

BULLETIN NO. 3
NOVEMBER, 1989

The Mundaring and Hills
Historical Society

2 Nov. meeting

The Darlington Arts Festival weekend of 4-5 November was the first proving ground for our fledgling society, and going by the comments of those who were on roster, it was a great success. The subject of the local Public's response to our display and presence will be on the agenda for the December meeting. As the manning of the display was done by roster, I'm sure everyone is interested in the information and personalities the others encountered. The December meeting, being the last for the year of 1989, will be conducted on a co-operative basis where everyone will have the opportunity to speak on their experience at the Festival and also their ambitions for 1990.

The Society is already being offered donations of artefacts. This is tremendous and indicates the important role we will provide in our community. It also stresses the need for the Historical Society within the Mundaring Shire. We have come onto the scene late in the sequence of development in the Eastern Hills, but most certainly not too late to do something constructive in recording and securing its history, This situation only reinforces the importance of a Historical Society and also the urgent need for us to secure a museum on suitably furnished land.

As mentioned at the last meeting, interested members will have the opportunity to comment on the proposal to be submitted at the Shire on a Historical Village. Discussions have already commenced with Shire representatives on the possible requirements for such a site with some feedback being provided. The ball is now in our court to come up with a convincing proposal covering not only our immediate needs, but a futuristic approach to provide for years to come.

If you wish to comment on the proposal, please be forward when the subject is raised in December.

On the subject of artefacts, it is not too early to be seeking out suitable items which are important to the Shire history. Although we do not currently have the desired accommodation to centrally house these artefacts, suitable temporary protection can be arranged. The longer we stall the collection of our local history, the more the chance we will let them slip through our fingers.

We have aroused the local community's interest now and need to proceed to maintain an active profile. Remember, we dont necessarily have to procure all the items of interests within our district. Knowing the existance and location of information can be just as important as storing the item ourselves. If you are offered donations of artefacts for the Socieity, please also acquire the present owners name and address as we will require the donor to authorize a notice that the items will then be the property of the Society.

Equally, if not more important is the collecting of oral history from our older residents. The knowledge and information retained by these people is extremely valuable and vital for our Society to construct the local history. If we become too pre-occupied with material items of history, we will miss the opportunity to gain the significance of such material. There are residents out there who still have the details we require to develop early history, and it is up to us now to approach these sources while they still are available. Although there are few amongst us who are skilled in oral history, the effort to talk to these people can still be rewarding.

A team effort is required, involving everyone of us to collect this information. So the challenge has been presented; make the move to seek out and talk, yes talk, to our older folk and gain the knowledge we need. All you need is a cassette or tape recorder, the time and a lot of consideration. Start with your own relatives, if they are suitable, I'm sure they would be only too pleased to know that someone is interested. If you have any hesitations or doubts, then please approach the committee who will assist in which ever way they can. Good hunting!

Plans are underway for another excursion to be conducted early in 1990. The theme is 'Get to Know Your Local Historical Sites'. Further information will be available closer to the event, but the format is to be on day trips visiting locations which played a part in the development of the Mundaring Shire. Suitable research will provide the commentary to an interesting tour, developing each member's interest and understanding. Ultimately a greater appreciation of the series of events which contributed to development and also the location of important sites will be acquired by all members. Soon a completed list of all the known named features will be available. If you know of other sites which are not recorded on this list then certainly present them so that we may build a more accurate and up-to-date account of significant features.

The Society now has stock of several publications which relate to the history of our District. We sold many of these at the recent Festival bringing in revenue to our bank account. These books are sold to the public at the normal retail price, but are being offered to our members at a discount.

This is a legitimate discount, amounting to generally \$2 per book, which makes them the cheapest offer anywhere around. So if you want to purchase a copy of what is being offered, see Bob Wiltshire and help the Society's funds at the same time.

The MHHS is progressing well, perhaps you could even comment 'very well'. We have most certainly achieved a lot in the short term we have been operating. Our identity is being established and new members are being attracted regularly to join. With continued enthusiasm and participation by the members, the status of our Society is assured. A subject which is regularly being mentioned concerning our identity, is a logo.

The adoption of a logo is important for many reasons, two of which are:

1. As the official seal of the incorporation of an Association. This security status is to be introduced soon to protect the members of our Society against legal action, least something detrimental should occur.
2. As identity. The relationship of the community and of the Society's members, with a easily identified logo depicting a theme of the district, promotes pride and a sense of belonging.

Moves have been initiated to have a suitable design artistrated. If you have any ideas on what sort of detail would characterize our Society, then please approach the committee soon.

INTERESTING SNIPPETS

In each of the bulletins from now on will be short articles or stories of details since past. Hopefully all the information will be accurate, but if subsequent research or comments dictate that not to be the case, then at least the desired result would have been obtained.

The first in this series is a letter to the editor (newspaper unknown) dated 23 May, 1955, titled "The Aborigines Called It 'Mundar-ing'".

Sir - As A Westralian I was very pleased to see the presentation of the picture produced by the Department of Information showing glimpses of Perth and Western Australia. It was very good but, of course, did not do justice to the place generally because it did not show many of the prettier sections of the Swan River or anything of the beautiful beaches or Rottnest Island, just to mention a few - or the grand harbour of Albany.

One thing that did please me was the correct pronounciation of "Mundaring". When my father acquired a property in this district in the 1890's, about half way along the spurline leading from the main train line to the weir, the stepping place was known as Gugeri's siding, and at that time there was an aboriginal camp in the hills between the railway line running to the weir and Sawyer's Valley and my father inquired the name of the place as it was known to those aborigines.

It was known to them as "Mundar-ing" and pronounced "Mundahring". For simplification my father named his property the "Mundaring Vineyard Company." From this name came the name for the township of Mundaring and also for the Mundaring Weir.

(The aboriginal meaning given to my father was "a high place on a high place". The location was in the vicinity of the apex of the Darling Range about that area).

With the opening of the weir the excursionists used to arrive in droves by train and the spruikers, railway guards and railway porters soon converted the name to be pronounced "Mundairing". Except for the really old hands it has been "Mundairing" ever since but it was quite a pleasure to hear the proper pronunciation in the documentary which is now showing in Sydney.

Common useage usually survives in the end but as one who is very fond of the aboriginal names and their correct derivation, it could possibly be that the residents at "Mundaring Weir" will be interested in the origin of the name and may care to convert the usage to more correctly tie in with the early and actual foundation of the name which no doubt goes back many years in the annals of the original occupants of this country - Yours, etc.
IAN M. JACOBY, Sydney.

As a reminder, the next and final meeting for 1989 will be held at the Egan Gallery, Darlington at 8.00pm on the 6th December. Again a small plate for supper would assist in making this 'festive' meeting a success. See you all there.

Jeff Murray Lot 20 La Grange Rd, Stoneville

295-2469
(President)

Brian Marshall Lot 189 Riley Rd, Mt. Helena

572-1137
(Secretary)

Garth Wilson 29 Gill St, Mundaring

295-1844
(Vice-President)



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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Signature:

Date: