

# Mount Lawley Matters



**Secretary:**  
**Michael Faraone**  
**9271.3281**



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday**  
**4 December**  
**2006**

**7:30pm**

**At**  
**Mt Lawley Bowl-**  
**ing Club,**  
**Rookwood St**

**Refreshments**  
**afterwards**

## Mount Lawley Society

Volume 29, Issue 2

6 October 2006

### MLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year the single most important issue confronting the Society has been the proposal before the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) to split the City of Stirling.

The Board is due to report to the Local Government Minister with its recommendations in or about December.

If the LGAB agrees to split of the City, this will be the second time in 10 years that an independent body has recommended that the City of Stirling, which is currently the biggest local government in Western Australia, should be reduced in size.

A similar review headed by Mr Rob Rowell was undertaken in March 1996. The structural reform advisory committee then observed that a split of the Cities of Wanneroo and Stirling into smaller units would better reflect communities of interest and enhance local representation and community participation. It found that average administration costs per capita for the City of Stirling were not the lowest in the state despite its size. Smaller local governments

of Armadale, Gosnells and Rockingham were found to have lower costs. The then Government failed to take any action in response to that report and things were left as they were in Stirling.



The Society made a detailed submission to this latest review. We have submitted that the most important issue for our suburb is that we are split up across

three local government boundaries. Parts of our suburb fall within the Cities of Bayswater and Stirling and the Town of Vincent. This split results in inconsistent services (eg character and streetscape are preserved by one local council while the adjoining council promotes demolition and contemporary developments; commercial uses are approved that create parking problems for residents in the adjoining properties; rubbish removal and traffic calming undertaken by one local government causing increased traffic problems in adjacent streets).

The Advisory Committee's interim report has endorsed the Society's submission, finding that (at page 128 "*in general, no suburb area should be split between*

*local government areas*".

We await with interest the recommendations of this latest review.

*The Society committee has held its regular monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month (or where that Monday is a public holiday, on the following Monday), at the Mt Lawley Bowling Club, Rookwood Street Mt Lawley at 8pm. As always, all members are welcome to attend.*

During the year we have also considered and commented on a series of State and local government policy proposals and reviews during the year including:

- *A written and oral submission to the Local Government Advisory Board on the proposal to split the City of Stirling;*



- *A detailed submission to the Heritage Council on the State Planning Policy for Heritage;*

- *Attended a number of meetings and made several submissions on the replacement of the Heritage Protection Guidelines with new Character Protection*

# MLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

*Guidelines that are better integrated with the town planning scheme;*



▪ *Attended meetings and made submissions to the City of Stirling on the proposed redevelopment of Hamer Park;*



▪ *Provided comment on the City of Stirling's policy regarding operation of Bed and Breakfast businesses within residential areas, and its draft car parking policy;*

▪ *Made submissions on the suitability of plans for additions to 16 First Avenue and 18 Almondbury Road, and for the demolition of 52 Queens Crescent;*



▪ *Participated in drafting a joint submission with the Ratepayers Association responding to the Scarborough high rise proposals.*

▪ *Provided comments on reviews of procedures for public advertising of planning proposals undertaken by both the City of Stirling and Town of Vincent*



The Committee was pleased to note that long standing member John Christo was the winner of the City of Stirling's 2006 Heritage Award which recognized the high quality and sympathetic design of the renovation of his home.



Traffic continues to grow as a problem in our suburb. Despite repeated calls the City of Stirling has been unwilling to undertake a comprehensive traffic study. Residents are forced to put up with heavy peak hour traffic and cars shortcutting through residential streets because of inadequate traffic management. We will continue to press for action to better manage traffic in our suburb.



We have continued our battle during the year against demolitions of heritage homes and developments that are inconsistent with the heritage character of the suburb by being over-scale, detract-

ing from privacy by overlooking neighbours or blocking natural light or air. These eat away at the character and amenity of our suburb. Most recently the City of Stirling approved the demolition of 52 Queens Crescent despite protestations by the Society. This home is an original Mt Lawley heritage property in a prime and conspicuous location, situated on the corner of Queens Crescent and Storthes Street overlooking the Mt Lawley Bowling Club.



Demolitions within Mt Lawley remain a concern. The old chemist shop on the corner of Second Avenue and Beaufort Street and an original Mt Lawley residence also in Second Avenue were demolished to make way for a carpark and supermarket. Nearly two years on neither has eventuated. An unfenced vacant block is the "improvement" that residents have so far been left.

*Merci*

Finally I would like to thank our Patron Barrie Baker for his inexhaustible energy and drive, and also our committee for their ongoing support through the year. All are volunteers and generously contribute their time and energy for the betterment of our suburb and its residents

*Regards,*

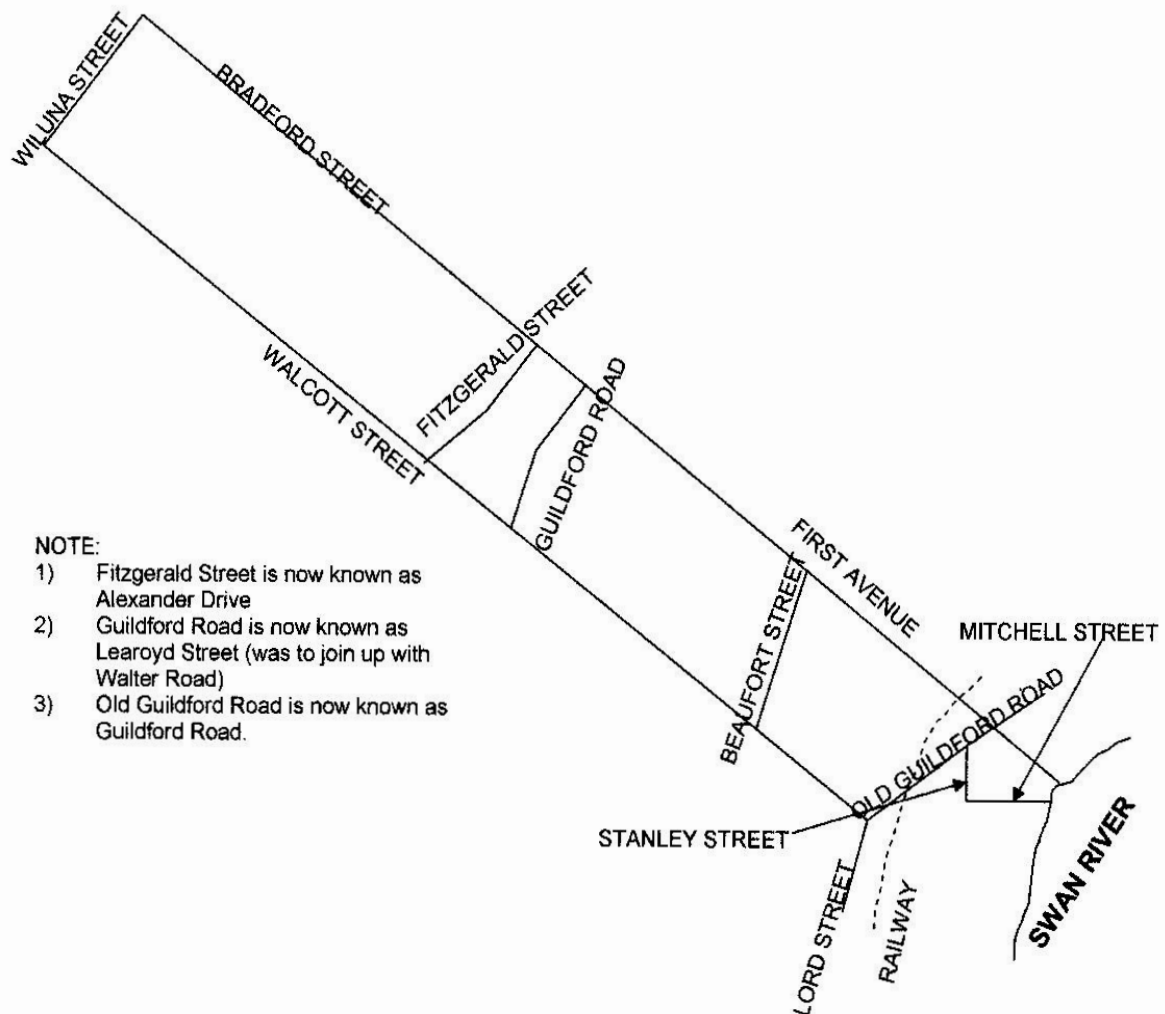
*John Lightowers  
Honorary President*

# HOW MOUNT LAWLEY CAME TO BE DEVELOPED

**M**ount Lawley is one of Perth largest suburbs, covering approximately 443 Hectares. It is an amalgam of seven large parcels of land, called Crown Grants or lots, carved out of the bush in the early days of settlement between 1829 and 1878.

In the last few issues I have traced the history of some of these original lots. This is continued. The research provides an interesting picture of land development and the developers who were involved. There will be some names that you will recognize from your knowledge of Western Australia's history.

## 5 THAT PART OF MOUNT LAWLEY IN SWAN LOCATION Z



- 1) Original grant made to William Layton , cabinet maker, of Perth on 4 Apr 1832 but no title deed was recorded. He seems to have surrendered the land to be used by Charles Bourne on 4 Dec 1838. Area 284.9 Ha.
- 2) Crown Grant to Charles Bourne on 27 Aug 1840. It was referred to as "Great Fenton".
- 3) Transferred to Edward Hutchinson Pollard, Sydney merchant, on 14 Mar 1842.
- 4) Transferred to Francis Mitchell, esquire of Sydney on 12 Dec 1860.

## HOW MOUNT LAWLEY CAME TO BE DEVELOPED (CONT)

- 5) Transferred to the Revd Stanley Mitchell, of Elleslie in Darlinghurst, Sydney, on 28 Aug 1897.
- 6) Transferred to Louisa Mitchell and Francis Courtnay Mitchell, gentleman, both of Bronte Waverley on 4 May 1898
- 7) Transferred to Samuel William Copley, financier of Lake Street, Perth and John Robinson, merchant of Albany on 7 May 1901 for £5,500. They subdivided the land and proceeded to sell the lots .
- 8) (Unsold part of the estate) transferred to Copley and Robert Thomson Robinson, solicitor of Perth on 9 Dec 1905.
- 9) The Mount Lawley Estate was opened up in four stages:
  - No 1 Estate (river to Clifton Crescent) in 1902
  - No 2 Estate (Clifton Crescent to Alexander Drive) in 1912
  - No 3 Estate (Alexander Drive to Adair Parade) 1922
  - No 4 Estate (Adair Parade to Wiluna Street) 1932

## Heritage

## JOHN EDWARD SCURLOCK



Wedding photograph of John  
Edward Scurlock and Marjorie  
Williams, 1942



John Scurlock outside his pharmacy at 508 Beaufort Street, with part of the associated residence visible to the left. Photograph taken c 1970



Interior of Scurlock's Pharmacy at 508 Beaufort Street. The contents have since been transferred to the Pharmacy Museum

# JOHN EDWARD SCURLOCK—CONTINUED

John Edward Scurlock was born in 1911 in Perth and was the son of another John Scurlock

The latter was born in 1875 in Wales, and had been about to embark on a medical degree when his mother lost her money in the 1890s depression. He studied instead at the London School of Pharmacy, where he was dux of the course and won a medal. He migrated to Western Australia and spent a short time in Kalgoorlie as a pharmacist before returning to Perth in 1902 and opening his pharmacy in a little shop at the corner of Beaufort and Mary Streets. In 1910 he built the larger pharmacy and residence at 508 Beaufort Street. He died in 1950.

After leaving school his son, John Edward, embarked on a medical degree at Melbourne University, but part way through, caught a severe virus which debilitated him for months and he returned to Perth to recuperate, never to complete his medical studies. He then studied for, and qualified as a pharmacist, working with his father for a short period before changing course again to undertake dental studies at the Perth Dental School.

He practiced as a dentist in a surgery attached to the Beaufort Street pharmacy. Upon the death of his father in 1950 his health broke down, and he returned to pharmacy in 1952 in his late father's shop. He continued in that business until retiring in 1970, when the family returned to 1 Regent Street West, a house they had bought in 1950 for £4,200. John died in 1972.

The pharmacy shop was demolished in the 1990s, but John and Marjorie had arranged for the fittings and fixtures to be set up as a complete turn of the century pharmacy in the WA Museum. It was entered though the original Beaufort Street door.

He married Marjorie Williams in 1942 and they had two daughters: Jacqueline who qualified in medicine and works as a paediatrician, and Christine who worked in business.

Both Marjorie and Jacqueline have been awarded OAMs

## FROM THE MENORA, COOLBINIA AND MOUNT LAWLEY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Note that below,

ToV = Town of Vincent

CoS = City of Stirling

LGA = Local Government Authority

MCML = Menora, Coolbinia and Mount Lawley

RA = Menora, Coolbinia and Mount Lawley Ratepayers' Association

Firstly, the 'big ticket item' for the Association this year has undoubtedly been the move by Town of Vincent to subsume Menora, Coolbinia, and the major part of Mt Lawley under Stirling purview, to Town management. The Association deliberated long and hard on this issue, seeking extensive additional information from both Vincent and Stirling, attending various presentations, as well as Local Government Board hearings. We concluded:

In the areas of: residential density; character protection; rates; and services there has not been sufficient evidence to recommend either support for ToV proposal or staying with CoS. In relation to restrictive covenants that are of vital importance to Menora and some of Mt Lawley and Coolbinia, our understanding is that these will remain enforceable regardless of which LGA administers the suburb. The areas where there was a marked difference between CoS and ToV were in: consultative processes; the level of representation and influence in council matters; and a whole-of-suburb approach to planning matters.

In these areas the ToV proposal offers superior benefits for the ratepayers of MCML. The governance structure of ToV: with its Ratepayer Precinct Groups; the generally high level of meaningful consultation; the increased proportional councillor representation for MCML within ToV, would all enhance the voice and influence of MCML ratepayers.

The whole of suburb approach to the Mt Lawley Business area (junction of Walcott and Beaufort Streets) will enable a consistent strategic approach to upgrading the area from its current somewhat worn out state with current different approaches by each council.

Clearly there are concerns held by ratepayers that must be allayed before supporting ToV's proposal. The key concerns are that ToV will be able to honour the commitments they have made with regard to protecting restrictive covenants, retaining residential densities as they exist, and retaining existing character protection measures within CoS where they are superior to those that exist in ToV.

We believe, based on presentation material, and written and verbal information provided by ToV that the enhanced representation on the council through councillor numbers; precinct groups; and general consultative approach by ToV will provide a natural mechanism to protect against those fundamental concerns (held by the RA members) and also to improve them.

This position will be reinforced if the number of councillors proposed for the MCML area is five not four as defined in the ToV proposal. This will mean the ratio of councillors to ratepayers for MCML will be, as a minimum, equal to the ratio that exists in the other ToV wards.

Secondly, over recent months, the Association has become alarmed at the number of exceptionally large house extensions, or following a number of demolitions, new large residences. We believe that the 'bulk and scale' of these properties are detracting from the original character of the suburbs and are often accompanied by loss of amenity for neighbours via overlooking, overshadowing etc. The City's recently approved new Character Retention Policy may ameliorate the impacts of future development applications in the future.

The Association certainly hopes so and will be keeping a vigilant eye on this currently very unsatisfactory situation.

*John Baas*  
Honorary President

## NEW MOUNT LAWLEY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Welcome to:

Robert Bracey

Elaine Edwards  
Loretta Piggott

Brett Piggott







