

Friends of

Mandurah Museum

BUILDING BRIDGES TO PEEL HISTORY

3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210

Friends of Mandurah Museum

Newsletter February 2024

From the Editor. Welcome back for the year 2024, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and your New Year came full of good things. Your February issue is we hope also full of good things. We have been working solidly to put together our next Women in History Month which you will find more about inside.

It also is 190 years from the infamous event which is variously called the Pinjarra Massacre, or Battle of Pinjarra between forces mounted by Governor Stirling and the Bindjareb Noongar People.

And also the building of one of the first ships of the colony the River Chief in 1844,

First Mandurah Bridge built in 1894 has now been replaced for the second time. When the bridge was first built it opened up the Western area for much greater development and eased the passage to the south.

In the first Kanyana Festival, 1964, well known Mandurian Dudley Tuckey was involved and he talks about it in his oral history which is held at the Museum.

In 1964 the Christ's Church Parish Hall was completed and in 1994, Christ's Church extensions were completed.

Pinjarra Hills & Steam Railway Preservation Society formed in 1964, later to be known as Hotham Valley Railway.

Woolworth's Shopping Centre was built in 1974, bringing in the era of shopping in the manner we know today. The forerunner of many other like stores.

We are also remembering this year the opening of the Dawesville Channel, and the visit of the Tall Ships to the Channel. **(see next ->)**

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Features.

Florence Carvossa - Jan Baker.

Exhibition.

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Regular articles.

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While we won't be mounting exhibitions on all these events, we will try to remember them more in depth in our newsletters for this year.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and if you have any memories of these events that you will either ring or email the Museum relating to them, and especially if you have any memorabilia which we could copy/scan or you might wish to donate to us.

Jan Baker. Editor.

Florence Carvossa. From Trove, “*The Golden Mile*” a school journal published in 1926, Florence is shown to have obtained her Junior Certificate in 1925. The next publication available is 1927 where she features as a school prefect in her last year.

From there in 1929 she was placed as a monitor for just one year. It is uncertain whether she actually was monitoring also in the year following her completion of Leaving Certificate as that particular publication for 1928 doesn't appear to have been given to Trove to copy. (the only other copy available which I can find is that of 1919).

With regards to monitors, many of them did do this for several years, however, it is possible that after her one year in Kalgoorlie that she then went to Teacher's Training.

The next time we find her on teaching records is at Gwalia in 1933. From all you read about that time in Gwalia, the fact she remained there for four years is a credit to her ability to adapt to the life of teaching in a very small town with limited facilities and in the full heat of summer.

Being transferred to Mandurah, with its very pleasant climate and for those two years prior to the Second World War broke out must have seemed like a reward for her service.

Florence married Albert Phillips in 1939 and from then does not appear to have taught. Sometimes it is difficult to follow the teaching records especially if the person marries. I find it surprising that during the war years she was not employed but as we have no further information relating to her and her husband, I am unable to follow this up.



Photo from publication , *the Golden Mile*—1926.

Discover the Secrets of Mandurah and the Peel Region with "Life in the Past Lane"

The Mandurah Museum is proud to present our ongoing video series, "**Life in the Past Lane**", an enchanting exploration of the historical treasures within Mandurah and the Peel Region of Western Australia.

Every two weeks at 4pm on Friday we invite you to join us on the City of Mandurah's Facebook page for an exclusive 10-minute segment that promises to captivate, educate, and inspire. Each episode is filmed at a site of historical significance in Mandurah and the Peel Region, offering viewers a unique glimpse into the rich tapestry of our region's past.

Why Tune In?

Exclusive Insights: "Life in the Past Lane" goes beyond the surface, offering viewers in-depth stories and fascinating facts about each location's historical significance. Whether you're a history buff, a local resident, or simply curious, these segments provide valuable insights that aren't easily found elsewhere.

Upcoming Episodes

Stay tuned for our next episode, where we'll explore Ravenswood, revealing its hidden history and the role it has played in shaping our community. From historic buildings and natural wonders like the thrombolites to pivotal moments in local history, "Life in the Past Lane" covers it all.

How to Watch

Join us on the City of Mandurah's Facebook page every other Friday at 4pm. Missed an episode? Don't worry! All segments are available for viewing on our Facebook page after the live broadcast, allowing you to catch up at your convenience.

Be Part of Our Journey

"Life in the Past Lane" is more than just a video series—it's a journey we take together, discovering the stories that have shaped Mandurah and the Peel Region into the vibrant places they are today. We look forward to having you join us on this exciting journey through time. Your adventure into the past awaits!

Carvosso, Florence	Kalgoorlie IA.	Monitor	1929
Carvosso, Florence	Gwalia V.	Assistant Teacher on Probation	1933
Carvosso, Florence	Gwalia V	Assistant Teacher on Probation	1934
Carvosso, Florence	Gwalia V	Assistant Teacher	1935
Carvosso, Florence	Gwalia V	Assistant Teacher	1936
Carvosso, Florence	Mandurah V	Assistant Teacher	1937
Carvosso, Florence	Mandurah IV	Assistant Teacher	1938

Florence was born in Geraldton in 1909 to Austral Carvosso and Elsie (nee Purchase). She married Albert Phillips in 1939, in Mandurah.

M.D.O. REPORT

As we continue to navigate through an eventful year, we're excited to share with you the highlights and updates from the past two months at the museum. Our commitment to preserving history, celebrating culture, and engaging our community has never been stronger. Here's what's been happening:

I'm pleased to report that the recent pigeon infestation in the Museum schoolroom roof has been effectively dealt with. A work request was promptly submitted, and the roof space has been sealed once again. The extermination process not only removed the pigeons but also addressed a potential Workplace Health and Safety issue. We are now waiting to have the mess that's been left behind removed but this should be happening shortly

Just over halfway through the year, we celebrate the successful implementation of all scheduled elements of our activation plan. Highlights include a captivating NADOC display in July, an enriching Indonesian cultural exhibition in August, and our Smart Street mall display in September/October. Currently, we're showcasing a display on the history of radio, continuing to engage and educate our visitors. Our ongoing elements, such as the school holiday programs and the Curious Community Collectables displays, have also been warmly received.



Our team are hard at work, preparing for the upcoming exhibition in March on the significant female educators of Mandurah. This exhibit promises to shine a light on the pivotal role women have played in shaping our community's educational landscape.

The Museum hosted Dr. Denise Cook and the heritage staff from the City of Cockburn on January 12th. Their visit, which focused on our Local Studies collection, ended in high praise for our methods of collecting, displaying, and accessing oral histories. Such recognition underscores the importance of our work and that we are a model for other museums in this area.

The installation of new signage at the Museum brought an unexpected but welcome reflection from one of the workers who assisted with the installation, who recalled the impactful tour given by myself last year when he was part of a school group tour from Clontarf Aboriginal College. This feedback serves as a reminder of the Museum's sig-

nificance to our community and the lasting impact strive to create.

Starting March 19th, the Mandurah Historical Society, based in History House at the back of the Museum will undergo a renovation process, focusing on the removal and replacement of existing carpet and linoleum.

To accommodate this essential work, the Historical Society will adjourn its regular activities after Wednesday, March 13th, entering a period of recess until the renovations are fully completed. Despite this temporary pause, the Society remains dedicated to engaging with the community. During the renovation period, Hall's Cottage will continue to be accessible to the public, and the Society will proceed with its monthly garage sales held at the History House site.

In preparation for the renovations, the Society has packed up all their collection objects and stored them in other parts of the building. We are pleased to extend our support by offering safe storage for the Society's four new computers at the museum, ensuring their protection throughout the renovation period.

One critical aspect of the renovation involves addressing the potential presence of asbestos under the current flooring. The duration of the renovation remains uncertain, as the discovery of asbestos-containing linoleum, especially beneath the kitchen cabinets, could extend the project timeline. To ensure safety during this period, asbestos air monitors will be installed, reflecting our commitment to the health and well-being of our volunteers, visitors, and the community.

We look forward to the successful completion of these renovations, aimed at not only preserving but also enhancing the experience for all users of the Mandurah Historical Society. Updates on the progress of the work will be shared, and we appreciate your support and understanding during this period. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to our mission of preserving history, engaging with our commu-



nity, and providing educational experiences that inspire. We look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming events and exhibitions and thank you for your continued support.

Education Matters!

Katrina Gauci.

It seems like only a few days ago I was writing a December update. Where did January and February go? In January children visited Mandurah Museum to make Origami aeroplanes with Origami Specialist Sanny Ang. 134 children participated, attended by 81 adults who assisted their children and joined in as well.

The feedback from participants was very positive, some children came back to do another workshop a second and third time and brought friends with them. Sanny ensured that different origami creations were made when children were repeat participants.

Comments written by adults:

Sanny is amazing. I had a great time and coming back on Thursday.

Fantastic, my son loved it and so did I!

Sanny and the museum office staff were amazing!

Very fun, entertaining and interesting. Kids loved it.

First time in the museum. Really enjoyed it.

Fun to do something a bit different.

Sanny was amazing! Made it fun and loved the stories to help make the item.

Very entertaining and engaging for kids. Loved the extra questions for the older kids.

Thank you for such a fun event. I've recommended to all my friends.

Great program. Very funny & informative.

Second time at this event. It's so special. Kids and us adults loved it!

There was also a Things That Fly-Treasure Hunt available for children to complete any time during museum opening hours.

The treasure hunt included finding hidden toys in the museum, writing down the correct letter next to the picture of the hidden toy and decoding the letters to create a sentence. Once this was complete, children could provide their name and contact details to be in the draw to win a Friends Lego Set.

285 children completed the treasure hunt.

5-year-old, Georgia was the winner. She was thrilled because it was the first time, she had won anything and she loves Lego.

February has been a busy month assisting with the Women's History Month exhibition, preparing the April school holiday activity, working with teachers to organise excursions and arranging Curious Community Collectible displays.

Do you have a collection you'd like to share with our community?

The Mandurah Museum is seeking expressions of interest from those with interesting collections that would look great on display.

If you are interested, please contact the Museum by emailing museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au or phoning 9550 3683.

We can't wait to see what you've been collecting!



The **Curious Community Collectible** in March is Miniature Brass Figurines.

Visit Falcon Library to view a collection of miniature brass figurines. These figurines are of household items, including a telephone, clock and watering can. Local resident Phillip Stasiw bought his first figurine when his family visited Bournemouth, Southeast Dorset in England at the age of 14 in 1974.

Phillip bought these for his mother, on her birthday, Mother's Day and Christmas. She really liked receiving them and wondered what the next one would be. Phillip now owns his mother's collection. His favourite is the tea set consisting of a kettle, teapot, milk jug and sugar bowl as it reminds him of his mum and how she loved her cups of tea.



Make a 3D Wooden Flying Bird in the April Holidays.

Let your imagination take flight, as you decorate your bird to look like a Seagull, Magpie, 28 Parrot, Osprey or one of the many birds that live in the Mandurah and Peel Region.

Children will be guided through sanding, threading string through holes and tying knots to construct a flying bird mobile. This bird is interactive with its wings flapping when the cord is pulled.

When you've finished the activity, you can take your bird home and hang it in your bedroom or outside. This activity is suitable for children aged 5-12, however it involves fine motor skills so younger children will require assistance from an adult to assemble their bird.

Dates: 2, 3 & 4 April 2024
9, 10 & 11 April 2024

Time: 10am-11am

An adult must accompany children and bookings are essential, via Eventbrite. (Adults do not require a ticket to attend).

For more information, please contact us at museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au or 9550 3683.

Exotic Bird Hunt

Explore the Mandurah Museum's collection as you search for miniature exotic birds throughout the galleries. Look high and low for some of the most amazing, winged friends from around the world.

The small toy birds hidden, include a flamingo, yellow macaw and hummingbird.

As you find the 10 birds, fill in the challenge sheet. When you've solved the puzzle, fill in your details to go into the draw to win a prize.

The lucky winner will receive a LEGO Creator 3 in 1 set. This set makes 3 animal toys, an Exotic Peacock, Dragonfly or Butterfly.

This is a self-guided activity, suitable for ages 5-12. Some assistance from parents may be required.

Call in anytime during opening hours at Mandurah Museum throughout the school holidays.

Katrina Gauci

Celebrating Women's History Month

Significant Women Teachers of Mandurah

Women's History Month highlights the meaningful contributions and stories that women have made to our history. This Women's History Month, Mandurah Museum is featuring some of the significant women teachers of Mandurah.

The first settlement female teachers, Mary Ann & Eliza Tuckey taught from their homes during the 1870s. Mary Ann Mewburn and Ellen Mulrooney taught from the old Police Barracks in the 1890s and later Dorothy Dalrymple taught at the original Mandurah School located within Mandurah Museum during the early 1900s.

Mandurah Primary School (formerly known as Hackett Street School) was established in 1939 after the closure of Mandurah School, and teachers Elizabeth Tonkin and Maisie Luff taught there for many years.

Visit Mandurah Museum from 8 March until 30 April to explore the achievements and contributions teachers made to the lives of Mandurah children.

CITY OF MANDURAH MUSEUM

Celebrating Women's History Month

This Women's History Month, Mandurah Museum is featuring some significant Mandurah educators from the 1870s to the 1970s.

Visit Mandurah Museum to explore the achievements and contributions teachers made to the lives of Mandurah children during this period. Photographs, documents, and objects will be displayed showing schooling during this time.

When: 8 March - 30 April 2024
Opening Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 3pm
Entry: Free

Where: Mandurah Museum
3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210
Phone: 9550 3683
mandurah.wa.gov.au

Mandurah State School 1940

Agenda for :-

General Meeting of Friends of Mandurah Community Museum

held on 8th March 2024 at the Mandurah Museum at 11.15AM.

Meeting open
Welcome

Attendance See attached.

Apologies

Proposed Motion – that the minutes of the committee meeting held on be accepted as a true and accurate account.

Moved Carried Seconded

Business arising from minutes

Correspondence in and Correspondence out.

newsletter to members.

PROPOSED MOTION – that outgoing mail be endorsed and incoming mail be accepted.

Moved Carried Seconded

Treasurer's Report

Bendigo bank

Maritime account has

Friends General Account has

PROPOSED MOTION - that the Treasurers report be received.

Moved Carried Seconded

General Business

Any other items needed from the Friends.

Funding for Map conservation.

Purchase of Mannequin.

Purchase of display case.

Comments from Patron.

Any other business.

Meeting Closed
Next meeting.

Volunteering. On the 11th of February, the museum volunteers gathered for the first meeting of the year. These meetings are important as they allow Nick, Katrina and Teena to bring volunteers up to date with what is happening at the museum and to a certain extent throughout the Council.

They are also important in allowing volunteers to meet others assisting at the museum on different days. They also allow us to celebrate special events.

One such event was to celebrate Ruth Watson's 90th birthday. All birthdays are special but no-one could deny that this one is really important. While Ruth resigned at the end of last year due to ill health, her service to the museum and the Mandurah community spanned 17 years. During that time, she also served as a committee member and the Treasurer of the Friends of Mandurah Museum.

Ruth has lived in Mandurah since the 1950s and is very knowledgeable about our history and area. Her assistance is missed within the museum.



Above. Ruth in volunteer uniform 2023.



Left - Ruth about to cut her 90th birthday cake.

Museums are for all ages. We often have children enjoying the costumes of both earlier schoolchildren and the small convict uniforms made for the museum by volunteers. However, recent visitors to our museum Danielle Ava & Jacob Katsaros were accompanied by their Omi and Auntie Lyn, who also had to join in the dress-ups.



From the Visitors Book. Steve from Fremantle wrote -
"Stumbled into this lovely little place by accident! Great!"
And Dave & Imogen from Dianella
"Great loved learning the history."

Correction. In our last newsletter we featured The Castle and in part of it we mentioned the Kalgoorlie Shire.

A surprise visit from long standing Friend, Marg Green was a pleasant surprise. After not being able to be present due to ill health it was a pleasure to catch up.

Marg worked for some time with the Town of Kalgoorlie and remembers the events surrounding building of the second Castle. Kalgoorlie at that time was a Town.

While talking to us, Marg reflected on also working at the Kalgoorlie Power Station (original one) and found it sad that the system had failed so badly this month.

From the Chair.

Our first newsletter of the year and here we are the 2nd last day and we are racing to get it out to you.

The committee of the Friends met 2 weeks ago to prepare for our first General Meeting. This will be held to coincide with the opening of Women Educators of Mandurah, on the 8th of March. We are hoping that our Friends will be able to attend the presentation which commences at 10am with a short talk by our guest speaker.

The first general meeting will commence after morning tea and is planned to be held at 11am or 11.15 depending on timing. At this meeting it is planned to introduce our new Patron - Adam Bassett - Scarfe.

Lastly just a reminder of Crabfest and that our Historical Society friends, we have included to the left a reminder they are open over the Crabfest, times shown.

Jan Baker. Chair.



MANDURAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESERVE THE PAST WHILST
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Yes! We're OPEN

MANDURAH CRAB FEST

HALL'S COTTAGE
is open on
16-17 MARCH 2024 from 10am-3pm

7 Leighton Place
Halls Head WA 6210
info@mandurahhistorical.com.au
(08) 9581 2292

7 Leighton Place, Halls Head WA

Honouring Our Heritage: The Fishers Lost at Sea Memorial Website

In our ongoing commitment to preserve and honour the rich tapestry of our local heritage, we are proud to highlight a resource that resonates deeply with the maritime history of Western Australia. The Fishers Lost at Sea memorial website, accessible at www.fisherslostatsea.org, stands as a tribute to the members of the WA fishing community who have been lost to the sea. We invite our members and the wider community to explore the Fishers Lost at Sea website. Whether to remember a loved one, learn about the history of fishing in Western Australia, or simply to reflect on the narratives that have shaped our coastal identity, this website offers a space for connection and remembrance.

**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

**Friends of Mandurah Museum,
3 Pinjarra Rd,
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.