

## 50 Western Australian Historical

# Facts & Trivia

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❖ Prepared for Celebrate WA by Ruth Marchant James ❖

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- 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 the 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's Terrace. What is presently situated on that allotment?  
**A. The Perth Technical School and part of the Old 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 the 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. William 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, discover 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 in this State’s history?  
**A. It commemorates the Foundation of the Swan River Colony.**
- Q22.** Why is 12 August important in the 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 Bishops Hale's School, was built with bricks from wood-fired brick kilns at West 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**

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- 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 designer 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 harbor?  
**A. SS Sultan**
- Q40.** Madame Winifred 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, Frederick 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**

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- 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 Pankhust 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

- Q1.** Where was the colony's first unofficial horse-race held?
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