

# Mount Lawley Matters



**Secretary:**  
**Michael Faraone**  
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**THIRTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE  
MOUNT  
LAWLEY  
SOCIETY**

**We are planning a**



**social celebration  
for later in the year**

**Watch this space**

## Mount Lawley Society

Volume 30, Issue 1

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### MLS PATRON'S REPORT

There is no President's Report for this issue due to the recent serious illness of John Lightowlers. We are pleased to report that he is now out of hospital and on the path to a good, if slow recovery. I am sure that we all pray and hope for a complete recovery for our dedicated and able President.

We are also sorry that this issue is delayed, but I am sure that you all understand.

My report will also be less comprehensive than John's would have been.

The major recent issue your Society has been involved in has been the planned rezoning of 28 and 30 Queens Crescent associated with a major redevelopment of Perth College.

Perth College is a major asset to Mount Lawley, and many residents' children are the beneficiaries of its high standards of education. I am sure that all would be supportive of its continued progress in maintaining this vital community service. The Mount Lawley Society is proud that the College is one of its members.

The Society, however, has shared with local residents and the Menora, Coolbinia and Mount Lawley Ratepayers' Association concerns about the redevelopment plans and particularly the roles of 28 and 30 Queens Crescent in them.

Our concerns, as submitted, are:

There is no desire on the part of any party to retain the low quality flats at Nos 28, 30 Queens Crescent.

The Society and the Ratepayers Association are bound to press for:

- 1) No reduction in residential usage beyond those designated for other usage.
- 2) Replacement of building demolished by building of a style in

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# MLS PATRON'S REPORT (continued)

keeping with the  
character protection zone, especially streetscapes.  
3) Traffic control.

Perth College owns Nos 32, 34 as well as these two properties.

We are concerned about the overall results of the major redevelopments of these properties.

No 32 is currently used in a non-invasive way, and it seems that, at least in current school planning, this will continue.

No 34 is most likely to be demolished and this will have a major effect on the special streetscape of Nos 32,34,36 Queens Crescent. It is a large early 1930s home, set back enough to be pleasing to No 36. As well as its own characteristics, its going will isolate Nos 32 and 36.

The science block, although good modern architecture, is set too far forward and has a negative effect upon Queens Crescent and especially on No 36.

In summary, the quiet and stately character of this part of Queens Crescent is at stake.

Perth College may replace the flats at Nos 28 and 30 with one/two storeyed brick and tile buildings with gables, vertical windows and tuck pointing, etc, and these would certainly be a plus, but this may not happen (see Science Block).

You can see that the whole development (considering all blocks) may subtract from what is left of this character area.

Note that the development plan includes the demolition of the fine house at 701 Beaufort Street to make way for the new swimming pool. This cannot be supported.

We believe that Perth College must be pressed for:

- 1) Demolition of the flats only
- 2) Retention of (at least the main part of) No 34
- 3) Retention of 701 Beaufort Street
- 4) Genuine character architecture for its usage of Nos 28, 30 Queens Crescent.
- 5) Acceptable traffic management.

Our desire is that, especially in the light of the Public Meeting held on this issue last month, that negotiated modifications to the redevelopment can be made to accommodate the objectives of the school and the concerns of residents.

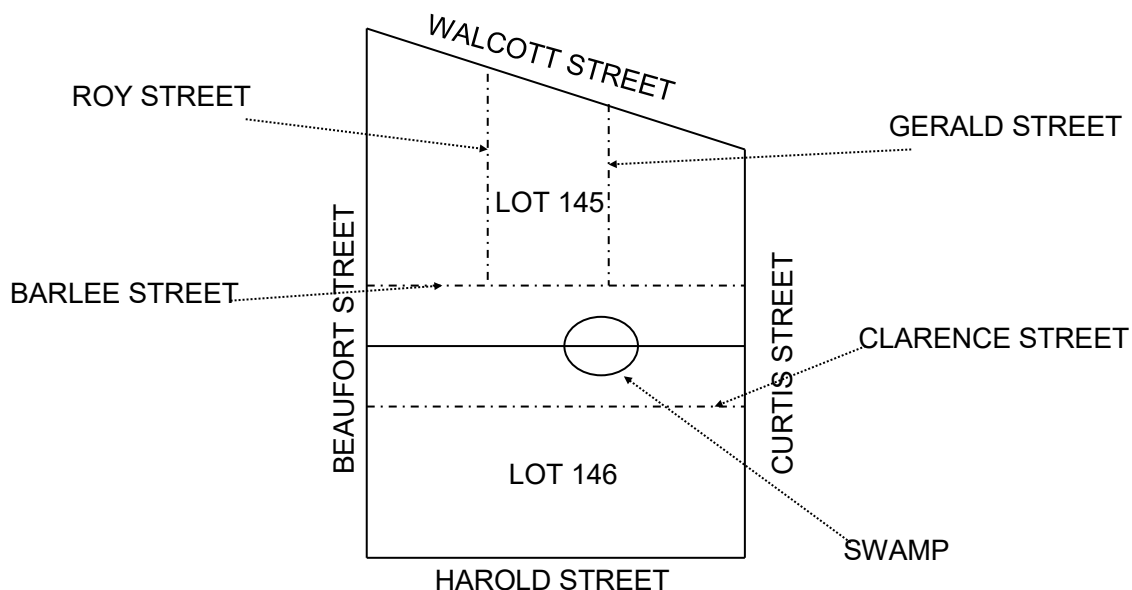
*Barrie Baker*

# 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.

## 6 THAT PART OF MOUNT LAWLEY IN SUBURBAN LOTS 145, 146



- 1) Suburban Lot 146 Crown Grant to Police **Alfred Perkins Curtis**, Government Clerk. Granted 10 November 1872. Total area 4.0468 Ha. Cost £20.
- 2) Suburban Lot 145 Crown Grant to **Alfred Perkins Curtis**, Government Clerk, 21 December 1872. Total area 5.0387 Ha. Cost £24/13/3
- 3) Both lots transferred to **Walter Hartwell James**, Perth Solicitor and **Charles Crossland**, Perth Surveyor, 23 September 1891. Combined lots were subdivided and marketed as the Forrest Park Estate.

This estate contains the oldest houses in Mount Lawley

## MENORA, COOLBINIA & MOUNT LAWLEY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

The Association has as usual been active on a range of fronts. Members of the executive have been deeply engaged in opposing Perth College's plans for a re-zoning of two large residential lots to make way for a new junior school.

# MENORA, COOLBINIA & MOUNT LAWLEY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION (CONT)

The school's impacts however will be very damaging to the College's neighbours at its southern boundary, particularly in terms of traffic.

The RA put in a strong submission against the rezoning and subsequently, the local community led by a concerned Clive Road resident forced the City to hold a Special Electors Meeting. The meeting was very well attended, approximately 200 persons, and overwhelmingly voted to oppose the re-zoning.

Details of the campaign against the re-zoning can be found via the community residents action group website at <http://www.residentsactiongrouppc.com/>.

The Association has also, most recently, supported Coolbinia residents who are opposed to the lifting of a restrictive (residential density) covenant at 154 Bradford Street.

We have pointed out that during the recent application via the Local Government Review Board by the Town of Vincent to take over Local Government control over Coolbinia, the City made great play about its sensitivity to local residents' desires to protect existing low residential densities.

However, the following is an extract from information provided by the former City of Stirling's Chief Executive Officer, Mr L. Delahunty (20 June 2006), in response to a Ratepayers' Association question on residential densities in respect of the relevant suburbs, including Coolbinia:

*Q: What assurance can be offered that existing residential densities will be retained and not increased?*

*A: The Council recently considered the matter of residential densities and came to the conclusion that, for the large part, it believes densities in place to be appropriate, reflective of both state government policies and community preferences.*

*The City is, however, legally required to consider residential densities as part of its Planning Scheme review process (required to occur every 5 years under the Planning and Development Act). This process involves extensive community consultation.*

*No Council can give any binding assurance as to what decisions it may take in the future, or what directions it may get from the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure however the City can assure you of the clear position of Council (as of late 2005), which is against an increase in density in these areas.*

It would be very unfortunate if now, at the first hurdle, the City bowed to a request from a developer to increase density by creating four grouped dwellings in the face of broad community opposition to that.

*John Baas*, Secretary MCMLRA

# Heritage

## THE MACGREGOR FAMILY

### ITS EARLIEST MOUNT LAWLEY CONNECTIONS

#### ATHOLL EDWARD JAMES MACGREGOR

He was born in 1864 in Broken Hill, the son of a James Macgregor (1840—10/2/1905(murdered)) Scottish born carpenter/architect/publican. Born in Auchtergaven, James had come to NSW in 1860 and in 1863 married Bilhah Bailey, born 1841, Gloucestershire .

Atholl won a scholarship to Fort Street School in Sydney and read medicine at Sydney University, but found it was not his vocation and became a teacher. After marriage he came to Perth and in 1900 was appointed headmaster at Highgate Primary School, residing in the headmaster's house at 145 Lincoln Street. He was the first president of the WA State School Teachers' Union. He retired in 1929.

After retirement, he lived at 95 Second Avenue until his death in 1960.

His granddaughter, Jean, describes him as 'stern and uncompromising, but I admired his wit and strength of character.'

A staunch Freemason, he became the WA Grand Master. He is seen, across, in his Masonic regalia

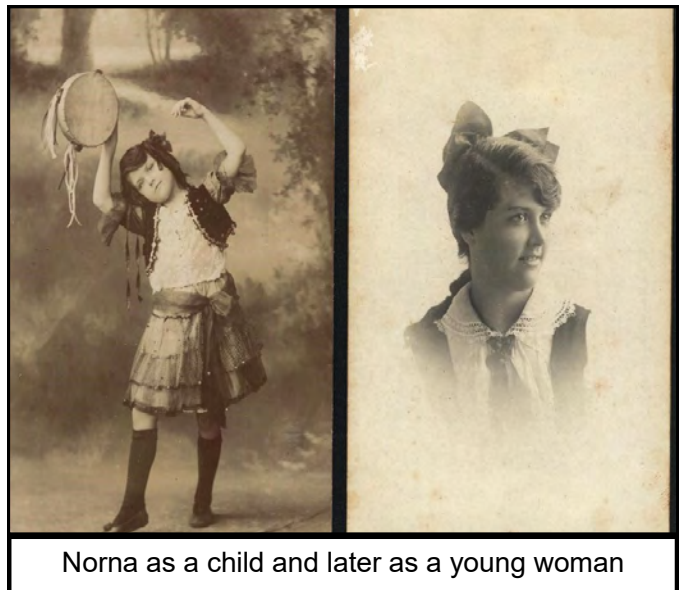


Sarah Jane Macgregor and her two older children, Atholl Leslie George and Jessie Ethelene

## AT No 95 SECOND AVENUE

Atholl and his wife “Auntie Gin” (Sarah) had three children:

- Atholl Leslie George (1896 –1978). He was not a strong infant and suffered from rickets. See later for more detail.
- Jessie (1899—1946). She became a teacher and inherited the same vibrant personality as her father. She worked at Highgate Primary School and also as a social reporter for the Western Australian Newspaper—writing about ‘society’ events and describing the dresses and activities of Perth’s social elite. She also loved acting and dancing, although she was always overweight, but always light on her feet. Unfortunately she died in her forties of heart trouble. She lived at home all her life.
- Norna worked at the Commonwealth Bank. She lived at home until she married Stanley Read, after



Norna as a child and later as a young woman

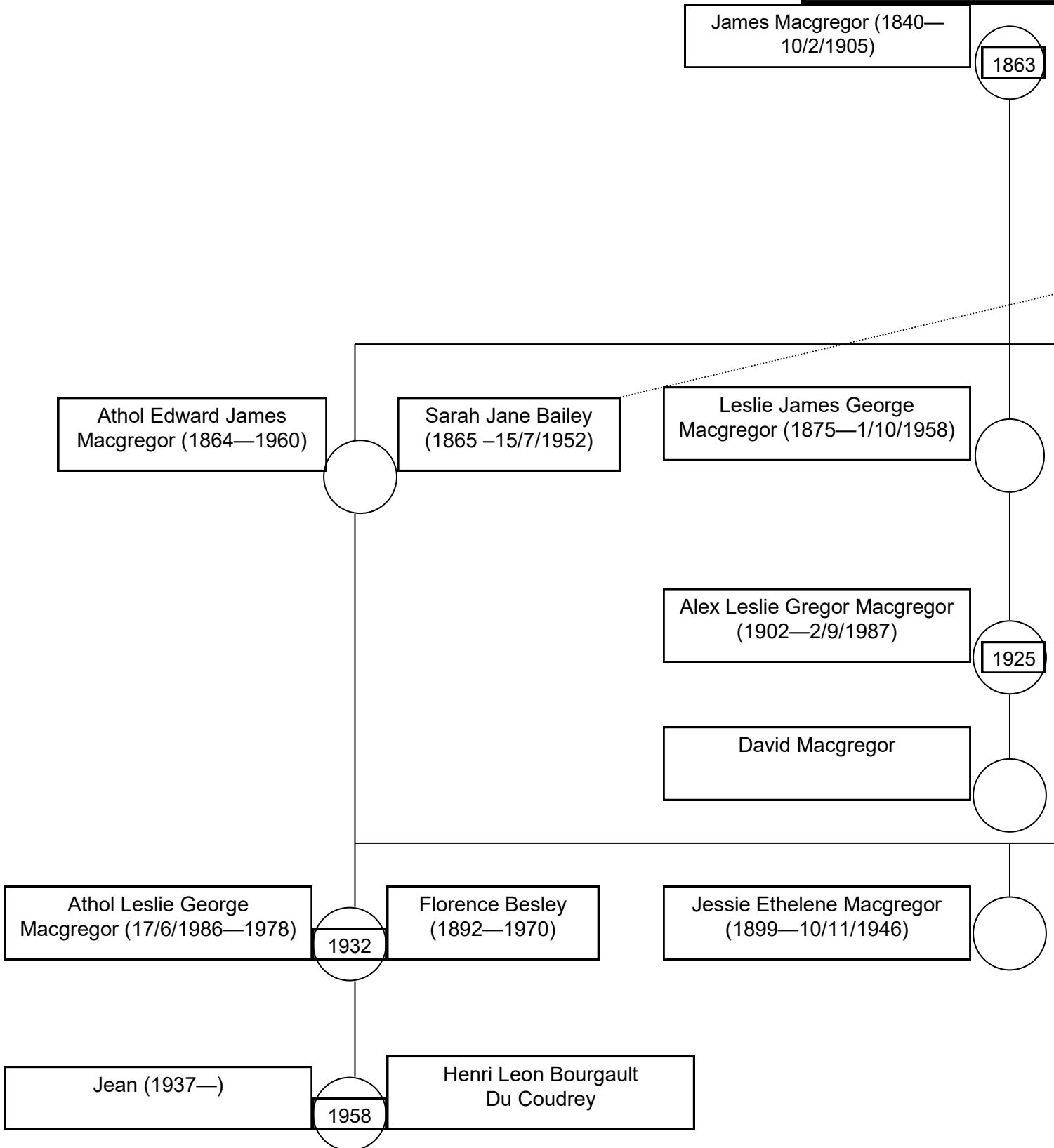


Lilian posing

In addition to their three children, Atholl and Sarah provided nurture for Lilian Bailey, Sarah’s niece, the daughter of her brother George Bailey. He was also a teacher who had lost his wife when only daughter Lilian was only young, and felt it better that she grow up in a family with a ‘mother’ figure. She was very high-spirited and loved joining in conversations and activities.

# 5 LONGROYD STREET & THE MACGREGORS (cont)

## MACGREGOR



# 5 LONGROYD STREET & THE MACGREGORS (cont)

Bilhah Bailey (1841—?)

George Bailey

Sister/Brother

Lilian

Mary Blakely  
(1871—20/5/1956)

Etheline Bilham Janet (Tup)  
Macgregor (1873—1/8/1954)

Henry Edward Camper  
1870—1934

Clarice

Charles  
Hudson

Dorothy  
(1906—24/11/1986)

John  
Annear

Mary Margaret Pearce  
(?10/1901—1985)

Norma Macgregor

Stanley Read

Valma Read



## THE MACGREGOR FAMILY AND LONGROYD STREET



'Malaya' 5 Longroyd Street, taken about 1950

This house was associated with Atholl Leslie George Macgregor and his family

'**M**alaya', Longroyd Street is a fine old Mount Lawley home sitting on the top of the main Mount Lawley ridge. It was built in 1915.

The house has had only 4 owners in its 91 years:

- 1915 – 1924 David Wright McMurdo, warehouseman  
Ethel May Mcmurdo
- 1924 – 1945 Albert Joseph Simons (1872 – 15/2/1943), retired planter  
Martha Ann Simons (1873 – 8/6/1941)  
*Note that A L G Macgregor and family also lived in the house 1941 - 1945*
- 1945 – 1978 Athol Leslie George Macgregor (1896 – 1978)  
Florence Macgregor (1892 – 1970)
- 1978 - Terry Gent, manager in the WA public service  
Tess Gent, Education Dept counsellor

The connection between Atholl Leslie George Macgregor's family an 5 Longroyd Street goes back to the late 1920s when Atholl's wife, then a single Florence Besley, had been a 'companion' to Mrs Martha Simons in Borneo, where the latter's husband, Albert Simons, had a rubber plantation. After settling in Perth he invested money in Plaistowe's and a laquer spraying firm. He lost a great deal of money as a result.



Albert Joseph Simons

In the words of his god-daughter Jean Bourgault du Coudray 'he was too generous for his own good. He looked upon her as his granddaughter and made certain that there was enough money for her to attend Perth College.



Atholl Leslie George Macgregor

After Atholl and Florence's marriage in 1932, they firstly settled in 2 Longroyd Street.



2 Longroyd Street

After a few years they moved to 29 Longroyd Street.



29 Longroyd street in the 1930s. The house has since been demolished

In 1941, after the death of Martha Simons, Atholl Macgregor and his family moved in to 5 Longroyd Street to look after Albert Simons. After his death, the house was willed to the Macgregor family and became their home until it was finally sold in 1978.

Atholl worked in many different areas in the State Public Service. At one time he delivered pay packets on horseback to settlers on the Peel estate near Mandurah. Florence loved singing and dancing.

## THE MACGREGOR FAMILY AND LONGROYD STREET (Cont)

Atholl's daughter, Jean took a Teacher's Bursary whilst at Perth College, and became Head Girl in 1954. After graduating from the University of WA and Claremont Teachers' College, she became a music specialist.



Jean Macgregor being introduced to Queen Elizabeth II on her visit to Perth in 1954.  
To the left of Her Majesty is the wife of the current Premier, A R G Hawke

## NEW WEBSITE

The Mount Lawley Society is pleased to announce that it is in the process of developing a Society webpage.

We are especially grateful to member John Wreford for the excellent work he is doing to provide what is to be a sophisticated window for the world into the Society.

Please follow the progress of this initiative by going to the internet search engine and typing in [www.mountlawleysociety.org.au](http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au)