

Friends of Mandurah Museum

BUILDING BRIDGES TO PEEL HISTORY

3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210

Friends of Mandurah Museum

October Newsletter 2022.

Perth Commonwealth Games - 1962.

A few numbers.

The first world wide sporting event to be held in Perth.

When the Games were opened in November 1962, they were the V11 British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

The third games to be called by both titles.

(Commonwealth was added in 1954)

(British Empire was dropped from the title in 1970)

First Games to hold a Para- Games in the same time.

Para - Games preceded the Commonwealth Games.

First to purpose build an Athletes village.

Olympics had built special villages prior to this.

First games to have all the events in one area.

Staged within a 5 mile radius of the city.

Second Games to be held in Australia..

The first were in Sydney 1938, subsequent to that there have been four more games with Victoria in 2026, being Australia's sixth event, To date Australia has hosted more Commonwealth Games than any other country.

Second Games in which a baton with message was sent from the Queen to the host city.

The Adelaide Harriers ran over 1000 km to bring the message to Perth.

When going to press I have been unable to source a photograph of our baton.

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3rd November.

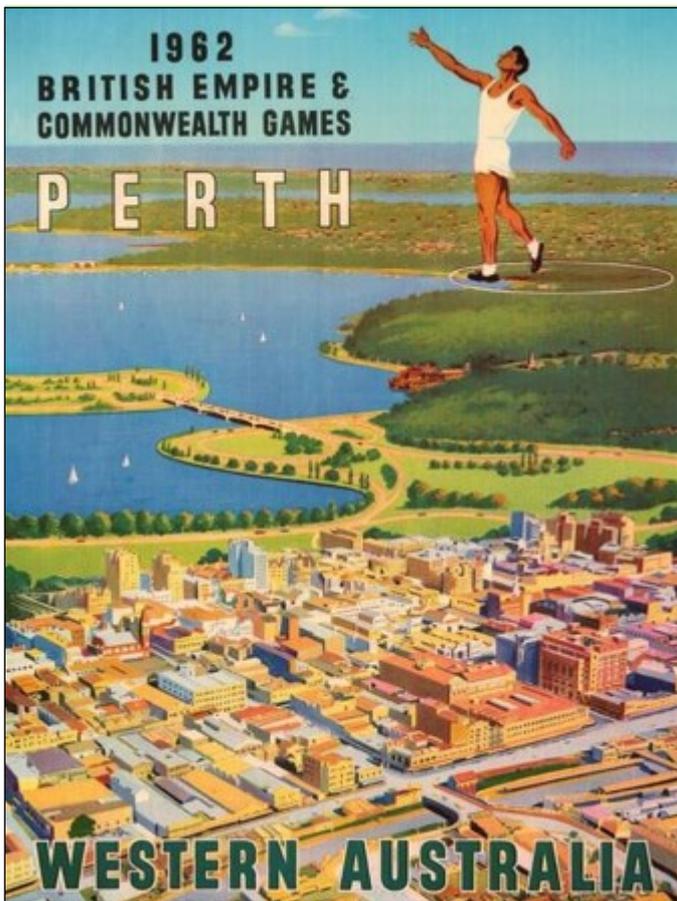
2.30 pm.

Editor. While the 1962 British Empire & Commonwealth Games didn't feature to any degree in Mandurah, they were significant to our State.

This November is the 60th anniversary of their opening, and the 40th anniversary of the Baton run through Mandurah for the Brisbane Games. We will feature more of this run in the next newsletter as well as the Para Commonwealth Games first inception as an event which happened just prior to the opening of the Games.

I would also like to remind you of our A.G.M. notified to all Friends and Volunteers. See the notice further in this newsletter.

Jan Baker.



The Lord Mayor of Perth, Sir Harry Howard, made a successful bid for the Seventh British Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1956. With his success it meant Perth had just six years to raise the money for and build a series of event venues.

A funding target of £250,000 (now \$500,000) was set to be raised by a variety of events. With these funds, host city Perth was to provide the fares to Perth of 1500 athletes and officials, house and cater for them during the three weeks they were here, provide all the athletic, swimming, timing equipment. This was a major commitment and in today's time does not appear to be close to what was needed.

Funding was also required to advertise and encourage overseas and interstate visitors to the Games Events arranged include a street appeal in 1960.

Other efforts include producing a host badge which was sold to increase funds. The badges were an initiative of the Railway Institute and employees of the railways were encouraged to wear them during the actual Games.

To provide for children attending the Games there were radical changes made to the school year. At that time there were three terms dividing the school year. It was proposed to take one week from the August holidays, also for the 1962 school year to commence a week earlier.

The Queen's Birthday was changed to Monday 26th of November.

Host Badge

This is the 1962 British Commonwealth Games "host badge" which will be available soon in country centres throughout Western Australia.

The Western Australian Government Railways Institute has given a lead to the host badge scheme in the country by encouraging all railway employees to wear the badge on their uniform.

The host badge is regarded as the mark of personal participation in the Games. Sales of the badge go to the Games public appeal for £250,000.

Athlete's village.

An innovation to these games were a specially built Athlete's village. While the Olympics had provided the Athletes village in the past, this was a first for the British Empire Games as prior to this, athletes were housed in hotels, boarding houses and host homes.

The State Housing Commission decided to use the need for accommodation to develop a modern housing development. In 1959, the City Council set aside 65 acres of land in City Beach for the athletes' village. Now a densely populated suburb, in the early 1960s the area was still largely bushland.

A competition to design the layout of the village, with the winners creating a plan for curved streets, and a central parkland area. Tenders were invited for a total of three designs of houses to cost between £4 and £5000 when built. There were also to be some buildings which were temporary and included shops, dining hall and entrance. In all there were 166 designs submitted. Unusually the designs selected include the kitchen being designed as the hub of the house.

With no telephones in the houses, boy scouts and girl guides were willing volunteers to run messages throughout the village. Responsibility for the cleaning of houses were provided by 'house mothers'.



A boy scout at the Games Village entrance.



Above. Several of the houses built especially for athletes remain today. Many have been replaced by more up to date or expensive residences. The suburb itself has become 'gentrified'.

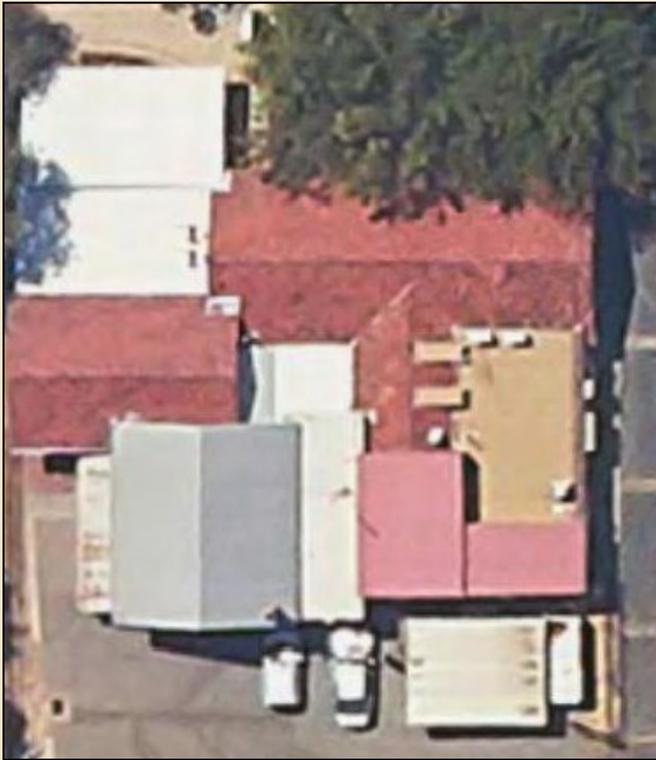
Above and Left.

Medalions and Badges handed out to be worn or collected during the Perth Commonwealth Games.



Museum Development Officer.

Emily Carnes, Work Experience Student, started at the Museum on July 21st. She spent her first two days at the Museum undergoing orientation, reading significant Museum documents and local history. She then moved on to digitising the Tuckey Fish Cannery day-books which contain significant material from Chares Tuckey and have been kindly lent to us for copying by Judith Tuckey. She ended her time at the Museum in September and thoroughly enjoyed her work. She looks forward to pursuing a career in cultural heritage.



Above: The Museum roof is a challenge. Repairs will be done to the beige section to the centre right of the picture.

Citybuild team members have been down here at the Museum with some contractors looking at undertaking further roof works. We had some discussions over the heritage value of the dormer windows on the male cells. The building team would prefer to remove them which I said was not desirable as they are a period modified part of the 1960 police station. Exterior appearance is not an issue, but it must remain as a structural feature viewable from the inside.

They discussed the need to at least replace the tiles over the cells area with tin sheeting. I said this might be a doable compromise as the roof in that area has been severely weakened by old termite damage. Taking the weight of the tiles off would help with the weakened roof section. I stressed that we would need to keep the tile roof elsewhere on the building. Roof openings over that area and the adjoining flat roof where ventilators have been put in over the years can be removed.

The fans and other services (water, sewerage) to the cells are redundant and as long the fittings remain inside the building the rest can be happily removed.

It looks like the more immediate works will be on the flat roof over the side entry office and the female cells which is where the major leaks have been in the past. This 1970s area can be worked on with no heritage concerns. It will be great to see this going ahead.

There is money in the City's budget for this. I've given my thoughts in terms of keeping the dormers and replacing the tiles if we must. We could look at keeping the tiles in case the original roof was to be restored some time in the long-term future if/when the 1970s structure is potentially removed.

Nicholas Reynolds

Wacky Witches

Local resident Ceylene, has always loved wacky witches. The crooked hat, crazy hair and wicked grin brings a smile to Ceylene's face. Beginning her collection in 1985, her first witch was a 'Kitchen Witch' good luck charm, to inspire cooking creatively and safely in the kitchen. From then on, Ceylene's trips to markets, sales and shops included buying witches that were unique and handmade. Ceylene has a witch as small as a bottle top and one that is true to life. Come and have a look at a selection of Wacky Witches from her collection at Falcon Library, it might inspire you to create a costume or a decoration for Halloween.

On display from the 11 October-7 November

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!



Education Matters! Policing the Peel.

Wednesday 28th of September saw the launch of the exhibition 'Policing the Peel' at Mandurah Museum. The exhibition was opened with a presentation by Lisa Gardiner.

Retired Police Officer, Lisa Gardiner, (nee Bennett) was the first female police officer permanently based at Mandurah Police Station. Lisa shared stories about policing in Mandurah, what it was like working in a male dominated profession, how the uniform changed through the years and explained the different parts of the building. Guests said, "The presentation was informative and Lisa was extremely interesting." Many said, "I could have listened to Lisa for a longer period of time."

The guests included, invited representatives from the Mandurah Historical Society, the Peel Chapter Group, the Mandurah Museum Advisory Committee, Friends of the Mandurah Museum and City of Mandurah Council members, staff and CEO, Mark Newman.

The launch had an attendance of 24 people. While enjoying afternoon tea after the presentation, Lisa made herself available to speak with guests, she answered questions and shared her knowledge.

The exhibition featured information panels on 6 past police officers. Guests discovered the changes to policing through the years and some of the events that shaped our community by reading the stories. The Constables included, Robert Holmes who worked in the Peel District from 1864-1882, John Graysmark who worked in Mandurah from 1952-1959, Charles Buckley who served between 1958-1963, to more recently Alex Warren from 1980-1987, Lisa Gardiner 1986-2006 and Tim Hartland 1993-2002.

On display were memorabilia and artefacts, loaned from past police officers and the Western Australia Police Historical Society.

The exhibition included a photographic display and oral histories, to encourage learning about our past. Visitors had the opportunity to write their memories about an experience or funny moment at the Mandurah Police Station or with police officers. These memories are now part of our collection which helps tell the policing story.

Museum Volunteer Diane McIntosh researched and wrote a book called 'Robert Holmes-A Policeman of Mandurah District.' This comprehensive book covers his life.



Opening Presentation Thank you, Mandurah Museum Volunteers, we greatly appreciate your assistance before, during and after the launch of our exhibition.

Katrina Gauci - (Museum Education Officer.)



Claire Taylor & Teena Miller



Lisa Gardiner



Lisa Gardiner's memorabilia on display



Police Uniform



Cr Burns & Lisa Gardiner

Make The Right Call To help educate our children about community safety, Mandurah Museum invited the Constable Care Foundation to perform a puppet show called 'Make The Right Call'. This fun puppet show, taught children how to identify an emergency, the right phone number to use in a range of situations, and how they could play an active role in keeping their friends, family and community safe. Children had the opportunity to have a photograph taken with Constable Care after each puppet show.

The show was suitable for ages 4-9 years. There were two shows a day, held from the 27-29 September and each show was for 45 minutes.

The show was free and tickets were booked through Eventbrite. This was the first time the museum had used Eventbrite for booking tickets.

At the end of each performance, children received a Museum bag with a Constable Care participation certificate, activity booklet related to the show and a police cap.

Adults were asked to fill in a short feedback form. One of the questions asked if making the booking was easy. All adults indicated they did not have any issues making a booking.

60 children and 35 adults attended the holiday activity.

The feedback from participants was positive, everyone enjoyed the show. Several children were shy, and didn't want a photograph taken with Constable Care.

Nineteen parents provided their email address to receive the electronic Libraries and Heritage Newsletter to find out about other events in their Museum and Libraries.

Self-Guided Police Activities

Over the two weeks of the school holidays, children had the opportunity to investigate crime scenes, using the case book to record notes and gather evidence if they wanted to. Children could use ink to create fingerprints and examine them; and they could have their mug shot taken in front of the height chart while holding a crime board. Constable Care left police caps for children to make and take home with them.

134 children and 108 adults came in specially to participate in these activities.

A warm thank you to Museum Volunteer, Linda Jackson for assisting in creating and installing the crime scenes and other activities.

Katrina Gauci.



When asked to provide an article for this newsletter whilst Jan was undergoing *body repairs* she said to write something on a recently accessioned item. As we had mostly been scanning photos this year and Covid hindered things over the past 2 years, I couldn't find anything that said "Hey, write about me" until my fellow accessioner, Phyl, said, "What about these lamps?"

Our collection contains quite a few lamps of differing varieties for coaches, boats, fishing and households. Viewing them stirs memories of my younger days when I lived with my parents in the hills at a time when there was no public electricity. Similarly, here in Mandurah in the early 1900's and in holiday homes until mid-century these lights were essential. I'm certain many readers will recall these times, so I went searching our catalogue and found the following lights that brought reminiscences flooding back. All rather different from my roof top solar panels and digitally controlled lights of today.

Small kerosene lamp. Access. No. 1989.369

I suspect this little light which stands only about 15cm high has had its original glass replaced as I remember mine being white. The base of mine was green and its wick burnt throughout the night in my bedroom and prevented me being afraid of the dark, enabling me to sneak into my parent's bed after they were asleep. It even provided enough light to read books under the covers even though when Mother caught me she declared it would *ruin my eyes*.



Kerosene Wall Lamp

Access.No. 2005.684

A larger lamp with kerosene tank and wick to provide light. It had a round metal plate attachment so it could be hung on a wall without overheating it. These provided enough light for a small bedroom although I'm sure the amount I read by one of these should have rendered me blind if a lack of light caused such ruin.



Kande Kerosene Hurricane Lantern -Made in Sydney, Australia.

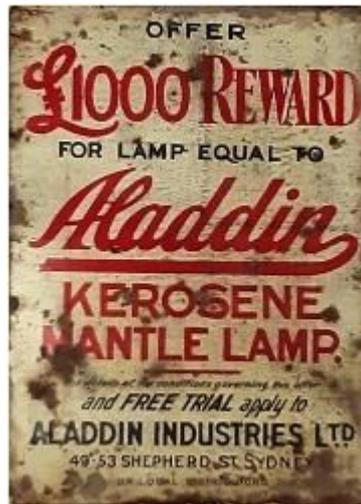
Access. No. 1991.69

More an outdoor lamp. We had one in the outside laundry and would light it to find our way down the backyard after dark when a call of nature demanded we head to the "Dunny". Ours was situated on a rise near Dad's shed and was called "29 Palms" as its walls were made of woven zamia palm fronds. This lamp was easy to carry and didn't blow out easily or have the fragility of later Mantle lanterns.

Aladdin Mantle Lamps Access. No's 1976.240 and 2020.012

Aladdin lights used for living room areas. This one is decorated with hand painting on the shade. Rather fancy! Probably found its way to the lounge room. These had a mantle that had to be very carefully primed before use so they didn't get black spots that caused shadows or smash into myriads of pieces.

The plainer of the two, on the right, was the type we had in our kitchen, sitting on a dresser. It had a metal base and a glass shade.

**Tilley Lantern Access. No. 2013.015**

Produced in England /Ireland

This lamp came after the hurricane light. It ran on kerosene but had a mantle. After lighting it was then pumped up to pressurise the fuel delivery through a fine jet. A Glass shade, missing on our museum model, protected the flame.

A bottle with a preheater which you dip into methylated spirits to light is attached.

We had many uses for this lamp especially outside as it had a convenient carry handle and quite a rugged build. Despite the convenience of lamps my family were very grateful when we got a 32 volt lighting plant and even more so when this was upgraded to a Lister diesel and a 240volt system.

and a glass shade.

Reminder.**Friends of Mandurah Museum.**

Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd of November at 2.30 pm.

Venue is the Mandurah Museum.

Come for Afternoon Tea and meet others of the group.

We will follow the A.G.M with a short General Meeting.

Please R.S.V.P to the museum at - museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au, or phone during museum hours on 9550 3680.

Boats & the 1962 Commonwealth Games.

With a relatively small population and few hotels and other host venues available, organisers sought other ways to provide for the many relatives, friends and sports officials to be housed.

They approached several shipping lines to provide 'floating' hotels and were successful in several ships coming to Fremantle. One of these was the *M.S. Johan van Oldenbarnevelt*, this ship belonged to the Nederland Line, and had been launched in 1929. Built as a luxury liner in its day it served between Holland and Indonesia until the Second World War. During the war it was commanded by the British and served as a troop ship carrying troops to war.

Subsequent to the war, she was refurbished and joined the Australian migrant trade in 1950, becoming important in the Dutch- Australian immigration era. She sailed 44 voyages to Melbourne. This period of her life ended in 1958 when she was again refitted to travel around the world.

Sold to a Greek line in 1963, one of her last voyages was to New Zealand where she had frequently visited, She was to collect passengers in Wellington (New Zealand), Melbourne and Sydney prior to arriving in Perth.

Wanganella. *Wanganella* was also a cruise liner prior to being converted as a hospital ship in WW2 to sail around the Asian region. On several voyages to berthed in Fremantle with wounded soldiers. Having served for more than four years in this capacity, some of her final voyages were to bring home Prisoner of War troops from Singapore and other areas. It was the role of all medical staff to try to bring their patients to a reasonable state of health that their family and the Australian public shouldn't be too shocked or upset.

Subsequent to her last voyage as a hospital ship she was again refitted as a passenger ship but by 1961 it was apparent that she was near the end of life in that capacity. In 1962 she returned to Australia as a 'floating hotel' during the 1962 Commonwealth Games in Perth.

The *Wanganella* (bottom right) ended her life as a floating hotel in the South Island of New Zealand while the hydro electric scheme was built by Utah Construction.



(Above) The *JVO* is seen arriving in Fremantle, November 21st, just one day prior to the Games opening. This ship had sailed to Fremantle from Wellington – New Zealand, with passengers from New Zealand and possible some from Sydney and Melbourne where she had docked before to arriving here.

Below. Sister ships *S.S. Groote Beer* and *M.S. Johan van Oldenbarnevelt* seen stern to stern in Fremantle. Serving as accommodation ships during the 1962 Commonwealth Games here. The *Groote Beer* ship also was sold to a Greek line in 1963.



Hospital ship *Wanganella*. Photo AWM P 444/113

**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

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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.