The “Capel Cemetery Survey Project” was born out of a research request received by the Ron Maidment Archives Room in November 2016. This simple enquiry generated more questions than answers about the Capel Cemetery - its history and inhabitants. Hence, in April 2017, curious archivists and interested community volunteers took up the challenge to ‘fill in the blanks’. The result is referred to as the “Capel Cemetery Register” and is a comprehensive and up-to-date ‘overview’ of the cemetery as it exists today.

This document is the product of three (3) months of intensive activity by a dedicated and committed team. Without the patience, perseverance and tenacity of every person, this register would not have been created. We acknowledge, congratulate and thank every one of them for their contributions.

“Our Patrons”

Geoff and Eleanor (nee HUXTABLE) (“Snookie”) ROBERTS have dedicated countless years of time and commitment to recording and reporting the history of Capel – its past and its people. Geoff is a descendant of the pioneering ROBERTS and HIGGINS families and has always called Capel home. Eleanor came to Capel in 1948 when her father was appointed Post Master at the Capel Post Office in Properjohn Rd. Eleanor and Geoff married in 1958 and together ever since, they have happily assisted in solving those round the table Capel history mysteries. Their contribution to keeping Capel district past alive warrants their appointment as our primary patrons; we applaud their efforts – yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Our Patrons Respond:

Congratulations to Jacqui Graham and the Capel Cemetery Survey team on compiling the “Capel Cemetery Register”. The Cemetery of a town is not only a time and place of quiet reflection but it tells a history of so many families from the past to the present day. It always amazes us that many years ago, so many people died at a young age. Times were tough on those early settlers and medicine hadn’t advanced to today’s standard. Thank you we are honored to be made Patrons of such a worthwhile cause.
“Our Supporters”

Along with Geoff and Eleanor, we would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to several other ‘local history heroes’ who have provided us with information, guidance and welcome encouragement. They have humbled us with their generosity and willingness to share their stories.

**Cheryl Campbell (Nee HUTTON)**

Currently residing on land originally owned by James McCourt, Cheryl has always maintained a connection and interest in her past heritage. She is a descendant of Thomas Giles HUTTON and Eliza MASLIN of Palm Hill, Capel. She has generously offered the project an open invitation to her local knowledge and documentary evidence collected for a passion she finds hard to escape. Cheryl’s sharing of her personal family history and her ability to share historical fact has been invaluable to the project.

**Jennifer Scott**

Apart from being a descendant of first south west settlers John and Helen SCOTT, Jennifer has been an active member on the Capel Cemetery Survey Project and has selflessly championed the cemetery cause as a Shire of Capel Councillor. She has never lost sight of the ‘big picture’ and has motivated the team to recognise the true value of the project to the local Capel community – past and present.

**George and Sally Turner (Nee BLECHYNDEN)**

George is a direct descendant of Capel pioneers Frederick Henry TURNER and Fanny SHORTLAND. His laid back attitude to our quest is refreshing and his no frills attitude is grounding. Sally was born in Bridgetown to ‘Kit’ and ‘Pope’ of Capel Inn fame. She has proven to be the project ‘troubleshooter’ and her inquisitive, determined nature has resulted in her answering (or at least partially) some of the projects more tricky questions.

**Pat Lording (Nee WIDDESON)**

Pat’s family history encompasses all of the ‘big names’ in Capel’s history including: Payne, Roberts and Scott. Her recollections of early Capel are delivered with quick wit and humour and bring the people she is talking about back to life. Her networks of family and friends have proved priceless in reconstructing the lives and times of past Capel residents.

To all of you a heartfelt **THANKYOU**.
Capel Cemetery Survey Team

Phyl and Noel Clinton
Fiona Dyer
Sharron Gamble
Jenny Gibbings
Libby Gibbons
Jacqui Graham
Judy Hearne
Gemma Lucas
Kath Mawer
Trish McMillan
Linda Morton
Anita Scott
Jennifer Scott
Di Shepherdson
Jennie Staines
Jen Thomson
Sally Turner
Wynne Tucker
Genene Turner
Kane “Wovo” Wovodich