

FROM THE VERANDAH

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“Weeroona”, 102 Vincent Street, Mt Lawley

Built in 1916 by Archibald Hill-Rennie, the above photo taken in the same year shows Archibald to the left between the urns with his wife Alice to the right on the ground, and their four daughters Olive, Edith, Elsie and Alice Ellen on the verandah. The view from their verandah, above right, shows an early Hyde Park in 1916. Archibald was born in Bendigo on 16th October 1870, and the house name Weeroona comes from that area. He trained as a carpenter and built many houses in Mt Hawthorn, Mt Lawley and Victoria Park. After meeting Alice Morgan (b 3rd July 1865) when staying at a boarding house she was running, they married in the Scots Church, Fremantle, on 12th May 1903. Alice died on 10th July 1942, and Archibald on 20th July 1956.

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From the President

Hi Members and friends,

I can't believe another couple of months have flown by. MLS hosted the third in our Guest Speaker Series last week. This time Dr Harriet Mills spoke on the animal acclimatisation project and the history of the Perth Zoo. It was an extremely interesting talk, as they always are, and a delicious supper was served afterwards.



Members of MLS also attended the recent “Mount Lawley Environment Sundowner” hosted by Simon Millman at the Inglewood Sports and Bowling Club, with special guest, The Minister for Health and Climate Action, Reece Whitby. The audience was briefed on a range of WA State Government Environmental initiatives, and given the opportunity to ask questions afterwards.

We are also working on our big fundraiser for the year, our annual Quiz Night. This year the theme is “Icons”, so come dressed as your favourite icon! There will also be a prize for the best iconic table centrepiece. The Quiz Night will be held on Saturday July 29th at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club. It usually sells out quickly, so book your table now. All the details are in this issue.

Enjoy reading this edition of the Newsletter.

Mark Hodge,
President

From the Archives

Blennerhassett Family Grocers and Liquor Stores

161 Walcott Street (cnr Burt St) Mt Lawley

information provided by Frank Blennerhassett's daughter, Maureen.



Blennerhassett shop at 161 Walcott St with brothers Rowley, Arthur and Frank



Blennerhassett van

Many members of the Blennerhassett family have lived and/or owned grocery businesses in many parts of Mt Lawley, Inglewood and North Perth. In fact, for quite a few decades, members of the family had numerous grocery businesses in the suburbs.

More detailed information of the Blennerhassett family history is on the Mount Lawley Society website (<http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au/the-blennerhassett-family>), but in short, the family origins are from

Ireland. Arthur Richard Blennerhassett emigrated to Victoria in 1857. His grandson, Arthur Parker Blennerhassett (1882-1969), at the young age of 16 years, made his way from Victoria to Southern Cross in WA in 1898, accompanied by his brothers, John, aged 24 and Thomas, aged 14 years. Arthur (and his brothers) built a life in Southern Cross and in 1910, at 28 years of age, Arthur married a Southern Cross lass, Priscilla Fairclough (1888-1949) at the local Methodist Church 1910. Arthur's brother, Tom, was his best man.

It must have been a shindig of a wedding because the event was highlighted in depth in *The Southern Cross Times* on Saturday 30 April 1910, with this excerpt:

The toast to 'The Ladies' was left in the hands of Mr D McDonald, who jocularly referred to them as a necessary evil. Mr Hugh Williams blushed and bashfully responded on behalf of the fair sex. After the good things which were provided had been greatly reduced in volume, and the inner man was full of toasts and turkey, the young folk adjourned to the parlour and indulged in songs and dances, whilst the old buffers remained in the marquee drinking everybody's health until train time. Then the happy couple left to catch the train for Cottesloe, where they intend spending part of their honeymoon.

In that same year (1910), Arthur's brothers, John and Thomas, went into a grocery, wine and spirits business under the name of 'Blennerhassett Bros' at 574 Beaufort Street Mt Lawley. This business wasn't successful and in 1915 they lost the gallon license and the business then became known as Beaufort Supply Store.

At this stage, Thomas lived at 45 Burt Street Mt Lawley and John at 60 Wasley Street Mt Lawley. Meanwhile, back in Southern Cross, Arthur and Priscilla didn't waste much time in increasing the population of the town with Arthur Jnr born in 1911, George in 1913, Samuel (known as Rowley) in 1915, Francis (Frank) in 1917 and Lesley in 1920.

Arthur Snr worked in the grocery business in Southern Cross and then moved to 242 Eighth Avenue and worked at Central Provision Store in Fitzgerald Street North Perth. In 1930/31 the family moved to their newly purchased house at 165 Seventh Avenue Inglewood. In 1932, Arthur bought the grocery store at 161 Walcott Street Mt



Blennerhassett-Fairclough wedding 1910

Lawley (cnr Burt Street) and managed on his own for a few years as 'A Blennerhassett'. Arthur's son, Frank, joined the business when he turned 20 and the name changed to 'A Blennerhassett and Son', later to become Blennerhassett and Sons' as more sons joined the family business.

In 1937, Arthur Snr (accompanied by his wife Priscilla) moved to Wiluna to manage the co-op store to boost the family income leaving his sons to run the Walcott St store. With the outbreak of WWII, Arthur and Priscilla returned to Perth to run the family business because their sons were enlisting.

In 1946, due to Arthur retiring from the business, there was a dissolution of A Blennerhassett and Sons. Rowley, Frank and incoming partner, Les, took over the business which became Blenner Bros.

Rowley and Les left the business after a few years with Rowley buying a store at 329 Bulwer Street (cnr Fitzgerald St) North Perth and Les bought a grocery and deli store in Adair Parade Mt Lawley. Frank ran Blenner Bros on his own until late 1959/60 when he sold it – around the time Tom the Cheap supermarkets came into being causing many small businesses to sell up.

In 1949, Arthur Snr's beloved wife, Priscilla, died, aged 60. Their son, Frank, and his family moved into the 165 Seventh Avenue home for twelve months to help Arthur. Only two of their sons did not join the family grocery business with their eldest son, Arthur Jnr, becoming a French polisher and George worked as a travelling salesman and then managed a tyre business. Arthur passed away in 1969, aged 79.

The full story of the Blennerhassett family can be found at <http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au/the-blennerhassett-family>.

Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB)

We featured a piece on the diminishing tree canopy in Perth in the last edition of the newsletter, and this has been followed up with the next article on page 4 of this edition. But a new threat to existing trees is emerging.

Polyphagous shot-hole borer (*Euwallacea fornicates*) is a beetle native to Southeast Asia which attacks a wide range of plants by tunnelling into trunks, stems and branches. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is responding to the confirmed detections of the exotic PSHB in the Perth metropolitan area. DPIRD is conducting trapping and surveillance to determine the spread of the pest. Traps are being distributed through the metro area, and these will remain in place for at least six months. Traps contain a yellow sticky trap in a cage (to prevent trapping birds, micro bats, rodents etc) with a lure. The lures contain Querciverol, an aggregation pheromone that attracts PSHB beetles. We should all monitor susceptible species including street trees for signs of PSHB damage (beetle entry holes, discolouration or staining of wood, gum leakage, crystalline "Sugar Volcanoes", frass or "noodles", or dieback) and report suspect infestation to DPIRD (Tel 9368 3080 or email padis@dpird.wa.gov.au).



If you see a trap, don't touch them! They have a very important job to do.



The entrance holes of PSHB are approximately the size of a ballpoint pen tip.

Trees facing serious challenges throughout the City of Stirling

Trees are essential for liveability, human health and wellbeing, and critical for the environment. Trees not only provide shelter and food for wildlife, but are vital for air and water quality, drainage and soil health, all of which provide endless benefits to people's backyards, parks and open spaces. Trees are also earth's natural air conditioners, providing shade and regulating the temperature, humidity and air quality immediately around them, throughout all seasons. Without these 'tree-services' our urban spaces would be very challenging to live in.

Recognising this, the City of Stirling contracted a monitoring program in 2012 to map the City's urban forest through aerial remote sensing technologies, each year.

Some important milestones resulting from this include Council's decision to set a tree canopy target of 18% by 2040, and the publication of the City's first Urban Forest Plan (2019).

Ten years on, a comparative study assessed the current state of Stirling's trees, compared to 2012. Part one of 'THE STATE OF THE URBAN FOREST' report was presented on 16th May 2023 at the City's Community and Resources Committee. This report outlined the serious situation that Stirling's trees are facing.

While the City has been fortunate to increase its canopy by 10% in public spaces, such as streets, parks and reserves, there has been considerable decline of canopy across Stirling.

The greatest challenge for Stirling's urban forest is within residential land. Though proportionally residential land makes up nearly half of the area of the City, its tree canopy coverage is the lowest of all land-types that were monitored and is under serious threat.

In just ten years canopy has declined by 18% in resident's private properties, with some suburbs suffering extraordinary losses.

Since 2012, Nollamara has lost 41% of its canopy from residential land. Balga lost 36%, Westminster 30%, and Glendalough 32% during this same time frame. In fact, many suburbs have lost between a fifth to a third of their canopy within residential land, and when trees are replaced with hard surfaces, it prevents the potential to plant trees in these spaces in the future. These losses relate to private residential properties, and do not include the verges, streets and parks.

Thankfully, in public spaces, tree canopy is growing and expanding. Contributing to canopy cover, the City has planted 83,659 trees since 2012, approximately 8,300 per year.

Part two of 'THE STATE OF THE URBAN FOREST' report begins to outline the challenges and what is needed to reach the target by 2040; to reach the Council's target of 18% by 2040, Stirling's canopy cover should have increased from 12.6% (2012) to 13.2% (in 2022), however in 2022 canopy only covered 12.3%. Part 2 will be presented on 25th of July 2023; the public are encouraged to attend. To find out more, please search the following link, from page 86.

<https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/CityOfStirling/files/f2/f21a0d15-8115-4262-8263-5576fa6ca599.pdf>

Kristina Jansons-Binns, Senior Urban Forest Officer, Parks and Sustainability

Mt Lawley Society Guest Speaker Series - 2023

The last meeting



Dr Harriet Mills gave a wonderful talk on the evolution of the Perth Zoo from its origins in 1898 through to the present day.

The next meeting

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES 2023

presented by the Mount Lawley Society **MLS ON HERITAGE**

August Speaker: Dr Susanna Iuliano

Sharing Heritage: Treasures and Memories of Mt Lawley: in the Vincent Local History Collection

Monday 28 August 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.

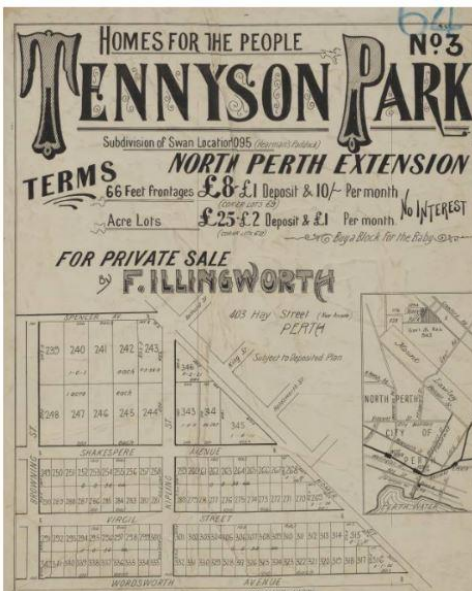
A Fantastic opportunity to hear about the history of Mt Lawley as archived in the City of Vincent Local History Collection. Be there!

100 Years Ago – A hunting we will go!

In looking through Trove for the months of June and July 1923 there were a couple of articles about The WA Hunt Club by "John Peel" in the Western Mail on page 3 of the 7 June and 19 July edition which I thought were interesting.

Rather than reproduce one or both articles I thought that it would be better to paraphrase them. I have, where possible, used both the technical and quaint language of the articles. Tallyho!

Glorious weather prevailed on Saturday for the meeting of the West Australian Hunt Club. The clouds had possession of the heavens during the week depositing plenty of moisture and the sun which shone down with the force and brilliance of summer made one and all glad to be out in the open bush. Members and friends met at the corner of Alvan and Walcott streets, Mount Lawley. Amongst the visitors to view the throw off were the Hon. Lady Newdegate.



Right on time the gathering moved off along Alvan and Beaufort streets to the scrub on the left of Inglewood, where the hounds commenced to draw and within a few minutes of leaving the road Dexter gave tongue and the pack responded, taking the field at a merry pace through Quinns and the swampy ground in the vicinity. Still bounding forward it was not long before the hunters found themselves in the country to the rear of Bayswater. The brush still kept on the move and

striking a good rate for Brown's paddock soon had the pack at fault by landing it on a hotbed of scent. Away again they go and we know this time they are on something fresher.

This one, just from the covert made it difficult to keep track of the exact course as in taking us over the hills to Tennyson Park, across to Meachams and back again to the park he covered every angle describable. Doubling here he drew part of the pack on to what appeared the old line and caused a division. For the purpose of concentration the huntsman whipped in and called a spell intending to re-cast.

With the refresher over hounds were sent along steadily in a westerly direction to the slaughter yards but failed to raise another. Circling homeward whimpers were occasionally heard but the earlier runs apparently satisfied them. They returned to the residence of Mrs Bateman, where we were entertained at afternoon tea.

Those in the field were his Excellency the Governor (Sir Francis Newdegate on Topsy); JP Sundercombe (master) on Robin; Mrs Bateman on True Shot; the huntsman (WD Atwell) on Spalata; JJ Harries (whip) on Lycosa... and about 50 other riders and their horse names.

The area covered in today's terms would be up Beaufort Street then swing westwards past Brown's Lake Reserve in Coode Street. A swing due west would take them to a subdivision then known as Tennyson Park west of Homer street (north of Terry Tyzack aquatic centre). They then went further west to the "Meachams" and "slaughter yards" [anybody know?] and returned to "Mrs Bateman's".



Western Australian Hunt Club Meet, North Perth, c.1920s.

The picture above shows the hunt outside The North Perth Hotel (formerly on the corner of Scarborough Beach Road and Charles Street – where the BP service station is today).

The above picture has been sourced from "A history of hunting with hounds in Western Australia." (in Early Days, Vol 11, pt. 6, pp. 695-712) by Marion Hercock and published by RWAHS in 2000. Every effort has been made to obtain permission to reproduce this picture, to no avail.

Roger Elmitt, Archivist.

MOUNT LAWLEY SOCIETY

ICONIC QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 29th July 2023
6.30pm for a 7.00pm start at
Mount Lawley Bowling Club
Tickets: \$176 for a table of 8
Theme: Icons

This year: Prize for the best Iconic
table centerpiece and best
individual costume

Think big! think unforgettable! think iconic!!



Don't forget to bring money for the raffle and bonus rounds!
Bring a plate to share with your table.
No BYO, the bowling club is a fully licensed venue

Tickets can be booked via the link on
<https://www.trybooking.com/CJQPR>

