mundaring Weir near Perth to the Kalgoorlie goldfields. Co-author is Diana Frylink.

See teaching notes here: <http://www.fremantlepress.com.au>, then click on books.



**\*Mike Lefroy Shipwreck at Madman's Corner**

This is a true story about treasure lost at sea and maritime archaeologists looking for secrets from the past. Local spearfishermen at Madman's Corner, a remote area on the coast of WA, discover a mystery wreck.

**\*Mike Lefroy HMAS Sydney: the mystery of Australia's greatest naval disaster**

On 19 November 1941 the HMAS *Sydney II* sank. On board were 645 Australian sailors. None survived, and the location of the wreck was a mystery for many years.

**\*Mike and Joy Lefroy The Catalpa escape**

The amazing true story of the great escape of the Fenians from Fremantle Prison on Easter Monday, 17 April 1876.

**\*Deborah Lisson The Yankee whaler: the diary of Thomas Morris**

Thomas Morris delivers telegrams in Bunbury and things are looking suspicious! In his diary Tom records his exciting adventures as he tries to solve the mystery, then finds himself part of an international plot.

**John Nicholson Kimberley warrior: the story of Jandamarra**

One hundred years ago, Jandamarra led his people against the white occupation of Bunuba lands. At 21 he organised his first ambush, and by the age of 24 he was dead. To his people he was a hero, to the whites a dangerous 'baddie' who must be captured at any cost.

**\*Jan Ormerod Lizzie Nonsense**

*Lizzie Nonsense* brings to life, through the story of one family, the experience of pioneering women and children left alone in the Australian bush while their husbands and fathers were away working. Seen through the eyes of Lizzie, the joy and exuberance of childhood shines through, despite the hard work and isolation.  
[http://www.littleharebooks.com/schoolresources/notes/lizzie\\_nonsense.pdf](http://www.littleharebooks.com/schoolresources/notes/lizzie_nonsense.pdf)

**\*Doris Pilkington Home to mother (Junior) Follow the rabbit proof fence (Teen / Adult)**

This is an extraordinary story of courage and faith. It is based on the actual experiences of three girls who fled from the Moore River Native Settlement, following along the rabbit-proof fence back to their homelands.

**\*Dianne Wolfer Lighthouse girl**

Based on the true story of Fay Catherine Howard who lived on Breaksea Island with her father, who was the lighthouse keeper. She was 15 when she stood on the shore and signalled the fleet departing for the First World War. She received postcards from the Middle East addressed to 'The little girl at Breaksea Island.' More info at [www.diannevolfer.com](http://www.diannevolfer.com).

**Series:**

Stories from Australia's history –  
Non-Fiction  
My Australian Story - Fiction  
Making Tracks (National Museum of Australia Press) - Fiction

## **Australian History**

**\*Mark Greenwood Simpson and his donkey**

A poignant account of the story of John Simpson Kirkpatrick and how he and his donkey, Duffy, rescued over 300 men during the campaign at Gallipoli. <http://www.markgreenwood.com.au/simpson.html>

**\*Mark Greenwood Ned Kelly and the green sash**

A narrative non-fiction picture book about the life of Ned Kelly and the Kelly Gang, Australia's most infamous bushrangers. <http://www.markgreenwood.com.au/sash.html>

**\*Mark Greenwood The legend of Lasseter's Reef**

The Legend of Lasseter's Reef is an evocative account of this universal, yet uniquely Australian story of one man's quest to find gold in a wilderness of spinifex and sand.

<http://www.markgreenwood.com.au/lasseter.html>

**\*Norman Jorgensen In Flanders fields**

Based on the true story of soldiers downing arms on Christmas Eve in 1916, this is a poignant and beautifully illustrated picture book. <http://www.fremantlepress.com.au/books/862>

**\*Mike Lefroy Captain Cook and the Endeavour**

*Captain Cook and the Endeavour* is the story of a poor boy from Yorkshire, born into a farming family but destined for much more. It's the story of a coal ship purchased by the British Navy for a scientific mission to the Pacific Ocean. Together they sailed off the map and navigated half the world.

**Reeder, Stephanie Owen Lost! A true tale from the bush**

In August 1864, three children, aged nine, seven and three survived nine days lost in the Victorian bush. The children walked for nearly 100 kilometres with no food and very little water. Against all odds, they were found alive, and this is their inspiring story.

