

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

Early Transport in Wanneroo

Transport was a major concern for the early settlers and pioneers in the Wanneroo area. Life in the district was challenging because of the isolation. The lack of a proper road between Wanneroo and Perth meant that farmers, market gardeners and graziers struggled to transport their produce as there was only a wheel-rutted sandtrack between Wanneroo and the Perth markets. The growers had to leave Wanneroo around midnight, with produce loaded on their horse and carts, to arrive at the markets by 6.00am. It was a long day for the men who didn't get home again until late that night.

It was also difficult to move around the local area and to visit the caves in Yancheep.

The nearest shops were in North Perth so getting supplies was also hard. Men from market gardening families often collected the groceries on their way home from the markets. Due to the intensive nature of the work on the market gardens and dairies the women only got to town about once a year.

For many years the settlers petitioned the authorities to improve Wanneroo Road. Within days of the establishment of the Perth Districts Road Board in 1871, the settlers informed the Board about the poor condition of the road.

Growth in the area was being restricted because of the distance and the state of the track to Perth.

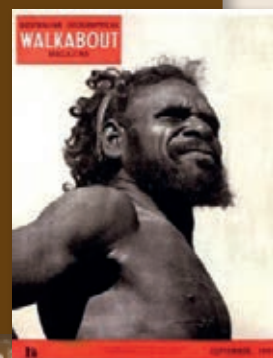
(continued page four)

Walkabout Magazine

Have you ever wanted to go back in time? Australians can 'time travel' back to 20th century Australia courtesy of the iconic *Walkabout Magazine*.

Walkabout was first published in 1934. Illustrated by Australian photojournalists, the magazine ran for forty years. It documented Australia's culture, land and people.

You can view digital copies of *Walkabout Magazine* by accessing the Trove website nla.gov.au



George Leach and a load of cauliflowers, 1920.

Wanneroo Road, 1965.

National Archives of Australia

The Western Australian Branch of the National Archives of Australia has changed their address and opening hours. They have moved from Berwick Street in East Victoria Park to Northbridge.

The new address is:
Ground Floor
William Square
45 Francis Street
Northbridge WA 6003
T: 9470 7500

Opening hours:
Wednesday, Thursday and
Friday: 9.00am – 4.30pm

The new office incorporates a research centre, seminar facilities, an exhibition space and administration offices for Perth staff. It is a convenient one-stop shop for all your National Archives needs, from viewing records to taking in the latest display of collection material.

The National Archives is a great source of information for migration and military service records.



National Family History Month

August is National Family History Month. The City of Joondalup and the State Library of Western Australia have a number of resources (electronic and hard copy) that can be borrowed and/or accessed by family history researchers.

During National Family History Month there are plenty of genealogy events taking place in the Perth Metropolitan area.

Pick up a brochure from any City of Joondalup Library or download the program of events from the State Library of Western Australia's website slwa.wa.gov.au

Australian and New Zealand Family History

Thursday 21 November,
6.00pm – 8.00pm
City of Joondalup Libraries –
Joondalup
Cost \$8.00

Have you ever wondered how your ancestor arrived in Australia and/or New Zealand? Did they arrive in Australia in chains courtesy of Her Majesty's Government? Or were they free settlers wanting a better life for themselves and their family?

Join expert genealogists Olive and Wendy to learn the various reasons that people travelled to Australia and New Zealand and how they survived in a land so very far away from home.

Bring your current research and any questions and have them answered in a friendly environment.

Book and pay online via the City's event calendar at joondalup.wa.gov.au

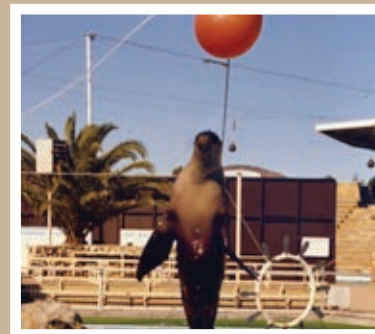
For further information, call 9400 4751.

Did you know?

The Joondalup Local History Library is adding transcripts of oral history interviews to the online catalogue. This ongoing project aims to make available online, full transcripts of over 600 recordings of local residents who have shared their recollections of events that form the history and development of the area.

The Oral History Collection focuses on pioneering families, the development of suburbs, school days, military experiences and the social, sport and entertainment activities of the past.

These interviews contain a wealth of valuable and interesting information and the transcripts make fascinating reading.



A seal at Atlantis Marine Park 1989 and Dolphins at Atlantis Marine Park 1989

To read a transcript go to the Joondalup Library Catalogue – joondalup.spydus.com

- Search via keyword; or
- Refine your search as Oral History catalogue.

Those that have been transcribed will have a PDF attachment to view.

Irish Gravestone Symbols

Are there Irish gravestone symbols at your ancestor's final resting place? Knowledge of the symbols and the meanings behind them will give you a greater understanding of your heritage.

Anchor – The anchor is a symbol of seaman. It was also used as a secret symbol for the early Christians. If you see a gravestone that has both an anchor and a cross, it indicates that the deceased was a Christian seaman. Anchors and crosses are also used as symbols of hope.

Angels – For centuries, neither angels or human figures were allowed in cemeteries because of the decree by Moses that “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.” Over time, opinions changed. Angels were permitted in burial grounds provided their faces were either covered by their hands, tucked under folded wings or bowed towards the ground. If an angel's arms are crossed, it means that they are seeking a blessing.

Family History Workshop – The Next Step

Saturday 21 September,
10.00am – 12.00noon
City of Joondalup Libraries –
Joondalup, Local History
Cost \$8.00

Have you attended the Libraries' Introduction to Family History seminar?

This follow-up workshop will help you to go further, break down brick walls and show you how to find information that has so far been elusive.

Bring your current research and any questions. Have them answered in a friendly environment.

Book and pay online via the City's event calendar at joondalup.wa.gov.au

For further information, call 9400 4751.

Band and Drum Guard Emblem – This indicates that the deceased was a musician. Fife and drum corps were popular in European military units as they were used to keep up morale and provide rhythm so that the soldiers marched in time as they traversed the countryside.

Calvary Steps – The top of some gravestones resemble a staircase. There are three steps on either side that represent faith, hope and charity. They are symbolic of the steps that Jesus took to Calvary or Golgatha on his way to make atonement at the cross.

Celtic Cross – The Celtic cross is a nod to ancient pagan sun-worshippers as well as a Christian symbol. Irish legend states that St Patrick introduced the Celtic cross to Ireland to guide pagans to Christ.

Lily – Lilies have long been a symbol of hope and rebirth. A lily carved into a gravestone symbolises the hope of rebirth or the restoration of innocence for the deceased.

Shield – Shields or crests are used in Ireland to represent family or clan relationships. They're symbolic of family love.

IHS – IHS are the first three letters of the name of Jesus in the Greek alphabet Ι Η Σ Ο Υ Σ. The symbol was introduced in Ireland around 1780 and became very popular from 1810 to 1830.

Ionic-Greek Cross – Ionic crosses flare out at the ends. Greek crosses are of equal length – much like a plus (+) sign.

Crucifix – Whenever you see a gravestone that contains a crucifix, you know that the deceased was Catholic.

Jesus as a Child – Irish gravestones often depict Jesus as a child.

The Last Supper – The Last Supper symbol has Jesus holding bread and a chalice of wine. The halo or crown of light surrounding Jesus's head is a symbol of his holiness. The bread and wine represent the Last Supper.

Mary and Jesus – Mary and infant son Jesus are often depicted on Irish gravestones. A halo of light above their head means that they are holy or sacred.

Shovel or Spade – Shovels or spades symbolise death or mortality.

Laurel Wreath – Laurel wreaths are symbolic of accomplishment and victory over death and immortality.

Lantern – Flaming lanterns represent light, wisdom, knowledge, faith and revelation.

Winged Head – The head symbolises the soul of the deceased. The wings on either side of the head indicate that the person's soul has taken flight into heaven and has been resurrected.



An Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon
your face,
and rains fall soft upon
your fields.
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in
the palm of His hand.

(This article was partially reproduced from the 23 March 2019 BillionGraves Blog)

Early Transport in Wanneroo (continued from page one)

Work started on the road in 1874 using circular Jarrah blocks cut from the surrounding trees with sand between them, but heavy wagons soon broke these down. A convict party started the road building, but the work was taken on by private contractors as funding became available.



Spiers horse and carriage, 1910.

When the Wanneroo Road Board was established in 1903, reducing the area's isolation by improving the roads was its main focus. This was not an easy task, but the completed Wanneroo Road finally opened on 22 January 1927 opening up the area and making life a little easier for the residents.



Wanneroo Road official opening, 1927.

When Wanneroo Road was extended to Yanchep in the 1930s, visitor numbers increased to such an extent that a regular bus service from Perth was introduced.



Buses at Yanchep Park, 1930.

In the early days many children rode ponies or horses to school. Some had small carts or traps and neighbouring children travelled with them. Chaff and bran for the horses was kept under the school verandah. During the day the horses roamed free in the bush.



Charles, Ronald, George and Lionel Leach off to school, 1925.

Charles Pearsall who rode his horse to school in the 1920s remembers:

“My horse was a disreputable one. When the kids used to unsaddle their horses, they used to put their feedbags which also contained their own lunches under the verandah and my horse used to kneel down and pull the first bag he could reach out. He had his feed and ate the kids lunches at the same time. Many times, I have shared my lunch with another kid” (Pearsall, Oral History E0030)

Other children walked up to two miles through the bush to Wanneroo Road to meet the school bus. If they missed the bus it was a three to four hour walk to school and often the children arrived at lunchtime.

In 1922 two draught horses, Bob and Miller, pulled a charabanc bus driven by Bob Steele along Wanneroo Road transporting children to and from school.



Bob Steele and the charabanc bus, ca. 1928.

That same year, newly appointed school teacher, Leslie Hunter who lived in Leederville, left home before dawn every Monday morning to walk to school, it took him five hours. During the week he boarded with a local family before making the return trip home on foot after the last class on Friday.

In 1932 Mr Steele replaced the horse drawn van with a Morris truck which had seats fitted and an awning on top. The bus often got bogged on the rough road and the children had to get out to lighten the load while Mr Steele cut branches and put them under the wheels to get out of the bogs.

Over the years local families made use of any available transport to get to Perth and many people hitched a lift with the milk trucks from Browne's Dairy that came out twice a day to collect the milk from local farms.

Reliable transport was crucial to the development of the Wanneroo area and the early settlers and members of the Wanneroo Road Board and Wanneroo Shire worked tirelessly over many years to achieve this.



Pearsall's Garage, 1930



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