

John Leggoe Notes 2

Conversation with Peter Leggoe 31/10/2014

Leggoe Peter
U7/ 22 Gibson St, Mt Pleasant WA 6153
(08) 9364 4083

Peter (91yo) is youngest brother of John who died 94yo.

Peter in the Army

JL on corvette HMAS Bathurst

JL was on bunk with no shirt on when Jap bomb hit – so when in water it was Kentish in a shirt **with gold cross on his collar** that was taken – JL never said but PL thinks JL lifelong regret ('weighed on his mind') for not owning up as it was an officer that they sought.

After book published a short wiry man (not an officer – other ranks) turned up on the doorstep with a bottle of whiskey – he had relatives in Perth area so visited every year for a long time. PL corresponded on JL's death but can't remember his name. (*was this Bennett – apparently not. Turns out the sole reason for the visit was to catch up with JL.*)

Malcolm JL Uren's mother was Peter Leggoe's father's sister, Minnie. John Leggoe is the family name in each generation after the missionary ancestor. So MJLU & JL are related.

Leggoe is Cornish – grandfather Rev John Leggoe, came out as missionary to the Cornish Miners at Moonta in SA – thence to Fiji as missionary where PL's father was born – he had 4 children Joan, John, Frank & Peter. **Frank had a son Jeremy an academic in US for years now UWA.**

Received letter from man in England who served on HMS Maidstone which was a corvette mother ship & visited Darwin – he knew JL in the war.

JL had farmed in the Beauford River area WA but overcapitalised & had to walk off in the depression. After the war he got a block at Arthur River (18 miles from old place). JL had two daughters – died early of cancer the other is a **vet Dr Leggoe in Sydney.**

(Dr. Margaret Mary Leggoe in 2000 she was registered at C/- AQIS GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601 – not any more 29/01/15) - Wanniasa ACT

John Leggoe – born 1909, York WA


Jan showed me a lengthy letter she received from John in 1993 in response to her contacting him - he sounded a generous and accurate source.



Uren was born on 7 January 1900 in [West Hindmarsh](#), an inner-city suburb in [Adelaide](#), [South Australia](#) to [Malcolm Francis Uren](#) and [Millicent Jane Leggoe](#). The Uren family then moved to [Perth](#), the capital of [Western Australia](#). Uren married [Lenora Emily Olive Stradwick \(Klenk\)](#) on 25 August 1923. They had a son, Malcolm Charles Uren (Bon) (1924 - 2002) and two grandchildren, Leslie (1948) and Malcolm John Spencer (1951 - 2004).

Uren became a [cadet journalist](#) with the Perth-based [Western Mail](#) in 1920, and by 1941 was its editor.^[1]



 From Malcolm Uren, Editor of [The Western Mail](#) Perth, [WA](#), To [Donald Clive Anderson](#), Australian Specialist, Ministry of Information, 1944.

In 1965 Uren was awarded an [Order of the British Empire](#)

Uren, Malcolm John Leggoe (1900–1973)

by G. C. Bolton

This article was published in *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 16, (MUP), 2002*

Malcolm John Leggoe Uren (1900-1973), journalist, was born on 7 January 1900 at West Hindmarsh, Adelaide, son of Malcolm Francis Uren, schoolteacher, and his wife Millicent Jane, *née Leggoe*. The family moved to Perth where young Malcolm attended primary school and Perth Modern School. After trying life as a dental student and a boundary rider, **he joined the West Australian as a cadet journalist in 1920**. He was to remain with West Australian Newspapers Ltd until he retired in 1965. At Wesley Church, Perth, on 25 August 1923 he married Lenora Emily Olive Klenk who used her stepfather's surname, Stradwick. In 1930 Uren's local experience helped the touring British musicologist Dr Thomas Wood; their travels featured in Wood's book, *Cobbers* (London, 1934). Wood paid tribute to Uren as a 'good friend . . . who made half this book possible . . . who was defeated by no question and who made every courtesy his own'.

In **1941 Uren was appointed editor-in-chief of West Australian Newspapers' associate publications**, among them the rural weekly *Western Mail* and the radio-guide *Broadcaster*, in which capacity he gave generous encouragement to young Western Australian short-story writers and poets. **Wood returned to Australia in 1944, ostensibly on a propaganda mission about British morale, but also for intelligence purposes. He enlisted Uren as an aide, under the guise of a war correspondent in the South-West Pacific.** Returning to civilian life, Uren added (1948) a women's magazine, *Milady*, to his responsibilities.

The gregarious Uren became a prominent figure in Perth. In his earlier years he captained the pressmen against parliament in their annual cricket match. He was a Freemason, a member of Wesley Church and a noted raconteur. Following a major reorganization, he worked as assistant to the managing editor **James Macartney** in 1953-56. Although Uren was a very moderate drinker and Macartney a stalwart toper, they formed a strong partnership. Uren led several parties of journalists, politicians and businessmen to assess the developmental prospects of the North-West. In 1962 he served as media consultant to the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth.

Keenly interested in Western Australian history, Uren published several works which found an appreciative public. ***Sailormen's Ghosts*** (Melbourne, 1940), based on a reconnoitring journey to the Abrolhos Islands, provided a lively account of seventeenth-century Dutch shipwrecks. He collaborated with Robert Stephens on *Waterless Horizons* (Melbourne, 1941), a study of **Edward John Eyre**. Uren's *Land Looking West* (London, 1948), a biography of **Governor Sir James Stirling**, remained unsurplanted fifty years later; his *Glint of Gold* (Melbourne, 1948), an account of the 1890s goldrushes, drew on oral histories from veterans of that period. He published several later works, some of them dutiful commissioned histories which lacked the narrative zest of his earlier publications. Like a number of Western Australian writers of his generation, he was disadvantaged by isolation. In **1965 he was appointed O.B.E.** He died on **22 July 1973** in Perth and was cremated. **His wife and their son Malcolm ('Bon'), a respected journalist with West Australian Newspapers, survived him.**

Select Bibliography

- *Newspaper House News*, Oct 1973
- *West Australian*, 23 July 1973
- Thomas Wood papers (National Library of Australia)
- private information.

Citation details

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<i>Born</i>	7 January 1900 West Hindmarsh, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
<i>Died</i>	22 July 1973 Perth, Western Australia, Australia
<i>Religious Influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Methodist
<i>Occupation*</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ journalist (1920-1941) Western Australia, Australia▪ biographer (1940-1948) Western Australia, Australia▪ historian (general) (1940-1973) Western Australia, Australia▪ newspaper editor (1941-1965) Western Australia, Australia▪ intelligence officer (1944-1945) Federal, Australia

* Dates are approximate