

Friends of

Mandurah Museum

BUILDING BRIDGES TO PEEL HISTORY

3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210

Friends of Mandurah Museum

Newsletter October 2023.

Krakatoa - 140 years later.

One of the most important geological occurrences to happen near Western Australia, was the explosions and subsequent tidal waves which occurred when the volcano called Krakatoa blew up in 1883. This event occurred over four months in 1883. The first grumblings were felt as early as May 16th, with a significant eruption of lava and ashes in June.

Following that eruption and blowing up of the mountain, sea rushed in cooling the lava and forming a plug.

The plug which formed allowed the pressure to build up, and eventually 140 years ago on August 25th, the whole island exploded. This later explosion, said to be greater than 3,000 Hiroshima size atom bombs, appeared to be an explosion which caused some 16 volcanoes to be born, possibly 40,000 deaths immediately, and impacted many more people over coming months and possibly years all around the world. The Tidal wave (Tsunami) covered thousands of sea miles impacting other islands of Indonesia as well as most of the area further away.

The devastation to the islands around Java and in the Sunda Straits was enormous, with death of livestock, and land which was covered with sea. The effect on fishing and other sea-based industries was felt for years after, while the Sunda Straits, never an easily navigable area was changed forever.

People around the world witnessed the effect of ashes on the skies, and weather with some farm-based activities severely impacted. Ash, debris, tidal changes and rumbling continued until October 1883. **Cont. page 4.**



From the Editor. This month we are featuring the anniversary of the explosion of Krakatoa. The story of this fascinated me as a child, and I have read several books written about it. I currently am reading "Krakatoa, The Day the World Exploded" by Simon Winchester. I was interested to find out what effects had been documented around Mandurah or Western Australia at the time. We hope you will find the result of delving deep into Trove to find out newspaper comments of the time as interesting as we have.

On another note, we feature our school holiday activities, it seems as if we no sooner finish those than the next are due, please keep an ear out for the summer ones which we will bring you in the next newsletter.

Once again we had had a visit from a young man who was part of the school acting in our classroom video, it is wonderful to receive these visits and I look forward to being there when the first actor brings his children along to see it. **Jan Baker.**

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Sept - Community Collectables.

Friends reminder of A.G.M.

From the Editor, and from the Chair.

Museum Development Officer.

While filming an episode of the Museum's Life in the Past Lane videos for Facebook earlier in the month I was able to take a look at two sites which in the past were home to some of the most significant early European buildings in Mandurah. The first was the former site of Thomas Peel's Mandurah House on the corner of Mandurah Terrace and Stewart Street. This block has been vacant for several years now after the demolition of the Tai Wah Chinese restaurant which occupied the site for many years. It's interesting to

note in the photograph to the right on this page that when the restaurant was built remains of Mandurah House (or one of the outbuildings on Peel's block) were exposed. The fact that this now vacant block is the most significant site in Mandurah's European history is something that we should all keep in our minds.



The other site is closely associated with Peel's lot and lies only one block away on the corner of Stewart Street and Mandurah Terrace. The house currently on the block (see below) dates from the 1970s and is now in the process of demolition.



The site was originally owned by the Eacott family, and along with Peel's house and the Tuckey family's block close by, formed the original 'Village' of Mandurah based here at the north end of town. This block was recorded as having a hut belonging to one of the soldiers sent to guard Peel's settlement in the 1830s. Archaeological remains associated with it were found in the 20th century and a newspaper article shows that the owner of the 1970s house currently under demolition memorialised this fact on a plaque which he had placed at the front of the property. I wasn't able to find the plaque when I visited the site earlier in the month but the brickwork where it was mounted could be seen. Please see the photo over on page three of the remains.

September/October Holidays 2023

Boats

Katrina Gauci (Museum Education Officer)

Build your own Wooden Paddle Boat

Children visited the Mandurah Museum to build and decorate their own wooden boat during the Spring school holidays.

This activity was suitable for 5-11 years. A workshop was held each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10am in both weeks of the holidays. The workshop was free and tickets were available through Eventbrite.

I was happy with the number of children who attended. 75 children made a boat, attended by 44 adults who assisted.

It was disappointing that several families who had booked did not attend, however we had a few families arrive on the day that filled the vacancies.

The feedback from participants was very positive, they were all happy with the boat they had created. Every boat had unique colours, designs and names. The children learned how to attach and wind up the rubber band and tested boats on the water to see how they float and move.

A warm thank you to the Mandurah Men's Shed for making the wooden boat parts for the children to construct.

Search for Miniature Boats

The search for hidden watercraft was a self-guided activity that was suitable for 5-12 years. Some assistance from parents was required with young children. This activity involved going through each gallery at the museum, finding a hidden boat and writing the letter next to it on the puzzle sheet. The letters in the boxes created a sentence. Once this was complete, children filled in their contact details to go into the draw to win a Lego set.

This free activity was available to do at any time during museum opening hours.

130 searches for miniature boats were completed over the two weeks of the Spring school holidays.

A big thank you to Museum Volunteer, Linda Jackson for assisting in installing the activity.

Comments written by adults:

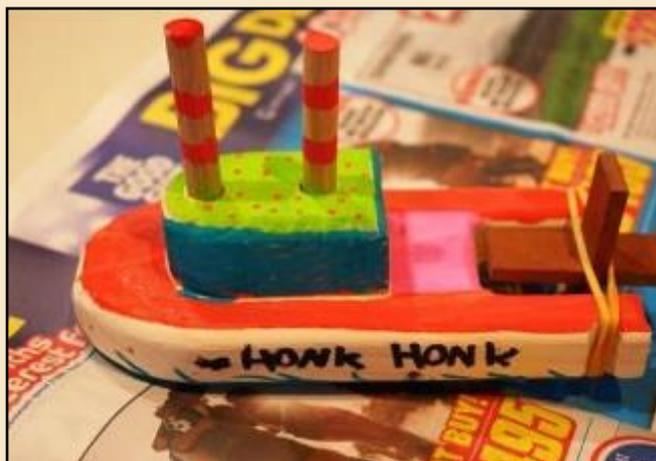
"Thank you so much for a well organised and fun activity. Our kids of 3 & 6 years old loved the experience."

Loved it, Great job!

Katrina was amazing. Thank you, Katrina for the awesome event.

More advertisements would be great for all activities. Facebook, radio, signs etc.

Found it hard to find on the internet.



October - Curious Community Collectibles

National Stamp Collecting Month - Australian Stamps

Did you know that stamp collecting is one of the most popular hobbies in Australia, and that October is National Stamp Collecting Month?

Stamp collecting, also known as philately, is a rewarding and educational hobby enjoyed by people of all ages. It involves collecting, preserving, and studying postage stamps and related materials. This hobby goes beyond mere collecting; it often involves research, historical exploration, and an appreciation for the cultural and artistic aspects of stamps.

The display showcases the Stamp Collections for the years 1981 (the first edition), 1988 (Australia's Bicentennial), and 2000 (turn of the Century).

Australia Post produces an illustrated album of the annual stamps released each year.

First published in 1981, the **Annual Collection of Australian Stamps** showcases all stamps released in each calendar year. Each full colour and bound collection feature a mint condition stamp and a full-page colour layout together with background information relating to each stamp.

Come in and browse this wonderful collection.

Where: Falcon Library and Community Centre

When: 4 October- 6 November 2023 during Library opening times.



November - Curious Community Collectibles

Shaving Kits and Moustache Cups

Providing a glimpse into a bygone era and highlighting the artistry and craftsmanship of personal grooming and dining etiquette, this display of shaving kits and moustache cups were everyday items used at home or at barbershops between 1880 and 1920.

It was common during this time to use moustache wax to keep a moustache stiff with every hair in place. When drinking a cup of hot tea, steam from the drink would melt the wax which would drip into the cup and the tea would stain the moustache. Moustache cups were popular unique cups in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, designed to accommodate a gentleman's moustache while drinking.

The barbershop shave will never go out of style with some barbers today still providing the classic shave with the straight razor, including hot towel and soothing shave cream.

On display is a collection of shaving accessories including shaving mugs and scuttles.

Where: Falcon Library and Community Centre

When: 8 November- 4 December 2023 during Library opening times.



Old location of plaque, former soldier's quarters, Mandurah terrace.

Krakatoa 140th Anniversary.

When preparing this article, we wanted to concentrate on the effects within Western Australia and especially Mandurah which may have been recorded. While Mandurah doesn't feature a lot, the remainder of the state had many articles relating to the effects.

Within this newsletter, we include those which might reflect some things which would have been felt in Mandurah.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 31 August 1883, page 2

We received the following telegram from Geraldton yesterday. "Strange rumbling sounds were heard here and at Tibbradden and elsewhere on Monday morning early, and a most unusual rise of tide took place on Monday evening at eight o'clock, and again at half eight. The sea receded over a hundred yards, enabling people to pick up fish in quantities. The draw-back was of short duration. The sea returned with a great rushing noise, and those who were fish gathering had to run quickly for their lives. Boats that were high and dry on the beach were washed out and swamped. The *Rob Roy* and the lighters at anchor were twisted right round. The sea rose about eight feet. In a short time all was quiet again, except that the ocean continued rising and falling until next morning.

Herald (Fremantle, WA : 1867 - 1886), Saturday 1 September 1883, page 1

THERE was an extraordinary subsidence of the tide at Fremantle on Monday afternoon. It fell between two and three feet and rose again, and again subsided and rose, there has been a slight tidal wave, which we believe has extended, as far as is at present known from Geraldton to the Vasse. At the former place the tide rose quite 8 feet above its usual level.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 7 September 1883, page 3

Appalling losses of life and property have resulted from the earthquakes and tidal waves which have visited the Straits of Sunda and the coasts to Java and Sumatra, as well as many islands lying between them. Whole villages have been devastated or swept away, involving the loss of many thousands of lives. Volcanoes in the neighbourhood are still in a state of tremendous activity; while upheavals and the sinking of land all along the Straits have entirely altered the contour of the whole place. Sixteen new volcanoes are known to have broken into a state of eruption in various parts.

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Herald (Fremantle, WA : 1867 - 1886), Saturday 22 September 1883, page 3

DISTRICT NEWS. VASSE, September 15th. It may interest your readers to hear something of the manner in which the great tidal wave affected this coast on Monday, August 27th. At Quindalup beach station the tide rose and fell very rapidly. A lighter laden with timber was left dry by the water receding; this caused it to list on one side, causing the timber to shift, and the water rising again so rapidly before anything could be done, she filled rapidly and sank. The men on the beach who witnessed this state that as the sea receded scores of fish were left lying on the ground. On the day previous to this occurrence (Sunday) a report resembling the discharge of a cannon was heard a considerable distance back in the bush, and a severe storm passed inland levelling trees in all directions; it also carried away a portion of the hand railing at the Vasse jetty. At the Lower Blackwood it was equally rough weather, and at Mr. T. Brennan's homestead a tree fell crushing beneath it two calves.



Distance from Perth to Krakatoa, 3070 km,
Due North West.



Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1955), Monday 10 September 1883, page 3

According to the Albany Mail it would appear that the tidal disturbances which were recently observed at Fremantle and Geraldton extended to the South coast of the Colony. Our contemporary of Wednesday last says : — " An extraordinary tidal phenomenon occurred in King George's Sound on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 27th, 28th and 29th ult. As the R.M.S. " *Rosetta*" was steaming out of the harbor on Monday afternoon a great rush of tide like a tidal bore came in and the vessel had to put on full speed to meet it, and on the following day two great rushes inward and then a tremendous rush outward. All the buoys disappeared under water and then rose to the surface and took moorings and everything out into the Sound. On Wednesday, when the Harbor Master was coming in with the steamer " *Coniston*," at 8 p.m., the force of the tide outwards was running at such a rate the vessel could hardly make headway going full speed. Such a tide was never known by one of the oldest nautical inhabitants of the port, and was strange considering the slight rise and fall of the tide in this harbor, only three feet. There must have been a succession of tidal waves, or several shocks of submarine earthquake. It will be seen from our telegraphic columns that tidal disturbances have occurred on the coast of New South Wales, Java and the Straits Settlements and slightly at Fremantle, and an earthquake has been reported from the centre of South Australia. The tidal wave reported by Captain Butcher in King George's Sound last week was most probably a part of the subterranean commotion which has been experienced in portions of Australasia."

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 18 September 1883, page 3

AMONGST other effects of the late tidal wave was, we hear, an unfortunate accident by means of which ten valuable rams, lately imported, lost their lives. These stud sheep were being landed from the **Laughing Wave* at the mouth of the Ashburton, when, suddenly, while the boat was between the vessel and the shore, the tidal wave rolled in, swamped it, and drowned the number of rams we have mentioned.

Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA: 1855 - 1901), Wednesday 19 September 1883, page 5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

An anonymous correspondent writes :— ' In The Inquirer of last Wednesday we are informed that a whale has been cast ashore at Mandurah, and the event is attributed to the agency of the tidal wave. It may interest some of your readers to know that formerly whales were frequently cast ashore there; between 1835 to 1840 there were three lying on the beach at once. They furnished a huge amount of oil and whalebone, the natives eating the blubber with great relish. There are many persons now living who must remember this to have been the case. About that time live whales came pursued by whalers so close to land that we could from the shore at Mandurah see the colour of the water they spouted, which was tinged with blood from the wounds caused by the harpoons of the whalers.'

Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1955), Thursday 20 September 1883, page 3

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE.

Further particulars with reference to the late earth tremors have reached us from Northampton. The overland telegraph constructing party, in charge of Mr. C. D. Price, were, at the time of the shock, camped near the Lower Murchison, and about noon of the Monday (the time it was felt in most parts of this Colony) several loud noises and movements of the earth were experienced by several members of the camp. In the evening the noises were even, more noticeable, and about midnight the tents were shaken with considerable force for some seconds, quite sufficient to arouse the entire camp. About the same day, we understand, the officers of *H.M.S Meda* which was then about one hundred and fifty miles south of the North-West Cape, experienced a dense cloud of dust, which, resembled in appearance Fuller's earth, being so adherent in substance as to remain thick and clotted on the clothing worn by Commander Coghlan and his officers at the time. As the wind was then blowing off the land it is within the range of probability that the dust referred to was the result of some volcanic eruption which, has possibly occurred within our own Colony. We await with much interest the arrival at Shark's Bay of Messrs. J. & W. Bate-man's camel expedition from the Peake Station, the leader of which will probably be in a position to give some additional particulars of these peculiar disturbances.

Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), Wednesday 10 October 1883, page 5

A number of porpoises and other large fish, supposed to have been killed by the recent tidal disturbances, continue to be washed up on the beach daily, between Fremantle and the Murray.



Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), Wednesday 10 October 1883, page 5

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A few extra items and information relevant to local knowledge.

On July 2nd 1883, John Tuckey left Mandurah and went pearling near Cossack on the *Surprise*, not sure whether they mentioned anything about tides etc.

Volcanic wind came 1000 miles in three days with brown dust on it. Found on the rigging of the *Ferret*.
Wednesday 19th September 1883 – Victorian Express Geraldton.

2nd October 1883. Tidal wave felt in New Guinea.

The *Laughing Wave* (from near Cossack) and ship *Siam*, (from King George Sound to Colombo) sighted a floating mass of what was believed to be pumice stone.

There were several sightings of the floating island of lava, or pumice mentioned by the *Laughing Wave*. This vessel was built in Western Australia, owned at this time by John Bateman. The vessel appeared to sail from Broome around to possibly Esperance or certainly Albany. *Laughing Wave* eventually sinks in Koombana Bay alongside the jetty at Bunbury in 1901.

In October, comments coming from as far north as Cossack refer to unseasonably cool weather. There is also a significant flu affecting both the Caucasian and the Indigenous population which is mentioned during this time.

A VISIT TO JAVA.

The following is an extract from a letter from the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods, who was reported to have perished during the recent earthquakes at Krakatoa, appearing in the South Australian Advertiser of December 8. It is dated from Singapore: — 'You see by this that I have come to the end of one stage in my journey. I arrived here a few days ago, but have been travelling about three months. I spent five weeks in Java, traversing it from east to west, and making two journeys from north to south about the middle of the Island. It is the most beautiful and interesting country that can be imagined, whether with regard to its antiquities, its people, or its natural history. Just now it is in rather a lively state in consequence of the activity of its volcanoes. There are no less than twelve burning. One I ascended to the edge of the crater, aided by a steady favorable wind, which blew the smoke and ashes away. Two others I went as near to as I dared. They are quite sublime and all that, but I have had quite enough of volcano investigations. If no other less dangerous and unpleasant line of scientific enquiry were to be had I think I should retire into private life. I was happily out of the reach of the terrible disaster at Krakatoa, but I felt the shocks and saw the ashes four hundred miles away. As I crossed the mouth of the Strait of Sunda the waves were still covered with corpses. I had an introduction to the Governor-General of the Netherlands-Indies from Sir F. Weld, and he gave me much information. He told me that no returns even yet give approximately the number of deaths — which as known so far are over 30,000. In one place three hundred feet of ashes covered one village.

Julian Edmund Tenison-Woods^[a] (15 November 1832 – 7 October 1889), commonly referred to as Father Woods, was an English Catholic priest and geologist who served in Australia. With Mary MacKillop, he co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart at Penola in 1866.

An Organisation you might wish to support. Several of our volunteers have been involved for some years with the **Mature Adult Learning Association, Peel Chapter**. Some years ago, at the request of some members they decided to run a one-week Summer School, the first year of running this was such a success that it has continued and is now the sixth year of Summer School approaches.

Held in the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, the school consists of 5 days of lectures. A morning lecture and an afternoon lecture with sufficient time over lunch to either eat at one of the nearby restaurants/ cafes, or return home for lunch. You could also bring a boxed lunch to eat in the fresh air or the foyer of the Centre. Tea and coffee is made available throughout the sessions.

The speakers have been very diverse, ranging from Forensic Science, Medical History to Environmental issues, or you could choose from History of the Local Area, Indigenous History, Literature, Music or Politics. They aim to find an interest for everyone, and it doesn't matter if you don't think you are interested, the speaker is always excellent and there is much to learn.

We hope you will forgive us for emailing you the 2024 Summer School Program for you to see just what they have in store for us next year, and if you are interested that you contact the MPAC to make a booking.



**NOMINATION FOR ELECTION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
9th November 2023.**

Nominations are invited for the election of Vice-Chairperson and Secretary and Committee members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 9th November 2023**. This nomination form must be in the hands of the Secretary by **Tuesday 31st October, 2023**.

Positions for election or re-election, Vice – Chairperson, Secretary & 3 x committee members.

NOMINATION DETAILS

The Chairperson
Friends of Mandurah Community Museum.
2 Pinjarra Rd,
MANDURAH. WA. 6210

Dear Madam

I am a **full and financial** member of the Friends, and wish to nominate for election to the office of

.....
At the forthcoming Annual General Meeting

Nominees signature.....Date...../...../2023

My nomination is proposed by

.....
Proposer's signature.....Date...../...../2023

And seconded by

Seconders' signature.....Date...../...../2023

Speaking from the Chair. October is the last month before we again have our Annual General Meeting, can I encourage everyone who is able to attend. Also can I please ask for volunteers for the various Executive roles plus for Committee members we do need your interest and assistance. To the left you will find a nomination form.

Also, a reminder that you will need to be a Financial Member to be able to take a committee position or to vote in the election. Fees of \$10 per family remain the same as when we first started back in 2007. We have come a long way since then and achieved much in a quiet way, the organisation is important to the Mandurah Museum, and has provided both support and money to assist in the endeavours of our long serving Museum Development Officer, Nicholas Reynolds, ably assisted by Kat Gauci who has been with us for quite a long period also. At our next meeting we hope to be able to vote in our new Patron. Adam Bassett-Scarffe has made himself to assist us with this role. Adam is a long-time resident of Mandurah and is invested in the museum and the endeavours of the Friends. Many Mandurah residents will know his father Ian, and the business they are both involved with.

The thoughtful renovation of the Brighton Hotel to their business premises has been done with great care to the historical accuracy of the building's façade and was done some years back. It is an important landmark on the Mandurah Terrace which we can be proud of.

**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

**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.