

A GOODIE OR A BADDIE?

HASS

What sort of person was WA's first Inspector of Native Police?

Students will:

- Understand the role of WA's Native Police.
- Examine a range of sources to understand different perspectives about a significant person.
- Make value judgements about the past, based on evidence provided.
- Consider the significance of a recent police apology for past wrongful actions against Aboriginal people.

ENGAGE

- What sort of work do police officers do?
- What does it mean to be 'fair'?
- How important is it that they act in a way that is 'fair'?

EXPLORE

Show students an early plan of the Newcastle Gaol.

- What is written in the top right hand corner?
- Who would have been held in this cell?
- Why do you think there is a separate cell, slightly bigger than the other individual cells, specifically for Aboriginal people?



EXPLAIN

- Prior to European arrival, Aboriginal people were subject to [traditional lore](#), which was very different to the European system of law and order.
- The earliest police force in WA were regular European settlers, chosen by local magistrates of the governor, as well as soldiers stationed in Perth and Fremantle. Duties of early police in Toodyay were similar to modern-day police force: maintaining order in town and tracking down any criminals who broke the law.
- Since the spread of colonial settlement infringed on the Noongar land rights and their access to food and water sources, there was increasing conflict between the Aboriginal and European people.
- In 1840, following the death of a white mother and child (treated as murder by the European settlers, and a rightful payback, for prior injustice, under traditional lore), the governor set up a specialist Native Police force, to deal solely with Aboriginal people. Police officers received monetary rewards for capturing wanted Aboriginal people, and the trackers were usually from different areas to the ones they patrolled, so they would not be affected by personal relationships with people they tracked and arrested.
- Newcastle Gaol was completed in 1864. By that time, the term 'Native Police' was sometimes replaced with the terms 'Native constables' or 'Native assistants', but their role remained similar. Aboriginal prisoners kept in the gaol were very likely there as a result of the work of the Native Police. They were kept separate from non-Aboriginal prisoners in the 'Native cell' which, although double the size of other cells, held several prisoners at the same time.
- John Drummond, son of botanist James Drummond, and one of the first Europeans to live in Toodyay, was appointed as the first Inspector of Native Police in WA. He arrived to the Colony as a 13 year old, and spent his young years among Aboriginal people near Toodyay. He learned a lot about Noongar customs, is believed to have had relationships with Aboriginal women, and was one of the few Europeans who learned to speak the Noongar language.
- In 1845, his brother was killed by an Aboriginal man following a personal dispute over a woman. John Drummond took the law into his own hands, hunting down and shooting the culprit. He was suspended from his position, but, after calls from the Avon Valley residents, was reinstated without a charge.

- In his later years, he moved to the Victoria District (near Geraldton) to continue his role as policeman, and also a pastoralist.

EXTEND

Either working individually or in groups, get students to explore a variety of different sources about John Drummond. Discuss, with reference to each source:

- Is this a primary or a secondary source of information?
- Where/who by was this source published?
- What *facts* can we learn about John Drummond from this source?
- What information can we *infer* from this source?
- Is this source positive, negative or neutral towards John Drummond?
- How can you tell?

Present students with a list of adjectives that could be used to describe a person.

- Which adjectives from this list might match each of the different sources?
Give reasons for your choices.



ARGUMENTATIVE	FRAIL	LUCKY	SIGNIFICANT
BRAVE	FRIENDLY	MALEVOUS	SKILLED
CAPABLE	GOOD	MEAN	SMART
CARING	HARM	NUMEROUS	TALENTED
CONSIDERATE	HELPFUL	NASTY	THOUGHTFUL
CRIMINAL	INCLUSIVE	PIONEERING	TOUGH
CIVIL	INCONSIDERATE	POPULAR	URGENT
DETERMINED	INDEPENDENT	QUIET	UNFAIR
DETERMINED	INFANTIL	RACIST	UNPREDICTABLE
EDUCATED	INNOVATIVE	RELIGIOUS	UNORTHODOX
ENTREPRENEURIAL	KNOWLEDGEABLE	RESILIENT	UNTRUSTWORTHY
EVIL	LARKIN	REVENGEFUL	WELL-INFORMED
FAIR	LEADER	SENSITIVE	WILD

EVALUATE AND REFLECT

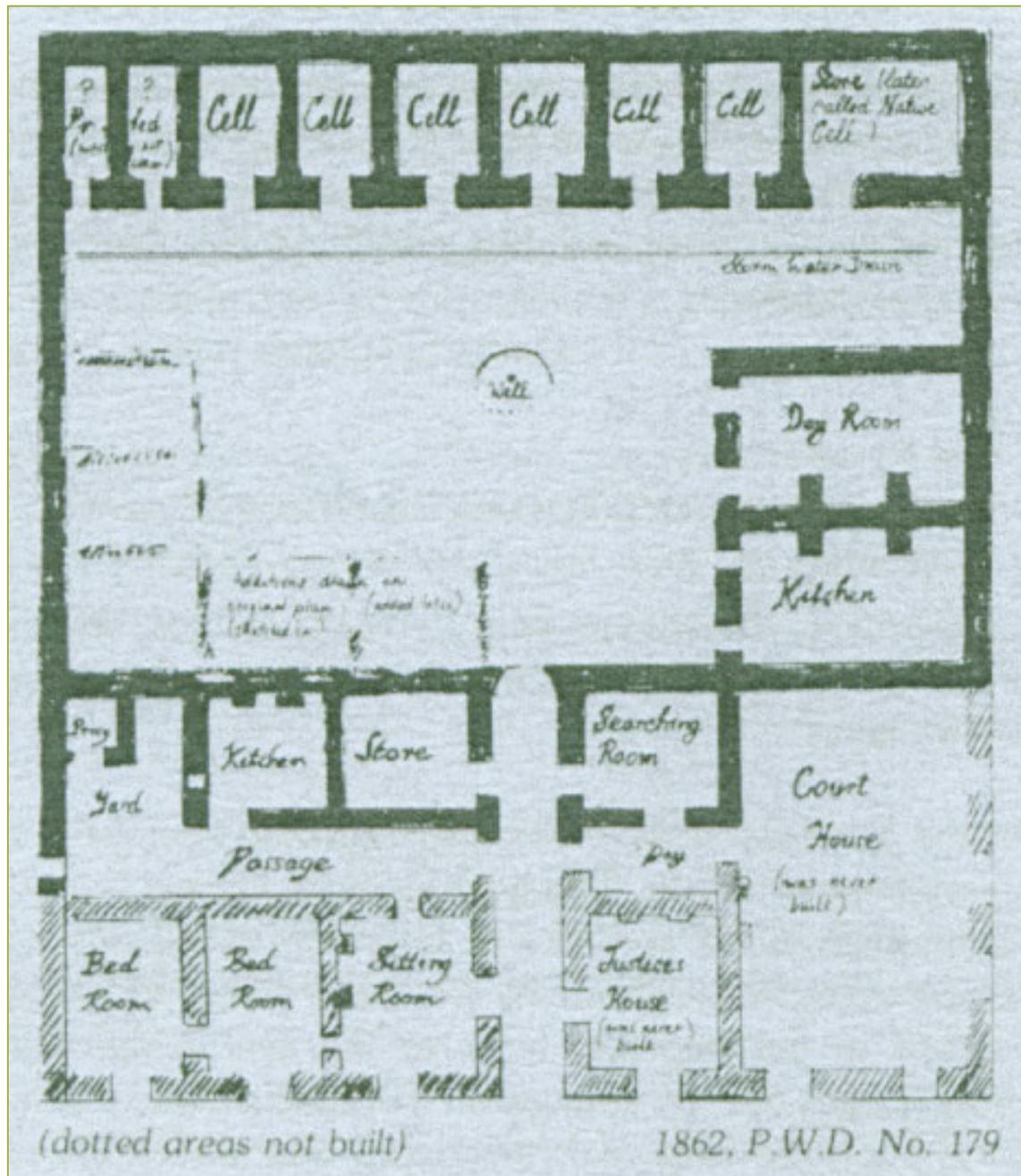
- Do you think John Drummond was a ‘goodie’ or a ‘baddie’?
- Why is it important to use a variety of sources of information when trying to learn about the past?

Show students a video WA Police Commissioner Chris Dawson’s [apology for past wrongful actions against Aboriginal people by the police](#). The Commissioner has apologised for the police role in removing children as part of the “Stolen Generation”, as well as for “land dispossession, violence, racism, incarceration and deaths in custody”. Briefly discuss what some of these terms mean.

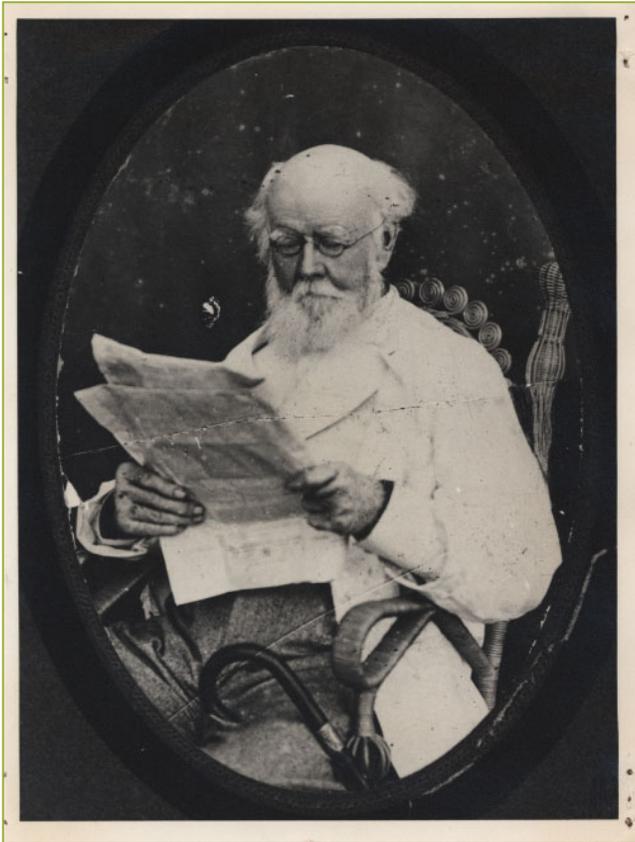
- How might the Commissioner’s apology affect relationships between Aboriginal people and police in the future?

WANT TO DO MORE?

- As a class, make a list of key events in Aboriginal history in (Western) Australia, with each person designing an illustration for one significant event. Use the illustrations to create a classroom timeline display.



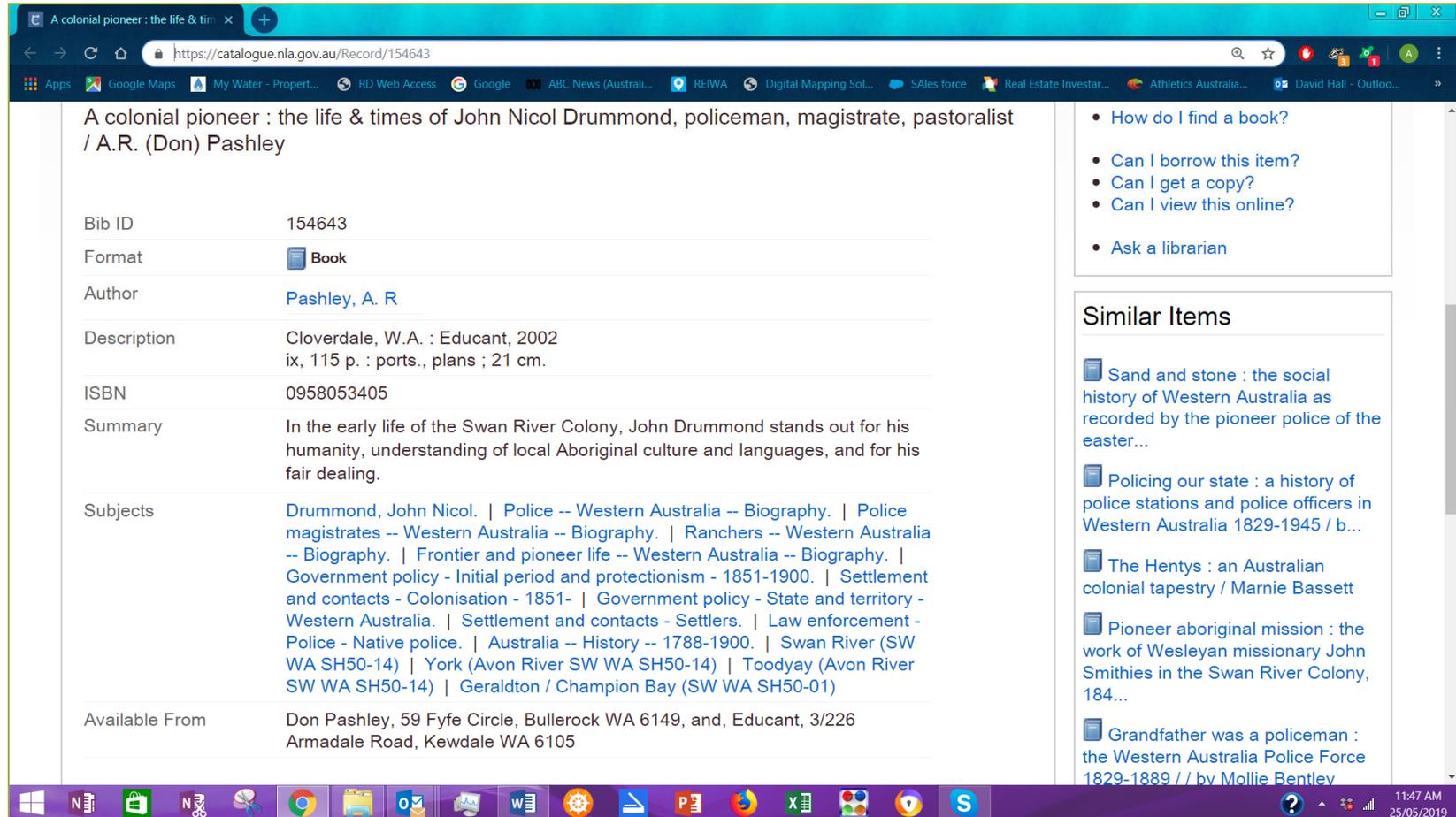
A plan of the Newcastle Gaol. 1862



John Nicol Drummond
Shire of Toodyay local history collection 2001.735B



John Drummond's prayer book
Shire of Toodyay local history collection 2004.18



A colonial pioneer : the life & times of John Nicol Drummond, policeman, magistrate, pastoralist / A.R. (Don) Pashley

Bib ID	154643
Format	Book
Author	Pashley, A. R.
Description	Cloverdale, W.A. : Educant, 2002 ix, 115 p. : ports., plans ; 21 cm.
ISBN	0958053405
Summary	In the early life of the Swan River Colony, John Drummond stands out for his humanity, understanding of local Aboriginal culture and languages, and for his fair dealing.
Subjects	Drummond, John Nicol. Police -- Western Australia -- Biography. Police magistrates -- Western Australia -- Biography. Ranchers -- Western Australia -- Biography. Frontier and pioneer life -- Western Australia -- Biography. Government policy - Initial period and protectionism - 1851-1900. Settlement and contacts - Colonisation - 1851- Government policy - State and territory - Western Australia. Settlement and contacts - Settlers. Law enforcement - Police - Native police. Australia -- History -- 1788-1900. Swan River (SW WA SH50-14) York (Avon River SW WA SH50-14) Toodyay (Avon River SW WA SH50-14) Geraldton / Champion Bay (SW WA SH50-01)
Available From	Don Pashley, 59 Fyfe Circle, Bullerock WA 6149, and, Educant, 3/226 Armadale Road, Kewdale WA 6105

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- Pioneer aboriginal mission : the work of Wesleyan missionary John Smithies in the Swan River Colony, 184...
- Grandfather was a policeman : the Western Australia Police Force 1829-1889 / / by Mollie Bentley

Catalogue reference for a book about John Drummond, National Library of Australia.

<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/154643>

Moora | Kaartdjin Noongar x Northam | Kaartdjin Noongar x +

https://www.noongarculture.org.au/northam/

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HOME CULTURE COUNTRY PEOPLE MULTIMEDIA GLOSSARY **EDUCATION** LEADERSHIP ABOUT US CONTACT


1835-40

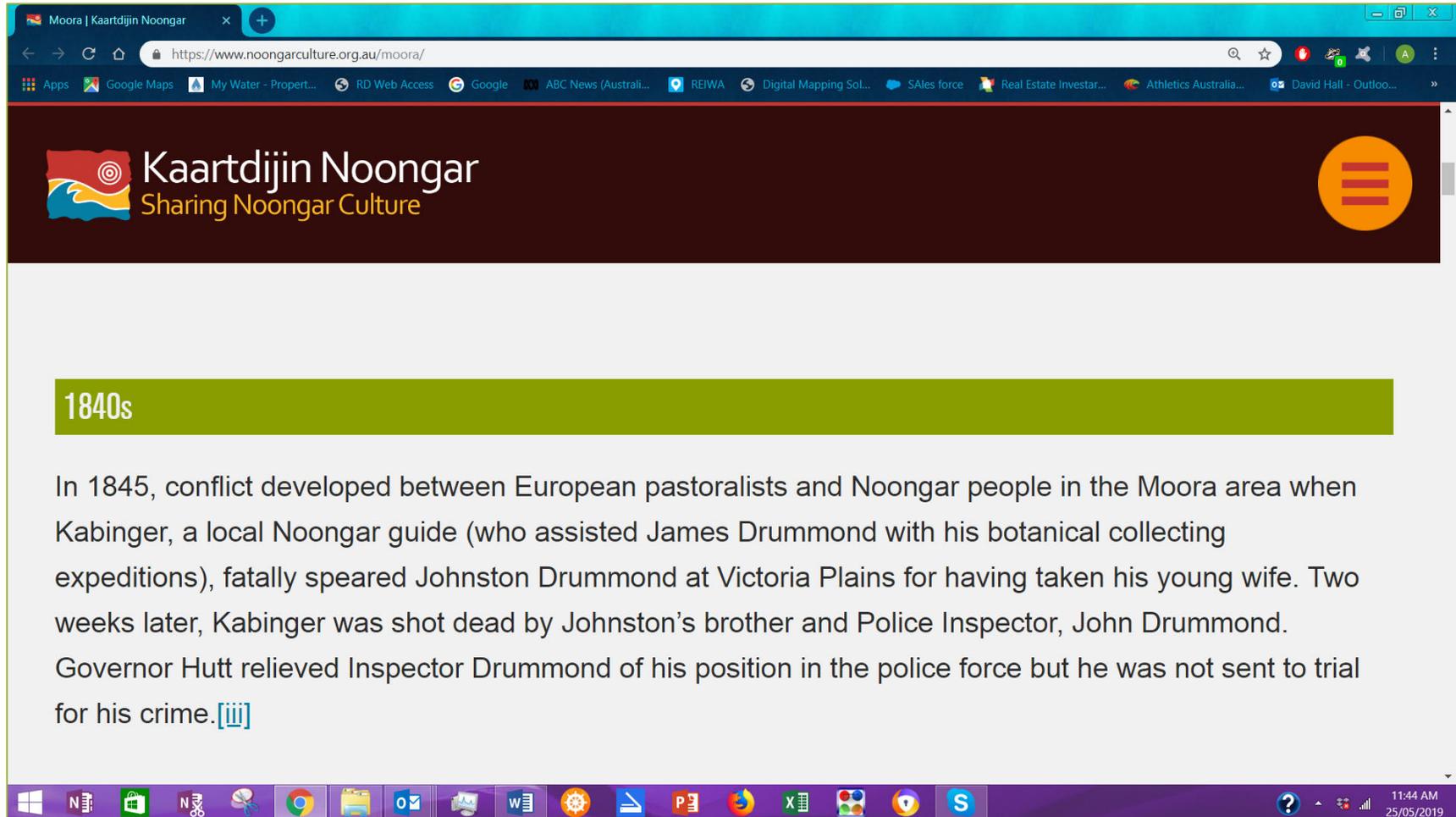
- As colonisation progressed there was continued resistance from Noongar people, as Europeans attempted to settle the outer eastern reaches from Perth, east of York. [x] There were numerous reports about the conflict in the area, including Gingin and Toodyay. Ongoing conflict led to measures being taken by the formative government, which put soldiers in charge of the district around Northam and York.
- Violence continued between Noongars and Europeans. Noongars fought to take back what was once rightfully our land and resources. The Europeans resented their food and stock being taken. When settler, Sarah Cook and her infant were speared at Norrilong (between Beverley and York) to satisfy tribal lore, Governor Hutt created a Native Police Force to deal with the conflict.
- Two brothers, Doodjeep and Barrabong were arrested and tried for 'wilful murder' in July 1840. They were later hung in chains at the scene of the crime. A year later, a Noongar man named Yambup was also convicted of the same crime and was sent to *Wadjemup* – Rottnest prison.[xi]
- Under John Drummond, the Native Police forcefully suppressed Noongar resistance to European settlement.[xii]

start of timeline ↑

Windows taskbar: 11:46 AM 25/05/2019

Extract from a Ballardong people (Northam) timeline, Kaartdjin Noongar website.

<https://www.noongarculture.org.au/northam/>



Moora | Kaartdijin Noongar

https://www.noongarculture.org.au/moora/

Kaartdijin Noongar
Sharing Noongar Culture

1840s

In 1845, conflict developed between European pastoralists and Noongar people in the Moora area when Kabinger, a local Noongar guide (who assisted James Drummond with his botanical collecting expeditions), fatally speared Johnston Drummond at Victoria Plains for having taken his young wife. Two weeks later, Kabinger was shot dead by Johnston's brother and Police Inspector, John Drummond. Governor Hutt relieved Inspector Drummond of his position in the police force but he was not sent to trial for his crime. [iii]

11:44 AM
25/05/2019

Extract from a Ballardong people (Moora) timeline, Kaartdjin Noongar website.
<https://www.noongarculture.org.au/northam/https://www.noongarculture.org.au/moora/>

Supreme Court—Criminal : Sittings.

*(Before His Honor the Chief Justice and a
common jury.)*

THURSDAY, APRIL 5TH

The Court re-assembled at 10 a.m.

WOUNDING WITH INTENT.

Mr. JOHN NICOL DRUMMOND J.P., was arraigned on an indictment charging him with having, at Champion Bay, on the 15th January last, feloniously, wilfully, and with malice aforethought, wounded one John Fisher with intent to kill and murder him. On a second indictment, the prisoner was charged with feloniously, unlawfully, and maliciously wounding the said John Fisher with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

John Nicol Drummond, an old colonist, nearly 80 years of age, has been arrested on a charge of sheep stealing. The sheep which it is alleged were stolen, belonged to Messrs. E. & F. Wittenoom, of White Peak. A great sensation was caused by the occurrence. Accused will be brought up before the Police Court this morning.

Supreme Court—Criminal Sittings. (1877, April 10). *The Western Australian Times* (Perth, WA : 1874 - 1879), p. 2.

National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2977358>

GERALDTON NEWS. (1895, February 13). *The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950)*, p. 3. National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article78360050>

W John Drummond (Australian settl... x +

← → ↻ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Drummond_(Australian_settler) ☆ 🔒 🔍

Police career [edit]

Late in 1839, a woman and her baby were murdered by natives near York, and **Governor John Hutt** responded by establishing a special police force known as the Native Police. As a man well known and widely respected by the local tribes, and familiar with indigenous language and customs, Drummond was appointed the colony's first Inspector of Native Police. He made regular patrols of the **Avon Valley** district, and continued to attend **corroborees** and tribal gatherings. He became a valued tracker and negotiator, and earned the respect of both colonists and natives.

In 1845, Drummond's brother **Johnston** was murdered by a native named Kabinger. After obtaining a **warrant**, John Drummond set out to avenge his brother's murder. He tracked Kabinger for two weeks without success, before finding him at sundown on 15 August. According to the diary of **Gerard de Courcy Lefroy**:

"He pulled up his horse, which is rather a hot little beggar, and asked him why he murdered his brother... the awful ghastly look the scoundrel gave him nearly unnerved him for the moment... but when he saw the spear shifted... his horse plunging all the time he put his gun up and fired and drove the ball in his left side and out his right. He fell to the ground on his face and buried his teeth in the grounds and expired.... It was a beautiful shot – fifty yards – he never let his spears go."

Drummond reported Kabinger's death as having been done "in the execution of his duty while enforcing a warrant of arrest". Governor Hutt, who had already had a number of disputes with Drummond over his "independent attitude to officialdom", did not accept Drummond's version of events, and suspended him from the police force. However without Drummond's influence the natives caused the colonists of the district difficulties, so when Hutt returned to England at the end of the year, Drummond was immediately reappointed to the police at a lower rank.

In 1849, Drummond accompanied an overland party to the **Champion Bay** district, where a small mining settlement was being formed. He helped to handle a number of delicate and dangerous standoffs with the local indigenous tribe, and his return to Toodyay was greatly regretted. On returning to Toodyay, Drummond found himself constantly quarrelling with the newly appointed Protector of the Natives at York, **Walkinshaw Cowan**, who accused him of leaving his district while on duty. These accusations were probably correct, as Drummond was courting Mary Eliza Shaw of **Guildford** at the time. In April 1850, a court of inquiry was held at York to enquire into Cowan's complaints against Drummond. The inquiry was eventually closed without any findings, and shortly afterwards the problem was solved by transferring Drummond to Champion Bay as First Constable of the newly established police force there.

In 1850, Drummond acted as a police escort for a group of pastoralists including **John Sydney Davis**, **Major Logue**, **William and Lockier Burges**, **Thomas and Kenneth Brown**, and Drummond's brother **James**, in overlanding stock from York to **Greenough**. Later he accompanied an exploration party including **Augustus Gregory**, **John Septimus Roe**, **James Drummond Jr** and **Samuel Pole Phillips**, in exploring the land around the Upper **Irwin**.

Term	Western Australia 1839 – 1857
Criminal charge	Grievous bodily harm (1877)
Criminal penalty	3 years in custody
Criminal status	Released; time served
Spouse(s)	Mary Eliza Shaw
Children	Rose Brown (born 1874), adopted
Parent(s)	James Drummond (father)
Relatives	James Drummond (brother) Johnston Drummond (brother) Thomas Drummond (uncle)

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4:46 PM 25/05/2019

John Drummond (Australian settler) Wikipedia article. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Drummond_\(Australian_settler\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Drummond_(Australian_settler))

Death of an Old Colonist.

MR. JOHN NICOL DRUMMOND.

On Friday afternoon last, at 2.30, there passed away at his home, Sea View, near Glenfield, seven miles from Geraldton, one of the most notable personages connected with the history of the State, John Nicol Drummond, who arrived as a youth of 13 in the *Parmelia* in 1829, when the first lot of colonisers set foot on the soil of Western Australia, and whose name was closely identified with the band of pioneers who bravely battled against privations and perils to lay the foundations of this great State.

Mr. Drummond had reached the ripe age of 90 years, but his end was hastened by the results of an accident which befel him eleven weeks ago, when, through a fall, he fractured his thigh. Despite all surgical skill, the break refused to set, and the poor old man lingered on in much pain till Death came as a kindly visitor to give him relief.

The greater portion of Mr. Drummond's lengthy life was spent in the Victoria district, where, in his earlier years, he was engaged in grazing pursuits. The present White Peak station was first established by him. For the last twenty years he had been living a quiet, retired life on his farm at Sea View.

Death of an Old Colonist. (1906, July 9). *Geraldton Express* (WA : 1906 - 1919), p. 3.

National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article210732018>

Inspector Drummond was an intrepid bushman, fine horseman, and a dead shot, and his tales of the efforts of the police to "disperse" the natives in the Victoria district in the early days would fill a volume. In later years he founded the well-known White Peak station, near Geraldton, latterly in the

THE LATE MRS. JOHN NICOL DRUMMOND. (1918, November 1). *Western Mail* (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), p.

18.

National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article37603206>

ARGUMENTATIVE

BRAVE

CAPABLE

CARING

CONSIDERATE

CRIMINAL

CRUEL

DETERMINED

DETERMINED

EDUCATED

ENTREPRENEURIAL

EVIL

FAIR

FRAIL

FRIENDLY

GOOD

HARSH

HELPFUL

INCLUSIVE

INCONSIDERATE

INDEPENDENT

INFLUENTIAL

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KNOWLEDGEABLE

LARRIKIN

LEADER

LUCKY

MALICIOUS

MEAN

MURDEROUS

NASTY

PIONEERING

POPULAR

QUIET

RACIST

RELIGIOUS

RESILIENT

REVENGEFUL

SENSITIVE

SIGNIFICANT

SKILLED

SMART

TALENTED

THOUGHTFUL

TOUGH

UNCARING

UNFAIR

UNPREDICTABLE

UNSYMPATHETIC

UNTRUSTWORTHY

WELL-INFORMED

WILD