

Summer 2001 Newsletter

PO Box 334 Mundaring WA 6073



Historical Society (Inc.)

Phone: 9298 8944

ABN 25028478748

GRANT FOR MUSEUM COORDINATOR

MHHS was awarded a grant of \$14,500 recently through the Lotteries Commission's 'Specific Purposes Grants for Museum's Program'. The grant will provide 75% of the 'seed' funding for a part-time Coordinator for Mundaring District Museum. The position will initially be filled on a nine-month contract.

The WA Branch Coordinator of Museums Australia, Ms. Elizabeth Hof, congratulated the Society on its achievement in what had been a very competitive year. Only \$200,000 was available for distribution in the round and \$500,000 in requests had been received from museums throughout the State.

The Society is pleased to announce that Mr. Brian Marshall has been recruited to the Coordinator's position. His application for the position had the support of key professionals in the WA museum network.

Brian's role will include the coordination of collections management, acquisition, conservation, exhibitions and public programmes for the museum. He will also be responsible for the recruitment and management of volunteers, project development with other community groups and the preparation of grant and sponsorship submissions.

As the Coordinator, Brian will provide invaluable assistance to our broad range of volunteers. In total, they contribute thousands of hours of their time annually to help the Society meet the expectations of both the community and the heritage and museum industry. In doing so, they have used their existing skills or shown a willingness to acquire new ones. The volunteers deserve adequate and appropriate support for their

efforts in an increasingly complex area of work.

In addition, the Coordinator's position will help the Society strengthen its involvement in activities with other organisations. For example, the next few years will see some wonderful opportunities to continue working with organisations such as the Mundaring Tourism Association, National Trust, Mundaring Arts Centre and the Shire, to boost the social and economic benefits to the region of its heritage. Public interest in cultural tourism surrounding the Centenaries of the Shire of Mundaring and the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme in 2003 is but one of these opportunities.

Shelley Bertola, President

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

6 February at 7.30 p.m.

Followed by Guest Speaker, **Ron Mitchell** at 8 p.m. – **The Rediscovery of Bilgoman Convict Well.**

6 March at 7.30 p.m.

Followed by Guest Speaker, **Bill Walker** at 8 p.m. – **The Maritime History of North-Western Australia. 1863 to 1914.**

3 April at 7.30 p.m.

Followed by Guest Speaker, **George Crafter** at 8 p.m. – **The Postal History of Mundaring Shire.**

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TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

A grant from the Department of Family and Children's Services has enabled us to purchase a digital laser photocopier. The machine also has fax, high quality scanner and laser printer capabilities. In addition, the Society will be connecting to the Internet shortly, which will allow us to establish useful electronic links with other organisations.

INTERESTING WEB SITES

With more people in the community going on-line, we would be interested in receiving information about interesting web sites with a history/ heritage theme and sharing this information through our newsletter.

Here are a few suggestions to date:

Australian Museums On-line - Information and collection images from small museums around Australia. (www.amol.org.au)

EBAY - the main Internet market place for people buying and selling historical collectibles. (www.ebay.com)

National Quilt Register - Quilts and their stories from around Australia. (www.amol.org.au/nqr)

Membership Subscriptions

I wish to become a member/ renew my membership.

Fees (inc. GST)

- ❖ Senior/ pensioner - \$12
- ❖ Senior/ pensioner - couple - \$18
- ❖ Single - \$22
- ❖ Couple - \$28
- ❖ Company/ institution - \$30

Return to Treasurer, Jane Bullock, MHHS, PO Box 334, Mundaring WA 6073 or drop to Mundaring District Museum

SCHOOL PROJECTS

Gerard Van Didden has been working with several classes at Sawyers Valley Primary School. A highlight of his work has been the mapping exercises based on Chauncy's Trail. Surveyor, Philip Chauncy resurveyed the original York Rd in 1846.

Judy Love, meanwhile, recently welcomed three Glen Forrest Primary School classes to the Glen Forrest Station Master's House. Judy interpreted the site to give the children insights into some of the ways that living conditions for locals have changed over time.

Meg Lowe and Charles Wynton joined Parkerville Primary School Year Seven students in a visit to the former Parkerville Village School. The students had previously undertaken a general cleanup of the site as part of a project for the International Year of Volunteers. Our members discussed the nature of schooling in the past with the students, as well as the values of volunteering. Several former students of the old school from the 1940's also took part in the session

The Society has lodged a grant application with the Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests. If successful, the funding will allow us to develop three informal walk trails in 2002 in cooperation with the extension programmes of other schools in the Shire and the Hills Community Support Group.

Welcome To New Members:

Bill Cutler Helena Hercik, Bob Smith, Ivy Day, and John McFadden

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LOOKING FORWARD → ← LOOKING BACK

The Raising of Mundaring Weir Wall



Mr. Albert Grygorcewacz Working On New Wall, 1950

Photo courtesy of Mrs. A Grygorcewacz (MHHS Collection)

In 1948 the Commonwealth Government provided financial support to the State for the construction of the Comprehensive Agricultural Areas Water Supply Scheme. The northern section of the scheme was based on the existing Goldfields Water Supply system and provided for a reticulated water supply to approximately 1.6 million hectares of land throughout the States agricultural area.

Raising the wall of Mundaring Weir trebled the dam's capacity. 61,000 cubic metres of concrete were used in the enlargement of the wall at a cost of 720,000 pounds. Great care was taken to ensure that the appearance of the new additions was in character with the original structure. A considerable number of the workers on the project were emigrants from post-war Europe.

A substantial upgrading of the pipeline was undertaken, with the major works occurring between Mundaring Weir and Cunderdin where some of the sections of new pipe are up to 122 cm in diameter.

There are, however, approximately 335 km of the original locking bar pipes still in use, with the majority located to the east of Southern Cross.

Between 1954 and 1960, the steam driven pumps at Stations 1 to 4 were decommissioned and replaced by powerful electrically driven centrifugal pumps at Mundaring Weir, Cunderdin and Merredin.

A ceremony to mark the completion of the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme was held on 24th November, 1961. The mains were later extended to Dalwallinu, Pithara, Ballidu, Corrigin, Kalannie, North Koorda, North Bencubbin and Wilgayne.

The Institution of Engineers, in conjunction with the Water Corporation will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the raising of the wall on the 14th December, 2001. The Mundaring and Hills Historical Society has been providing information and other materials to Watercorp to help it prepare for the celebrations.

Base information provided by the Institution of Engineers and National Trust (WA)

Can You Help?

We are seeking information on the names and present whereabouts of any of the people who worked on the raising of the Mundaring Weir wall.



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MHHS Volunteers' End of Year Morning Tea

Tuesday 11th December at 10 a.m.

Next to Museum (Old Mundaring School)

All Welcome

Enquiries: Brian Marshall 9298 8944

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Recent Acquisitions

Recent additions to the collection include:

- ❖ Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers (1905). The book contains over 150 pages of description and analysis of the construction of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme. Donated by Mr. A Roberts.
- ❖ Map of Chidlow railway station area (1920's). Facilitated by R McCole.
- ❖ Kitchen scales (1940's). Donated by C Wynton.
- ❖ Mundaring ephemera (1940's). Donated by E Shenton and R&M Smith.

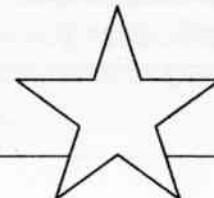
Snippets

- The museum will be closed from Monday, 17th December 2001 to Sunday, 20th January 2002. This will allow all our attendants to have a well-earned rest and for maintenance on the building to take place.
- The Society is seeking a volunteer with good computer graphics skills. We would also be pleased to hear from someone with dressmaking skills to help produce costumes.
- 2001 is the Centenary of the Australian Armed Forces. Ruth McCole has installed a small display at Mundaring District Museum to commemorate the occasion. Congratulations also to Ruth for being awarded a bursary by the WA Museum to attend the recent National Remote and Regional Museums Conference in Kalgoorlie.
- The Society's April 2002 guest speaker, George Crafter, has an outstanding knowledge of the postal history of Mundaring Shire. His collection of objects relating to

our region will be on display in Mundaring District Museum during the last 3 weeks of April.

- Fiona Bush, Maureen Tie and Helena Hercik have been making good progress loading the records of our photographic collection onto the Public Access System database. Fiona's background as a heritage archaeologist has been of particular value in providing information on heritage places.
- Bill Walker has photographed the Greenmount Road Board World War One Roll of Honour, which is in our collection. This will allow us to produce a copy for display while the original, which is in very fragile condition, receives urgent conservation treatment.
- Val Martin led a heritage walk around Midland recently for MHHS members. A little known fact is that she is also a scorer for premier level cricket - Have a glass of champagne for us at Lilac Hill on the 4th December, Val - after the game of course!
- Several volunteers have been enrolled in next year's museums studies units at Edith Cowan University. Funding from the Lotteries Commission's 'Promoting Excellence' program will allow them to receive training in the areas of metals, paper and photograph conservation.
- Brian Marshall attended the Shire sponsored celebrations at Brown Park for the International Day of People with a Disability. He reported that there were four speakers at the event with various disabilities and each of them had an inspirational story. It became clear in discussion that disabled people provide a large pool of skills and are very interested in voluntary work.

Merry Christmas To All Our Readers



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Volunteer Profile

Judy Love



As the International Year Of Volunteers nears its conclusion, it is fitting that we focus on another of the

Society's longest serving volunteers.

Judy has been a Committee member since joining the Society and has held the positions of Secretary and Vice-President.

Her appreciation of local heritage sites made her a key member of the team who rallied community support for the preservation of the former Mundaring School building on Great Eastern Hwy. This delightful site is now shared by Mundaring District Museum and the Mundaring Tourism Information Centre.

Judy has a very good knowledge of the Darlington and Glen Forrest localities in particular. This is frequently drawn upon when running MHHS educational sessions for schools. She brings her enthusiasm and her years of experience as a former primary school teacher to these sessions, which are always well received by the children and the adults accompanying them.

Along with her husband Doug, Judy is a Convenor of the Friends of North Darlington Reserves, thus playing an active part in the protection and enhancement of the Shire's natural heritage. She also maintains a long standing commitment as a volunteer for the Save the Children Darlington Branch.



**Mundaring
Bookshop**

Shop 5,
Mundaring Arcade
Mundaring WA 6073

Telephone : 9295 2177
Facsimile : 9295 2055



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Mahogany Creek Store
Second Hand & Old Wares
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