



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK

LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS

• 2025 •

A Carefree Summer Day During the Dark Depression Years



Sharon Mitchell

Category
Photographic Memories



2025 Town of Victoria Park Local History Awards

Category: PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES

Entry Number: 19

Entrant: Sharon Mitchell

Photograph Name: **A Carefree Summer Day during the Dark Depression Years**

Details below submitted as online entry along with the photograph

Name of the person who took the photograph(s), if known?

Eliza "Poppy" Johnstone DARGIE 1907-1982

Date when it was taken: 01/01/1933

Where was it taken? Como Beach

Who is in the photograph?

The family of Alexander John Spark DARGIE Snr 1876-1960 and Jessie Ann Kinnear (Kydd) DARGIE 1878-1941 - Scottish immigrants from Broughty Ferry who arrived Western Australia in 1913 and were early residents of Lot 1297 Sydenham Street, "Bickford Gardens", Victoria Park.

Back L-R

Andrew "Andy" Gibson KERR 1911-1973 (son)

Thomas Arthur SPOONER 1898-1989 (son-in-law)

Jessie Ann Kinnear (Dargie) HOLMES 1909-1996 (daughter - my grandmother)

William "Bill" Edward HOLMES 1910-1993 (son-in-law - my grandfather)

Margaret "Meg" Ann Kinnear (Dargie) SPOONER 1900-1982 (daughter)

Alexander "Alec" John Spark DARGIE Jnr 1904-1968 (son)

Front L-R

Margaret Myrtle HOLMES 1931-living (grand daughter)

Jessie Alma HOLMES (to become Inman) 1929-2024 (grand daughter - my mother)

In which direction was the photograph taken? West

Do you know what is in the background? Swan River and Matilda Bay

Do you know why the photograph was taken?

Probably as a memory of a happy family day spent swimming and picnicking

What additional information can you give about this photograph?

This photograph, taken in early 1933 by my Great-Aunt Poppy, shows the Dargie family siblings, in-laws and grand daughters so happy, enjoying each other's company on a carefree summer's day. The world, at this time, was gripped by the Great Depression with work, food and money hard to come by. The family, although not well off, were hard working and resourceful and the break from the daily grind of life would have been welcomed. After a long, hot journey by horse and cart from their homes in Carlisle, a swim at Como Beach would have been cool and refreshing. Swimsuits were knitted from thick, itchy wool that was heavy to swim in and took forever to dry. The little girls's swimsuits were in a shade of red, with their blouses and hats providing some protection from the harsh sun. A picnic, consisting of sandwiches, fruit cake and tea, would have been enjoyed before starting the journey home.

What condition is your photograph in? (please tick box) Fair

Has this photograph been enhanced or altered? Yes

If yes please describe:

Photo of the original photo taken on an iPhone. Original photo is available upon request should that be helpful.