

# 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



## Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park

Take a turn on Whitfords Avenue near the Mitchell Freeway and you will find a tranquil valley of beautifully landscaped gardens, lakes, breathtaking sculptures and a profusion of wildflowers in spring. An abundance of kangaroos and a diverse bird population inhabit the area and can readily be seen and heard. Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park has been a beauty in our midst for over 40 years.

In 1928 the Karrakatta Cemetery Board began to search the metropolitan area for a new cemetery location. An area of land now in the suburb of Padbury was chosen and named Pinnaroo as they understood it to mean 'resting place'.

On 14 May 1962 Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park was officially declared a public cemetery. The original

303 hectares of land was reduced to 111 hectares a decade later to accommodate services provided by Main Roads and Metropolitan Water Boards.

Bill Bullock of the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board recalls the site chosen for Pinnaroo:

*"No, no, it was not flat and that's like a lot of cemeteries ... in fact most of the cemeteries that are around are pretty flat and they were built on open land and a lot of them of course were dairy farms and no trees and no nothing. But Pinnaroo was different it was undulating and it's in the valley and I knew that it was in the valley in the old stock routes that went through there ..."*

The Board's vision for Pinnaroo was a family friendly park with an air of serenity and dignity, the calibre of King's Park. Retaining the natural bush and the contours of the land

was paramount to the park's design. Lawns were planted within the natural setting and supplemented with native plants and flowers. This was a new concept in cemetery design at the time. Initially monuments and headstones were allowed in the park, but it was decided that memorial plaques inlaid in the lawns would be more suitable.

A dedication ceremony for the park was held on 10 August 1973 and a plaque marking the occasion was affixed to a nearby limestone rock along with one bearing a quote by Gladstone. Pinnaroo was designated a non-denominational cemetery while Karrakatta continued to offer services for special burials.

Pinnaroo was officially opened by Hon. E.C. (Cyril) Ruston, MLA Minister for Local Government on 28 April 1978 and was the first major cemetery to open in Western Australia since 1899.



# Welcome to the Family and Local History Newsletter Spring 2021



P03266.11 – A view of Sir Thomas Meagher Lake



P02675 – Cecil Malcolm Cockman n.d.

Cockman, early settlers of the Wanneroo region, and the grandson of James Cockman, who arrived in the Swan River Colony in 1829 aboard the sailing ship *Calista*.

The first person to be buried at Pinnaroo was Cecil Malcolm Cockman who died on 21 May 1978, aged 90.

Cecil was the son of James Samuel and Emma Jane

Cecil's death occurred before Pinnaroo was authorised for internments. His family were determined to bury him at Pinnaroo, but a signature was required from the Chairman of the Cemeteries Board who was holidaying on Rottnest Island. Bert Crane, the Local Member and Charles Searson, Wanneroo Shire President interceded and within days permission was granted. Cecil Cockman was buried on Wednesday 24 May 1978 in a ceremony attended by 250 people.

Sir Thomas Meagher, a trustee on the inaugural Pinnaroo Board of Trustees from 1962 and its chairman in 1971, died on 27 June 1979. The lake at Pinnaroo was named after him in recognition of his service on the Karrakatta and Pinnaroo Cemeteries Boards and his participation in its creation. In 2007 the lake was re-engineered as a water source to irrigate the park. A gazebo with niche walls was built nearby and gardens and small water features were added.

In 1986 the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board was formed and in 1988 took over management of Pinnaroo.

A crematorium and chapel had been in the park plans since the 1970s but were not completed until 2002. A second chapel (a mirror image of the first) was added in 2012.



P03266.02 – Memorial near Sr Thomas Meagher Lake

Artwork at the entrance of the chapel was created by artists Jenny Dawson and Sandra Hill and acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and aimed to symbolise the personal journey each person took through life.

Pinnaroo was the first cemetery in Australia to provide live access to funeral services via satellite and internet. In 2003 the park won silver



P02477 – Cecil Malcolm Cockman, ca.1908



P03266.04 – Elements Garden

in the Government Productivity Technology Awards for its funeral webcasting service. In the same year Pinnaroo Chapel and Crematorium won the Civic Design Award in the Royal Institute of Architects Awards for WA.

In 2007, Zamia Court (a family burial area) was completed whereby the design featured the old stock route that ran through Pinnaroo. The drover's theme includes a corrugated iron weather shelter, ornamental sheep and a windmill.

Natural burials were introduced at Pinnaroo in 2014. Unmarked graves

P03266.07 – Cassia Court, Pinnaroo



are in an area of natural bushland in the park and are locatable by GPS coordinates. A plaque at the entrance is the only memorial to the people who are buried there. Prior to this, the board had also investigated the use of vertical burials, but this idea was abandoned because it would not create more space in the park for the future.

At the height of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, Pinnaroo and Rockingham Cemeteries prepared for thousands of rapid burials. The Joondalup Times reported in June 2020 that the *'Metropolitan Cemeteries Board were also prepared to use a "trench rapid burial method" understood to be like the mass graves seen in New York earlier this year.'*

With its well-kept lawns, natural landscaping and beautiful sculptures, Pinnaroo provides a place for solace and reflection for all, a final resting place for loved ones and a popular location for wedding photos, dog walking and bird watching.

P03266.01 – Tree of Life



## Family Heirlooms

Most of us have those special family treasures that have been handed down through the generations.

What family heirlooms do you want your family to keep? Many of these heirlooms have stories attached to them that could be lost if you don't tell your family or document it.

By sharing the story behind your family heirlooms, your loved ones will know the significance of each object. They will feel more connected to it and more inclined to pass the cherished heirloom down to subsequent generations.

You can write a list of your heirlooms. Take a photo of the object and write about it. At the same time, you might also want to write the name of the person that you want to inherit the heirloom.

Administrative County Northamptonshire The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the Page 14

Civil Parish Northampton Ecclesiastical Parish All Saints County Borough Municipal Borough or Urban District Northampton Ward or Municipal Borough or Urban District Northampton Rural District Northampton Parliamentary Borough or Division Northampton Township Village or Hamlet Northampton

Coln	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No. of House	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES				Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of		PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded		
		Uninhabited	Single	Double	Building				Male	Female							
						Jessie Annie Bottrill	Daughter		6					Northampton	Flora		
						Lillian Mary	Daughter		4					Northampton	Flora		
						Reginald Charles	Son		3					Northampton	Flora		
69	1					Dorothy Frances	Daughter		8 mo					Northampton	Flora		
70	1					Charles Wilding	Head	Wid	77					Northampton	Flora		
						Mary Ann Spencer	Head	Wid	79					Northampton	Flora		
71	1					Edward	Grandson	S	12					Northampton	Flora		
						Orlando Orland	Head	S	28		Builder	Employer		Northampton	Flora		
72	1					Mary March	Serv	S	42		Housekeeper - Domestic			Northampton	Flora		
						John Croft	Head	M	58		Wheelwright	Worker		Northampton	Flora		
						Emma	Wife	M	59					Northampton	Flora		
73	1					Edwin	Son	S	19		Wheelwright	Worker		Northampton	Flora		
						William Howe	Head	M	46		General Labourer	Worker		Northampton	Flora		
						Maria	Wife	M	45					Northampton	Flora		
						William H.	Son	M	20					Northampton	Flora		
						John	Son	S	15		Ordinary Agricultural Labourer	Worker		Northampton	Flora		
						Thomas Robt	Son	S	13			Worker		Northampton	Flora		
						Ann	Daughter		12					Northampton	Flora		
						Mabel	Daughter		7					Northampton	Flora		
						Arthur	Son		2					Northampton	Flora		
74	1					Thomas Smith	Head	Wid	78		Ordinary Agricultural Labourer	Worker		Northampton	Flora		
						Lucy A. Poyser	Serv	S	47		Housekeeper - Domestic			Northampton	Flora		
75	1					William Hedge Jones	Head	M	29		Medical Carter	Worker		Northampton	Flora		
						Helen	Wife	M	86					Northampton	Flora		
76	1					Thomas Shortland	Head	M	50		Baker - Shopkeeper	Own account		Northampton	Flora		
						Elizabeth	Wife	M	59					Northampton	Flora		
77	1					James Kennell	Head	Wid	73					Northampton	Flora		
						Alice Dunkley	Boarder	S	73					Northampton	Flora		
						Mary Ann Hunt	Boarder	Wid	74					Northampton	Flora		
9	Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenants with less than Five Rooms		9			Total of Males and of Females...			15	14							

Note—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are applicable.

Northampton, England 1901 Census record, including Alice Dunkley. Courtesy Wendy Bloomfield.

## Census Records

As any family history researcher will attest, census records are an invaluable source of information about your ancestors. A census provides information about the population of a particular area at a given time. Information is collected from people relating to where they are staying at the time of the census.

The amount of information recorded on a census varies from country to country. Some countries have very detailed censuses. There is a very good collection of US and UK census records available on **Ancestry.com**

You can either type in the name of your ancestor or you can search by date, region (e.g. Europe, Asia, and Oceania) or country.

Once you access the census of your focus country, you can narrow your search further by clicking on the location.

Both **Ancestry.com** and **Findmypast.com** have helpful hints that will enable you to search more effectively for the person that you're looking for.

## England, Scotland and Wales Census

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the release of the 1921 Scotland census will be delayed until the second half of 2022.

There had previously been uninformed speculation that it

would be released on 20 June 2021, its 100th anniversary, although ScotlandsPeople have never given a precise date.

The England and Wales census is still due for release in early 2022.



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