

FROM THE VERANDAH

Newsletter of the Mount Lawley Society

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"Chinti", 49 Clotilde Street, Mt Lawley

Designed by the architect John McNeece and built in 1911, the photo shows the house of George Hayman and his family c1914 before the start of WW1. The white hats are to protect the prize chrysanthemums of which George was very proud, and it was said that the baker wouldn't deliver bread to the house because the hill was too steep for his horse. The son of a convict from Devon who arrived in WA in 1858, George was born in WA in 1861, became an accountant, and married Emily Maria (nee Mason) in 1882; she was born in 1862. They had seven children, Henry (1882-1883), Mary (1884-1906), Rose (1886-1906), Florence (1889-1973), Harold (1890-1974), Sabina (1893-1978) and Amelia (1895-1988). Emily is presumed to be on the backrow left in the photo with her daughter Florence in the middle. Florence was awarded an OBE in 1960 for services to social welfare. George died in 1929 and Emily in 1939.

From the President

Dear members and friends,

Happy New Year to you all! As we usher in a new year, I am looking forward to the events and activities we have planned for 2024. As usual, it promises to be a year filled with cultural enrichment, community engagement, and the celebration of our shared heritage.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is just around the corner, scheduled for January 21. I encourage each of you to consider joining the committee, as your involvement is crucial to the success and vitality of our group. Your ideas, energy, and passion for preserving and promoting our heritage will undoubtedly contribute to the richness of our activities.

Getting involved in the community is not only rewarding but also a lot of fun. We are fortunate to have a community, and committee, of great individuals who are dedicated to our cause. Joining the committee provides a great opportunity to collaborate with like-minded people and make a positive impact. I am excited about the journey that awaits us in the coming year and look forward to your continued support and participation. Let's make 2024 a year to remember for the Mount Lawley Society!

Warm regards,
Mark Hodge
President, Mount Lawley Society



Mt Lawley Society
Annual General Meeting



The Mount Lawley Society Inc AGM

**is to be held on Sunday 21 January 2024 at
Forrest Park Croquet Club,
66 Harold St, Mt Lawley**

**Members and friends are invited to arrive from
3.30pm for complimentary drinks and light
refreshments. Feel free to BYO as well.**

Meeting to begin at 4.15pm promptly

Please RSVP to mountlawleysociety@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing our members and any interested community members at the event, but please note that only financial members are eligible to vote.

From the Archives: the Hough family at war

Australia's involvement in the First World War began when Britain and Germany went to war on 4th August 1914, and both Prime Minister Joseph Cook and Opposition Leader Andrew Fisher, who were in the midst of an election campaign, pledged full support for Britain. The outbreak of war was greeted in Australia, as in many other places, with great enthusiasm but, unlike the other countries engaged in WW1, conscription was not introduced and all Australians who fought in WW1 were volunteers. And yet, the First World War remains the costliest conflict for Australia in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 enlisted, more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner.

The family

Christopher James Hough was born near Bunbury on 7th March 1862, and his future wife Isabella Ann McConnell was born in Victoria in 1865. They married in Victoria in 1885 but moved to Western Australia, living in and around Busselton. The couple had six children namely Mabel Luisa (1887-1932), Leonard Irwin (1889-1980), Christopher Leslie (1891-1916), Roderick Owen (1893-1961), Edith Evelyn (1894-1972) and Mena Hough (1896-1956). When the father Christopher died on 13th April 1914, they were living at 69 Colin Street, Perth, but it would appear the family moved at least twice after Christopher's death before they settled at 11 Cattle St, Mt Lawley, around 1917. Mrs Hough remained living in Cattle St until after 1923.

The Hough Family saw three of their six children volunteer and serve in WW1 but only two would return home. Two of the boys, Leonard and Christopher, enlisted in 1914 and 1915 respectively whilst their sister Edith served with the Australian Army Nursing Service from 1917. These are their stories.



Leonard Irwin Hough
Photo courtesy Virtual War
Museum Australia.



Gravestone of Christopher Hough
Photo courtesy Virtual War
Museum Australia.



Edith Hough
Photo courtesy of Virtual War
Museum Australia

Leonard Irwin Hough

Leonard Irwin Hough was born in Busselton 31st September 1889. Prior to enlistment, he was working on the railways as an Engine Fireman. He enlisted when 25-years-old on 5th October 1914 and went to the Blackboy Hill training camp at the foot of the Darling Ranges. He was 5ft 7in tall and weighed just under 60kg, and was accepted as fit for service despite having had his right big toe previously amputated.



HMHS St David c1914

Private Leonard Hough left Australia on *HMAT A31 Ajana* on 31st December 1914 bound for Egypt. He was transferred to the 13th Field Artillery Brigade as a driver on 9th April 1916. He embarked upon the *Rhesus* in Alexandria on 16th June 1916 and arrived in Marseille, France on 24th June 1916 but was frequently sick and hospitalised between September and November 1916 when he returned to England on the hospital ship *HMHS St David* with chronic rheumatism.

After 656 days of illness, he left for Australia on *HMAT Runic* via Devonport on 4th May 1917 as medically unfit with the added problem of his pre-war amputated toe and an old fracture in his thigh.

Upon his return to Perth, he lived at 11 Cattle Street and registered for home service. He was discharged from the AIF in September 1918. In 1919 he married Margaret May Bennett (1890-1965) and they moved out of Mt Lawley to Fremantle where Leonard worked as a storeman. Leonard enlisted for home service again at the outbreak of WW2. He died in Perth in 1980.

Christopher Leslie Hough

Christopher Leslie, born in 1891 in Busselton, was the second son in the Hough family. He enlisted on the 15th June 1915 when 24-years-old whilst he was living with his mother and working as a Commercial Traveller. At the time of enlistment, he was 5ft 7in tall, weighed 62.1kg and had blue eyes and light brown hair. He also went to the Blackboy Hill training camp. Christopher joined the 2nd Anzac Light Horse Regiment in November 1915 and travelled to Egypt.

On arrival at the end of November, he was taken to the 19th British General Hospital in Alexandria with mumps, and in January 1916 he was transferred to a Convalescent Camp. At the end of January, he re-joined his unit and was sent to France on 22nd March 1916 leaving Alexandria on *SS Bohemian*, and arriving at Marseille 28th March 1916.



The Somme Valley near Pozieres, c1916.

On the 18th August 1916 he was killed in action in the field around the village Pozières, France, in the Battle of the Somme. It has been stated that for several weeks Pozières became the focus of the Somme fighting and the worst place to be on earth. Of the 23,000 Australian casualties, 6,800 men were killed or died of wounds. Lance Corporal Christopher Hough is buried in the Rue-David Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France, and his gravestone bears the inscription "HATING WAR HE MADE THIS SACRIFICE". His personal effects (disc, scissors, notebook, wallet, ring [broken], pipe, photos, letters) were sent to his mother on 24th July 1917.

Edith Evelyn Hough

Edith was the second daughter of Christopher James and Isabella Ann Hough and lived at 11 Cattle St, Mount Lawley. She had previously worked as a certified nurse. She joined the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), Australian Army Nursing Unit (AANS) when 23-years-old as a Staff Nurse on 16th November 1917. She was 5ft 5in tall, weighed 59kg and had blue eyes and brown hair. She embarked on *HMAT SS Canberra* at Fremantle on 24th November 1917 to work at No 14 Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on the outskirts of Cairo. During her time in Egypt, Evelyn was taken sick twice and admitted to the hospital annexe in Port Said both times. Following the end of hostilities, Edith embarked on *HMS Kaiser-i-Hind* (Hindi name meaning "Empress of India") on 27th December 1918 bound for the UK. She disembarked at Southampton on 7th January 1919 and was assigned to the No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park House on the western outskirts of Greater London near Watford.



No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital during WW1

Edith married Captain Otto Ludwig Vetter, an Australian serving with the Royal Air Force, at St Andrews Church, Marylebone, London on 16th January 1919. She resigned from the service because nurses had to be single or widowed to serve, and she returned to Perth, Australia, settling in South Perth. Her husband ran Vetter and Co, Automobile Engineers at 50-56 Murray St Perth. They had 2 children, a daughter and a son. Their son, Flight Sergeant John Irwin Vetter of No 42 Squadron, RAAF died as a POW in Java in February 1945. Otto died in 1968 and Edith in August 1972.

ANZACs in Mount Lawley

Around the 100th anniversary of the Anzacs landing at Gallipoli, the Mount Lawley Society Inc History & Archiving Subcommittee undertook a project to find out how many soldiers enlisted for World War 1 whilst they or their next of kin were living in what was or is now known as Mount Lawley in the years 1914-1918. We found over 470 men who enlisted from the area. About 360 of that number were found in the National Archives of Australia, and the additional men were found via seven other sources.

If you have any information about or photographs of someone that enlisted at this time, or wish to help with the research in this project, then please contact us at mountlawleysociety@gmail.com so we may build the most comprehensive set of records possible.

City of Vincent Local History Awards



Roger Elmitt, Beth McKechnie and Phill Matson at the City of Vincent awards presentation ceremony

The History and Archiving committee had a wonderful end to 2023. They submitted four entries to the City of Vincent Local History Awards competition, and two were given awards. They were (i) Roger Elmitt won Special Mention for his entry on the Diary of World War I experiences of Joseph Rosenthal, who lived in North Perth (Written Word on a Person or People Category), and (ii) Phill Matson won Second Place for his entry on the Mount Lawley Subway (Written Word on a Place Category). The two other entries were Beth McKechnie and Deb Olle who entered the

Soldiers of Barlee Street 1914-1918 in the History of a Place Category, and Roger Cooper who entered a photo of the Forrest Park Croquet Club in the Contemporary Images Category.

Please visit our website at www.mountlawleysociety.org.au/news to see these entries.

Mt Lawley Society Guest Speaker Series – 2024



MLS HIP ON HERITAGE
MOUNT LAWLEY SOCIETY EST. 1977

The Guest Speaker series will commence this year in March 2024 and occur on alternate months after that. It follows on from a successful series in 2023 when we had five speakers, an average of nearly 30 people attending each meeting, and a total of \$378 raised through the raffle for the Society.

We hope this year to have a mixture of historical and contemporary topics, but don't worry if they don't seem to suit you as all the speakers are interesting and engaging, and it is an excellent opportunity to network with existing and new friends. Please support these events!

100 years ago – The Woes of Yesteryear

Highlighting a problem we don't have today!

From the *West Australian* of 9th January 1924, under the heading of **Noisy Windmills**, we see the following Letter.

To the Editor:

I am very pleased indeed to see that attention has at last been called, although in a very mild manner, to this intolerable nuisance. The health of citizens is protected in other ways, but any inconsiderate owner of an old windmill can, and does, injure the health and well-being of his neighbours by depriving them of sleep. Night after night have I lain awake listening to the "thud, thud" of a noisy mill, until about three o'clock in the morning. Distracted and unable to stand the strain any longer, I have had to go into a hot stuffy room and shut the door and window to keep out the horrible noise. At times I have been unable to attend to my work properly on account of want of sleep and a bad headache. Surely the council or road board could get power to regulate this cruel practice and force those selfish people, who can have no consideration or kindly feeling for their neighbours, to shut down their mills for a few hours and enable others to have a few hours' sleep.

Yours, etc., DISTRACTED, Mt. Lawley, Jan 7.

But three days later, on Saturday 12th January 1924, we see in reply the following letter also headlined **Noisy Windmills**.

To the Editor.

Sir, - I think it would have been better if your correspondents had stated in which street or area the noisy windmills were, otherwise, it is unfair to those who properly adjust and oil their windmills. It would be unreasonable indeed to restrict the hours of pumping because there are some owners of mills careless and unmindful of their neighbours comfort: moreover, generally speaking, most of the wind power is available between sunset and sunrise. Within a radius of 50 yards of my residence, there are 4 mills, State Implement, Samson, Metter's and Alston and, if either of your correspondents will call, I feel sure that they will find that the mills in question are practically noiseless. – Yours etc.,

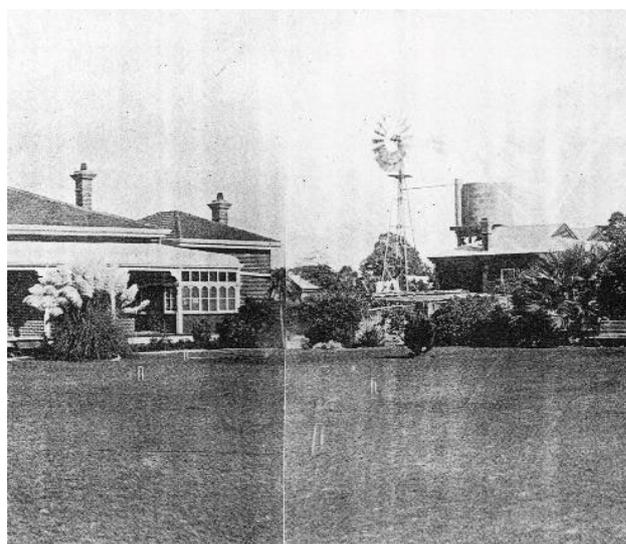
W.T.E. SNOWDON,

15 Almondbury Road, Mt. Lawley.

Examples of Mt Lawley windmills and water tanks can be seen below.



Windmills in Mt Lawley 1914 – photo taken from rear of 23 Lawley Crescent



Windmill and water tank at rear of "Mayroyd", 707 Beaufort Street, Mt Lawley

News and Events from our Local Councils

City of Bayswater

Make a Wicking Bed to Grow Vegetables

\$10 – 3 February 2024 10.00-11.00am at Bayswater Library

Learn how to set up a simple wicking bed in a plastic storage tub. This is perfect to grow lettuce or herbs and keep close to your back door to pick as you need. This simple technique can then be adapted to a container that you have, small or large. This event is being run in partnership between Enviro House and the City of Bayswater. Cost: \$10 Booking essential.

To book, visit [Humanitix](https://www.humanitix.com).



For more City of Bayswater events, please visit

<https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/arts-and-leisure/what-s-on-calendar>

City of Vincent

Making a Mystery: Children's Writing Workshop – FREE Event

Tuesday 23 January 2024

Discover the elements of writing a mystery story, from clues to red herrings, plot twists and sleuths! Create a group mystery then embark on your own mystery plan. Join a published author in this fun and interactive workshop for young creative writers. Book your free ticket at <https://events.humanitix.com/making-a-mystery-writing-workshop>



For all City of Vincent events, please visit

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

City of Stirling

Community Board Games – FREE Event

Saturday 20 January 2024 2.00pm – 11.30pm at Inglewood Library

Bring your family or friends, your favourite board games and a plate of nibbles to have some old school fun! Try your hand and learn a new game or perfect your skills in one of your favourites. More information: <https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/Leisure-and-Culture/Arts-and-events/Events-calendar/Community-Board-Games>



For all City of Stirling events, please visit <https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/leisure-and-culture/arts-and-events/events-calendar>