

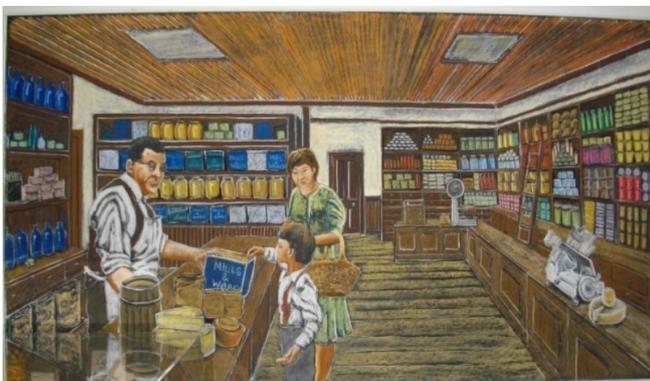
'OPEN ALL HOURS'

The MHHS's new exhibition opened in the Mundaring District Museum on Saturday 29 May. 'Open All Hours' examines shops and retail trends in the Shire of Mundaring from colonisation to the 1980s.



Millar's General Store, Nichol Street, Mundaring, 1940s.

The first shops in the area sold provisions to labourers constructing the Eastern Railway. Ex-convict Lot Leather, who first came to Sawyers Valley in the 1870s, opened a small store in the 1880s to cater for these workers as well as for local sawyers. Police suspected the store was distributing illicit alcohol and it was unsuccessfully raided in February 1883 much to the amusement of the gathered locals who were 'paying their various store accounts and refreshing themselves with fruit, ginger ale and lemonade'. (*Inquirer & Commercial News*, 28 February 1883). This store was later the site of Leather's Sawyers Valley Hotel.



This drawing is a representative of how the inside of a General Store may have looked before self service

As Mundaring grew, more substantial General Stores developed near the railway lines, providing residents with a range of goods to meet their daily needs. With no refrigeration and few transportation options, these stores stocked food items as well as haberdashery, hardware, and produce for livestock. The local Wells family ran their General Store in Jacoby St from 1911 through to 1958. Prior to the 1950s, the store operated a newsagency as well. Large orders were left with the storekeeper and delivered to the home. Bread and milk were also home delivered. Local bakers supplied the villages, and in the 1950s and 1960s Darlington residents Arthur and Peggy Dall delivered milk throughout the Shire.



Ray and James Wells with baby Don, at the rear of the family store

Retail shopping in WA radically changed from the 1950s onwards with the advent of self-service, shopping centres, the demise of family-owned stores, and the emergence of national retailers with the ability to sell products at low prices. This shift had different effects throughout the Shire with Mundaring especially developing as a large retail centre. The varied development of the Shire's villages provides insight into the history of retail over the last 100 years. While shops in Mundaring's town centre have changed markedly since the beginning of the 20th century, the Wooroloo, Parkerville, and Darlington shops that served these villages so well throughout, are still standing.

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

What a busy time we have been having at MHHS during the past few months. Helen's new exhibition 'Open All Hours' is now open at the Museum. She has been selecting suitable items from far and wide for the display. Our volunteers have spent hours researching and collecting for the display. Please tell your friends and family to visit the Old School and reconnect with Mundaring as it was in days long gone. You may even recognise a few well known faces from those days.

Our Containers For Change fundraiser is providing valuable funds for MHHS. If you have any eligible containers at home, consider dropping them off at the Station Master's House on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday. At the June meeting we'll announce the total amount so far raised from C4C.

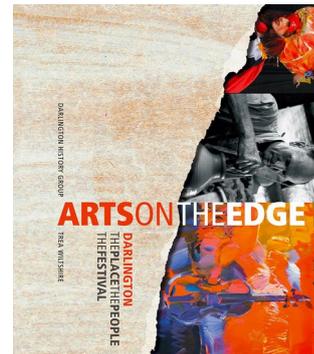


The MHHS Committee has met with Shire staff in relation to a possible relocation of our office and museum to the present Mundaring Hall. The specific requirements for alterations to the hall to make it a building suitable to our needs were outlined to Shire staff. The works involved will now be costed for consideration by Council. At this stage MHHS has not been notified of any outcome from our meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at our June meeting at The Hub on June 19th where Trea Wiltshire, author of Arts on the Edge, will be our Guest Speaker.

Jenny Johnson

"ARTS ON THE EDGE"



This is a beautifully written and illustrated book written by local author Trea Wiltshire. Born in China and raised in Africa, Trea began her journalism career in the United Kingdom. Widely travelled, she has written for Hong Kong newspapers, edited travel magazines in Asia, and was, for many years, the editor of The University of Western Australia's flagship publication *Uniview*. Her catalogue of published works comprises more than a dozen titles and includes *Encounters with China: Merchants, Missionaries and Mandarins* and closer to home, *Gone to Rottnest*.

The author's latest book, *Arts on the Edge: Darlington, The Place, The People, The Festival* was commissioned by the Darlington History Group and it found Trea exploring the local community in which her family settled in 1979, after several years living in Hong Kong.

Arts on the Edge describes how the Perth Hills got its reputation as an artists' hub, and how a string of notable Darlington artists and their families contributed to this status. The book also charts the beginnings of the Darlington Arts Festival in the late 1950s. Eloquently articulated in Trea Wiltshire's narrative style, and peppered throughout with impressive illustrations from public and private collections, the book is a culmination of four years of research and writing.

Among the local artists contributing to the book were photographer, Richard Woldendorp, Philipa O'Brien, Gail Gregson, George and Caroline Grayston and others.

The book is available through the DHG's website and other outlets. Copies will also be available after Trea's talk at 3 pm -The Hub, 8 Craig St Mundaring on the 19th June 2021.

HISTORY IS PRECIOUS

Observations by MHHS Volunteer Steve Johnston

We have all got history in our lives, events that have happened to us in the past are history. Some think that history is personal and only of interest to us, but is it?

History as we are taught at school and read in books is usually world events and little about the small history of communities and families. This has been, and still is being lost because sometimes it is considered to be of no value and is often discarded.

History doesn't have to be "old" to be of value, documents, photos and items from any time will be "old" one day and will be of interest to historians. Memories are precious and photos, documents and artefacts preserve memories within families. More importantly they save the history for the future and should be kept in a manner that preserves them and not allow further deterioration.



Mahogany Inn 1902

The following question is commonly asked of our MHHS volunteers and staff :

I've found some of Mum and Dad's old papers, photos and cuttings from newspapers tucked away in a cupboard, what should I do with them?

Firstly, take the whole collection to a trained historian who understands the significance of the items and how to preserve them. Although the items may have been in use over a number of years, when they become part of a historical collection, they should be handled as little as possible.

Where do I find a trained historian?

Your local Historical Society is the best place to start. Both staff and volunteers are trained in the care and protection of all items in the Collection.

This could range from a fragile lace glove to a cast iron cooking pot.



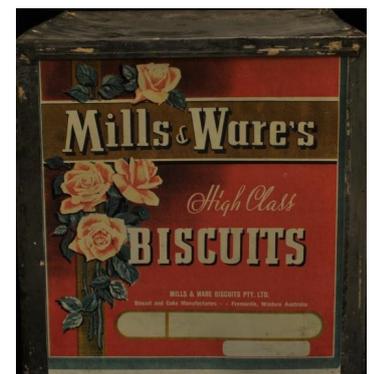
Herbert, May and Ella Byfield

There may be other volunteer groups or amateur history collectors in your area, but by liaising with a professionally recognised local historical society, you can guarantee that your precious donation will be cared for using the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries.

Your local Historical Society has 4 main functions.

- To provide an information service to the community through a well organised and balanced local history collection.
- To achieve this through a systematic collection policy to acquire materials relating to all aspects of life past and present.
- To provide a secure and permanent storage for local history materials, small artefacts and memorabilia relating to the district.
- To fulfil an educational role by reaching out to the community and presenting the material in various formats in response to community needs.

The current exhibition at the Mundaring Museum entitled "Open All Hours" is a look at retail in the Mundaring Shire from the 1880's to the 1980's and illustrates these 4 functions.



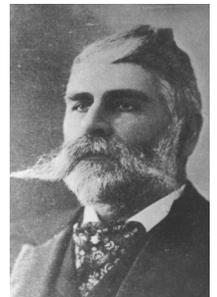
Upcoming Events 2021

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday 29 May 2021	"Open All Hours" Ongoing to March 2022	Mundaring District Museum 7225 Great Eastern Highway MUNDARING
Saturday 19 June 2pm 2021	Guest Speaker: Trea Wiltshire "Arts on the Edge"	The Hub Craig Street MUNDARING
Saturday 19 June 3pm 2021	General Meeting	The Hub Craig Street MUNDARING
Wednesday 7 July 4pm 2021	Executive Meeting	Mundaring Stationmaster's House 3060 Jacoby St MUNDARING
Saturday 21st August 2pm 2021	Annual General Meeting	TO BE ANNOUNCED
Saturday 21st August 2.30pm 2021	General Meeting	TO BE ANNOUNCED



HARDEY ROAD GLEN FORREST (FORMERLY SMITHS MILL)

In 1882 Richard Watson Hardey began work on a vineyard in the valley near the southern end of this road. He was the son of early WA settler Joseph Hardey of Peninsula Farm in Maylands. The vines at Glen Hardey Vineyard were planted on terraces across the hill, the outline of which can still be seen.



Richard Watson Hardey

1882



Hardey's Cellars 1903

When the Eastern Railway came through Smiths Mill in 1884 it provided efficient transport of the grapes to the family farm in Maylands for processing into wine. Later a winery was built nearby. A wildfire caused by Cyclone Alby in 1978 destroyed the last surviving vines and the winery.



REMINDER! FEES ARE NOW DUE

MUNDARING DISTRICT MUSEUM
7225 Great Eastern Hwy Mundaring
Next to the Visitors' Centre
MONDAY - SATURDAY
9.30am - 4pm
SUNDAY
10am—2.30pm

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

**MUNDARING STATION
MASTER'S HOUSE
OFFICE HOURS**
MONDAY AND FRIDAY
9.30am - 4pm
WEDNESDAY
9.30am -1.30pm