

Mount Lawley Matters

Volume 25, Issue 2

August 22 2002



Secretary:
Michael Faraone
9271.3281



25th Anniver- sary Dinner

7:30 pm

Saturday

5 October 2002

At

La Vigna'

302 Walcott Street

Three course meal
and superb wine

\$60 per head

Ring 9271.5387 to
book, no later than
27 Sept 2002

President's Report

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

As reported in the last edition of *'Mount Lawley Matters'*, the Society has been active in seeking to save 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. The home was one of the original buildings in the first estate of Mt Lawley, and is situated at a conspicuous high point of the Mt Lawley hill at the corner of Farnley Street. No 17 was built in 1922/3 for William George Randall. It is a gracious federation bungalow in mint original condition.

Because of its elevation, it is one of the most conspicuous houses in Mount Lawley. Its main claim to fame, however, is that its architect was the world-famous Charles Rennie MacIntosh. It is the only Australian property designed by him that we are aware of. The house has lovely windows (bay and casement), a variety of gables, including on the verandahs, and a most interesting high domed vestibule internal to the hallway. Fireplaces, skirting boards, etc are intact.

The Society made submissions to the City of Stirling when in November 2001 the City received a request from the current owner to demolish the house. Rather than reject the application and despite the City's own staff recommendation

to refuse demolition, the City deferred any action, allowing the owner to proceed with preparation of plans demolition of the house and construction in its place of a three storey residence with five car undercroft garage on the site. This new building would have required both permission to demolish the existing house plus height and setback concessions from the City to allow it to be built.

The owners actively lobbied nearby residents to gain support for their plans. Some neighbours were supportive of the plans, while others stood firm with the Mount Lawley Society in pressing for the house to be retained.

The application came to a head again when on 13

August 2002 the matter of the demolition and redevelopment of 17 First Avenue again was put before the City of Stirling at the request of the Mayor, who is understood to have supported the demolition application. Society members appeared before the City's Town Planning and Statutory Services Committee and pressed the case for retention of the house at 17 First Avenue. It was the Society's submission that the property is still in sound structural condition and is worth preserving for both its integral value and aesthetic significance in its own right and as a fine, representative and intact example of a Bungalow style residence, and in terms of its contribution to the streetscape and to the character and amenity of the suburb of Mount Lawley.

Mrs Dale Middleton, the daughter of the former owner of 17 First Avenue, the late Mr Doug Peterkin, also came to hear of the demolition proposal and wrote to the City in the following terms:

I hear with dismay that the City of Stirling has received an application to bulldoze the residence at 17 First Avenue, Mount Lawley, effectively destroying a fine example of the Federation style of housing that has helped to make Mt Lawley the sought-after residential area it is today.

My late father, Doug Peterkin, lived in the area as a teenager in the late 1920's,

and returned there with his family in 1961. My parents made this their family home until their passing in 1996 and 1997 respectively. In the 90's, my father resisted having his home 'heritage listed' because he feared that bureaucracy may hamper necessary improvements to kitchen, bathroom and laundry areas. However, he was fiercely protective of the façade of his home and how it fitted in with the First Avenue streetscape. At one stage he contemplated sub-dividing the rear of the block, facing Farnley Street, so that a unit could be built for another family member. He also hoped this would assist his independence should his health deteriorate. However, in this endeavour, he never intended to alter the front of the home.

I am writing not as a sentimental person who wants this home to be kept as a memorial to my parents, but to remind the City of Stirling of the architectural and ambient qualities of Mt Lawley - things my father recognised and valued, as do many others today. Please consider carefully any application to redevelop any property in Mt Lawley, so that those important qualities are not compromised and lost.

The Society does not oppose the extension and renovation of No 17. Indeed it is situated on a large block, giving a lot of scope for extensive additions.

The Society was relieved

when the City's Town Planning Committee resolved to recommend that the demolition application be refused.

However this is not necessarily the end of the story. The full City Council must still consider the recommendation of its own Committee. It may still decide to allow the demolition. In addition, the owners may elect to appeal the Council's decision to the Town Planning Appeal Tribunal or to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

The Society will continue to press for the retention of 17 First Avenue Mount Lawley, and for the retention of other homes that contribute to making Mount Lawley a well integrated and desirable residential suburb.

As members will know, Mount Lawley is covered by three local government boundaries. This presents some special problems for us as residents. 30% of the suburb falls within the Town of Vincent; about 10% within the City of Bayswater and 60% within the City of Stirling. The Society has asked the Cities of Stirling and Bayswater and the Town of Vincent to work together on the following priorities for Mt Lawley-

traffic - *a comprehensive and properly planned traffic study for the suburb.*

heritage - *enforce heritage design controls in the suburb, refuse unnecessary*

demolition of properties listed on the municipal inventory, and ensure that where demolition is approved, conditions are imposed requiring the owner not to leave the land vacant but to rebuild in a style sympathetic with the heritage character of the suburb within strict timelines.

The Society would like to see the three local governments support designation of the entire suburb of Mount Lawley as a heritage precinct

consistent low densities - a uniform low density residential zoning across the suburb, except for commercial areas, where appropriate buffers should be maintained

street lighting and signage - The Society would like to see agreement between the Cities of Bayswater and Stirling and Town of Vincent on a uniform heritage style for street lighting and signage in the suburb that do not change at local government boundaries.

The Society has continued working closely with the Perth Inner City Society and Mt Lawley Menora Coolbinia Ratepayers Association. We share information and jointly formulate positions on matters of common concern.

The Society this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. It was founded in 1977, and incorporated in 1979. A celebration dinner is planned for October. Details are in this newsletter.

John Lightowers
Hon President

Heritage

23 LAWLEY CRESCENT



Built in 1913 for Miss Sarah Hardey. Demolished in 1977

*Heritage***MISS SARAH HARDEY**

Sarah Hardey was an early resident of Mount Lawley, although she only lived in the suburb from 1914 to her death in 1920. Her house, shown on the previous page, was one of the largest in Mount Lawley, situated on the top of the ridge in Lawley Crescent where the Cobblestone Court units are now. The huge house had marble stairs leading to the main entrance, was on two levels and had panoramic views of Perth City, Kings Park and the Swan River. It was on over 2000 sq m of land.

She was one of the five daughters of Joseph Hardey, prominent early settler of the Swan River colony, who developed the Tranby farm on the Maylands peninsula. She lived all her life at Tranby until moving to Mount Lawley.

The Hardey family were devout Methodist Christians. They established the Wesley Church in William Street, Perth.

She was born on August 2, 1837. Her father insisted that his daughters could only marry Methodist clergymen, and as they were very few in her marrying years, only one of her sisters managed to become a wife.

Sarah was also a devout Christian, doing a lot of charity work for all in the community. She had an especial interest in the education of Methodist children, making the initial donation of £800 to establish Wesley College, which started in 1922, two years after her death.

In 1917 she established "Hardey Lodge" in Monmouth Street, Mount Lawley, as a home for girls who were wayward who were to be trained for domestic service and eventually turned into self-respecting women. She actively organised their religious instruction.

She died in 1920.



Your 2002 Committee

President:	John Lightowlers	9271 4457	E-mail: lightowlers@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Michael Faraone	9271 3281	E-mail: faraonem@bigpond.com
Treasurer:	Keith Avery	9271 5387	E-mail: Keith.avery@telstra.com

Debra Avery; Steve Boehm; Lee Cassidy

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

SIR ARTHUR LAWLEY, GOVERNOR OF WA



Some extracts from the early history of Mount Lawley and its links with Sir Arthur Lawley, KCMG Governor of the State of Western Australia, May 1901 - August 1902
by Mrs Marjorie Scurlock,

The appointment of Sir Arthur Lawley of Matabeleland to succeed Sir Gerald Smith as Governor of Western Australia was the first appointment to an Australian Governorship since King Edward VII ascended the throne. Sir Arthur was the fourth son of the late Lord Wenlock and his mother was a daughter of the second Marquis of Westminster. His eldest brother, the third Lord Wenlock was Governor of Madras from 1891 to 1896.

Arthur Lawley was born on November 12th 1860. He was formerly a Captain of the 10th Hussars and married Annie Allan, daughter of Sir Edward, in 1886. From 1892 to 1896 he was Private Secretary to the late Duke of Westminster. In 1896 he was appointed Secretary to Earl Grey and in November of the same year he assumed the office of Deputy Administrator of Matabeleland, the duties of which position he discharged with 'conspicuous tact and ability'.

In 1897 he was appointed Administrator of Matabeleland with a residence in Buluwayo. Following his appointment to Western Australia he was made Knight Commander of St Michael and St George.

Sir Arthur journeyed to Australia with The Right Honorable the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, and landed from the Royal yacht 'OPHIR' at Albany on April 30, 1901 at 8 pm when he was officially received and welcomed. His Excellency shortly afterwards left King George's Sound by special train and arrived in Perth on 1st May accompanied by Lady Lawley (who had gone to meet him, she having arrived in Western Australia some little time before by RMS HIMALAYA) with Lt Wolfe Murray ADC and members of the Ministry. He was enthusiastically received on arrival at Perth and was sworn in by Acting Chief Justice Stone.

On May 8th Sir Arthur and Lady Lawley left for Melbourne by RMS ORCYA in order to take part in the celebrations there in connection with the opening of the Federal Parliament by the Duke of Cornwall and York. His Excellency and Lady Lawley returned to Fremantle on the night of the 20th May by RMS ORCYA.

The first duty imposed upon the new Governor was to deal with a political crisis which had arisen. The general election of the State had been held on April 24th and both Ministerialists and Oppositionists claimed victory as a result. However on 21st. May, the day following Sir Arthur's return to the State, the premier, Sir George Throssell MLA, waited upon him and handed in the resignation of himself and his colleagues. At the same time he advised His Excellency to send for Mr Illingworth MLA who on the dissolution of Parliament had been the leader of the Opposition. Mr Illingworth was accordingly sent for and undertook the task of forming a Cabinet. As some discussion had arisen among Opposition members as to who was now their leader, Mr Illingworth offered the portfolio as Premier to Sir George Leake MLA. The names of the new Cabinet were accordingly handed into the Governor - Mr Leake appearing as Premier and Attorney General, while Mr Illingworth appeared as Colonial Treasurer and Colonial Secretary.

Besides the additional work thrown upon him by the change of Government and by arrears of work awaiting his arrival, the early days of Sir Arthur's Administration were rendered more busy by the necessity of making preparations to receive the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York on their visit to this State. However the energy of the Governor enabled him to keep pace with all the requirements and his 'urbanity and tact soon laid the foundations of a popularity which promises to increase as time goes on'.

The land on which Mount Lawley is built was surveyed in 1833 and 1839 and divided into two separate lots which were granted to William Layton and John (Joshua) Gregory. Both grants, still virgin bush, were purchased at the beginning of the 20th century by Samuel W. Copley and Robert. T. Robinson, a member of the Perth Road Board, and later a Kings Counsel, who promoted its development, forming the 'Mount Lawley Estate Company. They set out to develop a garden suburb. Mr Robinson's own house was called 'Killowen' after the Lord Chief Justice of England. The original house is still well preserved and is now a part of Mercy Hospital. Mr Copley also lived in Mount Lawley, his house was at the corner of Lawley Crescent and Beaufort Street but has been demolished.

The suburb received its name in honour of Sir Arthur Lawley who served a short 15 months as Governor of Western Australia during the formative years of Mount Lawley's development. Sir Arthur left W.A. in 1902, returning to South Africa where he became Lt Governor of the Transvaal.

Mount Lawley first developed around the railway line (which had been laid down in 1881, though Mount Lawley station was not opened until April 1907 where Mount Lawley Society members in 1977 landscaped and planted the station embankments). Farnley and Clotilde streets and Park and Clive Roads were among the earliest to be developed. The early settlements eventually spread along Walcott and Beaufort Streets, encouraged by the advent of the tramway from Perth to Mount Lawley in 1906. The area near the Mount Lawley subway was known as **Fenians Crossing** and the new development along Walcott Street, **Highgate Hill**.

Lady Lawley Cottage was named after the wife of the Governor Lawley who requested that money collected as a farewell present be 'used for the purpose of providing a convalescent home for children from the Goldfields. The new building (near the sea at Cottesloe) was opened Lady Bedford on March 18th, 1903, and for quite a few years it fulfilled the wishes of its namesake.

Mt Lawley Society Inc.

25th Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 5th October, 2002.

7:30 pm till late

@ La Vigna, 302 Walcott Street Menora

3 Course dinner and wines

\$60.00 per person

Contact 0407 445 061 to secure your place/s

Numbers strictly limited to 44 people