

# Winter 2001 Newsletter

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## **BUILDING BRIDGES: SCHOOLS, SENIORS AND THE SOCIETY**

MHHS was involved in three events recently that are good examples of the way history can provide a bridge between different age groups in the community

In April, about 40 people from the Hills Community Support Group day-centre visited Parkerville School. MHHS members facilitated a discussion between the visitors and the school children using objects such as household items and educational and entertainment memorabilia from the MHHS collection.

The feedback received was very positive from all quarters and we hope to present a similar program in some other Shire schools later in the year.

During the same week, another 40 people from the HCSG visited Mundaring District Museum in small groups, where they viewed the "Struggle Street" exhibition and historical film footage. Again, the occasion provided a great stimulus for the sharing of memories.

Later that month, the Society prepared a display on Glen Forrest history for the Glen Forrest Primary School's 'Seniors Day'. The display enabled young and old to reflect on the areas changing sense of place over time, and made an important contribution to what was a very successful day.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, six MHHS volunteers returned to Parkerville School to participate in a ceremony marking the Centenary of Federation. The Society provided a speaker to address the theme, and our volunteers acted as 'special guests' for the hand-over of a Federation medallion to each child. This helped stamp the day with a real sense of significance for the children and the many parent onlookers.

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Held at the Glen Forrest Station Master's House, cnr. Railway Tce and Burkinshaw Rd

**6 June** at 7.30 p.m.

Followed by "Show and Tell".

**4 July** at 7.30 p.m.

Followed by "Show and Tell".

**1 August** at 7.30 p.m.

AGM followed by Monthly Meeting

**5 September** at 7.30 p.m.

Followed by **Guest Speaker, Stan**

**Gervas** at 8 p.m. Stan will address some of the historical controversies surrounding the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme. He has a strong research background in this area and recently released the book 'Pipe-dream to Pipeline'.

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### 2001 A.E. WILLIAMS PRIZE

The Royal WA Historical Society has announced that the MHHS President, Shelley Bertola, is the joint winner of the A.E. Williams Prize for 2001.

Her entry in the competition was an extract from a historical research paper she had written on Sacred Heart School, Mundaring.

Congratulations, Shelley!

### HEART OF THE HILLS FESTIVAL

The Society had a display and information stall at the Festival and fielded many enquiries.

The old fashioned toys delighted many passers-by, with adults and children often vying for first turn!

The Mundaring and Parkerville town-site heritage tours were held on the Sunday and we intend repeating these when the warmer weather returns.

### PUBLIC ACCESS SYSTEM

Volunteers, Eve Buckland and Leanne Traynor, have been making steady progress with the loading of photographic images and accompanying information into our computer.

When complete, this will make our extensive image record of the Shire's history more readily accessible to members of the public, government agencies and other customers.

Other volunteers, Fiona Bush, Maureen Tie and Mary Anthony, have been busy indexing and re-organising our local history research files. Again, this will make it much easier for the Society to respond to requests for information, or to assist visitors' own research.

### DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS

2003 is the Centenary of both the Mundaring Shire local government area and the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme.

This will create an ideal opportunity for our regional community to celebrate its distinctiveness and diversity.

There is likely to be a marked increase in requests to MHHS for information, advice and other forms of assistance over the next few years.

As part of the lead-up to 2003, two new National Trust Mundaring Weir Precinct Walk Trails were officially opened on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. These are part of the National Trust's 'Golden Pipeline Project'.

MHHS has been providing substantial support to the Trust in areas such as trail interpretation, museum exhibition development, and school curriculum material.

### *Welcome To New Members:*

Bill Day, Jenny Dunn and Michael Barratt

### Recent Acquisitions

Recent additions to the collection include:

- ❖ Two colored postcards of the Upper Helena River (1907); located by Ruth McCole.
- ❖ 'Dobbie' hand-operated sewing machine (~ 1900); donated by Charles Wynton.
- ❖ A 'fish tail slasher' (~ 1940's); donated by Norm Fimmell This was used to manually remove Eucalypt sucker re-growth when forests were cleared for agricultural land.

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### LOOKING FORWARD → ← LOOKING BACK



### *Chidlow's Memorial Well*

The small reserve on what is now the corner of Old Northam Rd and Thomas St., Chidlow was a convenient resting and camping place for travellers between Perth and the Avon districts during the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Then, in 1897, the Chidlow State School was established on the site.

The tall pines on the edge of the reserve were planted by schoolchildren in the 1920's, joining the large Cedar tree that was planted during the previous era.

In 1950, the Jubilee Committee of the Chidlow Progress Association launched a project.

The aim was to erect a highly visible memorial to the original Chidlow brothers' well, from which the town had taken its name. (Chidlow was at this time known as 'Chidlow's Well'). The original well was actually located further east of town, along the Old Northam Rd.

The memorial was planned to be unveiled during 1951.

Schoolchildren were invited to suggest the form the memorial should take, with Keith Jones produced the winning 'wishing well' design.

Chidlow stonemasons, Silvio Bassola and Bert Gatti constructed the 'coffee rock' base. However, due to time constraints, this was all that could be completed of the structure by the time the unveiling ceremony was due.

The ceremony went ahead anyway, with a commemorative plaque temporarily attached to

the base for the occasion. This was removed following the ceremony for safekeeping.

In 1952 the Chidlow school was transferred to a new building at its present location in Lilydale Rd. The Forests Department then took over the reserve for a decade or so and the old timber school building was eventually demolished.

The reserve rapidly assumed a derelict air and the 'wishing well' continued to remain in a state of incompleteness until 1997, the Centenary year of the Chidlow School. A shingled roof and windlass were added to it then as part of the schools celebrations.

Recognising the reserve's cultural heritage significance, the Chidlow Progress Association has now decided to take some steps to further acknowledge its importance to the town.

### *How You Can Help*

Come along on **Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June from 2 p.m.** Activities will include the planting of native shrubs, as well as a general clean-up of the reserve.

A replica of the original plaque will be attached to the well, 50 years to the day after the 1951 unveiling.

The original plaque will be forwarded to the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society to be preserved as part of the Shire's history.

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*Thank you* to the following people for your assistance with the MHHS fundraising raffle- Meg Lowe, Bob Smith, Lorna Noonan, Margaret Denton, Sharon Casey, Gerard Van Didden, Ivy Day, Tricia Rawlings and Brian Marshall.

We also wish to thank our generous donors throughout the Shire for the great prizes:

- ❑ Paul Beck
- ❑ Rachel Oxenburgh
- ❑ Olga Wignall
- ❑ Calico Blue B&B, Stoneville
- ❑ Everbloom Nursery, Sawyers Valley
- ❑ Glen Forrest Post Office
- ❑ Chidlow Garage
- ❑ Mundaring Village Hardware
- ❑ Caltex Glen Forrest
- ❑ Glen Forrest Newsagency
- ❑ Mundaring Bookshop
- ❑ Eastern Hills Saws and Mowers
- ❑ Mundaring Pharmacy
- ❑ Parkerville Store
- ❑ Mundaring Newsagency
- ❑ Mundaring Hotel
- ❑ Earth, Wind and Fire, Chidlow
- ❑ Mundaring Liquor Store
- ❑ Just Hair, Mundaring
- ❑ Mahogany Inn, Mahogany Creek
- ❑ Mundaring Supa-Valu
- ❑ Mundaring Post Office
- ❑ Chidlow Growers Market

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