

# 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

Local History holds courses and seminars throughout the year.

## An Introduction to Family History

**Wednesday 22 June 2016**

**10.00am – 12.00noon**

**City of Joondalup Libraries – Duncraig Library**

**Cnr Warwick Road and Marmion Avenue, Duncraig**

Have you ever wanted to go on a journey of discovery? Finding out about your ancestors can take you to all sorts of unexpected places...

The "Introduction to Family History" seminar is an ideal starting point to help you begin unlocking your past. You will:

- Learn how to start researching your family tree
- Take home a comprehensive Beginner's Guide
- Discover the 'tricks of the trade'
- Find out about the resources available to help you with your research
- Know where you can get assistance in a friendly environment

Sessions are scheduled throughout the year. The next session is **Tuesday 23**

**February 2016 at Woodvale Library** from **10.00am to 12noon.**

Cost is \$27.00 and includes a comprehensive Beginner's Guide.

Visit the City's event calendar at [joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au) to book or call **9400 4746**.

## Do You Know?

All editions of the Family History and Local History Newsletter are available on the City of Joondalup website in the Libraries, Local and Family History News and Events section.

Current editions of the Family History and Local History Newsletter are available in paper form at all City of Joondalup Libraries. If you would like additional copies for your group or club, please contact **9400 4746** to enquire.

## Genie Exchange

Every Friday morning Local History hosts the Genie Exchange where family historians are helped by experienced volunteers to research their family tree. Why not join in and do your family history research in a warm and friendly environment.

The Genie Exchange is held in the Joondalup Library, Local History area, every Friday morning from 10.00am to 12.00noon. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. Bookings are not necessary.



# OZ Burials

If you have a relative who you know or believed died in a country town, then you might like to have a look at the OZ Burials website: [ozburials.com](http://ozburials.com). The creator of the website has transcribed information from headstones in cemeteries located in county towns throughout Australia. It also lists the names inscribed on war memorials in rural Australia.

It's amazing how much information you can obtain from a headstone. For example, if you have a relative who lived on Norfolk Island, you may discover that he/she originally arrived in Australia with the First or Second Fleet. The website will sometimes supply information such as *Mary was born 1 May 1804. Her parents married 5 November 1791 on Norfolk Island. Her mother, Mary, a convict who arrived on the Lady Juliana in 1790.*

The Oz Burials website supplies links to defence personnel websites such as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, the Australian War Memorial website, the Australian National Archives, Trove and the State Libraries. It's well worth a look.

William and Henry Clarkson's headstone, Greenough Cemetery, Greenough W.A. ca. 1970.



## Nicknames

Have you ever been immersed in family history research only to discover a new name in historical documents that makes you scratch your head? It happens to all of us. Before you start down another long research path to find this 'new' ancestor, consider that many of our ancestors were known by nicknames which were common in their day and/or well known in their homeland.

The [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) blog contains links to the ABC's of Commonly Used Nicknames.



# Top Tips for Search Success Using Findmypast

If you have a subscription to Findmypast or are taking advantage of a free trial period, here are some tips to enable you to search for your relatives successfully:

There's only one way to get the best results from Findmypast - and that's to search individual record sets rather than searching collections of similar records.

This is important because different record sets contain different information. Sometimes that's because the source records vary. For example, the 1841 and 1911 censuses are very

different from the other years, but it can also be because the records have been transcribed and indexed differently. Findmypast have transcriptions from many different sources thanks to their connections with family history societies, FamilySearch, the Society of Genealogists, and their acquisition of other websites, most recently Origins.

To allow for this variety, different record sets have different search forms, whereas when you search multiple record sets simultaneously you inevitably have to make do with a compromise.

Choose A-Z of record sets from the Search menu, then navigate to the record set you need. Rather than ploughing through all 1600 search results, type in a word or part of a word that appears in the title of the record set. For example staff if you want to search the Staffordshire parish registers, canter for the Diocese of Canterbury parish registers or army to see a list of army record sets.



# Surnames after Marriage

Most of us grew up in a culture where it was the norm for wives to adopt their husband's surname on marriage. According to the BBC article *Why should women change their names on getting married?* This hasn't always been the case in England. At one time married women had no surname at all. Referring to a court case in 1340, the author of the article says that when a woman took a husband, she lost every surname except 'wife of'.

The article implies this is a direct quote, but the author hasn't been able to verify this and is not convinced that the word 'surname' would have been used in 1340. Nevertheless, we've probably all seen parish register entries along the lines of "Elizabeth, wife of William XXX" or even "The wife of William XXX was this day buried".

In modern England there are many different approaches and some can be found at [weddingchaos.co.uk](http://weddingchaos.co.uk) though as recently as 1994 a survey showed that 94% of married women had taken their husband's surname. When a double-barrelled, or hyphenated, surname is adopted the order of the names is a matter of choice - although traditionally it's the maiden surname that comes first. Whether the husband adopts the same combination or retains his own surname also varies.

Nowadays many more women retain their maiden name, although sometimes only in their professional life. Far less common is for the husband to adopt his wife's surname.

Sometimes you'll see a gravestone where the wife is recorded under her maiden surname, perhaps followed by 'beloved wife of...'. This seems to happen most often where the wife's family was sufficiently prominent to have their own area in the churchyard. But beware of middle names that are also surnames. You might think that the inscription 'Mary Stables..... wife of William Aldam' is telling you that Mary's maiden name was Stables, but in fact it's her mother's maiden name.

In Scotland things were quite different. Married women generally retained their maiden surname in the records.

In census records, however, married women are usually recorded under their married name. There are instances though, where married women are recorded under their maiden surname, and a widow might revert to her maiden name after the death of her husband, so you should check both.

In Old Parish Registers banns and marriages and statutory marriages, women are usually indexed by their maiden surname, but may sometimes be

indexed under a married surname if they have been married before.

In Old Parish Registers deaths/burials, women will be indexed under both their maiden surname and their married surname, provided both have appeared on the original entry. If she is a widow, however, she may appear as e.g. 'Widow Murray'.

In statutory deaths, women are indexed separately under both the maiden and married surnames, and any other surnames if married more than once (provided the informant knew what these were). If you know both maiden and married surnames, enter both on the death search form to refine your search.

In wills and testaments, in the earlier registers (Commissary Court) before 1800, you will usually find the maiden surname in the **Surname** field. However, in the later (Sheriff Court) registers, it became more common to record the married surname in the **Surname** field. If your search in the **Surname** field is unsuccessful, try entering the name in the **Description** field. You may also find the name of her spouse if she was married, or her father or other male relatives if she was single.

(Partially reproduced from the LostCousins e-newsletter 1 June 2015 and the ScotlandsPeople website.)

Tip: There will be occasions when you have to search collections in order to find out which of the record sets are relevant. It's suggested that you switch to searching individual record sets once you've identified which are of interest.



# Local Conservation and Natural Heritage Areas in the City of Joondalup

The City of Joondalup is home to a number of uniquely valuable natural areas. These natural areas are divided into three zones - the Wetland Zone, the Coastal Foreshore Zone and the Bushland Zone.

The Wetland Zone, located in the Yellagonga Regional Park, contains some of the oldest and last remaining freshwater wetland systems in the Swan Coastal Plain. This zone is comprised of a chain of conservation category wetlands which runs along the City's eastern boundary. Places of interest along this chain include Lake Goollelal, Lake Joondalup and Wallaburnup and Beenyup Swamps. Some of these wetland features can be



Warwick Open Space, September 2004

viewed from Neil Hawkins Park and Picnic Cove, Edgewater.

The Coastal Foreshore Zone is home to Western Australia's first marine park - Marmion Marine Park. This consists of prehistoric drowned dunes, extensive reef systems and designated sanctuary zones for its diverse range of aquatic flora and fauna. The entire coastal zone extends from Marmion in the City's south to Burns Beach in the north and encompasses limestone cliffs, rocks and reef, white sand dunes and beaches.

The Bushland Zone comprises over 500 hectares of natural bush. This zone is spread throughout 108 reserves which contain significant flora and fauna and are home to unique ecological communities. Places of interest within this zone include Warwick Open Space, Hepburn Heights Conservation Area, Craigie Open Space, Shepherd's Bush Park in Kingsley, Lilburne Park, Duncraig and Central Park in Joondalup.

During the early stages of residential and commercial development in the area throughout the 1970s and 80s, the new community rallied to defend and protect its conservation areas. The highly publicised saga "Saving Hepburn Heights Bushland" saw a group of dedicated residents put



Lake Joondalup ca. 1992.

their personal safety at risk and take their fight to the courtroom in order to save this unique area of local bushland. It was a prolonged and emotional campaign for all those involved, and their struggle is well-documented. Newspaper clippings, photographs, ephemera items and oral history recordings of their fight to save the bushland are retained on record today. Their courage and determination has ensured that the City has been able to retain and conserve a significant portion of natural bushland areas within its highly urbanised environment.

Another example of the need for conservation of our local natural areas was the discovery of a rare blue orchid in the bushland reserves in Kingsley. Further information on this conservation campaign is recorded in an oral history interview by Geoffrey Curtis. Many other resources documenting the involvement of the proactive local community in retaining these valuable natural areas are available at the Local History library, as are maps, geological and ecological documents.

A legacy of conservation within the City of Joondalup ensures that current residents and future generations can enjoy the natural landscapes that form part of our natural heritage.



## Joondalup Library, Local History

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