

MAY – JUNE 2023

FROM THE VERANDAH

Vol 46-3-2023 May – June

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



56 Walcott Street 'The Priory'

This photo was likely taken in the early 1920s of Mrs Ellen Windsor McKenna with her grandson on the front steps at 56 Walcott Street, Mount Lawley.

This home was built in 1914 for Leon Wilkie. Between 1917 and 1927 it was the residence of John McKenna (1852-1933), Chief Inspector of Police for WA. His main claim to fame was that he was responsible for arresting the bushranger, Moondyne Joe.

For ten years from 1956, the house was used as a priory for a community of Anglican monks called the Society of the Sacred Mission. Their Pryor was Fr Laurence Eyres. Happily, this building still stands and is a business premise.

OVERVIEW:

- From the President
- Saving our Tree Canopy
- Guest Speaker Series and Events
- 100 Years Ago – Snippets from the newspaper
- From the Archives – 'Onkaparinga' and the Lightfoot family
- Remembering our Anzacs
- 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,

The year is flying by and I can't believe it's May already. April is always a busy month for the Mount Lawley Society.

Early in the month we met with Simon Millman, our Member for Mt Lawley. We spoke on several local issues, in particular our concerns with the pending demolition of the 85-year-old art deco house which was built in 1937 on the corner of Adair Parade and Ardross Crescent. Further discussions will take place in the coming months regarding protection of great architecture in our community.

On Anzac Day it was lovely to see such a large turnout at the Mount Lawley Anzac Day Memorial Service. I also attended the Mt Lawley Senior High School's Ex Prisoner of War Association Commemoration Service in Kings Park. It was a privilege to be a part of this service. Sadly, 105-year-old Digger, Arthur Leggett, who has been a big part of this service for a long time, was not well enough to attend, but we were shown a short video of a presentation he made in 2020 which was lovely.

In this newsletter, we highlight a story about saving our tree canopy and what each of us can do to save what we have and increase it – in all our suburbs. Did you know, Perth has the lowest tree canopy coverage out of all the capital cities in Australia with an 18% loss from residential blocks. Let's all do something about it.

Please enjoy reading this edition of *From the Verandah*,

Mark Hodge
President

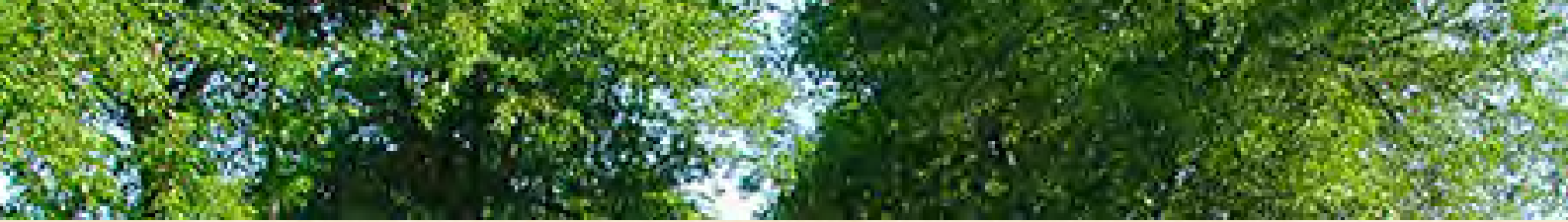
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OUR TREE CANOPY IS DISAPPEARING !

... WE CAN EACH DO OUR BIT TO SAVE IT

Residents in Inglewood, Menora and Mount Lawley are blessed to live in an area with a tree canopy that is the envy of many other Perth suburbs, but this cannot be taken for granted. For many of us, the green canopy, along with the associated birdlife is a significant factor in why we choose to live in these suburbs.

...all parts of the community need to start to talk about the long-term benefits of tree retention.

An alarming fact is that Perth has the lowest tree canopy coverage out of all the capital cities in Australia <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en/aerial-view-blog/greenest-cities-and-suburbs-in-australia>

Infill development is causing the removal of many large and significant backyard trees and, whilst some of these may be replaced, it will take decades for the canopy to return. Although the MLS is not against infill, presently there are no rules to stop property owners or developers cutting larger trees down to make way for their dream extension or urban infill.

No one would argue that living in a tree-lined street reduces the temperature of your home during our hot summers, is a source of habitat and food for all animals, provides cleaner air and also could increase the value of your property. So before you develop your property, think about how you might retain any tree greater than 8 metres high or a canopy diameter of 6 metres or greater by building around it.

To read the full story on WA Today as well as the website for the WA Tree Canopy Advocates, see the links at bottom of this story.

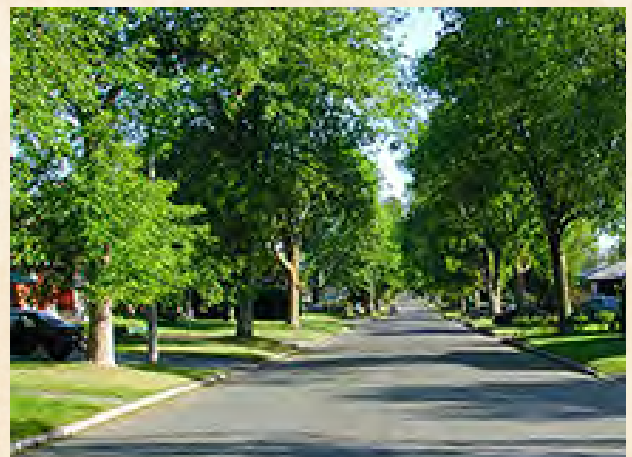
Perth has the lowest tree canopy coverage out of all the capital cities in Australia

City of Stirling Mayor, Mark Irwin said "local governments across the state were planting and retaining trees on council land, including verges, but retaining trees on private property was a challenge which required more attention. The tree canopy on council owned land has increased by 10%; however, the loss on residential land has been 18%". He also said that to stem this loss and improve the canopy across the whole of the state means that all levels of government, and all parts of the community, need to start to talk about the long-term benefits of tree retention.

This financial benefit of retaining trees is one of many arguments being made for a state-wide initiative to regulate the removal of any trees taller than eight metres on privately owned land in low density areas. Two councils have already voted to support regulating removals at a local level after WA Tree Canopy Advocates, representing more than 11,000 people from 16 local government areas, campaigned for the change. These regulations are similar to state-wide rules in place across many of the states on the east coast.

<https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/want-to-add-50k-to-your-property-s-value-don-t-cut-down-that-tree-20230404-p5cxzn.html>

<https://watca.org.au/>



EVENTS

SAVE
THE
DATE

Dr Harriet Mills will cover the 125 year history of the Perth Zoo, from its establishment by the Western Australian Acclimatisation Committee to its current role as a modern zoo, breeding threatened species for release back into the wild.

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES 2023

presented by the Mount Lawley Society MLS ON HERITAGE

June Speaker: Dr Harriet Mills

Monkeying with Nature - The history of the Western Australian Acclimatisation Society

Monday 26 June 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. Why not bring along a friend of your own. Guest Speaker presentation starts at 7.30pm
There is no entry charge, but please bring some change for the raffle.

The WAAS first met in 1896 and it had two roles - one was to introduce animals from Europe into the Australian wild and the other was to establish a zoological garden.

As we know now, introducing exotic species into the wild in Australia had disastrous consequences in most cases, but the history behind this story is fascinating.

What an Entertaining Night

Guest Speaker Series : The Beginning of Women's Football (AFLW) from 1921

John McLennan's presentation on how women's Aussie rules football began in WA was wonderfully interesting, but even more enthralling was how it was presented by the media of the time. Surprisingly, it wasn't just the men of the day who weren't very impressed, but a lot of the women's groups weren't impressed either.

To read more and see press reports and 'headlines of the day' please go to our events page on the website <http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au/events>



Quiz Night

Tickets for our Quiz Night sell out fast, so please put this date in your calendar and start to organise your tables now – details below.

Saturday 29 July 2023
Mount Lawley Bowling Club
Tables of 8 – prices to be advised
Great prizes
Bowling Club bar prices
Bring a plate to share at your table

SAVE
THE
DATE

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

... A FEW INTERESTING SNIPPETS FROM YESTERYEAR ...

TRAMWAY EXTENSION

Under *News and Notes of The West Australian* for Friday 8 June 1923, there is the following article: *The last tram to drive at Beaufort and Walcott Streets ...*



Courtesy of SLWA from their YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkwllkS1hyw>

Tramway Extension. After a conference between representatives of the Tramways Department and the Perth Road Board a start was made yesterday with the Beaufort Street extension and operations will be pushed on with the utmost expedition. A loop will be constructed from Lawley Crescent to Regent Street and a second loop at the present terminus will greatly facilitate the working of the service.

The General Manager of the Department (Mr W H Taylor) assured the board that when the extension was completed there would be a six minute service instead of 12 minutes as at present. Mr Hamer (Chairman of the Board) said that the large population of the district would fully justify the progressive spirit shown by the department.

The last tram ran from the terminus at Grand Promenade and Beaufort Street on 19 July 1958.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE ... AND AUNTIE NELL

On *The Children's Page* of the *Daily News* for Saturday June 23 1923, Auntie Nell corresponded with the children of Perth. A sample letter is under the heading *Dips from my Letter Bag...*

81 Second Avenue, Mt Lawley – June 16, 1923

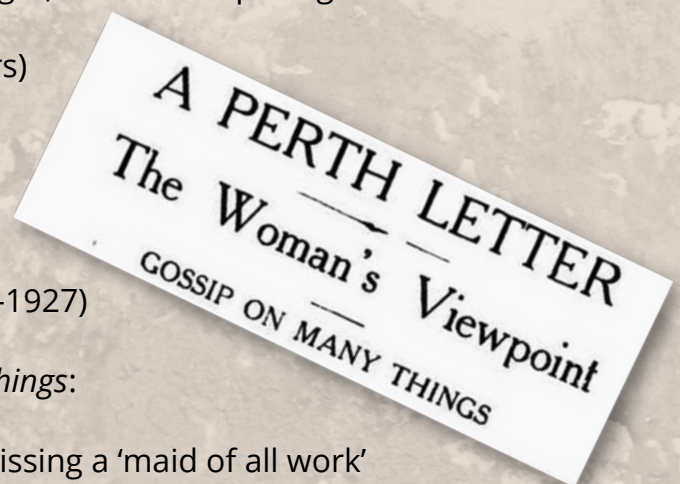
Dear Auntie Nell, I was glad to hear that Billy Kann is better again. I am enclosing the stamps that I forgot last time. I am entering for June 23 diamond puzzle, the answer to which you will find on another page. I got the famous singers' puzzle right, all but the spelling of M'Cormack. Well, I think this is all the news, so I will close.

I remain, your loving niece, Nona Hickey (aged nine years)

... AND THIS WOULD HAVE STIMULATED SOME GOSSIP !

This titillating article was found in *Call* (Perth, WA 1920-1927) for Friday 8 June 1923 under the heading: *A Perth Letter, The Woman's Viewpoint, Gossip on Many Things:*

It seems a well-known Madam, of Mt Lawley, was dismissing a 'maid of all work' and was not too definite in her reasons to the act, but the maid supplied the hiatus, "How can I help it," she said, "that your husband thinks I have a nicer figure and kiss more charmingly than you do! Blame him, it is not my fault."



A JOURNEY IN TIME

ARTHUR LIGHTFOOT AND FAMILY

From our Archive

Arthur Lightfoot played a part in the development of the suburb of Mt Lawley, but his name is not that well-known. A lot of locals are aware of the Albany Bell Castle in Guildford Road built by Peter Albany Bell. Well, Arthur Lightfoot was Peter Albany Bell's brother-in-law. Both men married sisters, Edith Clark (Peter) and Lillian Clark (Arthur) from Noarlunga in South Australia.

A lot has been written about Peter Albany Bell, his business ventures and his philanthropic ways, but not so much about his brother-in-law, Arthur, whose life is equally as interesting and whose grand house, 'Onkaparinga', was built overlooking the Swan River where St John's Hospital now stands in Mt Lawley.

Arthur Allan Lightfoot was born in 1874 in Melbourne, Victoria. He moved to Perth and began working for the railways in WA in 1896 becoming an electrical fitter. He married Lilian 'Lilly' May Clark in 1904 at Highgate Hill.



After their wedding, Arthur and Lilian lived in Subiaco before moving to Kalgoorlie, with their children, to work in the confectionery tearoom business of brother-in-law Peter Albany Bell. Arthur and Lilian Lightfoot had four surviving children (pictured left); Leonard Charles (1905-1984), Enid Emily (1909-2005), Marian Edith (1911-1993) and Rosalie Baird (1913-1993).

In 1911, Peter Albany Bell formed the company, Albany Bell Pty Ltd, Manufacturing Confectioners, with partners Albert Johnson and Arthur Allen Lightfoot. It was a good company to work for as the employees were allowed a fortnight's annual holiday with fares covering 240 kilometres distance from Perth. The Kalgoorlie premise was run by Bell's brother, Jim. The employees there were granted a fortnight's paid holiday, paid rail travel to a seaside resort and full board in that resort for the fortnight.

Arthur progressed in the confectionery and tearoom business of his brother-in-law, becoming a senior manager at the factory in Guildford Road. Consistent with Peter Albany Bell's philanthropic beliefs, by 1928, Bell and Arthur Lightfoot had established a subsidiary company in the factory called ABC Confectionery in which committed employees were made shareholders.

In early 1928, Arthur Lightfoot purchased a 773-acre lot farm in Carnamah, WA, from Mrs Norah Woodhouse. His eldest son, Leonard Charles, farmed the land in Carnamah between 1928 and 1933 in partnership with his father Arthur as Lightfoot & Son. For most of 1933 the farm in Carnamah was leased and farmed by John Oakes who was to marry Arthur's daughter, Enid Emily, in 1936.



Tennis party at the Lightfoots in 1940

The Albany Bell tearooms business began to fail in 1930 at the time of the Great Depression. As Mr Bell said in a subsequent interview, the Depression was "used by the Lord to empty me out of business".

From 1930 to 1940 the residual confectionery progressively wound up. Arthur died in Mt Lawley on 27 February 1934.

More information on 'Onkaparinga' the house is on the following page

ONKAPARINGA

The name, 'Onkaparinga', might bring back different memories for different people. Some of us remember the blankets of our childhood with the brand tag. For others, especially in Mt Lawley and surrounds, it tells the story of a grand house overlooking the Swan River built by Arthur and Lilian Lightfoot in 1914 at No 1 Thirlmere Road Mt Lawley. Arthur purchased the block of land (Lot No 22) on 4 November 1911 for £600 from Mrs Isabella Hynes. The block ran from Thirlmere Road down to the Swan River.



Onkaparinga looking towards Causeway 1910

They already had an orchard on the river slopes, a chicken run and a cow grazing on the flats.

Because of the philanthropic work that the Lightfoot and Oakes families were known for, the house was also used for monthly charity fetes on the tennis court for the war effort. In post-war years, the fundraising continued, with the Oakes children, Jan and Lewis, selling bottles of cool drink.

From 1945 to 1982, the house was operated by John and Enid Oakes as a bed and breakfast for students. The house was then vacated and, sadly, was condemned after squatters moved in and damaged it by vandalism and fire.

'Onkaparinga' was bought by the adjoining St Anne's Maternity Hospital run by the Sisters of Mercy. It was demolished in August 1982 with the land absorbed into the growing hospital complex.

Looking back, it is very fitting that the house was named 'Onkaparinga' – 'the women only places along the river' – which then became one of Perth's well-known maternity hospitals.

To read the full story on the Lightfoot family and 'Onkaparinga' please visit our website's Archived Stories page
<http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au/archive-stories>



The naming of this house though, comes from the river and area in South Australia where Lilian Lightfoot (nee Clark) came from. Onkaparinga River is on the land of the Kurna people in Adelaide's inner southern suburbs. The word 'Onkaparinga' comes from the Kurna word 'Ngangkiparingka', which means 'women only places along the river'.

This was indeed a grand house with 22 rooms, three storeys and flats for a maid and a chauffeur-footman. Arthur and Lilian's daughter, Enid Lightfoot (and her husband John Oakes) then lived in the house where they operated a war-effort stall by removing the rose bed and growing vegetables.



The original Ellesmere Estate Mount Lawley promotional brochure

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

Remembering our Anzacs

Ockenden and Rutter

Two mates who enlisted together

... and both from No 3 Alma Road Mt Lawley



Alma Road in Mt Lawley was home to quite a few soldiers who fought in World War I, but No 3 Alma Road was where two mates lived, who both enlisted on the same day in 1915 and who, probably on leave back home, became brothers-in-law – Frank Maxwell Ockenden (known as Max) and Arthur Norman Rutter.

Frank Maxwell OCKENDEN (Max) enlisted on 22 December 1915 at 20 years of age.

He became a gunner in the 24th Field Artillery [Howitzer] Brigade and served in France. He returned home and was discharged on 3 August 1919. He reunited with his father, Archibald, who was listed as 'household head' at 3 Alma Rd during the war and for many years later.

Frank Ockenden died a few years after his return home on 7 September 1921 and is memorialised on the Mt Lawley War Memorial.



Arthur Norman RUTTER, aged 22, enlisted on the same day as his housemate, Frank. He too became a gunner, but in the 10th Field Artillery Brigade, and also served in France. As Acting Bombardier, Arthur Rutter was awarded a Military Medal in April 1918 for distinguished service. Arthur married Frank's sister, Marjorie, in 1916. He also returned home (a few months before his mate, Frank) and was discharged on 3 March 1919 to reunite with his wife, Marjorie, at their home at No 3.

Sadly, we have not been able to find photos of these two Diggers, so if anyone can provide us with more information or photos, we would be very grateful.

Mount Lawley/ Inglewood RSL Anzac Day Service



It was a glorious morning on Anzac Day this year as the sun came out for most of the service at the Mt Lawley Memorial. About 1500 people surrounded the cenotaph to remember and pay respect to those who have served in war or peace-keeping missions.

Brigadier Phillip White AM RFD gave the address telling the very descriptive story of devastation for the Battle of the Nek, where, of the 600 Australian troops involved, 234 were killed and 138 were wounded.

One of the joyous parts to witness is the attendance of so many young people, especially the cadets who were outstanding, the students representing our local schools who laid a wreath and the outstanding young speakers and the singers of the New Zealand and Australian national anthems.

Lest We Forget

Local Councils' News

City of Stirling

Free collection of white goods, e-waste and mattresses or order a skip bin

City of Stirling has replaced household junk verge collections with a range of on-demand waste collections. This allows residents to dispose of unwanted items when it's convenient for them.

For more information, go to <https://stirling.force.com/stirling/s/on-demand-waste-collections>



City of Vincent

Great Australian Places with Graham Seal

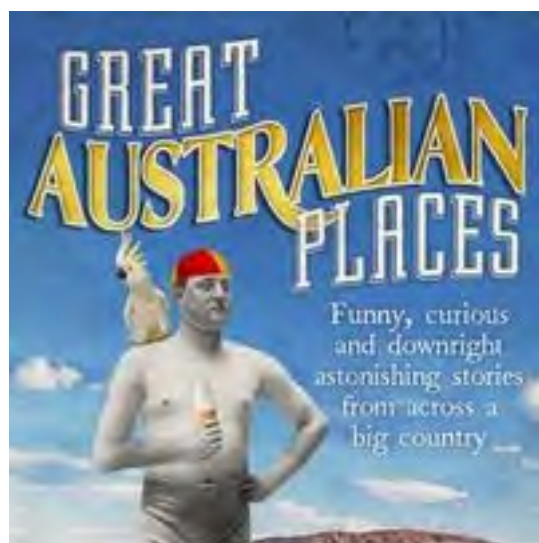
Wednesday 24 May 2023 | 10.00 – 11.30am

Local History Centre, 99 Loftus Street, Leederville

Dr Graham Seal takes us on a storytelling tour, from iconic destinations to tiny settlements, remote landmarks and little-known corners of this vast continent. He discovers the true stories behind the immortal Aussie songs about the pub with no beer and the land where the crow flies backwards.

For more information go to

<https://www.vincent.wa.gov.au/events/great-australian-places-with-graham-seal/2589>



City of Bayswater

Bushfood for Beginners

Thursday 8 June 2023 | 6.30 - 8.30pm

61 Broun Ave Morley

Did you know most of the edibles we grow in our gardens today were originally imported from overseas?

With Tucker Bush edible natives, you can enjoy a backyard full of unique and delicious bush tucker fruits, roots, nuts, seeds and leaves from plants naturally adapted to our climate and soil.

Mark Tucek will talk about his business Tucker Bush, the native plants he grows, native dried produce and his recently published book *Bushfoods for Beginners*.



For more information go to:

<https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/arts-and-leisure/what-s-on-calendar/2023/june/bushfood-for-beginners>

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/>