

Friends



Building bridges to Peel history

Friends of Mandurah Community Museum Newsletter.

Issue August 2009.

Mandurah Roads Board. On the 1st of September 2009 we mark the 60th anniversary of the first meeting of Mandurah Roads Board.

Mandurah was originally part of the Murray Roads Board which had its original roots set up by a committee in the 1860s with the inclusion of Mr Hall as representative of Mandurah. An act of the new Legislative Council was designed to establish local boards and it would appear that Mandurah was ably represented by Messrs H Hall and H Sutton.

And so it continued with Mandurah being part of Murray District until almost the mid-20th century when there became a greater momentum towards establishment of the Mandurah Roads Board, this being demonstrated in 1947.

Within Mandurah there had been an effective Progress Association which for some years had continued to push for Mandurah to govern itself. Eventually it was agreed by Murray that secession was inevitable.

The Agricultural Hall in Mandurah had been saved from demolition by a supported petition from the people of Mandurah. The refurbishment of this hall which had been promised by the Murray Roads Board was requested to be expedited in a meeting during March 1949, this work was completed following the meeting.

It is interesting to note that the original boundary of the Roads Board left Mandurah with a very small portion of land in comparison to Murray, and this appeared to have caused some difficulties in setting up services such as the sanitary dump.

In late August 1949 the first election was held, and the first meeting of the Mandurah Roads Board convened on September 1. The members were A.H. Phillips, B.H. Mainwaring, F.A. Digney, A.J. Donald, J. Grey, R.L. Tuckey & H.E. Tuckey.

Dudley Tuckey, (On the use of the Agricultural Hall after refurbishment by Murray Roads Board.)

"They did a little bit of titivating and of course they also put a very large vault to lock away all the papers and those certificates and one thing and another of importance of coming into government. That was the only alterations made, up until the time that the, Roads Board took over and it served its purpose well first term"

Special features

**Roads Board Anniversary - 60 years.
The Progress Association.
W Goode: Last Headmaster & First.**

Regular features.

From the MDO . Nicholas Reynolds.
Education Matters. Katrina Pritchard
Heard at the museum.
Chairpersons report for AGM –Jan Baker
From the Visitors Book.



Jim Marsh, (on the first days of the Mandurah Roads Board.)

"Of course it wasn't much of a depot 'cos we only had two trucks , I used to drive one home more or less when I was living in Davey Street. We used to take it home so it could be cared for. They only had 2 trucks and eventually they got a little old loader thing."

Wilfred L (Bar-T) Goode

Wilfred L (Bar- T) Goode, born in 1894, commenced two years Teacher's Training in 1912 at Midland Junction Training College during a time of dislocation within the world.

Comments made during his training were initialled WJR "A very fine fellow, strong personality and generally effective in whatever he does. Very capable as a student. Unfortunately mobilisation destroyed his teaching practice on three separate occasions. He is somewhat unbending and hesitant before a class with practice and confidence resulting therefrom, he should become a good teacher." (Mobilisation with Australian Infantry Forces)

While serving during World War 1, Wilfred Goode on 3 different occasions received gunshot wounds, his final wounding coming shortly before the conclusion of the war and resulted in him being hospitalised for several months after the war ended.

Although he commenced his career in 1915 at Northam School, in September this had to be put on hold while on active service during World War 1. In April 1919 he recommenced teaching at Fremantle Boys School.

Over the years he taught at various schools finally arriving in Mandurah once again at a time of great change in 1938. Change was coming worldwide with rumblings once again of war. Within Mandurah the population was growing and a new school on the drawing boards. The current school was no longer large enough even with the unsatisfactory use of the Agricultural Hall next door for the younger age groups.

On July 27th 1939 the new school known to many as Hackett Street School was opened, Mr Goode or Bar T as he came known (some say he got the nickname from sailing his yacht with the Bar T markings on the sail) was to remain a fixture within the school for 21 years completing his service in 1959 at the age of 65 years. He remained as a member of the community in his home which still remains at Halls Head. A much respected person remembered by many of his students today.

In our next issue we will include several excerpts from oral histories that contain memories of Mr Goode.

Jan Baker.

The museum is always interested in obtaining more photographs of well known citizens of Mandurah. Mr Goode is one of those people we seek to gain further photos of.



MDO Report

Nicholas Reynolds

On the 20th of July the Museum was asked by the CWA to mount an historical display for their state conference, which this year was held in Mandurah. The space provided for us was large, three quarters of the performing arts centre dance studio, but in the event it turned out to be fortunate as we managed fill most of the wall space in the room with what we had. This was the first time that all our toucan board mounted 'travelling' displays have been in the one place at the one time, and they make up quite a significant presentation. Eight boards were used to mount a photographic display, the Christ's Church display, part of the West Murray display, and an extended Borehole rescue display. CWA were very happy with the result, and the publicity that the Museum gained was very valuable. Moving on from the CWA event, having the opportunity that the Christ's Church display gives us to have an additional travelling display I've refreshed and rotated the travelling displays that we have at the Visitor's Centre and Train Station.

Mary Anne is about to launch into a new phase in our current Indigenous Oral History Project where she will be conducting some intensive recordings of oral history. She is going to focus first on Harry Nannup and his stories of camps used by the Indigenous community in the Peel region. It's good to see the project moving on into its second phase. Mary Anne's work has also attracted a significant donation into the collection, what is known as a dimple grindstone. Made from hard green granite they were used for grinding wattle seeds and this example is similar in makeup to the grinder that was given to us last year. I'm told that the WA museum doesn't have an example of a dimple grindstone and was very eager to get their hands on this example. The fact that the donor wanted it to come to us says a lot about the regard in which our work in the Museum is being held.

July and August have seen a big increase in the amount of interest from teachers in having school groups tour the Museum. Three groups have now been booked in with two further incursions also planned where activities will be taken from the Museum into schools. So, as we can see, the new financial year is off to a racing start!

Coming Attractions. 2009

Roads Board Exhibition.

Celebrating 60 years of Local Government in Mandurah.

Photographs, maps, recordings, memorabilia & ephemera will be displayed.

December, 2009

Education Matters

I have been working at the museum for 10 weeks now, how time flies.

Even though I have been living in Mandurah for close to 30 years I have discovered I know very little about the events that occurred in the past. I enjoyed researching and writing a factsheet about the Borehole Rescue and the Drowning Tragedy of a Priest and Three Nuns.

I have completed a variety of worksheets for classes of children to do at school and when they come to visit the museum. These include: a museum manners sheet, What is a museum? information sheet with activities, handwriting worksheets using pen and ink, an object from the past worksheet, a museum walk and a feedback form.

I visited the Fremantle History Museum before its closure. It's a shame that all the social history and heritage of Fremantle will be lost. I took a boat ride to Cooper's Mill, a drive to Lake Clifton to look at the thrombolites and went to Our Lady's Assumption Church to take photos of the stained glass window that is a memorial and tribute to the Drowning Tragedy of a Priest and three Nuns. They are all very interesting locations which play an important educative role.

Can you help? I have been working on the 'Caravan box' education kit that explores Mandurah's evolution from a fishing village in the late 1800s to a key holiday destination in the early and mid 1900s. This kit includes objects, photos, oral history extracts, games, information and brochures.

What I require are some photos of the following:

The Mandurah Racecourse,
The Mandurah Motor Cross,
Mandurah Tennis Clubs
Horse drawn charabanc.



I also require games that children and families played: Quoits, marbles, knuckle bones (from your roast, see picture), pickup sticks, spinning tops, board games etc.

Does anyone have any video footage of holidaying in Mandurah?

I would like to create an education kit of School Days Past with reading books, pen and ink, slate boards, school case etc.

If you can help, please contact Katrina on 99503682.

Heard Recently: Some ladies from the Maritime Museum visiting here commented on the cleanliness of our museum. While it is cleaned professionally the volunteers are responsible for the artefacts and their display units tidiness.



Volunteers dust the display units and other tops on a weekly basis with certain areas responsible to certain day's volunteers. Therefore the praise and comparisons made by the ladies from the Maritime Museum relates to volunteers as well.

Congratulations Volunteers, We often receive favourable comments about the enjoyment of those who visit our sparkling and welcoming museum.

Mandurah Progress Association.

The Progress Association commenced in the 1890s and was active in promoting Mandurah, ensuring Forest Government grants to build the Government Jetty down from the Brighton, and in providing funding for the fishing stage on the first bridge built in Mandurah.

During the decade of 1910- 1920 it is obvious the Progress Assoc. is active in petitioning for various improvements within the Mandurah township.

Again during the 1930s the Progress Assoc. is active in promoting tourism and pursued provision of fireplaces on the foreshore, assistance to the tennis club, and requesting £1,000 to provide for town improvements, especially on the foreshore. Although it did provide some improvements in the form of footpaths, the remainder was deferred until after a meeting of town ratepayers agreed to a £4,000 loan to be procured to continue with plans drawn up by the Town Planning Commissioner in Perth. They also agreed to pursue the provision of a new school.

Much was happening. A further meeting voted against the loan, but the Progress Assoc. continued to actively support and promote the growth of Mandurah and provision of facilities. It also achieved a second member on the Pinjarra Roads Board which had been denied to it previously.

One area the Progress Assoc. and the Murray Roads Board were in agreement over was the old school (now the Museum) While the Education Board wished to sell the land, the two former groups were successful in arranging for it to become public open space with the building being used as a part-time Police Station and some time later to become full time manned station.

By the mid-1940s a newly revitalised Progress Assoc. spearheaded the move to secede from Murray Roads Board and have the Mandurah Roads Board start.

Once again the Progress Assoc. was instrumental in proving that the ratepayers of Mandurah could not only meet the statutory requirements of £750 to be provided by rates but exceed the amount in the ability to raise £2,525 from its ratepayers even 'tho its boundaries were to be very much tied to the existing town site.

As has been written elsewhere, the first meeting of Mandurah Roads Board was held in the Agriculture Hall on the 1st of September 1949, 60 years ago.

(Excerpts from 'Murray and Mandurah' by R Richards.)

Annual fees are now due for many members of the Friends of Mandurah Community Museum.

Those fees are \$10 per year and assist in the endeavours of the Friends as well as printing and posting of the bi-monthly newsletter.

If you are not already a Friend but receive this newsletter, please consider joining us.

Chairpersons report to the Annual General Meeting.

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity over the last year of being the Chairperson for the Friends of Mandurah Community Museum. I would also like to thank Phyl Hardy for so ably assisting me in undertaking both secretarial and treasuring role within the Friends and would also like to acknowledge Cherry Burton for her support as Vice Chairperson. From the Museum for much of last year Sarah de Burgher assisted with some publicity provisions and especially Nicholas for his ongoing help and support in all areas. Without the assistance of Nicholas we could not continue to provide the newsletter to all of you as frequently and as cost efficiently as we do, I believe we have enhanced our bi-monthly newsletter moving up on several occasions to extra pages. We continue to ask all of you to consider contributing items of interest.

Some activities undertaken to assist the museum during the year include an Afternoon Tea to thank participants and interviewees of the Oral History over the year. Friends also provided morning and afternoon teas for the Peel Chapter meeting for which we received a donation. The volunteers this year invited the Friends to their end of year Christmas drinks and several of you were able to attend. With the support of the Tales of Times Past group, the Friends also manned a stall at the Senior's Expo and answered many questions.

Funds were raised during the year from the following sources; membership, donations, raffles, book sales, and significantly, our calendar sales once again provided us with good support. We also spent funds on provision of stationary for the calendars and also returning costs to the authors of book sales. We purchased a computer item which was not covered by the City of Mandurah. Also at the conclusion of our last meeting it was voted to provide an external hard drive specifically to back up oral history recordings which consume so much computer space, this cost is not reflected in 2008/ 09's auditing but will be shown in the next year.

We have received an offer of donation toward some significant item for display from members of the Tuckey family and we undertook to arrange to have this item built, unfortunately at this time we haven't received it to show but hope it will be ready for our next exhibition which will be next month and reflect the 60th anniversary of Mandurah having its own Roads Board. At the time of ordering this we also ordered a second display cabinet which was to come from funds held within the Friends bank account. I am unsure of final cost but am anticipating around \$800 cost. Both these items will have a plaque reflecting the donors.

The way forward: We continue to pursue actively new members of the Friends at the same time as we seek more volunteers for the museum, it is clear that without volunteers the museum could not continue to run, but then neither would the 'Friends' be a viable group without their participation. One member has suggested a leaflet drop, would this be suitable to ask each friend and volunteer to walk a block and put a leaflet in each letterbox, many of us have a daily walk and to do this might not seem an impost. Another method would be to actively seek to speak at the many organisations within Mandurah itself. We might also each of us try to enlist just one friend.
Jan Baker.

August 2009 AGM of Friends of Mandurah Community Museum.

Apart from the Promotions Officer, Sarah de Bueger, who has left the museum, all previous members of the committee declared themselves available for re-election and were re-nominated and elected unopposed.

The committee members are as follows. Jan Baker, Chairperson, Cherry Burton, Vice-Chair, Phyl Hardy, secretary/ treasurer.

During the meeting we discussed our representatives on the Advisory Group of the Mandurah Community Museum, Cherry Burton was elected as the backup representative in the absence of Wayne Beardmore or Jan Baker. The Advisory Group meets bi-monthly on the last Thursday of the month and discusses such issues as acquisitions and de-acquisitioning at the museum, plus other topics.

