

Family History Frequently Asked Questions : Family History FAQ's

What resources are in the Bassendean Memorial Library, Local Studies Collection to help with family history/ genealogy?

- The Local Studies Collection provides access to **Ancestry.com**, courtesy of the State Library of Western Australia subscription. It can be used free of charge, during Library opening hours. Printing costs and information can be copied to a usb for free. Ancestry.com provides world wide content including census information.
- **Western Australian electoral rolls** can be accessed via Ancestry.com as can the **West Australian Railway Records 1879-1946**
- The Local Studies Collection content can be **searched via the Library Catalogue**. Some useful reference resources include the Early Days subject and author index, the Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australia, WA Post Office Directories, road maps.
- **Free charts (pedigree charts and family tress)**, to assist with documenting your family history, are available in printed format in the Local Studies Collection. A pedigree chart is a diagram used to visualize the direct lineage in your family tree.

What other online resources can be used for Western Australian family history research?

See the free genealogy website links at the end of the Local Studies Collection website, including the Metropolitan Cemetery Board website for deaths, the W.A. Reverse Marriage Index for marriages 1906-1965 and the WA Pioneer Index for early births, deaths and marriages.

Copies of certificates (WA Births, Deaths and Marriages) can be ordered and purchased from the Department of Justice [The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

- [Level 10, 141 St Georges Terrace](#)
- [PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6000, AUSTRALIA](#)
- Telephone: 1300 305 021
- Email: bdm@justice.wa.gov.au

My grandfather was on the West Guildford Road Board. Does the Local Studies Collection contain information about former councillors?

Yes, biographical files have been created by the Local Studies Librarian for present and former councillors, mayors, freepersons and public information can be found in the Library catalogue. Use a title search including the terms "biography file" and the surname of the family. Content varies and not all people are represented equally due to limited sources so please consider donating information, especially photographs of former decision makers. Contact the Local Studies Librarian.

A list of the names and terms of office of former decision makers from 1901- 1975 is in Appendix 2 from Bassendean : A Social History 1829-1979 by Jennie Carter and provided here with the author's permission.

Is the Bassendean Memorial Library a member of Family History WA (formerly WAGS)?

Yes and copies of the Western Ancestor, the Family History WA journal can be read in the Local Studies Collection along with the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Special Interest Group Gazette publication and it's index of content.

Is the Bassendean Memorial Library a member of the Royal WA Historical Society Inc?

Yes and copies of History West, the Royal WA Historical Society journal can be read in the Local Studies Collection along with copies of Early Days and the author and subject index for it.

Does the Local Studies Collection contain oral history interviews of former councillors and community members?

Yes the Local Studies Collection contains transcripts and audio oral history interviews by community members and decision makers and the content of the Local Studies Collection can be identified using the Library Catalogue. Interviews vary in length and depth and started being collected in the early 1980's by Jennie Carter as a research method for her book Bassendean : a Social History 1829-1979 published by the Town of Bassendean in 1986. The Oral History Program is ongoing and a most valuable collection within the Local Studies Collection.

Where else can I find information to progress my family history research?

The State Library of WA provides:

[Dead Reckoning: a guide to family history research in WA | Grav \(slwa.wa.gov.au\)](http://slwa.wa.gov.au)

[Family history | State Library of Western Australia \(slwa.wa.gov.au\)](http://slwa.wa.gov.au)

[Aboriginal family history | State Library of Western Australia \(slwa.wa.gov.au\)](http://slwa.wa.gov.au)

Information can also be found in the State Records Office and National Archives of Australia.