

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

MUNDARING AND HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*THE MEMBERS OF THE ABOVE SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES AND THEIR AIMS FOR THE MUNDARING DISTRICT.

*IF YOU HAVE A SIMILAR INTEREST, PLEASE CONTACT ANY ONE OF US- WE WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU JOIN US. MEETINGS ARE ON THE 1ST WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH AT THE MUNDARING PRIMARY SCHOOL'S LIBRARY AT 8 P.M.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

The search for a Museum to accommodate the expected collection of artifacts and reference material and to act as a meeting place commenced even before the inauguration of the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society in August 1989.

Feelers went out seeking advice and suggestions of possible buildings which had historical value. Amongst suggestions was the Freemasons' Lodge to the rear of the Shire Council buildings. It was then discovered that the Lodge is well used and is not available for other purposes.

The Mundaring Shire then suggested sharing accommodation with other societies in the area, but it was found that accommodation is already overtaxed.

For an immediate solution to the problem of where to meet, one of our founding members and the proprietor of the Egan Gallery, Steve Howlett, offered the use of this building. This character building, set in historic Darlington, served us well until we outgrew the space available.

We were delighted when, under the auspices of another member, Briony Waterhouse, the new Mundaring Primary School was kind enough to allow the use of its library for our meetings. Being in the area which gives us our name was more appropriate, but the difficulty of having no storage for artifacts or reference material, or for the nucleus of a museum, remains.

Thus members continued to search and write to the Shire to find a home.

In the meantime, two opportunities appeared to arise.

One was the Old Mundaring Primary School, which was now sitting vacant. Another was an offer to accommodate us in an especially designed and built facility at a proposed resort.

A dream come true! But as time passed, it appears to have been only a dream, despite the genuineness of the offer. Still, we did have discussions on the possible contents, and display themes which would represent our Shire.

Now the story of the Old Mundaring Primary School. Settle into your seats readers, as this is as long as it is monotonous. These buildings, a series ranging from timber to brick to transportable rooms, sat on a site of great potential, and developers and community members found it ideal for a shopping centre.

There were so many poker chips in the fire that no-one could give a decision to an enquiry by us as to the fate of the most historical section of the school, which we began to covet. Meanwhile the vandals decided it should be destroyed and set about it vigorously.

Meanwhile the Mundaring Ratepayers Association expressed an interest in establishing a local youth centre in the original classrooms. The Mundaring & Hills Historical Society considered their appeal and decided to seek the use of the original teacher's residence. Correspondence ventured back and forth between the various departments and businesses involved, with nothing but vague responses forthcoming.

meanwhile, the vandals saw no reason to wait for

permission or approval and continued on their destructive course. Public notice ultimately achieved the institution of a security presence on the site.

Time passes. Priorities changed. The MHHS (us!) was informed the request for a youth centre had waned, and we therefore redirected our interest to the classroom, which was far more structurally stable, larger, and located in a better position.

After much inactivity on the part of the decision makers, Mair and Co gained the land, DOLA relinquished their interest, the Education Department/ Ministry took what they wanted and then something was to be done about the rest.

The buildings were put to tender for demolition. The old residence came down with all the rest, leaving only the old classroom. Conflicting stories then circulated as to the future of the old building. " It's going to be used by the local doctors"-----" No, it's not"-----"It's going to be used as storage space by the developers " ---("Wait and see.") "It's available for anyone who can afford to remove it " ---("Possible") "It's being protected for future use of the MHHS " -----(" Believe it when you see it happen"). " Does anyone care about this old building?"

The old classroom is still on site, waiting for its uncertain fate. Now the MHHS is aware that no-one really is sure of this fate, we are making our own moves to give it one. 1991 will be the deciding year for this locally important historical building. We will keep you informed of its progress and what proposals ultimately arise. if you believe, as we do, that this building is important and that it should be saved, then please contact us. We need your support.

Where other Shires are going to great efforts to preserve their local history, ours appears to be dragging well behind. We have, for example, had a report of a Shire which built a museum and then applied for members to establish a historical society. Another example of which we are aware is one where an officer of the Shire Council is the society's President and another officer is a full-time representative. In yet another case the Shire funds all expense for the local society, meeting maintenance costs, rates , power etc and even provides council machinery to do improvements and construction. And so the list goes on. Shires, both large and small, have seen the benefits of having a well established and presented historical Society and Museum and are acting to secure one.

But don't dismay ! The story has not ended and may yet finish with a happy ending. There is support out there, though currently fragmented, and the MHHS soldiers on. Our big ambition is the old classroom, but to be wise, we are also looking at alternatives.

STAY TUNED !

JEFF MURRAY, PRESIDENT . MUNDARING & HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

NAME MRS VALMA MARTIN

ADDRESS ...36 Ackmar Way, Swan View, 6056

PHONE NUMBER (WORK2741522)...(HOME 2941912).

PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- 1. Local History, written history, sites. 2. To see a museum established to store and display the articles that have been gathered. 3. Delegate to No. 1 Council of Hist. Societies.

NAMEBarbara Springett

ADDRESS 13 Kirkstall Way, Sawyers Valley, 6074

PHONE NUMBER (WORK -)...(HOME 2953047)

PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- Old buildings

NAME Phyllis Clatworthy

ADDRESS 14 Jinda Road, Koongamia. 6056

PHONE NUMBER (WORK 279 4511) (HOME 2943043)

PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- 1. All historical sites in Mundering Shire. 2. Glen Forrest history.

NAME Judy Love

ADDRESS 4 Lionel Road Darlington, 6070

PHONE NUMBER (WORK 294 1844) (HOME 2996989)

PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- 1. One of delegates to No 1 Reg. Council of Hist. Societies 2. As a soon-to-be retired teacher, I have a deep interest in helping to set up a museum which will interest and inform local school children. 3. Recording oral history. 4. I enjoy being part of a group so well -informed about the local area.

NAME Briony Waterhouse

ADDRESS Lot 21 Brooking Road, Mahogany Creek. 6072

PHONE NUMBER (WORK -) (HOME 2989058)

PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- 1. Mundering School history. 2. Mundering to Weir spurline. 3. Mahogany Inn area. 4.(Aim for Society - to have a convivial group of people taking pleasure in sharing their interests and knowledge.

NAME Ms Kath Trigwell

ADDRESS Lot 281 Strettle Rd, Mahogany Creek.

PHONE NUMBER (WORK -) (HOME -)

PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- 1. To keep old Mundering School buildings on site and used. Also other old buildings, - hotel, hall, Post Office. 2. Keeping Mundering in its natural and semi-rural lifestyle. 3. Retaining respect for old style of society and de -emphasising materialism.

NAME Maureen Tie
ADDRESS Lot 32 Kalang Place, Stoneville
PHONE NUMBER (WORK -) (HOME - 295 1601)
PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- 1. Mundaring Weir 2.
Mundaring townsite and its original shops.

NAME Bob Wiltshire
ADDRESS Lot 2, Flora Rd, Hovea
PHONE NUMBER (WORK 361 6101) (HOME 298 8279)
PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- To preserve items and
buildings of historical interest.

NAME Mrs Robin Giles
ADDRESS "Woodlane Cottage" Hartung St, Mundaring. 6073
PHONE NUMBER (HOME 295 2552)
PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- To record as much of the
local history as possible, in particular old homes and families
who lived in them.
Aim for the society - to promote historic sites, buildings
- and to preserve them to establish a museum in Mundaring
for the benefit of all the community.

NAME Jeff Murray
ADDRESS Lot 20, La Grange Rd, Stoneville, 6554
PHONE NUMBER (WORK 3822077) (HOME 295 2409)
PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- 1. Historical sites.
2 Cataloguing of historical names for the Mundaring Shire
Area.
3. Aims for the Society,- to establish our status and identity
in the Shire by setting up a museum to house all aspects of
the Shire's history as a historical resource centre for
information for all.

NAME Jan Lyon
ADDRESS Tilbrook Street, Glen Forrest.
PHONE NUMBER 298 9267
PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND AIMS;- 1. To see a museum
established
which would record and acknowledge the contribution of
pioneers to the
establishment of the Mundaring district.

Research Group.

Meetings are now being held on the third Thursdays of each month for members to engage in research into topics being targetted by the Society for particular study.

As we do not have an income other than our own subscriptions, members have listed their own historical reference books for use in these sessions.

TOPICS which have been suggested as being of interest are;-

History of old Mundaring School .

History of old Mundaring shops and businesses
(particularly along Jacoby St)

History of Guest houses in Mundaring area.

Locality of saw pits in the area.

HELP! Mundaring Shire is seeking information and photographs of the following early Roads Board Chairmen or Secretaries;-

C. COOK (1907-1908) , W.J. ROACH(1903 - 1908) ,
G.H. ELLIOTT(1904-1905², W. P. GRASS (1933- 1935).

ALBERT FACEY LIBRARY , MUNDARING.

The Albert Facey Library has a limited amount of local historical information, most of it being contained in a vertical file.

In addition they have three or four books dealing with local history, and a well researched thesis on the area written some thirty-four years ago. On a more general note, they have books on West Australian history, such as the Battye Cyclopedias and Dictionary of Western Australia , as well as some of the bound volumes of the Royal West Australian Historical Society's " Early Days."

My inspection was cursory, due to time constraints, and a more thorough search possible would find more books related to , or mentioning the Mundaring shire area. However, for anyone doing serious research, the material available is very limited indeed. High School students in particular, who would normally look to their local library rather than going farther afield, would find a dismayingly small amount of material to work from.

B. V. Waterhouse,
February , 1991.

KATHERINE SUSANNAH PRITCHARD LIBRARY

GREENMOUNT

Some local information is obtainable from the Local History files which are kept in a cabinet. Access to the cabinet is willingly given by the desk staff.

Books relating to local history are available from other various sections of the library, such as the Biographical section etc. You would have to know which book you are looking for either by the author or the book titles.

There is a range of Katherine Susannah Pritchard's books.

The photo copied papers and couple of books in the Local History section seem as if they are items which have been donated to the Library. There does not seem to be the interest to collect local information and store it.

Staff are friendly and co-operative.

V. Martin

MUNDARING AND HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY. REPORT FOR QUARTERLY MEETING HELD 8/12/90

Since our last report on 8/9/90, this society has been rather inactive, though we have 8 - 12 members who are very interested and willing.

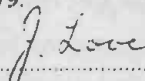
One of the problems has been that there is no clear indication as to how or when we can acquire a home of our own. Though we have several possibilities we are pursuing, nothing definite has evolved yet. This tends to make collection of artefacts and records of items of historical value impossible.

However, we have had speakers at our meetings (Peter Binden - on past aboriginal use of hills land , Robin Faulkner from the State Archives on preservation of film and other records) and we have participated as guinea pigs in a trial run of a CALM historical and natural history tour of our area. This means that we have a good idea of our aims and how to go about them.

Our President, Jeff Murray, continues to produce our newsletter.

Various individuals are contacting us for help in local history matters and we help where we can.

We have participated in two Swap Meets and made a little money - our planned participation in the Darlington Arts Festival had to be called off due to insufficient readiness - however the plans we had made to have a "Childhood games" display, with child participation, have been held ready as we intend to hold such an event at a suitable local festival in 1991. We found that an active display such as this was invaluable for gaining publicity for our cause in 1989.


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(MRS JUDY LOVE - DELEGATE)

**REPORTS GIVEN AT MEETING OF NO. 1 REGIONAL COUNCIL OF
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, DEC 8TH, 1990 AT MECHANICS
INSTITUTE, GUILDFORD.**

CANNING DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Councillor Mike Devereux, Rep, gave details of several activities of this society.

- (1) Shire of Canning supplies gardening for this society, and thus enables it to maintain grounds which bring in revenue, as they are hired out for wedding groups for photos.
- (2) They maintain WOODLOES . Were part of the Cannington Show, and have also produced a Calendar as a fund-raiser.

GOSNELLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

- (1) Informed meeting that their Council funds a person to computerise and collect historical information.
- (2) They combine with the Shire Library for some purposes. Some of the information is protected from general reading until 2050.
- (3) Their Council is funding the building of a bridge over the river as part of historical society trail, for bike riding and walking.
- (4) They have a HISTORICAL TREES project.
- (5) The Gosnells Hotel has been supportive of the society.
- (6) They have a CEMETERY PROJECT and and OLD SHOPS project.
- (7) 'BACK TO GOSNELLS ' WEEK Is In Sept/Oct.

BELMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

- (1) Informed meeting that they find their archives are being considerably used by students, particularly TEE students.
- (2) At times there have been as many as 100 students per day visiting their historical display.
- (3) They have found displays in shopping centres to be of value.
- (4) They applied to Lotteries Commission for funds to make their display more secure. - \$1000 worth of damage was done to the outside of their building. The police helicopter now goes over it at night.

SWAN/GUILDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

- (1) Currently featuring a beautifully cared for and exhibited selection of christening robes.
- (2) Helped in Spring in Valley festival by manning Houghton home .
- (3) Donation of some old rosebushes .

ARMADALE-KELMSCOTT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

- (1) Indicated that their Shire gave \$2 for every \$1 that they raised.
- (2) They man "HISTORY HOUSE", and have some changing displays- one recently was on photographic equipment from 1870, lent by a local photographic equipment shopowner, Mr David Green. In addition, Mr Ron Kowald exhibited projectors and old photographs.
- (3) The wireless Hill Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Club was going to display early wireleses and photographs starting at the Australia day week-end.
- (4) Their attendances were 531 adults and 225 children for the month of October, 1990.
- (5) A copy of their Newsletter is enclosed.

FROM MR CHARLES EADON CLARKE, RWAHS REP:-

- (1) THE RWAHS IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE MOTIONS AND IDEAS FROM THE BRANCHES FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.
- (2) NEWSLETTER SWAPS ARE A GOOD IDEA.
- (3) IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE COPIES OF NEWSLETTER IN DRS SURGERIES AND HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES, AS WELL AS SHIRE LIBRARIES.
- (4) THERE ARE FOUR THINGS WHICH AN ACTIVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CAN DO FOR THE AREA IT SERVES:-
 - (A) IT RAISES THE HISTORICAL ENTHUSIASM IN THE SHIRE.
 - (B) IT IS EDUCATIONAL FOR THE SHIRE'S CHILDREN.
 - (C) IT PROVIDES PUBLICITY FOR THE DISTRICT.
 - (D) IT IS INCOME PRODUCING, BOTH FOR ITSELF AND FOR LOCAL TRADES AND BUSINESS PEOPLE.

* Interesting fact = Bob Pearce, MLA, covers the cost of the Armadale/ Kelmscott newsletter.

* AGM of No 1 Region is on March 9th.

* The other societies look forward to being able to visit us when we get a home.

Judy Love, Delegate.

MUNDARING & HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, March 9, 1991
REPORT FOR QUARTERLY MEETING OF NO 1 REGIONAL COUNCIL OF W.A. HIST. SOC'S

- (1) This Society has been active lately in attempting to preserve the 1908 school rooms, War Memorial and rose garden at the site of the old Mundaring Primary school (sold to be a future shopping centre).

We are attempting to save these items both for their intrinsic value and also as a future museum and meeting place for our society. (Attached is a newspaper article written by one of our members).

Our approach to this project is many faceted and includes these actions in addition to the article:-

- (a) Application for listing in National Register of National Estate.
 - (b) Application for grant from Australian Heritage Commission (Which we would need for either purchase of the land from developers- Mair and Co - or, if not needing to purchase the land, for renovation of the buildings).
 - (c) Valuable support has been forthcoming from Mundaring & Hovea Ratepayers Associations, Mundaring Primary School P & C and the bugle Tree Protection Society.
 - (d) APRIL 20TH - on this day, the Society will hold a display of photos and conduct an information/petition exercise to inform local residents of events so far.
 - (e) We have a brochure in preparation which will fully inform the public, Shire councillors and interested friends of our activities. We will be asking for a meeting with the Shire's most appropriate sub-committee to present our case.
- (2) We have formed a Research Committee which meets every third Thursday and is now engaged in research on matters concerning the Mundaring townsite.
- (3) We have made a decision to begin our collection with oral history tapes, since these present no real storage problem in our gypsy state.

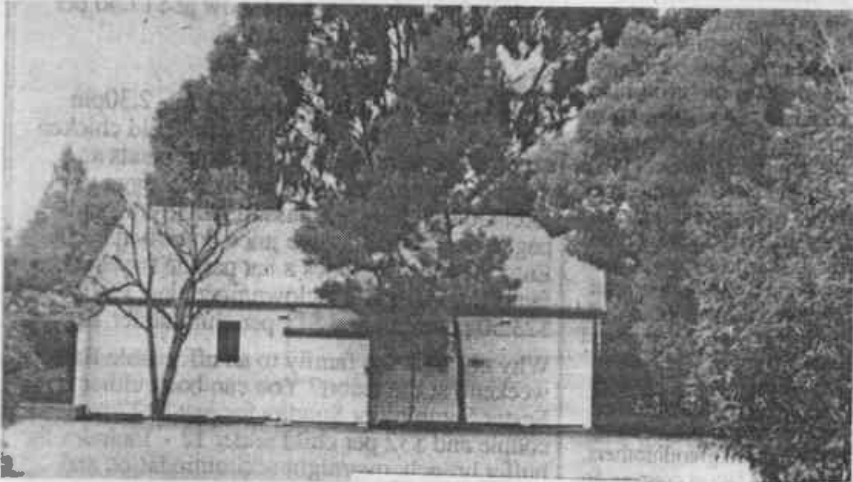
Accordingly, we have had an informal chat at our last meeting with two long-time Mundaring residents, Mrs Bessie Bending and her brother, Mr Reece Gray. These extremely interesting people, both around 80 years old, shared with us some extremely interesting memories from their vast store. Some of these concerned the old Mundaring School, which both attended. They recalled these sorts of things - the vegetable garden and orchard they tended as part of their studies, the way the boys "nicked off" to swim in nearby creeks at lunchtime (the whacking they got was worth it, they felt), their amazement of seeing (and hearing) the veterans of World War 1 who were sent hereto recuperate from dreadful lung injury after being gassed and their long walks to dances at nearby settlements wearing home-made newspaper "rainhats" and "raincoats".

This has whetted our appetites to record as many memories as possible. We are going to get the instructional tape on "howter" which Ronda Jamieson and the Battye Library have produced, plus some of the listed readings. We have one of our members soon to complete the Oral History Recording Course, and hope she can initiate the rest of us into it, since few of us can spare the time for the full course just now.

- (4) With the kind cooperation of the Swan Districts Camera Club, our collection of photographs of historical sites and people of the Mundaring Shire continues to grow.....all we need now is somewhere to house it!

(Mrs Judy Love - Delegate)

Fight to save school



THE Mundaring and Hills Historical Society is fighting to save the old Mundaring School building.

This is one of the last historic buildings left standing in Mundaring, many others have been demolished in recent years.

The old weatherboard school has a strong link with many old families in the district who came to settle in Mundaring at the turn of the century and sent their children to the newly opened school in 1908.

A school was first established in Mundaring in 1907 and the first classes were conducted in the local hall on November 4, with just 15 children attending the opening day.

Eli Willis, the head teacher from the Mundaring Weir School, came up and taught there part-time until the Christmas holidays.

The next school year began with the appointment of a full time teacher, Mr Philip Turvey. Mrs Turvey acted as sewing mistress until the appointment of an assistant teacher in 1909. The Turveys moved into the little school house in Nichol Street (which was recently demolished) on October 28, 1908.

The new one-roomed weatherboard school was opened two weeks later on November 10, 1908, with about 30 pupils attending.

Children of timber workers, orchardists and small farmers made their way to school by walking through the bush or riding their ponies. Some pupils came up from Mahogany Creek by train.

The Mundaring and Hills Historical Society is trying to save the old school on site and would like to use the building for meetings and to eventually establish a museum there. If the building remains on site the National Trust would consider listing the building, adding its historical value to the district.

If the building is removed to another site, it loses its historical significance and cannot be listed by the trust.

If you would like to voice your opinion on this issue you can contact the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society members on these phone numbers 298-9058, 295-1601, 295-2552 or 295-2469.