

# Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc.



## THE BRIDGE

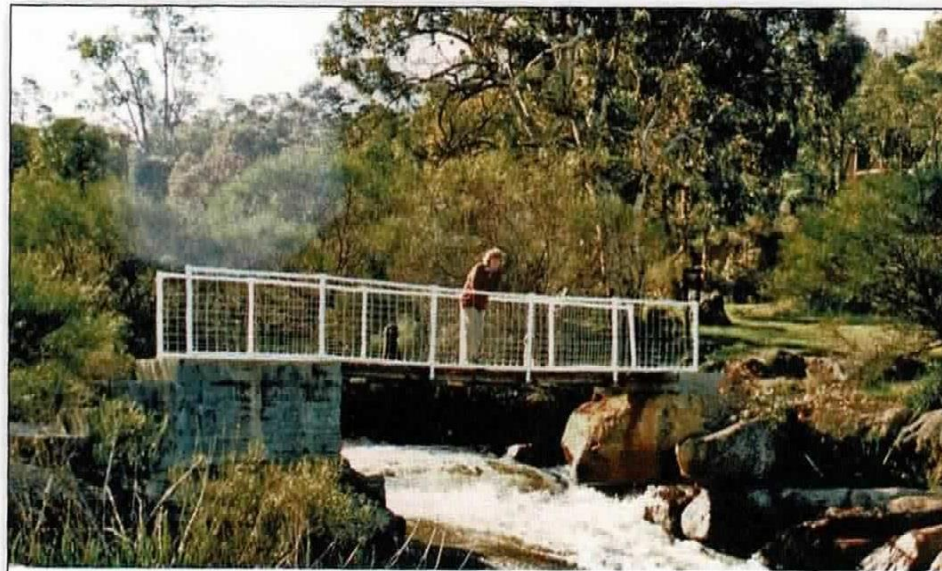
John Forrest National Park is currently presenting a spectacular show of wildflowers. A wet July has stimulated many species to cover the hillsides with all the colours of the rainbow. Jane Brook has been tumbling over the rocks adding to the sounds of the forest.

At Hovea Falls the brook funnels through a gap in the rocks before cascading down to the rocks below.

Wait! Where's the bridge?

Since the early 1940s a number of bridges have straddled the rocks, enabling visitors to safely cross to the northern walk trail. Every now and then winter flows have damaged or washed away the bridge. Come spring and the bridge is usually restored. These bridges have featured in most brochures of the park since the 1940s.

In the summer of 2019, a decision was taken to tape off the bridge prior to its removal. Members of Parliament were informed of the situation. As a result, questions were asked in Parliament.



Bridge in John Forrest National Park, June 1987. MHHS Collection.

The then Minister responded by informing the House that the bridge would be replaced before Christmas 2020.

At present visitors cross the brook below the falls where the water is cold, fast flowing and the rocks are slippery. All ages are crossing here, despite the danger.

Park Rangers have informed the community of a viewing platform to be built at the site as well as a crossing of stepping stones upstream of the site. Being creatures of habit, visitors will most likely still cross at the rocks below the bridge site. Surely replacing the bridge could be the safest, cheapest and least intrusive solution?

Visit the park this spring to enjoy the flowers, wildlife, and the scenery. Reflect on the decision not to replace a bridge which has

served this site for more than eighty years. It was an iconic part of visiting John Forrest National Park.

- Next **General Meeting** 20 November 2021