

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc

Newsletter Summer 2021

Seasons Greetings

In last year's Summer Newsletter, we wished our readers a less 'interesting' year. Clearly 2021 has not delivered this wish. In fact, the main topic of conversation still seems to be 'Covid' and 'pandemic'. We are still taking an avid interest in cases, clusters, lockdowns, border closures, and vaccination rates.

Last Christmas we were unsure whether we would be able to gather with interstate family and friends to celebrate. Family not currently in Australia were unable

to return to their loved ones. This year, while Australians who have been stuck overseas are slowly being repatriated home, many who were hoping to spend Christmas 2021 with family interstate are still thwarted by our closed borders .

Despite the problems posed by the pandemic, we wish you a safe and enjoyable festive season, and we look forward to 2022—whatever it may bring!



Religious Belief in Australia 1911 to 2016

As we enter the Festive Season, we celebrate the diverse array of religions that make up our multi-cultural community. Comparing religious beliefs in the 1911 census with those of 2016 reveals a shift in religious affiliation over the last century. In 1911, 96% of Australians identified as Christian, with the remaining 4% identifying as 'Hebrew, Confucian, Mohammedan, Buddhist', or as having no religion. Interestingly in 1911, a very small number of respondents identified as Pagan.

By the 2016 Census, 52.1% of Australians identified as Christian, with Catholicism (22.6%) and the Anglican Church (13.3%) the two largest denominations. Of the remaining 47.9%, 2.6% identified as following Islam, 2.4% as Buddhist, and 1.9% as Hindu. The fastest growing religious affiliation in Australia was 'no religion', with 30.1% in this category.

Effect of Changing Beliefs in Mundaring

A decreasing number of Australians identifying as Christian is reinforced by the number of Shire of Mundaring churches that have closed in the past 40 years. In the late 1950s, the Anglican Church—known at that time as the Church of England—had **eleven** churches in the two dioceses that are part of the Shire. In 2021, **three** of these Churches are still operating as Anglican Churches: Church of the Epiphany, Mundaring; St Francis' Church, Wooroloo; and St Cuthbert's Church, Darlington. These photos show two of the Anglican

Churches that have been deconsecrated since the 1980s. While one is now a private residence, the other has been demolished.



Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Sawyers Valley, was consecrated c. 1941. It was close to what is now Stockfeed West on Great Eastern Highway. The Church was demolished in the early 1980s.



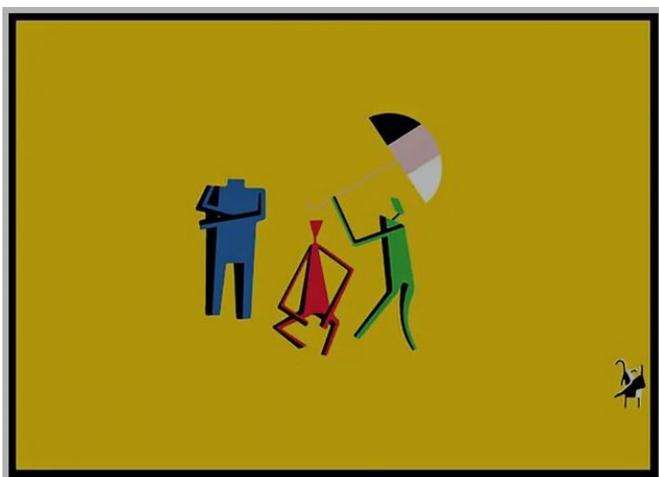
All Hallows Anglican Church, Chidlow, was consecrated on 8 July 1956. Services were no longer held there after 1993, although the Chidlow Community Church used the building for some years. In 2003 the building was sold and became part of an artist's studio.

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

Next Exhibition

The current museum exhibition, 'Open All Hours', closes on 3 March 2022. It will be followed by an exhibition that has been touring Australia for over 30 years. The Mundaring District Museum hosts 'Three Well-Known Australians' for a 6-week period starting in mid-March. For more information on this project see <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2019/mar/13/three-well-known-australians-martin-shaw-touring-painting>.



Farewell

After nearly 6 years as the MHHS's curator, I am stepping down from the position at the end of 2021. I would like to thank the MHHS for the opportunity to immerse myself in the fascinating history of this area. I had to learn many new skills in my role as the Museum's curator - not the least being how to use calico, hessian, and Velcro to create an exhibition. The MHHS's volunteers and committee members have provided me with wonderful assistance over the years— my job would have been much more difficult without their support. I wish the MHHS all the best in the coming years as they work to ensure the history and heritage of the area is preserved.



MHHS President, Jenny Johnson, presenting Helen Brash with gifts in appreciation of her time at the MHHS. Helen gave a talk at the final General Meeting for 2021, on the Salem Witch Craft Trials of 1692.

President's Report

I have been attending meetings with other community groups and Shire officers to raise our profile in the community. Along with these meetings, however, I was recently invited to the dress rehearsal of 'Through the Eyes of Alice', at the Parkerville Tavern. This very enjoyable one woman show followed the life of Alice Ottey, the first owner of the Railway Hotel, as the 'Parky' was originally known.

The Church of the Epiphany fete on the 6 November was well attended and many visitors enjoyed the MHHS's 'Guess The Church' display.

The saga regarding the replacement bridge over Jane Brook in John Forrest National Park rolls on. DHRRA met with officers from DBCA to try and resolve the issue but were unsuccessful in changing their determination not to replace the bridge. Donna Faragher has been raising questions in Parliament re. this matter but so far no contact has been received

from DBCA. Donna is assisting us to prepare a petition asking for the replacement of the bridge, highlighting the historical, environmental, and safety implications associated with its non replacement. Before releasing the petition for signing, it will be forwarded to the MHHS committee for approval.

We now have new banners in place to advertise our events; one at the Museum for exhibitions, and the other at the SMH for meetings and Guest Speakers.

Helen was due to finish with us on 17 December. However due to our database catastrophe, she is going to work during our Christmas shutdown. She has been an amazing Curator who has been inspiring with her energy and creativity. It has been a wonderful 6 years.

Thank you all for your support and understanding during 2021.

Enjoy Christmas and New Year with family and friends, take care and I look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Vale Valma Martin (1935-2021)

Val, who died on November 12, was a dedicated and long serving volunteer at the MHHS. She joined the Society in 1989 as a founding member and continued volunteering with us until 2017.

Val, along with Mary Anthony, spent many years keeping the Research Files and Library in order. The Research Room was known as Val & Mary's Room. Prior to that Val had been Honourary Secretary (1991-1995), and the Tuesday Attendant in the early days of the Museum when it opened in 1997. Val was made a Life Member of the MHHS in 2007.

Val wrote many articles about local history, mainly of Greenmount and Swan View where she lived and where her grandfather settled in 1897. The long family connections with that area, and her father's employment with the Railways, gave her valuable knowledge to record for our files and for future researchers.

One of the tributes to Val in the *West Australian* was from Midland-Guildford Cricket Club where she was a



Val (left) assisting a visitor to the Museum.

First Grade Scorer, Historian, and Life Member.

Val's life was one of community service, giving of her time, and sharing her knowledge for the benefit of others.

Mary Richmond

MHHS News

New Curator—Dr Jan Baldwin

The MHHS is delighted to announce that our new curator is Dr Jan Baldwin. Jan has a long association with the area and currently lives in Darlington. Recently, Jan has worked at the Bickley Observatory and in 2021 published a book based on interviews with current and past staff and volunteers of the Observatory. Welcome to the MHHS, Jan.

New MHHS Website

The MHHS's new website is now live! We are very grateful to the Shire of Mundaring for the grant to fund this new site and to Abi Hall, our amazing web designer, who has created a website that is not only easy to navigate but also stunning to view. Abi has also trained members of the MHHS to make changes to the site. You can access the new site at <https://www.mundaringhistory.org>.

Volunteer Grants Program

The MHHS has received a \$5000 grant from the Department of Social Services to finance a new photocopier for the office. This grant program is organised via the electorate offices of Federal MPs, and we are delighted that Ken Wyatt, Federal Member for Hasluck, put forward our application to the Department for funding. A new state-of-the art photocopier will enable the MHHS to produce a range of high-quality colour booklets - as well as newsletters - that showcase the history of the Shire of Mundaring.

Summer Office Closure

The MHHS's office closes at 4pm on Friday 17 December and reopens at 9.30am on Monday 17 January 2022. The Museum remains open over Summer, apart from Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day.

Oral Histories

In recent weeks our oral historians have been busy interviewing local residents. We now have a fascinating array of audio interviews which have been transcribed by Val Holmes. Val came to us via local resident, Jude Carr, and despite Val transcribing for

several other organisations, she listens to the interviews we send her and returns a professionally transcribed document within days. For those of you that know nothing about transcription, please understand, to efficiently transcribe one hour of audio can take six hours! So we are very lucky to have Val on board.



Upcoming Events 2022

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Currently Open	'Open All Hours' Museum Exhibition	Mundaring District Museum 7225 Great Eastern Hwy Mundaring
19 January 4pm	Planning Meeting	Mundaring Stationmaster's House 3060 Jacoby St Mundaring
2 February 4pm	Executive Meeting	Mundaring Stationmaster's House 3060 Jacoby St Mundaring
3 March 4pm	'Open All Hours' Museum Exhibition Closes	Mundaring District Museum 7225 Great Eastern Hwy Mundaring
19 March 2pm	General Meeting	TO BE ADVISED
22 March	NEW EXHIBITION OPENING "Three Well Known Australians"	Mundaring District Museum 7225 Great Eastern Hwy Mundaring



Mundaring Shire records have no origin for the name of this road but it could have been taken from a town in the South Australian Outback near Cooper Creek.

European explorers including Sturt, Leichhardt, Gregory, Burke and Wills had visited this area before the Innamincka Station was established in 1872 and 10 years later a small town developed.

The traditional owners of the area are the Yandruwandha people. The name 'Innamincka' comes from the their words 'Yini' and 'mingka' meaning 'your waterhole'.

It is not uncommon to find local streets names with indigenous words from eastern states dialects.



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

(08) 9295 0540 | mhhs@iinet.net.au | www.mhhs.org.au



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

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

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