

# Mount Lawley Matters

Volume 25, Issue 1

March 24 2002



Secretary:  
Michael Faraone  
9271.3281

## President's Report

The Mount Lawley Society has been active over the past few months on behalf of its members in lobbying local governments on heritage matters affecting our suburb.

One of the major disappointments was the decision of the former Planning Minister to approve the subdivision of the land comprising one of the finest properties in Mt Lawley - "Bona Vista" in Hill View Road. This decision has led to the loss of this property's tennis court which is now contained in a separate green title and is subject to separate ownership. The Society has approached the City of Stirling seeking to get an assurance that any building on this piece of land is in sympathy in terms of scale and style with Bona Vista and other houses in Hill View Road. There has al-

ready been some indications that an 'East Perth' style building might be planned for this land.

The Society has also been active in seeking to preserve the house at 17 First Avenue Mt Lawley from demolition. The Society considers that this house contributes significantly to the heritage character of the area. It appears still to be in sound condition. The home was one of the original buildings in the first estate of Mt Lawley.

Many people loose sight of the fact that the suburb of Mt Lawley is split across three local government boundaries - the City of Stirling, Town of Vincent and City of Bayswater all have a part of Mt Lawley within their borders. This divisive local government structure

works against developing a sense of 'community' in our suburb. Residents and ratepayers living in the same suburb are confronted with different standards of governance, regulatory controls and services. The Society works with the Perth Inner City Society and the Banks Reserve Group in a co-operative effort to cross artificial boundaries in support of preserving the character and amenity of our suburb.

It is my view that the residents and ratepayers of the suburb of Mt Lawley would be better served by the whole suburb being within the same municipal boundary.

One of the biggest successes in terms of enhancing the character and streetscape of Mt Lawley



### AGM

19 May 2002

3:00 PM

At

Mt Lawley  
Neighbourhood  
Learning Centre

7/7 Beaufort Street

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Tom Perrigo**  
CEO of the  
National Trust

Refreshments  
Provided

is the undergrounding of power in parts of the suburb. The Society with the Mt Lawley Menora Coolbinia Ratepayers Association was instrumental in garnering strong support from the local community to participate in the undergrounding program. There was stiff competition from other areas for inclusion in the program. One of the key arguments supporting inclusion of Mt Lawley was the strength of local community support. Progress with undergrounding of power has been slow due in part to the underground drilling component advancing at a quicker pace to the contractors responsible for connecting individual households to the system.

Another cause of delay has been the decision of Western Power to submit more of the contracted work to tender. Hopefully connections will be complete before winter.

Finally there has been a high level of debate not just in Mt Lawley but also in Nedlands, Cottesloe, and in parts of Vincent about the relative merits of preserving the heritage character of suburbs, particularly where this stands in the way of higher density development. One argument put by the anti-heritage agitators is that heritage controls devalue property prices. The truth is the opposite. Property values in Menora, which has enjoyed the benefit of single residential restrictive

covenants since the area was first developed in the thirties has consistently rated in the top 10 suburbs in Perth in terms of value increases over a 20 year period. In the last 10 years Menora was ranked fourth highest suburb in property price growth.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society is scheduled for 19 May 2002

where an informative talk is planned. I hope many members are able to attend. My thanks again for the support and encouragement I have enjoyed from your Committee.

*John Lightowlers*

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## Your 2001 Committee

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**President:** John Lightowlers 9271 4457 E-mail: lightowlers@hotmail.com  
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**Treasurer:** Keith Avery 9271 5387 E-mail: Keith.avery@telstra.com

**Debra Avery; Steve Boehm; Lee Cassidy; Joan Crabtree; Sally Separovic; Simon Torvaldsen (on leave of absence)**

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

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*Heritage*

## The Minerva Bakery Flour Mill

Prior to the end of World War II, Whatley Crescent was known as Railway Terrace. Presumably the change was made because of the confusion with Railway Parade on the other side of the Perth/Guildford railway line. J Whatley was an early settler in the Swan River colony who was given title to Swan Location T in 1837. Swan Location T stretched from the Swan River to Mirrabooka between Drake and Wellington Streets.

The change of name was not the only surprise for between 52 and 52A Railway Terrace was a small cul-de-sac called Gardiner Crescent. This was never really developed as a public street and was closed when Railway Terrace was renamed.

Yet another surprise is that between 1927 and 1935 a flourmill operated at No 52A Railway Terrace. Between 1927 and 1931, it was known as the Minerva Flour Milling Co. The positioning was good as it was close to the Albany Bell Confectionary Factory at 86 Guildford Road as well the rapidly developing Inglewood, Mount Lawley and Maylands areas with their bakeries. Between 1931 and 1935, when it closed down, it was known as the Jolly Miller Flour Milling Co.



## **BOOK LAUNCH**

Barrie Baker has written a comprehensive history of Hill View Road.

The book will be launched at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club, Rookwood Street, at 2:30 pm on Sunday 2 June 2002.

The author will be releasing copies of the book , to be sold for approximately \$35 (a non-profit venture).

If you would like to attend and purchase a book, please ring Barrie on 9271 .584 prior to 24 May 2002 to reserve a place at the launch