

# 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

## What's On - Events

Joondalup Libraries, Local History will be conducting two ancestry workshops.

### Researching Your English Ancestors

Did your family come to Australia in times past and are you having trouble tracing those elusive ancestors? Learn from the experts and discover the many English family history resources available for family history researchers.

Tuesday 14 October 2014  
10.00am to 11.30am  
Woodvale Library

### 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?

Saturday 22 November 2014  
2.00pm to 4.00pm  
Joondalup Library - Local History

Courses cost \$27.00 and includes a comprehensive workbook.

Bookings can be made online at [joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au) or by calling 9400 4746.

Courses book up quickly so book early to save your place.

To find out about Local History resources and events, subscribe to the libraries eNewsletter, or search the website at [joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au)

## Online Resources

The State Library of Western Australia and Trove have recently added new Australian collections to their online resources. These historical records are a valuable addition to the wealth of information already available to researchers from these two sites.

State Library of Western Australia – [slwa.wa.gov.au](http://slwa.wa.gov.au)

- Mary Ann Friend's diary, 1829.
- Western Australian Railway Gazette, 1900 – 1924.
- Western Australian Railway and Tramway Gazette, 1924 – 1929.

Trove – [nla.gov.au/Australian-newspaper-plan/news](http://nla.gov.au/Australian-newspaper-plan/news)

- Adelong Argus, Tumut and Gundagai Advertiser, NSW, 1888 – 1925.
- Barrier Daily Truth, (Broken Hill), NSW, 1908; 1941 – 1954.
- Cootamundra Herald, NSW, 1877 – 1946.
- Daily Advertiser, (Wagga Wagga), NSW, 1911 – 1954.
- Miners' Advocate and Northumberland Recorder, NSW, 1873 – 1976.
- South Coast and Wollongong Argus, NSW, 1900 – 1954.
- Western Age, (Dubbo), NSW, 1933 – 1936.



# Year Three Learning Journal

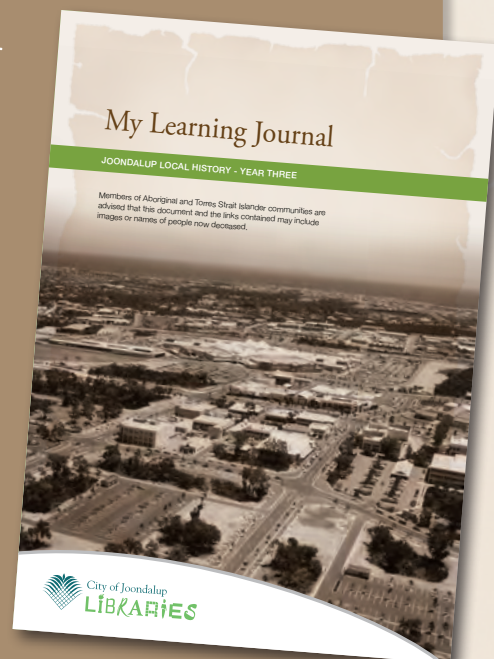
Local History has a fantastic collection of photographs, oral histories, maps, newspapers and ephemera which reflect the changes that have occurred in the local community.

Using these primary sources, a *Teaching Guide and Learning Journal* has been developed that will assist Year Three teachers to cover the following, as required by the current curriculum:

- Who lived here first and how do we know?
- How has our community changed?
- What features have been lost and what features have been retained?

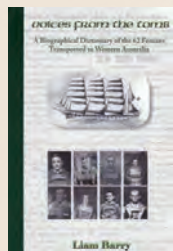
- What is the nature of the contribution made by different groups and individuals in the community?
- How and why do people choose to remember significant events of the past?

Kits containing these primary sources in hard copy and digital formats that complement the teaching guide are available for loan. Please contact Local History on 9400 4746 or email [local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au](mailto:local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au) for further information.



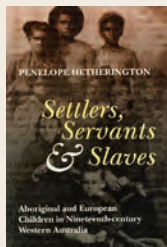
## What's New

Joondalup Libraries - Local History regularly acquire new resources to support those who are interested in local stories, the history of Western Australia and general historical research.



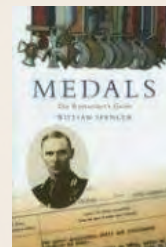
*Voices from the Tomb* by Liam Barry lists the complete biographies of the 62 Irish Fenians, classed as Irish political prisoners, who were transported from the

United Kingdom to Western Australia on the convict ship *Houhmont* in 1867. The *Houhmont* was the last convict ship to be received in Fremantle. The book includes historical photographs and the biographies of others who were closely connected to the Fenians in Western Australia.



*Settlers, servants and slaves: Aboriginal and European children in nineteenth-century Western Australia* by Penelope Hetherington documents the

exploitation of European and Aboriginal children by the settler elite of 19th century in Western Australia. In a struggling colony short of labour, early settlers relied on the labour of children. Children from the poorest families were placed in institutions and trained for the work force. Education services developed slowly and there was no system for secondary education. The book also details how people were concerned about children of mixed descent in the 1890s, and provided the rationale for 20th century 'solutions', the removal of children from their parents and the establishment of Aboriginal Reserves in Western Australia.



*Medals: the Researchers' Guide* by William Spencer focuses upon tracing individuals and actions through the medal roll. Ranging from Java to New

Orleans, Copenhagen to Egypt, Spencer explores both campaign and commemorative medals to show how the awards system helps research into an ancestor, regiment, medal or campaign.

Structured geographically for ease of use, the guide draws together information from the National Archives and the India Office records at the British Library. It provides advice on the best online access tools, places to visit, as well as strategies for extending research into sources such as the census and the War Diaries.

Combining detailed descriptions far fuller than those in online catalogues, with an insider's knowledge on imminent record releases, this is the perfect time-saving tool for family historians, military enthusiasts and collectors alike.

# Yellagonga



**Y**ellagonga Regional Park is an iconic feature of the region; however have you ever wondered who Yellagonga was?

Yellagonga was a proud and respected chief elder and leader of the Mooro Boodjar (Nyoongar) people when the first colonists arrived. He was the brother of Midgegooroo and uncle of Yagan.

It is said that Yellagonga was born around 1780. He would have been 49 years old when the first colonists arrived in Western Australia.

In June 1829, Yellagonga and his family witnessed Lieutenant Irwin stepping ashore from his boat the HMS *Sulphur* onto the banks of the Swan River to establish the new colony. Yellagonga offered water to Lieutenant Irwin from a nearby spring and Lieutenant Irwin offered his hand.

In 1832, Robert Lyon wrote a series of articles for the Perth Gazette about the local indigenous people:

“He went into the bush and met Yellagonga. Yellagonga gave Lyon assurances of peace and friendship and presented him with a woomera and a spear. Lyon states that, Yellagonga is the most distinguished for a humane, peaceable disposition. And yet he is a man of the most distinguished martial courage. When he is fully aroused, no warrior, not even Yagan, dare stand before him. To him the settlers are greatly indebted for the protection of their lives and property.”

Yellagonga died on the 10th June 1843, at peace with the colonists, apparently respected by them and known to them as **The King of Perth**. It was under that title that the newspaper, *The Inquirer*, referred

to him in headlines. They wrote: “The mild amiable Yellagonga, acknowledged by the natives as the possessor of vast tracks of land between Perth and Fremantle, is no more. He fell from a rock on the bank of the river and was drowned.”

It may be considered as thanks to Yellagonga that Perth (the centre of Yellagonga’s district), did not suffer the attacks and murders of other districts. He deserves credit for co-existing with the white settlers.

Yellagonga was a very wise and respected elder and leader of his people. It is for that reason that the large regional park in the City of Joondalup was named in his honour.

# Interpreting Old Handwriting

You may find when you're searching on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch and FindMyPast that some of the records have been incorrectly transcribed. Sometimes the transcribers have mistakenly recorded a long 's' as an 'f'. Whilst the errors are obvious once you find the entry, it is something to bear in mind when searching.

Another source of difficulty is thorn - the Old English character which has now been replaced by 'th'.

Originally written like a 'p' but with an ascender, over time it came to be written more like a 'y', and in print a 'y' was often the only character available in the font.

This led to the common misreading in modern times of 'the' as 'ye', even though contemporary readers would always have read it correctly.

**Note:** The first printing of the King James Bible in 1611 used a 'y' with a superscript 'e' for 'the' and you'll often see a similar form in parish registers, especially when referring to dates.

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## Joondalup Library, Local History

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Connect with the City



*This document is available in alternate formats upon request.*

# Tips for Researching Irish Ancestors

## Discover where in Ireland your ancestors originated.

Try to discover the name of the town or village. You can find this out by checking:

- Family archives
- Census records. You can access the census records by using Ancestry.com and/or FindMyPast
- Birth, death and marriage certificates
- Immigration records.

## Search through every possible record in Australia

The National Archives of Australia and the Western Australian Archives have a comprehensive collection of immigration records. Use the archives to find out as much information as possible to help you to identify your ancestors who lived in Ireland.

## Talk to living relatives

Talk to your unmarried and/or childless relatives. In Irish families, almost as many people stayed single as married. Unmarried relatives were often the custodians of the family archives.

## Beware of name variants

Sometimes an O', Mc or Mac prefix was dropped from the surname. When searching through the records and indexes, look for the surname both with the prefix and without it.