

Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc

Newsletter SPRING 2022

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT—TRISH RAWLINGS

I am thrilled to be the new President for Mundaring and Hills Historical Society. It's a tall act to follow on from Fiona and Jenny but I'm pleased to represent the Society.

I moved to the hills around 30 years ago when my daughter wanted a pony and I wanted a bigger garden. We choose a 5-acre block in Stoneville and a few years later I volunteered to work in the recently opened Visitor Centre that was set up in the Old Primary School in Mundaring.

Tourism and history work hand in hand and it wasn't too long before I became very interested in the Historical Society which shared the space in the building and became a member.

Promoting the various attractions in the Mundaring Shire was a wonderful experience with the people involved and I soon began to read more and more about the Shire's history.

When Brian Marshall was the curator from 1989 to 2006, I was encouraged (as a retired Primary School Teacher) to design and implement "History Mysteries" this was an activity for the children in some of the Shire's Primary Schools. It culminated in a morning when the children dressed up in costumes from the historical period of the research they had undertaken into the "villages" early history and give talks to an audience about some of the buildings and people.

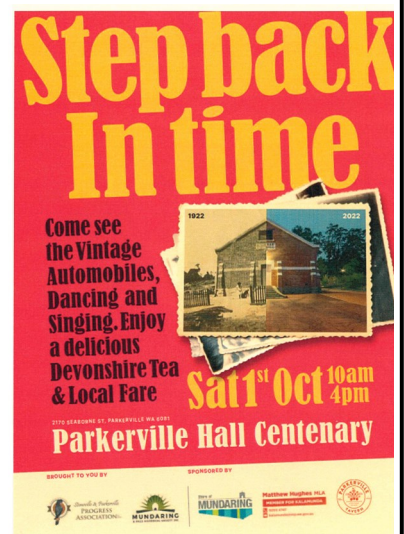
Also, during that time as well as wildflower walks The Visitor Centre set up for visitors we also designed Historical Walks along the Railway Reserve focusing on Darlington, Glen Forrest, the Weir and some of the Wineries. Whilst being involved in these activities I became very passionate about the history of Mundaring and feel those early pioneers who built the railway and the homes and businesses that made up this area need to be celebrated and acknowledged.

The development of the Mundaring hills area, the road through to the wheatbelt, the subsequent railway system and Goldfields Water Supply Scheme made a huge and important impact on the growth of Perth and our state and it is up to us to continue to encourage the Mundaring Shire Councillors and the people who live and visit here to keep these stories alive and forefront in the minds of all.

TRISH RAWLINGS

PARKERVILLE HALL TURNS 100!

Don't forget that Parkerville Hall is celebrating its centenary on Saturday the 1st October. There will be a celebration at the Hall on the corner of Riley Road and Seaborne Street starting at 10am. There will be historical displays, vintage cars, dancing demonstrations, local vocalist and much much more. The event will be open until 4pm. Devonshire Tea will be served between 1 and 3pm and we look forward to hearing more stories about the fun that was had at the hall. It has been host to varied activities. Apart from dances where cornflakes were strewn over the wooden floorboards to help with the dance moves, the ceiling was raised to accommodate badminton games, movies were shown, books were borrowed. We must thank our various sponsors: Matthew Hughes, The Parkerville Tavern, Shire of Mundaring, Vintage Car Club, Mundaring Men's Shed, Stoneville and Parkerville Progress Association, Rob Borsje, MHHS and our Master of Ceremonies life long Parkerville resident—Wally Winfield and all those that have chipped in to help organise the event. It has truly been a joint effort and we look forward to having a great day.



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

Looking through newly gifted information from a Darlington resident I saw a newspaper article regarding Mundaring Weir: 'Dam wall is being raised.' The date of the newspaper article was January 1951, surprisingly the newspaper which was distributed throughout South-East Asia by the Australian Trade Commission, was the Austral News, Bombay, Vol 13, no. 1.

The wall was being raised by 32 feet, the new height being 132ft above stream bed level, making the new crest level approximately 975 ft in length, using an estimated 77, 000 cubic yards of concrete in the new structure. To make the concrete 16, 000 tons of cement, 30, 000 tons of sand and 80, 000 tons of crushed rock was required. To obtain the crushed stone a quarry was opened nearby, about a quarter of a mile upstream from the wall.

According to Clare Menck (2013), work commenced in 1946 and completed in 1951. It brought new workers and families into the area. Most of the workers were employed by the government, and lived below the weir wall, or at Wick's boarding house on the far side of the reservoir.

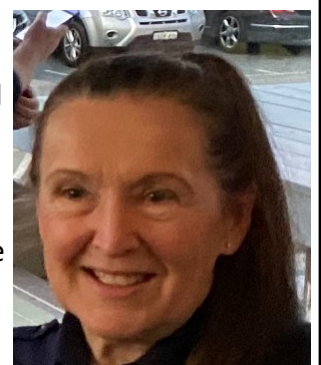
I will leave you to convert the measurements and tons to metric equivalents!



A NEW FACE AT THE STATIONMASTER'S HOUSE

Early this year we were contacted by Curtin University to see if we were interested in offering a 3 month placement to one of their students. We accepted and we introduce our readers to Kerry: "I would like to tell you about myself. My name is Kerry, and I am in my final year of a Bachelor of Arts degree, completing a double major in Professional Writing & Publishing and History. My studies combine all my passions—writing, reading, and history. I do have another passion though that fits perfectly into this tryptic, and that is living in the hills. It was with a mixture of trepidation and excitement that I began my Writing Placement at the Mundaring & Hills Historical Society in July this year. The placement will be providing real-world experience in the sort of tasks a writer and editor might encounter. Normally students choose their placement from a prepared list of organisations, but with approval from my lecturer I was able to commence at the Society.

My first task at MHHS was to copy/edit the Society's website. The text was checked for grammar, spelling, punctuation, and consistency of tone. The website provided a good background knowledge for the project I am working on, which is a booklet about the twenty-two villages and localities that make up the Shire of Mundaring. This project entails researching and collating the information and writing the text. It will be a history that incorporates factual and anecdotal stories. I am pleased to be able to contribute to this project for the duration of my placement."



Kerry has been a valuable asset to the Society and has made great inroads into the research for our upcoming booklet.

VALE QUEEN ELIZABETH 11

Over recent weeks our media has been full of images and stories on Queen Elizabeth's life and death. We are lucky enough to have some archival pictures on the Queen's drive through Mundaring in 1954 on her way to Northam. Unfortunately we don't have any of the Queen or her entourage, but we do have pictures of the decorations that adorned some local buildings and the War Memorial.

At the start of 1954 the country was already planning for the Queen's first visit to Australia. This was slightly tempered by the outbreak of Poliomyelitis (Polio).

The Queen and Prince Phillip were to spend seven days in Western Australia and 60,000 schoolchildren were meant to gather at Claremont Showgrounds. This gathering was cancelled due to the health concerns.

On the 8th February each child was given a Union Jack flag to wave as the Queen drove past selected groups of children. The date for the entourage to travel Mundaring was the 31st March.

The Mundaring townsite was decorated with Zamia palm fronds and flowers of many colors.



Mundaring Post Office 1954



Digby's Store 1954

Because of the many positive diagnoses of the virus, only children from Mundaring, Mundaring Weir, and Parkerville were permitted to gather at Mundaring with gaps of 9 metres between each group. Glen Forrest and Darlington children gathered at the junction of Darlington Road and Great Eastern Highway.

After the receptions at Northam and York, the group stopped on the side of the York Road and a picnic rug was laid down to allow the royal couple to have a cup of tea under the shade of some jarrah trees.



The Mundaring War Memorial 1954

Belle View Homestead

We were delighted to be invited to view the recently restored Belle View Homestead which is situated within the new Robinson Development off Katharine St, Bellevue. The Richmond Group have owned the land for many years and during that time, the homestead was badly vandalised. The owners of the development have painstakingly restored the homestead, using genuine fittings where possible. Even the stables have been restored and the view from the rear of the home overlooks 3 large lakes which flow into the Helena River.



Belle View Homestead

Upcoming Events 2022

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
1st October 2022 10am to 4pm	Parkerville Hall Centenary	Parkerville Hall Cnr Riley Rd and Seaborne St PARKERVILLE
December 2022	Opening of new exhibition 'What the Frock'	Mundaring District Museum 7225 Great Eastern Hwy MUNDARING
5th October 2022 4pm	Executive Meeting	Mundaring Stationmasters House 3060 Jacoby St MUNDARING
19th November 2022 2pm	General Meeting	Boya Community Centre Scott Street BOYA
19th November 2022 2.30pm	Talk by Dr Jan Baldwin <i>Spiritualists, seances, and spies: A glimpse into other worlds.</i>	Boya Community Centre Scott Street BOYA



Cole Road is in Sawyers Valley, just east of the shops. There are only a few houses before it enters the forest, and there is one more isolated property which is probably where Henry Cole (aka Harry Coles) lived.

Harry arrived in Sawyers Valley in 1865, a convict transported for 8 years for forgery. He had been a sailor but became a pit sawyer at Chauncy Spring, and later purchased Swan Location 1085 to grow grapes and fruit. Now a free man he also had a team of horses which he used for carting goods.

He arrived as a convict but became a pioneer of Sawyers Valley where he lived until his death in 1906.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW CONTACT DETAILS
MUNDARING & HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
(ABN 25 028 478 748)

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

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