

Welcome to our 30th Anniversary

I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the New Year. This is the first of what will become a regular "From the President" spot on our website. So stay tuned for further updates on what is happening at WAGS.

30th Anniversary year

2009 is a very special year for WAGS. WAGS was formed on 1 January 1979 so this is our 30th Anniversary year.

A Committee led by Margaret Hickey has been planning a variety of events to celebrate this special milestone. The motto on our logo **"Looking Forward to Looking Back"** is very apt, as this is a time to look back and acknowledge the people who went before us and to celebrate what WAGS has achieved over the last 30 years. There are five events planned for the year, something for everyone, so please make this a year to remember and attend as many events as you can.

To kick off our celebrations we held a "Welcome to our 30th Anniversary" function on Saturday 3 January for representatives from many organizations associated with WAGS. They included the State Library of Western Australia, National Archives, Registrar General BDM, Heritage Council of WA, Affiliated Societies, WAGS Past Presidents, Special Interest Group convenors and management committee. This was an opportunity to announce our [30th Anniversary Celebration plans](#) and showcase our facilities.

You can read more about this function and details about our other planned events, go to our [30th Anniversary Events page](#).

Website

Marilyn Diamond has been our webmaster since the WAGS website was launched in 1996. For

the past 13 years she has done a magnificent job; firstly developing the website then continually improving and updating it so it has become a well respected family history website. Marilyn is now taking a well deserved break and has retired as webmaster. (However she will still remain as [WAGSnet](#) Mailing List Administrator and the [SLWA Genealogy Centre](#) Volunteer Co-ordinator!) Marilyn, we thank you very much for your dedication to WAGS and in particular to our website. We wish you well in the future and hope you now have some time to do your own research.

Following our strategic review it was decided that our website should be further developed to include e-commerce and online membership management. A "Virtual Team" led initially by Mike Murray and then by Chris Loudon has spent many many hours building a new website. We have decided to launch the website now at the commencement of our 30th anniversary year even though some of the features are not quite ready yet. I'm sure you will agree that this team has done a fantastic job. We thank you very much and look forward to seeing the changes planned for the future. Chris Loudon will be taking on the role as webmaster.

More information about the development of our website is available on our [Web Site History page](#)

WAGS Library

The Management Committee has received a request to open the [Library](#) on Sundays. To gauge demand we will open the Library on the 2nd Sunday of each month during 2009. This will then be reviewed at the end of the year, so if you would like to have the library open on Sundays please support this initiative. The first Sunday opening will be 8th February (1pm - 5pm).

Until next time, good luck with your research.

Liana Fitzpatrick

WAGS President

[Email](#)