

The National Trust of Australia (WA) An Excursion to Wonnerup

Theme: Time, Continuity and Change

Introduction:

Wonnerup is a collection of 19th century farm and school buildings surrounded agricultural land and bordered by the Ludlow tuart forest. This is the only natural stand of tuart forest now to be seen in the world. The trees are estimated to be 300 to 400 years old.

The first homestead at Wonnerup was built in 1837 by George Layman. Later it was known as the Dairy and Kitchen because the food was cooked here and carried across to the other house.

The second house was built in 1859 by George Layman 11. To begin with the building had four rooms and a hall. In 1862 a kitchen and scullery were added and in 1925 a bathroom and toilet were built on.

The school house and teacher's residence was built in 1874 for young people in the area.

George and Amelia Layman worked hard in the 1880s and 1890s to build Wonnerup into the best dairy farm in the area. The family looked after the farm until 1966 when it was sold. The National Trust took over the site in 1971.

Rules For Your Visit

Be curious and interested.

Be safe and sensible.

Show respect and initiative.

Follow instructions.

Stay with your group.

In an emergency, stop, listen and do as asked.

The focus points in this booklet are to encourage discussion.
Use the booklet to make drawings and diagrams.
Extend yourself with the X-tension questions if you have time.

The people on my group are



Part 1

The First Homestead (Later known as the 'Dairy & Kitchen')

The Veranda

Focus points

Why do we often see verandas on older buildings?

Was the veranda built after the rest of the building or at the same time?

How can you tell?

What are the walls made from?

What animals live in the roof and leave droppings?

What is the floor made from?

What mammal are the bones on the veranda from? The children sat on them.

X. The bones are kept on the veranda for visitors to look at. Design a sign to go near them for people to read about the bones.



The Kitchen and Cellar

Focus points

The first George Layman built the cellar. What was its purpose?

What would have been kept in there?

In the kitchen, talk about the objects on the table. Look for the cheese press, the butter churns.

How do we know this was probably the eating place?

Where did the family get their food from and what would they eat?

The Layman Room

Focus points

Some of the furniture in this room and in the house was made by Clair Layman.

How did she make the furniture?

Where did this material come from?

Look carefully at the walls of the room to work out how the first house was made.

X. Draw your favourite piece in this room.

The Laundry (Originally the Kitchen)

Focus points

How do you know this was originally a kitchen?

Where is the bread oven?

What was the big paddle used for?

Why did they make their own bread?

Why was food cooked here, taken to the room next door, and then later to the newer house?

Where did the servants eat? Was it in the next room with the Laymans?

What is a "mangle" used for? Why was it known by that name?

What was the copper used for?

X. To cook bread you need a very hot oven. Describe how the oven worked.

Part 2

The Main House

Sitting Room

Focus points

Why is there no television?

What did they do instead of watching TV?

How would they entertain their visitors?

Which furniture and household items are different to what we have in our houses today?

Why is it called a "Sitting Room"?

What meal do you think the table has been set for?

Master Bedroom

Focus points

What is the "chamber pot"?

Which one is the "hot water bottle"?

Why does each room have a fireplace?

What are the jug and dish used for? What purpose do they serve?

Children's Bedrooms

Focus points

What is similar/different to your bedroom?

Have dolls changed from then until now? How have they changed?

What material is the ceiling made from?

What material is the bed made from? Is this different to beds today?
How?

Bathroom

Focus points

How often would the children have bathed and in what?

Why is there not a shower?

Where would the water have come from?

Which item is the "shoehorn"? What is it used for?

Which are the cuff links and what would they be used for?

Dining Room

Focus points

Why is there a large fireplace in this room?

Notice that each room is separate. There is no open area like we have in many modern houses. Is this better? If yes, why? If no, why not?

What material is the ceiling made from?

What do you recognise on the table? What don't you recognise and talk about what these might be?

X. Take a wander in the garden to find out what Dragon's blood is. Draw it.

Part 3
Out Houses
The Stables

Focus points

Find the head collar. What was it used for?
What was on the lower pegs? What was on the higher pegs?
What was kept in the different parts of the stables?
How were the animals fed? (Notice the walkway and troughs inside the stables.)
Why did the doors have a top and bottom section?
The floor is made of a special material. Why use this material, and not dirt?
What do the numbers and/or letters on the stock brand mean?
What was most likely kept in the big open area?

The Blacksmith's Shop

Focus points

What happened in a blacksmith shop?
How did they heat the metal?
What were the bellows used for?
What was the anvil used for?
Why heat the metal at all?

Part 4
The One Teacher School

Focus questions

What year was the school opened? How many years ago was this?
How many teachers taught at the school, at one time?
Estimate how many students came to the school at any one time?
What seems to be the same about this school and your own?
Why didn't they have bigger schools like your own?

X. Write your name in a style of writing that the students of this school would have written in.

