“Crayfishing, most of the locals used to use abalone for bait from flat rock. There were heaps and heaps of abalone out there. And we used to eat it.” (Oral History, Michael Hayes E0189)

“There was a rough track that... went out there and it finished up at the back of the flats. There was a lot of flat section, with like a little soak with fresh water and somebody has sunk a forty-four gallon drum into it. The brumbies used to come in there to drink and my grandfather taught me how to shoot bronze wood pigeons there. You’re not allowed to shoot them now... but they are beautiful to eat... roasted.” (Oral History, Phil Harris E0440 about his Grandfather’s shack at Sorrento)

“Everybody laughed when we got a block here [Marmion], talked about us living in the suburb of Geraldton... Wild horses used to gallop through the place. You’d hear thunder, thunder in the night... it was remarkably isolated... we were completely cut off.

...We had to go Leederville, to the supermarket there. And there were a few little shops up in Flora Terrace.” (Oral History, Freda Carmody E0122)

“It [the shack] was made out of iron and it was painted maroon. It wasn’t pretty but it was very good inside. We had the main room with the kitchen – Dad put in all new kitchen cupboards... only had a wood stove. We had an ice chest and he organised to have a shower underneath the tank of water...

We had a great camaraderie with the other people in the other shacks. We’d meet up with others and we’d sit around and talk, or go swimming, and the men would go boating and fishing. We had our own surf skis – we used those a lot. The older ones (children) used to make up these surf boards out of very light timber framework. Then they would stretch...canvas over that and tack it all together. Then they would paint it. Then it would all shrink tight around the framework... we always had a paddle which was tied to the front of the surf ski so we would paddle up and down the beach. We would come in on the waves on the skis... and also use the skis – Mum would send us off up to the caravan park up at Mullaloo to pick up bread sometimes, or maybe go down to Sorrento. We would paddle down there... and pick up supplies... that was our only way of getting supplies.” (Oral History, June Lyndhurst E0532)

“When we first came out here [Kallaroo], we couldn’t get the phone on. There was no gas; we had to have a bottle of gas. There weren’t any shops and there wasn’t a bus service. That was in December 1971.” (Oral History, Paice E0594)
Then
Describe what it was like to live around the northern beaches in the 40’s, 50’s, 60’s or 70’s.

Now
Describe what it is like to live around the northern beaches nowadays.