

# FROM THE VERANDAH

Newsletter of the Mount Lawley Society

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### 42 Barlee Street, Mt Lawley

Private Herbert Cecil Moss was a 24-year-old bank clerk at the outbreak of WWI, living at 42 Barlee St with his father Herbert Archer (1852-1942), mother Ada (1847-1930), and sister Ada Gladys (1888-1986) from 1912 to 1915. Herbert enlisted in October 1914 and left for Alexandria, Egypt, on 8 February 1915. Unfortunately, he suffered from appendicitis from August to December 1915 (pre antibiotics). Upon release from hospital, he reverted to active duty in October 1917 in France. He distinguished himself at Peronne, France, and was awarded a Military Medal for Bravery in the Field. Returning to Australia in December 1918, Herbert married Marion Louise Buttle (1896-1945) in September 1919 and they had 4 children born between 1920 and 1924, and in 1925 the family moved to Harvey to take up farming. Herbert died on 13 September 1957.

## From the President

Dear Members and friends,

As we approach the end of another eventful year, I am pleased to share with you the latest updates on the Mount Lawley Society's activities and events leading up to the Christmas season in our last newsletter for the year.

The last in our Speaker Series for the year, was held on 23 October with Professor Geoffrey Lancaster speaking about historic keyboard instruments - another fascinating presentation that captivated the audience. We're grateful for his participation and look forward to hosting more engaging speakers in the coming year.

Upcoming Event: Mount Lawley Society Christmas Party! We are excited to announce our final event of the year, the Mount Lawley Society Christmas party, which is scheduled for December 10 at the Forrest Park Croquet Club starting at 3pm. This will be a festive celebration and our last function for 2023. More details about the party will be coming soon, so put it in your diary!

Looking forward to 2024, as we have exciting plans to expand our programs, engage with more speakers, and create more opportunities for our members to connect. We value your support, feedback, and active participation, which make all of this possible. Thank you for being a part of the Mount Lawley Society, and I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas party.

Warm regards,  
Mark Hodge

*President, Mount Lawley Society*



## From the Archives: the Connaughton Family



"Loughrea", 705 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley

The original owners of "Loughrea" at 705 Beaufort Street were Frederick "Fred" and Catherine "Kitty" (nee Kilmartin) Connaughton. They lived there from 1914 when the house was built with ownership in Kitty's name, and the family owned it until 1959 when it was bought by Perth College.

Fred Connaughton was born in Kilreekill (aka Kilrickle), Co. Galway, Ireland on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1867 and was the third eldest of 10 siblings. Kilreekill is approximately 8 kms northeast of Loughrea – the future name of his home at 705 Beaufort Street. At the age of 22, he came out to Australia on the passenger ship *Croza* (or *Orona*) leaving London for Melbourne by way of Colombo, King George's Sound (Albany), Adelaide and Melbourne. He landed in Victoria on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1890 but was attracted to Western Australia in 1895.

Proceeding straight to the Murchison fields in that year he gained his initial experience in mining and prospecting, and taking over the proprietorship of the Meekatharra Hotel still continued his keen interest in the development of the mineral wealth of the district.

Kitty was born on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1877 in County Clare, Ireland. Fred and Kitty met in Meekatharra where Kitty was



No pictures have been found for Fred Connaughton and this is the only one found for his wife Kitty taken in about 1940 when she was aged in her early 60s.

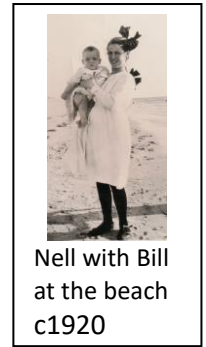


Six of the seven Connaughton Children c1920. l-r: Michael, Patrick, Frederick, Mary, Kathleen and Ellen. Not shown is William (born 1920)

working as a waitress at the Meekatharra Hotel. Fred and Kitty married on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1906 in Subiaco. They went on to have seven children. They owned and lived at the Meekatharra Hotel when the first four children were born, but in Beaufort Street, Mt Lawley, for the birth of their last three children. Three of the first four children were born in Perth so it looks like Kitty moved down for the final stages of the confinements. From 1926-27 Fred had a Buick plate number 763. By 1936 he had changed this to a Studebaker as he needed a big strong car to get him to Meekatharra to manage his investments and also to take two of his sons (presumably Fred and Paddy) who boarded at St Ildephonsus' College, New Norcia. Kitty died on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1947 aged 68, whilst Fred died at his home on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1950 in Mt Lawley aged 83 after a long illness. He is buried at Karrakatta. A newspaper report for 3 July 1950 stated that his estate was left £24,544/2/9 and the chief beneficiaries were his seven children.

The seven children were:

1. **Ellen “Nell” Annie Connaughton.** Born 24<sup>th</sup> August 1907, she married Joseph Gregory O’Halloran in Perth on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1936. They lived for many years at 35 Second Avenue, Mt Lawley, and had five children. Joseph died in 1960 and Nell in 1992.
2. **Kathleen Mary Connaughton.** Born Subiaco 1909, she married Charles Henry Stirling “Harry” Carolan (1906-1982) in Perth in 1945 and they lived in Melbourne. They had one daughter. Charles was born in Kyabram, Victoria in 1906 and was a bank manager. He died 17 June 1982 in Claremont. Kathleen died in Mosman Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1997 aged 96.

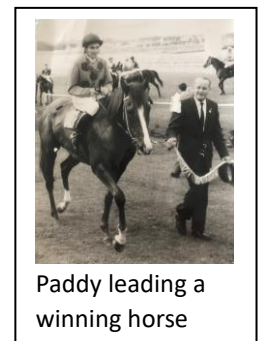


3. **Mary Connaughton** was born 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1910 in Mt Lawley, and listed as living at 705 Beaufort Street in 1943. During WWII she joined up on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1942 and was demobilised 17<sup>th</sup> April 1946. During this time she was a nursing sister with the rank of Lieutenant and also served in New Guinea. After the war she continued nursing and did not marry. In later years she lived with her unmarried brother Paddy at 73 Webster Street, Nedlands. She died in Bicton 1 June 2007 aged 96.
4. **Frederick “Fred” William Connaughton** was born in Mt Lawley on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1912. From at least 1934 to 1936 he attended Newman College, Kooyong, Melbourne, as a student and was registered as a doctor in 1936.

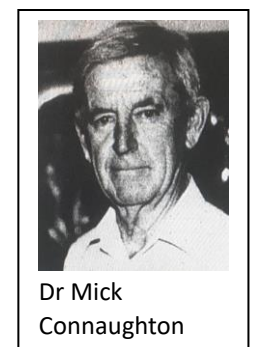
During WWII Major Frederick Connaughton served as a surgeon in the AIF from 30 January 1942 until 5 September 1946. He married Joan Gwendoline McCardel (b 8 June 1919) in Victoria in 1949 and they had 5 children. Between 1967 and 1980, Fred was living in Toorak, listed as physician with his wife Joan Gwendoline, home duties. He retired as senior surgeon of St Vincent’s hospital and died on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2002 aged 89 and is buried in Sorrento Cemetery Mornington Peninsula with his wife Victoria who died on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015.



5. **Patrick “Paddy” Connaughton.** Born on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1914, he attended St Ildephonsus College, New Norcia, as a boarder. He then studied law at the University of Western Australia. His passion though was medicine and he studied in Melbourne, but WWII interrupted his studies. He originally enlisted on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1941 in the medical corps where he served with 20th Field Ambulance and stated his trade as student of medicine. However, on 26 November 1942 he was discharged and enlisted in the RAAF the next day (giving his trade as solicitor). Here he was rejected to be a pilot on medical grounds but instead sailed to Canada arriving in May 1943 to commence training as a navigator. Upon his return to Perth, he resumed his law career with the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor’s Office. In the 1960s he lived in Webster Street, Nedlands with his sister Mary. They got on very well together and neither married. Patrick had a lifelong love for sport, and was a proud owner of six successful horses, including Kilrickle (birthplace of his father and winner of the 1970 Railway Stakes). He died on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1999 aged 85.



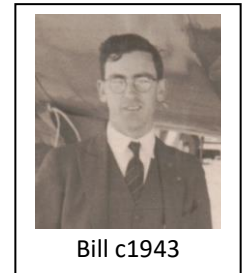
6. **Michael “Mick” Connaughton AM.** Born on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1917, Mick was educated at Christian Brothers College in Adelaide Terrace. Entering UWA in 1935 he began studying pharmacy but graduated as a doctor after completing studies at the University of Melbourne in 1941. During WWII, Captain Connaughton served as a regimental medical officer in the AIF. Postwar, he specialised in gynaecology and obstetrics, practising at Melbourne’s Royal Women’s Hospital between 1947 and 1950, after which he spent time as a professorial assistant at University College Hospital, London. Mick met Helen Terese Godson, who was from Maroubra, NSW, in Melbourne and they married in London in 1951 and had five children. From 1952 until his retirement, Dr Connaughton practised at every major hospital in Perth, including Royal Perth, St Anne’s and St John of God. Over his long career, his proudest achievement was instigating the process which led to the founding of the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, which came into being in 1978. In 1988 he became a member of the Order of Australia





for his services to medicine and community. Mick died of cancer on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2003 in West Perth aged 86, and his wife Helen passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at age of 94.

7. **William “Bill” Connaughton** was born in Mt Lawley on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1920 and, like his brothers he was educated at Christian Brothers College, Perth and was a fine hockey player. He had a passion for motorbikes. In 1943 he is living at 705 Beaufort St and listed as a clerk. He married Patricia Mary Orr in 1952 in Perth. They lived for many years in Mount Pleasant and had five children. Bill was an accountant and a bank officer with the R&I Bank (now BankWest) and later became bursar at a UWA residential college. He died in Fremantle on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2001.



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## Mt Lawley Society Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Mt Lawley Society AGM will take place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 at the Forrest Park Croquet Club, 66 Harold Street, Mount Lawley.

Please enter the date in your diary, and further details will be sent in due course.

Nominations are invited for positions on the Committee of office holders (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and ordinary committee members. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary, Mt Lawley Society, at [mountlawleysociety@gmail.com](mailto:mountlawleysociety@gmail.com) and nomination forms returned before 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

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## Mt Lawley Society Guest Speaker Series - 2023



We were extremely fortunate to have Professor Geoffrey Lancaster, AO, of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) as our final guest speaker of 2023.

He gave an illustrated talk about the rare and important collection of historic keyboard instruments held on the Mt Lawley campus. Geoffrey was an enthusiastic speaker with the audience being held in the palm of his hand by his incredible knowledge of the subject and engaging sense of humour. He recounted how, in 2016, Edith Cowan University received an unprecedented and historic gift – the Stewart Symonds Keyboard Instrument Collection. Now preserved for posterity at Edith Cowan University, the Collection comprises 140 instruments – including Australia’s First Piano. It offers a wide selection of exceptionally rare – in some instances, unique –

stringed keyboard instruments dating from 1736 to 1874. including an English bentside spinet, and breathtaking examples of square, grand and cabinet pianos.

Geoffrey is to retire from academia in January 2024 but he already has a number of collaborative projects lined up with prestigious institutions that will certainly keep him busy. We wish him well for the future.

## Mt Lawley Society Membership Renewals

Membership renewals have now been sent out to our members who fall due this year. Thank you to those who have paid promptly and/or have notified us of any change of contact details. If you are one of our valued members who have just received a renewal notice, early payment would be appreciated.

## 100 years ago – Live Broadcast from the Lyceum Theatre



below.

The Lyceum Theatre (now the Astor) on the corner of Beaufort and Walcott Streets was opened on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 1919 and could hold 1,060 people, 300 in the Dress Circle and 760 below. The venue was multi-purpose back then and on Tuesday and Thursday nights it was hired for dancing. But on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 1923, a live broadcast of an evening of entertainment was made by the Mt Lawley Radio Club with the transmitter being controlled by Mr Walter E Coxon. The event was the first of its kind in Australia, and was advertised and then reported in the local press as shown

### **WIRELESS. WIRELESS. Sunday Times. Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1923**

*An Event unique in the History of Australasia. LYCEUM THEATRE, MT. LAWLEY, THURSDAY. DEC, 6, 1923. A FULL EVENING'S PROGRAMME WILL BE BROADCASTED BY Miss G. Edwards, Messrs. Peter Roxby, Jade Stephens, Bert Gibson, "Dryblower" (E. G. Murphy). H. C. Goff and his Choir of 50 Voices, McMahon's Concert Band, and the Perth Banjo Team.*

*Proceeds to Provide Wireless for Mt. Lawley Radio Club. PRICES-2/ and 1/6. Reserved, 6d. extra.*

### **WIRELESS CONCERT. The West Australian. Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1923**

*Last night, from the Lyceum Theatre, the Mt. Lawley Radio Club broadcasted a concert contributed to by several of Perth's leading vocalists and musicians. The entertainment was transmitted by Mr. W. E Coxon over a radius of between 400 and 500 miles; and the Radio Club claimed that this was the first full programme to be broadcasted in Australia. Whether this be true or not, the concert afforded proof of the earnestness with which the club has taken up wireless, while the size and enthusiasm of the audience bore witness to a widespread interest in the subject. The entertainment was in itself an excellent one, considered apart from the added novelty given by the recording apparatus, which stood at one side of the stage. Professor Ross prefaced the concert with a few words congratulating the organisers on their efforts. Mr. Hugh McMahon's orchestra led off the concert with selections from 'Geisha'; other artistes including Messrs. E. G. Murphy ('Dry-blower'), Jack Sevens. B. Gibson, and Peter Roxby, Miss Gwindys Edwards, and Mr. H. C. Goff's choir.*

### **Sunday Times. Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1923**

*At the radio concert at the Lyceum Theatre not only the numbers submitted but the cheers and hoorays of the audience were all heard by listeners in hundreds of miles away. The new science Hoo-radio!*



Walter Ernest "Wally" Coxon  
1891 - 1968

Broadcasting demonstrations started with Walter "Wally" Coxon in 1918 at the Perth Royal Show. He broadcast speech and music from one side of the showground to the other with a demonstration transmitter on display in one pavilion and a demonstration receiver in another on the far side of the showground. Walter Coxon also claimed to have originated the first-ever music broadcasts in Western Australia, in about 1920. Emanating from his own amateur 'rig' in the family home at 46 Sixth Avenue, Maylands, they featured records borrowed from a Perth record company.

Coxon was granted WA's first broadcast licence and began transmitting from Highgate in 1921 (call sign 6AG). Known as the "Father of Radio in Western Australia", he became the Manager and first Chief Engineer of 6WF and successfully broadcast from WA to England, South Africa, Java, Holland, England, and America. Walter later designed and equipped commercial stations 6ML, 6BY, and 6AM, and pioneered the technical work for the Royal Flying Doctor Radio Service throughout Western Australia.

# Local Library Events

## **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: 101**

Saturday 11th November 2023

Time: 9am - 12pm

Venue: City of Vincent Library

Cost: \$5

Join Annabel Smith for this intensive workshop covering a wide variety of insights into creative writing. If you are a budding novelist then this is the event for you. Annabel will impart her vast knowledge of 20 years in the writing industry.

Get tickets at <https://events.humanitix.com/creativewriting101> or contact Sindy Dowden, City of Vincent Library by phone (9273 6090) or email ([library@vincent.wa.gov.au](mailto:library@vincent.wa.gov.au))

## **AUTHOR TALK - To Dwell In Unity with Chris Berry**

Inglewood Library will be hosting Chris Berry, author of "To Dwell In Unity" on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 4.00pm to 5.00pm**. It is a free event.

The book "To Dwell in Unity" was written to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of local government in Western Australia. The book was awarded the AE Williams - Lee Steere Prize of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society for best new book on WA history in 2022. Copies of Dr Chris Berry's book will be available for purchase at the event.

Bookings can be made by:

1. Contacting Inglewood Library on 9205 7700
2. Registering via the link <https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/leisure-and-culture/arts-and-events/events-calendar/to-dwell-in-unity-with-chris-berry> with further information, or
3. Booking via Humanitix ticketing platform at <https://events.humanitix.com/to-dwell-in-unity-with-chris-berry>

## **DIGITAL DECLUTTERING: STORAGE OPTIONS**

Friday 24th November 2023

Time: 11.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: City of Vincent Library - Media Room

Cost: Free

Are you drowning in data? Finding it difficult to find the important stuff? Running out of cloud storage on your smart device? Then this is the workshop for you. Join us to learn what you cloud storage is, how it works, how to access it and how to declutter it. Attendees are encouraged to bring along their own phone or device to can follow along with instructions.

Get tickets at <https://events.humanitix.com/digital-decluttering-storage-options> or contact City of Vincent Library and Local History Centre by phone (9273 6090) or email ([library@vincent.wa.gov.au](mailto:library@vincent.wa.gov.au)).

## **CHRISTMAS BAUBLE WORKSHOP**

Thursday 7th December 2023

Time: 5pm - 6.30pm

Venue: City of Vincent Library Lounge

Cost: \$3

This 1.5 hour workshop constructs Honeycomb Christmas Baubles from recycled materials. Using discard books as a base, we will make two Honeycomb Christmas Baubles and hang it with ribbon. During the first part of the workshop participants will be provided with a precut bauble to glue together using a template. In the second part of the workshop participants will cut and glue their own bauble, learn the whole process from beginning to end and take away the skills to make their own baubles at home. All materials provided

This workshop involves using a sharp knife therefore it is **not suitable for children**.

Get tickets at <https://events.humanitix.com/christmas-bauble-workshop> or contact Sindy Dowden at City of Vincent Library by phone (9273 6097) or email ([Libadmin@vincent.wa.gov.au](mailto:Libadmin@vincent.wa.gov.au)).