

# 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

## Royal Sappers and Miners in Western Australia

The Royal Sappers and Miners in Western Australia website [sappers-minerswa.com](http://sappers-minerswa.com) explores the history of the Corps' presence in Western Australia. It contains the names and profiles of many of the Sappers and their officers from the Royal Engineers who served in the Swan River Colony from 1837-1839 and 1850-1862. Most of the men garrisoned in the Colony returned 'home'. Some married and had children. Some died here.

Around 20% of the men settled and made a new life in Australia. All of them left a legacy of buildings and infrastructure that can still be seen in today's modern Western Australia.

The Sappers and Miners who came to the Swan River Colony from 1850 until 1862 were primarily sent to give the convicts instruction in trades such as building and road construction. These were trades that would benefit the Colony and were necessary to its development.

Partially reproduced with permission from Diane Oldman, creator and author of the Royal Sappers and Miners in Western Australia website.

Genie Exchange –  
Unlocking the past,  
for the future

**Joondalup Local History –  
Friday, 10.00am – 12.00noon  
Woodvale Library –  
Tuesday, 10.00am – 12.00noon**

Come along to the Genie Exchange and research your family history with help from skilled and knowledgeable volunteers in a warm and friendly environment. No need to book. Special resources for research are available to borrow from the Local History section at Joondalup Library and from Woodvale Library.

## Old Photos

Old photos don't just show ancestors, they often include their friends. If you are able to, share those photos with their descendants to spark an exchange of images and stories.

Rose Vlahov with family and friends at the forestry camp, Wanneroo ca. 1934.



# National Trust Heritage Festival 2017 Having a Voice

Once again the City of Joondalup will participate in the National Heritage Festival. This year's theme is 'Having a Voice'. Pick up the complete program at a City Library, or visit the City's website at [joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au) or call 9400 4751.

## Writing your Family History

Thursday 6 April 2017  
10.00am – 12.00noon  
Joondalup Library  
Cost \$2.00

Genealogists are in the business of storytelling.

Join professional genealogist and author Loreley Morling and discover how to collect those valuable family documents and memories. Learn how to turn them into a story that relatives will treasure for generations.

## Voices from Yesteryear

Saturday 6 May 2017  
10.00am – 11.30am  
Joondalup Library  
Cost \$2.00

Learn how your ancestors had a voice through the use of newspapers, electoral rolls and other records. See how political and public records gave your ancestors a voice which can help you research your family tree.



## Researching the Voices from Yesteryear

Saturday 6 May 2017  
1.00pm – 2.30pm  
Joondalup Library  
Cost \$2.00

Join family historians Olive and Wendy and learn how to search through freely available public records and discover tips, tricks and hints to help you maximise the results of your search.

Do you have a tricky question or two, or three? Olive and Wendy will answer those difficult questions at the end of the session.

## PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Tom Parin and the Wanneroo school bus at Sexton property ca. 1947.
2. Anastas and Constantine Vosnacos ca. 1930s.
3. Linda Lindsay (nee Skewes) graduation from Claremont Teachers Training College ca. 1930s.
4. Wanneroo State School children ca. 1939.
5. Joyce Sears ca. 1930s.
6. Parin family in their vineyard ca. 1927.
7. Gay Chambers and family at Hillarys Beach ca. 1955.

# Genealogy Journals

The Joondalup Library Local History subscribes to the following hard copy journals that are available for loan. These publications offer a wide range of articles that may be of interest to the family history researcher.

## Western Ancestor: Journal of the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.

This publication contains feature articles, a useful information section, special interest group reports, the What's On - Society News and information on the services offered at the Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) in Bayswater.

## WAGS Special Interest Groups Newsletters

Written by WAGS members these newsletters cover specific areas of interest. Copies of the Settlers Gazette, Enrolled Pensioner Guards, Convict Links, Bygone Times, The Scottish Forum and The Irish Group are available.



**Ancestor: the quarterly journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc.** This comprehensive journal contains informative articles, a research corner, members' queries, Genies on the web,

book reviews, What's On Member Societies and news from the Public Records Office Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.



## History West (Royal Western Australian Historical Society)

This monthly journal has several feature articles, reports on the activities of the society and items of

historical interest from around Western Australia.

# Writing your story: how to bring back 'lost' memories

Over time the circumstances surrounding memories can become difficult to recall. Diary and letter writing is not as prevalent today. How can you create new memories or start to conceptualise old memories for later. It can be as easy as starting to write one brief story about your life per week or using these tools to bring back 'lost' memories:

- **Free associate.** Start with a blank page and write a person, place or event at the top. Then begin with "I remember" and write anything that comes to mind, even if it's not a complete thought. For example, if a page was titled "Grandma," you might write 'sewing' (she was a skilled seamstress), 'teddy bear' (she gave you one for Christmas when you were six), 'blue' (her favourite colour) and 'Cambridge' (the street where she lived). Keep going until you run out of memories.
- **Immerse yourself.** Go to a place related to a time in your life you want to recall. Visit your childhood neighbourhood; walk around your primary school and/or high school; have a drink at the pub where your friends gathered when you were young. Listen to the music and eat the food you liked.
- **Read about the places and times you want to remember.** Books, contemporary news articles and photos detailing events and eras like the assassination of President Kennedy, man walking on the moon, the death of Princess Diana and the turn of the millennium will bring back mental images and memory snippets of what you were doing at the time.
- **Reach out.** Ask people who knew you when you were growing up - what they remember about being in primary school; the Year 12 school ball or the day of your father's funeral. Their memories might fill in where yours gets fuzzy.



Launch Eleanor on Loch McNess, Yanchep National Park ca. 1940.



Lake Gngangara Picnic Day ca. 1947.

# The Tapping Family

The Tapping's were early pioneers in the Wanneroo area. In 1886 William and Mary Ann Tapping settled at the 16 Mile peg, Wanneroo Road (now the corner of Wanneroo and Dundobar Roads) and ran a dairy. Before settling in Wanneroo, William was a boatman on the Swan River. He was captain of the passenger ship *The Friends* which ferried people to and from Fremantle. William also worked in the pearling industry in the north-west.

William and Mary had eight children: Eunice, William Jr, Arthur de Grey, Frederick, Thomas, Ethel, Eva and Maud.

In 1898 William and Mary's son, William Jr and his wife Lucy Jane Tapping, were living in a small corrugated iron house at the 18 Mile peg, Wanneroo Road (near where the intersection of Wanneroo

Road and Joondalup Drive is now). The family ran a small market garden there.

William Jr., Lucy and their four children George, Veronica, Mary Ann and Ada moved to Pinjar Road, near Lake Mariginiup in 1905 where they started a dairy and vegetable garden. To earn extra money William cut rushes from the lake and sold them to Monteith's Rope Works in Subiaco, carting them there in his truck.

The Tapping family were active members of their local community. William Jr. served on the Wanneroo Road Board between 1905 and 1948 representing the Central and North Wards and was involved in the Wanneroo Agricultural Society.

William Jr. and Lucy's son George, was the North Wanneroo school bus driver. During the week George (who had moved to North Perth) used to camp in front of the Cockman family home on Yanchep Beach Road after doing the school bus run as it was too far to go home each day. He often joined the Cockman family for dinner and played cards in the evening with them.

George also served on the Wanneroo Road Board. He was the Board's Deputy Chairman when he was killed in 1940 while riding his motorcycle along Wanneroo Road.

Ada Tapping, William and Lucy's youngest child, married Sydney George Willis Murphy in 1937. They had two daughters Mavis and Joan. Sydney was the North Wanneroo school bus driver after George Tapping's death and also delivered the mail, newspapers and telegrams on the bus run.

William and Lucy's other daughters, Veronica (known as Dolly) and Mary Ann (known as Molly) were well known in the community. Dolly and Molly never married. They ran the Wanneroo Post Office and Telephone Exchange from 1937 to 1964. The Post Office (located on the corner of Wanneroo and Dundobar Roads) was originally the school teacher's house.



The Tapping sisters, 1961. Left to right: Ada, Mary (Molly) and Veronica (Dolly).

The sisters lived together in the house attached to the post office. Their niece, Mavis Penno (nee Murphy) loved staying with her aunts Dolly and Molly. She remembers:

'...My aunts worked long hours in the post office, particularly with the telephone exchange. They worked from eight in the morning till eight at night. The telephone service was a manual system in those days and operated with a series of plugs.

When I was very young Aunty Doll sometimes allowed me to put the plugs in to put through the local calls. The Post Office was a little shop too, where cool drinks and small items were sold...' (Penno Oral History E0332).

Dolly and Molly sold lollies, cakes, cordial, ice-blocks and small items from the shop inside the Post Office. Popular with the local children, the lollies and ice-blocks (made from fruit juice or cordial) cost between a penny and threepence.

The shop was also the newsagency. Mavis and her younger sister Joan helped their Aunt Dolly by sorting the comics, magazines and newspapers and putting them together with the letters ready for delivery. The girls also rolled the days takings in brown paper bundles as Aunt Dolly counted out the till.

Dolly wrote out the telegrams by hand and these were delivered by the school bus driver or sent home with the students.

Dolly Tapping was a founding member of the Wanneroo Show and a life member of the Wanneroo Agricultural Society.

From the late 1880s, the Tapping family were active and influential members of the Wanneroo community. The suburb of Tapping is named in their honour.



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