

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

Help update Local History Records

Joondalup Library's Local History is a treasure trove of information about the early settlement of the City of Joondalup and Wanneroo areas. The Local History team collects, preserves and celebrates the rich heritage of the area, and it's always exciting when new historical details come to light.

Recently the Lockwood family approached the City of Joondalup, detailing their family's historical connection to the land around Lake Goollellal. The family operated a piggery from 1940 – 1969.

The Local History team have had the opportunity to add valuable documents, photos and the opportunity to record an oral history with John Lockwood.

Does your family have links to the early settlement of Joondalup? Local History would love to hear from you. Contact the Local History team on 9400 4746, or local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au

Genealogy Tip

Online indexes can lead you to an image of a record with a quick search - if you are lucky enough that names are spelled and indexed correctly. Make certain the 'next image' isn't part of the item you located. Census records may be split over two pages, draft cards are often images of the front and back of the card, death certificates sometimes contain 'supplements' directly after the original document.

Always look at the next image or two in any online set of images to make certain you've got it all.

(Partially reproduced from the Genealogy Tip of the Day website)

Anna Germano outside her house.



Family History Workshop – The Next Step

Saturday 5 October 2019, 10.00am – 12.00noon

City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup

Local History

102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup

Have you attended the Introduction to Family History seminar?

This follow-up workshop will help to break down brick walls and show you how to find information that has so far eluded you. Bring your current research and any questions. Have them answered in a friendly environment.

Cost \$5.00. Book and pay online or call 9400 4751 for further information.



Australian and New Zealand Family History

**Thursday 21 November 2019
6.00pm – 8.00pm**

**City of Joondalup Libraries –
Joondalup**

102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup

Have you ever wondered how your ancestor arrived in Australia 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 as they explore the reasons why people traveled to Australia and New Zealand and how they survived in a land so far away from home. Bring your current research and any questions and have them answered in a friendly environment.

Cost \$5.00. Book and pay online or call 9400 4751 for further information.

DNA Testing for Adoptees – A New Hope

All over the world, there are people with unknown parentage who feel certain that they will never know the truth about their heritage. Perhaps their adoption records have been falsified, or maybe the information they offer is too limited. Perhaps there are no adoption records at all.

However, there is hope. The adoptee has been left with something – a record of their heritage and the heritage of their parents which cannot be falsified, withheld or retracted. This record is in their DNA. Using the techniques developed by genetic genealogists, scientists are able to access, interpret and extract information about an adoptee's heritage without having to rely on the openness and goodwill of other people.

When two people create a child, they leave 50% of their DNA with that child. That child is then the owner of that genetic information. This is the gift of your heritage that cannot be denied.

DNA testing is the tool which allows you to read the information in your genes. The process is simple:

1. Purchase a testing kit.
2. Wait for it to arrive in the post.
3. Spit in the tube or swab your cheek.
4. Post your DNA sample back to the lab for analysis.

Your DNA is then extracted from your sample, interpreted using the testing company's algorithms, and most importantly, compared with the DNA data of every other test-taker in the company's DNA databases. You then access the results via the company's website using a secure login. **Ancestry.com** is a large, reputable company who has the largest DNA database in the world. It does not allow data from other DNA testing companies to be included in its database.

If you are an adoptee, the day that you are presented with your list of relatives may be the first time that you have ever seen a biological relative. Most of these relatives will be very distant cousins. Perhaps all of them are distant, but they are people with whom you share ancestors.

If you are searching for your biological parents, then you do not necessarily need to enlist the help of a professional. You can learn the techniques used by genetic genealogists to solve unknown parentage cases, and in some situations, it is possible to identify an individual's parents without ever contacting another person, which is important for those who are afraid of rejection. The fundamental principles are as follows:

- If you have a half-sibling in the DNA database, then you share a parent with that person. The mother or father of that person is also your mother or your father. The next step is to discover which of their parents is also your parent.
- If you have a first-cousin in the DNA database, then you share a set of grandparents with that person. The next step is to discover which of their two pairs of grandparents are also your grandparents.

- If you have a second-cousin in the DNA database, then you share a set of great-grandparents with that person. The next step is to discover which of their four pairs of great-grandparents are also your great-grandparents.
- And so on.

In theory, this formula can be extrapolated to any genetic relative, no matter how distant. As you can see, however, the number of potential shared ancestors increases with the distance of the genetic relationship. If you are faced with hundreds of distant cousins and very few close relatives, you might need to turn to a professional, who can help you to progress with your search using your existing data.

If an adoptee is worried about upsetting their previously unknown biological relatives, keep the following facts in mind:

1. You have as much right to test your DNA as any other person. You are no less entitled to learn about your heritage and to enjoy genetic genealogy just because you are an adoptee or a person with unknown paternity.
2. Anyone in the databases with whom you share DNA has made the conscious decision to take a

DNA test and to make themselves identifiable and contactable by their genetic relatives. You are one of their genetic relatives. There is no need to feel guilty for sharing DNA with another person.

Before the advent of DNA testing, there were laws protecting the privacy of parents who wished to remain anonymous, whether they were sperm or egg donors or parents adopting-out their children. The paradigm has now shifted, and the power to uncover the truth now rests with the children. The laws of nature dictate that every person can potentially identify their parents using their own DNA data.

As with most things, there are no guarantees with genetic genealogy, but there is always the potential for a positive outcome. In some cases, it might be possible to identify your parents on the day that your DNA results are made available to you. In other cases, the process might be long and arduous. Sometimes you might need to wait for more relatives to test before you can progress with your investigation. But the situation is never hopeless. As long as your DNA is present in the databases, at the very least you are making yourself traceable, even if you are not yourself actively searching for your relatives.

You are entitled to the truth about your identity and your heritage. Use the gift your ancestors gave you, and never give up hope.

Important links:

www.ancestrydna.co.uk
www.myheritage.com/dna
www.familytreedna.com
www.23andme.com/en-gb
isogg.org

(Partially reproduced from the LostCousins 13 April 2019 Newsletter)



Signs and the Stories They Tell



Sorrento Sporting Club, 1980

Signs are everywhere. They tell you where you are, what to do and what to buy. They are an important part of our everyday life that you may notice but don't always appreciate.

Signs can also give an insight into history. They can reveal a lot about the time and place in which they were made and used. Modern signage has been around since Greek and Roman times. These early civilisations used stone or terracotta and often had specific symbols to identify businesses like taverns or workshops.

Signs tell a story about the social and cultural history of places. They are a visual record of society and illustrate the changing styles and trends of time and place. Signs give a glimpse into the past, to the things that were used



Spiers horse and cart, 1910

by your parents and grandparents in their daily lives. Who can forget the distinctive signs for Bushell's tea, Velvet soap and Kiwi boot polish that adorned the local milk bar or grocery store.

Signs are transient, but some become national icons and appear on souvenirs such as mugs, tea towels and cards. Products like Vegemite, Arnott's biscuits, Uncle Toby's oats and Rosella tomato sauce have become symbols of Australian culture in their own right. They evoke nostalgic memories of simpler times and of home and country.

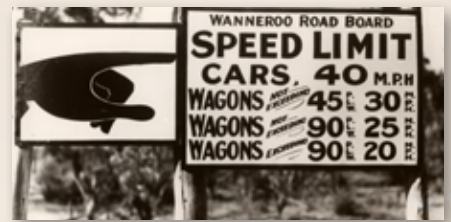


Pearsalls Garage, 1930

In earlier years the craft of signwriting was an art. Skill and technique took years to perfect and a steady hand, a keen eye and artistic flair were necessary for success. The type of materials used varied; with wood, enamel and metal being popular. Letter forms (fonts), colour combinations and styles also changed over time.



Wanneroo Garage, 1946



Wanneroo speed limit sign, 1935

Rural Wanneroo had few signs in the early years but as the population grew the number of vehicles increased, and road signs started to appear. In 1935 the Wanneroo Road Board speed limit sign listed 40mph for cars, while wagons were 20, 25 or 30mph depending on the weight of the wagon. The heavier the vehicle the lower the speed limit.



Perry's Paddock Picnic, 1998

Signs for the Wanneroo Show and the annual Picnic Sports Day held at Perry's Paddock were other early signs in Wanneroo. As the area developed, signs for Pearsall's Garage, the Wanneroo Post Office and Villanova Brothers Store appeared. Henry Dennis's garage on Wanneroo Road displayed the distinctively embossed Shell Motor Oil sign.

By 1980 signs proclaimed, 'Living is great in Wanneroo', promoting the area as a great place to live.

Signs are a reminder of times past and the rich history of the place you live.



Pearsalls Garage, 1930



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