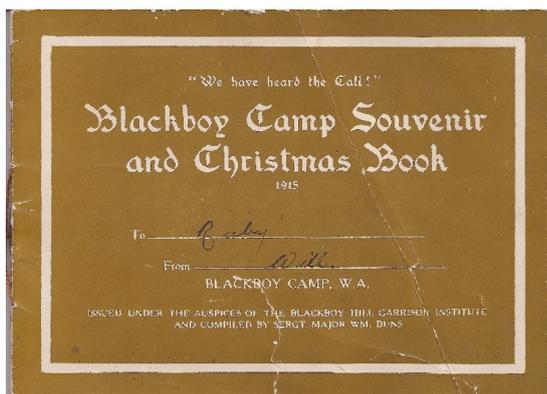


Christmas 2020

Christmas 2020 will be unlike any other in living memory, following a year that started off with vague references on the news to a flu-like illness in faraway parts of the world and then experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic here in Australia. We now have new everyday easily recognisable and understood words in use such as lockdowns, rolling averages, community spread, hotel quarantine, hard borders and the wonderful 'bubble'.

A search through our Collection reminds us of previous Christmas celebrations that took place in difficult times. In 1915, WA men and women were serving in the war overseas, away from their families and having a very different Christmas. This 'Blackboy Hill Souvenir and Christmas Book 1915' is essentially a photographic record of training activities and group photographs issued by the Blackboy Hill Garrison Institute. The last page shows an illustration of a soldier holding a bayonet with a couple of soldiers in background, with the words "Won't You Come And Help Us?"



While epic events always grab the news headlines and dominate discussion, one of the most interesting aspects of history is the life of ordinary people. Our earliest Christmas photograph is from 1916, not long after the publication of the 'Blackboy Hill Christmas Book'. It shows the Ball family gathered to celebrate



Christmas with stockings hanging in the background. It gives a unique insight into an Australian family Christmas in the Hills during WW1.

Another photograph, below, shows Mundaring School students dressed in costume and assembled for a Christmas Concert c. 1922, only a couple of years after the end of the devastating Spanish Flu pandemic following WW1. It would have taken much longer then for news about the pandemic to filter through to Australia and for news of its spread within Australia to reach other states.



The MHHS wishes our members and supporters all the best for the festive season and that 2021 is a far less 'interesting' year!



From the Curator's Desk: Open All Hours!



A 'reimagination' of Wells' Store. This chalk drawing is currently hidden behind calico in the museum.

Whether you love it or loathe it, shopping is something most of us do, especially in the run-up to the festive season. Over the years, changing lifestyles and patterns of consumption have dramatically altered how, when, and why we shop, as well as what we buy.

In pre-industrial Europe, people generally acquired the necessities of life through subsistence agriculture or exchange. While some permanent retail shops developed in larger cities in the 13th century, the experience of shopping was not enjoyable with retailers often selling produce, sight unseen, via a window onto the street. In London in 1700 most fresh food and household items were still bought at fairs and open air markets.

From the 18th century, shopping as we now know it (for essentials **and** for pleasure!) started to develop. Higher disposable incomes in urban areas meant there was a market for more luxury goods. Shops where you could escape the hubbub of the street and browse the latest fashions became attractive to the growing middle classes. From this shift came the shop window, the Department Store, and the Shopping Centre.

Today, shopping from home via the internet has once again changed the way we purchase goods. This has forced many bricks and mortar shops to

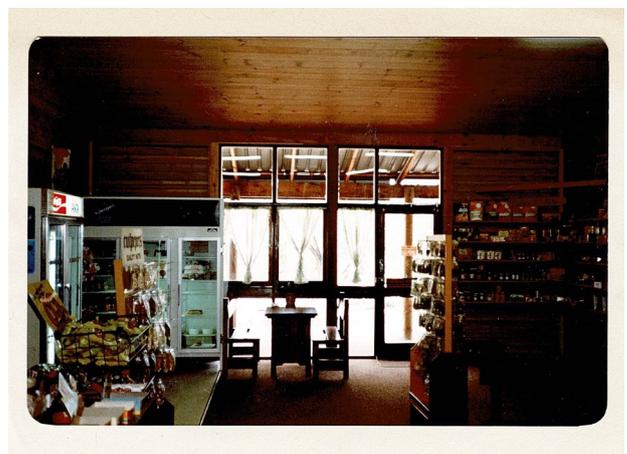
redefine themselves to become places of community engagement where people come to socialise as well as to shop.

So what, I hear you ask, has this got to do with the history of the Shire of Mundaring? Well, the MHHS's next exhibition will feature shops and shopping in the area. What types of shops featured in the different villages of the Shire? Where were they located? What did they sell, and to whom? Who were our local shopkeepers? How has shopping changed in the last 120 years?

This is a chance to display some of the extraordinary objects kindly lent to the MHHS by Andrew Wells, whose family owned Wells Store in Mundaring from 1911 until 1957. More recently, Steve and Nancy Johnston - Steve is one of our wonderful volunteers - have donated to the MHHS various items from when they owned Glen Forrest Gourmet (1983-1988). I am especially excited by Nancy and Steve's donation of a scrapbook, full of photographs, letters, adverts, and news items relating to their time in the shop.

The exhibition is an opportunity for the MHHS to thoroughly research the many shops in the area, and for **you** to rediscover photographs of local shops you have hidden away at home. If you can assist us with information for this exhibition please get in touch – we would love to hear your story.

Meanwhile, happy shopping!



Glen Forrest Gourmet - 1983.

Historical Societies in 2020: Surviving Covid

According to the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, the effects of the COVID pandemic on community history and heritage associations across the nation have been diverse. In the early weeks of the virus, most organisations had similar experiences, but as time has gone on their location and capacity for resilience have shaped their experiences and possibly their future.

The initial negative effects of lockdown were common across our sector. All organisations were forced to close their doors and there was an immediate decline in the capacity to undertake normal activities such as research, digitisation of collections, mounting of exhibitions, holding of meetings. Our volunteers, especially those who were classed as more at risk, were asked not to come into the MHHS until further notice.

In the worst cases, some societies were blocked from access to their premises, equipment, and collections making it impossible to undertake even the most fundamental of collection management. Some societies witnessed a decline in membership because of disconnection with members, and there was concern that the forced shutdown would result in some volunteers not returning, and that replacement recruitment would become more difficult. However, most of us increased our digital media presence and learnt new skills and managed webinars and online training through a communication platform called Zoom.*

With this digital presence now essential to all historical societies and museums throughout Australia, it was fortuitous that in mid 2020 Collections WA was launched. This free searchable digital platform enables collecting organisations such as historical societies, archives, and galleries to publish their records and collections online - check it out at <https://collections.wa.net.au/about>. With all other avenues for displaying our 'wares' closed, Collections WA could have been a wonderful opportunity to showcase our Collection.

Unfortunately for the MHHS, it was at this exact time that we transferred over to the NBN. This did not happen without problems. Our service provider deleted our email address, which took 3 months to reinstate, and to make matters worse they also deleted our landline number. This meant we were virtually uncontactable for 3 months. It was difficult trying to maintain contact with our readership and members while spending many hours on the telephone to our service provider trying to sort out these problems. We are now back in action, and looking forward to uploading material to Collections WA in 2021.

Despite Covid, our Curator not only installed the museum's current exhibition 'Head for the Hills', but also developed 'Snapped: Mundaring's Historical Photo Competition', in conjunction with Shire of Mundaring Libraries. Recently, two MHHS members completed online training to become accredited Oral Historians. We were also able to review policies and procedures that get put on the back burner when the office is busy.

As we head into 2021 we will continue to advocate for the heritage of the Shire of Mundaring. While we are delighted to hear that Chidlow's WW2 Army Camp 4 will probably be added to the Shire's Heritage Survey, we would also like Camps 1, 2, & 3 included—see the public notices on the Shire's website regarding Camp 4's inclusion. The MHHS will be making a submission for the addition of these other camps to the Survey. If you have a view on this issue, please let the Shire know ASAP.



Arthur Schenberg, bottom right, with friends.

Chidlow Army Camps, 1942.

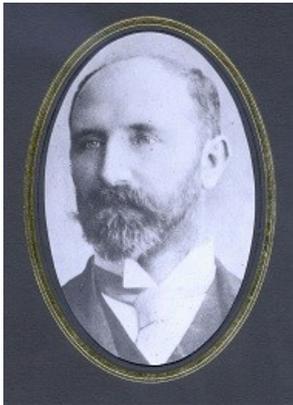
Image courtesy of Les Schenberg.

*The first section of this article comes from an address by the President of the Federation of Historical Societies. It appeared in the Federation's November 2020 Newsletter.

Upcoming Events 2021

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Friday 18 December, 4pm	MHHS Office closes for Christmas Break	
Monday 18 January, 9.30am	MHHS Office re-opens following Christmas Break	Mundaring Stationmaster's House 3060 Jacoby St Mundaring
Wednesday 20 January 2021, 4pm	Planning Meeting	Mundaring Stationmaster's House 3060 Jacoby St Mundaring
Saturday 20 March 2021, 2pm	General Meeting	Venue—To Be Announced
Saturday 20 March 2021, 3pm	Guest Speaker: Richard Offen	Venue—To Be Announced

Morrison Road



Morrison Rd, formerly Boundary Rd, starts in Woodbridge, and then continues through Midland, Midvale, and Swan View. It was the northern boundary of Captain Stirling's land holding. Morrison Rd was named after James Morrison, born on 25 June 1846 in London.

Morrison was born into a merchant family with business connections in Australia and New Zealand. In 1868, his business interests led him to move to W.A. He married Clara Charlotte de Burgh 23 March 1870 and they had 4 sons and 2 daughters. Morrison developed Waterhall Park and Spring Reserve in Guildford. Morrison was a member of the Legislative from 1887 until 1894. He resided in both Guildford and York and died on 24 December 1927.

MUNDARING DISTRICT MUSEUM

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



MUNDARING STATION MASTER'S HOUSE OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY AND FRIDAY
9.30am - 4pm
WEDNESDAY
9.30am -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