

J S Battye Library of West Australian History
Private Archives – Collection Listing

MN 2168
Acc. 5940A

RUSSELL, Don

Walpole Land Settlement.

Sir James Mitchell's Government was returned to power on 24 April 1930. One of the problems causing concern was the placement of unemployed families living in rented homes. Quick to make a decision, he decided to follow the pattern of his earlier attempts at settlement in similar circumstances at Southern Cross and Bullfinch of miners from the Eastern goldfields.

A Nornalup Committee was formed of which apparently C J Moran, the part time Commissioner of the Agricultural Bank since 1923 was the Chairman with two members, the Secretary of Group Settlement, W H McCay and an Officer of the Lands Department (conjecturally R W Brownlie).

Initially the basis of settlement was:

- The Nornalup Committee has recommended, and the Hon Minister has verbally approved granting land, even if exceeding 160 acres as homestead farm
- The Agricultural Bank agrees to advance fees as in the case of Group Settlers by inclusion in the first loan
- To avoid delay in starting clearing operations, Group Settlement funds will be used at the outset to be recouped by the Agricultural Bank when loan is approved

(As extracted from the minute signed by W H McCay on 5 September 1930).

Group Settlement Department, however, went out of existence as from the 30 September 1930, being then taken under control of the Agricultural Bank.

The name was later changed to The Walpole Land Settlement. It was not part of the Group Settlement Scheme, but came under a Special Settlement heading.

By 1940 the settlers had been thinned out. Many had come and gone in the first decade and more were to leave during the early war years. At the end of 1940, 33 resident farmers remained. By 1940 it was no longer a settlement for unemployed. There were others taking over the vacant blocks.

The Agricultural Bank took over the running of the settlement (administrative control) in 1938. It was about this time that the bank started to demand interest payments, which to some proved to be the last straw.

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The Papers

The papers were transferred from Government Archives (State Records Office) L&S 3315/30 (research done by Mr Don Russell) (Acc 5940A).

Holdings = 0.19m

Access

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Summary of classes

AGREEMENTS
CERTIFICATES
CORRESPONDENCE
HISTORIES
LISTS
NOTES
NOTICES
MEMORANDUMS
PHOTOGRAPHS
REPORTS

5940A/1	AGREEMENTS 1930 Bland Conditions of Employment form and Permit to Occupy Block 12 April 1933 Carbon copy of an agreement between Frederick Maurice House and Percy Douglas Brass for the owner to supply the share farmer an area of land	
5940A/2	CERTIFICATES 10 July 1946 Certificate of Title in name of Colin Milner Chugg 30 October 1946 Certificate of Title in name of Jermyn Armstrong 16 January 1950 Certificate of Title in name of John Hull	Photocopy Photocopy Photocopy

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5940A/3	1 July 1938 Occupation Certificate, Homestead Farm in name of Jermyn Armstrong	Photocopy
	1 July 1938 Occupation Certificate, Homestead Farm In name of John Hull	Photocopy
	1 July 1938 Occupation Certificate, Homestead Farm In name of Colin Milner	Photocopy
	1 July 1939 Occupation Certificate, Homestead Farm In name of James Alfred Marsland	Photocopy
	1 January 1940 Occupation Certificate, Homestead Farm In name of Thomas Richard Bowman	Photocopy
	CORRESPONDENCE	
5940A/4	August 1930 – November 1941 Variety of correspondence with the Department of Lands and Surveys concerning Walpole Settlement	Photocopy
5940A/5	July 1980 – June 1984 Variety of correspondence researching history of Walpole Settlement including correspondence between Don Russell and Mr Gabbedy mentioning Mr Russell's parents-in-law, Mr and Mrs Albert Thorn	
	HISTORIES	
5940A/6	n.d. 2 draft copies of history of Nornalup Settlement – author unknown	
	LISTS	
5940A/7	1930 Ballot of Holdings, Nornalup Land Settlement, Result of Ballot, A listing of Settlers names and locations	Photocopy
	NOTES	
5940A/8	February 1931 From Assistant Under Secretary Lands regarding Nornalup Settlement May 1934 Note from Minister for Lands to Mr Moran with “attached notes of a deputation which waited upon me at Walpole recently”	

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- 5940A/9 NOTICES
November 1930 Photocopy
Gazette Notice from Under Secretary for Lands
titled Special Settlement Areas
January 1932
Gazette Notice from Under Secretary for Lands
titles Nornalup Unemployment Scheme
- 5940A/10 MEMORANDA
September 1930 – December 1930 Photocopy
Memos from Under Secretary for Lands regarding
the granting of land, the Nornalup Settlement and
Occupation Certificates
- 5940A/11 PHOTOGRAPHS
n.d.
Variety of untitled photographs (19),
L E Shapcott,
Aerial view of Perth foreshore,
Settlement farmhouse,
W Werry and Family, Tingledale,
School at Group Settlement No 6 near Augusta
August 1932
Three photos of Harvey River Diversion
1931
Poppy Day
1937
Molloy and Franklin, two mayors
[1973]
A list of captions – may relate to photographs
- 5940A/12 REPORTS
n.d.
'Nornalup Land Settlement Special Dairy Farming
Land Settlement Scheme' signed by the Under
Secretary for Lands
17 February 1931
From Department of Lands and Surveys, Narrogin
to the Surveyor General, Perth on the progress of
surveying development of the settlement
14 May 1934
The Women's Immigration Auxiliary Council
6 January 1936
'Walpole Settlement' by the Chief Inspector South
West

27 May 2003