

BULLETIN NO. 2  
OCTOBER, 1989

MUNDARING AND HILLS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For those new members who have not seen the first Bulletin, this is a newsletter initiated to keep you informed of the Society's happenings between meetings. As yet there is no real routine as to how often they will be prepared. But if there is someone out there who would like to accept the task as Editor, please let me know.

Since our last meeting a lot has happened and is still to happen.

As you are no doubt aware our next meeting is on Wednesday evening, the 1st November commencing at 8.00pm at the Egan Gallery, Darlington. It is important that you endeavour to be there by 8.00pm as we have a guest speaker who has been invited to talk from 8.30pm. So we must aim to have completed our Society business by that time. Our guest is Mr. Peter Bindon of the Museum of W.A. Peter is very well qualified and experienced in many of the fields of which the Society will be involved in. His chosen subject for our November meeting is "The lifestyle of Aborigines in the Mundaring District".

To ensure we have adequate seating, would you please bring along a chair for this occasion. Also to assist Steve in her generous offer to have the Society's meetings, would you please bring along a small plate for supper.

To endeavour to contain the Society's business within the half hour allocated, subjects that will be discussed are:

1. Recording of members personal particulars. Forms will be available at the meeting and prior to commencement, for each financial member to complete.

1. (cont'd)

The personal particulars include your address, phone number, interests, etc. This will help the committee to carry out actions, such as to forward correspondence to you, know your areas of local interest and keep our own records complete.

2. Other forms available at this and future meetings are:

2a. Buildings of historical importance within the Shire of Mundaring.

There are many buildings in our Shire which have local historical significance. They were either previous station masters residences, schools, homesteads, halls, churches, stores, Post Offices and alike. If you know of such buildings through your local knowledge or by the result of research, record them so that we may form a reference for future use. These buildings may now be used for other purposes or are derelict. There is provision on this form to indicate whether this building may become available in the near future and be suitable to be relocated into our Historical Village.

2b. Artefacts of historical importance to the Shire of Mundaring.

If during your travels or as a result of research into various subjects, you come across artefacts, eg. machinery, vehicles, dairies, photographs etc. which you believe would be of value to be stored, restored or copied by the Society, then let us know. The Society has no intention to commence hounding people for donations, but if you think it is important enough and it is not being appropriately housed as is, then we will take due steps to procure the item.

3. The Darlington Arts Festival, 4-5 November, 1989.

The Society has a working committee which is currently preparing a display for this festival.

The artefacts and literature which we will have on display are to be housed in a tent. We require personnel to assist in the manning of the display for Saturday and Sunday. Ideally, a roster of two people on at a time would enable the display to be suitably secured plus enable a representative to converse with the public. Please give the matter some thought, and if you could spare some time that weekend, then let us know when and the times preferred. A roster sheet will be available at the meeting.

As mentioned, the display will be housed in a tent. Since the majority of the exhibits will be photographs or notes, suitable lighting will be required. If you have desk lamps or clip-on reading lamps the Society could borrow for the Festival, would you please bring them to the meeting. Ensure you place your name on the lamp (somewhere out of sight) so that we can ensure you get the right one back.

4. Recently I have been consulting with Mr. Eric Leighton of the Swan Districts Photographic Club, re a joint club effort to have the geographically named features within our Shire recorded photographically. At present Ian Elliot is procuring all the currently recorded features within the Shire of Mundaring. It will no doubt be startling to you, as it was with Ian and I that there are only 160 recorded named features within our entire Shire. Obviously there are many more which have either been forgotten over time, or never been recorded.

4. (cont'd)

It is my intention and hopefully the goal of all members to arouse renewed interest into the discovering and relocating of features. Considering the extensive history the Shire of Mundaring has, there must be umteen historical and significant features out there which have been obscured by time. The co-operative effort of our Society and the Swan Districts Photographic Club is to have these features recorded by historical literature, original survey detail, aerial photographic identification and photography. This Club has tentatively agreed to assist our record system by providing a photographic record of the features we determine significant to the Society.

This record will expand to include all features which the Society deems important to have a photograph, indicating its condition and appearance. As I am sure you will agree, this is a tremendous opportunity and representative members of the Club have been invited to our next meeting to meet the members.

5. There will most definitely be other subjects mentioned at the meeting, so ensure you are there to catch it.

Recently the Society was fortunate to be invited to the Kalamunda and Districts Historical Society museum. Unfortunately I was unable to attend, but Brian Marshall accepted the task to lead our group and respond on behalf of our Society at the conclusion of the outing.

Report on Tour of Kalamunda History Village by  
MHHS - 14th October, 1989

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Members of the MHHS were privileged to be the special guests of the Kalamunda and Districts Historical Society during a recent visit to their Historical Village. The afternoon incorporated a tour of the Village and a discussion that was always informative and often amusing. Our members certainly left with an increased awareness of some of the pitfalls and delights that we might expect in the future as our organisation becomes more established.

The question of artefacts was the first subject to be raised. Eric Webb suggested that an over rather than an under-supply of these was the major problem Kalamunda had encountered. The simple matter of storage and display dictated that eventually a policy was adopted of accepting only those artefacts having a direct connection with the history of the Shire, and referring the potential donors of other artefacts to the RWAHS. This left the collection manageable and also helped retain the focus on local history, which would otherwise have become diffused. The "Kalamundors" were unanimous that the golden rule when accepting artefacts was never, when avoidable, do so on a loaned basis. The legal complications which could arise from breakage, theft ect while in this status make it not worth the risk to either party. They kindly offered us a copy of their combined "information/release" form which will be a useful model for our own.

Well, once you begin to acquire artefacts, then what? A record-keeper was deemed essential, this is for an obvious reason - your need to know what you have and to have this information easily accessible. Papers and photographs also require an archivist for the same reason. In recognition of the special treatment these deserve, Kalamunda has arranged for the provision of a local history room in the adjacent council library, where the originals reside in air conditioned safety. Copies are mounted in large heavy duty folders, of the type normally used to display wallpaper, but which now (arguably) are put to superior use. Kalamunda have discovered that the most popular photos they hold are the ones of school students taken over the years. Although many of the names are not known the steady stream of visitors helps ensure that the number identified is always growing. Since these photos are often the only visual record of many past Kalamunda residents, it is an important project.

Sustaining Council and public interest in the Society and the museum was considered to be important for a number of reasons.

As regards the Council, its physical and financial support helped to offset the running costs of the Village. Thus the Shire provided the site, contributes to maintenance, power and so on. It was noted though that since Shire budgets are always "political" (in the broadest sense of the term) such assistance is only elicited by the presentation of a persuasion case. The more a reciprocity of interests can be demonstrated the more persuasive the requests, which is after all, common sense.

The public too need to be cultivated for mutual benefit. On the one hand the Society provides a service to the local community in a multitude of ways by catering to individual and group needs, and clarifying and strengthening the sense of local identity. A good example of this was the recent "Hands-On" day where 1,500 schoolchildren participated in a range of activities arranged by the Society, including a chance to see some of the machinery they own in action.

On the other hand the Society needs the enthusiasm and support of the community - their artefacts, ideas, knowledge and of course money. A nominal entrance fee and a delightful Village shop are two of the ways in which the Society has been able to do more than merely survive. The Society is planning to rearrange the buildings in its possession to achieve a "street scape" effect and without these types of Council and community links it would be much less feasible.

The "legal eagle" of Kalamunda, Peter Thiele, drew on his own expertise in the matters of Constitutions and Incorporation to offer us some advice. He explained that our newly adopted Constitution, as prepared by him, meets all the requirements of the Amended Associations Act. For those of us to whom legal matters remain something of a mystery, this is certainly reassuring. Peter emphasised that we must seek incorporation as soon as possible, because of the protection this offers against mishap, misadventure and so on. By way of illustration it would mean the difference between us being able to relax (almost) when watching youngsters slide down the boiler tank of an old steam locomotive or having a collective heart attack as we watched them topple off in our imaginations.

Peter has very kindly offered to facilitate incorporation for us at no cost, other than to reimburse out of pocket expenses, such as advertisements.

This basically covers the substance of the day's conversations. The rest of the time was essentially spent browsing around the village while the "Kalamundors" answered our queries. The village is - to be succinct - impressive. It demonstrates the qualities of time, effort and a love of history. Kalamunda have obviously found a very suitable location site of the old railway station.

Afterwards we all adjourned to the school house for an afternoon tea that, for the sweet tooth among us, guaranteed to make the afternoon truly memorable. Thank you Eric Webb, John Linton, Peter Thiel and all the other members of Kalamunda and Districts Historical Society.

Brian Marshall, Secretary, MHHS

Hopefully this newsletter will become the lifeline of our Society, so if you have any stories or information which would be of interest to other members then don't hesitate to submit it.

It is of benefit to all members and the Society as the representative organisation, to have a good general knowledge of local history. This can best be achieved by everyone contributing facets of information which will develop our understanding of incidents, structures and features within our Shire.

I look forward to seeing you all again at the next meeting. Endeavour to bring a fellow interested friend to introduce them to the Society with the intention of encouraging them to join us in our efforts to save and collect local history.



# Mundaring and Hills Historical Society

The AIM of the Society is to preserve and record the HISTORY of the SHIRE of MUNDARING  
NEW MEMBERS WITH AN INTEREST IN LOCAL HISTORY ARE WELCOME TO JOIN

MEETING: 1st Wednesday each month at 8pm  
EGAN GALLERY, Brook Rd, Darlington

The Society will be grateful to accept any local Artifacts, Diaries or Photos you wish to donate, for inclusion in the planned HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Enquiries to President: Mr Jeff Murray Telephone 295 2469

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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To: The Secretary  
Mundaring and Hills Historical Society  
Lot 189 Riley Road  
Mt Helena 6555

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

MEMBERSHIP FEE:	
One person	\$8
Husband & Wife	\$10
Pensioner Single	\$6
Pensioner Couple	\$8
Junior (non voting)	\$6