

Mount Lawley Matters

Volume 24, Issue 2

July 23 2001



Secretary:
Michael Faraone
9271.3281



QUIZ NIGHT

17 AUGUST

7:30 PM

TABLES OF 8

\$8 PER HEAD

FULLY LICENSED

BYO NIBBLIES

At the new Mt
Lawley Bowl-
ing Club

For tickets call Keith
(9271 5387) or Sally
(9370 3927)

PS: We need lots of
Prizes, so if you can
help contact Keith or
Sally

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

President's Report

As the newly elected president of the Mt Lawley Society it is my privilege to thank the immediate past president, Mr Tony Separovic, together with the Society's Patron, Mr Barrie Baker, and the outgoing committee members for their efforts and dedication to achievement of the objectives of the Society over the past year.

Annual General Meeting

A new committee was elected at the AGM on 7 May 2001. Amongst those in attendance at the AGM were the member for Perth, Mr John Hyde MLA, Ms Alison Maggs representing Hon. Judy Edwards MLA, member for Maylands and Minister for the Environment and Heritage, and heritage architect Ms Rosemary

Rosario from the City of Stirling's Heritage Committee. Members at the AGM enjoyed an informative presentation by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council of Western Australia, Mr Ian Baxter. Mr Baxter discussed the role of municipal inventories in preserving local heritage; the merits of the precinct approach to address heritage issues across an area or suburb rather than property by property; strategies to encourage retention and preservation of heritage buildings such as Council rate remissions; an annual awards program; and strengthening of guidelines against demolition. It was noted that national and interstate studies have shown that heritage registration of properties did not have a negative impact on property

value. In many cases heritage listing generated an increase in the value of listed properties.

The year ahead

This year the Society looks forward to consolidating the recent downzoning of some areas of Mt Lawley to R12.5. I believe that consistent R10 zoning densities that ensure single dwelling per lot across all residential areas of Mt Lawley, Menora and Coolbinia, combined with vigorous enforcement of single dwelling restrictive covenants, is the most effective way to preserve the character and quality of life for residents of these suburbs. The Society is very concerned that the City of Stirling is considering a proposal to amend its Town Planning Scheme to empower it to override single dwelling

restrictive covenants. The Society and the Ward Rate-payers Association are working together to ensure that such amendments do NOT apply to single dwelling restrictive covenants in Mt Lawley and Menora.

Undergrounding of power lines in parts of Mt Lawley is due to start this year. The Society will actively pursue inclusion of Menora in the next round of the undergrounding project. At the same time the Society is

campaigning for Western Power to meet the costs of undergrounding of the high tension lines along Learoyd Street. This is considered an essential precaution from the perspective of health and safety of Learoyd Street residents and of children attending the local primary school.

Mt Lawley as a suburb extends across three local government boundaries: Perth, Stirling and Bayswater. The Society is working with local precinct groups to ensure that

heritage and character are properly protected by all those local government authorities.

Quiz nite

Finally, the Society will be having a fundraising quiz night on the evening of Friday 17 August at the Mt Lawley Bowling Club. I look forward to seeing you there!

Regards,

John Lightowlers
Hon President

Meet Your 2001 Committee

President:	John Lightowlers	9271 4457	E-mail: ^{JOHN} lightowlers@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Michael Faraone	9271 3281	E-mail: faraonem@bigpond.com
Treasurer:	Keith Avery	9271 5387	E-mail: KFA@VORAN.COM.AU

Debra Avery; Steve Boehm; Lee Cassidy; Joan Crabtree; Sally Separovic; Simon Torvaldsen

Patron: Barrie Baker 9271 5184 E-mail baker@ca.com.au

Heritage

Sarah Hardey

Heritage

Sarah Hardey was born in Maylands at the recently established "Tranby Farm" in 1837 to Joseph Hardey. She was one of a very large family who were all very strict Methodists and were generous patrons of the Wesleyan Church in William Street. So devout was Joseph Hardey that he averred that none of his daughters should marry any other than a Methodist minister. Only one of the daughters was able to score, so Sarah and her other sisters were never able to marry.

She devoted her life to her



Christian faith and was a generous benefactress. She established "Hardey Lodge" in Robinson Street (later Monmouth Street) in Mount Lawley as a home for 'wayward girls'. When wayward girls later became extinct, the home later became the present nursing home for the elderly.

When "Tranby" was sold in 1913, Sarah built a magnificent two-storeyed home at 23 Lawley Crescent. It was on the peak of the Mt Lawley ridge at 50 m above sea level, commanding panoramic views of the Swan River and Perth. It was sadly demolished in 1977 for "Cobblestone Court".

Back verandah of 23 Lawley Crescent, home of Mis Sarah Hardey, built 1913. Photo taken in 1916
In photo, Left to Right: Sarah Hardey; her nephew's wife, Elsie May Hardey; latter's son Strelley Hardey

MENORA, COOLBINIA & MOUNT LAWLEY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION INC

We held our A.G.M on the 27th June and it was great to see some new faces.

We were lucky enough to have two new members join our committee which will bring some fresh ideas to the association.

We had a special presentation on the night with a **Certificate of Appreciation** being presented to **Joan Radford** for her work as **Press Reporter** and a **Life Membership Badge** being presented to **Geoff Martin** for his many years of service as **Treasurer and Cove-**

nant Committee member to the Association.

As you may be aware we are still following up on the amendment the City of Stirling propose to put forward with regard to "Covenants and Density" changes. We will keep you up to date as things progress.

In years gone by, we have canvassed people within the area for membership and donations due to legal costs fighting the lifting of Covenants. Of late we haven't been following up on past memberships because we thought we should leave everyone in peace for a while and we had enough funds to survive for a short

time. With this new issue we will need everyone's support and encourage you to keep your neighbours and friends within the area, up to date on what's happening and ask them to re-join or come along to our meetings.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday the 25th July at 7:45 p. m. at the Alexander Park Tennis Club.

Thanks to everyone for your phone calls and support, hope to see you on the 25th July.

Mandy Kyras
PRESIDENT
PH:- 9272 1044

PATRON'S REPORT

It is early days yet to make a judgment on the performance of the new Gallop administration in the local government, planning and heritage areas. The government is obviously mainly pre-occupied with its major restructure of the public service flowing from its reform of the ministries.

One signal that has come out is that the Minister for Planning is keen to abolish the process of planning appeals made directly to her. The Mount Lawley experience has been that, in the past, this process has often favoured bending the rules to suit the developer, and has rarely put heritage first. Of course, a lower-level tribunal can act in the same way if the personnel on it are so minded and the backing legislation is loose, as prevails at the moment. However a promise has been made for clearer legislation that will protect heritage more strongly.

The latter will go a great way toward correcting the situation where the developer will often go as far as possible to persuade council officers, the council and the Minister to interpret regulations in the most favourable way for him, hopefully with maximum discretion taken in areas of interpretation.

Continued overleaf

Patron's report continued

Our new sister organisation, the **Perth inner city Society** will have had its launchon Sunday 8 July, by the time you read this. This new society will fill a great gap in the area that, if degraded by insensitive planning and traffic decisions, will have unfortunate consequences for Mount Lawley. We wish them well, for their sake and ours

Barrie Baker

Underground Power Update

Unfortunately the commencement of the undergrounding of low voltage distribution lines in the Mt Lawley area is approximately 6 months behind schedule, with the start date now expected in August/September 2001.

The Mt Lawley Society has been active in lobbying the City of Stirling and local councillors for heritage style street lighting poles in lieu of the standard Western Power lighting poles. Heritage lighting poles have been adopted in a number of localities such as Subiaco, Nedlands and Bayswater. The use of heritage poles in the Mt Lawley area would be aesthetically

appealing and add to the character of the area.

The additional cost for the heritage poles would be in the order of \$30 to \$40 per household. This represents a small percentage increase on the total cost per household.

To date the City of Stirling has not been supportive of the heritage lighting poles despite the strong public support for the heritage poles. Since the additional cost of the heritage poles would be borne by the householders the Society cannot understand the reason for the City's objection to the heritage poles. The City

of Stirling however has agreed to install decorative street nameplate brackets in lieu of the standard Western Power nameplate brackets. After consultation with the City of Stirling Heritage Advisory Committee it has been agreed that the lighting poles will be coloured black.

The Mt Lawley Society is continuing discussions with the local councillors and the City of Stirling for the adoption of the heritage lighting poles. All members who agree with the use of heritage lighting poles are urged to call our local councillors Rod Willox and Trevor Clarey to lodge their support for the heritage poles.

Undergrounding of High Voltage Transmission Lines—Learoyd Street Mount Lawley

In June 2001 the Mt Lawley Society made a submission in favour of undergrounding of the high voltage overhead power transmission lines in Learoyd Street Mt Lawley between Walcott Street and Ferrar Street (a distance of approximately 500m).

Although the Mt Lawley Society is concerned about the offensive visual impact of the Learoyd Street high voltage towers on the character and amenity of the Mt Lawley area, the Society is primarily concerned with the health and safety implications of these powerlines on local residents of Learoyd Street, and especially vulnerable people such as young children attending the local primary school in Learoyd Street and elderly residents. The Society drew attention to the findings and recommendations in the Report of Senate Inquiry into Electromagnetic Radia-

tion regarding location of high voltage/tension electricity lines. The Senate Committee Chair recommended (Recommendation 2.2) that:

Precautionary measures for the placement of powerlines be up-graded to include wide buffer zones, and undergrounding and shielding cables where practicable.

In evidence to the Inquiry Dr Repacholi of the World Health Organisation stated:

The most worrying to me is the residential studies where children living near powerlines seem to have a higher incidence of leukaemia'

A recent report from the chairman of the UK's National Radiological Protection Board's Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation, epidemiologist Sir Richard Doll, cited to the Inquiry, concluded:

There is, however, some epidemiological evidence that prolonged exposure to higher levels of power frequency magnetic fields is associated with a small risk of leukaemia in children. ...the possibility remains that intense and prolonged exposures to magnetic fields can increase the risk of leukaemia in children'.

The Society considers that the high voltage overhead power lines in Learoyd Street Mt Lawley represent one of the worst cases of such lines being situated in a location exposing children and local residents to avoidable health and safety risks. Therefore the undergrounding of these lines should be a high priority task for Western Power.

The location of high voltage transmission lines along Learoyd Street:

a narrow residential street;

with homes in that street predominantly facing Learoyd Street rather than side streets;

the lack of any effective buffer such as wide verges or parkland; and

the situation of St Paul's primary school in that street,

represents one of the worst examples of poor public infrastructure planning in the Perth metropolitan area from the point of view of public health and safety.

The current undergrounding of power program for Mt Lawley presents to Western Power the most cost-effective opportunity to replace underground the above-ground high voltage transmission lines along Learoyd Street.

The Society intends to campaign over the coming months during the undergrounding program for low voltage distribution lines in the Mt Lawley area in favour of the concurrent undergrounding of the high voltage transmission lines along Learoyd Street Mt Lawley. The Mt Lawley Society encourages members to voice their concerns to their local members of parliament, councillors and Western Power.

Membership Renewals

Some of you Mount Lawley Society members need to renew your memberships. Those of you concerned will have a **membership renewal form** included with this newsletter.

If you do not receive a form, then you do not have to pay your membership fees.

If you are due to renew, we would be grateful if you could do so as promptly as possible by filling out the form and sending a cheque for the fees with the form to **PO Box 15, Mt Lawley**