

Greater Geraldton Regional Library

Oral History Programme

Transcript of Interview

HISTORY OF WONTHELLA

**RECORDING OF THE ORAL HISTORY MORNING HELD
AT THE GERALDTON REGIONAL LIBRARY**

15 OCTOBER 2014

Interviewer	Jim Trevaskis City of Greater Geraldton Regional Library
Transcriber	Mary Macfarlan History Development Pty Ltd
Date of Interview	15 October 2014
Duration	1 hour 40 minutes.

Transcript amended edition

NOTES TO THE READER ON INTERPRETATION OF THIS TRANSCRIPT

Readers of this transcript need to be aware that it is a near verbatim transcript of the words as spoken during the discussion that was conducted in the form of a natural conversation between the convenor of the meeting and various people present. Some minor changes have been made to facilitate the flow of the document.

Much of what is said in such discussions relies upon the accuracy of the memory of the person making the comments and readers should bear this in mind and judge for themselves how factually accurate the material is. The convenor has sought to clarify or verify facts and statements made during the discussion where this seemed appropriate.

The views and opinions expressed within the transcript are those of the person expressing them in the discussion.

Please refer to the notes on the following page to aid interpretation of the transcript.

Note 1

The recording comprises one part and runs for a total of 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Note 2

Where the convenor has used words such as ‘Yes’, ‘Right’ or ‘OK’ as an encouragement, but not as anything else then these words have not been transcribed unless they are relevant for the context.

Note 3

The convenor has inserted occasional words (which are not in the original recording) into the transcript in order to clarify the context of what was being said. These words are shown in the form [they would say].

Note 4

Where a sentence has a series of dots in the text such as this indicates that the speaker paused, the recording was not clear enough to transcribe accurately what was said or the following speaker interrupted what was being said.

Note 5

The convenor is referred to as ‘Trevaskis’ in the transcript. The subject speaker, of which there are a number in a group, is referred to as ‘Won’ where a member of the Wonthella Group has not been identified but it should be noted that this may be different person in each case. Individuals have been personally named where possible.

Track	Speaker	
1	Cornish	<p>Welcome ladies and gentlemen to our October Oral History Morning. For people who don't know me my name's Trudi Cornish. I'm the Coordinator Heritage Services here at the library and am very pleased to make the introductions this morning. Respectfully we acknowledge the traditional owners of the land that we're meeting on today the Yamaji people, the Elders past and present and for the future. Our session today celebrates local pioneering ingenuity and community spirit. We join the Wonthella community as they look back to look forward.</p> <p>Can we have a show of hands of people who live in Wonthella at the moment and people who were there in the past? Oh fantastic. So the Wonthella Progress Association was formed in 1932 and since that time it's played an instrumental role in supporting new industries, new developments, new-comers to the country - a vibrant community.</p> <p>The Geraldton Regional Library is very proud to be a part of the [Wonthella] Heritage Week and acknowledges all the work that the community has done and the real ownership the community is taking to record and preserve that history. So thank you for inviting us to be a part of that.</p> <p>Speaking for the community today will be our panel of guest speakers. Please join me in making them feel very welcome. We welcome Mr Ken Allen, Mr Tom O'Malley, Mr Kevin Marsden, Mr John Luk, Mr Stan Gratte and Ms Sally Edwards. And of course the driving force behind all our oral histories, who does all the volunteering researching in his own time, working with images, tracking down interviews like a hound dog [laughs] - our very own Jim Trevaskis. Please welcome Jim to the floor to begin proceedings. Thank you.</p>
	Trevaskis	Good morning friends. Actually I'm a bit battling to find the

		<p>friends, because usually I say ‘oh I see a few new faces’ but they’re all new faces, with a few of the old friends. Anyway I do hope you enjoy it. In fact there are so many of you here I thought I was back at a school assembly [laughs].</p> <p>I’m looking forward to this presentation [both for] myself and because Wonthella has always been a very special place. I first came to Wonthella, or to Geraldton, nearly 60 years ago and it was very, very evident that Wonthella was different from the rest of Geraldton. It really started off as a self-help community. People who bought blocks - and it was out in the scrub - who bought blocks, and a lot of them as we’ll see when we come to Tom O’Malley’s section, a lot of them built their own home or they had homes reconstructed from houses that came down from the Murchison Goldfields.</p> <p>They were isolated. There was no way into town. There was no direct line. There was nothing like there is now. There were bush tracks and because of this, this established the ethos of Wonthella which remains today both out there and as evidenced by your attendance here today, because when Trudi asked you to put up your hands a very big [part] - the majority of you - either live there or have lived there.</p> <p>Well early on we think of Wonthella as a tomato growing area and in a moment we’re going to show you some photos and my friends here are not interviewees today [but] they are commentators and as I show the photos I’ll give them this microphone [and] they’re going to comment and tell you what the photo is all about.</p> <p>Now when we think of early Wonthella we think of two names I think. We think of the Marsden’s and George Allen. Certainly if we think of the tomato industry we think of George Allen.</p> <p>George Allen was born in Sheffield, England, in 1903. As an eight year old he came to Western Australia with his family. As a very young man he worked for a while at Narra Tarra but then as a</p>
--	--	---

		<p>very young person he started growing tomatoes. He wasn't the first tomato grower, there were Japanese growing tomatoes out in Glenfield. You might have gone past Okahama Street [Road] in Glenfield. However, when George started he wasn't satisfied with the tomatoes [because] they were small and they were wrinkly. So he wasn't just a tomato grower he was a tomato breeder and he experimented and he finished up a bigger tomato with a smooth skin.</p> <p>Well I'm going to ask his son Ken to come forward now and I'm going to hand over while I show you some photos of George Allen's tomatoes. [Ken] just stand where I was, if you like.</p>
Allen		<p>Well that's a photo of a row of tomatoes and that's my father. You can see him in the middle section there standing in the background. He's probably tying them up or doing something to them. It's a trellis of tomatoes which when he first started growing there was a ground crop and they graduated from a ground crop to putting up these trellises. There you'll see the tomatoes growing up the trellises and George doing something to them there.</p> <p>This is a display of the tomatoes along the trellises and there's probably George again and as you'll see in the background there's a bush area. Well that's a bush fence which they used to erect and make into smaller paddocks because of the wind problems with the tomatoes. They made these fences out of bush which - they got bush from down the Greenough area - it was tea-tree which was suitable to make a bush fence.</p> <p>They erected these fences and they were quite good at keeping out the wind and they used to last for quite some time. Every now and again you might have to replenish the bush and make sure it was....from the wind. But anyhow that's just a photo of tomatoes. Now in the early days of course there was [only] horses [that were used] and out at our tomato garden we had six or seven horses out</p>

		<p>there in a paddock. We had draught horses and we had cart horses. This one you can see here is a draught horse - or two draught horses - and it's being ploughed by a single furrow plough.</p> <p>Anyhow this went on for quite some time but when I came on the scene a bit later on they graduated into tractors and tractors did most of the ploughing, but we still retained horses because to cart the tomatoes from the paddocks into the packing shed we had little carts with cart horses. Even some of the earlier tomato growers used to cart all their tomatoes down to the siding with horses. Later on we obtained trucks and we used to cart our tomatoes down to the siding with trucks and also not [just] for our own tomatoes but also [for].the people who were growing tomatoes around us.</p> <p>Now here we'll see spraying taking place and that's on a ground crop. That's well before my time. That outfit there I'm not quite sure about but it is probably in another photo or it might be more down here. My father sort of was a bit of an inventor and he had a tank which he placed on rubber wheels and had an engine attached so it would utilise a pump. And he had these big arms that went out with the spray and four sprayers [which] used to be able to go spraying tomatoes down the row. But that's the first time I've seen that photo with the sprays.</p> <p>It was necessary to spray the tomatoes because they used to get certain diseases. Black spot - I remember black spot - and wilt and also grubs and things like that. So every couple of weeks they had to go and spray the tomatoes. And in addition to spraying [at] later stage they used to use dust - that was mainly to kill the grubs. This next photo is.....</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Can I just interrupt you? I'm just interrupting because I recorded an interview Ken back in 2003 when I was researching the tomato industry and one of the things Ken I remember very much from</p>

		<p>that interview was how far the tomato growers and especially yourself had to go to get those stakes because in Geraldton there was nothing like that. You could get the brush wood for the windbreaks locally but you couldn't get these.</p> <p>Gerry Cassin was going to be here today but he's not well and he tells me that they had to go - his father had a tomato garden between Beaver Street and Boyd as did it was a 60 acre block - six of them had a 10 acre block there and he tells me he used to have to go - they used to get their stakes from Wongoondy and from EastYuna.</p> <p>But I can remember, Ken - and he's going to tell us in a moment - from the interview I can remember that you travelled a long way. Ken and you bought back truck loads and it was pretty hard tedious work. I'd like you to talk about the stakes.</p>
	Allen	<p>Yes well there you see the stakes of tomatoes there. I can well recall one time we went down to Cliff Head. You know Cliff Head on the way down to on the coast road now? There was five of us - I was only about 14 or 15 at the time but the other four were mature people and they cut the stakes and my job was to bundle the stakes that they cut up into a bundle of 20/25 and tie them off. Then we had a truck coming down every couple of days to pick these stakes up.</p> <p>We were there for two weeks and during that two weeks we cut 36,000 stakes. That number sticks in my mind. But these stakes, they used to last for quite some time, probably each year there was a few of [them] would deteriorate and you'd have to chuck them out and use them for firewood. But in addition to these stakes one time we purchased jarrah - proper jarrah - square stakes that had been manufactured down south somewhere and we used them for quite a while and they lasted quite a long while.</p> <p>But stakes of course were available there was professional cutters [who] used to go out and get them and sell them to the tomato</p>

		<p>growers as well. But if you want to go back to that photo Well [in] that photo there you can see them tying up and pruning the tomatoes. They're probably on their second or third - or second tie - by the look of it and they used to prune the tomatoes. They used to only have two main stalks or sometimes people used to only have one stalk. The one stalk tomatoes they grew bigger tomatoes than the two stalks but the most profitable were the two stalk tomatoes. So they pruned them so there was only two stalks going up the stick and tied them up with this string. And this string we used to obtain from George Marsh who was working up at the wharf and all the old ropes that they used to discard from the ships, they used to get hold of them, bring them out to my father, and we'd utilise them as strings for tying up the tomatoes as you can see there.</p> <p>Well that of course is a load of the As I explained [about] the horse and cart and the tea-tree which we used to use for the fences. You can see the fence in the background and I'm not quite sure who the two people on the cart are. [You] actually [get] a better view of how we fenced it all off mainly for the protection [from] the wind. That area each year on the block he first obtained - which was 52 acres - about a quarter of it was put down for growing tomatoes and bits that were left over he used to grow hay in there because he had the horses and they'd have cut that for hay.</p> <p>There you'll see windmills. We had a windmill right near our packing shed. In the early days water was very important of course that's why they only grew them in the winter time in those days because they relied on the winter rains to grow the tomatoes. We used to get this water pumped up into a tank and then they'd cart it around to different paddocks and water the tomatoes. But later on of course the scheme water was introduced and we all got connected to the scheme.</p> <p>That was quite a big operation and was pretty well policed by the</p>
--	--	---

		<p>Water Supply and if you used too much, or used it at the wrong time, they used to clamp down on you and put little things in the pipe [to restrict the flow] so you wouldn't get so much of a water supply. But anyhow everybody who could find water used to try and get it like this. And in addition to that the people who couldn't of course had to go along to public tanks and cart water from a public water supply.</p> <p>Oh here we are, the person on my right is my grandfather and I'm not sure who the other two are but they were picking tomatoes. That was before my time because in my time we used to pick tomatoes and put them in - on the back of - a cart and cart them into the shed. But here they are carting tomatoes physically from the paddock to wherever they've got to go and pack them. But that photo's before my time.</p> <p>Here we are again and photos of people in that very early time picking tomatoes probably from a ground crop. There we have a truck load of tomatoes packed in cases and probably ready to go down to the sidings to be loaded on to the trains.</p> <p>The loading places were Waggrakine and Crowtherton and Utakarra and then initially they closed Waggrakine and Utakarra down and they established one at a place called Webberton but we used to take those tomatoes down and load them into the rail trucks. Those rail trucks, the small ones went through to Melbourne by rail and then the other ones in the ¾ bushel cases, they went down to Perth.</p> <p>When they started the Singapore market of course they used to load them into a rail truck at the receivable places, take them into the wharf, unload them and put them up onto the boats.</p> <p>Here we've got a load of tomatoes; it doesn't look as though they're packed.</p>
	Trevaskis	Can I just talk about this one? I'm not sure about this photo but

		when I talked with Gerry Cassin he pointed out that they used to take the over-ripe tomatoes and I suspect that they may have been [taken] across to - do you remember - the Butter and Bacon Factory? It was out in the bush?
	Devlin	Dad used to run that old factory
	Trevaskis	Right....I've often wondered whether they made much butter Tony. I know they did the bacon, we'll come on to that. So as I say
	Devlin in Perth
	Trevaskisyeah.they used to pulp them and put them into four gallon kerosene tins, that was the method of whatsaname?
	Allen	Yes that was at the end of the growing when they, you know, sent all the [best] tomatoes to Perth and Melbourne and then rather than waste all those pulpy tomatoes, they put them in cases like this. They weren't packed of course and they used to treat them at the Bacon Factory - Butter and Bacon Factory - and as you say put them into kerosene tins - the pulp. Then the pulp would go somewhere else to be made into tomato sauce. That is a
	O'Malley	Can I say something? Also all the rejects?
	Trevaskis	Just a moment Tom. I'm glad that Tony called out [as] I meant to ask people early on [about] that. Please, please contribute. Call out because that's what we want. Tom.
	O'Malley	Well, the tomatoes that were still eatable, they used to be trucked out to the airport and there was never one tomato ever left that property
	Trevaskis	Whilst we've got that on the screen the library in 2000 produced this wonderful book. Geraldton was 150 and we've got here, <i>One Hundred and Fifty Lives</i> and a group of us wrote up the biographies and Tracey Snowball did the one on George Allen and I learnt [from] reading it that he actually used to produce 36,000 cases of tomatoes a year.

	Allen	One year he did.
	Trevaskis	Oh one year. That was his record was it? Right oh.
	Allen	Yes, that was his record. One of his best years – 36,000 - that was from the initial tomato garden the 52 acres, but in addition to that of course he had these share-gardeners, mostly Macedonian people, who used to come and work on the garden and after [they] got to know how to, you know, grow tomatoes and got a bit financial they eventually went out on their own. So he helped a lot of people get going in the tomato industry besides his own tomato growing.
	Trevaskis	<p>Actually your father was a very generous man and we couldn't finish this little section off without pointing [this] out and I'm sure Ken you're very proud of that, and I'd like you to tell the story behind the name [of the Allendale Primary School].</p> <p>Just before I do give it [the microphone] to Ken, when the people lived in Wonthella in the early days there were only two schools - Geraldton Primary School established in 1878 and Bluff Point Primary School established in 1913. So the kids there they had a bit of a problem and Kevin Marsden will tell us a bit more about that later on [about] how he got to school.</p> <p>Anyway back to you Ken.</p>
	Allen	Yes, well we were on the northern end of Wonthella and we used to [go to] - I went to - the Bluff Point Primary School and we used to walk from Place Road into the Geraldton Primary School and back again. It was quite a walk but I don't know how Kevin used to get to [school]. He went to Geraldton Primary School. I don't know how he got on. But this photo, here the Allendale Primary School my father, as I said, he bought blocks of land everywhere and he also bought houses in town. He was quite enterprising and they must have - I don't know how the negotiations took place - but he finished up donating land he

		owned where the school is now to the government to establish the Allendale Primary School and hence the name Allendale.
	Trevaskis	I'm quite surprised that a lot of people didn't know the origin of the name. In fact I spoke to someone the other day and she had grown up in Wonthella she'd gone to Allendale Primary School. She lives in Wonthella now and when I told her this it was a great big surprise to her. I thought everybody knew that. Anyway.
	Lake	Do you know how it was named [meaning the suburb of Wonthella]?
	Trevaskis	Beg yours
	Lake	Do you know how it was named? I'm Ian Lake, my mother Connie Lake selected that name.
	Trevaskis	Oh lovely. Connie, splendid, thank you very much for that. Somebody must have thought it up. Good on you. I'm glad you called out. Now as I say George was a very [enterprising]. He was in all sorts of things, business so on and so forth. He also was a big help in the establishment of the Wonthella Bowling Club. I won't delay on that and I'm sure Ken will feel quite nostalgic with the next one.
	Allen	Yes that's our original home built on the 52 acres that he [George Allen] purchased from Chris Rowan and over the years. He had quite a few alterations done. You can see all verandas there now but later on they were all closed in and used for sleep-outs. But that's the original house and it looks like my mother standing there. She was quite interested in growing flowers and she used to take a lot of flowers up to the showgrounds at Utakarra every year but that's our original house and I was [brought up there]. I lived there until I was 20, the only time I lived in Wonthella and since then I've lived in Geraldton. So that's about it.

	Trevaskis	Ken I'd like you to tell everyone where that - not the house - where that spot is there [and] what's happened to that little location?
	Allen	<p>Well the house is no longer there of course it's the - it was on the intersection of Place Road and Fourth Road. In those days we didn't have names like that, they were just tracks. But now that's been demolished and there's all sorts of - I'm not quite sure which company is situated on that house block.</p> <p>But after my father stopped growing tomatoes, around in the 60s he was approached by the railways and they wanted to resume this land and set up a marshalling yard, there so he [was] forced into relinquishing the ground at Wonthella. But a thing I must mention that about 1945 he moved out to Moonyoonooka to grow tomatoes. It's nothing to do with Wonthella but Moonyoonooka because he moved out there because the ground was fresher.</p> <p>When you're growing tomatoes you can't grow them on the same ground each year, you've got to give it a spell and it was also closer to the water supply that was coming down from Wicherina and we used to get better water supplies out at Moonyoonooka. We also had other water supplies as well there which he used to utilise for that.</p>
	Gratte	Jim, could I mention about George Allen? I was actually at a Wonthella Progress meeting - it would have been about 1958. I think it was on Mrs Cramer's side veranda and we were discussing building the Memorial Hall. They were wondering where we were going to put it and George got up and I can still picture him like yesterday. He said 'if you put it there in Fifth Street I'll give you the two blocks'.
	Trevaskis	<p>Yes as a matter of fact I learnt that too from Tracey Snowball.</p> <p>Ken thanks very much for your commentary it was wonderful and we're going to give you a rest now and I'm going to call on my old friend Tom O'Malley.</p>

	Won	Mr Trevaskis, before Mr Allen goes I'd like to also say the Allen family helped the golf club, the hockey club, and [were] a wonderful help for the bridge club.
	Trevaskis	<p>Yes well I think John Luk is going to cover that and you just reminded me I've got one more comment - and very, very relevant - and I know Sally will be interested in this or she probably knows it.</p> <p>George Allen was a great citizen. He was involved in lots of things and obviously the Tomato Growers' Association. He was a director of the Globe Hotel but very importantly for this morning he was a previous president of the Wonthella Progress Association. Thanks Ken.</p>
	Allen	Okay. Thank you.
	Trevaskis	<p>A couple of weeks ago Tom very kindly drove me around Wonthella and he pointed out various houses which are still there that were self-help houses built by people or as I say came down from the mines. These are only a sample because there are still such places. Sometimes they're a bit hard to recognise because they've been added to or they've been cladded and stuff like that.</p> <p>So we're going to - I know Tom knows all these houses - and I'm going to click them up now. Tom here, I'll give you the microphone. You take that one.</p>
	O'Malley	<p>That one on the corner there, Jack Smith bought that from Big Bell and there's another old place but that was pulled down [and re-erected] he got that but it's been cladded. [It was] only a tin house. And that was one of the houses and the other one on the corner you're seeing - the first time was a bloke named Oscar Curtin and he built the little house.</p> <p>Anyway that one there would be belong to Joe Poole. He owned the block that I bought because when I went to buy a block - I had bought one down where Bunnings was and that was only £20.</p>

		<p>Anyway I used to go down shooting rabbits because that was all rabbit run there, and anyway that's that one.</p> <p>Now that's Oscar Curtin's house. That was there when we brought our house in and [he] bought a house from White Peak School and my uncle - her brother Uncle Ernie - and Uncle Alf they got Jack working for Jack Marsden and Jack said take the truck out and fetch the house in and put it up for my mum - because he was a great friend of Ma's. And she worked at the Queens Hotel for years. Anyway.</p>
	Trevaskis	I think this next one's the one you were speaking about?
	O'Malley	<p>Yes. This is a chap here. I was looking at that and I said 'well I spent a lot of time in that house' because when we came in from the town to live - it was on that block we built - but we could have bought the whole block from Place Road, First Street, Second Street, the Highway, Central Road, for £34 and I thought well what's going so we settled at the house there and that was alright.....but the chap there is Ron.....Colin Mead and he was putting the fence up. And he said 'oh I bought this house' and it wasn't very much he paid for it but he bought it and that was a very good [buy]. It was a lot of fun there.</p> <p>And that house, there was only [that] and one more house down the street that Nabby- the old goat man he was there and we were there and then other houses were - well there was nothing down there to the highway and we spent a lot of time there.</p>
	Trevaskis	Tell them it was over 100 years old.
	O'Malley	<p>And it's over 100 years old because - well and truly - because it was White Peak Schoolso you could remember and that house was well and truly over 100 years old. It's cladded with weatherboard but he'd done all that. And he said 'it's my home and I don't intend to shift and that's it'.</p> <p>Now where did we see that one? This one. That one there. Yes</p>

		that was timber house. We all built timber houses, that was getting done.
	Trevaskis	Actually John Luk recognises that house don't you John?
	Luk	Well I should know him because he built over from near my mum on the other side of the road and it was a funny story I'll tell you. I was playing football - and I was meant to play football one day - the surf people came up and said 'can you come and play a picnic match?' and I said 'oh yes, I'll come.' Anyway Don Morrison was the champion surfer - well he corked my leg and it was that bad I finished up in hospital with it and the only way I could drive the old 'Chev 4' was chuck it out of gear then [free wheel] but this night I forgot to chuck it out of gear and I put it on the brake and I said 'oh my foot' and I went straight [and] hit the post - gate post - went straight back towards the road two chain across the road. But that was one of the things happened. That's - was it the airport house - bought down and Elphicks - Len Elphick - lived in that for a long time.
	Trevaskis	That was one of the Air Force huts from out when Geraldton was a training school - a flight training school - and I've always been fascinated [about] where they all finished up. They all finished up at various places. Sally will tell us about one of them later on. I go past one every day of my life, a couple of them actually, out near St George's Beach which [is] the Scout Headquarters. Fortunately they've just been clad. They were a real eyesore as a matter of fact. Sally?
	Edwards	Can I just read you a little bit about that story?
	Trevaskis	Sally would like to read to you about this particular building.
	Edwards	This is the house I grew up [in] and this is an extract taken from my dad Len Elphick's story and so this is his words. 'About this time the DCA decided to sell a couple of surplus houses at the

		<p>airport so they called for tenders and my ears pricked up. I went out to have a look and decided to have a go for a long war-time built house which had bits added on here there and everywhere but was quite solid and had plenty of spare timber iron etcetera. I put in a tender for £110 and thought that would be the end of it. But no one could have been interested and I got it. I borrowed Harold's, that's his brother, Harold's truck and left him my ute and pulled the place down and stacked it on the vacant block I already had. It had a timber floor fibro and weatherboard walls and mostly a corrugated asbestos roof. Actually it was very cheap but took a lot of hard work and extra gear to make a house of it. I went and saw the bank to see if they would give me some money to rebuild but they just laughed at me. It was out in the weather for one winter and I could see it was going to be ruined if I didn't do something so I told the bank I would shift camp and they finally decided to lend me £1,000 a personal loan. I worked weekends and any spare time to get it up and weather-proofed and finally got it liveable. The plumbing done and the room liveable but nothing finished.'</p> <p>Mum "my mum" vows and declares she will never live in a half finished house and I don't blame her. 'Half the rooms were unlined and unfilled and consequently were always dusty and filthy and made the rest of the house un-cleanable. There was never any money to spare till the loan was paid back but at least the gear didn't get ruined. I was working for myself by this time but even though I worked pretty hard we didn't have much money and it always seemed to go as fast as I could make it'. Len Elphick, and George Allen's granddaughter currently lives in that house and his other granddaughter has built a house behind it.</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Thanks [Sally].</p> <p>Would you like to talk ...</p>
	O'Malley	<p>That Wonthella Guide Hall was [the] people [who] lived next door, they had that block - spare block. Any way they wanted to</p>

		form a Girl Guides - and my children went to that - and they built the house at no cost to anybody. They built that house and all the kids went to the Guide Hall then that was great. But I can't..... I know do you know his name?
	Won	Henry Etherton. Yes, Henry Etherton. And they built that house at no cost to.... only to them and [the] kids got their Guides Hall.
	O'Malley	Now this house at the present time is half pulled down. That was Lottie Marsden's house or Lottie Schneider but it's on its way down now because a friend of mine lives at the back of that and he rang the Council and said 'if a fire gets there I could be burnt out.' Anyway next thing they knew they came out and they started to pull the house down so that's going off the map. Oh yes, that one, that one.
	Trevaskis	Sally knows all about this one.
	Edwards	Mum and dad lived at 258 Third Street, that was the old war time house. When dad built diagonally across the road where mum currently lives, behind on Second Street was this house and it was owned by a lady called Nellie Weston and her niece is actually Sally Farrell who lives in Third Street. And Nellie lived there with her son Bill up until she couldn't [anymore] and she was quite old when she left. Her family took her to Perth and dad bought this block and then used that as a shed. That's my sister and her two younger - her two - children and that photo was taken in 1995 when dad actually was very sick before he died. Mum had it pulled down after dad died in 1995 and my sister has - actually last weekend - has built a house in the back part of it - of that block - and she moved into it last weekend.
	Trevaskis	Whilst we have Sally, another thing I learnt Tom, Jim was showing which houses came down from Big Bell and which ones came from Wiluna but what I didn't know until talking with Sally her father actually brought down a couple of buildings from

		<p>Protheroe - the Protheroe Lead Mine.</p> <p>And once again I was most amazed to find a lot of people still don't know about Protheroe. It was quite a thriving little mining settlement half way up to Nabawa and it's on private property now. There was a little school there and all. Anyway the houses and buildings there got dismantled and brought into Geraldton.</p> <p>Now just before I show the very last one Tom - when I interviewed Tom - I did an interview with Tom in 2008 and I came away with a very strong feeling of how very proud he was that he with the help of his uncles had built his own home. I'm just going to pause for a moment.</p> <p>The houses you've just been looking at are a sample. There's still others like that and I've always looked upon and felt - I've always had a feeling - that Wonthella was a 'home sweet home' community and I'm always reminded when I see those original places of the line from the song Home Sweet Home 'be it ever so humble there's no place like home.'</p> <p>I think you know this next place Tom.</p>
	O'Malley	<p>I should do, yes. Now I'll tell you a story about that. I always dreamed of having my own house. That was my one dream in life so with the help of Uncle Alf Fripp..... and Ernie Fripp..... my mum's brothers they said 'well we'll help you'. So anyway when they weren't working on the wharf they'd come and I'd work on weekends with them. I used to work till sundown every [day] after work. That's what my house today looks like and I [have] got no intentions of selling it. They keep asking me 'are you going [to sell it?]' Well I said 'I'm not dead yet'.</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Well thank you very much Tom O'Malley.</p>
	O'Malley	<p>Sally's little</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Yeah Sally's Thanks Tom.</p>

		<p>We now move on the screen we have the original Marsdens. There's John Edwin Marsden and his wife Charlotte. He was born in Yorkshire in 1875 and came out they came out to Western Australia. They spent their early time up in the Murchison. They had three children born at Cue and they had one born at Mount Samuel and then they came to Geraldton where they had another four children.</p> <p>I'm going to just pause a moment here and come back to this book <i>The Hundred and Fifty Lives</i>. I researched and wrote up the Marsden family history. I had a lot of help from Lottie. Lottie of course is short for Charlotte, she was named after her mother and I'd like to read to you the opening sentences I wrote. <i>There have been Marsden's living in Wonthella since 1923. In that year John Edwin and Charlotte Marsden moved out from central Geraldton to take up an area of native bushland to build their house on the north east corner of the present Howard and Seventh Street. However only bush tracks existed in 1923.</i></p> <p>And this might be of very great interest to you that final sentence <i>the locality was known as East Geraldton</i>. That was its name before it was Wonthella. The locality was known as East Geraldton in the Geraldton Road Board. And another thing I'd like you to all be aware of - just one last thing - members of the Marsden family settled in Wonthella and they owned the land which is using the present street bounded by Flores Road, Eighth Street, Central Road and Fifth Street. I had a bit of a look at all that and I would estimate that at the moment there'd be 200 houses approximately on that area now.</p> <p>Anyway I'd like to move on to my friend Kevin. Kevin, I'm going to ask you to come out my friend. At first Kevin was a bit of a reluctant dragon [laughs] about coming today but when I used my persuasive powers he came along. Kevin, what I'd like you to do before we look at the trucking business - oh just before I</p>
--	--	---

		<p>hand over to Kevin I told you that the Marsden's had eight children, one's name was John, that's Kevin's father, always known as Jack - Jack Marsden. Jack Marsden bought a block, he was only a young man, he bought a block in 1923 and he started off as a carrier, a cartage business, and he had a horse and a cart and one truck and that grew eventually into the Marsden Proprietary Limited enterprise which did carting, earth moving, road building and so on and we're going to see some photos of that. But just before we do I talked about the isolation of Wonthella and it was no easy task for the kids, the Wonthella kids to get to school.</p>
	Marsden	<p>..... just before, Jim - Grandpa Marsden, he lived on the corner of Seventh Street and Howard Street - and the block opposite IGA now in Fifth Street and Sixth Street he had a pig farm there with probably 5 or 600 pigs and in the, I think it was, the late '40s swine fever come to Geraldton. Or it never came to Geraldton as a matter of fact but it was in piggeries in Perth and the government shut all the pigs around the place and it shot 500 or 600 of Grandpa Marsden's and he never got a zack for them.</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>I didn't like to say it but he also had a nickname, didn't he Kevin? I think he was known as Piggy Marsden?</p>
	Marsden	<p>Yes, he was Piggy Marsden. We all got Piggy Marsden as a matter of fact when we were at school. But Jim was saying about where we were going to school - we lived on the corner of Flores Road and Sixth Street, that was the old homestead - and to go to school, because there was no streets or roads into Geraldton through Wonthella, we had to go round the Showgrounds which is where the sporting ground is now opposite Ready-mix Concrete. We went round there or round Cumming, Smith [and Co.] Super Works into Geraldton that way. And we - that was Ord Street - used to go in [that way]. [It is] all flats there now but sometimes dad would [take us]. He had a couple of trucks then and he'd load</p>

		up with kids that come from all round the place and Barney would take us to school and drop us off at school. But we had to walk home, but that was early days at Wonthella.
	Trevaskis	I think that's [your] parent's house? Was that [your] parent's house?
	Marsden	That's old Grandpa Marsden's house yes, on the corner of Howard and Seventh Street. I don't know who's living there now but Matty Unkenovich..... he lived there for quite some time, I think he was a school teacher.
	Trevaskis	<p>Actually that was pretty much a Marsden corner because as Kevin said that was his grandparents. I used to deliver - for many years I used to deliver - Meals on Wheels to Lotte who was opposite on the opposite corner, then coming back this way, until she died I used to deliver sometimes to Emma - Emma Marsden while she was actually it was Lotte Schneider and Emma what was her [name]? Emma Hayes. Emma Hayes, of course.</p> <p>Well now we're going to look at some truck photos. Look before we start doing that I'd like you - I'm a great believer in acknowledgement - and I'd like to acknowledge the help that I [had] and I'm very grateful for the help I receive because Kevin didn't have any photos, they'd all gone on to Rita and after Rita died they went to Rita's daughter and they disappeared.</p> <p>Anyway, Dodger Cant, where are you Dodger? [Are] you around here somewhere? Oh there he is. He very kindly put me on to he was a driver for the Marsden's and he put me on to another driver Sergio Parasiliti and Sergio had quite a collection of photos from which he selected these following ones which I've downloaded. We're now going to have a look at them and Kevin will tell us what they're all about.</p>
	Marsden	Jim before you go onto that, we're talking about no roads into Geraldton. The first road that was constructed was Fifth Street and

		<p>past Allendale that went across the highway. There was no highway then but it went past Allendale School and up over the hill and it was pretty steep. Dad had quite a few horses and he put Billy O'Malley up there with a 'Tumbling Tommy' scoop and a horse, or a couple of horses, and he was there for weeks taking the top off the hills before the road was constructed into Geraldton.</p> <p>So that's how the road was put through. It went over Allendale School, it was called Marsden Street onto Phelps Street and come out at the Geraldton Foundry where the Geraldton Flour Mill was. Now, that's one of the trucks - we had seven of those - he's getting ready there for carting bulk wheat. That's a few of them there lined up to with the wheat bins on ready to go. That's a load of chaff there.</p> <p>Tommy Andersen had a dairy down the back of Andersen Street and the chaff used to come from Northam in rail trucks and we had to cart it from rail trucks out to the Anderson Street Dairy there. That's a bulk bin. That's the first one we built. That's unloading phosphate rock to take to the super works [but] before we built those bins we used to - the grabs used to come out of the - you'll see the grab up the top there. [It] used to come out and lob on the back of the truck and knock hell out of the trucks. So we decided to build the bins and that was upgrading things quite a bit.</p> <p>That's how we used to shift them lift them up with a hoist and carry them around. That the mineral sands when Jennings started the mineral sands business out at anyhow they were the first ones to start the mineral sands in Geraldton and that's loading the ship. There's a hopper there. We used to tip it into the hopper cart it from the sheds tip, it into the hopper and [it] got up on belts into the ships. We used to work around the clock loading the ships there.</p>
	Trevaskis	Can I just take over for a minute? Actually Kevin's just made the point I was going to make. In this newspaper article I was very

		<p>interested in this particular paragraph which says - oh what have I done I've gone and pressed this jolly thing while I was - oh don't tell me I've got to go through all that again. Oh dear. Oh well you're all having another look. I did that once before. Anyway we're nearly there we're nearly there I'll keep my thumb away.</p> <p>It said here <i>payloads carried included superphosphate rock grain and mineral sands and the trucks generally worked around the clock 24 hours a day to punish schedules.</i></p> <p>Which meant Kevin you must have had to have drivers working around the clock and [there] .must have been a fair bit of organisation to organise them all.</p>
	Marsden	<p>Yes, well we had. Of course we had drivers that worked for us all the time but then we had quite a few casual drivers we'd bring in and do a midnight shift or, you know, they'd do a shift from six till midnight or midnight to seven. It was alright for them, they were getting a few extra quid, and it helped us out too. But when we were unloading the phosphate rock boats which sometimes would take six or seven days well some of the drivers would work 30 hours round the clock - you know, keep going because they liked the overtime. It was quite good then as - Dodger he'd well remember that.</p> <p>Some of the drivers didn't like getting out of their trucks you know we had a bloke Gary Rodwell. I don't know whether you know him he's a taxi driver now. He worked for us for about 35 years but he was about 22/23 stone [in weight] - probably more - but when he'd get in a truck one of the drivers wouldn't [step down] if we told him Gary was going to relieve him. He'd say 'no, bugger it. I'm going to keep working' because Gary [would] get in and he'd lean back and he'd bugger the seat up on the truck.</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Well yes the headline tells it all - the end of an era - and the business was sold. I think it was. Wait a moment it was 83 years old, so it was 2006. Yes. The business went for - it started off 83</p>

		<p>years before and it was auctioned and I'll just read this little bit here because it sums up Jack Marsden, Kevin's father,</p> <p><i>'In 1923 it was the first block of land the business bought by a young Jack Marsden who had already set himself apart as a businessman with a 'can do' attitude and a big heart.</i></p> <p>And later on it goes to say that it went for a 192,000 [dollars] on a block that was bought 83 years before for £5. And Kevin, I'm going to embarrass you now, just to finish you off I'm going to embarrass you because I'm going to read this bit out Kevin about the auction it said <i>'It was difficult for Jack Marsden's son Kevin to keep a dry eye'</i>.</p> <p>Thanks very much Kevin Marsden.</p>
	Trevaskis	There was one more [thing] Kevin when you sit down.
	O'Malley	Can I say something about Jack Marsden?
	Trevaskis	A comment about Jack Marsden?
	O'Malley	<p>Yes. Now we decided to form a cricket team in Wonthella, so Eric Marsden could drive a truck then, so we spent our leisure hours after work going down to the pit that had good soil so Edgar Patten cleared all the trees off the ground so we could see where we were going, that we had to build up the cricket ground otherwise we had a two foot drop from the wall down to the thing. So Eric drove the truck and we dug this by hand with a shovel and we got through quite a few loads of sand and we got it all levelled out. Anyway we went to the next meeting [and] Jack Marsden said 'well seeing you're going to start a cricket team I'll pay the [for the cricket gear]. So that was alright.</p> <p>Emma got up and said we should charge them rent for the ground and old Jack nearly went through the roof. He said 'woman, don't you - they're not going to pay a penny'. So that [was that]. She was going to make us charge [after] all the work we worked</p>

		driving trucks and [wielding a] shovel.
	Trevaskis	<p>Well our next commentator will be John Luk and those of you who know John, know that whatever he does he does with great vigour and so it was when he and Ann went out to Third Street and built a house in the 1950s and he joined the Wonthella Progress Association and as I say really threw himself into it. He was Secretary, he was a Treasurer [and] he was a President.</p> <p>One of the most visible outcomes of the Wonthella Progress Association of course was the Memorial Hall and John's going to tell us how we got the money for it and a bit of the history of the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>Just before we do John, last weekend there was a - the one before Sally set up a float in the Sunshine Festival Parade - and one of the interesting things I thought Sally I liked the way you put....if I can bring [that up]. See that. There can you see that? On the door it says established 1932 and Sally tells me that - I won't go into it at the moment Sally - but that house was built was drawn on present one and so was that.</p> <p>John we're going to move along. I want to move on. Tell me how you in your time how you raised the money to build a big hall.</p>
	Luk	<p>Well good morning all and thank you Jim. I came to Geraldton in 1950 and bought a block of land in Third Street two years later for 80 dollars and I believe it's now about 180,000 dollars worth. In 1954 I joined the Wonthella Progress Association and at that time they were talking about 'how can we raise enough money to build a hall? We definitely need a hall'.</p> <p>Well, I can now tell you that all we needed at the time was a Mrs Healey, bless her soul, and 85 willing Wonthella Progress members. Mrs Healey allocated different jobs to the ladies like I remember Ann my wife put the little baby in the pram about 40 °C and she'd go down the street knocking on doors [asking] 'can you</p>

		<p>make some egg curry sandwiches?’ or whatever, you know.</p> <p>So and we also did catering for weddings and Lodges in Dongara [and] Northampton. I well remember I must have waited one evening and I dropped my tie in Dr Jim Saunders’s plate of soup. He said ‘never mind’. He just wrung it out and [said] ‘carry on’.</p> <p>And that’s how we actually raised the money to build the hall and unfortunately when it was completed there was really nothing to work for to earn more money and that’s when the Association went down and finally, as most of you know, it was sold to the television people.</p> <p>During the negotiations with the television people of course other organisations around - especially around Wonthella - heard about this Wonthella Progress Association [and that] they’ve got heaps of money. Well, in fact we did finish up talking to Harry from Allendale School and offered to build a pool. Well Harry didn’t think that was a very good idea and understandably so because of the danger but he said a hall would be fantastic so the Association donated \$10,000 towards a hall which was opened almost 30 years ago next month. That’s right, in November ’84 and other organisations the Girl Guides, the town band, and quite a few others also got a bit of money out of the Association.</p> <p>Jim.</p>
	Trevaskis	There’s another photo. We’ll go on to the opening.
	Luk	<p>Oh the opening of the hall, oh that’s right. Ten shillings a ticket and we had a fantastic night, lots of packets of Weeties to sprinkle on the floor because that was the thing you used to make your floor good and slippery for dancing. Charles Edon-Clarke was the Mayor and Mrs Edon-Clarke. Bill Sewell, he did the official opening and I think a great night was had by all. Jack Jones - some of you might remember Jack Jones - on the left his wife on the piano and Joe O’Reedy that’s right, the big bloke</p>

		in the middle - I know the face but I can't remember. Steve can you remember what his name was?
	Trevaskis	Can I just make one comment?
	Gratte	John Tricross (spelling?)
	Trevaskis	Oh John Tricross. What I'd like you to also [is] look in the foreground. They were the days when people danced properly [and] they even touched each other.
	Luk	<p>Yes indeed but it was also a bit difficult because we used to try and run dances but of course in those days people started to get cars - young people - and they'd go into town because there were more entertaining things to be doing in town than to come to an old dance in the Wonthella Hall. But one very important occasion I remember was soon after the hall was opening in 1960, two of the local girls were presented with the Queen's Guide [Award]. [One] is Jan Allen and Bobby Davies I think she is now.</p> <p>I was speaking to Jan this morning because I wasn't quite sure when that occasion was but she got all teary [and] she said 'oh the people of Wonthella they are just so lovely you know'. And well they are too.</p> <p>This is one of the weddings we catered for but as I say, you know, go to special places like Northampton and Dongara when fearfully my job was to beat up the cream and course I upset Mrs Healey, because I beat just that bit too long, I finished up with a great big bowl of butter you know.</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>As I said about the dancing they were the days when people danced. They were also the days when people had a wedding and John pointed out that there was no shortage of weddings for catering. There were weddings on every Saturday I mean. I know there are still some but they are nowhere near as prevalent as in the olden days and John was talking about [that].</p> <p>Before that John you told me that the hall didn't [get used much]. I</p>

		<p>always thought it got used for badminton, squash and lots of things and I know they had weddings and birthday parties but you told me that you were a bit disappointed that it didn't get the usage that was envisaged.</p>
	Luk	<p>No, well of course only so many people get married and it's such a long time ago and I can't quite remember how [many]. I think it's just as I said before because there wasn't anything to work towards, or to earn money to use, the numbers just stopped coming to meetings. I'm sure Sally how many you've got now? About 20/30 odd? Yes, this is right but as I say the figure I can remember 85 willing Wonthella people who worked really hard.</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Actually it was in 1975 that the hall - where are you Bill, wave your hand - when Geraldton Telecasters bought the hall and they used it for GTW11 and Bill was the spearhead. He was the man that established television commercial television in Geraldton.</p> <p>Bill, my understanding is it was sold in 2001 and [to] you people - the Geraldton Telecasters - is that right you sold it? Big voice. Well I'll bring up the mike because it is part of the Wonthella story isn't it? So I'll get you just to tell us a bit about that.</p>
	Newbold	<p>Thanks Jim. Yes I know very little about the Wonthella Hall before GTW11 came along but we were looking for a base and the hall was vacant and the word was around that it could be bought. So I went and called on George and said 'George you know we think we could use the hall but we're short of money.' And we talked and talked and talked and finally we decided that we'd give him half the value and he would take the other half in shares. He was a bit reluctant about that for a while because he says 'well if it goes bung we'll lose a lot of money.'</p> <p>Well in actual fact when GTW11 was sold to the newspapers the shares were worth ten times. A £1 was worth £10 and Wonthella Hall indirectly made quite a lot of money out of that deal I can tell you. But don't ask me about the dates Jim. I think probably '77</p>

		was when we bought it because that was about the time I started the television station.
	Trevaskis	<p>Thanks very much Bill. There inside the Wonthella Hall there is a plaque Wonthella - the Allendale Primary School I mean - and it's a very hard to photograph actually with or without a flash so I'll read it. It says '<i>the Allendale School community acknowledges the very generous assistance provided by the Wonthella Progress Association towards the building of this hall and kitchen.</i>'</p> <p>Hall was opening on the 9th of the 11th 1984 and the kitchen followed six years later.</p> <p>And here's a photo of the hall. Now that brings me to the end of John Luk's little session. Thank you very much John Luk.</p>
	Luk	[Thanks] Jim.
	Won	I'd just like to say that when the Wonthella - from where the Wonthella hall is now - where O'Malley's shop was well I lived down the end of Fourth Street at my grandmother's house and the electricity only went as far as the shop. We had to buy our own pole to put in so we could have electricity down to Fourth Street. It was quite interesting, really that whole area there from Fifth to Fourth Street down to Smith's Garage my grandfather that was his poultry farm. The Comptons and the Hollings's had all poultry farms all there and it was O'Malley's cows that used to wander around through the bush with bells around their necks. In 1942 I went to school at Wonthella - in the little Catholic church which is now the Irish Club - with my two other cousins.
	Trevaskis	Thank you for that and we will be coming along to that. Now friends it would be no show without Punch. No show without Punch. We've got to have this man now - our great historian Stan Gratte I've got to say [welcome to] Stan Gratte OAM.
	Gratte	Oh thank you Jim.

	Trevaskis	<p>Stan had a great - we're going to come and have the history of Stan's poultry shed in a moment but Stan because it's beautiful soil out there and so on, Stan thought he'd be - well just before I get to that, Stan originally was an engine driver in the railways and he left the railways, he thought he was going to make a lot of money being a market gardener because it's so good. He's going to tell you now that didn't quite work out.</p>
	Gratte	<p>Right that picture's me with a load of watermelons, the horse and cart belonged to old Ross Ariti..... young Ross I paid him £5 for about a day or two days work with a horse and cart to actually cart the melons out of the paddock but there's a bit of a story about the melons. I was a fireman actually in the railways and I didn't like much the shift work and getting shifted away after you'd done a few years and so I determined to become a market gardener in the first place and in my spare time I'd grew three or four acres of peas and made 3 or \$400 - out of them, 3 or £400 - which was half a year's wages you know.</p> <p>So that sort of got my tail up a bit but then me and Joy got married and we built a house in Sixth Street - 214 Sixth Street, an old Big Bell house [which is] still there. We had seven blocks of land all around it and I intended to use that for a garden but then I put in these melons, not there, but anyway I put in these melons about three or four acres and I went to get the advice of George Allen, I asked him how to grow watermelons and he was very good. He told me all the tricks of the trade and so forth and said there's plenty of seed out at the farm [lots] of it. He said 'go and help yourself'.</p> <p>So I did that and planted the melons but one bit of advice that [I did get] was to go down [to Perth] with the melons and he impressed on that but I couldn't really afford it. We'd just got married and whatsoever and I wrote it all out. So I didn't go down. I rang the agent in Perth and [I was relying] on him oh yes,</p>

	<p>we'll/he'd do a good job. Well okay, when I got the cheque back it was £5.12s.2d and I'd paid Ross five pound to help me and I've still got the docket believe it or not.</p> <p>I was robbed and in a lot of ways and I determined then not to grow anything and send it to the markets. So I started the poultry farm there's another picture here, this is the finish of it not long before it was pulled down. You can see on the left. The shed that was burnt down that triggeredgetting out of business here, but that's on Seventh Street and went through Eighth Street, it was 272 feet long. I built it..... I actually bought the start of it from Henry Etherton.</p> <p>Now this is the start of it, this isn't when Etherton started. This is taken from the railway line if you like by Bob and Norm Scrubb looking across the golf links and the sports ground the right side is Eighth Street and you can just see the shed as Henry Etherton built it. It held about 1,000 chooks. Henry had built it he had had four years in the Air Force and his health just broke down just as he got the shed finished and going. He held a sale and sold the whole [lot] - all the chooks off and all the machinery. I couldn't afford to buy anything but any rate I rented that shed off Henry for £2 a week and I've still the book - the rent book. Then after about 12 months we gave him £5 a week to buy it and [it] finished up [that I] took a big lump sum along and gave it to him.</p> <p>We bought the whole area across to Seventh Street and we built that shed we showed you a while ago. In that shed we had 3,000 chooks. We had a killing works, a little shop in the corner where we sold dressed poultry eggs etc and I bet some of you people here today have bought eggs from that shop.</p> <p>I was still in the railways right up to 1961 and when I got out of the railways, then we built another shed down on our property at Edward Road which we called 'Our Selection' and that's the big</p>
--	--

		<p>old shed we've still got there now. [In] 1993 we built stuff to sell we sold baby chickens etc and you can see up the top we took great pride in all our stuff that we did. [If any] eggs come back and we'll give you another dozen. I think we only had to do that about twice somebody got a blood spot in an egg or something and it was very good advertisement.</p> <p>..... there we are demolishing the sheds in 1993. We had a very tragic fire on the corner of Eighth and Flores Road. Half a million dollars went up that day. It was started by the cabinet maker we had in the shed - we'd rented it to him by then and there was a fisherman named Smith, lost all his [gear] in the other half of the shed. A very bad fire. [They're now] Homeswest pensioner blocks and of course we still live alongside. It's a good place to live because when all the tenants have a [party] we can't even hear them.</p> <p>There's home sweet home which we built in 1963 – a very comfortable home - we love living there. Joy's an expert rose garden grower - there you are look at some of her roses. I will add that I kept in the Railways from when we were married in 1954 until 1961 [I was] away quite a bit [and] while I was away Joy ran the poultry farm. She collected the eggs, packed the eggs and sometimes actually delivered them to the Egg Board. I of course did all the heavy work feeding etc. We did have killing days too when we'd kill poultry for the whole district. Our greatest - our record was six hundred and twenty three chooks, ducks, turkeys and geese.</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Very good. Thanks Stan. I'll finish it off. Stan thank you very, very much I was certainly one of the persons ...no I think I bought a lot of eggs there I used to go and buy day old chicks. Thanks very much Stan.</p> <p>Now we now have some miscellaneous photos but all pertaining of course to Wonthella and I'm going to ask Sally to come forward.</p>

		<p>Sally, to have an event like the Wonthella Week and different [events] you've got to have someone with a bit of imagination. There's got to be inspiration and perspiration, someone's got to do the work. Now the person who was the inspiration and the perspiration is standing alongside me on my left, Sally Edwards. Well done. I'm going to hand the microphone over to Sally and between the two of us we'll probably tell you things. But Sally's a bit self conscious as she's not as old as all these blokes and she thinks she doesn't know as much as they all know so please help her.</p>
	Edwards	<p>Thanks Jim. Okay this photo is courtesy of John Luk, he took this photo. It's of Ann who was his fiancé back then. Ann Coote (spelling?) who's now Ann Luk who married John in September 1954. It's in front of the - John was building their house - in front of 247 Third Street looking west towards Central Road [in] early 1954. And in that photo with Ann is Chris and Cathy Clarkson, Mandy and Barbara Shaw and at the back Dorothy Shaw, Vicky Clarkson and there's a dog in there too.</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Actually people I found this one of the most interesting photos of the whole lot because that's Third Street. As I say they tend to forget that in the early days they weren't bitumen roads as we have now. I sometimes tell people about Geraldton Primary School when it was first built and we sort of - you know didn't know - what the environment [was]. The kids had to actually go through a sand track through the bush to get to Geraldton Primary School and you see this is what Third Street was. All the streets were like that and Sally will now tell you about the next one which we're going to look at Third Street now. I'll just put the next one on.</p>
	Edwards	<p>Okay that's a photo my mum's taken and it's down the other end looking towards Flores Road and it's about the time when the last trains went past because as we know we haven't really got any rail history in here and we haven't touched on that. But the rail went</p>

		through that. No buffer zones, nothing, and the trains went past and yes that's one of the last ones.
	Won	What date would that be Sally?
	Edwards	That was some time in the '90s. I don't know if anyone can help me with when the trains [stopped]. Not in the '90s [but possibly] early 2000 because I know when I moved back the trains were still there in 2000.
	Gratte	That's still there that's Jack Twomey's shop.
	Trevaskis	We're still talking about the trains Stan.
	Won	Yes so some time in 2000 - early 2000 I think.
	Gratte	2005.
	Won	Stan thinks
	Gratte	I've got some information at home I'll let [you have it].
	Won	Alright. Yes so sometime then. Okay I might.....
	Gratte	<p>Oh that's Joe Twomey's what would you call it - engineering shop? Joe Twomey was a blacksmith / wheelwright and done his apprenticeship with Mr Askew in town. [He was] renowned for making springs and his two sons Warren and Dan carried on that spring making and those two had that name for WA's best springs right up until six or seven years ago. And Joe of course being an old wheelwright / blacksmith and so forth he still had some of the gear there.</p> <p>When he left and he actually helped me with a bit of knowledge in doing [up old] wheels. I did up a bit of wheel-wrighting and fixing up old wheels but I went there one day and talking about it and he said what do you do for a wheel bed? It's a big slab of iron about six feet across which is where you put the tyres back on the wheels [when] red hot and I said oh we just got timber set up and bolted all together. He said there's a tyre bed underneath that heap of rubbish and [in the] scrap iron, underneath, was a tyre bed and he</p>

		<p>said you can have that.</p> <p>Well I saw Warren he said 'yes okay \$80'. I reckon it was worth the \$80. I reckoned I'd get a hell of a lot of money if I ever sold it. I've still got it and have used it.</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Are you here Warren or Danny? Are you there Warren? He is there. I'm a bit interested about the- is it still owned by the family that what was the blacksmith and the mechanics shop? No? Anyway we're going to move on.</p>
	O'Malley	<p>I can tell you something about [that].</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Wait a moment, wait a moment, I'll give you the mike</p>
	O'Malley	<p>Joe Twomey. As a kid I used to go down when he had a shop in Chapman Road behind where the tyre company was and he used to work in that shop and I [was] good friends with his couple of nephews. He came to Wonthella and he built a blacksmith shop there. So he went -.he thought when he started to extend down/out [he asked] the Council to give him permission to build the shed. So they knocked him back so what he did he said well I'm going to extend the blacksmith [shop] - you can't stop that - and they did. And then [he] got his shed.</p>
	Gratte	<p>I've [got] something else about him too.</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>Time's moving on.</p>
	Gratte	<p>Talking with Jackie Marsden and Joe Twomey became Jackie's mechanic for a period but then he said to Jack did he want to go out in his own business and would Jack help him with a bit of finance and build the shed and this is exactly what happened. Jack helped him but Jack said to him - they rebuilt the shed up - and Jack said 'is it big enough?' and Joe said 'yes that'll do me. Yes'. Jackie Marsden told me that himself. Thank you.</p>
	Edwards	<p>Okay so Emma Hayes' packing shed was - it's facing on to Howard Street - and it was there for many years. It's only in the</p>

		<p>last few years that the current owner has demolished that shed.</p> <p>This is gorgeous isn't it? It's before my time but I'll just - I'm just going to read a little blurb that Gwen O'Malley herself actually wrote:</p> <p><i>We opened this shop in 1947 and sold it in 1961 owing to Arnold's ill health. The late Mr Jack Marsden financed us. Arnold did a mail delivery round around Bluff Point and Wonthella for the first few years until the shop got too busy. Arnold lived in Wonthella all his life with the exception of a few years in the army and we moved to Perth in 1961. Our daughter Loretta worked for us until she married and went to live in Bunbury. Our son Ross did not like shop work. Arnold worked first at Frank Greens then at McLean's Cash Store before opening the Wonthella Store.</i></p>
	Trevaskis	<p>And if you look closely at that the O'Malley Cash Store you notice it was the Post Office, it was the Commonwealth Savings Bank [and] you could get your Kodak films lodged there and John Luk pointed out to me on the right is actually an old telephone box that John used to use.</p>
	Edwards	<p>And that's a photo of Gwen and Arnold O'Malley. You're going to have to.....</p>
	Trevaskis	<p>I have to cheat here because I want to draw your attention [to the fact] that there were dairies out in Wonthella but this is actually Andersons - only photo I've got of Andersons Dairy - but I believe there were two. The main one I think was known as Majors - Majors Dairy - and I think someone by the name of Tomdet (spelling?) stationed out there.</p> <p>Oh what have I done? What have I done there? Trudi, where are you Trudi? I think I've gone and turned it off. Oh no, I haven't.</p> <p>And of course if you have a dairy, you had skim milk and so you have pigs and yes that is at actually Majors Dairy. Now</p>

	Edwards	<p>Okay. So we now know it as the Irish Club but it was the old Catholic School - which someone said they went to school here - and church and then became an Op Shop. When I was a child growing up it was an Op Shop. And out the front when it rained a lot there used to be a big puddle and we used to as kids - Kylie Hawke, my sister and I - used to go along the street pick up all the rubbish and dam up the puddle. That's my little story.</p> <p>But it was also designed by Monsignor John [Hawes] too and it's actually something on the City of Greater Geraldton website about that on there. It's listed and I believe that the church may be doing a sign to put up in front of it and last Wednesday when we did our Heritage Day 'Back to Wonthella Day' at Allendale School a few people actually brought in photos their school photos taken of their classes.</p>
	Won	There used to be one...there was about 10 of us in the class I can remember that one nun used to teach us.
	Edwards	Right and that's of course is what we know it as today. And the St Patrick's church that is still running today.
	Trevaskis	Wasn't that the convent?
	Edwards	No.
	Trevaskis	No?
	Edwards	No it was the church and school.
	Trevaskis	Oh right.
	Edwards	Yes.
	Won the Lutheran church.
	Edwards	<p>Yes and now the Catholic church have used that and they have their meetings seven or seven thirty in the morning every Sunday morning and the Lutheran church now also use it. So the Catholic church finish their service and then the Lutheran church use it now. And the old Waggi service station which I believe was</p>

		<p>Smith's and then Waggi's and of course we now know it as BP.</p> <p>And the old Allendale School kindergarten was another building from out at the airport. Transported in I believe and then used by the city band and then it was transported. Does anyone know where it was transported out to? It was pulled - it was moved. If it went out Chapman Valley way or somewhere it was moved.</p> <p>Kerry [is] here. So is that your house there Kerry? Can you see would that be your house? Kerry Weekes [is] actually looking for some history on her house which I'm thinking is possibly this one here. She said it was owned by Stidworthy's or something.</p> <p>If anybody knows any history, Kerry over here would like to know some history on it. But of course....</p>
	Won	Stidworthy, he came down from the Mines. He played cricket on our cricket team.
	Edwards	Alright, catch up with Kerry afterwards, she'd like to know. But this is a photo that I took of 'Lost Geraldton' and just some taken by H. Murray and it...on 'Lost Geraldton' it said it was the first country drive-in [cinema] in the state. Opened in May 1957 on 12 acres of land and it closed on the 15 th of May 1985 and we all know it now as Bunnings.
	Trevaskis	People we're going to finish and I think it's a good moment to finish with this photo I took as I say I'm a great believer in acknowledgment, someone has to do all the work and there she is <i>applause</i> . Trudi
	Cornish	<p>Thank you Jim. [That was] just wonderful and so informative. I hope everyone enjoyed it yes, yes fantastic.</p> <p>Well, have we got time for a few comments from the crowd Jim?</p> <p>Yes. If anyone would like to just make a few comments, we'll pass the microphone over.</p>
	Won	[How did the name] Wonthella come about?

	Won	How did the Wonthella name come about?
	Gratte	<p>Wonthella history in a nutshell. Basically it was all commonage, Duboulay the solicitor..... in the 1880s he could see an advantage so he actually leased the big Wonthella block running right back. In 1886 he actually bought the lease and [tried] to set it up in 1896, because the gold rush was on they had needed to put a big railway yards in where the super works were. It didn't eventuate; it got put into town of course but in anticipation of this Duboulay subdivided all Wonthella into quarter acre blocks in 1896 for basically railway men's houses.</p> <p>Well once a couple had sold, he called the place Ootakara with a double O and that comes from a pool at Strathalbyn, a soak in the river there, it means place of dogs. Any rate, well he took trains out there because by then of course by then the railway ran right through pretty well to Cue and he put on kegs of beer, didn't sell too many blocks of land on either occasions but John Forrest was one of the buyers then on Second and Third Street I forgot now which blocks any rate the other fellow who bought blocks on that day and persisted was the one that Tom mentioned, an Afghan had a business in town back of Marine Terrace there near the sea but he persisted well, until I suppose till he died right into the 1930s but the blocks never got sold really until people like the Marsdens come along and paid the Duboulay's five pound.</p> <p>Some of the blocks were never sold even right up until the town council took over in 1954. It had been in the Geraldton Road Board and any rate in 1954 the town took over. Until that time they couldn't put electricity there because it wasn't their ground. When it was taken over that was the big reason it was taken over so that the electricity could be extended there and I know when Joy and I went out to live we actually had to pay for the poles to put the electricity on.....</p>

		We still had the old pan system. I could tell you some interesting stories concerning that and some of the older/other people will remember those days. Sorry Jim.
	Trevaskis	I say time's running out.
	Gratte	Okay I'd better hand over to somebody else but that's Wonthella history in a nutshell.
	Cornish	Thanks Stan. Oh okay just one very quick last one.
	Won	Wonthella means <i>over the hills from the sea</i> .
	Cornish	Over the hills from the sea [is] the meaning of the word. Thank you very much. <i>Applause</i> .
	Edwards	Just quickly we have got a history researcher Liz Kelly and she's done some research and we've actually got correspondence going back to 1932 is that Liz? And it does actually. It's a word that does come from an Aboriginal word and - meaning <i>to give</i> - and Stan would say that too, <i>to give</i> , so we actually have the correspondence between the Association writing and then returning. We're hoping to do a web site and get all this information on a web site sometime in the future.
	Cornish	Thanks Sally. Well what we've done today is we've been actually recording this session so this will be available if you'd like to borrow a copy from the library or also they're available for purchase too just at \$7 just to help us cover our costs. So we'll have them ready in the next couple of weeks here at the library and of course [via] the Association and so forth. Anyway thank you to our participants today. We've got a copy of the Power Point presentation that Jim put together, in the bag here. We'll also be bringing you a copy of the interview as well. Thanks Jim, we could get Stacey to help with that? Yes, Stacey will help. Okay so while we're just doing that we'll just give a quick plug.

		<p>There is a mailing list if you'd like to [go on it]. We do hold these history mornings every month [for] 10 months of the year and we do have a mailing list - an email list or a mailing list - if you'd like to be kept informed about what's going on. Also there's a contact list for the Wonthella Progress Association if you'd like to put down details there to receive more information about what's going on.</p>
	Edwards	<p>If anyone here today can help us with history of the Twomey family [and] different ones there's a just a piece of paper over here on which you can pop your name, address, phone number and email address so that we can contact you up the track to help us with our history. So if you think you can help us please leave your details we'd really appreciate it. Thank you.</p>
	Cornish	<p>And please help yourself to another cup of tea. You don't have to rush off if you don't want to.</p> <p>Thanks very much, see you again next month.</p>