



# MUNDARING & HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. (MHHS)

Strategic Plan 2025 - 2030

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## WHO WE ARE

The Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc (the Society) is the Shire of Mundaring's (the Shire) expert body on matters concerning cultural and historical significance. It is a non-profit organisation dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting the history of the Shire.

Since its inception in 1989, the Society has been supported by a team of volunteers who research historical topics and maintain the Society's collections. The Society has two part-time staff funded by the Shire of Mundaring. The Society plays a crucial role in promoting historical awareness and understanding by providing a platform for research, education, and public engagement.

With offices located in the Old Station Master's House in Mundaring, the Society maintains an extensive library that contains a diverse range of research materials, as well as a collection of photographs, objects, books, and artefacts from the area.

The Society manages the Mundaring District Museum, located in the Old Mundaring School House, on Great Eastern Highway, which opened in 1997. The Museum houses a permanent display about people, places, and events of historical interest to the Shire.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- Be the leader in the conservation and preservation of history in the Shire.
- Be recognised by the community and key stakeholders as the leader, expert, and partner of choice in all matters regarding the history of the Shire.
- To collaborate with local schools, libraries, and community centres to offer educational programs and promote historical literacy.

## OUR CORE FUNCTIONS

- Promote and assist the Shire in identifying and conserving local heritage places.
- Preserve, document, interpret, and provide access to the history and culture of the Shire.
- Acquire and maintain historical materials like documents, photographs, artifacts, objects and audio recordings to serve as a vital resource for the Shire, researchers, and the general public.
- Encourage public interest in, and understanding of, the Shire's unique cultural history, which will enable the preservation of its heritage and places.

- Organise museum exhibitions to engage the community and educate them about the Shire's history.

## OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- This plan has been developed to provide guidance and a clear vision for the Society that reflects the needs, restraints, and ambitions over the next five years. To succeed, we need to work closely with our community members and stakeholders as partners, collaborators, and visitors.
- History and Cultural heritage are integral to our lives and are uniquely placed to bring together communities and shape sustainable places for present and future generations.
- Our history and heritage are rich and diverse, and consist of places such as buildings, monuments, gardens, cemeteries, cultural landscapes, and archaeological sites, providing physical links between our past, present, and future.
- Our desire is to lead in the identification, conservation, and protection of our history and cultural heritage, inspiring others to do the same and acknowledge and celebrate them as a source of identity and enrichment, promoting their contribution as a sustainable and dynamic part of our future.
- We encourage participation by empowering more people to foster greater understanding of their history and heritage, revealing and sharing the stories of each place, and protecting the Shire they care about.
- This strategy will be our guide for the future as we work proactively together to make our history and cultural heritage resilient to change, accessible, understood, and valued by everyone.

## OUR PURPOSE, VISION AND VALUES

**PURPOSE:** The Society provides leadership in the conservation and care of local history and cultural heritage places in the Shire for the benefit of current and future generations.

**VISION:** To be the driving force in the Shire, ensuring that history and places of cultural heritage are recognised and their associated stories are preserved.

## VALUES:

- Good Governance: The Society adopts best practices in its organisation, and the Committee works to uphold the Society's purpose, vision, and goals.
- Professionalism: The Society is proficient, competent, and reliable in everything that it does, valuing excellence and acting with respect and integrity at all times.
- Accountability: The Society practices fair and ethical decision-making, explaining things properly, and taking responsibility for its decisions and actions.
- Innovation: The Society will develop new ideas and strategies to ensure the history of the Shire is maintained, documented, and accessible.
- Collaboration: The Society works together with our stakeholders to promote good history outcomes and the retention and conservation of important heritage sites..
- Respect: The Society is committed to what it does and aims to deliver positive outcomes for all our stakeholders.

## OUR GOALS

### OVERARCHING GOALS: We aspire to have:

- the diversity of our Shire's history and cultural heritage places identified and conserved through proactive involvement, and the sharing of stories and knowledge;
- the public engaged with our shared history and heritage, understanding that the contribution will make a more sustainable future;
- the Society work effectively and efficiently with a range of stakeholders in the recognition and conservation of our history and cultural heritage places for the benefit of current and future generations;
- the Society foster transparent and integrated processes that promote responsibility and accountability to protect, sustain, and enhance the Shire's history and cultural heritage; and
- increased engagement with Aboriginal peoples and organisations to develop trust and transparency to build respectful relationships that will lead to information sharing.

### SPECIFIC GOALS

- 1 **GOAL** - Adopt best practices to the development and storage of our community history collections and ensure they are accessible to the community.

**STRATEGY** - Manage, document, preserve, and share the MHHS museum and community history collections to a high standard.

### **Actions**

- Commence accessioning backlog of the photograph and object collections.
- Ensure all collection procedures and documentation are current.
- Create Museum exhibitions and displays that celebrate the history and heritage of the Shire of Mundaring, and that showcase the MHHS collections.
- Address any identified gaps in the collection through active and dedicated collecting.
- Purchase appropriate archival materials to ensure Australian Standards are followed for collection storage.
- Tailor programs and displays to promote localities (regions) in the Shire that will create a greater interest among visitors to the museum.

**2. GOAL** - Work collaboratively with the community and other organisations to build public awareness of the unique history and heritage of the Shire of Mundaring.

**STRATEGY** - Implement projects and programs that provide opportunities for engagement with the community and other organisations.

### **Actions**

- Research and visit sites of historical and heritage significance collecting stories and photographs.
- Develop the Forestry Heritage Trails in collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and community members.
- Continue to share information via local publications, i.e. Chidlow Chatter, Echo newspaper, Darlington Review and the Society's newsletter.
- Explore collaborative opportunities with local libraries and the Mundaring Arts Centre.
- Develop a diary of significant milestone celebrations of heritage buildings and community groups.
- Offer our services to the Shire of Mundaring to assist with storing and documenting their photograph collection, i.e. heritage strategy and special events photographs.
- Plan a special project/event/publication for the WA bicentenary celebrations in 2029.

**3. GOAL** - Continue to embrace technology as a platform to promote and share the history and heritage of the Shire of Mundaring.

**STRATEGY** - Utilise the MHHS website and social media to keep our members and the community updated with our current projects, discoveries, available research resources and stories.

### **Actions**

- Continue to develop our two Facebook sites; Mundaring & Hills Historical Society and Lost Mundaring Stories.
- Ensure the MHHS website is updated with current information.
- Promote the MHHS digital and hardcopy research resources.
- Ensure the MOSAiC database is updated with the latest versions as they become available.
- Seek grants to update MHHS computer equipment.

## **STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR 2025 - 2030**

- Approach local community and sporting groups regarding collecting their history and artefacts.
- Digitise the Society's collection so it is more available to a wider audience through the Society's website and Collections WA.
- Complete a full audit of the Society's archival collection, identifying the location of items and shortfalls in documentation of items.
- Lobby the Shire to establish protocols for the protection of heritage sites within the Shire.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to protect heritage sites.
- Explore opportunities to partner with Aboriginal groups to identify opportunities around recognition, conservation, and promoting places and stories of Aboriginal history in the Shire.
- Attend select community events that promote the Shire's history and heritage.
- Participate in Shire Stakeholder Working Groups to ensure the Society has adequate space and facilities in the proposed Mundaring Cultural Hub.
- Secure funding for Society-supported projects, including the Mundaring Forestry Memorial Trail, the history of the Chidlow Tavern, and republishing Shire history books.
- Engage with schools to encourage collaborative partnerships that will enable Shire's cultural heritage and history knowledge with students.

## **LONG TERM GOALS**

- Protect the Shire's distinctive 'village' settlement and physical environments, which instil a sense of community ownership.
- Increase the Society's membership.
- Develop a greater understanding of the Aboriginal history of the Shire.
- Broaden the audience that the Society serves and represents through more meaningful engagement with the community.

## **Glossary**

MHHS – Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc.

MOSAIC – The collection management system of the Mundaring & Hills Historical Society.

## **Bibliography**

Creative WA: a 10 year vision to grow and sustain our creative ecosystem

Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections

National Standards for Australian Museums

Our Plan for the future – Shire of Mundaring Council Plan 2024-2034

## **Acknowledgements**

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