

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Harry Butler
Lecture Series 2012

In the Wild West



2012 Series



Foreword by Alec Coles OBE

Chief Executive Officer, WA Museum



It is my great pleasure to present the program for the 2012 series of The Western Australian Museum's Harry Butler Lecture Series: In the Wild West.

This series is now in its third year and once again my sincere thanks go to our principal funding partner Chevron Australia, to WA's Chief Scientist, Professor Lyn Beazley, the Series Patron, and of course to WA Museum Fellow Dr W.H. (Harry) Butler who not only gives his name to the Series but also plays an active role in developing the content.

Appropriately enough, this year's lectures focus broadly on collections: making them, caring for them and using them. From cave-diving to collect subterranean specimens to following a detective trail to discover the secrets of a Crimean War sabre, there are any number of diverse stories here.

I also have the honour of presenting a talk by Dr Harry Butler on his own methods of field collection, and a lecture by Dr Lyn Beazley on the geological and biological wonders of Western Australia. I too will be contributing a lecture demonstrating that, contrary to some popular opinion, Museum collections are more important to us than ever before.

I look forward to seeing you at the lectures.

Maritime

Museum collectors and carers: one collector's story

Dr W. H. (Harry) Butler, WA Museum Fellow

6.00pm, Thursday 3 May

Without collectors and carers, there would be no Museum collections or displays. Dr Butler describes some methods he used for field collection and the post collection processes.

Downunder down under: collecting in the dark zone

Dr Bill Humphreys, Senior Curator, Terrestrial Zoology

6.00pm, Friday 6 July

Beneath our feet lies a hotspot of subterranean biodiversity. Hear about the lengths our curators go to - from fishing down boreholes in the desert to abseiling, crawling, hammering, digging and cave diving - to collect specimens for the State's collection.

Seahorse tales and pregnant males

Dr Glenn Moore, Curator of Fishes, Aquatic Zoology

6.00pm, Friday 17 August

Discover the fascinating secret world of the seahorse, where fish hold on by their tail, mates dance for their partners and males get pregnant!

Western Australia: a Geological and Biological Wonderland

Professor Lyn Beazley, Chief Scientist of Western Australia

6.00pm, Friday 7 September

You don't need to be Alice to realise that our State is a Wonderland. From rocks that tell the story of the evolution of our planet to a biodiversity matched nowhere else in Australia, Professor Beazley will describe some of the newest science discoveries taking place in WA that would make even Alice's head spin.

Wreck of the *Zuytdorp*

Dr Michael McCarthy, Curator, Maritime History

6.00pm, Friday 12 October

Since the 1960s, WA Museum staff have been searching for answers to the mysteries surrounding the Dutch East India Company trading ship *Zuytdorp*. Dr McCarthy will discuss the ship and its loss, as well as the discovery of the wreck and subsequent archaeological research.

Exploration and conservation: the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-1914

Dr Ian Godfrey, Head of Department, Materials Conservation
6.00pm, Friday 9 November

How do you preserve fragile wooden buildings and artefacts in the windiest place on earth? Ian brings to life lesser known aspects of this heroic era of Antarctic exploration and explains the challenges (and solutions) of conserving this history.

Critical collections: why museum collections matter

Alec Coles, Chief Executive Officer, WA Museum
6.00pm, Thursday 29 November

In the digital age, it has been claimed, collections are no longer important: after all, surely we can find what we are looking for on the Web? Alec Coles could not disagree more! In a world where authenticity is at a premium, he believes that collections are a museum's unique product and museums and their collections have never been more relevant.

Perth

New discoveries in the world around us

Dr Mark Harvey, Senior Curator, Terrestrial Zoology
12.30pm, Tuesday 22 May

We live in one of the last regions of the world where new animal species can be regularly found. Mark tells of the spiders, reptiles, frogs, scorpions, insects, and even ancient subterranean animals being described by WA Museum staff.

Into the valley of death rode... Henry Dyson Naylor

Stephen Anstey, Curator, History
12.30pm, Friday 22 June

A chance inquiry about an old cavalry sabre leads Museum historians on a detective trail to piece together the story of its owner and uncover a Western Australian's chilling first hand account of the Crimean War's Charge of the Light Brigade.

The art and science of taxidermy

Kirsten Tullis, Senior Preparator, Exhibition & Design
12.30pm, Friday 17 August

What happens in a taxidermist's workroom? Kirsten shares her techniques and processes for the mounting of bird and mammal skins, as well as the preparation of moulds, casts, and models to recreate animals from reptiles to jellyfish.

Caring for your collection: bring your treasures!

Conservation Staff
12-3pm, Friday 21 September

Have you ever wondered how a professional conservator would treat Mum's vase or your great-aunt's quilt? Bring your treasures to the Perth Museum to get advice from the Museum's experts!

Colours of the earth

Dr Peter Downes, Curator of Minerals and Meteorites, Earth & Planetary Sciences
12.30pm, Friday 26 October

The interaction of the atmosphere and groundwater with mineral deposits over time has produced an exotic array of colourful minerals. Come on a tour through some hotspots for mineral diversity that have been revealed through mining in Western Australia.

Dinosaurs of the 21st century: masters of the skies

Dr Mikael Siverson, Curator of Palaeontology, Earth & Planetary Sciences
12.30pm, Friday 23 November

They ruled the land for 170 million years and now they rule the skies! Explore the wonders of the dinosaur world, from the mighty T-rex to the humble duck.



Geraldton

Western Australia: a Geological and Biological Wonderland

Professor Lyn Beazley, Chief Scientist of Western Australia

7.00pm, Tuesday June 26

You don't need to be Alice to realise that our State is a Wonderland. From rocks that tell the story of the evolution of our planet to a biodiversity matched nowhere else in Australia, Professor Beazley will describe some of the newest science discoveries taking place in WA that would make even Alice's head spin.

Wreck of the *Zuytdorp*

Dr Michael McCarthy, Curator, Maritime History

7.00pm, Thursday 13 September

10.00am, Friday 14 September

Since the 1960s, WA Museum staff have been searching for answers to the mysteries surrounding the Dutch East India Company trading ship *Zuytdorp*. Dr McCarthy will discuss the ship and its loss, as well as the discovery of the wreck and subsequent archaeological research.

Exploration and conservation: the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-1914

Dr Ian Godfrey, Head of Department, Materials Conservation

7.00pm, Thursday October 25

10.00am, Friday October 26

How do you preserve fragile wooden buildings and artefacts in the windiest place on earth? Ian brings to life lesser known aspects of this heroic era of Antarctic exploration and explains the challenges (and solutions) of conserving this history.

Seahorse tales and pregnant males

Dr Glenn Moore, Curator of Fishes, Aquatic Zoology

7.00pm, Thursday November 15

10.00am, Friday November 16

Discover the fascinating secret world of the seahorse, where fish hold on by their tail, mates dance for their partners and males get pregnant!



Albany

Exploration and conservation: the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-1914

Dr Ian Godfrey, Head of Department, Materials Conservation
6.00pm Thursday June 14, drinks and nibbles from 5:30pm
2.00pm Friday June 15

How do you preserve fragile wooden buildings and artefacts in the windiest place on earth? Ian brings to life lesser known aspects of this heroic era of Antarctic exploration and explains the challenges (and solutions) of conserving this history.

Dinosaurs of the 21st century: masters of the skies

Dr Mikael Siverson, Curator of Palaeontology, Earth & Planetary Sciences
6.00pm, Thursday July 12, drinks and nibbles from 5:30pm
2.00pm, Friday July 13

They ruled the land for 170 million years and now they rule the skies! Explore the wonders of the dinosaur world, from the mighty T-rex to the humble duck.

New discoveries in the world around us

Dr Mark Harvey, Senior Curator, Terrestrial Zoology
6.00pm Thursday 16 August, drinks and nibbles from 5:30pm
2.00pm Friday 17 August

We live in one of the last regions of the world where new animal species can be regularly found. Mark tells of the spiders, reptiles, frogs, scorpions, insects, and even ancient subterranean animals being described by WA Museum staff.

Into the valley of death rode... Henry Dyson Naylor

Stephen Anstey, Curator, History
6.00pm, Thursday 13 September, drinks and nibbles from 5:30pm
2.00pm, Friday 14 September

A chance inquiry about an old cavalry sabre leads Museum historians on a detective trail to piece together the story of its owner and uncover a Western Australian's chilling first hand account of the Crimean War's Charge of the Light Brigade.

Museum collectors and carers: one collector's story

Dr W. H. (Harry) Butler, WA Museum Fellow

6.00pm, Thursday 15 November, drinks and nibbles from 5:30pm

2.00pm, Friday 16 November

Without collectors and carers, there would be no Museum collections or displays. Dr Butler describes some methods he used for field collection and the post collection processes.

Kalgoorlie – Boulder

Into the valley of death rode... Henry Dyson Naylor

Stephen Anstey, Curator, History

5.30pm, Wednesday 9 May

A chance inquiry about an old cavalry sabre leads Museum historians on a detective trail to piece together the story of its owner and uncover a Western Australian's chilling first hand account of the Crimean War's Charge of the Light Brigade.

Exploration and conservation: the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-1914

Dr Ian Godfrey, Head of Department, Materials Conservation

5.30pm, Wednesday 21 November

How do you preserve fragile wooden buildings and artefacts in the windiest place on earth? Ian brings to life lesser known aspects of this heroic era of Antarctic exploration and explains the challenges (and solutions) of conserving this history.



Cost - Entry to all lectures is by donation

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Karratha

Museum collectors and carers: one collector's story

Dr W. H. (Harry) Butler, WA Museum Fellow

6.30pm, Wednesday 25 July

Without collectors and carers there would be no Museum collections or displays! Dr Butler describes his own methods of field collection and the post collection process to prepare these specimens for research or display.

To be held in the Tambrey Tavern and Function Centre

Tambrey Drive, Karratha

Onslow

Dinosaurs of the 21st century: masters of the skies

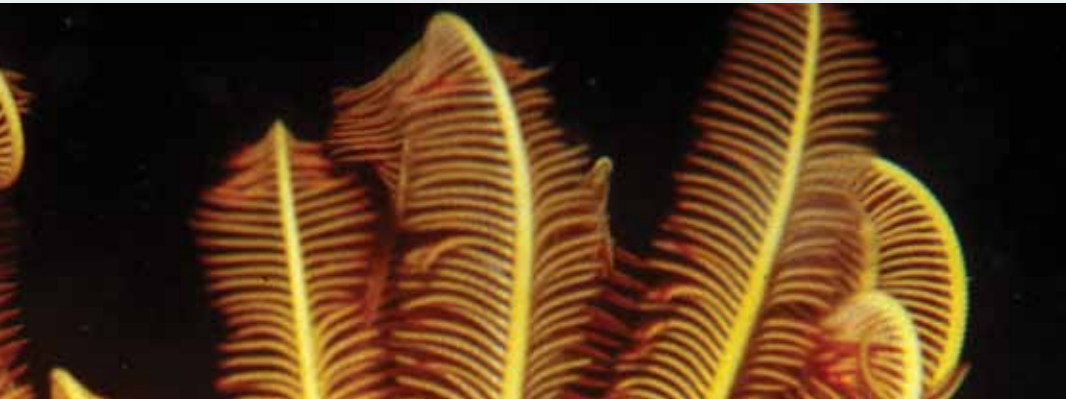
Dr Mikael Siversson, Curator of Palaeontology, Earth & Planetary Sciences

7.00pm, Wednesday 12 September

They ruled the land for 170 million years and now they rule the skies! Explore the wonders of the dinosaur world, from the mighty T-rex to the humble duck.

To be held in the Onslow Shire Hall

Second Avenue, Onslow



Vodcasts - A selection of lectures will be filmed and published online over the year at museum.wa.gov.au/inthewildwest

WA Museum Sites

Perth

Perth Cultural Centre
James Street, Perth
Bookings: 9212 3813

Geraldton

Museum Place
Batavia Coast Marina, Geraldton
Bookings: 9921 5080

Maritime

Victoria Quay, Fremantle
Bookings: 9212 3813

Kalgoorlie-Boulder

17 Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie
Bookings: 9021 8533

Shipwreck Galleries

Cliff Street, Fremantle
Bookings: 9431 8469

Albany

Residency Road, Albany
Bookings: 9841 4844

For more information and opening times please call the Museum sites or visit museum.wa.gov.au/inthewildwest



Western Australian
Museum scientists
and researchers fly
to our Geraldton site
courtesy of Skywest.



museum.wa.gov.au

