

# Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc

## Newsletter WINTER 2024

### ***RETURN TO SENDER***

**M**undaring District Museum's next exhibition is titled 'Return to Sender'. It will open on Friday 12 July 2024. It will explore the history of the post offices in the Shire of Mundaring. Post Offices have played an important role in the social and economic development of our localities and continue to do so today. Methods of communication such as the handwritten letter, telegrams and later telephone, were vital in the early development of communities. Hence, the establishment of a post office was a priority.



The exhibition will showcase photographs of the post office buildings through the decades, as well as some of the stories connected to the people who operated them. On display will be telephones, handwritten letters and various memorabilia celebrating past and present services provided by the post office.

It is hoped that through this exhibition new historical information, photographs and stories will be discovered. These do not have to be decades old as current information is tomorrow's history. We continue to develop our collection and invite the community to assist us with documenting our history.

### ***COMPETITION- FIND THE MAIL TRUCK***

**T**here will be a competition for visitors to locate the five replica mail trucks which will be located somewhere in the museum. Each month the first winning entry pulled out of the exhibition letterbox will be awarded a small prize.

The exhibition will be open from 12 July 2024 until 28 February 2025.



Glen Forrest Post Office



Mundaring Weir Post Office

We have been lucky enough to have acquired some loan items including a leather mail bag, telegraph pouch and postal scales, but we are still seeking items or information that relate to the postal service in Mundaring. Please contact our Curator Tracy at Mundaring and Hills Historical Society if you have any items of interest.

PH: 9295 0540

E: [curator@mundaringhistory.org](mailto:curator@mundaringhistory.org)

### ***FEES NOW DUE!***

*Just a reminder that membership fees are now due. We thank all our members for supporting the history of your Shire. As a not for profit organisation, we rely on our members ongoing commitment to paying their fees. The Mundaring Shire allocate quarterly funding to the Society which allows us to keep 2 part time employees, but it doesn't go far enough to fund extra projects and exhibition expenses. So a big thank you for your continued support.*

**We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are on, the Whadjuk and Ballardong Noongar people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this region.**

## ***THE STORY OF RUEBEN BEACHAM AT CHIPPERS LEAP***

**C**hipper's Leap is a granite outcrop on Greenmount Hill located on the northern side of Great Eastern Highway, about 200 metres west of the intersection of Old York Rd and Great Eastern Highway.

Chippers Leap is named for John Chipper, a carpenter, who jumped from the rock on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1832 while trying to escape an attack by a party of local Aboriginals. The reason for the attack has never been disclosed. Chipper and a 14-year-old boy named Reuben Beacham had been driving a cart from Guildford to York along the York Road (now the Old York Road) when they were attacked. Beacham was killed and Chipper was speared but managed to escape, jumping from the rock and eventually reaching Governor Stirling's house at Woodbridge. Once Chipper made it to Woodbridge House, the following day a large group of men were assembled to return to Greenmount Hill to retrieve Beacham's body and seek revenge on the Aboriginal tribe. Twelve members of a Noongar tribe were later caught and hung as punishment for the attack.

In the early 1930s the Main Roads Board planned a realignment of the York Road that ultimately resulted in the construction of the present Great Eastern Highway. The original plans had the road passing through Chippers Leap. After representations by the Western Australian Historical Society, the plans were changed to allow the road which was then only one lane each way, to pass close by the rock. There was a wooden sign below the plaque designating it as a historic site. When the highway was increased to four lanes in the early 1970s, it was not safe to view the plaque due to traffic volume. Today, the rock is heritage listed with the State Heritage Office of WA and can be found on the left of Great Eastern Highway heading east between either end of Old York Road. Traffic volumes are very high today, so I don't encourage anyone to park their car on the side of the road to go and have a look.

Recently Reuben Beacham's family commissioned a new plaque which was unveiled on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024. The plaque correctly states that Rueben's age was 11 years old at the time of his death. The new plaque is situated behind Chippers Leap at the eastern end of Old York Rd.



Original Plaque at Chippers Leap



View from Great Eastern Hwy Greenmount



New Plaque supplied by the Beacham Family



The unveiling of the new plaque close to Chippers Leap

## *Trekking through the Mundaring Bush and Surrounds Shire of Mundaring—Local Heritage Survey*

Jeff Murray a member of the Mundaring & Hills Historical Society (MHHS) executive committee has been busy in the role of Chairman for the Shire of Mundaring’s Local Heritage Survey Group. The role of this group is to assist the Shire with updating their *Local Heritage Survey* by visiting various heritage sites within the Shire and taking current photographs and collecting updated information. Assisting Jeff with his allocated site visits has been fellow MHHS executive committee member Rob Borsje, and MHHS museum curator Tracy Willet.

Going out into the community and visiting these sites has been a valuable opportunity to document the stories connected with these properties. It has also illustrated the interest and passion our local community have for their heritage buildings and sites along with their histories. We thank them for their time and their warm welcome. The previous Heritage Survey known as the Municipal Inventory, has not been fully updated since its inception in 1995.



Greenmount Liquor Store  
(Since demolished)

We look forward to the latest published document. Some of the sites searched for and visited include coach houses, wells, bridges, private homes, shops, churches, railway stations, and many more. For further information please contact MHHS

PH: 9295 0540 E: [mhhs@mundaringhistory.org](mailto:mhhs@mundaringhistory.org)



Greenmount School  
(Now Marloo Theatre)

## *Mundaring Rates Books*

Executive Member, Rob Borsje has been working diligently in the Shire offices, photographing the rates books from the 1920s to 1965/6. These books are quite large (larger than A2) and each one averages half an hour to photograph.



Light Stand setup

Some time ago, the Society purchased a light stand which when attached to a camera and laptop, makes photographing outsized precious documents easier and standardised. After 1965, the rates books are held on microfiche, which were unavailable to copy. This exercise is beneficial to the Society, Shire and community members who wish to find information about property ownership in the Shire. Some of the books are in a fragile condition and handling them is not advised. So now the information is available on our website, we can ensure the integrity of the original books. There is a knack to reading the books, so to gain access to the information that they contain, refer to the information “How to read Rate Books” on our website: [www.mundaringhistory.org](http://www.mundaringhistory.org).



Rate books

Please don't hesitate to contact the Society for instructions.

## *Noongar Seasons*



**Makuru** Winter June-July Season of fertility

Coldest and wettest season of the year. More frequent gales and storms

**Djilba** First spring August-September Season of conception

Mixture of wet days with increasing number of clear, cold nights and

# Upcoming Events 2024

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday 17th August 2pm	Annual General Meeting	Boya Community Centre 135 Scott St Boya
Saturday 17th August 2.30pm	General Meeting	Boya Community Centre 135 Scott St Boya
Saturday 17th August 2.45pm	Guest Speaker To Be Announced	Boya Community Centre 135 Scott St Boya
Saturday 16th November 2.00pm	General Meeting	Boya Community Centre 135 Scott St Boya

## WHERE DID YOUR LOCAL STREETS GET THEIR NAMES?

**H**artung Street runs west to east between Gill and Helena Sts in Mundaring. At the western end it divides the shopping centres and businesses from the houses, and at the eastern end gives access to Harry Riseborough Oval.

In 1898, when Mundaring was established as a townsite, Harry Hartung surveyed 93 house lots north of the railway line bounded by Gill, Hartung, Fenton and Jacoby Streets. These were required for the growing number of workers associated with the building of the Goldfields Water Scheme. He also made the suggestion that the locality be named Mundaring.

Prior to his death in 1927 Harry had returned to his home state of Victoria. Further research revealed that his only son, Ernest, was killed in action in France in August 1918 aged 24.



**MUNDARING & HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**  
(ABN 25 028 478 748)

(08) 9295 0540 | [mhhs@mundaringhistory.org](mailto:mhhs@mundaringhistory.org) |  
[www.mundaringhistory.org](http://www.mundaringhistory.org)

**For details on fee structure  
See the information below**



### MUNDARING STATIONMASTER'S HOUSE

3060 Jacoby Street, Mundaring  
(PO Box 334, Mundaring WA 6073)  
MONDAY AND FRIDAY: 9.30 - 4pm  
WEDNESDAY: 9.30 - 1.30pm  
E: [mhhs@mundaringhistory.org](mailto:mhhs@mundaringhistory.org)  
Ph: 9295 0540

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Senior/pensioner: \$15 (Couple \$20)  
Single: \$25 (Couple \$30)  
Company/Institution: \$35  
Account: Mundaring & Hills Historical Society  
BSB 633-000 Acc No 122609431  
*Please quote your surname reference*

### MUNDARING DISTRICT MUSEUM

7225 GT Eastern Highway Mundaring  
(Inside the Visitor Centre)  
MONDAY - SATURDAY: 9.30am - 4pm  
SUNDAY: 10am—2.30pm