

From the Curator's Desk

The world has certainly changed since our last newsletter. Three months ago, the MHHS was planning a variety of events including our second Open House at the Blue Sky Festival, a new museum exhibition, and a guided walk as part of the National Trust's Heritage Festival. With the cancellation of so many activities due to COVID-19, the staff and volunteers at the Station Master's House have had to find new ways of engaging with the community. However, if truth be told, the shut-down has also had a positive aspect. It has provided a chance to check the Museum Collection, and to accession some of our donations onto MOSAIC, our collections database.



Donations. The community-wide shutdown has encouraged some of our members, and others, to look through photo albums and pass onto the MHHS photographs and documents pertinent to the history of the area. Max Williams, MHHS member and former CEO of the Shire of Mundaring, has very generously donated photographs taken at some of the many work-related events he attended.

One such event was a 'wake' to mark the demise (i.e. demolition) of the old shire offices. This photograph from November 1982 shows the cavalcade led by 'Pastor' John

Herrington travelling west down Great Eastern Highway, towards the old buildings, where Shire employees gathered for a fitting farewell. And for those interested in the car, the 'hearse' was a 1968 Valiant VE Station Wagon, owned and driven by Mike O'Doherty.

Social media has been one of the ways the MHHS has maintained contact with the community during the current health crisis. Media platforms such as Facebook have proved essential in telling local stories to a large audience. Consequently, the MHHS has recently posted stories on the Spanish Flu, Albert Facey, Mundaring's Volunteer Air Observer Corps, the donation of a 1933 poster advertising a Mt Helena subdivision, and the life of Irene Dunne (also Dunn), matron at Wooroloo's Sanatorium for many years. (see photo right)

The story of Irene Dunne (c. 1875-1950) is especially pertinent, with the role of medical staff very much highlighted, and appreciated, in this current pandemic. Born in the UK, Irene trained as a nurse at the Manchester Infirmary before arriving in WA sometime in the early 1900s.

Following a series of nursing jobs, including at Northam Hospital, Irene decided to travel at her own expense to England in December 1914. She worked as a nurse at various Red Cross and Auxiliary hospitals, tending to injured WW1 servicemen. Her return to WA in 1917 was interrupted when the ship she was travelling on, the SS Port Adelaide, was torpedoed by a German submarine.



By September 1920, Irene was acting matron of the Wooroloo Sanatorium, a position that was later made permanent. She stayed at the Sanatorium for the next 20 years, providing medical care and comfort to not only patients infected with highly contagious Tuberculosis, but also to patients at the nearby Leprosarium.

Matron Dunn had a significant role caring for the sick in the WA community. On her retirement she continued her association with the Mundaring area, living on Old York Road in Greenmount. The MHHS thanks Geraldine Rees for generously donating items belonging to Irene Dunn.

SNAPPED: Shire of Mundaring's Historic Photo Competition

As part of the MHHS's efforts to engage the community in the area's fascinating history, we are collaborating with Shire of Mundaring Libraries on a historical photograph competition; SNAPPED. With a focus on unpublished photographs from before the year 2000, the competition encourages people to submit online their photographs of people and/or places and/or events connected to the Shire of Mundaring.

The competition runs from the 8 June until the 3 July. There are 2 categories into which all photographs submitted are automatically entered. The Open Award will be judged by one representative from the MHHS and one representative from the Shire of Mundaring (and we're not telling you who!). There will also be a People's Choice Award, judged by a public poll on the Shire of Mundaring Libraries' Facebook page. This poll opens on the 10 July and closes on the 17 July. The winner in each category receives \$100.

We hope this competition provides an opportunity for people to share their photographs and in doing so enrich the collected history of the region. All entries will be added to the MHHS's Local History Collection and to the Shire of Mundaring's Digitised Images Collection. Don't worry though, copyright ownership will be retained by the original photographer.

While MHHS staff and members of the MHHS Executive are allowed to enter the competition, they are **not** eligible for a prize. Members and friends of the MHHS, however, are encouraged to rummage through their photo albums and participate in, and possibly win(!), this inaugural competition.

What are we looking for? Well, we're not interested in artistic merit. Instead, the historical reality shown in the photo is most important. Each photograph submitted must be accompanied by a short description (max. of 200 words) of the people/places/events depicted and their relationship to the Shire of Mundaring. The year or decade the photo was taken is also required. This information provides a context for the image.

If you have a photograph you would like to enter into the competition, but don't have access to a scanner or a computer please contact Trish or Helen at the MHHS office for assistance. You can phone us on 9295 0540 or email on trish@mhhs.org.au.

More information about SNAPPED will be available from the 8 June at <https://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au/YourCommunity/ShireLibraries>. Also check the MHHS's Facebook page for details, <https://www.facebook.com/MundaringAndHillsHistoricalSocietyInc/> .

SNAPPED:

Shire of Mundaring's Historic Photo Competition

Submissions open 8 June & close 3 July 2020



Mt Helena Volunteer Fire Brigade's 'New Truck'



As mentioned on the front page, Max Williams recently donated a number of photographs, some of which included images of a large firefighting truck as well as some older trucks. This new white truck, which has Mt Helena 3 /4 painted in red on its sides, was delivered to the brigade on 8th August 1997. The delivery of a new truck is always an exciting event, but in this instance, there was a slight difference from previous events—the truck was white. Previously all of the Shire's fire trucks

had been yellow. As it had long been thought that yellow was the best colour for visibility on a fire ground, with lots billowing smoke. However, these trucks were delivered coloured white and the Shire then had to pay for them to be painted yellow. This time when the new Mt Helena truck was delivered, the Shire had decided that the money used for painting the truck yellow, could be better spent on other firefighting equipment. Thus, over time, the various brigades soon had white trucks.

So, what does the 3 /4 mean I hear you all asking? Well the “3” means that the truck can carry 3 tonnes (or 3,000 litres) of water and the “4” means that it is a four wheel drive. The truck is also set up to operate in structural fires. There are two brigades in the Shire that are capable of fighting a structural fire (or car fires), Mt Helena and Parkerville. This means fire fighters in these brigades receive additional training to fight structural fires as well as bushfires. So the trucks carry, in one of their lockers, air cylinders and face masks for use in these types of fires.

The old Mt Helena truck did not go to waste. Instead, it was repainted and donated to the Chidlow Volunteer Bushfire Brigade.



CALL FOR LOCAL PHONE AND STREET DIRECTORIES



Are you a hoarder? Do you find it hard to get rid of items that you just might need to use one day? We at the Historical Society can help with your dilemma. In an ideal world, if discarding these pre-loved directories, they would be recycled, however we all know that this is not necessarily what happens. So if you have cleared out a shed or cupboards recently and found any **PRE-2000 PHONE BOOKS or STREET DIRECTORIES** the MHHS would be happy to consider them for inclusion in our Library to expand its small collection of early directories. A fascinating amount of information can be gleaned from these directories.

The National Library holds digital records of Postal Directories from 1893 to 1949 which are very useful historical research tools.

<https://slwa.wa.gov.au/explore-discover/wa-heritage/post-office-directories/1900>

UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Wednesday 27 May 2020 4 pm	Executive Meeting	Mundaring Stationmaster's House 3060 Jacoby St Mundaring
Monday 8 June 2020 8am	Submissions for 'SNAPPED': Shire of Mundaring's Historic Photo Competition open	Online submissions at https://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au/YourCommunity/ShireLibraries Check Terms and Conditions before submission at the same address.
Saturday 20 June 2020 2 pm	General Meeting Guest Speaker—Diana Frylinck “Hidden Figures” The women supporting the pipeline workers	Mundaring District Museum 7225 Great Eastern Hwy Mundaring
Friday 24 July 2020 11.59pm	Submissions for 'SNAPPED': Shire of Mundaring's Historic Photo Competition close	Online submissions at https://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au/YourCommunity/ShireLibraries Check Terms and Conditions before submission at the same address.
Saturday 15 August 2020 2pm	Annual General Meeting	Mundaring Lesser Hall 3025 Jacoby St Mundaring
Saturday 15 August 2020 2.30 pm	General Meeting History Slam	Mundaring Lesser Hall In conjunction with Darlington History Group, Swan Guildford Historical Society and Midland and Districts Historical Society
Saturday 21 November 2020 2 pm	General Meeting	Venue—To Be Announced



STREET NAMES PEARTREE LANE—PARKERVILLE

Peartree Lane was originally mapped in both Stoneville and Parkerville, however since a boundary re-alignment, is now only in Parkerville. So named as it is positioned on land previously used for apple and pear orchards belonging to the Brindle family. Large pear trees still line one side of the lane. The property was originally called Anchor Orchard, operating from 1928 to 1986.



MUNDARING STATIONMASTER'S HOUSE OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY AND FRIDAY
9.30am TO 4pm
WEDNESDAY
9.30am TO 1.30pm

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