

Friends of Mandurah Museum

BUILDING BRIDGES TO PEEL HISTORY

3 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210

Friends of Mandurah Museum

October Newsletter 2024.

Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse. We managed a short break late in August and spent three days the Cape Naturaliste area. Of course, being there meant we should look at the Park and call into the lighthouse. This we did on a wet & windy day. I had visited this previously as a child in the late '50's when it was still operational.

This lighthouse was built in 1903 or local limestone after the area had seen several wrecks. Built of limestone, at one time it had the highest elevation of a lighthouse in the Southern Hemisphere.

In 1907, the lighthouse staff aided in the rescue of 14 sea-man survivors from the Carnarvon Castle which caught fire on the 31st of January 1907, off the southeast of W.A and was abandoned. The survivors had managed to travel in open boats 1100 miles, with little supplies for 24 days before landing at Cape Naturaliste.

We were pleasantly surprised with the historical exhibition within the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage. There were interactive areas which told the story of living in the lighthouse as a child. A huge map case in the middle of the room allowed you to follow the story of one of the early children in a voice presentation done by children in current times. For me as an oral historian it was an interesting way to promote the experiences.

There were also early phones wired in such a way that you could hear lighthouse experiences. In one they talked about a huge electrical storm, with the bang sounding loud and clear within the whole museum. This storm occurred at a time there was only one keeper present at the lighthouse with his family. There was a fireball which blasted, the windows of the cottage were broken, and the telephone was blown out of the wall after ringing violently. Becoming worried for her husband, the children's mother struggled through the storm along a path which had been ripped up by the electricity pulsing through the phone wires.

See attached to newsletter, article from the newspaper at the time of the Carnarvon Castle wreck & subsequent survival of the crew.

The children's father later said, he put his hand on the phone to put through a weather report. The phone had then blown up and out from the wall, knocking my him unconscious. A long, large cupboard, which was strongly bolted with long bolts to the wall, was blown from the wall. The lightning conducted right through the lighthouse, and everything was smashed. The lightning continued for an hour after the fireball.

Because both the other keepers at the time, were some distance away, attending to routine duties, the children's mother had a heavy responsibility. She had to continue management of the lighthouse, plus tend to her sick husband who took some weeks to recover. The children had to be dispatched from Cape Naturaliste to a farmer several miles away, he then had to ride 12 miles to Caves House to use a phone to call a doctor.

For me, the creative use of memories which were recorded later was interesting and showed the value of both oral and written memory.



From the Editor. We haven't featured other museums within this newsletter for some time. So having visited Cape Naturaliste recently, I thought you might be interested in this one not featured previously in this Newsletter.

The museum receives many compliments from visitors both verbally and by way of the Visitors book. While this is a smaller area than many places, it does punch above its weight regarding presentation and history. Unfortunately we continue to be closed on the weekends, but the Council promised last year to review this situation after one year, this time is almost completed. As the top tourist town in Australia, the Friends feel it is important that we be opened again for weekends.

Perhaps the Council will have more news for us in early 2025.

On that note with the end of 2024 coming up, our thoughts have turned to what we might bring to you for displays etc. in the next 12 month period. We hope to bring some information relating to that in our next newsletter.

Driving in recently, I was surprised that I hadn't noticed



until then that the dynamite marks in the wall almost look like 'The Scream' painted by Edvard Munch. Next time you come to the Museum have a look and see if you agree with me regarding that.

Don't forget to check out our museum website for updates to our exhibition and school holiday activities.

Editor. Jan Baker.

Fun Fact. Both human and animal quarantine came into Australia via the Quarantine Act of 1908, which largely remains in use today. It did have some provisions to exclude some ships from this regulation. Mainly this was those trading solely between New Zealand and Australia or those confined to coastal waters.

This act became vital during 1918—1920 when 'Spanish Flu' raged throughout the world and soldiers were returning on packed ships to Australia.

See below from the Act.

PART V.-QUARANTINE OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS. 50. No person shall land any imported animals or plants in any port or place in Australia except a port declared by proclamation to be a port where imported animals or plants may be landed.' Penalty: One hundred pounds. 51. No imported animals or plants, and no hay, straw, fodder, litter, fittings, clothing, utensils, appliances or packages used on any vessel in connexion with imported animals or plants shall, until released from quarantine, be moved, dealt with, or interfered with except by authority and in accordance with this Act and the regulations. Penalty: One hundred pounds.

M.D.O. Report.

September has been a month of active engagement with our local community. On September 6th, the Museum Development Officer delivered a presentation on the European settlement of the Peel region to a group from Acacia Village Over-55s. The event was well attended, with 47 participants, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the community's interest in the region's history.

On the 4th of September, the Museum welcomed a tour group of seniors from Astley Care in Gosnells. The group enjoyed morning tea followed by a tour of the museum, offering them an interactive and enriching experience. A second seniors' group also visited on September 10th, with 15 attendees exploring the museum's displays and learning about the rich history of the area.

We are delighted to welcome our newest volunteer, Suzanne Tischler, to the Museum team. Suzanne brings a wealth of experience in theatre and a passion for history, and she is currently undergoing her induction on Wednesdays. We are excited to have her onboard and look forward to her contributions to our ongoing projects and visitor experiences.

We have also seen Gavin Davies commence with us on Wednesdays. His skills in video game design will be useful when it comes to reworking the game that we have available on the tablet in the courtroom. Welcome Gavin!

The Museum Development Officer participated in a webinar on September 19th, hosted by Volunteering Australia, which outlined the new National Strategy for Volunteering. This ten-year blueprint provides a strategic framework for enhancing and supporting volunteering across the nation, ensuring a sustainable and impactful future for volunteering.

Work on the removal of the pigeon mess in the Museum schoolroom roof came to a successful conclusion on October 21st. Credit must be given to the two workers involved who worked diligently to remove what was a very substantial build-up of decades worth of debris. In some places it was reported to be nearly one metre deep and so heavy that the ceiling was likely to collapse in the near future.

After last newsletter's celebration of my 20 years of service at the Museum it's come time for me to take some long service leave, so unfortunately you won't be hearing from me in the December Friends newsletter. So with that I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. It's little frightening to be saying that in late October, but with the pace of the world today and the shops already full of decorations it's fast approaching.

So I'll see you all in the New Year for 2025!

Nicholas Reynolds MDO

Education Matters!

Katrina Gauci.

September/October Holidays 2024

Sailing with Animal Friends

Children visited Mandurah Museum to create a scene within a nautical porthole frame with local artist, Sarah Petrich.

This piece of artwork, inspired by the Cats & Dogs-All at Sea photographic exhibition explored mixed media techniques which is all about the layers. There was no right or wrong, children used their creativity and self-expression to make a one-of-a-kind art.

The workshop involved listening to instructions, cutting, glueing, and the technique of collage. I was impressed with the variety of different materials the children used to make their scene.

51 children made a Sailing with Animal Friends porthole attended by 31 adults who assisted.

The feedback from participants was very positive, they were all happy with their creation.

A special thank you to facilitator Sarah Petrich for presenting the art workshops in a fun and engaging way to encourage the children to express themselves.



Cats & Dogs Quiz

The quiz was related to the photographic exhibition, Cats and Dogs-All at Sea.

Well known cats and dogs were hidden throughout the galleries. The quiz was challenging and took time to complete. It involved reading clues, finding the cat or dog, writing its name correctly and matching numbers with letters to decode a message.

Once this was complete, children could enter the draw to win a Simba the Lion King Cub LEGO set.

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

83 entries were in the box. Thank you to the Museum Volunteers at the front desk for explaining to children how to complete the quiz, to enter the draw and providing clues when needed.

The lucky person selected at random from those who entered the competition was local child Aria, she was thrilled because she loves LEGO and Simba.

RT Kids with James Walker

The 5-8 yr and 8-11 yr classes had work displayed as part of the exhibition celebrating those pets that made the journey by sea to our shores. The students work looked wonderful.



Local Government in Mandurah



Discover the fascinating history behind Mandurah's development into a self-governing city with our special exhibition commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Local Government in Mandurah. Learn how the city grew from the Murray Roads Board to becoming a thriving city.

With engaging displays, historical items, and the tale of the Mandurah Progress Association, this exhibition showcases the community's push for self-governance and growth. It's perfect for history lovers, families, or anyone curious about Mandurah's past. Visit the Museum and explore Mandurah's civic heritage!

Dates: 6 November 2024– 10 January 2025

Days: Tuesday-Friday

Time: 10am-3pm



**NOMINATION FOR ELECTION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
21st November 2024.**

Nominations are invited for the election of Chairperson (2 year), Vice Chair (1 year), Treasurer (2yr) and two committee members, at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on November 21st, 2024. This nomination form must be in the hands of the Secretary by **31st of October, 2024.**

NOMINATION DETAILS

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

OR by email to jan.baker@mandurah.wa.gov.au

Dear Chairperson,

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...../...../2024

My nomination is proposed by.....

Proposer's signature.....Date...../...../2024

And seconded by

Seconder's signature.....Date...../...../2024

Index

Features.

Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse. Jan Baker

Regular Items.

M.D.O Report. Nick Reynolds.

Education Matters. Katrina Gauci.

Friends Notes. Jan Baker.

Exhibitions. Local Government.

Friends Notes. As I farewell the museum and Mandurah, I hope to be able to provide in the Christmas newsletter a history of the Friends of Mandurah Museum. As many of you are aware, due to illness and disability, I have become a liability to the museum and need also to resite nearer, close family in a house which provides better facilities on a level block. I will be returning to Bassendean where I grew up and went to school.

As you can see from our nomination form which is included, we now require a Chairperson, Vice Chair and Treasurer as notified to you earlier this month, I hope that many of you will attend our A.G.M. on 21st of November, at 9.30 am for morning tea and 10am for the meeting.
Jan Baker. Chair.

In Our Collection, It is wonderful to see mounted on the wall in the Courtroom, the mosaic produced during the Stretch Festival in 2007 of the old bridge.

Collection of the photos were done by the Photographers Club of Mandurah and also many of the included photos came from the museum's collection. The program used to complete the picture then combined all the photographs into a colour palette which mirrored a chosen picture of the bridge.

Where the picture has been hung, gives you a good distance perspective of it completed and is quite effective. This mosaic was first here during the major festival it was produced for, following that it resided in the Dudley Tuckey room in the Council offices. When they updated that room, it went into the storage of art work. It remained in storage until last year when the museum requested it to be part of the Bridge exhibition. We now appear to have it, possibly permanently.

A reminder that the museum has a significant collection of photographs but we are always looking for more. Particularly those which showcase earlier years when digital was not King. If brought in your photos could be scanned and added to the collection.

Museum favourites. We always know when children are in the museum. From the schoolroom comes the sound of a bell, and maybe laughter as they try to use the cane.

From the courtroom you can hear the typewriter being tried out, or maybe the sound of a phone bell as they ring each other from the Local Studies bakelite phone to the winder phone in the courtroom.

Or they could be trying out the morse code machine which we have on extended loan.

If they spend longer in the courtroom, they will have found the electronic game they can play of being pioneers.

On the subject of the game, one of our younger volunteers – Gavin, is diligently working on fixing some problems and upgrading it.

Being allowed to touch and use items in the museum makes for a much more rewarding experience. We are lucky to have received a number of typewriters over the years and should we have problems we can usually replace the one in use for another. One resource which provides a little more difficulty is the ribbons for the typewriter.

**Mandurah Museum,
3 Pinjarra Rd,
MANDURAH WA 6210.**

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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.