



Friends of Mandurah Museum

Newsletter December 2024.

A new editor with big shoes to fill

After 23 years of sterling work for the Mandurah community - past, present and future - our colleague Jan Baker is hanging up her proverbial pen, which includes passing the editorship of this newsletter to me (we will thank Jan properly in the next edition). I count myself immensely lucky to have lived in Dudley Park for around seven years, having spent most of my adult life in Port Kennedy. Once upon a time, I was a copywriter/journalist for small newspapers in Perth and Sydney. I love local history and look forward to building on Jan's wonderful legacy, beginning next year.



New editor Robert Hiini

- Robert

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Acting Museum Development Officer,
Ana Doria-Buchan

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Elf Rules

1. Don't Touch Me I will lose my powers.
2. Talk to me, I can't talk back but I am listening.
3. Write Santa Letters so I can bring them to him.
4. Be kind to Everyone.



Mandurah at Christmas. Like many other children of my generation, I spent at least 1 Christmas period in Mandurah. I remember little of it except the caravan park we stayed in with an aunt and uncle. Mainly, I remember my younger brother and his obsession with the showers, at home we only had a chip heater so showering under automatic hot water was a real pleasure.

Fast forward until 1987, when both my husband and I, were feeling under stress due to being 'on call' for our jobs and needing some time out without a phone. We came here in January and rented a house on the estuary and loved it. In March we started looking for our own holiday home and found the right one and signed up on Mother's Day, now that was a special present.

Come Christmas that year and the small 2 garages separated by cement flooring and roofing over the whole area, was 'chock-a-block'. There was what we called 'the barn' out the back where most of the young ones slept. We had all the family, Grandparents, children, cousins etc. for Boxing Day lunch. Many continued to stay, and the place hummed with the sounds of plenty.

We found ourselves in love with Mandurah and like many others, decided to retire down here. We built a house in 1998, and it was finished in time to have our very first Christmas in our new home. My parents were both alive then and they joined us for it.

And then there was the dreaded Millenium Bug to overcome. All of us working at that time experienced the run up to this in different ways, my computer system at work was changed and upgraded. Everyone thought that planes would fall out of the air, trains would crash etc. We didn't host Christmas that year, it was our son's turn.

We did host New Year 2000. Because of all the hype behind it, none of the family wished to plan anything special but felt Mandurah would be safer than on the road coming home from parties. So, there we were, New Year's Eve, on the beach (just one block away) with nibbles and drinks watching the sun go down. There were 2 sons, 1 daughter, a daughter in law, and a son outlaw, plus our eldest grandson, just 2 years old, our granddaughter was already waiting in the wings to always be the same age as the year. Strange to think that this Christmas, it was 25 years ago.

Returning to our home, we settled in for a bbq tea, with next door neighbours joining us. We spent the remainder of the night playing with a pinball machine which my husband had bought especially for that occasion. That machine was to spend many years entertaining us and friends. The eldest grandchildren grew up standing on stools playing with it.

Next morning New Year Day 2000, we greeted the sun again on the beach. As we walked out, we were greeted by the buck kangaroo and its mate who often drank the dew from either our lawn or the one next door. These kangaroos lived in the bush reserve opposite us. Sadly, we have not seen the kangaroos recently. I have had a recent experience with a local kangaroo. (*Could it be waiting for the bus?*)

Sunrise on New Year 2000 was glorious, and wonderful end to special family celebrations.

Boxing Day was to become our special meal as the family married and attempted to please all with their availability. Boxing Day was never an impost to us, it meant we could enjoy a small family meal on Christmas Day. Then have fun with the kids having fulfilled all their obligations the day before. As our sons and daughter became attached, their 'other half' appreciated not having to make the choice. We were not alone with this method and have for many years enjoyed the company of close friends, who also have their bigger gathering on Boxing Day. They now join us (or in turn we join them) for a special light meal together on Christmas Day.

And so, years moved on, with grandchildren grown or growing up, they have all considered Mandurah and Falcon as a particularly special place with lots of memories. Christmas 2022, our eldest son, wife, and grandchildren weren't going to be here and therefore our current home could house all the remainder. Changes were made so that we would once again host Christmas/ Boxing Day. We had fun on that day and were able to speak to the others way up there in Norway. They had just experienced the Northern Aurora.

Last year, due to physical changes causing me difficulties within the house and garden, plus a steep driveway, we decided we would need to downsize into a more suitable home. We also thought it would be more helpful to our children if we moved back closer to them in Perth. Sadly, that would mean leaving all our wonderful friends and community behind.

Need I say that once again, nostalgia took over and all the family felt we must have just one more Christmas in Mandurah. This time the eldest brought down his caravan and we expanded into that. It was a wonderful Christmas, and I am so pleased to have this one last memory of our 'Family Treasure' which was the Mandurah Christmas House.



Above, our first Holiday House in Falcon.



Left. Or waiting for a lift?

Hello, Volunteers!

As many of you know, I've had the pleasure of filling in for Nicholas over the past few weeks. It's been wonderful getting to know you all, and even though I've been juggling my permanent role alongside this one, I've thoroughly enjoyed our morning teas and lunches – when time allows! I wish I could join you more often.

Lately, I've been focusing on our upcoming exhibition, which is set to launch in January.

Rhythms of Persia: Dance Costumes and Musical Instruments

This summer, Mandurah Museum invites you to experience the elegance of Persian arts through an exhibition of stunning Iranian dance costumes and musical instruments.

As the heart of Persian culture, dance has been a cherished art form for generations, telling stories through graceful movements. Drawing from ancient traditions and Iran's diverse history, Persian dance (*raghs*) captures the essence of the country's identity.

Join us on Saturday 18 January between 10am and 1pm for a FREE launch event featuring live music by the Moaj Trio, dance performances by the Kereshmeh Dance Group, kids' activities, and traditional Persian food.

Exhibition dates:

14 January – 21 February 2025

Opening times:

Tues – Fri, 10am – 3pm

Opening event: Saturday 18 January 10am – 1pm

Location:

Mandurah Museum, 3 Pinjarra Road

I've also purchased some new mannequins for this display, which means we're already considering another fashion-themed exhibition for next year. We need to make good use of them, right?

I'll be around until Friday, 20 December, before heading off on leave. Nicholas will return in January, and I'm sure he'll be excited to catch up with you all.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to seeing you around the museum!

Warm regards,

Ana Doria-Buchan



Hanging stockings started by accident



The historic St. Nicholas heard about the plight of a local man who did not have enough dowry money to marry off his three daughters. The generous St. Nick tossed some money down the chimney that landed in the ladies stockings that were drying by the fire.

After that, the tradition stuck.

Education Matters: Katrina Gauci

Season's Greetings

The number of students visiting our museum on an excursion was 922 this year. This number is lower compared to last year however we had 18 different schools from the Peel Region and beyond visit. Two schools that hadn't previously visited and travelled the greatest distance were from St Anne's School in Harvey and North Dandalup Primary School.

This year we had an increase of children visiting our museum to participate in a holiday activity. We had 843 children come to design, create and discover something new. The most popular activity were the hunts which included solving a puzzle.

The touring photographic exhibition from the Australian National Maritime Museum, "Cats & Dogs-All at Sea" was my favourite exhibition this year. I loved the photographs and the short stories that accompanied them. I thought the artwork produced by James Walker's RT Kids was stunning. I will be looking out for other travelling exhibitions to borrow in the future.

Our museum is fortunate to have such a wonderful group of hardworking volunteers. Thank you for all your contributions throughout the year. Best wishes for the Festive Season. I look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Celebrating the New Year Goldfish Craft Activity

Visit Mandurah Museum from 14 January to see the colourful Persian dance costumes and musical instruments on display and join us for our school holiday activity.

Storytime: The Meaning of Nowruz

Learn about Nowruz, the Persian New Year, a celebration of new beginnings. Discover why a goldfish is placed on the holiday table, symbolising new life, along with other items representing health, love, and good fortune.

Craft Activity: Make Your Own Goldfish Bowl

Create your own goldfish-in-a-bowl display with this fun and easy paper craft. Follow simple instructions to cut, fold, glue, and decorate your masterpiece!

Who Can Join?

This free activity is perfect for kids aged 5-11. Parents may need to help out, so bring the whole family! Bookings are essential with Eventbrite. An adult must accompany children, however; adults do not require a ticket to attend.

Dates:

14, 15 & 16 January
21, 22 & 23 January

Time: 10.30am-11.30am



WISHING ALL OUR LOYAL FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL FESTIVE SEASON.

PLEASE ALL STAY SAFE AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN 2025 TO ENJOY ALL OUR FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

Volunteer Outing and Lunch

On Monday 25th November, 12 museum volunteers and staff went on our last outing for the year.

We had an enjoyable day out where we learned new historical information and finished the day with a lovely lunch while socialising with new and old volunteers.

Nic Reynolds met us at the Catalpa Memorial and presented the history of the escape of the Irish Fenian prisoners. It was such a windy day that we enjoyed our hot coffee more than usual.



Wendy Durant from the Rockingham Museum kindly opened the museum for us and told us the history of the building and Rockingham. As we wandered about, she provided us with additional information and answered our questions. She took us behind the scenes to where documents and objects are stored.

We loved their custom-built display cases with display drawers. More objects could be on display without taking up more exhibit space.

We had great food and customer service at Lunch at Hanks Bar and Bistro and to top it off our bus driver Rob was very accommodating and looked after us well.

Thanks everyone for making this a lovely day.

Museum Education Officer-Katrina Gauci

Derise Caddy on left, Derise is long serving here and our oldest volunteer now in her mid 90's.

Katrina, much younger but also our longest serving Education Officer.

Leaving this year, Jan (me), I have been volunteering for the museum in various roles for over 20 years. Only disability is making me finish at nearly 80.





Joining us this year is Gavin, who is supported by his mother. Trish, Gavin has been working on the electronic game found in the courtroom. This game was funded and supported by the Friends.

The Game is very attractive to computer savvy children and brings another element into the museum's activities.

Please see the Chairperson report for information on other items funded by the Friends this year.

Heather has been a member of the Historical Society for many years. Over the past two years she has also joined us in volunteering at the museum.

Dianne is also a long serving volunteer and has been assisting Emily who is employed by the Council and has been working on our accessioning records.

Below is Phyl who has volunteered for over 10 years and been a working member of the Friends committee, serving in roles as Treasurer and Secretary and is a member of the committee.



Over the last four years, Christine (centre) has been the Friends treasurer. At our recent A.G.M. Christine was elected Vice Chair.

An important member of Kat's team is Linda (far right). Since her retirement she has been valuable to Kat as her Education assistant. She also assists with the children's heritage tours.



Nick Reynolds is currently taking a long break. He has been employed as Museum Development Officer for over 20 years now. Volunteers value Nicholas highly, he is ever helpful and one of the most courteous and patient people I have ever worked with.

On this an exceedingly windy day, with the backdrop of both the memorial and ocean behind, Nick managed to project his voice and inform us about the Fremantle element to the Fenians.

Moving on he talked about the general evolution of the Fenian movement. He also spoke a little about their history in the Americas, including Canada where they conducted military raids.

Fenians were present in Fremantle (as they were in the Eastern States) prior to the arrival of the Fenian prisoners, and there was concern in the general population of Perth with a request for the provision of a 'Man O War' vessel to protect them prior to the arrival of the convicts.





Chairman 2025, Jim Tuckey

Greetings everyone,

I feel very humble to be elected as chairperson of the Friends of the Mandurah Museum. Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank our previous chairperson Jan Baker. Jan has

devoted 23 years of her time as a member, committee person and chairperson at the museum. Jan will be missed by all as she has a wealth of knowledge about the running of an organization like this.

Myself, the committee, volunteers and Friends of the Museum wish Jan all the best and good health in the next chapter of her life.

I was lucky to grow up in Mandurah and appreciate what a wonderful town it was. Prawning under the traffic bridge, riding bikes over the rickety bridge to the Peninsula Hotel, movies in the summer at the open air theatre, cabarets in the Sontoy Ballroom plus rock and roll and stomping at the midnight dances — those were the days.

Over the years we have progressed to the City of Mandurah and a top tourist destination and a fantastic place to call home.

Mandurah Museum wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jim Tuckey

Committee member

Ursula Brimble



Chairpersons' Report – 2024. Firstly, I would like to welcome you all to this AGM, and in particular to welcome Adam Bassett-Scarfe our patron. Rather than thank the Committee at the end of this report, I want to place them front and centre to say how much they have dug in and assisted me over the past year. Like all the committees I have worked with over the past 15 plus years they have fulfilled their role and more. For me the past year has been a bit topsy turvy and we have had several meetings cancelled. Nevertheless, business has continued as usual with our Treasurer Christine Steer, and Secretary Debbie Stasiw, undertaking all requirements with assistance of the 2024 committee.

Our eftpos machine continues to be a great benefit both to the Friends and as a support to the Museum itself, as without it, many of the books sold by the museum would not be, due to so many people only using a card for purchases. We have recently reprinted the Footprints book which continues to sell a small amount each 6 – 8 weeks. Currently we now print and publish this in house, saving expensive printing costs and therefore lowering the cost of the book.

With funds raised from Membership fees, book sales and other items we have supported the museum by recently purchasing a new A3 scanner as the one previously purchased by the Friends is no longer fit for purpose. Together with this we also bought a portable digital projector for the Museum Development Officer Nicholas Reynolds who gives talks off the museum site. Very early in the year, the committee purchased a seven-year-old child model for the exhibition being held in March. Very soon after that we had a chance to purchase 2 children's models (headless) from a shop which was closing. They were a real bargain, and we decided to take both of them. They have been used in displays since then.

Finally, as many of you know, this is my last year assisting on the Committee. I will however continue to be a Friend (in absence and by membership contribution.) Due to health problems both for my husband and myself we have shifted back to Perth. We purchased a house back in my childhood suburb of Bas-sendean, not too far from all our family. We moved just on a month ago and are busy unpacking and coming to terms with a different life. I will miss the friends I have made, both within the community and especially at the museum where I have volunteered for more than 20 years. Thank you all for making this such a wonderful time.

Jan Baker.

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**Friends of Mandurah Museum,
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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.