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MHHS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2007



NEW MUSEUM CURATOR

"Many members may already know that the Historical Society currently has a new curator. In January, Brian Marshall requested six months leave of absence from his position as curator. The Executive Committee approved this request and, as the six months brought us into August, which represents the renewal date for the contract, both Brian and the Committee agreed that the position should be advertised at the end of the six month period. As we needed to fill this position for such a short period of time, the Committee decided that it might be difficult to organise a replacement for Brian if the position was advertised. So we approached long time member Ruth McCole, to see if she would be interested in becoming our curator for the six month period. We were fortunate that Ruth was looking for work at the time and she readily accepted our proposal.

The Committee has decided to extend Ruth's contract until mid October due to our commitments with Trek the Trail in August and the State History Conference in September. These two events will considerably tax our volunteer resources this year and the additional burden of advertising, interviewing and possibly appointing a new person to the Curatorship was a task which we thought would be best left until after these two events.

Ruth is well qualified to fulfil this position as she completed a Certificate in Museum Studies in 1999 through the sponsorship of the Historical Society. She has also been involved in a number of exhibitions for both the Historical Society, the Chidlow Progress Association and the Railway Signallers Group of which she is a member. Ruth also played a major role in helping the Society develop the Proclamation

Train Sculpture which was unveiled near the former Chidlow Station in December 2004. Some of you may have seen the interesting railway history display in the front room of our "House" during last year's Trek the Trail. Ruth was responsible for this display and it later formed part of the Rail Tales Exhibition in the Museum which was organised by Ruth.

At present Ruth is busy organising the objects in our collection and preparing them for our move into the new "House" later in the year. Ruth will be at the Station Master's House on Mondays and Fridays and will spend alternate Wednesdays at the Museum. Welcome Ruth, and we hope you find your new role both enjoyable and stimulating. *(See Ruth's 'Museum Matters' page inside)*

I'm sure all of you would like to join with me in thanking Brian for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Society in the past and in particular during the six years that he has been our Curator. While it is often said that no-one is irreplaceable, a person with Brian's commitment to the Society's work would be hard to find and we are thankful that he continues as a member and volunteer."

President Fiona Bush



The new Curator of the Mundaring District Museum Ruth McCole, pictured with outgoing Curator Brian Marshall.

STATE HISTORY CONFERENCE UPDATE

Planning for this event is progressing well. The conference will be on from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 September. The event will start with a Civic Reception which the Shire has kindly agreed to host for us. As the Shire Offices will be undergoing refurbishment in September, the Reception will be held in The Hub. Shire President, John Beaton has kindly agreed to give a short speech at the Reception.

Saturday is the main day for the conference (with The Hub once again serving as the function room). We have four guest speakers who will cover a range of topics. Dr Criena Fitzgerald will give a talk on Wooroloo Sanatorium, Dr Nonja Peters will talk about migrants (post WW2) at the Weir, Paul Bridges will talk about the Blackboy Hill Army Camp and Dr Shane Bourke will talk about archaeology in the Swan District and archaeology's role in heritage.

Murphy's Café will be doing the catering for morning and afternoon teas and lunch and the conference dinner will be held at Mahogany Inn. We will also be having several tours on Sunday: The No. 1 and No. 2 Pump Stations, Wooroloo Sanatorium (aka Wooroloo Prison Farm), Swan View Tunnel and a Winery Tour run by Karen Gilmore. The conference will cost \$25 and the dinner \$43.50.

We will be looking for volunteers to help us at both the Civic Reception (to assist with early registrations) and also to help man the desk during the conference. Prior to the conference some assistance will also be needed in assembling the material which will go into the conference bags. For those of you wishing to assist please contact the office, we would love to hear from you!

ARE YOU ON OUR EMAIL LIST?

We have had an encouraging response to our call for email addresses of members. To be added to our list all you need to do is send a blank email to mhhs@iinet.net.au with your name in the subject line.

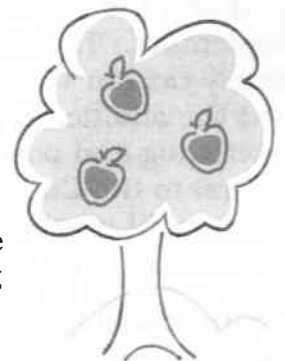
LIVING HISTORY MAY SPEAKER

For our meeting on **Saturday, 19th May**, we hope to have a speaker who can talk to us about how to collect oral histories. As I'm sure you're all aware, many of our residents have a wealth of knowledge about the history of our district which we really need to collect before it is too late. So if you're interested in helping us interview some of our long term residents come along and hear what sort of questions need to be asked and how to conduct the interview.

MUNDARING'S ORIGINS JUNE FIELD TRIP

The excursion on Saturday, 16th June will be to Fiona Jordan's property on Mundaring Weir Road. This property was originally part of Alexander Forrest's timber lease. It has been suggested that Forrest built a hut on this property which came to be used as a hunting lodge by various visitors. One of these visitors was Peter Gugerri who later purchased part of this land and established a vineyard which he named St. Bernard.. The property was later sold to the Jacoby brothers who renamed it Mundaring and it was from this property that the township acquired its name. When the Ilbery family purchased the place they named it Mundaring Park.

Local legend relates that two very old apple trees on the property were purportedly planted by John Forrest, brother to Alexander. We will be visiting the property to try and determine whether the old cottage was once part of the hunting lodge, or whether the site next to an old oak tree, which retains remains of an old building was the more likely location.



The place is Lot 1 Mundaring Weir Road, which is marked by a white letterbox, the first on the left after the Recreation Ground. We will meet inside the gate at 2pm.

MEMBERSHIP

Fees (inc. GST):

- Senior/pensioner \$12 (Couple \$18)
- Single \$22 (Couple \$28)
- Company/Institution \$30

Return to Treasurer

Jane Bullock, MHHS, PO Box 334,
Mundaring WA 6073.

or to Mundaring District Museum,
Old School, 7225 Great Eastern Hwy.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS:

Chris French &

Eastern Hills Engineering

Thank You For Your Support

HERITAGE CALENDAR SUCCESS



Our 2007 calendar, featuring Schooling in the Hills, has been well received, with more than 700 copies sold.

Around 15 Hills businesses have generously acted as outlets for the calendar, as well as the council libraries, and of course our museum. The Mundaring Tourism Association has been especially active in generating sales.

So far, including sponsor support, we have raised more than \$5500 for the Society, which leaves us with a healthy profit after printing and production costs.

As we are now into April, any remaining calendar stocks can be purchased for the bargain price of \$3 from outlets, or the Stationmaster's House, Glen Forrest.

Planning is well under way to have the 2008 calendar ready to sell by October."

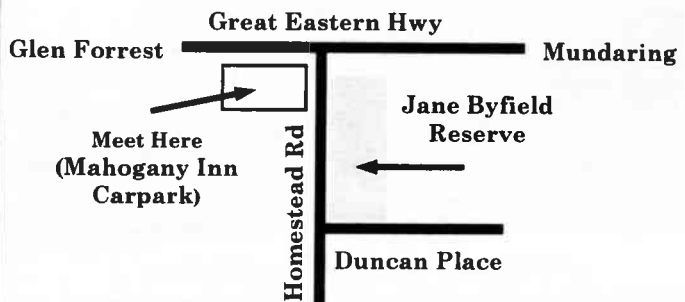
JANE BYFIELD RESERVE FIELD TRIP

Saturday April 21st @ 2pm.

Park at the Mahogany Inn Carpark and from here we will walk across Homestead Road to the Reserve.

Jane Byfield Reserve is the oldest Reserve in the Shire. Originally set aside for camping for roadside travellers. The Historical Society was instrumental in 1995 in having this previously unnamed reserve named 'Jane Byfield Reserve'. The MHHS are also convenors of the 'Friends of Jane Byfield Reserve Group'.

Jane Byfield helped run the nearby Mahogany Inn from 1844 till her death in 1871. The Byfield family is also strongly associated with the pioneering history of the local area. Come along as we share the history of this magnificent reserve. Afterwards we will be having afternoon tea at Mahogany Inn.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 21st April at 2pm

Site Excursion: Jane Byfield Reserve (park at Mahogany Inn) followed by visit to Mahogany Inn for afternoon tea.

Saturday May 19th at 3pm

Meeting followed by speaker on Oral History

Saturday June 16th at 2pm

Site Excursion: Mundaring Orchard/John Forrest's 'Hunting Lodge'. Mundaring Weir Rd

Saturday July 21st at 3pm

Meeting followed by speaker.

*Unless otherwise advised, meetings are at:
The Stationmaster's House, cnr Railway Pde and
Burkinshaw Rd, Glen Forrest.*

THEN AND NOW

DONOVAN'S SERVICE STATION. CNR GREAT EASTERN HWY & BILGOMAN RD, GLEN FORREST.

Many long term residents and indeed anyone using Greenmount Hill in the middle of last century will remember 'Donovan's Garage' at the top of the hill.

Wise's Western Australian Postal Directories gives an insight into the garage over the years:

A listing for a garage first appeared in Glen Forrest in 1933 (so, given the time lag it was probably there around 1932). The owner was listed as Mr A. Moffatt and it was called the 'White Hall Service Station'.

In 1934 Mr V.R. Donovan was listed as the owner of the 'White Hall Service Station' and he continued as the owner until the directory ceased being printed in 1949. In 1936 he acquired an assistant, Mr W. Bird and he renamed the garage the 'National Park Service Station'. The 1947 listing indicated that Mr F.R. Hutchings had taken over from Mr Bird.

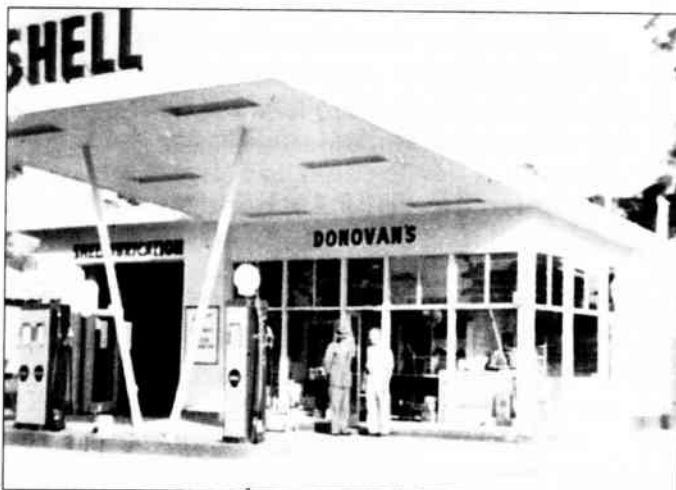
Do any of our members know something about Donovan's Garage or Mr Bird or Mr Hutchings?



c.1939 Donovan's Service Station.
Image donated by Marcia Wellburn.



c.1940 Donovan's Service Station.
Alfred Donovan & his son Vivian, standing in
front of fuel bowsers. .
Image donated by Marcia Wellburn.



c.1957 Donovan's Service Station.
With a "modern" look.
Image donated by Marcia Wellburn



2007
The Peak service station occupies the site today



'King Jarrah' by Paul Beck

**MUNDARING
DISTRICT MUSEUM
'THE OLD SCHOOL'**

7225 GRT EAST HWY,
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**CURATOR'S
TIMETABLE**

Monday 9am to 5pm
Glen Forrest Station
Master's House -
Collection management

Every Wednesday
10am to 2pm at
Mundaring Museum -
Business activities

Friday 9am to 5pm
Glen Forrest Station
Master's House -
Exhibition preparation

**MUSEUM MATTERS
CURATOR: RUTH MCCOLE**

For those who don't know me, almost 10 years ago, while acting as secretary of the Historical Society, I signed the lease for, and helped establish, the Mundaring District Museum. Then, thanks to a grant to the MHHS from the Lotterywest "Promoting Excellence" program, I was able to study and achieve a "Certificate of Museum Studies" 2 years later. Now after many years of involvement with the Museum, I'm extremely excited to be working temporarily in the role of Curator.

In the time that I have in this role, I plan to concentrate on the 'grass roots' activities of the museum, particularly in the area of collection management, in preparation for moving into the Mundaring Station Master's House. All items in the collection will be assessed according to their significance, condition, storage requirements and possible use in education programs so that we can professionally look after and utilise our collection without it becoming too much of a burden on our resources. This is a very 'hands on' (using gloves of course) activity we undertake every Monday at the Glen Forrest Station Master's House so if anyone would like to see what's in the collection or get a few conservation tips, feel free to 'pop in'. New volunteer Judith Hardaker is turning out to be a wealth of knowledge when it comes to identifying mystery objects but there are still a few tricky ones so these will be shown at the regular MHHS meetings.

The other main focus of my work will be the design and installation of a new exhibition, produced for the State History Conference, which will showcase the rich history of the Mundaring District. This is still being developed so 'watch this space' for more details in the next issue. The Museum Attendants roster is being updated and we need people for Monday and Tuesday mornings so if you can do a shift on these days, it would be most appreciated.

A new storage system for display materials has been devised which will organise and manage the ever growing collection of display photos, posters etc. These have accumulated from previous exhibitions at the Museum, special projects and the annual event Trek the Trail. When completed, these materials may be loaned out to the community as interpretation aids and education resources. Volunteers are required to help undertake this project so if you can spare a few hours and don't mind filing, please let me know.

RECENT DONATIONS

Various items from the
Mundaring Weir area including:
Photos of Mundaring Weir School
Photo's of No. 2 Pump Station
Mundaring School Bell
(DONATED BY DAVID LUNDIE)

Writing Box
Record Player
Reading Glasses
Transistor Radio
(DONATED BY MAX WILLIAMS)

**UPCOMING EVENTS
@ THE MUSEUM**

April 11th - 25th
Anzac Day Display

Thursday May 31st 2:30pm
Gosnells Historical Society has booked a visit to the Museum for 35-40 people. Ruth McCole will be in attendance and we are supplying afternoon tea.

“VOLUNTEERS”

Val Martin and Mary Anthony are two of our regular office volunteers. We can always rely on Val & Mary arriving on a Monday morning, with cheerful smiles, ready to turn their hands to any and all manner of tasks. This work includes helping maintain our library, updating our many research files and working on the upgrade to the Shire Municipal Inventory.

Thanks Val and Mary and to all our dedicated volunteers for the time and effort they put into the Society.

Why not consider volunteering an hour or two at the Historical Society? Contact the MHHS office on **92988944** (maybe you could volunteer to answer our phones!) or if you are driving past call in for a cuppa and discover your local history...



Our 'Monday Morning ladies'
Val Martin (left) and Mary Anthony.

MUNDARING & WOOROLOO CEMETERY DATABASE

Do you need information on people buried at the Mundaring or Wooroloo cemeteries.

The Society has recently helped create a computer database of all people buried at both cemeteries. We can search by different parameters such as surname or year of burial etc. Just contact the Society and we can provide you with further information.

Wooroloo cemetery contains approximately two thousand graves. Over three quarters of the graves are of people who died at the nearby Wooroloo Sanatorium (est. 1915). *“Wooroloo cemetery is the only cemetery in Western Australia that was established to initially serve a hospital.” - State Heritage Register.*

Mundaring Cemetery was established in the first decade of last century. The earliest recorded burial is in 1916.



MUNDARING STATIONMASTER'S HOUSE

As we reported in the last newsletter, the Shire has been successful in obtaining a grant from Lotterywest to refurbish the Mundaring Station Master's House. The Shire did not receive the full amount that they had applied for so this will mean that some parts of the house will not have air conditioning. But, importantly all the office areas will have climate control.

Tender documents have now been prepared by the Shire and Megan Griffiths, the Manager of Community Support Services, is hopeful that the work will be completed by the end of winter. Obviously, if the work is finished by the end of August it would be great publicity for the Society at Trek the Trail and for the History Conference in early September. August and September will be busy months for the Society - but we welcome the challenges and eagerly await the opportunities that the move to Mundaring will bring.

It seems highly likely then, that this year we will be holding our annual Christmas Lunch in the new house. Keep your fingers crossed and we will keep you posted on how the work is progressing.

SNIPPETS



Mundaring Infant Health Building is 50 years old this year and we are planning a display in the local library.

We have **quotes for new computers and photocopier** and will be submitting them in a grant application to Lotterywest.

We are currently in the process of modifying our Constitution to enable us to apply for **Deductible Gift Recipient Status**. This allows any considerable donation to be a tax deduction to the donor.

Members of the public brought to our attention the recent **felling of the pine trees along the front of the Mundaring Cemetery**. The Society is writing to the Shire to ask to be advised in the future, when any significant buildings or sites on the Shire Municipal Inventory are to be changed or redeveloped.

Trek the Trail – Saturday, August 18th. Our role this year will be to provide the historical interpretation panels along the trail. The route is from Chidlow to Mundaring .

Scott Buckland is designing a **website for the Society** which will give the community greater access to some of our records and keep them up do date with our activities.

The outside of the **Glen Forrest Stationmaster's house** was painted in March by the Shire.

A **DVD burner** was recently installed into the Society's computer to allow for backing up and archiving our collection.

The **RWAHS is having their annual second hand book sale** at Stirling House, cnr Clark Street and Broadway Nedlands, from 9 am to 5pm Saturday 14 April.

The **Glen Forrest Ratepayers Association** has reformed and is back sharing the Glen Forrest Stationmasters house with us.

The **Shire Municipal Inventory** is nearing the completion of Stage 1. Graham Grundy now has it all on a computer which is on loan to us so that we can check the details. Its a great document and its upgrade turns it into a searchable database.

National Archaeology Week will be running from 20 - 26 May. With displays at the WA Maritime Museum and other venues. www.archaeologyweek.com.au

Congratulations to our **Secretary Trish Beaman** on becoming a first time Grandmother. *Kate* and baby boy *Zaen Robert* are happy and healthy. **Trish** (or should that be 'Nanna!') also recently completed a *Mosaic Software* Course in records management and a Lotterywest Grant workshop.

Our **President Fiona Bush** had a 'shocking' experience in late February - her house was hit by lightning! With a resultant frying of household electrics. All is well now - just don't stand anywhere near Fiona in the next thunderstorm!

'A LONELY GRAVE IN WOOROLOO' FOLLOWUP INFORMATION

In our Spring 2006 newsletter we asked if any readers could help with the following:

"Lonely Graves of Western Australia" recently contacted us about a grave in Wooroloo:

*"In Memory of **Chris Andersen**, died 18th Nov 1895 - buried on private property (owned by John Charlick, Allen Rd) at **Wooroloo**. The granite cross headstone lies in long grass and was erected by the "Men on Culbert CWG"*

Rod Ennor of Mundaring contacted us. Rod knew of the grave via his father, Fred Ennor. Fred moved to Wooroloo in 1916 and heard of the story of the grave from locals:

*"**Chris Andersen** was believed to be a railway worker who committed suicide. His body was found hanging from a tree several days later. Northam police attended and contracted people to bury him, his body was cut down and buried at the spot where he was found."*

The information was passed on to *Lonely Graves WA*. They are also still trying to find what the headstone's reference to "**Culbert CWG**" means. If you can help further please contact the MHHS on 9298 8944.

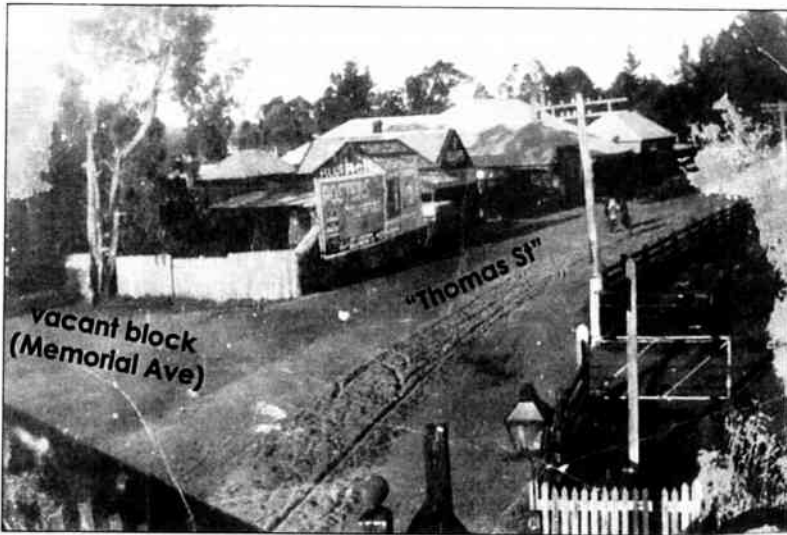
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STREET NAMES IN THE SHIRE

MEMORIAL AVENUE, CHIDLOW

Memorial Avenue, Chidlow was at various times a vacant block of land, a popular shortcut between streets and the site of Whippet (dog) racing. The block was regularly used as a thoroughfare between Willcox Street and Thomas Street. Dog races were held there by Mr. F. T. Jones, who owned, then later donated the land for the Avenue. He also owned the adjacent block, where he built the original General Store & Bakery in the 1890's.

Memorial Avenue was approved by the Minister for Lands on the 6th of July 1949. A tree planting ceremony, sponsored by the Chidlow Progress Association, was held on Arbor Day in 1949 to commemorate local men who served in the wars. School pupils, along with Mr L. Thorn MLA, each planted a tree in the newly named and dedicated 'Memorial Avenue'.



Chidlow town in the 1920's, shows at left the vacant block that would later become Memorial Avenue. Adjacent to this, the General Store and further along the Chidlow Hotel. Off the photo at right is Chidlow Station. Thomas Road is in the foreground - note the horse and cart tracks! The photo was taken from the rail pedestrian bridge.



Schoolgirl Rhonda Tulloch, helps plant trees on Memorial Ave, Chidlow. Arbor Day 1949. This photo looks south along the unmade Memorial Ave toward Chidlow Station. The rail pedestrian bridge is in the background.

Image courtesy Ruth McCole

 **Kyms Komputers**

kymskomputers@westnet.com.au

Kym Stewart
Manager

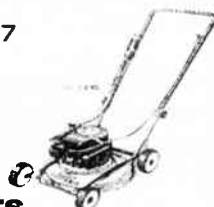
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