

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



AUSTRALASIAN UNITED STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIM

Trip 75 3rd Jan

Passenger list S.S. **WAROONGA** from Sydney to Fremantle

CLASS.	NAME.	FROM.	TO.
Saloon	Mrs A B Newham & Daughter	Sydney	Fremantle
	Sett		
	Appletow Boy & Girl		
	M ^r V Kellie		
	Mrs Osborne		
	M ^r A & Virginia		
	Mrs Heald	Melbourne	Adelaide
	Mrs & Miss		(Adelaide) 7/1
	Mrs Skye		

What's your family story?

Joondalup Library's Local History collection hosts information about indigenous culture and the early development of the City of Joondalup and Wanneroo areas.

Does your family have indigenous connections to Joondalup, or links to its early settlement history? The City would love to hear from you.



Welcome to the Family and Local History Newsletter Autumn 2020



Family Voices

Saturday 21 March, 10.30am

City of Joondalup Libraries –
Joondalup Library Local History

Everyone has a life story to tell. Have you ever considered taking time to record your family's oral history for the generations to come? Learn how to record and interview the older members of your family from the Libraries experienced Local History team.

Cost \$5.00. Book and pay online at joondalup.wa.gov.au

Recording a Family History Interview on your Smartphone

With the advent of smartphones, recording an oral history interview with a family member has never been easier.

1. Download a voice recording app on your smartphone. iPhones have a default recorder.
2. Point the Smartphone's microphone toward the speaker(s).
3. Press the recording button/icon to begin recording the interview. Remember to state:
 - The name of the interviewee.
 - The name of the interviewer.
 - Date, time and place of the oral history interview.
4. To focus on memories and experiences, ask open-ended questions rather than yes or no answers. It's more interesting for you and the interviewee to talk about the stories and emotions in your family's past.
5. Press the button/icon to stop the recording. Follow the prompts to save the file and name it.
6. Use free audio-editing tools to improve the recording. Save the file onto a USB or iCloud.



Early Education in Wanneroo and Joondalup



Wanneroo School bus ca. 1933.

Left to right: Headmaster Mr Speers, North bus driver Mr A. Norman, South bus driver Bob Steele and two teachers Linda Skewes and Elsie Woolcott.

The first school in the Wanneroo District was Mission Farm, established in April 1844 by Wesleyan minister Reverend John Smithies. The school's vision was to teach Aboriginal children agricultural and domestic skills to enable them to gain employment in the colony. Reverend Smithies, his wife and children came to the Swan River Colony from England in 1840. The 'Native Experimental Farm' (also known as Lake Alder, Sheffield Park), was located on 56-acres at Gullililup (the eastern shores of Lake Goollelal).

The first overseer on the farm was John Uglow, a single man and member of the Wesleyan Society. In 1845 John Stokes, a carpenter, became acting overseer and was later replaced by Frederick Waldeck in 1846. Despite a new school room being added in 1849 to accommodate 25 pupils, the farm was running at a loss. Poor soil, failed crops, floods in 1847 and the departure of Frederick Waldeck in 1850, resulted in many children returning to their families. Mission Farm closed soon afterwards and relocated to York.

It wasn't until 1847 that the General Board of Education was formed in Western Australia to develop a school system in the Swan River Colony. The board established a secular Girls' School and Perth Boys' School in Perth, opened schools in rural districts and subsidised early Roman Catholic schools.

Shocked at the hardship and lack of school and church amenities for the 60 families in Wanneroo, a reader 'Salus

Populi' sent a letter to the editor of the Inquirer and Commercial News on 3 April 1872 remarking:

'Talk of a school or place of worship for any denomination, they answer it, is far more certain...in the African Deserts, with British Missionaries supported by British funds than in Wanneroo 12 miles from the capital of Western Australia, a British Colony.'

His words echoed the concerns of the settlers who worked all day in their market gardens to make a living, often with the help of their children:

'Such a state of affairs is not alone confined to the poorer class, there being no school or place for the children of any to resort to; they equally ramble at large through the bush.'

The first government school in Wanneroo, a one-roomed wooden structure built near Lake Goollelal, was opened by Governor Weld on 1 September 1874.

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Wanneroo State School Students ca. 1911.

Left to right: (standing): Bessie Ashby, Violet Caporn, Maude Berriman, Don Wilson, Lily O'Connor, Ada Tapping, (sitting): Priscilla Spence, Bill Berriman, Jack Ashby, Beryl Wilson, Ada Ashby, Molly Tapping.

The opening was attended by the school's first teacher Miss J Simpson and 15 students. School earnings for the year were 19 pounds and five shillings. At that time teachers' salaries were calculated on the number of students in their class and the number of successful exam results achieved. In 1878, families who could afford to pay for their children to attend school, were charged a daily fee per child. Wanneroo School grew slowly and was periodically forced to close when student numbers dropped below 12. Student numbers dropped again in 1889 and in 1890 Wanneroo School was permanently closed.

On 1 March 1898 the Wanneroo Settlers Association applied to the Education Department for another school. The one-room 'Wanneroo Provisional School Class A' school opened in 1899 with 14 students and their teacher Mr Charles A. Shaw. The school was built on land near the corner of Wanneroo and Dundee Roads donated to the Education Department by John (Jack) Buckingham along with five pounds. Mr Shaw lived on the premises in a lean-to on the verandah and remained at the school until the end of 1911. He was succeeded by John Brennan who taught until 1916 and Frederick White who taught from 1917 to 1922.

In 1912, Western Australian District Inspectors raised the idea of creating consolidated schools for education in rural and remote areas of the state. The concept had been used successfully in the USA and Canada since the 1870s where children were transported to a central school that provided more teachers and a wider curriculum.

During the 1920s Toodyay became the first rural district to have a consolidated school in Western Australia. It was followed soon after by other remote communities including Wanneroo. Education in this decade was provided free to all students from infants' school to university by the Western Australian Government who funded the cost of buildings, furniture, teachers and sometimes transport. Communities were still encouraged to participate and cooperate with their local school and its teachers to foster a positive place for children to learn. Education was compulsory for children aged six to 14 and students were schooled in the basics – reading, writing and arithmetic. In larger country areas, agriculture and manual labour skills were also taught.

Until the three-roomed St Anthony's School was built in 1935, children of Roman Catholic families attended Wanneroo State School. The school was built on Wanneroo Road adjacent to St Anthony's Catholic Church which had been consecrated in 1932.



St Anthony's School students with their achievement certificates pose in the school grounds ca. 1937.

L to R: Anthony (Tony) Parin, Kevin Leach, Leone (Louie) Villanova, Jean Gibbs, Rosina (Rose) Arrigo, Jaka (Jean) Zivkovich, Erica Togno.

Three Sisters of Mercy nuns from St Brigids Convent in West Perth Sister Claver, Sister Brendan Kennedy and Sister Berckmans were appointed to teach at the school. Sister Mary Stanislaus became the school principal. The sisters had to travel from West Perth to Wanneroo daily to teach.

The first university in the area, Edith Cowan University, opened in 1984. Anne Elam, the university's first Administration Officer, describes her first day at work:

"In July '84 I arrived on the Joondalup Campus which was the ground floor. It was a suite of rooms and huge big middle reception area on the ground floor of the Shire building. And all that was there were classrooms with desks and chairs and blackboards, library shelves, a desk, a telephone and hundreds of boxes to be unpacked." (Elam Oral History E0469)

Since its formation in 1998, the City of Joondalup has had a strong focus on its role as a learning precinct. In its early days, Joondalup had two universities (Edith Cowan University and Curtin University) and more recently secondary and vocational colleges including the North Metropolitan College of TAFE, the Western Australia Police Academy, the Western Australian International College and Lake Joondalup Baptist College – all located within the Central Business District.

The City now has 47 primary schools, 16 high schools as well as Edith Cowan University, Edith Cowan College, the WA Police Academy and the North Metropolitan TAFE.



Gertie Caporn (driving the horse and sulkies) takes her sister Alma to her first day of school in East Wanneroo ca. 1924.

Obituaries and Death Notices

It may seem morbid, but obituaries and death notices are a useful source of information for family history researchers. They often contain the names of parents, siblings, spouse, children and grandchildren. They may also contain the age of the deceased, where they were born, where they lived and where they're buried.

Some obituaries contain details about the person's work life or their personal life.

If you have relatives who died in Australia, have a look at the Ryerson Index. The Ryerson Index is a free index of death notices that appear in Australian Newspapers. There are over 7 million notices from 348 different Australian newspapers. As shown in the table below, the Ryerson Index provides basic information that can be further researched.

Surname	Given Names	Notice Type	Date	Event	Age	Other Details	Publication
CREEK	Gordon Vivian	Funeral notice	11JUL2014	Funeral		late of City Beach	The West Australian 07JUL2014
CREEK	Gordon Vivian	Death notice	05JUL2014	Publication	c80		The West Australian 05JUL2014

Sudden deaths are often reported in local newspapers. If one of your ancestors died young or as the result of an accident, it's quite likely that there is a newspaper article about his/her death. To the right is a report of an accidental death reproduced from the Trove website.



Antiques Today

Wednesday 29 April, 10.00am

City of Joondalup Libraries – Joondalup Reference

Many people have invested in antiques over the years. Yet, as times change, how does this affect today's value of an antique? Antique dealer Mathew Donelly will discuss current trends, variations and styles, and answer the important question – Are antiques still worth money?

Cost \$3.00. Book and pay online at joondalup.wa.gov.au

Mathew Donelly

THE ELAINE MINING FATALITY.

INQUEST ON THE VICTIMS.

BALLARAT, Monday.

Another painful object-lesson is presented to miners in the fatality at the Golden Gate mine, Elaine, which involved the deaths of Samuel Dower, aged 49, and Robert Dower, his son, aged 19. The evidence given at the inquest held by Mr. Patterson, P.M., to-day, showed that the fall or earth which crushed them to death was mainly brought about by their own disregard of reasonable precautions. The tribute manager, John T. Champion, said that his instructions as to timbering had not been carried out, the men having simply placed a prop in the mullock without a foot-board about 8ft. back from the face. A miner named Philip Hammer, who had assisted to put in the prop, said that he did not think at the time that it would carry any weight but did not care to say anything, as the elder Dower was in charge. Joseph Richards, the mine manager, as well as the tribute manager, expressed the opinion that regular sets of timber were not required. Mr. Agnew, inspector of mines, thought that if sets had been used or if additional props and headboards had been put up the fall would not have occurred. He considered that sets were a necessity to secure complete safety, as the ground was jointy, and there was a danger of it breaking between the props and the headboards. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and found that if there was any negligence it was on the part of the deceased themselves.

Newspaper article from The Argus (Melbourne, Vic) Tuesday 23 June 1896. Page 5.



Joondalup Library, Local History

T: 08 9400 4746

E: local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au

102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup, WA, 6027

PO Box 21, Joondalup, WA, 6919

joondalup.wa.gov.au



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