

Friends of

Mandurah Museum

BUILDING BRIDGES TO PEEL HISTORY

3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210

Friends of Mandurah Museum

Newsletter February 2022.

Ellen COOPER nee Tuckey.

Ellen was the granddaughter of John Tuckey who came to Western Australia on the *Rockingham* in 1829. She was born in 1849. Ellen Cooper is recorded to have told Ron Richards (as documented in his book), that she was born in the Peel house which Thomas Peel had annexed from the Watsons. Her mother had been caring for the house for them. Ellen also said that the Wayside Inn had been built as a replica of Peel's house.

When Ellen's father James Tuckey left Mandurah in 1852 or 1853 with his wife and children for the Victorian goldfields, Ellen was only three years old. The following years in the Goldfields of Victoria growing up would not have been an easy life. History has made us aware of the problems faced by Australian pioneer miners and the Tuckeys would have arrived in Victoria just months prior to the Eureka uprising in December 1854. There is no way of knowing whether they were involved or had been affected.

When the Tuckey family returned to Mandurah in 1865, James had saved enough money to buy some land and a small coastal trading vessel. On part of the land, he built Eureka Cottage (Frequently called Granny Cooper's Cottage by the locals.).

James Tuckey's granddaughters describe the building as being quite large for a cottage. Behind the verandah, there was a lounge, a main bedroom, kitchen and another bedroom. To the side near where the Brighton Hotel is were another three or four bedrooms.

Ellen Tuckey was approximately 16 years old when she returned, and very shortly after married James Cooper who was at the age of 28 years some 12 years older than her. The couple went to live in Leslie Street in the home that had been built by David Smythe Murray who was the 3rd magistrate in the area. That property had been purchased by the Cooper Brothers when Murray left to live nearer Pinjarra.

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Editor. Welcome back to our first newsletter for 2022. Many of you came to see us at our gala re-opening before Christmas. Shortly after we opened we shut briefly for the painters who hadn't been previously available, to finish our refurbishment. As volunteers we returned after this period to find the museum transformed, it is now brighter and lighter and so much more attractive. We hope all our Friends will call in and view the transformation.

The display which had been mounted for our re-opening featuring the trains arrival in Mandurah in 2007 continued until painting commenced. The display featured story boards, a uniform on loan from Bennett Brook Railway in Whiteman Park, books relating to trains and Western Australia. There was also a model train display. These were all hits especially with fathers and sons.

Our Exhibition next month for International Women's Day will feature Violet Sutton. Her story in future newsletters there will be a display relating to this during March. Please come and check it out at the same time as seeing our new look museum.

In this newsletter we feature an early pioneer – Ellen Cooper. Ellen was a Tuckey descendant and mother of Violet who we are featuring.

We apologise for delays in this newsletter and hope to bring you our next one early in time for the Anzac displays. Remember, this year marks the 80th Anniversary of the Broome bombings. **Jan Baker**

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See back page.

Ellen Cooper (Cont) James and his brother Thomas had inherited Cooper's Mill on the death of their father Joseph in 1843. They were both underage and his verbal Will stated, they were to inherit the mill and land on gaining their majority. With the assistance of Dan Myerick and miller Josiah Stinton, the brothers completed and then ran the mill under the tutorship of Stinton. The mill is documented as being in use by 1850. In 1862 the mill was inundated by major flooding and the steam engine and flour mill were washed continually by water. Bushels of wheat and sacks of flour, much from inland Pinjarra, were destroyed. In the meantime, the two brothers continued managing stock (their older brother Joseph had inherited the family farm). They were also recorded as repairing the Mandurah ferry in 1861 and had leased some bush-land areas.

In 1865 the brothers sold the steam machinery from the mill and other items to Captain Fawcett for £220, this was used at Fawcett's place near Pinjarra.

James must have spent quite a bit of time mustering and managing cattle nearer to Pinjarra with his brothers. Over the next 27 years, Ellen was to bear James 11 children, the second last was Violet (who on her marriage became a Sutton).

When the home they were living in burnt (Leslie St), Ellen and James moved into Eureka Cottage where she continued to live for the remainder of her life.

When James died in 1909 aged 72, he was buried in Christ's Church Cemetery. At some time, his brother Cleland was also included in the gravesite.

Ellen Cooper sold the Leslie Street property to Charles Wearne who began building on the site in 1928.

In the following years, Ellen was a recognisable fixture within the town, she was remembered as being always on the verandah in a rocking chair watching all that went by. Many of her younger relations cannot remember her ever leaving the cottage to go anywhere within the town.

James & Ellen Cooper, seated in middle of photo.

Dudley Tuckey who was her great grandson, and also her great grandnephew recalls her in this way.

"She was a very, strict woman [very, very strict], and if you got up to any tricks or trades when you passed her home coming home from school she would straight away sing out if Mum walked out the front of the shop, "Mavis, that boy of yours is up to no good, you'd better keep an eye on him".

"We'd only be throwing stones at one another or shooting a ging or something like that. But she would not stand any nonsense."

On the death of Ellen Cooper, she must have witnessed some important occasions within the small town of Mandurah. The arrival of convict transport she would have missed but she would have been present when it ended in 1868. The bridge was built in 1894 in just six weeks, and the ferry which had been next to it dismantled. The Marine Hotel where Ellen's husband had stabled his horses was demolished. This was approximately where her daughter Violet built the corner store. In fact, for many years, this area was called Cooper's Corner. Then there was the Agricultural Hall in 1897 and the school which opened in 1900. Her children would have attended school with Eliza Tuckey, Robert Mewburn, his daughter Mary Ann, their future Aunt Ellen Mulrooney. Finally, in the newly built Government school just opposite their home and now our museum, Violet her second youngest and Nellie would have completed their schooling with William Dalrymple. The police presence which had been in Mandurah when she was born, had been removed and would not return permanently until the '1950's.

Ellen's death in February 1929, left Violet Sutton with the property around Eureka Cottage for her use.

Jan Baker



Cooper Family Descendants

Museum Development Officer's Report

As part of the recent refurbishment of the display spaces at the Mandurah Visitor's Centre display panels and an accompanying display case have been installed. Elements of the display panels have incorporated historic images and quotes from the Museum's oral history collection. The Museum team have been in consultation with the Mandurah Visitor's Centre during the entire refurbishment process. With this part of the display focusing on Mandurah's rich fishing history, the Museum has agreed to provide a small display of fishing memorabilia to be placed in the secure Perspex display case which is now in place. During December cans of fish from the Dawes fish cannery, along with can labels from the Tuckey's Peel Inlet Preserving works were featured. During January this display was rotated and currently features a practical toolkit from one of the Toussaint family's fishing boats which is part of the Museum's maritime collection. This partnership between the Museum and the Visitor's Centre has allowed parts of the Museum collection to be on display to the public during our recent closure for roofing works.



Above: Toussaint toolbox on display at the Mandurah Visitor's Centre

In 2016 a photograph album and some loose photographs were found in a wall cavity of a house that was being demolished in Tuckey Street Mandurah. The album and photographs were offered to the Mandurah Museum.

The album contained newspaper clippings, predominantly WW2 era and several unnamed photographs of people across the ages that were evidently all English.

I determined that the album was not related to the area and in 2017 it was passed on to a Mandurah resident, Steve Lynch who has a passion for identifying old photographs. Mr. Lynch was successful in identifying a WW2 soldier in one photograph.

In 2020, Mr. Lynch passed on the album to Sandra Playle to scan the photographs for him.

The scanning project was placed on the 'backburner' and in 2021 Ms. Playle began a process of identifying who the owner of the album was so that it could be returned to the family.

A remarkable story evolved from the album which not only revealed who the owner was but how they had told so

much of the family history through newspaper clippings and unnamed photographs.

By piecing the bits and pieces of information together a family tree took the history back to the 1200s and named Lords, Ladies, Viscounts and links into the Royal family.

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Curious Community Collectibles – Old & Interesting Laundry Equipment



Can you imagine it taking several days to wash, dry, iron and fold your washing?

Washing once a week on Monday or "washday" was the established housekeeping routine in the early 19th century. This was because it took several days for everything to be dried, pressed, aired and folded.

Come and look at some of the different washing items; such as soaps and powders, a soap saver, laundry tongs and other laundry tools that were used in the past to do washing before the washing machine was invented!



Where: Falcon Library

What: Old & interesting Laundry Equipment

When: Tuesday 2nd March- Wednesday 6th April

Opening Hours: Sunday Closed

Monday to Friday - 9am-6pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

Cost: Free

Mandurah Museum Reopening.

A fun family event over the weekend of the 8th and 9th January 2022 was held at the Mandurah Museum and Dalrymple Park. The event was from 10am-3pm each day.

The free activities included:
Tree Walks and Heritage Walks
Hands on craft activities and face painting.
Gourmet icy poles and beverages from a coffee van.
Special appearance of Dudley the Dolphin.

We had staff and museum volunteers tallying the number of visitors that entered the museum through the front door and the back door. We estimate that on Saturday 8th, there were close to 300 visitors and on Sunday 9th, 400 visitors.

We are extremely pleased with these visitor figures.

The activities provided were very engaging. The verbal feedback, from adults and children was that they very much enjoyed the diverse range of activities. One grandfather with his 5 grandchildren thought that they would only be visiting for about 15 minutes and ended up staying for over 2 hours because there was so much to see and do.

One family that visited on Saturday came back on Sunday because they hadn't allowed enough time to complete all



Above Aiden & trains.

Below. Tate, Ben, Xav & Max - trains.



Trains.

The number of children that came to make a wooden train was terrific. 86 trains were made, each train took approximately 40 minutes to make. The space that was available could accommodate 4 or 5 children at one time. There was a constant flow of children making the trains from 10am-3pm.

Some children that made a train on Saturday returned tThe marketing campaign to promote the event included newspaper, social media, radio station announcements, newsletters, posters and flyers and word of mouth.

A big thank you to the museum volunteers that rostered themselves on over the weekend, your assistance was greatly appreciated.
Katrina Gauci

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Ms. Playle contacted the Mandurah Museum Curator, Nicholas Reynolds to view the loose photographs and show him the research into the album. It was decided that the photographs belonged to the son of the album's owner.

Further research located a great granddaughter of the



album's owner who lives in the Perth Metropolitan Region and at 2 p.m. on the 21st of January 2022 at the Mandurah Museum the album was returned to the family.

Above: Anson family photograph.

At some stage the Cooper family had purchased Magistrate Murray's property on Leslie Street. When Ellen Cooper sold this property to Charles Wearne, the residence on it was derelict, a fire on this property had forced James and Ellen to move into Eureka Cottage.





March is Women's History Month

This year, Mandurah Museum will be featuring, pioneering woman of the Peel Region: Violet Sutton.

View photographs, documents and objects that will enhance your understanding and tell the story of the achievements and contributions, Violet Sutton made to the development of Mandurah.

When: Tuesday 8th March- Wednesday 6th April

Opening Tuesday-Friday 10am-4pm

Hours: Saturday-Sunday 11am-3pm

Cost: Free

Where:

Mandurah Museum
3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210

Phone: 9550 3683
mandurah.wa.gov.au

Maritime Moorings.

Since exhibiting three of the museums boats at the fun weekend celebrating the reopening of the museum, the maritime team have taken out a boat a number of times promoting the museum. We continue to create a lot of interest at the boat shed, people often ask when the unsightly object that is moored behind our building will be removed, this is a barge used for pile driving during jetty maintenance.

The barge has been moored here for a number of years but because it is deemed to be a vessel it comes under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transport and not the City of Mandurah thus we have no involvement with this vessel. We hope the owner will reappear soon and remove it.

We would like to continue the heritage education cruises if anyone would like to come on one of these please let us know.

David Austin



Top.
Barge in
Back-
ground,
2018.

Left.
Closer view,
more recent.

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Ellen Cooper nee Tuckey Jan Baker.

Regular Articles.

Museum Development Officer Nick Reynolds.
Education Matters Katrina Gauci
Maritime Moorings Dave Austin
From the Editor Jan Baker.

Coming events. International Women's Month.
Exhibition Violet Sutton.
Anzac Exhibition More information in April.

Stop Press. A local resident near the Heritage Boat Shed informed Dave that the barge was moved. He said that it was being towed to Yunderup when it apparently capsized and sank. It was last seen upside down in the Estuary.

Editor.

**Mandurah Museum,
3 Pinjarra Rd,
MANDURAH WA 6210.**

Telephone: 9550 3680.

Email: museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au

**Internet: [www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/Facilities/
Museum/Friends](http://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/Facilities/Museum/Friends)**

**Friends of Mandurah Museum,
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MANDURAH WA 6210.**

Meetings 4 times per year as notified.

The mission of the Friends is to provide assistance and support to the Museum in all its endeavours.