

Mundaring and Hills Historical Society

Jane Brook

Jane Brook runs from Mount Helena down through Parkerville to Swan View. We have been told by a local resident that in the 1920s and 1930s Jane Brook was like an adventure playground. Local children spent many hours playing along the banks and swimming in the water. These adventures are not as popular now due to lower water levels and pollution.

Birds which were a regularly sight around the brook sadly are no longer seen. Blue Wrens, Robin Redbreasts and long legged Cranes among them. Gilgies and Marron are still there but not as abundant and even Trout were caught in those early days. Some locals said that Jane Brook used to run all year round. However we have been told by other locals that it hasn't been running in the Summer months for many years.



Jane Brook Railway Bridge c1896



Swimming in Jane Brook at National Park in 1933

For those who lived close, the brook was occasionally used as a refrigerator for household items, drinks, foodstuffs etc. These items could be kept cool by submerging them in the creek waters. We have heard stories about when the brook was raging, that it spread very quickly and nearly submerged a nearby resident's above ground pool. There is a story about a large 'S' bend at the brook at Parkerville which overflowed into Mr Young's paddock containing horses and caused it to flood. A large trench was dug at the base of the bend which alleviated

the pressure on the brook and stopped the overflow. Although not as profuse as earlier years the brook still has abundant wildlife and birdlife.

For those of you who are interested, in 1996, the Shire of Mundaring prepared an integrated Catchment Management Plan to inform the Community of the general outcomes of the natural resources and land use and provide a foundation for the community to become involved in the objectives through workshops and subsequent meetings. This Plan was proposed to be incorporated into the Shire of Mundaring's Town Planning Scheme No. 3.

There is also a Jane Brook Catchment Group, who oversee the health of the brook and manage weeds and other pests.

Mundaring and Hills Historical Society Inc.

Mundaring Stationmasters House

3060 Jacoby St, Mundaring

Ph: 9295 0540 | E: mhhs@mundaringhistory.org