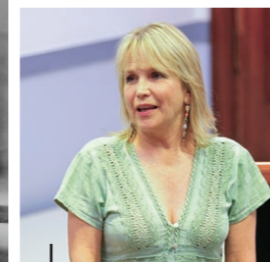


Barbara York Main: In Her Owns Words



Art and science unite in a unique celebration of 'The Lady of the Spiders.'

Barbara on the east steps of the Park Avenue Zoology building in the 1940s.



Playwright, Julia Jarel.
(Photo credit: Dave Nicolson)



Actors, Tim Parish and Logan Bin Bakar, enact a scene adapted from 'A Third Generation Farm', Twice Trodden Ground. 1971, Barbara York Main.
(Photo credit: Dave Nicolson)

It was while delving into the lives of contemporary women of the Wheatbelt as part of a creative writing PhD, that UWA student Julia Jarel first encountered the remarkable life story of Barbara York Main.

"I was reading Tony Hughes D'Aeth's seminal work *Like Nothing on this Earth*:

A Literary History of the Wheatbelt as part of my research," Julia recalls.

"Inspired to read some of Barbara's work, I began with *Marginal Country* and was astonished by its beauty and resonance. I had lived and worked in the Wheatbelt in my early teaching career and was enchanted by the way Barbara evoked the spirit of the landscape so hauntingly through her writing."

Popularly known as the 'Lady of the Spiders' after a David Attenborough documentary about her, Barbara spotted her first trapdoor spider as a young child on the farm her father had cleared from the arid WA bushland.

While her four brothers played team sports; Barbara wandered in search of insects, spiders and reptiles and in 1957, the extraordinary environmentalist became the first woman to earn a PhD in Zoology from UWA.

She married Albert Russell Main, an equally gifted zoologist, who supported her career as fervidly as she supported his and together, they raised three children.

"I had created a piece of verbatim theatre as part of my candidature and developed this

into a full length play by including readings and biographical information about Barbara, using only her own words," Julia says.

Readers included local actors, along with current students and alumni of UWA, all with deep connections to the university, the wheatbelt, or the Perth theatre scene.

Barbara's daughter, Monica Main, a professional actor and radio presenter, was also part of the performance which, fittingly, was held at the heritage-listed G20 lecture theatre in UWA's Park Avenue precinct, a place where Barbara conducted much of her ground-breaking research. ■

Hidden cultural treasures now within easy digital reach

The diaries, essays and recordings of one of Australia's most renowned female pianists are among a treasure trove of cultural curiosities now housed in one digital location – UWA Collected.

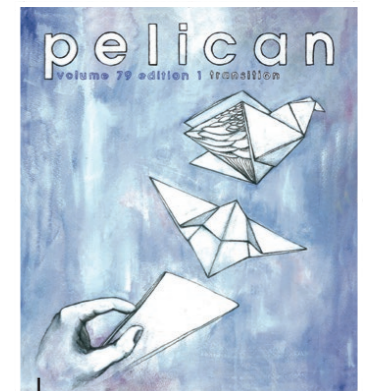
The works of Eileen Joyce, who grew up in Western Australia before embarking on a celebrated international career in the mid-20th century, is now memorialised in a single digital collection that also features many other items of cultural and historical significance.

The launch of UWA Collected – the first academic platform of its kind in WA – is a boon for historians, researchers and the culturally curious.

Centuries-old hand-painted maps, recordings of historic events and preserved oral history are among thousands of digital records that have been captured and stored in one easily navigable location.

UWA alumni and local history buffs can even look back on the oldest copies of the University's student magazine *Pelican*, which began in 1929, and the original handwritten minutes of the UWA Senate.

Interested history-seekers can browse the collection at collected.uwa.edu.au. ■



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(UWA Student Guild Archives)



Remembrance Day on Whitfeld Court

The UWA Historical Society has been assisted most professionally in recent years for the annual November Remembrance Day on Whitfeld Court, by the Western Australian University Regiment (WAUR).

Many Uniview readers will have known people who have been in the Regiment or served in it themselves. Several UWAHS members fall in this category, namely our Chancellor, the Hon Robert French AC KC, who recalls being an Honorary Colonel for some 6 years, Senate member, Warren Kerr AM, and former Warden of Convocation Dr Doug McGhie.

It will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in April 2024 and we give a 'shout-out' to all former WAUR members to get

in touch to duly celebrate and acknowledge past members and historical events.

Raised as Perth University Regiment on 22 April 1949, its role was to provide training to undergraduates as part of the Citizen Military Forces (CMF). Initially located in a Catalina shed at Crawley, it became Western Australian University Regiment in May 1950. The WAUR Badge, incorporates the shield of The University of Western Australia, and the motto SEEK WISDOM. A significant change in 1975 was the introduction of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps into the traditional all-male unit.

Please contact Major Mark Hamblyn at mark.tamblyn@defence.gov.au to assist the Anniversary. ■