

Friends of Mandurah Museum Newsletter

APRIL 2021

Solomon Levy. Somewhere in the shadows of Thomas Peel's Land Settlement Scheme is Solomon Levy. An emancipist from N.S.W. with Jewish background he came to the scheme when all other investors had pulled out. By the time he arrived, Peel was desperate for assistance and the scheme on edge of failure before it commenced. Not only that, but would Captain Stirling's own plans for a propriety charter, or a colony have been realised. Peel certainly was planning to bring far more settlers than ever Stirling had, or would. How Thomas Peel and Solomon Levy met is subject to slight confusion, but they did meet and the rest is as they say 'history', and our history of course.

Solomon Levy was the 3rd child of Moses Levy being born in 1794/ 5, Moses died in 1813, and in that same year Solomon was arrested for his role in the theft of a large crate of tea. It is commented that his sentence of 7 years transportation was so lenient that he was considered to not be a major player. He himself protested innocence. Whatever the case, he was transported on the *Marquise of Wellington* in 1814 at the age of 20, arriving in N.S.W. in 1815.

Described as being 5 foot 6 inches, black hair and hazel eyes, he was pale on arrival, not surprising from the long journey. They had also spent 3 weeks in Rio but he probably wouldn't have had much time above decks. Searching has not been able to find exactly where he spent his next few years, however he is listed as part of a jail gang at Windsor. In 1819, Solomon receives a full pardon, by now he is 25 years old.

Three days after his release, Solomon already a businessman with several irons in the fire, marries Anne Roberts aged 16 years, the daughter of William Roberts also an emancipist. Anne was to receive a rich dowry of land and livestock. It seems apparent that Solomon had commenced in commercial enterprise prior to his release, as within a few short months he is well involved in business within the colony.

Late in the same year of his release, Anne Levy gave birth to their son John, later to be known as John Levy-Roberts. A daughter Jane, was born in 1822 but died in early childhood, possibly prior to 1824, there are some doubts that he fathered Jane. In 1824 Anne Roberts who had run away with a lover also died. Solomon Levy never remarried.

Cont pge

From the Editor. . As mentioned in an email to our Friends and Volunteers, I have been taking it very quietly over the last few weeks. Didn't expect to be suffering a sort of lockdown after last year but hopefully I will soon be back moving around much better than before.

Our short lockdown in February found me pursuing an interest in Solomon Levy which was spurred by watching a tv series talking about his brother. While some things are known about Solomon, the Museum didn't have a fact sheet on him so this newsletter and the next features him. Much has been available on line, including surprisingly, his sentencing details from England. As usual we have a steady source of books which the Museum recommends and Alexandra Hasluck's "*Thomas Peel of the Swan River*" was a good source for this article.

Our Logo is still being finalised but we have included a little bit of information relating to why we chose the bridge to feature in the first place.

We hope you have found time to come and see the Krait exhibition, this was planned and prepared for last year but due to closure, we had to cancel that but luckily have been able to source the items and feature it this year.

Jan Baker.

Special features Solomon Levy

(Part 1)

Jan Baker.
Choosing the Bridge for our Logo.
Jan Baker.

Regular features.

From the MDO .
Education Matters.
Spotlight on Volunteers.
Chairpersons report.

Nicholas Reynolds.
Katrina Gauci
Jan Baker
Eleanor Kay

Editor

Jan Baker.

Why do we need the bridge on our logo?

In 2006 when we were planning to set up a Friends organisation, the City of Mandurah was planning for the bridge replacement. When the second bridge was built it was thought that it would last for 50 years and by 2006 it was past that time period already, with nothing definite decided.

In 2007, consultation began with the Community regarding the replacement of our second bridge. Part of that process was to pose the question, *"When you think of Mandurah, what first comes to mind?"* Invariably most people answered *"The Bridge."* The Bridge was considered an iconic structure. Another element of the process of that year's Stretch Festival, was to produce photographs both new and old of the then current bridge, these were combined to make a mosaic which for a long time took pride of place in the Tuckey Room at the Council. Moira Wills was then a member of the photographic society, and took a major role in the photograph collection. At the same time she interviewed several people regarding to their memories of the bridge plus accessed the museum's oral history collection, to find more memories. It is important to document that Moira had interviewed many of our Fisherfolk of the Peel in the 1990's for her History Degree. These interviews kindly donated by her, are also held at the museum.

Our museum by that time was well established beside the bridge, in fact we usually quoted to anyone wishing to find us, *"We are in the old police station, right beside the bridge."*

Due to community research ongoing at that time, plus the museum looking at producing logos, letterheads and other marketing, it was decided we couldn't go past using this iconic structure. It sat well with such thoughts as *"Spanning the Ages", "Building Bridges to Peel History"*. The City produced a logo featuring the bridge and colours within the blue spectrum, this plus the watermark also using the second bridge served us well for many years. All these have now gone due to the new badging of the City.

The Friends, formally opened in 2007 and within a few months had commenced producing a newsletter, for which newsletter Kristy Reynolds designed a logo which complemented the museum's own badging. The Logo was suitable for use in our newsletter, letters, documents, badges etc.

I am asked, *"do we need the bridge, is it current, should we have something different as part of our Logo?"* I in turn ask, *"What better describes the museum, and where we are, both in position and in history."*

The history of the museum site is tied up with the first indigenous crossing sites, the first soldier's camps, the ferry crossing, and the first – then second and now third bridge. It does Bridge the Ages, it does Build Bridges to Peel History.

If not the Bridge, then what?



Education Matters.

Beeswax Wraps Workshop

Make your own beeswax wraps with Caitlin.

About the Event

These wraps are a low impact and sustainable alternative to cling wrap. They are washable, reusable and at the end of their lives they are compostable.

Plus, they're pretty!

Caitlin will teach you a number of ways to make beeswax wraps and you will take home your own medium sized wrap and a beeswax kit, that includes all you will need, to make your own at home.

The workshop is suitable for ages 13+

Places are limited to ensure Covid safety guidelines are followed.

Cash or tap square payments are available on the day.

When

Mandurah Museum-3 Pinjarra Road

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

11:00am- 12:00pm

\$ Price

\$20 Per person

Type of Event

Workshop

Booking Details

(Bookings essential)

Email: museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au

Phone: 9550 3683



May is National Honey Month

A month-long celebration of honey!

About the Display

To celebrate bees and honey during Honey Month the Mandurah Museum is hosting a display of local honey, beeswax products, a collection of honey pots and some equipment used when beekeepers are doing their job.

Children can complete a super cute bee craft activity.

Dates: Saturday 1st May till Sunday 30th May, 2021

Days: Tuesday-Friday 10am-4pm
Saturday & Sunday 11am-3pm

Cost: Free



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



MDO Report.

On 27/11/2020 an application was submitted by a member of the public to the Heritage Council of WA nominating this place for inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places. Any member of the WA community may make an application such as this. On 10/12/2020 a preliminary review of the application was commenced by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. On 18/02/2021 the City of Mandurah was informed of both the application and that Fisheries Boatshed, Mandurah has been added to the Heritage Council's Assessment Program. This indicates that the Department thinks the site is likely to have cultural heritage significance at the state level. The City of Mandurah will be notified by the Department when the significance assessment will take place. Given the Heritage Council's workload, these can take anywhere up to two years to be programmed in.

The Museum advisory group, Mandurah Historical Society and Friends of Mandurah Museum have been informed of the application. The Fisheries Boatshed, Mandurah is located on Soldier's Cove Terrace, Dudley Park and extends into the estuary. The place comprises a boatshed, jetty and slipway. The site is controlled by the City of Mandurah.



On 22/02/2021 we were able to secure an entry in the Peel Volunteer Resource centre's feature of the month as a volunteer organisation. This allows for the museum volunteer positions to be featured at the top of their list for next month and will hopefully result in more applications. The emphasis has been put on anyone willing to volunteer on weekends and especially Sundays. As part of this feature Nicholas was able to do a Facebook livestream video on the resource centre's page explaining the role and promoting us generally. Here's hoping that this has a successful result.

On Tuesday March 9th Roz Hicks from the WA Museum came down to the Mandurah Museum with a professional photographer in order to highlight our Museum as part of the WA Museum's development of a new website or tourism portal, which will be designed to attract tourists and other visitors to regional collections, as part of a State Government election commitment to promote these rich cultural resources and increase visitorship. The tourism portal will be connected to Collections WA, for those people who want to dig deeper and are looking for more detailed information about collections. Collections WA, was launched on 10th June by the Minister for Culture and the Arts. The objects and stories from the Mandurah Museum which will be highlighted include the Dawe fish cans, maritime objects from the collection, the Canopus and

On Saturday March 13th the latest meeting of the Peel Chapter of the Australian Museums and Galleries Association was held at Smirk's cottage and hosted by the Kwinana Heritage Group. Useful networking occurred with both problem sharing and problem solving being the order of the day. A useful update was given by Robert Mitchel who along with his association with the Army Museum and AMAGA is a member of the Heritage Council. In talking about the listing of the old Mandurah fisheries boatshed it served to reinforce how unusual it is for an application such as this to immediately progress through the preliminary assessment stage on to a full assessment.

After the formal meeting a presentation was given on the Collections WA web portal which allows for smaller museums primarily running the MoSAiC collections management software to have their collection placed online in a searchable format. In discussions after the meeting, it became clear that the best way for us, with a collection already searchable online, to be involved will be to have a few featured objects included in the database to act as promotional material which can raise the profile of the Museum on the web portal.

After advocacy by Nicholas on behalf of the Peel Chapter, AMAGA WA have decided to run a full day workshop on Collections WA in the Peel region later next month.



In 2014, volunteers visited Smirk Cottage as part of our Christmas Heritage tour, pictured Derise Caddy outside the cottage.



Volunteer Ursula Brimble enjoys the Jaywick display.

Solomon (Levy cont.) In 1821, Barnett Levy, Solomon's younger brother arrived and was initially employed managing a warehouse and auctioneering business owned by Solomon. Barnett's story within N.S.W is an interesting one and there appears to be more written about him than Solomon. That same year, Samuel older brother of Solomon and Barnett was transported to Van Diemen's Land on a life sentence. He was later moved to the Sydney Insane institution declared insane. He later escaped and sought refuge with Barnett, and was allowed to remain with the family until his death in 1872. Isaac, another brother also moved to Sydney after Solomon's death.

In the meantime, from 1819 to 1825, Solomon had built up an impressive portfolio, he had land from Chippendale to Redfern in the colony. He was a storekeeper, agent and shipbroker. At some time, he became involved with Daniel Cooper also an emancipist and together they built an empire. They were involved in shipping, sealing and importing from various areas including Tahiti. During the partnership they owned a portion of Canterbury Plains (Christchurch) in New Zealand. Their Waterloo Warehouse in George Street held extensive stock, and they also purchased what was to become Point Piper, named after the original owner Captain John Piper. Solomon became one of the first shareholder in the Bank of New South Wales and was active in lowering interest rates. He also lobbied for the inclusion of emancipists in the list of jurors and served in that capacity.

The partnership was formally arranged and documented in 1825, shortly prior to Levy sailing for London. Solomon sailed for London on *Mangles*, which had been chartered by Cooper & Levy, and was carrying sealskins, pearls & timber belonging to the firm. Passengers included Solomon's young brother in law, Richard Roberts.

Arriving in London, Solomon established a Buying Office for Cooper and Levy and also set out to raise money. He also chartered ships to transport merchandise to Sydney and was extremely active in recruiting Jewish citizens to emigrate to the colony.

During 1827, Captain Stirling sets out to explore the area of Western Australia, returning to Sydney with a glowing report of the land there. He later returned to England and it was here that he first met Thomas Peel who at this time was planning to emigrate to N.S.W. Peel became so enthused by his meeting with Stirling that he changed his planned emigration completely. History does not document whether Stirling also came in contact with Solomon Levy during this time.

It is possible that sometime in late 1828, Solomon Levy was introduced to the full committee of people interested in the scheme to take settlers to a new settlement on the west coast of Australia. It wasn't until 1829 that Peel and Levy were to meet and talk. According to Alexandra Hasluck, Solomon Levy sought out Peel, but it is difficult to find any documentation of this. However, from their first meeting in January, the two became involved in the scheme to bring out 400 settlers to New Holland.

In later correspondence, Levy has mentioned a memorandum of agreement with Peel signed in March 27. All trace of this document has been lost. A further agreement was signed in April 27, and Solomon has obtained a line of credit from I Levi & Co for £20,000 to purchase ships and equipment. At this time Peel appears to already have the *Industry*, thought to have been purchased with his money. *Industry* was later considered to be unsuitable to transport the settlers although it is documented to transport convicts in the '30's.

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The Bob's Game.

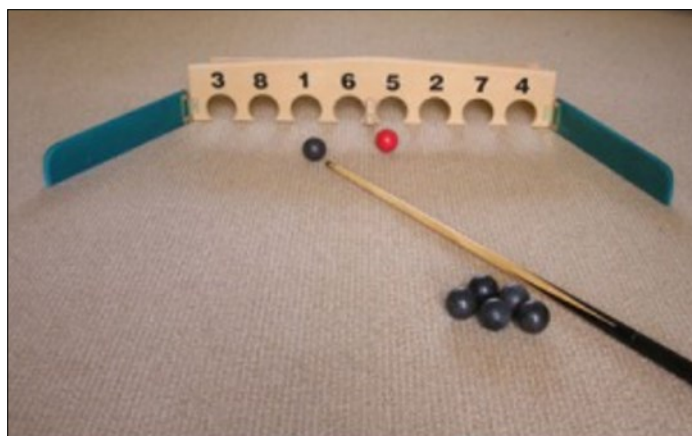
One of the favourite games played by children attending the museum for their school outings is the Bob's set. We spoke last year of the box Brownie which they love to pick up and try to use, so I thought I would talk a little more about other items which they favour. The Bobs set is one of them.

Described on the internet as:- *A touch of nostalgia for those who can remember this old time game once played at country fairs and fetes. This is an easy to play, adaptable and captivating game, where the ball can be hit with the cue or rolled by hand towards the numbered holes. This game is 64cm wide with extendable side arms to catch the balls. It also folds flat so that it can be conveniently stored away when not in use. This is a wonderful game for wheelchair bound resident as well.*

My memories of Bobs go back to rainy days during our childhood. With my two brothers, I grew up in a large Federation style house which also was home to our grandparents. On rainy days (and only rainy days) Dad would produce the one jigsaw puzzle we had, strangely a train, and this set of Bob's a great favourite. Our set was quite old and the box was a bit battered, not as swish as the one shown. Of course Dad would have to cover our kitchen table with an old army blanket (anything else just wouldn't be right) and off we would go. There was always some fights but generally we had fun with both Mum and Dad, plus our grandparents joining in.

When Kat came to start using the set for the children, I just had to try to find the closest thing to an army blanket to protect the table. Once the children start playing you do have to be careful where they are putting their arms and how they draw the cue back but they seem to have lots of fun.

Jan Baker.



Name:	Solomon Levy [Solomon Levy Levy]
Gender:	Male
Birth Year:	abt. 1794
Court Date:	27 Oct 1813
Court Place:	London, England
Role:	defendant
Offenses:	Category: Theft; Subcategory: grandLarceny
Crime Location:	Wentworth street
Verdict:	Guilty
Punishment:	Category: Transport
Collection:	Proceedings of the Old Bailey
ID:	t18131027-2-defend62
Reference Number:	t18131027-2
URL:	http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?div=t18131027-2

This record is not from Ancestry and will open in a new window.
[Learn more](#)

Record found of the sentencing of Samuel Levy.

March Displays

The Mandurah Museum had 602 visitors during the month of March. This was a significant increase compared to the last three months.

During March the museum ran an exhibition for "International Women's Day" and to help celebrate "Kanyana Weekend" from the 19-21 March, the Mandurah Museum had information and photographs about the Kanyana Carnival. 61 people came in to visit the museum over those three days.

Silvina Lanyon

The exhibition for International Women's Day proved to be a very successful event.

The main theme, was the life of an extraordinary woman called Silvina Ruby Lanyon.

The exhibit followed the footsteps of Silvina from the Goldfields, Midland Junction and then the Peel region where she then made a home in Mandurah.

Silvina's story took us to the building of the Hotham Valley Theatre in 1928, where she was showing Pictures and then to the selling and building of her Memorial Capital Theatre in Mandurah.

It was by word of mouth that many came to visit and see the exhibit. Descendants of Silvina Lanyon came to the Museum to especially see the exhibit. Dayle Foster came from Midland and Pat Woods and her daughters came from Bertram. These ladies are cousins of Cheryl Brewer and Harold Blakely Jr. They were all delighted by the exhibit and the story it told of their Grand and Great-grandmother.

Museum Volunteer Ursula Brimble was able to meet and discuss the story of Silvina through the timeline. Photographs were also identified by the family that helped in giving a name to faces in the photos displayed.

There are further stories to be told and we look forward to the meeting of the three cousins at the museum for a family photograph in the near future.

A big thank you to Ursula Brimble for her time and dedication to research Silvina Lanyon.



April Exhibition

Dark Victory-Operation Jaywick

The travelling exhibition on loan from the Australian National Maritime Museum was launched at the Mandurah Museum on Wednesday, 7 April. The guest speaker was Mr Bill Bryden. Bill is currently the President of the Dawesville RSL and the Mandurah Murray Vietnam and Veteran's Group. He is also the Deputy Chairman and Historian of the Special Air Service Historical Foundation. Bill's military service began in 1970 and concluded in 2011. Bill served in Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, East Timor, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq as well as official visits and deployment to Thailand, Kyrgyzstan, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. In 2001 Bill was awarded the Medal of the Order Australia for his work in Special Operations and the Special Air Service Regiment.

Bill's presentation explained the background of Operation Jaywick; this was extremely interesting and informative. There were 20 guests in attendance which included the Mayor and council members, City of Mandurah staff, Mandurah Historical Society members, Friends of the Mandurah Museum and RSL members. Guests enjoyed afternoon tea and spent time viewing the exhibition. Mr Bill Bryden made himself available to speak with guests after his presentation. The exhibition which features a documentary film and virtual reality experience explores the intricate and at times serendipitous nature of planning Operation Jaywick.

The SAS Historical Foundation assisted by providing a variety of artefacts from their collection that show the actual items and equipment worn or used by the SAS soldiers on operation.

The activities available for children to complete were an ANZAC quiz and making an identity disc. These activities were popular but not as popular as the VR experience. This was enjoyed by adults and children. It gave an amazing 3D, 360-degree film experience. The film immersed you in the story. You believed you were there.

Thank you of all the museum volunteers for your assistance and support while this exhibition was at our museum.

Katrina Gauci



Cr Darcy, Cr Green & Bill Bryden

Maritime Moorings.

The heritage educational cruises have resumed with each trip this year being blessed with excellent weather for a trip on the water. The team have made a number of improvements to the boat. The first is the new flight of steps complete with hand rails which have been designed made and installed by the crew to make entering and exiting the boat very easy and safe. The second change is the removal of the overhead banner that was designed to advertise the Museum. This has been replaced by the name "Mandurah Museum" depicted on the bows of the boat. The overhead banner made the boat difficult to handle in windy weather. We continue to attract a lot of attention and hope this leads to more visitors exploring the Museum. *David Austin.*



Chairpersons Report. Due to both the Chair and Vice Chair being unwell at this time, we are not including a report. Instead we will take the opportunity to include more photographs from opening of **Dark Victory-Operation Jaywick Exhibition.**



Sherry & Colin Warne viewing the display.

Teena Miller experiencing the Virtual Reality goggles.

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

Telephone: 9550 3680.

Email: museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au

Internet: <https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/heritage-museum/friends>

Opening hours.

Tuesday to Friday. 10 am to 4pm.

Saturday & Sunday. 11 am to 3pm.

Closed Mondays and Public Holidays.

**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. The 'Friends' also seek to promote the heritage and history of Mandurah, and to assist other like minded bodies.

Membership of the Friends is by a yearly membership fee of \$10 due each August.