

JULY 2020

# FROM THE VERANDAH

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



A bit of body text

## OVERVIEW:

- History & Heritage Awards
- Planning Updates
- Local Business Profile
- Archiving Team Update

Our newsletter is going through some changes. We want to start bringing you a mix of new and old updates in and around our neighbourhood.

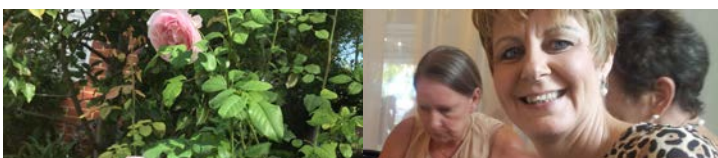
What ever you have going on your verandah, feel free to share. We would love to see your pics of great gardens, architecture, leadlights and anything else you believe represents the character of our local area. Remember to include @mount\_lawley\_society to share.

I am pleased to bring you my first newsletter since becoming President of the Society (there I am pictured below). These have been strange times and whilst the Committee has only just been able to resume meetings, due to COVID restrictions, there has still been much going on. The History & Heritage Awards feature our own Barrie Baker presenting the Barrie Baker Award and Christina Gustavson as one of the judging panel members.

As we all want to do our bit for the local community, we are bringing in a new feature for local businesses. We are also on the look out for great photos of gardens, architecture, leadlights and of course beautiful tiles or fireplaces. I've included below a picture of one of my favourite David Austins from my back garden.

From my verandah on Park Road to yours. Enjoy.  
Tracey King, President.

*Above: Rosetta Lodge, 682 Beaufort Street Mt Lawley, built 1903*



@mount\_lawley\_society

Welcome back to Instagram. Sign in to check out what your friends...

instagram.com

# HISTORY & HERITAGE AWARDS 2020

## MOUNT LAWLEY SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

To view this video go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7xgLM8tRH4&feature=youtu.be>



## Three generations recognised for history and heritage

**Margaret Summers was recognised for the loving care she and her family over many generations have given Windsor Hall, 36 Queen's Crescent, Mount Lawley.**

This highly significant heritage landmark has been in the ownership of the same family since the 1930s.

The building demonstrates successive waves of occupation over the last 100 years and stands a tribute to the development of this area, which is now a significant piece of our community's social history and heritage.

Over three generations, this family has conserved the building's contribution to the Mount Lawley streetscape and has taken an active role in the promotion and conservation of the Mount Lawley Heritage Protection Area.

## HISTORY & HERITAGE AWARDS 2020

**Barrie Baker  
Special  
Recognition Award**



# JOINT WINNER OF THE HISTORY & HERITAGE AWARDS 2020

## 49 Clotilde Street, Mount Lawley

Forming part of a sensitively designed home renovation, the reconstruction of the verandah and external conservation of this property has been delivered with expert quality craftsmanship and attention to detail.

The skills and techniques used are of a standard rarely seen on typical home renovation projects of this scale, as a result the overall outcome enhances the presence of this iconic property in the streetscape.

It is considered a benchmark standard for home renovation in the City's Heritage Protection Area and is worthy of recognition as a joint winner.

*Photo - courtesy of City of Stirling*



# Planning News

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL COUNCILS



BY DEBBIE VISKOVICH

## LANEWAY NAMING IN PROGRESS WITH LANDGATE

The City of Stirling Council endorsed Right of Way 28053, which runs between and parallel to Park Rd and Clive Rd Mt Lawley (previously adopted by Council at its meeting held 15 April 2014 as Hold Lane) located in the Lawley Ward. The submission has now been forwarded to Landgate for approval.

- First preference 'Battalion' Lane
- Second preference 'Ascanius' Lane
- Third preference 'Captain' Lane

## CHECK OUT YOUR PROPERTY ON THE LATEST RETRO MAPS

This is a great new resource available to everyone who lives in an older suburb. It's easy to use and a fabulous opportunity for us to engage with archival records easily, and from home.

See what you can discover.

Paste the URL below:

<https://mapping.sro.wa.gov.au/#/>

# LATEST STATE HERITAGE AWARDS

BY BARRIE BAKER

An Aboriginal languages centre, the conservation of heritage listed buildings and a regional community project sharing traumatic stories from our past are just some of the 29 winners of the 2020 WA Heritage Awards.

The coveted Gerry Gauntlett Award went to Aquinas College for conservation and expansion of the school's 1966 chapel - a project that doubled seating capacity of the venue while ensuring the architectural red stone, timber and stained glass features were celebrated.

The chapel was a joint winner with the Armadale District Hall for excellence in conservation or adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, with commendations awarded to the newly restored Royal Hotel in Perth's CBD, a 160-year old homestead and a lighthouse keepers' cottage at Cape Leeuwin.

Many volunteer and professional heritage champions recognised in this years' awards have worked tirelessly to preserve valuable stories, culture and places, including management of the Busselton Jetty, community projects across the South-West and Great Southern region and digitally recording the Noongar language.

The Judges' Awards recognised the voluntary contribution of the Lock Hospital Working Group, represented by community leaders Bob Dorey and Kathleen Musulin who have given a voice to the stories of lock hospitals on Bernier and Dorre Island.

The project brings light to a shameful part of our State's history when many healthy Aboriginal men, women and children were diagnosed with diseases and taken to 'lock hospitals' often never to return home. Since the first awards in 1992, the WA Heritage Awards have showcased excellence in revitalising State Registered Heritage Places, setting standards in interpretation, heritage tourism, conservation and adaptive reuse.

*The 2020 WA Heritage Awards honours 29 individuals and heritage projects.*

More information on the winners and commendation recipients can be found online at:

<https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/heritage-awards>



Image: Aquinas College. Photograph by Robert Frith

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

DIGEST FROM OUR ARCHIVES



*Beaufort Street looking north - photo from MLS Archive*

*Unfortunately, we don't have photos of 693 Beaufort Street from 1920s and 1930s, so if any of our members have any, we would love to see them.*

## THE PRACTICE

Mount Lawley's  
medical women

A passage from  
Mount Lawley  
Newsletter 1992

'THE PRACTICE', as it was known of at the time, was a medical practice at 693 Beaufort Street Mt Lawley, ( circa 1929 / 1931). THE PRACTICE was unique not only as it has been in existence since at least 1929, but apart from the presence of some very welcome male locums, THE PRACTICE has always been run by women.

The earliest of the medical women at THE PRACTICE ( and probably a very early woman graduate) was Dr "Winnie" Windmill, but unfortunately details about her are scarce. She was in THE PRACTICE from 1929-1939.

Next was Dr Aileen Murphy who came to THE PRACTICE in 1939 and remained until her death in 1974. Dr Murphy was born and bred in Tasmania. She left school after matriculation at sixteen years of age and then wished to embark on a medical career. This was in an era when very few women entered the Faculty of Medicine, and she was persuaded instead to enrol in the Faculty of Arts. She bowed to pressure and proceeded to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree. However, "Spuddie" as she was generally called remained determined to enter the medical course and subsequently became accepted as a student in the Faculty of Medicine at Melbourne University and in due course obtained her degree. Sometime later, following the death of her father, she and her mother elected to come to Perth.



*At this time the number of medical women in the community was also very small*

693 Beaufort Street,  
Mount Lawley  
as it is today.

Photo courtesy of  
Google Maps.

Arrangements were made for her to join the staff at Princess Margaret Hospital, where she remained for some years and she may have been Medical Superintendent for part of this time. Eventually she left the hospital and in 1939 took over THE PRACTICE from Dr Windmill, who had become ill and passed away.

In 1939, World War II had commenced, at which time Dr Murphy also became involved with the Army, in a non-combatant medical capacity and with the rank of Captain. Also at this time the number of medical women in the community was also very small and the numbers of medical men in the general community was greatly reduced as the need for suitably trained personnel in the Armed Forces was considered paramount. Consequently, those doctors in the general community led a very busy life with plenty of disturbed nights and a minimum of leisure time.

In 1957, Dr Nora Burke, a cousin of Dr Murphy and a graduate of Sydney University joined THE PRACTICE. She had been in Europe and called in at Perth to see her sister Mary (Burke) Petersen, who was living in Perth and who was also a medical graduate (Adelaide University). The partnership of Dr Aileen Murphy and Dr Nora Burke was very harmonious but THE PRACTICE enlarged considerably. In the 1960s they were grateful to be joined by Dr Shirley Shevell, a graduate of Sydney University and the wife of the, then, newly appointed Dean of Perth, the Reverend John Hazelwood. Later again they were joined temporarily by Dr Cathy O'Donovan, a delightful lady.

A few months later, when Dean Hazelwood was appointed Bishop of Ballarat, Dr Shevell arranged her departure to join him there. In the meantime also, Dr O'Donovan had become aware of extra family commitments requiring her to cease her work at THE PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE then continued in the hands of Dr Nora Burke, and remained so until its demise on 1 July 1991.

# STATE PLANNING REFORM

*Update by Tracey King*



## PREMIER MARK MCGOWAN:

"Our historic planning reforms have now passed through the Parliament and will shortly become law. These reforms will cut red tape, create local jobs and help drive economic activity following COVID-19.

By introducing new laws to simplify the planning system Western Australians will be able to better navigate the system. This will help get more people onto new developments and into jobs that help build and benefit local communities.

Now the legislation has been passed, a new development application process will be immediately introduced to support significant, job-creating projects for the next 18 months to provide immediate support for Western Australia's economic recovery."

## COVID-19 PLANNING REFORMS

24 JUNE 2020

A number of changes have been made to the original legislation including the definition of a significant development.

A significant development will now be defined as: development proposals with an estimated cost of \$20 million or more in the metropolitan region; or development proposals with an estimated cost of \$5 million in areas outside the metropolitan region (excludes warehouses).

This model will ensure that large and complex developments receive a State co-ordinated approach with referral agencies and streamlined assessment processes to ensure job creating projects can start as soon as possible.



# HISTORICAL FEATURE

ANECDOTES OF A LOCAL MOUNT LAWLEY MAN

by Roger Elmitt



Above: Arthur's family 1940 (L-R) sister Pat, Mum, Dad, sister Joyce.

## THE LEGGETT FAMILY

**Don't Cry For Me**  
Autobiography  
published by  
Arthur Leggett  
2018

### Introduction

Centurion, Arthur Leggett, lived in and around Mt Lawley in the 1930s, during his teenage years. Some 80 years later he still has clear recollections of his experiences during that time. He was very willing to be interviewed at his home in High Wycombe and to share those experiences. In 2018 Arthur published an autobiography, **Don't Cry For Me**, from which some of the anecdotes have augmented this interview.

Arthur describes himself as, "an ordinary sort of fellow". He has had a full and interesting life. He was born in Balgowlah, a suburb of northern Sydney, in September 1918. His father and mother came out from England and were married in Australia. His father returned to England to fight in the 1914-18 war where he was gassed and was repatriated back to Australia after 19 months service. They lived in Bingara and then, for his father's health's sake and to get better schooling, the family moved to Moree where the dry conditions were supposedly good. His father ran a successful bootmakers business.



Arthur Leggett - about 1939

## **“AN ORDINARY SORT OF FELLOW”**

When Arthur was ten years old the family moved to back to Sydney where his mother ran a boarding house. In 1932 the family moved to Perth where his father had sisters who could assist in looking after him for the effects of the wartime gassing grew steadily worse.

Initially, the fourteen year old Arthur had a job as a messenger boy (even though he was unfamiliar with the Perth streets).

After he was sacked for being over-aged, given employment was scarce, he took a job as a “farm rouseabout” in Bencubbin. Here he learned to ride a horse and to milk cows. The farmer dispensed with his services due to a bad season. Subsequently, in Laverton, he was a cow milker and had a milk round. When that fell through he became a spud peeler and dish washer at a mine site in Laverton.

After a couple of years in the country he rejoined his parents and siblings – two sisters and an elder brother – back in Perth.

***As a prisoner of war he was put to work in the coal mines of Northern Poland for about two and a half years.***

He managed to get a job as a rivet heater where he worked on the structural steelwork to the extension of the East Perth Power House.

After a stint in the fabrication shop of a Welshpool firm as a junior he was promoted to timekeeper on projects in North Fremantle constructing oil tanks and at Pearce aerodrome constructing the original hangers. In those days one could not get an apprenticeship as the firm would put you off if there was a downturn.

The 16th Battalion (Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) was formed just as he turned 18. It was a militia unit thus they were only part time soldiers. Transport in those days was horses and limbers so he joined the regimental transport platoon.

When war broke out he felt he had to do the right thing as his father and all his father’s mates had been soldiers. He joined the AIF and became a signaller. As part of the 6th Division of the 2nd Australian Imperial Force, he was involved in action against the Italian Army across Libya. In 1941 he was sent to Greece with the AIF to defend against a German attack. The Germans forced the Allies back to the island of Crete, then invaded the island en masse in the first large use of paratroopers. Many were shot from the sky, but eventually the Germans overwhelmed the island and Arthur, with about 17,000 other allies, were captured.

As a prisoner of war he was put to work in the coal mines of Northern Poland for about two and a half years, before being forced on a three-month march across the Czech Alps to Bavaria in the winter of 1944/45.

After repatriation to England he met his wife-to-be. Fourteen months after Arthur's return to Australia, Eileen joined him and they were duly married and had two daughters. Arthur was a keen runner and kayaker. He liked individual sports, not team sports. It was for his services as State President of the Ex-Prisoners of War Association that he was awarded an OAM in 2004. In 2018, Mount Lawley Senior High School named its library in his honour.

## ***“REMINISCENCES OF MOUNT LAWLEY”***

As mentioned above, the Leggett family came to Perth in 1932, predominantly in the Mt Lawley area. Arthur remembers living in Chelmsford Road, Alma Road and Broome Street and also in Glendower Streets. However, it was one of his mother's tenants who suggested and made arrangements for the family to move into “Hampton” at 15 First Avenue in the late 1930s. With his father's health declining, his mother took in boarders to supplement the family's income. A fairly large house was required for the Leggett family as it consisted of two parents and four grown up children, as well as boarders.

Unfortunately the original house no longer exists having been replaced by the current dwelling. The 1215 m2 block (third of an acre) consisted of the solid brick and tile house, a chook shed, tennis court and a large tank stand with an unused tank on top. He could not recall as to whether there was an accompanying windmill. In Arthur's day, it must have been quite grand.

The owner was William Walter Abbett who was a master tailor with premises in Hay Street, West Perth and traded under the name of The Commercial Tailoring Co. Arthur remembers that the chook house was full of tailoring materials such as pictures and patterns.



The house was named “Hampton” after the place in Middlesex from where the Abbett family had originated.

The tennis court was gravel and had to be rolled before play. It was well used at the weekends when the Leggett family and their boarders invited their friends for a game. It was quite a social Sunday afternoon.

Arthur cycled everywhere! He recalls going to work in Welshpool on a Saturday morning, doing four hours structural steel work, returning home for lunch then cycling down to Crawley Baths for a swim. They would swim all afternoon and then ride back home. He would then get changed and dance until midnight!

***A tenant suggested the  
family move to  
“HAMPTON” at  
15 First Avenue,  
Mount Lawley***



*"The No. 19 tram used to go a bit further; up to Grand Promenade.  
The No. 22 came up Beaufort Street then turned left and went up Walcott St."*

On Saturday night he and his mates would go down to the original Anzac House on St George's Terrace which had a large ballroom. The last dance finished at midnight but the last tram left the Barrack Street jetty at midnight so there was many a time he had to tear along the Terrace for the tram, or there was a long walk home. He clearly remembers the trams, particularly the No. 18 which went up Beaufort Street as far as Salisbury Street.

The No. 19 tram used to go a bit further; up to Grand Promenade. The No. 22 came up Beaufort Street then turned left and went up Walcott Street as far as Fitzgerald Street. There were two types of trams. The older ones had only four wheels and had the seats facing the kerbs and the conductor would go up and down on the outside collecting the fares. The newer ones, known as the American trams, had flip seats facing the direction of travel and a passageway down the middle.

When the tram arrived at the terminus the conductor would flip the seats over for the return journey and the driver would operate the tram from the other end. The trams stopped at every odd Avenue ie 1st, 3rd, 5th.

An important entertainment in those pre-TV days was the cinema. Arthur recalls the two cinemas on Beaufort Street. The State Theatre, now known as the Astor and one where the Inglewood clock is, on Tenth Avenue.

The cinemas used to share the films such that the first film was shown at one cinema was the second at the other. Between shows the film reels would be exchanged from one to the other by a motor bike driver with the film reels in his sidecar. Upon Arthur's return from the war he moved out of the Mt Lawley area.

by Roger Elmitt  
July 2019

# SUCCULENT BOWLS

MLS SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

- Choose between white pebble or black pebble as shown below.
- Please email greenscollectionperth@gmail.com for orders and payment.
- Orders will be taken until 31 August 2020.
- Collect your bowl from 13 Park Road, Mt Lawley.

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# LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY HELPERS

*Help us make a difference  
to the retention of our heritage and  
history of our inner suburbs.*

## COMMITTEE

President: Tracey King

Vice President: Mark Hodge

Secretary:

Treasurer: Pina Caffarelli

Committee: Christina Gustavson,

Rita Tognini, Debbie Viskovich

Patron and Historian: Barrie Baker

## **VOLUNTEERS EMAIL US**

We encourage everyone  
to take an active role in our  
community through our volunteering  
opportunities and events.

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