

Friends of

Mandurah Museum

BUILDING BRIDGES TO PEEL HISTORY

3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210

Friends of Mandurah Museum

Newsletter December 2022.

MDO Report

I've just returned after a relaxing break visiting the in-laws in the US state of Texas. Texas is the home of many museums that focus on subjects from local history to two presidential libraries devoted to Texans who rose to lead the United States. I was fortunate enough to visit one of these, The Lyndon B Johnson presidential library at the university of Texas in Austin, the state capital. All US presidents of the modern era are interested in cementing their place in US history almost as soon as they leave office. These libraries serve primarily as repositories for the huge amount of material, written or otherwise, that future researchers and historians will rely upon to write their histories. Most of the libraries feature a small, in relative terms, museum that gives a taste of the president's time in office using material from their incredibly extensive archives. The 'LBJ' museum provides a thoughtful look at his career and influence on world history. We'll now take a look at a few photos that I took during my visit which will serve as a highlight of how this museum is put together.

Editor

With another year completed, we start to re-

Merry Christmas

view what has been occurring within the museum. Our articles from Nicholas our Museum Development Officer will be addressing this.

Volunteers and Friends have helped the museum in its endeavor throughout the year. We have been present for the exhibitions which have been excellent and assisted in these events also.

The Maritime Men have continued where they can to do repairs and maintenance on the boats. This has been difficult for them as they have been a little too successful in collecting artefacts and these, of course, are all rather big. With no permanent display place for the historic boats and engines some of their activities have been curtailed.

Jan Baker.

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Para Games. Jan Baker.**

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Nicholas Reynolds



Interesting fact. While Western Australia and Australia were eagerly awaiting our special event, the world stage was taken up by an International Crisis.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was the consequence of many events, however, in October 1962 Russia was building missiles just off the coast of America. Everything came to a head when after advice and discussion, President John F Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba.

This event lasted between 16th and 29th of October 1962. This was less than two weeks prior to the opening of the Para - Games.

Memorabilia from these events are held at the Museum of Perth.

Much of the information provided in this newsletter on the Perth Commonwealth Games has come from websites belonging to various organisations. However, at no time in watching the videos or reading through their sites have I been able to see a photo of the baton for that games.

There is an interesting YouTube to watch with clips and photos of Perth at that time.

The History of the 1962 Commonwealth and Empire Games in Perth

Maritime Moorings.

Working at the boatshed has slowed down somewhat due to a lack of space. This is largely due to the Maritime Group being very successful in obtaining both boats and associated artefacts historically important to the area of Peel.

A project in hand has been to manufacture mountings to display and protect some of the heritage engines which have been donated to the museum and restored by the crew. The group was encouraged to once again approach Mayday for a donation for materials and building of these mounts. **Mayday** continues to be generous to the Maritime Group and once again provided financial assistance to build the items.

To all our 'Friends' please keep Mayday in mind should you be donating good used clothing or other items for recycled use. Also please check them out, they often have just the thing you are looking for. Funds raised by Murray—Mandurah Mayday contribute much assistance to many volunteer organisations within the Peel region, while also assisting some individuals with their personal learning goals.

On the 20th of November, Mandurah held its annual blessing of the fleet and the heritage boat which is still in use was taken out to join the fleet.

Meanwhile on November 25th, Michael McGhie, Kay & Brian Toussaint were at the WA Museum—Boola Bardip to attend the WA Heritage Awards as finalists for 2022. While the Maritime Group did not win, it is wonderful to see their hard work recognised and promoted. Below is a short statement which accompanied the invitation. Plus the virtual medal they are permitted to show on stationary.

'On behalf of the Minister for Heritage and the Heritage Council of Western Australia, I would like to congratulate Friends of Mandurah Museum on being named a finalist in the *'Contribution by a Community-based Organisation'* category. Without commitment, passion, dedication and extremely hard work from people like yourself, our heritage would not have a future.'

Pictured to the left is Michael McGhie and Kay Toussaint at the awards.





President Johnson's wife Claudia, universally known as Lady Bird, maintained an office in the library building for many years after her husband's death in 1973. Here we can see the office preserved as it was during Lady Bird's lifetime. Lady Bird passed away in 2007 at the age of 95.



Above: Some of Lady Bird's formal outfits.



One of President Johnson's limousines which was used to transport Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt during one of his two visits to the US.



Many of the displays inside give those who haven't lived through the 1960s some grounding in the popular culture of the time.



Interactive elements of the exhibition featured telephone handset style audio 'listening posts' which draw on the extensive recordings of telephone conversations involving Johnson or oral history interviews with his contemporaries. If you look carefully, you can see QR codes which have been added to allow people access to the recordings on their own phones. This is part of the museum's Covid safety measures.



The central floors of the library hold research archives which are not open to the general public. The central void creates a bold statement in local central Texas limestone. When constructed the building received several architectural awards.



The top floor of the museum featured a reconstruction of the White House oval office during Johnson's presidency, using many pieces of the original furniture. See below for a photo of the original office. I found it surprising that the lounge was looking nearly as good as new!



Annual Report of the Friends 2021 - 2022.

Committee and General Meetings of this Association have still been limited due to constraints from significant Covid infections within this state. Members of your committee have continued to work and aid the museum's function while responding to needs identified by the Museum Development and Museum Education Officers.

We have managed to self-publish two books with successful sales generating more revenue. With permission of the author's widow, we have prepared Footprints for self-publishing. This will mean that we can arrange to have several copies always available without having to send them out to the printers. Over the years our sales of Footprints have continued with about 1 copy sold per month. The book itself continues to be a drawcard, there has been significant editing work completed by Julia Lindley. Some photos have been updated with the book now presenting the corner near the museum more attractively without the building site for the current bridge.

We have been unable to complete our commitment to provide another display case (or two) due to the Facility Manager not providing us with a design for the same. This also applies to the display case which the Friends wish to purchase for displaying souvenirs and printed items which are fund raising or informational.

A need was however identified for a new model for use during displays within the museum. It was decided that the Friends would purchase both a male and a female model which have been named Nancy and Eddie, both of these named after past Museum volunteers.

(cont. from last column) Apart from that we have upgraded some of the electronic equipment used both by the Friends and by the museum with a 2 TB portable hard drive still to be purchased.

Financially we are good place even with amounts earmarked for the display cases, and we look forward to be able to provide these in the New Year.

Socially, Friends have been invited to several of the Exhibition Openings, there have been more of these this year with successful events such as the Violet Sutton Exhibition, The "Remarkable" Exhibition and currently Policing Mandurah. We were glad to see some of the Friends attend these. Friends are usually invited to all openings of exhibitions or other events at the museum. **Jan Baker.**

Friends Office Bearers for 2022—2023.

Chairperson	Jan Baker
Vice - Chair	Eleanor Kay
Secretary	<i>Vacant (pro tem Jan Baker)</i>
Treasurer	Christine Steer.
Committee	Jim Tuckey. Dorothy Olsen Phyl Hardy Kay Tuckey
Maritime Nominee	Michael McGhie.

**Wishing you a Joyful Christmas &
a Happy and safe New Year.**



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Internet: www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/Facilities/Museum/Friends

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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.