

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

Welcome to the Family and Local History Newsletter Spring 2018

Continuing Your Family History Research

- Speak to your relatives, particularly the older ones. They will have memories of the past that you may not.
- Find out if one of your relatives has already done some family history research and check if they are willing to share it. This will give you a great head start.
- Rummage through your attic, basement, spare room, study, old shoeboxes and anywhere else that might have clues to the past in the form of old family photos, records or heirlooms.
- If you find a photo album that contains photos without captions, make an appointment with your relative and ask them to identify the people, places and event(s) depicted in the photos.
- It may sound somewhat macabre, but funerals are a good source of information about a deceased relative. The eulogy will usually contain photos and a summary of the person's life. Ask for a copy and include it with your family history research papers.

Did you know?

The amount of DNA shared by two people can determine the genealogical relationship between those two people, although it is not a perfect predictor.

For example, if you share 1,500 cM (centiMorgan) with someone, that match is likely a grandparent/grandchild, aunt/uncle or niece/nephew, or half-sibling.

Ancestor: Quarterly Journal of the Genealogical Society of Victoria

Ancestor contains information about researching ancestors who lived in Victoria. The magazine has feature articles, tips and hints to help you with your research both in Australia and overseas, regular articles and society news. Ancestor magazine can be borrowed from the Joondalup Local History Library.

Some Research Tips from Ancestry.com

- Add dates to your search. Even if it's just an educated guess, a date in your search will return people who have the same name, but lived across centuries. Ancestry.com's search function is built to look not only for the exact parameters you have indicated, but also results that are similar.
- Don't specify 'exact' in your census searches. Even if you know the exact name, place and more, resist the urge to check the 'Exact' box. Errors might have been made by enumerators, transcriptionists and ancestors. The information recorded in the census may not exactly match what you know about your ancestor.
- Be wary of ethnicity estimates. The promise of learning what 'percent' of a nationality you are has drawn many people to test with AncestryDNA, but these ethnicity estimates are not as reliable as you might believe. Take these estimates with a grain of salt, and spend more time analysing the list of DNA matches that AncestryDNA provides.

What's On – Local History Events

Local History hosts a range of events to assist all levels of researchers and family history enthusiasts. Some sessions may require a booking and payment which can be accessed via the City's website at joondalup.wa.gov.au or call 9400 4751 for further information. Libraries also produce a fortnightly eNewsletter where prior notice about all events and programs is advertised.



Bath time!

What is coming up?

An Introduction to Family History

Tuesday 23 October 2018,
10.00am – 12.00noon,
Woodvale Library

Tracing your family history is a favourite pastime for many but where do you start? Participants of this seminar will learn how to begin researching their family tree and discover all the best tips and resources to begin researching. Participants also receive a copy of *Tracing Your Family Tree: a beginner's guide*. Cost \$16.00. Book and pay online via the City's website, or call 9400 4180 for further information.

Genie Exchange: "Unlocking the past, for the future"

Tuesdays, 9.30am – 11.30am,
Woodvale Library

Fridays, 10.00am – 12.00noon,
Joondalup, Local History

Come along to research your family history with help from skilled and knowledgeable volunteers. Special resources for your research are available to borrow. eLibrary resources such as Ancestry.com and FindMyPast are available for free. No cost or bookings required.

The Story of Mullaloo

Mullaloo is named from an Aboriginal word meaning 'place of the rat kangaroo'. The name first appeared on an army map dated 1919 and was spelt 'Moolaloo'.

Prior to British settlement, land in the northern suburbs of Perth that includes Mullaloo was known as Mooro country and was inhabited by the Aboriginal Nyoongar people who walked through this area moving from Lake Joondalup south to Carine and Lake Gwelup.

The area also formed part of the old stock route running from the north of the state to the markets in Perth. In the 1870s George Shenton and Bernard Clarkson took up land grants in the area to graze sheep and cattle. Part of this land was included in land granted to the Midland Railway Company in 1894.

In 1939, Tom Simpson gave the Wanneroo Road Board three-hectares of foreshore land to establish a beach reserve. The Board approved a

camping site and agreed to build two earth closets at the beach. Mullaloo quickly became a favourite fishing and holiday spot for many Wanneroo families. A caravan park on the site of Merrifield Place was started by the O'Brien family and locals put up shacks. By the 1940s there were 13 beach shacks at Mullaloo.

Ned Crisafulli and his family camped at Mullaloo during the 1950s and 60s.

He recalls:

We had shacks out in Mullaloo...all we had to do was step out of the shack right into the water. And for these shacks we'd pay, I think, a pound a year ... we were never short of fish because Bob Steele had a net and we used to see the mullet come up early in the morning. So, we used to live on fish and tomatoes - fried tomatoes and fish two or three times a day.

(Crisafulli Oral History E0077-E0078).



Fishing at Mullaloo, ca. 1940

Census Secrets

Although censuses are often the first records that family historians become familiar with, it's surprisingly easy to miss some of the information they provide.

For example, if you have only ever subscribed to Findmypast, you may not be aware that at Ancestry you can view all the pages from the Enumeration Books, including the page at the front which describes

the extent of the enumeration district. This is very useful on the occasions when it's suspected that the street or alleyway where your ancestors were living has been omitted from the census.

Similarly, if you have only ever accessed the 1911 Census at Ancestry, you might not have realised that when you are viewing a household schedule at Findmypast you can click

on Related Images (at the bottom right) to see the name and address handwritten by the enumerator on the other side of the form, as well as pages from the Enumerator's Summary Book.

This additional information can be crucial if your ancestor was in an institution of some kind as the name may not be shown on the main schedule - here's an example:

The form is titled "CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911. ENUMERATION BOOK FOR AN INSTITUTION OR LARGE ESTABLISHMENT." It contains handwritten details for "The General or Royal Mineral Water Hospital" located in "Upper Borough Walks, Bath". A table at the bottom lists local sub-divisions: Bath, Saint Peter's Parish, Bath County Borough, Saint James, and Bath Borough.

In most censuses inmates in lunatic asylums are shown only by their initials - this makes them challenging to find.

(Partially reproduced from the LostCousins June 2018 newsletter)

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Scandinavian Records

Do you have ancestors who lived in Scandinavia?

In June 2018, FamilySearch added 135.4 million free digital historical records from Denmark, Finland and Sweden to their website.

The freely searchable collections are comprised of church records including birth, marriage and death records, confirmations, moving-in and moving-out records, court and tax lists, examination books and more.

The new records include:

Denmark

- 55.1 million records added
- Census records (1834 – 1930)
- Church records (1686 – 1941 record images only)

- Land records of Denmark – deeds and mortgages (record images only)
- Probate records – Denmark estate records (1436 – 1964 record images only)
- Probate indexes (1674 – 1851)
- Denmark civil marriages (1851 – 1961)
- Denmark, Copenhagen civil marriages (1739 – 1964 indexed 1877 – 1964)

Finland

- 46.9 million new records added
- Finland church census and preconfirmation books (1657 – 1915)
- Tax lists of Suomi-Henkikirjara (1819 – 1915)

Sweden

- 46.9 million records added
- Sweden household examination books (1880 – 1920)
- Church books (Kyrkoböcker) from Kopparberg (1604 – 1860), Örebro (until 1860), and Östergötland (1555–1911)

(Partially reproduced from the LostCousins 30 June 2018 newsletter)

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From the early 1950s the Cooper family operated a silicon sand quarry in Mullaloo where the sand was renowned as the purest in the southern hemisphere and used in glass manufacture.

With traffic to the area increasing, a proper road was needed and in 1955 Jack Steele was employed to build it. The road was made of limestone that Jack and his father blasted from a quarry in Joondalup. Jack remembers:

The road used to only run out just past where the freeway goes along... then it was sand. Dad suggested to the Shire that they put in what they call a strip-road. Each side where the tyre goes, you put about a two-foot strip of stone and it saved half the roadway. I got the contract to put the strip-road in... it was about three kilometres altogether... and I had the job at seven pound a chain. I did about a chain (20m) a day.
(Steele Oral History E0404-405).

In 1956 the Merrifield family took over the caravan park and renamed it Seaside Gardens Resort. The Crisafulli family ran outdoor picture shows at the park. Ned recalls:

From the early 50s right through to the 70s ...we would show pictures at the caravan park... in summer on a Wednesday and Friday. They'd all come to the pictures with their rugs. I don't know where they would all come from, but you would get hundreds of them.
(Crisafulli Oral History E0077-E0078).

In 1959 the Cooper family subdivided their land and 50 blocks were sold. Many of the streets were named after family members including Alice Drive, Cooper, Marjorie and Laurel Streets. The Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club formed in 1961 and by the late 1960s, despite opposition from locals, the beach shacks were demolished to make way for housing, and the caravan park closed.



Seaside Gardens Caravan Park, ca. 1956.

In 1967 when Jack Brody bought his block in Koolyanga Road for 1,850 pounds there was nothing but bush between him and Wanneroo Road. Jack, one of the first permanent residents of Mullaloo, recalls:

It was December in 1968 when we actually moved into our new home...at that time our road (Koolyanga) was the last road. Behind us was nothing except virgin bush that stretched right up to Pearsall's Garage (on Wanneroo Road). But gradually houses came behind us. Trees disappeared and the kid's cubby that they had...there was a load of tuart trees taken out. We had electricity because I'd gone to the Electricity Board...and bought the poles with the other guy who lived in Koolyanga... the poles cost \$90.00 each.
(Brody Oral History E0210)

By 1971 West Coast Highway had been extended to Mullaloo and land prices had increased to over \$5,000 for a serviced block. When the Mullaloo Heights Primary School opened in 1978 and the Mullaloo Shopping Centre in December 1979, the suburb started to go ahead. By 1982 the average price for a sea-view block in the new Mullaloo Heights Estate was \$21,000.



Mullaloo Beach foreshore, ca. 1970.

Residential development was rapid as families flocked to Mullaloo with its safe family beach and seaside lifestyle. Mullaloo Beach Primary School opened in 1987 and in 1990 the foreshore park adjacent to the surf club was named Tom Simpson Park.



View of north-west Mullaloo, 1983.

New Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club buildings opened in 1992 to cater for demand from families. These facilities were extended and refurbished in 2002 and 2016.



Official opening of the new Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club, 1992.

Mullaloo Tavern, built in the 1970s, was redeveloped in 2004. Renamed the Mullaloo Beach Hotel it offers restaurant and hotel accommodation.

Today Mullaloo is a popular and thriving coastal suburb, home to 6,276 City of Joondalup residents. (ABS, 2017)

All historic photos supplied courtesy of Picture Joondalup.



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