



**Friends of Mandurah Community Museum Newsletter** **2020**

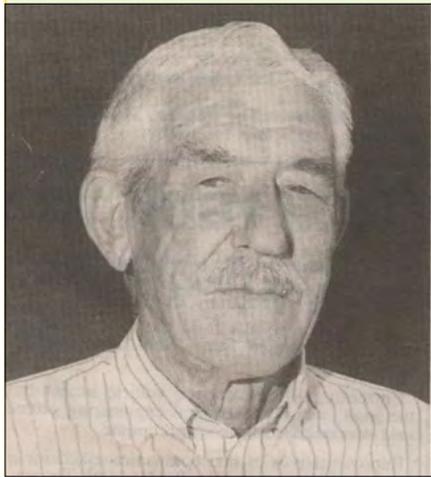
**Len Howard** was born in London in 1914 and spent much of his childhood exploring the River Thames near his London home.

Joining the merchant navy as a young man, Len Howard first visited Fremantle in the mid-1930s. During World War 2, he twice survived when ships he was on were torpedoed. He emerged from the war a dedicated member of the Communist Party and an active trade unionist. Later he modified his political views and became involved in the green movement as a supporter.

At the end of the Second World War he married Doreen, a widow with a 3 year old son. Len already had a daughter from a previous marriage. In the 1950s Len migrated to WA with his wife Doreen and 5 children as part of the '£10 Pom' migration scheme. Len found work as a bricklayer. He worked in many jobs in the building trade, some of them on projects in the State's north-west. In 1958, Len and Doreen bought a house in Queen's Park, a suburb of Perth. They spent many weekends camping along the Peel -Harvey estuary. This is where they developed a love for Mandurah.

On retirement in 1974, Len moved to the beachside suburb of Falcon, south of Mandurah. Mandurah was becoming very popular and the area was growing quickly. It was then that Len Howard began his greatest challenge, to protect the Peel Harvey Estuary.

In 1976 the Peel-Preston Preservation Group was formed, with school teacher Brian Devereaux and Len Howard as the initiators. Their goal was to see a multi-use, multi ownership national park on the stretch of land between the estuary and the sea south of Mandurah.



*Cont. page 2.*

**Editor's bit.** Welcome to 2021, and as I started preparing this newsletter it felt like same old, but we are all back on track at the museum.

We are working on a new logo and hopefully we will have it for our next newsletter.

Our first feature relates to the special Wetlands Exhibition which is currently running at the museum. Len Howard , renowned in Mandurah for his conservation work, is featured in a new fact sheet within the museum. As always the references for information held within this article can be found in the Fact Sheet which will be available at the museum shortly. Di McIntosh produced the sheet.

A second feature article this week is an update of our fact sheet on the Mandurah/ Renown Bakery. Recently we were approached by a member of the Scrivener family who had seen the sheets but wished to have some acknowledgement of their early history with this bakery. Since we produced the sheet, we have also obtained an oral history from Margaret Boucaut nee Muncie so we were able to add some of her information.

There have been financial changes made and our Treasurer Christine Steer gives more information regarding these in an article in this newsletter.

The museum continues to follow all regulations to be Covid safe, and we have found almost without exception that people on entering are preparing to sign in, or use the W.A Safe Ap. on their phone. Invariably their next step is to reach for the sanitiser. Together with our twice daily cleaning by employed staff, as well as Nick, Katrina and all the volunteers, we are taking great care to maintain a healthy environment without compromising the exhibitions.

We have managed to retain a loyal following at the Museum and increasingly we have people coming who have looked us up on Google or Tripadvisor. Should any of you wish, please give us a 'plug' in the digital spaces, it does help. Please remember our upcoming exhibitions which are discussed here.

Lastly our Chair, Ceylene Copley is still unwell so we have omitted a Chairpersons report in this issue.

**With Apologies, our newsletter Index is on page 2.**  
**Jan Baker.**

**Len Howard** began running a campaign to protect the Creery Wetlands from a canal development in 1985. Much of his struggle was with the local council. The impact of Len Howard's campaign through the Peel Preservation Group, was not confined to just environmental issues. It changed the face and direction of the city council. The battle over the Creery Wetland resulted in the biggest conservation win ever in the Peel region.

Len Howard's homespun advocacy appeared in newspapers and talkback radio. The algal problem in the Peel-Harvey Estuary dates back to the 1960's but the problem increased significantly in the 1970s and 1980s. The mounds of rotting algae along the shoreline of the estuary resulted in the Peel Inlet Management Authority removing it with tractors equipped with rakes. This was only a 'cosmetic' operation and the Peel Preservation Group under the leadership of Len Howard was involved with the discussions. Eventually the Dawesville Cut, a project to flush the estuary, was given the go-ahead in the late 1980s.

The development of canal areas was still the biggest issue for Len Howard and the Peel Preservation Group. They battled to stop the development of the Mandurah Marina Development by the Rule Group. This was given approval after an assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority and the State Planning Commission. Not all of the campaigns spearheaded by Len Howard were successful but this did not stop future efforts. His opponents were wealthy, influential and determined but Len never gave up. He lost many battles but won the respect and support of the people of Mandurah.

Len Howard fought to preserve the environment before it was fashionable and spoke out in favour of the environment in respect to the Dawesville cut, the Peel Regional Park, Port Mandurah, Point Grey, the Creery Wetlands and Lake Clifton, among others.

In 1994, Len Howard was made a life member of the Peel Preservation Group, as was his wife Doreen. That year he retired as the President of the Peel Preservation Group, but continued a stream of letters and telephone calls to politicians, councillors, land developers and journalists. His work was recognised widely and Len was awarded the inaugural Bessie Rischbieth Award by the WA Conservation Council. Four years later, in 1998 Len was recognized as the Australia Day "Citizen of the Year" for the City of Mandurah.

Len Howard died of cancer aged 83 in 1998. His legacy lives on through the many people who worked with him and the work of the Peel Preservation Group.

In 2001, Erskine Conservation Park was renamed Len Howard Conservation Park. **Di McIntosh**

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**Education Matters.**

Christmas is over, another year has begun and Easter is upon us.

**Christmas Display and Treasure Hunt**

To help celebrate Christmas, the Mandurah Museum had a display of a variety of Christmas themed decorations on loan from the store Tis the Season Christmas Emporium. There was a free Christmas Treasure Hunt during the month of December and children could make a craft Christmas Tree to take home. Many people commented on how beautiful the display was. Those that completed the hunt received a prize of a Christmas Swirl Lollipop or a Wooden Spinning Top. There were approximately 70 children that got into the festive spirit and completed the hunt and made a Christmas Tree. The visitor figures last December showed 140 children participated. We had a drop in visitor figures by 50 per cent.

The feedback was really positive and the hunt enjoyed by all that participated. Thank You to Tom Hardy for supplying the spinning tops and all the museum volunteers for promoting the hunt and helping people.

**January- Activities for Boat Lovers**

For three days during the January Holidays, children could build a wooden boat that floats and moves and create an origami boat and sea creatures with Origami Master Sanny Ang.

The children were divided into two groups. One group were outside in the shade of the marquee. They built a wooden paddle boat. They decorated it, named it and then had time to experiment and perfect, how it worked on water.

The other group were with Sanny Ang in the schoolroom. Sanny began the session with a story to guide participants through each fold and ended with a surprise origami creation.

After 45 minutes the children swapped activities.

A total of 29 children participated.

The feedback from parents, carers and children was that the workshop was engaging and interactive, they loved the easy to follow steps and they liked that they had lots to take home with them.

A big thank you to volunteer Tom Hardy for supplying the boat materials and Linda Jackson and Greg Gauci for helping with the set up and pack away each day.



The Rowe family and friends

**Katrina Gauci**

**MDO Report.**

The museum was represented by the Friends of the Museum at the Mandurah senior's expo on Friday November 13th. The expo was successful both for the City of Mandurah's Senior Citizen's Centre and the museum with promotional material being distributed and a number of items sold by the Friends. These funds will be used to support future Museum projects.

The latest meeting of the Peel Chapter of the Australian Museums and Galleries Association was held on Saturday November 14th at the Mandurah Museum. This marked the first meeting of the group since all museums and galleries were shut down last March during the Covid lockdown. The meeting focused on each group reporting on their experience of the lockdown and the effect that this had on their institution. After the meeting I gave a presentation on the 19th Century volunteer military forces who provided the only defences for Western Australia during the latter part of that century.

On Saturday December 5th museum volunteer Derise Caddy was announced as a finalist in the Alcoa Peel Volunteer of the Year awards. Derise Caddy has volunteered at the Mandurah museum for over nine years now. During this time, she has been dynamic, flexible and responsible for a number of different tasks throughout the organization. These have included meeting and greeting visitors to the Museum and assisting them in their tour of the premises, answering research requests received from the public via email or letter, and storing objects in museum grade storage environments.

Derise has been living in Mandurah for many years and holds a vast corporate knowledge of Mandurah's history. Another of her favourite tasks is assisting with museum events where she ensures that catering is organized and distributed to attendees. The setting up of exhibits within the Museum is also a task which Derise assists with. This is one of the most vital elements of collection storage and Derise has the skills and knowledge to perform this task very effectively. Following on from Derise's long term memory of Mandurah's last 60 plus years of history, one of her most significant contributions to the museum in the course of her volunteering has been the recording of her oral history. This allows the vast knowledge that she has to be preserved on onto the future for subsequent generations. To benefit from and enjoy. Well done Derise!

**Nick Reynolds**



Photos on display of Erskine fire, kindly donated by:- **Ralph Williams.**

**Education Matters. World Wetlands Day**

To help celebrate World Wetlands Day in February, the Mandurah Museum had a photographic display showing birds that inhabit our beautiful Peel-Yalgorup wetlands. These photographs were taken by local residents Jo McVey and Ralph Williams.

Other displays included taxidermy birds from Birdlife Western Australia, a banner explaining who Sarah Way is and what experiences she has to offer. There was information about who the WASR group are and photographs showing injured birds they had rescued. A documentary featuring Paddi Creevey called Birds of the Peel-Yalgorup was on the TV in the local studies area of the museum.

Volunteer Di McIntosh researched Len Howard and a factsheet about this environmentalist was on our museum wall to read.

Children had the opportunity to make an origami pelican and complete a dot to dot.

The photographs on display were stunning, we are very lucky to have such a variety of birds living in our region.

Photos below taken by **Jo McVey. Katrina Gauci.**



Pelican



Sacred kingfisher



Red capped plover

**The Mandurah Terrace Bakery**  
**29 Mandurah Terrace**

**aka The Renown Bakery / Muncie's Bakery**

A commercial bakery was established in Mandurah in the first decade of the 1900's. Postal records show that Jno Forsyth was the first Baker to live in Mandurah.

A bakery, on a quarter of an acre of land, on lot 33 Mandurah Terrace was sold under auction in 1908 by W.J. Green. Advertising for the auction indicates that it had functioned for approximately 8 years.

It was then that a George Scrivener is listed as the Baker and he and his wife, Hannah open, "The Renown". Records show George was in this position throughout World War 1 making frequent donations to the local War Effort, and remained so until 1925.



The Mandurah Terrace building reflected the in-tion and prosperity of Mandurah at the time. It was the town, and before it was built, residents had to bread or have it sent down from Fremantle.

The Renown Bakery early 1900's with woman, believed to be Hannah Scrivener.

creasing popula- the first bakery in bake their own

Henry C Gardner is listed as the baker from 1926 to 1936 and according to the local newspaper, erected a new oven and bakehouse in 1928 due to demand put on the existing bakery during the busy season.

Barzillia Gardner also appears to be in partnership as Oral Histories kept at the Mandurah Museum state Barzie was the owner.

It is during this time that William Muncie, a baker at Wiluna and Geraldton ended a partnership in a business in Meekatharra and according to the Government Gazette 1937 became a master baker in Mandurah having purchased the store from the Gardners.

Circa 1938 it became known as Muncie's Bakery, after its owner. Redevelopment followed and in 1939 Mrs Muncie was running a tearoom adjacent to it. Following a subdivision of the block on which it stood a pharmacy operated next door during the 1940's.

The frontage of the shop dates from around this year, with an art deco façade including ceramic tiles and an overhang. It may still be an example of the development of the commercial area of Mandurah in the Inter-War years that contributed to the streetscape of Mandurah Terrace.



MANDURAH for HOLIDAYS and HEALTH . . .  
 BUT **MUNCIES** for  
 Fresh Rolls for Breakfast. Hot Scones for Morning Tea. Fresh Bread  
 for Lunch. Dainty Cakes for Afternoon Tea. Fresh Hot Pies  
 for Tea or Supper.  
**Renown Bakery — Mandurah**  
 Opposite Footbridge Phone 4 Mandurah  
 Arrange for Your Daily Requirements with Muncie and the Carter will call.

Photo Circa late 1930's

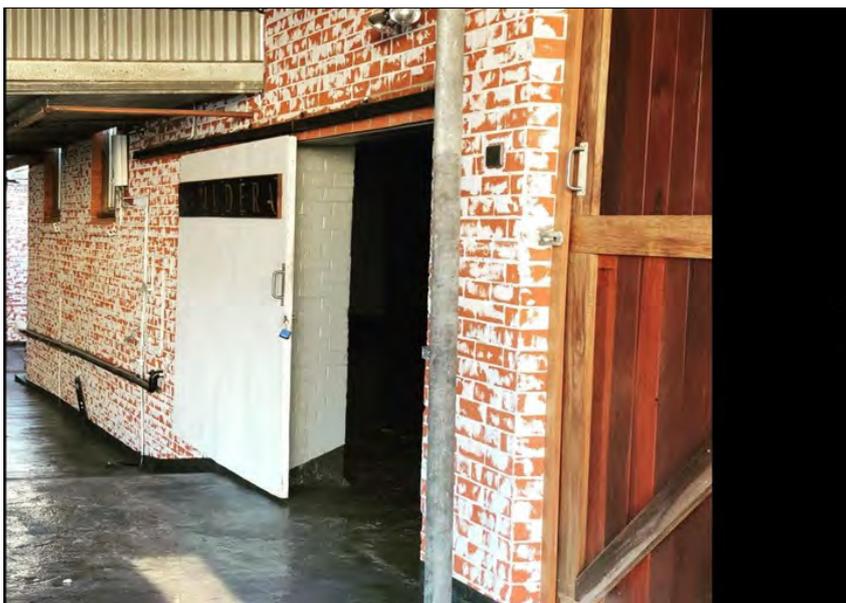
The sole remnant of the early bakery in the current building, is the thick wall which separates the retail area from the work area. The interior wall has been extended and rendered but the exterior view shows limestone wall with cement mortar and a 1960's design.

There are two wells located at the rear of the bakery: one has been filled in but the other has been capped. These wells reinforce the lack of piped water in the town and the necessity for Mandurah residents at that time to be self-sufficient in this regard. Water was not piped to Mandurah until the early 1970s. The well that supplied the Peninsula Hotel was actually on the adjacent lot and ran via the Old Peninsula Footbridge.

Muncie's bread was popular among Mandurah residents, and the many tourists who holidayed in the town.

During the 1976 Perth bakers' strike, many Perth city residents, unable to buy fresh bread at home, would drive down to Muncie's in Mandurah on the weekend to get bread. People queued for hours, and the queues would stretch several hundred metres.

In 1946 the bakery was taken over by George Howell but the name "The Renown" continued.



Inside wall of The Samudera Artisan Food and bakehouse.

It is not known exactly when William Muncie sold the business although his daughter believes it was about 1954. It is possible he still owned the premises while the Howells ran the Bakery.

In the 1980's it was known as The Foreshore Bakery and was run in the late 1980s and 1990s by John and Carol Nicoli.

It has had many reincarnations since these early times including: Dewsnap's Foreshore Bakery circa 2008.  
Foreshore Bakery 2014-4. JuJu Bread 2015. Mandurah Gourmet Bakers 2016-17.  
Foreshore Bakery 2018.

Samudera's Artisan Food and Bakehouse, Current as at 2021.

**Julia Lindley**

*\*If you can fill in any of the missing years, please contact the museum on a Wednesday.*

Photo Circa 2008



## Maritime Moorings.

A plaque is a metal or ceramic plate that is usually attached to, or at the site of, a historic building or piece of infrastructure.

Mandurah's history is fishing and boating. The fish canneries and boat building facilities have long since gone and the only evidence that these infrastructures ever existed is usually a plaque to mark the spot where they once stood. Mandurah had a number of these plaques but sadly they are disappearing because of new works being undertaken and them not being reinstalled. The only ones left are in a part of the City undisturbed by re-development.

History and heritage are an integral part of tourism and these plaques play a particularly important role in explaining Mandurah's past to our visitors with the only remaining evidence of this history being the Mandurah Museum's maritime annex (ex-fisheries boat shed and slipway).

The slipway dates back to 1910 and the boatshed was built when it became necessary to regulate the fishing industry. It housed the infamous 'sneak boat' used by the fisheries inspectors to sneak up on unsuspecting fishermen. This boat has been beautifully restored and is on display at the W. A. Maritime Museum (*They would like to return it to Mandurah!*).

I sincerely hope that someone in authority will recognize the importance of marking the location of long-gone buildings etc. because in just a few years' time there will be nobody left to say where they once stood, and Mandurah's history will be lost. **David Austin.**



## A celebration of the remarkable life of Silvina Lanyon at the Mandurah Museum.

An opportunity to discover the talents of an extraordinary woman in business, investment and the arts across the Western Australian Goldfields and the Peel Region.

View photographs, documents and objects. Read newspaper clippings about this incredible woman.

**Dates:** 3- 31 March

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

**Cost:** Free



Where:  
Mandurah Museum  
[mandurah.wa.gov.au](http://mandurah.wa.gov.au)

**Mandurah's plaques.** When I first spoke to Dudley Tuckey, we discussed the plaques which had been co-funded by the Town of Mandurah and the South West Development Association. Although he was first thinking about having plaques around Mandurah during the Bi-Centennial celebrations in 1988 they were finally finished at a later date.

Shown left is the plaque for the First Power Station in Mandurah, built by Patrick FitzGerald and his partner William White in 1932. The photograph was taken during the time that Pat Harrison (previously FitzGerald) was interviewed about her memories in 2004. Sadly this plaque is largely covered in gravel most of the time, but the building was still there at the time of the photograph.

**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)**

**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.