



## Friends of Mandurah Museum

## Newsletter August 2024

### Victor Adam Park

Victor Roy Adam was born in 1884, he was the son of Alexander and Caroline (Cooper), Victor was the grandson of Joseph Cooper. He grew up on property owned by his father and later took over the management of all his father's property in 1934.

Within the Pinjarra community he was active in many different areas, being a member of both of the tennis clubs in existence at that time. He supported the Murray District Hospital with donated produce of vegetables and cream and fish. An active member of the local fire brigade, he designed a system of mounting drums on the back with a pump to spray water on fires.

One area of farming was to alternate the grazing of cattle from the coastal areas to inland to prevent 'Coastie' disease and the Adam family had long been in the practice of driving cattle over the Mandurah Bridge to agist at the Cooper estate and the Cooper's doing the same to send the cattle inland. When the 1953 bridge was built to replace the first bridge, Victor Adam requested that 'wings' be built on the bridge to assist with driving cattle over it.

Joseph Cooper owned much of the Halls Head area. He purchased the land from the Sutton estate in 1924. Joe Cooper made a will in 1936 nominating Victor as one of two executors of his entire estate which included Halls Head. When Joe Cooper died in 1941 the second executor had pre-deceased him, leaving Victor as sole executor of a huge property in and around the Mandurah area, including that in Halls Head.

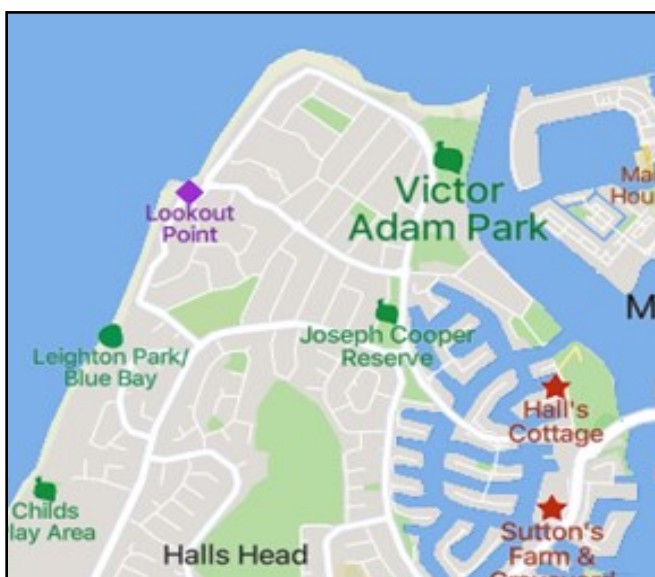
The land in what was formerly known as the Basin, was then provided as a park or green space, and this area was named after Victor Adam. Looking at the map, you will note that not far from this park is Joseph Cooper Reserve.

The will stated that Victor 'dispose of the assets as he thought fit with monies going to various members of the family'. There was pressure to subdivide and develop much of the land held by the Cooper estate.

Victor Adam commenced working firstly with the Pinjarra Road Board, and later with the new Mandurah Road Board not always being in agreement with their plans. The first subdivision was around Mary Street after the war, and a second commenced in 1948 just prior to the founding of the Mandurah Road Board. Prior to this occurring there was to be a requirement that 20 to 25 acres be ceded as public open space. The land now known as Hall Park was required to be sold to provide a caravan park.

As we now know, the land known as Leighton Park, originally owned by the Sutton family, was sold back to Tony Sutton.

**Jan Baker**



## M.D.O. Report

The last few months at the Museum has seen many changes, but I've been able to get out-and-about for some interesting training in some of the latest digitisation techniques and also the role that Artificial Intelligence will have in Museums and Archives.



This started on the 2nd of August with digitisation training at the National Archives of Australia's WA branch in Perth. This one-day professional development program built on my pre-existing knowledge and skill in reformatting and preserving moving images

and sound and included some more recent ideas and techniques. It explored good practices in digitisation, media care and preservation, description, outsourcing and the provision of access. Interestingly, the program also explored that current hot-button topic Artificial Intelligence and its application to archival methods.

One of the key takeaways was the importance of digitisation. The presenter explained that many physical media formats are deteriorating rapidly, and the equipment needed to play them is becoming obsolete. This means that if we don't act quickly to digitize these records, we risk losing them forever. The process of digitisation, however, is not without its own challenges. Ensuring the quality of the digital copies, managing large volumes of data, and safeguarding against cyber threats are all critical aspects that need careful planning.

Another important point was the need for proper storage and preservation techniques for physical media. Simple factors like temperature, humidity, and how materials are handled can significantly impact their longevity. The presenter also touched on the issue of outsourcing digitisation projects, which, while sometimes necessary, requires careful vendor selection and strict quality control.

Overall, this presentation was an eye-opener, underscoring the delicate balance between preserving the past and embracing modern technology. It reinforced the idea that archiving is not just about storing old records—it's about actively managing and protecting our cultural heritage for future generations.

The workshop also looked at the impact Artificial Intelligence will have on archives. The technology's ability to rapidly process and analyse vast amounts of digital information means it can take on the more mundane tasks, such as organising records, transcription, and even linking related data. This, in turn, frees up archivists to focus on more complex and nuanced work, such as contextualizing records and ensuring their ethical use. One of the key points emphasized was that while AI can significantly enhance efficiency, it is not a one-size-fits-all solution.

**Renewal of membership now due, 01/09/2024**

## Friends of Mandurah Museum Membership

**Please complete the details below:**

I/We.....hereby renew membership of  
**Friends of Mandurah Museum.**

Address.....

Town/.....

suburb.....Postcode.....

Telephone (Home).....

(Mob).....

Email.....

Current Date. ....

## Membership fees

Family or Single                      \$10.00 per annum

Pay by EFTPOS, cash or please make cheques payable to:

## Friends of Mandurah Museum

PO Box 210, Mandurah 6210

The success of AI in archives depends on understanding the specific needs of the collection and the users. Additionally, the importance of building trust in AI-generated content was highlighted—AI can assist, but human oversight is crucial to ensure accuracy and maintain the integrity of the records.

Despite its potential, the adoption of AI in the archives sector faces several challenges, including a lack of skills and trust, as well as the need for proper governance. However, as AI technology continues to evolve and more archivists become familiar with its capabilities, we can expect it to play an increasingly vital role in preserving and making accessible the digital heritage of our time.

**Nicholas Reynolds**

## Education Matters! Katrina Gauci

### Make a Wooden Peg Doll

Children visited Mandurah Museum to create and decorate their own wooden peg doll during the July school holidays.

This activity was suitable for 5-12 years. A workshop was held each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10am in both weeks of the holidays. The workshop was free and tickets were booked through Eventbrite.

The workshop involved following instructions, reading instructions, cutting, painting, glueing, and using fine motor skills to thread wool and tie knots. I was impressed with the variety of book characters and superheroes made and the different materials the children used to make them.

I was extremely happy that most sessions were fully booked, however it was disappointing that 39% of the families that booked, didn't show up.

Several families visiting the museum, who didn't know that the workshop was on or came not realising they had to book or took the chance that they would be able to join in when they arrived were able to participate due to no shows on the day.

4 Big Kids Vacation Care came for their own afternoon session. This boosted our participation numbers. I am delighted that 69 children made a peg doll, attended by 38 adults who assisted.

The feedback from participants was very positive, they were all happy with their doll creation.

A special thank you to Museum Volunteers Linda Jackson and Debbie Stasiw who assisted children on the tricky threading and tying knots involved in making the pompom skirt and using the hot glue gun. I very much appreciated your help.



### Superhero Quiz

The Superhero quiz was challenging and took time to complete. It involved reading clues, finding the superhero, writing its name correctly and matching numbers with letters to decode a message. Once this was complete, children could enter the draw to win a LEGO set.

This free activity was available to do at any time during museum opening hours.

121 Superhero Quizzes were completed over the two weeks of the July school holidays. Thank you to the Museum Volunteers at the front desk for explaining to children how to complete the hunt, to enter the draw and providing clues when needed.

The two lucky people drawn from the box were local children Mackenzie and Lochlan. They were thrilled because they love LEGO.

### South Western Advertiser (Perth, WA : 1910 - 1954), Thursday 31 August 1944, page 4 MANDURAH

The carnival ball held in the Capitol Theatre on Friday night last was an unqualified success. The big hall was packed to capacity. The music, supplied by the Mandurah four-piece band, left nothing to be desired. The Red Cross will benefit to the extent of £21/13/1. The cancellation at the last minute of the Beam Service bus through unforeseen circumstances, by which 60 service men and others had intended travelling down for the ball, upset the original arrangements to some extent. As the ball was originally arranged by Pte. Watmore, at the request of the service men at Claremont, the cancellation of the bus at the last minute led to great dissatisfaction and confusion to them. However, at some future date the Red Cross committee hope to welcome the service men and women of Claremont at their entertainment.

By arrangement with the owners, the Red Cross have secured the Capitol Theatre for a series of dances during the next eight months. The members are now working on an urgent appeal from headquarters for pyjamas for the convalescent home, and hope within the week to send these away. The branch was unable to secure a treasurer at the annual meeting. This position has now been filled, and Mrs. Richards will take over from next meeting. A strong social committee has been formed. All are looking forward to a successful year, and hope for the loyal support which the Red Cross has always had from the people of Mandurah. At present 152 members have enrolled, as against 52 last year.



## Sailing with Animal Friends.

### Create mixed media artwork

Join local Mandurah artist, Sarah Petrich these school holidays to complete a piece of artwork inspired by the Cats & Dogs-All at Sea photographic exhibition which is on, at Mandurah Museum. These photographs show cats, dogs and other animals on board ships with their owners on long sea voyages. They were dearly loved pets that provided comfort and affection.

This fun and engaging workshop is suitable for children aged 5 to 11 years. You will explore mixed media techniques to craft your own scene within a nautical porthole frame.

Mixed media art is all about the layers, there is no right or wrong, use your creativity and self-expression to make your own one-of-a-kind art.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. An adult must accompany children, however; adults do not require a ticket to attend.

#### Dates:

24, 25 & 26 September

1, 2 & 3 October

Time: 10am-11am

Bookings are essential through Eventbrite. An adult must accompany children, however; adults do not require a ticket to attend.



**Did you know,** Just eighty years ago this month, Australians went to the polls to decide on yet another series of changes to the Constitution. As the war continued there was a burgeoning hope that it would soon be ended. The government of the time, led by John Curtin had commenced planning for changes and demands which would be placed on them following the end of the War. Possibly they had learnt from lessons provided at the conclusion of the First World War.

### The Question

*Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'Constitution Alteration (Post-War Reconstruction and Democratic Rights) 1944'?*

*N.B. To date Australians have voted in 44 referendums, only 5 have been voted in.*

CITY OF MANDURAH  
**MUSEUM**

MU  
SEA  
UM | AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
MARITIME MUSEUM

## Cats and Dogs all at Sea

Uncovering the lives of seafaring pets in this photographic exhibition

View photographs by Samuel Hood who boarded ships in Australia from the 1900s to 1950s in search of pets providing crew members with an important source of comfort and affection while they were away from their loved ones.

These beautiful historical photographs will be on display at Mandurah Museum through September and October, alongside stunning artwork by RT Kids students, inspired by the exhibition.

3 September -  
31 October 2024

Mandurah Museum  
3 Pinjarra Road  
Opening Times:  
Tuesday - Friday  
10am - 3pm  
[mandurah.wa.gov.au](http://mandurah.wa.gov.au)



### Proposed amendment

The referendum was known as the "14 powers", or the "14 points referendum". It sought to give the federal government power, over a period of five years, to legislate on a wide variety of matters.

The powers the government sought to gain through the referendum included:

The rehabilitation of former servicemen, National health, Family allowances, Employment and unemployment, The ability to legislate for 'The People Of The Aboriginal Race', Corporations or combines, Foreign investment, Trust laws, Monopolies, Air transport, Uniformity of railway gauges, Marketing of commodities, Manufacturing (production) and sales of goods, National infrastructure (subject to state approval).

Many of these powers also included limitations as safeguards against the abuse of legislative power.

Several meetings were held within the Peel Region and speakers at these meetings, one as late as August the 9<sup>th</sup> 1944 in the Hotham Hall. Speakers at this meeting the views of Mr. Ross McDonald and also our own members, Mr. Hobart Tuckey M.L.C., and Mr. Ross McLarty, M.L.A., on the Commonwealth Powers proposals. The referendum was held on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1944 and Australians overall voted against this proposal, however, Western Australia narrowly voted for the changes to our constitution.

**Jan Baker**

## Celebrating Work Anniversaries!

Katrina Gauci and Nicholas Reynolds shared a morning tea with work colleagues in recognition and appreciation of their loyal service at the City of Mandurah.

Congratulations to Nic on reaching the 20-year mark! and Kat on achieving 15 years. They thank everyone for their kind words and warm wishes. They will continue achieving great things together.



Katrina  
Gauci &  
Nicholas  
Reynolds



Tim Hartland, Nic Reynolds, Kat Gauci & Kelly  
De Pinto

**Editor** Our newsletter is slightly smaller this month. Winter has lowered the visitor numbers and activities at the Museum. I confess also, to being very busy in another area and have been unable to organise as many articles as usual.

Katrina is currently on leave and has been kind enough to leave a report. In her place two volunteers have stepped up to assist with any specific school activities as we are again nearing the end of a term.

Volunteers met at the Museum for a routine meeting and there was a lot of discussion at this meeting relating to the boat collection. We don't have a report for you this month relating to the marine section.

As we move into spring, we have opened our special exhibition provided by the Australian National Maritime Museum. We hope our Friends will come in and enjoy the photo display. **Jan Baker**

## Friends Membership Fees due now. Form provided page 2

### Index.

Victor Adam Park	Jan Baker
1944 Referendum	Jan Baker

### Exhibitions.

Cats & Dogs All at Sea.	3-09-24 -> 31-10-24
-------------------------	---------------------

### Reports.

M.D.O	Nick Reynolds
Education Matters	Kat Gauci
Editor.	Jan Baker

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

**Telephone: 9550 3680.**

**Email: [museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au](mailto:museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au)**

**Internet: [www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/Facilities/  
Museum/Friends](http://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.**