



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2021

THE FEBRUARY WINNER is...

The February winner is the Rophi team from Perth. They drove down Route 120 finding their Pioneers and chasing clues in the towns of York, Pingelly and Brookton. This is their second-time-lucky team, having already hunted Pioneers in Tenterden, Mt Barker and Albany in July.

GET A TEAM READY FOR EASTER

What teams loved in the towns – by Rophi, Travellers Three, Bonne Journee and others – A highway packed with interest.

YORK. “The architecture, old houses, straw sculptures trail, pressed tin ceiling in the Town Hall, wandering around the streets and poking into shops - especially the 2nd-hand bookshop. Accommodation at Greenhills was fabulous.”

Pingelly. “The warm welcome from Singh and Family at our accommodation at the fabulously old Pingelly Hotel, the meal from Sukh in the impressive dining room, the delicious smoked Christmas ham from the prize-winning Pingelly butcher, chats with happy locals.”



Brookton. “The lovely garden around the beautiful railway station - under restoration - the architecture of the Squat Bedford Arms. The well-tended but dusty cemetery seems a fitting heroic resting place for the Brookton pioneers.”

Woodanilling. “Must be something in the water in Woodanilling. We were taken by the number of people reaching their 70s and 80s in this cemetery.”

Tenterden. “The friendly locals who stopped and asked, ‘you alright love?’ then gave directions to the elusive cemetery and the dear little mud slab hut just over the railway line someone’s love home. Metters stove outside.”

Mt Barker. “The 7-mural trail around town is a bright and cheery way to wander around Mt Barker. The beautiful old railway station now VC still has the evocative smell of coal smoke clinging to the rafters, and the displays are full of historical interest.”

York. “Love York with its history and beautiful old buildings and churches Every time we go to York, we say we must come back here and spend more time exploring and learning more We stayed at the Imperial Homestead and it was wonderful. We will be back.”

Beverley. “is a surprise on the main road from York to Brookton. Many old buildings in the town are well restored, and the tourist office is new with great interactive displays on the history of the town Love the hidden murals by James Gidday.”

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON ROUTE 120

When you are on the Pioneer Challenge, coming up to Easter.

YORK

The York Antiques and Collectables Fair - Easter w/e
York Racing Easter Cup
York Motorcycle Rally
Sun 11th April



PINGELLY

Pingelly Astrofest
Sat 20th Mar 4.30-9pm



WAGIN

The Wagin Historical Village
10am-4pm 7 days
Woolorama 5th-6th March



KATANNING

Katanning Harmony Festival
Fri, 12 Mar, 5:00 pm – Sat,
13 Mar, 7:00 pm
Opera in Katanning Sat, 27
Sheep sales – Tues, Wed



MT BARKER

Grape Escape Day Tour
Fri 19 Mar and 26 Mar
Porongurup at Karribank
Sculptures 2-10 April



Managed by **Rotary** Matilda Bay





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SOME PIONEER DETAILS THAT WERE FOUND

Policemen, stowaways, builders whose work still stand in the towns, rabbit fumigators, convicts and farmers. Some colourful lives discovered by teams on the Pioneer Challenge.

Patrick Hackett (York) Patrick was a police constable when at the young age of 28 yrs he was murdered by two “Kelly” wannabe miscreants in Beverley leaving a young wife with a one-week-old baby.

Charles Gordon (Pingelly) Stowed away on ship in Scotland, jumped ship at Albany. Worked on the Beverley-Albany railway and took up virgin land East of Pingelly which he cleared while living in a tent and working on the railway. Died at 58 yrs following complications from surgery.

John Gilchrist (Pingelly) owned an agricultural manufacturing business in Pingelly for 27 years inventing a stock feeder, wheat pickler, bag rammer, rabbit fumigator, all of which sold widely both around the State and Nationally. As farmers we benefited from most of his inventions

Mary Conners (Katanning) Mary was transported to Van Diemen's Land on the 4th of January 1849 on the vessel the Australasia. She was 16.5 years of age. It looks like she was transported with her sister Bridget, who was 18 years old at the time. Mary's convict number was 863.

William Atkins (Narrogin) (Alias Hawkins)
Convict number 7916. He built St Patrick's church, Atkins Cottage, also known as Mourambine Cottage, and several other buildings in the area. He was born in Bures Hamlet, Essex in 1835 and married Mary Ann Goodenough, daughter of James Goodenough 12 Aug 1873, the first marriage in St Patrick's. William died in the Narrogin Hospital on 13 Sep 1926 and is buried in the cemetery there. Mary Ann and her youngest daughter are buried in St Patrick's graveyard.



THE CHALLENGE



Pioneer Challenge is a fun heritage hunt with the aim of discovering the pioneers on Route 120 in WA. The game is a hybrid of a clue finding treasure hunt and a car rally that encourages people to explore our regional country towns and raise money for charity. The game is run by an innovative Rotary group from Perth who has been looking to beat Covid-19 and assist in the recovery of Western Australia's tourism industry.

HOW TO PLAY

Once registered, players are assigned three Pioneer towns and nine Pioneers to investigate along a chosen segment of Route 120, (Southern Highway). Within these towns, players begin by finding and photographing the graves of these Pioneers at the local cemetery. Search for historical clues around town, answer questions online and upload pictorial records of your trip. The game is played on mobile devices and the Pioneer Challenge website. Learn about the town, enjoy the local fare and flavours and bring to life the amazing Pioneers of our state! Explore unique and charming towns along the Great Southern Highway (Route 120). pioneerchallenge.com.au

SPRING INTO ACTION

“The best part was doing something totally different together, exploring, discovering people and places we never knew existed.” It is easy to incorporate the Pioneer Challenge in a fun day trip or as breaks in a longer journey.

“It supports a charity too.”



Thank you for your support. Please forward this newsletter to friends and colleagues and encourage them to participate! Register a team at pioneerchallenge.com.au and plan your unique experience.

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