

# Family and Local History Newsletter

Autumn 2013 EDITION

Joondalup Library, Local History  
102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup 6027

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

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the newsletter which is designed to provide useful information when unlocking your past. If you need assistance please contact Local History on 9400 4746 or visit Joondalup Library, Local History for a true sense of discovery.

## Genie Exchange

Local History hosts the Genie Exchange where family historians come together and help each other by sharing tips and advice. Why not join in and research your family history in a warm and friendly environment.

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

## Founders and Survivors [www.findersandsurvivors.org](http://www.findersandsurvivors.org)

Do you have a convict ancestor who was transported to Tasmania? Founders and Survivors is a free Australian website that tracks the lives of 73,000 men, women, and children who were transported to Tasmania. Many survived their convict experience and went on to help build a new society.

The records created of the Tasmanian convict founders are the most detailed descriptions of the lives of men, women and children created anywhere in the world in the 19th Century. No other settler society has such a record of their founders' heights, eye colour, literacy, skills, family history, problems and temperament.



Part of the project involves comparing the physical attributes of the convicts with their descendants who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in 1914.

Many of the convict records are online and, in some cases, you can view the original documents. (partially reproduced with permission from the Founders and Survivors website).

## 1911 Census

The 1911 UK Census can now be viewed on Ancestry.com. Joondalup, Whitford, Woodvale and Duncraig libraries subscribe to the Ancestry.com.au Library Edition. This is great news for family historians because it means that you can access Ancestry.com for free in the library. Ask a staff member on your next visit.

## Findmypast.co.uk

Findmypast.co.uk has recently published millions of pages of historical newspapers from across England, Scotland and Wales on their website.

The collection contains local newspapers for the period 1710 – 1950. Over 200 titles are included and more are being added to the database all the time.

Anyone tracing their family tree will be keen to search this collection. The newspapers perfectly complement traditional family history records and can add a whole new dimension to your research. You can access the Findmypast.co.uk website for free at the State Library of Western Australia.



## Service Records of Soldiers in the British Army

More than nine million men and women are estimated to have served in the British armed forces during WWI. Many of the surviving service records from this period can be found in The UK National Archives, and can be used for tracing an ancestor who fought in the Great War.

When war broke out in August 1914, the British Army numbered just over 730,000 men. Unlike the other major European countries, where conscription allowed huge numbers of men to be rapidly brought under arms, Britain relied on a small, professional defence force. But the scale of the conflict between the Allies and the Central Powers demanded massive increases in Britain's military manpower resources. By the end of the war in 1918, more than seven million men and women had seen service in the British Army.

Unfortunately, more than half of their service records were destroyed in September 1940, when a German bombing raid struck the War Office repository in Arnside Street, London. However, an estimated 2.8 million service records survived the bombing

or were reconstructed from the records of the Ministry of Pensions. This means that there is a roughly 40% chance of finding the service record of a soldier who was discharged at some time between 1914 and 1920.

The service records that survived the Arnside Street fire in September 1940 – the so-called 'Burnt Documents' – are located in the series WO 363. Due to fire and water damage, they are too delicate to be handled and are consequently only available to the public on microfilm.

The 'Unburnt Documents' – were recovered by the War Office from the Ministry of Pensions and other government departments after the Second World War. They mainly concern men who were discharged (with pensions) from the army because of sickness or wounds received in battle between 1914 and 1920. Aside from the usual military forms, most of the individual files in WO 364 thus also contain detailed medical records.



Dominion forces: 1st Canadian Division  
(Reproduced with permission from the National Archives website)

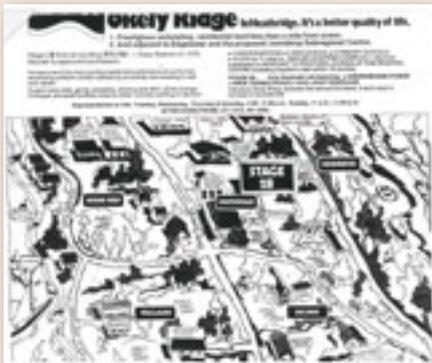
The records of those who served in the British army after 1920 are still held by the Ministry of Defence. Service records for soldiers in the Dominion Forces of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa can be found in their respective national archives.

# Heathridge

**D**o you live in Heathridge? Heathridge is located within Mooro country. The Mooro Boodjar people lived in the area prior to European settlement.

In the early 1900s, Heathridge formed part of the Old North Road Stock Route. Cows from the Hastings and Darch Dairy Farms wandered through the area, grazing on the native heath type vegetation that grew on the sand ridges.

When Kaiser Aetna (Aust.) Pty. Ltd started developing the land for residential use in 1974, they decided to call the newly created suburb 'Heathridge' after the native heath type vegetation.



Okley Ridge in Heathridge Stage 2B Real Estate pamphlet ca. 1975.

When development commenced, the land was completely cleared of bush. Land in Heathridge was first sold at auction in June 1976. The average price of a block was approximately \$8,000.



Heathridge Land Auction brochure ca. 2 April 1977.



Digging Ocean Reef Road, Heathridge ca.1987.

The mass clearing of land and the subsequent clearing of nearby suburbs such as Ocean Reef led to the exposure of sand and dust. The white sand became airborne when the winds blew and caused havoc for the new residents of Heathridge. In January 1979, a group of Heathridge residents petitioned the Wanneroo Shire Council complaining that the sand was scratching the paintwork on their cars and that their house furnishings were being ruined.

During Heathridge's early years none of the major roads that exist today had been developed. The suburb was remote from shops and services. Tobina Asbridge explains:

*You could only get into Heathridge by going along Wanneroo Road. Marmion Avenue didn't exist, except as a bush track. ....from the Whitfords Shopping Centre out to us, there was no road. So you had to go along Wanneroo Road to get anywhere. .... We used to virtually drive to Nollamara to get fish and chips. (Asbridge Oral History E0494).*

The isolation helped to foster a real sense of community amongst the residents of the new suburb. Muriel Casey recalls:

*(we) had lots of street parties ... all night do's. One house would be the nursery; one house the music room; one the toilet stop, etc. One house would supply the electrics. The vacant block was where the rubbish got burned. Most of the people in the street attended. (Casey Oral History E0480).*

In August 1980, a group of approximately forty women met in a local resident's house. They decided to have regular meetings to support each other in this new, isolated area. Members participated in art and craft classes, personal development and recreational activities. Child care was provided for a small fee. Over the next nineteen years the group (now known as the Heathridge/Beldon Women's Community Group) continued to evolve. Over the years the shire provided premises for them to meet. In 2009, this became known as The Spiers Centre in honour of much loved and respected Wanneroo pioneer Mrs Frances (Granny) Spiers who was actively involved in all community activities.

Heathridge continues to be a thriving community that includes sporting facilities, a recreation centre and several parks that have wide open spaces for the residents to enjoy. Joondalup Library Local History has photographs, oral histories and stories about Heathridge in its collection.



Insert photo of Charles Ariti, Rosaria Artiti and Mrs Frances (Granny) Spiers.

# Family History for Beginners Course

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? Joondalup Library, Local History, will be conducting the popular “Family History for Beginners Course” in 2013.

The “Family History for Beginners Course” costs \$27.00 per person and includes a comprehensive Beginners Guide. To book please phone Local History on 9400 4746 or email [local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au](mailto:local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au)

For new and updates on other events and activities in the Library, subscribe online to the library e-Newsletter or check out the City Event Calendar at [joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au).

Day	Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday	16 April	6.45pm–9.00pm	Joondalup Library, Local History
Tuesday	28 May	10.00am–12.00pm	Whitford Library



## How to Store Newspaper Clippings



Many of us have kept paper copies of newspaper articles and photographs. These may be birth, death, marriage and engagement notices or it may be that either yourself, a family member or a friend has appeared in the local paper. So how do you preserve these precious memories?

- Photocopy the newspaper clipping onto acid-free paper to preserve the information it contains
- Store the photocopied clipping unfolded and separate from other items inside acid-free archival folders
- Keep the original newspaper clipping and interleave it with sheets of buffered paper
- Slip fragile clippings inside a clear polyester sleeve with a sheet of buffered paper.



**Joondalup Library, Local History**

**T:** 08 9400 4746

**F:** 08 9400 4743

**E:** [local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au](mailto:local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au)  
102 Boas Avenue Joondalup WA 6027  
PO Box 21 Joondalup WA 6919

**[joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au)**

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

## Local History Motion Picture Collection

Have you ever wanted to know what people did for fun at Quinns Rocks in the late 1950s and early 1960s? Have you wondered what life was like in the Shire of Wanneroo in 1979?

The City of Joondalup has an interesting collection of historic motion pictures that are now available on DVD. The DVDs may be loaned from the Joondalup Library, Reference and Local History section or search and request on the library catalogue.