

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2021

THE JANUARY WINNER is...

The January winner is the MD1 team from Perth. They drove down Route 120 finding their pioneers and chasing clues in the towns of Woodanilling, Katanning and Tenterden. "We had a really good time, luckily doing it before the lock-downs and in a patch of cooler weather!"

Our York to Albany at Christmas

Book your accommodation for Easter and register for the Pioneer Challenge while discounts are available.



York to Albany by 'Team Bad'

York Flour Mill Emporium.



The Bedford Arms at Brookton. Its old-world bar serves excellent food. It would be great place to stay next time. The Brookton Museum and Heritage Centre houses a valuable collection.



Next stop was Pingelly and then Cuballing. With an Aboriginal name relating to a pool near the town, it is one of the original stations on the Great Southern Railway. A thriving town in 1906 having shops, blacksmiths, churches, butchers, banks, hall, post office and a hotel all apparently made of local materials. We found our pioneers.

The Wagin Historical Village is possibly the best reconstruction of a Farming Community in the State. "Wagin is a beautiful town with lots of history and potential. The drinking fountain in the main street is one of only two in Australia the centrepiece is shaped like the Eiffel Tower made in Glasgow and donated to the Town by Alexander Galt in 1929".



The Premier Mill Hotel is the best hotel on Route 120



KATANNING

The Tuesday and Wednesday sheep sales, the old buildings, the railway buildings and the Mosque are great attractions.

Managed by Rotary  Matilda Bay



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EWLYAMARTUP LAKE

Water skiers, kayakers, sailors, swimmers, picnicker, birdwatchers will enjoy a visit to this 100 ha recreation lake

KATANNING PIONEER [Biography: lostkatanning.com]

SISTER ELIZABETH BRIDGET GROVER 1875 - 1973 *Midwife and World War One Nurse.*

Elizabeth Bridget Grover was born at 'Indinup' in Katanning on 9 July, 1875, the sixth child of William Grover and Bridget Mary Grover.

Mr Gus Piesse taught the young Elizabeth telegraphing and she was appointed to John DeBaum's Palace Hotel Cable Office in Perth. She was then appointed to Collie, Dardanup, Victoria Park, Dardanup and finally Broomehill from where she rode home every weekend.

However, she did not like postal work and wanted to train as a nurse but did not know how to "get to it". She also met strong opposition from her mother Bridget. She finally made the plunge and wrote to the Matron at Perth Public Hospital and succeeded in getting a job. They had no quarters and were put up in old disused wards, divided into sections.

When she finished her course Elizabeth, together with Sister Spaven and Sister Angela Ross went to Glasgow for her obstetrics training. They had never seen slums and after working in the hospital and getting the experience of about six cases they had to take cases alone in the slum area.

Gaining her Central, Midwifery Board of England qualifications Elizabeth returned home to "Indinup" and private nursing. However, before she could settle down the 1914 war was on and all nurses who could, volunteered. Elizabeth sailed away on 23rd June 1915 with the Siege Brigade for England finishing up at Harefield Military Hospital for Australian Gallipoli troops. They were terribly battered, and a great number were ready for transport to Australia.

She listed for transport duty and arrived at the Fremantle Base Hospital before sailing with a new unit for Egypt. They were camped at Abbassia in the Kitchener Barracks, about three miles from Cairo. In one stint there were quite a number of casualties. Among them were Ernie Bain, Artie Chipper and Bill Leonard, all from Katanning so Elizabeth secured them for her ward. Katanning's Ladyman boys would visit their quarters, along with Hugh Throssel and many more.

Prime Minister Bill Hughes lent 400 Australian nurses to the British Medicals to go to Solonico with Elizabeth, Dene Piesse, Doris Eastwood, and Sister Fleming the only West Australians. The hills were covered with tent hospitals.

The group went to Mount Horticack where dysentery and malignant malaria were raging. The heat was bad in summer and in winter they had snow and



Sister Elizabeth Grover

blizzards for about three months. In the worst of the winter the group were taken to the Prisoner of War Hospital.

At the end of the war Elizabeth went back to London with Matron Hart, Sister Dene Piesse, Sister Fleming and Doris Eastwood, finally sailing for Australia with a ship packed with soldiers all longing to be home. The ship arrived in Fremantle on 4th July 1919.

Elizabeth was transferred to A.A.W.S. Reserve and spent a few months in Fremantle Base Hospital getting injections and treatment for malaria, then home on leave for a few months.

Over the next few years she went to Port Hedland and was appointed Matron of Broome Hospital and relieved the Matron at Marble Bar and Wyndham. She was then appointed to the Edward Mullen Home for T.B. Soldiers, for about two years.

After a pilgrimage back to the Middle East she received notice that her sister May's (Mrs. Ralph Dutton) husband had died suddenly and Elizabeth moved in with her until May's death in 1960.

Sister Grover died in May 1973 and was buried in the Katanning Cemetery. She was 97 years old.



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

Form a team "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.

ALBANY

Route 120 is so much prettier than other routes to Albany. Lots to see.



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