

Friends of

Mandurah Museum

BUILDING BRIDGES TO PEEL HISTORY

3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210

Friends of Mandurah Museum

Newsletter August 2022.

Australian Museums and Galleries National Conference 2022 — Nicholas Reynolds

During June, I was fortunate to attend the Australian Museum's and Galleries Association National Conference which for 2022 was held in Perth. Some highlights of the week's presentations were:

Day one's keynote was by, Dr Kristin Alford, Director of MOD at UNISA. He presented on the challenges and opportunities of using uncertain and unexpected change in the future of museums. He discussed the concept of the "Futures Triangle" and the "200-year Present". We can call on the experiences of our grandparents, and can anticipate the needs or lives our children and grandchildren will lead. This covers a span of approximately 200 years. Outside of this, we can't, although we need to be looking at the 60,000 year future in terms of planet Earth. We need to be able to cope with unanticipated outcomes, events like the release of cane toads. The "Metaverse" is a concept which is being touted in the media a lot lately.

According to Dr Alford it's not "Second Life 2.0", it's about making a simulation of ourselves for marketing purposes. I found this to be quite worrying, as we are advertised to so much now in real life as well as when we're on our phones and our computers. Dr Alford also suggested looking at the concept of the "Futures Cone" in predicting future events and outcomes. To sum this up he suggested that we should "Push ourselves towards the preposterous outcomes, then we may just come up with innovations".

Another interesting session was titled *Supercharging Digitisation Through Online Internships*, presented by Cameron Auty and Ashley Giffney from the Burke Museum.

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A City wide survey found that there was great community interest in Maitland's history. The community wanted a Museum. This prompted the digital collection open minds project. Currently in phase 1 with a photo studio in the Maitland Regional Art Gallery which travels out to small local Museums. They have then produced an online collections page. This unites council collections in one space and feeds in to the StoryPlace.org.au website. A grant enabled high quality digitisation equipment to be purchased. This goes out to museums too. One downside is that the gear is bulky and heavy. Digitising is heavy work, volunteers can find this hard and boring. Having good gear is essential. Offering gear to be booked at the gallery as a community resource can make more community use of expensive gear and improve the value for money of this service. The digitisation project found (Inevitably!) missing objects in the collection, objects which have been found to be missing, and objects with no provenance. They found multiple collection databases, between museums and libraries too.

Day one's panel discussion was on the topic of *Partnerships, Power, People and Purpose: Planning for a Sustainable Sector*. It was great to see former City of Mandurah Arts Officer Kim Jamison on this panel. Ideas discussed included having a safe space to learn through the doing, and the mistakes. We can tell a lot about our community and ourselves through those. There have been several decades of underspending in our sector. Shame in national history is something that needs to be addressed. Museums as a space where people are reflected and can feel safe. Covid shows the importance of Museum as care site and hub, and finally the importance of Ethical partnerships in museums.

Day two's Keynote speech was *Listening Locally, Acting Globally: Reflections from London*, by Dr Gaye Sculthorpe, Curator and Head of Oceania, British Museum. She has just finished an Indigenous exhibition at the British Museum, and contrasted newspaper letter feedback vs visitor feedback. The British Museum is in partnership with the Albany Museum in WA. She has also been looking at smaller museum collections in the UK in order to find Aboriginal artefacts. She has found lots of things with little provenance, or the example of the misspelled donor name from the HMS Rattlesnake donation. There is a need to investigate archives in both countries for complete understanding. Tracking down 'lost' artefacts for community research and collection followed by possible eventual repatriation is important. Collection research is vital, but there is seldom time or budget prioritised for this. Database records improvement is her proudest achievement at the British Museum. Basic documentation and accessioning is vital no matter how big or small your museum is.

Day two's post lunch session was by the Royal Australian Mint: *Minting Memories: Access days at the Royal Australian Mint*, by Holly Anderson and Hannah Webb. Royal Australian Mint



A session at the 2022 AMaGA National Conference

The Mint had had no upgrades since 2008. They were having over 300,000 visitors per year pre COVID. At this point, it was a passive experience. There were no multi-sensory experiences. They developed an Accessibility Action Plan. Report arranged. Staff training. Internal action plan and quarterly meetings were held to keep on with implementing it. The plan included 'quiet mornings', Autism friendly sessions opening an hour earlier than regular museum hours. 71 booked for the first session in January 2021. Covid intervened after that, and the next one wasn't able to be put on until January 2022. This one had 21 booked. Both ended up having the same level of attendance, roughly 30. Some didn't come, others turned up unannounced. Metrics were based on really good feedback received, not 'return on investment'.

A further post-lunch session was *Reaching beyond the screen: Interactivity in Online Programmes* by Kate Barnard, Museums Victoria. These were "Astro Hour" adult events with cocktails as science communication during COVID. These focused on practical things. Moon to Earth distance as example. Adults love this as much as kids. The most memorable things people report from events and activities were "where I said, did, felt something." Interactivity increases engagement including content knowledge and affective impact. Different modes of interactivity suit different programs and audiences. Activity constraints breed creativity!

Day three's highlights included *How to Increase your Museum's Digital Literacy* with Indigo Holcombe-James and Lucie Paterson, RMIT, Lucie Patterson, Australian Centre for the Moving Image. Invest in digital literacy in your workplace. It's not currently evenly distributed making sure you have a "digital mindset." The pressure of doing digital and 'normal' at the same time is not appreciated by organisations. Museums are traditionally conservative and risk averse. Allows digital parts of the collection placed online as an extended experience. "Show, don't tell"

Kuraree, the Heart of Perth: Pivoting to an online exhibition in response to COVID, Dr Caroline Bird, Richenda Prall, Rottneest Island Authority.

Kuraree, the Heart of Perth: Pivoting to an online exhibition in response to COVID, Dr Caroline Bird, Richenda Prall, Rottnest Island Authority.

This was to be an exhibition on the 150th of the town hall's opening. Changing to digital due to Covid restrictions was a steep learning curve, but enjoyable. There were lots of additional costs, and new skills to learn. This was a Local Government, not Museum project. They had to get permission to use outside web designers rather than internal council staff. The big loss was not being able to have the objects, and connection with place during an online only exhibition. Noongar engagement was going to be enhanced through this connection. A gain was more A/V material. They gave artists work through this during lockdown. It had a longer life than the physical exhibition would have.

Museum Education in a Digital World, Megan Baehnisch, Australian National Museum. Browser based games have been a great success for the Australian National Museum. "Voyage" had its millionth play through this month. These were pre-Covid projects, but were obviously great during Covid lockdowns. However, they were all incredibly time intense projects to produce. Virtual tours of the museum section of the website was not really that old, but due to rapid technology change it was found to now be outdated. This was once popular with schools, but this is no longer the case.

Nusi Lisabilla Estudiantin, National Museum of Indonesia, and Andrew Henderson, UNESCO Memory of the World Committee for Asia-Pacific. *The Australian Indonesian Museums Project*. This project involved transferring basic Museum skills to Indonesian museums and museum workers. Covid made delivery over Zoom necessary. Major van Daalen's Ache expedition was used a good example of the kind of outcomes achieved throughout the program. The example was brass arm bangles donated by van Daalen, researching the provenance behind these gave much more meaning and significance to the objects.

Kevin Lucas. Macquarie University, *SPACETIME-MATTER: The Future of Post-Decolonial and Posthuman Aesthetics of Representation*. This involved the designing of the prospective Wangurri virtual museum using VR headsets to create a virtual space where objects can be visualised with their sacred elements brought to life. Lived experience of the land informs the work. "Imagination is the future of our homeland" Collaborations were undertaken with the Berndt museum.

Overall, the presentations were very worthwhile and gave me many ideas to bring back to our Museum. Interactivity is the key for making displays today. It was a worthwhile learning experience.

Nicholas Reynolds

Upcoming Events

Policing the Peel

Discover the changes to policing through the years and the responsibilities of Police Constables, Robert Holmes who worked in the Peel District from 1864-1882 and John Graysmark who worked in Mandurah from 1952-1958. Read about the troubles and hardships they faced as well as achievements and acts of courage, in this new exhibition at Mandurah Museum.

Explore why Constable Charles Buckley during his service between 1958-1963 formed the Mandurah Marine Rescue Group, find out who the first female police officer was in Mandurah and read the recollections of past Crash Investigations Officer, Tim Hartland from the early 2000s.

Share your memory, experience or funny moment of the Mandurah Police Station or the police. We would like you to reflect and write your memory.

Where: Mandurah Museum, 3 Pinjarra Road, Mandurah

Dates: 27 September-27 November

Opening Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10am-4pm

Saturday-Sunday 11am-3pm

Entry: Free

See below - First Police Car for Mandurah. Ford Cortina



The Exhibition mentioned in Nicholas article continues to be available on line.

THE HEART OF PERTH
KURAREE
150 YEARS OF THE PERTH TOWN HALL
KOORARI - BOORLOO KOORT-AK
BOOLA BOOLA BONAR NIDJA NYINALANGINY MIYA
ONLINE EXHIBITION
1st JUNE 2020
MANY YEARS AS A MEETING PLACE
City of Perth

Education Matters– Katrina Gauci

NAIDOC Exhibition 2022

To celebrate NAIDOC week, Mandurah Museum showcased the artwork of well-known local Bindjareb artist Gloria Kearing. It also featured students artwork work from several schools. The Stars Foundation students from Coodanup College, South Halls Head and Glencoe Primary.

Viewing Gloria's paintings and reading her stories, invited visitors to expand their knowledge and awareness of how Noongar people live on, enjoy and care for the land.

During museum opening hours, children and adults had the opportunity to complete a self-guided booklet based on Gloria's artwork. A dozen self-guided booklets were completed. This showed dedication, as many of the stories were long and took some time to read.

Parents could book their children in to make a Pom-Pom Turtle. This activity was available on selected days. 63 children and 36 adults attended the holiday activity. The feedback from participants was positive, everyone enjoyed the activity.



The parents wrote:

Great volunteers! Very helpful and friendly.

Thank you for your kindness & help with making the turtles and helping the kids make the badges. You are awesome.

Sensational! Thank you

Over the three weeks while the exhibition was displayed, 508 people visited the Mandurah Museum.

This display was well received by all.

Visitors commented on how they loved the artwork showing the connection to nature and the spiritual realm. They commented on the vibrant colours used & enjoyed the stories communicated via the images.

Visitors had several enquiries which included:

"Where can I purchase local Indigenous artwork?"

"What cultural tours are available?"

"Can I listen to oral histories?"

Next ->

Community Collectibles.

Antique Glass Bottle Collection

Local resident Loraine Coates is an avid collector of many objects and is a member of the Bottle & Collectables Club of Western Australia.

This club specialises in collecting WA antiques. The club is a place to show off your items and also gain knowledge of our rich history in WA.

On display at Falcon Library during August is Loraine's collection of WA bottles, which include Marble Bottles (or Cods), chemist bottles, Perth Glass Works Bottles, Pyro Label Bottles, whiskey bottles and beer exchange bottles, just to mention a few.

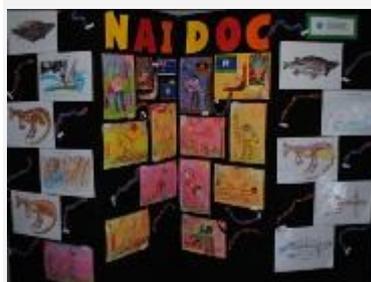


Lorraine said, "That collecting old bottles is part of our social history and is a popular pastime for many." Lorraine went fossicking near Coolgardie recently and dug up a great old Pioneer Aerated Water and Brewing Company, Coolgardie bottle.

Come in and view Loraine's antique bottle display, you will be amazed at the different colours and shapes.



**Indigenous art
Contributed by:-
Glencoe School,
Coodanup School,
and
South Halls Head
School.**



One volunteer was asked by a visitor, what does NAIDOC stand for? A suggestion for next years display, is to have this explained on a display label.

Thank you to volunteers, Colin Warne and Linda Jackson for your assistance installing and dismantling the exhibition. An extra thank you to Linda Jackson for carrying-out the behind the scenes lesson preparation.

Katrina Gauci.

Mandurah Art Trails and Our Museum

Were you aware that our museum features prominently in the Art Trails of Mandurah brochure?



2. Leviathan Our most recent mural by Jerome Dav-enport of Blank Walls.

On show for anyone approaching the museum from the Estuary and depicting **Olaf Wilson**, boatbuilder of Mandurah and his ill fated vessel, **The Leviathan**.

This artwork has visually been a great attraction and many visitors have wandered in from Dalrymple Park



1. ABC by artist Anne Neil; a metal sculpture based on a line drawing of books and pencils that commemorates the opening of Mandurah's first government school in 1900 and stands proudly on our forecourt. We so often dash past it and seldom take the time to admire the work.



3. The Guardian by artist Celestin Hutchison. Hutchinson who was raised in Bunbury has painted several other community murals in the south west area. This mural was completed in **2006** and presents a colourful wall facing Pinjarra Rd.

It tells the story of the creation of the Estuary, the lifeblood of the Bindjareb people.

A band across the top shows a time line of life along the estuary from first people, the importance of fishing, soldiers and early settlement by white people.

The estuarine creation story is told on a plaque near the mural and is copied right.



The creative interpretation for the mural arose from consultation meetings with the Indigenous Committee and Museum Curator.

THE GUARDIAN

"Since the beginning, when the rivers and the waterways were created the estuary system with its great abundance and beauty, sustained life. Each species was given an important role to play in keeping the estuary alive and healthy.

It was the life blood Bindjareb people - the story of the creation of the estuary and rivers in the form of a snake called Wagyl and her children has passed down from the elders for countless generations. The Bindjareb people have a spiritual kinship and a history that is intimately woven to this place.

The estuary continues to be the life-blood of people - our lives actually exist here because of it.

We all have a responsibility to be the stewards of this place, to protect what has been given us - to keep it healthy and thriving for all species, and be conscious of what we are leaving for our own future generation.

We are but a moment on this earth. Let us be wise and understand the necessity of preserving our life blood for those who will come after us.

Like a sentinel, the Osprey, as guardian of the estuary, silently watches."



in spring, the most delicate feathery yellow of plumes and plumes and plumes and trees and bushes of wattle, as if angels had flown right down out of the softest gold regions of heaven to settle here, in the Australian bush.
D. H. Lawrence, *Kangaroo*.

As you walk around many areas in the West at the moment, you can see a variety of wattles either in full bloom or in bud ready to burst forth. While the Golden Wattle is the kind used on our National Emblem, this variety is indigenous to the Eastern States and has been celebrated since just after Federation. There are many varieties of wattle to be found in Western Australia, these number between 450 and 500 varieties and with South Australia we have the longest living variety of Western Myall.

and ponder its significance.

Wattle is from the genus *Acacia* and this can be found widespread around Asia and South Africa with most other places knowing it as Mimosa. Australia is home to the largest group with over 1000 species known.

The use of the word “wattle” goes back almost to pre-history where it described a very pliant branch of a variety of bushes. These branches have been used during the early ages to provide barriers and shelters.

When settlers first came to Australia, they found the wattles especially pliant and useful in building their homes. This kind of wattle and daub was part of the early establishment of the colony of Western Australia. Within the Peel area several settlers have been known to use wattle (*Acacia*) and mud, with the addition of dried white ant nests compacted for a floor.

In 1910, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide celebrated Wattle Day on September 1st but Western Australia doesn't appear to have taken up those celebrations. During World War One, the wattle itself became a symbol of patriotism and many wore the blossoms. To my mind these would look especially cheerful against the Khaki uniforms.

For myself, I always thought that like the horse, Wattle day was on the 1st of August and in the past it has certainly been celebrated in August for some time, prior to a permanent decision being made for September the 1st.

It wasn't until 1988 during Australia's Bi-centennial celebrations, that a further push for the wattle occurred with also a need for a defined floral emblem saw it introduced onto our Commonwealth of Australia Logo.



Photo:-
Pickering Brook,
Late July 2022.



Treasurer - Christine Steer and committee member Dorothy Olsen have fun unpacking and working out just what goes where.



“Alas poor Yorick” So now the challenge for the Friends and for the museum itself is to make these rather space like creatures look more human.

To this end we are asking everyone in our group reached by this newsletter whether you might have or know of someone who has, a wig which could be donated. We are hoping to access one with human hair to make them look more lifelike.

We will be using the mannequins for a display in our upcoming exhibition on Policing in Mandurah.

Mannequins named. A discussion evolved in the museum eating area about whether we should name our mannequins. We resolved that doing so would humanise them but what to use for names. From 2004 until June 2009 when he suddenly passed away Eddy Bryant volunteered at the museum two days a week. Joining at approximately the same time in 2004 and volunteering on Fridays, Nancy Taylor continued volunteering having her 86 birthday in 2010 with a cake at the museum. Nancy became critically ill in 2012 and died very shortly after.

While the age difference was great, Eddy being quite a young man, these two were firm friends and Eddy would often wash Nancy’s car for her at the museum.

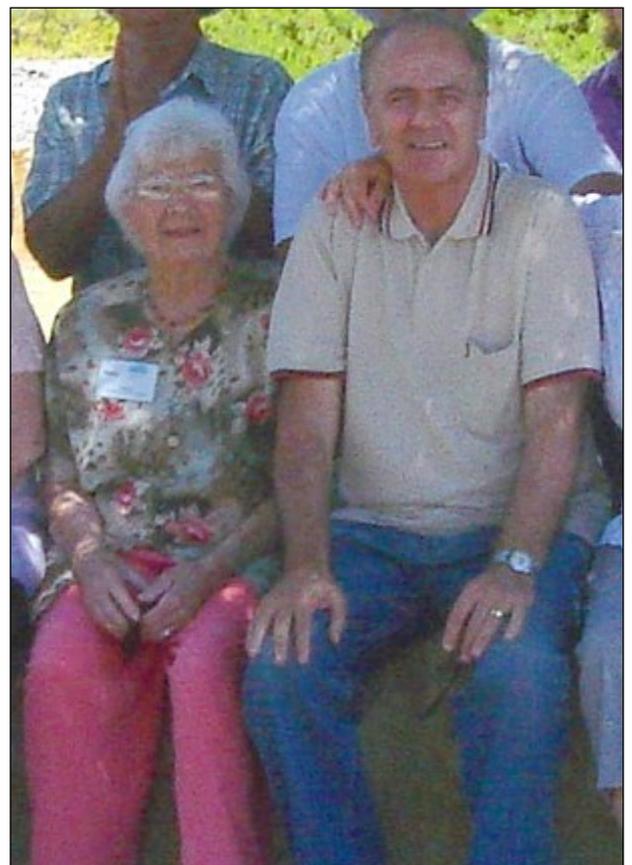
We decided we would like to name the mannequins **Nancy & Eddy** after these two late volunteers to celebrate their lives.

New “Volunteers” Arrive at the Museum.

The Friends of the Mandurah Museum undertake a number of activities to fundraise for any purchases that may assist the Museum staff to make the most of exhibitions, research and promotion of the history of Mandurah.

Museum staff recently identified the need for a life size mannequin that would enable the display a uniform for an upcoming exhibition. Committee members were canvassed to seek approval for the Friends to purchase this item. Discussions quickly expanded to embrace the idea and agreement was reached to purchase two mannequins that would be able to be used to display a variety of clothing and costumes.

A search online identified exactly what was required. An order was placed and two large boxes duly arrived at the Museum. The mannequins were unpacked and assembled by the volunteers Dorothy and Christine. They now await some finery and their first public appearance.



Maritime Moorings.

Following the almost total destruction of our 1908 heritage Jetty, I am happy to report that due to swift action by Nick and Neil Carroll from the waterways department the Jetty is once again in one piece. Swift action was required to bring the sections together again before they floated away, (I don't think this was influenced by the fact it was the last week of the financial year).

As mentioned in previous reports we are still hoping the Council will add our heritage Boatshed precinct to the Municipal Heritage Register, to protect and keep alive the last remaining link to Mandurah's historic fishing industry. The other related infrastructure has all been demolished.

I am also happy to report that Michael has recovered well from his heart operation and was able to accompany me to Barragup to present a copy of the book he wrote entitled "Saving Canopus" to Mayday



president, this was as a thank you for the funds that made it possible to carry out the restoration of Canopus and so that they could see via this semi pictorial book how we had spent their kind donations. **David Austin.**

Photo: 04-08-2022 Maritime Volunteer: Michael McGhie presents Mandurah Murray Mayday volunteers and president - Maxine with a copy of

"Saving Canopus."

Celebrating LEGO

LEGO celebrated its 90th birthday this year. The company LEGO is named after the Danish phrase *leg godt*, meaning 'play well'.

The LEGO Group was founded in 1932 by Ole Kirk Kristiansen. The company has passed from father to son and is now owned by Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, a grandchild of the founder.

The products have undergone extensive development over the years- but the foundation of the traditional LEGO brick remains.

On display at Falcon Library during the month of September is a collection of Lego owned by 11 year old, Diesel.

Diesel started playing with Duplo as a young child and as he outgrew those bricks moved onto Lego.



Marvel and Speed Legends sets are his favourites. He loves the problem solving involved in creating the characters and real-life vehicles

Come and admire Diesel's collection of vehicles and movie themed characters. Be inspired to get your Lego out, to be creative and use your imagination.

If you don't have your own Lego, join the Lego Club at your local Library.

Falcon Library on Wednesday at 4pm or Saturday at 11am.

**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.