

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc.

History is Precious: How Best to Care for our Local Stories.

History is an integral part of all our lives. While the history taught at school, and read in books, often focusses on world events and leaders, the everyday histories of individuals, their families and communities are equally important in understanding how and why our society has developed as it has. Consequently, our personal histories as revealed through documents, objects, memoirs, and photos – while often seen as of little value and discarded – must be kept so that stories of everyday life can be accessed by future generations. These documents and artefacts, however, often require special care to ensure their ongoing preservation.

So, what should you do if you find some of Mum and Dad's old papers, photos, and newspaper cuttings tucked away in a cupboard? Firstly, take the collection to a trained historian who will understand the significance of the items, and how best to preserve them. Where will you find one of these? Your local historical society is the best place to start!

The MHHS has staff and volunteers trained to not only appreciate the rich history of this area, but also with the skills to advise on how to look after items as diverse as a delicate lace glove or a



All items donated to the MHHS are carefully packed and stored in our Collection Room.

cast iron cooking pot. You can also donate items to the MHHS to ensure their ongoing care. While there may be other volunteer groups or amateur history collectors in your area, by liaising with a professionally recognised historical society you are ensuring your precious donation will be publicly owned, copyright protected, and cared for using best practice as defined by the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*.

If you require information about the history of the Shire of Mundaring, or advice on caring for family documents or objects, please contact the MHHS. You can phone the Society on **9295 0540**, email us at **mhhs@iinet.net.au** or visit our offices in the Mundaring Station Master's House, Jacoby Street, Mundaring.

Some of the fascinating items committed to the MHHS's care can be seen in our exhibition, 'Open All Hours', at the Mundaring District Museum, Old Mundaring School.

