



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EXPLORATION

Dictionary

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**Edited by
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THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EXPLORERS' DIARIES PROJECT

incorporating the Historical Records of Western Australia

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Introduction

This is a prescriptive document.

The *Western Australian Exploration* series is intended to serve as primary sources for a range of academic and general readers and therefore the spelling, punctuation and paragraphing of the original manuscripts are retained in order to preserve the character of these documents.

However, in contemporary writing for WAEDP Volumes (including but not limited to Foreword, Introduction, Synopses, Footnotes, Appendixes, Biographical Information, List of References, and Indexes) authors are to adhere to the requirements of **this WAEDP Dictionary**.

In determining the spelling of a word, the form in the latest edition of *The Australian Oxford Dictionary*, generally, takes precedence, followed by the Shorter Oxford Dictionary.

Updated and revised editions of this Dictionary are published periodically on the WAEDP website at westernaustralianexplorations.org.au and may be downloaded as a PDF document as required.

Please note that adherence to the form and spelling as stated in this Dictionary is not required for historical text, unless specifically stated.

aborigine / aboriginal

Aborigine is the noun and aboriginal is the adjective although aboriginal is now widely accepted as a noun. Both words are capitalised when used in conjunction with Australian.

Aboriginal Language Groups (Western Australia)

See **native**.

&c = etcetera.

Retain as written in the original text. Do not use 'etc' or even 'etcetera' in contemporary writing. The 'word' is derived from ampersand (a ligature of "et") and letter 'c'.

Afghan

An Afghan is a native of Afghanistan although in Australian historical context an Afghan was a camel teamster from north-west India or what, since partition in 1947, has been called Pakistan.

Albany

Major Lockyer's name for the settlement on King George Sound was Frederickstown after His Royal Highness the Duke of York and Albany, the second son of King George III. Governor Stirling visited the settlement in 1831 and changed its name from Frederickstown to Albany.

alligator

This was an early erroneous name for the Australian saltwater [crocodile](#) (*Crocodylus porosus*), now generally known as the estuarine crocodile.

a.m.

This is the abbreviation of ante meridiem (Latin) meaning 'before midday'. Note it is not to be rendered as 'am' or 'AM'. See [p.m.](#)

amid / amidst

For reasons of modernity amid is preferred.

among / amongst

Though both words are of the same meaning, among is preferred. The differences between 'amid' and 'among' are slight and technical. "Among" implies a mingling or intermixture. 'Amid' literally means in the middle of.

& = ampersand.

Retain as written in the original text. It is not used in contemporary writing except in References and Footnotes where it replaces 'and' when listing two or more authors of a publication to be cited.

anabranh

Peculiar to Australia, an anabranh is that part of a stream that leaves the main course and rejoins it further down its course. It is known elsewhere as a distributary. Anabranhcs are more common in eastern Australia.

anthill

One word. The word is generally a reference to a termite mound.

appendixes / appendices

Though both are correct, appendixes is preferred for use in the [WAEDP](#).

approximate, approximately

Do not use the abbreviation 'approx'. Spell out the word in full.

Area

square inch (in ²)	square millimetre (mm ²)
square foot (ft ²)	square metre (m ²)
square yard (yd ²)	square metre (m ²)
acre (ac)	hectare (ha)
square mile	square kilometre (km ²)

For more information see <http://www.onlineconversion.com/>

artefact/artifact

From a viewpoint consistent with artificial and artifice the word should be spelled artifact but from an etymological viewpoint it is artefact and, to be consistent with our source dictionary, the WAEDP prefers artefact.

assistant surveyor

This is written as two words without a hyphen. Not assistant-surveyor. Both words are capitalised if used in conjunction with a name, for example, Assistant Surveyor Clint.

at about

This co-location is oxymoronic. Choose. It cannot be both.

aurora

The Aurora Australis, to give it its full name, is the southern lights. It is caused by charged particles streaming from the sun colliding with gases in the Earth's upper atmosphere, causing the gases to glow.

awards - see **postnominal(s)**.

b. = born.

Note the full stop.

bait

To bait an animal (particularly a horse) is to give it food and drink, especially when travelling. Often used in the phrase 'bait the horses'.

banker

A banker is a river or creek swollen to the top of its banks. It is used in the phrase 'running a banker'.

Barcoo Rot (also Barcoo Fever)

A skin disease characterised by crusted impetiginous skin sores and occurring in association with heat, dirt, minor traumas and a diet chronically deficient in fresh fruit and vegetables. It is a form of scurvy.

Barcoo Fever, where the sufferer experiences fever, nausea and vomiting, has, like Barcoo Rot, vanished from the 'Far Barcoo' (a part of western Queensland) and, indeed, the outback generally but the Barcoo Salute – brushing away flies – is as prevalent as ever.

Barcoo Salute

Brushing away flies from the face.

Bibliography

A list of all sources relating to a particular subject. A '[Select Bibliography](#)' is a limited list of those sources. Material not mentioned in the text but considered to be of use or interest to the reader is listed under the heading 'Further Reading'. Note that volumes in the *Western Australia Exploration* series use a List of References rather than a Bibliography or Select Bibliography.

biological names

Scientific names of animal species are binomial. The first word of the name is capitalised, the second word is not, and both words are italicised.

bivouac

This is the term for a temporary stopping place or overnight camp. Hence bivouacked.

Black(s) / black(s)

This term for an Australian [Aborigine](#) was often used by early diarists. It is now considered to be offensive, however, it is to be retained in original text.

blackboy

A term that is now considered by some to be offensive for plants of the *Xanthorrhoea* genus. The name is derived from the ancient Greek *xanthos* ('yellow, golden') and *rhœa* ('flowing, flow') in reference to the yellow stalk like flower or inflorescence of the plant.

The most common grass tree (the modern term) likely to be seen is the South West of Western Australia is *Xanthorrhoea preissii*, first recorded by pioneer botanist Ludwig Preiss in 1846.

Blackfellow / blackfella

An Australian Aboriginal. The term was often used in combinations and collocations such as blackfellow country, blackfellow well, blackfellow fashion.

black soil

Black soil is to be rendered as two words. Not blacksoil, not black-soil. It is a black, cracking, clay soil valued for its fertility but hazardous to travel across in wet conditions. The description is used in the combination **black soil country**, **black soil plain**. In Western Australia it is found mainly in the [Kimberley](#).

blaze

A cut or inscription (often the person's initials and a number) into a tree as a track marker or as a survey mark.

On his 1874 trek across western Australia to the [OTL](#), John Forrest would cut the letters 'JF' into the trunk of a tree followed by a number that represented the number of camps since [Champion Bay](#) (Geraldton).

blurb

A blurb on a book may be any combination of quotes from the work, the author, the publisher, reviewers, a summary of the plot, a biography of the author or simply claims about the importance of the work.

boab

This spelling for the baobab tree, *Adansonia gregorii* of the [Kimberley](#) is peculiar to Australia. For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

botanical name

A formal, scientific name conforming to the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN), formerly the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). The first word of the name is capitalised, the second word is not, and both words are italicised.

box poison

See [poison](#).

brackets

The punctuation marks used to enclose a parenthetical statement () are more correctly known as parentheses or round brackets. Square brackets [] are used to indicate author/editorial input. Braces or curly brackets { } are generally only used in mathematical formulae or in computer programming.

breakaway country

There are exemplars of breakaway country throughout Australia but essentially it is elevated, level country with a hard, resistant surface/crust.

As weathering and erosion takes place, the hard crust protects the underlying strata but 'break away' on these edges to leave mesas or pedestal rocks.

bronzewing

A number of pigeons having bronze coloured markings, widespread across Australia, were known by this name, especially *Phaps chalcoptera*. The term 'bronzewing pigeon' was used, pejoratively, as a term for a part-Aboriginal person.

brook

The term for a small stream, now used mainly in Western Australia.

brush turkey

see [turkey](#).

bush turkey

see [turkey](#).

bungarra

A monitor lizard.

bushcraft

One word. Not bush craft.

bushman

One word. Not bush man.

bushwoman

One word. Not bush woman.

bustard

see [turkey](#).

C = Celsius

Do not use centigrade. See [Temperature](#).

c. = circa.

In reference to a year this symbol means 'about'. It is not rendered in italics. Note the full stop.

cadjeput (also cajeput, cajuput)

Commonly known as paperbark or teatree, these evergreen trees/shrubs of the genus *Melaleuca* bear essential oils.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

Camden Harbour

Not Cambden Harbour. This harbour is about 3200 kilometres north of Perth. The Camden Harbour Pastoral Association attempted to settle there in 1865.

camel

John Horrocks was the first to use camels for exploration (1846) but it was only after George Landells arranged camels for the Victorian Exploring Expedition (Burke and Wills expedition), 1860-61, that their place in the exploration of Australia was confirmed.

The first Western Australian exploration to use camels was that of Colonel Peter Egerton Warburton's expedition that was planned to travel from Alice Springs southwest to Perth but ended up at the Oakover River in the Pilbara. No camels survived the expedition.

The camel used in Australia is a single humped dromedary (*cf*: two humped bactrian camel).

camelman / camelmen

One word. The person(s) responsible for looking after the camels. Also known as a cameleer(s).

camp fire

Not campfire.

camp site

Two words. Not campsite or camp-site.

captions

Identify persons in a photograph 'from left' or 'from L'. Do not state 'from left to right' or 'from L to R'. It is redundant – there is no other way to go.

catfish

One word. This term may refer to any of several marine and freshwater fish (*Arridae* and *Plotisidae*) having long barbels near the mouth, somewhat resembling cat's whiskers, and venomous spines.

celestial

This is a race-specific term used to describe Chinese immigrants during the 19th century. The term was derived from their status as subjects of the Son of Heaven, the Chinese Emperor. It is now considered derogatory.

Celsius

Abbreviated as 'C'. No full stop. Do not use 'centigrade' or 'Centigrade'. See [Temperature](#).

century

A period of one hundred years. A particular century should be described as, for example, the nineteenth century or the 19th century. Not the Nineteenth Century or the 19th Century or the 19th Century or any combination with roman numerals. Be aware that Microsoft Word (with Auto Correct enabled) will automatically render it as 19th.

chain

In the imperial system of measurement a chain was 66 feet in length and consisted of 98 links and two handles for a length of 100 links (an early attempt at metrification?). A surveyor's chain was often taken on expeditions to determine distance travelled.

Champion Bay

This is the name of the bay on which Geraldton is located. It was named in 1846 after H.M. Colonial Schooner *Champion*. The settlement of Geraldton was named in 1849 but the name Champion Bay, as the name for the settlement, continued to be used for many years. For instance, John Forrest's expedition to the [OTL](#) in 1874 left from 'Champion Bay'.

chaps

Leg coverings.

cheque / check

In respect of the term for a written order to a financial institution to pay a certain sum to a named person 'cheque' is preferred. 'Check' is an Americanism.

Chinaman

This is a racist term to describe a person of Asian origin. It would be rarely encountered in historical exploration text but if it is it should be left in context.

Clarence (Town)

The original Clarence was a little to the north of present day Rockingham.

claypan

A shallow depression in which water collects after rain. The more correct term is a playa. One word.

cockeye bob

Not cockeyed bob, nor cockeye Bob. A cockeye bob is a sudden storm or squall of destructive intensity.

colonial secretary

Not colonial-secretary. This position description is capitalised when used in conjunction with a name.

colony, the

But 'the Swan River colony'.

constable

The term is capitalised when used in conjunction with a name. Apart from members of the police force, constables were appointed from within the ranks of [ticket of leave](#) convicts to provide for internal management.

conversions

For conversions of Imperial measurements of Length, Mass, Area, Volume and Temperature to Metric units see <http://www.onlineconversion.com/>

coordinate(s)

No hyphen.

corroboree

There are spelling variants of this word, however, this is now the most accepted form.

countryside

One word.

courthouse

One word.

crocodile

Explorers encountered two types of crocodiles: the dangerous estuarine crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the relatively harmless Johnston crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*). In Western Australia, crocodiles are very rarely found outside the [Kimberley](#).

Cross, the

This is an abbreviation of the Southern Cross constellation (Crux). From 1890 it was also used as the name for the town of Southern Cross that was named after the constellation. The name of the town Southern Cross may be seen abbreviated, with the definite article capitalised, as 'The Cross'.

cross country

Two words. No hyphen.

Csar

Use [tsar](#).

Currency

The British system of currency (pound, shilling and pence - £sd) was used in Western Australia from first settlement until the adoption of the decimal system in February 1966,

although a few years after Federation Australia began issuing its own currency. In the £sd system there were 12 pence in a shilling and 20 shillings in a pound.

The symbol for the pound, £, was derived from the Latin word *libra*, and the symbol for penny, d, from the Latin word *denarius* (a roman coin).

A guinea was 21 shillings - much used in auctions (the bidder pays in guineas, the vendor gets paid the same number of pounds - the auctioneer gets the rest) and as the prizes (and names) for horse races.

Denominations (coins) used in the system were:

Farthing	¼d a quarter penny
Halfpenny	½d
Penny	1d - The basic unit of currency from around 775 AD - colloquially known as a brum
Three pence	3d – colloquially known as a trey.
Sixpence	6d – colloquially known as a zac(k).
Shilling	1s – 12 pence - colloquially known as a bob or deener.
Florin	2s - Two shillings - colloquially known as two bob.
Half crown	2s6d - Two shilling and six pence
Crown	5s - Five shillings. Known colloquially as a dollar.
Half sovereign	10s – Gold. 10 shillings.
Sovereign	£ - One pound. Gold. Colloquially known as a quid.

A direct conversion from to £sd to decimal does not take into account the purchasing power of the dollar compared to the pound at any particular time unless adjusted for inflation. A useful tool to assist with this can be found at:

<https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/>

czar

Use [tsar](#).

d.

This abbreviation is used to indicate the date a person died. See also [deceased](#).

Note the case and the full stop. See [Currency](#) for the abbreviation without the full stop.

Darling's Range / Darling Range

At the time of settlement of Western Australia and for some years after, the genitive apostrophe was often used in the names of mountains, rivers, inlets and other features. But, more particularly, this feature is a scarp, being the western edge of a plateau, rather than a range and should be referred to as the Darling Scarp. It causes wind shear of concern to planes landing at Perth Airport. The Darling Scarp is responsible for most of Perth's 'orographic' rainfall. It is part of the Darling Fault which in geological terms, may be considered 'vertical' and is one of the longest faults in the world, more than 400 kilometres in length.

data

Data is the plural of datum and takes a plural verb, as in '... the data were collected and classified.' In modern non-scientific use it is generally treated as a mass noun (a noun denoting something which cannot be counted) similar to a word like information, which takes a singular verb. Sentences such as '... data was collected over a number of years.' are now widely accepted in standard English. The WAEDP considers it to be the plural of datum, requiring a plural verb.

database / databank / dataset

One word.

dates, multiple

To describe two dates use the form '22–23 February 1954'.

deceased

When referring to a person who is dead the abbreviation dec. may be placed in parenthesis after their name. If the date of their passing is known and the context allows the abbreviation d. followed by the date may be used. For example:

John Smith (dec.)

John Smith (d. 1975) or, if known, John Smith (d. 23 October 1975).

It usually used only where the death of the person is comparatively recent or in a situation where one could reasonably expect the person to be still living. It is not used where it is obvious that the person referred to is dead.

Other forms are Dec, dec'd, and d'd but dec. is preferred. See also [d.](#)

Note the case and the full stop.

decorations

See [postnominal\(s\)](#).

dinghy

Not dingy.

Directions and Bearings

NORTH

When denoting a region use North, otherwise use north.

N

NE

NNE

NW

NNW

north-west

north-north-west

north-westerly

north-western

north-westward

north-east

north-north-east

north-easterly

north-eastern

north-eastward

true north

geographic north

grid north

North Pole

North Magnetic Pole

magnetic north

magnetic pole

SOUTH

When denoting a region use South, otherwise use south.

S

SE

SSE

SW

SSW

south-west

south-south-west

south-westerly

south-western

south-westward

south-east

south-south-east

south-easterly

south-eastern

south-eastward

South Pole

South Magnetic Pole

magnetic south

EAST

When denoting a region use East, otherwise use east.

E

ENE

ESE

east-north-east

east-south-east

WEST

When denoting a region use West, otherwise use west.

W

WSW

WNW

west-south-west

west-north-west

director general

Not director-general. This position description is capitalised when used in conjunction with a name.

district

When used as the name of a specific district it is capitalised, for example, Avon District. If used in conjunction with two or more districts it is not capitalised, thus Swan and Avon districts.

djanga

A name applied by [Aborigines](#) to a white person.

Doctor - Albany, Fremantle, Nullarbor, Kalbarri

The 'doctor' is a cool sea breeze that brings relief on a hot summer's day. A wind blowing inland late in the day is a welcome feature of the climate in Western Australia and the use of the word 'doctor' is a reference to the 'healing' effect of the breeze.

dog

Tinned meat.

dog catcher

Two words.

doublegee, sometimes **double gee**

The word is used chiefly in Western Australia. Elsewhere this weed is known as a three corner(ed) jack. The double gee is the fruit of the herb *Emex australis*. It was introduced from South Africa.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

drover

A drover in Australia is a person, typically an experienced stockman, who moves livestock, usually sheep or cattle, 'on the hoof' over long distances.

The person in charge of a droving party including the workers and the animals is known as the boss drover.

dust jacket

Two words. No hyphen. The front cover, front flap, spine, back cover and back flap are the specific elements of the dust jacket. For more information see the WAEDP publication *Structure and Construction of a Volume*.

dust storm

Two words.

Earth

The planet of the solar system on which humans live; the third planet from the sun, often preceded by 'the'. Note the capitalisation.

e.g.

This is the abbreviation for the Latin '*exempli gratia*' meaning 'for example'. Use 'for example' in full except in tables where space is limited.

email

One word, no hyphen. It is capitalised when used in a table or list. Those insisting it be spelled E-mail are fighting a losing battle.

etc

Et cetera and its abbreviation *etc* means 'and other things of the same kind'. The use of *etc* may convey the impression that the author is too lazy to supply the missing items or unsure what they are. Avoid this by using 'including ...'. Do not use *et cetera* or *etc*. See also [&c](#) (under A).

F = Fahrenheit

See [Temperature](#).

fence line

Two words.

fieldbook / Fieldbook

One word.

first name

Two words, not capitalised.

footsore

One word.

footstep

One word.

four wheel drive

Previously four-wheel drive. This is one of the many words affected by the Oxford Dictionary's abandonment of the hyphen - see [hyphen](#). If it must be abbreviated, use 4WD.

fluted gum

See [gimlet](#).

flying party

A flying party was a smaller part of the main group of an expedition, lightly equipped to allow for fast travel, generally sent ahead of the main party to search for water, or the desired course or some other reason not requiring the attention of the main party. Sometimes an entire expedition was a 'flying party'.

fraction

A fraction is not necessarily a small amount. It is a numerical quantity that is not a whole number. 99/100 is a fraction.

Frederickstown

See [Albany](#).

freelance

One word.

Fremantle

Not 'Freemantle' unless in original text.

freshwater (adjective)

One word.

fresh water (noun)

Two words.

from left to right'

See '[captions](#)'.

from L to R

See '[captions](#)'.

Gantheaume Bay

This is the bay into which the Murchison River, Western Australia's second longest, flows. The town of Kalbarri is situated at the mouth of the river. It was named after a French Admiral who rescued Napoleon from Egypt in 1799.

Gantheaume Point

This feature is near Broome.

genitive apostrophe in place names

The Geographic Names Committee's Guidelines for the naming of features and places states that the use of the genitive apostrophe is to be avoided. In WAEDP documents it is not used unless in the historical context.

'ghan / ghan

See [Afghan](#).

gilgie

This uniquely Western Australian word is adapted from the Noongar word *jilgi*. It describes either of two freshwater crayfish of the south-west of Western Australia, *Cherax crassimanus* or *Cherax quinquecarinatus*. It is not a yabbie.

gimlet

The *Eucalyptus salubris* of south-west Western Australia is characterised by a twisted, shiny, bronze-coloured trunk.

For more information see <http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au>.

gnamma hole

This term is now considered tautological since 'gnamma' includes the meaning of hole. It is a natural rock hole capable of containing water. Sometimes rendered as namma but gnamma is preferred.

goldfield(s)

One word.

gold mine

Two words. Not goldmine.

gold rush

Two words. Not goldrush.

government / Government

The word is capitalised when referring to a specific entity, for example, the Government of Western Australia. Render the 'g' in lower case when it does not refer to a specific entity or is used adjectivally.

governor / Governor

The word is capitalised when used for a specific person. Use a lower case 'g' when it does not refer to a specific entity or is used adjectivally.

governor general

No hyphen. This description is capitalised when used for a specific person.

grasslands

One word.

grass tree

This is the preferred name, as with the name 'balga', for the *Xanthorrhoea* instead of the now politically incorrect 'blackboy'. It is known as 'yacca' in South Australia.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

graveside

Not grave side.

gray / grey

The acceptable spelling is 'grey'. 'Gray' is an Americanism.

gum tree

Two words. Gumtree is a website for buying and selling goods.

half pay

Two words. Not halfpay or half-pay.

halfway

Not half way nor half-way. Leave as is in original text.

handwriting, handwritten

Not hand writing nor hand-written.

harbour master

Two words, both of which are capitalised when referring to the official position of Harbour Master.

hardcover

One word.

headlight

One word.

honours

See [postnominal\(s\)](#).

horse breaker

Hence horse breaking.

horse breeder

Two words, hence horse breeding (two words).

horse feed

Two words.

horses

The horse was the mainstay of explorations in Western Australia from Robert Dale's first use of them in 1830 on his trip to east of the Darling Scarp through to the 1954 North Kimberley Expedition. Some of the terms that may be encountered relating to horses are:

Gregory's packsaddle - used on Gregory's North Australian Exploring Expedition.

hobbles - chains or straps tied to a horse's legs that allowed enough movement to graze overnight but not travel too far from camp. Hence 'to hobble'.

horse tailer - the team member responsible for getting horses to water and feed, and bringing them to the camp in the morning. More usually associated with a droving party.

serge - A woollen cloth used as a saddle cloth/blanket to absorb sweat and provide comfort between the horse and the saddle.

strangles - A bacterial infection of the upper respiratory tract of horses, causing enlargement of the lymph nodes in the throat, which may impair breathing.

hyphen

In 2007 the sixth edition of the two volume *Shorter Oxford Dictionary* removed the hyphen from 16,000 words. These words are now variously rendered as one word or two separate words. The *Australian Oxford Dictionary*, on which this WAEDP Dictionary is largely based, will follow suit in its next edition.

Regardless of Oxford's wholesale eschewing of the hyphen, certain words need it to avoid ambiguity or provide clarity.

i.e.

This is the abbreviation for '*id est*' meaning 'that is'. Use 'that is' in full except in tables where space is limited.

iguana

This is an erroneous and obsolete name applied to lizards and goannas. Iguanas do not occur in Australia.

in-law

Render as brother-in-law, sister-in-law, father-in-law, and mother-in-law. Despite the move to drop the hyphen, these words still require it.

Internet

Note the initial capital letter.

ISBN

An ISBN (International Standard Book Number) is a 10 or 13-digit number that uniquely and internationally identifies a published book.

As the barcode program used by the publisher automatically generates the ISBN on the back of the book with hyphens this format is used in the Preliminary Pages of a volume. The ISBN for a WAEDP volume (in this case *Western Australian Exploration 1836–1845*) would be rendered in the following format:

0-85905-495-0

'ise' not 'ize'

As the ending for a word 'ise' is preferred. There are only a few exceptions for 'ise' but more than 50 for 'ize'. Capsize, seize, size and prize (prize has a different meaning) are the only words that need to end in 'ize'. All others can end in 'ise'.

islands, the

In respect of the Swan River the reference is to Heirisson Island.

jail / gaol

Both words are acceptable, however, jail is preferred if for no other reason than to avoid confusion with goal. Jail is not an Americanism.

jarrah

The *Eucalyptus marginata* of south-west Western Australia was often termed Swan River Mahogany in colonial times.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

johnny cake

A thin damper.

Jr

This is the WAEDP abbreviation for Junior. Note the initial capital letter. Not Jnr. Do not use a comma between the last name and Jr.

jump up

In Australian terminology a jump up is a steep rise, an escarpment. It may also refer to an elevated, step-like obstacle on a track.

justice of the peace

Write these words in full unless used in a [postnominal](#) in which case they should be written, for example, as Bill Smith, JP. Note that there are no full stops between the letters of the abbreviations and that there is a comma after the name. It is capitalised when used in conjunction with a name with the proviso that the style in which it is written in exploration diaries is maintained.

kartiya

A Western Desert aboriginal word for Europeans or white men.

Kimberley, the

Not 'the Kimberleys'. The Kimberley stretches 700 kilometres from west to east (122° to 129°) and about 550 kilometres from north to south (14° to 19°30').

Kimberley walkabout

This is a usually fatal disease of horses caused by eating the wedge-leaved rattlepod found in the Kimberley. The horse would walk around and around, up and down, never stopping to eat until it walked itself to death.

King George Sound

Not King Georges Sound, nor King George's Sound, nor King George the Third Sound although these names and variants are retained in historical texts. It is the name of the Sound on which [Albany](#) is situated and was often used when referring to [Frederickstown](#) (Lockyer's initial name for the settlement) and Albany for up to 40 years after Governor Stirling officially changed the town's name (in 1831) to its present name.

knockabout

One word.

knocked up

A condition where a riding or pack animal is so fatigued it cannot (will not) travel any further. Sometimes used in reference to a person or persons.

knots

One knot equals one nautical mile per hour, therefore it should never be 'knots per hour' unless in original text (in which case consider an exculpatory note).

kopa

Kopa, also known as 'kopai', is gypsum dust

kylie

A Noongar word for boomerang. Variant spellings include kiley, kylie, koilee, kyly, kiley and kylee.

landholder

One word.

land mass

Two words, hence land masses.

last name

Two words, not capitalised.

latitude / longitude

Coordinates north of the Equator and east of the Prime Meridian (Greenwich, UK) to 180° – the International Date Line (IDL) are in the north and east quadrants and have the suffixes 'N' and 'E'. Those to the west of the Prime Meridian (and north of the Equator) are designated with a 'N' and a 'W'. In the southern hemisphere, locations west of the Prime Meridian to the IDL have the suffixes 'S' and 'W'.

Coordinates in Western Australia are in the south and east quadrant and the letters 'S' and 'E' follow the measurements. So the DMS (degrees, minutes, seconds) format for Perth is 31°57'7" S 115°51'31" E.

Latitudes north of the equator are known as positive latitudes. Those south of the equator are negative latitudes. Positive longitudes are east of the Prime Meridian, negative longitudes are west of the Prime Meridian. Latitude is expressed before longitude.

Latitude and longitude coordinates may also be expressed in the decimal degrees format. The minutes and seconds of the measurement are expressed in decimal format as a percentage of 60 (the number of minutes in a degree).

This format (being cognisant of the positive/negative notation) renders the coordinates for Perth as -31.95184° 115.8587° . Note the use of the minus symbol.

Geoscience Australia's Gazetteer of Australia 2010 (the authority recognised by the WAEDP for Australian place names – see WAEDP *Guidelines for Contributing Authors*) expresses the latitude and longitude of locations in both the DMS format and decimal degrees (using the positive/negative notation described above).

However, the format accepted by WAEDP to express latitude and longitude is degrees, minutes, seconds (DMS).

Thus the coordinates for Perth are 31°57'7"S 115°51'31" E.

The format in which latitudes and longitudes is expressed in historical text is not changed.

leather-bound

Note the hyphen.

leeway

One word.

Length

1 inch = 25.4 millimetres

12 inches = 1 foot = 305 millimetres

3 feet = 1 yard = 915 millimetres

22 yards = 1 chain ~ 20 metres

80 chains = 1 mile ~1.6 kilometres

100 mm = 3.94 inches ~ 4 inches

1 metre = 39.37 inches = 3.28 feet = 1.093 yards

1 kilometre = 3291 feet = 1093 yards

For more information see <http://www.onlineconversion.com/>

lifeblood

One word.

lifelong

One word, no hyphen.

lighthouse

One word.

lightweight

One word.

List of References Cited

Volumes in the *Western Australian Exploration* series use a List of References Cited rather than a Bibliography. It contains a complete list of all the sources (books, journal articles, newspapers, websites and other material) directly cited in the Footnotes.

The List of References Cited is the first item in the End Pages, directly after the Main Text of the volume.

little-known

Note the hyphen. See also well-known.

livestock

One word.

logged

A method of tying up a horse, using a rope from the horse's headcollar to a log.

low water

Two words.

L to R

See '[captions](#)'.

lukewarm

Not luke-warm or luke warm.

main

The mainland. As in 'on the main.'

mallee

This is the name for any of many Eucalyptus trees having several stems arising from a compact root. Semi-arid areas of Australia characterised by the presence of mallee scrub are known as 'the mallee' or 'mallee country'.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

maps

1:250,000 topographic vector maps for all of Australia are available as Georeferenced PDFs from Geoscience Australia's Map Connect website. Go to <http://www.ga.gov.au/topographic-mapping/mapconnect.html> to download these maps.

mapsheets

Geoscience Australia's maps are referred to by a named mapsheet. Western Australia is covered by 18 x 1:1,000,000 mapsheets. A 1:1,000,000 mapsheet covers 16 x 1:250,000 mapsheets and each of them covers six x 1:100,000 mapsheets (96 x 100,000 mapsheets to one 1:1,000,000 mapsheet).

In the 1:250,000 topographic series, 163 mapsheets cover Western Australia. A 1:250,000 mapsheet would be referred to as, for example, Southern Cross SH50-16. The mapsheet names east from Perth are Kellerberrin, Southern Cross, Boorabbin, Widgemooltha, Zanthus, Naretha, and Madura.

map scale

A map scale requires a comma between each group of three digits, thus 1:250,000.

marloo, also merloo, marlu

The red kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*).

marron

A freshwater crayfish endemic to south-west Western Australia (*Cherax tenuimanus*). It is now widespread throughout the South West, east to Esperance, and in the Mid West as far north as Hutt River.

Mass

1 ounce (oz) ~ 28 grams

1 troy ounce ~ 31 grams

1 pound (lb) = 16 ounces = 450 grams

1 stone = 14 pounds = 6.35 kilograms (kg)

1 hundredweight (cwt) = 112 lbs ~50 kg

1 ton = 2,240 pounds = 20 cwt ~ 1000 kg

For more information see <http://www.onlineconversion.com/>.

mate

A mate is an officer on a merchant ship. The word is capitalised when use in conjunction with a name.

mechanics' institute

Mechanics' Institutes were established to improve community moral and educational levels by encouraging mutual discussion and study, especially of the principles underlying various trades. They were the precursors of present day technical education and became very popular socially. The word 'mechanic' identified an industrious working man with some skills, and with a responsible attitude to his place in society.

mean time

The time based on the movement of the mean sun.

meantime

Intervening period.

mid-

The middle of. Note the hyphen.

mid-afternoon

Note the hyphen.

mid-century

Note the hyphen.

midday

One word.

mid-July

Note the hyphen.

midnight

One word.

mid-morning

Note the hyphen.

midshipman

A midshipman is a junior naval officer. The term for the rank is capitalised when use in conjunction with a name, for example, Midshipman Thomas Keppel but Thomas Keppel was a midshipman in the Navy. The colloquial term is 'middy'.

midsummer

One word.

midweek

One word.

midwinter

One word.

mid-XXXX (year)

Note the hyphen.

miners lunch

Tinned meat

morrel, also **morrell**

The rough barked *Eucalyptus longicornis* of south-west Western Australia is valued for its hard, strong, blackish wood.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

motherland

One word.

mother lode

Two words.

mulga, also **mulgah**, **malga**, **mulgar**

The grey-green shrub tree *Acacia aneura* and related species is prevalent in dry inland Australia, with a non-contiguous covering of about 20% of the continent. Combined with the definite article it is sometimes used to describe the outback.

For more information on the tree see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

Murray River

This was a settlement originally for an outpost of the 21st Regiment. It is now Pinjarra.

Muslim, also **Moslem**, **Musselman**, **Mussulman**

These terms were used interchangeably to describe a person of the Muslim faith. They are always capitalised.

myall

This is a term used to describe a species of wattle, *Acacia papyrocarpa*, common on and around the Nullarbor Plain.

As a term for a wild [Aborigine](#) it was not, generally, used in Western Australia.

names of countries

Spell out the names of countries. In tables they may be shortened, thus:

[UK](#), not U.K.

[USA](#), not U.S.A.

names of properties

See [properties](#).

names of States

Spell out the names of the States of Australia in full. In tables and references they may be shortened as follows:

NSW NT Qld SA Tas Vic WA

namma hole

See [gnamma hole](#).

nationwide

Not nation wide nor nation-wide. See also statewide and worldwide.

native / Native

As a term for an Australia Aborigine it is retained in original text but the terms [Aborigine/Aboriginal](#) should be used in current writing. Note that the current preferred way is often to describe specific groups of Australian Aboriginal people by their language group. With the knowledge unearthed in explorers' diaries this system can be demonstrated as unreliable.

neap tide

A tide of smallest range. It is rendered as two words.

near side

The left side of a horse.

newspaper

One word.

Nickol Bay

Not Nicol Bay or Nichol Bay.

nickname

One word. Not nick name.

nigger

This philologically incorrect term for an Australian [Aborigine](#) was often used by early diarists. It is now considered to be offensive, however, it is to be retained in original text.

no one

Two words. Do not use no-one.

Noongar

This is the name used by Western Australian Aborigines to refer to themselves or their language. Noongah, Nyoongah and Nyungar are variant spellings.

Noonkanbah

The name of a station in the Kimberley. Note the inclusion of the second 'n' in the spelling of the name.

Northern Hemisphere

Always capitalised.

notebook

One word.

nulla-nulla

An Aboriginal war club. Note that the hyphen is required despite the move away from them. As this word is derived from the Dharuk people of the Port Jackson area it should not be used in Western Australia.

Nullarbor Plain

Not Nullabor Plain. It is derived from Latin meaning 'no tree'.

Numbers

Spell out numbers up to and including ten except where numerals will aid clarity (if several numbers are presented comparatively, for example). From 11 onward, use Arabic numerals. Numbers over ten should be spelled out when approximations are involved (about two thousand acres, nearly five hundred cattle). If a figure seems inappropriate to a narrative text it should be spelled out. One thousand, one million and one billion should be spelled out.

Write numbers greater than 9999 with a comma between each group of three digits, thus 10,000; 250,000; 6,560,000. Do not use a space in lieu of a comma.

For numbers greater than 999 and less than 10,000 no comma is used, thus 1000; 3447; 9500.

off road

Two words. Will be seen as offroad and off-road but choose off road.

off shore

When used as an adverb it is two words.

offshore

When used as an adjective it is rendered as one word.

off side

The right side of a horse.

offsider

An assistant.

oilskin

One word.

ongoing

One word. Not on-going.

othersider

A person from one of the eastern states. See [tothersider](#).

OT Line, sometimes **OTL**

The Overland Telegraph Line from Darwin to Adelaide was constructed in 1872, and was often referred to as 'the line'. Note that the telegraph line from Adelaide to Perth was referred to as the East West Telegraph Line.

our / or

The trend is for words like ardour, armour, candour, colour, endeavour, favour, glamour, honour, labour, neighbour, odour, rigour, rumour, splendour, vapour and valour to be spelled without the u (in the American style). Note that the Australian Labor Party eschews the 'u' in its title.

outback

One word. The outback is remote, sparsely populated country, the boundaries of which are difficult to define. Often rendered as 'the outback'. Does not need to be capitalised.

outstation

One word.

out with

This is a term for 'accompanied'. It is used in the context 'xxxx was out with yyyy'.

overburdened

One word, no hyphen.

packhorse

One word.

packsaddle

One word.

paddy melon

A paddy melon is a trailing plant with a bristly, melon-like fruit in inland Australia widely regarded as a weed.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

pademelon

A small wallaby. Not paddymelon.

page numbers

Reference to a single page number is written in the form:

p. 123.

Reference to a span of pages is written using as few figures as possible:

pp. 402–5.

pp. 410–16.

pp. 440–553 (full stop after 'p').

Use an en rule, not a hyphen, to link spans of page numbers. Do not use a space either side of the en rule.

paperbark

This term describes any of a number of trees having a papery, often peeling bark of the genus *Melaleuca*. In historical texts it will often be seen as [cadjeput](#).

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

parakeelya

Parakeelya is a fleshy plant of the genus *Calandrinia* highly regarded as a stock food particularly in arid regions.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

parakeet

Not paraquet, paroquet, parroquet, nor parokeet.

part owner

Two words. Not part-owner.

part time

Use a hyphen when used attributively.

part way

Two words.

penny

See [Currency](#).

perish

To suffer extreme thirst. In the phrase 'to do a perish' – to suffer a period of extreme privation and/or to be without sustenance, especially water.

piecemeal

One word.

pigeon

Not pidgeon.

pigface

This name refers to any of several succulent, ground hugging perennial plants of coastal and dry inland Australia. Genera *Disphyma* and *Carpobrotus*.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

pindan

Pindan is low scrubby vegetation on arid sandy country in the north of Western Australia. For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

place name(s)

Two words. Not placename(s).

plains turkey

See **turkey**.

poddy dodger

A poddy dodger is a cattle thief.

point

A 'point' is a measurement of rainfall. There are 100 points to an inch (now 25mm).

poison

The term 'poison' referred to plants of the genus *Gastrolobium*. This flowering plant has more than 100 species of which all but two are native to the South West region of Western Australia. Horses and bullocks on expedition had to be watched carefully in areas of known 'poison'. Depending on the quantity ingested it was generally fatal within 24 hours. The most common poisons mentioned by explorers were Box Poison (*G. parviflorum*), York Road Poison (*G. calycinum*) and Champion Bay Poison (*G. oxylobioides*) although the plants described as 'poison' east towards present day Kalgoorlie near granite outcrops (particularly by C.C. Hunt) were most likely Granite poison (*G. graniticum*).

Box poison typically grows in Wandoo woodland (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), commonly called [white gum](#) by early explorers and settlers. It grows east to about Kellerberrin, from where its place is taken by a similar-looking tree, *Eucalyptus capillosa*, called Wheatbelt wandoo.

police constable

Two words. This job title is capitalised when used in conjunction with a name.

police officer

Two words.

police sergeant

Two words. This job title is capitalised when used in conjunction with a name.

police station

Two words. Capitalised when used in conjunction with a locality name.

Port

There are 17 named ports/anchorages in Western Australia. It is not to be abbreviated to 'Pt'.

Port Leschenault, Leschenault Inlet, Leschenault Estuary

The Preston and Collie rivers flow into this inlet on which Bunbury stands today. Governor James Stirling renamed the port Bunbury in 1836 in honour of Lieutenant Bunbury, the first to trek overland to the port.

Portuguese man-of-war

This is a jellyfish – note hyphens and capital.

possum

A possum is an Australian marsupial. Not opossum.

posthumous

The meaning of this word is 'occurring after death' - not postumous.

postmaster

One word.

postmaster general / Postmaster General

No hyphen. Not Post Master General. The description is capitalised when used in conjunction with a name.

postnominal(s)

A postnominal is an abbreviation of an academic, military or civil honour, award or distinction. Write a postnominal without stops and without spaces. Separate a name from a postnominal with a comma and insert a further comma after the postnominal if it is in a sentence. Use commas between postnominals.

postwar

One word. Not post war, post-war.

pound

see [Currency](#).

pound

See **Mass.**

p.m.

This is the abbreviation of post meridiem (Latin) that means 'after midday'. Note it is not to be rendered as pm, PM or P.M. See [a.m.](#)

practical

That which is capable or suited to action as opposed to theory.

practicable

That which can be done, able to be put into practice, feasible.

practice

Noun.

practise

Verb.

pre-eminent

Note the hyphen.

present day

Two words, no hyphen.

printhy

Printhy is a colloquial name for the goanna or Perentie *Varanus giganteus*.

private

The lowest rank in the army. When written in conjunction with a name it is capitalised.

professional

Not proffesional.

program / programme

Program was the original spelling for the word (from the Greek programma). Programme is an affectation introduced from the French in the 19th century. Program is the preferred usage. It is not an Americanism.

proofread

Not proof-read.

Proofreader

Not proof-reader.

proofreading

Not proof-reading.

properties

When referring to a particular property use capitals, for example, Cattle Chosen. Station, hotel and other property names are capitalised but not italicised or placed

between inverted commas.

punk

Rotten wood or fungus used as tinder is known as punk.

qualifications

See [postnominal\(s\)](#).

quandong, also quondong

A quandong is a shrub or small tree (*Santalum acuminatum*) of southern Australia that bears a bright red fruit with a wrinkled kernel.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

railcar, railway, railhead, railroad

One word.

railway line

A pleonastic combination but one that is often used.

range

A series of mountains. When used in conjunction with a name it is capitalised, for example, Koolyanobbing Range. When referring to two or more than ranges it is not capitalised, for example Warburton and Jamieson ranges.

Determine if the name is singular or plural by reference to Geoscience Australia's Gazetteer of Australia 2010 (the authority recognised by the WAEDP for Australian place names – see the WAEDP *Guidelines for Contributing Authors*). Be careful when the name of a range includes two names as in the Alfred and Marie Range.

reconnaissance

Note the spelling.

reconnoitre

Note the spelling.

recruit

A term used to mean 'rest and recuperate' – particularly in the context 'recruit the horses'.

red gum

Two words.

redwater fever

Write the name for this tick-borne disease of cattle as two words.

regiment

The word is capitalised only when the regiment is named, for example, 21st Regiment.

regions of Western Australia (WAEDP)

Kimberley	Ashburton	Pilbara	Gascoyne	Murchison
Mid West	South West	Eastern Goldfields	Nullarbor	Interior

resident magistrate

Write the words in full unless used in a [postnominal](#) in which case write, for example, R.J. Sholl, RM. Note that there are no full stops between the letters of the abbreviation and that there is comma after the name. Capitalise when used in conjunction with a name. Retain the style in which it is written in historical text.

river

When used in conjunction with a name of a river it is capitalised, for example, Swan River. When used in conjunction with the name of more than one river it is not capitalised, for example Moorilup, Hay and Sleeman rivers.

river bank

Two words.

river bed

Two words.

rockhole

This word is used to mean, literally, a hole in rock generally containing water unless dry. See [gnamma hole](#). It is capitalised when used to name such, for example Nicker Rockhole.

roman

One of three major typefaces. The others are italic and bold. It is spelled with a lower case 'r'.

rush

This is the Australian term for a stampede of cattle. Also used as the contraction of [gold rush](#).

saddlebags

A pair of bags laid across a horse, camel, donkey or other animal behind or in front of the saddle. One word.

salmon gum

The tree *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, common in the drier parts of south-west Western Australia, has smooth salmon-pink bark. Salmon gums were indication of good farming land.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

saltbush

This word is used for any of the many shrubs from the *Atriplex* and *Rhagodia* genera dominating saline and alkaline land in the drier parts of Australia. Hence, in combination, saltbush country, saltbush plain, saltbush flat.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

saltie

This is a colloquial term for a saltwater or estuarine crocodile. See **crocodile**.

sandalwood

The scented wood (especially when burnt) of several species of *Santalum* (in southern Western Australia *Santalum spicatum*) is known as sandalwood. For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

sanddune

One word.

sandhill

One word.

sandplain

One word.

sandridge

One word.

sandy blight

This is a disease of the eye, common in desert areas and areas of poor hygiene.

savanna / savannah

The Australian tropical savanna is an area of grassy vegetation, with or without trees, that stretches across northern Australia from Broome to Townsville.

screwpine

One word. A screwpine is an interestingly shaped tree of the genus *Pandanus* yielding edible pulp and nuts.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

scrub turkey

see **turkey**.

second-in-command

Despite the recent trend to eliminate the use hyphens they are still required in this case.

seine

Fishing net.

Select Bibliography

A selected and limited list of sources relating to a particular subject. See [Bibliography](#). Material not mentioned in the text but considered to be of use or interest to the reader is listed under the heading 'Further Reading'.

self-

This word is freely added (with the hyphen) as a reflexive prefix to nouns, adjectives and participles.

semicircle

One word. Hence semicircular.

semicolon

One word. Not semi colon. Do not use a hyphen.

shew /ed

An alternative spelling of show /ed popular in the 19th century. It is not necessary to place [*sic*] after it.

shinplaster

The main benefit of these low value, flimsy, private promissory notes, issued by local businessmen and station owners, was that they often disintegrated before they could be cashed.

shipmate

One word - but ship's mate.

shipboard

One word. No hyphen.

shipwreck

One word.

showcase / showcased

One word.

sic

The Latin adverb *sic* ('thus'; in full: *sic erat scriptum*, 'thus was it written') added immediately after a quoted word or phrase (or a longer piece of text), indicates that the quotation has been transcribed exactly as found in the original source, complete with

any erroneous or archaic spelling or other nonstandard presentation. It is italicised and enclosed in square brackets to indicate editorial intervention, thus [sic].

signpost, signposted

One word.

sked

This is the shortened form of 'schedule', generally used in the context of a pre-determined time for a call over a radio network. It was a major factor in the change of pronunciation of 'schedule' from 'shedule' to 'skedule'.

smoke bush

Two words. This term is used to describe any of several shrubs or trees of the genus *Conospermum*, chiefly of Western Australia, having white woolly flowers. For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

snakebite

One word, not snake-bite nor snake bite.

snappy gum

This name is used for the species *Eucalyptus brevifolia*, *E. haemastoma*, and *E. rossii*, yielding a brittle timber. For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

snottygobble

A one word term for any of several Western Australian trees of the genus *Persoonia*, the fruit of which is considered a delicacy by some. For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

soak

A waterhole, often below ground.

Southern Hemisphere

Always capitalised.

southern lights

See [aurora](#).

speargrass

A name for any of a number of grasses bearing a seed with a pointed husk and twisted awn capable of working its way into soil, clothing and skin. For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

spinifex

This is the common name for *Triodia*, a genus of coarse Australian grasses growing in tufts to around a metre in height. This clump-forming grass with sharp, stiff leaves is also commonly known as porcupine grass. The spikes caused much difficulty for explorers with camels, horses and stock. Resin from the base of the leaves of some *Triodia* species was used as a fixative by some Australian Aboriginal people. For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

spring

The source or head of a well, stream or river.

Sr

This is the WAEDP abbreviation for Senior. Note the initial capital letter. Not Snr. Do not use a comma between the last name and Sr.

stand alone

Two words, no hyphen.

state / State

The word 'state' is capitalised when used to mean one of the territorial divisions of Australia. It is not capitalised when it refers to a nation or an abstract entity:

State-owned enterprises The European states state control

state names

See [names of states](#).

statewide

One word. Not state-wide, state wide. See also worldwide and nationwide.

station

A pastoral property. When referring to a particular station use capitals, for example Pyramid Station but 'Pyramid is a station in the Pilbara'. Station and other [property names](#) are not italicised nor placed between inverted commas.

stockkeeper

One word with no hyphen. It is capitalised when Government Stockkeeper is used in conjunction with a name.

stockman

A stockman is a person employed to look after stock, especially cattle.

stocktake

One word. Not stock take, stock-take.

stock yard

Two words.

storekeeper

One word, no hyphen. It is capitalised when Government Storekeeper is used in conjunction with a name.

stream

Flow - as in 'little or no stream'.

sumpter

A packhorse, mule, or other beast of burden.

sunstroke

One word.

superscript text

In conformity with the WAEDP Guidelines (modern Australian usage) avoid superscripts in the Foreword, Preface, Introduction, Synopses, Footnotes, Appendixes, Biographical Information, and any other contemporary writing.

Survey Office

- 1828 Survey Office (SO). Created 5 December 1828 (making it the oldest government department in Western Australia)
- 1879 Crown Lands and Survey Office (CL&SO).
- 1902 Department of Lands and Surveys (L&S).
- 1986 Department of Land Administration (DOLA).
- 2003 Department of Land Information (DLI).
- 2007 Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate).

surveyor

This word is not capitalised unless used in conjunction with a name.

surveyor general

Not surveyor-general. It is capitalised when used in conjunction with a name.

Swan River colony

This is a term used from 1827 till around the middle of the century, well after the name Western Australia was adopted.

Swan River mahogany

See [jarrah](#) (*Eucalyptus marginata*).

tamma

Tamma does not refer to an individual species but rather thickets up to two metres high, dominated by *Allocasuarina campestris*, in inland south-west Western Australia. Not tamar.

tammar

The tammar is a greyish-brown wallaby of south-west Western Australia, *Macropus eugenii*.

tank

This is an alternative term for a dam or excavated reservoir to provide water for stock.

teatree

The terms tea tree, tea-tree, ti tree and ti-tree have been used but currently teatree is the commonly used term. See the entry on [hyphens](#).

The teatree is some aromatic trees of the genus *Melaleuca*. Species of *Leptospermum* and *Pericalymma* are also known by this name.

For more information see <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

Telegraph Line, also OTL

See [OT Line](#).

Temperature

In historical text leave recordings of temperature as stated in degrees Fahrenheit. If required, silently capitalise the 'F'. In contemporary writing refer to temperatures in degrees Celsius not Centigrade.

the

The definite article is often used with place names and feature names, often with ellipsis of a second element of the name.

the Alice	Alice Springs.
the Centre	
the 'Curry	Cloncurry.
the Granites	A mining area in the Tanami.
the Mallee	A region in Victoria.
the mulga	A region where mulga trees grow.
the outback	
the Territory	the Northern Territory.

And in Western Australia some of those that may be encountered in diaries and writings of pioneering days include:

the Bar	Marble Bar
the Cross	Southern Cross

The West Australian

Use the definite article, capitalised, and italicise all three words when referring to this newspaper, as per its masthead. When indexing, it is placed under 'W' and rendered as *West Australian, The*. In Footnotes it may be shortened to *West Aust* and in the List of References Cited it is rendered as *The West Australian*.

tick

A bloodsucking, parasitic arthropod that attaches itself to the skin of dogs, cattle, kangaroos and occasionally humans, capable of transmitting serious disease.

ticket of leave

Convicts were able to obtain this permit that entitled them to live and work as a private person within a stipulated area until the expiration or remission of a sentence. Hence ticket of leave men.

Titles versus Positions

In modern writing a person's title is given an initial capital letter whereas their position is rendered in lower case. For the titles in 19th century texts, leave the script as written except for words which would normally be written without a capital (where the WAEDP policy is to conform silently with modern usage).

Example 1: 'The governor of the colony was Sir James Stirling'.

Example 2: 'His Excellency the Governor'.

top notch

Two words, no hyphen.

tothersider

This term is used to describe a person from an eastern state of Australia. See [othersider](#).

traytop

A truck or ute with a rear flat carrying tray. One word, no hyphen.

trig or trig station

A triangulation station, also known as a trigonometrical station, trigonometrical point, trig station, trig beacon or trig point, and sometimes informally as a trig, is a fixed surveying station, used in geodetic surveying. Often a wooden post supported by a rock cairn atop a hill.

tsar

Not csar, czar or tzar.

turkey

This is the name most diarists used for the Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*). Its range is the inland and tropical North of mainland Australia. It is not found in NSW, Victoria, Tasmania nor southern SA. It should not be confused with the Brush turkey (*Alectura lathamii*), not found in Western Australia. Both of these birds are known by various common names including, for both, bush turkey. Other names for the Bustard are plains turkey and wild turkey.

The Bustard is considered to be fine fare. Hunting of the Bustard is now illegal (except for indigenous Australians who may use firearms to secure one).

turn of the century

This phrase is used to indicate the transition from one century to another, most often the period either before or after the beginning of a century, or both before and after.

In respect of Western Australian exploration the phrase would refer to the years 1899–1901, however, as the phrase, in its broadest sense, could be taken to refer to either the years at the beginning of the century or at the end of the century (1899–1901 or 1999–2001), regardless of whether or not the century is identified, it is preferable that the phrase not be used.

tzar

Use [tsar](#).

UK

Not U.K.

underfund/underfunded

One word, no hyphen.

underline, underlining

Not under-line, under-lining.

underpower, underpowered

One word. Not hyphenated.

undersize, undersized

One word.

understaffed

One word. No hyphen.

USA

Not U.S.A.

Van Diemen's Land

Prior to 1856 Tasmania was known as Van Diemen's Land. Abel Tasman named the island Anthonij van Diemenslandt in honor of Anthony van Diemen, Governor General of the Dutch East Indies who had sent Tasman on his voyage of discovery in 1642. The name continued in general use well after its official re-naming. It was often abbreviated as VDL. Retain as written in historical context. When referred to in current writing the genitive apostrophe, dropped for current names of features, is retained.

Vasse, (the Vasse)

Before June 1835 Busselton was known as the Vasse. A suburb of Busselton retains the name Vasse.

viz./viz/vizt/vizt.

This is an abbreviation for the Latin *videlicet* meaning 'namely'. Do not use.

Volume

1 gill = 0.25 pint

1 pint = 20 ounces = 568 millilitres

2 pints = 1 quart ~ 1.1 litres

8 pints = 1 gallon ~ 4.5 litres

1 hogshead = 63 gallons

For more information see <http://www.onlineconversion.com/>.

WAEDP

The Western Australian Exploration Diaries Project Inc.

water dogs, also **rain dogs**

Low, small, grey clouds that precede a cloud front are considered by some to be the best indicators of rain.

watercolour

One word.

watercourse

One word.

waterhole, a

A waterhole is depression in which water collects. It may be of considerable extent and not necessarily in rock.

watersource

One word.

website

One word, no hyphen. In a table or list it is capitalised.

weekday

One word. Not week day.

Weight

See Mass.

well-acquainted

Note the hyphen.

well-known

Note the hyphen. Compare little-known.

well-worn

Note the hyphen.

West Australian, The (newspaper)

See *The West Australian*

Western Australia

Not West Australia.

Western Australian

Not West Australian.

whale boat

Two words.

wheelman

Steersman.

while / whilst

Though both are of the same meaning, while is preferred.

white gum

The 'white gum' referred to by explorers such as C.C. Hunt when describing the occurrence of [poison](#) was Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), commonly called white gum by early explorers and settlers. It grows east to about Kellerberrin, from where its place is taken by a similar-looking tree, *Eucalyptus capillosa*, called Wheatbelt wandoo.

wild turkey

See [turkey](#).

windmill

One word.

wodgil

Thickets up to four metres high dominated by species of *Acacia*, *Allocasuarina* and *Hakea*, in inland south-west Western Australia.

world

Not World.

worldwide

Not world wide nor world-wide. See also statewide and nationwide.

Yamatji

Yamatji ('Yamaji' in the orthography of Wajarri) is a name commonly used by aboriginal people in the Murchison and Gascoyne regions to refer to themselves, and sometimes also to Australian Aboriginal people generally, when speaking English.

York Road poison

See [poison](#).

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