

WINTER 2020 EDITION



FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

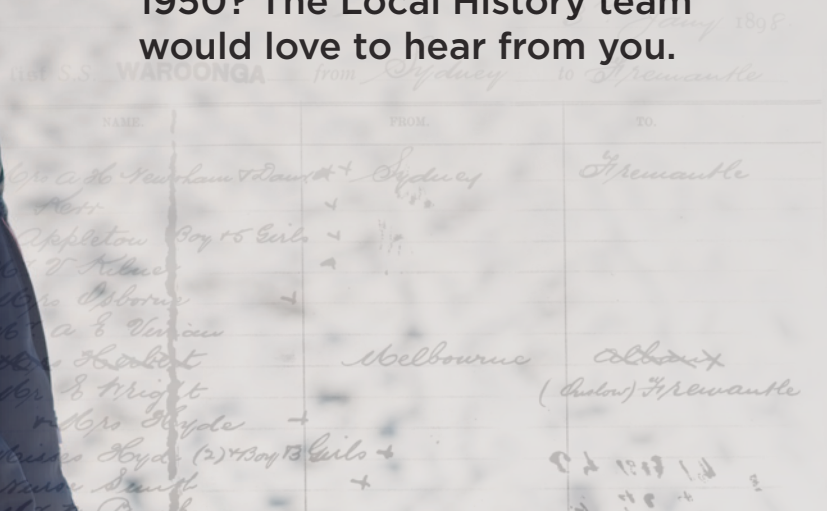
Joondalup Library, Local History
102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup, 6027

For opening hours visit
joondalup.wa.gov.au

What's your family story?

The Joondalup Local History Collection is a treasure trove of information about the early settlement of the City of Joondalup and Wanneroo areas. The Local History team collects, documents, preserves and makes available items that reflect the history, development and culture of the region.

Does your family have links to the early settlement of Joondalup, especially prior to 1950? The Local History team would love to hear from you.



Contact the Local History team on 9400 4746
or email local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au

joondalup.wa.gov.au



Olympic Connections: Yanchep, Wanneroo's Olympic pool and Joondalup's Olympic Torch Relay

The 32nd Games of the Olympiad, Summer Olympics were due to be held from 24 July - 9 August, 2020 in Tokyo, Japan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Games have been postponed until 23 July 2021.



Crystal Pool Bathing Pavilion ca. 1938.

The Olympics have never before been postponed however, three Games have been cancelled due to war, and the 1972 Games were suspended after an attack on the Munich Olympic Village.

Residents may remember the City of Joondalup hosted the Olympic Torch Relay through the northern suburbs on its worldwide route to the 2000 Sydney Olympics. What is not widely known is Yanchep's connection to the 1936 Berlin Olympics.



A group of Yanchep sustenance workers at the Yanchep Inn construction site ca. 1936.

Australia was hit hard by the Great Depression in the 1930s. Many out of work Western Australians found employment through Premier James Mitchell's sustenance scheme; building public works and other municipal projects. In Wanneroo, these workers were engaged in the development of Yanchep Park.

In 1931 construction began in the park on the Crystal Pool and Guest House to provide affordable accommodation for holiday makers from Perth.



Olympic swimmers and divers at Gloucester Lodge swimming pool, Yanchep, in 1936, training for the Berlin Olympic Games.

Ernie Fowler was one of the workers who helped construct the Crystal Pool and Guest House. The land chosen for the pool was swampy and proved to be a challenge during construction.

Ernie recalls:

'I remember we dropped in lots of large rocks, but they would disappear after a short while. Eventually palm leaves were laid and teams of men mixed concrete, putting it on to the leaves. That's how the pool's floor was made.'



The Crystal Pool and Guest House (later Gloucester Lodge) under construction.

In February 1936, the National Swimming Championships were held in Western Australia. Swimmers from across Australia competed in diving and swimming events. The championships were used to select team members for the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

As part of their itinerary local and interstate competitors visited tourist attractions around Perth. This included a day at Yanchep National Park where the visitors were entertained and shown around the caves. The swimmers then displayed their skills in the pool.

The *West Australian* newspaper promoted the event at Yanchep:

'Representatives from four Commonwealth states will give an exhibition of swimming and high and fancy diving in the Crystal Pool Yanchep,' and *'All the titleholders will compete in medley and handicap races, freestyle, breaststroke, and backstroke.'*

Buses departed from the Tourist Bureau next to the Town Hall, Perth in the morning and travelled to Yanchep for the display.

[Continued on page 3](#)

The public were invited to watch the event and paid a one-shilling entrance fee to help with the costs of the national championship.

Two Western Australian competitors, Evelyn de Lacy and Pervical (Percy) Oliver were selected for the Olympic team and travelled to Berlin by ship along with a live kangaroo mascot named 'Aussie.'



Rear view of Crystal Pool Guesthouse 1934.



A view of Gloucester Lodge pool showing the diving tower ca. 1935.

The guest house was named Yanchep Lodge but in 1939 it was renamed Gloucester Lodge in honour of Henry, Duke of Gloucester who stayed there on 5 October 1934. The Gloucester Lodge Swimming Pool was considered one of the best pools in Australia at the time but was decommissioned in the early 2000s when it was found to be too costly to repair.

Just over 60 years later, in April 1999, the newly formed City of Joondalup signed a contract with the Sydney Organising Committee to host a leg of the Olympic Torch Relay through Perth's northern suburbs in preparation for the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. The City was one of four Western Australian metropolitan councils to host the relay.



Mayor John Bombak, standing on the left of the cauldron, with City of Joondalup Councillors and local residents selected as Olympic Torchbearers for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch Relay.

The torch first landed in Australia at Uluru on 8 June 2000 and the Olympic flame travelled through 1,000 towns, across all states on a 100 day journey to Sydney for the Games. On 7 July 2000, the torch travelled from Fremantle to Perth and through the northern suburbs. It entered the City of Joondalup at the intersection of Wanneroo and Beach Roads, carried by Brenda Johnson. The torch then made its way along Ocean Reef Road, Joondalup Drive, Grand Boulevard, Shenton Avenue and Kennedy Drive where it was carried along the Torchbearer Corridor at Arena Joondalup.

Over 10,000 people attended celebrations at the Arena. At 7.00pm torchbearer Debra Morrow entered the stadium and had the honour of lighting the Community Cauldron while Mayor John Bombak officiated. The crowds were entertained by Woodvale Senior High School Concert band, Creaney Primary School Choir, Challenge Brass Band, Wanneroo Pipe Band and a 500 strong Sports Club Parade.

The Arena was decorated with banners created by children from local schools and out of school care programs who participated in the Olympic Torch Relay Banner Challenge, won by Beaumaris Primary School.

The night sky was lit by giant fire silhouettes representing Joondalup's cultural identity and the celebration closed with a fireworks display.

Rodney Fitzpatrick, Olympic Torchbearer, with the Sydney 2000 Olympic Cauldron and presentation disc.

The event was organised by the City's Cultural Development team, local residents and students from Edith Cowan University who volunteered their services.

At 7.00am the next morning, Carol Tomcala carried the torch from the Arena on its way out of Joondalup. The flame travelled along Joondalup Drive, Shenton Avenue, Marmion Avenue, Mullaloo Drive, Northshore Drive and Whitfords Avenue leaving the City boundary on West Coast Drive, Marmion around 9.15am.

The torch was carried in relay by 11,000 Australian torchbearers selected from their local communities for their sporting achievements or outstanding community spirit. Thirty-seven torchbearers from the northern suburbs carried the torch over its two day journey through the City of Joondalup. Each one playing a special role in the journey of the flame to the Sydney Olympics opening ceremony on 15 September 2000.

If you have any photographs of the torch relay passing through Joondalup that you would like to send, please email local.history@joondalup.wa.gov.au or phone 9400 4746.



Sharing the Olympic flame with our community banner project.

The Sydney 2000 Olympic cauldron.

Free, online resources for family history research

While large, commercial online databases such as **ancestry.com** are enormously popular for undertaking family history research, there are numerous smaller, free resources available online that can be amazing sources of useful or hard to find information.

The City of Joondalup Libraries maintain a web page listing many of these resources, some of which are featured below.

Australian resources

Convicts to Australia

Most family historians in Australia regard a convict in their ancestry as desirable. Convicts to Australia is intended to guide, inform and entertain those just starting the hunt as well as the more experienced researcher.

Lost Leaders of ANZACS

This site records the names of more than 500 officers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps known or believed to have died as the result of their service on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, in 1915. It also contains copies of headstone inscriptions and details of the whereabouts of each Officer's medals, where known.

International resources

Free BMD UK

FreeBMD is an ongoing project, the aim of which is to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England

Reference and Local History staff are available to assist you with your family history research. Contact Local History by emailing reference.library@joondalup.wa.gov.au or calling 9400 4746.

and Wales, and to provide free internet access to the transcribed records. It is a part of the Free UK Genealogy family, which also includes FreeCEN (Census data) and FreeREG (Parish Registers).

National Archives, UK

Explore 1,000 years of history of the United Kingdom and its antecedents. Contains guidance on how to locate and search online record sets.

While the Archives' Kew Office is closed, registered researchers can request access to up to 50 digitised records in 30 days for free.

The Ships List

The Ships List website has been online since August 1999. It will help you find your ancestors on ships' passenger lists. It also has immigration reports, newspaper records, shipwreck information, ship pictures, ship descriptions, shipping-line fleet lists and more; as well as hundreds of passenger lists to Canada, USA, Australia and some for South Africa.

Donation to the Local History Library



The Joondalup Local History Library has recently received a Luisini Winery carafe. Kindly donated by Soren and Yvonne Skodt, this beautiful hand-painted clay carafe has been in the Skodt family for over 40 years. This item is a valuable addition to the collection of Luisini memorabilia already held in the collection.

The Local History Library was recently contacted by the Lockwood family, who detailed their historical connection to the area. The family operated a piggery from 1940–1969 on land around Lake Goollellal.

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



City of Joondalup
LIBRARIES

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



This document is available in alternative formats upon request.