

Friends



Building bridges to Peel history

Friends of Mandurah Community Museum Newsletter.

Issue August 2008.

Mandurah Mourns the passing of a true Citizen. Mandurah Community Museum mourns the loss of a friend and supporter of the heritage of Mandurah.

Dudley Tuckey passed away July 2008. He had been so much to the Roads Board, Shire, Town, and City of Mandurah that to detail his achievements in this column would be impossible. So may I share a personal memory with you?

From the very first time I came to know about Dudley I wanted to interview him so that we may keep his memories intact in the Local History of Mandurah. We wanted to know him in his own way, and an oral history recording was the only way to achieve that.

However, having him find the time to sit and undertake this was difficult. It was September 2005 when I first approached him, he was busy. Well, everyone knows Dudley was always busy, he was still a Patron to many organisations, he still was involved in his farm, his family was close and some had just returned to see him from South Australia. They had all attended the Museums celebration of the 175 anniversary of the settlement of Mandurah.

Indeed Dudley was one of our honoured guests and he addressed us at that event as seen in the photo on page 4.

We started doing the interviews in October and it was soon evident that there would be many times that I knocked on his door to continue the interviews. Over the next two years, I returned when he was able to spare me the time and we gradually amassed a series of interviews of his life. Every time I came Dudley and his wife Phyllis made me welcome, offered me a 'cuppa', and generally made interviewing a delight.

A few details of Dudley's life.

Born in 1921 to Roy and Mavis Tuckey, Dudley grew up in Mandurah attending school here briefly as well as Subiaco and Hale School.

While a student at Hale, Dudley took wool classing courses at night school, and this was to be his first job as a wage earner. After a very brief brush with the Army during WW2, he was effectively 'manpowered' and remained in wool classing for the war effort and later. He also assisted in running the shop. Dudley married his first wife Nesta who had been in the Air Force in 1944.

Over the years following the war, Dudley was involved in business in running a shop, wool classing, and farming the property given to himself and his brother Bryne by their father.

Dudley has been involved in the business community of Mandurah as well as Local Government, sporting, social, and community organisations. He has been a guiding force in many events and activities within the community of Mandurah. Dudley retired from Local Government after more than 25 years of continuous service which included that of Deputy Mayor, and Mayor. He resigned shortly after his first wife Nesta died.

For his long services to the various communities he has been made Life Member and Patron of several, Freeman of the Municipality, has been recognised with the Paul Harries Fellowship for Rotary, and has received the Australia Sports Medal 2000, from John Howard & William Dean, Governor. In 1985 he was granted the Order of Australia Medal.

Dudley Tuckey lived in the family home in Mandurah which he shared with his second wife Phyllis.

We salute you Dudley Tuckey,

True Citizen of Mandurah. First Freeman of the City of Mandurah. 1921—2008

Special features

Salute to Dudley Tuckey
Mandurah Iceworks.

Jan Baker.

Index of featured news-
letter articles.

Regular features.

From the MDO .

Nicholas Reynolds.
Education Matters!!

Sarah de Bueger .
Hear This!

Jan Baker.
Spotlight on Volunteers.
Favourite artifact.
Telephones.

Bob Baker.

Book Report. The Last
Explorer.

Jan Baker.



Index of Fact Sheets presented in the Newsletter since 2005.

This index will be updated yearly.

Date	Article	Author.	Fact sheet
Nov-05	Coopers Mill	Clare Matchett	Yes
	Legends of Peel	John Beeton	
Apr-06	Timelines of crossing East to West in Mandurah.	Jan Baker	
	Building the first traffic bridge over the estuary.	Jan Baker	Yes
	Matthew Price, Pioneer & Bridge Builder.	Veronica Bates.	
Jun-06	Eureka Vacuum	Nicholas Reynolds	
	Ferry Service Across the Estuary at Mandurah.	Jan Baker	Yes
Aug-06	Old Mandurah Footbridge	Jan Baker	Yes
Dec-06	Leah Fouracre	Jan Baker	
	Know your Mandurah. An Historic Tour	Jan Baker	
Feb-07	Stingray Point and Peninsulah Hotel	Nicholas Reynolds	
Apr-07	Brighton Hotel	Nicholas Reynolds	
Aug-07	Violet Sutton's Corner Store	Jan Baker	Yes
	Violet Sutton's Home	Jan Baker	Yes
Sep-07	Early Commercial Fishing in Mandurah	Nicholas Reynolds	
	Wattle & Daub	Jan Baker	
Dec-07	Outcomes of the Catalpa	Nicholas Reynolds	
	(Mandurah) Tales of Christmas Past	Jan Baker	
Feb-08	Guns of Garden Island	Nicholas Reynolds	
Apr-08	Pinjarra Mounted Volunteers	Nicholas Reynolds	
Jun-08	Mandurah Power Station	Jan Baker	

Many of our 'Friends' have a specific interest area which leads them to follow through on historical research within that area.

If you have done something like this and are able to submit an article relating to one such historical event or item or person, could you please let Nicholas or myself know and if it relates in any way to the Mandurah area we will print the item in our newsletter.

We are also happy to promote when able, other groups who are involved in the preservation of the heritage of Mandurah.

**Mandurah Community Museum,
Welcomes Volunteers**

If you are interested please talk to
Nicholas Reynolds, 9550 3681

Or
Call in and see how friendly we are!

Mandurah Iceworks. According to Pat Harrison (FitzGerald's) memory they commenced making ice at the start of the electricity being supplied to Mandurah. Prior to this people were dependent on the Scotts Brothers to bring ice back on their trucks from Perth. This has been mentioned many times by other people of Mandurah, especially the fishing community.

Pat described how a ton of ice was produced and then cut up for sale. In the early days this was done using a cross-cut saw, one above and one below, not so bad a place in summer but possibly a little chilly in the winter.

Over the years they continued to supply most people with ice and although they could not achieve more than the ton of ice per day, of course the demand doubled during summer months when so many campers and visitors came to Mandurah.

At this time the FitzGerald's commenced building an independent Ice Works at 8 Davey St., (1951) as the negotiations for the sale of the Power Company to SEC were being undertaken. By the time the lease had completed and the FitzGerald's had quit the Power Station, they had moved the entire ice production to the new premises virtually next door.

These ice works could not achieve any more than the ton of ice which had always been produced, however by now they had significantly more cold storage space so were able to stockpile the ice. Also they were able to store some items for both Mandurah people and the holiday makers in the cold rooms.

They ran these Ice works until November 1954 when it was purchased by Viv & Alice Cay. For the last few years more and more people were purchasing refrigerators and it is believed the Ice works did not continue to operate for very long.

Jan Baker.

Seen in the Visitor's book.

"We love the Telephones"

To all the volunteers this is not a surprising statement, anyone who spends time here will recognise one sound above all others (except for the door ding-dong) and that is the sound of the telephones being rung.

Children, (and those young in heart) all have to try and see whether indeed the phones work. So we will be quietly working away while people move through the museum and off in the distance there it will be, a long rrrring.

Not to be outdone another member of the party will also ring. And who could blame them, today's phones have none of the romance of yesterday's.

We are indebted to the donors of the phone and to our occasional volunteer who ensures they continue to ring loudly for the children.

I remember—visiting my aunt at Boyanup, there on the wall was this funny instrument. She was on a party line and anyone who wished could listen in. She had to ask to be put through to another person, but before this she had to spin the handle hurriedly several times to get the attention of the operator.

At this time, **we** had a nice, new, modern black bakelite phone, which connected automatically. **Jan Baker.**

The Last Explorer.

This book written by Simon Nasht was one I approached with trepidation. I don't usually read biographies and certainly not those about people I have never heard of, however it was chosen by our book club from the Mandurah Library pool of books available in sets to registered book clubs within the area.

So I undertook it, and was I glad. This book did what most books should do, kept me absorbed, interested and reading. It also educated me and made me amazed at the adventures and successes mixed with perceived failures that Hubert Wilkins had over a longer life than would have been expected from what he ventured to do.

I did not find it difficult to read, however I did read it in tandem with other books which I often do with one which takes a little more concentration. In this case I think I needed time between events to absorb the enormity of what Hubert Wilkins undertook.

To think that everyone I have mentioned his name to has not heard of him, to think little has been named after him, and little of his effects remain within Australia is really sad. I know this is not a new book, but I do feel it will last a long time in certain people's libraries. I am currently watching out to buy a copy for myself.

Jan Baker.

Did you know. Mandurah Library assists the town's book clubs in providing sets of books to enrolled bookclubs for a small charge.

For more information contact Kay at the Mandurah Library.



Telephones in Mandurah Community Museum.

135 MW Magneto Telephone.

This telephone was manufactured circa 1900. These telephones were used in the metropolitan area until circa 1940 and on rural telephone lines until 1972 when the last magneto exchange in WA was converted to automatic working.

Magneto telephone exchanges were manually operated where a telephonist connected a call to another telephone using a telephone cord. Each magneto telephone had its own battery (a dry cell similar to a torch battery) to provide power for speech. The handle on the telephone provided the current to ring the bell at the exchange.

332 MT (Magneto Table) Telephone.

This telephone was manufactured circa 1950. These telephones were used on rural telephone lines until 1972 when the last magneto exchange in WA was converted to automatic working.

Magneto telephone exchanges were manually operated where a telephonist connected a call to another telephone using a telephone cord. Each magneto telephone had its own battery (a dry cell similar to a torch battery) to provide power for speech. The handle on the telephone provided the current to ring the bell at the exchange.

Bob Baker



Dudley proposes a toast to the City of Mandurah during the 175th celebrations of the birth of Mandurah at the Museum. September 2005.

This event saw the launch of the 'Friends of Mandurah Community Museum', and he was indeed a true friend.



Dudley talks about moving to the new home, now well known as Tuckey House, & his role at the General Store..

Oh.. I was about only about I suppose 8 or 9, I used to go round and mostly attend the people cause we had the uh papers, the West Australian Newspaper uh.. and of course I would go in there to save Mum she might be cooking a meal, but the kitchen you could see straight down to the kitchen door into the shop. So to save Mum running in there I used to go and do that and perhaps sell a packet of cigarettes or something like that, that's about all, but I didn't go buying up sugar and uh...or salt and all those things until I was a lot older.

Museum Development Officer Report.

I think we can all agree that it's good to take some time off now and again to have a change of scenery and see a different part of the world. I've recently returned from the US, and visiting a few museums over there has given me an insight into how differently heritage is treated in North America. I've decided to give an insight into some of the things I saw in an article elsewhere in this edition.

But now, back to our own wonderful part of this world! Since returning from leave I've been on another series of site visits as part of the assessment process for the City's Significant Tree Register. This visit encompassed trees in the eastern region of the City which is an area where a number of larger tuarts are under threat. Many of the larger blocks in this area are of heritage significance, with some areas on the Serpentine River and lakes having farmhouses and yards with significant trees.

I expected there to be more of a focus on native trees, and it's been good to see that trees of introduced species are being given just as much weight and significance as their indigenous cousins. This has led to the suggestion by the group that the poplars in Dalrymple Park be also added to the register. I'll be getting to work and having them assessed. The candidacy of the two cotton palms on the corner of Pinjarra road and George Street has also been mentioned, and these are likely to go on the list. A redevelopment of the three shops on the site has been proposed, but plans possessed by council do show the trees as being retained.

Our rising profile has led to a number of interesting loans and donations that have come in over recent months. One of the most interesting has been the loan for copying of a folder of photographs and letters relating to the Adam family and their farm at Ravenswood. The Adams have been in the district for over 140 years, with highlights of the folder including photographs of the original Mandurah to Pinjarra mail coach and a receipt for Model A Ford car signed by a Tuckey family member.

Mr Adam also has possession of the original diary of James Cooper from the 1830s which he has indicated that he is willing to loan to us for copying next time he comes into Mandurah. For this, and all other contributions to the Museum, we are very grateful.

Good news has come through on the Stingray Point development while I've been away. We had been previously informed that responsibility for the jetties on Stingray Point had been transferred from the Waters and Rivers Commission to Mirvac. This is positive in that Mirvac are willing to put the money into preserving the structures, something which was unable to be done in the past.

The only negative to this situation has been the focus that Mirvac were placing on the "restoration by rebuilding" of the pavilion jetty, with it being replaced by an allegorical steel structure. In my last meeting with Mirvac representatives, I emphasised strongly that this was not acceptable as a heritage outcome.

Fortunately, last month Sarah was called to a meeting to help finalise plans from Mirvac for the heritage restoration of the jetty. Her input was invaluable in making sure appropriate details were included in the plan, and this should lead to a good outcome for the jetty, which has always been an icon of Mandurah, and especially Stingray Point.

Nicholas Reynolds.

Education Matters.

August has been the month of group visitors to the museum. This month I provided a tour of Mandurah and the museum to a group of **French** speaking adults from Gabon and a group of English speaking **Chinese** teenagers. I also had some local visitors; three primary school groups from **Waroona**, a multi-age group from a **Mandurah** holiday care program and a group of local teenage girls doing an alternative education program through **Billy Dower**.

The museum is fortunate to be small enough to cater for the individual needs of groups when approached. I ask the teacher or co-ordinator a lot of questions to find out about the group, including age, the purpose of the visit; whether anyone in the group has a disability so I can match what the museum can offer to the group. To avoid information overload I select certain artefacts or aspects of Mandurah's history to elaborate on according to those needs/interests. Three year olds have very different needs than African refugees and somehow we use Mandurah to strike up a conversation. Some conversations work better than others and the bits that work I remember for the next group.

In the case of the Chinese students it was determined that a visit to Christ's Church would be interesting because they are from a non-Christian background. Lionel Cluttenden and Ann Keeley from Christ's Church took the time to open the church and show the visitors its' special features, including the boat-like roof and the significance of the stained glass windows. It was interesting and it *is* beautiful. (Side note: If you've noticed some scaffolding around the church it is undergoing some preservation work). I'd like to thank Lionel and Ann for their co-operation with the museum and helping to make the visit to Mandurah a success.

I wonder who next month will bring through the door?

Sarah de Bueger

The American Way

The United States is a big country, as the saying goes. Not only in its size, but also in its population. With more taxpayers and more members of the general public willing to pay their admittance to museums and galleries the pool of funds available to heritage institutions is substantially more than in a country such as Australia. This is particularly so in the larger cities.

The museum that struck me most was that run by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh. Established as an historical society since 1884, and moving to its current home 1996, the organisation has benefited from the philanthropy of many of the leading citizens of the town. The mere fact that the full name of the 6 story home of the museum collection in downtown Pittsburgh is the Senator John Heinz History Centre says much. John Heinz was a US senator and heir to the Heinz food fortune before his tragic 1991 death in a plane crash. The philanthropy and spirit of "giving back" to the community where the family fortune was made is a recurring theme in the development of museums and historical societies in the US. It's certainly a leaf that the corporate citizens of Australia should take out of the books of high flying American companies such as Heinz.

The history centre itself divides its displays amongst the six floors of the building, one being devoted to the history of Pittsburgh, and another being closely associated with the local history collection. This consists of a selection of objects from the society's storage areas which the public seldom has access to. The concept of "display storage" is often looked down upon, with display often compromising the care of these objects. The society takes pains to note that dust, light, and environmental controls are very much



in place to ensure the care of the objects are not in any way compromised. Overall, a creative way of making objects otherwise inaccessible available to the public.

One floor was devoted to travelling exhibitions, the current inhabitant of which was a Canadian display on the French and Indian War, 1754-63. This was a large scale exhibition with full sized mannequins dressed in period costume as their major feature.

The exhibition was very appropriate for Pittsburgh, the town that now sits on the site of the former French fort



Duquesne, site of two major battles of the war. However, this ambitious and visually pleasing display has difficulty in getting across the meaning and significance of the conflict that forged the shape of modern North America. In our next issue, I'll look at an exhibition which impressed me with its design, theme and ability to impart its message. The Heinz gallery!

Nicholas Reynolds

Outgoing Chairman's Report.

Like many if not all community organisations, the Mandurah Community Museum would not be able to operate to the degree that it does if it was not for the support and generous giving of their time from the Friends and Volunteers.

During my short association with the Museum I have been privileged to witness and to be part of many successful and memorable functions and events.

These are not limited to, but include:-

- The Soldiers Barracks Dig;
- The Holiday Homes Photographic Records;
- The Boy down the Bore Hole Anniversary;
- Auction of de-accessioned items;

Without the Friends and Volunteers' assistance these function would not have been as successful.

The Friends have also provided equipment to the Museum through their fundraising and pursuit of grant applications. The Friends end the current financial year with a healthy bank balance in excess of \$1200.

As you all will no doubt be aware I am not renominating as an officer of the Friends so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those for their support and assistance during my time as Chairman. Thank you.

In closing, may I re-enforce my thanks to all the Friends and Volunteers who support the Museum. It is a fantastic Museum of which the Mandurah Community can be justly proud.

Mandurah City Officials need to remember what an asset they have in you and all those who freely volunteer their time for the benefit of the Mandurah City Community.

Wayne Beardmore.

Museum Advisory Committee, this committee is a Sub—Committee of the Council. Which is chaired by the Mayor or her representative.

Representatives of the community, business and other bodies are invited to become committee members for a period of two years.

Mandurah Historical Society has two members on the committee.

'Friends of Mandurah Community Museum' also have to representatives, they are Wayne Beardmore (Wayne has agreed to continue in this role), and Jan Baker.

Both 'Friends' representatives, Wayne & Jan would like to hear from any Friends who have concerns relating to the museum or the heritage of Mandurah that they would like raised at the Advisory Committee, as we are your representatives.

Annual General Meeting 2008.

On August 12th members of the Friends met for an Annual General Meeting and to elect the new committee. Wayne Beardmore was stepping down from the role and I was elected in his place.

In the past two years Wayne has been the backbone of the 'Friends' committee largely taking the responsibility of Secretary and Treasurer as well as the most important role of Chairman. Wayne's full report can be read in the opposite column.

A financial report was submitted together with a letter from the Auditor, who signed off the accounting done over the previous 2 years.

The following members were elected to the Committee.

Cherry Burton, Vice Chairperson.

Phyl Hardy, Secretary/ Membership Officer, and Treasurer.

Sarah de Bueger, Publicity Officer.

I will be continuing as editor of the newsletter.

Some items which were discussed were:-

Approach to Muscateers for a computer to be made available for 'Friends' needs. After discussion relating to this, Sandra Tuckey offered to refund the cost of this computer in the name of her father Dudley Tuckey who has been one of our constant friends. A decision was made to attempt to obtain a laptop which would make the computer more mobile. Sarah will follow through on this item.

Approach for Community Assistance Grant. More information will be given at a later date.

Jan Baker.

On behalf of all 'Friends' and Volunteers of Mandurah Community Museum, plus the Museum Officers, I would like to thank Wayne Beardmore for his tireless work for the Friends over the past two years.

Volunteers of the Museum meet every second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am.

Friends meeting follows the Volunteer meeting at 11am, all who wish to are invited to attend.

