



Friends of Mandurah Museum *Newsletter August 2023.*

Museum Conference continued...

There were many other highlights from the presentations at the Australian Museums and Galleries Association national conference held in Newcastle in May. I've summarised the key points of many of them below.

Spark Kids, Inga Hanover, Wangaratta Art Gallery. The Wangaratta gallery is a small regional art gallery with a 450 item collection funded by Council. This was an 8-month project to facilitate higher order thinking in students through art via recycled/found materials. It had an environment focus following a bushfire disaster and a \$35,000 budget. An exhibition was the result. Covid impacted this badly. Some schools pulled out due to overwork/stress. The wind powered art interactive component of the display was unfortunately unable to be used because of OSH issues.

Immersive experiences: Designing for impact. Learnings from visitor research on Tyama at Melbourne Museum by Miriam Capper, Museums Victoria. Visitors took on roles as animals in an Indigenous immersive world. Effectively this is played like a game. Actions like a clap effect the environment. Immersive worlds now take in billions of dollars worldwide, i.e., escape rooms. Millennials and Gen Z often want to pay for experiences rather than physical things. The project required a large number of internal and external staff and opened in July 2022. The project had a 5-million-dollar budget. 244% of forecasted demand occurred over the total exhibition period. The exhibition opened later at night to cope. Social media was the most effective marketing platform, 34% of visitors engaged through this. Some people didn't understand it was an interactive exhibit and that there were things to explore.

From the Editor. We bring you the newsletter just a little late and I do apologise for the delay. This has been a quieter period of time for me. I have been off finally having a trip on *The Ghan* from Darwin to Adelaide. First booked in 2019 for the next year, our trip was impacted by Covid. Cancelled and rebooked for 2021 only to be again cancelled with just one week to go, this also due to further Covid and border closures. With 2022 booked out by that time so we have had to wait until this year.

In this issue of the newsletter, Nicholas concludes his report on the recent conference he attended.

The museum mounted another NAIDOC week exhibition which was again successful. We now have also concluded our Indonesian Exhibition, *Across the Borders, From Indonesia to Mandurah*. This has been very successful and popular with stunning clothing and colours on display.

We hope you enjoy this issue. **Jan Baker.**

Index	
History Conference cont.	Nick Reynolds.
Exhibition	Crossing the Borders.
Regular Features.	
M.D.O report	Nick Reynolds.
Education report	Kat Gauci.
Exhibitions report	Kat Gauci.
From the Editor/ Chair	Jan Baker.

Conference continued

Miss Porter's House Museum, a 1909 house museum with original family contents from 1909-1990s, outlined their role and collection in an enjoyable presentation. It is the only National Trust property in Newcastle. It's a standalone terrace house with a store below. It was left by the last surviving daughter of the family to the National Trust, along with all documentation and receipts for the contents. Some renovations occurred during the Art Deco period and after damage in the 1989 Newcastle earthquake but other than that it is as it was when built in 1909. Online QR codes are used on object labels to allow for deeper information to be provided along with links to oral history audio clips. There are 5,000 household items in the collection, and the house and its stories have UNESCO memory of the world listing with the United Nations. There is currently a grant-based heritage assessment being done of the house to secure further funding for remediation works.

Another presentation was titled "The artist, the archaeologist, & the great cover up: the story of the Burnett River Petroglyphs", given by Rebecca McDuff of the Bundaberg Regional Galleries, and Dylan Sarra, an Indigenous artist. The subject was a large series of Indigenous petroglyphs which were removed in the 1970s from a riverbed before it was dammed by the Bjelke-Petersen government in Queensland. An archaeologist was able to remove or record a small proportion of these. A major part of the project has been finding the remaining rock pieces which were, surprisingly, scattered around the state including at different Water Authority depots. The result will be an art exhibition inspired by the works. However, there are big community divisions over 'ownership' of the rock's story and who can speak for them.

I was interested in this following presentation as it had similarities to our courtroom gallery interactive game. The title was "Building creative partnerships through co-design", by Susan Bye of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image. The activity was game based learning for children who may be disengaged with other forms of learning. Writing and character design for a game can make bullies consider the feelings of others and then take that learning into the real world when dealing with their peers. Teachers were engaged by this concept where they were less so in previous attempts at projects like this. This process was making a game with students lead by teachers over a 7-week program. This was developed by building relationships with teachers. A learning was that seven weeks is a bit too long for a program like this. However, the project has now shown teachers how computer screens can be used for learning, and this has increased the number of school groups coming through ACMI. Overall, I'm very glad that I had the opportunity to attend the conference.

M.D.O. Report

The Mandurah Mail newspaper was published in Mandurah from April 19th, 1991, to April 27th, 2023. After closing and finishing publication, the Mail vacated their premises leaving behind bound volumes of the newspaper running from 1991 to 2014. The Janeic family, owners of the premises, have donated the bound volumes to the Museum. Due to a lack of storage space at the Museum itself the volumes have been placed in a storage unit at National Storage in Thornborough road, Greenfields.



Looking at holdings of the Mandurah Mail in the State Library shows that they hold physical copies of the paper from 19th April 1991 to 27th April 2023, while also having access to electronic copies of the paper from 17th November 2000 onwards.

There is a general consensus between local, state and national libraries, museums and archives that digitising printed materials such as newspapers and providing online remote availability of the record is the best method of both preserving and giving the community convenient access to the resource. In keeping with the current trend for digitisation, the process is increasingly conducted with the use of a combination of older technology such as microfilm and newer digitisation technology such as scanners and Optical Character Recognition software to build a digital database of formerly paper-based resources. Common issues that are identified in digitisation projects include: cost, time commitment required, editing required to ensure accuracy and readability, copyright restrictions and filling gaps within collections.

A rough cost estimate for digitising newspapers through the National Archives TROVE project is \$1.93 per page of newsprint.

On July 8th the latest meeting of the Peel Chapter of the Australian Museums and Galleries Association was held at Smirk's Cottage heritage site in Kwinana. Unfortunately, we still have no word from the State branch of AMAgA about what will be happening with the state based organisation going forward. After the withdrawal of state government funding, there are no current staff to run the organisation. However, the Peel chapter will soldier on and continue to hold its four-monthly meetings which are a great resource for all members in terms of networking, sharing and problem solving.

After the meeting a presentation was given on soldier settlement post World War One in the Kwinana region.

Nicholas Reynolds.

Across the Borders: From Indonesia to Mandurah

This year marks the 33rd anniversary of the Western Australia - East Java Sister State / Province Agreement, originally signed in 1990.

This August, Mandurah Museum is hosting an exhibition of East Javanese traditional costumes, musical instruments, and symbolic pieces. Immerse yourself in the beauty of Indonesian arts and crafts.

Join us for the exhibition launch on Saturday 5 August between 11am and 3pm where there will be a range of free activities, including music and dance performances, workshops, and traditional Indonesian food and drinks. Please visit our website for booking information.

Exhibition Dates: 1 August - 3 September 2023

Opening Times: Tues-Fri, 10am - 3pm

Location: 3 Pinjarra Road, Mandurah



THE MALL:
Mandurah, W.A.

Memories of the Mall

A display celebrating Smart Street and shopping in Mandurah.

Before the Forum was built, Smart Street was the shopping hub of Mandurah. This exhibition features Smart Street's hidden history from the 1870s through to its heyday as a new mall in the 1970s.

When: 6 September - 27 October 2023

Opening: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 3pm

Cost: Free

Where:
Mandurah Museum
3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210
Phone: 9550 3683
mandurah.wa.gov.au

Curious Community Collectible -

Dressing Table Set

This dressing table set on display at Falcon Library, is made from cream xylonite, or celluloid. This was the first plastic material manufactured by a British firm from 1877 to 1940.

You may have seen items like these on your grandmother's or mother's dressing table when you were young.

The imitation ivory look was perfected by the 1920s. It made dressing table sets look expensive and luxurious. Sets included a jewellery box, brush, comb, mirror, powder box, tray, and other products for grooming.

Advertisements encouraged women to build up complete sets, starting off with just a few pieces and then adding on.

Popular with men were the toiletry sets and boxes to store collars, studs and ties. They would keep these in the top drawer of the bedside cabinet or to the side of the washstand.

Celluloid is highly flammable, and its production ended by the late 1940s. It was replaced by safer materials.

Celluloid is long-lasting, and you can buy Celluloid antiques today that are in good condition. The items are considered desired collectibles.

This collection on display is from the -
Mandurah Museum collection.

Where: Falcon Library

When: 9 August-4 September 2023 during Library opening times.



Do you have a collection you'd like to share with our community?

The Mandurah Museum is seeking expressions of interest from those with interesting collections that would look great on display.

If you are interested, please contact the Museum by emailing museum@mandurah.wa.gov.au or phoning 9550 3683.

We can't wait to see what you've been collecting!

NAIDOC Exhibition 2023

Katrina Gauci - Museum Education Officer

To celebrate NAIDOC week, Mandurah Museum showcased portraits of local Noongar Elders and senior community members. This exhibition invited visitors to expand their knowledge and awareness of the important roles they hold in our community and their families.

On loan from the National Gallery of Australia were works of art created by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders that provided an insight into the relationship they have with the environment.

Work produced by students at Coodanup College & South Halls Head Primary was on display, as well as Aboriginal inspired artwork from RT Kids (See below).

The Mandurah Museum held craft activities related to the NGA-County Art Case.

Community Arts Network

Community Arts Network were supportive of the Bush Babies Mandurah project done in 2016 to be re-mounted as part of the City of Mandurah's NAIDOC Exhibition and provided the licence to do so and promoted the exhibition on their website.

National Gallery of Australia- Country Art Case

The Art Cases program is a core part of the National Gallery's Touring Exhibitions program. The touring dates are on the NGA website. Mandurah Museum borrowed the case from the 12 June-13 July. This resource is designed to support object-based learning, encouraging students to actively explore the works of art by looking, handling, responding and making.

RT Kids RT Kids is an after-school art program run from Contemporary Art Spaces Mandurah with classes facilitated by local artist and teacher James Walker. James agreed to use the Country Art Case on loan from NGA with his 5 - 8 and 8 -11 year group classes. 30 students investigated the art works in the suitcase (pictured below), created work to display at the Museum.

NAIDOC Activity at Mandurah Museum

The activity included investigating the artworks in the Country Art Case from NGA and making a woven turtle and clay bush mouse. (some works pictured below right)

This activity was available on selected days over the July school holidays. All families that attended explored the museum either before or after the activity.

57 children and 30 adults attended the holiday activity. Most days were fully booked, however many people who had booked, didn't attend on the day. There were several walk-ins, this worked out as there were spaces available.

Feedback

The feedback from participants was positive, everyone enjoyed the activity.

The parents wrote:

Wonderful, Educational and Fun -Thank you.

Amazing activities for all ages. Very informative & fun.

The event was easily accessible. Highly recommend.

Morning Tea

A morning tea was provided during NAIDOC week for the participants and their family who had their photograph displayed.

I was pleasantly surprised when 25 adults and 10 children attended.

They enjoyed each other's company, reminisced about what they were doing in 2016 when the photograph was taken and commented on how young they looked. They shared stories with each other and laughed about good times.

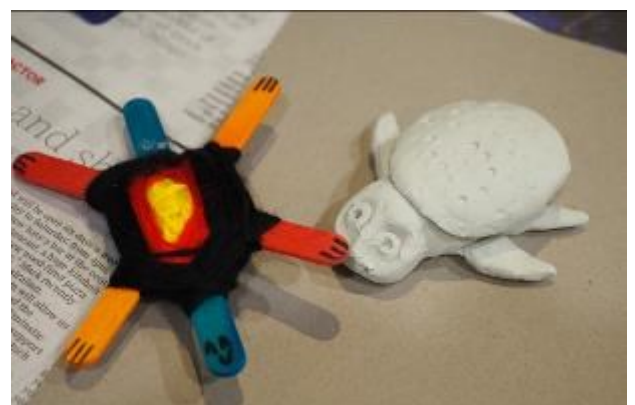
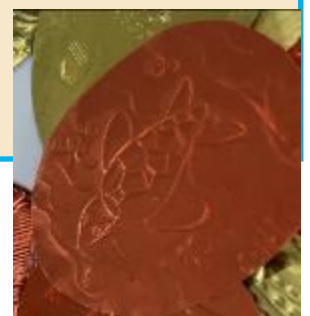
Visitor Figures

Over the three weeks the exhibition was displayed, 400 people visited the Mandurah Museum.

Most of these visitors specifically came in to see the exhibition. It was wonderful to see that students came in with family to show them their work. The NAIDOC exhibition was well received, and visitors commented on how the photographer had captured the personality of the person well and how bright and colourful the children's artwork was.

Thank You

Thank you to Museum volunteers who, listened to oral histories, researched newspaper clippings and other sources to create labels, assisted with installing and dismantling the exhibition, made tea and coffee at the morning tea and with lesson preparation for the holiday activities.





**Across the Borders -
From Indonesia to -
Mandurah.**

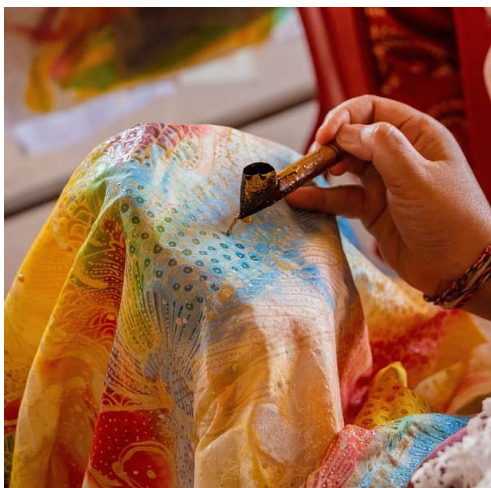
Opening of the exhibition with many cultural activities conducted on the day.

Photographs taken at the opening event were supplied by Mandurah City Council.

Many of the people pictured above will be familiar to our readers.

Note the colourful costumes both on display and worn by the entertainers.





During the event, Batik making was demonstrated.

There were different foods to try also.



Fictional TV Characters

September - Community Collectables at Falcon Library.

No matter when you grew up, most of us will have fond memories of our favourite TV cartoons and fictional characters from the past, with many still popular and on TV today!

These nostalgic TV cartoons and fictional characters continue to hold a special place in the hearts of many, reminding us of simpler times and cherished memories.

TV show merchandise remain a popular way to promote a series and make some more money for networks.

This month's Curious Collectibles display showcases a variety of collectibles from The Magic Roundabout, Looney Tunes, Wallace and Gromit and Noddy. Visit Falcon Library and check out some of the merchandise that was available to buy back in the day at the height of these shows' popularity.

Where: Falcon Library and Community Centre

When: 6 September- 2 October 2023 during Library opening times.



Friends of Mandurah General Meeting. 9.15 am, Tuesday 5th September at the museum.

This will be followed by a presentation by Archeologist Ian McCann.

The Barragup Mungah – presented by Maritime Archaeologist Ian McCann.

Join us for a fascinating talk with Maritime Archaeologist Ian McCann about his recent research and discoveries at the Barragup Mungah site.

Morning tea will be served at 10:00am. Talk at 10:30am

Barragup Mungah Research

A site so well known that there's nothing left to learn?

There is ample recorded oral and written history regarding the Barragup Mungah (fish trap) and appears to have been comprehensively investigated. On closer examination this proves not to be the case and archaeology that has been thought to have disappeared is still there, though well hidden.

An important site to local Indigenous people not just to share the bounty from the mungah, but to conduct social and ceremonial activities. Excess fish was traded with the recently arrived Europeans that they used for food or fertiliser.

With such a well-documented site there would seem to be little new to be discovered but it's exact location on the Serpentine River is still debated.

New ethnohistorical data including Indigenous and European oral history, digitised early maps of the region as well as extensive fieldwork suggests a more accurate location for this site as well as the intriguing possibility of more than one mungah at Barragup.

With low visibility and thick mud in part of the river side, scan sonar became a useful screening tool to help identify any potential site before diving, a technology that also suggested a particular site formation process that may help us detect other fish traps in riverine environments.

About Maritime Archaeologist Ian McCann

Ian McCann currently works with a West Australian heritage company conducting Indigenous heritage surveys. His fieldwork in maritime archaeology has been conducted in Vietnam, Japan, Ghana and Western Australia.

As an associate of the Vietnam Maritime Archaeology Project (VMAP) since 2012 he's been involved with searching for the battle sites of Bach Dang (the site where the naval forces of Mongols were defeated in the 13th century), the ancient port of Van Don, early trading ports and wrecks in central Vietnam and terrestrial sites on the northern island of Quan Lan from modern times to 5000 BP.

Archaeological Finds

Ian McCann encourages participants to bring archaeological finds to his presentation, he is interested in what people have and willing to help identify what they are, if they are unsure.

Where: Mandurah Museum

When: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 Time: 10:00am-11.30am



Renewal of membership now due, 01/09/2023

Friends of Mandurah Museum Membership

Please complete the details below:

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

Address.....

Town/.....

suburb.....Postcode.....

Telephone (Home).....

(Mob).....

Email.....

Current Date.

Membership fees

Family or Single \$10.00 per annum

Pay by EFTPOS, cash or please make cheques payable to:

Friends of Mandurah Museum

PO Box 210, Mandurah 6210

Street address, 3 Pinjarra Rd, Mandurah

Bank Transfer: Bendigo Bank Halls Head Branch

BSB 633-000, Acc No: 179671508

Chairperson Report.

As mentioned previously in this newsletter, we have now been able to arrange the presentation by Marine Archeologist Ian McCann. You will have already been sent information relating to this and we hope to welcome you all. Guests are permitted but please help us by informing us of numbers.

Unfortunately, we were unable to send out this newsletter in time to alert you of this event. However, we were pleased to see so many Friends and Volunteers present to what was an excellent presentation.

Memberships are due shortly and you will notice that the form is to the left of this column. Please fill in and scan to post or email us with the details. There is the ability to transfer into our bank, but also we welcome you popping into the museum and introducing yourselves to the volunteers or either Nicholas or Katrina. Should you bank transfer, don't forget to also let us know by email or post that you have done so and also confirming all the details on the form.

With our A.G.M. due in November (more information in our next newsletter, our treasurer is about to place the books in front of our auditor, who kindly continues to give us her time to undertake the audit.

Can I encourage that members of our wider Friends group consider undertaking some of the committee roles to assist over the next year. In particular, we need a permanent secretary as I have been covering both that role and the Chair which is not good practice. Our Vice Chair role is due for re-election and we would like another two committee members if possible.

Jan Baker - Chair/ Secretary.

**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.