

Mount Lawley Matters



Secretary/ Newsletter
Beth McKechnie Email;
bmckechnie@bigpond.com

CONTENTS

Pg 1-3 :Presidents
report

Pg 4 : Mount Law-
ley: a great place to
live

Pg 5 : Heritage/ Our
History

Pg 6: MLS 30 year
celebration

Pg 7 : ML, Menora,
Coolbinia Rate pay-
ers Assoc News

Pg 8 : Renovation of
the month

Pg 9: Social events

Pg 10 : Committee
details/ New Mem-
bers

**The MLS would like
to hear from mem-
bers who would be
interested in con-
tributing to the
newsletter**

**If you have an email
address and did not
receive the news-
letter by email
please contact MLS
to update your de-
tails**

Mount Lawley Society

Volume 31, Issue 1

May 2008

WEBPAGE : www.mountlawleysociety.org.au

MLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I hope that this news letter finds you well.

This is my first newsletter as President of the MLS and I would firstly like to extend a thankyou to outgoing MLS President, John Lightowers who served as president since 2000. During this time, John was heavily involved in the revision and strengthening of the City of Stirling Heritage Protection Guidelines which have been put to the test in recent months and have largely contributed to the rejection of several demolition proposals in Mount Lawley and Inglewood. John also pushed for the underground power program in Mount Lawley and provided great support in the fight against a number of unsympathetic development proposals in the area. During his reign as President, John maintained a close and cooperative relationship with the Mt Lawley Menora Coolbinia Ratepayers Association, which undoubtedly strengthened our resolve for heritage protection in the area. Last week, John described his view of the future direction of the MLS and the looming workload ahead:

"The biggest issues still confronting the Society I think are the inconsistent density zonings that apply in different parts of Mt Lawley by different local governments which encourage infill and higher density development and demolition, the continuing demolition of the remaining stock of original homes in Mt Lawley despite many of them being capable of being renovated, and the continuing loss of front yards, backyards and public parklands to higher density developments."

John will remain on the MLS committee to provide support and guidance to the team. Thankyou John, your efforts are greatly appreciated by the committee and all members of the society.

Needless to say, I have big shoes to fill. I have been a member of the MLS for only 1 year and I am on a steep learning curve. However, I am well supported and the Mount Lawley Society is fortunate to have an experienced team in the committee that is passionate about preserving the suburb's unique character.

On the point of the committee, the following members resigned from the MLS committee at the November 2007 AGM: Keith Avery (Treasurer), Deb Avery, Michael Faraone (Secretary) and Steve Boehm. Thankyou very much for your contribution to our unique suburb. A welcome must also be extended to new

MLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

committee members: Rebecca Griffiths (Treasurer), Beth McKechnie, (Secretary), Jenny la Puma, Jan Wilkie and Daina Bruers. This enthusiastic bunch join the experienced crew of John Lightowlers, John Wreford (Internet guru), Ian Merker and of course our wonderful walking historical jukebox Barrie Baker.

Through his contacts, Barrie recently secured reciprocal membership between the Mount Lawley Society and the Art Deco Society of Western Australia. Checkout their website:

www.artdecowa.org.au

During my brief involvement in the Mount Lawley Society I have been very impressed by the commitment of our members to front-line issues such as the recent Optus Tower Proposal. Last year, Optus approached the City of Stirling to erect a 5m high mobile phone tower on top of the existing NAB building on Beaufort Street in the heart of Mount Lawley. The MLS strongly opposed this proposal on the basis that it would significantly detract from the amenity of the streetscape. The Council supported this view and rejected the Optus proposal. However, early this year Optus proposed an alternative concept which involved the construction of a 15m high tower at the rear of the same building. This alternative concept was equally imposing on the streetscape and was also unacceptably close to the nearby residents on Alvan Street. Again the MLS strongly opposed the alternative proposal. The opposition to the tower proposal was largely driven by MLS and Alvan Street resident Mara Fox who tirelessly lobbied Councillors, prepared petitions, attended Council meetings and arranged press interviews. Mara's efforts were rewarded with a unanimous vote to reject the revised proposal at the April 15th Council meeting. A deserving result and a testament to the efforts of Mara and those who helped to oppose this callous development. Thankyou Mara for your contribution – we are lucky to have neighbours like you! From here, Optus may choose to appeal the decision at the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT). Should such an appeal be made, the MLS is hopeful that the SAT supports the Council's unanimous decision as they have done in the past.

Being primarily concerned with heritage protection, we are often faced with the "my home is my castle" attitude with respect to renovations or even demolitions of character dwellings. This ordinarily is a difficult point to counter where possession of a property is generally regarded to be a position of such strong control. However, using this argument to represent a landowner's share in the heritage streetscape captures our interest in keeping the character of the suburb intact. Most property owners of Mount Lawley, Menora and Inglewood have chosen to buy in these areas because the uniformity of the "nice old houses". Such a characteristic of a suburb attracts a premium over surrounding suburbs where perhaps character dwellings have been allowed to be demolished or renovated in an unsympathetic manner, (yes North Perth we are talking about you). On this basis, it is our strong interest as land owners within a character suburb to protect our intact streetscapes. Demolition of character properties in Mount Lawley, Menora and Inglewood is not only a dent in the appeal of the affected streetscape but ultimate erosion on the value of the other properties in the immediate area.

Long-serving MLS committee member and resident of Farnley Street, Jan Wilkie is working with other residents to prepare for centenary celebrations for Farnley Street later next year. Historical information is being collated and a street party is planned for residents in spring when the jacaranda's are in flower. This event illustrates the passion that local residents have for the heritage of this idyllic street. All the houses on this street were built long before the birth of the oldest current resident – which supports the notion that owners of these gracious houses are merely caretakers of the property. Our existence in each house on each street is equally marked by the weathered foot groove in the old jarrah front door step as our ownership of the property. The concept of 'possession' of these grand houses is meaningless when our life span is compared to the age of the property. This will become further apparent as Mount Lawley continues to age gracefully in the future.

Anyway – enough of my ramblings. I hope you enjoy the newsletter!

Character Properties Saved!

The battle to save the heritage properties of our suburb continues while you sleep. Over the past few months, the City of Stirling Council voted to reject a number of proposed demolitions of character properties on Ninth, Tenth and Fifth Avenues. Lawley Ward Councillor Paul Collins advised that the recent decisions by Council demonstrated the City's support of character retention in the heritage protection area encompassing Mount Lawley, Inglewood and Menora. Thankyou City of Stirling for your support.

The character properties in question are not heavily modified derelict shells of original houses with minimal contribution to the streetscape, rather they are quite original with many beautiful architectural features that can easily be restored.

The property at 132 Fifth Avenue is case in point. I wish my house was in such good condition when I bought it!

132 Fifth Ave



Graffiti

Graffiti of public and private property continues to be a problem in Mount Lawley. However, there is some good news. You no longer have to take time off from work to plan covert operations to catch graffiti vandals red handed. City of Stirling will now do this cumbersome task for you! (Well at least they will have someone clean up the Graffiti).

You can report Graffiti online by visiting:

www.stirling.wa.gov.au/home/services/Graffiti/Report+Graffiti.htm

Or phone 9345 8555

This program really works! Just last week I tested the City's response after I tagged my neighbour's front fence. The graffiti was gone in less than 1 week.

City of Stirling Heritage Advisory Panel

Mount Lawley Society Patron Barrie Baker and President Paul Hurst were successfully re-appointed to the City of Stirling Heritage Advisory Panel in March this year. The panel was restructured in 2008 and all positions declared vacant. Following their successful appointment, Barrie and Paul represent the Lawley Ward on the panel with 7 other ward members. Maintaining strong representation on this important panel gives the MLS greater strength in influencing the City on heritage matters. Most importantly, the City is aware that the MLS is alive and well and the City is prepared to listen to our views on heritage issues within the Lawley Ward.

MT LAWLEY: A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

We are very proud to be the home of arguably the most popular cafe and variety shopping strip in Perth. Beaufort Street has achieved a sound reputation as a great place to catch up with family and friends at our numerous local cafes, dine in our fine restaurants and pubs, catch a movie at the Astor Cinema, or shop. Each newsletter we will feature one or two of the businesses which make Mt. Lawley a great place to live.



Cantina 663
Cnr Astor Arcade
663 Beaufort Street
Mount Lawley
Tel: 9370 4883

Cantina 663 was launched on Friday 9th May 2008 by business partners Alex Cuccovia and Michael Forde, both respected epicureans on the local and international scene. The theme for Cantina 663 is "Rustic European" specialising in local seasonal produce and wherever possible "organic" (current speciality is Shark Bay prawns).

Aromatic coffee is produced from a local blend of Fiori beans ground to perfection overseen by Alex who ironically honed his skills as a coffee maker in the same venue over 15 years ago when the original Globe coffee house was established there. Cantina 663 is a b.y.o venue with a corkage charge of \$5 and is open 7 days per week 7am 'till late.

Alex and Michael's vision for Beaufort Street is to see the now speeding traffic slowed to a safe pace allowing pedestrians to use the area with far more safety and to enhance a more relaxed ambience for the diners of the very many eateries and coffee shops on the "Beaufort Street strip" which is rapidly gaining in popularity.



Planet Books opened in March 2006. Like its mother ship **Planet Video**, it attempts to provide an extensive list of titles ranging from cult to classics, art, design, music and film. We have also quickly become a destination for science fiction, graphic novels, low brow culture and all things quirky. And we're open till very late every night to accommodate the local night owls. Our next challenge is to get the cafe open next door so we can enjoy our books with a coffee. In short the bookshop is a reflection

of everything we love about the Beaufort St area.



PLANET BOOKS
636-638 Beaufort Street
MOUNT LAWLEY WA 6050
ph 08 9328 7464
fax 08 9227 9731

10am to 11pm Sunday to Thursday and till midnight on Friday and Saturday nights

Heritage

ARTHUR LAWLEY KCMG, GCIE, GCSI



Arthur Lawley (12 Nov 1860—14 June 1932) was the fourth son of the Beilby Richard Lawley, 2nd Baron Wenlock (1818—1880) and Lord Lieutenant of East Riding, Yorkshire. His mother was Lady Elizabeth Grosvenor (1824—1899), daughter of the 2nd Marquess of Westminster.

He was educated at Eton College and later at Trinity College, Cambridge, without graduating.

As a young man he served in the 10th Hussars, becoming a captain.

In 1892 he became the private secretary of the Duke of Westminster.

In 1896 he was appointed as the Deputy Administrator of Matabeleland (now Zimbabwe).

In 1898 he was promoted to Administrator of Matabeleland.

In April 1901 he arrived in Albany as Governor of Western Australia, only holding the position until late in 1902.

From 1902 until 1905 he served as Lieutenant Governor of the Transvaal Republic.

He was Governor of Madras from 1906 to 1911.

He succeeded to the title of 6th Baron Wenlock on 14 June 1931, his three elder brothers having held the title, but all dying childless.

He married Annie Cunard, daughter of 2nd Baronet Cunard on 15 October 1885. They had three children:

- Hon Margaret Cecilia Lawley (1886—1969)
- Hon Richard Edward Lawley (1888—1909), dying in a hunting accident.
- Hon Ursula Mary Lawley (1888—1979), who married George Gibbs, the 2nd Baron Wraxall.

More information on Arthur Lawley, after whom Mount Lawley is named, will appear in the next issue of 'Lawley Matters'



Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley - Governor of Fort St. George 1906-1911



An Original Photograph of First Meeting of the Australian Parliament 9th May, 1901, at the Exhibition Buildings in Carlton, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cornwall and York, delivered the message of His Majesty King Edward 7th to the members of Australia's First Parliament. A photograph of the occasion was taken and from this photograph, and many others, a magnificent painting by Tom Roberts was commissioned. The original now hangs in Canberra.

#16 is Sir Arthur Lawley

THIRTY YEARS OLD!

On 2 November last year nearly 40 members of the Society celebrated thirty years of achievement of the Mount Lawley Society at the Inglewood Hotel. It was nice to just relax with one another without having to gather nervous energy to fight on some issue.

When we looked back to Mount Lawley in 1977 and compare it with the suburb today, still, unfortunately, split between Stirling, Vincent and Bayswater municipalities, there was much to rejoice over. Then, there were very few families with young children, most of the area was zoned for high or medium density development, large blocks of flats and units were already dominating areas east of Beaufort Street, and a lot of the area looked down at heel. Heritage had hardly any meaning in planners, let alone developers' minds.

Today, our suburb is throbbing with new life, heritage and amenity are big issues with everyone, some excellent restorations and extensions have been done. We have defined character protection areas and the zonings have largely been reduced to safeguard our history and amenity. In spite of a steady trickle of demolitions, Mount Lawley would stand tall amongst Australia's finest large precincts of intact Edwardian, Art Deco and Federation architecture.

There is still a lot of fighting in the trenches and on the bounds, but we can all be proud of the part the Mount Lawley Society has played in preserving the special value of Mount Lawley.



L-R Deb Avery, Daina Bruers, John Lightowlers, Laureen Dempsey

Barrie Baker, Silvano la Puma



Laureen Dempsey, Zoe Baker, Jenny Marshall



Menora , Coolbinia and Mount Lawley Ratepayers Association News

The Ratepayers Association has noted with approval that most recently at least some Council decisions are being made which better reflect broad local concerns.

For instance a number of development applications for modifications to residences or for demolitions have been rejected by Council or have been amended with satisfactory conditions. This is a great improvement in view of last years very contentious outcome in which the community lost the valuable residence at 22 Storthes St Mt Lawley.

As well, following a vigorous community campaign led by local resident Mara Fox, Council voted unanimously last month to reject an application from Optus for a 5.4M high antenna at 678 Beaufort St, Mount Lawley. The Association raised a number of objections to this proposal including that:

The relevant building is situated within a heritage precinct and is part of a valuable urban business streetscape featuring important period elements.

The planned antenna would be highly visible and be visually incompatible with those streetscape values.

Such a structure would either contravene the City's policies in respect to height limits or, alternatively, would contravene the spirit of relevant but non binding prescriptions.

The structure would be incompatible with previous City expenditures to beautify the important adjacent Walcott/Beaufort St intersection, and would also be at odds with the 'hiding' (under grounding) of other urban infrastructure, namely, distribution of electrical power.

It is also possible that the facility would be so high as to be visible (and thus affect the amenity of) adjacent residential properties located on nearby roads such as Alvan St.

The Association acknowledges that the location of the antenna would be in the Mt Lawley business district. However, we believe that 'broad area' business communication needs can be adequately served in this case by locating the antenna outside the core Mt Lawley zone. Alternative sites along the railway reserve, or at the cnr Walcott, Fitzgerald and Alexander drive, would be more acceptable.

Farnley Street Turns 100 in 2009

Farnley Street residents are planning a Centenary Celebration in November of next year when the Jacarandas are in bloom.

Some of the suggested ideas are to apply to City of Stirling to have a partial Street closure between Park and Almondbury Roads as this section of Farnley Street has rear laneway access for emergencies and is on level ground which would be more suitable for events/stalls etc;

We would love to form a planning committee (nothing too onerous) and are gathering ideas for this celebration and are calling for suggestions from past and current friends and residents of Farnley. We would love to do a potted history in the form of a booklet. Already we are gathering old photos. If you would like to be involved please give me a call.

Jan Wilkie - 35 Farnley St; Mt Lawley

email: janwilkie@westnet.com.au Tel: 9272 8499

RENOVATION OF THE MONTH

The MLS encourages members to provide the committee with details and photos of their renovations for future articles on the website and newsletters. Please email the MLS with details either to the website or to bmckechnie@bigpond.com for publication in this newsletter



BEFORE 35 Farnley Street



DURING RENOVATION

FEATURE RENOVATION

This edition's feature renovation is the home of MLS committee member and Mount Lawley identity, Jan Wilkie. The beautiful restoration of Jan's property in Farnley Street was completed in 1997 and was featured in the Spring 2000 edition of "Period Home Renovator" magazine. This story is largely taken from the magazine article.

With near x-ray vision, Jan was able to identify the bones of a beautiful federation home behind an un-sympathetic renovation that was completed in the 1930's. "Its unappealing exterior was covered in thick concrete render, had zincalume windows and a dreadful roof line but I could see that the skeleton of the home was there," Jan explained.

The render was removed and the existing bricks re-tuck pointed. Ornamental fretwork was reinstalled on the tiled roof which has rams' horn finials. Toodyay stone was used on the front path and back veranda. To restore the original façade, a new timber veranda was built by Jan's two sons who are both carpenters. This is supported by posts on pillars and decorated with fretwork with a cut-out leaf design.

Jan renovated the existing 4 bedrooms and build additional rooms at the rear of the residence as well as completing beautiful renovations to the kitchen and bathrooms. Inside the colour scheme has been kept neutral to highlight the rich red jarrah floorboards. Jan has been collecting china and antique furniture since she was a girl and her home is the perfect place to show them off. (continued next page)



One of the most pleasing aspects of the home is its continuity – acid etched glass grace the fan lights in most windows. Light switches are mounted on jarrah blocks and old and re-production light fittings are suspended from small ceiling roses.

COMING SOCIAL EVENTS



SPRING 2008 TRAM RIDE

Afternoon on Sunday 16th November

MLS will hold a heritage tour of Mt. Lawley, and talk about some of the fine restoration projects that have taken place in our suburb

Members can register their interest on the web-site (just leaving name and numbers, and a contact phone number) or can email the secretary

PARKS AND GARDENS OF MOUNT LAWLEY



The newsletter would like to start a section on Parks and Gardens of Mt. Lawley. After the houses the gardens are the next greatest asset contributing to the ambience of Mt. Lawley. If members are interested please submit photographs and details of your gardens to the web-site or to the secretary by email.

MLS Committee 2008

Mt Lawley Society Committee

Paul Hurst : President

Rebecca Griffiths : Treasurer

Beth McKechnie : Secretary

John Wreford : Website

John Lightowlers

Jenny la Puma

Jan Wilkie

Ian Merker

Daina Bruers

Barrie Baker : Historian/ reports on City of Stirling/ Town of Vincent matters

John Baas : Represents Ratepayers Assoc

Sheila Robinson : reports on City of Bayswater matters

Biography for Paul Hurst President MLS 2008

Paul is a civil engineer and has been a resident of Mount Lawley since 1999. During that time Paul and his wife Georgina have restored their current home in Fourth Avenue. Paul and Georgina have recently become parents following the birth of their daughter Zoe in December 2007. Paul is also studying part-time for a MBA at UWA and he is also a stand-up comedian regularly performing in the Perth Comedy scene.

During 2007, following a number of recent demolitions of character dwellings in the neighbourhood, Paul became a member of the City of Stirling Heritage Advisory Committee. Through his involvement in this committee and the Mount Lawley Society, Paul hopes to improve communications between the Councils and residents on matters that relate to heritage retention to strengthen the protection of our unique suburb.



WELCOME TO MLS NEW MEMBERS

Art Deco Society WA

Athol Blight and Sheila Robinson

Daina Bruers

Mark and Rebecca Griffiths

Paul and Georgina Hurst

Santo and Sharon Mannino

Lincoln and Susan Verrall