

## GEM OF TIME RECIPIENT – PATRICK RICHARDSON-BUNBURY 2011

Patrick is one of the Battye Library's unsung heroes. For the last ten years he has freely volunteered his time, giving four days every week to assisting staff in the Archives section. He has contributed his skills in organisation and research as well as his knowledge of Western Australian history to help list and arrange materials donated to the State Library of Western Australia's, Battye Library collections.

Over the years, Patrick has created finding aids for large collections of material from such well known Western Australian families including Bussell, Prinsep, De Burgh, Lefroy, and Durack, and organisations such as the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, and the leading law firm of Stone, James & Co. (now Mallesons Stephen Jaques). Without his in-depth knowledge of the genealogy of some of WA's pioneer families, and his expertise in deciphering 19th century cross-written letters, many of these collections would have remained inaccessible to researchers. Patrick's thoroughness and deep knowledge of Western Australian history is invaluable, as his ability in providing extra information to guide researchers to other relevant material.

Currently Patrick is involved in checking and expanding the extensive Mary Durack-Miller collection indexes, which were created by Patsy Millett. Patrick was also an adviser to staff on the Bussell family history when the Bussell diaries were purchased by the State Library.

He is painstaking with his research and patiently transcribed many 19th century hand-written letters contained in the recently acquired Cecil Walkley philately collection. He also discovered, and alerted Library staff to, a valuable and rare Penny Black stamp when working on a separate collection of material.