

FROM THE VERANDAH

Newsletter of the Mount Lawley Society (MLS)

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10 Melrose Crescent, Menora

The house, shown above in 1959, was constructed as a 9-room brick dwelling by builder Chas Grayson in 1936 for Mrs M Catts at a contract price of £2400. The architect was Mr. C L E Harrison. Abraham and Mary Catts were initial residents. Abraham was a restaurant proprietor with the Monte Carlo Café in Barrack Street. Walter (Wally) and Marie (nee Vander Velde) Tauss then lived there 1949-1970. Dr Tauss arrived in Australia in 1938 from Austria, and was an academic with many letters after his name – MBE, PhD, BSc, Dip.Soc.Wk, MAPsS, AAPSW, APTC, AASA(Sen), FAIM, MAIA, receiving his PhD for a thesis on “Neurotic Manifestation, Predisposition and Everyday Stress”. Wally was awarded an MBE in 1961 for work with the RAAF and assisted with setting up of the Temple David in Perth and was a keen member of the Mt Lawley Tennis Club.

From the President

Dear Members and friends,

Unfortunately, and as much as I wanted to, I didn't make it to the Quiz Night because I was unwell. This is our big fundraiser for the year and everyone I've spoken to said it was a fun and successful night on all counts. Thank you to all those members who helped put it together and to all of you who attended.

Last week the most recent talk in our Guest Speaker Series was held at the Forrest Park Croquet Club. This month's speaker was Dr Susanna Iuliano, the Senior Librarian of Local History at the City of Vincent. Another fascinating talk, Susanna enlightened us on local history stories, talking about our early families and histories of some of our iconic locations. I have to give a big thank you to Committee member, Phill Matson for putting together such an interesting selection of speakers this year. Our next talk in the Guest Speaker Series will be in late October and will be the final for the year.

This year we are planning to have a Christmas party on December 10, so set this date aside! It's still in the planning process but we'll give you more details as they come to hand.

Hope you enjoy this edition of *From the Verandah*

Regards

Mark Hodge
President



The Mt Lawley Society Quiz Night

On Saturday 29th July, the Mt Lawley Society hosted our biggest fundraiser of the year, the annual quiz night! This event is always enormously popular and competition is fierce to take out that coveted position at the top of the leader board!

This year's theme was "Iconic" and guests were encouraged to dress as their favourite icon. The best dressed award went to Mt Lawley's very own Harry Potter while the Vegemites took out the best-dressed table award. Could anything be more Aussie and more iconic than Vegemite?

The quiz consisted of 8 rounds of questions - Iconic People, Iconic Music, Iconic Landmarks, Iconic Events, Iconic Transport, Iconic Films, Iconic Literature and finally, Iconic Brands with some fantastic prizes up for grabs! In between rounds, guests could join in additional games to win even more prizes.

Our Quizmaster, Steve Chetkovich, kept contestants on their toes throughout, expertly supported by Rosie the Riveter and her council of discerning judges.

A huge thank you to our generous supporters who donated prizes for this year's event: Simon Millman MLA, the University Club of Western Australia, Chris Pham of Belle Property, Mount Lawley Golf Club, the Inglewood Hotel, Beaufort Street Books, Mount Lawley Hardware, Grand Cru, Irving & Keenan Real Estate, Stephen Patrick for Hair, Willing Coffee, Marble & Expo Pty Ltd, Oh My Cod, Reset HQ, Councillor Elizabeth Re and City of Stirling to name but a few! Our society is run entirely by volunteers and we receive no government funding so we rely heavily on the generosity of our members and donors at events like this to keep doing what we are doing to preserve heritage in our wonderful area!



Mt Lawley Society Guest Speaker Series - 2023

The last meeting



We were privileged at our August meeting to have Dr Susanna Iuliano, seen here with MLS President Mark Hodge, as the guest speaker. She is the Senior Librarian at the Local History Centre in the City of Vincent Library. Susanna gave us a fascinating tour of the Local History Centre website focussing on stories and images relating to Mt Lawley and East Perth. Do you remember the Bluebird Tearooms at 661 Beaufort Street, run by Despina Kalaf and her family from 1954 to 1972, or Millar’s Cave in the Millar’s Timber & Trading Co. timber yard and sheds on Lord Street? These questions and more are answered on the website at <https://library.vincent.wa.gov.au/local-history-centre.aspx>.



The next meeting

October Speaker:

Professor Geoffrey Lancaster, AO

“Straight from the Art: The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts Collection of Historic Keyboard Instruments”

Monday 23rd October 2023, 7.00pm

Forrest Park Croquet Club, 66 Harold St, Mt Lawley



Geoffrey Lancaster, a Professor at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Mt Lawley, has been at the forefront of the historically-informed performance practice movement for 40 years. He is an accomplished musician in his own right, appearing with all of Australia's major orchestras, and also a master teacher of keyboard and historical performance practice having taught at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, Royal Conservatory of The Hague, Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Mozarteum, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and the Royal Northern College of Music.

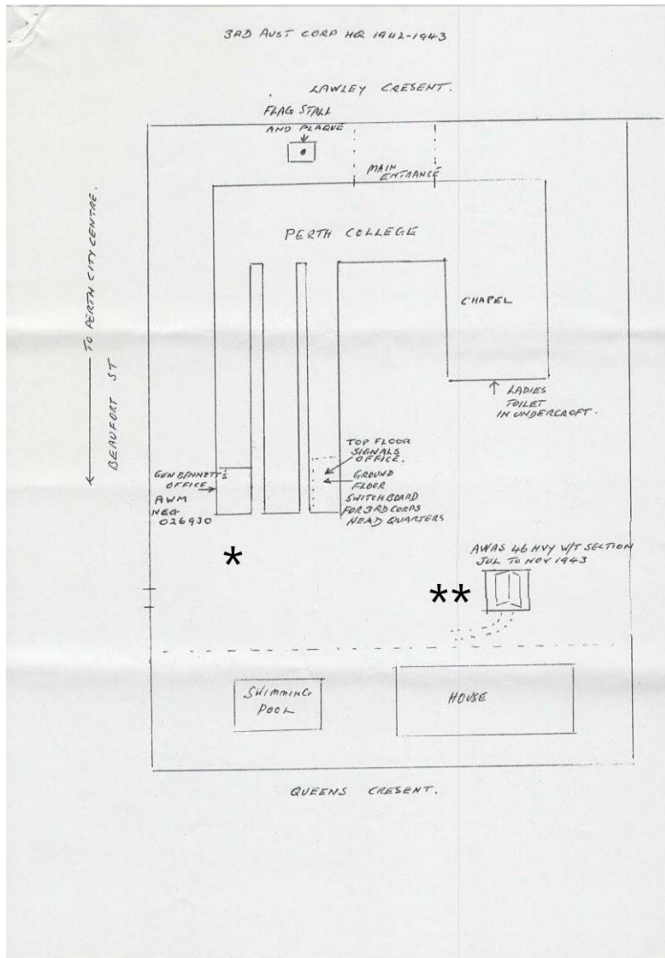
Not to be missed!

Arrive at 7.00pm for refreshments, view some of the Society’s photos and posters, and chat with friends. Guest Speaker starts at 7.30pm.

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

From the Archives

The army at Perth College in 1942-1943



The 3rd Australian Corps was responsible for the defence of Western Australia in 1942-1944. They were formed in April 1942 from Western Command which itself was formed in October 1939 and was based at the Swan Barracks in Francis St, Perth, the building that is now heritage listed and sits between the Museum and Beaufort St. So, in April 1942, the 3rd Australian Corps' headquarters were established at Perth College (PC), Mt Lawley, with Lieutenant Gordon Bennet appointed Corps Commander (see his office shown in the adjacent



Group portrait of officers at Headquarters, 3rd Australian Corps. 25th June 1943.

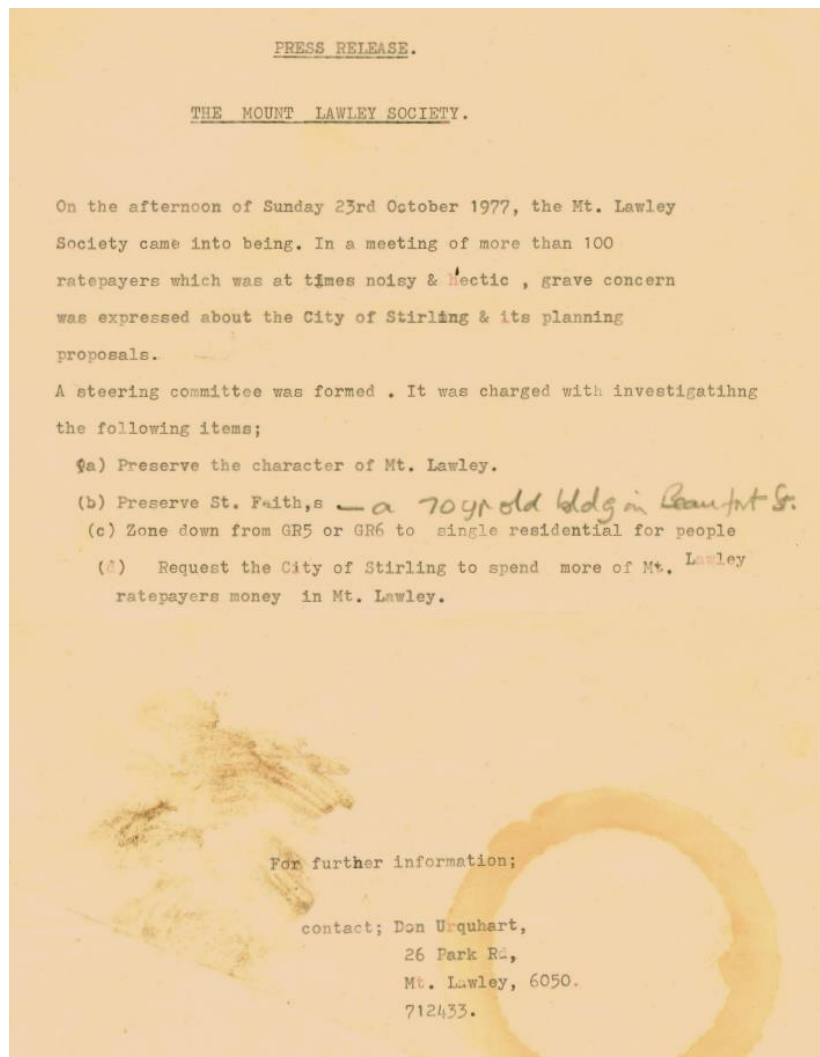
map, marked *). In August 1942, the 2nd Division from NSW joined the 3rd Australian Corps although they had their headquarters in Guildford, joining the Victorian 4th Division which had arrived in WA in March 1942.

According to excerpts from memoirs of WF45679 Sigwm Joy See (later Mrs Joy Tufnell), a copy of which is held in the Mt Lawley Society archive:

*The 46 Heavy Wireless Section of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) Signals was also based at PC from July to November 1943. Despite there being twelve girls still at the school, half of the Hvy W/T section was transferred from Kalamunda Wireless Station to the newly created Dug-Out at PC (see map, marked **). The Dug-Out was a unique place, an after-thought hole in the ground in the backyard of Perth College, measuring 8ft square by 6ft high and the walls were sand-bagged to keep the earth in place. It had a tent top with camouflaged tent-fly stretched above it. The entrance pathway was down a gradual decline with sandbags on either side and, although the door was made of sturdy wood, the rain did penetrate beneath on occasions. It was cold and miserable for the first 2-3 months with only a small kerosene heater for warmth. The Wireless Receivers were installed so the signal women could tune in themselves, while the transmitters remained in Kalamunda and were manned by the other half of the Section known as "Remote Control".*

The signal women at PC worked three 8 hour shifts per day, 7 days per week, operating only two Wireless links – 8LL to Pippingarra in the north of WA, and Fortress Signals at Albany and Rottnest. When stationed at the Dug-Out, signals women were allowed to live at home but the two groups alternated on a monthly basis. They certainly took advantage of being in the city every second month, attending dances, the pictures and catching up with Civvy friends. The system worked well but they were noticeably busier than previously. 3rd Australia Corps Signals office men were running back and forth from their "cosy" warm office in the main College building with bundles of coded messages to be sent out, and they collected the incoming messages from the signals women. MUCH LATER, we were to discover that over 50% of those messages were DUMMY! The heavy volume of traffic on the airwaves with falsely coded messages was supposedly to confuse the Japanese. As the situation of the War changed, by November 1943, the signals women were moved again. The old Dug-Out was used for wireless monitoring and interception.

The formation of the Mount Lawley Society 46 years ago



On the afternoon of Sunday 23rd October 1977 at Ferguson Hall, corner of Glenroyd Street and Lawley Crescent, the Mount Lawley Society came into being as shown in the Press Release on the left. A Steering Committee was formed with Don Urquhart (interim President) and Peta Townsing (interim Secretary) and other members being Russell Moffet, Frank Hemsley, John McGuire, Brian Haines, Ed Scull and Shirley Mulcahy. The inaugural AGM was then held at Ferguson Hall on Sunday 20th November, 1977 with 60 people present, and the first Committee was elected as Don Urquhart (President), Peta Townsing (Secretary), Phyl Hamsley (Treasurer), and general members Jeff Currie, Angelo Christou, Tim Johnston, Hannah Downie and Richard Saulsman.

It can be seen from the adjacent press release that the first objective and principle motivation was to preserve the character of Mt Lawley as many of the old homes were being demolished for development. The second objective then mentions the specific preservation of "St Faith's". This was originally the old house of the Connaughton family at "Loughrea", 705

Beaufort Street, built in 1914. They were neighbours of Samuel Copley who lived at "Mayroyd", 707 Beaufort Street. Copley, together with RT Robinson and his brother Ben, purchased 730 acres (300 ha) of land to form the Mount Lawley estate which they sub-divided into quarter-acre blocks. "Loughrea" was offered for sale in 1958 for £10,000 and it was purchased by Perth College. In 1959 Perth College renamed the house "St Faith's" providing such functions as dressmaking and stenography in separate rooms, accommodation for several resident mistresses, and a proper meeting room for the old girls. By 1963 "St Faith's" was converted to house twenty boarders – "trusted older girls, who were even allowed to wear shorts". Perth College subsequently demolished the building in 1977 to make way for the current playing fields. Indeed, the interim President of the Mt Lawley Society (Don Urquhart) wrote to the Archbishop of Perth on 3 November 1977 regarding the fate of "St Faith's":

"Your Grace, I think it is only proper that you should be made aware of the amount of ill-will and odium which is being created by the decision of the Council of Perth College."

Perth College also purchased Copley's home "Mayroyd" and it was demolished in 1981.



"Loughrea", 705 and "Mayroyd", 707 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley, were neighbours

100 years ago – Inspection of Local Park

The following article was published in the *West Australian* on Saturday 22 September 1923 on page 10 and is transcribed as published (ie no paragraphs).

With the view of affording representatives of the cricket, football, bowling, tennis, and other sporting associations, an opportunity of inspecting the reserve; at Mt Lawley recently vested¹ in the Perth Road Board, a visit was paid to the locality on Thursday last². The board was represented by Messrs. E. W. Hamer³ (chairman). R. T. Robinson⁴; J. Tyler, D. Keane, F. A. Mansfield, and Crain, with the secretary (Mr. Plunkett) and engineer (Mr. Hargrave). Professor Shann and Mr. Keall attended on behalf of the golfing association, and Mr. W Orr represented the W.A. Football League. The W.A.C.A. was represented by Mr. Robinson, the Lawn Tennis Association by Mr. Warren, and the British Soccer Association by Mr. Robinson Cook. Mr. J. G. Braithwaite, Perth city gardener, was also present. The party motored out to the reserve and the afternoon was spent in an inspection of the areas allotted for bowls and tennis. Australian and soccer football, cricket, and golf, and also for parks and; gardens and children's playgrounds. Subsequently an adjournment was made to Waurina⁵, the residence of the chairman, at Mt. Lawley, where refreshments were served, and a pleasant half-hour was spent. Gratification was expressed, by the representatives that such a fine area should have been granted by the Government for recreation purposes so close to the city, and attribute was paid to the far-seeing policy adopted by the Premier⁶ in reserving the land for all time to come.

The Land Act, 1898.
ORDER IN COUNCIL.

Corr. No. 5192/96.

WHEREAS by Section 42 of "The Land Act, 1898," it is made lawful for the Governor to direct that any Reserve shall vest in and be held by any Municipality, Road Board, or other person or persons to be named in the order, in trust for any of the purposes set forth in Section 39 of the said Act, or for the like or other public purposes to be specified in such order, and with power of leasing for any term not exceeding twenty-one years from the date of the lease: And whereas it is deemed expedient that Reserves A18324 and A18325 should vest in and be held by the Perth Road Board; Now, therefore, His Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, doth hereby direct that the before-mentioned Reserves shall vest in and be held by the Perth Road Board, with power to the said Perth Road Board to lease the whole or any portion of the said Reserve for any term not exceeding twenty-one years from the date of the lease. Provided that any such lease shall be first approved by His Excellency the Governor.

BERNARD PARKER,
Clerk of the Council.

Extract from Government Gazette June 29, 1923

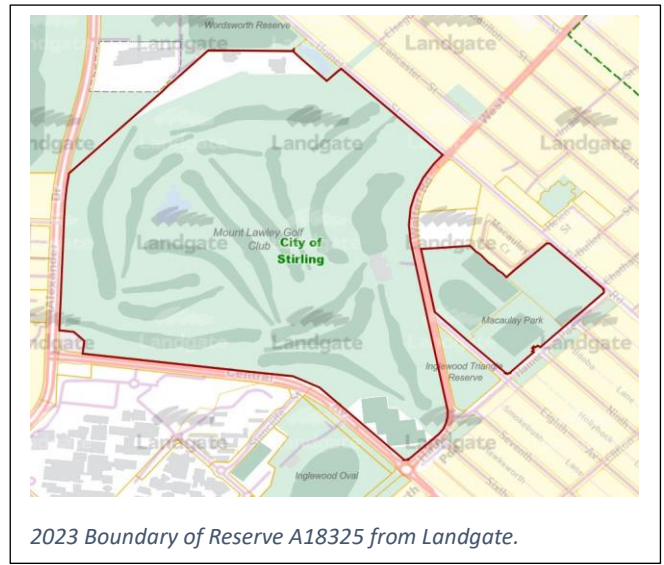
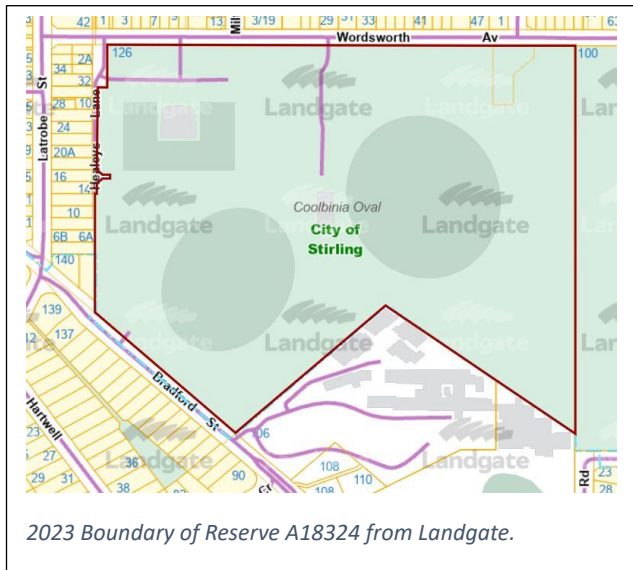
¹ Published June 29, 1923 Government Gazette, WA Page 1201.

² 20th September 1923.

³ After whom Hamer Park is named.

- 4 Director (with Samuel Copley) of Mount Lawley Ltd.
- 5 Possibly spelt Waurena.
- 6 The Premier at the time was Sir James Mitchell.

The following maps from Landgate show the boundaries of Reserves A18324 and A18325 which currently cover (a) Coolbinia Oval and (b) the Mt Lawley Golf Club, Macaulay Park respectively.



2023 State Heritage Conference

23-24 October 2023, State Theatre Centre, Perth.

The Heritage Council of Western Australia with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage are hosting a two-day conference. The theme “Our Shared Heritage: culture and continuum” addresses the multiple values associated with State heritage places and how these values have evolved over time.

The program includes a range of speakers and covers topics including natural heritage, the use of technology, reinterpretation of places to include different voices, local heritage and community-led projects.

This is a free event but to attend, you must register online at <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-planning-lands-and-heritage/2023-state-heritage-conference-our-shared-heritage-culture-and-continuum> . Registrations close at 5pm on Saturday 30 September 2023.

