

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2020

THE CHALLENGE

Pioneer Challenge, it is a fun heritage hunt with the aim of discovering the pioneers of Western Australia. The game is a hybrid of a clue finding treasure hunt and a car rally that encourages people to explore our regional country towns. 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.

GETTING HOOKED ON THE CHALLENGE



Photo: Left to Right, Dallas and Lynda from Team Bonne Journee

One of the teams that took on the Pioneer Challenge was Team Bonne Journee who ventured from York to Beverley long Route 120 in search of our pioneers. The first grave they found in the historical town of York was the tombstone of pioneer of Mrs Agnes Cooke who died at only 23 years old. Lynda from team Bonne Journee said that it was such a grand tombstone but such a sad story around the life of this historical pioneer. *"So far I have spent many happy and sad hours on the challenge as I did a lot of research about each of the pioneers before we went as I really wanted to know more about the pioneers before we found their graves. I've got to admit I'm hooked on the challenge and am just loving researching the pioneers and visiting the towns. In all the times that I have driven through Beverley I have never been off the main road. I ventured into the town and was so impressed with*

the beautiful old buildings and how neat and tidy the town was", she said. The Bonne Journee team like many other participants are having such a great time as pioneer challengers. *"I have now registered for all of the remaining towns, that's five registrations as we are planning to do all of the 15 towns on Route 120. Pioneer Challenge is such a great idea, a Win-Win for Rotary, for the towns and communities along Route 120 and for us participants", she said.*

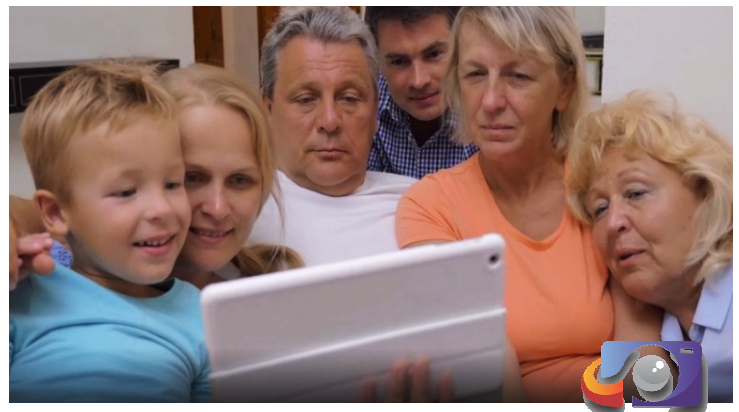
HOW TO PLAY

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.



Explore unique and charming towns along the Great Southern Highway (Route 120). Learn about the town, enjoy the local fare and flavours and bring to life the amazing Pioneers of our state!



Pioneer Challenge, Fun for the whole family

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PRIZE PRESENTATION

Founder of Pioneer Challenge, Chris Oakeley, visiting the town of Beverley to present the July prize to The Mighty Mighty Martins Team. Attending the presentation ceremony was Beverley Shire CEO, Stephen Gollan who expressed his support of the Pioneer Challenge. He said that the game has certainly given people a great reason to visit some of the wonderful towns along Route 120. *“Beverley is certainly one of those towns”,* he said.



Photo: Left to Right, Stephen Gollan, Rep from The Mighty Mighty Martins Team, Chris Oakeley.

ROTARY'S BIG PLANS FOR KEMH ROSE GARDEN

The Rotary club of Matilda Bay has big plans for the King Edward Hospital's Memorial Rose Garden. The rose garden is a unique venue, founded in recognition of the impact of reproductive, pregnancy and baby loss. It provides a repository for babies' ashes that previously were not retained, plus a place of recognition and acknowledgement for women and their families experiencing pregnancy or baby loss. The first ashes were interred in January 1989 in a small area that formed the original Garden.

Through the ongoing support of the Rotary Club of Matilda Bay the area of the Garden was extended to its current size and more than 38,000 ashes have been placed. In response to numerous requests and concerns by bereaved parents for shade, shelter,

seating and other amenities, there is an urgent need for a sympathetic refurbishment and expansion to upgrade the Garden to become a significant place for reflection, reconnection, memory and healing. The project is estimated at \$1.5 million and the upgrade is awaiting State Government approval to proceed. Meanwhile, the fund raising for the project is underway with Pioneer Challenge as its major fund-raising initiative. Donations can be made at <https://www.pioneerchallenge.com.au/>



Rotary of Matilda Bay's Plan for the KEMH Rose Garden

AND THE WINNER IS...

For August, the monthly winner is the Bonne Journee team. The team was allocated the towns of Beverley, Katanning and Woodanilling. The team spent a week enjoying the challenge, museums, and accommodation in the towns. The Bonne Journee team receives a dozen bottles of Sauvignon Blanc Semillon from Ironcloud Wines. They plan more trips in the Spring.



SPRING INTO ACTION

Don't miss the Great Southern Highway at its Spring best with the wildflowers and Canola fields in bloom. It is easy to incorporate the Pioneer Challenge as fun day trip. On the way to a holiday destination or as a holiday on the Pioneer Challenge Route. 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.