

Friends of MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

BUILDING BRIDGES
TO PEEL HISTORY

Friends of Mandurah Community Museum Newsletter

AUGUST 2019

John Tuckey. We pick up John's story following the dissolution of his partnership with Charles in the Tuckey Canning Factory in 1887. While the brothers continue to do business with each other, John primarily continues his seagoing activities. He had returned to pearling in 1884 having become the master of a schooner *Argo* working out of Derby. At the same time he also took charge of the *Comet*.

The *Comet* had been built for John and Charles Tuckey, in Fremantle by TW Mews. This was a 29 ton schooner and it operated between Fremantle and Mandurah for several years on behalf of Tuckey and Co with John at the helm. The *Comet* made trips also on the coast between the South-West and Geraldton also. The ship is also recorded as arriving from the Abrolhos with a load of about 40 tons of guano for Mr. A R Adam of Pinjarra.

In June 1893 the ship went aground at Quindalup; this later probably caused her to be leaking. In September 1893, the *Comet* sank between Bunbury and Fremantle, she was carrying wheat, which would absorb water and swell. At that time she was captained by W.R. Hocking, and was wrecked with no surviving crew. None of the Tuckey family was onboard.

The *Comet* was only one of many boats and ships which the Tuckey's had been involved with over the years, in this magazine are most of the names of these ships we have been able to find on research. Following the sinking of *Comet* the Tuckey Canning Co purchased the *Amy* but she was not as suitable for their purpose and struggled to get over the sandbar despite her light draught.

The late 1880's was to become a sad period for John Tuckey and his wife Eliza. Charles (John) Jnr their eldest son had a narrow escape from drowning when he was capsized in the *Ellen* off the coast near Rockingham and taken onboard the *Rescue*. The *Ellen* was originally a lifeboat from the *James Service*, which James Tuckey had been appointed receiver for salvage of. Refitted and renamed the *Ellen*. Some 18 months after John junior's narrow escape, John and Eliza's sons Stephen (17) and William (13) with their daughter Evangeline's fiancée W.E Evans were drowned near the same place. *Cont pge 2.*

From the Editor. This month we bring you a bumper edition with notice also of our upcoming A.G.M, renewal of membership and nomination forms for the Friends of Mandurah Community Museum.

While there is still more to write about Coastal Trading, we complete our review of the Tuckey Family's influence on shipping both within this state and elsewhere such as Asia is complete at this time.

We were so excited to open the new courtroom after a long period of development. The museum is looking really good with many displays and exhibitions being changed and enhanced.

We hope to see you all next month for our special koala promotion, more news on that shortly.

Finally to all our Friends, a reminder that subscription is now due for renewal. We really want you help and assistance and this is why we continue to maintain our original subscription rate of \$10 for single or family.

Jan Baker.

Special features

John Tuckey

Emily Chambers & Jan Baker

**List of shipping owned by the first Tuckeys.
Emily Chambers.**

Vale Bob Corby

Jan Baker

**Poem by Bob Corby
Opening the Courtroom.**

Regular features.

From the MDO .
Education Matters.
Maritime Moorings
Chairpersons report –

Nicholas Reynolds.
Katrina Gauci
Dave Austin
Jan Baker

John Tuckey. (Cont from pge 1) The *Rescue* was a steamship used as a tugboat and at one time captained by John Tuckey, at the time *Rescue*, was involved in saving Charles (jnr) she was not being captained by his father.

By 1890, John appears to be concentrating more on trading into Singapore, and has become a well-known figure known as Captain Tuckey, travelling within Asia, Japan, Borneo, also to England and Scotland. By this time John and his family had moved to live in Singapore. Charles (jnr) aged 26, who had remained in Mandurah, went to meet with his father planning on becoming experienced in trading within that area. On his second trip out of Singapore he died of sunstroke, he had married Sarah Jane Green only three years prior, and they had two young children.

One command which John Tuckey held was of the steamer *Natal*, which had run between Fremantle and Singapore but later traded from Singapore to Java and other Straits Islands. He also sailed the steamship, *Sarie Borneo* which was built in Singapore in 1897 for a Chinese merchant Aug Lim Thay. This ship plying a route between Singapore and Borneo. It is believed he also sailed other of Aug Lim Thay's ships at one stage sailing to England and Scotland for work.

Western Australian Newspaper's reported that John Tuckey died of a paralytic stroke on a journey with his wife and daughters. They were sailing in the Steamship *Sarie Borneo*.

Eliza Tuckey (nee Hawley) appears to have died in Claremont in 1907.

Sarah J Green who married young Charles Tuckey, was grandmother to the late Owen Tuckey. Sarah Tuckey survived her husband Charles who passed away during a voyage out of Singapore aged 26 years. Sarah survived her husband for 35 years; she is recorded to have passed away in Perth in 1928. **Emily Chambers & Jan Baker.**

Captain James Craig. Another name which features in shipping and had significant connections to Mandurah is James Craig. A captain in Singapore as well as W.A. James Craig married Mary Wearne in 1882; she was a cousin of Charles and John Tuckey. James Craig arranged an apprenticeship for Theo Wearne in Singapore. We have featured the Wearne brothers in an earlier newsletter.

James Craig captained or co-owned at least two of the Tuckey ships. One was the *Ribston* (1880 – 1882) which had been bought by John Tuckey and James Craig, after it was wrecked in the Java Sea. This ship later traded between Singapore and Japan. The other ship *Surprise* was bought by John Tuckey in 1881 and James Craig was captaining her when she hit a reef and ran aground near Cape Bossut while heading towards pearling grounds. He was exonerated from any culpability. There is a record of a James Craig dying in Fremantle in 1907, but we are unsure whether this was the same James Craig. There is no record of Mary Craig's death.

Jan Baker.

Tuckey's ships. James (senior) whose very first ship was the *Darling*, travelled between Mill Point in Perth down to the Murray River and sometimes south to Harvey estuary. The Tuckey family always owned or had interests in boats and shipping. This included pearling, transporting within the State, and also within the Asian area. On occasions they even commissioned the building of their own ships. Research through archives and through newspaper reports have disclosed many of these both owned or co-owned, or just sailed or mastered. We include a few of the names below, however, for a full list of those ships we have found, please read more at the museum.

While we are unable in this newsletter to describe all the ships and their purposes, there were several which we wished to bring to the readers' attention. Below is a list of ships with those in bold print discussed further.

*Darling, Florence, **Jessie, Comet, Ellen, Darling, Amy, Surprise, Victoria, Rescue, Lapwing, Industry, Morning Star, Good Luck, Hampton, Mary, Ribston, Argo, Sarie Borneo, Pamela H Bamfield, Natal.***

The ***Darling*** was reported to have sailed as far as Port Gregory, this was a very small ship to sail such a distance.

The ***Jessie*** which undertook pearling had been built for coastal trading and when sold was as a mother ship for pearling. The *Jessie* was involved in the rescue of the two survivors of the *Stefano*.

The ***Comet***, was built for John and Tuckey and Co, was a schooner and considered well sited for coastal trading. It traded between Mandurah and Fremantle, but was lost between Bunbury and Fremantle. It had brought a load of guano from the Abrolhos in 1892 for Adam Adam.

The ***Ellen***, originally a lifeboat from the ill-fated *James Service*, it was repurposed and named *Ellen*, it sailed mainly between Mandurah and Fremantle and would appear to have been used by the younger generation. Charles (jnr) barely survived when he capsized her on his way home from Fremantle. He was saved by the tug ***Rescue*** which at one time his father had captained. Later Steven and Edward Tuckey with their sister's fiancée were drowned on a trip to Fremantle in the *Ellen*.

The ***Surprise***, was a cutter which they converted to a ketch, this also sailed between Fremantle and the Murray River. Later it was used in the northwest for pearling. It was being captained by James Craig when it ran aground and sank on a reef near Cape Bossut when heading towards pearling grounds.

The ***Ribston*** appears to have been one of the bigger boats being a three masted barque, trading within the Asian area, it was later owned by John Tuckey and James Craig. First run between Straits and Japan, then Surabaya to Melbourne to Fremantle to Hong Kong. Mainly trading between Singapore and Japan.

The ***Sarie Borneo***, was a steamship built in 1897 and part owned by Captain Tuckey, sailing it for Aug Lim Thay. John Tuckey died while sailing on the *Sarie Borneo*.

The ***Natal*** was also a steamship which John Tuckey sailed during the 1890's.

Emily Chambers & Jan Baker.

Museum Development Officer.

The Mandurah Community Museum officially opened the updated Courtroom Gallery on Wednesday 24 July 2019. Mayor Rhys Williams and Councillor Mervyn Darcy JP attended the event. The room was crowded with interested community members, museum volunteers and City of Mandurah staff, including CEO Mark Newman. Attendees shared stories from a time when the room functioned as a court room. It was a moment to be proud of and share in a part of Mandurah's history.

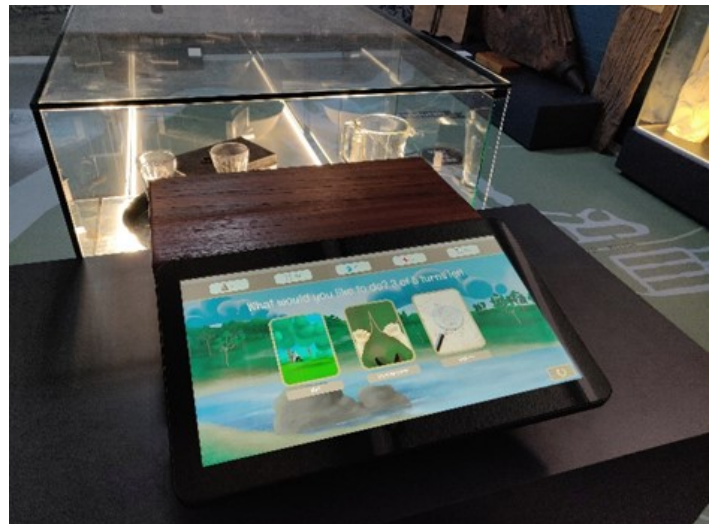
To officially open the gallery, Mayor Rhys Williams gave an inspiring speech reflecting on the value of sharing stories. Especially to learn from one's own history, but also from the history of a community. He spoke of how these reflections shape our values and help us plan into the future. The Mandurah Matters survey clearly identified two main features of Mandurah that make the people of Mandurah proud; the environment, and a community atmosphere. It is through the stories of Mandurah, including those that can be learnt at the Mandurah Community Museum, that shape is given to who the Mandurah community is and what it values.

The courtroom, originally a free standing courthouse built in 1964, has had its displays and interpretive information updated with a modern, purpose built fit out and contemporary interactive electronic displays. In this area of the museum, the European settlement of Mandurah and the industries which enabled settlers to make a living in their new land such as agriculture and fish canning are interpreted. One of the new display panels in the gallery gives details of the dynamite attack on the Mandurah police station in 1985. The damage from the blast can still be seen on the rear wall of the museum schoolroom. The interpretation of the history of the building as well as history of Mandurah ties the information together to make an informative and enjoyable experience for the visitor.

On the 30th of June Nicholas attended a meeting of the Local Government Museums Curator's Group. This group, which focuses on museums run by local governments in WA has not met for approximately one year. The main topic of this meeting was how the group should operate going forward. Museums and Galleries WA sent a representative who raised the idea of it becoming the metropolitan chapter of the AMaGA WA group, also encompassing historical societies and volunteer run museums. Nicholas and Christen Bell from the City of Armadale said that having a group which focused on local government run museums was preferable as they have unique circumstances and issues which need to be treated separately. Nicholas in particular, in his role as the convenor of the Peel Chapter would not have the time to be involved in two separate chapter groups.

Nicholas Reynolds

MDO



Tuckey's Preserving Works.

It is believed that the boat tied up to the front is Tuckey's ship *the Comet*.

We continue to try to source photographs etc. of historic buildings and boats to add to our knowledge and the public's enjoyment of the museum.

Vale Bob Corby. It is with sadness that we write in this newsletter of the passing of Bob Corby. I first met Bob when he approached us at the museum with an idea to publish a book of photographs showcasing Mandurah as it was and is now. Bob had already published 2 similar books using photographs from Perth City and from my childhood, I recognised many of them. I believe the rights to this publication went to the Maylands Historical Society.

Bob spent lots of time as a young boy visiting his grandparents and helping to build their holiday or retirement home in Silver Sands and had fond memories of a Mandurah from the past. While it is much changed he also had a love for what it had become. His plan was to produce a book of easily recognisable places and buildings from the past, then photographing what was currently there from the same aspect. This you all know as "Footprints Through Time: Mandurah."

Bob's generosity did not stop there, he offered to publish the book, ordering and paying for the first 60 copies and donating all but 20 copies to the Friends of Mandurah Community Museum. An instant success, we continue to sell about 1 copy of this book per week. Since 1917 the book has been printed 5 times with a total of 419 copies sold. At the end of the publishing process, Bob gave us full copyright to the books and also to his photographs. Most of the original photos were from the museum's collection.

Having finished our Footprint project, Bob went on to produce another book of the same kind showcasing Fremantle, unfortunately up until the time Bob became ill, none of the organisations in Fremantle had accepted his generosity so this book has not been published.

Bob Corby had thought that in collaboration we might be able to publish another book this time showcasing Pinjarra Road and several other historical buildings. To this end we had been collecting photographs and exploring places. However, another publication was not to be as after a short illness Bob Corby passed away on the 6th of July, 2019.

The Friends would like to pass on their condolences to his wife Libby and family, I am sure he will be much missed by them.



Bob Corby wrote this poem in May 1996 and it was included in a book he published while working in the Northern Territory in Alice Springs. In Bob's words –

This story relates to childhood memories of a 10 year old, who had his own ¾ horsepower Seaboard outboard and dinghy in which to go fishing at the seaside resort of Mandurah in Western Australia.

In those days, that was flash for a 10 year old" and I could have shared my weekend trip up the river with many a mate, but instead chose and adventure of solitude.

Old Sam's shack and the Sticks channel markers are gone and although the Peninsula Hotel and the Bunbury bridge grace the river, a trip up her today will never be the same again.

The Boat, the Gull and Me. (full)

In a clear cut sky, on bay of glass,

A dingy at her mooring –

Awaits to take my soul away,

To where the estuary's calling.

When just for one brief moment,

The river is my master –

I wind the rope around the pull,

My heart is beating faster.

Then with a rip upon the cord,

The outboard starts its drone –

The bow waves spread from nose to shore,

My senses start to hone.

Around the spit beside the "pen",

The shags and gulls take flight,

And follow in the foaming wake

Aqueoused by dawn's first light.

I turn the tiller gently west,

The bow responds to south

With not a breeze upon the air,

I head up from the mouth –

To pass beneath the Bunbury bridge

Where lubbers all in line,

Nod their heads in unison,

To share my space and time.

The river slowly spreads her banks

As up her course I glide,

Then on my port is old Sam's shack,

The estuary beckons wide.

Until at last we're at the sticks,

The boat, the gull and me –

Would want to have no other life,

Nor other place to be.

©Corby, May 1996.

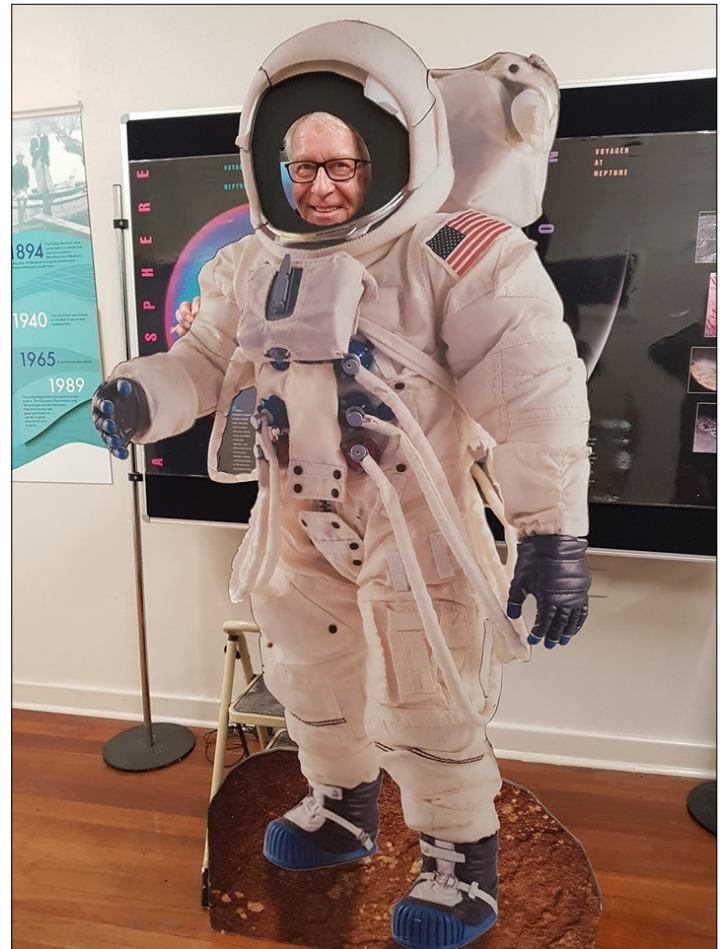
Reproduced by kind permission of Mrs Libby Corby.

national science week 2019

PERTH OBSERVATORY

Come and explore Space during August

mandurah
Mandurah Community Museum | 3 Pinjarra Road, Mandurah
CITY OF MANDURAH



Dave Austin 'suits up'



**Dave Austin, how he can usually be found, working on boats.
Dave routinely writes the Maritime Moorings articles.**

NO TREE NO ME
SAVETHEKOALA.COM

Help Save Koalas

View a display explaining how the Australia Koala Foundation help koalas. Learn more about koalas and their problems.

Activity
Make your own koala mask

Where: Mandurah Community Museum, 3 Pinjarra Road
Dates: 3-29 September 2019
Opening Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10am-4pm & Saturday-Sunday 11am-3pm
Cost: Donations welcome

Meet Yarra the Koala from WEST OZ WILDLIFE
Children and adults have the opportunity to get up close and personal on the following dates and times.
11th September 12.45-1.45 - 18th September 10.00-11.00
25th September 11.30-12.30
Suitable for ages 3+

For more information contact the Mandurah Community Museum on 9550 3682

mandurah
Mandurah Community Museum | 3 Pinjarra Road, Mandurah
CITY OF MANDURAH

July School Holiday- Create a Bookmark

Children were able to Create a Bookmark at the Mandurah Community Museum over six days during the July school holidays for children aged 5+.

There were no set times or bookings required. Children could do the activity anytime during opening hours from Tuesday-Thursday. All materials were supplied and the activity was free. It was suggested to parents to allow an hour to complete the activity. The bookmark involved sewing onto hessian.

The children followed instructions and either worked independently or worked cooperatively with an adult to complete the activity.

57 children completed the Create a Bookmark activity. Several adults made one.

All the verbal and written feedback from children and parents who attended was positive, they all enjoyed the activity and were very proud of their achievement. Some bookmarks were very intricate with a variety of stitches used.

One adult's feedback was: *Very good practical activity suitable of a variety of age groups. I enjoyed making my bookmark. Thank You.*

One child's feedback was: *I had so much fun here today, thank you.*

A grandmother wrote: *Thank you, this activity brought back memories, I enjoyed showing the grand kids how to sew and they had a great time doing this activity.*

A huge thank you, to museum volunteer Linda Jackson, for cutting and sewing 100 hessian pieces for the children to sew.



NAIDOC Exhibition 2019

The Mandurah Community Museum showcased a private collection of Aboriginal artefacts and students beautiful Aboriginal-inspired artwork from Riverside and Greenfields Primary Schools. Many children came in during the holidays to complete a Yaburgurt foldable activity book. Over the month of July while the exhibition was displayed over 600 people visited the museum.

Katrina Gauci



Courtroom opening.

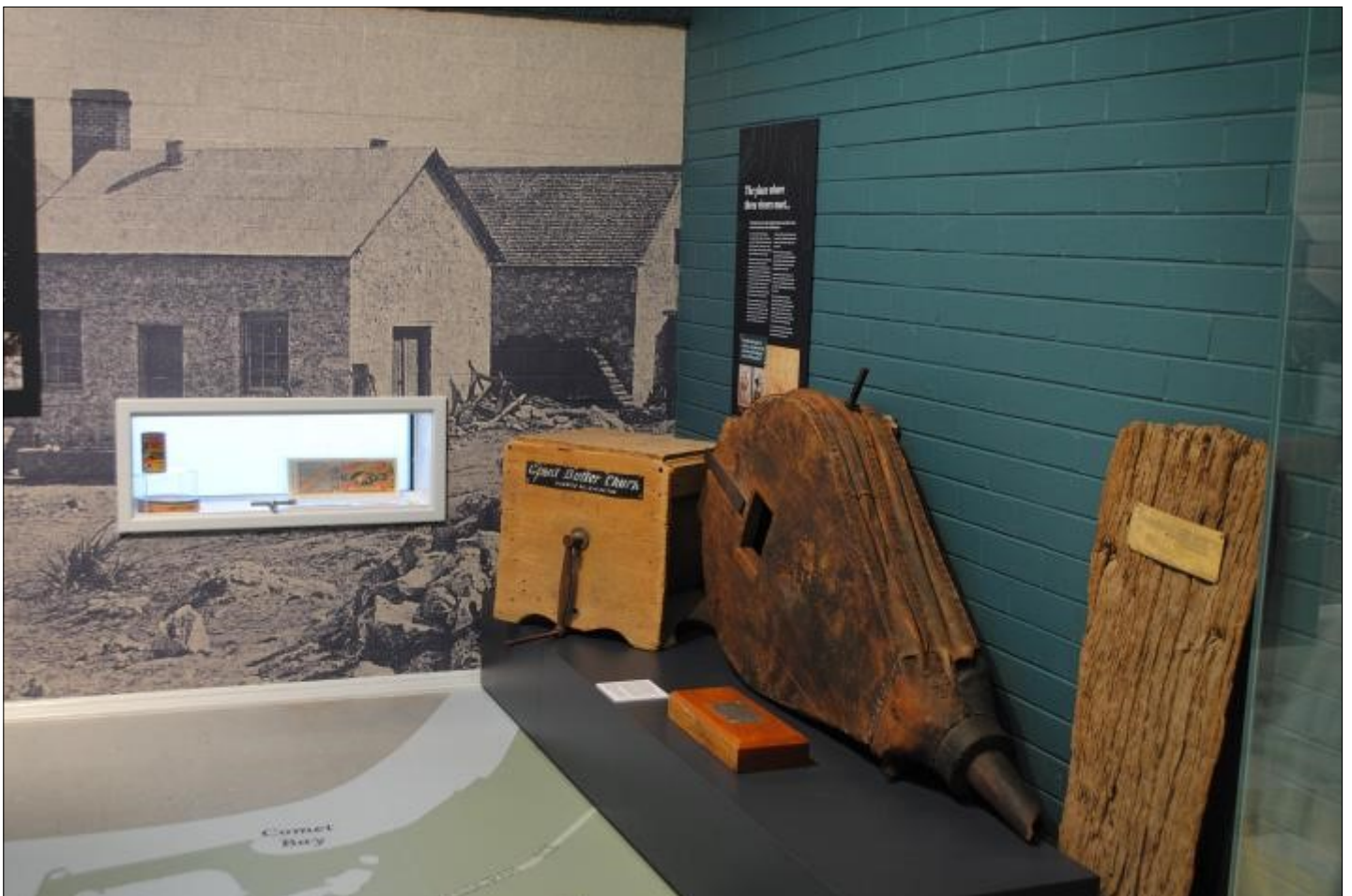


Mayor Rhys Williams arrived and spent some time in the courtroom talking to other invitees, while looking at the displays.

The Courtroom (below) now features antique wooden equipment.

- ◇ Seen here are a wooden butter churn as well as a blacksmith's forge, from Sutton's farm.
- ◇ Thomas Peel's wooden headboard.
- ◇ Plus a piece of timber from the very first bridge in Mandurah with information plaque attached.

It is also wonderful to be able to feature wood from the old bridge which has been incorporated into display cases and items.





Opening the courtroom. We were pleased to welcome many community members, also members of the Historical Society and staff from the library and other Council offices.

The official opening was held in our schoolroom as there is insufficient seating within the courtroom. Most visitors arrived early to visit the Courtroom prior to the opening.

Note In redeveloping the Courtroom, two doors have been removed and cleverly replaced by showcases.

Access to the showcases to change items is from the work areas currently being used by Nicholas and Katrina. Also in those areas are the Accessioning and scanning teams.

While easy exit and movement around the museum has been restricted a little, there is great space utilisation.



Other Historical Societies, we were pleased to welcome visitors Valma King and friend from Murray Districts Historical Society.

Forming a background to this photo is the picture of Tuckey's Peel Inlet Preserving Works. This is a mural style painting on one wall of the Courtroom.

Maritime Moorings. The team has been working on the heritage fishing dinghy housed in the shed at the rear of the museum. This boat was used by the late Don Rogers, a commercial fisherman from Barragup. The dinghy was gifted to the museum by Don's son Gary. Work being undertaken at present is the fitting of a new floor.

We have a request from the organisers of the Stretch Festival for the loan of a boat to be used to display artworks, thus it is possible this boat will be used for this event. Using this, of course would give further exposure to Mandurah's maritime/fishing history and indeed to the museum.

The team also salvaged an early Wilson fishing boat (circa 1944) but due to lack of display space and storage facilities this boat is surplus to the museum's requirements. However, it may become an integral part of the foreshore redevelopment (remove comma) and is currently being considered by the City's landscape architect. If this boat is not suitable, the fibreglass mould used to make our boat may be used to make a fibreglass replica. It would be great to have a piece of our maritime history on permanent public display thus further promoting the museum and complementing the Wilson mural on the wall of the museum.

David Austin

Chairperson's Report. The Friends of the Museum committee have spent some of our hard earned money which was mostly raised by the selling of the book donated by Bob Corby, and last year's raffle of the framed photo by Roy Bolton.

Most of the raffle money went in the renovated court room for an interactive game relating to historical Mandurah. The Friends also contributed money towards the audio recording device which is contained within some of the recovered bridge timber.

Money was designated for a really good TV screen which will show presentations of specific events or just a series of donated photos. Treasurer, Julia Lindley set out to research, purchase and prepare the TV. Some recordings were already available, these included the video of Spanning the Ages which featured past and current museum volunteers plus several well-known community members, including Neil and Margaret Morfitt, plus Dave Watson. Another video which was used during Naidoc week was the Barragup Yarns. Both of these videos are available at the museum.

Have you got an idea for these presentation? We have already a few in mind, but sometimes brilliant ideas come from other sources like yourselves.

This is where donated photos work well. How many of you saw the great display in the school room of "The boy down the Borehole, an event which put Mandurah on the map" in 1957, with the display and oral history collection occurring in 2007? This was where sound bits of recorded interviews from people helping or just sightseeing were used along with photos and newspaper clippings. Maybe something of this can be put onto recordings for a screen display. Volunteers are currently preparing more presentations and they will be held on USB to easily plug into the television, these presentations will of course also be kept on the computer.

With this television we will be able to download more presentations which relate to the Mandurah area, including those on YouTube such as that on the Megamouth. This could be seen as an important educational tool.



Julia demonstrates how to set up TV.

We are also currently working towards providing funds for another display cabinet, some longer standing Friends of the Museum will remember that our first museum donation in partnership with the Tuckey family was a mobile display cabinet which has been in constant use since it's purchase over ten years ago.

We held a general meeting of the Friends in August and would like to thank those who were able to attend. This was a special meeting as a long standing volunteer and Friend, Derise Caddy was celebrating her 90th birthday. Within this newsletter there is a photograph of her with the cake which the museum supplied to celebrate this amazing achievement.

Finally, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting on 16th of October, this will commence at 10.30, with morning tea provided at 10 am.

Eleanor Kay

**Mandurah Community 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

Opening hours.

Tuesday to Friday. 10 am to 4pm.

Saturday & Sunday. 11 am to 3pm.

Closed Mondays and Public Holidays.

**Friends of Mandurah Community Museum,
3 Pinjarra Rd,
MANDURAH WA 6210.**

Meetings are second Tuesday of the month at 11 am.

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.

**Information and forms for:-
Renewal of Membership.
Notice of A.G.M.
Nomination form for office bearer.
Friends of Mandurah Community
Museum**

Notice is hereby given of :-

2019 Annual General Meeting and General Meeting of Friends of Mandurah Community Museum.

To be held at the museum on

Wednesday 16th October, 2019.

Commencing at 10am with Morning Tea.

- A.G.M. commences at 10.30 am.

To be followed immediately by a General Meeting.

Nominations are called for the following.

- Vice - Chairperson.**
- Treasurer.**
- 2 x Committee Members.**

**Eleanor Kay, Chairman,
Friends of Mandurah Community Museum.**

Renewal of membership now due, 01/09/2019

Friends of Mandurah Community Museum membership

Fill out the details below

I/We.....

hereby renew our membership of ;-

Friends of Mandurah Community Museum.

Address

Suburbpostcode.....

Telephone (Home).....

(Mob).....

email.....

Date.

Membership fees

Family or Single \$10.00 per annum

Pay by cash or, please make cheques payable to:
Friends of Mandurah Community Museum
PO Box 210, Mandurah 6210
Street address, 3 Pinjarra Rd, Mandurah

**NOMINATION FOR ELECTION: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
16 October 2019.**

Nominations are invited for the election of Chairperson and Secretary at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 16th October, 2019.** This nomination form must be in the hands of the Secretary by **Friday 30th September.**

NOMINATION DETAILS

The Chairperson
Friends of Mandurah Community Museum.
2 Pinjarra Rd,
MANDURAH. WA. 6210

Dear Madam

Iam a **full and financial** member of the Friends, and wish to nominate for election to the office of At the forthcoming Annual General Meeting

Nominees signature.....Date...../...../2019

My nomination is proposed by

Proposer's signature.....Date...../...../2019

And seconded by

Seconder's signature.....Date...../...../2019