

50 Western Australian Historical

Facts & Trivia

❖ Prepared for Celebrate WA by Ruth Marchant James ❖

- Q1.** Where was the colony's first unofficial horse-race held?
A. *On the shore at Garden Island soon after settlement. The winning rider was Captain Mark Currie*
- Q2.** Who was first Premier of Western Australia?
A. *John Forrest*
- Q3.** When was Western Australia's first Parliament officially opened?
A. *20 January 1891*
- Q4.** Which WA Governor's widow became a nun?
A. *Lady Weld*
- Q5.** What was the original name for Hay Street?
A. *Howick Street*
- Q6.** Where was the first turnip produced by settlers grown?
A. *Garden Island*
- Q7.** In 1830's Reveley's watermill and mill-stream occupied a site on St George' Terrace. What is presently situated on that allotment?
A. *The Perth Technical School and part of the Old Perth Boys School, now The National Trust*
- Q8.** Name the 17 year old student from Loreto Convent, Claremont who in 1926 won the open piano championship at the WA Eisteddfod and later gained international recognition?
A. *Eileen Joyce*
- Q9.** Originally there were several lakes in the Perth Central Business District. The Perth Entertainment Centre is built on which one of these lakes?
A. *Lake Kingsford*
- Q10.** What notorious wife murderer hanged in 1832 was arrested whilst working at Fraser's Mine, Southern Cross?
A. *Frederick Deeming, alias Baron Swanson*
- Q11.** Perth once had a number of well-known family department stores. What store now stands on the site of the former Aherns store?
A. *David Jones*

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- Q12.** Proclamation Day, which marked the gaining of responsible government, was originally a public holiday. What day of the year is it celebrated on?
A. 21 October. The first year being 1890.
- Q13.** Which Dutch explorer in January 1697 walked from the coastline to the river and later captured two pairs of black swans to take back to Batavia?
A. Willem de Vlamingh
- Q14.** Who is known as the 'Father of the Kimberley'?
A. Alexander Forrest.
- Q15.** The first government railway line was opened in 1879. Which towns did it link?
A. Geraldton and Northampton.
- Q16.** What was Moondyne Joe's real name?
A. Joseph Bolitho Johns.
- Q17.** Explain how Rous Head, Fremantle got its name?
A. Named by Captain James Stirling for Captain Rous, discoverer of the Richmond and Clarence Rivers in NSW.
- Q18.** Many of Perth's finest buildings were constructed in stone by convicts. This material was mostly transported by river. Where did the bulk of it come from?
A. Known as Cottesloe stone, it came from quarries in that locality and also from nearby Rocky Bay.
- Q19.** The first death in the colony occurred on 10 June 1829 on Garden Island when one of Captain Fremantle's sailors was killed by a falling tree. What was his name?
A. William Parsons.
- Q20.** Captain James Stirling visited the Swan River twice. What ships did he command on these occasions?
A. HMS Success (1827) and Parmelia (1829).
- Q21.** Why is 1 June important to this State's history?
A. It commemorates the Foundation of the Swan River Colony.
- Q22.** Why is 12 August important in this State's history?
A. It marks the Foundation of Perth. Mrs Helen Dance performed the foundation ceremony in what is now Barrack Street (near the Town Hall).
- Q23.** Although there were few exhibits, where was the first Agricultural Show in the colony held on 7 November 1834?
A. Guildford

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- Q24.** Why did Governor Stirling name the capital Perth?
A. *At the request of Sir George Murray, Secretary of State for War and Colonies, in honour of his birthplace of Perth, Scotland.*
- Q25.** What is Perth's oldest building?
A. *The Old Court House, now occupied by the Law Society, situated in the Supreme Court Gardens.*
- Q26.** The Cloisters in Perth, originally the Church of England Collegiate School and more commonly known as Bishop Hale's School, was built with bricks from wood-fired brick kilns at East Perth. What pattern were these unique bricks laid in?
A. *Flemish bond decorative brickwork.*
- Q27.** A certain gentleman in the colony was said to be in love with Ellen Stirling. He later married her sister, Hamilla Mangles. Who was this gentleman?
A. *Lieutenant William Preston (Preston River was named after him and Hamilla Point after his wife).*
- Q28.** How did Geraldton get its name?
A. *It was named for Governor Fitzgerald (Gerald's Town).*
- Q29.** Which French Lieutenant was marooned on the beach at Cottesloe in 1801 for 5 days due to inclement weather?
A. *Lieutenant P Milius, a member of Baudin's expedition.*
- Q30.** The names Woodbridge and Guildford are associated with the birthplace of which prominent figure?
A. *Ellen Stirling*
- Q31.** Why did Mrs Helen Dance, wife of the Captain of HMS Sulphur, officiate in the Foundation of Perth in lieu of Ellen Stirling?
A. *Ellen Stirling was nursing an infant at the time and found it inconvenient to travel up-river. Three other officials' wives were pregnant. Unavailable to attend were Caroline Broun, Matilda Rae and Jane Currie.*
- Q32.** What did the Aboriginal people call Daisy Bates, a woman who lived with the tribes and translated a number of their languages?
A. *Kabbarli, meaning 'Grandmother'.*
- Q33.** Sir John Forrest was a man of firsts, list three achievements that fit this description?
A.
 - 1. First explorer to make the west-to-east crossing*
 - 2. First Premier of the State*
 - 3. First Australian born Baron*

50 Western Australian Historical Facts & Trivia

- Q34.** Government House ballroom was designed by the father of a distinguished composer and pianist. Who was this man?
A. *J M Grainger, father of Percy Grainger (Country Gardens).*
- Q35.** What do these men have in common? Peter Egerton Warburton, Ernest Giles and Lt Grey.
A. *Famous explorers*
- Q36.** Yagan, whose tribe occupied land south of the Swan and Canning Rivers, was the son of which Aboriginal leader?
A. *Midgegooroo*
- Q37.** Sister Kate founded a well-known children's home. What was her full name?
A. *Katherine Mary Clutterbuck*
- Q38.** Name the two major works designed by Irish Engineer, Charles Yelverton O'Connor that impacted on Western Australia's population and economic growth.
**A. *1. Construction of the pipeline to carry water to the goldfields
2. The development of the Fremantle harbour. Previously large ships were forced to use Albany as a port.***
- Q39.** What was the name of the first large vessel to enter the new harbour?
A. *SS Sultan*
- Q40.** Madame Winifrede Bellanger was well-known as a hospitable hostess. She and her husband pioneered what district?
A. *Nornalup*
- Q41.** On a return visit in 1832, Captain Charles Howe Fremantle intimated that a certain town 'would one day be a place of consequence'. What town was he referring to?
A. *The township of Fremantle.*
- Q42.** Name the architect/builder/priest responsible for the design of many ecclesiastical buildings in the Geraldton diocese, including the Geraldton Cathedral and churches at Mullewa and Northampton.
A. *Father John Hawes*
- Q43.** Fiery agitator and campaigner during the 1890's, Frederic Vosper founded what Perth newspaper?
A. *The Sunday Times*
- Q44.** War-time Prime Minister John Curtin lived with his family in which Perth suburb?
A. *Cottesloe*
- Q45.** What was the original name for Busselton?
A. *The Vasse*

50 Western Australian Historical Facts & Trivia

- Q46.** What is the name of one of the south-west's earliest settlers, whose daughter married Mathew Hale, the first Anglican Bishop of Perth? The wife of a noted pioneer, she was known as the State's first unofficial botanist.
A. *Georgiana Molloy*
- Q47.** The colony's first execution of a settler, the hanging of a 15 year old boy, took place at the Round House, Fremantle in 1844. What was the boy's name?
A. *John Gavin, a Pankhurst boy*
- Q48.** A penal colony was established in Western Australia between 1850 and 1868. How many convicts arrived in the colony between those years?
A. *9669*
- Q49.** In which year did Western Australia become one of six Federated States to join the newly established Commonwealth of Australia?
A. *1901*
- Q50.** Lady Forrest's family, the Hamersleys, owned a favourite holiday house at one of Perth's beaches. What is the name of the beach?
A. *North Beach.*

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QUESTIONS

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