

35 Stirling Highway, Crawley Western Australia 6009

JAMES STIRLING

ADMIRAL AND FOUNDING GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WRITTEN BY PAMELA STATHAM-DREW

Man of action, naval officer, able administrator, skilled diplomat—James Stirling's distinguished and multi-faceted career carried him to the four corners of the nineteenth century world.

This ambitious biography, seven years in the making, breaks new ground in documenting fully Stirling's path from birth into one of Scotland's oldest families, through to founder and Governor of the Swan River Colony and, ultimately, to Admiral and British naval chief in East Asia.

Drawing on fresh archival material, author Pamela Statham-Drew has fashioned an intricate tapestry of engrossing detail, set against a post-Napoleonic backdrop of colonial opportunism, wars, British naval superiority and shifting political alliances.

During his naval career Stirling commanded five different vessels, taking him to the Americas, on voyages of exploration and settlement in Australia's west and north, to diplomatic intrigue in the Mediterranean, and finally to Hong Kong and Japan where he engineered a significant new treaty.

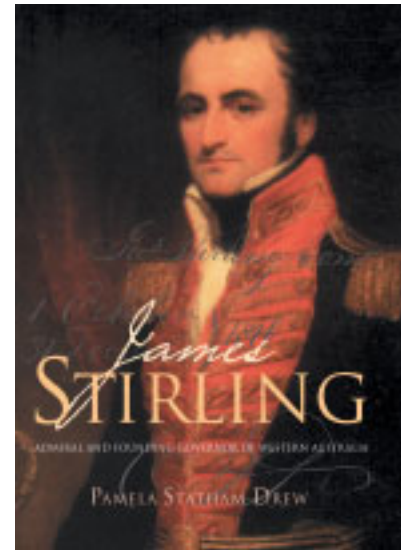
Stirling's place in history has hitherto been questioned and oversimplified—particularly regarding his contentious West Australian land grants. This absorbing biography seeks to redress this bias while, at the same time, revealing much about the human face and foibles of the man remembered today as the founder of the State of Western Australia.

Pamela Statham-Drew has filled one of the great gaps in Western Australian history by writing this biography of the founding Governor, Sir James Stirling. In what many will regard as her masterpiece, she presents Stirling as an adventurous, resilient character whose optimism and willpower carried the infant Swan River Colony to survival. By setting Stirling and his colony in their international context she adds new insight into our early history.

GEOFFREY BOLTON

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pamela Statham-Drew is currently a Senior Lecturer at The University of Western Australia, where she gained a doctorate for her research into the economic development of the Swan River Colony to 1850. She was responsible for the first volume in the *Dictionary of Western Australians* series, contributed to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, and has been author, contributor and editor of a number of other books on colonial subjects. Prior to this biography her largest project was initiating and editing *The Origins of Australia's Capital Cities*. Subsequently she was co-editor, with Rica Erickson, of *Life on the Ocean Wave: Voyages to Australia, India and the Pacific, from the Journals of Captain George Bayly 1824-1844*. She has recently been made an honorary life member of the Friends of Battye Library.

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