

Friends of MANDURAH Museum

Building bridges to Peel history

October 2025



Inner artists unleashed

By Katrina Gauci

The *Travelling Treasures and Masked Creations* workshops offered children aged five to 12 an opportunity to explore real artworks from the National Gallery of Australia and then create their own imaginative masks inspired by what they saw. Sessions were held during the October school holidays. For the first time, lower capacity sensory sessions offered a quieter, more relaxed environment, which was well-received by families and support workers. In total, 117 children and 81 accompanying adults attended.

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BARRIO fiesta

Celebrate Filipino culture and community spirit at the Mandurah Museum's Barrio Fiesta exhibition, showcasing the sights, sounds and stories of neighbourhood street parties. Barrio Fiesta means "neighborhood

celebration" and refers to a lively Filipino cultural festival that celebrates Philippine heritage and traditions.

Don't miss the free launch on Saturday, October 25, 2–5pm, with live Filipino music

and dance, kids' games, and authentic food. Exhibition dates:

Oct 21, 2025 – Jan 30, 2026

Opening times: Tues – Fri, 10am – 3pm

IMPORTANT: Notice of Friends AGM

Dear Friends of the Mandurah Museum,

I hope you will be available to attend our 2024/25 Annual General Meeting. **The meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at the Mandurah Museum commencing at 10am for Morning Tea followed by the business of the day.**

An agenda will be sent out shortly. The AGM will be followed by a short general meeting. The Annual General Meeting will include the election of Committee members to the vacant positions of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and general members. I request that you consider joining the Friends Committee

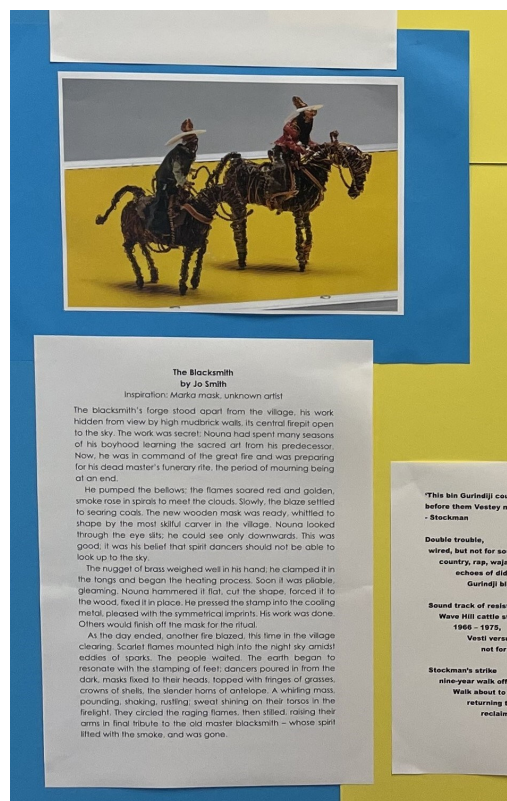
(nomination forms have been sent by email). Membership of the Committee is not demanding, and meetings are infrequent. We do need you to help us to continue our support of the Mandurah Museum and its endeavours.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Tuckey (President)



EDUCATION MATTERS

with Katrina Gauci



Mandurah Museum was proud to host two of the National Gallery of Australia's touring Art Cases, as part of the Mandurah Arts Festival 2025. Community groups from across the region were invited to explore the cases and create their own artistic responses, which were then exhibited alongside the national works.

Participating Groups

RT Kids (10 participants, aged 12–16)

A group of young emerging artists, RT Kids explored the Art Cases with curiosity and imagination. Their youthful interpretations reflected a fresh and playful perspective on the national works.

Scribblers (12 participants)

The Mandurah-Murray writers group known as the *Scribblers* (above left) crafted original written responses including poetry, short stories, and reflections; . Their work transforming the visual into the literary.



Art created by students from John Tonkin

Chorus (25 participants, ages 16–90)

Chorus Community Connect participants drew inspiration from the Blue Case: *Earth*, creating artworks that responded to key objects such as the Marka mask and Dabiyil wagari vessels. Their contributions included: *Masks – Encased Identities* (with John Tonkin Learning Support students), and Handmade Bowls (paper mâché, recycled materials, and clay pottery);

Homeschooling Group (20 students aged 7–12, 10 adults) This multi-age group engaged deeply with David

Wallace's artwork of the *Stockman and his horse*. Inspired by the figures, they created their own wire sculptures of people and animals.

Random Palette (10 participants) Meeting weekly at the CASM Workshop, Random Palette artists responded collaboratively with their work *Spirit of Marka*.

Inspired by the *Marka* mask and

other cultural objects, the piece layered abstract depictions over a richly textured background canvas.

A Celebration of Community Creativity

The project offered participants not only the chance to engage directly with significant national artworks, but also to share their voices and visions with the public. From writing to sculpture, painting to mixed media, the Art Cases inspired more than 87 people across all groups - each contributing to a vibrant, local celebration of creativity.



CURATOR'S REPORT

with Nicholas Reynolds

Steinway piano, local metal detecting, sourcing local aerial photographs, information on old road mile pegs, the existence of

photographs documenting the building and surrounds before its demolition. Once a way to get the photographs off the museum camera has been found they will be placed in the museum team site for future reference. A project plan has been submitted and is being worked on for a series of 2026 guided heritage walks to refresh the former walks that were offered by the museum. These will be themed walks running on specific dates throughout the year.

Planning has been completed for a workshop for museum staff and volunteers which will be offered at the Army Museum of WA, Fremantle, on Saturday, November 1.

Both museum and Historical Society volunteers have put their names down to attend. Please let me know if any others would like to attend and I can see if places are still available.

The quarterly Work Health and Safety inspection was carried out in conjunction with David Prattent. Pleasingly, no WHS issues were found, and it was great to catch up with David, a long-term City employee.

Local student Daric Rance completed a two-month placement at the Museum as part of his year 10 work experience obligations with the IDEAcademy, Perth.

Daric enjoyed his time at the museum and expressed his gratitude to the City of Mandurah for the opportunity to be able to learn about museum career paths and how they could be a part of his future.

After both a leak and rat infestation were discovered in the Historical Society's bookshed, all the remaining hardcover copies of Ron Richard's *Mandurah and Murray* have now been placed in the museum's brochure store.

Public research requests received during September included information on a local car wrecker in the 60s and 70s, information on an old

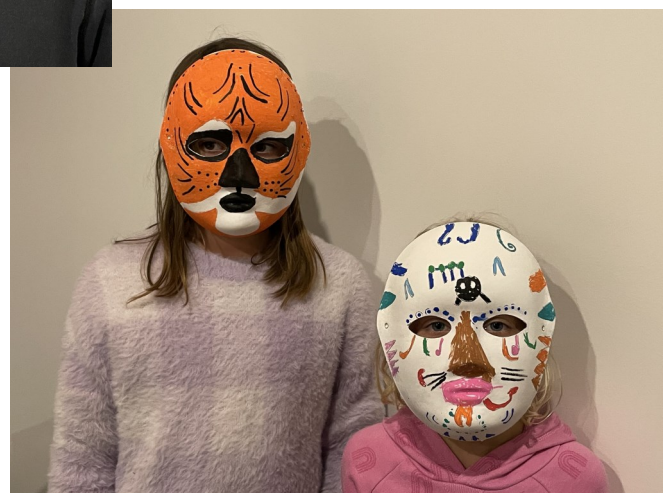
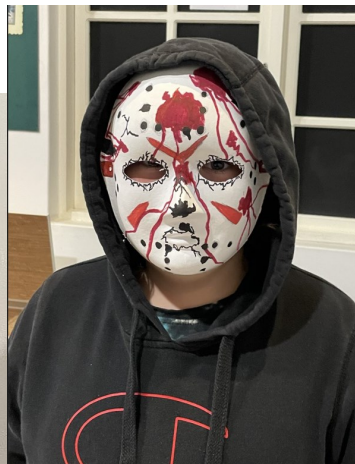
cabbage tree hats/information in museum collection, and an Indigenous oral history request.

In September two internal research requests were undertaken on Winjan's camp location, heritage listing, and information, and another on material regarding the city's *Thematic History*.

Works have been undertaken on the internal and external walls of Hall's Cottage (**pictured above, circa 1988**) during September, including re-plastering where necessary and lime-washing both internal and external walls in line with the building's ongoing conservation management plan. It is pleasing to see these vital works back on schedule after an extended gap.

During a site visit to the Southern Estuary Hall the MDO took a series of

Holiday face mask fun



Learning from local heroes



By Katrina Gauci

Three community presentations were recently held at the Mandurah Museum, each drawing strong participation and delivering valuable insights into local wildlife and conservation. On Friday 8 August, Lisa Wray presented Ospreys of Mandurah to an audience of 23 people. Her presentation combined engaging commentary with drone footage showing Ospreys feeding their chicks. She also shared collected data on Osprey behaviour, breeding cycles, and population trends. The session ran for more than an hour and concluded with audience questions, resulting in several attendees signing up for the

Adopt an Osprey Nest Program. The following week, on Friday, August 15, Danny Willmott presented *Saving Seabirds: Stories from the Frontline of Rescue* to 14 adults and nine students. Through photographs, head-cam videos, and interactive demonstrations, Danny provided a

‘Compelling insights’

compelling insight into the challenges of seabird rescue. The inclusion of rescue equipment, entanglement samples, and a simulated rescue ensured the session was highly engaging, especially for the younger participants. His key messages on prevention, awareness,

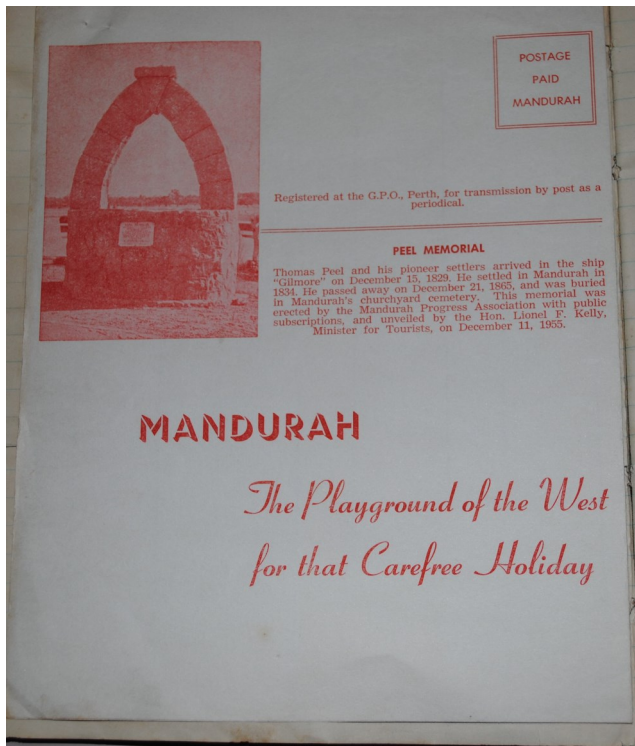
and support of the Seabird Rescue group were clearly conveyed.

Finally, on Friday, August 22, Dr Catherine Baudains delivered *Quenda and Us: Living Together* to 20 adults and nine children. Using PowerPoint with photographs, she explained quenda behaviour and practical ways to support survival. The session concluded with games that reinforced learning - an

enjoyable and informative experience for adults and children alike. Together, these three events attracted strong attendance, provided high-quality educational content, and demonstrated effective community engagement on wildlife conservation.

Dragging the State

Towards Progress



Above: A selection from a local scrapbook, circa 1961.

Right: A July 8, 1939 article from the *South Western Advertiser* depicting Association lobbying efforts.

By Heather Harvey

Sir John Forrest's tenure as first Premier of Western Australia was from December 1890 to February 1901. His strategy was to promote development and give something to every electorate, a strategy exploited by the newly formed Mandurah Progress Association Committee, run by enthusiastic but relative newcomers to the area.

The Association was formed in 1897 to act as a voice for Mandurah people. Its history is connected with that of the Murray Roads Board and Mandurah Roads Board.

The Murray Roads Board was created in 1871. The Mandurah Roads Board was created in June 1949. Mandurah was under the jurisdiction of the Murray Roads Board from around 1894. Sufficient population supported the formation of the Mandurah Progress Association, which remained active for many decades and was a successful lobby

group in the development of Mandurah. In 1915 the Murray Roads Board placed a kerosene lamp at Cooper's Corner - the corner of Pinjarra Road and Mandurah Terrace - which was replaced in 1920 with a carbide lamp on condition the Association look after it.

The Association was asked by the Murray Roads Board to improve bathing facilities – such as bathing sheds – which eventually resulted in the Association demanding new sheds to replace the old, inadequate ones. The Association improved other things, for example, moving the school fence so people could walk along the foreshore. It also worked to move the rubbish tip from the foreshore.

The Association was active in 1930s in promoting tourism during the difficult days of the Depression. In May 1930 it asked the Murray Roads Board to build fireplaces along the foreshore; supported the Tennis Club's demands for more courts; and in 1932, asked the Murray Roads Board to spend around \$1,000 on town improvements. The Board responded two years later with a new footpath between Cooper's Corner and the Post Office.

The Mandurah Progress Association ceased to exist in 1972. The Shire of Mandurah was declared in July 1961, the town of Mandurah in July 1987, and the City of Mandurah in April 1990.

**MANDURAH
LIGHTING
SERVICE**

Offer by Company

The special committee appointed by the local Progress Association to confer with the Mandurah Electric Light & Power Co. with the object of extending the hours of light and power from 7½ hours per day to a 24 hour service, and a reduction of the charge for power, met during the week, and the following conditions were offered by the company—

- (1) A 24-hour service.
- (2) Lighting per unit, 10d. nett.
- (3) Power per unit, 6d. nett.
- (4) An extra 24 street lights be installed at an annual charge of £120.
- (5) Minimum charge per month, 6/6.
- (6) That the concession be for a period of 21 years.

The particulars have been forwarded to the Murray Road Board for consideration at their next meeting, which takes place tomorrow.

Eventual adopters

First Mandurah Post Office -1



By Dianne McIntosh

It took 10 years for telephone technology to come to Mandurah after the telephone was patented in March 1876 – a year after Alexander Graham Bell discovered that sound could travel along a wire.

Pinjarra had first received the telegraph cable in 1872; Mandurah would not follow until 1886. Evangeline Tuckey ran the post office at the time, having taken over from her grandmother, Mary Tuckey. Evangeline had been trained at the Pinjarra office in telegraphy. Prior to leaving the service in 1895 she trained Clarence Cooper as her successor. By 1900, Evelyn B Webb was the postmistress. She resigned her position in 1903.

Initially, telephone calls for Mandurah were connected by telephonists working at the post

office (note the telegraph pole and attached insulator **above**).

It would take some time, but bit by bit the telephone would become a major asset to life in Mandurah. An early phone line was reported to connect Tuckey's Fish Canning business on Mandurah Foreshore to the home of Henry Halliday near the "Sticks" area on the Western side of the estuary. To facilitate this, the phone line was carried across the Mandurah bridge. At times, existing trees were used to carry the line, with insulators attached to tree branches. Examples of this still exist near the old Sticks area. Henry Halliday was an acclaimed seaman. Arriving in 1895, he is reputed to have sailed his boat *The Star of Mordialloc* around the bottom part of Australia from Mordialloc in Victoria to Mandurah. He found work transporting goods to and from



Fremantle. A phone was a handy asset for an astute businessman. In the 1890s, Western Australia was booming with the discovery of gold near Coolgardie. Tuckey's fish and fruit canning business was also booming. Much of their canned goods were headed to the Goldfields. No doubt, a telephone line kept the businessman in contact with suppliers, transporters and purchasers. By 1908, a new fish cleaning shed had been erected at the head of the inlet. It was connected to the main factory in Mandurah by telephone.

Chooks' loss is museum's gain

By Dianne McIntosh

Originally donated to Mandurah Museum by D King, circa 1993, this example of a grist mill was acquired by the donor from a Mr Inkpen of New York. Later, it was used to process fowl food before being donated to the museum.

The grist mill was made by the Enterprise Manufacturing Company in Philadelphia, USA. The company made a range of domestic products. The company had good sales in the 1800s and early 1900s but the business was in decline by the 1950s and taken over in 1955.

To use a vintage Enterprise No. 750 hand-operated grist mill, first, secure the mill to a stable surface. Then, fill the hopper with grain. Turn the crank handle to engage the grinding mechanism, which will force the grain through the screw and out the spout as ground meal.

The Enterprise Grist Mill has a heavy base with which it can be firmly mounted to a table or bench. The machine has an iron body with a funnel at the top. There is a spout at the front where processed grain emerges. At the front of the body is a fly wheel that is attached to the circular central part of the body with a large bolt and wing nut which operates an internal screw mechanism.

Unfortunately, the small crank handle attached to the fly wheel is missing. The operator would push the grain into the funnel at the top and turn the crank handle. This would force the grain through



the screw mechanism, expelling the ground meal via the spout. The donor of this machine indicated that she used it to grind feed for her fowls. Grinding bird feed into flour for chickens improves their digestion and nutrient absorption, especially for chicks or birds with smaller beaks. It also allows for more efficient consumption and can help make a more consistent and easily digestible mash.

Additionally, grinding can help create custom feed blends to meet specific needs. In the Mandurah area between 1960 and 1980, chickens were likely kept by some residents for eggs and meat, especially in areas outside the immediate town centre. Backyard chicken keeping was a relatively common practice.

Friends of Mandurah Museum

Friends of Mandurah Museum
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The mission of the Friends is to provide assistance and support to the museum in all its endeavours, and to promote the heritage and history of Mandurah.

Membership of the Friends is by a yearly membership fee of \$10 due each August. Meetings are held 4 times per year as notified.

Object ablaze with mystery



By Dianne McIntosh

Dating from the 1940-50s, this REGA firefighting backpack sprayer sits proudly among other items in the Museum's storerooms. The exact history of this item is unknown, but it shows us how the technology of fire fighting has changed through the years.

Complete with its canvas straps, galvanised backpack tank and hose with nozzle end, the backpack sprayer took up liquid from the tank into the hose and onto the area required. Sometimes used to fight small fires, they were also known to be used as a garden sprayer. It is speculated that this one may have been used in the Dwellingup area for the latter. The tank clearly shows the 'REGA' embossing, indicating its manufacturer. The top features a chained cap for filling, and the manual

pump connects via a hose to the tank, allowing for pressurised spraying. The Rega Fire Fighting Knapsack is still produced and is widely used in firefighting. It's a common sight on many fire vehicles and meets essential firefighting needs. Known for its reliability in handling spot fires and mop-up operations, the Rega Knapsack is easy to use and has easily replaceable parts.

It wasn't until 1954 that meetings were held in Mandurah with a view to forming a fire brigade. Allan Withers, in an oral history, tells of the early days of the fire brigade in Mandurah.

"Our fire engine consisted of a tank, engine and pump on a trailer ... and to get funds to run this thing, apart from what the council gave us for petrol, we would burn people's blocks and rely on donations from that. That is how the fire brigade started."

"We had to notify the council whenever we were burning and then, of course, after the period, burning was prohibited. You weren't allowed to burn, and if any clown set a fire, we would go and have to put it out."

Notification of fires has come a long way too. Allan Withers remembers that often they just saw smoke and would race down to see what was going on: "It was the bush telegraph."

Protective gear was provided by the firefighters themselves. Work boots and a set of old clothes was the norm. Bill Hatton, also in an oral history, remembers a time of volunteering with the Mandurah Fire Brigade as an apparatus officer. He related the story of Felix Timothy, a council engineer, starting up the fire brigade circa 1967. The first fire engine was remembered as being a 1931 Dodge "that was like the keystone cops type thing". So, did the museum's fire-fighting backpack sprayer ever fight a fire in Mandurah? We will never know. The information is lost to time.