

Friends of Mandurah Community Museum Newsletter

CHRISTMAS 2020

From the Editor. This is the final edition for what has been a momentous year. Haven't we 'Sandgropers' been so lucky to live in this wonderful part of the world. Leading into Christmas and watching other places in the world still suffering so badly does help us count our blessings.

This newsletter is not very Mandurah centric with articles about trees and cameras, but they do seem relevant to this time of the year.

Volunteers went on their usual outing recently and we bring news of this to you.

Friends held their Annual General Meeting and have elected a new committee, some recent arrivals but several well known faces. We are embarking on a fund raising drive with new published books, souvenirs and bookmarks while still continuing with our well known books, bookmarks, mouse pads and cups. Our calendar this year has been well received and we still have several copies available. We are so glad that many of you are supporting our efforts by purchasing for Christmas.

The television system which brings videos and power-point displays to the public in the Local Studies area is currently running a special video of Christmas in Mandurah. So many events we wanted to feature during the Christmas season we don't have photos of. We are asking for photos of the Christmas Pageant, decorations or special events, please think of our collection and assist us with copies.

Jan Baker



I have been photographing the new Mandurah War Memorial since its opening in 2005 on a 5 year basis. This is the first time I have been able to access a photograph taken from a boat. Thanks Kat, for doing this from the boat during our Heritage Cruise. See further in this newsletter.

Special features

Kodak Box Brownie.	Jan Baker.
Jacaranda Tree.	Jan Baker.
The Norfolk Pine.	Dave Austin.
Volunteer Heritage Cruise.	

Regular features.

From the MDO .	Nicholas Reynolds.
Education Matters.	Katrina Gauci
Spotlight on Volunteers.	Jan Baker
Chairpersons report –	Jan Baker

Editor

Jan Baker.

May this Christmas end the present year,
On a cheerful note and make way
For a fresh and a bright New Year.

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year,
To all our Friends and
Volunteers.**

Kodak Box Brownie Camera.

1900 - The first of the famous BROWNIE Cameras was introduced. It sold for \$1 and used film that sold for 15 cents a roll of six. For the first time, the hobby of photography was within the financial reach of virtually everyone. This camera was simple enough for children to use and priced and marketed in order to bolster the sale of the roll film Eastman had just invented.

The Brownie was named after designer Frank Brownell; it was nothing more than a black rectangular cardboard box covered in imitation leather.

To develop and return post the photos, there was a cost of 40 cents for Kodak; this meant any person could use a camera without setting up or borrowing a darkroom. Within one year, Eastman Kodak had sold over a quarter of a million of its little cameras.

All this would not have been possible before the invention of celluloid by John Hyatt in 1873.

Australia and the Box Brownie. In 1884 Austral Laboratories were commenced by Thomas Baker, a pharmaceutical chemist, on his residential property at Yarra Grange. This company commenced to make photographic plates. Later he went into partnership with John Rouse. The building showed was in Abbotsford and remained as Austral Laboratories until 1908 when Eastman Kodak merged with them, there were extensions to the original factory shown in this photograph.

In 1961, Kodak Australasia opened its new factory in Coburg. The site had been one of the last dairy farms close to Melbourne. Here the business remained until closed in 2004. Museums Victoria acquired an extensive collection of the more than a century of history at that time.



The Kodak site is now a new suburb of Melbourne, with town houses and other residential properties. Photograph is of the derelict site prior to its redevelopment. It is curious that Kodak moved to Coburg North to take the factory out of its closeness to the city and this suburb is now considered one of inner city attraction.

From 2012 Eastman Kodak Company was staving off bankruptcy, they sold many of their patents and ceased production of cameras. In 2013, refinancing was permitted. In 2020 Kodak announced it was beginning production of pharmaceutical materials.

Rosenberg, Jennifer. "Learn How the Brownie Camera Changed Photography Forever." *ThoughtCo*, Aug. 26, 2020, thoughtco.com/brownie-camera-1779181.



Information also from Kodak Heritage Collection held by Museum Victoria.

- The Australian Collection was donated to them by Kodak (Australasia) Pty Ltd, Ms. Kate Metcalf - Kodak (Australasia) Pty Ltd, 2005.



Congratulations to Derise Caddy (above) for being a finalist at the recent Peel Volunteer of the Year Award. Derise, who celebrated her 91st birthday earlier this year is a long time resident of Mandurah and has been volunteering at the museum for more than 10 years. She was the museum's recent nominee for the Peel Volunteer Awards.

The photo below is from the Howard Collection featuring the Yunderup area. Taken near Lever's Shop, the photo shows a Wrigley's van bogged to the axles during one of the numerous floods circa 1950's.



Christmas Trees. I have talked about trees before in our Christmas editions, firstly the pine tree we had when I was growing up, which every year sacrificed several branches both to our family and to neighbours. I wrote about the parasitic Australian Christmas Tree and how it heralded both summer and Christmas.

Now, I want to talk about the trees which came into blossom at the start of November and informed us that school was nearly finished and the excitement of Christmas was around the corner. They are the Jacaranda tree and in my suburb growing up, they held power over all the rest of both the introduced and indigenous trees just for the months of November and December. Bassendean is one of the older suburbs of Perth and just near our small unit is the Pensioner Cottage which is the only remaining one in Perth. This is also right next to the oldest post box in Perth. Here you must make sure you clear your hands fast when posting a letter, it can catch you with a bit of a nip.



Jacarandas, not being native to Australia, came to us, I always believed, via ships which stopped in South Africa, but recent research show them as native of South America. In South Africa and Queensland they are considered a pest as they can overwhelm indigenous plants; however Queensland claims the fame for the first jacaranda tree in Australia. Just how true is open to debate.

These glorious trees add so much colour and enjoyment to the landscapes around Perth that I can't feel bad about their introduction. At this time of the year, if you take off from Perth airport (or land) you will look down at a sea of lavender. Hyde Park in Perth claims to have planted their trees between 1921 and 1923. Hyde Park was originally part of a series of wetlands stretching from Claisebrook to Herdsman's Lake.

There is a downside of course, when the petals drop on the ground producing the carpet of lavender they are a slip hazard and quite a nuisance. As this only lasts a month or so, a small price to pay. Years ago I planted a Jacaranda in our first home. Being an indifferent gardener it didn't thrive but the first blossoming was a joy and although only a small tree when we shifted, I hope it gained full glory in later years.



Jan Baker.

Museum Development Officer.

The Courtroom Gallery at the Mandurah Museum was awarded a Highly Commended in the Australia Museum and Galleries Association (MAGNA) Awards on Wednesday 28 October for a Permanent Fit-Out or Gallery Exhibition Level 2 (between \$20,000 and \$150,000). The Courtroom Gallery, completed in 2019, interprets the European Settlement of Mandurah and the industries which enabled settlers to make a living, including agriculture and fish canning.



The Courtroom Gallery has been created in the old Mandurah Magistrates Courtroom and includes static, interactive and electronic displays.



The stories of Mandurah, including those that can be learnt at the Mandurah Museum in the Courtroom Gallery, help shape who the Mandurah community is and what we value.

The project was developed in conjunction with the *Mandurah Historical Society* and the *Friends of Mandurah Community Museum*.



Maritime Musings.

With little to report from the maritime team I thought I would comment on recent newspaper reports on Norfolk Island Pines. These trees played an important role in the colonisation of Australia. During the early days of settlement ships carrying migrants would often come limping on to the Australian coast with a broken mast or spar, having spent months at sea battling gales and storms. The problem that faced these early mariners was where they could find a straight tree to make a new mast as most of the local trees were bent and twisted and totally unsuitable. This problem was resolved when Captain Cook found Norfolk Island in 1774. This island was covered in beautiful, straight pine trees and it was soon realised that these would make temporary masts to enable ships to return home. These pines, although they were straight were not a good material because of their flexibility which enabled them to bend thus spilling the air from the sails, but they were better than nothing and would get them home. I don't think they bothered to construct crows' nests in the riggings because having navigated here they knew their way home.

The crow's nest was used to house crows that were a means of locating land. Crows are of course land birds thus when thrown up into the air from a ship they would search for land. When they took off from the ship, it would follow the direction taken by the crows. If no land were found the birds would have no choice other than to return to the boat. **David Austin.**



Above. The Norfolk Island Pine shown here at Sutton's farm is believed to be more than 100 years old, possibly planted in the 19th century. These pines are believed to survive up to 100 years, with some living longer. At the moment this one seems to be in good condition.

The Norfolk Island Pine, together with the Mission Olive trees are listed in the Mandurah City Council's Heritage Tree register. Museum Development Officer Nicholas Reynolds, spent many hours as a member of the committee sourcing, researching and recommending trees which are held important to Mandurah's Heritage.

Education Matters.

It's been a topsy turvy year.

Participation numbers in holiday activities and excursions were down, due to the museum being closed and Covid restrictions. However, we successfully showed 10 displays and we had a rush of school excursions in the last eight weeks of the school year. My favourite displays this year were the Threatened Species and Retro Video Games.

A big thank you to volunteer Linda Jackson for coming in extra days to assist with excursions, I really appreciated your support.

A little more about the Retro Video Games.

On Saturday 7th November Nostalgia Box-Australia's one and only video game console museum visited the Mandurah Museum for the day.

Nostalgia Box, staff member Kaylee, set up a variety of video games for people to play in the museum schoolroom. Some of these games were single player, two player and four player, to ensure this was a Covid friendly event.

At 11am the schoolroom came alive with the sights and sounds of video games being played. People of all ages attended. Many fathers came with their children, to show them the games they used to play when they were children. One father became so engrossed in his game, that he forgot about his wife and children.

A group from Donnybrook and another from Bunbury travelled the distance to come and experience games they hadn't played before and replay some of their favourites.

A total of 83 people joined in. 45 of these people were adults and 38 of them were children.

It was an excellent day; the verbal and written feedback was very positive.

Kaylee ensured that everyone took turns and swapped consoles regularly so each person had an opportunity to experience different games.

Kaylee was very knowledgeable about the history of consoles and games and answered questions raised. A big thank you to Kaylee for making the event a success.

I would like to thank museum volunteers Debra Armstrong and Chris Mailey for their support throughout the day.

Have a Happy and Safe, Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Katrina Gauci





Christmas Activities

During the month of December, come into the Mandurah Museum and make a craft Christmas Tree to take home and complete a Christmas Treasure Hunt. You could win a prize.

Ages: Suitable for 5-12 years

Dates: December 1-23

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

Cost: Free

Where:
Mandurah
Community Museum

Cost:
Donations welcome

mandurah.wa.gov.au



Activities for Boat Lovers!

Build a boat that floats and moves, create an origami boat and sea creatures with Origami Master Sanny Ang.

Dates: 20 & 21 January (Choose a day)

Time: 10.30am-12.00pm

Suitable for 5-12 year olds

Cost: \$10

Adults must accompany children and bookings are essential.

To make a booking call the Mandurah Museum on 9550 3683 or email museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au

Where:
Mandurah
Community Museum

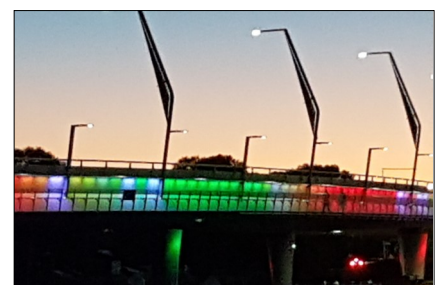
mandurah.wa.gov.au



Left. Photo taken during our Volunteer Heritage Cruise. This is in a canal prior to arriving at the Sutton's farm site. Several Norfolk Island Pines are visible over the tops of the houses on the marina.

I believe that the tallest of these was the one at Sutton's Farm.

Below. Mandurah Bridge lit at night.



Right. The Pensioner Cottage at Bassendean. Until recently has been open only the last Sunday of the month. It is now closed and the future of it unsure.

Bassendean Council obtained a grant to upgrade the cottage and an attached house to provide for its ongoing use, as well as accommodation for the Bassendean Historical Society. Unfortunately when studies were done, the cost of refurbishing these two places to appropriate heritage standards were so high as to make the grant insufficient.

Expressions of Interest for managing this vital heritage building have been called and Perth Museum has expressed some interest in managing it.

(See page 3)



Volunteer Day out. On a lovely warm but not too hot day, we set out on a cruise of the local area provided by the Council for the volunteers.

As is usual, one of the purposes of this day is to provide volunteers with local heritage knowledge. During the cruise, both Nicholas and a member of the crew provided historical knowledge. We were able to see the War Memorial, Hall's Cottage and Sutton's Farm from a different perspective while hearing some of the information relating to these places. Adding to our enjoyment was the many canal homes which had been dressed ready for Christmas. These places look especially good at night should you take an evening cruise.

To round the day off, volunteers all then went to Han's for lunch, which became a little rowdy with our group taking up two big tables. Doing her usual hard work, Katrina took many photographs both of the cruise and the volunteers.



Top right. Our boathouse from the water. The outside is currently being used as a depot for the crews working on the new pool on the foreshore.

Top left. Saturday volunteer Debra Armstrong. Debra often places items on our Facebook page.

Centre Right, Christine Mailey and Ursula Brimble, Sunday volunteers.

Above Left. Long time volunteer Ruth Watson with Alan Acott, who both volunteer on Tuesdays.

Right. Greg Gauci, (Kat is taking all these photos) Nick Reynolds, Dianne Doherty.



Couples on the Heritage Cruise.



Above Eleanor and Keith Kay.

Congratulations Eleanor, this year receiving her 10 year volunteering award. Eleanor has actually volunteered longer than that, however, this marked 10 years on the roster. Her other role is with the Oral History collection.,



Left. Dave & Marie Austin.

Marie has been volunteering for several years although she hasn't been able to this year.

Dave is our volunteer extraordinaire, not only does he volunteer on Saturdays, he also does large amounts of work in the boatshed.

To add to this he is the person who initiated the Museum's Heritage Walk and continues to act as a guide.

Right, Phyl & Tom Hardy.

Phyl has been volunteering at the museum for almost 15 years now. She assists in accessioning and managing the Access data base.

Tom has allowed himself to be co-opted in helping on occasions. Tom is also the resident wood working specialist and Kat has used his services several times. The tops being used as prizes during the children's treasure hunt have been made by him.



Left. Colin and Sherry Warne.

Colin has been volunteering for nearly 20 years, firstly on weekends and since about 2005, he can be found on Tuesdays. Sometimes he calls in at other times to complete a task. Colin also assists by lending the museum some war memorabilia, and also brings and decorates the Christmas tree at the museum each year.

Sherry has assisted with some of the sewing attached to our children's costumes.



Introducing the new committee.

Chairperson. Ceylene Copley. Ceylene has been our Vice-Chair for twelve months and prior to that was the Secretary. Ceylene volunteers on Thursday and Friday and has been transcribing Magistrate Murray's (both senior and junior) letters to the Colonial Secretary. (Photo opposite).

Vice Chair. Jan Baker. Jan stepped down from the position of Chairman this year. I am the editor of the newsletter, and also take part in the Oral History Collection of interviewees for the museum.



Secretary. Dianne McIntosh. Dianne commenced as secretary last year and continues through this year. She also volunteers on a Friday and has been active in a research role as well as compiling a book which is available at the museum.



Treasurer. Christine Steer. Christine can be seen at the museum on either a Thursday or Friday. She is active in collating newspaper clippings for scanning and of course in her role as Treasurer. Christine was Treasurer last year. Due to the way which the Constitution provides for change within the administration, her role was once again up for election. She was successfully voted in as Treasurer.



You won't need your editor to tell you how vital it is for us to have an efficient able Administration and both Dianne and Christine are very capable in their positions.

Committee members.

Phylis Hardy, Julia Lindley, Eleanor Kay, Michael McGhie, will all be known to our members. They have each served in various roles for the Friends, or have been on the committee for some years.

Dorothy Olsen, is a new member who has offered her service. Dorothy volunteers on Thursday and Friday at the museum.



Chairperson's Report.

Unfortunately, Ceylene is unwell at the moment and hasn't been able to attend the museum for several weeks. We wish her well and hope to see her soon.



Departing Volunteers. We are always sad to see volunteers leave us, but happy if they are moving on to other areas. This issue we wanted to tell you of three volunteers who won't be with us in the New Year.

Toni Maisey. A volunteer for 10 years, and at the same time has been studying. She is now entering full time employment so will not be on our roster.

Toni was responsible for putting all our Remembering Them fact sheets together and doing the graphic design and book editing of Remembering Them. She has also done much work on photoshopping some of our photo collection.

A certificate for her ten year service will be presented to Toni when she is available.

Alison Cox. Has volunteered for several years, helping our Wednesday group with accessioning and can sometimes be seen behind the desk. Ray, her husband has also volunteered in the Maritime area. They live in Secret Harbour and have elected to volunteer closer to home. We will miss them also.

Chloe Rayner. One of our younger volunteers, Chloe has helped for several years on a Sunday. She has been doing university studies which she has now finished. With her partner they are moving to either Collie or Bunbury. I hope that either of those areas benefit from the enthusiasm Chloe brings to volunteering.

Stop Press. The Friends now have Eftpos Card facilities at the museum, this will alleviate our problems with change and being able to sell items.

Stop/ Stop Press. Associations on Line have accepted our request to change our name to
FRIENDS OF MANDURAH MUSEUM.

This will reflect the changes made to the museum's name by Mandurah City Council.

**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 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.