

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc

Newsletter

SUMMER 2022/2023



Merry Christmas Everyone

We wish a merry Christmas and a safe New Year to all our members and readers

Another year is nearly over and it doesn't seem like 12 months ago since we were saying merry Christmas for the 2021 year. With all that has happened in the world over the last year, we should be grateful that we live in Australia, particularly Western Australia considering the floods experienced in the Eastern States.

We at Mundaring and Hills Historical Society are very lucky to be entrusted to care for the history of the Shire of Mundaring. We are always learning new and interesting historical information pertaining to the Shire and it is a pleasure to share the information with members, friends and researchers.

The restrictions and lock-downs are now a faint memory as we have packed away the contact registers and face masks at least for now but with continuing COVID cases, we still live with the threat of the re-instatement of these safety measures.

This year we have had two exhibitions in the Mundaring District Museum. An unusual exhibition “*The Three Well Known Australians*”, “*Re-Made in Mundaring*” and we are preparing for our third, “*What the Frock*”, open to the public on the 15th December.

In May staff and volunteers attended the historic re-enactment at the Parkerville Tavern of the Alice Ottey story. The historic information and some of the props were supplied by MHHS. A very enjoyable evening. The Parkerville Hall turned 100 years old on the 1st October and MHHS along with the Stoneville Parkerville Progress Association and others, put on a fabulous celebration with nearly 300 people attending to share memories and catch up with old friends.

The Church of the Epiphany held its annual fete in November which we attended providing the public with our historical information.

General Meetings were held with interesting Guest Speakers—Jeff Murray talking on the unearthing of the aboriginal history in the Shire, Bob Shephard launching his booklet on the Chidlow Army Camps and our Curator Dr Jan Baldwin talking on Spiritualism: A Glimpse into Other Worlds.

Birak or first summer runs from December to January. It is a hot and dry time of year. During this time the Noongar people, with their unique knowledge and understanding burn the land in mosaic patterns. This is sometimes called ‘fire stick farming’. It promotes regeneration, reduces scrub to prevent bushfires, improves the land for native animals and plants and makes it easier to move around the country.



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.

From the Curator's Desk

What the Frock!

MHHS will present a new exhibition which will open to the public on 15 December 2022 and run until November 2023. It will be opened by Kate Bird, colour and fashion professional.

This exciting exhibition explores garments worn to celebrate and protect the move of an individual from one social category to another. This is known as a rite of passage. Often there is a ceremony or rituals connected to a rite of passage to mark the event.

Here you will see dresses, garments and accessories worn at weddings, funerals, burials, balls, christenings, and other celebrations.

We also have a display of tiny dresses from *Angel Gowns*, which are made for still born babies and premature deaths. So too, a display of tattoo instruments and inks supplied by *The Celtic Circle Tattoo Company*, of Kalamunda.

Something for everyone; we look forward to seeing you all at the Museum soon!



Words from the President

Over the last month I have attended the following events:

The Church of the Epiphany In Mundaring's Community Fair. Our Curator Jan, created a display about the different Churches and Graveyards in the Shire. It tends to be very windy on the day of the fair and this year was no exception. Although the position of our display was on more even ground than past years, it was not the best spot to enable people to read the information. We were given two artefacts found recently by a local metal detectorist which created some interest. 2 Crucifixes were found with a cache of other items in the bush not far from the Mundaring Cemetery. We put out a call to see if they were linked to graves belonging to local loved ones. To date no-one has come forward to claim them.

I attended the Cultural Advisory Group which meets quarterly. This group brings together community groups in the Shire to discuss the new Signage and Heritage Strategies as well as other local issues Shire is involved with.

I also attended a meeting with other members of the Executive Committee and the Shire Senior Planning Officer about the ongoing Town Centre re-vitalization plan. We met with Shire Officer Kirk Kitchin about new heritage information boards being created for an up-graded shelter at Lake Leschenaultia.

The last event I attended was a Volunteers Recognition night on Monday 5th December. MHHS nominated valued long time volunteer Mary Richmond for her tireless work with us.

The evening was attended by many volunteers from the Shire and their families. It was very impressive with the amount of recommendations among the Volunteer groups operating in the Shire from Fire Fighting, actives for Seniors, Bushfire Recovery Groups and a diverse number of sporting Groups.

I thought during the evening that the Society could endeavor to contact a number of these groups to record their history for their records and our archive.

New Signs at Morgan John Morgan Reserve in Glen Forrest

Staff and volunteers from the Society have been working diligently with the Shire to place heritage signage in Morgan John Morgan Reserve, Glen Forrest. Eight new signs have been erected in this Reserve by the Shire of Mundaring. Using historical information supplied by the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society they tell of the early beginnings of a little town once called 'Smith's Mill', and its growth into the town we now know as Glen Forrest.

A timber station was built in Glen Forrest when the Eastern Railway came through in 1884. It was located directly opposite the shops on Railway Parade. The initial building was inadequate to cope with the rapidly growing needs of the community and around 1910 more buildings were added: a Goods Shed, Waiting Room, Parcel Office, and seats for passengers to use while waiting.

For Glen Forrest residents, the station and the railway provided access to work, school, goods, and entertainment. The shared experience of catching the train also provided a sense of community and encouraged social cohesion.

After the railway closed in 1954 the station buildings remained for some years. The Boy Scouts used the Goods Shed for their weekly meetings and the Girl Guides used the Parcel Shed and Ticket Office for theirs. They had marching practice along the platform. By 1960 the railway buildings had been removed and the lines taken up.



The entrance to Glen Forrest Railway Station, 1950. Image Courtesy Islay Kelly.

Shire of Mundaring acknowledges outstanding local Volunteers

Congratulations Mary Richmond!



Some months ago the Shire informed local community groups that they were looking to acknowledge outstanding members of the community. MHHS felt that Mary Richmond deserved this award in many ways. Mary has not only worked tirelessly for the Society, she has been organising weekly walks with the 'Happy Wanderers' walking group for over 20 years. This included a printed calendar of walks for the upcoming year and an end of year lunch. Mary was invaluable during the Trek the Trail events, pinpointing where the native bushes and plants could be seen to their best advantage on the day.

Upcoming Events 2023

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
14th December 2022 4pm to 6pm	Opening of new exhibition 'What the Frock'	Mundaring District Museum 7225 Great Eastern Hwy MUNDARING
29th January 2023 4pm	Executive Planning Meeting	Mundaring Stationmasters House 3060 Jacoby St MUNDARING
18th March 2023 2pm	General Meeting	Boya Community Hall Cnr Coulston and Scott Sts Boya
18th March 2023 2.45pm	Guest Speaker Bill Cutler 'Growing up at the Weir'	Boya Community Hall Cnr Coulston and Scott Sts Boya

WHERE DID YOUR LOCAL STREETS GET THEIR NAMES?



Glen Road begins where the Darlington Railway station once stood at the junction with Darlington Road. It runs south and westward to join Victor Road which runs west to Clayton Road in Boya.

Henry Victor was a civil engineer and surveyor who in the 1870s surveyed land in the Darlington area. In 1889 Henry, with son William, purchased a sizable block of prime land the banks of Nyaania Creek where they established a mixed orchard named 'The Glen'. They were just the second settlers in Darlington. Fittingly the roads which meet at the corner of their property were named to remember their place in the history of Darlington. William Victor was also the Town Clerk of the Perth Town Council from 1881 to 1897. Henry Victor was the architect for the octagonal Glen Forrest Hall, built in 1897.



MUNDARING STATION MASTER'S HOUSE
3060 Jacoby Street, Mundaring
(PO Box 334, Mundaring WA 6073)
MONDAY AND FRIDAY: 9.30am - 4pm
WEDNESDAY: 9.30am - 1.30pm

PLEASE NOTE
Office will be closed from:
17th December 2022
To
16th January 2023



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