

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

How to record your own family podcast

There are many occasions when families and friends come together to celebrate. Stories are passed from one generation to the next.

With advanced technologies and faster Internet, families can now share their family history by recording a podcast.

Producing and recording a podcast have never been so easy, all you need is a desktop, laptop, MP3 music or the Internet.

Equipment

- Use a desktop or a laptop computer.
- Download a free and open-source digital audio editor and recording application software such as **Audacity**.
- Purchase a microphone headset that plugs into your computer or a standalone microphone if you intend to record a number of podcasts.

Planning your Podcast

- Create a brief script that introduces your relatives and the topic that will be discussed.
- **StoryTouch** is a free script writing software tool that is available and compatible with MAC and Window users.



- Have a separate script for each topic. Either combine the topics into episodes for a podcast that doesn't last longer than 30 minutes or create a separate podcast for each topic discussed.
- Write a list of open-ended questions that will encourage your relatives to share their stories.
- Start with your oldest relative first. Ask about their parents, grandparents, great uncles and aunties etc. If possible, have photos of these relatives as a memory prompt.
- Possible questions might include:
 - Where did they grow up?
 - Which school did they attend and for how long?
 - What did they like to do in their spare time?
 - What is your favourite memory of this person?
- Are there any family traditions and/or favourite recipes that have been passed down?
- Ask your relatives about what it was like growing up during significant historical events such as:
 - The Great Depression.
 - World War II.
 - The advent of television.
 - The Vietnam War.
 - Seeing man land on the moon for the first time.
 - The 9/11 attack on the World Trade Centre.
- Record and Edit
Use your digital audio editor to edit the recording by eliminating long pauses, distracting noises etc. After you have finished editing the podcast, save it in a suitable format.



Welcome to the Family and Local History Newsletter Summer 2022

Frances 'Granny' Spiers



P00665 Rosaria Arti, her son Rosario (Charlie) Ariti and Granny Spiers ca. 1950

The contribution that pioneer women offer their communities is largely unrepresented in history. Many quietly made their mark as leaders and role models, helping other women and their families while supporting their husbands and raising a family of their own. Frances Sophia 'Granny' Spiers is one of these memorable women who is remembered in her own right as a well-loved and benevolent pioneer.

Frances Sophia, the youngest of seven children to William Boughton; a clerk in a mercantile house, and Anna Clarke was born on 4 February 1862, in Learmonth, Victoria. Her parents had married in Middlesex, England in 1845. They had six children and in 1861 the family migrated to Victoria, Australia. Frances was two months

old when her mother died suddenly from a lung disease. Frances's sister, Anna Elizabeth Scott Boughton was 16 years old at the time and may have taken charge of running the house and caring for her siblings. It isn't clear if William remarried.

In 1883 Frances, aged 21, married James Spiers at St John's Church, Soldiers Hill, Ballarat, Victoria. They had five children: Robert Hunter (Bob) b. 1884; William Boughton [1] b. 1886 d. 1891 (Victoria); Frances Sophia (Fanny) b. 1890; James (Jimmy) b. 1893 and William Boughton [2] (Billy) b. 25 November 1896.

James Spiers also known as Jimmy or Jasper was born in Launceston, Tasmania on 13 August 1857 to

Robert Spiers and Mary Pollock. The family moved to Victoria when James was about 14 years old. James was a hard worker who ran his own cartage business and was a successful amateur jockey and horse owner. He frequently competed against racing great Adam Lindsay Gordon on Victorian racecourses.

In 1893 James fell into debt during the economic depression affecting the eastern states and came to Western Australia to find work. He moved to Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie during the gold rush and was a major contributor to the development of the roadworks around Kalgoorlie's Golden Mile. James then moved to West Perth and set up as a cartage contractor. As soon as he had

discharged his debts he sent for Frances and the children who arrived on the ship *New Guinea* in July 1897.

Around 1905, James and Frances purchased 6000-acres (2400 ha) of land in Wanneroo on the southern shores of Lake Joondalup, then known as Craigie Lake. They named the property Craigie Park. Here, James operated a successful cartage business, farmed, grazed cattle, and ran a horse stud.

Frances and James were both community minded and in 1914 when many local farmers were struggling with crop failure, James offered his land to agist up to 80 horses. James was also a chairman of the Wanneroo Road Board and the first president of the Wanneroo Agricultural Society. Frances and James were enthusiastic organisers and exhibitors at the Wanneroo Agricultural Show. Frances would organise sporting events and games for the children and ensured all participants won a prize.

Locals and travellers knew the Spier's home was a real 'Liberty Hall' open all hours, where they were sure to receive generous and homely hospitality. Frances became known as Granny and loved visits from the local women and children who came to her for good advice and freshly prepared food. Their son Billy recalled;

The Ariti family lived across the road from the Spiers and Rosario (Charlie), their oldest child remembered his mother Rosaria was very fond of Granny who helped her learn English. Granny was like a mother to Rosaria and visited her every day. Charlie recalls Granny was;

'Granny's place was always an open house, the doors were never closed, and the table was always set ... the school children ... [who] lived up on the north of the school, every afternoon when they knocked off school, they used to come down to Granny's to get cakes and that. Granny would make scones and cakes and then they'd wander away back, but the children coming this way, would just have to drop in off the road ...'



P00827.18 Robert (Bob) and his father James Spiers ca. 1926

'The sweetest little old lady you'd ever come across ... there was always a fight [among his siblings] about who had to call in there to take a cabbage or something or bring her mail down from Wanneroo Road because we knew we would get a piece of cake'.

James Spiers died suddenly on 12 November 1935, aged 79. At the time he was well-known as the uncrowned King of Wanneroo. Granny died on 9 July 1950, aged 88. Funeral notices for her appeared in *The West Australian* with heartfelt sentiments like - 'dear old lady and granny to everyone', 'one of nature's gentlewomen' and from a friend, 'goodbye mum'. Her death had a great impact on her family and friends, and the community.

Granny's community spirit lived on in others and in August 1980 forty women formed the Heathridge/Beldon Women's Community Group; later named the Ocean Ridge

Women's Communities Group. The group aimed to provide support for local women, their children and anyone in need in the community.

On 2 June 1982, the group's first community house located in Spirula Way, Heathridge, was officially opened by Keith Pearce, Shire of Wanneroo President. The house named after Granny Spiers, honours her community spirit and generosity. In 1986 the group moved to new premises in Albatross Court, Heathridge. In 2021 the Spiers Centre celebrated 40 years of providing support services to the local community.

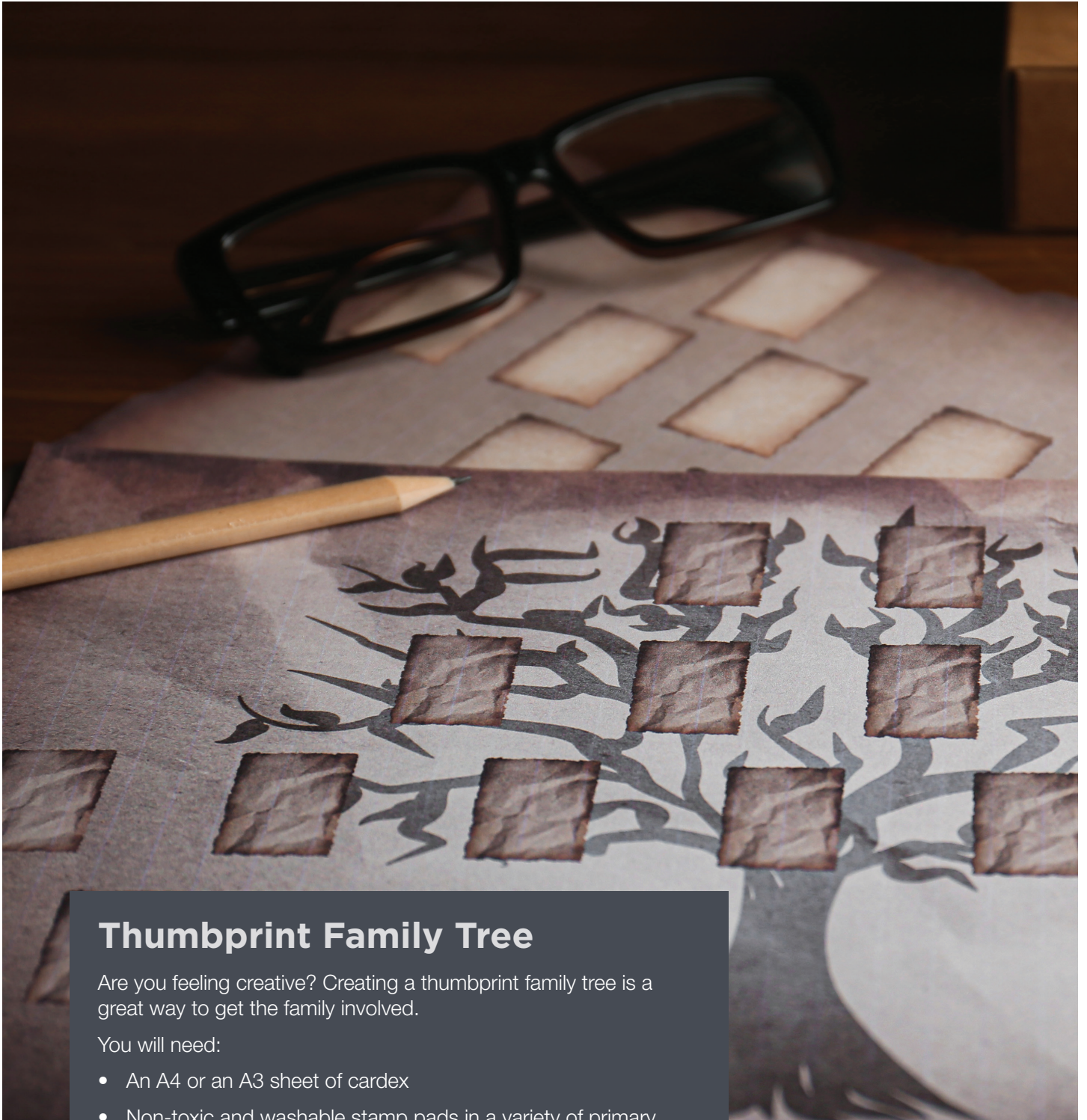
Frances 'Granny' Spiers legacy of kindness and compassion has had a lasting effect on the community and she is still remembered with affection by those who knew her. As Charlie Ariti said of Granny in 1985, 'She was just a special sort of human being.'



P01116.01 Opening of Granny Spiers Community House ca. 1982. Dignitaries include Keith Pearce President of the Shire of Wanneroo (1982-1983) and Pam Beggs member MLA Whitford (1983-1993)



P00661.01 Horses feeding at the Spiers property ca. 1930



Thumbprint Family Tree

Are you feeling creative? Creating a thumbprint family tree is a great way to get the family involved.

You will need:

- An A4 or an A3 sheet of cardex
- Non-toxic and washable stamp pads in a variety of primary colours.

Draw or paint a tree trunk. Make sure that there are lots of branches.

You might like to draw ovals hanging from the branches of the tree to act as a guideline for the thumbprints.

Write each family member's name on the tree.

Using the non-toxic stamp pad, have each family member place their thumbprint or fingerprint on the tree next to their name. Make the tree look more colourful by using different coloured stamp pads for the thumbprints/fingerprints.



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