

Friends of

Mandurah Museum

BUILDING BRIDGES TO PEEL HISTORY

3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210

Friends of Mandurah Museum

Newsletter June 2024.

M.D.O. Report.

Hello everyone and welcome to the latest edition of the Friends of Mandurah Museum newsletter. While winter is cooling us down, the last few months have been busy for the Museum. I'll highlight a couple of the projects that we have been working on in this newsletter.

From May 3-5 the Mandurah Museum staged an archaeological excavation at the Hall's Cottage heritage site. Both children and adults from the Mandurah community were able to join in with professional archaeologists in learning about and taking part in a dig. A number of artifacts such as small tea sets for dolls and even old coins were found. The three days saw 392 people take part in the activities. Thanks must go to Amy, Joy, and Katrina Gauci for their efforts over the weekend and in the leadup.



A drone was used to capture this unique shot of the cottage during the archaeological dig



Children participate in the dig at one of the 'test pits' in the rear of the cottage. An old brick pathway was discovered here which may have lead to an outbuilding which once stood behind the building



Warwick House, Mandurah.

When it became clear, in the early morning of 14 April 1938, that a small, kitchen-based fire was intent on fulfilling its devastating potential, there was nothing for the inhabitants of Warwick House to do but to look on in horror as the popular holiday lodging gave up its last.

That Easter it had been full to the brim, with around 50 guests: a small sample of the generations of holiday goers who had paid Mandurah a visit from Perth and surrounding areas since the dawn of the century.

"There were only four or five people in the house," *The Daily News* reported, "when the alarm was given about 1am".

"First warning was made when a child sleeping in a room not far distant from the kitchen awoke screaming ...

"Rushing outside, the occupants dragged what furniture and belongings they could to safety," but with no water supply available, "the wooden building was a charred skeleton in about an hour".

A "Mrs Dawson" is listed as the "proprietress." The building, the report states, had been insured for £1650. There are no other references to the holiday house - or Mrs Dawson - in future newspaper reports.

Mrs Dawson had taken ownership of Warwick House from Captain William J Hannaford and wife Mrs. Ada F Hannaford in 1936. The couple who had shepherded the one-time boarding house through a heady period of tourism success, continuing on from the stewardship of its eponymous founders, Mrs Sarah Jane Warwick and Mr William Warwick.

Warwick House, known variously as "Warwick Hostel" and even "Ye Warwick House" in one report, was among the first of a growing number of lodgings in Mandurah and surrounding areas, their names peppering the social pages of the day. (By 1938, other houses included The Pines guest house, and Ruck's Cottage.)

By the close of the 19th century, keen commercial minds - Charles Tuckey among them - could see the writing on the wall for the town's increasingly disappointing fishing exploits.

As Ronald Richards notes in *Murray and Mandurah*, the potential of Mandurah as a getaway destination had already been appreciated, as early as 1894.

"Paying a casual visit to the pretty little village of Mandurah," one correspondent wrote in the *Western Mail*, "I could not help being struck with the natural advantages it possesses as a watering place and yachting station".

Warwick House was founded in 1900 amid better-known lodgings - the Brighton Hotel (1895) and the Peninsula Hotel (1903) among them.

Sarah Jane Warwick took a half-acre lease on the Mandurah foreshore, putting up a bathing shed so that paying customers could properly guard their modesty.

Refurbishments to the lodging house took place in 1911. "Mrs Warwick's boarding house is to have the addition of a spacious dining-room, which is now nearing completion," sang the *South Western Advertiser*. "[She] says the odour emanating from the artistic display on the woodwork will have ceased to make its presence disagreeably felt by the time the visitors arrive at that domiciliary edifice."

The "domiciliary edifice" was also the site of much community life. Under the Warwicks, there were fundraising "teas" and meetings of the ladies of the Mandurah Branch of the Red Cross and visits from motoring and racing clubs. The house also played host, in 1921, to consultations with a visiting dentist. The Warwicks, including their daughter Dollie, were evidently such well-known community spirits that the *Sunday Times* saw fit in 1920 to note the first time they had taken leave from the property.

"After nineteen years without a vacation. Host Warwick, of Warwick House, Mandurah, accompanied by Mrs Warwick and daughter, recently returned from wandering through the Eastern States. 'And there's no place like home,' they say."

Dollie's 21st birthday celebration brought out many of Mandurah's best-known families.

"Mr and Mrs W. Warwick, of 'Warwick House,' Mandurah, entertained a very large number of friends at a delightful dance in the Mandurah Hall on Friday, October 29, [1921] ...

"The hall was beautifully decorated by [Dollie's] girlfriends with roses and ferns, the lovely flowers being, gifts from the Misses McLarty, of Blythewood, and Mrs Donald Paterson, Pinjarra. Among the visitors were, the Hon. W. J. George and Mrs George, who motored from Perth through the new Mandurah Rockingham road.

"The place of honor was given to the beautiful three tier cake, surrounded by 21 coloured wax candles which were lit by Mr and Mrs Warwick just before Dollie cut the cake ...

"Dancing was kept merrily swinging to the music supplied by Mesdames Dalrymple and Lawrence, the Misses Tuckey and Butcher, and Mr Jim. Dalrymple, the dance being kept going until the, 'we sma hoors', everyone having thoroughly enjoyed the evening. "The delicious supper was in the hands of Mesdames Jas. Cooper, J. Eacott, W Roberts, Miss Sutton and Mr Roberts, who looked after the guests well ...

"The cake was made Miss Lilly Sutton, of Mandurah. Mr. Dalrymple, headmaster of the Mandurah School, made a short speech of congratulation and then called upon Mr. George to propose the health of the young lady and her parents ...

"Mr and Mrs Warwick for many years and had always found them the same kindly, hospitable people, greatly esteemed and respected by all with whom they came in contact," Mr George is reported to have said.

William Warwick's death on 5 Oct 1922 was evidently an occasion of much grief for the township.

"An old and extremely popular identity of Mandurah had passed away, after a short illness, following a lengthy attack of diabetes, at the Pinjarra Public Hospital, on Thursday, October 5.

"The deceased, who had reached the fine old age of 80 years, was born at Bristol, England, on January 12, 1842. After being in the service of the Midland Railway Company (Eng.) in his young days, he migrated to New Zealand, and afterwards to New South Wales, where he settled for some time. It was in the latter State that he married S. J. Matthews, daughter of the late Mr A. Matthews, of "Berkshire House," Brisbane-street, Sydney.

"Arriving in this State, he settled at Waroona, where he resided for some years, being one of the pioneers of Waroona, where he built the Drakesbrook Hotel. From there he went to Mandurah, where he established the well-known "Warwick House," over 20 years ago. By his genial and ever courteous manner, and kindly disposition, the late Mr Warwick was endeared to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and especially among his intimate friends will he be missed. He leaves a widow (Mrs S. Warwick), son (Mr W. A. Warwick, of Mount Lawley), and daughter (Mrs C. D. Kay, Brighton Hotel, Mandurah).

Their successors, Captain William and Ada Hannaford, were similarly well regarded.

"Captain and Mrs. Hannaford owned and conducted the Warwick Hostel here and during that time both earned the respect of the whole community," the *South Western Advertiser* noted upon Ada's death in 1942.

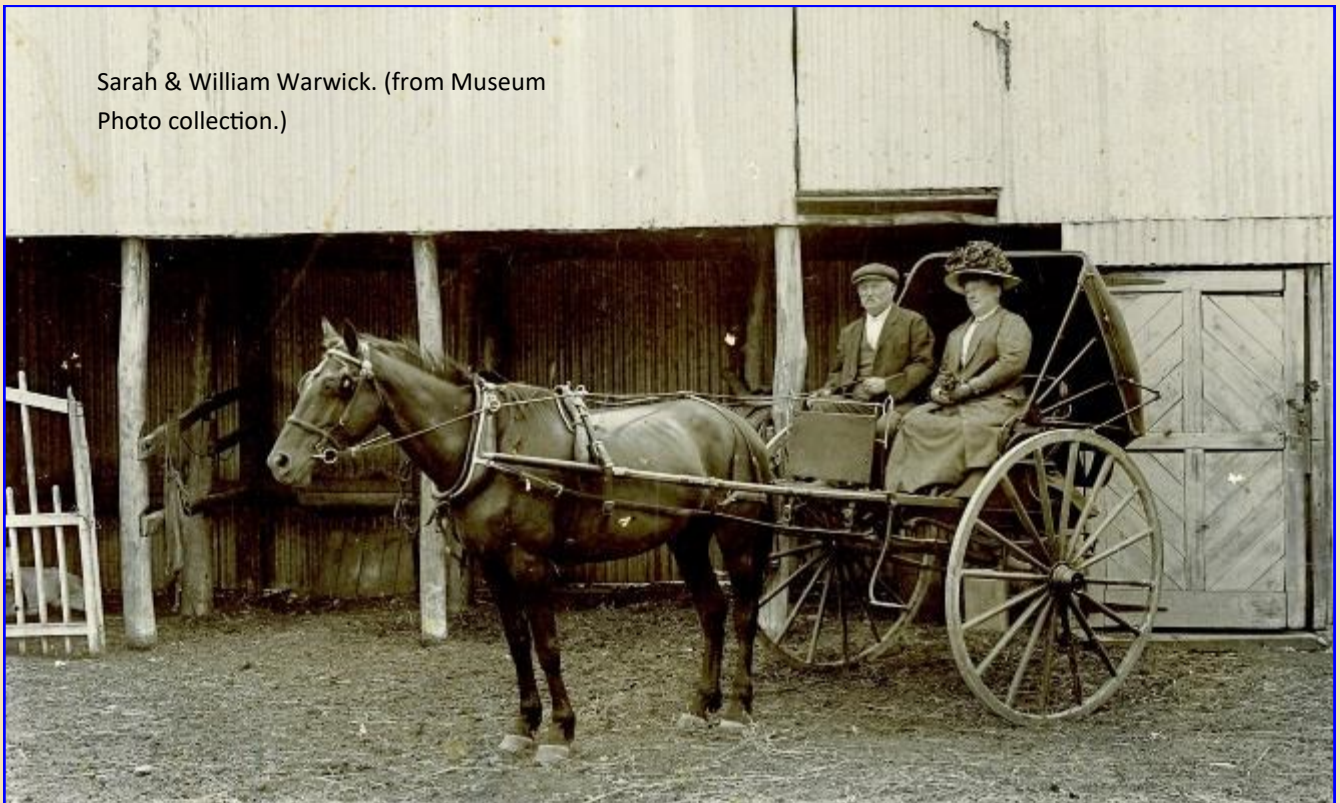
"Mrs. Hannaford was of a bright, happy disposition, and though it was not done ostentatiously, she and her husband did very many deeds of kindness during the years they spent here."

But perhaps the final word might be left to a young guest, signifying what the late house - and others like it - made possible for several generations of holiday makers.

Betty Vivian "of 51 Second Avenue, Mt Lawley", wrote to regular children's columnist "Auntie Nell" about her time at the house (published in *The Daily News*, 28 Jan 1928).

"For my holidays I went to Mandurah, and had a good time. "I had ever so many swims. As there were some girls about my age I had someone to play with. We were boarding at Warwick Hostel, and at the back was a huge mulberry tree with big mulberries that made your mouth water. One day we went for a picnic up the river Murray, and we had such a lovely day. Altogether we had the best day in the holiday (at least I did) Our school holidays will soon be over, and I will be glad when school starts again, although I am having a good holiday."

Sarah & William Warwick. (from Museum Photo collection.)



Education Matters.

The July School Holidays are rapidly approaching. The Mandurah Museum have two activities available.

Make a Wooden Peg Doll

Wooden dolly peg dolls are one of the most popular traditional homemade toys, going back to Victorian times in Britain. They are still loved by many and made in the same way today. Come to Mandurah Museum to participate in a traditional craft activity.

This activity will involve the skills of cutting, wrapping, glueing and drawing as you use fabric, wool and other materials to create your doll.

The possibilities are endless, use your imagination to make your favourite superhero, book, movie or real-life character.

When you've finished the activity, you can take your doll home to play with.

This activity is suitable for children aged 5-12, however it involves fine motor skills so younger children will require assistance from an adult to make their doll.

Dates:

2, 3 & 4 July 2024
9, 10 & 11 July 2024

Time: 10am-11am

Bookings are essential through Eventbrite. An adult must accompany children, however; adults do not require a ticket to attend.



Superhero Quiz

Explore the Mandurah Museum's collection as you search for miniature superheroes throughout the galleries. Look high and low for some well-known superheroes, including Superman, Wonder Woman and Batman.

Read the clues to find the hidden superheroes and decode the message. When you have finished the quiz, fill in your details to go into the draw to win a prize.

The lucky winner will receive a LEGO Superheroes Marvel set. *

This is a self-guided activity, suitable for ages 5-12. Some assistance from parents may be required.

Call in anytime during opening hours at Mandurah Museum throughout the school holidays.

*Note: The winner will be selected at random from those who have entered the competition. The winner will be drawn at 11am on Tuesday 16, July and notified by phone on that day.



Editor and Chair Report.. You will find in this newsletter information relating to our recent Volunteer function. Unfortunately I was unwell on that occasion and unable to attend. Over recent years we have enjoyed functions to celebrate volunteers in various areas, and I was sad to have missed it.

I also had to miss our recent meeting of the committee due to the same illness. Although we didn't have a quorum, Christine our Treasurer ran the meeting and we were happy to have our new patron Adam Bassett-Scarfe present. Due to the limited number of committee present, the meeting was run as an informal event and we were able to discuss many things relating to our function as Friends and also several upcoming museum events.

Following the recent archeological dig, we hope to be able to bring to the Friends, a talk about some of the artefacts found. More news on that will be circulated shortly.

Jan Baker.

Celebrating Volunteer Week.

Volunteer Luncheon.

To show our Museum Volunteers that they are valued and irreplaceable we went out for lunch on Monday 6, May during National Volunteer Week.

15 of our Museum Volunteers joined Nic and I at Murphy's Irish Pub where we enjoyed a lovely meal. To my surprise the Lamb's Fry and Bacon was a popular choice from the menu and was immensely enjoyed by those that ordered it.

Unfortunately, Jan Baker and Di McIntosh couldn't attend and sent their apologies for their absence. Phyl Hardy sent photos of her travels from Rhodes and Athens and said she was thinking of us.

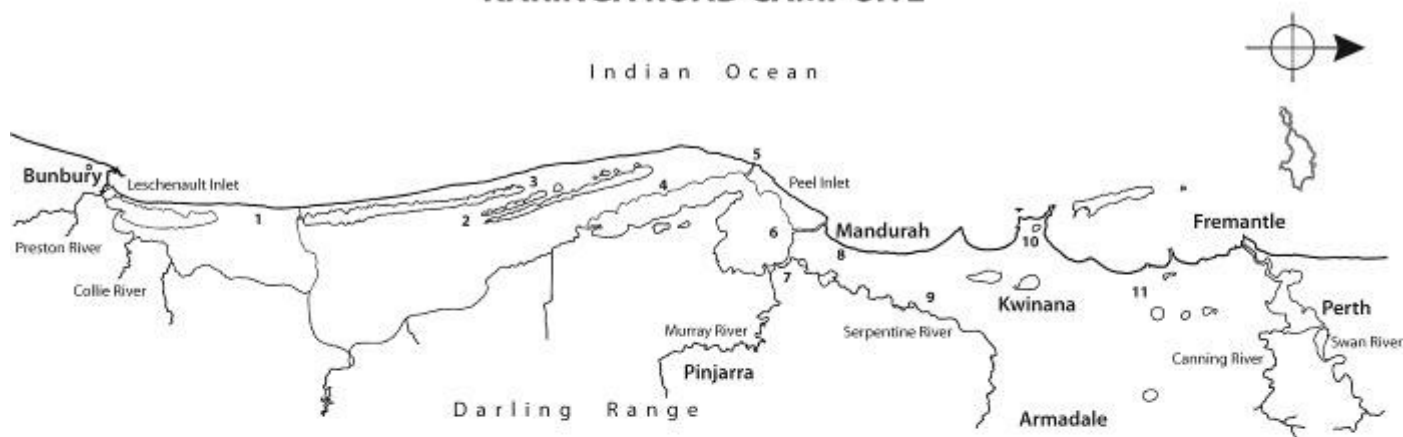
Nic and I appreciate your involvement and contributions to our Museum. Your time, skills and expertise assist us to deliver programs and activities to the community.



Nicholas Reynolds and Katrina Gauci



KARINGA ROAD CAMP SITE



KARINGA ROAD CAMP

By Joseph Walley - Aboriginal Custodian Peel Region

Karinga Road camp was part of a network of seasonal Aboriginal camps along the Swan Coastal Plain from Bunbury to Fremantle. Aboriginals travelled long distances on foot to hunt and gather food, attend special ceremonies, funerals and family gatherings. During the historic period the camps were also used for short stays for seasonal work.

Each camping area was chosen seasonally according to the food and water resources available. The Karinga Road Camp was used during the summer months to eat the abundant QUONDONGS *Santalum acuminatum*, WILD CARROTS *Daucus glochidiatus*, and DAIRY MAIDS *Burchardia umbellata*, that once grew in the area. A remnant patch of quondong bushes are being preserved by the Madora Partnership in the coastal regional reserve of the Madora Bay Development. During the historic period the old water soak was made into a limestone well that was used by farmers to water their stock, but the Aboriginals had used the soak as a main water source for many millennia.

MAP KEY

Present on the map is a series of Aboriginal camping areas used traditionally and historically by the local Aboriginals. The camps are numbered from 1 to 10 and denote seasonal stopovers when travelling north from Bunbury.

1. Turtle Swamp - so called for its abundance of turtles - was used in the spring season.
2. Lake Preston East - known for its fishtraps.
3. Lake Preston West - Camping area.
4. Morfitt's Cave near the estuary camp on the west side of Old Coast Road.
5. Before Dawesville Cut - fresh swamp on the west side of Old Coast Road.
6. Sand bank crossing - Mandurah Estuary is a sand bar built estuary.
7. Barragup Bridge fish trap - this was a major regional meeting place where large ceremonies, fishing and trade took place.
8. Karinga Road Camp - Adams Windmill.
9. Peel Estate Camping area and Turtle Swamp in Golden Bay. Paganoni and Anstey Swamps were also used for camping and hunting.
10. Lake Richmond, Rockingham used for camping, fishing and good fresh water.
11. Ten Mile well south Coogee camp - good water and food from the swamp.

From this point some travelled into Perth via a crossing on the Canning River.

Re-Dedication of the Karinga Road Campsite and Old Well

This site is located in Harry Perry Park right next to Mandurah Road in Madora bay. Along with being a beautiful piece of natural bushland it's also the location of a former stock well and overnight camping ground set up along the coast road in the 19th century for people driving livestock. The most famous of these wells was the 10 Mile Well in what is today know as Wattleup. The well was placed on a spring which had been used for thousands of years by Aboriginal people, and they continued to use the site for camping and collecting water after European settlement. On the 30th of May a new plaque celebrating the Indigenous and European history of the spring and well site was unveiled by the Mayor and Bindjareb Elder George Walley. The original plaque dating to the opening of the park had been vandalized so the opportunity was taken to update the information and produce a new plaque in high quality stainless steel. Prior to the unveiling a talk was given by George which was followed up by our own Museum Development Officer Nicholas Reynolds giving a presentation on the James Service wreck and its relationship to the campsite area. The first person to raise the alarm on the morning after the wreck was an Indigenous stockman who was working in the area of the camp. He immediately rode in to the Mandurah police barracks and informed Constable Holmes of the disaster. After the ceremony an afternoon tea was enjoyed by all participants.



Right: The original Karinga Road Camp Site plaque. The information from Elder Joe Walley (RIP) was used in the new replacement plaque

Western Foreshore Leisure Precinct & Commercial Site Business Plan

Mandurah's Western Foreshore has a long history of recreation and leisure, and has provided enjoyment for generations of locals and visitors. Council is now advertising plans that would make the Western Foreshore a family-focused, inclusive and accessible place for all our community, and we're inviting your feedback.

Google Mandurah Matters and all the City projects will appear, where you can take a survey to have your say.



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Departing Volunteers.

From time to time volunteers move on to other things, most people who volunteer for this museum do so for quite long periods of time. Some have done so for more than twenty years.

One longer serving volunteer who has left us this year has been very important to both the museum and to the Friends. Eleanor Kay, who first came to us to do oral histories in 2007 the year we conducted the special project regarding both the borehole and the tragedy of the Nun's drowning. Since that time she has recorded many Oral Histories which are valuable to the knowledge of Mandurah. Eleanor for many years also was routinely on roster monthly on Sundays.



An original member of the Friends, she has served on the committee, as both Vice and Chairperson. Lastly, Eleanor set up our Museum Friends Facebook page and has managed that for quite a few years.

Another volunteer for some time provided hours here twice a week, Dorothy Olsen came to us with some museum volunteering experience. Dorothy also researched and wrote the book *The Castle King*, which detailed the building and maintaining of the Castle Fun Park by George Kaspar.

Debra Armstrong has also left us, like Eleanor and occasionally Dorothy, she was mainly a weekend volunteer. With the closing of the museum on weekends, she then assisted on Fridays. Debra has been heavily involved in researching several of the original families of Mandurah.

While the museum is always sorry to lose volunteers, we do hope they will occasionally visit us and that they enjoy their future activities. **Jan Baker.**

**Mandurah 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

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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.