

## Western Australia

**Examples from the National Trust of Australia (WA) for the National History Challenge and the National Trust themes:**

### *Celebrations, memories and history in Australia's heritage*

Uncover amazing stories every moment in National Trust properties.

#### **Celebrate Trust: 50 years of the National Trust in Western Australia**

The National Trust of Australia (WA) celebrated 50 years in 2009. The main motivating factor in its formation was that old Perth was rapidly disappearing under the bulldozer. The story of the formation and continuing development of the WA National Trust is a story to celebrate.

Other stories of celebration, memories and history are associated with the Trust's List of Classified places and the government register. Contact the WA Trust for more information on classified places.

There are also excellent examples of celebrations, memories and history in the Trust properties. All these properties feature professional educational programs.

#### **Celebrate Nation:            John & Elsie Curtin's House:**

John & Elsie Curtin's Home has been vested with the National Trust of Australia (WA) by the State Government. The objective for the Trust is to conserve and interpret the house as the residence of the Prime Minister highlighting not only his contributions to social issues and a wartime leader but also those of his wife Elsie Curtin OBE who played a prominent but today, a largely unrecognised role in the community and the Australian Labor Party.

The house at 24 Jarrad St, Cottesloe was occupied by the Curtin family from its construction in 1923 until John's death while in the position of Prime Minister on 5 July 1945. His widow Elsie resided in the house until her death in 1975. After 1945, the house remained much as it was in their lifetimes until 1998, when their daughter, also Elsie, moved from the family home. In July 1999 the property was purchased by the Commonwealth and State governments to ensure its ongoing preservation.

## National Trust of Australia: Amazing Stories Every moment

For the competition, students could be encouraged to write an interpretation plan, fully developing an appropriate theme for the house, with background information, references and models or illustrations looking at the Celebrations, memories and history and contribution to Australian Heritage of this property.

### **Celebrate Change: Woodbridge:**

Celebrate the changing role of Woodbridge from home of Charles Harper and family through a school, nursing home and NT property.

Examine the Heritage of the celebrations, memories and history of Woodbridge as its role changed.

### **Celebrate settlement: Wonnerup (regional property)**

Examine the attitudes and relationship to the land of the pioneering settlers and the Indigenous people to settlement and their impacts on Australian heritage in a “celebration” of this property.

#### **Background and points to consider:**

- Home of the Layman family, one of the first farms settled in the Vasse district. Many celebrations took place at the dairy farm – weddings, parties – also death and fire.
- Controversial relationships between Indigenous people and early European settlers.
- ‘A most outstanding dairy farm’ - The farm is settled amongst a significant Tuart forest and much of the forest was cleared for the farm.
- Settlement of the area is interesting with many significant people living in this area. Busselton Historical Society has excellent resources.

### **Celebrate Achievement: No 1 Pump Station/ Golden Pipeline:**

#### **No 1 Pump Station, Mundaring**

This Scheme has just received an American Institute of Engineering International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark bestowed by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

## National Trust of Australia: Amazing Stories Every moment

You can focus on different factors in this remarkable project. You can look at the people involved, the engineering feat itself, or celebrate the solution to a problem and its impact on Australia's heritage.

### Celebrations

"Never have I seen so much enthusiasm for water and so little of it drunk" - 24 January George Reid 1903

Why was the opening of the goldfields water supply greeted with such enthusiasm? What were the conditions on WA's eastern goldfields that made the arrival of a reliable source of freshwater such a cause for celebrations?

The National Trust of Western Australia celebrates the building of the world's longest freshwater pipeline through its Golden Pipeline Project and can be of assistance in suggesting resources and providing information.

### Memory

In 2009 massed choirs from Western Australian primary schools gathered to sing a song commemorating the state's Engineer-in-Chief from 1891 - 1902.

This brilliant engineer, Charles Yelverton O'Connor, is commemorated in paintings and statues as well as song. Why is he remembered more than 100 years after his death? What did he achieve that his memory lives on to this day?

The National Trust of Western Australia contributes to keeping alive the legacy of CY O'Connor through its Golden Pipeline Project and can be of assistance in suggesting resources and providing information.

### History

"Future generations, I am quite certain, will think of us and bless us for our far-seeing patriotism, and it will be said of us, as Isaiah said of old, They made a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Sir John Forrest opening the goldfields water supply, 24 January 1903

Why has WA's goldfields water supply scheme gone down in history? Why is the

## National Trust of Australia: Amazing Stories Every moment

River of Steel to the desert of such historic significance that in 2009 it was awarded an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark Award?

The National Trust of Western Australia established the Golden Pipeline Project to promote the historic significance of the scheme and can be of assistance in suggesting resources and providing information.

### Australia's heritage

Federal politicians from the eastern states sailed to Western Australia to attend the official opening on 24 January 1903 of the water supply to WA's eastern goldfields.

What was it about the water scheme that made it worthy of attention at the federal level? Why does at least one historian argue that if it had been completed earlier Western Australia would not have become part of the Commonwealth? Does it deserve National Heritage Listing (under consideration in 2009)?

The National Trust of Western Australia preserves original material and promotes the significance of the scheme through its Golden Pipeline Project and can be of assistance in suggesting resources and providing information.

**WA entrants to Australia's heritage in the National Heritage Challenge are not restricted to researching WA heritage- you may choose Australia's heritage from anywhere.**

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