

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

How to learn what your ancestor's life was really like

Genealogists are increasingly interested in knowing not just their ancestors' names and important dates, but also what they did every day, where they went and what they saw – what their lives were really like.

Understanding what your ancestor's life was like will:

- Improve your research by helping you form theories about your ancestors' lives and figure out where to look for records. For example, learning about the history of German immigrants to your family's home in South Australia might help you see that the overwhelming majority came from a particular part of Germany. Maybe that's where your family came from too.
- If your ancestors lived in a country town in Australia, it's worth getting in touch with the local history society. They often have information about the people who lived in the area and where they originally came from.
- Help you understand your family's story and put it together in a way that makes sense. This is an important step for writing your family history.

Here are a few ways that you can step into the shoes of your ancestors and learn more about their everyday lives.

Go beyond basic records

If your grandfather was in an orphanage, go online and read newspapers that were written at that time. It will give you an idea of what the living conditions were like.

Read a book such as *Tracing your ancestors' childhood: a guide for family historians* by Sue Wilkes.

It describes childhood experiences at home, school, work and institutions. Reserve this book at any of the City of Joondalup Libraries.

The City of Joondalup Libraries – Local History and Reference Library has books written about suburbs and country towns in Western Australia. There are also magazines and journals such as *Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society* that contain articles about people, places and events that took place in WA.

Visit the places

Go to the family farms, neighbourhoods, churches and schools. If the places no longer exist or you can't get there, find similar places.



PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. First communion at St. Anthony's Church ca. 1932.
2. Wanneroo State School students ca. 1911.
3. Royaards children at the 9 Mile peg ca. 1964.

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Research buildings

Another way to virtually visit an ancestor's home is to learn everything you can about it:

- When it was built
- When your family acquired it
- Who lived there before and after your own family
- What it looked like
- How it changed over the years.

Online sources that you might like to check are:

- The Local History Library in your area. Local History Libraries are a great source of information. They often contain old maps, street guides, photos and books written by people who lived and/or worked in the local area.
- Municipal Heritage Inventory. All local governments in Western Australia have a Municipal Heritage Inventory. They contain the name and address of the property and include description notes, historical notes and a statement of significance.
- Heritage Council of Western Australia heritage.wa.gov.au
- National Trust of Western Australia nationaltrust.org.au/wa/
- Post Office Directories slwa.wa.gov.au
- Trove Digitised Newspapers trove.nla.gov.au
- The National Library of Australia has digitised the major newspapers of each state.
- State Library of Western Australia slwa.wa.gov.au. The State Library has a wide range of resources that include photos, diaries, journals, maps, electoral rolls, post office directories, microfilmed and digitised newspapers (published in Western Australia) such as the *Albany Advertiser*, *Kalgoorlie Miner* and *The Midlands Advocate*.

- Electoral Rolls can provide the names, addresses and occupations of adults who were resident at an address. You can access the electoral rolls on ancestry.com

Peruse local histories and guides

Guides to area history help you to learn where your family would have gone to church and school and what they saw each day. Local histories published when your ancestor was alive give you a first person account of places and events.

Find old photos and maps

Libraries and historical societies are full of historical photos of buildings, streets and neighbourhoods. Try searching for a place in trove.nla.gov.au Picture Joondalup has a large collection of photos from the City of Joondalup and City of Wanneroo area. They can be accessed either in the library or online joondalup.wa.gov.au

Gather relatives memories

Look for family journals, photos, letters and diaries. You may have a family member who kept a journal when she went youth hostelling in England during the war years. It may include sketches, photos, pamphlets, postcards and drawings that will give you a very good idea of what life was like at that time.

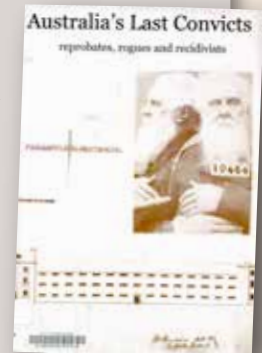
Write it down

When you have compiled all of your research, put it in a written narrative. The City of Joondalup Libraries has books such as *How to write and publish your family story in 10 easy steps*, by Noeline Kyle, that can provide advice and guidance.

New resources

Family history researchers may be interested in two new books recently added to the Genealogy collection:

The family tree guide to DNA testing and genetic genealogy by Blaine Bettinger.



This easy to use guide explains the how and why of genealogy DNA testing. Bettinger gives advice on choosing the right test to answer your specific genealogy questions, and helps to demystify and interpret the test results. He also discusses the ethics and future of genetic genealogy, and how adoptees can benefit from it.

Australia's last convicts: reprobates, rogues and recidivists by Lorraine Clarke and Cherie Strickland.

Genealogical researchers Clarke and Strickland from Swan Genealogy have put together a portrait of 74 inmates from Fremantle Prison. From the late 1880s until 1912 these men reoffended and went back to prison after serving the original sentences for which they were transported. Photographs and a short biography tell the stories of some of the last convicts to be sent to Western Australia.

Five Genealogy DOs and one DON'T on Ancestry.com.au

Most family history researchers use **Ancestry.com.au** to take advantage of all of its databases, here are some helpful steps to aid your search:

- Do search specific collections. It's easy to head straight for the global search on the home page, but the other, smaller collections listed in the Card Catalogue may turn up hidden gems.
- Do create a game plan for your search. It's tempting (and it can be useful) to just type in a name and hit Search. But you end up with a lot of results to wade through. Once you get past the relevant results on the first couple of pages, try a different approach.
- Set a specific goal for the type of information you want to find and the kind of record that would contain this information.
- Adjusting your search terms accordingly (and using filters when you view your matches) will bring more accurate results.
- Do familiarise yourself with everything Ancestry.com.au has to offer. From trees and shaky leaf hints (yes, these can be very helpful when used with care) to historical records, message boards (which are free for anyone to use) and AncestryDNA.
- Do try **Ancestry.com.au** for free at any of the City of Joondalup Libraries.

- Do revisit your searches every so often, as databases are frequently added and updated. New results may show up.

Here is one don't:

- Don't get frustrated. Or at least, don't let frustration turn you off genealogy. The more you experiment with the site, the more genealogy results you will discover.

Ask genealogists such as the Genie Exchange volunteers for their help and advice. The Genie Exchange is held:

City of Joondalup Libraries – Local History - Friday mornings, 10.00am - 12.00pm

City of Joondalup Libraries – Woodvale – Tuesday mornings, 10.00am - 12.00pm

(Partially reproduced from the 8 August 2016 Family Tree Magazine Genealogy Insider eNewsletter)

From Wanneroo Hospital to Joondalup Health Campus

In 1975 the Wanneroo Shire Council sent a deputation to the Minister of Health to discuss the urgent need for a hospital for the area's growing population. Residents of Wanneroo also fought hard to get the facility even displaying road signs reading 'Drive Slowly – No Hospital.'

Several sites were proposed and discarded before the Joondalup site was approved. An 85 bed general and maternity hospital, costing \$3.96 million for the first stage, was planned. Although welcomed by the Shire and residents the size of the hospital was 'grossly inadequate' for Wanneroo's needs. By this time Wanneroo's population had grown to 80,000 people. Councillors wanted a 200 bed hospital and casualty department to be built immediately but the State Government refused.

Work started on the hospital in 1978 but in April 1979 confrontation arose over the use of non-union labour. Violence broke out when cars carrying non-union labour tried to enter the site and police and workers were involved in a brawl. Four unionists were arrested which sparked walk-offs at other building sites including the Wanneroo Shire Administration Office site. Work resumed after the Trades and Labour Council won its battle to have only union labour employed on the hospital site.

Opening in August 1980 the hospital and new Shire of Wanneroo Administration Office (which had opened in December 1979) were set amid the bush - the first two buildings on the site of the planned new City of Joondalup Sub-Regional Centre.



PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Wanneroo Hospital, ca. 1981.
2. Wanneroo Hospital emergency entrance and ambulance bay, 1990.

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Controversy dogged the hospital throughout the 1980s with wards being closed due to lack of funding and the State Government being blamed for providing a sub-standard service to residents. Debate raged over levels of service and facilities and the continuously delayed plans for an upgrade. However local residents came out in support of the staff and the care they had received at the hospital.

Plans to expand the hospital were proposed from 1988 but it wasn't until 1995 that a commitment to upgrade the hospital was announced by the Health Minister Graham Kierath. In 1996, Health Care of Australia was appointed to run the existing hospital while redeveloping the facility into the Joondalup Health Campus. The \$49 million project increased the number of beds from 85 to 335 and provided a 24-hour accident and emergency department. A medical centre, diagnostic, pharmacy services and allied services such as speech therapy and physiotherapy were also provided for the growing needs of residents.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Aerial view of Shire of Wanneroo Offices and Wanneroo Hospital, 1980.
2. Construction of Wanneroo Hospital, 1980.
3. Newly named Joondalup Health Campus, 1996.
4. Joondalup Health Campus, 2000.
5. Joondalup Health Campus Aged Care Block Wanneroo Wing, 2010.
6. Joondalup Health Campus emergency, 2011.

Concerns were raised over the privatisation of the hospital, the selection of Health Care of Australia to redevelop the facility and the lack of community consultation. The long-awaited upgrade was of importance to residents particularly the many young families in the area. Throughout 1996 and 1997 there were public meetings and much discussion about the pros and cons of privatisation and the affect on hospital services.

The Joondalup Health Campus was opened by the Premier Richard Court on 11 March 1998. The successful open day gave residents the chance to tour the hospital and see what health care services were now available to them. The new campus also had teaching hospital status with the University of Western Australia.

In 2000 an after-hours GP service was introduced to curb emergency department waiting times.

By 2004 Joondalup Health Campus had the second busiest emergency department in the metropolitan area after Royal Perth Hospital.

Ramsay Health Care took over the running of the hospital in 2007.

A \$393 million redevelopment (started in 2010) delivered extensive new facilities and expanded services for public and private patients. The redevelopment was funded by the State Government (\$230 million), Ramsay Health Care (\$163 million) and the Federal Government (\$25 million) with local universities – Curtin, Edith Cowan and the University of Western Australia contributing \$6 million towards the new clinical school.



The hospital now has 664 beds with the new Wanneroo Wing named in honour of the original Wanneroo Hospital.

The last stage of the project (completed in 2013) was the new 145-bed Joondalup Private Hospital.

What started out as a small 85-bed hospital set in the bush has now grown into the modern facility known as the Joondalup Health Campus.



City of Joondalup
LIBRARIES

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