

Lindsay Peet  
Gem of Time and Fellow of the Library Board of WA

Born 5 October 1939, died 26 September 2012

Lindsay was born the only son of Cyril and Ethel Peet. Lindsay's grandfather has established the well-known real estate firm of Peet and Co in the early 1890s. Lindsay was educated at Hale School and at the University of WA where he graduated with a degree in geology. While working in Kalgoorlie in the 1960s he met and married his wife, Laurel. On returning to Perth Lindsay joined the family firm where he worked until his retirement in 1985. Lindsay and Laurel had two sons, Nigel (dec.) and Julian.

Lindsay's particular historical interests were in military history and he wrote authoritatively on many aspects of World War Two and aviation history generally. His most recent project was to collaborate on the production of a major film *Shady Lady: Mission Accomplished, Running on Empty* which has just been shown in the USA and is scheduled for release in both the UK and Australia shortly. The film has been assisted by Lindsay's 1995 thesis on the story of the emergency landing of an American B-24 Liberator in the Kimberley where the crew were rescued by Aboriginal people and monks from the Drysdale River (now Kalumburu) Mission.



He has been widely celebrated for his philanthropy. And he was a thoughtful giver – not just one who handed over a lump sum, but always looking to see where it could do most good. It was typical that he asked that his funds be used to seed further Lotterywest grants obtained by the Friends of Battye Library, and he liked being known as the 'Private Donor' in our applications. He was a key member of the ground-breaking Historical Records Rescue Consortium (HRRC) which did so much to save WA newspapers, photographs and films and he continued his commitment to the Oral History Records Rescue Group (OHRRG) which is currently involved in preserving the Library's oral histories. He was a generous supporter of the Battye Library and contributor to the State's heritage collections over many years.

Lindsay's bravery over the last four years since he contracted a paralysing virus has been inspirational. He never complained – was always positive and cheerful in such frustrating and painful circumstances. I think this should be remembered even more than his generosity. A revered colleague and committee member of the Friends of Battye Library, we will all miss his cheerful voice and sage advice at our meetings and can be glad that through the tele-conference line he was able to join us so regularly.

Lindsay was justifiably proud of his 2009 Gem of Time award, which was prominently displayed at his funeral service next to his Library Board Fellowship award. His passing will be mourned by many who shared his passion for WA history.

Our sincere condolences to Laurel and Julian, Lindsay's sisters and family.