

# 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

## New Online Resources

An enormous amount of information has been made available digitally this year as part of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations.

At the National Archives of Australia you will find *Welcome to Discovering Anzacs*, [discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au](http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au), where you can explore a growing selection of government records about Australians and New Zealanders in World War I and the Boer War.

The U.K. National Archives has a new digital platform *First World War 100 - The National Archives First World War Centenary Programme*, [nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war](http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war). The programme has been created to guide people through the vast collection of historic records, letters, wills, maps, photographs, illustrations and artworks held by The National Archives. Adding content throughout a five year programme, *First World War 100* will be the central hub for the public to search and view official First World War records.

The Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) is currently working on the *11th Battalion Cheops Project*, [11btn.wags.org.au](http://11btn.wags.org.au). WAGS have launched a public appeal to assist with identifying the men from the 11th Battalion, AIF who were photographed on Khufu (Cheops) Pyramid at Giza, Egypt on 10 January 1915. Most of the 703 men who posed for this iconic image have never been identified and it is likely that this is the last photograph of many of them.



## New Acquisition *Inside History* Magazine

Local History has recently subscribed to *Inside History*, a periodical publication that explores the past, enriches the future and will be of interest to history and genealogy enthusiasts.

Published bi-monthly, *Inside History* magazine provides insightful, interesting and practical features to family history researchers. This beautifully designed magazine shows readers how to discover more about their ancestry, how to overcome roadblocks in their research and introduces them to Australia and New Zealand's social history and heritage. *Inside History* contains beautifully photographed and illustrated features of interest to all, including tales about century-old houses, country towns and heritage gardens, as well as biographies of famous, and sometimes infamous citizens.

# The Story of Connolly



The northern coastal suburb of Connolly is bounded by Shenton Avenue in the north, the Mitchell Freeway in the east, Hodges Drive in the south and Marmion Avenue in the west. It covers an area of 289 hectares.

Connolly was named in honour of John Connolly, who held a land grant in the area in 1838. Private John Connolly was part of a detachment of men from the 63rd Regiment, who under the command of Captain Irwin accompanied the first settlers to the Swan River Colony. Connolly was discharged from the army in 1834 and became a farmer after acquiring land in Upper Swan and Bindoon. Historic maps of land grants in 1871 and 1918 show John Connolly still listed as owner of the area that is now the suburb of Connolly. The Connolly land was also used for grazing, as later resident John Evans recalls:

“There were a lot of old fence lines through there too. The place must have been grazed in, in very much earlier years. The fence lines, you could trace them – one ran down where the railway now is...it went down through what is now the Arena...north-south...and running east-west were two more that crossed the north-south fence. That became Shenton Avenue and Moore Drive. They were not even roads - just almost fire breaks....the fences were obviously very, very old, rusted and barbed wire...and dilapidated and not used any more...”

JOHN EVANS ORAL HISTORY  
INTERVIEW E0617

John Connolly was killed in 1852, after falling from his horse and hitting his head on an exposed tree root while on his way to fetch the doctor for his son, John, who was ill. His death is recorded in the Perth Gazette of 26 March 1852. John left a wife, Mary (nee Spice) and ten children. He was buried at All Saints Church, in West Swan.

Limestone quarrying and lime burning began in this area in 1910. The early settlers burned their own lime, using it for building purposes and as a road base. In the 1930s, a building boom saw a greater demand for lime and large quarries were dug throughout the northern suburbs. During the 1960s and 1970s, Bell Brothers held the greatest number of mineral claims in the Connolly region. Bell and ACI Operations also extracted silica and some lime sands. Limestone quarrying ceased in Connolly in 1979 and 1980.

The development of Connolly as a suburb of Perth began in 1976, with the establishment of the Joondalup Development Corporation, under the terms of the *Joondalup Centre Act*. The Corporation was responsible for the development of Perth's North-West Corridor. In 1977 Gordon Stephenson's Joondalup Regional Centre report, which outlined the development of the proposed City of Joondalup which included Connolly, was published. The Connolly area appeared on a map in Stephenson's report as Crown Land.

Limestone quarrying ceased and the mineral claims were taken over by the Joondalup Development Corporation. Roads such as Joondalup Drive, Ocean Reef Road and Burns Beach Road were already in place. Conservation and utilisation of natural resources was a high priority for developers.

In 1982, the Joondalup Development Corporation formalised the idea of developing Connolly as a golf course estate. The golf course was designed by American, Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Geoff Osborne was appointed to supervise construction. Graham Marsh was contracted for three years to publicise the Joondalup Golf Course and the cost of the golf club building was estimated to be \$750,000. The original quarry excavations were absorbed into the golf course design and the course was officially opened on 16 October 1985.

In 1984, a bid was made to change the name of Connolly. This was the result of a survey conducted at the W.A. Home Show in May that year. It tested people's recognition of the names Connolly and Joondalup. Hardly anyone had heard of Connolly, while Joondalup was regarded by those few who had heard of it as 'being remote from the rest of the city.' The State Nomenclature Advisory Committee did not approve the name change, so the name 'Connolly' remained.

The first 211 residential blocks of land in the Joondalup Country Club Estate, Connolly were released in 1985 costing between \$24,000 and \$30,000. Within the next five years, 1080 residential lots in Connolly were released onto the market. By 1990, the Corporation had developed 2039 blocks. The land was in high demand and was targeted to "the middle and upper segments of the market and many innovations in subdivision layout and housing design will ensure that the estate achieves a very high quality standard and image." (JDC Annual Report, 1983, p. 7).

“It was exciting in those days, watching it being built up. Watching houses being built around you and seeing people moving in. You wonder what they’re like and who they are... Connolly is one of the few areas where you have optical fibres. You can have broadband. You can have anything you can think of. It was a model subdivision and no money was spared on that...Everything is underground all the electric cables... it had everything going for it.”

BRIAN RICHARDSON ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW E0615

Connolly was designed with a fully landscaped and clearly defined road system that would provide safety and privacy for residents. Its streets are named after golf courses around the world. Brian Richardson expands on the level of detail applied by the designers:

“The colours of the blossoms on the trees were matched to the street name... this is Cherry Hills, which is in Denver, Colorado, ...and the trees up here are Red Flowering Gums. It was very clever, it was very well done.”

BRIAN RICHARDSON ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW E0615

A separate cycle and pedestrian pathway system was planned which linked Connolly to neighbouring areas and to the Joondalup City Centre. (JDC Annual Report, 1985, p. 5). The local shopping centre was built in 1986-7, followed by a Community Centre. Connolly Primary School opened on 30 January 1991 with 361 students and 16 staff under foundation Principal, Mr John McKenzie.

While the development of the golf course and country club had initially appeared a great success, costs mounted and losses began to accrue. Maintenance costs soared and the course ran at a constant loss. An attempt to recoup some of this money was made in March 1989 when the golf course hosted the PGA Classic Golf Tournament. However the tournament cost the Joondalup Development Corporation around \$136,000 through lack of sponsorship. In February 1990, the Board cancelled the PGA Classic and in March 1991, the Joondalup Golf Course was put up for sale. The 27-hole International Standard course, a 4.8 ha site for a resort hotel; plus three grouped housing sites, were sold by public tender in October 1991 to Singaporean property developers Peter Kwee and Tuck Low (International Golf Resorts) for \$22.8 million.

Today, Connolly is home to almost 3,500 City of Joondalup residents. Major features of the area include Joondalup Resort and Golf Course, Baltusrol Park, Carnaby Reserve, Huntingdale Park, Connolly Community Centre built in 2003, and Connolly Primary School.



## Motion Picture Collection

The Joondalup Local History Library has recently added 21 DVDs to the collection. Originally on videotape, super six and 16mm film reels, this historical footage covers topics including the Declaration of the City of Wanneroo in 1985, the demolition of the Whitford Bini Shell in 1993, the Perry Paddock picnic days of the 1990s and life in the Shire of Wanneroo in 1979. The DVDs, a valuable addition to the collection, are available for loan, with some showing short snippets of a few minutes while others are more than 60 minutes.

### Life in the Shire of Wanneroo, 1979

This 50 minute DVD was filmed in 1979, Western Australia's 150th year and shows the new Shire of Wanneroo Administration building in Joondalup and the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour, both opened by the Premier Sir Charles Court. A surf life saving carnival at Mullaloo Beach, the Wanneroo Agricultural Show, a land release in Ocean Reef, the Wangara industrial area, market gardens and Cockman House are also featured.



# 10 Tips for Writing your Family History

Creating a family history book can be fun. Once all the research is complete, putting your findings together enables you to share all your hard work and the interesting discoveries with family and friends. Here are some practical ideas to think about before starting your project:



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

1. Consider the type of book that will suit your family history. It can be as simple as a photocopied booklet, newsletter for family members or a larger published volume with photographs and memorabilia.
2. Think about who will be interested in reading your work. Will it be of interest only to family members or as a reference for the wider community.
3. Determine the type and amount of material you have to work with. A scrapbook or album will be an interesting way to tell your family story if you have lots of photographs and keepsakes such as invitations, tickets or postcards. You can add descriptions and stories in too. A narrative or memoir will be best if you want to have more storytelling and anecdotal or personal experience in your book. Family trees, maps and illustrations and ephemeral items such as letters, brochures, certificates and diary entries all add interest.
4. Define the focus of the book. Are you going to write about one family member, one branch of your family tree or everyone?
5. Set a timeframe to complete the work. Be realistic about how much time you have to devote to the project, how much it may cost and how you would like to present your research.
6. Capture the elements of a photograph. Photographs need captions detailing who is in the photo, the date and place taken. Ephemeral items need captions explaining what they are if it is not evident from the item itself.
7. Do background research to illustrate your ancestors lives. Read about the time period your ancestor lived in to get a feel for how life was lived in those days. Food, fashion, inventions, occupations, transport, wars and disasters can all help flesh out the picture.
8. Organise your research. Put your material in order and work out an outline of what and who you want to write about. A timeline can be helpful to see if there are any gaps in your research that may need to be filled in before you start.
9. Choose a starting point. Your research can be presented in date order, by place or by a person or family name.
10. Use personal stories and quotes from older family members to make the facts come alive. These will brighten your account and add interest. Family traditions, recipes and favourite stories are always a popular addition.

Writing a family history is a great way to share and preserve your family's story for future generations. By following these 10 steps a complex project can become an enjoyable one.