The Heroic Hardworking Hardeys

Characters
- Narrator
- Joseph Hardey
- Newspaper boy
- Captain Story
- Mrs Hardey & family

Narrator: I'd like to introduce to you, Joseph Hardey, the person who built this house.

( Joseph steps forward and bows )

This was the third house that Joseph built at Peninsula Farm. He built the first two houses too close to the river and they were washed away in floods, when the river rose.

Joseph: I finally learnt my lesson and built the house on higher ground.

Narrator: When Joseph decided to settle in the Swan River colony, he was lucky to be granted land near the river. This allowed him to transport goods up and down the river from Fremantle because there were no roads in those days, only sandy tracks.

Joseph planted an acorn which grew into this tall oak tree.

Joseph: Would you believe it's taken over 150 years for a seed to grow into a tree this tall!!

Narrator: Perhaps you would be interested in knowing how Joseph's family came to leave England and travel to the Swan River colony.

Long before there were white people in Western Australia, a sea captain, named Captain James Stirling, travelled up and down the Swan River, looking for good land. He went back to tell the British Government how fertile the land was along the Swan River. Everyone in England got really excited.
Newspaper boy: Extra, extra! Read all about it! Captain James Stirling finds paradise in far away place. Good soil, sunny climate, sparkling river, great farming land. Come one, come all, to this new colony. Free land is promised!

Narrator: Many people decided to start a new life in this new land. Joseph Hardye and his wife Anne were passengers aboard the brig Tranby, that set out for the Swan River colony.

(Hardeys step forward)

Thousands of people, lined the docks of Hull in England, to farewell their families and friends. It was a very sad day. The passengers knew they were going to a land that was nothing like home. Those saying goodbye, knew they may never see these people again.

(Hardeys and crowd weep, wave hankies, etc.)

Captain Story: All aboard for the Swan River settlement!

Narrator: On Wednesday, at noon, the Tranby sailed with passengers, stores, livestock, agricultural implements, in fact everything as well as the kitchen sink!! Three cheers were given, wishing the passengers good luck.

Captain Story: Hip hip ... hooray, hip hip ... hooray, hip hip ... hooray!

I hope you have got everything you need. There are no shops where we are going!

Narrator: It took almost 150 days at sea, with seasickness, rough seas and being crammed aboard with nothing to do. Everyone was glad when they finally landed in Fremantle. Life continued to be difficult. These pioneers had to unload all their possessions onto rowboats and drag them ashore onto the beach. Having nowhere to go, they camped in tents in the sand dunes, for many months. Meanwhile, Captain Stirling, went up the river deciding how to allocate the land.
Mrs Hardey: How long is it going to take to sort this out. I don’t know how much longer I can stand these dreadful flies, fleas and mosquitoes. We don’t have these beastly creatures back home in England!! And no one told us how stinking hot it can be!! Joseph, I want a home of my own.

Narrator: Eventually, the Hardeys were granted land here, on this very site. There were no convicts in this settlement yet, so everyone had to work very hard. They had to grow their own food, make their own clothes and wait many months to hear from home.

After many years of struggling, the colony and the Hardey’s, began to thrive as they got used to the climate and the environment.

Joseph: Times were tough!! It was hard for all of us!! If it wasn’t for pioneers like me, Western Australia would not be the wonderful place it is today.

Narrator: It’s been many, many years since Joseph Hardey lived here. If you think about this house and your house, you will see just how much has changed since the early days.

Everything today, is based on ideas from yesterday.