

# Family and Local History Newsletter

Autumn 2012 EDITION

Joondalup Library, Local History  
102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup 6027

Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm  
Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm

## Thankyou, Mary!

Mary Rogers is one of our wonderful Family History volunteers. For the past eleven years, Mary has conducted the “Family History for Beginners Course”. During that time she has taught over 1,000 people how to begin their Family History Research. She was always happy to answer the many questions that people had both during and after every seminar.



Mary held her last “Family History for Beginners Course” on 15 November 2011. She’s now “retired”, however continues to volunteer her time, helping the many people who come along to the Genie Exchange to research their Family Tree. The Reference and Local History staff would like to thank Mary for all that she has done for us. We consider her part of the family!

## Genie Exchange

Every Friday morning we host the Genie Exchange where family historians come together and help each other by sharing their tips and advice about useful websites etc. Why not join in and research your family history in a warm and friendly environment.

Genie Exchange is held in the Joondalup Library Local History area every Friday morning from 10.00am – 12.00noon. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. Bookings are not necessary for the Genie Exchange.

## Calendar Dates

Do you have a friend who is starting to compile their Family Tree? Are you stuck and need a new direction or more advice on how to continue your research? We will be conducting the “Family History for Beginners” course on these dates.

Tuesday 17 April  
6.45pm – 9.00pm

Saturday 23 June  
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Tuesday 7 August  
6.45pm – 9.00pm

Saturday 13 October  
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Tuesday 27 November  
6.45pm – 9.00pm

The “Family History for Beginners” course costs \$27.00 per person. To book please contact Joondalup Library, Local History on 9400 4746 or email [local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au](mailto:local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au)



# FindmyPast.com

The State Library of Western Australia now subscribes to the FindmyPast Ireland website.

FindmyPast Ireland has added a new series of records that offer a great new resource for family historians with an Irish background.

Irish Prison records are a key source for tracing family history because they record such a huge volume of prisoners, their relatives and in many cases their victims. This dataset is compiled from the collection housed in the National Archives of Ireland and covers most surviving records

for prisons in the 26 counties of the Republic of Ireland. In total there are 2.7 million records, with information on over 3.5 million people.

If you wish to access FindmyPastAustralasia, you will need to obtain a State Library membership

card. It's very easy to join. You can join online at [www.slwa.wa.gov.au](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au) It only takes a couple of minutes and your membership card is mailed to you. Just bear in mind that you can only access FindmyPast.com whilst at a computer inside the State Library.



## Did You Know?

- There are no records of naturalization or passenger records of Irish citizens in the UK from 1800 – 1920. This is because Ireland was considered part of the United Kingdom. Therefore the Irish who came to England were not considered to be moving around in their own country.
- It was a customary practice for Irish boys (usually aged from 14yrs on) to work in England during the summer months. They returned to Ireland in the autumn. The money that they made in England would tide their family over (i.e. feed, clothe, house them and pay the bills etc.) until the next summer. This would go on for years. Depending on the time of year that the census was taken, your Irish male ancestor



The Clamptt family, Dunmore East, County Waterford, Eire ca. 1890 – 1910. (Reproduced from the National Library of Ireland Catalogue)

may well appear on an English county census instead of an Irish census - where you would normally expect to see his name to appear.

- When Irish people decided to migrate to Australia, they usually travelled from Ireland to an English

port. They then travelled by ship from the English port to Australia.

- None of the Irish Census records up to 1901 have survived.

# Organising Family Archives

You've been having a bit of a spring clean and have found all of these wonderful family photos, certificates and other family memorabilia. So how do you go about organising it?

- Take your time! Initially the thought of organising your family archives can seem quite daunting. If you go in baby steps, it becomes much more manageable. Do a little bit at a time. It's far better to be thorough. If you rush, you may realise (years later) that you've accidentally put the only surviving photo of Great Uncle John in the bin!
- Sort by family, people or place. Most people sort their photos and memorabilia by families e.g. Smith, Jones, Baker etc.
- Start off with your immediate family i.e. Mum, Dad, children. Lay all the photos out on a table. Put them in chronological order from oldest to youngest. It's like a family timeline.
- It's important to write the name of every single person who appears in each photo. Ten years down the track, you may not remember who they were.
- If you have items such as birth, death and marriage certificates, it's best to store them in flat folders that contain plastic sleeves. Organise them so that you have e.g. all the birth certificates in one folder. Place each birth certificate inside a plastic sleeve/pocket.
- Digitise. A good way of storing family history material is to digitise it. Save your information onto a disc, thumb drive etc. Always make sure that you have two copies. Give your second (backup) copy to a trusted friend or relative who is sympathetic to your cause. Another alternative is to place it in a safety deposit box at the bank. If your house is destroyed in a natural disaster, at least you still have your backup copy of all those valuable records.

## National Archives of Australia



The National Archives of Australia is a treasure trove of information for the family history researcher. Many records have been digitised and are available online [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

Do you know that WA has a branch of the National Archives? Located on Berwick Street in East Victoria Park, staff regularly conduct tours of the facility. It's a wonderfully informative way of learning about the variety of records that represent our great state.

The Reading Room is open from

9.00am until 4.30pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. A Reference Librarian is available to help you with your research. For more information about the National Archives of Western Australia, call 9470 7500 or search the national website [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

- Archival storage. If you wish to preserve your photos and documents, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society has a wide range of archive storage materials. For more information call 9386 3841 or have a look at the catalogue on their website [histwest.org.au](http://histwest.org.au)
- Share. Get in touch with your relatives. Offer to share your photos and memorabilia with them and (hopefully) receive some in return.



# Marmion Probus Club Visit

On Wednesday 23 November 2011, members of the Marmion Probus Club visited Joondalup Library Local History to learn about the history of the City of Joondalup area. Staff members also spoke about Picture Joondalup and demonstrated how to search the catalogue which is available on the City website.

After morning tea, Chas Monk (one of our wonderful volunteers) gave an informative and entertaining talk about Genealogy and Family History.

We welcome and encourage visits to Local History by members of the public, community groups and schools.

You can either have a self-guided tour or staff can design your tour to meet the needs of your group. If you have a particular area of interest, please let us know at the time of booking.

For further information or to book a tour please contact the Local History on 9400 4746 or email [local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au](mailto:local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au)



Brumby roundup at Lake Goollelal ca. 1923



Karen Newman and Angela Calitz demonstrating Picture Joondalup to the Marmion Probus Club.



Chas Monk speaking about family history to the Marmion Probus Club.