

Friends of MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

BUILDING BRIDGES
TO PEEL HISTORY

Friends of Mandurah Community Museum Newsletter

September. 2020

PERTH DELUGE. WETTEST AUGUST DAY. RIVER LEVELS RISE.

WEATHER NOW IMPROVING

Perth had its wettest August day on record during the 24 hours ended 9 am yesterday with a registration of 291 points. A further 38 points to midnight last night increased the aggregate since January 1 to 3,958 points. This is 500 points more than the normal annual rainfall and exceeds any total for any corresponding period in previous years, the next highest being 3,687 points recorded for a similar period in 1926.

As a result of the latest rain river levels in the southern part of the State have risen considerably, although the flood menace is not nearly as severe as it was two months ago. The weather yesterday was fortunately a good deal clearer and rainfall reported to 3 pm was mostly light with the exception of a fall at Geraldton of 67 points. Heaviest registrations for the 24 hours ended 9 am yesterday included 367 points at Dwellingup, 302 at Mandurah, 286 at Waroona, 280 at Mundaring, 274 at Jarrahdale and 206 at Armadale. Wheatbelt falls ranged from about 5 points to a little over an inch.

In his State forecast late yesterday afternoon the Divisional Meteorologist (Mr A. G. Akeroyd) predicted some showers, chiefly in the lower south-west and on the south-west coast, but with the weather gradually becoming finer from the north. Following is today's forecast for the metropolitan area (issued at 5 pm yesterday):

West Australian
Newspaper,
June &
August

The Swan River had broken its banks. Water had flooded King's Meadow in Guildford. Floods were obstructing roads. The swinging bridge at York was touching the water.

Mundaring Weir was overflowing by the 23rd of June, early in the season.

Railways in the SW of W.A were experiencing severe washaways.

From the Editor. We are sending out a shorter newsletter to you all in September to keep you up to date with what is happening at the museum.

Included here is our conclusion of the experiences of Mandurah residents of War's End. Also a few snippets of the time in which they were living.

Being born in 1945, I have no memories of the end of war, but I do have my mother's memories which I treasure.

In June of that year, my father was home on leave from a camp in the Northern Territory. I was just a few months old, with a brother of 3 years. We lived in a tiny house, with few conveniences. My mother was managing the washing in a copper outside without any shelter. It rained every day of June and certainly every day of my father's leave.

Wonderful man that he was, Mum had a shelter with a roof over her copper prior to his leaving. Not that she had anywhere to hang the wet washing except inside.

In Mandurah that year we had some of the highest floods seen, probably only outclassed by the floods of 1955.

We don't know how lucky we are!

Jan Baker.

Special features

War's End

Oral Histories.

Regular features.

From the MDO .
Education Matters.
Chair & Committee

Nicholas Reynolds.
Katrina Gauci
Jan Baker

Editor

Jan Baker.

Victory in Europe and Japan - War's End.

John Layton.

Was your father in the Home Guard?

Dad, he had a heap of telephones in his place and they were connected to the Coastal Watch, and some time a phone was ringing and you'd go round to 8 or 9 phones before you found the right one. That's how we knew the war finished when it did. We were the first to know. It was about 1 o'clock in the morning and I ran up the road and woke a friend of mine up the road, Dave Greenham, that was only what '45, and Dave put me on the back of the bike and we had a bucket full of gravel rocks and we were throwing on everybody's roof. Riding up and down the streets, throwing these rocks on the roofs, course we were getting abused a bit, but when we yelled out "The War is over, The War is Over!" People were dancing in the streets in their pyjamas. I can still remember that, plain as anything.

This the VE or VJ. Victory in Europe or Victory in Japan?

I think it was Victory in Japan, I think it must have been. Although I used to listen to the ABC through one of those great big radios, His Masters Voice I think it was, and I remember listening to Hitler and Eisenhower, Churchill, Stalin and all those talking on the radio.

I think when we were throwing rocks on the roof was when the Japanese were defeated.

How did the town celebrate, was there..

Yes, there was dancing in the street, relieved to think that it was finally over. I mean a lot of people lost loved ones, and no war is nice.

The slit trenches, did you use them for anything else?

Once the war was over, I remember filling them in. Dad said "Get the shovel and fill them in, we don't need them anymore."

VICTORY IN EUROPE AT LAST.

People of the British Commonwealth of Nations, also of America and Russia last Wednesday celebrated V.E. Day (Victory in Europe) and in the words of His Majesty King George VI "Gave thanks to God for our great deliverance."

"Speaking from the Empire's oldest capital city, war-battered, but never for one moment daunted or dismayed, London, I ask you," said King George, "to join with me in an act of thanksgiving. Germany, who drove all Europe into war, has been finally overcome."

"In the Far East we have yet to deal with the Japanese, a determined and cruel foe. To this we shall turn with the utmost resolve and with all our resources."

Last Wednesday Perth Churches held thanksgiving services throughout the day and were crammed to overflowing.

In England people went mad with delight and celebration, continued throughout the day and night.

The multitude which waited all day Wednesday in Whitehall for a glimpse of Winston Churchill who did so much to make victory in Europe possible, were not disappointed, for he, and members of the War Cabinet appeared on the balcony of the Ministry of Health, which was draped with the Union Jack. Then the Premier's voice was heard through the microphone saying: "God bless you all. This is your victory and it is a victory of the cause of freedom in every land. We never in all our long history have seen a greater day than this. Everyone—man or woman—has done their bit. Everyone has tried here. Neither for long years nor the dangers nor the fierce attacks of the enemy have in any way weakened the unbending resolve of the British nation. God bless you all."

Tremendous cheers, the like of which were never before heard in Whitehall followed.

Neil Morfitt.

And this would mean that we are by now at the end of the War. What do you remember about the War ending?

Well, of course, it wasn't so much when the, like VE day in Europe type of thing, that sort of didn't quite mean as... it wasn't the same thing to us. The main thing I can remember about that, that Mr Goode, we were all at school, we never had a holiday that day or anything and he went through, he actually took the whole morning up, the whole session up in the morning and he recapped on actually the war and things that went through as in sequence of how things happened up till then. Of course then Japan was still in the War then and that of course wasn't finished till '45. And I remember that morning because I went to school ordinary because I hadn't heard anything on the wireless.

We never used to listen to the wireless of a morning and I think it was actually Dave Green that I met and he said, "What are you doing?" I said, "Oh, going to school". He said, "Don't be silly" he says "the War's over, we're not going to no school today", you know and of course we all congregated up to Mandurah there and we were all marching around yelling and going on sort of thing and of course we... I remember going to the corner shop and making a lot of racket and all the kids were making a racket outside and banging on doors and things because it wasn't open at that stage and they said, oh we haven't got anything for you now, come back in twenty minutes or something and we'll have something there for you and of course when we arrived back they had a couple of buckets of cordial going there and they had lollies and things and of course we had dished out because there were lots of noises and banging of kerosene tins and everything going on around the place, you know. The usual kids stuff. Oh, yes, and

TAIL PIECE

In England a woman gave birth to twins during a flying bomb attack. One of them was christened "Doodle" and the other "Bug."

This recalls another flying bomb story: Child up near an A.A. site in England is the following:

"If the Doodle-dawdles
Do not dally-dive."

Articles from
Western Mail -
Perth.
August 1945.

Ten Million Miles of Ocean Reclaimed

WHAT happened on December 7, 1941, made "Pearl Harbour" as stirring a rallying call to Americans as "Dunkirk" is to the British. The American people will never forget how Japanese representatives were hand-shaking their President while crack pilots were dive-bombing their battleships. By that one devastating blow the Japs removed the only force capable of stopping them from grabbing the world's richest territory.

MDO Report.

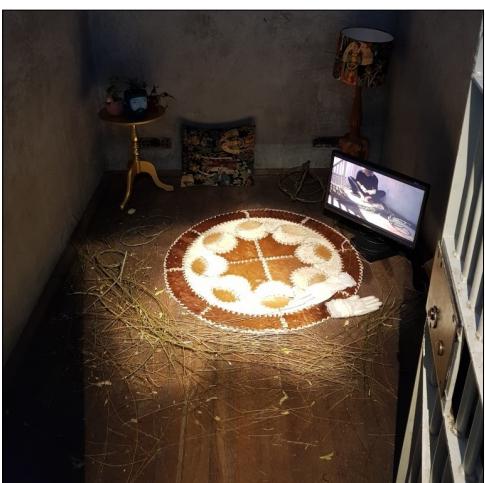


On a sad note to start this newsletter's report, on the evening of Monday August 31st a considerable amount of damage was done to the windows of Hall's Cottage. An individual was seen throwing rocks through the windows and trying to pull out the broken window frames. The police were called immediately and upon arrival were able to arrest the individual responsible. No entry was gained by that

person to the cottage. On attending the cottage early Tuesday morning and going inside the damage done by the rocks was surprising, with one large rock having gone through the front window and hit the internal door of the cottage, rebounded and broken several china plates displayed on a sideboard. The inside of the cottage was rendered very messy with broken glass and pieces of the limestone rocks. I have given statements to the police and the cottage has been secured by the City's facilities maintenance team. Cleaning up of the glass and rocks has begun, and the process of engaging heritage builders to repair the windows has started.

On a happier note, the Museum is currently co-hosting a collaborative exhibition with Contemporary Art Spaces Mandurah (CASM) titled *Reflections*. The exhibition at the Museum features 55 individual works from 9 Artists. The Museum is also featuring 8 audio interviews with community members on their experience of COVID in Mandurah. These are streaming from the Courtroom Gallery oral history unit.

Nicholas Reynolds



Artwork on display in the old cells at the Museum

Pied Oyster catches at the back of the museum.

Education Officer's Report

National Threatened Species Day

On the night of 7 September 1936, the last Tasmanian tiger died in Hobart Zoo. With the death of this animal the thylacine species became extinct.

In 1996, on the 60th anniversary of the last Tasmanian tiger's death, 7 September was declared National Threatened Species Day—a time to reflect on what happened to the thylacine and how similar fates could await other native plants and animals unless appropriate action is taken. National Threatened Species Day highlights the past and how we can protect threatened plants and animals into the future, while also celebrating species success stories and ongoing threatened species recovery work.

To recognise this day, our museum has on display a variety of taxidermy specimens, kindly on loan from the Western Australian Museum

I hope you have the opportunity to come in and have a look.
Kat Gauci



Threatened Animals Display

Western Australia has an amazing range of unique animals. Unfortunately, some are on the brink of extinction.

Come in and view a variety of these rare and special taxidermy specimens.

Children have the opportunity to make their own animal to take home.

Exhibition Details

Where: Mandurah Community Museum

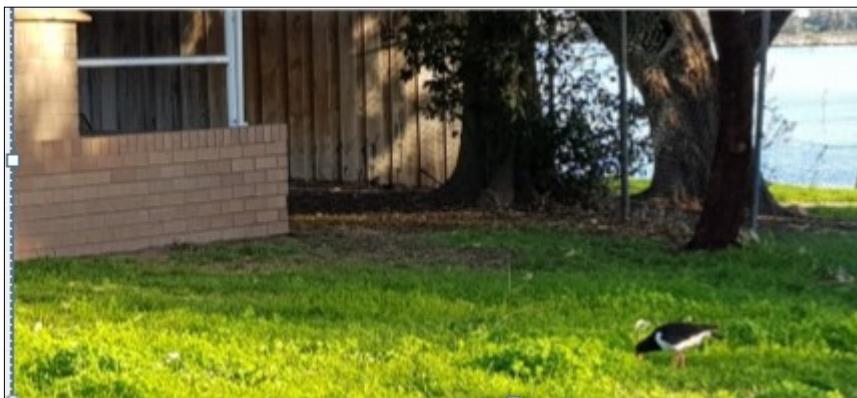
When: Friday 4 September - Sunday 11 October

Cost: Donations welcome

Opening Hours:

Tuesday –Friday 10am-4pm

Saturday-Sunday 11am-3pm



Chair and Committee report.

We met as a committee for the first time since Covid 19 forced us into lockdown and the museum closed on the 19th of August.

Topics for discussion were many and I will mention a few here.

Membership renewal for 2020 to 2021 are included in this mailout, can I ask if you do transfer the money by bank that you mention your name in the transfer. Please also notify the museum by email that you have transferred the money and any changes to your address or circumstances.

We made a decision on our A.G.M. which has customarily been in October to defer it by two weeks. Our A.G.M will now be 14th of November with the hope that W.A. might have entered into Phase 5 of restrictions and that we might have a larger meeting.

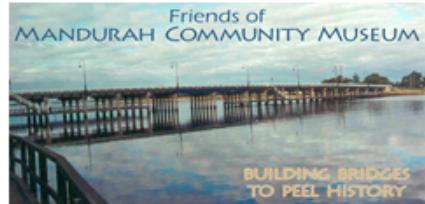
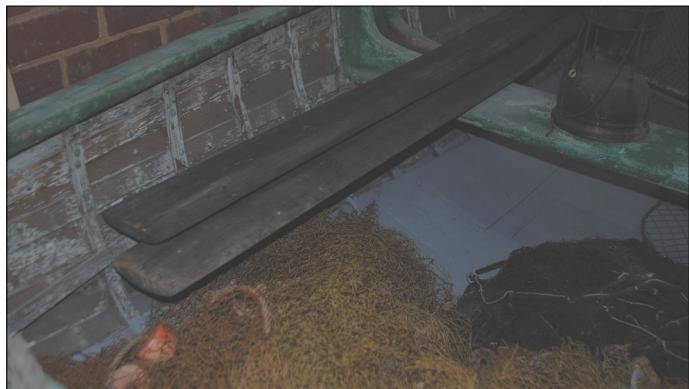
Formal notice of the time, date and agenda of the A.G.M will be sent with this newsletter, plus nomination forms for the vacant positions. At this time the position of Chair and Secretary fall vacant due to our Constitutional requirements. There is also a need for committee members.

Some other discussions we had, were around continuing fund raising with the purchases of more and different souvenirs. There will be more relating to this as we decide on our processes.

We will again be producing our calendar for the year of 2021 and plans are well in action for this. We should have copies of these available from late September in plenty of time for people to use as presents or send overseas.

In conclusion, can I remind you to call into the museum to support the Reflections Covid 19 exhibition by CASM part of which is featuring at the museum. We also continue to feature a special Maritime Display.

Fishing netting in our boat display.



Renewal of membership now due, 01/09/2020

Friends of Mandurah Community Museum membership

Fill out the details below

I/We hereby
renew our membership of Friends of Mandurah Community Museum.

Address.....

Town/suburb..... postcode.....

Telephone (Home)..... (Mob).....

email.....

Current 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

Bank Transfer Westpac Mandurah BSB 036-157, acc no. 35-1209

**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 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.