

WINTER 2021 EDITION



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



SALUTING THEIR SERVICE

STORIES FROM PAST TO PRESENT



Anzac Day - at its heart, is love. Love of every kind. Love of nation, of service, of family.
The love we give and the love we allow ourselves to receive...

QUENTIN BRYCE

Saluting their Service Cover Page

Contact the Local History team on **9400 4746**
or email local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au

joondalup.wa.gov.au



Welcome to the Family and Local History Newsletter Winter 2021

In 2019 the City of Joondalup was successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs to publish a booklet, *Saluting Their Service: Stories from Past to Present*. The Saluting their Service Commemorative Grants Program is designed to preserve Australia's wartime heritage and to raise public awareness of the service and sacrifice of Australia's servicemen and women during times of conflict or peace keeping operations.

The Joondalup Libraries Local History team have researched and published the booklet to highlight the contribution of defence personnel who have a connection to the region. Staff identified and interviewed current servicemen and women and researched past service personnel; weaving their stories among the history of local memorials and the story of the 10 Australian Light Horse Regiment.



Australian Light Horse troopers on patrol in Wanneroo, 1943 – P02516.135

Using resources from the Local History Archives, the Oral History collection and the Picture Joondalup photographic collection, staff selected some of the many stories from the community. Researchers also consulted primary and secondary

sources from the Australian War Memorial, National Archives of Australia, and The Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide additional detail.



Private Ernest (Jack) Cockman, 1916 - P00670

The booklet features the stories of Richard Smales and brothers Wesley, Ross, Ernest and William Cockman who served in World War I. Nine soldiers from World War I, including Richard Smales and William Cockman, are memorialised on the Wanneroo War Memorial. Casualties of the Second World War Albert Barnett (Barney) Facey Jnr. and brothers Lacey Gordon Gibbs and William Herbert (Jimmy) Gibbs also appear on the memorial.

Bill Bell, Jack Hastings, Ned Crisafulli and Bill Dennis' stories reflect the Second World War experiences of local men who served in the AIF, RAAF and RAN in conflicts in the Mediterranean, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Malaya, Indonesia, Burma, Japan and China.

Their skills as labourers and mechanics led some into engineering roles. Leading Aircraftsman Bill Dennis, who designed and patented power saws and engines for timber milling, was called on to design and machine a part for one of the largest types of machine guns to make sure it fired correctly.

Other stories recall men taken as prisoners of war. Despite extreme hardship and deprivation, the POWs found positive ways to keep their spirits up. Bill Bell remembers:

... so being a ventriloquist ... I managed to get a doll made up and so I did my little bit of an act... We had a few bombs flying around us ... and so we got underneath the trees and to keep the blokes from getting too frightened like I was, I had Freddie there and so we had our little bit of a talk and bit of a go at it and so nobody worried about the Jap planes flying around us ...



Private William (Bill) Laurence George Bell, ca. 1946 – P00536

During World War II the 10 Australian Light Horse Regiment was stationed at Wanneroo and played a significant role patrolling the coastline to prevent an attack by sea. Frank Green, Wally Cooper and Cecil Cockman shared their recollections of the regiment during the Second World War in oral history interviews taken in the 1990s. Their stories gave valuable insight into the regiment's daily activities and experience of nightly patrols.

Lieutenant Walter (Wally) Cooper remembers:

Our movement with the horses was through the bush and we were trained to keep under overhead cover so that we were not visible from aircraft and the other three things that we were really told we had to avoid was shine, shape and shadow... There was no tracks or anything...

Three local memorials, Wanneroo War Memorial, the Joondalup Anzac Memorial and the Ocean Reef 100th Anzac Memorial, were included in the booklet to remind us of service and sacrifice and to commemorate and honour those who served Australia.

One challenging aspect of the project was connecting with people who have served in more recent conflicts and peacekeeping roles. Joondalup City RSL provided contacts to service personnel willing to share their experiences, and provide a broad picture of life in the defence force in recent times.

Chas Monk, a gunner and later a training officer, served in the Vietnam War. His role as a quartermaster in charge of stores and rations ensured the troops were well cared for in Nui Dat.

Recent personnel interviewed have had a variety of experiences and roles during their careers. Many served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Solomon Islands, Malaysia and East Timor often in peace keeping and community welfare roles. While some have retired from active service, they are all involved within their community.

All share a common interest in the mental health and wellbeing of veterans, first responders and their families and have founded or participate in support groups to assist those in need.



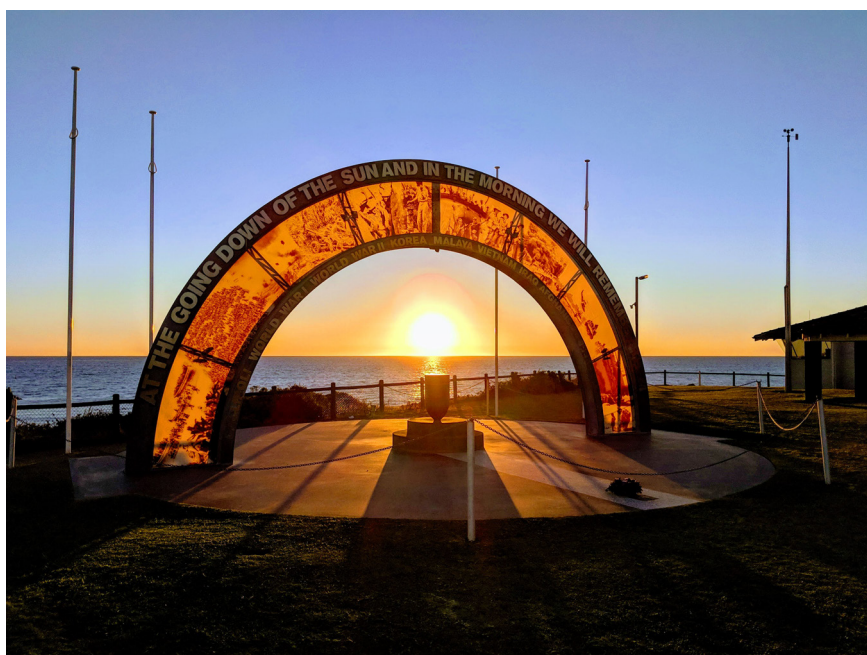
Senior Aircraftwoman Fleur Massey, ca. 1996 - P03256.02

Blue Guardian's founded by Fleur Massey and Reach for Life founded by Rick Green are two of these locally run organisations.

During research for the booklet Local History staff became aware of Victorian artist Ron Davis' Battlefield Blue poppy. The blue enamel badge he designed promotes awareness of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) that affects defence force and emergency services personnel. The Battlefield Blue Poppy has been used as a design theme throughout the booklet.

Saluting their Service: Stories from Past to Present highlights the experiences of local service personnel, while enriching the knowledge and understanding of future generations. Publishing this history has been a rewarding experience and one which the City of Joondalup staff are very proud to have accomplished.

Copies of the *Saluting Their Service: Stories from Past to Present* are available for loan from City of Joondalup Libraries, or online as an eBook on the City's website joondalup.wa.gov.au



Ocean Reef Memorial - Ocean Reef 100th Anzac Memorial, 2020 - P03252.28

Family History Events

Family History Research – The Next Step

Saturday 12 June, 10.00am, Joondalup Library - Reference and Local History

Are you at a crossroads or stuck on how to proceed with your family history research? This workshop will assist you to move forward. Bring questions, and a laptop if you have one.

Please email any difficult questions in advance to

local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au

Cost \$5.00. Book and pay online.

DNA for Family History Research – Intermediate

Saturday 26 June, 10.00am, Joondalup Library - Reference and Local History

Join Christine Cavanagh and Sandy Hayward for a 90 minute workshop to expand your knowledge of the use of DNA in family history research. If you have attended the introductory DNA course or have some knowledge of the use of DNA in family history research, this course is for you.

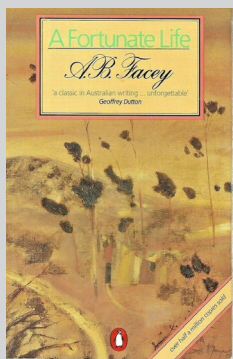
Cost \$5.00. Book and pay online.

A Fortunate Life – A.B. Facey

2021 marks 40 years since the publication of A.B. (Bert) Facey's autobiography, *A Fortunate Life*. Published when Bert Facey was 86 years old and only nine months before his death, the work has since been adapted for television (1985), abridged for children (2018) and made into a stage play (2020).

Bert Facey was born in Melbourne in 1894, the youngest of seven children. His father died in 1898. His mother then abandoned Bert and four of his siblings, travelling to WA where she remarried. Aged seven he moved with his grandmother to Kalgoorlie and then to Wickiepin. A year later, aged eight, Bert was sent to work as a farm labourer. At 14 years old he moved to Perth where he briefly lived with his mother and her second husband. Bert served in the AIF in World War I at Gallipoli, married and had seven children, one of whom was killed in World War II.

Despite the harshness of his life, he says in the book's conclusion, 'I have lived a very good life, it has been very rich and full. I have been very fortunate and I am thrilled by it when I look back.'



Useful Convict Occupations

When the first settlers arrived and established the Swan River Colony in 1829, they soon discovered the soil was poor and not sustainable for farming using traditional English methods. Food shortages left the settlers close to starvation and many fled the colony. By 1832 only 1,500 people remained. The colonial government decided the solution to the chronic skills shortage was to bring in convict labourers.

Before they turned to a life of crime, many of the convicts had skills that would prove to be useful to the struggling colony including bakers, blacksmiths, stone masons, carpenters, nail makers, tailors, saddlers, harness makers, colliers/miners, sawyers and a brass moulder.

The Scindian left Portsmouth on 4 March 1850 carrying the first shipment of convicts bound for the Swan River Colony. The Scindian arrived in Fremantle on 1 June 1850 with 200 passengers and 75 male convicts on board. The colony was completely unprepared for their arrival as the Scindian had overtaken the ship carrying the dispatch containing news of this event. A waterfront warehouse was leased and modified to provide temporary convict accommodation. The convicts were put to work constructing the Roundhouse, Fremantle Prison and other public buildings and works throughout the colony.



City of Joondalup

LIBRARIES

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T: 08 9400 4746

E: local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au

102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup, WA, 6027

PO Box 21, Joondalup, WA, 6919

joondalup.wa.gov.au



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