

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc

Newsletter

WINTER 2023

GUEST SPEAKER—ROB BORSJE

Rob Borsje is speaking at our next General Meeting on the 17th June at the Mundaring Lesser Hall. Rob is the author of *The History of Parkerville Stoneville* and has done extensive research on the area.

Parkerville was announced in the Government Gazette of June 28, 1895. The area had initially been surveyed in large blocks and land sales were slow. After re-surveying the land and creating smaller blocks, a township was developed. The townsite comprised of both Parkerville and Stoneville but Stoneville was not thought of as a separate locality. Stoneville, at the eastern end of Parkerville was named after Sir Edward Stone who was the Chief Justice of Western Australia in 1905.

Parkerville was named after Stephen Henry Parker, a prominent member of Perth's legal fraternity who owned land between York Road, Brooking and Kintore Roads. The Old Mahogany Inn as it is now known was his country home. Unfortunately, the development of the area was limited by the lack of basic services. Scheme water was not available until 1938, power in 1950 and telephone service in 1953. Even these services were not available to everyone.

Fortunately, in 1895 the Eastern Railway came through Parkerville and the building of a station had multiple benefits to the area. Not just access to the city for people and goods, employment opportunities developed. Local agriculture increased the need for schools, stores, accommodation, and other industry.

History tells us that when communities are created, especially when hard manual labour was required, relief was required and often was in the form of liquor consumption. Liquor was being illegally provided to the men working and living in the area for some time, however a liquor licence was not granted until 1902. Although it seems by newspaper accounts, that this licence did not stop the sale of sly grog.

Residents of the area worked hard and enjoyed social outings and dances. The first hall in Parkerville was built by the local menfolk in 1897. When this building needed replacement the community organised busy bees and a new timber and iron hall was constructed in Riley Road and opened in 1909. The current Parkerville Hall celebrated its centenary in 2022 with a great turnout of people sharing their memories of the Hall.



Parkerville Hall
Then and Now



Local Footballers dressing up
For a fundraising revue



Cake replica of the Hall

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are on, the Whadjuk and Ballardong Noongar people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this region.

From the Curator's Desk

As the colder weather draws near, hats, scarves and gloves are pulled from the bottom of drawers; some, due to the material, may be in need of repairing or replacing. These items are often fashion statements and purchasing new items can be quite exciting, or frustrating if a pair of well-loved gloves are being replaced. Although garments and accessories are often mass produced, others are handmade, knitted, sewn, or felted.



We have many pairs of gloves and mittens in our collection, included those shown. This pair of handmade women's gloves were made in the 1950s and typical of gloves worn after WW2 period; they were donated in 2013. They are made of fine cotton, beige colour, with a gold beaded band at the wrist, the back of

each glove decorated with smaller gold and beige beads.

Gloves are worn for decoration as we see but also warmth and protection. A fresco shows two men believed to be boxing, wearing gloves; the fresco at Knossos was inhabited for several thousand years, beginning with a neolithic settlement sometime in the seventh millennium

BC, and was abandoned after its destruction in 1375 BC, which marked the end of Minoan civilization.

There are many other examples of gloves, not just materially but in everyday speech, notably the adage 'throwing down the gauntlet' means to challenge.

The term derives from the medieval period when a knight would challenge another by throwing down his gauntlet, (a glove with an extended piece to the elbow). To accept the challenge the other knight would *take up the gauntlet*, and battle would commence.

The idiom 'fits like a glove' is generally used for clothing that fits perfectly, the eighteenth-century expression suggests that a glove that fits perfectly is less likely to slip off.

Caring for your Collection

For many years, we have had possession of the Mundaring Stationmaster's Desk. It is a large Jarrah desk with a leather top.

Unfortunately over the years, the leather component has become dilapidated and in need of repair. This year, we hope to apply for a conservation grant to hire an experienced conservator to repair and conserve it.

If you have leather items in your care, whether they are precious artefacts or just everyday items, there are a few things you can do to ensure your item does not deteriorate. As leather can be made from the skin of many different animals and can be procured from 1 of 3 different tanning processes, it is not necessarily a 'one stop shop' for its care. However these steps should help.

- Ensure that your item is stored in a low light area
- Ensure that the humidity is between 45% and 55% as mould and fungus are detrimental
- Temperature between 18 and 20 degrees Celsius
- If you are able to store the item in a dust cover it helps deterioration
- If the item can be supported by using acid free tissue, then make sure that you maintain the shape and do not overfill
- Try to avoid cracking by keeping the leather moist
- Regular checks on the items to prevent deterioration or insect infestation.



Stationmaster's Desk 2023

BOYA

Boya is an Aboriginal word meaning ‘place of many rocks’. If you have ever visited the area, you will see that this is an appropriate name. The granite found in Boya has been dated at over at two thousand million years old. The rock from the Boya Quarry was used to replace the original sandstone groynes extending from the entrance to Fremantle Harbour.

By 1901, over a hundred workmen were housed on the site, living in iron and hessian huts. With an increasing population the area became more of a ‘shanty town’ with a general store, boarding houses and without doubt sly grog sales. A spur line was built to connect the quarries to the Eastern Railway line and this enabled the huge granite blocks to be transported from the quarry to the station and then direct to the mole in Fremantle, saving time and expense. The transportation of these blocks was carried out at night so it didn't interfere with the daily train schedules. c1902 a second quarry was established at Boya. This quarry was set up by the Railway Department on the north side of Coulston Road using the rock as blue-metal ballast for the Railways until 1928 when it was leased by Mountain Quarries. Blasting from the quarries was done at 12 noon and 4pm every weekdays and clocks could be set by the times. A lot of local houses were built on stumps instead of brick footings to alleviate the movement of the ground through the blasting process.

With steep inclines and winding tracks, it was little wonder that there was not more than one serious derailment on the line. On the 8th December 1885 railway engine “Katie” was pulling 90 to 100 tons and started losing traction through Smith’s Mill (Glen Forrest), Waylens Vineyard (Darlington) and through Boya. The three men operating the engine realised that they were not going to stop the train and made the decision to jump for safety. They avoided death, but still sustained some serious injuries. The train kept going and was de-railed at what is known as ‘Cape Horne’, the corner of Coulston Road and Michael Crescent Boya. There was an almighty crash as railway tracks were dislodged and the engines were overturned, but no one else was harmed. Although jumping from the engine definitely saved his life, engine driver, Ellis Peake, was fined three weeks pay for not sticking to protocol and staying on the engine.

Sometime after the quarries were closed in 1960, they were used for open-air entertainment.



Train coming through Boya c1924



Machinery buildings on the quarry site



Machinery buildings on the quarry site



Noongar Seasons

Makuru Winter June-July Season of fertility

Coldest and wettest season of the year. More frequent gales and storms

Djilba First spring August-September Season of conception

Mixture of wet days with increasing number of clear, cold nights and pleasant warm days

Upcoming Events 2023

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
17th June 2023 2pm	General Meeting	Mundaring Lesser Hall Jacoby St MUNDARING
17th June 2023 2.30 pm	Guest Speaker Rob Borsje	Mundaring Lesser Hall Jacoby St MUNDARING
5th July 2023 4pm	Executive Meeting	Mundaring Stationmaster's House Jacoby St MUNDARING
19th August 2023 2pm	General Meeting AND Annual General Meeting	TO BE ANNOUNCED

WHERE DID YOUR LOCAL STREETS GET THEIR NAMES?

Bilgoman Road– Glen Forrest

Bilgoman Road is the first road to join the Highway at the top of Greenmount Hill. It is not far from a well dug in 1846 by Philip Chauncy, a surveyor marking out the York Road (now Gt Eastern Highway). He recorded the Aboriginal word 'Bilgoman' as a 'watering place'. On early maps Bilgoman Road is shown running southward for about 3 kms to eventually connect with Glen Forrest Drive near Jellicoe Road. It was never made all the way through as it would have involved railway and water crossings, though when land at the end of



Tillbrook and Smith Streets was sold for houses a short 200 metre section was named Sealey Road. Fred Sealey is listed in the 1899 Postal Directory as a farmer in the area.



MUNDARING & HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

DON'T FORGET FEES DUE BY 30TH JUNE 2023

(ABN 25 028 478 748)

(08) 9295 0540 | mhhs@mundaringhistory.org |



MUNDARING STATION MASTER'S HOUSE

3060 Jacoby Street, Mundaring
(PO Box 334, Mundaring WA 6073)
MONDAY AND FRIDAY: 9.30am - 4pm
WEDNESDAY: 9.30am - 1.30pm
E: mhhs@mundaringhistory.org
Ph: 9295 0540

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Senior/pensioner: \$15 (Couple \$20)
Single: \$25 (Couple \$30)
Company/Institution: \$35
Account: Mundaring & Hills Historical Society
BSB 633-000 Acc No 122609431
Please quote your surname reference

MUNDARING DISTRICT MUSEUM

7225 GT Eastern Highway Mundaring
(Inside the Visitor Centre)
MONDAY - SATURDAY: 9.30am - 4pm
SUNDAY: 10am—2.30pm