

**Part 1**

**WILLIAM BAY**

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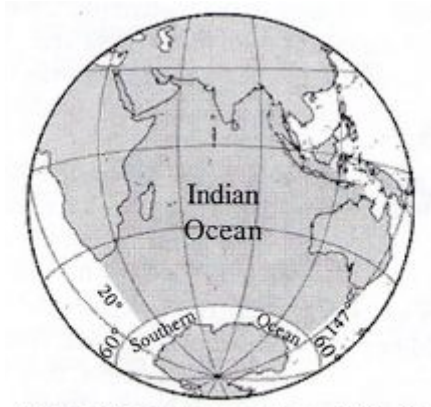
***Another day in Paradise...*** is an oft-heard greeting among the Regulars (year-round swimmers and walkers) on the William Bay beaches, regarded by most as the jewels in the crown of William Bay.



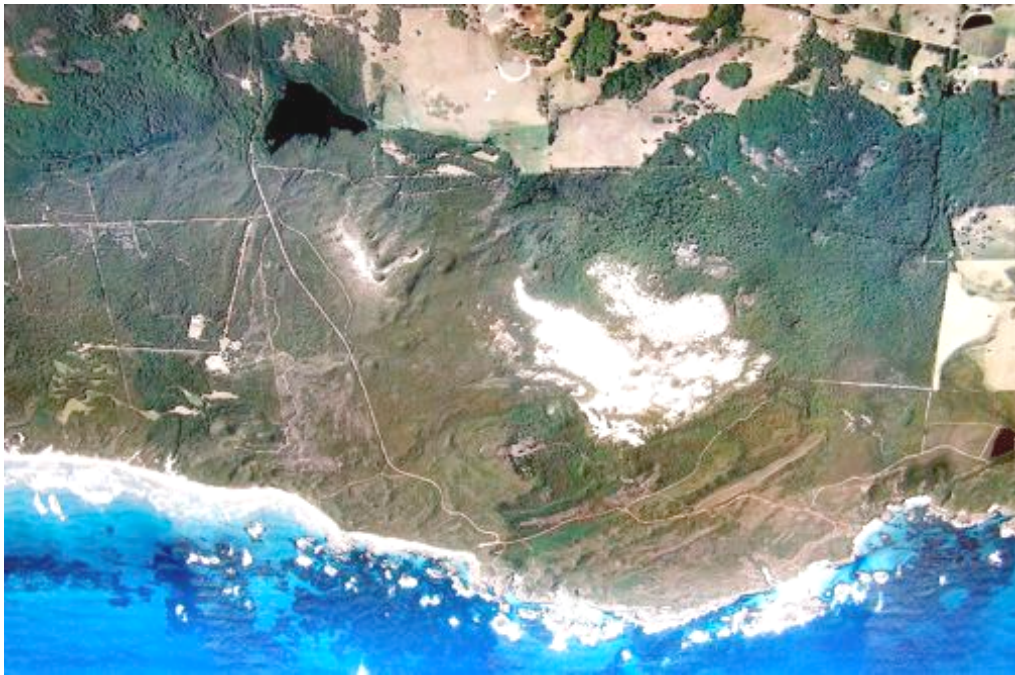
William Bay with it's location within the south-west of WA shown inset

map courtesy DEC

**William Bay** is an area on the south-west coast of Western Australia, a locality within the Shire of Denmark, stretching from Parry Beach in the west to Edward Point in the east, a distance of about 10km 'as the crow flies' (excluding the creeks, inlets and minor headlands). The span of the Bay from west to east includes such features as **Parry Inlet, William Bay National Park**, which itself includes **Greens Pool, Elephant Rocks, Petrified Forest, Tower Hill Rocks, Madfish Bay, Waterfall** and **Lights Beaches**.



Despite constant references, maps and local beliefs that the waters to the immediate south of William Bay (and for that matter, most of Australia) are the Southern Ocean, they are in fact the Indian Ocean. The Southern Ocean does not lap the shores of Australia, but begins some 5 000 km further south on latitude 60 degrees, whilst the south coast of WA sits on about latitude 34-35 degrees. The Indian Ocean, incidentally, stretches east to Tasmania, as can be seen on the left map.

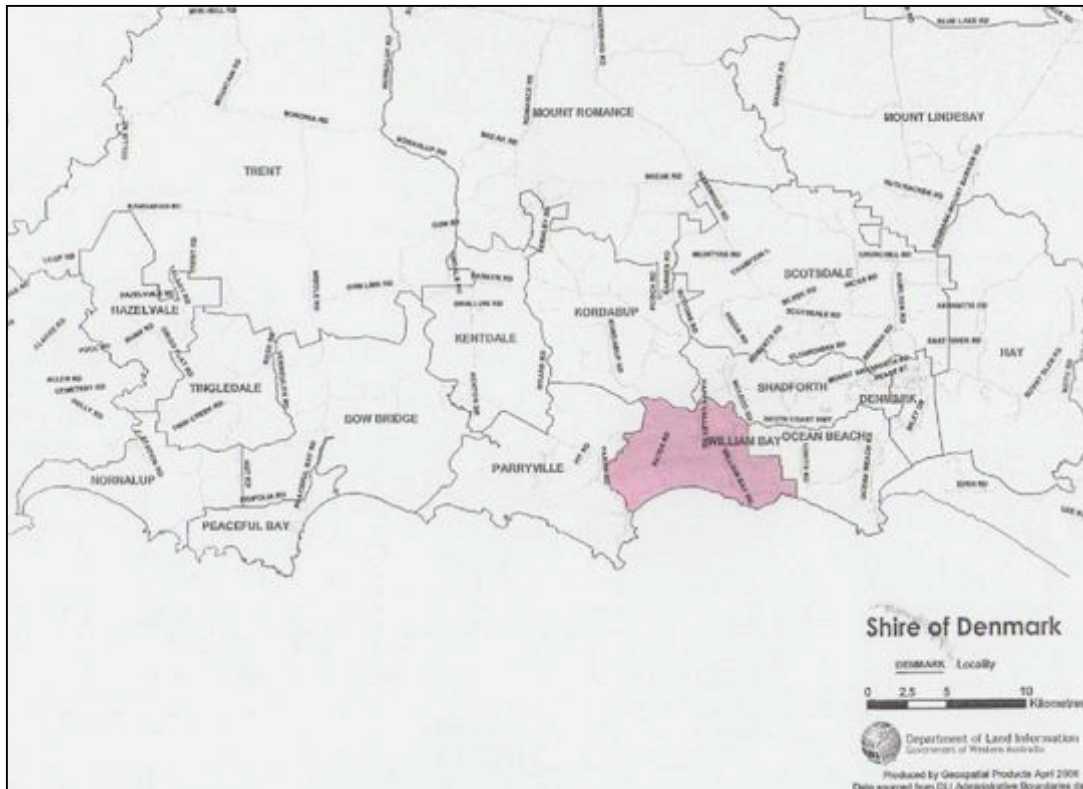


An aerial view of William Bay c 2000 courtesy Department of Environment and Conservation



This enlargement of part of the above picture shows Lake Byleveld at top left, and Lake Williams at lower right.

The Petrified Forest (Sand Patch) is in the centre and Greens Pool car-park at the bottom of the picture, just left of centre.

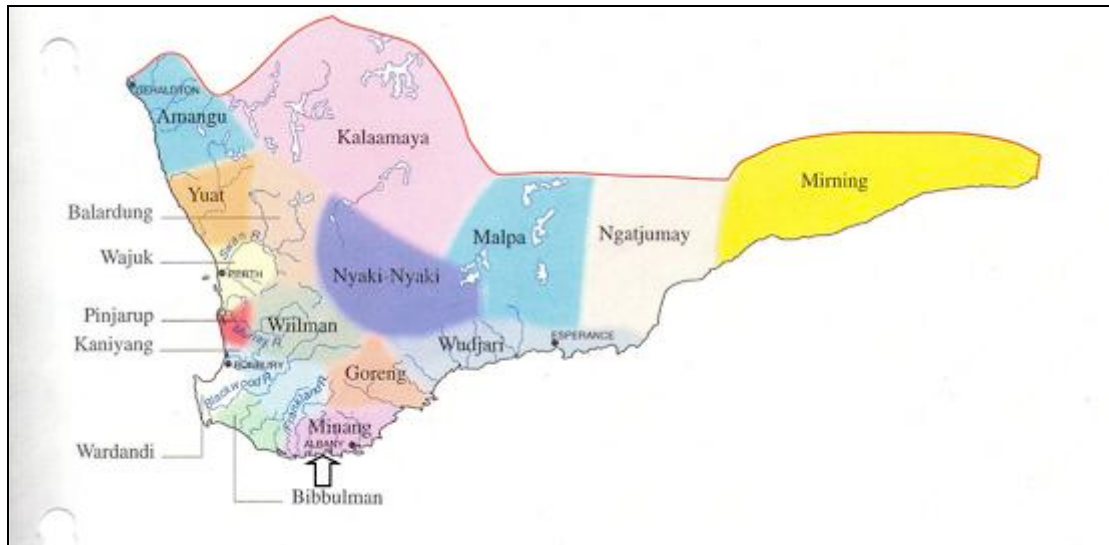


The Bay itself falls within the Shire's locality of William Bay, coloured pink in the above map, published by the State Government Department of Land Information, and the subject area, central to the story, lies on a thin coastal strip. However, the adjacent region has a significant bearing on the history of William Bay itself.

The physical William Bay is a secluded and largely unspoilt stretch of the coast, over 400km from Perth, with small resort towns Denmark (15km east) and Walpole (50km west), which attract tourists in ever-increasing numbers, particularly in the Summer school-holidays and Easter, when market days and other arts and crafts shows add to the natural attractions of the district. The coastline has pristine beaches, backed with medium to high sand-cliffs, and both the coastal waters and near hinterland are studded with granitic rocks, such as Tower Hill, which developed hundreds of millions of years ago, well below the surface of the earth where enormous pressures were required to produce granite. The emergent rocks, following the erosion of their overburden, have then been weathered by the elements over millions of years to produce rounded shapes, many creating varied impressions according to the onlooker's imagination eg Elephant Rocks. A more detailed description of the topography can be found in the Appendices at the end of this book, courtesy of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

William Bay experiences warm summers and cool winters. Temperatures indicate the mean average ranges from a maximum in Summer of 25Celsius to 16C in Winter. The mean minimum ranges from 12.8C in Summer to 6.6C in Winter. Summer temperatures occasionally rise above 37C. Average rainfall is 1012mm (about 40 inches). So, the climate is similar to a Mediterranean/Sub Tropical Zone.

**The Recorded History** of the William Bay area follows the Aboriginal Era, which started 40-50 000 years ago when people came to Australia from the north. The Aborigines of the south-west were the Minang People (aka as Mineang or Mineanger), who moved around their 'territory' according to available sustenance during their six seasons.



From: Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia

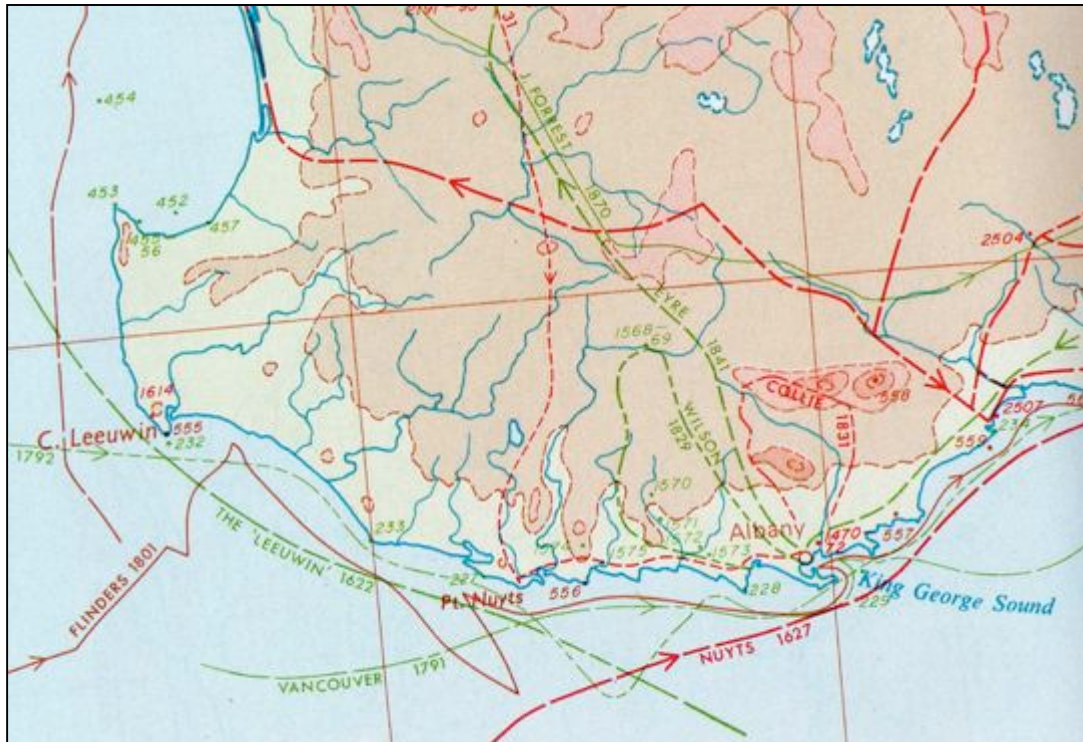
*The William Bay general location is roughly highlighted by the arrow above 'Bibbulmun'*

Site Types of Artefacts and Scatter (e.g. pieces of stone tools etc.) have been recorded locally at Peaceful Bay, Lights Beach, Boat Harbour and Lake Byleveld by the Department of Indigenous Affairs, and nearby the Katelysia Rock Shelter, Fish Traps in Wilson and Parry Inlets. An Ochre Pit was found near Springdale, indicating Aboriginal Activity in the area, but it should be remembered that the coastline would have been around 40km further south due to the glaciers and ice prevalent in those days, so that much evidence would have disappeared under the later melting stages and advancing seas. It has been recorded by Dr Charles Dortch, of the WA Museum, that he identified quartz pieces as the leftovers from stone-tool making sites in the Petrified Forest.

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Map from *The Discovery and Exploration of Australia*

We therefore need to leapfrog the years to 1622 when **European activity** came to WA 's southern seas and saw the Dutch East India Company vessel Leeuwin sail the south-west coast from Cape Leeuwin to King George Sound. Later, in 1627 Dutch East India Company official Pieter Nuyts sailed along the southern coast of Australia with Thyssen in his vessel Gulden Zeepaard (Golden Seahorse) mapping some 1600km of the coast, and naming Cape Leeuwin in honour of the earlier expedition. The Dutch were most active around the west and south-west of Western Australia's coastline as, after rounding the Cape of Good Hope (South Africa), one of their favoured routes to the (Dutch) East Indies was to head due west with the prevailing winds (the Roaring Forties) until they reached the west coast of Australia, known variously to them as Terra Australis Incognita (the Unknown South Land), Land of the Eendracht and New Holland on their early maps.

Interestingly, they plotted their progress in those perilous days by playing out a 'log line' which was checked every hour. This was not that accurate a system, as winds and weather could affect readings, which would doubtless account for the number of ships wrecked on the WA west coast reefs and rocks, after they were due to turn north for the final leg to Java. Dr Phillip Playford's book *Carpet of Silver* gives a fascinating insight of that period of Dutch activity around our shores.

In 'Vancouver's Voyages' of 1791 **Captain George Vancouver** in HM Discovery recorded the south coast of Terra Australis (WA) as *..uninviting, dangerous, rocky and precipitous*. Vancouver was the first to thoroughly chart the coast.

Then, in 1801, British naval captain and explorer **Matthew Flinders** was commissioned to chart all of the coastline of Australia. When his vessel the HMS Investigator passed our shores on its epic voyage around Australia, he named Point Hillier after the captain of the Investigator and Stanley Island for one of the crew. He also named Ratcliffe Bay (just south of Wilson Inlet) on the same voyage. Anyone with a love of history and/or adventure who is on the Greens Pool lookout can easily and romantically visualise the Investigator sailing past the headland Flinders named, as the following composition shows:



An impression of the Investigator sailing past Pt Hillier and Stanley Island with an enlargement of the ship in the top right-hand corner.

Flinders' presence was followed some thirty years later by the Sealers and Whalers who prowled the oceans in search of spoils, and it was the Sealers who were reputed to have named Boat Harbour 'Snapper/Schnapper Boat Harbour' in the early 1800s.



**Point Hillier Cairn.** The stone cairn on top of Point Hillier was built by Capt. W E Archdeacon, surveying the south coast for the British Admiralty in the late 1870s. This picture, taken in 1949, looks out eastwards towards the William Bay National Park.

courtesy: Denmark Historical Society inc.

The Explorers and Surveyors came into the district in the 1830s, and place names were given to numerous features and waters:

**William Bay, Parry Inlet and Beach** were named in 1833 by WA's Assistant Surveyor-General/Explorer Alfred Hillman (some reports credit Capt. Thomas Bannister with naming these places) in honour of friend and Arctic Explorer Sir William Edward Parry, also Edward Point, between Elephant Rocks and Madfish Bay. Parry Inlet was originally named Parry's by Hillman, as was Wilson Inlet, named by Governor Stirling as Wilson's but over time Lands Departments have dropped the apostrophe 's' in most places. However, the apostrophe in Greens Pool was dropped but the 's' retained.

**Mazzoletti Beach** was named in honour of local identity Jack (John) Mazzoletti who did so much to help the district with agricultural knowledge, politics and the Group Settlements' farming difficulties, but he died in 1930 at the relatively young age of 54. More on Jack Mazzoletti follows further on.

**Greens Pool** was named after a retired police inspector John Green from Bunbury whose son Victor Green lived in Denmark, and drowned in Wilson Inlet in 1922. Victor was known to have walked from town to fish from the rocks in the smaller pool, which lies between today's Greens Pool and Elephant Rocks. John Green, originally a local farmer, visited Denmark for many years after he moved to Bunbury.

**Tower Hill** rocks were named by Surveyor-General John Septimus Roe on his second expedition from Perth to King George Sound (Albany) in 1835. His first expedition was with Governor Stirling. Incidentally, it was Governor Stirling who, in c1831, named Wilson (Wilson's) Inlet in honour of Surgeon-Lieutenant Thomas Braidwood Wilson MD, RN, who explored the district in 1829 and named the Denmark River, from which the town took its name.

In 1841, Explorer **William Nairne Clark** undertook an exploration by sea in the vessel Mary Ann, but he recorded that when he was crossing William Bay, he became totally confused by the plethora of names on his charts: ..We made for William Bay (Parry's Inlet), expecting to find good harbour....but there are so many names on maps....that it is hard for simple people to find where bays, rivers etc. exist. We found a safe boat harbour but not the Snapper Boat Harbour..

**Elephant Rocks** were named after the huge, rounded rock-shapes which can be clearly seen in the photos shown later, and which are typical of the granitic rocks of the South Coast. To older, and past residents, it was also known as 'The Causeway' because of the line of basalt (*igneous*) rocks on the east side.

**Madfish Bay** Local identity and fisherman Bill Pinniger records that the name came from local fishermen who at one time had seen dolphins playing and 'going mad' in the waters and, later, when asked where they fished they told the story of the 'mad fish', which naturally evolved to 'Madfish Bay'. More on Bill Pinniger's salmon-fishing exploits later.

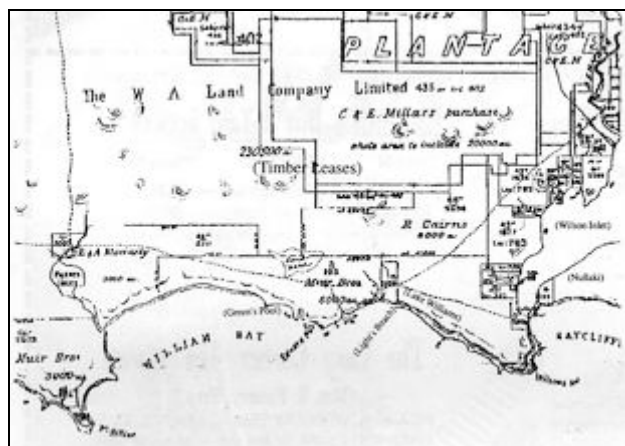
**Waterfall Beach** was named for the simple waterfall that runs down the cliff-face onto the beach.

**Lights Beach** was named after a local WAGR engineer who lived in Lights Road and was tragically killed by a falling tree-branch in 1920.



**After the explorers**, surveyors, sealers and whalers, came the **Graziers** from the north (as far as Kojonup district) in the mid-to-late 1800s, and they would bring their cattle in summer, when their pastures had dried-out, to the grassy coastal lands of William Bay and adjacent areas like Peaceful Bay and Boat Harbour where Commonages and Coastal Leases were granted. Some of the legendary families were Hassell, Moriarty (Peaceful Bay used to be called Moriarty Beach) and the Muir brothers. Later, in the early 1900s there were Sounness, Wittenoom, Glyde and Warburton, when George Ebbett Snr and Bert Saw would look after their cattle whilst they were on the coast. More recently, the likes of the Drage family from Mt Barker and Laings of Denmark took their cattle to the coast up until the 1970s. Today, at the time of writing (2010), some of these old stock routes are being considered for inclusion into the Shire of Denmark's Municipal Heritage Inventory.

The following copy of an 1898 map shows stock-routes meeting at Lake Williams, just above Lights Beach, which was the watering-hole for the cattle.



Courtesy: Denmark Historical Society Inc.



Ned and Arthur Moriarty camping on the Bow River during their stock-route trek in 1910

From the Bert Saw album

In the early 1920s the Western Australian State Government, in union with the British

Government, created the **Group Settlement Scheme**, with a vision to establish a State Dairy Industry to replace the heavy import bill for dairy products from the Eastern States. It planned for 150 Settlements in the south-west of WA to create dairy farms, and fifteen of those were to be established in the Denmark District, predominantly by immigration from Britain, although there was a substantial local content in the earliest settlements.

Settlements in the Denmark District were established between 1922 and 1927, and Group 113 at Parryville was set-up in 1924. In the following year 1925, the Group school (now Parryville Hall) was built and opened. As well as a school, it became an important meeting-place for the locals, who organised their social life around it, and even after the school closed in 1945, the Hall continued to be the focal point for the local community, and is still in use today for meetings and functions, under the management of Mrs Jean Brenton of William Bay.



courtesy: Val Laing

The opening of Group 113 Parryville School in 1925, also known as Parry Inlet and Parryvale.



Group 113 Reunion in the 1990s at Parryville Hall courtesy: Val Laing

Places and roads in the William Bay District with a historical connection add significance to the area, and these deserve listing:

**Lake Byleveld** and **Byleveld Close** - named after the early settlers, the Byleveld Family.

**Pates Road** - for the Pates Family. Father Geoff Pates Snr. was Road Board (Shire) Chairman in the 1950s. There was a road listed many years ago by the name of

**Kingdons Road** - which no longer appears on today's maps. That was named after the Kingdons who were an early pioneering family in the district.

**Rice Road** - named after the Rice Family who lived in the William Bay Cottages on the edge of the National Park. Muriel Brenton was a Rice.

**Brenton Road** - for the Brenton Family who were Group 113 Parryville Settlers in the 1920s. George and Dorothy were well-known and highly respected early farmers.

**Happy Valley Road** Cynically named after the Group 102 Somerset Hill Settlers who regularly voiced their grievances of the Settlement Scheme's empty promises.

**Privett Road** After the Privett Family who lived there.

**Plozza Road** The Plozza Family were early settlers in the district.

**William Bay, Lights, Lights Beach and Parry Beach Roads** As earlier described for the main locations/areas.

**McLeod Road** Takes its name from **Mt McLeod** and named by Assistant Surveyor-General Hillman for Commandant D McLeod. In early days it was known as Nellie Blythe Hill, after the Blythes who lived just above the Swinburns. Also, colloquially known as Nellie Bly's Hill, from an old children's rhyme: Nellie Bly caught a fly and tied it to a string,

The string it broke, and cut its throat. Poor little thing.

**Overton Hill** Named by Governor James Stirling after a place in his home-town area in Lanarkshire, and most likely a small corruption of Overtown, just east of Glasgow and near Lanark.

**Henderson Hill** Named for C Stuart Henderson, son of an early local family of farmers. Stuart died in Belgium in 1917 during WW1. The family lived roughly where Bart Lebbing's Meadery is.

Apart from Victor Green (who was the man who walked to Greens Pool from town in the early 1900s to fish), one of the first other recorded uses of the Pool as a recreation area was by **Eric Kingdon**, and old Denmark resident, who later lived in North Dandalup. The Kingdon Family were pioneering farmers who came to Denmark in 1909 (from New Zealand to Australia in 1890) and in the 1930s and '40s father Rod (Henry Rodney Robert) would take the children down to what was called the '**Horse Camp**', a place beneath the Peppermint trees about 1km in from the beach, which was as far as a horse and cart would go in the early days – hence the given name.

Since writing this book, Eric Kingdon passed away in 2012, and it is important to mention that his life was one of struggle and adjustment to life's trials and tribulations that befell him. At the tender age of 16, he went to an RAAF Camp, where he contracted meningitis. This rendered him profoundly deaf, which made his life a battle against discrimination and physical challenges whereby, for instance, he had to learn to walk and run again, his loss of hearing affecting his balance. We wrote to each other for some twenty years during which he gave me, the Denmark Historical Society and the WBNP Association enormous assistance in understanding and appreciating William Bay's features, physical changes and history. His passing is a great loss to all who knew him. He truly loved this place.



courtesy: Eric Kingdon

This picture, courtesy of Eric Kingdon, shows his family and friends at the **Old Horse Camp** in the 1940s, when they would travel in father's Chevrolet ute (earlier days by horse and cart), which would necessitate the children getting out to push every time they were bogged in the sand-holes. Eric remembers these day as *'pure heaven'*.

They rarely saw anyone else at the beach, other than an occasional fisherman. Eric wrote in one of his couple of hundred or so letters to the author over the last 16 years: *...There used to be a Peppermint tree growing on the foreshore of Greens Pool where the Bylevelds (Eric's grandparents) and my parents (My father married Florence Byleveld) used to tie their horses ...Large Peppermint trees which shaded such a lovely camping area all went into the sea and vanished from sight – I suppose they lay deep under the sea bed of Greens Pool...*

Other locals like Ray Laing and Fred Richardson also talked fondly about the old Horse Camp, and other spots in the park: *...The Old Horse Camp ...has been ruined by the bulldozing while building the present road. The road surface is about 4-5 m lower than the camping site and cuts right through the camping area.*

The larger Peppermint trees at the actual camp site as well as very big Banksia trees were all bulldozed out.

It occurs to the author that, with all the maps and information available, it would be a worthwhile and tremendously exciting project to try and locate the Old Horse Camp. What an achievement it would be to find the Horse Camp and the 'Billabong'. There certainly does not appear to have been too much erosion north (inland) of West Rocks.

The 'old-timers', including Fred Richardson and Ray Laing, have also referred to Eric Kingdon's 'Billabong', an area a little inland behind Mazzoletti Beach, and roughly a third of the way to the beach from the Old Horse Camp, where water collected in a hollow in the summer and which was surprisingly dry in the winter and full of clear, clean water in the summer months - a phenomenon confirmed by all three on separate occasions.

This unusual event reminded the author of a true account by **Ethel Hassell** (of the noted early Hassell Family, settlers out of Albany) who, shortly after her marriage, travelled to her husband's grant of property at Jarramungup (Jerramungup), an isolated sheep station north east of Albany where, after traversing the Stirling Ranges, she came across a pool of fresh water in summer, which was dry during the day and full at night, disappearing again not long after sunrise.



Called The Night Well, it was not too dissimilar a phenomenon to Eric Kingdon's Billabong. Unfortunately, the rock pool was blown-up by a party of surveyors, and lost forever, much to the locals anger. As Ethel recorded in her book *My Dusky Friends* the Night Well was ...one of the most wonderful phenomena of nature...

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#### **Nightwell in the Borden Region**

However, and surprisingly, a Night Well in the same area appears well over 100 years later in a 2000 publication NGULAK NGARNK NIDJA BOODJA our mother, this land by the Centre for Indigenous Arts, which records: Kepwaamwinberkup – (Nightwell) Borden region. A significant place that was used for camping close to a waterway. Fresh water appears at night in a rock water hole, but disappears in the early daytime.



The William Bay locals also mentioned a clay-pan, which Eric recalls was the result of a wash-out from the Petrified Forest, leaving a pan of pure mixed-colour clay, which a renowned Perth potter used to make bone-china with.

Another reference to Greens Pool, the old Horse Camp and Lake Byleveld is by Bob Byleveld, grandson of George William Byleveld and cousin of Eric Kingdon, whose father Rod married Florence Byleveld (formerly Read).

Grandfather of Bob and Eric, George William came to settle in the William Bay area just behind where the Rangers' house is today and where the Malcolms' property (Wynella) stands now. They settled before the first World War, in the early 1910s. George William



Byleveld is pictured on the left when he was a member of the Denmark Road Board in 1916, and Lake Byleveld was named after the family and more recently Byleveld Close of the William Bay Estate, off William Bay Road, just south of the South Coast Highway. The Byleveld property was later acquired by Norman Kingdon in 1929, and in 1953 ownership passed to Harold Gladstone Malcolm, patriarch of today's Malcolm Family, who now own the property. Harold named Poltalloch, after a small village in the council area of Argyll and Bute, in the west of Scotland, once home of the Malcolm Clan chieftan/king. The William Bay property is now known as Wynella.

courtesy: Kingdon Family



The Byleveld Family fishing at Parry Beach c1920s. George Byleveld is on the far left and Rod Kingdon is third on the left.

Courtesy: Margaret Kingdon

From an interview with Enid Conochie, courtesy of the Denmark Historical Society, in February 1997, grandson Bob Byleveld, then aged 75 refers to the Byleveld Family's connections. It gels handsomely with cousin Eric's memories and accounts:

*I was born in Denmark in 1922. At that time my parents were living at William Bay, just up behind where the ranger's cottage is now. My earliest memories of that would be the old stables that were there and the old ironstone chimney that was built in the homestead. My parents Robert and Isobel Byleveld were married in 1921 and they'd built their house there, but they were burnt out in 1924.....Of course it was quite a trek from Denmark to William Bay in those days, because it was a sand track all the way and I believe my father put the first track through to Green's Pool.....There was my grandfather, Dad and his brother, - they all took up the land in there that Malcolm's have now.....they tried to farm. If you*

*know the area, it's pretty heavy going and they didn't have a great deal cleared there. I think they might have had a few cows but it was just for themselves, I think, more or less a subsistence existence they had there...*

*Yeah, they had horses. There was a work horse, like draft, and they had riding horses, I know that...But I remember the old stable was there, it was just a room with a brushwood roof on it....*

*One thing I do remember, my grandmother planted watercress....in the creek that runs into what we used to know as the Causeway down at William Bay, but I believe it's now known as Elephant Rocks. I don't know why they change these names but, anyway, she planted the watercress in there before the first world war, so that when they went on picnics they had something to have with lunch. It should be about 40m upstream from Elephant Rocks at a 30cm high waterfall.*

*Re - Picnics at the beach: I remember going over with the Marwicks (the Marwicks lived on the land where Steve Hawks and Kerry Clark are today in Eaglemont - Ed) and my parents and Mr and Mrs Laing (McLeod Road) and few of the other families around the place. You had to carry your big plates, your bread and butter plates, your cups and saucers. This is dinkum. We could only go as far as the horse camp, going down to William Bay, and you had to walk from there right through and you'd pick up a bucket of water at a little spring down there and you'd walk along to Green's Pool and you'd spread all this stuff out. You'd put a blanket down and it would all be spread out and everybody would have a full dinner setting. Even as a small kid I had to carry my share of the confounded stuff. Yeah, I remember those picnics.*

*Re - The Old Horse Camp: No, I can't (locate it), but I've tried to. I've driven in on the bitumen road they've put in there and I can get a rough idea from the sand blow to where it was, but I just can't get the exact spot.....Yeah, the old track was different, and the reason why that spot was called the horse camp was because that was as far as you could get a horse and cart, because from there, there was a very steep drop that you'd never get a horse and cart down.....*

*Byleveld Lake. Yes, that's always been there, it was part of the old property.....I haven't been into it for sixty years but I remember it as full of mud turtles*

That is the end of the extracts from the interview that are relevant to William Bay and the Byleveld Family, and it would be interesting to see if there exists any trace of the watercress today.

In 2002, Bob Byleveld was awarded the Medal of the order of Australia, and it was reported in the Albany Advertiser of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2002 as below:

Honoured in the Australia Day awards was  
Robert Byleveld of Walpole who was awarded  
A Medal of the Order of Australia for his  
service to the community of Walpole, particularly  
through his service with the St. John Ambulance



courtesy: Eric Kingdon

Carting Florence Byleveld's piano through the bush track at William Bay in 1912. There is just a glimpse of a wooden house above the horse's head which was very likely Frank Read's slab-hut near the corner of today's McLeod Road and the South Coast Highway. Florence was an accomplished pianist and Jean Brenton remembers visiting her many years ago, to practice and play the piano.

The **William Bay District** is rich in history and deserves a special place in the development of Denmark. In 1911, one of Australia's eminent figures, Sir John Forrest, explorer and statesman, visited Denmark on an electoral campaign, and met the William Bay Settlers at local identity Frank Read's slab-hut, where the photo on the next page was taken by another celebrated local, farmer and photographer Bert Saw from Bow Bridge.

**Sir John Forrest** (1847-1918) achieved national prominence as an explorer who, in 1870, travelled the shoreline from Perth to Adelaide, and in 1874 explored the land from the West Coast to the telegraph line in Central Australia.

Further fame came as Western Australia's first Premier 1890-1901 and, following Federation in 1901, he was a member of Australia's first Cabinet. In 1918 he was elected to the peerage (knighted) and later, in 1918, was honoured by becoming Australia's first Baron – Forrest of Bunbury, where he was born..

So his visit to the William Bay District was of both great and memorable significance, and as can be seen in the following photo, an occasion to remember for the founding fathers and (mothers) of Denmark in general, and William Bay in particular. Frank Read's slab-hut was the meeting place (see photo page 23) and his property was roughly on the corner of today's McLeod Road (was informally