

Friends



Building bridges to Peel history

Friends of Mandurah Community Museum Newsletter.

Issue February 2009.

Mary King receives Achievement Award.

At the Mandurah Australia Day ceremonies the Premier's Active Citizenship Awards were presented. With the assistance of other community groups, Sarah was able to collate a variety of volunteer involvement which has been undertaken by Mary King, and she was one of the top contenders.

One of our longest serving volunteers, Mary King was the first person to welcome me into the Museum and its workings. This was back in 2002 and at that time Mary worked tirelessly in many different volunteering roles within the Mandurah community. This has not changed very much although she is mainly a standby volunteer for us and also a informant with a wealth of knowledge of the area and the citizens within it.

For the Museum, Mary continues an interest, taking part in the Advisory Group where she, along with Nick are probably the most dependable attendees.

To quote briefly from our nomination, "Mary says yes to life. She has involved herself in community groups which may not have started or continued without her support and commitment. She's a leader in the community and a passionate advocate of community causes, all in a voluntary capacity. She makes Mandurah a better place to live."

So congratulations to Mary for her placing and the continuing role that she plays at the heart of the Mandurah Community.

The photograph on this page shows Mary taking part in the Senior's Expo in which the Museum shared a place with the Tales of Times Past group. Mary attended as a volunteer for both groups.

Jan Baker

Cooper's Mill continues from last month.

In our last newsletter we looked at Cooper's Mill's relatively brief period as a working flour mill. In many ways, the mill building's subsequent uses and the stories associated with them are just as interesting as those of its construction and original use. When milling ceased in 1865 the mill still remained on land owned by the Cooper family. While the mill itself was unused, the Coopers themselves ran stock on the island during the ensuing decades, but in the 1880s moved the focus of their activities to better land away from the island. Their old thatched roof house and the mill then began to deteriorate.

Just as we have seen that the shift in farming in the district lead to milling being undertaken by Captain Fawcett in Pinjarra rather than on Mill Island, a similar shift in Mandurah's primary industry lead to a new lease of life for the mill. In the late 1890s a member of the Smart family, who at one time operated the fish cannery in Smart Street, was reportedly smoking mullet in the mill.

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Special features

Mary King nominated.

Jan Baker.

Coopers Mill revisited.

Nick Reynolds
First Educator -

Eliza Tuckey.

Jan Baker.

Hackett St. School.
70th Celebrations.

Eleanor Kay.

Information sources named.

Harry Jackson
folders

Regular features.

From the MDO .

Nicholas Reynolds.
Spotlight on Volunteers.
'Friends' Chairperson reports.

From the Visitors Book.

Returning next issue

Education Matters!!
Sarah de Bueger.



From the MDO:

Wishing readers a Happy New Year makes me realise just how fast 2009 is moving by already. I'm sure that has something to do with the exciting and busy year that the Museum and Friends thereof have in store. I'll outline below just a few of the projects that are currently underway in a year that will see an important phase in our ongoing development take place.

With the confirmation that our U-Matic video player is not repairable has come the need to find a way of migrating our significant collection of early video recordings to a digital archival format. Some of these tapes have very historically important clips on them, such as film taken at the Kanyana Carnivals in the 1970s. When looking at our holdings of more modern VHS videos, there is also important footage there that needs to be digitised before the video cassette recorder goes the way of the Dodo and becomes a museum piece in its own right. This is something that is underway now and I'll update everyone just as soon as we can look at these long forgotten clips of Mandurah's original summer carnival.

Moving on, an initial meeting has been held with Mary Anne Jebb in order to commence a project which will result in a series of signs placed around the City in areas of Indigenous historical significance. This principal fits in well with our 'museum without walls' strategy and will also play a role in collecting more information for the Museum on the Indigenous history of the area. Mary Anne will also be adding to the oral history collection during the story gathering phase of the project. We will combine the funds we have available in the Indigenous Collections area of our budget for the first phase of the signage project with money from other areas of Council in the second in order to produce the signs themselves.

One of my favourite stories that we represent in the Museum is that of the loss of the barque James Service in 1878. A sculpture project telling the tragic story of the wreck which was to be part of the Stretch arts festival has now grown into something that will be of lasting value to the community. One of the senior teachers of sculpture from Curtin University has become involved and I have given several briefings on the James Service story to the sculpture group. The Youth Centre's Town TV group is also involved and it's great to see an enthusiastic bunch of kids absorbing and recording the James Service story.

Following on from the Active Citizenship Award, it was decided to open the Museum on the Australia Day public holiday. An announcement to this effect was made by David Templeman after the awards, and on the day over 33 visitors toured the Museum. With more promotion, it may be worthwhile opening the Museum on selected public holidays which attract large numbers of visitors to the City. This is something which we will look at in the future.

So as we can see, in aspects from the preservation of our collection, through reaching out beyond our walls to interpret the region's history, and recognition of Friends who have put so much into the Museum, we have begun the year in style.



Nick Reynolds

A substantial brick and limestone building was, in the end, too readily reusable to be left abandoned when fish canning and preserving became Mandurah's main industry. It seems that it may not have been the limestone portion of the mill, but the red brick annexe that once housed the mill's steam engine that was actually used as the smokehouse. However, in the first decade of the 20th century the mill once again fell into disuse as fish stocks fell. To combat this, a fisheries inspector was posted at the mill in 1909 to better police the resource.

Another 20 years of disuse was followed by the mill being occupied by what would have to be one of the most intriguingly eccentric characters Mandurah has ever seen. Martin Reynard was reputedly a "White Russian" veteran of that country's revolution. Convinced some group was out to do him harm, he lived in the loft at the top of the mill. We'll be running an article on Martin in our next newsletter so stay tuned for more information on this intriguing man who added his own story to that of the mill. Interest in the State's history grew around the time of the 100th anniversary of settlement in 1929 and the Cooper family offered the mill and surrounding land to the Murray Roads Board, an offer which was eventually taken up. The site's transformation into an historic landmark came none too soon,



with a lack of stone for building in the area tempting those ignorant or contemptuous of the mill's history to remove material from its walls, placing the structure in danger of collapse. Fire had also taken its toll, burning out the original interior timber fittings. It was not until 1937 that restoration was complete and a plaque was unveiled at the site. The above picture shows the mill as it was after this initial restoration. Further bushfires and the inevitable vandalism again took its toll and the mill was restored once more in 1981 when it was given its current 'incorrect' whitewash paint scheme. At this point the red brick engine room was also reconstructed. Since 2001 an ongoing restoration and interpretation project has ensured that this grand old structure will remain with us well into the future.

Information Source.

The Friends of Mandurah Museum would like to acknowledge information used within these newsletters. The authors of articles within this newsletter are indebted to information recorded within Mr Ron Richard's history books including "The Murray District" and "Murray and Mandurah".

Where other documented or recorded sources are used we will supply the resources name and type eg. Oral History of or name of book and author.

Editor. Jan Baker.

First Educator - Mrs Eliza Tuckey.

Eliza Tuckey, often known as 'Mrs John', came to Mandurah from Victoria when James Tuckey returned here from the Victorian goldfields.

Becoming well known in the district for her health abilities Eliza was sought by many to assist with managing the ongoing health of Mandurah people. She was often involved in delivering babies, setting bones, and other illnesses. She was well respected by the visiting doctor from Pinjarra who often sought her out for assistance in who might need doctoring.

Another area which Eliza became involved in was Sunday School teaching and playing the harmonium at church services.

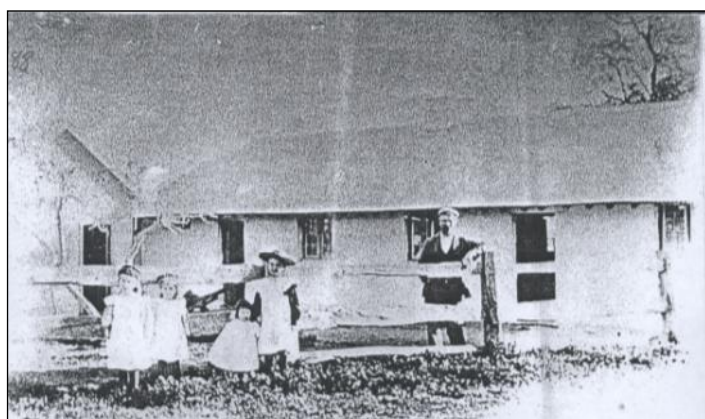
Prior to the Elementary Education Act, Eliza had conducted classes in her own home for several children but it is unknown whether she was paid or even officially appointed. However according to historical sources, in October 1869 she was appointed by the Central Board, for her work and the facility of her accommodation she received an allowance of £25. In 1872 Eliza was permitted a fortnight's break for the birth of her son Stephen, returning to the schoolroom with the baby in a basket. At this time Eliza had 4 children six years and under and was to go on to have eight children in total.

It appears that during this time school hours were between 9am and 3pm with only 5 weeks holidays during the year, these included Christmas, Easter, mid winter and Michaelmass (September 29th).

It should be noted at this time that John Tuckey, husband of Eliza, was pursuing farming, pearling, fishing, and later fish canning which would take him away from home for some considerable time.

It isn't recorded when Eliza stopped running her school but a petition is documented by Robert Mewburn during 1872 to request permission to build and run a school, but more will be written in our next newsletter about this interesting man.

Jan Baker.



From the Harry Jackson folders, featured is the old police barracks - one room was run as a school by Mrs John

Harry Jackson, was involved in the Mandurah Historical Society and over many years collected and collated information relating to the history and people of Mandurah. These folders are now in the possession of Mandurah Community Museum and can be viewed during opening hours.

As mentioned last year we have several projects which we are committed to during the year 2009. One of these is the 70th Anniversary of the Hackett Street School.



To assist in the celebrations relating to this and provide information on education within the Mandurah District since first settlement, we commence in this newsletter a series of articles on significant people relating to education within Mandurah. Over the coming months each issue will be devoted to another person.

Hackett St School 70th Celebrations.

Nine of the students who attended Dalrymple's school in Pinjarra Road, then moved to the new Hackett St. school in 1939 enjoyed a morning tea at Parkland Villas on Wed 11th Feb. There were a lot of memories revived as we looked at old photos and tried to put names on them. Those present were Verna Maschetti (Lindley) from Busseton Merv and May Kent (Ward) from Bunbury, the others, Lloyd Tuckey, his sister Barbara McLarty, Mary Lyon (Davey), Margaret Boucaut (Muncie), Esme Nobbs (Kingdon), Pat Howell (Robinson) and Kay Reynolds all from Mandurah.

A big thank you to Phyllis Hardy and Jan Baker for their help, and to Parkland Villas for the use of their lovely facility.

Eleanor Kay.



Lloyd Tuckey and his sister Barbara McLarty enjoy a chat.



Mary Lyon (Davey) & Verna Maschetti (Lindley) catch up with information.

Wayne Beardmore has been a valued volunteer and 'Friends' Chairperson at the Museum for some years, we are sorry to lose his services but wish him well in his volunteering role for Riding for the Disabled. Wayne joined the Mandurah Museum in 2005 and has given many hours and much personal commitment to the Museum.



His help will be missed.

We are pleased that he will continue to be a Friend of the Mandurah Community Museum and will also represent us on the Advisory Group so we shall have the opportunity to see him from time to time. I hope that some time we might be able to put into print his experiences volunteering with Riding for the Disabled.

Dianne Beardmore has also assisted the Museum, this she has largely done from home being responsible for the transcription of several of the Oral History interviews and we thank her also for her assistance.

Interested in conserving your family's historic objects?

Want to enhance your Museum skills?

Then why not come along to one of our workshops hosted by experts in their various fields of conservation.

PAPER & BOOKS	Doug Firth	March 7
METALS	Vanessa Wiggins	April 2
PHOTOS & FILM	Paul Malone	May 14

All session 10am to 4pm at the Museum. Cost \$20. Free for Museum volunteers!

Want to have a say in the future development of the Museum?

Then come along to the next meeting of the Friends of Mandurah Community Museum at 11am on the 10th of March, down here at the Museum. The team who will be helping us put together the new Interpretation Plan will give a presentation to the meeting and ask for feedback from the Friends regarding what stories from Mandurah's past we want to tell in our redeveloped galleries. Come along and let your opinion be heard!

Chairperson's report. We have not been idle over the last several months and as you will see from Nick's article there are great plans for the year 2009.

The Museum is currently working towards a minimum of 2 exhibitions within the museum as well as assisting in the celebrations for Hackett St. School's 70th Anniversary, we hope the 'Friends' will once again be able to offer support and assistance to the Museum as is in our charter.

'Friends' decided towards the end of last year to actively work towards providing a lasting memorial to Dudley Tuckey, one of our staunchest supporters. It is hoped that we might have this available for use during the celebrations acknowledging 60 years of Local Government for Mandurah.

Plans will proceed for further fund raising but we hope to announce these a little later in the year.

The first meeting of the 'Friends' was conducted in my absence but I will be back eager to assist at our next meeting, March 10th at 11 am. Hope to see you then.

Jan Baker.

We are proud of our photographic displays. Have you been to the museum lately and seen what is just the tip of an iceberg of photographs and maps held within our surrounds and on our computers? People from Coolbinia recently complemented us on these:-



"We have been holidaying in Mandurah since the '60's, great displays"

Mandurah Community Museum actively seeks to acquire, catalogue, and scan photographs which document the people and environment of Mandurah in the past, as well as significant current events (eg. Opening of the train line). Should you wish to retain your precious photographs but are happy for us to copy them, please either arrange with Nicholas for this to be done, or bring them in and should a volunteer be available we will copy them and return them while you wait.



**Crabfest
7th & 8th of March.**

**When you visit
Crabfest, don't forget
to come into the
museum and say
'Hello'.**