

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



Horses

A social history of the Joondalup and Wanneroo regions

Bicentennial cattle drive in 1988. P02141.184

For thousands of years, the region encompassing the districts of Joondalup and Wanneroo supported the Whadjuk Noongar people. It gave them access to the coast and land surrounding fresh water, which provided food and attracted game. Over the decades, early European settlers also found the area around Lake Joondalup ideal for the development of market gardens, grazing, dairying, and other small industries.

The main mode of transport for pioneer families before the arrival of the motor car was the horse or a cart drawn by bullocks or horses. Horses were essential to the development of the region. They provided transport for explorers and settlers travelling from Wanneroo to Perth and further afield. With the aid of a bullock or horse-drawn cart, settlers were able to transport produce and other goods to market.

From the 1850s, drovers became familiar with the Wanneroo region. They drove their cattle and horses along the Northwest Stock Route to Walkaway near Geraldton to supply newly established stations in the north. En route they passed to the



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Spiers Horse and carriage in 1910. P00565

west of Lake Joondalup and had the opportunity to stop at watering holes and travellers' stops near Sorrento/Marmion and the northern end of Lake Joondalup. The cattle had a detrimental effect on the water holes which were drained or fouled. Food sources were eaten or trampled, forcing many Aboriginal people off the land and into work at nearby stations.

In 1852, James and Mary Cockman became the first to settle in at Wallaburnup (Walluburnup) Swamp, Wanneroo, to start a market garden and dairy. By the 1870s the family of 16 had a horse and cart which they used to take produce to Perth for market and transport the family.

In the early days of the settlement, the road connecting Wanneroo to Perth was nothing more than a sandy track. It wasn't until 1871 that convicts were put to work making the woodblock road. In 1875, their labour was withdrawn, and work ceased on the road for some time. When it was finally available, the wood block road allowed the wheels of the carts to run along a hard surface while the horses walked on the sand, allowing an easier passage for those taking produce to the markets. Nevertheless, despite the challenges of not having a sealed road, early settlers continued to arrive, taking up pastoral leases for grazing.

The first school opened in Wanneroo in 1874, but many children could not attend due to lack of transport and a commitment to work in the family garden or dairy. In the 1920s children like Gertrude (Gertie) Caporn, whose family were Wanneroo pioneers and market gardeners, drove herself and her sister Alma to school using the family's horse and sulky. Charles Leach's four eldest sons all shared a ride to school on the family's horse, Snowy. By 1938, children were being collected for school on a horse-drawn charabanc operated by John Steele, known as Uncle Bob, a dairy farmer from 10 Mile Peg on Wanneroo Road.



Gertie and Alma Caporn in 1924. P00600

In 1992, John Parin recalled his school days:

...I used to walk up about a quarter of a mile or a couple of kilometres to where the horse-drawn wagon used to start and that was Mr Bob Steele that used to have that... they called it [a] charabanc in those days. It was a vehicle with two large wheels at the back and little bogie wheels in front that were probably half the size drawn by, well I suppose you could call them draught horses...and that would take at least three quarters of an hour to get to school...

Wild horses or brumbies were also a regular sight in this region and from 1923 brumby roundups were a common sight near Lake Goollelal. Captured horses were given away, sometimes in exchange for a song at that evening's celebrations. The roundups ceased in 1931.



Troopers of the 10 Light Horse Regiment and their horses swimming in 1944. P02516.57

In 1994, John Parin recalled:

...once a year behind our place and on the west side of Lake Goollelal they used to have a brumby round up. Brumbies are the wild ponies that used to roam about and there were hundreds of 'em around those days...So they used to come out and they used to have a sort of ...a corral there... on the Saturday...on the Sunday... was the actual brumby round up picnic...you'd see sulkies, and people on horse and so forth...and you know that that was their picnic day. So, I do remember going there a couple of times with dad and you could actually get a horse for nothing there.

Horses were also present at special functions. In 1934, newspapers reported that while on his tour of Western Australia, Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, went riding twice while visiting Yanhep.

Horses played a vital role in protecting Western Australia during the Second World War. In 1939, Western Australia's famous 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment was reformed and established their first bush camp at 17 Mile Peg, Wanneroo. The regiment consisted of Light Horsemen, who provided their own horses for service. While in Wanneroo, their task was to patrol the coastline from Scarborough Beach to Moore River and engage with the enemy if an invasion occurred. While on patrol the troopers camped close to the beach at 20km intervals, and patrols of three or four men rode in each direction meeting with the patrol from the next camp, then riding back to their own camp. At the time, the regiment's arrival doubled the population of Wanneroo.

After the war, as automobiles became more common, horses were relied on less for transport and more for recreational purposes. From the early days of the Wanneroo Agricultural Society Show, locals enjoyed showing off their riding skills and horses. Locals like Les Duffy and his horse Snowy, and David Sears



(top) Brumby roundup at Lake Goollelal in 1923. P00717.12

(bottom) Parin family's vineyard in 1927. P00758.03

and his horse, Peter, won ribbons at the show. Sometime after 1967, a Mrs Wellman, a horsewoman and show jumper, dismantled her Tuart Hill stables and relocated them to her 21-acre property in Kingsley.

In 1988, a re-enactment of the Northwest Cattle drive was conducted to celebrate Western Australia's Bicentennial. Drivers using their own horses took 22 days to bring a herd of cattle back to Wanneroo. The drive was a great success and re-kindled the halcyon days of droving and the local's love of the horse.

In the past, numerous trotting tracks were located across the Wanneroo/Joondalup area, especially between Lakes Joondalup and Goollelal. Over time the tracks have been abandoned, reflecting the decline in horse ownership as agricultural land has been consumed by residential lots. Today there are no remaining horses stabled within the City of Joondalup, except for the Hillarys Horse Beach (also known as the Whitfords Horse Beach) which is used predominately for recovery exercises for injured horses, now the automobile reigns supreme.



Welcome to **Family History Help**

Genie Exchange has a new name and a new day. Come along and discover your ancestors in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Researchers with all levels of experience are welcome to join our Family History Help sessions at Joondalup and Woodvale Libraries. Experienced volunteers are available to help researchers locate their elusive ancestors, give advice on accessing resources and provide tips on how to record and organise your research. Bring a note pad, documents and research relating to the ancestor you want to trace. This will help our volunteers start you on your research journey.

Woodvale – Tuesdays
9.30am - 12.30pm

Joondalup – Wednesdays
9.00am - 12.00noon

Joondalup – Third Saturday
of each month, 1.00pm -
3.00pm

**Enjoy a cuppa and a chat
while you are here.**

Celebrating our volunteers

Olive Sampson



Olive began volunteering at Joondalup Library's Local History Genie Exchange program on 1 October 2008, and in the past 15

years she has helped many people find their ancestors. In the same year she took over the running of the WA Genealogical Society (now Family History WA) Northern Suburbs house group, which was formerly run by Mary Rogers, the first genealogy volunteer at the Joondalup Local History Library.

Olive's interest in genealogy began in 2005 after a conversation with her mother, who knew very little about her family history. With a sense of determination, Olive dove into family history research to give her mum some answers. The knowledge and skills she gained

along the way led her to volunteer at both Wanneroo Library and Joondalup Library.

Olive has presented at the Family History for Beginners seminars with Local History staff and fellow Family History Help volunteer, Wendy Bloomfield. Olive and Wendy regularly present sessions on a variety of genealogical topics for the City of Joondalup Libraries.

Volunteering has always been important to Olive, who at the age of 24 began arranging the flowers and dusting in her local church. This then led to a position as the church warden in 1963.

Olive moved district with her family, and once settled became a Brownie helper. When her daughter joined the group, Olive became a Brownie Guider until 1974. Her sons then joined cubs and scouts. Olive and her husband were involved in fundraising by collecting old newspapers for cash.

Olive's commitment to the Girl Guides Association was strong, and she was appointed County Trefoil advisor in 1982. In this role, Olive was in charge of ten to 11 branches across the London boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. Through her work she was invited to afternoon tea with the Queen Mother, and to the House of Lords.

In 1996, Olive migrated to Western Australia and began volunteering for Tax Help. Since then, she has been a helper at the seniors' group at Craigie Baptist Church and was chairman of the National Seniors Australia committee for seven years.

Visitors to Family History Help sessions will find Olive happy to assist them in any way she can to get them started on their research journey.

Many thanks, Olive for your service, assistance and helping hand over the years.

Organising your research

Keeping track of your family history can be a daunting task, however, with careful planning can ensure a successful research journey. It is important to maintain good records when researching your ancestors. Keeping a record of the information you find, details of the resources you used and where you accessed them is a great time saver. It will help you make steady progress and avoid having to start from scratch each time you pick up your research.

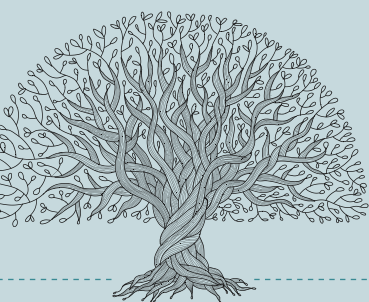
Organising your research becomes increasingly important as your family tree grows. A research log

will guide you when you need to clarify details or compare conflicting information about an ancestor. Having a record of your research will also help you in the future to check a fact or notation you have made. Citing resources will also encourage you to search deeper for new resources and information. As your family tree grows, you may find Excel spreadsheets or commercial family tree software useful additions to your genealogical toolkit.

Research log templates can be found on the internet and at Joondalup Library, Local History.

When writing your sources in your research log be sure to include the following information:

- Name or title of the record source.
- Page number and publication date.
- Volume, catalogue, or other identification number.
- Library or repository where the source was found and date of visit.
- Other source types including - family heirlooms, headstones, and letters.
- Accessibility of resource - is it in a private or restricted access collection.



The City of Joondalup acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation. We recognise the culture of the Noongar people and the unique contribution they make to the Joondalup region and Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and all Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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