

Family and Local History Newsletter

Joondalup Library, Local History
102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup 6027

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

Western Australian Heritage Festival Saturday 16 April to Wednesday 18 May 2016

Discoveries and rediscoveries is the third festival to celebrate the wealth of heritage, history and stories that have forged this nation and state. Hundreds of events are being held around WA and details can be found at nationaltrust.org.au/heritage-festival. City of Joondalup Libraries have put together a fabulous series of events to discover and explore WA heritage.

Gold

Wednesday 20 April, 10.00am
City of Joondalup Libraries – Duncraig
Richard Offen charts the history of gold and its use in Australia.

History on a Plate

Thursday 21 April, 10.00am
City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup
Mike Lefroy talks about early European contact on the Western Australian coast.

Where The Hell Are We? The development of maps

Saturday 30 April, 10.00am
City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup
Steve Howell explores the history of maps, with special emphasis on Western Australian Maps from 1800.

A Port for a Storm

Wednesday 4 May, 6.00pm
City of Joondalup Libraries – Woodvale
Mike Lefroy, great grandson of the harbour's designer C Y O'Connor, shares stories of harbour development in the Swan River Colony.

Tips of the Trade: How to Search Genealogy Websites
Saturday 14 May, 10.00am
City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup Library
Local genealogy enthusiasts Olive and Wendy share their Tricks of the Trade.

Free Genealogy Websites and Parish Records
Saturday 14 May, 1.00pm
City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup
Olive and Wendy share savvy and cost effective search sites and tools.

Pick up a program or ask a staff member for details. All sessions are \$2.00 and include refreshments. Bookings are essential online for all events via the City's online event calendar at joondalup.wa.gov.au or call 9400 4751.

Findmypast – What is it all about?

A useful resource for family history researchers, Findmypast has a collection of over two billion records that include census records, passenger lists, births, marriages and death records, court records, wills and more from Australia, Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Berriman family in horse drawn transport ca. 1910.



Time to Spare?

Have you ever been into the library and had a minute or two to spare? Next time that this happens you might like to log onto the free internet service and have a look at Ancestry.com or Find My Past. Just ask a staff member where they are located in the eLibrary.

Ancestry - Timesaving Tips:

Use the Card Catalogue

Narrow your results by searching a single collection by keyword, location, date, country etc.

Try different approaches

Try searching under your ancestor's maiden name as well as her married name or you could miss a whole side of your family.

Tweak your search criteria

If you're unsure of exact names, dates or locations, an 'Exact' option will appear when you start typing a name. The Exact box provides options to widen the search criteria.

Focus your search

If you have an ancestor who lived in Australia during the early 1900s, try searching for that person by using the electoral rolls. They are a great starting point. The electoral roll provides information such as the person's name, address, gender and occupation.

Don't get hung up

Try not to get hung up on one person or collection. Search for that person's mother, father or siblings as they could lead you back to the ancestor that you are seeking.

Pioneers and More

They came here in the early days with little more than hope, some knowledge and a skill or two enabled them to cope.

But strong of arm and heart they were with dreams of better life, consoling one another through the heartache and the strife.

Along with many other folk who came from distant lands, they formed a small community this pioneer band.

The land was rich and fertile with grass to graze the stock, and kangaroo or wood duck would grace the cooking pot.

With grit and plain hard yakka they toiled to clear the land, of banksia and twisted root by heavy horse and hand.

The summer sun was hard to bear along with nagging flies, but battle on from day to day as sweat would sting their eyes.

But winter could be cruel too with driving wind and rain, sometimes a total loss of crops would mean they start again.

The fruits of labour would be sold to markets far away, a journey on a lonely track could take a working day.

And so these pioneers formed a board to build a road, to make it easier to pull their slow and heavy load.

With convict labour now on hand a road of sorts was made, two lines of heavy wooden blocks were tediously laid.

With better roads for travelling the population grew, those early pioneers would form the town of Wanneroo.

So much is owed these stalwarts and their legacy is clear, just take a look around you not forgotten, they are here.

By Peter Bramhald of Yanchep



Cecil (Tiddles) Cockman with truckload of cauliflowers ca. 1945.



Henry (Sr.) and Henry (Jnr.) Dennis at work at their sawmill ca. 1929.



Tom Ostle cleaning his hands after laying bitumen at the new Wanneroo Road Board office ca. 1960.

Oral History Transcripts

Following the successful transfer of the Oral History audio collection from cassette tapes to CDs, Local History has been progressing to the next stage - full text digital transcripts. The completed transcripts are in PDF format, and are available through the library catalogue and via a link on the Oral History webpage at joondalup.wa.gov.au.

You might like to read about Ruby Benjamin. A lifelong love of animals and concern for their welfare saw Mrs Benjamin join the RSPCA and then become the founder of the Swan Animal Haven. The Swan Animal Haven rescues and cares for abandoned dogs until compassionate homes can be found for them. In November 1985, Mrs Benjamin created the Ruby Benjamin Foundation. The Foundation encourages and assists low income earners with the cost of sterilisation of their pets to help reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs.

Thirty-two oral histories from the 665 recorded interviews in the collection have been transcribed. If you would like to know more about the project, or assist with the transcription, contact Local History on **9400 4746**.

The Quarry at Edgewater

Limestone was quarried in Joondalup at a site in Edgewater from 1961 to 1976. Over a period of more than 100 years between 1874 and the development of Joondalup in 1979 there were 53 separate operating lime kilns and associated quarries in the Wanneroo/Joondalup area. High grade limestone was processed onsite in kilns and the lime produced was used in building for the manufacture of cement. It was also used in mining for gold production, or for use as flux in the manufacture of steel or cast iron, and for agriculture to neutralise soils. At the peak of operation just after World War II, the region was the nation's major supplier of high grade lime used in the gold mines and for purifying water in Perth.

The site at Edgewater was exploited for only 15 years and the limestone was of a moderate or lower grade and mainly used as a sub base for roads and paved areas or for masonry work such as house foundations. Some large pieces were also used for marine groyne core.

It is unclear who actually operated the site at Edgewater. Possible operators are the Shire of Wanneroo, Menchetti Lime or Ralph Snader operating as 'Yanchep Lime'.

In 1988 the quarry was the site for the Wanneroo City Council's major bicentennial event "The Limestone Connection", a three act play written by Brian Peddie for the occasion. The play had a cast of 100 people mostly from the local community. It was described as 'a celebration of life in Wanneroo from the dreamtime to the present'. Community groups such as senior citizens, surf lifesavers, neighbourhood centres, schools and bands were represented in the drama. The play was sponsored by the City of Wanneroo, Landcorp, the Australian Bicentennial Authority and local businesses. It ran for five nights from 1 – 5 November 1988.

The quarry was an ideal site as it had a natural amphitheatre and was entirely appropriate as the limestone industry was one of the districts earliest industries. The Joondalup Local History Collection has a number of historical documents relating to the event. These include newspaper clippings, posters, programs for the play and the script.

New Resources

Family history researchers may be interested in two new resources that have recently been added to the Genealogy collection:

Tracing your Huguenot Ancestors: a guide for family historians by Kathy Chater, introduces the possibility of a Huguenot connection to researchers and directs readers to the many sources that they can use to uncover the Huguenot ancestry they may not have realised they had. The author's expert knowledge of the subject provides essential reading for anyone researching family immigrant history through Britain, Europe, North America, South Africa and the West Indies.

Ancestors and relatives: genealogy, identity and community by Eviatar Zerubavel, introduces researchers to the concept that genealogies are more than mere records of history. The author combines the rise of genetics and biological breakthroughs with social logic and traditions in tracing our ancestors. This book provides a new way of understanding family, ethnicity, nationhood, race and humanity.



Tracing Royal Ancestry

Has anyone told you that you look like royalty? Do they tell you that you have a certain 'je ne sai quoi'?

If you have British ancestors, then there's a chance that you may be related to the Queen. According to research conducted by Ancestry.com, 2% of people currently living in the UK are related to the Royal Family. Here are some tips to help you trace your royal relatives:

- **Explore surnames.** Cross-reference surnames in your family tree with those found in Burke's Commoners and Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland.
- **Seek out wealth.** Look for evidence of wealthy ancestors. A high number of domestic staff listings on census records, property and businesses documented in wills and probate records, and ancestors who were extensive travellers listed in immigration records travelling in First Class, are all signs people had money.
- **Investigate titles.** Explore the age and origins of any ancestors with titles, which are listed in the census
- **Look for places.** If your family's surname is also the name of a place – for example a town or a parish, it is possible they once owned significant property or had a title in the area
- **Find the Normans.** Many early Normans had direct royal connections, so if you can trace back this far you may be able to find a link to William the Conqueror, or investigate the meaning of your surname and any potential Norman link.



Queen Elizabeth II.
(The Royal Household
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Prince William, Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Prince Charles.
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Connect with the City



This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

Beginner-Friendly Tips for Using Genealogy Websites

1. Start with a general search on your ancestor's name. Run additional searches as needed using initials, maiden name, nicknames and spelling variations.
2. Pay the most attention to top matches. Most genealogy websites prioritise your results to put the best matches at the top.
3. Use search filters. These let you sort matches by place, time period, record type and more. Remove filters if you get too few matches.
4. Note potential matches. You may find records that look mostly right but have important discrepancies. Note possible matches for further evaluation later.
5. Broaden name searches. When you don't know someone's full name, enter part of his name plus the name of a parent or spouse. This is a great way to find women's maiden or married names or to find a couple's children.
6. Look for less-common names. Ancestors with common surnames sometimes had family members with less-common names. Try searching for those names instead – and then look for your ancestor in their records.
7. Explore specific record sets. Some sites have database catalogues or lists. Search or browse within specific databases, such as collections of death or marriage records from an ancestral county.
8. Find search advice. Look for search tips on sites you search, such as whether a site lets you search with wildcards to catch similarly spelled names (such as cars to find Carsidy, Carseldine and Carsley).