

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc

Newsletter

Summer 2023/24

Merry Christmas

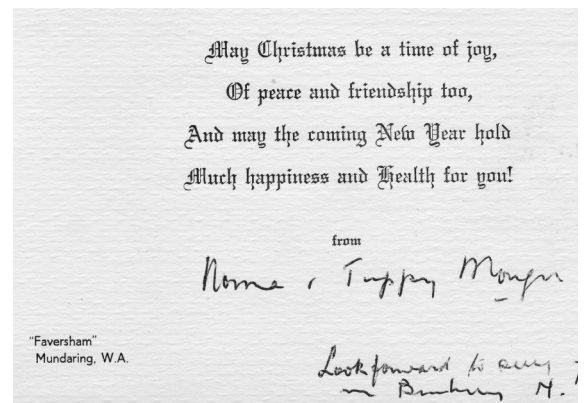


Well its that time of the year again. Time for Staff and Volunteers of MHHS take some time off to recapture some energy. It has been an interesting year with several significant anniversaries celebrated in our community.

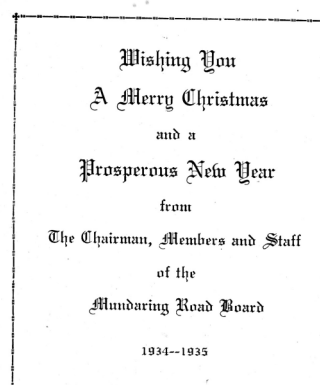
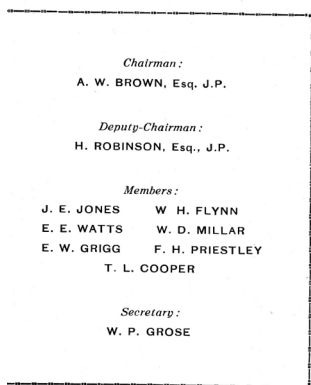
Chidlow's Well celebrated 140 years since it was gazetted, Wooroloo Primary School celebrated 120 years.

Looking through our archives we see how businesses sent Christmas Greetings to their patrons.

In the 1950s Faversham House sent a card personally signed by the owners, Norma and Tuppy Monger see below:



In 1934, The Mundaring Road Board sent a card with pictures of the Shire's local tourist attractions.



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.

Your Mundaring - Hovea

Hovea is the name of the purple pea flower, common through the hills, named after a Polish botanist Mr A P Hove. There are several species which flower from late May through to October.

Hovea Locality began as a small railway station established in 1912 when it was deemed necessary to have a signal box between Swan View and Parkerville to control movements through the single track Tunnel. It was briefly called Park View but soon changed to Hovea to avoid confusion with Bellevue and Swan View.

A Signal Station required Signalmen on site so, as well as a Stationmaster's house, homes were built nearby for these men and their families.

In 1934, after some disastrous accidents, the Signal Box was moved much closer to the Tunnel. Hovea then became a stopping place only, and railway staff no longer lived there. It is believed two of the houses were relocated to Swan View for station staff to live.

The Tunnel Junction Signal Box, not far from National Park Falls, remained in use until 1945 when the tunnel deviation line opened for eastbound trains.

After the Railway came through in 1896 land along the line was taken up and cleared for orchards and poultry farms. There was now transport available.

People living near to the little Hovea Siding with its distinctive row of tall palms usually identified as living in Parkerville. Hovea was where they got on or off the train but their scattered dwellings did not equate to a community.

It was not until 1986 when Australia Post deemed that the number of residences in Parkerville and Glen Forrest exceeded the average for postal districts and properties west of Brooking Road and north of Great Eastern Highway would now be classified as Hovea. This included the whole of John Forrest National Park taking the western boundary down to Greenmount.

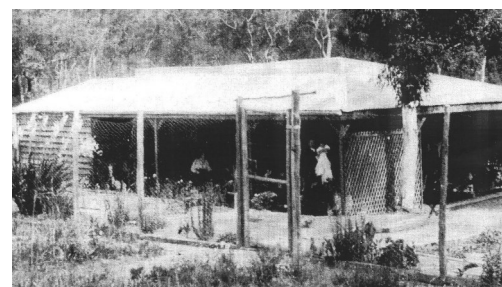
The next step to bring us into the modern world was the issuing of Street Numbers. Previously properties were identified by their Lot Number, or maybe a property name on the gate, which could be difficult for outsiders. The Shire adopted a Rural Numbering System of measuring the distance in metres from the nominated beginning of the road to the middle or main entrance to the property, usually giving numbers ending in 0 to the left side and ending in 5 on the right. This allows for any subdivided land to assume an appropriate number with no disruption of the sequence of surrounding properties.



Hovea Siding 1927 Courtesy of W E Fretwell



2023 Photograph of Hovea Siding



Hovea Stationmasters House C1915

Curator's Report

The Exhibition "We've Got Balls" opened on the 29th November. Guests included many of the Donors who loaned sporting equipment, uniforms and paraphernalia. A selection of wine and cheese was served and as many of the guests knew each other, either through friendships or as sporting colleagues, friends and foes, it was delightful to see their exchanges with each other.

Mary Ball did an excellent job recounting the work involved trying to get sporting clubs up and running, when money was tight and the Shire was coming to terms with the benefits that were offered by providing funding for sports, often referring to the CEO at the time, Max Williams.

The MHHS Collection is poor regarding sports, although we have plenty of photographs, some stretching back to the early 1900s but the only equipment within the Collection is recently acquired and relates to tennis and T Ball/Baseball.

Already a few of the loans have been offered as donations and there may be more by the time the exhibition closes.

On Thursday evening, 30th November a loan was received from Glen Forrest Cricket Club and the items placed in the Museum the following day. The temporary snooker balls and marbles in the cabinet were replaced by 1946/7 and 1950/1 cricket scoring books. Another cricket bat now hangs along with one stump. As time goes by, I expect that other items will be offered by locals, so the exhibition may change over the next six months.

Mary Richmond has been helpful making sure that the names on the existing photographs are accurate as some of the information given to MHHS over the years has not been 100% correct. Thanks Mary! Thanks to new volunteer Alex who has helped with putting the exhibition together.

I expect the exhibition to run until June 2024, when we may replace and include stories and items from other activities which were common in the Hills. Horse riding, martial arts and even a new sport 'Disc Golf' which has an international competition being held in Mundaring in November 2024. We could expect 3,000 guests to visit Mundaring, so a good time to showcase sports in the Shire.



'Relics, Wrecks and Renos' Photographic Competition prize winners were awarded their prize vouchers. As we only had 10 photographs and 6 photographers, it was not as popular as we had wished. Although Ginetta Evans from Boya Library was constantly posting to encourage entrants, the outcome was not commensurate with the work involved.

Photo Competition Winners— Rhys Hall, Nicole Wilkins, Councillor Prapti Mehta, Librarian Ginetta Evans and Mark Hancock

Noongar Seasons



The Noongar Season 'Birak' is represented by the colour red as it symbolises heat, sun and fire.

During Birak season the rain eases and the warm weather really starts to take hold. The afternoons are cooled by the sea breezes from the south west. Traditionally this was the fire season. An almost clockwork style of easterly winds in the morning and sea breezes in the afternoon meant that this was burning time of the year for Noongar people and they would burn the country in mosaic patterns.

There are several reasons for this, including fuel reduction, increasing the grazing pastures for animals, to aid seed germination and to make it easier to move across the country.

There are many fledglings venturing out of nests in Birak, though some are still staying close to their parents such as magpies and parrots. Reptiles will also be shedding their old skin for a new.

Upcoming Events 2024

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Notice The office of the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society will be closed from Saturday the 16th December 2023 to Monday the 15th January 2024		
Wednesday 4pm 24th January	Executive Planning Meeting	Mundaring Stationmasters House
Saturday 2pm 16th March	General Meeting	Boya Community Centre
Saturday 2.45pm 16th March	Guest Speaker—Bill Cutler C Y OConnor1	Boya Community Centre
Saturday 2.45pm 15th June	General Meeting	To Be Announced

WHERE DID YOUR LOCAL STREETS GET THEIR NAMES?

OXLEY ROAD & OXLEY PLACE HOVEA & DARLINGTON

Oxley Road in Hovea winds its way over the hill from Park Road through to Alexandra Road. It is believed to be named after Surveyor James Orchard Oxley who, in 1893, surveyed Suburban Lots on both sides of Jane Brook in what would become Parkerville when the railway line opened in 1896. He also surveyed other land subdivisions in the Greenmount Road Board area.



Oxley Road and Oxley Place in Darlington are named after the same James Orchard Oxley who lived in Darlington for some years until his death in 1925.



MUNDARING & HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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MUNDARING STATION MASTER'S HOUSE

3060 Jacoby Street, Mundaring
(PO Box 334, Mundaring WA 6073)
MONDAY AND FRIDAY: 10.00am - 4pm
WEDNESDAY: 10.00am - 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