

MARCH – APRIL 2023

FROM THE VERANDAH

Vol 46-2-2023 March – April

Newsletter for the members of the Mount Lawley Society (MLS) Est. 1977



35 Wasley Street North Perth (now Mt Lawley)

Florence Bredemeyer purchased 35 Wasley St in North Perth in 1905 for £120. In that year it was a primitive weatherboard structure (see page 5), but in 1910, Florrie borrowed £100 to add two brick rooms and a bullnose verandah to the front of the house. Here she is pictured with her two children, Harold (left) and Reginald (right).

Her husband, Ernest, probably took the picture. The full story of this house and the Bredemeyer family is on pages 5 and 6.

OVERVIEW:

- From the President
- Membership Update
- Guest Speaker Series
- 100 Years Ago – St Giles Church
- From the Archives – 35 Wasley Street and the Bredemeyer Family
- AGM and Barbecue / Croquet
- News from our Councils

We aim to bring you a mix of new and old updates in and around our neighbourhood.

If you have some photos you'd like to share – maybe your garden, architecture, renovation hints or leadlights, or anything that you think represents the different characters of Menora, Inglewood or Mount Lawley, please email them to us at www.mountlawleysociety.org.au



Hi Members and friends,

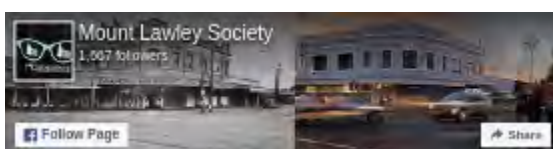
Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make our barbecue, croquet experience and AGM such a success in January. In spite of it being a hot and humid afternoon it was great to see so many of you brave the heat to try your hand at croquet. A big thank you goes to Myles Harmer (MLS Committee member) and Diana Welby (Forrest Park Croquet Club member) for their excellent tutelage.

It was also great seeing those of you who attended the first of our Guest Speaker Series on February 27 when Phill Matson spoke on the history of the Mount Lawley subway. We had an excellent turnout for what was a fascinating topic and Phill kept us engrossed throughout. Thank you, Phill, and also thank you to the Events Committee who provided the outstanding refreshments. The next in the series will be held on Monday 24 April and John McLennan will speak on The Beginning of Women's Football (AFLW) from 1921.

One position not filled at the AGM was that of the Vice-President. If you feel you are up to the challenge please let us know. We are always looking for new blood on our Committee.

Enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter!

Mark Hodge
President



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I: https://www.instagram.com/mount_lawley_society/



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY GROUP

Welcome to members - new and existing

If this is your first newsletter, welcome and congratulations on becoming a member of the Mount Lawley Society. As a new member, we hope that you become part of our friendly group and enjoy fun and laughter along the way; we hope to see you at one of our events and to hear from you through the informative communications that are created by our talented team of historians and archivists.

To our existing members, thank you for your continued support. It is your membership fees that help provide us a home to do the great work of preserving the stories, information, photos and history that makes our community and suburbs a great place to live.

This newsletter, *From the Verandah*, is emailed as a PDF attachment every two months. It is a great way to keep up to date about what's going on in our beautiful leafy character suburbs. As you read through it, you will start to become familiar with the people and activities that continue to make Mount Lawley Society as special as it is. Be sure to check out the activities and events that appear in each newsletter so you can join in whenever you can.

Our website, www.mountlawleysociety.org.au, is where you will find complete information on our society, events coming up, photos available to purchase and fantastic archiving stories. If you are follow social media online, be sure to become a fan of the our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Events

We also have fun events. We meet regularly, and with our home at the Forrest Park Croquet Club, we hope to welcome you to an event and meet you in person very soon. Most of our members have been involved with the society for many years and are happy to share their knowledge of the area.

We have a great range of events planned in 2023 and information about these are put on our website and social media pages.

Membership

Membership to the Mount Lawley Society is a very affordable \$20 per household per year and subscriptions are due each July. We will send out renewal notices and accept online payments and look forward to your continued patronage.

Our 2023 committee members are listed below. When you're at our next event, please introduce yourself to them and ask about the Mount Lawley Society.

Patron and History Expert – Barrie Baker

President – Mark Hodge

Vice President – vacant (anyone interested??)

Secretary – Tracey King

History and Archiving – Phill Matson

Planning and Development – Myles Harmer, Tracey King, Rita Tognini

Marketing and Events – Fiona Henfrey, Julie Harrison

Committee Member – Danielle Ions

As a not-for-profit organisation, we also run fundraising activities such as quiz nights and our own society competitions that we encourage our members to attend and help out. These are also great fun and present an opportunity to get to know others in your community.

EVENTS

**Did you think women's AFL, as we know today, was new?
Of course not! Women played Aussie Rules back in 1921.**

Come along and learn how the press reported on the game back then ... and more.

SAVE
THE
DATE

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES 2023

presented by the **Mount Lawley Society**

MLS ON **HERITAGE**
MOUNT LAWLEY SOCIETY EST. 1977

April Speaker: John McLennan

**The Beginning of Women's
Football (AFLW) from 1921**

Monday 24 April 2023 7.00pm

**Forrest Park Croquet Club,
66 Harold Street Mt Lawley**



Arrive at 7.00pm for refreshments, view some of the Society's photos and posters and chat with friends.

Guest Speaker presentation starts at 7.30pm

There is no entry charge, but please bring some change for the raffle.

Fabulous turnout to the first of our Guest Speaker Series

Who would have thought that our local subway had such an interesting past - all the way back to 1879!

Thank you to Phill Matson for his entertaining presentation and thank you to everyone who attended.

It was wonderful to see so many faces and everyone enjoyed themselves. Please come along to our next talk on 24 April and learn about the beginning of women's football in WA (see promo above) and bring a friend. The more the merrier!



ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

PREMIER ON CHURCH MATTERS

... AND THE ST GILES SUNDAY SCHOOL HALL

One hundred years ago, the St Giles Sunday School hall was officially opened by the Premier, Sir James Mitchell (after whom the Mitchell Freeway was named). Herewith are snippets from his speech as reported in *The West Australian* of Wednesday 21 March 1923.

The headline read:

Premier on Church Matters Need for Cheerfulness – Speech at Mt Lawley

"I understand the growth in this district has been so rapid and so fast that you cannot even get enough water."

These were the Premier's opening words, which is in the context of the water problems at that time in Mount Lawley as mentioned in the MLS January 2023 newsletter.

The Rev HSR Innes, the Minister in charge of the church (St Giles Presbyterian Church, formerly at 65 Lawley Crescent), in welcoming the Premier, said "it was their desire that he should declare open their hall, which was destined for the welfare and the training of youth."

Declaring the hall open, the Premier said, ... he thought nothing could be better than to dedicate the hall to the welfare of youth. If they could do more for the youth of the world what a wonderful world it would be in a few years. *Apparently, much applause followed.*

The Premier went on to say that ... "he hoped that dancing would be permitted in the hall. If it was, it would be the means of preventing youths attending places which they should not".



Amid applause, he declared the hall open.

St Giles was the first church built in Mt Lawley in 1915. It, and the associated hall, were on the half acre site on the elevated corner of Glenroyd Street and Lawley Crescent.

Roger Elmitt
March 2023

To download a PDF of the article in *The West Australian*, please go to the Mount Lawley Society website
<http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au/archive-stories>

35 WASLEY STREET (MT LAWLEY)



Florence Bredemeyer (known as Florrie) purchased 35 Wasley St in North Perth in 1905 with the transfer being registered on 24 November 1905. She bought it for £120 from Daniel Bevis (described on the title as a carpenter) and he presumably built the little weatherboard house on it (see image below right). He also owned the lot next door (now No 37) and built a similar wooden house on it which he sold on the same date for £100.

The 1905 wooden house was primitive by modern standards with no electricity or scheme water. The property had a well and a hand pump and the internal walls had wooden studs covered with hessian and wallpaper. The toilet at the rear was serviced by a night soil man although there was no lane and the footpath and roadway were made of dirt.



Wasley Street was originally part of North Perth which was marketed for sale as the 'Forrest Estate' named after Sir John Forrest, the Premier between 1890 and 1901. The parallel adjoining streets of Shenton, Burt, Marmion and Venn were named after the first four of Forrest's 1890 cabinet ministers.

In January 1909, Florrie borrowed £100 from the Metropolitan Starr Bowkett Society as a mortgage and she spent this money on adding two brick rooms and a bullnose verandah to the front of the wooden house (see photo on front page). A plaque was later added to the house giving it the name 'Adderley' after Adderley St in Melbourne. The house was connected to the sewer in 1916 and had been connected to scheme water a little earlier. The title was transferred to Ernest in 1922. Wasley Street was originally named Shenton Street, named after George Shenton, the Colonial Secretary, but was later renamed Wasley Street after Arthur Wasley, the last mayor of North Perth, when it was absorbed into the City of Perth in 1914. The property is now in the Mt Lawley part of Wasley Street.

To read the full story of 35 Wasley Street as well as The Bredemeyer Family story (on following page), please go to the Mount Lawley Society website <http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au/archive-stories> and click on My Grandmother's House.

Christine Allbeury awarded Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia

Congratulations!

We congratulate MLS member, Christine Allbeury, on her award in this year's Australia Day Honours list of the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to conservation and the environment.

Christine, and her husband John Baas, are valued and long-term members of the Mount Lawley Society. Christine is involved in many conservation groups, such as the Urban Bushland Council of Western Australia, the conservation groups, Friends of Inglewood Triangle, Friends of Star Swamp Bushland and Friends of Coolbinia Bushland. She is generous in sharing her knowledge and runs conservation classes at Perth College Kindergarten.

You can find the citation **here** – look for the list for Medal of the Order of Australia.

THE BREDEMEYER FAMILY



Ernest Bredemeyer was born in 1870 and Florrie Bredemeyer, nee Gathercole, in 1879, both in Melbourne. They grew up together in Adderley St, West Melbourne, where their parents lived in adjoining houses. She was one of twelve children and he was one of four.

Florrie and Ernest had come to Western Australia from Melbourne at a time when the population of Perth grew from 8,447 in 1891 to 27,553 in 1901 – mostly by migration from Melbourne. Victoria had a recession following the boom of the 1880s, whereas Perth prospered following the discovery of gold in Kalgoorlie in 1892.

Ernest, a single man, came first to Perth to work for Sands and McDougall, Melbourne printers, who opened a printery in Perth where was employed as an artist.



When Florrie turned 21 years-of-age she came to Perth by boat and married Ernest in November 1900, a few days after her arrival. The Bredemeyers initially lived in a rental house at 64 Charles St, West Perth.

They had their first son Reginald 'Reg' (born on 27 October 1901) before moving into 35 Wasley St, followed by their second son, Harold 'Harry' (born 27 October 1909).

Ernest died 16 January 1930, aged 60 and the title passed to his eldest son Reg.

The sons lived there with their mother until they married in the late 1930s and Florrie continued to live in the Wasley St house until her death on 25 January 1957.

To read the full story of The Bredemeyer Family as well as 35 Wasley Street story (on previous page), please go to the Mount Lawley Society website <http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au/archive-stories> and click on My Grandmother's House



Summer Barbecue and AGM ... with some fun croquet thrown in



The Mt Lawley Society AGM was held at the Forrest Park Croquet Club on Sunday 22 January 2023.

Before those formalities though, an hour or so was spent learning some of the finer points of the game of croquet on the greens. The competitiveness soon emerged and newly acquired tactics came into play. Thank you to Myles Harmer and Diana Welby for your patience and excellent teaching as well as the Forrest Park Croquet Club for the venue and equipment.

It was all fun and the players then joined the rest of the group in the cool of the clubrooms enjoying some refreshments and banter and then a delicious barbecue (thanks Oscar Gustavsen for your barbecue talents) and salads - and more banter.

Over thirty members attended the AGM which followed and there was a positive mood for the coming year. Our 2023 committee members have already been listed on page 2.

It looks like 2023 will have some fabulous events, and we will let our members know of these as the year progresses.

To see these photos in a larger format, please visit our Events page on our website:

<http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au/events>



WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORIES

Our Archive Collection relies on people discovering their family's and their home's history. Do you have any stories on the people that lived in your house in the past? Have you found anything of interest when cleaning out or renovating?

Do you have any questions for our History and Archiving Sub-committee?

If so then please contact us at mountlawleysociety@gmail.com

Local Councils' News

City of Stirling

Safety Device Rebates

The City of Stirling is providing rebates of 30 per cent (up to a maximum of \$500) off the cost of new closed circuit television (CCTV) installations in the City that include a public angle field of view overlooking the road, footpath, front verge, or any other applicable public area.

Closed circuit television (CCTV) can deter potential offenders from criminal activity and help with the detection, investigation and prosecution of offenders. CCTV can also increase people's perceptions of safety and their use of public places.

For more information, go to <https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/services-and-support/health-and-safety/cctv-rebate?>



City of Vincent

Gardening with Microbes and Microscopes Saturday 18 March 2023

Want to cut your water use, carbon emissions and grow more food at the same time?

Look at soil samples through a microscope and discover how to have a happier, healthier garden. This is a great workshop for both adults and children. Reserve your ticket here at our [Eventbrite](#) page.

Bookings are essential

**Event held at City of Vincent Library
99 Loftus Street, Leederville**

Presented by EarthWhile on behalf of City of Vincent and Switch your Thinking.



City of Bayswater

Evening in the Park Saturday 18 March 2023 5-9pm

The City's cultural diversity takes centre stage as we celebrate what makes our community special. Enjoy live music, a family friendly atmosphere and food from around the world.

For more information go to: <https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/arts-and-leisure/what-s-on-calendar/2023/march/evening-in-the-park>



The suburbs of Menora, Inglewood and Mount Lawley are spread over three local councils: City of Vincent, City of Stirling and City of Bayswater. Each Council has some wonderful events and offers, so please go to their websites and see what might interest your family:

<https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/leisure-and-culture/arts-and-events/>

<https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/arts-and-leisure/>

<https://www.vincent.wa.gov.au/events/>