

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



WA Open Data

The State Library publishes datasets created from bibliographic data stored in its catalogues, digitised heritage data from the collections and statistical data collected as part of library operations. Several datasets have been made available on the data.wa.gov.au website.

These datasets are:

- Western Australian Biographical index and subsets
- Western Australian Newspapers
- WWI Centenary Project
- In Memoriam Cards
- Adopt A Soldier
- Western Australian Public Library Network
- State Library of Western Australia digital photographic collection
- Krantz and Sheldon Architectural images
- Lands and Surveys Historic Map Series Western Australia

The datasets are released under a Creative Commons Attribution License (cc-by). Anyone is welcome to make use of these datasets for research, visualisation, re-telling WA stories and anything else you can think of. For further information on sites that have used the information, such the Western Australian Bibliographical Index (WABI) on the WAGS website with 85,403 searchable entries, visit slwa.wa.gov.au

(Partially reproduced from the State Library of Western Australia website)

Royal Voluntary Service Diaries

Over 30,000 pages of previously unseen diaries from the Second World War – hidden histories of a million wartime women – are available online from the Royal Voluntary Service Archive and Heritage Collection. Handwritten (so you can't search for individual names) - search by town or county.

These million ordinary women who volunteered for the charity, previously known as the Women's Voluntary Services (WVS), played a vital role on the Home Front.

For more information please access the Royal Voluntary Service website royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

The five best resources for really getting to know your ancestors

Your family history is so much more than a list of dead relatives' details. It's about understanding your ancestors' characteristics and how they lived. These records will help you do just that.

There is no denying that birth, marriage, death and census records are essential for building your family tree. However, they don't tell the whole story of who your ancestors were, what made them tick and why they wound up in certain situations. For that kind of juicy information, you need to look at historical resources that include a lot more detail. Here are some of the best:

Newspapers

The discoveries you can make in historical newspapers are truly endless. Local and regional papers reported on all sorts - from the goings-on at village fetes to tragic accidents and everything in between.

Finding a family member in one of our newspaper articles can help you imagine what sort of person they were because newspapers have the kind of detail not available in other records. As well as gaining vital genealogical details for your family tree, you might be shocked, moved or amused at why they were making headlines.

Army Service Records

Military records are notoriously detailed and well-maintained. Typically, the kind of information you'll find in them includes birth place, next of kin and physical descriptions, a lot more than you get in most collections.

More than that, you'll also find out if your army ancestor was decorated with any medals, if they were ever absent without leave or expelled from the army and information on their character whilst they served. Your relative's service record should give you a clearer idea of their personality traits and motivations.

Workhouse Registers

Workhouse records are a vastly underused resource when it comes to family history research. If your ancestor hit hard times and ended up in a workhouse you probably already sympathise with their situation but looking at their records will help you learn even more about them.

Like the Army, workhouses kept rich registers of their inmates' admissions and discharges. What's more, minutes of the Board of Guardians' (who were responsible for running the workhouses) meetings have also been made available to search on Findmypast. These can tell you all about life inside the workhouse for your ancestor - from what they were eating for dinner to the jobs they were tasked with.

Crime Records

If your ancestor fell foul of the law, their prison register, court appearance or police report will tell you a lot about them - sometimes more than you may want to know. The details of the crime they committed, witness statements and judges' sentences should tell you the kind of person they were - victims of circumstance or evil personified?



PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Lake Gnangara Community Picnic Day ca. 1948.
2. Gertie Caporn (driving the horse and sully) taking her sister Alma to her first day of school in East Wanneroo ca.1924.
3. Wanneroo State School students ca. 1953.

School Records

You might know everything about your ancestor's adult life, but what about their childhood? Findmypast's extensive school collections can reveal intricate details about their education.

You could find out exam results, reasons for absence and even if your ancestor was ever excluded and why. Obviously, all these fascinating facts will help you paint a picture of the type of young person your relative was.

(Partially reproduced from *Findmypast newsletter March 2017*)

Dates for your calendar

Let's Try Plan B: Maps Useful for Family History Research

Saturday 21 April 2018, 10.00am – 11.00am
 Meeting Room 3 City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup Library
 102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup
 Cost \$2.00

When researching their family tree, most people will access websites such as **Ancestry.com** and **Findmypast**. But have you ever thought about looking at maps?

Join Steve Howell from the State Library of Western Australia and discover just how much family history knowledge can be gained by having an in depth look at old maps. You will be astonished by the amount of information you can find out about your ancestors and the community they lived in.

Writing Your Family Story

Saturday 28 April 2018, 10.00am – 12.00noon
 Meeting Room 3 City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup Library
 102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup
 Cost \$2.00

Genealogists are in the business of storytelling. Join professional genealogist and author Loreley Morling and discover how to collect those valuable family documents and memories and turn them into a story that relatives can treasure for generations.

An Introduction to Family History

Saturday 5 May 2018, 10.00am – 11.30am
 Meeting Room 3 City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup Library
 102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup
 Cost \$16.00

Tracing your family history is fast becoming a favourite pastime for many, but where do you start? Join experienced genealogists Olive and Wendy as they teach you how to begin researching your family tree and explore useful family history resources. Discover all the best tips and resources and receive the *Tracing your Family Tree: A Beginners Guide* booklet.

Family History Q & A

Saturday 5 May 2018, 1.00pm – 3.00pm
 Meeting Room 3 City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup Library
 102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup
 Cost \$2.00

Have you been researching your family tree and reached a brick wall? Are you finding it difficult to locate those elusive ancestors?

Experienced family history researchers Olive and Wendy will provide advice and share their knowledge to get you back on track. Local and international websites, as well as research tools and tips, will be showcased throughout Q & A, so save up those questions that have you stumped and join us in exploring the wonderful world of family history research!

If you would like to attend any of the events please book and pay online via the City's event calendar or call 9400 4751 for further information.



PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Anastas and Constantine Vosnacos ca. 1930s.
2. Greg looking at the Wanneroo 1890 map.

Tony Martin – Local Legend

Anthony (Tony) Martin was Wanneroo's first permanent policeman and the sole officer patrolling between Wanneroo and Dongara from 1954 –1964.

Tony grew up in Wanneroo where his Yugoslavian parents, Matt and Vinka Martinovich, ran a market garden. He became a welder by trade and worked on repairing US submarines at Fremantle during World War Two.

Tony changed his surname to Martin and joined the police force in 1948. In 1954 he was appointed to the Wanneroo district which then had a population of 1800. About six charges a year were laid against Wanneroo residents, mainly for possession of unlicensed firearms and shooting of kangaroos for sport or crayfish bait. Sheep and cattle stealing, difficulties in the crayfishing community and hunts for missing people or escaped

prisoners from Perth kept Constable Martin busy. He also issued firearms licences, served summonses, collected statistics for government departments and checked fire breaks.

Sea rescue was an important part of Constable Martin's duties and he recovered many bodies drowned at sea. He explains:

... I was a qualified deep-sea diver at the time and that was part of my duty. And because with the four-wheel drive and the radio I was available at any time... I'd have to take the body and convey it to the nearest point where official undertakers would be there with their vehicle to take possession. Because no way in the world could these undertaker people get to where I was (Martin Oral History E0073). As a police diver investigating explosions on shipwrecks off the coast Tony was involved in keeping the peace between parties during the salvage on the wreck of the Gilt Dragon near Lancelin.

...there was friction out there ...and I was instructed to go down and maintain order. And if anything happened I'd administer justice, although at the time it was three miles out to sea and it was a matter of conjecture whether we had authority or not... (Martin Oral History E0073).

Constable Martin believed that goodwill and community support was the best policing strategy and he was well-known for his concern for young people and his common-sense approach to policing. In one case, two teenagers convicted of breaking and entering the Trigg Island Surf Club were later invited to join by Constable Martin who realised they may need somewhere to belong.



PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Deputy Mayor Graeme Major presenting Anthony (Tony) Martin with his Wanneroo Citizen of the Year plaque ca.1992.
2. Anthony Martin, Edwin Scott, Jack Gaynor at the official opening of the Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club ca.1966.

In the 1950s as a superintendent of the Scarborough Police Boys Club, Tony founded the Snake Pit, a dance venue at the Scarborough beach front. Rock 'n' roll competitions were held to give the local teenagers something to do and to keep the peace between rival groups known as the 'bodgies' and the 'leatheries'.

Tony retired from the police force in 1981 after 33 years of service, attaining the rank of Chief Inspector, and settled in Wanneroo.

He was president of the Scarborough Surf Life Saving Club and a founding member and president of the Trigg Island and Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Clubs and served 25 years with the Wanneroo Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Tony was awarded Wanneroo Citizen of the Year in 1992.

Tony Martin, a well-known and respected member of the Wanneroo/Joondalup community, died in January 2004.



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This document is available in alternate formats upon request.