

Spring 2001 Newsletter

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MHHS AND THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS

The United Nations has designated 2001 as the IYV to acknowledge the special role that volunteers play in the community.

One of the factors that has made our organisation a success is the diverse range of interests and skills of our volunteers

MHHS volunteers perform a very wide range of duties, including the operation of Mundaring District Museum and the collection of historical data and objects relating to the Mundaring Shire.

Every day, our volunteers carry out tasks that are publicly visible, such as working as museum attendants, preparing and maintaining displays and working with other organisations to undertake educational programs and community events.

However, it is important to remember the many people who work 'behind the scenes' and without whom we could not function, such as -- the ladies who organise the catering for gatherings, the Treasurer with her mountain of paperwork and the GST to contend with, the accessioning team which meticulously documents our growing collection of objects and photographs, the research team which continuously collects and indexes information for the local history research files, the conservation volunteers who clean and repair objects for display -- and many more.

2001 is therefore a very appropriate year to say thank you to all of these people. MHHS recently received a grant from the IYV Secretariat to cover the costs of 'uniform' style T-shirts for our most active volunteers. These will be presented at a morning tea to be held at Mt. Helena Primary School in early September.

Although the number of T-shirts was limited by the amount of the grant, we hope to award special IYV Certificates of Appreciation later in the year to recognise the efforts of many of our other volunteers.

Shelley Bertola, President

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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 recently released the book 'Pipe-dream to Pipeline'.

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

3 October at 7.30 p.m.

Followed by **Guest Speaker, Bill Day** at 8 p.m. -- 'Internet Trading in Historical Collectibles'.

To be held at Parkerville Primary School library, Windoo Rd, Parkerville.

21 October -- Annual Dinner; Venue to be advised.

7 November at 7.30 p.m.

Followed by Show and Tell

To be held at Glen Forrest SMH

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ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

The Society was fortunate to be one of 27 organisations in the State to share in \$10,000 provided by the Department of Training and Employment to celebrate Adult Learners Week.

MHHS is working with Parkerville Primary School's extension programme and two seniors walk groups to provide multi-age learning opportunities.

The project 'History Mysteries: On the Trail' involves the students researching heritage sites in the Old Parkerville Village precinct. They will then take representatives of the 'Happy Wanderers' and Hills Community Support Group's 'Getaway Club' walk groups on a guided tour of the trail during Adult Learners Week on Wednesday, 5th September. Parent representatives from the school will also take part on the walk and provide catering on the day.

'MEMORY, REWIND, PLAY'

This joint MHHS / Mundaring Arts Centre project is proceeding well. The aim of the project is to capture the stories of 9 post-World War 2 migrants who settled for various periods in the Shire of Mundaring.

The participants come from diverse life backgrounds, but the majority arrived here as part of the 'assisted passage' emigration scheme controlled by the Australian government.

Countries of origin include Germany, Holland, Indonesia, Hungary, Italy, Czechoslovakia, England and Poland.

The oldest participant, Mrs. Nora Trower, is 94 years of age and led the first half of her life in England before emigrating. Nora has seen many changes in social, economic and political life over time.

One of the pleasures of the project has been working with media students from Helena College to film the group interview sessions.

The process of editing and converting all of the written text, stills, video images and audio into a CD-ROM format is very time consuming and technically demanding, but it is anticipated that the CD will be launched in November.

CENTENARY OF FEDERATION TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

The Royal West Australian Historical Society has produced a travelling exhibition to commemorate the Centenary of Federation.

The RWAHS has kindly offered a duplicate set of the exhibition's graphic panels to MHHS. These will be installed in Mundaring District Museum in mid-November. Further details will be advertised in the local press.

HERITAGE PHOTO COMPETITION

The Society has been requested by the Mundaring Tourism Association to provide assistance for their forthcoming photographic competition.

The competition will cover three sections: cultural heritage sites, natural heritage sites and people of the region.

We welcome suggestions from our readers of interesting places and faces (particularly those less well known).

Welcome To New Members:

Fiona Bush, Jaye Radisich, Eve Buckland, Bill Walker, Sharon Casey, Lyn Beard, Val Campbell, Leanne Traynor.

Recent Acquisitions

Recent additions to the collection include:

- ❖ First Occurrence Book of the Mundaring Police Station. Donated by Mundaring Police Station.
- ❖ Station Master's desk from the former Mundaring Railway Station. Donated by Patricia Wilkinson-Cox.
- ❖ Original Chidlows Memorial Well plaque. Donated by Chidlow Progress Association.
- ❖ 'Western Mail Annual - Christmas 1946'. Donated by Minna Wells.
- ❖ Elbow length gloves (1920's). Donated by Meg Lowe.
- ❖ Copies of Chidlow photo collection of M Todman (1920's to 50's). Facilitated by Ruth McCole.

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LOOKING FORWARD → ← LOOKING BACK

MY PARKERVILLE

Roy Crooke came to Parkerville in 1926 at the age of four. He has recorded many of his youthful memories, such as the ones below.

"Parkerville was an active township with plenty of social events. There was a dance held every Saturday night in the hall with a special magic created by the lighting, which was a huge acetylene lamp, adequately bright, but a bit smelly.

In daylight hours, in the stretch along side the hall devoted to modern day parking, kangaroo-dog jumping was held. These large greyhound-type dogs would jump over a bar some 15 feet in the air!

A rough platform about 4 foot high was made, which supported one end of a ramp. Above this platform a crossbar was rigged.

Two men would handle the dog. One would take the animal some distance away, while the other would stand near the crossbar to catch the animal, because landing on the ground from the incredible heights that the dogs obtained would result in certain injury.

At a signal the dog would hurtle off and launch from the ramp to clear the crossbar, to be lovingly caught before reaching the ground. It was a spectacular sport that attracted crowds and, of course, betting.

Log chop events were held regularly., attracting contestants from other Hills areas.

On the commercial side, there was a large shunting area at the railway yards. This area, comprising four sets of lines, was used to handle the produce stacked in the yard for market, mainly railway sleepers that were produced locally and orchard and poultry farm produce.

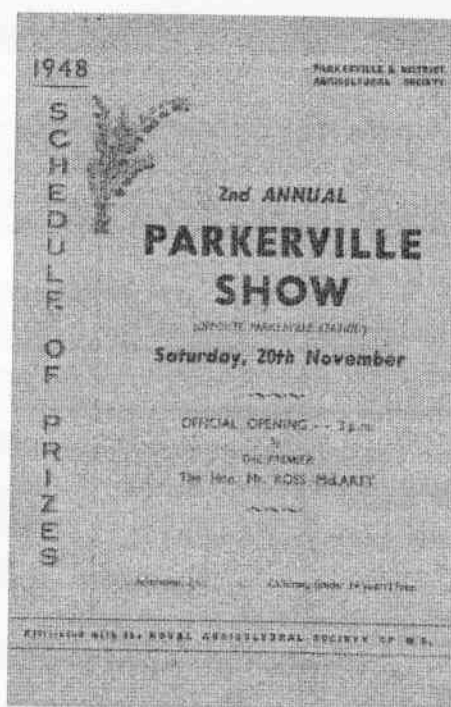
The granite quarry was in full production as well. Pieces of blue-metal rained down on our roof every Friday afternoon when the quarry firings took place to bring down the rock for the men to start breaking up on Monday mornings.

Rock from the Parkerville quarry was used to build the North and South Moles at

Fremantle, as well as ballast for the State's railway lines.

Parkerville was an exciting place to live in those far-off days, but the town experienced massive change after World War Two and the town became a 'sleepy hollow'.

I suppose in retirement that is the way we would prefer it, but I can't help harking back with a deep feeling of nostalgia to the days when I attended the Parkerville Village School."



Can You Help?

MHHS is planning an exhibition and book with a 'Then and Now' theme for the Centenary of the Shire of Mundaring in 2003.

If you have anecdotes, photos or objects that can help us tell the story of your locality, we would be pleased to hear from you.

On a different note, the Swanview Show, the only surviving Agricultural Show in the Shire, will take place in early October. Why not support it through your visit?

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Volunteer Profile Maureen Tie



This is the first of a new series of articles. In this issue we focus on the Society's longest serving volunteer.

Maureen was a founding member of the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society in 1989. She has held the positions of

President, Treasurer, Vice-President and Committee member at various times since then.

Maureen's knowledge of various aspects of the Shire's history is highly regarded, particularly that pertaining to the Mundaring area. This is not surprising, since her family connections with Mundaring go back many years.

Maureen has volunteered a great deal of time responding to the many requests for information the Society receives from individuals, community groups and government

The last has often involved work with committees, such as the one that produced the *Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places*. She is presently a member of the Shire Committee overseeing the new history book being prepared by Dr. Ken Spillman. She is also the MHHS delegate to the National Trust's 'Golden Pipeline' project.

Maureen has made many other contributions to the Society since its formation. One of her current activities is guiding the team of dedicated ladies who meet each Monday morning to maintain and develop the local history research files.

When not volunteering for MHHS, Maureen is a member of several other community groups, including World Vision and the Helena River Catchment Group.

She also enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and working in her native garden.

ARCHIVE ANTIQUES & Decorative Arts

Interested in history and the arts?



'We carry a superb range of antique and collectable china, glass, pottery, metalware and other decorative items. We also wish to purchase similar items for cash. Why not pop in and see our treasure trove?'

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7160 Great Eastern Highway
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10 am - 5.30 pm Wednesday to Sunday

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