

# 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

## The Story of Kingsley

The suburb of Kingsley is named after the village of Kingsley near Winchester, Hampshire, England where George Shenton, the original lessee of the area, was born. The name was then adopted for the area when it was subdivided for residential use in the 1970s.

Prior to British settlement, land in the northern suburbs of Perth that includes Kingsley 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.

In 1844 Reverend John Smithies established Mission Farm in Kingsley, an experimental farm to teach the Nyoongar people about agriculture. This venture was unsuccessful and in 1860 Thomas Darch bought the land on which Mission Farm stood. Several generations of the Darch family ran a market garden and dairy on the property until 1911 when the buildings burnt down.

Henry Wrightson Gibbs, another pioneer of the Kingsley area, grew vegetables at the 10 Mile peg near where Waldecks Nursery is now.

*(continued page 4)*



Darch family at Mission Farm, 1910

## Useful Resources

**Trove** – Use Trove to look at photographs, advertisements, newspaper articles and compare them with your family photos. It will help you to establish a date or period when the photo was taken.

**Western Australian Post Office Directories** list photographers and photography studios located throughout W.A. - Perth, Geraldton, Southern Cross, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury etc.

*Tracing your ancestors through family photographs: a complete guide for family and local historians*  
by Jayne Shrimpton.

*Uncovering your ancestry through family photographs*  
by Maureen A. Taylor.

*Dating old photographs, 1840-1950* by Robert Pols.

## What is coming up?

### Connecting People, Places and the Past

The National Trust Heritage Festival began back in 1980 and has become Australia's biggest festival of heritage and culture. This year's festival will bring together an array of events across the nation from Thursday 18 April – Sunday 19 May 2019.

Joondalup Libraries have put together an exciting program to celebrate the theme – Connecting People, Places and the Past. Details and bookings are at [joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au) on the City's Event Calendar. The complete W.A. program will be online at [nationaltrust.org.au](http://nationaltrust.org.au).

### Perth Then and Now

Thursday 18 April, 10.00am,  
Joondalup Library

Join Richard Offen as he talks about the book *Perth Then and Now*, where past and present images have been laid side by side to reveal this fascinating city and hear how his wonderful book came about. Cost \$2.00. Book online.

### An Introduction to DNA for Genealogists

Tuesday 30 April, 10.00am,  
Woodvale Library

Have you ever wondered where in the world your family comes from? Be introduced to the kinds of tests that you can take, what you can do with your results and how DNA fits in with traditional family history research. You may be surprised by what you might find. Cost: \$3.00. Book online.

### I'm a Celebrity – What the Hell am I Doing Here?

Saturday 4 May, 10.00am,  
Joondalup Library

Can you name celebrities who have visited Western Australia? Join Steve Howell, formerly of the State Library of Western Australia, as we discover when famous non-Western Australians such as Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, Herbert Hoover, Henry Lawson, Charles Darwin, D.H. Lawrence, Gordon of Khartoum and Anthony Trollope visited WA. Cost: \$3.00. Book online.

### Lost Perth

Wednesday 8 May, 10.00am,  
Whitford Library

Lost Perth reveals the many grand buildings and Perth institutions that have been swept aside during Perth's rush for growth. Join Richard Offen as he catalogues some of these images with stories to match. Cost \$2.00. Book online.

### History of the Wedding Dress

Tuesday 14 May, 6.00pm,  
Woodvale Library

For most women, a wedding dress is the most significant garment she will ever wear, and in the 21st century we have a very specific idea of what a bridal gown should be. For hundreds of years, however, most brides did not wear white. This illustrated talk will discuss that surprising history and show specific examples to demonstrate how our current fascination with wedding dresses has developed. Cost \$5.00. Book and pay online.

### The History of Banking in WA

Thursday 16 May, 10.00am,  
Joondalup Library

How did the WA's first settlers manage for money? When were the first banks opened, and more importantly, who ran them? What did the first banknote

look like? Anthony Alborn will answer these questions and many more in this informative presentation. Cost \$2.00. Book online.

### Ancestor Trail – UK to Australia

Saturday 18 May, 10.00am,  
Joondalup Library

Convicts or free settlers? The arrival of our ancestors in Australia is a key part in any family history. Join experienced genealogists Olive and Wendy to discover how our ancestors travelled from the United Kingdom to Australia. Learn all the best tips and resources to assist your research whilst taking a step back in time to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Cost: \$3.00. Book online.

### Family History Q & A

Saturday 18 May, 1.00pm,  
Joondalup Library

Have you been researching your family tree and hit a brick wall? Experienced family history researchers 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. Cost \$3.00. Book online.

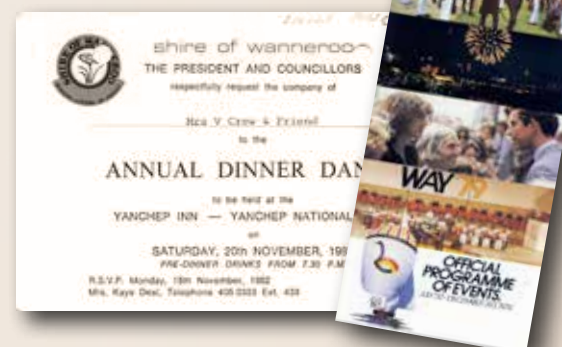
## What is Ephemera?

Ephemera are the minor, transient documents of everyday life that are used or enjoyed for only a short time.

Paper items, such as invitations, menus, posters, postcards, tickets or letters that were originally meant to be discarded after use often become collectibles.

Ephemeral materials reflect the customs and society at the time in which they were produced. They offer a way to document and understand popular culture and can provide a trigger for nostalgic memories.

The City of Joondalup Local History Library collects a wide range of ephemera relating to our area. Flyers, posters, programs, invitations, leaflets, brochures, newsletters and pamphlets are some of the items held in the



Ephemera Collection. Historical invitations to events, souvenir brochures of official openings and council notices providing information for residents show how the area has developed over time. From letters to the Wanneroo Road Board about land developments in the 1920s to flyers detailing current City of Joondalup events, the ephemera collection is a valuable and interesting record of life in our City.

## Dating Photographs



Antonio Crisafulli ca. 1911.

Many of us have photos that don't have names or dates attached to them. Here are some tips to help you to identify your mystery ancestors.

**What are they wearing?** The clothes worn in old photos can tell you quite

a lot. Casual photos taken in 'work' clothes reveal something of a person's social status.

**The dating game.** Whilst many people in formally posed photos often dressed in their newest and best clothes, not everyone wore the latest fashion – whether by necessity or design. A certain style of dress or suit may have been worn for quite a long period. For older people especially, fashion was less important, and the style of dress didn't change very much over the years.

**A flash of inspiration.** Formal studio photographs are often stamped with the name and address of the photographer, which can help you to date an old picture. Search in old trade directories to find when the studio was in business. The town where the studio was situated might be where your ancestor once lived, so it will be worth further investigation.

Joyce Mackenzie and Thelma Austin in Murray Street, Perth ca. 1935

## Dating Women's Clothes

When dating women's clothing, there are several key features that assign a time frame:

**Length of skirt:** In the 20th century the length of a woman's skirt helps to determine when the picture was taken.

**Neckline styles:** The shape and size of collars present on a woman's dress place an outfit within a particular time frame.

**Accessories:** The items a woman selected to wear with her outfit can sometimes pinpoint an exact year.



## Identifying Young Boys in Old Photos

Sometimes it's hard to identify young boys and girls in old family photos.

One method of identifying children in family photos is to look at the way that the boys and girls wore their hair parted – boys on the side and girls down the centre – but there are always exceptions. Throughout the centuries, there have been mothers who couldn't bear to cut the gorgeous curls from their little boys' heads. In the early 20th century there was a trend – little boys with long hair and hair bows. They look just like their sisters. So, what's a genealogist to do to tell them apart?

Family traditions, oral histories and good old-fashioned genealogical research are the only ways to tell the boys from the girls in these cases. Don't jump to conclusions when you see a bow in this period – you might be wrong. Add up the children in the family. Ask older relatives if they know who's who and try to match up their ages to children in the photo using census returns and other documents.



## The Story of Kingsley *(continued from page 1)*

In the 1870s he built a stone and timber house that was occupied by several families of Gibbs's. When the first school opened nearby in 1874 Gibbs hosted a luncheon for Governor Weld who had come to inspect the school and the area.

In the 1920s and 1930s Kingsley was remembered as the place for rounding up the wild brumbies that roamed the area breaking down fences and trampling the market gardens. Tony Martin recalls that the fenced block alongside his Kingsley property was called the Stockade:

*It was a swamp then with paperbark trees all round. When the horses came for water a gate was closed, trapping them inside.* (Marwick (2003), Stories of Old Wanneroo, pp. 117)



Darch and Perry families, 1924

In 1929 Ezio Luisini, an Italian migrant, bought the land on which Mission Farm and the Darch Dairy had stood. Luisini planted vineyards and established a winery. Luisini Winery operated until 1986 when the area was redeveloped for housing. The remaining winery buildings are now heritage listed.



01 Luisini Winery, ca. 1981

In 1963, Willemien Duyker de Vries founded the Montessori School in Kingsley. She recalls an area very different to the suburb now known as Kingsley:

*I was looking for land and there were advertisements in the paper about South Wanneroo. It had five-acre properties at 800-1,000 pounds... so I went to have a look, and there was only one block still not sold. It was this one that we have now. Before I bought it, I wrote to the Wanneroo Shire and asked, 'If I buy this land can I start a school?' That was in 1962 and they said, 'Yes please.' And they sealed the road as soon as we bought the property ... we built the first classroom on weekends ... it was called Struan Heights, South Wanneroo. There was only bush ... it was beautiful, we had bush-walks with the children and it was marvellous.* (Dukyer de Vries, Oral History E0399)



Brumby roundup near Lake Goollelal, ca. 1923

Burt and Shirley Whittle moved to Kingsley in 1969. Their property had originally been a pig and chicken farm and had two houses on it. The Whittle's lived in one house and developed the second as the Hawkes Hill Gallery used for showcasing local artists.

Residential development in Kingsley began in 1977 when 124 lots were

offered for sale. The development was planned using a loop and cul-de-sac design with plenty of open space. Anne Krokene recalls life as early resident of Kingsley:

*I originally bought the block of land as an investment ... all the blocks were bush blocks. They had cleared a lot but left quite a lot of trees on the actual blocks and there were a few for sale along where I live ... four or five houses were here (in 1977). Wanneroo Road was the main road into the area. We had to come through Greenwood through Karuah Way ... Hepburn Avenue was non-existent ...* (Krokene, Oral History E00541)



Lake View Estate, Kingsley, ca. 1982

In 1981 a 680sqm block was priced between \$14,000 and \$18,900. The first school in Kingsley, Goollelal Primary opened the same year followed by Creaney Primary in 1982, Halidon Primary in 1986 and Dalmain Primary in 1990.

By 1984 blocks in the new Lake View Estate overlooking Lake Goollelal sold for between \$25,000 and \$40,000.



Kingsley Drive looking south towards Hepburn Avenue, 1983

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s residential development continued at a rapid pace and by June 2000 the average price of a home in Kingsley was \$171,000.

Today Kingsley is a popular and thriving suburb, home to 13,058 City of Joondalup residents. (ABS, 2016).



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